



The DeSIRA-LIFT facility and DG-INTPA present a webinar on:

# MANAGING INNOVATION AGENDAS: HOW DESIRA PROJECTS BALANCE NATIONAL AND GLOBAL PRIORITIES

Monday 9th of October 2023



**10:00-12:00 CEST** English session for DeSIRA Projects in Asia, East and English-speaking Africa

**16:00-18:00 CEST** French and Spanish Session for DeSIRA projects in Francophone Africa and Latin America simultaneous interpretation FR-ES will be available.



**Registration link here** (*the meeting will be held in Zoom*)



## Objectives

The aim of the webinar is to review how DeSIRA projects are set against the backdrop of broader international agendas, such as SDGs, and related national policies. How the various stakeholders are expecting projects to deliver on impact, what tradeoffs projects accept to navigate this complexity and how some of the innovation approaches they support - such as living labs – can help design mechanisms for alignment of priorities and collective action.

The webinar will help identify areas of trade-off in innovation agendas and mechanisms for alignment between local and global initiatives.



## Background and questions

The EU-funded DeSIRA initiative (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture, in short DeSIRA) was launched in 2018 with the aim of strengthening Research and Innovation, within an AIS perspective, in order to support the sustainable transformation of agri-food systems.

Research and innovation projects are implemented against the backdrop of broader international and regional agendas such as UN SDGs, the UN Sustainable Food Systems, the EU Green Deal, or the One Health approach, all calling for changes and innovations in Agriculture and Food.

These agendas themselves result from vast consultation processes, within countries, regional and international arenas, in which civil society, research organizations, and government organizations take part.

International partners such as the FAO, the European Union, or IFAD and donors then translate these agendas into funding opportunities for research organizations, in partnership with other organizations, to design and implement projects meant to meet the objectives of this international agenda.

Translating and meeting these objectives through project activities remains challenging due to dynamics and contingencies of context, particularly when it comes to partners' interests and beneficiaries' needs.

Projects however intend to ensure uptake and wherever possible scaling of their results, by their direct stakeholders and at the level of the Agricultural Innovation System into which they are set. As such they loop back into local, national and broader agendas to which they bring a contribution.

By doing so, they contribute to further setting innovation agendas.

The two questions underlying this webinar are:

- When and how do tensions between projects' innovation agendas and broader innovation agendas occur?
- Should projects plan and develop strategies to help synchronize agendas, using their activities as drivers for collective action?



Targeted audience: DeSIRA implementers and their partners



This webinar is part of the DeSIRA-LIFT Community of Practice

Upcoming Webinar



## Programme – Morning session (10.00 - 12.00 CEST)

### 10h00 Opening

#### Introduction

### 10h10 Setting the scene

Managing innovation agendas: how innovation agendas are set and managed versus international AIS.

Introduction to the topic in the context of DeSIRA projects and beyond

**Keynote speaker : Dr Boru Douthwaite** - Director Selkie Consulting

Reference publication [Using theory to understand how policy change happens: Insights from agricultural research for development](#)

### 10h30 Presentation by the projects

**UAKIS Uzbekistan** - Mr. Ivan Horvat - UNDP

**CDI-Rwanda** - M. Placide Kanjabujinja Nshuti - FAO Rwanda

**RaiZ Zimbabwe** - Mr Mashoko Grey - CIRAD

### 11h05 Panel: How to make use of projects' activities for alignment of priorities and collective action

Facilitated discussion between keynote speakers and presenters from the 3 projects.

### 11h50 Closing

- Wrap-up and key takeaways
- Presentation of the How to Brief process with Discussion Groups where to continue the discussion.



## Programme – Afternoon session (16:00-18:00 CEST)

### 16h00 Opening

Introduction

### 16h10 Setting the scene

Managing innovation agendas: how innovation agendas are set and managed versus international AIS.

Introduction to the topic in the context of DeSIRA projects and beyond

**Keynote speaker : Dr Matias Ramirez**, senior lecturer, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex

Latest publication [Abriendo Paso a Políticas y Prácticas de Innovación Transformativa en América Latina](#)

### 16h30 Presentation by the projects

**5 Great Forests - Central America** - M. Oscar Nuñez - Wildlife Conservation Society

**Clima LoCA - Colombia, Peru, Ecuador** - Ms Mirjam Pulleman - Alliance Biodiversity CIAT/CGIAR

**AcceSS - Burkina Faso** - M. Aristide Sempore - CIRAD

### 17h05 Discussion panel: How to make use of projects' activities for alignment of priorities and collective action

Facilitated discussion between keynote speakers and presenters from the 3 projects

### 17h50 Closing

- Wrap-up and key takeaways
- Presentation of the How to Brief process with Discussion Groups where to continue the discussion.