LEAP4FNSSA Workshop, 13 July 2022

Creating an International Research Consortium on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture:
a platform for Research and Innovation between Africa and Europe

• Moving from a partnership towards a platform
• IRC: catalyze joint AU-EU activities
Next steps (1)

- Knowledge database ensures better efficacy
- It needs to be kept open, accessible, updated, connected with other information sources
- Add (data base): private sector and its initiatives
- Concern: maintenance database after project
- Institutionalize partnerships between public and private sector
Next steps (2)

• Get better access to funding (also alternative models)
• Support technology and innovation uptake
  • link science to impact; include non-conventional actors
• Improve science-policy interface in a coherent way
• Prioritise youth, women, entrepreneurs!
• Use a top down AND a bottom-up approach
• Make responsibilities very clear and keep it simple
• Make sure that every member benefits
How to deliver more impact?

• Improve transdisciplinary and action-oriented networks
• Use established relationships and new partners
• Avoid delays in (co-)funding...
• Broker between projects to support the next steps
• Build capacity at all levels; include education and training
The IRC needs to

- Achieve national, regional, global targets together
- Be a network of networks
- Get commitment at the level of institutions
- Provide incentives for funders
- Implement actions in operational working groups
- Show short-term results
- Include the new political agreements: African Free Trade Agreements, EU Green Deal, AU-EU Innovation Agenda, STISA...
Challenges

- **Dealing with diversity:**
  - We are not on the same page with certain thematic priorities
  - Equal footing?
- **Dealing with private sector:**
  - Include a business approach; let the private sector, incl. farmers, define their needs (co-creation, multi-actor approach)
- **Dealing with co-funding (governments vs (big) business...)**
- **Dealing with different regions:**
  - Organize the work through regional clusters (link with regional CGIAR etc)
- **Dealing with other networks:**
  - avoid duplication
Key messages

• Connect with existing structures
• Create complementarities!
• Include co-funding partners from both continents
• Reduce fragmentation (Team Europe...)
• Create a *sustainable* structure for impact on the ground
• We need this partnership *now* as a catalyst for the food system
THANK YOU