

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONSORTIUM ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (IRC-FNSSA)

This charter articulates the commitment and undertaking of IRC -
FNSSA members

IRC-FNSSA
DECISION PAPER
002:
As Approved
during the IRC
Signatories
Meeting: 12-02-24
IRC Charter

CHARTER

International Research Consortium on Food Nutrition Security for Sustainable Agriculture (IRC-FNSSA)

We, research and innovation (R&I) organizations, universities, academia, R&I funders and practitioners, public or private, from or working in Africa and Europe constituting a Research and Innovation Partnership between African and European Institutions and **forming the ‘International Research Consortium’ dedicated to the implementation of the R&I Roadmap on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) approved by the EU and the AU.**

In order to contribute to the UN sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda, in Africa and in Europe and also at the global level, and acknowledging the complexity of the relationships between land use, food systems, environmental, human and animal health, and the socio-economic and cultural dimensions,

we:

- **recognize** the relevance of the priorities and modalities described in the R&I FNSSA Roadmap approved by the EU and the AU,
- **agree** with the policy documents established by the EU and the AU to guide their R&I activities, including their international collaborations in R&I¹,
- ¹• **emphasize** the need to strengthen international cooperation between Europe and Africa in Research and Innovation to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, contributing to food and nutrition security, the fight against global warming and the enhancement of biodiversity, youth employment and gender equity, in Africa and in Europe,
- **underline** the importance of impact-oriented research, support for innovation in all its dimensions, and capacity building to achieve these goals,
- **insist** on promoting our values (ethics and integrity, freedom of scientific research, excellence, enforcement of intellectual and industrial property rights, compliance with personal data protection regulations, open science, societal and environmental responsibility and solidarity) in the conduct of impact driven research and innovation activities,
- **emphasize** the role of local communities and all stakeholders on both continents in the development of innovations and in participatory research,
- **call** for concerted interdisciplinary action organized by thematic areas of joint interest for both continents, areas related to the priorities of the EU AU R&I FNSSA Roadmap, and for an efficient use of existing tools and financial resources to intensify and integrate research, innovation and capacity building.

¹ Commission's communication of 18 May 2021, "Global Approach to Research and Innovation", COM (2021) 252, followed by Council conclusions of 28 September 2021, Doc. 12301/21; AU-EU Summit conclusions, February 2022, Agenda 2063, STISA, STC 2018 - 21 reports

In accordance with our missions and mandates, are willing to:

- **encourage** the development of research, innovation and capacity building programs to improve knowledge sharing and create pathways to impact through interdisciplinary and participatory approaches in line with the Roadmap for FNSSA,
- **jointly explore** opportunities for (co-) funding research, innovation, and capacity building, working with other partners, private or public, and initiatives when necessary,
- **support** participatory approaches in the development of innovative solutions and their adoption for the benefit of all, especially for women and youth,
- **ensure** the sustainability of the activities implemented through a shared governance of this joint research and innovation plan.

We support the establishment of an International Research Consortium dedicated to the implementation of the R&I FNSSA Roadmap approved by the EU and the AU, and express our interest and willingness to mobilise our institutions to contribute to the development of this IRC either by funding or by implementing activities.

