

## **Newsletter 4**

The DeSIRA initiative contributes to climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-incomes countries.

<p><b>The place of the farmers' organizations and the importance of gender issue in the DeSIRA projects</b></p>
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In December 2019, we sent a short survey to projects' leaders. The objective was to understand (i) the place of the Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in the DeSIRA projects in order to better monitor and design next DeSIRA projects and (ii) the place of gender in the projects.

In total we recorded 35 projects responses. Thanks to all the respondents ! The main conclusions regarding **FOs participation** which is key for a successful multi-stakeholder approach for innovation with support of research :

- 29 projects develop partnerships with 131 FOs.
- The objectives of the participation depends of the project: access to data and resources for experimentations, sharing of knowledge to co-design innovations or carry out diagnosis, dissemination of results and scaling of innovations, ensuring the sustainability of the outcomes of the projects.
- 18 FOs participate in projects' planning and evaluations processes; a large number (18) are included in project steering committee.
- 6 FOs have direct access to funds (co-applicants or contractors) and 5 FOs have indirect access to funds (they do not manage the funds but are part of the decision regarding the budget).
- The participation takes place during meetings, workshops, innovation platform activities, implementation of trials, data collection (and a few data analysis with FOs), training.
- A large majority (24) of FOs are involved in trainings including 9 projects developing a "train the trainer approach" (farmers will train farmers)
- A large majority (24) of FOs are involved in communication and dissemination activities; some FOs manage specific tools : radio, Facebook, website, forums, etc.

In **conclusion** the FOs participation in DeSIRA projects seems important (even if a number of DeSIRA projects are still not involving FOs) and relevant (including to be a truly partner). However, further analysis is needed to provide more information on the quality of this participation and the outcomes of this participation

Concerning **women participation and gender dimension**, 27 projects (total 35) declared that women are involved in actions.

- Women are involved at different levels: in the project governance (3 projects), in leading farmers' groups or small enterprises playing a key role in the project (8 projects), as beneficiaries of project results (27 projects).
- Only one project declared to look for a balanced participation of women (50% men, 50% women).
- Three of the projects have planned to do a gender analysis.
- On the budget allocations, when the data is available the budget allocated to activities related to women ranks between 10% and 30%. One project has allocated 60% of the budget to actions that will benefit women.

In **conclusion** the women participation and more broadly gender dimension **seems to be far too limited in DeSIRA projects and this calls for a much stronger attention by the projects.**

The report is available in the DeSIRA website (Report\_DeSIRA\_Survey 22 02 21.pdf) : <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/desira> (end of the page)

## **DeSIRA communication**

It is key that DeSIRA projects to valorise their products to support innovation and policy decision.

When a project has relevant products (policy brief, flyer on the main results, etc.) or organize important events it is important to share within the scientific and development communities at national level, regional level (such as CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA, etc.) or continental level (such as FARA, AFAAS, APAARI, etc.). These organizations are directly and indirectly supported by the DeSIRA initiative.

TAP (Tropical Agriculture Platform, <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en/>) is also a channel to valorise and share experiences regarding agricultural innovation systems (AIS). Regarding capacity development for innovation DeSIRA is supporting the TAP-AIS project lead by FAO.

Many options are available regarding the dissemination of results and the production of communication material. We provide a few examples :

- For French speaking community, there is the weekly newsletter of Inter Réseaux to interact with Farmers' Organizations, NGO, technicians and researchers : <https://www.inter-reseaux.org/>
- Worth to mention the FAO platform on agroecology where actors and projects can share results and experiences : <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/home/fr/>
- DESIRA projects can create their own videos and use EcoAgtube to share videos. EcoAgtube ([www.ecoagtube.org](http://www.ecoagtube.org)), a new open access platform for hosting and sharing videos dedicated to sustainable food systems including agroecology and local innovations.
- Among others, Access Agriculture ([www.accessagriculture.org](http://www.accessagriculture.org)), an international non-profit organization that promotes agro-ecology and rural entrepreneurship, offers a large range of training videos, support young entrepreneurs to produce videos, and assess the use and impact of videos.

**Please send news on the main events and communication products (flyers, vidéos, etc.) regarding your DeSIRA projects to post on the DeSIRA website and facilitate exchange among the DeSIRA community.** The DeSIRA website is hosted by Capacity4dev:

**<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/desira>**

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