



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE



Advances of the AU-EU FNSSA Partnership towards Food Systems Transformation

International Expert Consultation on Research needs and priorities for the transformation to Sustainable Food Systems at European and global level

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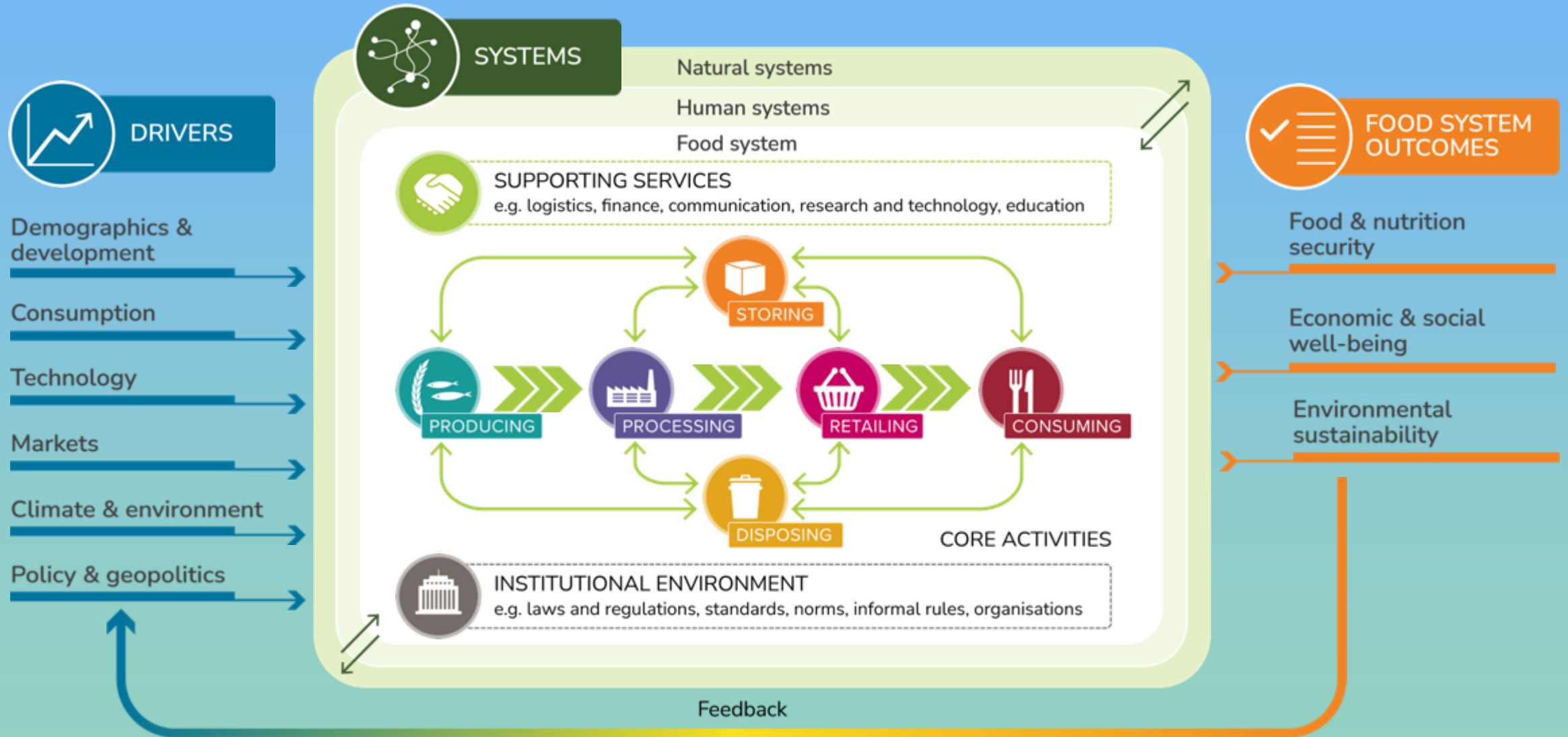
Outline

- **Introduction**
 - Food systems drivers, process and typology
 - Research and Innovation for Food systems transformation
- **AU-EU FNSSA Partnership- Impact and value addition**
 - Policy structure and dimensions
 - Technical innovations
 - Agenda setting
 - Capacity strengthening
 - Multi-actor skills and knowledge linking local actors
 - Implications for foods systems transformation at global levels
- **Emerging sustainable FNSSA platform – The IRC and its operational dimensions under HE CEA-FIRST project**
 - African Level Research needs and priorities contributing towards the updating of the AU-EU FNSSA Roadmap research priorities through the DeSIRA-CAADPxP4 programme
- **Concluding statements**

Introduction

- A sustainable food system is a system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental basis to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised (FAO, 2018)
- Food Systems are therefore interconnected regionally and globally through supply chains and international trade, and decisions in one region can impact others
- Comparing and understanding the complexity of Food system types; Rural and Traditional, Informal and Expanding, Emerging and Diversifying, Modernizing and Formalizing, Industrialized and Consolidated
 - ❖ Facilitate stakeholder identification of **priority areas of action within stakeholder's own food systems**

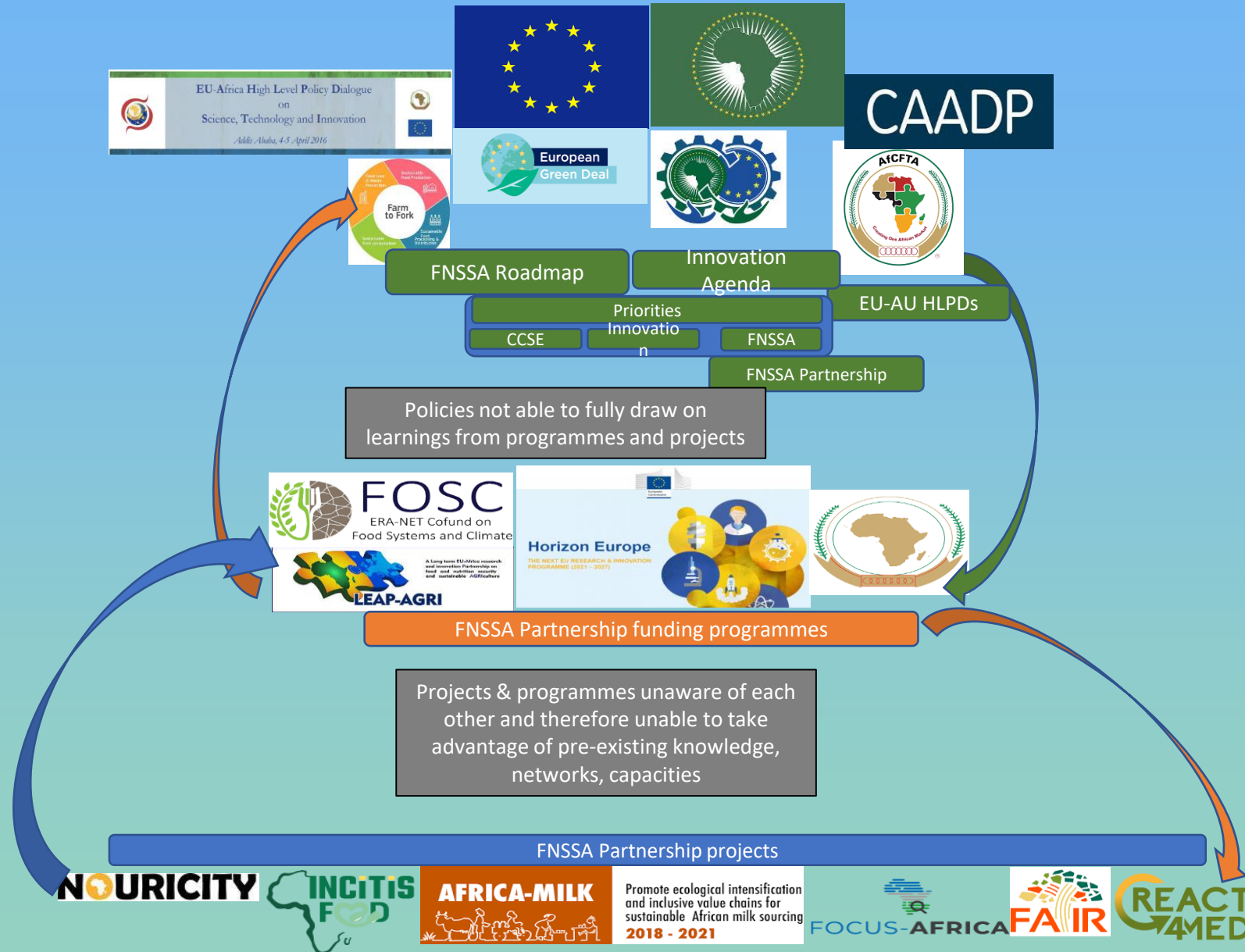
A Food Systems Model



The AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership

- The transition of food systems requires global leadership with a long-term focus and the delivery of a coherent set of commitments and actions
 - supported by national, regional, and local level initiatives to bring together public, private, and civil society actors around the priorities that are most urgent, feasible, and essential for food system transformation
- The AU-EU R & I Partnership provides the link between global, regional, national and local policies, investments and Practice on FNSSA
 - Its long-term sustainable platform - the International Research Consortium (IRC) - the structure that facilitates this linkage to happen

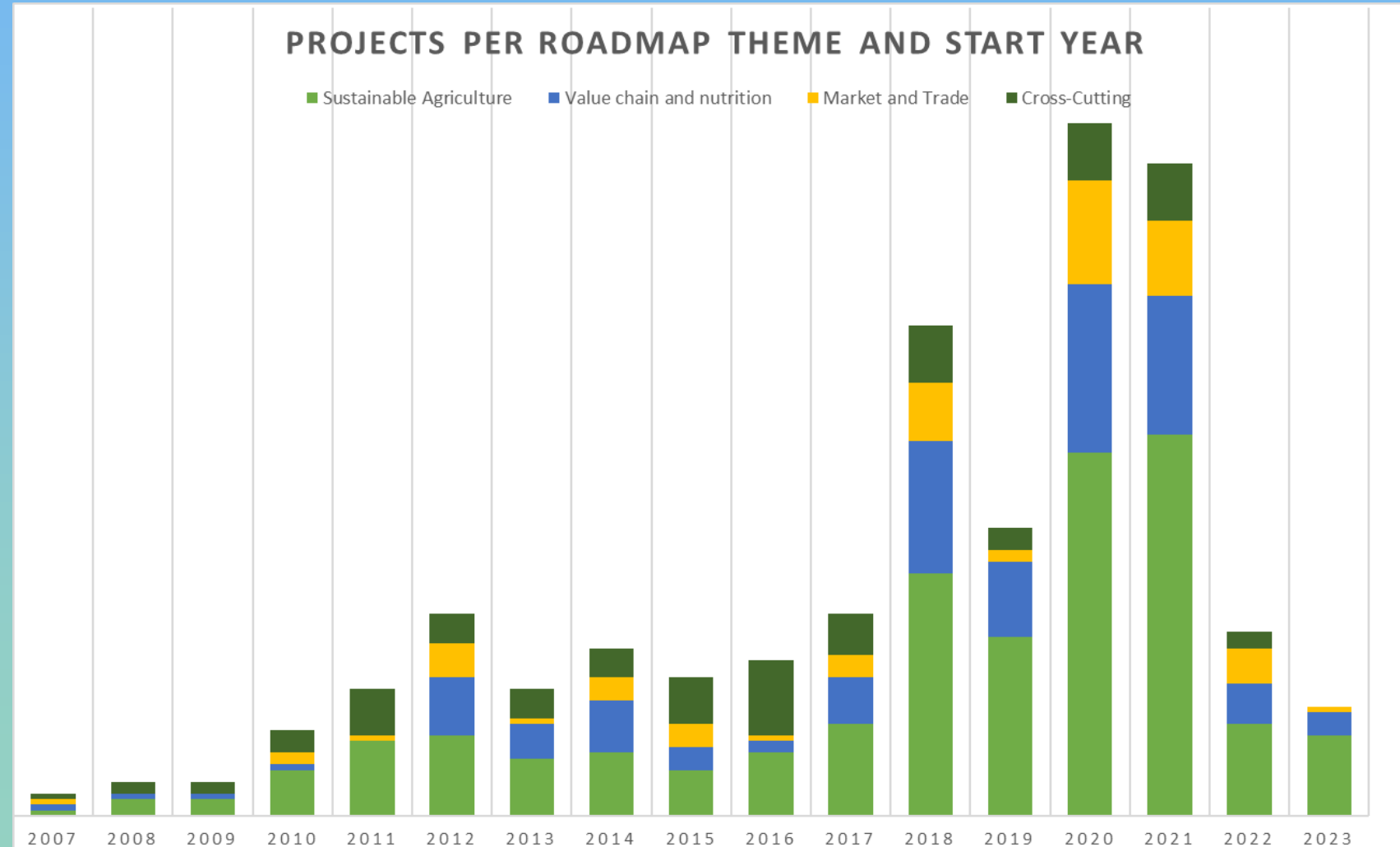
The AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership



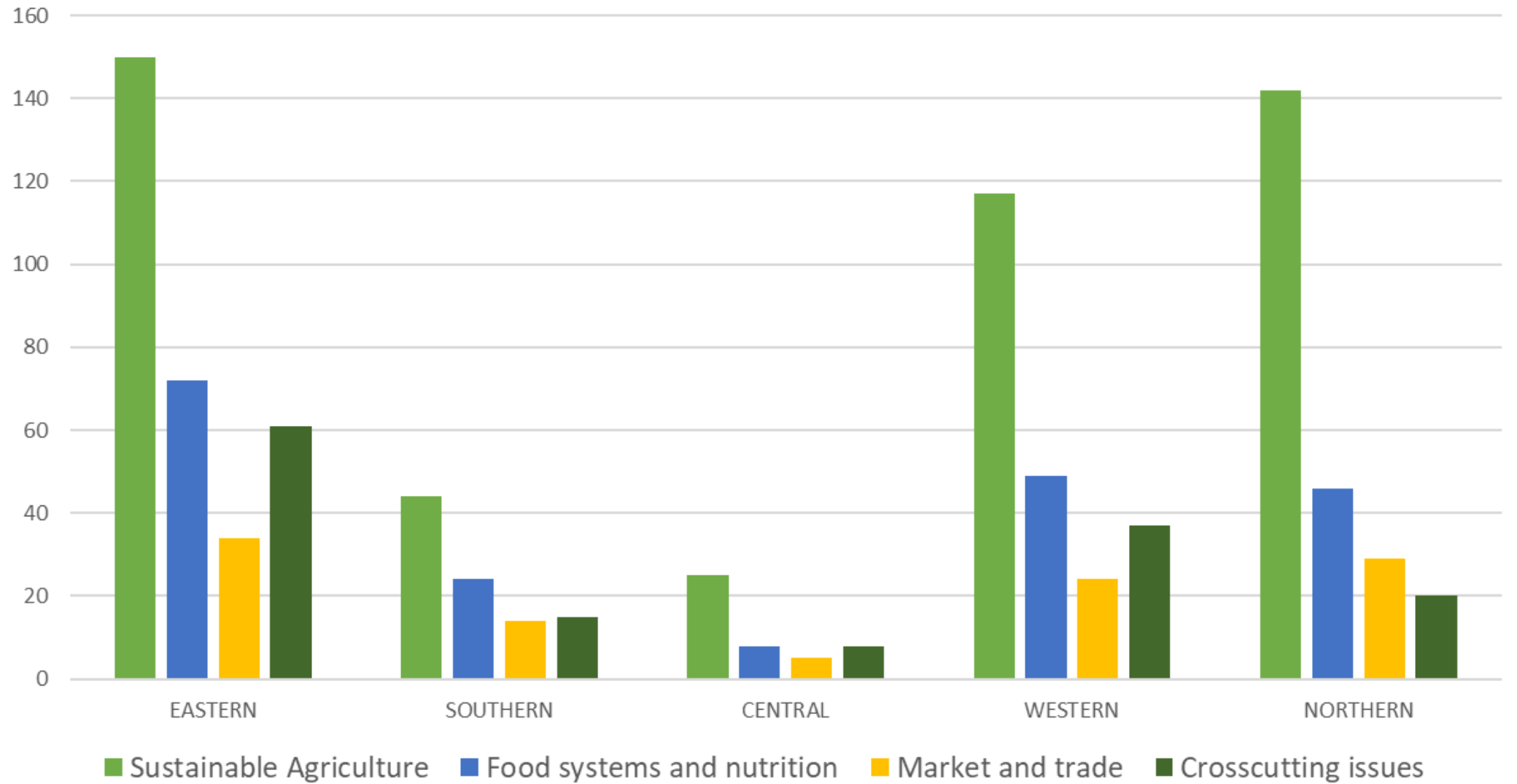
AU-EU FNSSA Partnership

- Approved in 2016 to boost the impact of AU-EU joint research,
- Channel joint investment on **4 joint priorities**
 1. Sustainable intensification of agriculture
 2. Agriculture and food systems for nutrition
 3. Expansion and improvement of agricultural trade and markets
 4. Cross-cutting topics

- Nearly 450+ partnership projects supported by 2022



Projects' Roadmap themes/region of Africa



FNSSA Partnership Impact & Value Addition

- a) Aside Funding infrastructural development, facilitating institutional cross learning exchanges and information sharing, the partnership achieved
- b) significant technical innovations and new scientific knowledge and awareness generated, and use of a range approaches to farmer and stakeholder interaction and organization.
- c) joint agenda setting by pre-existing research partners together with new partners and interaction with different stakeholder groups,
- d) capacity strengthening, particularly for researchers, students and farmers
- e) strengthened bi-continental research
- f) partnerships involving multi-disciplinary skills and knowledge as in the **International Research Consortium (IRC)** launched now with 55 signatories across about 30 AU-EU countries

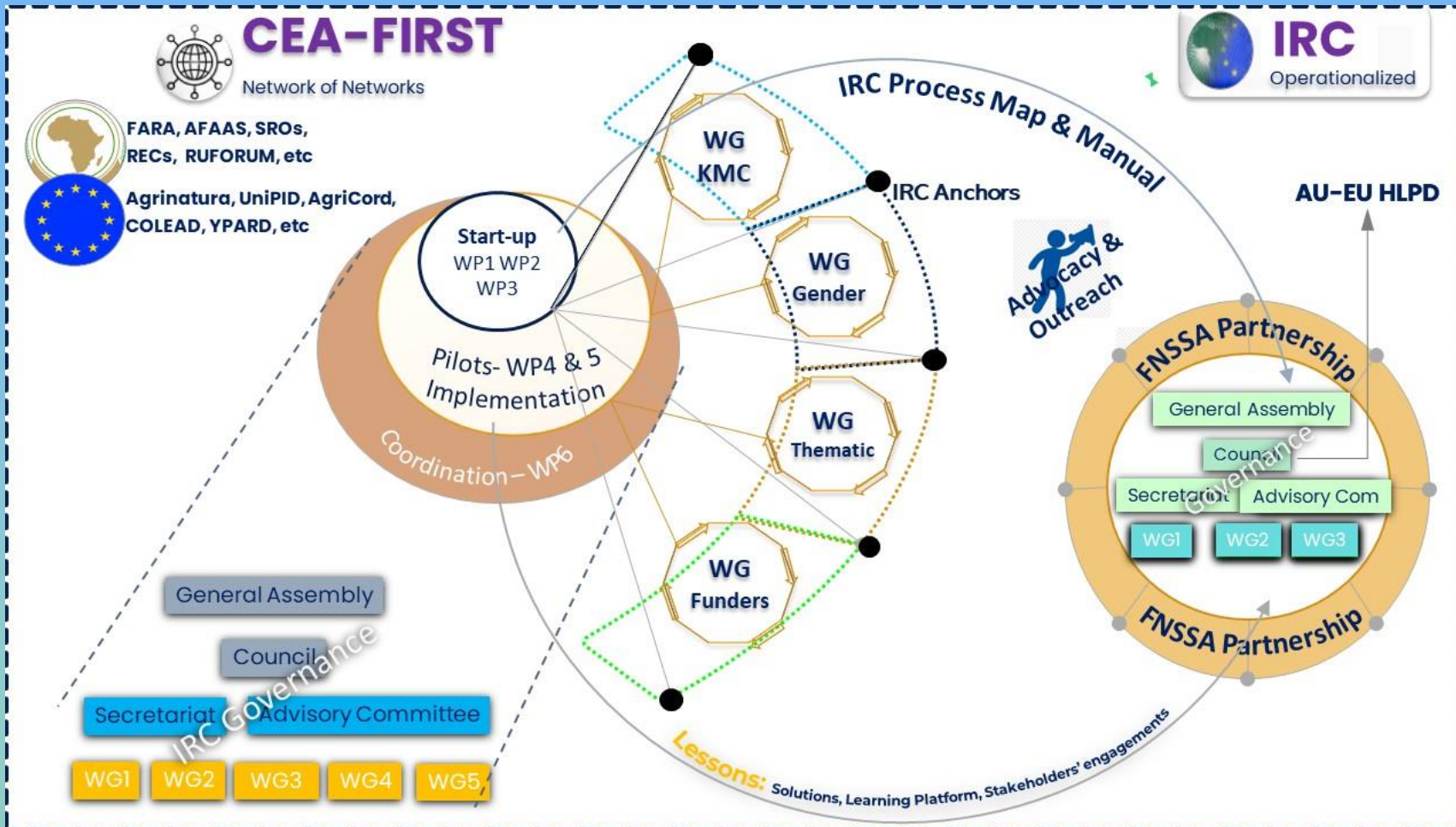
Linkages within local innovation systems further strengthened

Improved alignment of priorities, skills and research to policy across both continents

Understanding of and capacity to delivery transdisciplinary research increased

Research partnerships continue, supporting future responses to novel and ongoing challenges

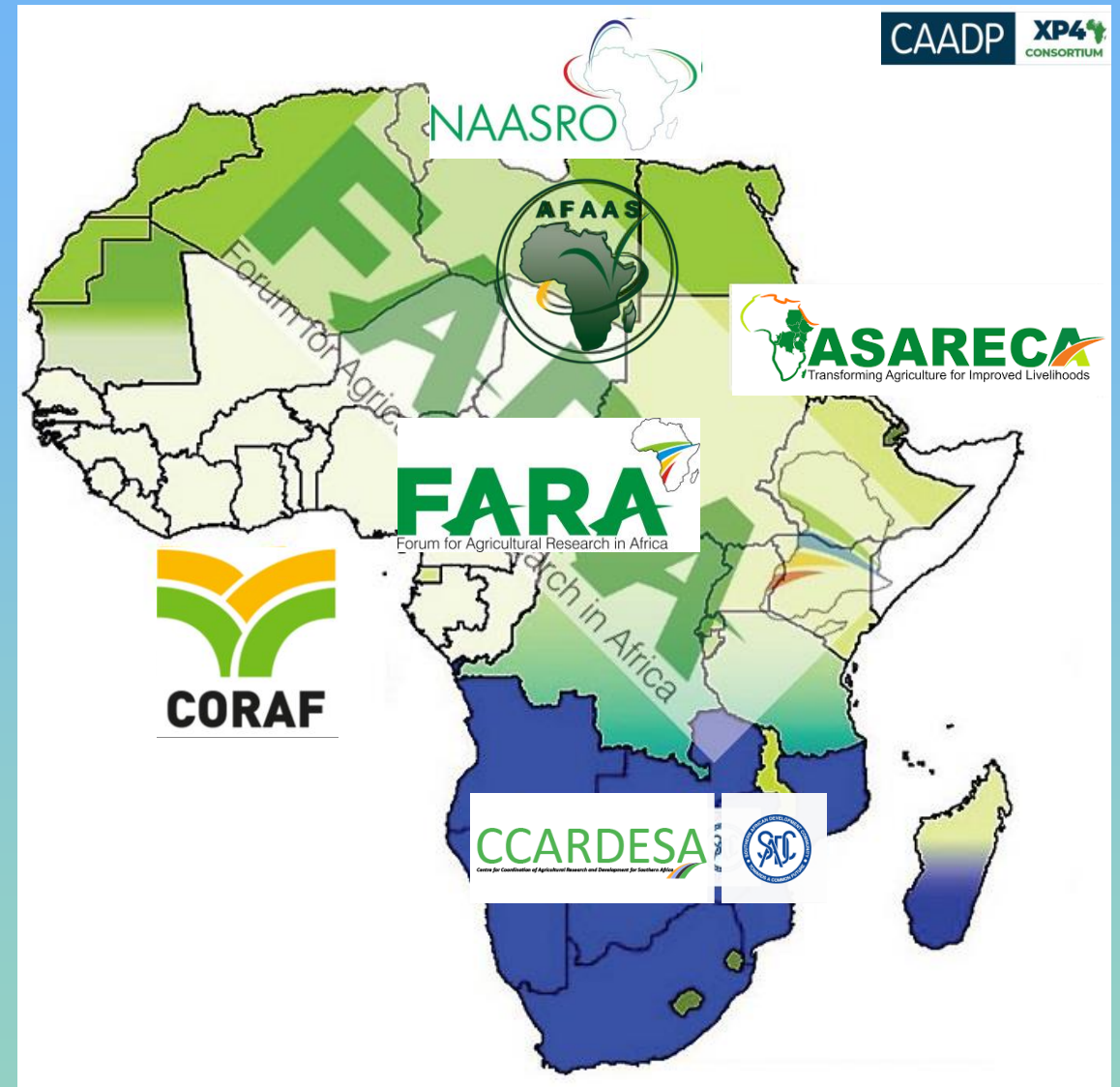
Through the HE funded Consortium Europe-Africa on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation (CEA-FIRST) project



- The IRC will be operationalised to present
- structural, practical and participatory interaction between partners to
- promote joint funding opportunities on priority FNSSA topics and
- improve the contribution of projects to European and African development goals as well as to global targets e.g. SDGs

Research & Innovation Priorities in Africa

- ❖ The CEA-FIRST project will update the AU-EU FNSSA Roadmap research priorities for 2026-2036 for implementation by the IRC
- ❖ The DeSIRA-CAADPxP4 programme provides an emerging institutional arrangement for deriving African Research and Innovation needs and priorities will have important implications for this update



Research needs and priorities- East and Central Africa under ASARECA

1. Capacity strengthening to address food systems challenges
2. Strategic partnerships with private sector networks for enhanced trade, commercialization of technologies
3. Establishing Centers of Excellence for selected and prioritized commodities to support technology generation, capacity building, transfer of germplasm and best practices
4. Promoting development, dissemination, and scaling of proven technologies to address various abiotic and biotic stresses including resistance to emerging pests and diseases, climate resilient and nutrient dense technologies
5. Coordinating actions aimed at enhancing adoption of agro-ecological approaches for attainment of sustainable food and seed systems
6. Supporting uptake and utilization of fertilizer and soil health improvement in infertile areas
7. Enhancing regional integration through promoting, joint policy implementation, and harmonization of standards
8. Supporting policy and advocacy efforts to raise awareness on the Aflatoxin challenge
9. Facilitating establishment of functional regional input and output markets and supportive institutions and institutional arrangements.
11. Enhancing ICT-based regional AR4D environment to stimulate digitalization for agricultural transformation.
12. Strengthening and management of regional databases, knowledge hubs and interactive platforms for disseminating best practices, communicating processes and outputs and increasing access to technologies

Research needs and priorities-West and central African countries under CORAF

- 1) CSA Technology and Innovation
- 2) Mechanization
- 3) Post-harvest handling/processing
- 4) Policy, Institution and Market
- 5) Policy enhancement and infrastructure development
- 6) Gender and Youth empowerment/engagement
- 7) Private sector engagement
- 8) Country engagement
- 9) Knowledge management
- 10) Digitalization
- 11) Foresight
- 12) Monitoring & Evaluation
- 13) Pest/Disease management
- 14) Capacity building

Research needs and priorities for Southern African countries under CCARDESA

Revised priorities are anchored on the following five pillars:

- Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation Systems
- Infrastructure Development
- Marketing and Trade Development
- Finance and Credit
- Environment and Climate Change

Crops:

- Breeding for quality and improved seeds, Controlling pests and diseases, Improving soil fertility and water management, Addressing impacts of climate variation on crop production, Improving market access, Capacity building for farmers

Livestock:

- Improving livestock breeds, Characterization, evaluation, and selection of indigenous livestock breeds, Pest and disease control, Improving animal nutrition, Improving access to markets and intra-regional trade

Forestry:

- Inventorying non-timber forest products and eliminating their threats, Identifying and developing appropriate agroforestry practices and technologies for smallholder farmers, Improving productivity of plantation forests

Continental Research & Innovation needs and priorities under FARA

Innovation to Impact Partnerships and Systems

- supporting technology generation, innovation, partnerships in shaping the outlook of Africa agriculture

Knowledge Management, Digitalization and Learning

- supporting digital platforms to disseminate knowledge, foster collaboration, and ensure accessibility, contributing to a more informed and connected agricultural research community

Institutional Capacities and Future Scenarios

-tailoring capacity-building efforts to address evolving challenges, ensuring that training programs meet the specific and dynamic needs of individuals and institutions engaged in agricultural research

Research, Policy and Investment

-advocating for policies that align with FARA's mission, fostering an enabling environment for agricultural research and development while ensuring strategic alignment with national and regional priorities

Continental Advisory services Priorities under AFAAS

- 1) Gender Transformative Approaches, Inclusivity, Youth demographics, Consequences and Engagements
- 2) Supports Agricultural Technology Innovation, Climate Change Adaptation, Digitalisation in the Agri-food Systems.
- 3) Mechanisms for Private sector engagement and support to Extension and Advisory Services
- 4) Promoting appropriate delivery approaches, methods and practices
- 5) Knowledge Management governance systems and knowledge products that reach the last mile
- 6) Observatories for AEAS
- 7) Financing models and services for scaling agricultural technologies, innovations and management practices
- 8) Crowd-funding system for linking AEAS actors to sources of funding for scaling
- 9) Lifelong Capacity and professionalism in AEAS
- 10) Effective mechanisms for thought leadership, foresight policy engagement in supporting food systems

Conclusions

1. The complexity of Food systems and their connections require understanding of local level systems with regional and global agendas. Partnerships remain the best options to get the relevant outcomes
2. The AU-EU Research and Innovation partnership provides a sustainable structure to channel EU, AU and global food systems financing, priority setting, policy alignment and capacity strengthening
3. The AU-EU Research and Innovation partnership has contributed to some of our understanding of the complexities of the Food systems and offers a formidable structure – the IRC- for updating research needs and priorities for further strengthening and increasing the pace of transforming Food systems

To join the IRC

- Download IRC declaration via the link or write to contact below.
- Declaration is to be signed by the highest authority of the organization which is a legal entity
- **Links:** <https://library.faraafrica.org/2022/09/16/the-au-eu-international-research-consortium-irc-platform-document/> or the [LEAP4FNSSA Home page](#).
- **Contact:** ifrempong@faraafrica.org

IRC Signatories
meeting
12th February, 2024
Join us!

THANK YOU