Research and Innovation for Agricultural and Food Systems Transformation in Developing Countries

DEVELOPMENT SMART INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE (DeSIRA)
• Need for **systemic changes** for agricultural and food systems transformation to address SDGs

• Importance of **innovation** to support systemic changes able to address urgent challenges (climate change, biodiversity, food security, etc.)

• Limit of the top-down **transfer of knowledge** and technology model to address systemic changes

• Importance of the Agricultural Innovation Systems emphasizing the key role of **networks** to create knowledge, access resources, and mobilize competencies
BACKGROUND: NEW DIRECTION FOR RESEARCH TO SUPPORT INNOVATION

New vision of research

- **More science in development** for contributing to impact at scale
- **More interaction with actors** to **strengthen the capacities to innovate** (farmers, farmers’ organizations, local communities, NGOs, private sector, public sector)

New approaches

- **Combine several research approaches:** academic research, participatory research, action-research, farmers research
- **Conduct several research activities:** knowledge production, design of methods, facilitation, capacity building, expertise
DeSIRA was launched in 2017 with first projects in 2019

DeSIRA was supported by

- **Key Commitments**: COP21, One Plant Summit 2017, Ouagadougou Declaration 2018
- **Key Consultations**: Member State, European Delegations, IFAD, FAO, BMG Foundation

DeSIRA is in line with the new EU Green Deal Policy and its Farm to Fork dimension

DeSIRA addresses **multiples and interconnected SDGs**

DeSIRA is funded by the European Commission: €300 million
DeSIRA Objectives

FOSTER INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOMES COUNTRIES

Support innovation in agriculture for sustainable agricultural and food systems (productive, inclusive, climate-sensitive)

Strengthen research capacities and governance mechanisms for improved Agricultural Innovation Systems

Enhance evidence for innovation and advisory services policies design and monitoring
• Joint Construction of DeSIRA interventions in line with both EU and MS development agendas and national priorities on agriculture and food systems

• Linking research and innovation to contribute to impacts at scale addressing climate change with clusters of projects funded by EU and EU MS

• Strengthening national research capacities both at individual and organizational levels

• Contributing to the African (FARA, CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA, AFAAS) and global governance of research (GFAR, TAP/FAO, CGIAR, AIRCA)

• Building strong partnerships involving European, International and National research capacities

• Fostering of Agricultural Innovation Systems and national innovation policies with a capacity to innovate based approach
• Addressing key challenges to promote FNSSA with climate change perspective
• Designing and monitoring an impact pathway approach based on a plausible theory of change
• Implementing a multi-stakeholder approach mobilizing farmers, private sector, public sector, civil society and researchers to promote innovation processes
• Joint designing of innovation with local actors based on science and other source of knowledge to change behaviors, skills and agricultural/managerial practices
• Strengthening innovation support services including advisory services
CHARACTERISTICS OF PROJECTS FOR STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH CAPACITIES

• Contributing to the governance of agricultural research and innovation in Africa and at global level

• Designing and monitoring an impact pathway approach for research institutions based on a plausible theory of change with climate change perspective

• Support to projects for research and innovation
PROJECTS IDENTIFICATION

is carried out by

• **EU DELEGATIONS** based on national or regional priorities;
• **MEMBER STATES** under a co-funding framework;
• Concertation with **GLOBAL ACTORS**, as CAADP, GFAR, TAP

PROJECTS MANAGEMENT

• **EU DELEGATIONS**

GOVERNANCE

• **PLATFORM** involving EU Member States and key strategic partners
• **TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD**
SUPPORT, KNOWLEDGE SHARING, CAPITALISATION are to be provided through:

- **WEBSITE**: https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/desira/
- **NEWSLETTERS**
- **AGRINATURA project** to improve the culture of innovation, to draw lessons and design policy recommendations
- **MONITORING and EVALUATION** based upon key indicators
2018 **CONTRACTS** signed in 2019

- **28** projects
  
  Including support to GFAR, TAP/FAO and CAADP organisations

- **42** countries
  
  Including regional projects

- **€ 103,5** millions
  
  including co-funding of Member States

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2019 **CONTRACTS** to be signed

- **24** projects

- **33** countries

- **€ 93,5** millions
  
  Including co-funding of Member States

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2020 – **NEW CALL TO BE LAUNCHED**
THANK YOU