



## 2<sup>nd</sup> RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

### CONCEPT NOTE

## THE CONSORTIUM EUROPE-AFRICA ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION (CEA – FIRST)

### Stakeholders' Engagement and Consultation Workshop

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 **Time:** 10:30-16:30 CAT

**Venue:** Mercure Hotel, Room KUISEB 2, Windhoek, Namibia

**Registration Link:** [here](#)

**Contact:** [s.dagnoko@ruforum.org](mailto:s.dagnoko@ruforum.org)

**Conveners:** RUFORUM & CIRAD

**Partners:** Task 2.4. Beneficiaries - FARA, SLU, HU, ARC, WUR, & AGRINATURA

### BACKGROUND

The AU-EU Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) under the aegis of the AU-EU HLPD adopted in 2016, their common first ten-year (2016 – 2026) roadmap towards a Research and Innovation (R&I) partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). Four research and innovation priorities were funded under the first FNSSA Roadmap for Research and Innovation (R&I) as follows:

- i) Sustainable Intensification;
- ii) Agriculture and food systems for nutrition;
- iii) Expansion and improvement of agricultural markets and trade and
- iv) Crosscutting issues (improved coordination between European and African FNSSA R&I projects, supporting innovation processes, strengthening collaborative capacities of R&I communities, and social and cultural contexts of FNSSA production systems).

The FNSSA roadmap was largely informed by the EU strategy and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). It defined the AU-EU common R&I priorities





within the FNSSA domain. Under the leadership of the HLPD, the implementation of the Roadmap has galvanized a growing FNSSA Partnership chaperoned by the HLPD FNSSA Working Group.

The 2016-2026 FNSSA Roadmap coming to an end in 2026, the AU-EU partnership approved the **“Consortium Europe Africa on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation (CEA-FIRST)”** project financing, which aims among others, to develop a new R&I Roadmap on FNSSA for the upcoming ten year (2027-2037). CEA FIRST as the first bi-continental effort (in scope and scale) also aims to operationalize the International Research Consortium (IRC) on FNSSA, in line with the FNSSA roadmap of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD). The project started in December 2023 and was funded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe R&I Program (Cluster 6).

CEA-FIRST Project will be delivered through the implementation of the following seven work packages:

- Work Package 1      CEA-FIRST Project and IRC Start-up
- Work Package 2      Consolidation of Knowledge Management & Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning tools and support to the FNSSA Roadmap update
- Work Package 3      Strengthening Networking and Stakeholder Engagement
- Work Package 4      Knowledge and learning facilitation using information generated from the Knowledge Management Platform and the MEL
- Work Package 5      Implementing IRC Functions Through Stakeholder Engagement
- Work Package 6      Coordination of CEA-FIRST and IRC Pilots. CEA-FIRST activities will be conducted under the control and guidance of the EC REA Project Officer
- Work Package 7      Ethics Requirements

As part of the activities under WP2 - *Consolidation of Knowledge Management and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning tools to support the FNSSA Roadmap update*”, the project will support the update of the 2016-2026 FNSSA Roadmap with new Research and Innovation priorities to guide the AU-EU R&I investments for the period 2027-2037. The updating of the 2016 -2026 FNSSA roadmap to develop the new roadmap for the 2027 to 2037 period required desk-reviews of the eight-year implementation of the first roadmap and on-line surveys which the project implemented and generated various outputs such as (i) Key successes, level of achievement of the expected outcomes and the impact achieved by the R&I projects, programs and policies implemented in the four thematic areas of the 2016-2026 Roadmap; (ii) areas of improvement identified, and (iii) emerging FNSSA R&I priorities, challenges and future prospects also identified.

RUFORUM, CIRAD and project partners seeks to enrich the above outputs by obtaining feedback from all stakeholders in the FNSSA domain but also their inputs and suggestions for the 2027-





2037 FNSSA Roadmap. Both the EU Strategy and the CAADP Malabo agenda identify research communities as having a leading role to play.

The CEA-FIRST project also aims to develop participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) frameworks for the International Research Consortium and the FNSSA partnership. The MEL frameworks and ensuing data collection and analysis systems will enable the IRC to monitor and evaluate the progress of the FNSSA Partnership and the IRCs impact on its membership.

From August 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building will hold its second triennial scientific conference in Windhoek, Namibia under the overarching theme **“Operationalising Higher Agricultural Education and Research Ecosystems for Innovation, Industrialisation and Economic Development in Africa: A Call for Action”**. The conference will bring together over 1,000 delegates involved in the agricultural research and innovation landscape in Africa and beyond. The conference therefore provides a good platform for CEA FIRST project to organise a side event with beneficiaries and stakeholders to become aware of the planned IRC and give input towards its operationalization and at a higher level to inform the updating of the 2027 – 2037 FNSSA roadmap.

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The objective is to build dialogue between African universities and research institutions on the IRC that is expected to play a role as the main AU-EU Platform of the FNSSA partnership for building sustainable and responsive food systems, economic growth and job creation. In addition, the event aims to facilitate stakeholder inputs into strategic activities for operationalization of the IRC.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Create awareness amongst stakeholders about the International Research Consortia and mobilise membership for the platform.
2. To facilitate stakeholder input towards the impact oriented desk review and preliminary results of the implementation of the AU-EU R&I FNSSA Roadmap (2016-2026) and provision of input into the new 2027-2037 FNSSA Roadmap.
3. To facilitate participatory development of the IRC and FNSSA Partnership Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) frameworks

## APPROACH

The workshop will consider a blended approach (both physical and virtual attendance). There will be plenary PowerPoint presentations followed by discussions. Breakout sessions will be organized to collect more inputs and recommendations of the stakeholders. Breakout sessions participants will report back in plenary.





## DATE AND VENUE

The CEA-FIRST side event will take place in Windhoek, Namibia, Mercure Hotel, Room KUISEB 2 on Thursday Aug 15, 2024, from 10:30 – 16:30 CAT. To participate virtually, please click [here](#).

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Improved facilitation for reaching out to European FNSSA-related universities and research institutions in networking and membership management for the IRC.
2. Inputs and recommendations that will guide the development of the new AU – EU FNSSA R&I roadmap 2027-2037 of the stakeholders collected and documented.
3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning frameworks for the IRC and the FNSSA partnerships jointly developed and understood.

## PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 40 participants are expected at the CEA-FIRST side event in Windhoek, Namibia. They include representatives of FNSAA stakeholders from AU/EU member countries; CEA FIRST project beneficiaries; HLPD FNSSA working group; Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD); the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA); the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-Agri); the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR); regional economic communities (ECOWAS, CEMAC, SADC, EAEC); sub regional organizations (CORAF/WECARD, ASARECA, CCARDESA); and the specialized Technical Committees (i) on Education, Science and Technology, (ii) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, on (iii) Social Development, Labour and Employment or on (iv) Gender and Women’s Empowerment of the African Union, etc.





## PROGRAMME

**Rapporteurs:** Consultants (Prof Adipala Ekwamu, Alex Percy-Smith and Bernard Mallet)  
RUFORUM (Emmanuel Okalany), ARC (Petronella Chaminuka)

**Session Chair:** FNSSA – WG

Date	Activity	Responsible / facilitator
<b>Session 1. Opening ceremony</b>		
10:00 - 10:30	Arrival and registration	
10:30 - 10:35	Welcome remarks	Prof Patrick Okori, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
10:35-10:40	Opening Remarks by FNSSA Working Group	Co-Chairs
10:40-10:50	Purpose of the Workshop	Dr Sokona Dagnoko
10:50 - 11 :10	Overview of the International Research Consortium	Dr Irene Annor- Frempong
1100 :11 :10	Discussion	Dr Sokona
<b>Session 2. Plenary Presentations</b>		
11:11 - 11:40	Presentation of the Results of the desk review and online surveys	Alex Percy-Smith Prof Adipala Ekwamu
11:40 - 12:00	Discussions	
12:00 - 12:30	<b>Session 3: Plenary:</b> Setting up Breakout sessions (two – four groups)  <b>TORs: (i)</b> What are the levels of implementation, key achievements, challenges, and areas of improvements of the four thematic areas of the 2016 -2026 AU-EU FNSSA roadmap?  <b>(ii)</b> What are the emerging trends and future priorities of the new AU-EU FNSSA R&I roadmap?	Dr Sokona
12:30-13:00	<b>Feedback from plenary</b>	
13:00 - 14:00	<b>LUNCH</b>	
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Presentations of the MEL Frameworks</b>	Petronella Chaminuka
14:30 - 15:00	<b>Session 4:</b> Breakout sessions – Inputs to the MEL Frameworks	Petronella Chaminuka
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Feedback from Plenary</b>	
15:30-16:00	<b>Discussion on IRC strategy and stakeholder needs</b>	Antti
<b>Session 6. Closing ceremony</b>		
16:00 – 16:20	Wrap up of the discussions and way forward	Prof Adipala Ekwamu and Alex Percy-Smith
16:20 – 16:30	Closing remarks	Prof Patrick Okori, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM

