

Call for Experts: Recruitment of Six Experts to Co-Develop a Revised AU-EU FNSSA-Roadmap (2027-2036)

(Ref: CEA-FIRST HE-101136771)

1. Background

The African Union (AU) and European Union (EU), through the High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI), have fostered a long-term partnership focused on sustainable development and mutual prosperity. A key component of this partnership is the Research and Innovation (R&I) Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA), which supports the transformation of agri-food systems in Africa and Europe.

The FNSSA Roadmap (2016–2026) has been instrumental in guiding joint AU-EU investments in food systems research & innovation. As the roadmap nears its conclusion, the Consortium Europe-Africa for Research and Innovation on Food Systems Transformation (CEA-FIRST) project, launched in December 2023, is leading the process to co-develop a Revised FNSSA Roadmap for 2027–2036, under the aegis of the HLPD Bureau.

Building on the outputs of CEA-FIRST Deliverables D2.10, D2.2, and D2.11 (co-led by RUFORUM and CIRAD), which provide reviews of the first roadmap's implementation (FNSSA Roadmap 2016-2026) and annotated recommendations for its revision, six high-level experts (three African, three European) are to be recruited to develop the new roadmap in close collaboration with the HLPD Working Group on FNSSA, RUFORUM, CIRAD, FARA, Agrinatura, ARC, SLU, WUR, UH, and FANRPAN.

The reference for experts to be contracted by the European Commission is in [Work Programme 2025, pp. 303-304](#).

2. Purpose of the Assignment

The selected experts will work jointly with complementary expertise to design the Revised FNSSA Roadmap (2027–2036), transforming the annotated recommendations and review findings into a strategic, actionable document. This roadmap will serve as a guiding framework for AU-EU R&I priorities in food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture over the next decade.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this assignment are to:

- Translate the strategic and operational insights from CEA-FIRST deliverables, especially D2.11 on the Annotated Recommendations (co-led by RUFORUM and CIRAD) into a coherent roadmap.



- Identify and prioritise emerging R&I themes based on bi-continental policy priorities and stakeholder needs.
- Ensure inclusivity, gender balance, and youth perspectives in food systems transformation.
- Align with AU Agenda 2063, CAADP, EU Green Deal, the EU Global Gateway, the EU Vision for Food and Agriculture, the EU Food 2030 research and innovation strategy, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, the EU Life Science Strategy, and UN SDGs.

4. Scope of Work

The experts will work collaboratively to:

- 1. Review Key Documents:**
 - Analyze CEA-FIRST Deliverables D2.10, D2.2, and D2.11.
 - Review relevant AU and EU strategic frameworks, R&I programs, and policy documents.
- 2. Co-Develop the Roadmap:**
 - Draft an evidence-based and stakeholder-informed roadmap document.
 - Define thematic R&I priorities, strategic outcomes, implementation pathways, and funding recommendations.
 - Ensure the inclusion of crosscutting themes (e.g., climate, gender, youth, digital innovation, resilience).
- 3. Engage Stakeholders:**
 - Participate in consultations, validation meetings, and thematic workshops.
 - Reflect feedback from stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, civil society, the private sector, and youth.
- 4. Deliver Final Products:**
 - Draft and revise the roadmap based on feedback.
 - Submit final roadmap and a summary report highlighting the process and key decisions.

5. Deliverables and Timeline

Deliverable	Estimated Timeline
Inception Report and Work Plan	Within 2 weeks of contract signing
Annotated Outline of Roadmap	4 weeks from start
Draft 1 of Roadmap (for internal review)	8 weeks from start
Stakeholder Validation Inputs	Weeks 9–12
Draft 2 (for external validation)	Week 14
Final Draft Roadmap Document and Summary Report	By Week 16

The Final Roadmap Document will form the basis for the AU-EU FNSSA Roadmap to be adopted by the HLPD Working Group on FNSSA and the HLPD Senior Officials. It will be published in full or partly. While acknowledgement will be given to the experts contributing to this work, the AU-EU FNSSA Roadmap will be owned by the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation.



6. Reporting and Coordination

- The expert group will report to the HLPD Working Group on FNSSA,
- coordinated by the European Commission, RUFORUM and CIRAD (Task 2.4 leads), and FARA and Agrinatura (Task 6.1 leads).
- Facilitation and admin support will be provided by the FNSSA WG secretarial support team (University of Helsinki & FANRPAN).
- A designated lead rapporteur will be appointed among the six experts for final editing of individual contributions and to facilitate workflow and communication.

7. Required Profile of Experts

Each expert must meet the following qualifications:

Essential Qualifications

- PhD or equivalent in a relevant field (agriculture, food systems, STI policy, climate change, etc.).
- Minimum 10 years' experience in FNSSA-related R&I or policy processes.
- Strong knowledge of AU and/or EU development and R&I strategies.
- Experience in multi-stakeholder processes and science-policy dialogue.
- Demonstrated ability to draft strategic policy/roadmap documents.

Desirable Attributes

- Bi-regional project experience (Africa-Europe collaboration).
- Knowledge of existing FNSSA Roadmap and related CEA-FIRST work.
- Gender and youth mainstreaming experience.
- Excellent communication and drafting skills in English (French desirable).

8. Definition of Selection Criteria

Each expert must demonstrate:

- Technical Expertise in FNSSA domains (e.g., food systems transformation, sustainable and resilient agriculture, agro-ecology, healthy nutrition, bioeconomy, food security, food safety, governance of food systems, including urban food systems, food processing, agricultural and food policies, trade, STI policy, multi-actor approaches, support to innovation, AKIS)
- Policy Experience in AU, EU or multilateral policy and R&I frameworks (e.g., Agenda 2063, STISA 2024, Green Deal, Vision for Food and Agriculture, Bioeconomy Strategy, Food 2030, CAADP Kampala Strategy)
- Multi-stakeholder Engagement Skills (e.g., working with governments, research institutions, civil society, and private sector)
- Experience in Roadmap/Strategy Development at continental or regional scale
- Ability to write standalone chapters and reports
- Geographic Balance (3 experts from Africa, 3 from Europe)
- Disciplinary and Gender Diversity



9. Terms of Reference (ToRs) and Onboarding

Selected experts will be issued a detailed ToR outlining:

- Timeline
- Scope of work
- Deliverables (e.g., Revised Roadmap draft, stakeholder consultation summaries)
- Coordination mechanisms with the European Commission, CEA-FIRST and partners

10. Working Arrangements

- The work will be carried out remotely, with participation in online and/or physical meetings as required.
- An estimated **30 working days per expert** and 40-50 working days for the lead rapporteur over a four-month period is anticipated.
- Compensation will be based on expert-day rates, in line with institutional practices and funder guidelines.
- One (hybrid) meeting is foreseen in order to present the draft Roadmaps 1, 2 and final, virtual meetings will take place as needed

11. Application Process

Interested candidates must submit:

- Updated CV (max 5 pages)
- Cover letter outlining qualifications and motivation
- Two references
- Conflict of Interest Statement
- **Applicants** to register as an EC expert via the following Link: [click here](#)

Timeline

- **Call Opens:** [September 30, 2025]
- **Submission Deadline:** [October 17, 2025, 11:59 GMT]
- **Screening & Review:** [October 20- October 27, 2025]
- **Results Announcement:** Immediately after the selection
- **Inception Meeting:** [October 30, 2025]

Submission Guidelines

- Submissions must be sent via email to [mowusu@faraafrica.org copy to elena.mihailescu@agrinatura-eu.eu, anti.j.autio@helsinki.fi, rmkandawire@fanrpan.org].
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.
- The Secretariat will confirm receipt and validity of submissions.