



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

CONCEPT NOTE

Engaging Private Sector and Policy Makers to utilize outputs of the AU-EU Research and Innovation Projects in Food, Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)

Date: 8th December 2021

Venue: Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin (physical) and virtually on zoom broadcast by video conference

Time: 8:30 – 13:30 GMT+1

Contacts: Emmanuel Okalany (RUFORUM) e.okalany@ruforum.org;

Jannis.Dimitriou (SLU) Jannis.Dimitriou@slu.se

Background to the Workshop

The key outcome of the Long-term EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (LEAP4FNSSA) project is establishment of a bi-continental in form of an International Research Consortium (IRC). The IRC is envisioned to be organised around a Knowledge Management and Communication System providing data, knowledge, technologies and innovations relevant to FNSSA domain stakeholders in Africa and Europe. Work Package Three (WP3) of the LEAPFNSSA project was tasked to develop the Knowledge Management System (KMS) composed of the Projects data base and Knowledge Extractor Pipeline System (KEOPS) whose development is being finalized.

To facilitate collaborative utilisation of the FNSSA R&I outputs and outcomes stored in the KMS by different FNSSA stakeholders, clustering and capitalization (Task 3.1) was envisaged in WP3. Given that Prior to the use. Two virtual clustering workshops have been organized but targeting only project leaders of Horizon 2020, DeSIRA and African Union Research Grants. However, researchers are just one stakeholder category. These outputs/outcomes are envisaged to be utilized by policy makers, private companies, farmer organisations and students working in the FNSSA domain.

Objectives of the clustering event in Benin

The overall objective is enhanced relevance of the Knowledge Management System to the needs of non-research stakeholders of the FNSSA domain in Africa.

Specifically, the event will achieve the following;

1. Introduce for familiarization, the proposed International Research Consortium (IRC) to representatives of non-academic FNSSA stakeholders in Africa
2. Introduce and review the relevance of the KMS to the needs of non-academic FNSSA stakeholders in Africa
3. Establish KMS utilization clusters and cluster needs for non-research FNSSA stakeholders in Africa

CO-ORGANISERS:



LEAP4FNSSA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 817663



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

4. Provide a platform for project coordinators to interact with policy makers, private companies and farmer organization to enhance relevance of research to their needs
5. Widely disseminate the IRC to members of the RUFORUM Network who are participating in the RUFORUM Triennial Conference

Proposed participants

The event will be held during the 7th African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference which brings together over 700 participants from 129 agricultural universities in 38 African countries who are members of RUFORUM.

At least 50 participants from the following FNSSA domain stakeholder categories will be present in person;

- a) Representatives of the High-Level Policy Dialogue from AU and/or European Commission and from LEAP4FNSSA project
- b) Ministers of Agriculture, Higher Education and Scientific Research
- c) Technical experts from the Ministries of Agriculture, Higher Education and Scientific Research
- d) Leaders of African Universities (Vice Chancellors & Principals and Deans) and Research Institutions (Directors)
- e) Researchers in the FNSSA domain from Africa and Europe
- f) Small and Medium Enterprises from Africa and Europe
- g) Agri-business Incubation Centers in Africa
- h) Farmer organizations representatives
- i) Graduate Students

Workshop approach

- a) A presentation of the proposed IRC will be made by project coordination. This presentation will highlight the expected structure, function and benefits for the different stakeholders. Potential and expected benefits of policy makers, private sector, farmer organisations and researchers will be captured in the question-and-answer session following the presentation
- b) The KMS tools (data base and KEOPs) will be presented to the participants and the physically present and virtual participants group into policy makers, private sector, farmer organisations and researchers to review the relevance and usability of the KMS tools. Each group will be tasked to share their user experience, relevance and recommendations for further improvement
- c) A virtual World Café of selected projects (5) will be mounted. Each user category will review the presentation of research outputs/outcomes, identify their potential benefit/value proposition from the project outputs. Each stakeholder group will review the outputs and provide feedback to the Principal Investigators on the relevance/irrelevance of the outputs and methods of presentation with propositions for improvement
- d) The final discussion will focus on effective functioning of the KMS in the future IRC with a focus on content generation, coordination, dissemination and coordinated use of the KMS outputs.

CO-ORGANISERS:



LEAP4FNSSA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 817663



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

Tentative programme (All times in GMT+1)

Time	Activity	Responsible person
8:30 – 9:00	Registration and introduction	RUFORUM Secretariat
9:00 – 9:10	Opening remarks	LEAP4FNSSA Project coordinator
9:10 – 9:40	Presentation on the IRC including Q&A	Coordinator
9:40 – 10:20	Presentation on KMS (data base and KEOPS)	Jannis/Petronella/CIRAD
10:20 – 10:50	Health Break	RUFORUM Secretariat
10:50 – 11:20	Group discussions on KMS by stakeholder category	Emmanuel
11:20 – 11:50	Plenary presentation on the KMS	Emmanuel/Groups
11:50 – 12:20	Virtual Project Café	Emmanuel/Project leaders
12:20 – 12:50	Plenary discussion on the Project Café	Emmanuel
12:50 – 13:20	Discussion on the future structure and function of the IRC	Jannis/Coordinator
13:20 – 14:20	Lunch break	RUFORUM

CO-ORGANISERS:



LEAP4FNSSA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 817663