CLUSTER 3
Eastern & Southern Africa

Topics

- Strengthening AIS Systems
- Support the energy-agrifood systems nexus
- Support to agro-ecology transitions
- Support to agrofrestry
- Support to improved nutrition and food security
- Support to risk management and surveillance systems
- Support to sustainable livestock and pastoralism
- Support to water management in fragile and coastal states in Africa
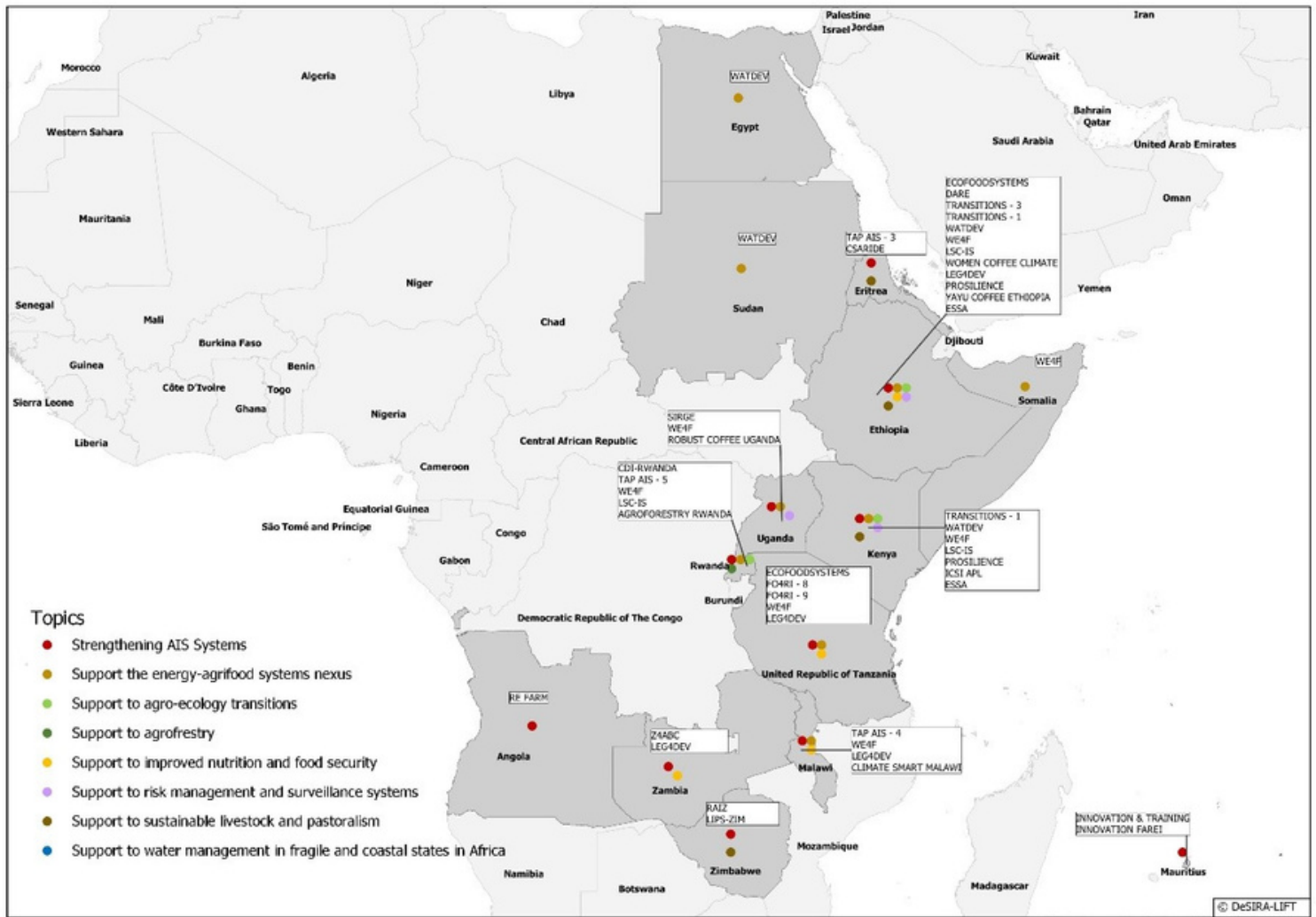
© DeSIRA-LIFT
© EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries

CLUSTER PROFILE

Cluster 3 consists of 28 projects covering Eastern and Southern African countries, and the island country of Mauritius*.

Cluster 3 is highly heterogeneous regarding its themes, operational frameworks, landscapes, and social and organizational environments. The projects' themes mainly focus on strengthening agricultural information systems, innovation support services for agricultural and rural transformation, supporting agroecology transitions, sustainable livestock and pastoralism, and innovation at the water/energy/food/forest nexus. Additionally, they aim to improve nutrition and food security through innovative cropping systems, such as vegetables, legumes, roots, and tubers.

There are 14 multi-country projects with some overlap with those of other Clusters. Ethiopia has the highest number of projects in execution (12), followed by Kenya (7), Tanzania (5), Rwanda (5), Malawi (4), Uganda (3), Eritrea (2), Zambia (2), Angola (1), Egypt (1), Somalia (1) and Sudan (1).

A wide range of organizations is implementing the 14 national country projects: three in Ethiopia (UNICEF, CIRAD and Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung), two in Zimbabwe (CIRAD and ILRI), two in Eritrea (FAO and TEAGASC), two in Malawi (CIP and FAO), two in Mauritius (University of Mauritius and FAREI), two in Uganda (ACTED and CIRAD), two in Rwanda (FAO), one in Kenya (NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs/SNV), one in Angola (Università degli Studi di Firenze), one in Tanzania (AgriCord), and one in Zambia (several Finish institutes).

The projects' strategies include action research and implementation of multiple stakeholder platforms at the country and multi-country levels. Most projects aim to develop Farm-Field Schools, training facilities, or experimental farms to test, communicate, and enable scale-up with a better appropriation of the innovation process and product.

Some projects tackle the multi-functionality of agro-pastoralist landscapes, while others support carbon sequestration in forest or livestock sources of greenhouse emissions for climate change mitigation.

Several projects support Masters and Ph.D. as a strategy for data collection and knowledge acquisition.

During the SA1 inception workshops, it was noted that most of the projects in Cluster 3 were still in their early stages, although some were already in the prototyping and scaling-up phase.

Most projects had developed participatory approaches to create their theories of change. It was observed that the projects were well-versed in ToC-based interventions. Participants from several projects indicated difficulties in carrying out participative research due to several constraints, including COVID-19, social insecurity, complicated access to farmer's plots and the occurrence of droughts.

There were also policy and regulatory constraints. They find it challenging to engage meso and macro-level actors in learning processes. Some projects apply stepwise approaches to build their M&E. Some projects use multi-actor platforms such as Living-labs. The projects' needs for training included: methods to engage multi-stakeholders in co-creation processes; action research for learning purposes in different contexts; MEL for knowledge management, project management, and to define their innovation strategy. Additionally, during the training offered in SA1, the projects expressed their will to learn how to navigate complex environments and deal with natural resource constraints at the niche and funding constraints for sustainability.

Several inter-projects' potential synergies are identified: sharing lessons on implementing technological, organizational, and institutional innovations for agroecological transition; livestock management and pastoralism; innovations for climate-smart agriculture, including water management; platform, cluster, and Hub design and management; and policy formulation.

Some themes for peer learning between projects include the following: water management; innovations for the legume value chain; coffee value chain (potential cross-learning with Central American countries and Brazil), and innovation for risk management at the farm level.

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.