

## Workshop 16 January, DeSIRA Connect days Hanoi.

### Background

The EU and IFAD have a long-standing history of supporting farmers' organisations (FOs) at local, national, regional, and continental levels. This collaboration has notably materialised through the FO4ACP, FO4Latin America, FO4Asia programmes that will come to completion by the end of December 2024.

In 2023-2024, a final evaluation review was conducted to assess them. One of the key recommendations was: *"to build on existing successful experiences for replication and scaling up in areas such as agroecology, climate resilience, and improved practices in fair contract farming and links to agribusiness. Additionally, the introduction of innovation, technology, rural finance, and green financing will ensure the framework remains responsive to the evolving needs of the global agricultural sector"*.

In this context, and as a contribution to the EU Global Gateway strategy, the European Commission/INTPA and IFAD are developing a new follow up programme to further support FOs across Africa, Asia/Pacific, and Latin America. The new initiative, to be launched in 2025, will build on the key pillars of previous programmes that notably aimed at strengthening economic and financial services provided by FOs, improving business environment and advocacy, and at strengthening FOs' institutional capacities and professionalism.

In addition, the new programme will include a **strong emphasis on the development of selected value chains** based on **agroecological approaches and practices by a set of actors including FOs and private and public institutions**. Research and extension are expected to be mobilised to support those actors in this process.

The DeSIRA Connect days in Hanoi aim at sharing experiences, learning and good practices from the implementation of the DeSIRA projects in Asia and at providing recommendations to practitioners and policy makers to support and scale up innovations through research with a specific focus on agroecological approaches. As such, they offer a not-to-be-missed opportunity to use the results of the DeSIRA Connect Days to collectively reflect and gather valuable inputs on the links and modalities of interactions between OPs, research and extension within the framework of agroecology-based value chain development **to strengthen the design and development of the new EU/IFAD programme**.

The Asian Farmers' Association (AFA), the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (AAPARI) and the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) for Asia/Pacific, the Pan Africa Farmers Organisation (PAFO) for Africa, and Agricord and its agri-agencies, are among the organisations that have been pre-identified as key programme partners. They will be present at the workshop together with representatives of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

### Objective

The objective of the workshop is to contribute to the co-creation of a **new EU/IFAD FO programme with a focus on Asia/Pacific by collecting valuable inputs, fostering exchanges and identifying possible partnerships and multi-actor approaches to capacitate FOs as drivers of agroecology-based value chain development with the support of advisory services and research in Asia/Pacific, Africa as well as possibly Latin America**.

**The workshop will be key to** identify challenges and opportunities, as well as potential areas of interventions, relevant partnerships and innovative approaches around issues, such as:

- Needs and roles of farmers organisations to be driving actors of value chains: service provision, farmer led research.
- Identification of potential value chains (local market, national market, or export) of interest for FOs, and with clear links to agribusiness, and how to make them more aligned with agroecological principles (technical and social).
- the role of research to support the actors involved in the agroecological transition through experiments, knowledge sharing and through contribution to training (vocational and academia) and policy advocacy based on evidence.
- the role of advisory services (including FOs) to support FOs and their members to be actors of value chains and to support the agroecological transition with innovative methods and tools.

### **Programme (3 hours)**

- Context and background information regarding some EU/IFAD priorities for the new intervention:
  - o INTPA (M. Michaud): background, main objectives, EU policy (Global Gateway)
  - o IFAD (M. Camagni): first proposal of intervention based on previous consultation.
  - o AGRICORD (K. Vuori): contributions based on the lessons learned from the FO-RI Programme implementation coordination.
- Panel discussion based on the previous interventions to collect comments and potential contributions/interventions of key partners of the EU/IFAD programme.
  - o Farmers' organisation
    - AFA and PIFON
    - PAFO
  - o APAARI: potential contribution of research
  - o APIRAS: potential contribution of advisory services
  - o Private downstream actors (if present in the workshop)
- Exchanges with the participants based on key questions on FOs' participation in value chains under agroecological principles and contribution of research/education and advisory services.
- Summary and conclusion.

### **Participants:**

- Main actors of the new programmes: AFA, PIFON, PAFO, AGRICORD, APAARI, APIRAS, FARA, others?
- Participants of the DeSIRA Connect Days (project managers, NGO, FO, public services, policy makers, etc.) interested in contributing to the exchanges and provide their inputs.
- Donors: INTPA, IFAD.

### **Support:**

- DeSIRA LIFT
  - o Facilitation: Renaud Guillonnet
- INTPA and IFAD
  - o Guidance
  - o Reporting: Marion Michaud