

FoodLAND

Food and Local, Agricultural and Nutritional Diversity

With funding of 7 million euros, African and European partners are leading an international research project to boost the nutrition performance of local food systems in Africa

The FoodLAND project is celebrating its kick-off meeting online from 30 September to 2 October, 2020

Twenty-eight interdisciplinary partners will be coming together on the aforementioned dates for the kick-off meeting of the FoodLAND project. Due to the current COVID-19 global health situation, it will take place online. The FoodLAND project, funded to the tune of 7 million euros by the European Commission within the Horizon 2020 programme, and led by Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna (Italy), is committed to developing a range of innovations for local agriculture and aquaculture development, as well as to nudging consumers towards healthier eating behaviour in six African countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The overall project is aiming to strengthen agro-biodiversity and food diversity, along with diversity of healthy diets to combat the major forms of malnutrition in Africa.

The project will create a network of 14 local Food Hubs—paired with 14 separate cities in these countries—that will mobilise relevant actors in rural, urban and peri-urban communities and serve as injection points for testing and introducing the innovations. Indeed, the 28 partners that comprise the FoodLAND consortium (18 of them are African institutions while the other 10 are European) will work together to develop, implement and validate 12 technological innovations; which include organizational and technological innovations for both vegetable and fish farming and food processing systems, together with 17 novel local food products, ranging from fresh, dried and processed vegetables and fish to composite flours and therapeutic foods.

FoodLAND is adopting a bottom-up approach by basing the initiatives on producers' and consumers' motivations, needs and choices. The project will draw a comprehensive picture of the nutritional needs of urban and rural populations, understanding the socio-economic, production conditions, and individual factors that determine the decisions of smallholder producers and processors. Smallholder farmers and food operators will then receive assistance to foster nutrition-responsive and sustainable agro-biodiversity, while consumers will participate in a specific awareness raising and communication campaign. "By bridging the gap between food production and consumption, the project will reinforce the productivity and resilience of food supply chains, and will create new market opportunities on both the local and global scales," said the project coordinator Marco Setti, Professor of the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences of the University of Bologna.

Media Contacts

Email: info@foodland-africa.eu

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Further information on CORDIS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/862802>



The FoodLAND consortium

Research partners:

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università Di Bologna (Coordinator), Italy
Agroscope, Switzerland
The James Hutton Institute, UK
Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture de Meknes, Morocco
Institut Supérieur Agronomique de Chott-Mariem, Tunisia
Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie, Tunisia
Mekelle University, Ethiopia
University of Nairobi, Kenya
Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania
Makerere University, Uganda
National Agricultural Research Organisation, Uganda

Partners for agriculture/aquaculture promotion and sustainable development in Africa

Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency Tigray, Ethiopia
Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya
Comitato Europeo per la Formazione e l'Agricoltura, Italy
Relief Society of Tigray, Ethiopia
Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns, Uganda
Farm Concern International, Kenya
Helvetas Tanzania, Switzerland
Groupement d'Intérêt Economique Zoyout Dir Béni Mellal, Morocco
Groupement de développement agricole Hrayer Gloub thiran, Tunisia

Small and medium-sized companies in the food sector

Kitui Enterprise Promotion Company Limited, Kenya
Tamarillo Kenya Limited, Kenya
Katundu Traders Limited, Tanzania
Nutreal Limited, Uganda
AquaBioTech Limited, Malta

Industrial partner

Novamont S.p.A, Italy

Communication and IPR management partners

Elhuyar Fundazioa, Spain
EURICE, Germany

