



PLATFORM

Platform of bioeconomy ERA-NET Actions

ERAFRICA

Success – Experiences – Lessons Learned



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pour le développement



ERAFRICA is a coordination and support action
funded under the European Union FP7 programme
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Background



- EU ERA-Net for Africa (First Phase December 2010 – November 2014)
- To consolidate EU collaboration with Africa in RD&I
- To promote EU-Africa RD&I cooperation
- To develop African RD&I capacity and potential for increased international research collaboration

Background

- Funded for start-up by EC for +/- €2 million
- Operationalised via creation of joint EU-Africa RD&I funding scheme with eventual call for proposals and joint funding of research projects
- Crucially joint creation, management, funding and ownership by EU and African partners (equal rights, equal responsibilities)

Project Consortium

- **EU, first members**

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- Austria,
 - Belgium,
 - Finland,
 - France,
 - Germany,
 - Portugal,
 - Spain,
 - Switzerland,
 - Turkey

- **Additional funding parties**

- Netherlands,
- Norway.

- **Africa, First members:**

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- Egypt,
 - Kenya,
 - South Africa

- **Additional funding parties**

- Burkina Faso,
- Côte d'Ivoire

Call Preparation

- Two years of preparation ensuring representation of all interests
- Three funding themes: Renewable Energy, Interfacing Challenges, New Ideas
- Three funding instruments: Collaborative Research Projects, Research for Innovation, Institutional Capacity Building
- Funding pledges total more than €10 million



First Phase Results

- 124 proposals received (€70 million)
- 17 projects funded for more than €8 million (three-year duration)
- Research teams representing 65 institutions
- Sustainable project consortium capable of expansion
- Building on first phase to launch second call in 2015



Interfacing Challenges



**ConneSSA – CONNEcting knowledge, scales and actors;
An integrated framework for adaptive organic
resource management targeting soil aggradation and
agroecosystems' resilience in SSA**

Type of activity: Collaborative Research Project

Keywords: Resource efficiency (resources, materials), Responsiveness of soils, Applied remote sensing and geoinformation services for integrated regional planning, Research for protection against climate impacts and adaptation to global change

Thematic area corresponding to criteria of ERAfrica: Resource efficiency (resources, materials); Obtaining and managing resources, resource substitution

Duration: 36 Months

Lead Partner: University of Eldoret /Kenya

Partner Institutions:

- Kenyatta University / Kenya
- University of Ouagadougou / Burkina Faso
- Nangui Abrogoua University / Côte d'Ivoire
- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) / France
- Centre International de Coopération Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) / Burkina Faso
- Universität Hohenheim, Inst. for Plant Production and Agroecology in the Tropics/Subtropics (UH) / Germany
- KU Leuven Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (KUL) / Belgium
- Wageningen University, Farming Systems Ecology Group / Netherlands
- FIBL / Austria

Cooperating countries: Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Kenya, Netherlands

Total financial volume: 1.050.107 €

<https://connessa.uni-hohenheim.de/112305?L=1>

Insights Gained and Lessons Learned

- No substitute for equal partnership and joint participation from the start
- Establish a single vision of scope and outcome
- Stick to predetermined timeframes via adequate preparation
- Secure institutional funding commitments
- Centralise management and commit to communication



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Insights Gained and Lessons Learned

- Keep funding mechanisms simple, but allow maximum flexibility for national variation
- Ensure funding parity or equivalent
- Harmonise deadlines for funding
- Strive for a unified reporting scheme
- Begin preparing follow-up or continuation early on

Thank you for your attention

