



Ref: IAIUYDIR/2018/024

11 December 2018

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Food Security and Climate Change Collaborative Research Action (CRA)

Dear Madam, Sir,

The IAI Directorate is working to encourage and facilitate co-funding, by relevant governmental agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the call on Food Security and Climate Change Collaborative Research Action (CRA) by the Belmont Forum and the European Commission in cooperation with the IAI. This call addresses regional and global issues related to food security and climate change and builds synergetic options and is of particular relevancy to the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

Accordingly, the IAI Directorate identified relevant funding agencies and is currently communicating with them to submit an expression of interest to participate in the call with non-binding financial engagement by 15 January 2019. This initiative could represent a unique opportunity for participating organizations to develop, collaborate and implement research projects focusing on regional priorities and issues related to the agricultural and food sectors in an inter- and transdisciplinary manner. Moreover, research funded by Latin American and Caribbean agencies will receive matching funds from the European Commission. There exists also the opportunity to build on current and past IAI sponsored research focused on meteorological and land use changes and food security.

Your collaboration identifying and contacting relevant funding agencies in your country extending the invitation will be much welcomed.

Attached is a copy of the concept note of the joint call.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Marcos Regis da Silva
Executive Director

Belmont Forum

Food Security and Climate Change

Collaborative Research Action (CRA)

Joint call of Belmont Forum with EU Joint Programme Initiative (JPI) [FACCE](#) and EU EraNet [LEAP Agri](#).

This document is not the call text but present the overall initiative, its main goals, and the way forward to develop this Collaborative Research Action (CRA).

Objective

Interactions between climate change and food systems: assessing the consequences of climate change on markets and developing sustainable and resilient food value chains influenced by changing food needs and patterns (diets).

This Collaborative Research Action will focus on regional food systems to promote cooperation and strengthen regional capabilities. Complementary to European funding agencies, national funding agencies in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean would jointly fund/implement collaborative projects with a focus on regional agricultural food, use of waste residues and losses under climate change from a social, cultural, economic and environmental dimension.

This CRA supports the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, recognizing the important inter-linkages with SDG13 to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, and several other targets such as eradicating extreme poverty as well as those related to health, water, and biodiversity. The SDGs provide opportunities for researchers to understand and guide policy on the trade-offs related to food production to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The impacts of climate change for countries and their populations in the three continents will be considerable given that these regions are vulnerable and dependent on agriculture. Climate change is expected to impact crop yields, economies and food security. This is the reason for this CRA to aim at having a strong regional focus, with emphasis on Europe, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Integration between outcomes of projects with regional focus should allow addressing global processes too.

Context

The agri-food sector is subject to multiple external pressures, such as rising demand for food, competition for land and other natural resources with other biomass uses, globalisation, threats from animal or plant diseases, environmental and climatic changes and

public health considerations. Climate change will further affect the agri-food sector both directly through its impact on production, on food waste but also indirectly through its supply chain. This implies the need to increase efficiency and sustainability; improve the understanding of the impacts to human health; make use of new technological developments; and become more transparent and responsive to consumer demands and needs, within a food-system approach.

Projects will aim at developing climate-resilient and sustainable value chains for food systems. In particular projects might assess risks and vulnerabilities of food systems faced with climate change, including expected changes on supply chains, thereby offering low carbon footprint solutions (technological and/or non-technological) to increase resilience and sustainability. Climate change will impact food systems globally and is a major issue for all countries. However, impacts on countries from the Global South are anticipated to be particularly strong. Specific focus will be put on the socio-economic impacts of climate change on different food chains, price volatility and the territorial dimension on access to accessible and nutritious foodstuffs.

Opportunity

The ERANET Cofund mechanism

As this issue of climate impact on food systems and food security is crucial for many countries, a large interest from the community is expected. To increase the funding pool for researchers, JPI FACCE is responding to the EU call SFS-31-2019: ERANETs in agri-food and is developing an ERANET cofund in support to this Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action. The European Commission (EC) dedicated 21 million euros for this ERANET Cofund call to be allocated across three topics, one being climate change (amount to be confirmed, order of magnitude 4-5 million euros).

The ERANET cofund is a funding instrument from the European Commission to facilitate funding of trans-national research and/or innovation projects. This instrument allows for an increase of monies to participating agency to fund its own researchers. This top-up may be partially used as a common resource, usually permitting countries with a large research community but fewer resources to invest to get additional resources and usually higher than the top-up.

LEAP-Agri (*A long term EU-Africa research and innovation partnership on food security and sustainable agriculture*) is a good example of a successful EU-Africa Eranet Cofund: 27 projects involving 250 African and European R&I teams have been selected for funding. These projects are related to sustainable agriculture, to food and nutrition, and to market access and trade. A total budget of 22, 7 million € is dedicated to the funding of these projects, including 15,5 million euros from national funding agencies and 7,2 million € contribution from the EC (on top of funding from both African and European funding agencies).

The regional focus of this CRA will depend on the engagement of national funding agencies from the different regions.

European context

Climate change will impact the agri-food sector both directly through its effect on production at EU level, but also indirectly through its supply chain.

From previous discussions, there was interest in:

- A focus on regional food systems within a global perspective;
- A thematic focus on reducing food waste and losses;
- Projects should address the three dimensions of sustainability: social-cultural, economic, and environmental

FACCE-JPI also proposed to consider the following topics as priorities:

- Assessing climate change-related risks for food value chains, including impacts on prices, international trade and food security, and resulting changes in consumer behaviours;
- Reducing volatility in agri-food production and food markets to improve food security in the context of climatic variation;
- Reducing food losses under climate change including through novel approaches to valorise side streams and reduce food waste.

Africa context

African countries have placed food security high on their regional agenda.

The 2017 thematic review of SDG2 by the UN High-Level Political Forum held in New York in July 2018, noted that there have been encouraging policy developments at the global level relating to SDG2 over the past year – including in the context of the G20, G7 and the UNFCCC – which should be further built upon. The CRA on Food Security and Climate Change aims at providing the scientific knowledge needed for policy coordination at the national, regional and global levels.

The proposed Belmont Forum joint ERANET call on Food Security and Climate Change is a unique opportunity to build upon already funded research and innovation projects such as those funded through LEAP-Agri, connect African research to an international arena, and possibly receive matching funds from the European Commission where eligible.

Latin America and the Caribbean context

Latin America and the Caribbean have placed food security high on the regional agenda by ratifying the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) “Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025”. The Plan contains the main, successful food security policies, initiatives developed by countries in the region and has become the major roadmap towards zero hunger by 2025.

In 2018, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and the European Union (EU) reaffirmed their commitment and adopted a declaration calling for partnership to face global challenges such as climate change, stressing the importance of international cooperation for development through north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation (EU-CELAC declaration “Building bridges and strengthening our partnership to face global challenges”, Brussels, 16-17 July 2018).

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The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), an intergovernmental organization working at the science-policy interface by promoting collaborative research to guide policy making in the Americas, is a Belmont Forum member and will facilitate co-funding of Latin America and the Caribbean from the ERANET (see attached the list of eligible countries).

The proposed Belmont Forum joint ERANET call on Food Security and Climate Change is a unique opportunity to build upon already funded IAI research, connect IAI research to an international arena, and possibly receive matching funds from the European Commission where eligible. The IAI has played the integral role of facilitating and managing its Third Round of Collaborative Research Network (CRN3) program, culminating this year. The IAI's CRN3 networks related to agriculture have primarily addressed either the meteorological aspects (climate models, soil indices, drought impacts, weather station networks) or land use change. Missing is the direct link to food security. The Food Security and Climate Change CRA provides a chance to look at just that: connecting meteorological and land use changes to food security and the impacts on the region.

Conclusion

An overarching goal of this call is to enable and strengthen action taking and decision making *at the regional level* on key issues addressing food security and climate change. It is timely that national funding agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean – as well as in Africa - have this opportunity to develop, collaborate and implement research projects focusing on regional priorities and issues in the agricultural and food sectors in an inter- and transdisciplinary way. The added value of this CRA is also – with a participation of three continents, Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean – to be able to address both regional and global issues related to food security and climate change and build synergetic options in support of these countries.