



31 May - 4 June 2021

FNSSA Stakeholder Engagement Week

Long-term EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture

Draft Programme

Day 1 (31 May 2021)	
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM	<p>Plenary Opening The FNSSA Partnership: A model for AU-EU Cooperation</p> <p>Description: The high-level opening plenary will introduce the FNSSA Partnership and position the Partnership as a model for strategic cooperation between the AU and EU. Concrete examples of activities and lessons learned from implementing the Partnership and its Roadmap will be presented, highlighting the outcomes and achievements of the Partnership. A panel discussion of expert speakers interrogating what makes the FNSSA R&I Partnership a model for AU-EU cooperation and attractive to stakeholders will conclude the plenary.</p>
14:00 PM- 15:30 PM	<p>Organizer: European Commission Title: Opportunities for AU-EU Cooperation in Horizon Europe</p> <p>Description: In 2021, the European Union launched Horizon Europe, the EU's ninth Research and Innovation Framework Programme. With a budget of around €95 billion, Horizon Europe will offer significant opportunities for collaborative research between African and European partners, including in topics related to Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture.</p> <p>The first set of calls under Horizon Europe is expected to be launched in the end of May 2021 and included in those are a large number of topics relevant for bi-regional cooperation.</p> <p>This session will provide participants with important information on Horizon Europe and how to engage in international collaboration within the programme. The upcoming topics related to bi-regional cooperation will also be shared.</p>
Day 2 (1 June 2021)	
09:00 AM- 11:00 AM	<p>Organizer: SLU – RUFORUM Title: Clustering of FNSSA-related projects and outcomes based on harmonised researcher-user interests</p>



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	<p>Description: The session will bring together coordinators (or their representatives) of recently started and ongoing FNSSA-related projects with strong African participation, and with focus on the field of Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA), private companies, policy-makers and EC Policy Officers in that domain.</p> <p>The main aims of this cluster session are to foster collaboration between the different projects through increasing awareness of each other's work, identifying their strengths, needs, common grounds etc and linking the research work to the potential users. The event should provide an opportunity to get into contact, to learn from each other by presenting and listening to key project information such as key outcomes, to identify synergies and/or possible ways of collaboration. It will also provide an opportunity for potential users of research outputs/outcomes to provide input on the expected grouping of projects based on their needs and advise on how outcomes should be presented (documentation and tools) accessible and usable.</p>
<p>11:00 AM - 13:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: North West University Title: Food production, processing and safety</p> <p>Description: The session will have an introductory presentation on the comparative analysis between indigenous crops foods and exotic crops in their resilience to climate change, their nutritional value, and their potential for commercialization.</p>
<p>13:00 PM- 15:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: FARA – EAFF Title: Fostering multi-stakeholder partnership engagement for impact on FNSSA: Lessons learnt from PAEPARD (2007-2018)</p> <p>Description: This session on stakeholder engagement organized by FARA and EAFF aims at demonstrating the value-added of the AU-EU partnership in FNSSA by focusing on lessons learnt from PAEPARD project. Specifically, the session intends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To share lessons learnt (successes and challenges) in building the multi-stakeholder partnership between African and European partners on FNSSA; • To showcase how PAEPARD has dealt with power relations between farmer organizations (FOs) and researchers to prioritize research in what was called Users' led process (ULP); • To mobilize African & European ARD stakeholders to support the



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	<p>implementation of AU-EU R&I partnership roadmap on FNSSA and the bi-continental platform.</p>
15:00 PM-17:00 PM	<p>Organizer: FOSC project Title: The landscape of knowledge platforms on agri-food systems and climate change. An overview on existing and forthcoming experiences</p> <p>Description: Since the last years, many knowledge platforms, knowledge networks and other similar initiatives have been established, whether in cofounded actions or in other contexts. A clear and agreed definition is key to build a coherent narrative and a committed community around it. In the plethora of online platforms, FOSC Knowledge Platform strongly aspires to act synergically with the already existing initiatives, avoiding duplication and redundancy. To face this challenge, the most significant and impacting missing needs should be recognized and solved at a very early stage.</p> <p>Together with valuable speakers reporting their experiences, we will firstly present consolidated or forthcoming international initiatives in the remit of food systems and climate change. We will then open a dialogue with the participants guided by some key questions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you aware of other useful knowledge platform-like tools in the food systems and climate change fields? • Which are the main benefits and lacks of existing platforms you are familiar with? • What would make a new knowledge platform attractive to you? <p>Through this debate, we aim at i) increasing the awareness of participants in available knowledge platforms in the above fields, and ii) carrying out a gap analysis on the strengths and weaknesses of these initiatives. Besides, the gathered feedbacks will be strongly taken into consideration for the set-up and launch of the FOSC Knowledge Platform.</p>
Day 3 (2 June 2021)	
09:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<p>Organizer: LEAP4FNSSA / UniPID, WUR, Association of Commonwealth Universities Title: Keeping the FNSSA Partnership 'Fit for Purpose': lessons from studying & monitoring the Partnership</p> <p>Description: Under the aegis of the FNSSA Partnership, substantial and varied bi-regional research and innovation cooperation has taken place, with over 390 M€ mobilized to fund research and innovation projects. Learning from the implementation of this Partnership is critical</p>



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	<p>for improving coordination and cooperation in the FNSSA Partnership as well as in other areas of AU-EU research and innovation cooperation.</p> <p>The session will consider how to keep the FNSSA Partnership fit for purpose and support future collaboration in FNSSA. This session will examine four of the six key principles proposed for an International Research Consortium in FNSSA - inclusiveness, co-design, R&I for impact, and sustainability and adaptability. Drawing on evidence from three recent studies of the Partnership and in dialogue with session participants, recommendations and actions needed to best fulfil these principles will be made.</p> <p>This session aims to provide participants with insight into the findings from three studies recently produced on the FNSSA Partnership and to facilitate an open dialogue on the actions needed to build a joint Platform for bi-regional cooperation in FNSSA.</p>
<p>11:00 AM - 13:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: Durban University of Technology Title: Sustainable and future agriculture in the African Continent</p> <p>Description: The Durban University of Technology is implementing a new strategy called ENVISION 2030 which focuses on making an impact to the Society. The Agri Hub is one of the strategic projects selected wherein the University plans to partner with strategic partners in the Agricultural sector so as to make a difference towards food security and nutrition.</p> <p>The Agri Hub projects will be implemented in the Midlands through the DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre. The Centre offers both theoretical and practical entrepreneurial training to support students and entrepreneurs implement their ideas.</p> <p>The services offered by the Centre can be accessed at: www.dut.ac.za/entrepreneurshipcentre.</p>
<p>13:00 PM - 15:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: EVERGROW Title: Frugal innovation: A new perspective on building an agribusiness</p> <p>Description: This session will bring together young men and women that will each share their unique stories on how they have built their agribusinesses through leveraging un-related ecosystem stakeholders to help bring their products to market and their growth</p>



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	<p>aspirations for their journey moving forward.</p> <p>The aim of this session is to direct the FNSSA stakeholders to other strategic eco-system stakeholders that were previously underutilized or even not previously identified. This could potentially increase the participation of SMEs and other private sector players in the partnership and foster new impact driven collaborations.</p> <p>Themes will focus on the current scourge of youth unemployment, how youth entrepreneurship could aid as well as challenges around entrepreneurship. We will also touch on the impact of COVID-19 on peri-urban and rural food security which will then lead us to dairy products for health-conscious individuals boosting the local township economy.</p> <p>The need for youth developed farmer support services and lastly how organic fertilizers could have an impact in the fight against climate change.</p>
<p>15:00 PM - 17:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: CZU Title: Engagement of central and eastern EU countries on Africa-EU Research and Innovation partnership in FNSSA</p> <p>Description: This session will present the experience of institutions from central and eastern EU countries in Research and Innovation activities in Africa. The topics will focus on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. The session gives an opportunity to increase the engagement and visibility of research activities of institutions from central and easter EU within Africa-EU partnership.</p>
<p>Day 4 (3 June 2021)</p>	
<p>09:00 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	<p>Organizer: ICT4A for Smallholder Farmers Title: ICT for Agricultural Markets for Smallholder Farmers (ICT4A for Smallholder Farmers)</p> <p>Description: Women and youth form over half of the agricultural labor force that feeds over 70% of the population in Africa. Despite smallholder farmers' contribution to food and nutrition security, they are the majority of people living in poverty and food and nutrition insecurity. Their inability to access profitable and sustainable markets for their agricultural produce and products, is hindered by a variety of factors including post-harvest storage facilities that reduce the value of their agricultural products, poor market infrastructure including market stalls and gender inclusive toilets and amenities, inadequate access to finance and credit, and ICT for Agriculture (ICT4A) to improve their productivity, climate change and the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. Many economies around the world are transitioning and embracing online markets, cashless and mobile transactions.</p>



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	<p>The adoption of ICT in Africa is on a steady rise with both mobile and internet penetration recording up to 50% increase over the past decade in some countries. There is a tremendous increase in the urban population that accounts for the majority of internet and smartphone users. There is also a growing need and demand for fresh food in urban centers, a market that is ripe and ready for smallholder farmers.</p> <p>This session will present current market constraints faced by smallholder farmers across the Eastern and Southern African region that can be solved through ICT4A. It will then focus on ongoing ICT innovations that enable rural smallholder farmers to access markets. The session will set a stage for the presentation and analysis of opportunities for these innovative solutions, their upscale and will explore further engagement of various sector players like the private sector and local smallholder communities in the market and value chain.</p> <p>The use of ICT4A has great potential to link rural and urban smallholder farmers to urban markets. The urban population is a ready market that is steadily moving online, especially in the advent of the pandemic.</p>
<p>11:00 AM - 13:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: COLEACP Title: Partnerships and multistakeholder approaches for impact</p> <p>Description: The linkages between research, policy and private sector are of paramount importance for a better adoption of research results. The impact of research needs to have an impact on smallholder farmers in terms of enhanced food and nutrition security. There is a need to promote multistakeholder dialogues which are action oriented with a common objective, shared means and measurement of impact.</p> <p>We will showcase in the session few different models and highlights which involve different stakeholders working towards a shared objective. Examples covered will include support to the value chain (from farm to fork), addressing food waste, skills enhancement, use of digital tools and innovations.</p>
<p>13:00 PM - 15:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: Soils4Africa Title: Imperative for a Soil Information System to inform decision making for Sustainable intensification (Soils4Africa)</p> <p>Description:</p>



	<p>The current agricultural production system is largely unsustainable as it tends towards an overexploitation of the natural resources and in particular the soil. To continue to meet the growing demand for agricultural produce, it is widely recognised that agriculture needs to be intensified in a more sustainable way. Sustainable intensification of agriculture forms the context of the Soils4Africa project which is developing a Soil Information System (SIS) that will inform policy making for sustainable intensification on the continent.</p> <p>The SIS will facilitate future monitoring and evaluation and it will enhance the performance of other land uses. It will become an essential part of the knowledge and information system of the EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture thus, contributing to the implementation of the High-Level Policy Dialogue roadmap for FNSSA. It will as such align with evolving design for agricultural development in Africa.</p> <p>The SIS will contain data that are underpinned by rigorously selected soil quality indicators and a sound uniform methodology. The data sets will be updateable and interoperable with other relevant databases. It will have a user-friendly presentation to respond to the soil data needs of the broad stakeholder group such as researchers, farmers, other land users, fertilizer manufacturers, extension and advisory service providers, policymakers, among others.</p> <p>To ensure the relevance and sustainability of the SIS, the project maintains active and continuous connection with stakeholders through the course of the project guided by FARA, leader of Soils4Africa's WP2: "Stakeholder Engagement".</p> <p>The session aims to engage the EU/AU broad stakeholders' group in Africa agriculture, environment and natural resource management to discuss the imperative of a virile Soil Information Systems (SIS) to advance sustainable intensification of agriculture, which is in line with the FNSSA roadmap.</p>
<p>15:00 PM - 17:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: WUR – DESIRA LIFT Title: Leveraging the DeSIRA initiative for agri-food systems transformation: building on and with your experience and lessons learnt (WUR – DESIRA LIFT)</p>



	<p>Description: The DeSIRA-LIFT project is starting! The project will manage and deliver services for the Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) Initiative in support of DG INTPA, the involved European Delegations and stakeholders at large.</p> <p>The DeSIRA-LIFT project comprises both the delivery of pre-defined services and emerging on-demand services. The former is intended to create continuity and synergy, while the latter will ensure flexibility to deal with upcoming questions and requests. The services are divided into work packages (WPs). WP1 involves actions in support of running DeSIRA research and innovation projects in countries. WP2 will identify and implement support for the CAADP ex-pillar 4 organisations (FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CORAF, CCARDESA, GFAR), in close consultation with these organisations. WP3 aims at supporting and designing DeSIRA pillar 3 activities, in other words, at making knowledge work for the EU (DG INTPA, EU delegations) and policy makers. It focuses on connecting integral results to the broader Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), in particular within Europe and Africa.</p> <p>In this session, the DeSIRA-LIFT project and its work packages will be further introduced, but more importantly, this session is particularly designed to obtain a lively interaction with participants on the issues and priorities to inform the three work packages. Thus, we can enhance future cooperation in FNSSA and build on experiences and approaches applied in other (DeSIRA) projects and integrate lessons learnt.</p>
<p>Day 5 (4 June 2021)</p>	
<p>09:00 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	<p>Organizer: European Commission Title: How research can better support innovation for the transformation of the agri-food systems in Africa?</p> <p>Description: 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-income 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 puts special emphasis on multi-stakeholder approach and capacity strengthening to support innovation.</p> <p>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</p>



	<p>efficient partnerships and for improving research and innovation interventions to contribute to impacts.</p> <p>L'UE soutient l'initiative DeSIRA (https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/desira) dans le but de contribuer à une transformation durable, productive et durable de l'agriculture et des systèmes alimentaires dans les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire. L'initiative DeSIRA tient à intégrer la science dans le développement, étant donné que les solutions pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable sont à forte intensité de connaissances mais spécifiques au contexte. Il met un accent particulier sur l'approche multipartite et le renforcement des capacités pour soutenir l'innovation.</p> <p>L'objectif de la session est de discuter des différents modèles d'innovation qui sont en débat pour soutenir l'innovation dans les systèmes alimentaires en Afrique et comment la recherche peut apporter une contribution. Cette réflexion est utile pour améliorer les politiques d'innovation en s'appuyant sur des partenariats efficaces et pour améliorer les interventions de recherche et d'innovation afin de contribuer aux impacts.</p>
<p>11:00 AM – 13:00 PM</p>	<p>Organizer: LEAP4FNSSA, Working Group: Actors, Alliances, and Policies</p> <p>Title: Diversity Management for Future R&I and Capacity Building Cooperation in FNSSA</p> <p>Description: Partnerships need to build on the sovereignty, the responsibility, the creativity and intelligence of each of its actors.</p> <p>The envisaged AU-EU Platform for R&I on FNSSA, should refer to the big diversity of actors in the field of FNSSA in its design and adaptable maintenance of operations.</p> <p>Do we want to reduce complexity at all costs, or do we harness existing multi-institutional, multi-sectoral and multi-governance realities for the long-term future cooperation in FNSSA?</p> <p>In this two-hour panel discussion, the panelists will discuss along three guiding questions.</p> <p>Guiding Questions for the Panel Discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can we design, manage and govern cyclic collaboration processes in networks of actors, without reducing complexity? 2. Which elements are required for a future platform infrastructure to benefit from the diversity of actors in R&I programme cycles? 3. What services would such a platform offer?



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13:00 PM- 15:00 PM	Plenary Closing Future orientations of the Partnership Description: The high-level closing plenary will reflect on key messages emerging from the Stakeholder Engagement Week, focusing on what can be learned for future bi-regional collaboration in FNSSA and for the upcoming AU-EU Summit. The closing plenary will bring together representatives of different sectors to discuss a vision for how long-term, bi-regional research and innovation collaboration in FNSSA might look.
Days 1-5	
Virtual Poster Session	Virtual environment with posters and videos submitted by participants

(All times CEST)