WP3
Partners

WORK PACKAGE 3
Improved Farming Practices

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### MAIN OBJECTIVES

InnoFoodAfrica WP3 aims to improve farming and primary production practices of African food systems by:

- Increasing food diversity by promoting sustainable, climate-smart crop production and post-harvesting practices.
- Supporting smallholder farmers to boost productivity and marketability of selected cereals, pulses, root crops and fruits, which will increase the quantity, quality and diversity of the food supply.
- Supporting smallholder farmers (especially women and youth) in rural areas to utilize appropriate post-harvest handling and storage technologies of crops including biomass recycling to meet national, regional and international quality standards.

### BACKGROUND

The whole of Africa's agrofood system must be advanced in a coordinated manner to ensure sustainable development.

InnoFoodAfrica WP3 aims to enhance sustainable food production by undertaking farmer participatory research (FPR) to empower smallholder farmers.

WP3 evaluates current production systems for selected crops with the aim of determining the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and South Africa. Suitable technologies to overcome these challenges are then planned and assessed using FPR.

### OUR APPROACH

The IFA approach ensures that farmers are recognized as innovators and experimenters therefore guaranteeing their equal participation in developing sustainable agricultural practices.

WP3 tasks involve setting up the FPR that is designed to have three phases.

- **Phase 1**: Testing alternative technologies in selected farms.
- **Phase 2**: Identified best practices further evaluated, e.g., using a “mother and baby” trial design.
- **Phase 3**: Farmers are supported and positioned for adaptation and upscaling.

Other tasks in WP3 include:

- Streamlining seed systems for optimal performance,
- Training of farmers on good seed production practices, and
- Improving postharvest and storage technology.

### Crops selected for each country:

- **Ethiopia**: faba bean, maize, teff and orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP)
- **Kenya**: amaranth, cow pea, finger millet and OFSP.
- **Uganda**: finger millet, sorghum, cowpeas, OFSP and banana
- **South Africa**: cowpea, bambara groundnut and OFSP.

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