

**HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-20: Developing a joint AU-EU Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) supporting the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership**

<b>Call: Cluster 6 Call 02</b>	
<b>Specific conditions</b>	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 6.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 6.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	<p>The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply: the proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the</p>

	<p>introduction to this work programme part.</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply: due to the specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the General Annexes, consortia must include at least three independent legal entities established in Africa. The places of establishment of at least two of these legal entities must be in the same geographical region of Africa (as defined by the African Union: <a href="https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2">https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2</a>).</p> <p>International organisations with headquarters in a Member State or Associated Country are exceptionally eligible for funding.</p> <p>Due to the scope of this topic, legal entities established in in all African Union member states* are exceptionally eligible for Union funding. * "African Union member states" includes countries whose membership has been temporarily suspended.</p>
--	---

**Expected Outcome:** A successful proposal should support the European Green Deal priorities and the farm to fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environment friendly food system, and be in line with the conclusions of the 2023 AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference and in support of the African Free Trade Area and of the climate objectives of the African Union and the EU, while supporting the biodiversity strategy and the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework. Projects will therefore contribute to the expected impacts of this Destination by developing innovative tools and approaches to improve the resilience and sustainability of agriculture and food systems in Africa.

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- AU and EU science-policy interfaces are strengthened to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the FNSSA roadmap;
- R&I actors in AU and EU, including farm advisors, primary producers, other business and service providers, and consumers, are better informed and engaged within a well-functioning joint AU-EU AKIS supporting the implementation of agroecological approaches both in Africa and in the EU;
- better experience sharing among AKIS actors in the EU and AU is achieved;

**Scope:** AKIS is defined as the combined organisation and knowledge flows between persons, organisations and institutions who use and produce knowledge for agriculture and interrelated fields. Technological, non-technological and social innovation should be considered in an AKIS context. In the context of the FNSSA, developing an effective AKIS in close cooperation with the International Research Consortium on FNSSA will strengthen long-term sustainability and foster the co-creation and flows of knowledge and innovation aimed at ensuring food and nutrition security and improving sustainability of agriculture through agroecological transition.

Proposals should:

- develop and animate a joint AU-EU Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) as a bi-continental platform linking African and European AKIS actors to exchange best practices on how to enhance co-creation and flows of knowledge and innovation aimed at food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture;
- identify, map and study the main AKIS actors and AKIS functioning at different levels (local, national, regional) in a set of countries in African context to support the agroecological transition, in close cooperation with the FNSSA International Research Consortium;
- analyse the AKIS relationships (synergies, complementarities, contradictions) between different AKIS levels: local, national, regional, and continental;
- formulate operational recommendations to develop a joint AU-EU AKIS to improve resilience and sustainability of agrifood systems both in Africa and Europe.

Proposal should contribute to the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation, and its priority on Green Transition (and the respective R&I partnerships on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change and Sustainable Energy), as well as to the implementation of the short-term and medium-term actions outlined in the AU-EU Innovation Agenda with special regards to the priority area of “Green Transition”, aiming to translate R&I efforts into tangible business, products, services, development and employment opportunities in Africa and Europe.

Proposals should contribute to the implementation of the short- and medium-term actions of the joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda, particularly in the area of Green Transition, particularly in the priority area of Green Transition [notably actions (4) and (5) among short-term actions and (1) and (3) for medium-term actions].

Proposals should contribute to the implementation of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) adopted R&I roadmaps by researchers, farmers and policymakers pertaining to climate change, particularly in the areas impact of water scarcity and drought in rural areas; sustainable agriculture production and biodiversity in changing climate.

Proposals must implement the ‘multi-actor approach’ to ensure the adequate involvement of the public authorities, advisory services and farmer organisations.