

Service Area 1: Support services for the Pillar 1-DeSIRA projects to prove and improve impacts
PROVING IMPACTS > Innovate in partnerships > Innovate with Action-Research CYCLE 1

SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION: GENERIC METHODS AND TOOLS FOR CONDUCTING ACTION-RESEARCH WITHIN AN AIS PERSPECTIVE



Why choose this special training session?

Have you ever wondered what actually action research is all about, or how to conduct quality action research within the context of your DESIRA project? Are you happy with your knowledge and mastery of some of the most basic methods and tools for conducting action research? Would you be interested to exchange with others about how they are doing in this regard? Then this special session should be quite useful for you and your project.

Learning objectives

This special session is part of the C4SSIS course on 'Conducting Action Research interventions for strengthening national Agricultural Innovation Systems'.

The objective of this special session is to provide learning inputs about how to implement an Action Research (A-R) approach and mobilize generic participatory methods and tools to this effect. It can benefit projects with different levels of experience and implementation of A-R approaches: projects which do not have a clear A-R strategy yet, projects which have experience with A-R and a clear idea of how they want to implement it but have not started implementing it, projects that have a clear A-R strategy and have already started implementing it.

Specific objectives will depend on the projects' profile, but will include several among the followings:

- Provide an overview of what A-R is about and the diversity of methods and tools that can be mobilized
- Equip participants with basic knowledge about key methods and tools for A-R
- Review proposed methods & tools and reaffirm the ones projects may decide to use /adapt
- Adapt and refine projects' ongoing methodological approaches using some of the proposed methods and tools, or adaptations thereof
- Foster reflexivity about the methods and tools projects have been using
- Provide key take-away messages and attention points to be used within projects



Overall, by the end of the special session, participating project representatives and resource persons will be well aware of what A-R entails and have strengthened their skills to select and adapt a series of basic methods and tools allowing them to design and implement a quality action-research approach within the framework of their respective DESIRA projects or other similar initiatives. In particular, participants will have learned:

- What is action research and how it relates to AIS
- How to design and implement Action-Research using a series of basic methods and tools
- How to implement A-R within a project or organizational context that may present challenges for effective A-R
- What roles researchers and non-researchers may play in an A-R process.

Training delivery methods



2 live sessions of 3 hours each, facilitated by a DeSIRA-LIFT expert and cluster facilitators. Live sessions will provide an overview of each theme/method and tool, an opportunity and a safe place to discuss and reflect critically and hands-on on some of the methods and tools presented, as they are or can be implemented within the framework of their own projects, including receiving feedback from colleagues.

Target audience



- Researchers and practitioners from DESIRA project' teams and partners actively involved either currently, in the past, or in the near future, in the design and implementation of action-research or participatory research, or components thereof.
- Important note: this special session is not really intended for project managers or MEL officers per se who are not involved directly in action-research, even though they may benefit from it in different ways

Overview of content



(Exact content to be adapted on the go based on actual participants' interest & experience)

Session 1 (180 min)

1. Introduction: understanding A-R in a nutshell
 - Origins, Definitions, the A-R cycle, example, A-R & participatory research: where to position yourselves / your project, Roles of researchers and non-researchers in action-research
2. Generic participatory methods and tools Part 1
 - Semi-structured interviews, Focus group discussions, Facilitation, Organizing a participatory multi-stakeholder event, Systemic diagnosis of a situation,

Session 2 (180 min)

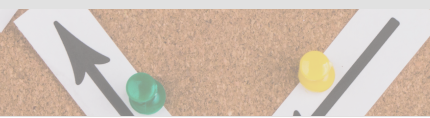
2. Generic participatory methods and tools Part 2
 - Engaging with multiple stakeholders, Multistakeholder arenas, Designing participatory experimentation, Identifying & fostering local innovation, Systematizing experiences,
3. Making A-R work in your projects, A-R and AIS, Identifying and overcoming organizational rules & practices that can constitute obstacles to implementing A-R,
4. Synthesis and wrap-up
5. Special session evaluation

Key readings

[Faure, G., Gasselin, P., Triomphe, B., Temple, L., & Hocdé, H. \(2014\). Innovating with rural stakeholders in the developing world: Action research in partnership.](#)

Pre-requisite

None in terms of academic knowledge related to A-R. Preferably concrete experience with participatory research method. Willingness to look critically at one's and one's project' own practice, and willingness to share experiences and challenges with other participants in an open manner.



Planned dates of live sessions – book your calendars!

Dates	Location	Language	Registration deadline	Registration link
Tuesday June 19th Session 1 14-17hrs CEST Tuesday June 21st Session 2 14-17hrs CEST	Online	English	June 16th	https://forms.gle/Nge9DvY2G_HrwzJ9s8
Wednesday July 10th Session 1 16-19hrs CEST Wednesday July 12th Session 2 16-19hrs CEST	Online	French	June 16th	https://forms.gle/Nge9DvY2G_HrwzJ9s8
<i>TBC (depending on actual demand)</i>	Online	Spanish		Coming soon

It is highly recommended to attend both sessions 1 and 2

**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.*

FAQ

- Who to contact about this special session? Bernard Triomphe at: service@desiralift.org
- 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? Here: <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