

Issue



CEA-FIRST
Consortium Europe-Africa on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation

March 2026

06

Newsletter

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

M4D

M4D Open
Innovation
Challenge.

Deadline: 30 March 2026.

[Details here](#)



unesco
The World Academy
of Sciences

THE WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
for the advancement of science in developing countries

Seed Grant for New African
Principal Investigators (SG-NAPI)

[Details here](#)

Deadline: 31 March 2026.



This issue highlights the transition of the IRC-FNSSA from strategic design to operational implementation, alongside key AU-EU funding opportunities, upcoming agri-food events and major policy developments shaping research and innovation cooperation.

As momentum builds across governance, partnerships and investment pipelines, we invite you to engage actively; apply, participate, connect and contribute to strengthening AU-EU collaboration on sustainable food systems.



IRC on FNSSA developments

The IRC-FNSSA continues to consolidate its governance structure. The core Secretariat team is now operational, and the Functional Working Groups, the External Advisory Committee and the Anchor Institutions have been formally constituted, strengthening the platform's coordination and strategic oversight.

Preparatory work is underway to unpack key priorities identified in the IRC Strategy supporting the effective implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures.

Governance members (Council, External Advisory Committee and Functional Working Groups) will be formally contacted for onboarding and an initial convening meeting.

Functional Working Groups will be invited to hold their inaugural meetings and elect their leadership.

IRC Anchor Institutions will be activated and formally linked to the Secretariat, with further structured outreach planned.

Together, these steps mark a transition from design to implementation, reinforcing the IRC-FNSSA as a structured, operational platform for coordinated AU-EU collaboration on food systems and agriculture.

Calls for IRC membership



The National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa launched calls for funders to join the IRC during the Joint GEH-FOSC Meeting on 28 May 2025 in Montpellier, France, the Sustainability Research and Innovation Africa Satellite Event held on 4-6 June 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the High-Level Meeting of African Heads of Research Councils, held on 6 August 2025, in Sandton, South Africa.

[Read Membership Terms here](#)

[Apply for membership here](#)

However, all researchers, academics, advisers, innovators, funders, practitioners, extension specialists, NGO workers, policy makers, and representatives of youth or women's organizations are invited.

Some Funding Opportunities

AR4D Funding Opportunities for Africa



Deadline: March to September.
[Details here](#)

Horizon Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment,



Deadline: 14 April 2026,
[Details here](#)

Boosting plant health and reducing losses on farm and during storage for sustainable growth in Africa (FNSA) HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-13



Deadline: 14 April 2026,
[Details here](#)

Green Transition Food Processing Africa HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-14



Deadline: 14 April 2026,
[Details here](#)

Katapult Africa Accelerator



Deadline: 25 April 2026
[Details here](#)

AU-EU UPCOMING AGRI-FOOD EVENTS



European Youth Summit 2026
- Geneva, Switzerland

Deadline: 10th March 2026.

[Apply here](#)



19-20 March, Córdoba, Spain.
AI-AGRIFOOD 2026.

[Apply here](#)



24-26 March 2026, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Hortiflora

[Apply here](#)



30 March - 1 April, London, UK.
International Food and Drink Event.

[Apply here](#)



14 April, Brussels, Belgium. Forum for the Future of Agriculture.

[Apply here](#)



20-26 April, Meknès, Morocco.
Salon International de l'Agriculture au Maroc

[Apply here](#)



28-30 April, Frick, Switzerland: FiBL IAHA Conference 2026 on Shaping the future of animal husbandry

[Apply here](#)

Join IRC community and live discussions

[Click here](#)



6-7 May 2026, Nairobi, Kenya. GLF AFRICA 2026: Stewarding Our Rangelands.

[Apply here](#)



13-15 May, Lusaka, Zambia. Africa Food & Beverage International Trade Show.

[Apply here](#)

Mark your calendar and show up—these events are where partnerships are formed and visibility is earned!

Key Reads Informing Global Agri-Food System



The re-export puzzle: how the OECD addresses the largest source of distortion in merchandise trade statistics.

[Read it here](#)

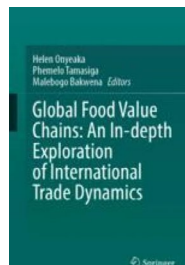
Check out the data here

[Read it here](#)



World enters era of 'water bankruptcy', hitting poorest, report.

[Read it here](#)



Global Food Value Chains: An In-depth Exploration of International Trade Dynamics.

[Read it here](#)



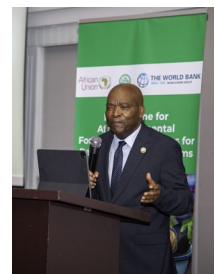
Feeding Africa's appetite for meat

[Read it here](#)



EU Agricultural Outlook 2025-2035.

[Read it here](#)

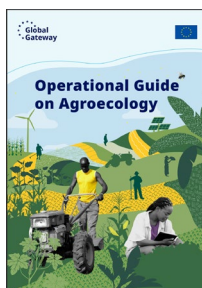


AUC Commissioner Calls for the Mainstreaming of Foresight in Africa's Food Systems and Policy Frameworks.

[Read it here](#)

Deforestation law: deal with Council to postpone and simplify measures.

[Read it here](#)



Operational guide on agroecology

[Read it here](#)

Stay ahead—these insights are shaping tomorrow's agri-food policy and trade!

AU-EU Agri-food news

Contribute to shaping **Food 2040**, the European Commission's upcoming strategic R&I agenda for competitive, sustainable and resilient food systems. Share your expertise through the public survey by **13 March 2026 (12:00 CET)** and help define the next phase of EU food systems innovation.

[Access here](#)

The EU and Nigeria have opened negotiations on a bilateral Science & Technology Cooperation Agreement, advancing their research and innovation partnership under the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. The move strengthens long-term collaboration between European and Nigerian research ecosystems.

[Access here](#)

These moves shape the next phase of AU-EU agri-food cooperation—stay engaged !

GLOBAL NETWORKS

The Africa-Europe Innovation Platform

[Connect](#)

FSNet Africa

[Connect](#)

Global Alliance for the Future of Food

[Connect](#)

FOODForce

[Connect](#)

Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

[Connect](#)

Flanders' FOOD

[Connect](#)

EAT-LANCET

[Connect](#)

European network of organic advisors

[Connect](#)

UFM Regional Platform on Research and Innovation

[Connect](#)



DATABASES

Africa-Europe Innovation Platform (AEIP)

A vibrant "network of networks" connecting startups, researchers, investors, and policymakers across Africa and Europe. It fosters inclusive innovation ecosystems and supports the AU-EU Innovation Agenda through capacity building, funding access, and strategic partnerships.

[Access it here](#)

Sub-National Harmonized Food Insecurity Dataset (HFID)

An open-source dataset consolidating IPC, FEWS NET, WFP's FCS, and rCSI indicators. HFID enables predictive modeling and deep analysis of food insecurity trends at sub-national levels—crucial for humanitarian response and policy planning.

[Access it here](#)

EU Transition Pathways Platform

A stakeholder support platform guiding industrial ecosystems, including agri-food, toward greener, more digital, and resilient futures. It's a collaborative space for aligning with the EU Industrial Strategy and accelerating sustainable transformation.

[Access it here](#)

UN Food Systems Hub - Database of Practices

A global repository of good practices submitted by countries and coalitions. It showcases scalable solutions for transforming food systems, from school meal programs to climate-smart agriculture, empowering stakeholders to replicate and adapt successful models.

[Access it here](#)

Videos

The donor dialogue held on 25th June 2025 by the **Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy Practice for Sustainable Food Systems (StEPPFoS)** team spotlighted the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface (SPI) in Africa to build resilient, equitable, and nutrition-sensitive food systems.

[Watch it here](#)

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We would very much appreciate your insights about our newsletter, so we can tailor its content to better align with your interests. Kindly take a few minutes to fill in our short survey [here](#)



Funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe programme "Food, bioeconomy natural resources, agriculture and environment" under grant agreement n° 101136771. Views of the opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or of the European Research Executive Agency, as granting authority. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.