

WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2022

FOOD, BIOECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GREEN TRANSITION-FOOD SECURITY

CALL: [Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption \(HORIZON-CL6-2021-FARM2FORK-01\)](#)

Food and nutrition security for all within planetary boundaries is ensured through knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food systems, which are sustainable, resilient, inclusive, safe and healthy from farm to fork.

SUBMISSION: 15 February 2022

BUDGET: 7 MILLION Euro

TYPE OF ACTION: Research and Innovation

1. Agro-ecological approaches in African agriculture systems

Expected Outcome: In line with the farm to fork strategy, and its promotion of global transitions on sustainable food systems, successful proposals will provide a comprehensive and integrated response to current and future challenges benefiting people, nature and economic growth in Europe and in Africa. *Projects results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:*

- EU – Africa jointly tackle climate change and environmental-related challenges (e.g., biodiversity loss, natural habitats alteration, landscape degradation) and meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular ensuring food and nutrition security and decent livelihoods.
- Identification of optimal combinations of agro-ecological practices that increase the climate change mitigation and adaptation of different farming systems in different agroecological zones in Africa while ensuring the financial viability of businesses.
- Quantification and assessment of socio-economic and environmental performance of agro-ecological strategies contributing to sustainable agriculture practices, supporting small farmers and access to local and international markets.
- Increased end-user adoption and implementation of agro-ecological practices by farmers supporting rural communities, ensuring farm resilience and viability at individual and system levels.
- Strengthened transdisciplinary research and integrated scientific support for relevant EU policies and priorities (EU strategy for Africa, Green Deal objectives, etc.).

Scope: The EU's relationship with Africa is a key priority for the EU. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing urgency of the climate crisis put pressure both on domestic/local food production and on ecosystems that generate higher health risks with the emergence of new pest and diseases for plants, animals and humans. The implementation of agro-ecological approaches will alleviate the pressure that agri-food production places on natural ecosystems, contributing to resilience of agri-food systems and facilitating nature-based responses to current and future agri-food risks and

threats. Agroecological transitions of food systems requires strong food governance with interventions at different level (local, territorial, and value chain) and coherent public policies.

Proposals should build on existing and develop new knowledge, data, models (including indicators) to:

- Identify and evaluate the most suitable agro-ecological strategies for various farming systems in different agro-ecological zones, in Africa.
- Deliver a method to identify the best combination of agro-ecological practices for different farming systems, identifying barriers to and drivers of (socioeconomic and ecological) its wide implementation and the conditions, means and tools to support agroecological transitions at individual, territorial and systems levels, and including prospective related to access to local and international markets.
- Develop indicators to monitor and measure the qualitative and quantitative impacts of these strategies for different farming systems, the climate neutrality potential and tradeoffs, nutrients flows, biodiversity and improvement of in farm socio-economic resilience.
- Support farmers, advisory services and actors in value chains in implementing agroecological practices by stablishing communities to support capacity building, knowledge exchange, and share best practices across different human communities in relation to agro-ecological practices that contribute to mitigating climate change and other environmental impacts.
- Identify approaches and methods to enhance the demand for food products resulting from agro-ecological practices, from local, national, regional and international markets. *Proposals must implement the 'multi-actor approach' and ensure adequate involvement of the farming sector and, as relevant, bio-based industries active in rural areas.*

Partnership

The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: Due to the scope of this topic, legal entities established in all member states of the African Union are exceptionally eligible for Union funding. The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposals must use the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multiactor approach in the introduction to this work programme part. The following additional eligibility criteria apply: Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the General Annexes, consortia must include at least eight independent legal entities established in Africa. The places of establishment of at least five of these legal entities must be in the same geographical region of Africa (as defined by the African Union: https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2) International organisations with headquarters in a Member State or associated country are exceptionally eligible for funding.

SUBMISSION: 15 February 2022

BUDGET: 6 MILLION Euro

TYPE OF ACTION: Research and Innovation

2. African Food Cities

Expected Outcome: In line with the European Green Deal priorities and the farm to fork strategy for a fair healthy and environmentally friendly food system, as well as with the EU's climate objectives for

2030 and 2050, the EU's "Comprehensive Strategy with Africa" calls on the EU to "partner with Africa to maximise the benefits of the green transition and minimise threats to the environment". In support of this strategy, the EU and the African Union are implementing a ten-year roadmap (2016-2026) on research and innovation in food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture to which the successful proposal will contribute. It will also contribute to the transformation of food systems to deliver co-benefits for climate (mitigation and adaptation), environmental sustainability and circularity, dietary shift, sustainable healthy nutrition and safe food, food poverty reduction and empowerment of communities, and thriving businesses. Urban areas contribute significantly to global food-system related emissions and food waste. Urban growth often happens at the expense of natural resources. Urban areas are increasingly affected by the double burden of malnutrition: high prevalence of undernourishment and undernutrition and increasing obesity and the spread of non communicable diseases.

A successful proposal will build on initiatives like the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), on the FAO urban food agenda and upon the recommendations of the Task Force Rural Africa report. It will address big, intermediate and small cities and towns. It will address the fact that poorly planned urban food systems lack opportunities to link rural and urban food producers, markets and consumers, and limit the access of vulnerable groups to safe and healthy nutrition.

Projects results are expected to contribute to all or some of following expected outcomes:

- A shift to food security and improved nutrition in five African cities (could encompass rural urban centres and cities) through a shift to healthy and affordable diets that reduces the pressure of food production on land and water use and reduces the climate footprint of downstream activities from farm to fork.
- Reducing the food-system-related environmental footprint, improving circularity (e.g. food and packaging waste), and providing citizens with new, sustainable and healthy products. Scope: Proposals are expected to address the following:
 - Understanding: promoting multi-stakeholder collaborations in assessing data on food challenges (including harmful marketing and advertising and unequal access to healthy food for the urban poor), and identifying opportunities and indicators in developing urban food policies.
 - Engaging: mobilising a wide diversity of food system actors (from farm to fork, the public and private sector, and society, organic and conventional); in particular higher education institutions and research centres to work with local actors in support of evidence-based food policy development and to help provide local solutions to integrated food system challenges.
 - Mutual learning: reinforcing or creating new networks of African cities and towns to share good practices and learn from and support each other. This implies also involving cities (in Africa, Europe or elsewhere) with well-developed food policies to provide guidance and lessons learned, as well as new forms of collaboration/twinning.
 - Innovation: proposals should envisage a space for mentoring and accelerating innovative business concepts, including social innovation and upscaling in view of African or European food business entrepreneurs with special consideration of women and the diaspora using cascading funding opportunities. Proposals may involve financial support to third parties e.g. to academic researchers,

start-ups, SMEs and other multidisciplinary actors, to, for instance, develop, test or validate developed assessment approaches or collect or prepare data sets or provide other contributions to achieve the project objectives. A maximum of EUR 60 000 per third party may be granted. Conditions for third parties support are set out in Part B of the General Annexes. Consortia need to define the selection process of organisations, for which financial support will be granted. A maximum 20% of the EU funding can be allocated to this purpose. The financial support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants.

- Where relevant, creating links to and using the information and data of the European Earth observation programme Copernicus, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the global Earth observation system of systems (GEOSS).
- Exploring how the food environment can become crisis-proof (whether something can be learnt from or has changed with the COVID-19 crisis) and how to create resilient local, regional food systems with border regimes, which do not disrupt supply chains.
- Governance: developing and evaluating innovative multi-actor urban food systems governance processes and capacities for science-backed integrated policy making and implementation actions that deliver on the international collaboration dimension of the farm to fork strategy objectives and Food 2030 co-benefits for health, environment, climate, circularity and inclusion, while minimizing trade-offs.
- EU-AU partnership: proposals should have a clear plan on how they will collaborate with other projects selected under this topic and similar projects funded under the EU-AU HLPD-FNSSA priority from different funding sources including Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, ERA-Nets, African Union research grants, DeSIRA or PRIMA. They should contribute to the work of the FNSSA-working group (WG) by linking to the LEAP4FNSSA project supporting the FNSSA-WG secretariat. They should participate in joint activities, workshops and as common communication and dissemination activities and show potential for upscaling. Applicants should plan the necessary funding to cover these activities.
- Social innovation is recommended when the solution is at the socio-technical interface and requires social change, new social practices, social ownership or market uptake. This topic should involve the effective contribution of SSH disciplines.

Partnership

The following additional eligibility criteria apply: Due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the General Annexes, consortia must include at least five independent legal entities established in Africa. The places of establishment of these legal entities must cover at least three different specific regions in Africa (as defined by the African Union: https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2). Due to the scope of this topic, legal entities established in all member states of the African Union are exceptionally eligible for Union funding. The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposals must use the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this work programme part.

SUBMISSION: 23 February 2022

BUDGET: 7 MILLION Euro

TYPE OF ACTION: Research and Innovation

3. AU-EU Combatting all forms of malnutrition

Expected Outcome:

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Projects results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- EU – Africa jointly tackle climate change and environmental-related challenges (e.g., biodiversity loss, natural habitats alteration, landscape degradation) and meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular ensuring food and nutrition security and decent livelihoods.
- Identification of optimal combinations of agro-ecological practices that increase the climate change mitigation and adaptation of different farming systems in different agroecological zones in Africa while ensuring the financial viability of businesses.
- Quantification and assessment of socio-economic and environmental performance of agro-ecological strategies contributing to sustainable agriculture practices, supporting small farmers and access to local and international markets.
- Increased end-user adoption and implementation of agro-ecological practices by farmers supporting rural communities, ensuring farm resilience and viability at individual and system levels.
- Strengthened transdisciplinary research and integrated scientific support for relevant EU policies and priorities (EU strategy for Africa, Green Deal objectives, etc.).

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ecological practices for different farming systems, identifying barriers to and drivers of (socioeconomic and ecological) its wide implementation and the conditions, means and tools to support agroecological transitions at individual, territorial and systems levels, and including prospective related to access to local and international markets.

- Develop indicators to monitor and measure the qualitative and quantitative impacts of these strategies for different farming systems, the climate neutrality potential and tradeoffs, nutrients flows, biodiversity and improvement of in farm socio-economic resilience.
- Support farmers, advisory services and actors in value chains in implementing agroecological practices by establishing communities to support capacity building, knowledge exchange, and share best practices across different human communities in relation to agro-ecological practices that contribute to mitigating climate change and other environmental impacts.
- Identify approaches and methods to enhance the demand for food products resulting from agro-ecological practices, from local, national, regional and international markets. Proposals must implement the 'multi-actor approach' and ensure adequate involvement of the farming sector and, as relevant, bio-based industries active in rural areas

Consortium

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The following additional eligibility criteria apply:

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https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2) International organisations with headquarters in a Member State or associated country are exceptionally eligible for funding