



## CLUSTER PROFILE

Cluster 2 comprises DeSIRA projects implemented in Asia and the Pacific Islands.\* The Cluster includes 16 DeSIRA projects that are single- and multi-country operating within and beyond the

Cluster (ASSET, Santé & Territoires), and some are components of larger programs (such as the case of FO4RI, Transitions, and TAP-AIS). The FO4RI project is the only project operating in the Pacific Islands.

Vietnam (4), Lao (3), and Cambodia (3) are the three countries where several projects operate. FAO is leading a number of projects in Cluster 2 (three TAP-AIS projects and STAR-FARM), while CGIAR, GIZ, and Agri Cord are also behind more than one project.

The Cluster 2 projects cover two main thematic areas, namely, strengthening agricultural innovation systems and supporting agroecology. Several projects aim to increase the sustainability of food and agriculture production and of agri-food value chains.

Most projects in Cluster 2 intervene at the level of innovation support services by building the capacity of local actors, while some plan to engage in policy dialogue, co-designing technical, organisational and institutional innovations supported by multi-stakeholders partnerships. Several are developing prototyping activities. Few projects work with Multistakeholder Innovation Facilities such as innovation platforms, and only a small number engage in farmer-led research.

When DeSIRA-LIFT started to propose support activities for DeSIRA projects to develop their managerial capacities for impact, the Cluster 2 projects were mostly at an early stage of implementation. This may explain why their presence in the Inception Workshops was not very significant. Those who participated reported challenges in terms of applying participatory research for innovation, especially finding the right way to work between researchers and local innovators.

While some projects have already developed a MEL strategy with the support of their leading organisations (GIZ, CGIAR), others expressed the need for support in MEL from DeSIRA-LIFT.

Another area of requested support was open innovation; projects also showed interest in building a community around the agroecology transition.

There are potential regional inter-projects' synergies between Santé & Territoires and Asset, which both work towards agroecological transition in the same countries, namely Lao and Cambodia.

*\* The criteria used to organize the DeSIRA projects in clusters were both geographic and linguistic. In the case of Cluster 3, the common working language is English except for Angola where the language is Portuguese.*