



## EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture

### How it all started

Africa and Europe share a rich history of scientific and technological cooperation. Within the framework of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation, embedded in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), both sides agreed to work further together on common priority research and innovation areas, the first one being food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

At the request of the EU-Africa Summit of 2014, an EU-Africa Expert Group was tasked, under the guidance of the HLPD, to draft a Roadmap towards an EU-Africa R&I Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). This Roadmap was adopted by the HLPD Senior Officials Meeting in Addis Ababa in April 2016 and is structured around four main pillars: (i) Sustainable intensification, (ii) Agriculture and food systems for nutrition, (iii) Expansion and improvement of agricultural markets and trade and (iv) Cross-cutting issues.

For the successful implementation of the Partnership, an AU-EU FNSSA Working Group was set up in March 2017, supported by the Research and Innovation Network for Europe and Africa (RINEA). The Group provides oversight of the implementation of the Roadmap, including on future activities, in order to ensure coordination between the different instruments and stakeholders.

### Key goals of the FNSSA Partnership

- Boost the impact of AU-EU joint research at local level by addressing the entire value-chain, strengthening capacity-building (human, research infrastructures and institutional) and focusing on demonstration projects and pilot actions to bring R&I results to the users;
- Increase production of high quality food with appropriate inputs, enhance income growth and promote rural development, contributing as such to Agenda 2030 (SDGs).

### A jointly designed, governed and funded R&I Partnership

An estimated amount of EUR 150 million has been earmarked for 2016-2020 to support the implementation of the partnership, through:

- **Horizon 2020** projects, created in response to targeted calls to Africa focusing on FNSSA, and allowing for synergies with emphasis on local multi-stakeholder action; Among them, the ERA-NET-co-fund LEAP-Agri, gathering together 19 European and African countries, and with a budget of about EUR 33 million, has set the ambitious goal of further funding 27 joint projects.
- the **African Union Research Grants**, supported by the EU Pan-African programme and managed directly by the African Union Commission, with a view to building a system of competitive research grants at Pan-African level. Currently, in its second phase, the programme

launched two calls for research proposals in 2016 and 2018 focusing on sustainable intensification and food systems for nutrition. The 2016 call resulted in the creation of 9 actions<sup>1</sup>.

### **A new initiative offering potential for further cooperation on FNSSA**

The One Planet Summit in Paris on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 provided the necessary impetus for the development of the DeSIRA initiative (Development-Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture). This constitutes part of EU's contribution to agriculture and food systems transformation in developing countries, through enhancing the collaboration and mobilisation of European research expertise and resources to the benefit of the development agenda on agriculture. The European Commission together with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a number of EU member states have expressed their commitment to support the initiative, which is expected to be operational by the end of 2018.

For more information, please contact us at: [RTD-EU-AFRICA-HLPD-BUREAU@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-EU-AFRICA-HLPD-BUREAU@ec.europa.eu)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://au.int/en/aurg/2016/winners>