



Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture

Newsletter 6

The DeSIRA initiative (<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/desira>) contributes to climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-incomes countries.

The DeSIRA-LIFT project is starting!

The European Union (EU) funded 3-year DeSIRA-LIFT program (Leveraging the DeSIRA initiative for agri-food systems transformation) started in June 2021. This program is a close collaboration between Agrinatura (the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development), the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) and the European Commission's DG International Partnerships (INTPA).

DeSIRA-LIFT will support the DeSIRA initiative current and future activities to optimize its impact. It will manage and deliver pre-defined services and emerging on-demand services in support of the DeSIRA research and innovation projects, the CAADP ex-pillar 4 organisations, DG INTPA, the involved European Delegations, and stakeholders at large.

The specific objectives are:

- Supporting country-based DeSIRA project implementers to enhance their impacts on climate-oriented innovation systems in line with sustainable food systems transitions;
- Supporting CAADP African ex-pillar IV organisations, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR), and the Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) in their roles ;
- Making knowledge work for INTPA policy and contribute to the policy dialogue on food systems.

The DeSIRA LIFT team will soon launch in-depth exchanges with (i) the DeSIRA community: DeSIRA research and innovation projects; CAADP ex-pillar IV organizations (FARA, CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA, AFAAS); GFAR, TAP FAO, IFAD) and (ii) DG INTPA and EU Delegations. This will help fine-tune the DeSIRA LIFT planning and activities based on needs and demands of the DeSIRA community.

We ask **all the DeSIRA community to fully support and contribute to the DeSIRA LIFT activities**. It is a strategic issue to improve the quality and impacts of the whole DeSIRA initiative and beyond individual projects, to build a strong partnership between African and European research organisations and to pave the way for a next generation for DeSIRA.

Agroecology : a priority for DeSIRA

Two events will take place on **Friday 2nd July 2021** to promote agro-ecology and its perfect fit into the transformative agenda of the EU's Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies. Agro-ecology is also being increasingly mainstreamed in agri-food systems programmes under the EU programming cycle (NDICI Global Europe). It is a main topic for DeSIRA with several projects that explicitly foster agroecology and others that develop specific activities in line with agroecological approaches.

The **first** webinar **from 9 to 11 am (Brussels' time)** "***The role of agro-ecology in achieving the Green Deal's transformational objectives***" explains why an agro-ecological transformation of agri-food systems makes sense and how agro-ecology contributes significantly to mitigating and adapting to climate change, stemming biodiversity loss, as well halting and reversing land and water degradation.

To register (for non EC staff) :

- First register to INTPA academy (click in the corner right up) : <https://webgate.acceptance.ec.europa.eu/intpa-academy/>
- And after register to the webinar : <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/intpa-academy/course/view.php?id=647>

To register (for EC staff, using EC / INTPA e-mail address):

- <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/ilp/pages/coursedescription.jsf?courseId=45456002>

The **second** webinar (InfoPoint) from **12.30 to 2 pm (Brussels' time)** "***The effects of agro-ecology. Why metrics and measurements of agro-ecology***" outlines what were the appropriate metrics to apply, and what is currently being done in this area.

To register: [The effects of agroecology. Why are metrics needed? | International Partnerships \(europa.eu\)](#)

News

DeSIRA will be present at the Science Days of the 2021 UN Food System:

- **07/07/2021 14h00-15h30** : Capacity development for agriculture innovation systems: lessons learned and future action of the Tropical Agriculture Platform partnership, organized by the Tropical Agriculture Platform and FAO;
- **08/07/2021** The role of Agricultural Research and Innovation on food systems transformation, organized by Agrinatura.

Please send news on the main events and communication products (flyers, vidéos, etc.) regarding your DeSIRA projects to post on the DeSIRA website and facilitate exchange among the DeSIRA community. The DeSIRA website is hosted by Capacity4dev:

<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/desira>

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