

## Objectives of the project

The objective of the project is to strengthen capacity to innovate in national Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in the context of climate-relevant, productive, and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems. The project will facilitate the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) at the global level, strengthen regional and sub-regional organizations' capacity to analyse and strengthen AIS at the regional level and will strengthen capacity to innovate in nine countries (five in Africa, three in Asia and one in Latin America).

## Background

Many low and middle-income countries are facing challenges that affect their agriculture and food systems and do not have sufficient resources or mechanisms in place to properly develop their capacity to innovate.

[The Tropical Agriculture Platform \(TAP\)](#) was launched in 2012 by the G20 to tackle the constraints of weak capacity for agricultural innovation in low and middle-income countries in the tropics. In 2015, TAP developed a [Common Framework](#) on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation System (CDAIS) which provides a package of concepts, stages, principles and tools for demand-driven and action-oriented capacity development interventions.



From 2015 to 2019, with funding support by the EU, the Common Framework was piloted successfully in eight countries through the CDAIS project, a partnership between FAO (host of the TAP Secretariat) and Agrinatura. The project has provided evidence that effective AIS require, in addition to technical and financial resources, functional capacities at individual, organizational and enabling environment levels. This project will specifically support the implementation of the TAP Action Plan 2018-2021 (as well as the subsequent one) and will draw on lessons learned to update and expand TAP Common Framework tools, including an assessment of national AIS, and further promote them at national, regional/sub-regional and global levels.

## The theory of change to achieve the objectives

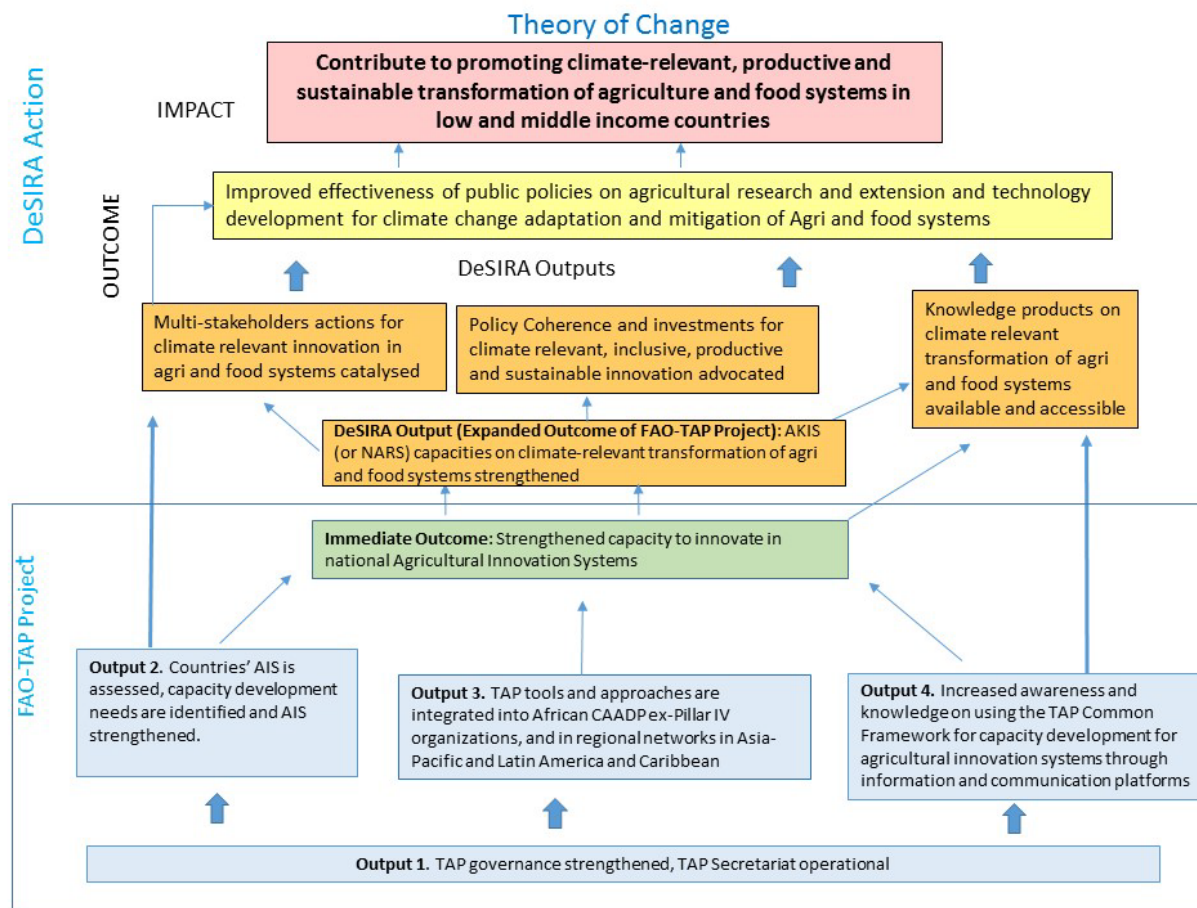
The project expected impact is to contribute to promoting climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low- and middle-income countries, in combination with other components of the DeSIRA Initiative. The project outcome is "Strengthened capacity to innovate in national Agricultural Innovation Systems". To achieve this, the project will deliver four outputs.

At *global level*, the project will support the TAP governance and the TAP Capacity Development Expert Group which will review and update the TAP Common Framework (**Output 1**).

At the *national level*, in nine countries, the project will strengthen capacities to innovate of key national organizations and platforms, which are innovation services providers as well as strengthen the enabling environment for agricultural innovation (**Output 2**). Such interventions would lead to improvement of national innovation policies. The results will be used by the TAP platform to be shared with other actors and countries.

At regional and sub-regional level, the project will promote the use of TAP tools and approaches by regional and sub-regional organizations, African CAADP ex-Pillar IV organizations, and regional research and extension networks and organizations in Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean (**Output 3**). The use of TAP tools and approaches would strengthen the capacities of these organizations to promote better research for impacts and support innovative approaches to transform the food systems.

The project will also promote and increase awareness and knowledge among a large community of organizations and practitioners on using the TAP Common Framework on capacity development for agricultural innovation systems through information and communication platforms. The simultaneous use of these TAP tools and approaches in multiple countries will also enable cross-country learning, and continuous improvement of the TAP tools. (**Output 4**).



### Main activities

At global level, the project will support the operations of the TAP Secretariat, including the organization of TAP Steering Committee meetings, coordination of the Capacity Development (CD) Expert group, and set up of the project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system (MEL).

In each of the nine countries, main activities will include: an assessment of the national AIS, including of key organizations and their capacity needs, as well as a review and analysis of policies and the enabling environment; ‘marketplaces’ events involving key stakeholders and other technical and development agencies to match capacity development demand and supply of services including financial services; a policy dialogue process to better understand how policies and their implementation affect agricultural innovation.



At regional and sub-regional level, rapid appraisals and identification of entry points for regional agricultural research and extension organizations in year one will inform a joint agenda for action, which the project will strategically support in the years 2-5.

Awareness, knowledge exchange and communication activities will be implemented to reach out to more partners and stakeholders and promote the TAP Common Framework at global, regional and national level. Existing TAP tools will be revised and new ones developed to fill gaps in the knowledge tool box. TAPipedia (<https://www.tapipedia.org/>) will be supported, and linkages with other complementary knowledge platforms strengthened, such as TECA, will be made.

### **Organization**

The FAO's Research and Extension Unit, which technically manages the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Secretariat, will implement the project. Liaison with stakeholders throughout project implementation will take place at global, regional/sub-regional and national levels.

At global level, TAP Partners Assembly and TAP Steering Committee (SC) will provide guidance and ensure alignment with the TAP Action Plan. Synergies and collaborations with other international organizations and networks, including IFAD and GFAR is ensured through the TAP.

At national level, the project will work closely with the FAO country offices, national organizations, country focal points of regional and sub-regional fora and with Agrinatura member organizations with relevant expertise in capacity assessment and development in line with other DeSIRA initiatives. The EU Delegations at the country level, and key national stakeholders, including government agencies are closely engaged.

At regional/sub-regional level, the project collaborates with the FAO regional/sub-regional offices, with the African CAADP ex-Pillar IV organizations (FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, and CORAF), with APAARI and APIRAS in Asia and the Pacific, and RELASER in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The project will also promote and increase awareness and knowledge among a large community of organizations and practitioners on using the TAP Common Framework on capacity development for agricultural innovation systems through Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS).

### **Implementing organization**

FAO



### **Other main stakeholders:**

- ✓ GFAR, African CAADP ex-Pillar IV organizations (FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, and CORAF), APAARI, APIRAS, IICA, RELASER
- ✓ TAP Partners, actors in agricultural innovation systems in nine countries, including government ministries, research institutes, universities, advisory service organizations, farmers' associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector value chain actors and smallholder family farmers.

### **Region**

- ✓ Global (for TAP related work)
- ✓ Africa: Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal
- ✓ Asia: Cambodia, Laos, Pakistan
- ✓ Latin America: Colombia



**Funding and co-funding**

UE	€ 5,000,000
Total budget	€ 5,000,000

**Duration**

60 months (2019-2024)