

SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION: EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

Why choose this special training session?



How do you make sure that your **project findings** are actually used and will have **sustainable impacts**? What policy changes are possible through your DeSIRA project? How will you ensure that your project findings will support building an **enabling environment for agricultural innovations**? Who actually has the power to make these changes? How can you effectively work with institutional stakeholders and policymakers? Moreover, how will you know if your efforts are effective?

Although advocacy is often described as an art, as much as a science, there are concrete actions that you can take to influence policies. In this training, we define policy influence broadly, from changes in specific policy framings to broad policy changes. This online course provides background information, readings, and tools to develop a plan for policy engagement. It will also highlight what tools we may use to monitor the impact of your activities. During **three live sessions**, facilitated by DeSIRA-LIFT experts, we will explore what is the meaning of advocacy; how you can actively **plan advocacy and policy engagement**, as part of your DeSIRA projects' strategies; this means developing relationships with key organizations and individuals and develop a strategy to monitor and evaluate your work.

How do you know if you have been able to achieve your (policy) objectives?

This module will be the pre-requisite for follow-up sessions on various theory-based evaluation methods, including contribution analysis and process tracing that will allow you to dive deeper into understanding if your policy activities have (contributed) to desired policy change.



[Registration link here](#). Registration closes on the 11th of April

Once registration is closed, you will receive a confirmation by email and information to access the course.

Learning objectives



This special session is part of the C4SSIS module 4 'Acting at the level of innovation institutional and policy environments' of the course on 'Conducting Action-Research interventions for strengthening national Agricultural Innovation Systems'. It is also embedded in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (C4MEL) support services.

At the end of the online special training session, participants will have the tools to design advocacy strategies to increase the impact of their agricultural innovation systems. We hope that by the end of this e-course, you will be able to:

- Clearly explain what policy changes they hope their DeSIRA projects to contribute to, and understand the importance of knowing the context, for effective policy engagement.
- Be able to identify which stakeholders they should approach, and with whom they will need to work or collaborate, in order to achieve their project goals.
- Have the knowledge to develop a concrete plan and a strategy for reaching key decision-makers to implement the desired changes.
- Have an overview of key tools and strategies to monitor and evaluate your policy work.

Training delivery method



3 live sessions of 2 hours each, facilitated by DeSIRA-LIFT experts. Live sessions will provide an opportunity to use some of the tools introduced, to reflect critically on your plans and to receive feedback from colleagues and other experts.

Target audience



- Project managers, including work packages leaders and partners' main focal points;
- M&E officers;
- Main stakeholders involved in projects.

Overview of content



Session 1: Developing a policy engagement strategy- Part 1 Context

- Introduction: Understanding policy advocacy and types of advocacy- considering some examples
- Considering the context: how does the political context, how evidence is used in your context, and your own links with policymakers affect your advocacy?
- What are the critical issues? How can you shape those issues into policy objectives?

Session 2: Developing a policy engagement strategy- Part 2 Links

- How do you build links with policy maker and potential allies for your work?
- Moving from an issue to a policy objective and deciding whom to work with (force field analysis)

Session 3: Developing a policy engagement strategy- Part 3 Evidence

- How to monitor and learn whether your policy work is effective?
- What actor-specific changes do you hope to see?

This will pave the way to the next module on using contribution analysis and process tracing to look at what was achieved.



Key Readings

- [Making Research Evidence Matter: A Guide to Policy Advocacy in Transition Countries](#)
- [ROMA: a guide to policy engagement and policy influence](#)

Pre-requisite

Projects managers and project team members that are willing to invest time, preferably with partners and stakeholders, in reviewing or (re)designing the theory of change of their DeSIRA project.

Dates	Location	Language	Registration deadline	Registration link
Tuesday 9 May 2023 Tuesday 16 May 2023 Tuesday 23 May 2023	Online	English	3rd May 2023	https://forms.gle/hM14iUQbr4ZT9gaZ6
TBC	En ligne	French		Coming soon

**Note that the live sessions facilitated by DeSIRA-LIFT experts are made for a maximum of 25 participants. If the session is full you will receive a notification when you register.*



Registration

- Click on the [application link](#);
- Receive confirmation by email and information to access the e-learning modules.

Related courses and service offerings

- 'Structuring your monitoring, evaluation and learning system': if you want to build on your ToC, this course is made for you. To be provided in May as a follow-up to the ToC course.
- 'Acting at the level of innovation institutional and policy environments': Provided on April 20th;
- 'One-on-one MEL coaching': if you need tailored support for your project MEL team, you can request the help of a DeSIRA-LIFT MEL mentor;
- 'Make research work for agricultural innovation system strengthening': if you need more insights into the assumptions of your ToC, enroll in this course!



FAQ

- Who to contact about this course? *Syndhia Mathé at: service@desiralift.org*
- Where can I find more information on the MEL support services?
https://padlet.com/Service_DeSIRA_LIFT/n2ld39kf0i7p1sjo
- Where can I find more information on the 'Course on Conducting Action-Research interventions for Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems'?
<https://www.desiraliftcommunity.org/management-areas/capacity-4-influence-projects-environments-and-strengthen-national-ais/>
- Where can I find information on the overall DeSIRA-LIFT service offering to Pillar 1 projects?
<https://www.desiralift.org/service-area-1/>
- Where can I send general questions, comments and suggestions about the DeSIRA-LIFT service offer? *service@desiralift.org*