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ANNEX 14

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2023-2025

Action Document for Transition to sustainable food systems in Africa (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture - DeSIRA+ Africa, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research - CGIAR, Support towards operationalisation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy - STOSAR)

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and an action plan within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	<p>Transition to sustainable food systems in Africa (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture - DeSIRA+ Africa, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research - CGIAR, Support towards operationalisation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy - STOSAR)</p> <p>OPSYS number: ACT-61950</p> <p>Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)</p>
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<p>The Action will contribute to the following priorities/objectives and expected results of the MIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Area 3: Green Transition (in particular Specific Objective 3: Support the transition towards more resilient and sustainable aquatic and agrifood systems (including for more affordable and healthier diets): Result 3.1: Climate Mitigation and Resilience; Result 3.2 Farmers organisations (FOs) are more prominent actors in promoting the agro-ecological transition and inclusive nutrition-sensitive value-chains; Result 3.3 Sustainable Agri-food Systems; Result 3.4 Biodiversity and Environment
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	

6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Agriculture (incl. aquaculture and livestock)			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 2 Hunger Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 1 Poverty, SDG8 Decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 Reduced inequalities, SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 Climate action, SDG 15 Life on land			
8 a) DAC code(s)	Main DAC code 311 (Agriculture) – 100% sector- percentage Sub-code 31110 (Agricultural policy) – 20% Sub-code 31120 (Agricultural development) – 30% Sub-code 31182 (Agriculture research) – 50%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	41000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES	NO	
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget lines (article, item) for year N:</p> <p>14.020120: EUR 10 000 000</p> <p>14.020121: EUR 10 000 000</p> <p>14.020122: EUR 10 000 000</p> <p>Budget lines (article, item) for <u>year N+1</u>:</p> <p>14.020120: EUR 21 000 000</p> <p>14.020121: EUR 21 000 000</p> <p>14.020122: EUR 18 000 000</p> <p>Budget lines (article, item) for <u>year N+2</u>:</p> <p>14.020120: EUR 21 000 000</p> <p>14.020121: EUR 21 000 000</p> <p>14.020122: EUR 18 000 000</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 150 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 150 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 30 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for financial year N, for an amount of EUR 60 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for N+1, for an amount of EUR 60 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for N+2 subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths</p>			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - procurement 			

	<p>Indirect Management, with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.3 and 4.4.3.</p> <p>Other : direct management with the World Bank (contribution to the CGIAR Trust Fund)</p>
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1.2 Summary of the Action

Against the backdrop of multiple and interconnected crises, a global consensus has emerged regarding the need for an urgent and profound transformation of current agriculture and food systems, seen both as a driver and a victim of increasing global challenges such as food and nutrition insecurity, climate change, the depletion of natural resources and a dramatic loss of biodiversity. Among a number of disputed pathways, agroecology increasingly appears as a credible and effective response towards more sustainability and resilience.

The Action falls within this framework and will seek to contribute to a climate-relevant, productive, inclusive and sustainable transformation of agri-food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa based on agro-ecological approaches as well as ecosystem- and nature-based solutions.

In recognition that successful agroecological transitions are evidence-based knowledge intensive, the Action aims at supporting increased investments in timely and targeted research for innovation to better understand and use ecological processes, develop agro-ecological technologies and approaches, stimulate and bring innovations and best practices to scale, mobilise and strengthen the capacities of a wide range of key stakeholders and to improve enabling policies for agro-ecology and sustainable food systems.

The Action will be articulated around two specific objectives. Specific objective 1 will more specifically aim at **1. enhancing research** activities and capacities in Africa, mostly aligned with agroecological and other innovative approaches and principles, through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), one of the most prominent international research bodies addressing food security and food systems challenges. It will also aim at **2. fostering and upscaling innovation through multistakeholder partnerships** to strengthen the capacity to innovate of a large range of actors including farmers, farmers' organisations, local communities, NGOs, private sector, public sector actors under the Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture+ (or DeSIRA+) Programme. Although separate, both components will feed into one another through the thorough identification and capitalisation of possible synergies and the development of extensive knowledge exchange and lessons learning mechanisms.

Specific objective 2 will seek to enhance the implementation of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II). By doing so, it will support value chains actors and improve the policy environment to facilitate their access to global markets with high quality and safe products in line with the principles and approaches of agroecology.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

In Africa, agri-food systems face sustainability challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss, resource use, livelihoods, insufficient access to decent work for better wages, poor working conditions and protection of labour rights, child labour, and nutrition.

Whereas multiple studies have demonstrated the potential that agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture can offer for poverty reduction, inclusive growth and climate change mitigation, unsustainable practices continue to prevail leading to deforestation, biodiversity loss, loss of wetlands and mangrove swamps, fish and aquatic resource depletion and land and soil degradation. It is estimated that current food production and consumption patterns account for up to 30 % of global greenhouse gas emissions, use 70 % of global freshwater resources, and are responsible for a large share of air, water and soil pollution. Climate change has intensified the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, which have consequences on crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, and forestry, as well as adverse human, social, economic and environmental impacts. Small-scale farmers/fishers, who produce more than 80 % of the world's food are disproportionately affected by the effects and variability of climate change.

The world is not on track towards achieving the SDGs. Conflict, climate variability and extremes, biodiversity loss and economic slowdowns and downturns are the major drivers slowing down progress, particularly where inequality is high. Over the years, development models based on high levels of inputs and resource-intensive farming/aquaculture have, on the one hand, contributed to increased food availability and lower food prices to feed a growing population, but on the other hand, neglected the impact of over-exploitation of resources on the environment, as well as of poor diet and highly processed foods on human health. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine have made the pathway towards sustainable food systems even steeper and have increased the level of inequalities and uncertainty. At the same time, although enough food is produced to feed the world's population, hunger and malnutrition are on the rise. African countries are among the most affected countries. This is linked to historical marginalisation, lack of land rights and invasion of indigenous lands for mono-cultivation, extractive industries, climate change and environmental degradation, etc.

The challenges described above are multidimensional and interrelated. Therefore, they require the adoption of a system-based approach that takes into account the interrelations between the different elements across the food system, rather than focusing only on one or a limited subset of food system components in isolation. A holistic approach, promoting systemic changes that concurrently address the main drivers of risks, in particular in fragile countries affected by protracted crises, is therefore required.

This Action will support the priorities of the European Consensus on Development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, across SDGs. By promoting sustainable, climate-neutral, productive and resource-efficient as well as culturally sensitive, socially equitable and economically viable agri-food systems, this Action will also contribute to the objectives of the 2020 Green Deal and of its 'Farm to Fork' and 'Biodiversity Strategies'. This action is in line with the outcomes of the UNSG's Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and its recommendation to accelerate the agroecological transformation of food systems based on the '13 principles of Agroecology' defined by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE, 2019) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) aligned with the '10 Elements of Agroecology' adopted by the 197 FAO Members in December 2019.

Based on the commitments of the AU/EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), it is important to support research and innovation for food system transformation at scale based on the principles of a Green Transition and to promote evidence-based policy making. Such an R&I approach has to be based on consultation and engagement with key stakeholders (researchers, civil society, private sector) in the process of transforming food systems. In view of the potential of agroecology to contribute to multiple objectives as outlined in the last IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report¹, EU interventions need to pay specific attention to enhancing the conditions for agroecological approaches, practices and innovations. The Commission is channelling its support to R&I on food systems through the DeSIRA initiative launched at the One Planet Summit in 2017 with EU and EU Member States contributions and through the CGIAR network².

The Action will make an important contribution to the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which was established in Maputo in 2003, as a Pan-African policy framework to transform agriculture, create wealth, and improve food security and nutrition and promote inclusive economic growth. The Action will contribute specifically to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Agricultural Development Policy (RAP). The support to SADC strategy will build on the successful outcomes of the Action 'Support Towards the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR)' funded under the 11th EDF. The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 is a comprehensive development and implementation framework developed to guide the regional integration agenda of the region. The STOSAR Project will also contribute to the implementation of objective 2 of pillar 1 of this framework, addressing Industrial Development and Market Intergration through 'A Transformed Agricultural Sector that Practices Sustainable Management of the Environment and its Natural Resources.' Activities implemented in Western and Central/Eastern Africa are aligned with the the Great Green Wall Accelerator, particularly but not limited to its pillar 1 and 2 (Investment in small and medium-sized farms, promoting agro-ecological approaches resilient to climate change, and strengthening of value chains, local

¹ Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Working Group II Contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

² European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced a €140M pledge to CGIAR at the Global Citizen Live event on September 2021

markets, organization of exports; P2 Land restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems, in order to improve livelihoods directly dependent on natural resources, increase stability and climate resilience), contributing to the achievement of the initiative's objectives³. It complements regional actions on knowledge and innovation with a research and development approach.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Current agri-food systems, notably those based on intensive large-scale production systems, are unable to meet the world's demand for food both in quantity and quality leading to unacceptable levels of food insecurity and malnutrition and to a steep increase in obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases. They also fail to provide decent incomes and livelihoods to many small-scale farmers, who are still producing most of the food consumed globally. They are responsible for over a third of total greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to significant land use change, massive deforestation and soil degradation, unprecedented loss of biodiversity and high levels of air, water and soil pollution, which are both consequences and major drivers of climate change. Climate change (through weather patterns changes, extreme events, droughts, floods etc.), biodiversity loss (including the erosion of agrobiodiversity), degradation of natural resources (land and water) and ecosystems are severely affecting food systems in the region, from production to consumption throughout the whole value chains. It is essential that food systems and agriculture not only integrate these risks and develop adaptation strategies and build resilience but also contribute to solving these problems through approaches that avoid negative impacts and enhance positive contributions to the climate and environment issues.

Against this backdrop and among a number of disputed pathways, agroecology is increasingly seen as a credible and effective response to support the urgently needed, profound transformation of agri-food systems towards more sustainability and resilience. Among numerous benefits, agroecology aims at optimizing interactions between plants, animals and the environment and uses natural synergies – not synthetic chemicals – to regenerate soils, fertilise crops, and fight pests and diseases. It promotes diversity in the field that increases access to fresh and nutritious foods for communities, generates positive synergies between different components, reduces pests and diseases pressure and keeps traditional food cultures alive. It enhances resilience to climate change, contributes to mitigation through emissions reduction and carbon storage, and aims at shifting from negative impacts on the environment (biodiversity, natural resources) towards a positive contribution. Agroecology also improves farmers' livelihoods through diverse income streams, resilience to shocks and stresses, and short supply chains that retain value in the community.

Unfortunately, even if farms, communities and regions are increasingly engaging in agroecological transitions, this trend remains marginal and insufficient. Approximately 30% of farms around the world are estimated to have redesigned their production systems around agroecological principles. To sustain this progress and allow it to spread further, developing and disseminating knowledge for innovation about agroecology is critical. Although farmers have over the years demonstrated their capacities to manage diversified production systems and complex ecological processes, there is still a need to better understand and take advantage of biological processes (soil biological activity and diversity, integrated pest control, interactions between species, etc.) and to promote responsible innovations adapted to current mounting challenges (such as climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, poverty and inequalities, food and nutrition insecurity, gender inequity, lack of land rights, etc.), farmers' needs and local contexts and based on a hybridization of local knowledge and scientific evidence. This calls for increased investments in timely and targeted research and innovation approaches to produce relevant scientific knowledge, contribute to new and adapted technologies or practices and support more appropriate, human rights and gender-sensitive public policy responses based on scientific evidence and support scaling-up of agroecological actions. Two main challenges have to be addressed for effective research and innovation: (i) multistakeholder approaches for research and innovation are key to put more science into development and produce actionable knowledge, (ii) African research capacities have to be strengthened to be able to adapt research to the needs of local actors and the contexts of each specific country.

Research only cannot contribute to innovation. Important issues will also be those pertaining to market access for small farmers and related policy measures, as specifically identified within the framework of the first phase of the STOSAR Programme in Southern Africa. The SADC has identified as major inhibitors to market development a

³ European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced a minimum €700M/year pledge to the GGW flagship programme at the 2021 One Planet Summit in support to initiatives aligned to the Great Green Wall Accelerator pillars

lack of accurate and reliable information for farmers, investors, value chains operators, unstable animal health and welfare, plant health and poor value addition in regional value chains notably linked to relatively low levels of structuring (at clusters', producers' and processors' organisations' levels).

Small-scale farmers, and particularly women, have a central role to play in this process as they are the main providers of food while being the most knowledgeable and the best placed to adjust their practices and to innovate. Supporting small-scale farmer- and fisher-led agroecological and ecosystem-based innovations, strengthening rural advisory services to support them, both women and men, and facilitate access to markets through relevant value chains are therefore seen as key actions to scale up agroecology and to achieve impacts, while paying attention to gender equality and to the inclusion of youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disability, wherever relevant.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

CGIAR is one of the most prominent international research body addressing food security and food systems challenges. It aims to reduce rural poverty, increase food security and improve human health and nutrition as well as the sustainable management of natural resources. It is a global partnership of research centres from the Global South partnering with national and regional research institutes, civil society and development organisations, academia and the private sector. CGIAR intervenes in more than 100 countries and manages approximately 10,000 staff with an annual budget of around USD800 million. It is funded by a large consortium of donors that include the World Bank, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-BMGF, the European Commission, EU Member States, Australia etc) that support both research programmes and infrastructure.

The European Commission supports the CGIAR ongoing reform (known as the 'One-CGIAR') towards a more unified and coherent management system and research and innovation portfolio along three main scientific domains namely Systems Transformation, Resilient Agri-food Systems and Genetic Innovation. By participating in its governance bodies and working groups, the European Commission is involved in the design of the CGIAR's new research and innovation strategy through which programmes (called 'CGIAR initiatives') consistent with the European Green Deal and its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies are being supported. However, there is need to strengthen the capacities of the 'One-CGIAR' to develop participatory research with a multistakeholder approach able to address the challenges of agroecological transitions of food systems in different agroecological situations in Africa. Particular attention must be paid to strengthen National Agricultural Systems and relevant partners of the 'One CGIAR' interventions and to strengthen dialogue and collaboration with regional research organisations (FARA, CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA), regional economic organisations and the AU Commission. The EU can contribute to such development especially in Africa by supporting the 'CGIAR initiatives' aiming at addressing context specific challenges in some African regions (Regional Integrated Initiatives).

The CGIAR system will collaborate with National Agricultural Research & Innovation Services (NARIS), with the private sector, civil society as well as policy makers at continental, regional and national levels.

With regards to research and innovation at scale through DeSIRA+, the leading actors will be the private sector (associations, cooperatives, etc.) and civil society organisations (professional, farmers, NGOs, etc.) working with international, European and African research institutes, academia, experts, and policy makers at continental (mainly AU Commission), regional (RECs) and national levels. Many of them have been engaged in the DeSIRA initiative (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) through which the Commission in close collaboration with a number of EU Member States has been supporting research and innovation since 2019.

In Southern Africa, the key stakeholders are the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the SADC Secretariat. The main objectives of SADC are to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration. These objectives are to be achieved through increased Regional Integration, built on democratic principles, and equitable and sustainable development. Regional and national organisations involved in data collection and management, sanitary situation monitoring, etc. will engage in this intervention (specific objective 2). The private sector in general, in particular its representative organisations and associations, play a central role in the management and transformation of regional and national food systems in the region. Research organisations, farmers organisations and other programmes active in the region on the selected areas of work are also important stakeholders.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to ‘contribute to a climate-relevant, productive, inclusive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.’

The Specific(s) Objective(s) are to:

Specific objective 1: ‘Support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation.

Specific objective 2: ‘Enhance the implementation of the Southern African Development Community’s (SADC) Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II).’

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are

- 1.1 Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Increased creation and adoption of agroecological innovations (products, technologies, models and/or services) by small-scale farmers and SMEs.
- 1.2 Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Strengthened national and regional research capacity at individual and organisational levels and improved African and global research governance and actions.
- 1.3 Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Increased capacity of farmers’ organisations, civil society and private sector actors (SMEs) to contribute to innovation processes at scale.
- 1.4 Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Improved enabling policy making environment for agro-ecology, agro-forestry and sustainable agri-food systems at national, regional and continental levels.
- 2.1 Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Enhanced information and knowledge on climate resilient, sustainable and competitive agri-production allowing evidence-based decision-making, providing standardised data for analysis and research and facilitating intra-regional trade.
- 2.2 Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Improved access to markets through the development and implementation of plant and animal pest and diseases strategies at regional level, including enhanced capacities to address Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) requirements for international trade.
- 2.3 Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Strengthened regional monitoring capacity of the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy implementation.
- 2.4 Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Increased operational capacity of producers’ organisations and agricultural industrial associations in selected value chains based on sustainable innovations and agro-ecological principles.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Specific objective 1: ‘To support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation’.

Activities relating to output 1.1:

- To carry out surveys to identify farmers’ needs and constraints and characterise their farming systems with a focus among others on environmental context, climate change scenarios and disaster risk reduction strategies.
- To co-design and implement on-farm trials to improve climate-relevant agricultural practices and post-harvest processes including food conservation, post-harvest loss reduction, food waste prevention, etc.)
- To design and apply models and decision-making tools for improved farming systems and value chains based on agroecological principles.

Activities relating to output 1.2:

- To carry out capacity needs assessments and design training programmes for researchers and masters/PhD students involved in research and innovation projects.
- To promote increased participation and contribution of national research organisations to research from through partnerships involving international research organisations and multistakeholder approaches.
- To support research agenda setting and governance processes including national, regional and continental African organisations in favor of agroecological transitions.

Activities relating to output 1.3:

- To promote multistakeholder partnerships for innovation through innovation platforms, living labs, communities of practice, etc. involving the private sector, producers' organisations, NGOs, public sector and European and African regional and national research organisations to test and scale up innovations and pilots addressing regional or multi-country issues.
- To design and carry out training, learning programmes and facilitate extension services for capacity-development of farmers' and civil society organisations as well as private sector actors.
- To support sharing of knowledge related to innovative solutions for agri-food systems transformation and strengthen knowledge management strategies and activities through digital platforms and interactive tools.

Activities relating to output 1.4:

- To carry out diagnosis of current policy frameworks, strategies and programmes in relation with agroecological transitions of agri-food systems, identify existing bottlenecks and opportunities.
- To promote increased interface between science and policy towards increased evidence-based policy development for food systems transformation .
- To increase capacities of key stakeholders to advocate and promote policies and enabling environment for food systems transitions based on agroecological approaches.

Specific objective 2: 'To enhance the implementation of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II).'

Activities relating to output 2.1:

- To improve the existing Agriculture Information Management Systems (AIMS) through additional features and functions and operationalise their migration to clouds.
- To develop Livestock Information Management Systems (LIMS) and Early Warning Systems (EWS) components and link them with AIMS for real-time dissemination of livestock information and early warning to reduce the impact of natural disasters on crop and livestock production.
- To build national and regional capacity to manage and maintain AIMS, LIMS, EWS while establishing a routine for information generation and dissemination and effective coordination mechanisms.

Activities relating to output 2.2:

- To support the integration of the Regional Transboundary animal diseases and plant pest control strategies (STOSAR I) and to translate them into practical action for increased control over trade-sensitive pests and diseases and others affecting producers while measuring their impact on livestock production and trade.
- To strengthen the capacities of Member States to respond to emerging pests and diseases through awareness campaigns, capacity-building initiatives, cross-border collaboration and coordination, and relevant strategies/action plans and risk assessments.
- To strengthen regional capacity, including accreditation, of veterinary and plant health services for pest and disease surveillance, diagnosis, prevention, control and regional coordination as well as for the implementation of international standards (ISPMs) for compliance in market access through coordinated and effective participation in standard setting bodies.
- To promote improved access to regional and international markets for animal and plant commodities through E-certification at selected ports of entry/exit, including on sustainability criteria.

Activities relating to output 2.3:

- To build the capacity of SADC Member States on food security and food systems-related issues as well as on guidelines, including crop estimates and the concept of Food Balance Sheet.
- To review and align the Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP) with CAADP and National Investment Plans (NAIPs) and to develop harmonised, multi-sectoral action frameworks aiming at improving the diets of young children as well as nutrition services and programmes targeting women of childbearing age together with pregnant and lactating women.

Activities relating to output 2.4:

- To incentivise the development of agricultural business clusters that aggregate smallholder producers (including women and youth), agro-processors and other actors of selected key agricultural value chains into business models that ensure sustainable farming and processing practices in line with agroecological principles, beneficial access to input and output markets and financing.
- To facilitate consultations between value chain players in the form of experience and lessons learnt exchange to allow them to more effectively perform their roles within those value chains..
- To provide training, coaching and extension services to leaders and staff of producers' organisations, cooperatives and agricultural sector industry associations to strengthen value chains efficiency in line with agroecological approaches and circular economy (including energy transition/efficiency) principles.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcome of the Climate and Environment screening:

Result of SEA screening:

The action is focussed on a sector of cooperation considered as 'environmentally sensitive': Agriculture, rural development and food security will contribute to implement parts of regional or sub-regional strategies. The Action could be affected by the state of the environment, as this could have 'a significant adverse influence on the performance of the sector'. The Action is not leading to large-scale land-use changes, doesn't depend on scarce natural resources, will not lead to the wide use of environmentally sensitive substances and doesn't include projects with negative cumulative impacts on the environment.

The Action is actually designed to ensure a better integration of climate and environmental issues in the agri-food sector. Environmental issues and climate change are at the core of the design of the action, as it focusses on supporting the transition towards sustainable food systems, based on agroecological approaches and the adoption of circular economy and responsible production principles all along the entire value-chain. The understanding of sustainability for food systems includes their capacity to adapt, and to be more resilient to climate change, to contribute to mitigation objectives through direct reduction of emissions and increased storage of carbon in soils and vegetation cover. It also includes the environmental aspects of food systems, such the sustainable management and use of water and land resources, the preservation of biodiversity, including agrobiodiversity, and ecosystem services, the reduction of pollution through a reduced use of chemical inputs. The support to agroecological approaches will help deliver substantial contributions to climate and environmental objectives. For these reasons, the carrying out of an SEA is considered not needed.

Result of EIA screening

None of the foreseen projects under this proposal fall under category A or B for EIA screening. One of the activities under the STOSAR component (Southern Africa Agriculture strategy) deals with animal diseases; particular attention will be paid to the maintenance of sustainable livestock activities in the sector.

The majority of actions foreseen fall under category C, such as Institutional support; Training and capacity development; Awareness raising activities; Development of services; 6. Development/review of policy, regulations, standards, etc. However, supporting value-chains with a commercial approach, even if in a sustainable

way, might have environmental impact or impact on natural resources and biodiversity that will be assessed at design and implementation phases.

The DESIRA+ component will select a number of actions based on agroecological approaches to be later decided with EU Member States, EU Delegations and other stakeholders. DESIRA initiative is by essence addressing the climate and environment dimension in the agri-food sector and aims at improving its sustainability. It will be the responsibility of the implementing organisations to proceed with appropriate environmental impact assessments consistent with their own obligations or practices.

Result of the Climate Risk Assessment

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening shows that the proposed activities are related to the agri-food sector and focus on the transformation towards sustainable food systems. They may be affected by drought, floods, heatwaves and/or shifts in the main climatic patterns. The problem analysis explicitly demonstrates awareness of climate risks and their potential for negative impact. In addition, the project description foresees specific measures to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability including by adopting agroecological approaches, improving knowledge related to climate risks (e.g. capacity building/training/awareness raising, stakeholder engagement), and notably targeting vulnerable groups. Nevertheless the potential climate risks and their impact on the ability of the action to achieve its results call for careful assessment of such risks, and design of appropriate risk mitigation measures, when further designing the activities.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that wherever possible, the action will ensure equal gender representation of beneficiaries in the activities and outcomes.

Agroecology is the common thread throughout this whole action, and agroecology is based on a set of thirteen principles. These include Social values (Build food systems based on the culture, identity, tradition, social and gender equity of local communities that provide healthy, diversified, seasonally and culturally appropriate diets), Fairness (support dignified and robust livelihoods for all actors engaged in food systems) and Participation (Encourage social organization and greater participation in decision-making by food producers and consumers). The intervention in southern Africa will include the development of agricultural business clusters that aggregate smallholder producers (including women and youth).

Human Rights

The comments on Agroecology principles in the gender section above are also valid for human rights. These principles, in particular those on social values, fairness and participation, care for full integration of human rights in the transformation of food systems.

These are in line and echo the five working principles of the Human-rights based approach, which will be considered throughout the whole intervention cycle (Applying all human rights for all; Meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; Non-discrimination and equality; Accountability and rule of law for all; Transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data).

Disability

In accordance with the OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as D1. This implies that the Action will be of relevance for the inclusion of persons with disabilities as organisations specifically representing, and/or as part of their mandate targeting, the rights of people with disabilities.

Reduction of inequalities

Sub-Saharan Africa and the SADC region are marked by a high level of inequality, as evidenced by the UN Human Development reports. The last report (2021-2022) highlights the fact that COVID19 and the War of aggression in Ukraine have increased these inequalities.

The food system and agriculture sector are marked by inequalities at the level on income and livelihoods, at the level of land tenure and access to productive resources in general as well as the level of access to relevant information to take informed decisions, among others. The environmental degradation and climate change are also

affecting disproportionately the most vulnerable groups, in particular smallholder farmers, women and indigenous populations.

The proposed action, by focussing on the promotion of agroecological approaches through different entry points and levels, as well as by focussing in the SADC region on identified gaps in the food system regional strategy and specific value chains, will contribute to reduce these inequalities, and to empower the most vulnerable groups to develop meaningful strategies and action to strengthen their capacities and resilience.

Democracy

By working with and through established regional organisations, themselves representing their member states, and by ensuring that vulnerable groups and populations are part of the design, implementation and evaluation of the proposed strategies and activities, the action will contribute to strengthening democratic principles in the region. Again, applying the AgroEcology principles, with their strong social component, will also bring a meaningful contribution to transforming current food systems and agriculture in the region into more inclusive and equitable forms.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Inequitable repartition of resources, in particular land and productive means, are sometimes central reasons leading to conflict in the region. Increased inequalities after the Covid19 crisis and the impacts of the war of aggression in Ukraine on food and inputs prices have also worsened the situation in several African countries. The proposed action will therefore pay particular attention to designing and implementing its strategies and activities bearing in mind this situation and incorporating the latest data available, as well as the appropriate methodologies where needed so as to reduce the conflict sensitivity in the region of intervention and contribute to build and enhance resilience.

The Action will benefit from existing knowledge and tools in use by key institutions being considered for partnership by the EU. For instance, FAO has existing guidelines/Implementation Framework on peace responsiveness, and conflict sensitivity – these include the Operationalising Pathways to Sustainable Peace in the Context of Agenda 2023, and the Programme Clinic Guide for designing conflict-sensitive interventions which incorporates social, cultural, environmental, economic, and political aspects and puts into consideration the engagement of stakeholders who interact with interventions on a daily basis. The DeSIRA LIFT project under the DeSIRA initiative provide support to help research and innovation projects to intervene in difficult situations through training and exchanges of experiences.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The action will contribute directly to disaster risk reduction, notably through its support to more resilient agroecosystems and value chains, as well as its support to early warning systems for plant and animal pests and diseases. Through agroecological approaches, communities and their agroecosystems increase their resilience to shocks and stresses, including disasters through a better management of biodiversity at plot, farm and landscape level, including better soil health. Participatory approaches aiming at strengthening innovation capacities of local actors will help them to adapt to shocks and to manage risks.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1-to the external environment	SO1: high security risks in the Sahel region	High	Medium	Design of interventions taking into account this risks with specific mechanisms (digital tools, mobilisaiton of local experts, etc.) Localisation of main activities in more secured areas

1-to the external environment	SO1 and SO2: enabling policy environment for innovation including new business ecosystems and new entrepreneurs (youth, farmers' organisations, private service providers or processors)	Medium	Medium	Advocacy activities at national level Mobilisation of Regional Economic Communities for policy dimension Dialogue with AU Commission (DARBE)
2-to planning, processes and systems	SO1: Disconnect between research and development (risk to fall into a business-as-usual approach to research and innovation)	Medium	Medium	Each specific contract to be signed under this Action, design clear outputs, outcomes, well-defined impact pathways, and clearly identified end beneficiaries (youth and gender sensitive) Promotion of multistakeholder approaches to involve a large range of actors Training and learning activities
1-to the external environment	SO1 and SO2: limited regional organisations (including SADC Secretariat's) implementation capacity.	Medium	High	Support of EU delegation (especially in Botswana for SADC) Involvement of Member States Agencies Involvement of FAO regional and national team (for Southern Africa) Support of the Commission facility (DeSIRA LIFT)
3-to people and the organisation	SO1: failure of the 'One CGIAR' institutional reform initiated in 2019	Low	High	EU participation in the CGIAR governance mechanisms (System Council) 2022 signature of the Integrated Framework Agreement as a good basis to deepen the CGIAR system Clear contribution and participation of National Agriculture Research Systems and coordinating bodies to the CGIAR Africa Regional Integrated Initiatives (implementation of activities, governance)
1-to the external environment	SO1 and SO2: climate impacts and environmental degradation hamper agroecosystems and	High	High	Strong focus on agroecological approaches, that integrate the resilience, biodiversity, circularity principles

	the related value chains			Detailed analysis of risks for individual actions and activities, and integration of mitigation measures in the activities
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Lessons Learnt:

Related to Specific objective 1: 'To support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation'.

- The reform of the One-CGIAR that this Action intends to support through research activities is ambitious and relevant. However, EU past experiences with CGIAR (projects design and implementation, participation in the governance bodies such as the system council and the working groups) have highlighted the need to improve the way research (participatory research, action research) must be carried out to better integrate the local knowledge when co-designing innovations, to develop 'initiatives' with a systemic perspective so that the complexity of the challenges at stake can be dealt with, and to strengthen the capacities to innovate of national researchers and local actors.
- To gain political influence within the CGIAR system and to strengthen it, it is important to limit 'bilateral funding' (through projects with one specific CGIAR centre focusing on a specific topic) and to channel EU funding through the World Bank-managed Trust Fund - Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF)- used by the community of donors. Specific initiatives developed by the CGIAR system with its partners can be identified and supported
- The DeSIRA initiative was launched at the 2017 One Planet Summit and aimed to put more science into agricultural development considering that the solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals are knowledge-intensive but context-specific. It has demonstrated the capacities of Research and Innovations (R&I) to achieve wide impact by producing actionable knowledge, useful technologies and methods, expertise and training to support innovation on the ground. Partnerships and multistakeholder approaches are key to produce useful and usable research and to deliver relevant outcomes.
- The DeSIRA initiative, which is co-financed by a core group of EU MS (in particular Belgium, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Finland and Spain,) is currently made up of around 80 projects for a total budget of €340 million. Numerous relevant outcomes have been achieved and lessons learned so far. Based on these, there is a need to overcome barriers and to seize opportunities to foster agroecological approaches and scale up innovations with multistakeholder approaches. EU Member States and international organisations (such as FAO and IFAD) played a significant role in the DeSIRA Initiative by co-funding projects. Maintaining this dynamic in line with a Team Europe Approach will be critical to achieve a wider scale
- More attention has to be paid to building strong partnerships able to overcome the asymmetry of power between actors. Depending on the type of innovations or the phase of innovation (initial idea, prototype, dissemination, etc.), partnerships can be led by research or by other actors such as farmers' organisations, private sector actors, civil society actor, etc. Leadership of non-research actors should be encouraged. Non-research organisations need to steer innovation processes with clear contributions of research organisations based on specific methodological approaches such as living-labs and open innovations methods.
- Capacity strengthening of African researchers and African research organisations has to be better taken into account for adapting the research agenda to the local, national and continental needs.
- More attention has to be paid to science policy interfaces to be able to design better evidence based policies. Public policies must support agroecological approaches by orienting norms, taxes, subsidies and investments. Investments in national R&I, advisory services, access to markets and services are key. At regional level, Regional Economic Communities can play a significant role to support public policy design and implementation at country level. At continental level the Ecological Organic Agriculture initiative of the AU brings opportunities for strategic collaboration and partnership.
- Agroecology is a well-known approach. However there is a lack of investments in R&I in this field to be able to boost the ecological processes to intensify the production and make the farming systems more resilient (e.g. biofertilisers based on a better understanding of soil biology, breeding technics to valorise a diversity of varieties in the same plot, digital tools and platforms to build validated knowledge based on the experiences

of farmers and local actors on agroecology, etc.). There is a need to support R&I on agroecology based on collaborative research (including citizen science) and able to support innovation at scale.

Specific objective 2 ‘To enhance the implementation of the Southern African Development Community’s (SADC) Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II).’

- There are wide variations in the technical capacities of SADC Member States with some requiring extra support (handholding) and multiple follow ups. This needs to be considered at project design so that sufficient financial resources are made available.
- The first phase of the project (STOSAR I) supported the development of strategies for the management of transboundary pests and diseases. It did not cater either for the multiple consultative steps needed prior to their ratification nor for the development and implementation of complex frameworks. Countries should be able to actually land and implement those strategies. There is need to compensate for this weakness under the upcoming STOSAR II.
- The management of multiple emergencies such as disease outbreaks and natural disasters in South Africa, requires all hands-on deck including active participation and financial support from the private sector and other value chain actors. This is critical and cannot be understated as private sector participation will greatly contribute to the sustainability of the results of the Action.
- Most MS have national AIMS that are underdeveloped and/or and fragmented. They require upgrading and better centralization to facilitate direct integration into the regional AIMS. As of now, only South Africa has the capability to do so. It is expected that the contingency funds will assist Zambia and Tanzania to upgrade their national systems. As highlighted in the EU ROM report, gender and other cross cutting issues were not considered in the logframe nor were they allocated resources, making it difficult for targeting and reporting.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is articulated around linking research and innovation with a multi-stakeholder approach to contribute to impacts at scale addressing climate change and supporting agroecological and other innovative approaches with a view to accelerating the transformation of agro-food systems towards increased sustainability and resilience in Sub-Saharan ² donors (including EU Member States) to **supporting African, integrated research initiatives, based on national and/or regional challenges and demands**. The EU contribution to these initiatives will particularly support increased participation of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and of regional/continental research organisations in the CGIAR initiatives. Specific emphasis will be put on multistakeholder approaches and on the participation of local, national, and regional actors in the design and monitoring of these interventions. Existing and future Regional Integrated Initiatives (RIIs) and related initiatives will to the greatest extent possible complement and be articulated with other global initiatives carried out by the CGIAR and addressing transversal issues (such as breeding, farming and food systems, etc) as well as with projects under the ongoing DeSIRA and forthcoming DeSIRA+ Initiatives. They will specifically cover agroecological innovations, nature-based solutions and ecosystems dynamics to address current global challenges (food production, climate change, biodiversity loss, etc.)

1. Under the second component of Specific Objective 1, referred to as ‘DeSIRA+’, the Action will capitalise and build on the results and modalities of the on-going DeSIRA initiative. As opposed to component 1 focusing on research, this one will (i) promote actions led by non-research actors (such as private sector, farmers’ organisations or NGOs) but supported, whenever necessary by research bodies from Africa and Europe based on multistakeholder partnerships, (ii) with a focus on scaling up multi-stakeholder, agro-ecological innovations to better address food and nutrition security, economic opportunities and challenges, inclusivity, climate change, depletion and degradation of natural resources (in particular land, water, forest) and biodiversity loss. DeSIRA+ will address a set of topics that have emerged from consultations with African counterparts at continental and regional levels as well as with EU Member States and other key stakeholders. Those topics could include i.a. (i) participatory breeding, conservation and access to plant seed material in particular for neglected and underutilised crops, (ii) bio-solutions and integrated pest and disease management with the promotion of new services (bio-inputs, advisory services), (iii) mechanisation for small farmers adapted to agro-ecology (weed control, harvest technologies, processing at farm level, etc.), (iv) design and use of digital services for agro-ecology to foster experience exchanges among actors or to improve the

traceability of products, (v) legumes, plant-based and/or alternative proteins to improve the resilience of farming systems and nutrition, (vi) responsible value chains based on circular economy and access to inclusive markets, (vii) Renewed innovation services (advisory services, collective actions, etc.) to support the agroecological transition.

To ensure the institutional sustainability of the action and to contribute to setting up an enabling policy making environment supportive of an agroecological agri-food systems transition, the operations will be co-designed, monitored and/or implemented by regional economic organisations, especially ECOWAS in West Africa and other RECs whenever relevant. Interested EU Member States or International organisations will be associated through co-funding and co-implementing the operations in a team Europe approach. It is expected that the operations will use calls for projects based on a set of criteria that will include a multistakeholder approach involving research organisations; agroecological principles; innovation at scale (scales to be defined); policy dimension, etc.

DeSIRA+ will have a support facility to share lessons & experience among African regions and to strengthen capacities and policies at continental and regional levels.

Both components will feed into one another through specific coordination mechanisms to be designed at a later stage. Indeed, while field-based innovations can create direct opportunities for research and thus inform the CGIAR priority research agenda, research may in turn be important for the formalization of knowledge, legitimization of experiences and for the diffusion and scaling up of innovations under DeSIRA+. The same holds true with regard to the Centres of Excellence for Agroecology that will be established under the MIP/Priority area 4 (Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation), in particular its Specific Objective 2: Enhance the effective use of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development in Africa. It will be critical to make sure that those initiatives, based on their converging objectives, do not develop in silos but rather contribute to bringing about a wide Community of Practice on Agroecology geared towards achieving a successful transformation of agri-food systems. More concretely, continental and sub-regional organisations (SROs), such as FARA, CORAF, ASARECA, and CCARDESA will have various roles in the regional centres of excellence, CGIAR existing and future Regional Integrated Initiatives (RIIs) and related initiatives, and in DeSIRA+ which will help create enabling conditions for optimal coordination.

Specific objective 2 (SO2) will build on the strengthened capacities of the SADC Secretariat and on the experience acquired during the first phase of the STOSAR programme (STOSAR 1). This component will be implemented in close connection with SO1 above to maximise capitalization from research and innovation in the selected areas of intervention. By addressing directly the gaps and lessons learned identified in the implementation of the SADC regional strategy for food systems and agriculture as well as during the evaluation of STOSAR1, the action will aim at delivering outcomes that will strengthen the SADC region capacity to improve and transform its food systems. In particular, the availability of food and market data and information, the access to relevant information on best practices and latest science, the support to innovation and to the organisation of producers and food chains stakeholder, the improvement of animal and plant health through sustainable approaches, and the adaptation of measures for pest and diseases control will contribute to more inclusive and sustainable food systems in the SADC region.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to a climate-relevant, productive, inclusive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa	Number of people directly benefiting from EU supported intervention GERF 2.1 Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land			1 National and regional statistics	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1 To support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation.	1.1 Number of hectares of agricultural or pastoral land where sustainable innovative climate-smart or agroecological practices have been introduced and adopted → EURF 2.4	1.1 zero	1 750.000 ha	Baseline/endline evaluation reports National and regional statistics	Aggregation of the baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded interventions No major regional conflicts
Outcome 2	2 To enhance the implementation of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II).	2.1 Farmers income generation 2.2 Volume traded in supported value chains	2.1 zero 2.2 baseline	2.1 +10% 2.2 +15%	Baseline/endline evaluation reports National and regional statistics	No major conflict and climate disasters
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Increased adoption of agroecological innovations (products, technologies, models and/or services) by small-scale farmers.	1.1.1 Number of climate-smart or agroecological innovations taken up by smallholder farmers (Products, technologies, models, systems, strategies) → EURF 2.14 1.1.2 Number of smallholder farmers who have taken up at least one climate-smart or agroecological innovation	1.1.1 zero 1.1.2 zero	1.1.1 : 20 1.1.2 : 50.000	1.1.1 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports 1.1.2 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports	No major conflict and climate disasters

Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Strengthened national and regional research capacity at individual and organisational levels and improved continental (African) and global research governance.	1.2.1 Number of researchers increasing their capacity to innovate in the area of agriculture and food systems 1.2.2 Number of new institutional partnerships on agriculture and foods systems triggered by the intervention	1.2.1 zero 1.2.2 zero	1.2.1 : 3.000 1.2.2 : 30	1.2.1 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports 1.2.2 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports, website search	Endorsement of the intervention by regional and national authorities
Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	1.3 Increased capacity of farmers' organisations, civil society and private sector actors to contribute to innovation processes at scale.	1.3.1 Number of agriculture and food-related MSMEs or FOs strengthened or created 1.3.2 Number of food value chains strengthened	1.3.1 zero 1.3.2 zero	1.3.1 : 300 1.3.2 : 50	1.3.1 : Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports, 1.3.2 : Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports,	No major conflict and climate disasters
Output 4 relating to Outcome 1	1.4 Improved enabling policy making environment for agro-ecology and sustainable agri-food systems at national and global levels	1.4.1 Number of policies, strategies or plans, fostered by multi-stakeholder processes, under development or endorsed by the relevant authorities → EURF 2.25	1.4.1 zero	1.4.1 : 25	1.4.1 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports, website search	Policy environment conducive for dialogue with CSO, FO and private sector
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Enhanced information and knowledge on sustainable and competitive agri-production allowing evidence-based decision-making, providing standardised data for analysis and research and facilitating intra-regional trade	2.1.1 Number of stakeholders/year mobilizing information generated by the intervention to develop their production and market activities 2.1.2 Number of operational policies, strategic plans, statutory instruments and documented decisions produced being informed by AIMS (incorporating FNS and EWS) 2.1.3 Number of functional regional and national AIMS	2.1.1 500 2.1.2 zero	2.1.1 500 additional/year 2.1.2 2/country/year	2.1.1 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports, 2.1.2 National AIMS focal points reports, Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports	Endorsement of the intervention by regional and national authorities

		Databases with FNS, EWS information systems integrated	2.1.3 zero	2.1.3 1 regional, 16 national	2.1.3 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports,	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2 Improved access to markets through the development and implementation of plant and animal pest and diseases strategies at regional level, including enhanced capacities to address Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) requirements for international trade.	<p>2.2.1 Number of agriculture and food-related operators and MSMEs strengthened or created with enhanced capacities to address Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) requirements</p> <p>2.2.2 Number of food value chains strengthened through the development and implementation of plant and animal pest and diseases strategies at regional level and addressing the international market</p> <p>2.2.3 Harmonised regional control and management strategies for trans-boundary animal diseases and crop pests and diseases</p>	<p>2.2.1 zero</p> <p>2.2.2 zero</p> <p>2.2.3 zero</p>	<p>2.2.1 500</p> <p>2.2.2 20</p> <p>2.2.3 16 MS aligned to 8 Regional Policies including Legislative FWs (SADC RISDP M&E FW pg 52)</p>	<p>2.2.1 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports,</p> <p>2.2.2 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports,</p> <p>2.2.3 SADC biennial reports, annual project reports</p>	No major conflict and climate disasters
Output 3 relating to Outcome 2	2.3 Strengthened regional monitoring capacity of the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy implementation.	<p>2.3.1 Number of National and Regional FNS Strategic Plan documents renewed / aligned to SADC FNSS, and new thinking on Food Systems Strategy (UN 5-tracks)</p> <p>2.3.2 Number of Member States with improved scores in the CAADP Biennial Review Report regarding (i) enhancing investment finance in agriculture; and (ii) ending Hunger in Africa by 2025</p>	<p>2.3.1 zero</p> <p>2.3.2 zero</p>	<p>2.3.1 National: 5 Year 2; 8 Year 3; 10 Year 4 Regional: 1 by Year 1</p> <p>2.3.2 (i) 2 in Year 2; 4 in Year 4 (ii) 4 in Year 2; 8 in Year 4</p>	<p>2.3.1 Baseline/endline, SADC FANR Annual Progress Report;evaluation reports, annual reports,</p> <p>2.3.2 CAADP Biennial Review Reports Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports,</p>	Endorsement of the intervention by regional and national authorities

Output 4 relating to Outcome 2	2.4 Increased operational capacity of producers' organisations and agricultural industrial associations in selected value chains based on sustainable innovations and agro-ecological principles.	1.4.1 Number of climate-smart or agroecological innovations taken up by smallholder farmers (Products, technologies, models, systems, strategies) → EURF 2.14 1.4.2 # registered certifiers for the different transparency and traceability mechanisms (SADC RISDP M&E FW pg 61) 1.4.3 Number of clusters where members apply mechanisms for transparent and compliant delivery of goods	2.4.1 zero 2.4.2 zero 2.4.3 baseline	2.4.1 20 2.4.2 5/country 2.4.3 ≥ 10 clusters/MS, ≥ 50% women	2.4.1 Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports, 2.4.2 Min. of Industry, Baseline/endline evaluation reports, annual reports, 2.4.3 National Stat. Offices, surveys and baseline/endline + project reports	Endorsement of the intervention by regional and national authorities

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action (component 2: ‘Enhance the implementation of the Southern African Development Community’s (SADC) Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II)’), it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner. It is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner for component 1.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 120 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision for component 1 (support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation) and from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement for component 2 (Enhance the implementation of the Southern African Development Community’s (SADC) Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II)).

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission’s responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁴.

4.4.1 Direct Management

Part of Specific Objective 1 - Contribution to the CGIAR Trust Fund

The achievement of the specific objective 1 (support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation) will be performed through the Desira instrument and the support to the CGIAR).

The Union contribution to the CGIAR Trust Fund should be implemented under direct management in line with this Decision in accordance with the general principles applicable to Union financing (see Appendix 2.2).

The CGIAR Trust Fund (the ‘Fund’) was established as a Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) in March 2017, through a Trustee Agreement between the World bank as Trustee and the CGIAR System Organization. The Fund is administered by the World Bank as Trustee, and governed by the System Council, a representative body of Funders, Centers and other stakeholders. The Fund operates through several windows or equivalent. The CGIAR Trust Fund is a multi-donor, multi-year mechanism (Financial Intermediary Fund) that delivers financial resources for CGIAR research and key system functions. It is envisaged to make an EU contribution to the next phase of the on-going 2022-2024 CGIAR Investment Plan.

⁴ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

The Trustee shall maintain separate records and ledger accounts with respect to the Contributions deposited in the CGIAR Fund and transfers made there from. The Trustee shall maintain books, records, documents, and other evidence in accordance with the Trustee's usual accounting procedures to sufficiently substantiate the management of funds in the CGIAR Fund. The Trustee shall report to the Fund Council and all the Fund Donors annually, unless otherwise agreed with the Trustee, on the status of the CGIAR Fund.

The contractual relation between the European Union and the World Bank will be formalised by means of a Contribution Agreement - the approved terms for accepting donations for a World Bank administered Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) such as the CGIAR Trust Fund. This 'Contribution Agreement' will be managed by the Commission. The European Union will also sign 'funding arrangement' with the CGIAR System Organisation which defines the terms of the administration of the funding from the Contribution Agreement.

4.4.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

Part of the achievement of the specific objective 1: support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation) will be implemented via a procurement to contribute in particular to outputs 1, 3 and 4 of Outcome 1.

4.4.3 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: i) international organisations or EU Member States organisations; ii) experienced with EU funding management in agricultural research for development and/or agricultural support programmes preferably in Africa with African stakeholders; iii) experienced in interventions in line with agroecological transitions; iv) experienced in operations with specific attention to advisory and extension services, agricultural value chains and digitalisation tools for farmers.

The implementation by this entity entails part of specific objective 1 - support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation.

4.4.4 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented by in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: i) international organisations ii) presence in the different countries of the SADC community; iii) is in a neutral position re food system strategies;; iv) experienced in the different areas of work covered in this component (data collection and analysis, monitoring systems, plant and animal health, support to and organisation of food system value chains).

The implementation by this entity entails Specific Objective 2 - Support Towards the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II).

4.4.5 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If negotiations with the selected entrusted entities fail as described in section 4.4.3, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management - grants.

a) Purpose of the grant

The grant will contribute to achieving the specific objective 1 'To support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation'.

b) Type of applicants targeted

The possible applicants will be ONGs (local and international), CSOs organisations or research institutes.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the carrying out of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2023	EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2024	EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2025	Total
Implementation modalities – cf section 4.4				
Specific Objective 1- Support agroecological, ecosystem and nature-based transitions in agriculture, aquaculture and food systems through increased investments in research and innovation - composed of				
Direct management – cf. section 4.4.1 (CGIAR)	0	0	40 000 000	40 000 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.4.3 (DeSIRA)	20 000 000	57 000 000	20 000 000	97 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	0	3 000 000		3 000 000
Specific Objective 2 - STOSAR II composed of				
Indirect management with an entrusted entity	10 000 000	0	0	10 000 000
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.4.2		3 000 000		3 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	<i>may be covered by another Decision</i>			
Contingencies	N.A.			
Totals	30 000 000	60 000 000	60 000 000	150 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Specific Objective 1: Existing and future CGIAR Africa Research and Innovation Initiatives (RIIs) and related initiatives.

The EU is one of 15 funders among the 20 voting members meeting as a CGIAR System Council, whose function is to keep under review the strategy, mission, impact and relevancy of the CGIAR system. The System Council works collaboratively with the CGIAR System Board to deliver on CGIAR's mission. The System Council's functions include Vision, Strategic Direction, and Advocacy; Governance; Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilization; Financial and Programmatic Performance; and Evaluations and Impact Assessment. It benefits from CGIAR Advisory Services (Independent Science for Development Council, Standing Panel on Impact Assessment, and an independent evaluation function) in terms of external, impartial, and expert advice related to strategy and positioning, program evaluation, and impact assessment. The European Initiative in Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD, 1997) still serves as a platform among Member States and EU+ funders to CGIAR, facilitating knowledge and sharing views leading to concerted messages expressed at System Council meetings.

Specific Objective 1: DeSIRA+

The existing EU DeSIRA platform currently animated by the European Commission and bringing together most directly involved implementing partners (EU MS agencies and international organisations) will be maintained. Specific coordination mechanisms will be put in place in the different regions of the action mobilising the European Commission and relevant regional Organisations. These coordination mechanisms will benefit from the expertise and the support by an external partner (see Procurement) to enhance monitoring, learning and sharing from the implementation of the actions.

Specific Objective 2: STOSAR II will be managed by the European Commission, in charge of the regional cooperation with SADC. At least one steering committee meeting will be organised every year, involving the European Commission, the implementing entity and the SADC. For the detailed design of the action and its activities, the implementing entity will set-up consultation processes and platforms with farmers organisations, including smallholder and women, with stakeholder associations (depending on the selected value chains) and, in general, with all relevant stakeholders.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the different Implementing Partner's (IP) responsibilities. To this end, the IP will need to establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for their initiative based on a LogFrame Matrix (LFM) specifically drafted for that purpose. These LFMs will need to be aligned to the overarching Action LFM presented in Section 3.6 of this document. Regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports that report on progress with regard to selected indicators will need to be prepared and submitted to the Commission. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as a reference the corresponding LFM.

Monitoring will assess gender equality results, impacts on rights of groups living in the most vulnerable situations and the implementation of the human rights-based approach working principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data). Monitoring (and evaluation) will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age, disability when applicable.

Human rights and gender equality competence is ensured in the monitoring (and evaluation) teams.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the Action, A mid-term and/or final evaluation(s) may be carried out for this Action or its Components via independent consultants and/or through joint missions contracted by the Commission or via an implementing partner.

In case a mid-term evaluation is envisaged it will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, and any other issues identified in the course of implementation.

In case a final or ex-post evaluation is envisaged it will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The evaluation reports shall be shared with key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

For the component covered by a Financing agreement, Evaluation services may be contracted by the implementing partner.

For the rest of the action not covered by a Financing agreement, the financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Given the nature of the action, provision for Audit and Verifications for this action or its components is not necessary.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 ‘[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)’, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as;

Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	Contribution agreement with an entrusted entity / World Bank – SO 1 (EUR 40 000 000) Contribution(s) agreement(s) with entrusted entities - SO 1 (EUR 97 000 000) Service contract – SO 1 (EUR 3 000 000) Contribution agreement with a entrusted entity – SO 2 (EUR 10 000 000)