**Review of the 2016-2026 FNSSA R&I Roadmap and Recommendation for the 2027-2037 FNSSA R&I Roadmap**

**Concept Note: Stakeholders’ Engagement and Consultation Workshop with farmers and NGOs of the AFAAS Network**

By

Prof. Adipala Ekwamu and Alex Percy-Smith

Consultant from AU and EU Member States, respectively

**Conveners:** RUFORUM & CIRAD

**Partners:** Task 2.4 Beneficiaries - FARA, SLU, HU, ARC, WUR, & AGRINATURA

**Date:** August 29, 2024

**Time:** 1200-1430 EAT

**Venue:** Virtual Platform (Zoom)

Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3YP62Zr>

 Scan the QR Code to join:

 

**Kampala, August 18, 2024**

**Context and Background**

The African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) launched a partnership under the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) in 2016, creating a ten-year Roadmap (2016–2026) focused on Research and Innovation (R&I) to enhance Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) in Africa and Europe. The Roadmap has made significant progress in its four thematic areas. These thematic areas include:

1. Sustainable intensification.
2. Agriculture and food systems for nutrition.
3. Expansion and improvement of agricultural markets and trade.
4. Crosscutting issues, including improving coordination between European and African FNSSA research and innovation (R&I) projects, supporting innovation processes, strengthening the collaborative capacities of R&I communities, and understanding the social and cultural contexts of FNSSA production systems.

The FNSSA Roadmap draws heavily from insights from EU strategies and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), which defined the AU-EU common R&I priorities within the FNSSA domain. The HLPD leads the implementation of the Roadmap, allowing to champion a growing FNSSA Partnership chaperoned by the HLPD FNSSA Working Group.

Over the last eight years of implementation of the Roadmap, more than 500 projects focusing on the abovementioned thematic areas were funded and implemented across Europe and Africa. Diverse in scope and impact, these projects are at different stages of implementation, with some reaching successful conclusions while others are still ongoing. The assessment of this ambitious Roadmap, including these projects is being based on several progress indicators, including knowledge advancement, capacity building, research uptake, coordination, and overall community impact.

With the Roadmap reaching completion in two years (2026), a new initiative, the "Consortium Europe Africa on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation (CEA-FIRST)" project, was launched by the African Union and the European Union alongside a number of implementing partners, under funding from the European Commission through the Horizon Europe R&I Program (Cluster 6). This envisions to develop a new FNSSA R&I Roadmap for the next decade, spanning from 2027 to 2037. The CEA-FIRST project is a forward-looking project aims, among others, to operationalise the International Research Consortium (IRC) on FNSSA, in line with the FNSSA Roadmap of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD). The CEA-FIRST project was launched in December 2023, with the following main objectives:

1. Providing public access to an extensive platform of knowledge in food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.
2. Developing a robust methodology for analysing Research and Innovation (R&I) activities and priorities.
3. Supporting the update of the AU-EU R&I partnership Roadmap.
4. Establishing operational and thematic research working groups.

 These objectives are being delivered through the implementation of seven following Work packages (WP):

1. **WP 1:** CEA-FIRST Project and IRC Start-up
2. **WP 2:** Consolidation of Knowledge Management & Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning tools and support to the FNSSA Roadmap update
3. **WP 3:** Strengthening Networking and Stakeholder Engagement
4. **WP 4:** Knowledge and learning facilitation using information generated from the Knowledge Management Platform and the MEL
5. **WP 5**: Implementing IRC Functions Through Stakeholder Engagement
6. **WP 6:** Coordination of CEA-FIRST and IRC Pilots. CEA-FIRST activities will be conducted under the control and guidance of the EC REA Project Officer
7. **WP 7:** Ethics Requirements.

RUFORUM and CIRAD lead the Task 2.4 of Work Package 2, whose primary role is to guide the update of the current Roadmap into a new Roadmap, drawing from lessons learnt from the implementation of FNSSA R&Is during the last eight years. Therefore, to support the development of this new Roadmap, RUFORUM has contracted a team of two consultants, representing AU and EU, respectively, with a mandate to carry out a review of the 2016-2026 Roadmap. The final output of this task will be a Roadmap review report including recommendations for the new Roadmap. Among the activities necessary to successfully execute this Roadmap review are:

1. A desk review (*(i.) Synthesis of emerging R&I challenges and prospects and (ii.) Impact Oriented Review)*
2. An online survey to garner feedback and responses from stakeholders, and
3. Multi-stakeholder consultations in Africa and Europe to draw national, regional, and continental insight regarding the implementation of the Roadmap, with the expected feedback including the Roadmap’s successes, challenges, and future prospects.

As part of the broad multi-stakeholder consultation in Africa, the consulting team, RUFORUM and the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) are collaborating to convene a virtual consultation meeting with farmer organizations and NGOs associated with the AFAAS network across Africa. This seeks to gather insights, inputs on emerging issues, key achievements and successes from the eight-year implementation of the 2016-2026 FNSSA R&I Roadmap from these stakeholders. It will also provide recommendations for the establishment of the new Roadmap 2027-2037 on Research and Innovation priorities.

**Overall Objective**
The objective of the consultation meeting is to gather comprehensive feedback from farmer organizations and NGOs within the AFAAS network regarding the achievements and challenges of the 2016-2026 FNSSA Roadmap, and to collaboratively envision a strategic path forward for the next decade.

**Specific Objectives**

1. To validate the findings from the desk review and online surveys conducted as part of the FNSSA Roadmap review.
2. To collect inputs from farmer organizations and NGOs across Africa on their experiences with the implementation of the FNSSA Roadmap.
3. To document the key achievements, challenges, and emerging issues identified during the eight-year implementation period from the perspective of the farming community.
4. To synthesize this feedback into actionable recommendations for the 2027-2037 FNSSA Roadmap.

**Expected Outputs**

* A report capturing detailed feedback and recommendations from farmers and NGOs, reflecting their diverse experiences and insights.
* A document outlining the key achievements and challenges faced by farmer organizations during the implementation of the 2016-2026 Roadmap.
* Actionable recommendations for the new FNSSA Roadmap, addressing emerging issues and R&I priorities from the farmers' perspective.

**Expected Outcomes**

* Validation of the output from the Desk review and the online surveys regarding the FNSSA Roadmap by AFAAS-associated farmers and NGOs.
* A thorough understanding of the challenges faced by farmers and NGOs and the achievements of the Roadmap during its 8-years implementation.
* Farmers and NGOs recommendations precisely captured in the new Roadmap, incorporating their needs and opportunities.

**Approach**
The meeting will feature plenary presentations to provide an overview of the Roadmap review process, followed by interactive discussions to gather detailed feedback. Breakout sessions will be used for focused discussions on specific Roadmap thematic areas and related topics relevant to the farming community.

**Participants**

Approximately 40 participants are expected at this virtual stakeholders’ consultations with AFAAS-associated farmer organization and NGOs. They include representatives from the East and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (EASFF), East Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) and Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO).

**Date:** August 29, 2024

**Draft Program:**

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| Time | Activity | Responsible |
| 12:00-12:10 | Opening remarks | Prof. Patrick Okori, Ruforum Executive Director |
| 12:10-12:30 | Overview of the FNSSA R&I 2016-2026 Roadmap | Dr. Sokona S. Dagnoko |
| 12:30-12:50 | Presentation of the desk review and survey results | Alex Percy-Smith and Prof. Adipala Ekwamu |
| 12:50-13:10 | Discussions | Dr. Lillian Lihasi, AFAAS |
| 13:10-13:30 | Breakout sessions: Discussing key achievements, challenges, and future priorities | Facilitators assigned to each group |
| 13:30-13:50 | Feedback from breakout sessions | Group representatives |
| 13:50-14:20 | Wrap up of the discussions and way forward | Prof. Adipala Ekwamu and Dr. Sokona S. Dagnoko |
| 14:20-14:30 | Closing remarks | Dr. Sokona S. Dagnoko |