

HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-19: Developing agroecology living labs and lighthouses under the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership

Call: Cluster 6 Call 02	
Specific conditions	
<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 12.00 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 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: https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2).</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>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties (FSTP). The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. In this case, the proposals must define the process of selecting entities for which</p>

	financial support will be granted, within open calls for tenders to be evaluated in a fair and transparent process. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 60000. A maximum 30% of EU funding can be allocated to this purpose.
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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:

- availability, accessibility and adoption of strategies and approaches that improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in Africa, while optimising the use of ecological processes with co-benefits for producers, climate, biodiversity and citizens, are increased and accelerated;
- coordination and experience sharing among researchers and agricultural actors in the Africa is strengthened;
- climate, environmental and economic performance of African agroecological farming systems is enhanced.

Scope: Agroecology is a holistic approach that relies on and optimises the use of ecological processes to support agricultural production. By working more with nature and ecosystem services, it has the potential to increase farms' circularity, diversification and autonomy, while preserving/enhancing biodiversity, and drive a full transformation of farming systems and agricultural value chains, from input substitution and beyond. Agroecological farming systems therefore have great potential to enhance the sustainability performance of agriculture and agricultural value chains that contribute to the objectives of the EU farm to fork strategy and the FNSSA partnership.

Living Labs under this topic are intended as open innovation ecosystems in real-life sites using iterative feedback processes throughout a lifecycle approach of an innovation to create sustainable impact (see <https://enoll.org/about-us/what-are-living-labs/>).

While Living Labs are collaborative initiatives to co-create knowledge and innovations, Lighthouses are sites for demonstration of exemplary solutions, training, peer-to-peer learning, and communications related to promoting agroecological approaches. Lighthouses can be included in a Living Lab area. However, they could also be located outside of Living Lab areas.

Proposals should demonstrate how they will contribute significantly to:

- setting up living labs and light houses as places for testing agroecological approaches in different pedoclimatic conditions in Africa, building on experience gained with on-going FNSSA projects on agroecological approaches under Horizon Europe Work Programme as well as with activities of the DeSIRA initiative part of the EU International Partnerships;
- carrying out participatory and transdisciplinary research and innovation activities in living labs, including on socio-economic aspects to support sustainability transitions and upscaling, to seek practical agroecological solutions to the challenges/opportunities identified;
- identifying sites that demonstrate high performance in terms of their actions and results on agroecology and that may be converted into lighthouses;
- strengthening interactions between existing living labs, light houses and like-minded arrangements on agroecology to share lessons and facilitate science policy interfaces using where relevant existing network arrangements, such as those under the CEA-First project;

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 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 should create synergies with any relevant activities carried out under the European Partnership “Agroecology” (‘Accelerating farming systems transition – agroecology living labs and research infrastructures’) and targeted EU-Africa cooperation activities under the EU Mission “A soil deal for Europe”. Proposals should include a dedicated task and appropriate resources to create those synergies.

Proposals should adopt an inclusive approach that respects and integrates local knowledge and practices alongside technological and scientific expertise, where indigenous insights are enriched by innovative approaches and new technologies through mutual learning.

Proposals must implement the ‘multi-actor approach’ to ensure the adequate involvement of the farming sector, civils society and relevant policy actors.

Participation of Mediterranean countries other than from EU and AU is encouraged.

The possible contribution of the JRC could involve exploring possible pathways for a sustainable transition of agriculture and food systems, defining scenarios for the agro-ecological transition, assessing the impacts of such transition, engaging with stakeholders and disseminating results notably to policymakers.

The proposals must ensure that gender dimension and social categories such as disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnic and/or cultural origins, sexual orientation, etc., and their intersections, are duly considered.

Proposals may involve financial support to third parties to researchers, farmers, advisors and other multidisciplinary actors contributing to the setting up of living labs and/or lighthouses. The provision of training (including technical guidelines and ad-hoc materials) and support services to farmers may be considered as a criterion to grant financial support to third parties.