

Capacity-Lift Services (CLIFS) for R&I projects to manage for impact

Support services to upgrade the capacities of R&I project teams to prove and improve their impacts

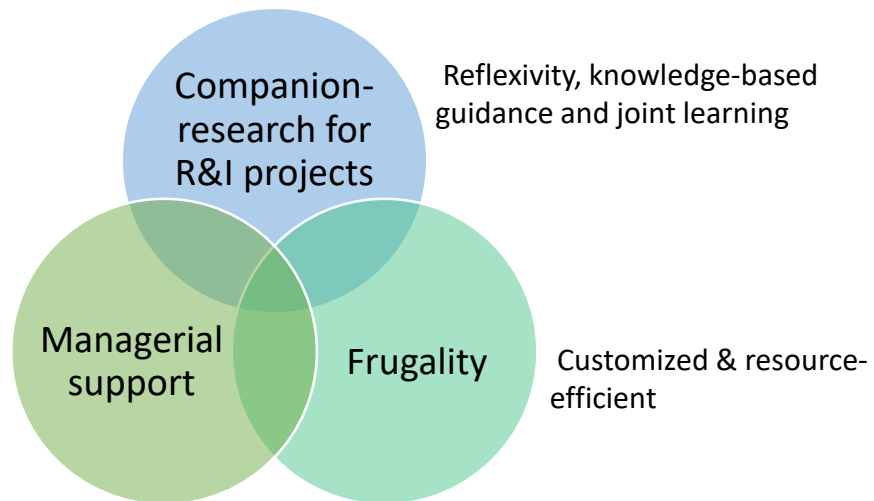


The Capacity-Lift Services (CLIFS) in a nutshell

- This leaflet presents all what you need to know about the service facility (CLIFS) created and delivered by DeSIRA-LIFT, in support to 70 R&I DeSIRA projects across three continents between 2021 and 2025.
- CLIFS is a set of support services delivered by Agrinatura experts and based on three pillars:



Instrumental, emotional and developmental support



[Clickable links throughout the document to explore CLIFS documentation](#)

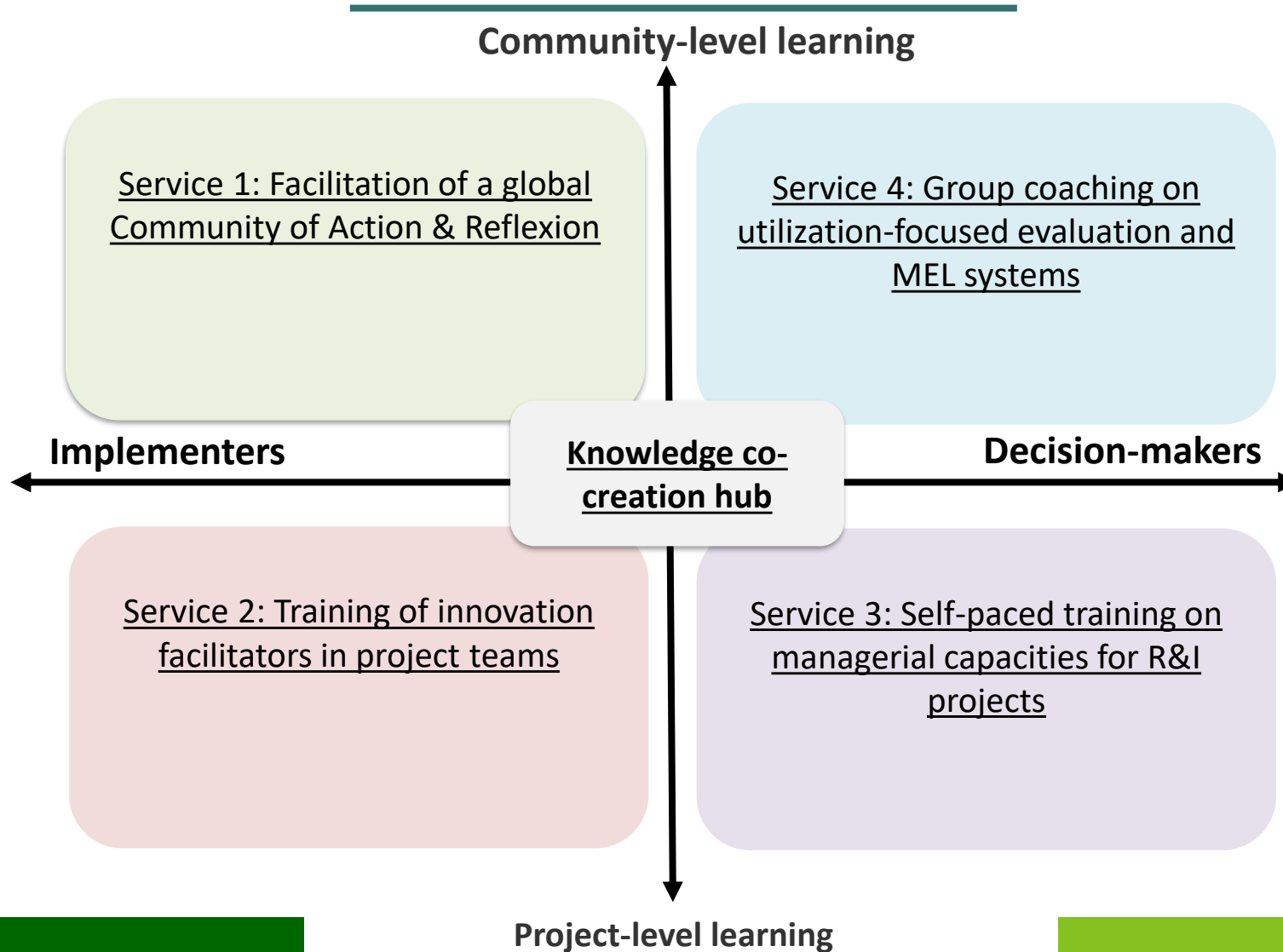
The CLIFS offering is for you if you need to:

- Support a **portfolio of R&I projects** operating in different contexts;
- Help them to **generate sustainability-oriented innovations and long lasting changes** in agrifood innovation systems;
- Increase their capacities to **prove and improve their impacts**;
- Support **non-traditional R&I models**, i.e. not necessary research-led innovation and more adapted to the SDGs: open and responsible innovation models, community-driven innovation, innovation ecosystem perspectives, multi-actor scaling pathways.

Activating agricultural transitions to sustainability through **participatory research and co-innovation**

Stories of change across Africa, Asia and Latin America from the DeSIRA initiative

What are the Capacity-Lift Services (CLIFS)?



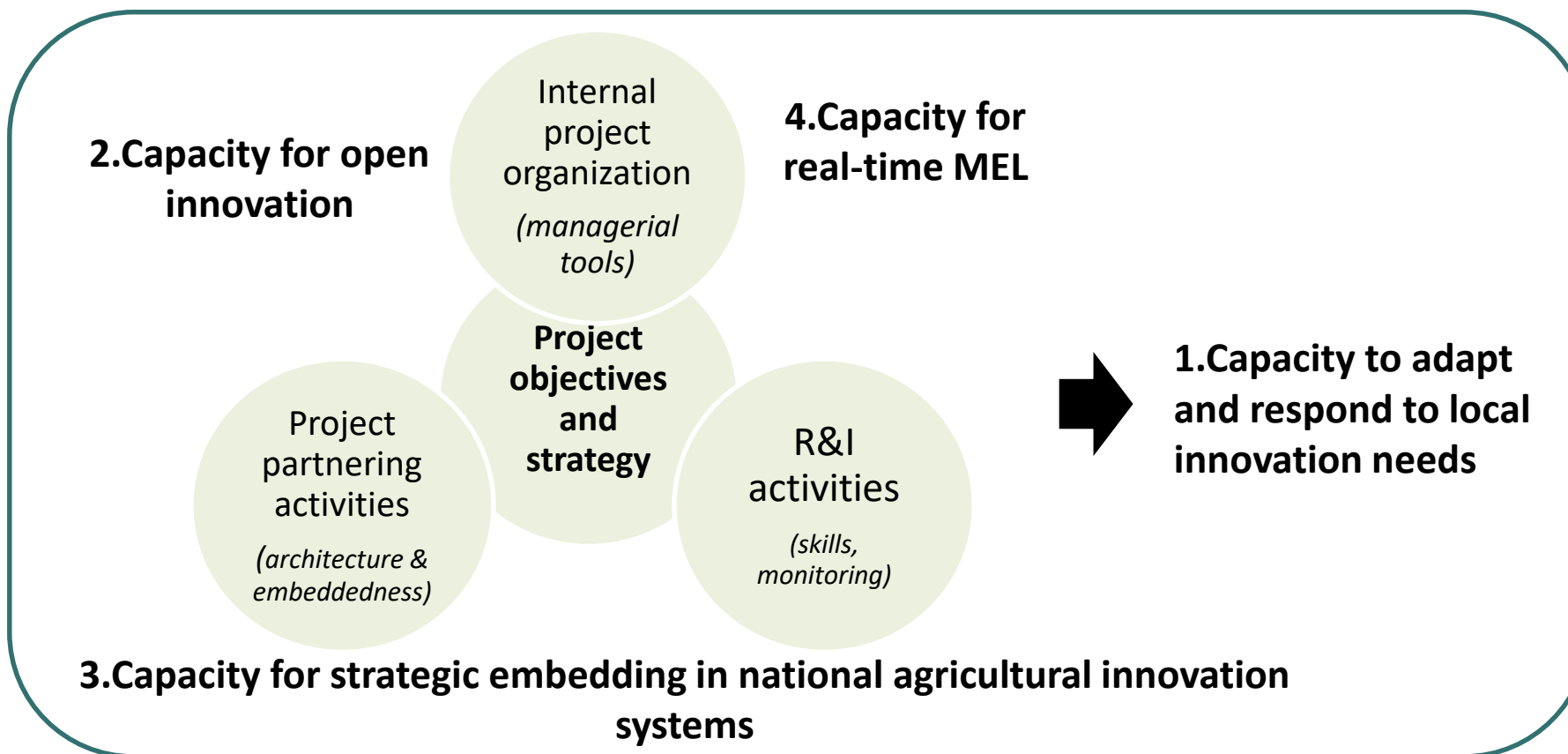
4 services backed by a knowledge co-creation hub

Why delivering support services to R&I projects?



- R&I projects have become **more complex** due to the increased complexity of the challenges that are tackled;
- Agricultural R&I projects are characterized as complex, uncertain, sensitive to political conditions and known for the involvement of a **large number of stakeholders**;
- If not addressed well by **managerial strategies**, complexity becomes a major source of uncertainty and risks that affect project costs and performance;
- Design and inception phases are too short to properly involve all stakeholders and cannot anticipate the realities of the project **implementation journey**
- Open innovation approaches and scaling strategies toward impacts are still very **new for many stakeholders**;
- Funders are not equipped to **properly guide project leaders** beyond traditional M&E approaches.

CLIFS address 4 common capacity gaps in R&I projects



Project architectures & capacities

- **Dynamic capacities – 4 core capacities to manage for impact in agrifood innovation systems**
- *Routine capacities (planning, monitoring, allocating resources, managing risks, communicating)*

Strengths of CLIFS

Co-developed with [70 R&I projects](#) (3 continents, 65 countries) in 3 years' time

[Learn more about DeSIRA-LIFT and the deployment of CLIFS](#)

Demonstrated added value

[Read here the testimonies of CLIFS clients](#)

Part of a broader shift in R&I approaches for activating sustainability transitions

[Learn more about the shift to Action-Research in Partnership for Innovation and Sustainability Transitions \(ARPIST\)](#)

Generated lessons learnt on the overall DeSIRA R&I projects and on the CLIFS prototype itself

[Read here the full publication series](#)

Potential to be replicated and/or institutionalized, with core and modular components

[Listen to the discussions between CGIAR, the International Innovation Hub \(IIH\) and CIRAD during the 16th April seminar](#)

Challenges of CLIFS

6 factors of performance

1. Capacities: make sure that the service provider is competent and legitimate

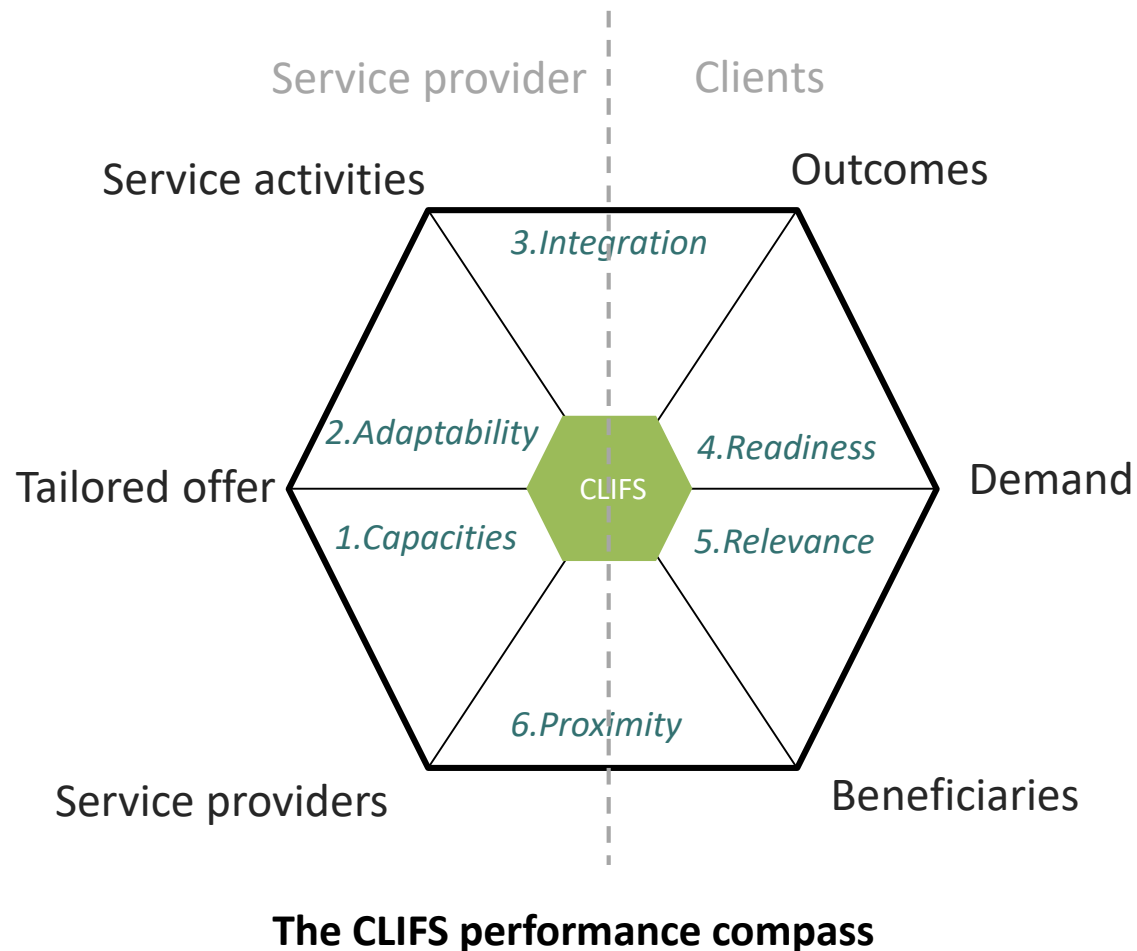
2. Adaptability: adapt service offering to needs

3. Integration: help the beneficiaries to combine services to maximize outcomes

4. Readiness: increase beneficiaries' interests in services

5. Relevance: align services to needs and availability

6. Proximity: build trust with beneficiary projects



The CLIFS performance compass

Replicating the CLIFS for your own needs

Use Case 1: you are a research organization

Use case 2: you are a business-led incubator

Use case 3: you are a DeSIRA-like program

Learning from and about CLIFS

Activating agricultural transitions to sustainability through participatory research and co-innovation

Stories of change across Africa, Asia and Latin America from the DeSIRA Initiative

[Click here](#)

Pathways to agrifood system transformation: From Local Innovation to Policy Change

Stories of change from Africa, Latin America and Asia

[Click here](#)

LEARNING BRIEF 1

DeSIRA LIFT

Authors: B. Doolittle, S. Mathu and A. Toller

Actionable learning from a review of DeSIRA projects' contributions to policy change

[Click here](#)

LEARNING BRIEF 2

DeSIRA LIFT

Authors: Priscilla R. Joffe and A. Toller

Actionable learning from a review of DeSIRA projects' contributions to agroecology transitions

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LEARNING BRIEF 3

DeSIRA LIFT

Authors: S. Driessens, M. Koop, J. Naves and A. Toller

Actionable learning from a review of Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Agricultural Innovation in DeSIRA

[Click here](#)

Global Gateway

Lessons and recommendations from the DeSIRA Initiative

[Click here](#)

PERSPECTIVE BRIEF 1

DeSIRA LIFT

L.F. Rodriguez Infante, A. Guzman, M. Garcia, F. Hernandez, M. Diaz de Cera, R. A. Toller

The future of R&I as driver of agrifood system transformation and sustainability transitions

Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean

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PERSPECTIVE BRIEF 2

DeSIRA LIFT

S. Mathu, S. Guzman, M. Diaz, F. Hernandez, A. Toller

The future of R&I as driver of agrifood system transformation and sustainability transitions

Perspectives from East and Southern Africa

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PERSPECTIVE BRIEF 3

DeSIRA LIFT

Amel A. Guzman, A. Toller, A. Mathu, S. Diaz, and S. Garcia

The future of R&I as driver of agrifood system transformation and sustainability transitions

Perspectives from West and Central Africa and Madagascar

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PERSPECTIVE BRIEF 4

DeSIRA LIFT

A. Diaz, A. Toller, S. Guzman, R. Garcia, A. Mathu, F. Hernandez, M. Diaz de Cera

The future of R&I as driver of agrifood system transformation and sustainability transitions

Perspectives from Asia-Pacific

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SYNTHESIS BRIEF

DeSIRA LIFT

Authors: S. Driessens, L. Garcia, S. Mathu, S. Guzman, F. Hernandez, M. Diaz de Cera, A. Toller

Actionable learning Proving and improving R&I impacts in agrifood systems through project-based approaches

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Global Gateway

Enseignements et recommandations tirés de l'initiative DeSIRA

[Click here](#)

For more information about CLIFS

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DeSIRA-LIFT (2021-2025) encompasses three service areas aligned with the three DeSIRA pillars: Service Area 1 supports country-based DeSIRA projects to prove and enhance their impacts on climate-oriented innovation systems, contributing to more sustainable food system transitions. Service Area 2 supports the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) ex-pillar IV organisations in their roles related to agricultural innovation systems. Service Area 3 provides support to policy makers on themes related to agricultural research for development and innovation policies and programming. This leaflet has been prepared as part of the DeSIRA-LIFT Community of Action and Reflection, established by Service Area 1, under the leadership of Aurélie Toillier (Agrinatura/CIRAD) and Margarida Lima de Faria (Agrinatura/ISA, University of Lisbon), and managed by Renaud Guillonnet (Agrinatura). The purpose of the Community of Action and Reflection was to share and learn from challenges and practices in managing impacts in R&I projects.

This leaflet forms part of a collection of knowledge products, building on the combined activities of the DeSIRA-LIFT Service Area 1 team, which has been providing support to the 70 DeSIRA projects within DeSIRA pillar 1 across various contexts. These knowledge products were developed in close interaction with, and with input from, the DeSIRA project teams. In addition to the authors and contributors, we extend our thanks to the many individuals from DeSIRA who openly shared their lessons learned and reflections.

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