



Press Release: DeSIRA CONNECT Days in Hanoi, Vietnam

Hanoi, Vietnam | January 14-16, 2025

We are pleased to invite you to the DeSIRA CONNECT Days Asia & The Pacific, which will occur from January 14-16 2025, at the Authentic Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam.

This event is organised by the European Commission through the DeSIRA-LIFT Service Facility and in collaboration with the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) and the CIRAD Regional Office.

About the Event:

The DeSIRA CONNECT Days gather organizations from Asia and the Pacific focused on research and innovation for sustainable agriculture, alongside a diverse group of stakeholders from the region and beyond, including national and international research organisations, farmer organizations, NGOs, and policy actors. Key partners such as FAO, APAARI, APIRAS, AgriCord, CGIAR and major regional and international networks like TPP, ALISEA, GIAN and PROLINNOVA have already confirmed their participation.

Participants will share and critically reflect on lessons and outcomes from DeSIRA (Development-Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) projects and explore pathways for scaling transformative innovations in agrifood systems toward sustainability transitions.

This three-day event is designed to engage participants in a variety of dynamic activities, including presenting their projects and collaboratively reflecting on key topics such as participatory co-innovation with civil society and the private sector, as well as mechanisms for responsible innovation and sustainable impacts on livelihoods. The discussions will explore the role of research in driving agricultural innovation, fostering education, creating jobs, and shaping policy. The focus will be placed on farmer- and community-led innovation and the agroecological transition, with an emphasis on knowledge-based approaches, investment strategies, policy development, and scaling research models that are already producing significant, positive outcomes in the region.

The event is the last in a series of four CONNECT days organised in 2024 in Bogota (Colombia), Kigali (Rwanda) and Accra (Ghana), with the main goal to capture the impact of

the EU-funded DeSIRA initiative run in over 65 countries across three continents between 2019 and 2026. The events highlight the major contributions of R&I in addressing complex issues relating to sustainability transitions and agrifood system transformation, towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in low- and middle-income countries

DeSIRA Connect days provide participants with insights on innovation mechanisms and scenarios for a climate resilient agriculture - healthy for the planet and the people - to build a long-lasting impact on food security, poverty alleviation, and socio-economic and gender-balanced inclusion while protecting biodiversity and ecosystems.

The event will feed the broader agenda of international initiatives, policies and strategies in support of sustainable agriculture and food systems

For more information, updates, and the full event program, please visit the [DeSIRA website](#) or contact us at community@desiralift.org

Specific Requests from Media Representatives

Media representatives are invited to join us for the opening and closing ceremonies on Tuesday 14th at 9 am and Thursday 16th at 12.30 pm. For specific requests, please contact Linh Vo (linh.vo@cirad.fr), copying manonkoningstein@gmail.com and chau.tran_thi@cirad.fr

Contact Information:

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About DeSIRA

The EU-funded DeSIRA Initiative is a portfolio of 80 research and innovation (R&I) supported by a European Union contribution of €340,000,000. DeSIRA aims to accelerate innovation in agrifood systems to support sustainable transitions and improve resilience to climate change in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Through participatory research, multi-stakeholder engagement and strengthening of agricultural innovation systems, DeSIRA projects drive innovation to enhance food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. It contributes to the [EU Global Gateway strategy](#), in particular to its pillar on Education and Research.

[For more information on DeSIRA-LIFT please see here](#)

[For more information on the DeSIRA-LIFT CONNECT Days, please see here](#)

About EU

The European Union is an economic and political union of 27 European countries. It is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. It acts globally to promote sustainable development of societies, environment and economies, so that everyone can benefit.

About CIRAD

CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) partners to develop resilient farming systems for a sustainable, inclusive world. It focuses on science, innovation, and training to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, supporting stakeholders in areas like biodiversity, agroecological transitions, food sustainability, and climate resilience. Founded in 1984, CIRAD operates in 50+ countries with 1,800 staff, including 1,240 scientists, and a network of 200 partners. For more information on CIRAD, [please see here](#)

About Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS)

The Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, is a key R&D institution focused on sustainable agriculture and rural development. VAAS conducts interdisciplinary research to improve agricultural systems, value chains, and ecological regions. It includes 18 member institutions, such as NOMAFSI, FAVRI, and CASRAD, which will actively participate in ASSET activities in Vietnam. [For more information on VAAS, please see here](#)