

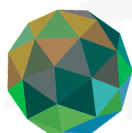
Issue

08

September 2026

Newsletter

Funding Opportunities



Green Climate Fund
Deadline: ongoing

[Details here](#)

CFC common
fund for
commodities

Deadline: 1 October

[Details here](#)

Supporting STISA 2034:
SGCI Research Call
Deadline: 25 September



[Details here](#)



Issue 8 tracks a pivotal stretch for AU-EU food systems cooperation. Between 7 and 28 July, three linked meetings — the IRC Council's activation meeting, the soil health scoping session, and the co-design workshop at AASW9 in Abuja — moved the IRC-FNSSA's first Joint Work Programme, on Soil Health and Fertiliser Systems, from design into practice. Together, they set up the draft Joint Working Programme due in September and the Ministerial Meeting in October, while also clarifying how the IRC's standing coordination role differs from project-based work like CEA-FIRST.

This issue also brings new funding calls for African agricultural research, upcoming events on seed systems and youth employment, and recent publications on food systems transformation and R&D investment gaps.

Find it useful? Share it with your network ! Wider visibility strengthens coordination across the AU-EU FNSSA community !



IRC on FNSSA developments

AASW9 Launches First IRC Joint Work Programme on Soil Health

On 28 July 2026, 105 representatives from the African Union Commission, European Commission, CGIAR centres, universities, farmer organisations, financial institutions and regional networks met at the 9th Africa Agriculture Science Week to co-design the first Joint Work Programme (JWP) under the International Research Consortium on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (IRC-FNSSA): Soil Health and Fertiliser Systems.

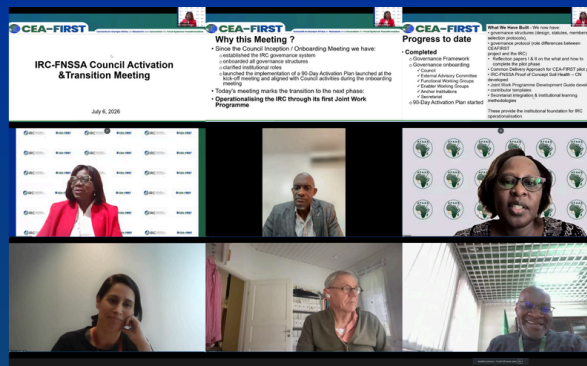
Breakout discussions produced recommendations for the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue and the upcoming Ministerial Meeting, including formal recognition of the IRC-FNSSA as the institutional mechanism for coordinating Africa-Europe food systems research, endorsement of IRC Portfolio Intelligence as an evidence base for decision-making, stronger coordination across existing research initiatives rather than the creation of new ones, harmonized soil monitoring systems, increased investment directed at implementation rather than additional project generation, soil health positioning as a flagship priority under the renewed 2027-2036 FNSSA Roadmap, coordinated through the IRC-FNSSA, investment in implementation and scaling of validated solutions, improved digital intelligence and portfolio analysis capacity, support for innovation commercialization, and a stronger focus on youth employment and value-chain development.



Soil Health Scoping Meeting Advances IRC-FNSSA Work

On 14 and 16 July, The International Research Consortium on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (IRC-FNSSA) held a scoping meeting on soil health, gathering input from its External Advisory Committee and IRC Working Groups. Discussions covered mapping over 160 ongoing AU-EU research projects, closing funding and partnership gaps, and managing risks so results get used, not just published. Findings will feed into a soil health Joint Work Programme, with further consultation at Africa's Agriculture Science Week in Abuja and progress reported at the Ministerial Meeting in October.

Want a hand in shaping the next Joint Work Programme?
Join the **IRC community** and sign up for the **CEA-FIRST newsletter** and follow this work as it develops!



IRC Governance Moves from Design to Practice

At its most recent IRC Council activation meeting, held on 7 July, the IRC formally began piloting its Joint Work Programme (JWP) model, using the soil health priority as the first live test case. Council confirmed the full development sequence, from technical mapping, partner mapping, a co-design workshop, to Secretariat integration, establishing this as the template for future IRC priorities beyond any single project's lifecycle. Council also reaffirmed the governance boundary between CEA-FIRST and the IRC, underlining the IRC's role as FNSSA's standing coordination structure rather than a project output. To sustain momentum during this early phase, Council will meet more frequently and is exploring wider co-construction with project clusters. A partial JWP draft is targeted for September, feeding into the FNSSA presentation at October's Ministerial meeting.

Upcoming Events



AERAS Global Webinar Series:
Agroecological Transition through Extension
September - December 2026
[More Details here](#)



Knowledge Valorisation in Action:
From Results to Policy
8 October 2026
[More Details here](#)



1st Eastern Africa Indigenous Seed Conference
17-20 November 2026
[More Details here](#)



Africa Trade Development Forum 2026
23-24 November 2026
[More Details here](#)



Youth, Jobs, and Voice in Africa's Agrifood System
30 November - 1 December 2026
[More Details here](#)

Five events, five months. Don't sit on it !

News

Africa Accounts for Just 8% of Global Agricultural R&D Spending, FAO Says.
[Read more here](#)

Joint Statement on the conclusion of the negotiations to deepen the EU-Eastern and Southern Africa Economic Partnership Agreement
[Read more here](#)

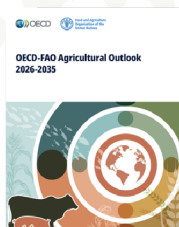
UEMOA outlines \$10.6 billion project portfolio for priority agricultural value chains
[Read more here](#)

Public consultation on Joint Undertakings, Art. 185 initiatives, and thematic priorities for European Partnerships under Horizon Europe 28-34, ends October 16
[Read more here](#)

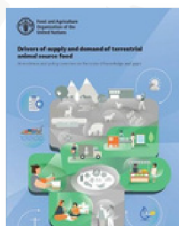
Call for Expression of Interest to hold Side Event Meetings at the 2026 RUFORUM AGM. Deadline: 15 October
[Read more here](#)

Two October deadlines hiding in here. Don't skim past them !

Selected Reads



**OECD and
FAO, June
2026,
OECD-FAO
Agricultural
Outlook
2026-2035.**
Read it [here](#)



**FAO, 2026, Drivers of
Supply and Demand of
Terrestrial Animal
Source Food. An
Evidence and Policy
Overview on the State
of Knowledge and
Gaps..** Read it [here](#)



**Gison et al. ,
Food Systems
Transformation
Would Reshape
Global
Agriculture.**
Read it [here](#)

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Courses

27 November – 5 December 2026, Wageningen, Netherlands. Seed Systems, Crop Conservation, and Genetic Diversity Assessment. More details [here](#)

Don't wait to register !

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