**FNSSA Stakeholder Engagement Week , 31 May to 4 June 2021**

**Title of the session :** How research can better support innovation for the transformation towards sustainable agri-food systems in Africa?

**Theme of the FNSSA Stakeholder Engagement Week** : The experiences of using a multi-actor approach in projects for delivering the FNSSA

**Origin of this proposal :** DG INTPA (European Commission), Brussels

**Objective of the session** :

The EU supports the DeSIRA initiative (<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/desira>) with the objective to contribute to climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-incomes countries. DeSIRA initiative aims to put more science into development considering that the solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals are knowledge-intensive but context-specific. It put special emphasis on multi-stakeholder approach and capacity strengthening to support innovation.

The objective of the session is to discuss the different innovation models which are under debate to support innovation in food systems in Africa and how research can make a contribution. This reflection is useful for improving innovation policies building on efficient partnerships and for improving research and innovation interventions to contribute to impacts.

**Duration :** 2,0h

**Tentative agenda:**

Introduction (5 mn) : The DeSIRA initiative, objective of the session (C. Larose, DG INTPA) [Christophe.LAROSE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Christophe.LAROSE@ec.europa.eu)

Set the scene (15 mn) : The different innovation models for the transformation of the agri-food systems, the different contributions of research to innovation, the different methods to assess the contribution of research to impacts (G. Faure, DG INTPA) [Guy.FAURE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Guy.FAURE@ec.europa.eu)

The situation in Africa (15 mn) : The contribution of research to innovation, the role of technologies, the participation of farmers and private sector, how to strengthen capacities to innovate (FARA)

* Aggrey Agumya ; [aagumya@faraafrica.org](mailto:aagumya@faraafrica.org)
  + Dr. Aggrey Agumya assumes the role of Director for Research and Innovation-designate, (DRI-designate) for the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, FARA. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Agumya was the Director in charge of Stakeholder Engagement and Communications,

Questions to participants (SLIDO) (10 mn): 4 questions on innovation systems

Panel**:** diverse points of view based on case studies (4 X 5 mn + 4X5 questions from facilitator), facilitate by Helena Posthumus (director of DeSIRA LIFT) [posthumus@kit.nl](mailto:posthumus@kit.nl)

* Strengthening capacity to innovate in national Agricultural Innovation Systems, the case of Malawi (TAP/FAO)
  + Selvaraju Ramasamy, [Selvaraju.Ramasamy@fao.org](mailto:Selvaraju.Ramasamy@fao.org)
  + **Selvaraju Ramasamy** is head of Unit “Research and Extension”. Leading FAO’s efforts in Agricultural Research and Extension; strengthening of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS); improving the agricultural extension and advisory services (EAS), knowledge sharing and out-reach of innovative agricultural technologies and practices for sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems; capacity development; partnership with International Research and Forums of Extension and Advisory Services.
* Ecosystem approach for digital solutions in agriculture (one case study) : On expert of the EU-Africa Advisory Group Subtopic Innovation & Technology Revolution
  + **Olatunbosun Tijani**, [bosun@cchubnigeria.com](mailto:bosun@cchubnigeria.com)
  + **Olatunbosun Tijani** is a Nigerian-British [entrepreneur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship) and [co-founder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co-founder) and [CEO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CEO) of [Co-Creation Hub](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co-Creation_Hub), a  pan-African innovation enabler that works at the forefront of accelerating the application of  innovation and social capital for a better society. Bosun was named as one of the 100 Most Influential People on the continent by New Africa Magazine. He his member of the Advisory Group on R&I for Africa-Europe Cooperation, working on the Innovation and technology revolution.
* How CGIAR support innovation : which theories of change and impact pathway (one experience) :
  + Elisabetta Gotor, [e.gotor@cgiar.org](mailto:e.gotor@cgiar.org)
  + **Elisabetta Gotor** is  an agricultural economist (economic analyses and evaluation of food system solutions that are at the nexus of agriculture, environment and nutrition). She is  currently leading the Program on Performance, Innovation and Strategic Analysis for Impact at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. Her research has focused on linking biodiversity-based interventions with poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, sustainable rural livelihoods and resilience outcomes so that the results can inform the CGIAR and SDGs indicators and targets.
* Empowerment of farmers group on farmer research for agro-ecology : experience of CAPAD in Burundi
  + Annick Sezibera ; [sezannick@yahoo.fr](mailto:sezannick@yahoo.fr)
  + **Annick Sezibera** is chief executive of Confederation of farmer’s associations for development in Burundi –CAPAD a national federation gathering more than 100 cooperative with 150.000 members. Annick was a past board members of ISABU representing this national research institution the interest of the farmers. She is also participating as farmer representative to several national bodies and committee involved in the definition of rural development and agriculture policies (Sectorial Groups, PNIA). She was very involved in several farmers research project with Paepar and ASARECA on farmers seed production schemes on potato seed. She was also involved in the advocacy of recognition of the farmer seed production scheme at national and regional level.

**Q&A session** : 20 mn

**Synthesis of the panel** (5 mn) : G Faure

**Concluding remarks (2 mn) :** next steps regarding DeSIRA (C. Larose)