

Issue

07

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

June 2026

Newsletter

Agri-food funding opportunities



FCI4Africa call
Deadline: 30 June.

[Details here](#)



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

**Heinrich Böll
Foundation
Scholarship**

Deadline: 1 September.

[Details here](#)



**Global Agriculture and
Food Security Program
(GAFSP) fund**

Deadline: 15 September.

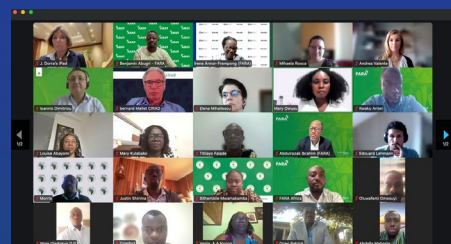
[Details here](#)



Issue 7 lands at a turning point. The IRC-FNSSA governance is fully activated – **the IRC is now positioned to move from structure to substance.** Meanwhile, the EU-Africa policy and funding landscape is accelerating fast: €605M committed, new partnerships signed, deadlines approaching.

This edition keeps you ahead of it all – **funding calls, policy shifts, events, and reads**, curated for the people building AU-EU agri-food cooperation.

Your next move starts here – and if this is useful to you, it's useful to someone in your network. Pass it on



With governance fully in place, the IRC-FNSSA is now positioned to move from structure to substance. Stay tuned for more development in the next edition !

IRC on FNSSA developments

Between April and May 2026, the IRC-FNSSA completed a structured series of governance activation sessions. The Governance Kick-Off (14 April) launched the transition from institutional design to coordinated delivery. The EAC Onboarding (18 May) established the IRC's independent scientific quality assurance layer, with the soil health pilot and FNSSA Roadmap 2027-2036 as first advisory tasks. The FWG and EWG Onboarding (19 May) activated the thematic implementation engines responsible for co-designing and delivering Joint Work Programmes. The Council Onboarding (20 May) established executive oversight and strategic coordination capacity. The Anchor Institutions Onboarding (20 May) grounded the IRC's architecture at national and regional level – together completing the full activation of the IRC-FNSSA governance system.

On 27 May, in the end of the Agrinatura Annual Conference, a participatory session on "Navigating the Food Systems Polycrisis: Anticipating Future Research Priorities through Africa-Europe Partnerships" concluded that fragmented efforts are no longer sufficient – and that anticipatory research, stronger cross-stakeholder coordination, local ownership, and evidence-to-policy mechanisms are essential pathways for scalable food systems transformation across Africa and Europe.

[More details here](#)

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

DIV Fund

DIV FUND

Deadline: ongoing

[Details here](#)

SIPRA Challenge Fund



Deadline: ongoing

[Details here](#)

Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation call



Deadline: ongoing

[Details here](#)

Don't miss your window – review these opportunities and start your application today !

Agri-food platforms

Women in farming in the EU

[Apply here](#)

Access Agriculture's Ask Agi platform for questions on sustainable agriculture, organic farming, and rural development.

[Ask your question here](#)

AU-EU UPCOMING AGRI-FOOD EVENTS



12-21 JUN 2026

PALAIS DES CONGRES YAOUNDE - CAMEROUN

12-21 June, Yaoundé, Cameroon, Yaoundé International Exhibition of Enterprise, SMEs and Partnership (PROMOTE).

[Apply here](#)

African Farming
and Food Processing

17-19 June , Agritec Africa 2026, KICC, Nairobi, Kenya.

[Apply here](#)

FOOD WEEK
BY THE PEOPLE EVENTS

24-25 June , Food week, Basel, Switzerland.

[Apply here](#)

CIRAWA

1-3 July, CIRAWA Agroecology Conference, Accra, Ghana.

[Apply here](#)

Africa Agriculture Science Week
Abuja, Nigeria | 27th - 30th July 2026

27-31 July, 9th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week and 10th FARA General Assembly, Abuja , Nigeria.

[Apply here](#)

CAFRI
Centre for African Food

7-8 August African FoodResearch & InnovationConference, online

[Apply here](#)

SCIENCE & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

10-13 August ,14th International Conference on Agriculture & Food, Burgas, Bulgaria.

[Apply here](#)



We want your feedback!

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](#)

6th Edition of Global Conference on
AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE



31 August - 3 September, Africa Food Systems Forum 2026 Summit, Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda.

[Apply here](#)

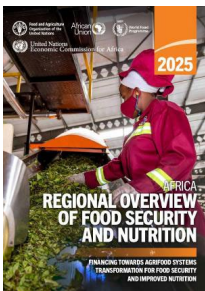
14-16 September, Global Conference on Agriculture & Horticulture, Rome, Italy.

[Apply here](#)

Register your participation – several of these events are just weeks away!

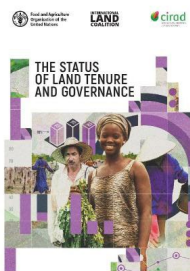
Selected agri-food reads

From organic trends to fertiliser debates – this month's reads cover the full spectrum. Pick the one that challenges your assumptions!



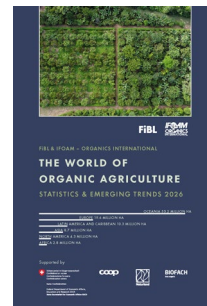
Food and Agriculture Organization. Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2025.

[Read it here](#)



Food and Agriculture Organization. The status of land tenure and governance.

[Read it here](#)



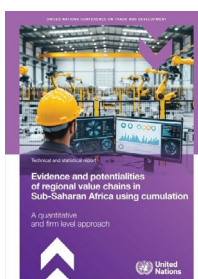
FIBL & IFOAM Organics International. The world of organic agriculture. Statistics & Emerging Trends 2026

[Read it here](#)



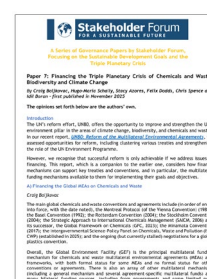
World Bank Group. Scaling Innovation to Boost Food Systems and Support Job Creation.

[Read it here](#)



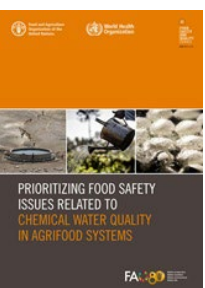
UN Trade and Development. Evidence and potentialities of regional value chains in Sub-Saharan Africa using cumulation.

[Read it here](#)



Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future. Paper 7: Financing the Triple Planetary Crisis of Chemicals and Waste, Biodiversity and Climate Change, of a series of governance papers

[Read it here](#)



World Health Organization. Prioritizing food safety issues related to chemical water quality in agrifood systems

[Read it here](#)



Grain.org. Can African food systems thrive without chemical fertilisers?

[Read it here](#)

Join IRC community and live discussions

[Click here](#)

AU-EU agri-food news

The European Commission has launched Africa Initiative IV (Horizon Europe 2026-2027), committing ~€605M across 30 calls to advance EU-Africa research and innovation cooperation across four priorities: Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation and Technology, and Capacities for Science.

[More details here](#)

The EUDR Simplification Package reduces compliance costs by ~75% and eases administrative burden for companies in global agricultural supply chains – without changing the regulation's core requirements or deadlines (December 2026 / June 2027).

[More details here](#)

The EU and AfCFTA Secretariat signed an MoU on 20 April 2026, establishing a trade and investment cooperation framework backed by €1.2B+ in Team Europe support – making the EU the AfCFTA Secretariat's largest partner

[More details here](#)

The EU and SADC reaffirmed their partnership on 28 April 2026, with €195.9M mobilised across ten regional projects covering peace, agriculture, trade, and digital – coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement.

[More details here](#)

The 24th edition of PanAfrican Agriculture centres on closing Africa's \$65 billion annual agri-food financing gap, calling for innovative and scalable solutions ahead of the third FINAS Summit in Nairobi in June 2026.

[More details 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](#)

A new European Commission study identifies climate change as the primary force reshaping EU agriculture and confirms that adaptation is already underway, with findings intended to guide more targeted policy support for farm resilience and long-term viability through 2040.

[More details here](#)

These developments signal where the policy and funding landscape is heading. Follow the links that matter to your work!

CEA-FIRST announcements

YPARD and CORAF have launched the CEA-FIRST IRC Cafés, a mentorship webinar series supporting young professionals and women in building careers within AU-EU agrifood research and innovation, with the first session planned for June 2026. [Details here](#)
The CEA-FIRST Gender and Youth Working Group, led by YPARD and CORAF with support from FARA, CIRAD, CSIR, and FAO, is launching a 2026 series of experience-sharing sessions to strengthen the integration of gender and youth perspectives across AU-EU agrifood research, innovation, governance, and policy processes.

[Details here](#)

Know a young professional or woman in agrifood who should be in these spaces?

Share these opportunities with anybody interested !

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Watch our IRC explanatory video [here](#)

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