**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. **Background**

GFAiR is a unique multi-stakeholder global forum where public, private and civil actors engage in all aspects of agri-food generation, access, transformation and use. Through their representative mechanisms, these actors come together to collectively shape the future of agriculture and realize desired SDG impacts. With close to 1,000 members spanning 13 Constituencies, GFAiR facilitates collaboration through [Collective Actions](https://gfair.network/collectiveactions) (CAs) based on [Partnership Principles](https://gfair.network/sites/default/files/GFAR%20Partnership%20Principles_0_1.pdf) (PPs), aiming to empower Small-Scale Producers (SSPs) as key actors in pro-poor agri-food Research & Innovation (R&I) systems. By fostering inclusivity, participation and accountability, GFAiR endeavours to cultivate more efficient, resilient and equitable agri-food R&I systems, addressing key challenges such as climate change, food and nutritional security, sustainable agriculture, and poverty reduction, whilst safeguarding environmental resources.

CAs are multi-stakeholder programmes of work at local, national, regional or international level, initiated by three or more partners, focusing on SSPs, women and youth. Partners commit to generating resources together and to catalyse actions or advocacy towards shared, demand-driven development aims. These actions are fostered and supported by the GFAiR Secretariat.

Through dialogue, knowledge exchange, and innovative partnerships, GFAiR aims to break down institutional barriers, support stakeholder learning, and mobilize diverse sources of knowledge for the co-creation of context-specific, sustainable solutions. GFAiR operates as a facilitator and platform for collaboration rather than a funding organization. CAs are part of a project funded by the European Commission (DG INTPA). In this framework, a limited amount of seed-funding is available to facilitate selected CAs. In collaboration with other organizations, GFAIR, may also provide business development support including capacity strengthening and assistance with fundraising efforts.

1. **Objective of the Collective Action**

The objective of the CA on agroecology is to initiate and develop a comprehensive initiative that helps to promote not only the knowledge but also the implementation of agroecological practices. It aims to enhance sustainability, resilience and equity in agricultural systems. As an emerging initiative, the objective of this CA lies in establishing the foundation for a collaborative effort that will support small-scale producers, local communities and other stakeholders in adopting and benefiting from agroecological approaches.

Proposed actions in this CA could include:

1. **Promoting agroecological research and innovation ideas** that leverage traditional knowledge systems and ecological principles to enhance resilience to climate change.
2. **Advocating for supportive policies and regulations** that facilitate the adoption of agroecological practices while empowering small-scale producers. This includes addressing their needs and challenges and providing them with the knowledge and resources necessary for sustainable farming.
3. **Facilitating knowledge sharing and capacity development** around agroecology to strengthen community resilience to both environmental and socio-economic challenges.
4. **Enhancing market access** for agroecological products through certification efforts, increasing consumer awareness of the benefits of agroecologically produced goods, and other related initiatives.

GFAiR’s Steering Committee recently identified agroecology as an emerging initiative of top priority in a survey carried out by the Secretariat. With this recognition, GFAiR is committed to supporting and advancing agroecology through collaborative action. Furthermore, GFAiR aims to complement the ongoing efforts of the Agroecology Coalition and other likeminded organizations working in the field of agroecology.

Therefore, GFAiR is inviting organizations to propose innovative projects across various dimensions of agroecology. Through collaborative efforts and shared values, GFAiR seeks to create positive impacts that benefit small-scale producers, women and youth, and other actors working towards the transformation of the agrifood system.

1. **Overall scope of work**

GFAiR envisions the work of the CA to include the following stages:

* **Roadmap:** This stage involves designing the process, delineating roles and partnerships, and establishing a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) mechanism that will feed into GFAiR’s MEL system.
* **Implementation:** The planned activities will take place during this phase. Conflict resolution mechanisms and grievance procedures have been developed by UNEP, FAO and UNDP (2023)[[1]](#footnote-1) and should be used to address any potential disputes among partners involved, including with the GFAiR Secretariat.
* **Review and way forward:** As the activities of the CA are handed over, its participants will assess the work undertaken, evaluate the achievement of objectives and reflect on the partnership model adopted. A lesson-learning exercise will be conducted to gather insights from the CA process and formulate recommendations.

1. **Working arrangement**

A contract will be signed between GFAiR and the lead organization(s) applying. Internal arrangements will be made between the lead organization(s) and the other participants. Availability of applying organizations must be ensured for the timely delivery of milestones over the duration of the contract.

1. **Duration of the assignment**

A CA can be supported by GFAiR for a maximum timespan of two years, starting with a contract of up to 11 months. The work of the CA is expected to start as soon as the selection process is completed, and the contract is signed.

1. Examples of conflict resolution models are available in the following publication: UNEP, FAO and UNDP. 2023. [Rethinking Our Food Systems: A Guide for Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration](https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6325en). Nairobi, Rome and New York. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)