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ANNEX VI

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme on Global Challenges (Planet) for 2023-2026

Action Document for the Green Deal Knowledge Hub – Farm-to-Fork

MULTI ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, 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	The Green Deal Knowledge Hub – Farm-to-Fork OPSYS ref: ACT-61852 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Following the geographisation and subsidiarity principles underpinning the 2021-2027 programming, the Global Challenges Programme will deploy its resources strategically to support truly global action, promoting EU's priorities and values.
4. Programming document	NDICI Global Challenges; Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) ¹ 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	The proposed Action will contribute to Priority Area 2 (Planet) of the 'Global Challenges' Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) under NDICI-Global Europe, directly addressing its Specific Objective 3 (Supporting the green transition in key areas).
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 3: Planet; Green transition (sustainable energy, green cities, sustainable mobility, green skills, and lifelong learning)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Secondary SDGs: 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15
8 a) DAC code(s) ²	31110 - Agricultural policy and administrative management 31182 - Agricultural research 52010 - Food aid/Food security programmes

¹ Decision C(2021)9157

² DAC sectors (codes and descriptions) are indicated in the first and fourth columns of the tab 'purpose codes' in the following document: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-financestandards/dacandscodelists.htm>

	43071- Food security policy and administrative management 43073- Food safety and quality 12240 - Basic nutrition 99810- Sectors not specified			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	Agreements with service providers: a specialised private service provider, as well as a grouping of European universities/research centres in agriculture and the European Forest Institute, the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) Investment Centre, and the German development cooperation agency(GIZ).			
9. Targets³	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" 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. Markers⁴ (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
	Trade development	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers⁵ and Tags⁶:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective

³ Actual contribution to targets will be confirmed ex-post based on a standardised methodology.

⁴ For guidance, see <https://www.oecd.org/development/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/> (go to "Data collection and resources for reporters", select Addendum 2, annexes 18 (policy) and 19 (Rio) of the reporting directive).

If an action is marked in the DAC form as contributing to one of the general policy objectives or to RIO principles as a principal objective or a significant objective, then this should be reflected in the logframe matrix (in the results chain and/or indicators).

⁵ The internal markers have been created to report on the implementation of the Commission's own policy priorities in areas where no DAC reporting tool is available. For the sake of consistency and comparability, the methodology is equivalent to the DAC markers, with three possible positions (main target, significant target, not targeted)

⁶ Methodology for additional tagging providing granularity on internal markers is under development.

	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020241 Total estimated cost: EUR 32.5 million Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 32.5 million ⁷ The contribution is for an amount of EUR 12.5 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2023, for an amount of EUR 10 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2024 and for an amount of EUR 10 million from the general budget of the European Union for the year 2025, 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 the provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing⁸	Direct Management (Procurement) Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2			

1.2. Summary of the Action

Current food systems are contributing significantly to biodiversity and ecosystem loss and climate change, as well as negative environmental impacts and deforestation, thereby driving global trends towards poor diets and related diseases. At the same time, they do not provide sufficient scope for decent livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable groups such as young people, women, and persons with disabilities. The EU's Green Deal 'Farm-to-Fork' Strategy⁹,

⁷ EUR 30 million from NDICI-Global Europe "Global Challenges" – Planet and EUR 2.5 million contribution from NDICI Global Europe – Geographic programmes – Neighbourhood and the Instrument for Pre-Accession

⁸ Art. 27 NDICI

⁹ [COM/2020/381 final](#)

the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and various other agreements and initiatives at global level underlined the importance of the transformation of food systems. With the establishment of over 100 country food system transformation pathways, involving all relevant actors (public and private sector, civil society), prospects have been created for change towards sustainable food systems, in coherence with, amongst others, the Global Biodiversity Framework. The quality of the implementation of this agenda is of essence to the interests and credibility of the EU. By selecting strategic support interventions, optimal leverage will be sought to advance EU priorities.

The Green Deal Knowledge Hub – Farm to Fork allows the mobilisation of an array of support services designed to support the transformation of global food systems, based on evidence, looking into national food systems, specific value chains, policies, and legislation with the aim of increasing food security and nutrition and help the transformation of food systems as a way of contributing to a more equal, fair, and sustainable society.

The knowledge hub will cover five aspects:

- Food Systems Assessments (FSAs) at country level as well as for demand driven support to integrate the FSAs' lessons and recommendations into programming and in the design of investments in strategic agri-food value-chains in partners countries.
- Value chain analysis for development at the level of single value chain in a given country or region. The analysis of value chains helps policy makers to focus on the critical bottlenecks hindering the inclusive and sustainable development of a given value chain and to act on the leverage points to promote more inclusive and sustainable growth and jobs.
- Support for development, planning, costing, and funding mechanisms for policies and programmes aimed at eradicating hunger and all forms of malnutrition, as well as at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls at country level.
- Implementation of the new EU Deforestation Regulation,¹⁰ in particular with on-demand support on traceability and legal issues.
- Support in design, monitoring and evaluation, communication, data, and knowledge management of EU-funded programmes in partner countries and at global level in relation to agri-food systems in the broadest sense, through advisory services.

The Green Deal Knowledge Hub Farm-to-Fork will be able to react quickly to demands, as well as provide quality assistance throughout policy, programme, and project preparatory processes, in complementarity with relevant geographical agri-food system programmes. It will contribute to various SDGs, most notably SDG 2 and SDGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15 as well as the Global Nutrition Targets. All facilities share a common vision of sustainability (social, environmental, and economic), as enshrined in the EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategy, and will be aligned with the EU policy priorities, policy coherence for development, the EU gender equality strategy and Gender Action Plan (GAP III)¹¹. The facilities will coordinate their actions, with the Umbrella Facility performing an overall coordinating role.

Implementing partners will be selected with procurement (direct management) procedures or contribution agreements (indirect management).

The proposed Action's five components will have the following budgetary allocation:

Components	Indicative amount (in EUR million)
Umbrella TA Facility (ASRAFS 2.0)	8
Sustainable Agrifood Systems Intelligence+ (SASI+)	6
Value Chain Analysis for Development (VCA4D 2.0)	4.5
Deforestation-free value chains	7
Capacity for Nutrition (C4N)	7
Total	32.5

¹⁰ [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1115](#)

¹¹ [JOIN/2020/17 final](#)

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The Global Challenges Programme of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) sets out the global and multilateral dimension of implementation of the EU's political priorities. It aims to strengthen the EU as a global actor in the delivery of the SDGs 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement to help eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and achieve sustainable development. The structure of the Global Challenges programme reflects the four pillars of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, and Partnership. The **Planet Pillar** aims to deliver on the EU's climate and environmental ambitions, reaffirming the EU's global leadership in support of the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Global Biodiversity. The proposed Action aims to contribute to Priority Area 2 of the Planet Pillar directly addressing its Specific Objective 3 (Supporting the green transition in key areas). It will focus on Sustainable Aquatic and Agri-Food Systems (SAAFS) as one of the three inter-related areas identified in the Global Challenges MIP as being central to the green transition and to prosperous and resilient economies and societies.

The 2021 UNSG's Food Systems Summit (FSS) and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit stressed the need to transform food systems and make them sustainable, while delivering healthy, nutritious, and affordable food. This was confirmed at the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in June 2023. With the establishment of over 100 country food system transformation pathways, involving all relevant actors (public and private sector, civil society), prospects have been created for change towards sustainable food systems, in coherence with, amongst others, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions. The EU has expressed its support for this agenda and has included food systems as one of the areas for investments under the Global Gateway, providing support to relevant actions in more than 70 partner countries. The quality of the implementation of this agenda is of essence to the interests and credibility of the EU, hence the need for timely access to high quality, relevant **advisory services** to shape the EU's support to partner countries' transition to SAAFS. This advisory service will include a range of on-demand expertise on various key aspects of food systems, including on food safety and One-Health approaches, complementing the in-depth expertise provided through other services.

In recognition of the fact that the global food production and consumption system needs to change to feed everyone while improving health, creating jobs, reducing waste, and protecting the environment, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), with EU support, carried out Food System Assessments (FSAs)¹² in over 50 countries worldwide. The results of these assessments have identified a set of strategic sustainability questions and potential levers to support the transition to sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems. The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) has also emphasized the potential of sustainable food systems to address multiple SDG-related outcomes, but challenges persist in adopting a food system thinking to support countries in implementing pathways. The proposed Facility on Sustainable Agri-food Systems Intelligence Plus (**SASI+**) aims to specifically address these challenges.

A priority for food systems development in partner countries is to support value chains to boost investments, create jobs and increase growth by taking into account the inclusion of women and youth and the environmental dimensions (climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, water scarcity, contamination, etc.). A holistic analysis of value chains in terms of flows of resources (product, funding, information) along the chain of actors involved in the production, processing, trading etc. of a specific product, is needed to help inform policy makers and to orient (EU) investments. A key challenge is to integrate agroecological approaches and the effective management of landscapes to address natural resource challenges. The Value Chains Analysis for Development (**VCA4D**) project managed by Agrinatura since 2019 is providing such analyses. Component 3 under this Action aims to pursue the VCA4D approach, mainly in response to the needs of EU delegations.

In addition, the European Green Deal regulatory framework is rapidly taking shape. The EU **Deforestation Regulation** entered into force on 29th June 2023¹³. The transition towards deforestation-free and legal supply chains to the EU raises the stakes for EU partnerships, both politically and operationally. Article 30 of the Regulation requires the Commission to “engage in a coordinated approach with producer countries [...] through existing and future partnerships, and other relevant cooperation mechanisms”. Component 4 under this Action aims to support the implementation of this Deforestation Regulation.

Finally, what we eat impacts climate change, and climate change impacts what we eat: ensuring sustainable, resilient, and healthy diets is therefore critical to both improve nutrition and mitigate climate change. Covid-19 has also highlighted the importance of resilient food systems to face the impacts of such global health crises, and sustainable

¹² [Food Systems Assessment | FAO Investment Centre | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Support to Investment | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

¹³ [EUR-Lex - 32023R1115 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

food systems are recognised as part of the recovery efforts after Covid-19. At global level, climate change contributes to all forms of malnutrition (including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight) and increased susceptibility to disease, particularly for nutritionally vulnerable groups. Changes in temperature, precipitation and the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as extreme heat, drought, floods and storms, result in reduced crop yields and productivity and put at risk critical infrastructure needed to access food (e.g., roads, storage facilities, water and sanitation). Climate change is also one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss in agriculture, which in turn reduces the ability of global food systems to respond to shocks and stresses and to provide healthy and nutritious diets. Climate change influences other underlying factors of malnutrition, such as unsustainable food systems, poor public health, risk of conflict and vulnerable livelihoods / socio-economic status, which in turn also impact the immediate determinants of nutritional status: food consumption and health. On the other hand, the current food systems driven by increasingly unsustainable dietary patterns, are a major driver of climate change and constitute the single largest driver of environmental degradation threatening to cross planetary boundaries with large-scale, abrupt or irreversible environmental changes. **Healthy diets and nutrition** are key factors in preventing and seeking solutions to address poverty and to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Furthermore, women have a crucial role to play in poverty reduction and food systems transformation as producers, entrepreneurs, and consumers. Their potential contribution to inclusive food systems transformation is often overlooked and should be advanced. This action will bring these issues together and look at the nutrition, climate change and gender nexus to advance food systems transformation.

The Action will provide streamlined in-depth support in five areas:

- (i) Umbrella Facility: Advisory Services for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (ASRAFS) 2.0
- (ii) Sustainable Agri-food Systems Intelligence+ (SASI+)
- (iii) Value Chain Analysis for Development (VCA4D) 2.0
- (iv) Deforestation-free value chains
- (v) Capacity for Nutrition and healthy diets (C4N) 2.0

The proposed Action is fully aligned with the EU Green Deal, Agenda 2030, the European Consensus for Development, and the Global Gateway. It will contribute to various SDGs, most notably SDG 2 (zero hunger), interrelated with SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land) as well as the Global Nutrition Targets. It will also contribute to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan III, notably its priority: ‘Addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation’.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Against the background of fundamental food systems challenges, partner countries are taking new policy initiatives to transition to more sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems. To accompany these initiatives with support and investments, advisory services are needed to support the EU and partner countries in developing high quality programmes and new ways of thinking and working within the food and nutrition security/sustainable aquatic and agriculture domain, globally and through geographical programmes. The Umbrella TA facility ‘Advisory Services for Resilient Agri-Food Systems’ (**ASRAFS**) 2.0 will address this issue through the provision of timely, targeted, actionable, and high quality on-demand advisory services.

Currently, agri-food systems do not generate fair economic returns for all actors, particularly for small scale producers, triggering an endless cycle of precariousness and poverty. In the same way, disparities between parts of a country can be substantial, with some areas and territories benefiting from a higher level of development and others neglected or forgotten, as is the growing divide between rural and urban settings. The action thus places emphasis on inclusive transformation of agri-food systems. The **Sustainable Agri-Food Systems Intelligence+ (SASI+)** is designed to support the development of inclusive and sustainable agricultural and food value chains, as well as promote investment and risk management mechanisms for efficient and inclusive agri-food systems.

VCA4D analyses all soft and hard aspects of value chains with a view to informing decision making regarding investments, including at EU Delegation level. VCA4D performs value chain analyses (VCAs) across a range of agricultural commodities and countries to appraise their contribution to growth and job creation, with a focus on their sustainability and inclusiveness. VCA4D uses a common methodological framework, with the aim of appraising the sustainability of a VC from an economic, social, and environmental perspective. This is preceded by a functional

analysis, that provides a general description of the VC, a technical diagnosis of its different stages and an analysis of its governance and power structure.

The EU **Deforestation** Regulation¹⁴ is a general legal framework that aims to address the pressing issue of deforestation by regulating the action of operators established in the EU who place palm oil, beef, soy, coffee, cocoa, rubber, and wood as well as related products on the EU market. These operators will need to exercise strict due diligence to ensure that: (1) the products are “deforestation-free” – i.e., not produced on land that was degraded or deforested after 31 December 2020, and (2) legal – i.e. produced in line with the relevant national laws of the producing country. This general legal framework has specific implications for a diversity of stakeholders, a variety of agri-supply chains, and different country contexts.

The **Capacity for Nutrition** (C4N) is a global level technical facility that aims to strengthen evidence-based nutrition policies and programmes, by developing capacity assessments, tools, and support to implementation. It also addresses the issues of nutrition governance and accountability and supports improvement of the knowledge base and policy uptake on nutrition.

A broad range of stakeholders are involved in the five interventions supported by this Action, including EU Headquarters and Delegations and food systems actors in partner countries, such as ministries and sub-national policymakers; agri-food sector wholesalers, processors and distributors; food producers, including small-farmers and fisherfolks, and fishing and farming-based communities; as well as consumer organisations.

The main implementing partners for each intervention are as follows:

Umbrella Facility/ASRAFs 2.0

The implementing partner will be selected based on a procurement procedure (services tender)

Sustainable Agri-food Systems Intelligence+ (SASI+)

The proposed implementing partner will be the FAO investment centre

Value Chain Analysis for Development (VCA4D 2.0)

The proposed implementing partner will be a grouping of European universities/research centres in agriculture.

Deforestation-free VC

The proposed implementing partner is the European Forestry Institute and GIZ.

Capacity for Nutrition (C4N) 2.0

The proposed implementing partner is GIZ.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The proposed Action aims to contribute to MIP Specific Objective 3: Supporting the green transition in key areas.

The **Overall Objective (OO)** is to contribute to the transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, and sustainable agri-aquatic food systems.

The **Specific Objectives** of this action are:

SO1: To provide high quality, relevant advisory services to support EU partner countries’ transition to sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems (SAAFS).

SO2: To improve knowledge and capacities for action by agri-food system stakeholders and institutions

SO3: To support the inclusive and sustainable development of value chains in partner countries

SO4: To support an inclusive transition to deforestation-free and legal supply chains to the EU

SO5: To support the nutrition and gender sensitive transformation of agri-food systems

Outputs related to SO1 include:

¹⁴ [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1115](#)

OP1.1 Studies and analyses
 OP1.2 Programme and project support documents
 OP1.3 Regularly updated database
 OP1.4 Increased capacities of EUD and HQ staff with regard to policy design, as well as programming and reporting
 OP1.5 Results reporting
 OP1.6 Communication and knowledge products

Outputs related to SO2 include:

OP2.1 Completed FSA reports widely communicated in target countries
 OP2.2 In-depth analytical reports on specific FSA issues produced and widely communicated.
 OP2.3 On-demand, in-depth analytical reports on diverse agri-food systems' issues and dynamics (including budgetary allocation, spending and financial flows for FS and FS transformation).
 OP2.4 Global cross-country synthesis for all FSA countries.
 OP2.5 Focused policy briefs or memos on specific topics in response to specific EU and Government requests.
 OP2.6 Technical assistance provided on-demand to selected EUDs to formulate programmes or support sustainable FSA transitions and/or in support of sustainable agri-food value-chains.
 OP2.7 Diverse on-demand analytical and advisory services to EUDs as input to prioritizing the goals, priorities, and actions for SFA pathways and operational plans.
 OP2.8 Focused, thematic consultations to identify specific policy areas and/or sectors in need of reform.

Outputs related to SO3 include:

OP3.1 Value chain analyses
 OP3.2 Increased capacities of VC stakeholders
 OP3.3 Increased awareness of VCA and policy recommendations

Outputs related to SO4 include:

OP4.1 On-demand advice on EU Deforestation Regulation requirements to public and private sector partners, in particular in relation to deforestation-free and legality criteria.
 OP4.2 On-demand expertise to public and private sector partners on tools for meeting EU Deforestation Regulation requirements, in particular traceability systems.

Outputs related to SO5 include:

OP5.1 Improved technical and institutional capacities in nutrition-sensitive and gender transformative approaches promoting the climate-gender-nutrition nexus.
 OP5.2 Increased technical and operational capacities to scale up effective, equitable, sustainable, and resilient nutrition policy responses and outreach at global, regional, and national levels.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to SO1 (OP1.1 to OP1.6)

Studies and analyses
 Technical support to the elaboration of programme and project documents
 Regular updating of database
 Training and capacity development of EUD and HQ staff
 Technical support to results reporting
 Elaboration of communication and knowledge products

Activities related to SO2 (OP2.1 to OP2.8)

Broad communication of completed FSA reports in target countries
 Elaboration and communication of in-depth analytical reports on specific FSA issues
 On-demand, in-depth analytical reports on diverse agri-food systems' issues and dynamics (including budgetary allocation and spending and financial flows for FS and FS transformation)
 Elaboration of global cross-country synthesis for all FSA countries.
 Elaboration of focused policy briefs or memos on specific topics in response to specific EU and Government requests.
 Provision of on-demand technical assistance to selected EUDs to formulate programmes or support sustainable FSA transitions and/or in support of sustainable agri-food value-chains.

Provision of diverse, on-demand analytical and advisory services to EUDs as input to prioritizing the goals, priorities, and actions for SFA pathways and operational plans.

Focused, thematic consultations to identify specific policy areas and/or sectors in need of reform.

Activities related to SO3 (OP3.1 to OP3.3)

Carrying out value chain analysis based on the Methodological Brief (version 2)¹⁵ and based on EU delegations' demands

Up-dates of value chain analysis based on EU delegations' demands

Training and support on Agri-Food Value Chain Analyses (experts especially for the use of specific software such as AFA for the economic analysis, EU delegations involved in VC analysis to make better use of VCA4D analysis, policy makers in partner countries to better understand the methods and the results, academics to disseminate the VCA4D method through specific curricula,

Organisation of VC stakeholder workshops to share results and to elaborate recommendations

Activities related to SO4 (OP4.1 and 4.2)

Provision of **independent analysis** to governments and supply-chain actors on the implementation of Deforestation Regulation requirements – in particular: conduct Deforestation Regulation preparedness checks; assess relevant legislation of the country of production; develop and monitor jurisdictional approaches.

Provision of **independent technical support** to governments and supply-chain actors on establishing Deforestation Regulation tools – in particular: analysis of partner countries' supply chain systems and data; support to the setting up and strengthening of information (including geolocation) and traceability systems.

Activities related to SO5 (OPs 5.1 and 5.2)

The technical advisory and expertise mechanism will support relevant development actors (EU, MSs, national governments) and government led assessments and capacity development initiatives, including development of relevant legislation, and accompanying regulatory measures.

Providing support for the inclusion of cross-cutting issues, in particular increased resilience to climate variability and extreme events and implementation of gender-transformative approaches.

Providing support to the implementation of national reforms and the outreach of nutrition-sensitive interventions, while strengthening reporting, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms.

Identifying and promoting multi-actor innovative approaches, providing support to scaling up of initiatives at national, regional and/or global level and collaborating on global agenda setting around the climate-gender-nutrition nexus.

Setting-up a global, regional, and country level technical advisory and expertise mechanism that provides timely support to ensure the delivery of the EU's policy and commitments related to nutrition. This support will inform and provide guidance for the EU's policy and programme engagement.

Collaborating with existing global initiatives to address emerging nutrition challenges and inform national and international policy development, including necessary adjustments in the face of new challenges and on the basis of emerging evidence

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening

In line with the mainstreaming guidelines and the five questions for SEA screening, the carrying out of a detailed SEA is not justified. The proposed intervention integrates environmental concerns in its design and seeks to bring a meaningful contribution to improve the state of the environment. The programme objectives do not directly and significantly depend on the availability of scarce natural resources for their achievement – on the contrary, the programme seeks to improve – even if indirectly - the sustainable management of - and access to natural resources in the SAAFS area. VCA4D analyses take into account the environmental dimension with the mobilisation of a specific expert dedicated to this issue, by the mobilisation of a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) approach and complementary analysis regarding biodiversity. No significant cumulative environmental impacts are expected from the foreseen interventions. And finally, the implementation of the initiatives will not promote large-scale use of environmentally damaging substances – on the contrary, by supporting the green transition, several of the interventions foreseen in

¹⁵ [VC4D Methodological Brief](#)

this Action Document aim to address environmental issues e.g. through the promotion of deforestation-free agricultural value chains and by linking nutritional improvements with climate change concerns.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as G1 which implies that gender equality is a significant objective. The Hub aims to address gender inequality in one form or another. Each facility will be asked to assess its potential contribution to the objectives and priority areas of the EU Gender Action Plan III and to the implementation of the CFS' workstream on gender equality¹⁶ and women's and girls' empowerment. More specifically they will explore how to incorporate rights based and transformative approaches in their methodologies and will assess the relevance and possibility to engage with the GAP III's six areas of engagement (economic and social rights and empowerment; equal participation and leadership; women, peace and security; green and digital transformations; ending gender-based violence; sexual and reproductive health and rights;) and report annually on these aspects in order to contribute to the EU annual reporting on GAP III. For example, work under C4N recognises the crucial role played by women in the reduction of poverty and **malnutrition**, and agri-food systems transformations as producers, entrepreneurs, and consumers. Their potential contribution to food systems transformation is often overlooked and will be advanced by this specific intervention. Moreover, where feasible, gender transformative approaches will be promoted in food systems, value chain and nutrition interventions

Human Rights

In line with the EU consensus on development 'our World, our Dignity, our Future' and the 2030 Agenda, the EU uses a rights-based approach as a working methodology. A rights-based approach underpins all of the interventions covered by this Action, through the promotion of ownership, transparency and accountability, and inclusive partnerships. The prioritisation of improved governance on the one hand (the duty bearers) and the rights of women, children, and other groups in vulnerable situations on the other (the rights holders), is a core feature of the different initiatives e.g., the action will contribute to the realisation of the **right to adequate food and nutrition** by all, including the most vulnerable.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0 as it does not directly target persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, some of the interventions under this Action will target all citizens and thus will have consequences that impact positively on the conditions of persons with disabilities and/or will have to reflect on how to better ensure access on equal basis to them e.g., by providing advice on interventions related to nutrition.

Democracy

Inclusive food systems transformation is one of the challenges to be addressed by this Action. The various components under this Action provide knowledge and expertise to improve interventions and guide evidence-based policy making with partner governments. Moreover, participatory methods will increase the involvement of legitimate groups (e.g., value chain stakeholders; food systems stakeholders) in public discussion and deliberation, thereby strengthening democracy by way of voicing the needs of interest groups, including vulnerable groups and communities.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Due consideration of conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience is by its nature context specific and will have to be mainstreamed on a case-by-case basis. In general terms however, the Action acknowledges that increased pressure on resources and their unsustainable and exclusionary management opens the way to conflict and instability, which reinforce each other in a vicious circle. Consequently, there is an increased need for cooperation between stakeholders at all levels, from local to transboundary and global. Increased cooperation is dependent on, and can only be sustained through inclusive, participatory and transparent governance frameworks that address, and ultimately prevent, conflicts. **VCA4D** analysis takes into account the inclusion of all types of farmers, the role of women, governance issues including participation along the value chain, and the working conditions in connection with public regulations. Good **nutrition** is an essential factor in ensuring people's overall resilience in the face of humanitarian crises. When relevant, the C4N intervention will apply a humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) lens in order to contribute to increased resilience and nutrition security, ensuring adequate nutrition for all in protracted crises and in the face of recurrent shocks. It implies applying a combination of actions to address immediate nutrition needs with actions to address underlying vulnerabilities to prevent malnutrition, as well as strengthening the enabling environment (political, legal, economic and human resource) through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

¹⁶<https://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/gender/vn/>

At a minimum, from a conflict sensitivity perspective, do no harm risks will be taken into account, and conflict sensitivity requirements and analyses promoted with implementing partners and in synergy with other cross-cutting issues, including with regard to inclusion, consultation and consent of communities targeted by the Action.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems will enhance resilience to shocks and stresses, including those due to climate change effects. The Action will support transitions towards enhanced food systems resilience, thereby reducing risks for severe effects of extreme events.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Political	Lack of authority and institutional capacities to address cross-sectoral and cross-ministerial food systems challenges	High	High	Targeted capacity building and interaction to strengthen an operational food systems approach in line with expressed priorities and in cooperation with (knowledge) partners
Political	Lack of commitment in partner countries to implement the requirements of the Deforestation Regulation.	Medium	Medium	Link programme to “whole-of-EU” approach to Deforestation Regulation, as put forward by the comprehensive EU strategic framework for engagement with partner countries (article 30 Deforestation Regulation).
Economic	EU financial support is insufficient to respond to the demands and needs related to the EU Deforestation Regulation	Medium	Medium	Active coordination with other global programmes on the Deforestation Regulation, such as the SAFE programme (CRIS No. DCI-ENV/2021/427-665) as well as the related Team Europe Initiative on the Deforestation Regulation.
Operational	EU Delegations are not able to take into account the VCA4D recommendations	Low	Medium	In-depth interactions with EUDs to identify the need and usefulness of a VCA4D analysis. Organisation of workshops with the stakeholders to share the results and fine tune the recommendations
Operational	Lack of coordination between TA services within the Hub	Medium	Medium	Dedicated tasks for the Umbrella Facility to enhance information exchange and streamline TA provisioning among services

Lessons Learnt:

Food systems transformation requires a long-term vision underpinned by sound analysis and multistakeholder support. The emergence of such conducive conditions is only possible with the assistance of high-quality facilities providing technical services in key domains in order to support the design of pivotal, transformative interventions. Three of the five proposed interventions are extensions of existing contracts so there is ample scope for drawing on the lessons

learned to inform the current design. For example, this Action builds on the positive experiences gained through the current Advisory Services for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (**ASRAFS 1.0**) and will add to it functions, enhancing facility streamlining and will include technical expertise in specific areas such as food safety and One Health. Similarly in the case of **VCA4D**, around 40 analyses have already been carried out to support EU investments in partner countries which have helped EUDs to identify new programmes, to re-orient on-going programmes and to support policy dialogues related to the agricultural sector or to specific value chains. A ROM review carried out in 2022 provided very positive feedback on the intervention, including the observation that “The intervention remains highly relevant and responds to the needs of target institutions and local actors. The VCA4D methodology has been fully tested during the first phase and upgraded during the current implementation phase”. This subsequent phase will further build on these successes. In the case of **C4N**, the proposed intervention will build on lessons-learned from the implementation of preceding C4N programme and other nutrition interventions

The support to the **Deforestation Regulation** incorporates lessons learnt in similar processes such as the Voluntary Partnership Agreements on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade as well as the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative.

In the case of **SASI+**, sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems require a holistic approach, as well as inputs from multiple sectors, diverse actors, and multiple levels of government. Inclusive approaches to involve this diversity of actors from public sector, private sector and civil society in the agri-food system is challenging, particularly as regards the involvement of actors from different sectors (e.g., education, health, transport, social affairs, energy, etc.) and in functions downstream from agriculture production activities (e.g., processing, services) in the informal sector. Territorial and consultative approaches are critical to engagement with many actors, including informal actors in rural and urban areas, female producer organizations, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. At the same time, it remains critical to transfer this holistic and systemic approach into the actual design of innovative actions feeding game-changer/broader initiatives. **SASI+** therefore builds on a diversity of lessons and perspectives emerging from prior cooperation between FAO and the EU on agri-food systems, particularly from the Food System Assessments (50 FSA country profiles elaborated), **FIRST** and EU/FAO **AgrIntel** project managed by FAO’s Investment Centre. The design and implementation of this component benefits from the vast knowledge and experiences of both FAO and the EU in the diverse agri-food system areas related to nutrition and health, climate and environment, jobs and social inclusion, poverty reduction and territorial approaches, but also including value chains, food security and operating in complex emergency countries. The lesson learning process will remain a continuous and active element throughout implementation. Moreover, several years of cooperation between FAO Investment Centre and the EBRD, carrying out similar activities (e.g., value-chain analysis, policy dialogue, platforms) and in purpose (enabling private sector investments), especially in the context of the **AgrIntel/ AgiInvest** projects, can also be drawn on.

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is based on two fundamental principles. Firstly, the subsidiarity principle underpins all the foreseen initiatives insofar as they all require intervention on the global level which will complement and strengthen the country and regional dimensions of EU action in support of SAAFS. Secondly, the theory of change underpinning this Action is based on the premise that investing in the sustainable transformation of aquatic and agri-food systems requires a holistic approach that impacts the food system from production through to processing and consumption. The challenge for agri-food systems is not only to produce food and have a direct impact on food and nutrition security, but also to contribute to sustainable, inclusive employment and livelihoods and to building a sustainable planet. The Action intends to strengthen the global capacity to provide evidence-based coordination, guidance, and inclusive action for the transition to sustainable food systems, leading to enhanced food security and better nutrition, economic and environmental outcomes for all. This holistic approach is captured by the interrelated initiatives under the five main components described above, each of which will contribute in one way or another to facilitating the transition to sustainable food systems globally, through the provision of high quality technical support as well as targeted capacity development for the preparation and implementation of EU-supported global initiatives and actions on agri-food systems in a broad sense, including analysis, identification, formulation and policy support. More specifically, in the case of ASRAFS 2.0, the assumption is that by making high quality, relevant and actionable advisory services available to the EC in the form of studies and analyses, up to date data, training and technical expertise, EU staff will be better positioned to support partner countries' transition to SAAFS. The change process in the case of SASI+, is based on the hypotheses that an improved knowledge base/awareness about the SAAFS transition as well as the budgetary/financial flows supporting (or not) this transition, combined with greater stakeholder consultation and inputs, enhanced actors' and institutional capacities, programmes, policies, and investments, will enhance the prospects for a successful transition to sustainable food systems. The theory of change underpinning the VCA4D intervention is that by providing EU policy makers with reliable evidence-based information on the functioning of value chains, in particular on the critical bottlenecks hindering their inclusive and sustainable development, that leverage points will be identified that support the policy dialogue and decision making on investments and operations related to agri-based value chains in partner countries. For the deforestation value chains, the underpinning logic is that by providing on-demand advice on the EU Deforestation Regulation requirements to public and private sector partners, in particular in relation to deforestation-free and legality criteria as well as on-demand expertise to public and private sector partners on tools for meeting EU Deforestation Regulation requirements, that an inclusive transition to deforestation-free and legal supply chains to the EU will be enhanced. And finally, as regards C4N, the foreseen change process is that if technical and institutional capacities in nutrition-sensitive and gender transformative approaches are strengthened alongside the technical and operational capacities to scale up effective, equitable, sustainable, and resilient nutrition policy responses and outreach at global, regional, and national levels, then the transformation of agri-food systems will be nutrition and gender sensitive.

Basic assumptions that need to hold for these change processes to deliver as planned include a genuine commitment from partner countries to actively commit to, and engage in, the transition to SAAFS, as well as the provisions of specific policies and legislation e.g., the Deforestation Regulation. Access to the relevant knowledge and capacities to operationalise a food systems approach will also be needed. The high quality and relevance of the deliverables, guidance and advice provided by the different service providers as well as the ability of the "Umbrella Facility" to effectively coordinate and streamline TA provisioning among the different services are also key assumptions underpinning the proposed change process.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

At action level, the indicative logframe should have a maximum of 10 expected results (Impact/Outcome(s)/Output(s)).

It constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. **In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest.** New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

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

Results	Results chain (@): ¹⁷ Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): ¹⁸ (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines ¹⁹ (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to the transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, and sustainable agri-aquatic food systems.	Number of partner countries transitioning to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, and sustainable agri-aquatic food systems				<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	To provide high quality, relevant advisory services to support EU partner countries' transition to sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems (SAAFS).	Level of satisfaction with the services provided by ASRAFS 2.0 Number of repeat requests for ASRAFS services				Target audiences are receptive to the services provided by ASRAFS 2.0 The services provided by ASRAFS are relevant, actionable and timely
Outcome 2	To improve knowledge and capacities for action by agri-food system stakeholders and institutions	Number of persons reached by SASI+ services/deliverables Number of institutions reached by SASI+ services/deliverables Number of agri-food system stakeholders and institutions countries reporting increased capacities for action as a result of SASI+ services				Partner governments are committed to transitioning to SAAFS FSAs are relevant and of sufficient quality to allow for effective transitions to SAAFS
Outcome 3	To support the inclusive and sustainable development of value chains in partner countries	Number of inclusive and sustainable value chains supported in partner countries				EUDs are able to take into account the VCA4D recommendations Sufficient resources are available to make the necessary investments

¹⁷ As this Action Document includes 5 Components it is not possible to remain within the limit of 10 results. However, with a view to being as concise as possible, only some of the key outputs are included here. For more details on outputs see section 3.1

¹⁸ All indicators to be sex disaggregated

¹⁹ Baselines, targets and SoV will need to be established by each of the Implementing Partners (IPs) during the inception periods

Outcome 4	To support an inclusive transition to deforestation-free and legal supply chains to the EU	Number of countries respecting the requirements of the Deforestation Regulation				There is sufficient commitment in partner countries to implement the requirements of the Deforestation Regulation.
Outcome 5	To support the nutrition and gender sensitive transformation of agri-food systems	Number of partner countries transitioning to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, and sustainable agri-aquatic food systems that are nutrition and gender sensitive				There is sufficient commitment to mainstream gender and nutrition considerations into policies
Outputs related to Outcome 1	1.1 Programme and project support documents 1.2 Regularly updated database 1.3 Increased capacities of EUD and HQ staff on policy design, as well as programming and reporting 1.4 Communication and knowledge products	1.1.1 Number of programmes and projects having received support from ASRAFS 2.0 1.2.1 Availability of updated information in database (Y/N) 1.3.1 Number of EUD and HQ staff trained on policy design, programming, and reporting 1.3.2 Number of EUD and HQ staff reporting improved skills on policy design, programming, and reporting 1.4.2 Number of communication and knowledge products developed				Advice and deliverables are timely and of high quality Appropriately qualified experts are available as needed There is sufficient awareness and demand for the services available
Outputs related to Outcome 2	2.1 Completed FSA reports widely communicated in target countries 2.2 In-depth analytical reports on specific FSA issues produced and widely communicated. 2.3 Global cross-country synthesis for all FSA countries. 2.4 Focused policy briefs or memos on specific topics in response to specific EU and Government requests. 2.5 Technical assistance provided on-demand to selected EUDs to formulate programmes or support sustainable FSA transitions and/or in support of sustainable agri-food value-chains.	2.1.1 Number of completed FSA reports widely communicated in target countries 2.2.1 Number of in-depth analytical reports on specific FSA issues produced and widely communicated. 2.3.1 Global cross-country synthesis for all FSA countries. 2.4.1 Number of focused policy briefs or memos on specific topics in response to specific EU and Government requests. 2.5.1 Number of EUDs having received TA to formulate programmes or support sustainable FSA transitions and/or in support of sustainable agri-food value-chains.				Services and deliverables provided by SASI are of good quality, are well targeted and timely.

	2.6 Focused, thematic consultations to identify specific policy areas and/or sectors in need of reform.	2.6.1 Number of focused, thematic consultations carried out to identify specific policy areas and/or sectors in need of reform.				
Outputs related to Outcome 3	3.1 Value chain analyses 3.2 Increased capacities of VC stakeholders 3.3 Increased awareness of VCA and policy recommendations	3.1.1 Number of VCA carried out 3.2.1 Number of VC stakeholders having received training 3.2.2 Number of VCA stakeholders reporting improved skills 3.3 Number of persons reporting an increased awareness of VCA and policy recommendations				VCA's are of good quality VC stakeholders are willing to engage actively in the work of VCA4D
Outputs related to Outcome 4	4.1 On-demand advice on EU Deforestation Regulation requirements to public and private sector partners, in particular in relation to deforestation-free and legality criteria. 4.2 On-demand expertise to public and private sector partners on tools for meeting EU Deforestation Regulation requirements, in particular traceability systems.	4.1.1 Number of public and private sector partners in receipt of advice on EU Deforestation Regulation requirements. 4.2.1 Number of public and private sector partners in receipt of advice on tools for meeting EU Deforestation Regulation requirements				EU financial support is sufficient to respond to the demands and needs related to the EU Deforestation Regulation
Outputs related to Outcome 5	5.1 Improved technical and institutional capacities in nutrition-sensitive and gender transformative approaches promoting the climate-gender-nutrition nexus. 5.2 Increased technical and operational capacities to scale up effective, equitable, sustainable, and resilient nutrition policy responses and outreach at global, regional, and national levels.	5.1.1 Number of persons in receipt of training on nutrition-sensitive and gender transformative approaches promoting the climate-gender-nutrition nexus. 5.1.2 Number of persons reporting improved technical and institutional capacities in nutrition-sensitive and gender transformative approaches promoting the climate-gender-nutrition nexus. 5.2.1 Number of persons in receipt of technical and operational training to scale up effective, equitable, sustainable, and resilient nutrition policy responses and outreach at global, regional, and national levels				The quality of training is adequate Training/capacity development is targeted at the right audience

		5.2.2 Number of persons reporting improved technical and operational capacity to scale up effective, equitable, sustainable, and resilient nutrition policy responses and outreach at global, regional, and national levels				
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4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with any partner country.

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 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases

4.3. 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 measures²⁰.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Procurement)

Component 1 ASRAFS 2.0: this component (SO1) will be implemented through the conclusion of a contract with a service provider following a procurement procedure.

Component 3: VCA4D: this component (SO3) will be implemented through the conclusion of a service contract with a grouping of European universities/research centres in agriculture to be awarded through a procurement procedure .

4.3.2. Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

Component 2: SASI+

A part of this action (SO2) may be implemented in indirect management with FAO. This implementation entails the improvement of knowledge and capacities for action by agri-food system stakeholders and institutions. .

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria a) operational capacity to build and further expand on support for knowledge and capacity building on sustainable agrifood systems; b) specific expertise in supporting the design of sustainable food production and food systems projects; c) presence in a large number of the partner countries to facilitate the dialogues and partnerships.

The FAO, through its Investment Centre, has conducted Food Systems Assessments (FSAs) and is engaged in follow-up actions in support of food systems capacity strengthening and analysis through the 2023-2027 project Sustainable agrifood systems intelligence. Moreover, the same entity cooperates with the EU in support of activities on agricultural investments (e.g., AgrIntel) and on specific value chains (e.g., EU sustainable cocoa initiative). There is an operational request to expand the number of countries covered by FSAs beyond the already existing 50 profiles. FAO has presence in more than 100 countries. In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the

²⁰ 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.

Commission's services may select another replacement entity using the similar criteria. If the entity is replaced the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

Component 4: Deforestation free VCA part of this action (SO4) may be implemented in indirect management with the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). These entities have significant experience in working with the EU on sustainable value chains and related initiatives, including the EU Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), EU FLEGT Facilities, and the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative,

- EFI has helped producer and consumer governments in using transparency as an opportunity for better law enforcement, improved land-use governance and informed trade dialogues. EFI is also working, among other, on increasing transparency in the non-certified, mainstream markets of the global agricultural commodities that drive tropical deforestation.
- GIZ implements the "Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems" (SAFE) programme, which is INTPA's first global programme to support partner countries on the Deforestation Regulation and which is also a steppingstone to a Team Europe Initiative on the Deforestation Regulation.

This implementation entails setting up an on-demand facility that could provide (a) independent and technical advice on EU Deforestation Regulation requirements to public and private sector partners as well as (b) independent and technical expertise to public and private sector partners on tools for meeting EU Deforestation Regulation requirements. The on-demand facility should be part and parcel of a coordinated EU and Member States' effort on accompanying the entry into force and application of the EU Deforestation Regulation in partner countries.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: (a) operational capacity to provide services in relation to implementing the EU Deforestation Regulation, (b) potential to convene other EU Member States or actors to engage in a Team Europe Initiative in addressing deforestation challenges, and c) experience in international assistance in relation to relevant agricultural value chains and sustainable forest governance initiatives, due diligence and/or traceability systems.

In case the envisaged entities would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select another replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

Component 5: C4N

The Component 5 (SO5) of this action may be implemented in indirect management with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

This implementation entails setting-up a global, regional, and country level technical advisory and specialized pluri-national expertise mechanism supporting delivery of the EU policy and commitments related to nutrition, providing guidance for the policy and programme engagement to relevant development actors (EU, MSs, national governments) and government led assessments and capacity development initiatives, supporting the inclusion of cross-cutting issues and the climate-gender-nutrition nexus, supporting the implementation of national reforms and the outreach of nutrition-sensitive interventions; setting-up reporting, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms; collaborating with existing global initiatives (SUN, N4G, GNR) to address emerging nutrition challenges and inform national and international policy development, including necessary adjustments in the face of new challenges and on the basis of emerging evidence.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: a) operational capacity to build and further expand on the existing advisory supports in nutrition, b) potential to convene other stakeholders to engage in delivery on nutrition outcomes, c) capacity and experience in organising peer-learning, exchange of experiences and transfer of know how among public bodies, d) value added in the key areas of programme intervention: agri-food systems transformation for healthy and sustainable diets, multi-sectoral nutrition governance and investments, nutrition-climate change-gender nexus, gender transformative approaches e) absence of conflict of interest. This is in line with the recommendations of the Commission's Joint Programming Guidance. The objective of this implementation modality is to ensure more coherent, targeted intervention at global level and in partner countries. It will improve alignment with national development plans and reduce gaps and overlaps through collective intervention.

A possible implementing partner is GIZ, because of its global reputation for transparency and accountability and proven capacities to effectively support stakeholders to translate policy reform commitments and national

programmes into practice, GIZ's unique and extensive experience with regard to a nutrition-sensitive food systems approach as well as GIZ's partnership with the SUN stakeholders (partner countries, civil society, business and donors).

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entities fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.3.

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

If the foreseen implementation modality under indirect management outlined in section 4.3.3. cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, component 2 (outcome 2: To improve knowledge and capacities for action by agri-food system stakeholders and institutions of the action) may be implemented through a procurement procedure;

and components 4 and 5 of the action may be implemented through direct grant(s) without a call for proposals. The direct grant(s) without call for proposals are justified, according to the conditions set out in article 195 f) of the Financial Regulation, because:

- Component 4 (Deforestation free VC): the entity should demonstrate well-established technical experience and robust specific expertise in the area of forest management and value chains, as well as inside knowledge of EU legislative requirements. The entity would be selected according to the following criteria: (a) operational capacity to provide services in relation to implementing the EU Deforestation Regulation, (b) potential to convene other EU Member States or actors to engage in a Team Europe Initiative in addressing deforestation challenges, and c) experience in international assistance in relation to relevant agricultural value chains and sustainable forest governance initiatives, due diligence and/or traceability systems..
- Component 5 (C4N): the entity needs to have the specific expertise, administrative power and technical competence to set up a global, regional, and country level technical advisory and specialized pluri-national expertise mechanism supporting delivery of the EU policy and commitments related to nutrition, providing guidance for the policy and programme engagement to relevant development actors. The entity would be selected according to the following criteria a) operational capacity to build and further expand on the existing advisory supports in nutrition, b) potential to convene other stakeholders to engage in delivery on nutrition outcomes, c) capacity and experience in organising peer-learning, exchange of experiences and transfer of know how among public bodies, d) value added in the key areas of programme intervention: agri-food systems transformation for healthy and sustainable diets, multi-sectoral nutrition governance and investments, nutrition-climate change-gender nexus, gender transformative approaches e) absence of conflict of interest.

4.4. 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 realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components ²¹	EU contribution (amount in EUR)			
	2023	2024	2025	Total
Direct management Procurement				
Component 1 Umbrella Facility (ASRAFS 2.0)		5M	3M	8 M
Component 3 Value Chain Analysis for Development (VCA4D)		4.5M		4.5 M
Indirect management with FAO				
Component 2 Sustainable Agri-Food Systems Intelligence Plus (SASI+)	5.5M	0.5M		6 M
Direct management with a grouping of European universities/research centres in agriculture				
Indirect management with EFI and GIZ				
Component 4 Deforestation-free Value Chains	7M			7 M
Indirect management with GIZ				
Component 5 Capacity for Nutrition 2.0			7M	7 M
Total	12.5 M	10 M	10 M	32.5 M

The budget and scope of the action may need to be reviewed following the outcome of the mid-term review of the programming expected in the spring 2024.

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

In the case of **Component 1**, there will be bi-weekly operational meetings between the responsible INTPA unit and the implementing entity, quarterly management meetings between the Commission (INTPA and NEAR) and the implementing entity and annual strategic meetings between the same parties. Furthermore, the implementing entity will ensure regular information exchange and consultation with the implementing entities of components 2-5, as well as other relevant EU-financed entities that provide comparable knowledge and services.

In the case of **Component 2**, a steering committee, will be put in place to ensure guidance and the proper implementation of the action and will meet once a year. The implementing entity will ensure the coherence with all components of the action, will allocate(s) resources according to the priorities and needs identified by and coordinate(s) with INTPA F3 on a bi-monthly basis. Specific meetings including FAO/CFI, INTPA F3, geographic units and each EU delegation requesting the support will be organized to launch the support, monitor it and share the results

In the case of **Component 3**, A Project Management Unit (PMU) has been put in place including a project director, a scientific director and 4 other staff for specific tasks. A Coordination meeting between INTA F3 and the PMU takes place every month to address operational issues. A steering committee including the main stakeholders takes place

²¹ N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e., for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

once a year to address more strategic issues. Specific meetings including the PMU, INTPA and each EU delegation interested in value chain analysis is organized to launch a study, monitor the study and share the results.

In the case of **Component 4**, a steering committee, will be put in place to ensure guidance and the proper implementation of the action. Moreover, the implementing entity/entities will ensure functional linkages and effective coordination – modalities to be defined at the contractual stage – with the Team Europe Initiative on the Deforestation Regulation.

In the case of **Component 5**, the implementing entity will ensure coherence with all components of the action, allocate resources according to the priorities and needs identified by the Commission and coordinate with the Commission on a monthly basis.

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 implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. 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 direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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, 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, in particular with respect to efficiency and complementarity of components 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), taking into account in particular the fact that the Farm to Fork Green Deal Knowledge Hub is a new initiative that brings together various facilities in support of EU funded activities on Food Systems.

In the case of a TEI, evaluations jointly with contributing Member States will be the preferred option to provide an overview of the action within the larger impact of the TEI.

Where an evaluation is planned and is to be contracted by the Commission, the Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other 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, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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 (tick one of the 4 following options);

Option 3: Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Contract with a service provider for the Umbrella Facility/ASRAFs 2.0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Contract with the FAO Investment Centre for Sustainable Agri-food Systems Intelligence (SASI)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Contract with a grouping of European universities/research centres in agriculture for Value Chain Analysis for Development (VCA4D 2.0)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 4	Contract with the European Forestry Institute and GIZ for Deforestation-free VC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 5	Contract with GIZ for Capacity for Nutrition (C4N) 2.0