

# New phase of DeSIRA: DeSIRA+ and RMRNs in Agroecology

Christophe Larose

Head of Sector Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Innovation

INTPA F3

*Boosting agrifood research and innovation  
cooperation for impact at scale*



March 11-13, 2025

Brussels, Belgium

# Scaling Agroecology

- 13 [principles](#) of HLPE report & 10 elements of AE (FAO)
- Links to innovation, markets and [value chains development](#)
- Ambition to support the [upscaling](#) of agroecological transition (knowledge, capacity development, innovation and scaling)
- [Team](#) Europe: EU Delegations, EU Member States, Partners (incl. Rome-based agencies)
- [Policy dialogue](#): Agroecology Coalition, TAPE/Metrics (FAO, CGIAR)

# 2 components

Distinct and complementary components to support **Research & Innovation for agroecological transition in Sub Saharan Africa**

## DeSIRA+

Scaling-up and enabling environment for agro-ecological innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Regional Multi-Actor Research Network in Agroecology

# Moving from DeSIRA to DeSIRA+

- “Innovation through research” to “agri-food sector-led Innovation with support from research”
- **Global scope to African scope**
- **Experimenting at scale to getting impact at scale**
- **Specific objectives**
  1. Increased co-creation and adoption of agroecological innovations (products, technologies, models and/or services) by small-scale farmers and SMEs of the agri-food sector.
  2. Increased capacity of farmers’ organisations, civil society and private sector actors (SMEs) to scale innovation from one phase to another phase by addressing the key barriers and by mobilizing the appropriate levers.
  3. Improved enabling policy environment for agro-ecology at national, regional and continental levels.

# Regional Multi-actor Research Network (RMRN) for agroecology

## Specific objectives:

- Strengthen the scientific and technological capacities to produce, collect, access, process, share data / information related to agroecology (AE) principles
- Increase the RMRN's contribution to scientific knowledge generation and innovation for agroecology through transformative quality research.
- Enhance the RMRN support on AE to practitioners, scientists and policy-makers with a gender-sensitive approach

## Strategy:

- Identify and strengthen consortiums of African universities/research org to address specific AE topics
- Strengthen Sub-Regional Organisations (such as CORAF & CCARDESA) to support the consortia and advocate for AE

## State of Play:

- Partners: DG JRC (European Commission), FARA, RUFORUM, CCARDESA, CORAF, ICIPE, etc.
- Ongoing, split into several contracts; about 18M€

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# DESIRA+ concretely: shared topics

## DeSIRA + and RMRN transversal topics in line with agroecology

- **Agrobiodiversity** (crops, animals) including production and dissemination of farmers' **seeds** to support agroecological processes
- **Bio-solutions** (organic fertilisers, mycorrhiza/bacteria) and integrated pest & disease management
- **Soil health** and Integrated Soil Fertility Management, **Water** resources management
- **Adapted mechanisation** for small-scale farmers to increase productivity
- **Neglected & Under-Utilised crops, Legumes**, plant-based and/or **alternative proteins**
- **Sustainable Value chains & Access to markets (circular economy)**
- ... etc.

# DESIRA+

- **Thematic actions on agroecological innovations**
- **Agroecological Value chains**
- **Transversal actions**

# DESIRA+: Thematic actions on agroecological innovations

## Western Africa

Topics: transition towards AE food systems

Partners: AFD, CEDEAO, ARAA, consortia FOs/R&I/CSOs

Geo cover: CEDEAO countries

Status: On-going

Budget: 10 M€ (+10M€ AFD)

## Central Africa

Topics: transition towards AE food systems

Partners: ENABEL (BE)

Geo cover: Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda

Status: on-going

Budget: 10 M€

## Eastern Africa+

Topics: Innovations for Soil Health and Agroecology in Africa

Partners: BMZ, GIZ

Geo cover: Ethiopia, Kenya + continental (AU) + one country (tbc: Cameroon)

Status: On-going

Budget: 10 M€ (+10 M€ BMZ)

# DESIRA+: Thematic actions on agroecological innovations

## Indian Ocean

Topics: Scaling up AE innovations

Lead partner: AFD

Geo cover: Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros, Seychelles, Réunion

Status: ongoing

Budget: 5 M EUR (+ 2M€ AFD)

## Southern Africa (tbc)

Topics: Scaling up AE innovations (drought prone areas, AE IPM)

Partners: IFAD (+ others: tbc)

Geo cover: (tbc) Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Status: in preparation

Budget: up to 14 M EUR

# DESIRA+: Agroecological value chains

## FO4Impact

Topics: agroecological practices/research-action in value chains

Lead Partner: IFAD

Geo cover: Sub-Saharan Africa (Western, Eastern and Southern)

Status: in preparation

Budget: up to 6M EUR

## NUS (Tbc)

Topics: Neglected and Underutilised crop Species (NUS)

Partners: AICS, IFAD and Switzerland

Geo cover: West and Southern Africa

Status: in preparation

Budget: up to 16 M EUR

## Agroforestry (Tbc)

Topics: Strengthening Agroecological Transition & Agroforestry (Cashew, Coffee, Cocoa)

Lead Partner: European Forest Institute

Geo cover: Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda

Status: in preparation

Budget: (up to) 18 M EUR

# DESIRA+: Transversal actions

## **TAPE+**

Topics: Underpinning agroecological practices and policy with cutting-edge metrics

Lead Partner: FAO

Geo cover: Sub-Saharan Africa (Western, Eastern and Southern)

Status: on-going

Budget: 2 M€ (0,2M€, FAO)

## **Mainstream (tbc)**

Topics: Mission-oriented agrifood innovation systems for sustainability transition through agroecology

Lead Partner: FAO

Geo cover: Sub-Saharan Africa (West, East and Southern)

Status: **in preparation**

Budget: up to 6M€

## **DeSIRA-LIFT+ (tbc)**

Topics: Learning and monitoring/Information sharing/Dialogue & Impact

Lead Partner: Agrinatura

Geo cover: Sub-Saharan Africa (West, East and Southern)

Status: **in preparation**

Budget: up to 3M€

# DESIRA+: What governance mechanisms?

- Learning from the DeSIRA experience
- Building on existing platforms (such as the International Research Consortium and its Secretariat)

# DESIRA+: Opportunities for funding?

- Via the implementing partners and partners
- Through mechanisms of calls for proposals or equivalent
- Examples

# Thank you!

[DeSIRA | Capacity4dev](#)

[christophe.larose@ec.europa.eu](mailto:christophe.larose@ec.europa.eu)

# DESIRA+: 5 sub-regional programmes Africa

West Africa  
Innovation &  
Resilience  
AFD (FR)

Eastern Africa  
Soil matters  
BMZ/GIZ (DE)

Indian Ocean  
Scaling up &  
Enabling env.  
AFD (FR)

Central Africa  
Scaling up &  
Enabling env.  
ENABEL (BE)

Southern Africa  
Scaling up &  
Enabling env.  
IFAD

