



LIFT+

Leveraging Innovation for Agroecological Transitions in Africa



OBJECTIVES

Overall objective:

Support agroecological, ecosystem-based and nature-positive transitions at scale, towards productive, sustainable, and resilient food systems in sub-Saharan Africa through strengthened investments in research and innovation.

Specific objectives:

- Dialogue & Coordination: Strengthen coherence and synergies among DeSIRA+ implementers, partners, and policymakers at continental, regional, and national levels;
- Capacity development: Provide tailored support services to DeSIRA+ implementers to build skills in project management, monitoring, scaling, and engagement in policy processes;
- Actionable knowledge: Produce and share evidence, insights, and monitoring systems to inform policy, investments, and innovation pathways for agroecology.



LOGIC OF INTERVENTION

DeSIRA LIFT+ assumes that:

- If DeSIRA+ implementers and partners are connected through structured dialogue platforms;
- And if their capacities to scale innovations and engage in policy processes are strengthened;
- And if knowledge is generated, synthesised, and made accessible through a shared MEL (Monitoring-Evaluation-Learning) system and knowledge platform;

Then implementers, researchers, policymakers, and civil society will be able to co-create and scale agroecological innovations, leading to inclusive and sustainable food system transformations across Africa.



MAIN INTERVENTIONS/COMPONENTS

Component 1: Dialogue & Coordination

Organises multi-stakeholder dialogues at national, regional, and continental levels; fosters exchanges between implementers; supports AU policy strategies (FNSSA Agenda, Ecological & Organic Agriculture Strategy); and strengthens North–South and South–South collaboration.

Component 2: Capacity Development

Provides tailor-made services: e-learning, blended training, coaching, and peer learning on MEL, project management, and scaling. Collaborates with African universities (via RUFORUM) to embed training in curricula and ensure long-term sustainability.

Component 3: Learning & Monitoring

Produces a Joint Learning Agenda, transversal reviews, and knowledge products; develops a MEL system for DeSIRA+; and creates an AI-facilitated Knowledge Management System to make evidence widely accessible and usable.



STATE OF PLAY OF THE PROJECT

Partners mobilised: Three African strategic partners confirmed (FARA, BvAT, RUFORUM) to co-lead dialogues, advocacy, capacity development, and knowledge co-production.

Launch: Inception phase (Jan–Jun 2026) will focus on mapping needs of implementers, setting up the Community of Action & Reflection (CoAR), and developing the Joint Learning Agenda.

Main activities planned: First round of continental and regional science–policy dialogues; Pilot blended training sessions and dissemination of the DeSIRA-LIFT legacy e-learning; Set-up of the MEL system and initial Knowledge Management Strategy.

BASIC INFORMATION

Contracting entity: Agrinatura (European alliance of universities and research organisations for agricultural research and higher education in development).

Implementing partners: Agrinatura management and members, FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa), Biovision Africa Trust, RUFORUM.

Start: January 2026.

Duration: 3 years.

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