



# PROIntensAfrica



PROIntensAfrica | a Horizon2020 coordination and support action

## Effective and Efficient Research and Innovation Partnerships

**Concept note: PROIntensAfrica seminar for research and policy  
Tuesday 14 March 2017, African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa**

### Preamble

“To develop a long-term research and innovation partnership for improving the food and nutrition security and livelihood of the African population sustainably”. Such is the ambition of the PROIntensAfrica initiative, supported by a broad consortium of European and African institutions. The consortium is rooted in the conviction that there is a variety of pathways leading to sustainable intensification of food systems, and that we need to align to capitalize on this variety. The two-year PROIntensAfrica project, financially supported by the EC with 1 M€, was initiated to realize this ambition, and is now coming to an end. It therefore is time to present and discuss the results with the various stake holders, and to reflect on the future to realize the ambitions. This seminar marks the end of PROIntensAfrica and will allow stakeholders to fine-tune the final propositions and steps towards the strategic partnership.

### Objective of the seminar

...Mobilizing expertise and resources for efficient and effective research and innovation partnerships to realize food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in Africa and Europe...

### Context

The world is facing the challenge to improve food and nutrition security globally. Africa has a major role to play in reaching food and nutrition security; Africa is vulnerable today, but the continent has a high potential to develop as a major food basket. This requires, however, a transformation of the African agri-food systems, and calls for joining forces to explore and exploit the potential of African agriculture. PROIntensAfrica has the long-term objective to improve the food and nutrition security and the

livelihoods of African farmers by exploring the rich diversity of pathways leading to sustainable intensification of African agri-food systems. These pathways may include farming methods from organic farming to high input farming and everything between.

Since the start of PROIntensAfrica, several relevant developments took place. A major one is the roadmap as proposed to the EU AU High Level Policy Dialogue by the group of European and Africa experts. This road map makes explicit reference to PROIntensAfrica. ProIA is the tool currently in place to develop the Research and Innovation proposal for one of the three thematic components of the Roadmap, i.e. the component dedicated to sustainable intensification. ProIA will also provide insights directly on the crosscutting issues listed in the roadmap - like capacity strengthening, modalities of funding joint activities, monitoring and evaluation.... – and indirectly on the other two thematic priorities, nutrition and trade, as they have connection with the question of sustainable intensification.



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Another activity to which PROIA contributed is LEAP-Agri. This European Cofund programme is chaired by France (ANR), and aims at implementing



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a long term EU-Africa research and innovation flagship partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture by pooling African and European funding into a virtual pot to finance research and by developing innovative joint governance and joint programming instruments to sustain in the long term and broaden the partnership. LEAP-Agri builds on, on one hand, on successful previous Eranets (like ERAfrica and ERA-ARD1 and 2), but now with a focus on the agrifood domain, and, on the other hand, on EU-Africa partnership initiatives (like Caast-Net Plus and Paepard).

Other initiatives are currently under development in this domain of R&I applied to FNSSA. A major one is the African Development Bank TAAT programme: Technologies for African Agriculture Transformation. TAAT is a 5 years, 800 million USD effort to upscale proven technologies in 8 priority intervention areas (from rice production to horticulture and aquaculture, through African savannahs transformation). This continent wide programme will be accompanied by a specific research initiative, the African Agriculture Research Programme (100/150 M USD, over 5 years), which will also contribute to the implementation of the HLPD Roadmap

## The seminar

The focus of the seminar is on presenting and discussing the results of PROIntensAfrica, putting them in perspective with other relevant developments,

and discuss future actions. The results of PROIA will be both in terms of content and in terms of governance. On content, a scientific agenda describing different pathways towards sustainable agriculture will be presented and discussed, based on literature and case-studies. In addition, various financial and governing modalities that are needed to implement further actions will be discussed. For this, a one-day open seminar with representatives of different stakeholders will be organized. The base of the discussions will be a draft report, that will be spread among the participants. Bac-to-back, the PROIA consortium intends to organize closed meetings to process the comments and the suggestions made at the conference, and to finalize the PROIA-report.

## The audience targeted

The audience for the seminar is estimated at 75 persons formed by all PROIA beneficiaries and invited key persons from the main stakeholders such as:

- EU Commission and AU Commission
- Research councils
- Policy makers
- SROs
- Private sector
- Farmers/farmer organizations
- Societal organizations
- Research organizations



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