

Shared commitments in policy frameworks

- **European Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies** (September 2020)
- Communication on “**A Vision for Agriculture and Food**” (February 2025)
- Joint declarations under the **AU-EU Partnership**
- Common engagement in the 2021 **UN Food System Summit**
- **post-Malabo CAADP Strategy** and Action Plan (2026-2035)
- Support to the developments of **Africa's policy agenda** at national, regional and continental levels.

DG INTPA's approach to agroecology (AE)

- **DG INTPA's objective**
 - To contribute to a **better understanding of AE** and to support its **integration and scaling** within **African agriculture and food systems policies and programmes** at national, regional and continental levels.
- **DG INTPA's approach to AE** is consistent with the 13 HLPE principles and 10 FAO elements.
- An **integrated and systemic framework**, rooted in both **ecological science** and **traditional knowledge**, that promotes **locally adapted solutions** by placing **participation of actors** and **context-specific knowledge at the centre**.

DG INTPA's approach to agroecology (AE) – cc

- An AE agenda **relevant for both continents** but still requiring a **nuanced approach, adapted to the specificities of each context** – **example of the use of synthetic inputs (fertilizers)**.
- A focus on **transversal topics** consistent with AE:
 - **Agrobiodiversity** (crops, animals) incl. the production and dissemination of farmers' seeds
 - **Bio-solutions** (organic fertilisers, mycorrhiza/bacteria) and integrated pest & disease mngt
 - **Soil health and Integrated Soil Fertility Management, Water resources management**
 - Adapted **mechanisation** for small-scale farmers to increase productivity
 - **Neglected & Under-utilised crops, legumes, plant-based and/or alternative proteins**
 - **Sustainable Value chains & Access to markets (circular economy)**

The role of research

- AE is **context-specific** and, thus, **knowledge intensive**
- AE is still a **controverted topic**
- **Knowledge gaps** remain significant

→ **DeSIRA Initiative** : an EU contribution of 340M€ + over 60M€ co-financing from EU MS to support R&I for agriculture and food systems transformations and to develop capacities

Current outcomes: 30,000 technician and 4,000 researchers trained
1,000 Master or PhD students supported
around 600 innovations generated and taken up by farmers
over 150 agri-food value chains in 45 countries and 1,400 SMEs strengthened
In total, half a million farmers directly reached.

The role of research - cc

- Research must involve all stakeholders (incl. farmers) in the design of transformation pathways.
- **FORI Programme** : example of farmers-led action-research through participatory approaches, adapted to local contexts and based on a hybridization of local and scientific knowledge.
- Complementarity with the support provided by DG RTD and DG AGRI through:
 - **Horizon 2020** (2014-2020)
 - **Horizon Europe** (2021-2027)
 - Four running projects in Africa: **NATAE**, **CIRAWA**, **PRAECTICE** and **CANALLS**
 - Horizon Europe **Partnership on Agroecology**

The importance of strengthened R&I capacities in Africa

- Several **DeSIRA projects** strengthen **researchers' capacities** in partner countries
Some also contribute to improving the **institutional capacities of national research organisations**.
- One of the objectives of the **Regional Multistakeholder Research Networks on AE** is to strengthen the scientific and technological capacities of African universities and research organizations to address specific agroecological related topics.
- An important dimension of the **EU support to CGIAR** :
 - to promote **new multistakeholder partnerships** between **international and local research organizations, private sector actors, farmers' organizations** and **civil society**
 - to support CGIAR's efforts to **strengthen research capacities in the Global South**.

Development of agroecologically compatible Value Chains

- Alignement with the EU **Global Gateway strategy**
- AE's technical and social dimensions can be applied to industrial agriculture and large farms through the promotion of and/or support to agroecologically compatible value chains, capable of marketing the diversity of the resulting productions and concerned with fair trade
- **Neglected and Underutilised crop Species (NUS) in Western and Eastern Africa**
(in partnership with AICS, IFAD and Switzerland)
- **Strengthening Agroecological Transition & Agroforestry focusing on Cashew, Coffee and Cocoa in Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda**
(in partnership with the European Forest institute)

The strength of partnerships

- Need to leveraging the expertise, resources, and networks of diverse stakeholders through mutli-actor partnerships incl. the UN-based agencies:
- FAO: support to the deployment at national level of an upgraded version of the Tool for AE Performance Evaluation (TAPE) - **Underpinning agroecological practices and policy with cutting-edge metrics** (EUR2M, 24 months)
- IFAD: leverage on existing IFAD investments to strengthen AE approaches and practices and to mobilise and strengthen the capacity of PDB to support the transition to sustainable practices in agriculture and food systems - **Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (GP-SAEP)** and the **Investing in Livelihood Resilience and Soil Health in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ILSA) Programme**



Thank you for your attention !