

Proposal Evaluation Form



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Evaluation Summary Report - Research and innovation actions

Call: HORIZON-CL6-2026-02

Type of action: HORIZON-RIA

Proposal number: 101341857

Proposal acronym: MARIPOSA

Duration (months): 48

Proposal title: Multi-Actor Research and Innovation to improve Plant health, Overcome pesticide reliance and reduce losses in African agri-food systems

Activity: HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-13

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total eligible costs	%	Grant Requested	%
1	CENTRE DE COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE EN RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE POUR LEDEVELOPPEMENT - C.I.R.A.D. EPIC	FR	1,400,071.88	23.33%	1,400,071.88	23.33%
2	THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF INSECT PHYSIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY	KE	299,591.63	4.99%	299,591.63	4.99%
3	INRAE	FR	320,480.25	5.34%	320,480.25	5.34%
4	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE	NG	280,104.13	4.67%	280,104.13	4.67%
5	FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT FUR BIOLOGISCHEN LANDBAU STIFTUNG	CH	299,550	4.99%	299,550	4.99%
6	AGRONOMES ET VETERINAIRES SANS FRONTIERES	FR	389,900.63	6.50%	389,900.63	6.50%
7	JUSTUS-LIEBIG-UNIVERSITAET GIESSEN	DE	339,487.5	5.66%	339,487.5	5.66%
8	AFRICAN UNION	ET	40,000	0.67%	40,000	0.67%
9	JULIUS-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITAT WURZBURG	DE	88,525	1.48%	88,525	1.48%
10	INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE EN INFORMATIQUE ET AUTOMATIQUE	FR	179,387.5	2.99%	179,387.5	2.99%
11	SVERIGES LANTBRUKSUNIVERSITET	SE	139,688.75	2.33%	139,688.75	2.33%
12	Q-PLAN INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS PC	EL	450,554.5	7.51%	450,554.5	7.51%
13	INSTITUT SENEGALAIS DE RECHERCHES AGRICOLES	SN	284,952	4.75%	284,952	4.75%
14	Direction Zone Niayes/ANCAR	SN	120,267	2.00%	120,267	2.00%
15	Centre National de Recherche Agronomique	CI	285,150	4.75%	285,150	4.75%
16	Agence Nationale d'Appui au Developpement Rural	CI	119,970.13	2.00%	119,970.13	2.00%
17	Association pour la promotion des innovations agroécologiques	CI	31,000	0.52%	31,000	0.52%
18	Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin	BJ	225,069.13	3.75%	225,069.13	3.75%
19	Institut de Recherche sur le Coton	BJ	129,562.5	2.16%	129,562.5	2.16%
20	Fédération Nationale des Organisations de Maraichers du Bénin (FéNOMa-Bénin)	BJ	70,812.5	1.18%	70,812.5	1.18%
21	Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)	TZ	285,076	4.75%	285,076	4.75%
22	SHIWAKUTA	TZ	121,176	2.02%	121,176	2.02%

23	E-TUMBA	FR	99,565.25	1.66%	99,565.25	1.66%
Total:			5,999,942.28		5,999,942.28	

Abstract:

MARIPOSA accelerates the transition to agroecology in Africa through an integrated, multi-actor approach linking science, farming practice and policy. It targets two ecologically interconnected systems: smallholder rainfed cotton-cereal-legume systems and irrigated/peri-urban fruit and vegetable systems, which share key polyphagous pests driving intensive insecticide use and cross-crop losses.

Eight multi-actor Living Labs in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Tanzania act as co-innovation platforms linking plots, farms, landscapes and value chains. Through participatory diagnosis and iterative co-design, stakeholders co-develop context-specific agroecological crop protection systems.

MARIPOSA generates new knowledge on pest dynamics and dispersal by combining field monitoring, remote sensing, population genomics and spatially-explicit modelling. These data underpin an AI-enabled Decision Support System integrating adaptive economic thresholds and early warning to support anticipatory pest management. In parallel, the project develops a portfolio of complementary biocontrol solutions, including habitat management, pest-tolerant varieties, semiochemical tools, and microbial and plant-derived biopesticides.

Solutions are validated along a lab-to-farm continuum and assessed through multi-criteria evaluation integrating agronomic, ecological, economic and social performance. Socio-economic and institutional analyses, combined with capacity building, value chain engagement and policy dialogue, create enabling conditions for large-scale adoption. Cotton acts as a key leverage point, concentrating pesticide use and benefiting from structured extension systems that enable rapid dissemination of innovations to food-crop systems.

By integrating pest knowledge, innovation and participatory design, MARIPOSA delivers systemic, multi-pest and scalable solutions to reduce pesticide reliance while enhancing food security, biodiversity and resilience in African agri-food systems.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 14.50 (Threshold: 10)

Criterion 1: Excellence

Score: 4.50 (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- **Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art.**

- **Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.**

The objectives of the proposal are pertinent to the topic. All mandatory requirements listed in the Scope are adequately covered.

The objectives are well formulated and presented in a logical and clear manner. They are measurable with well-defined KPIs and verifiable. However, the information about whether all objectives are achievable within the project's duration is not sufficiently clear. This is a minor shortcoming.

The proposed work is ambitious and clearly goes beyond the current state-of-the-art, of which the applicants demonstrate very good awareness. The proposal convincingly describes how its innovative solutions will advance current practices.

The proposal presents a methodology that is sufficiently clear, with justified concepts and models underpinning the work in a logical narrative. Its assumptions are realistic and grounded in recent literature. However, the common criteria for comparing living lab results are not sufficiently discussed. This is a minor shortcoming.

The proposal's integration of diverse disciplines is strong. The interdisciplinary approach is well described and convincing. The proposal identifies relevant international cooperation activities and establishes a clear and credible link to the project.

The proposal integrates sex and gender analysis into the project's methodology effectively. Data collection and analysis are well-designed to take strongly into account both sex and gender. A gender action plan is foreseen and gender-sensitive surveys and indicators are included in the research design, making gender relevant to data collection and analysis.

The proposal incorporates open science practices across the research methodology in a manner that is appropriate and fully relevant.

The proposal demonstrates a good Multi-Actor Approach. It ensures a good involvement of various actors, particularly end-users of project results such as farmers, advisors and policymakers, throughout the project's duration. Co-creation is operational and contributes effectively to the foreseen activities.

Criterion 2: Impact

Score: 5.00 (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme.

- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

The proposal is expected to contribute credibly to the expected outcomes listed in the topic. For each expected outcome, a clear and well-reasoned pathway is provided, showing how the project outcomes will be achieved.

The proposal contributes exceptionally to wider impacts of the Destination, including sustainable food systems, reduced chemical pressure, and biodiversity-based pest management. The Africa-focused implementation is relevant to the AU-EU partnership and to policy learning on sustainable plant health management.

The proposal identifies relevant barriers that may affect how the project contributes to the expected outcomes and impacts, including regulatory constraints and market uptake challenges. Appropriate and feasible mitigation measures are proposed, but this is not sufficiently documented in connection with social and political barriers. This is a minor shortcoming.

The proposal presents CDE measures in an excellent and detailed manner. The measures foreseen are convincingly described, and the same is true about allocation of responsibility, monitoring, and assessment of effectiveness.

The proposal identifies exceptionally all relevant target groups for the CDE measures.

The proposal presents a detailed and coherent IP management strategy. Relevant protection measures are clearly described and appropriately timed to balance publication and protection of results.

Criterion 3: Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Score: **5.00** (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.

- Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

The work plan is very well-structured and logically organized. Work packages are fully proportionate to the project's scale and complexity and described with credible reference to the tasks to be executed. The proposal contains relevant quantified indicators and clearly assigned responsibilities. Deliverables and milestones are very well defined and fully suitable for effective project monitoring. This is excellent.

The information provided about resources, both human and financial, allocated to the different WPs clearly indicates that they are fully in line with their objectives and deliverables.

The proposal reports detailed cost estimations and provides justifications that are relevant and realistic.

Budget recommendation:

In comparison with personnel costs previously accepted in the R&I programme, personnel costs of partners BE4, BE15, and BE17 are very high, also when considering inflation. The proposal does not sufficiently justify why these rates are needed to implement the action. Therefore, it is recommended that the personnel costs for both BE4 and BE17 are reduced by 20% each and for BE15 by 30%.

The proposal describes a risk management plan and includes reference to risk identification and mitigation measures. However, not all relevant risks are properly identified, including detection of alien pests. Furthermore, the allocation of responsibility of the foreseen mitigation measures is not in all cases clearly discussed. This is a minor shortcoming.

All relevant disciplinary and interdisciplinary expertise is represented, including open science and gender.

The consortium members demonstrate strong complementarity, bringing together a diverse set of skills and expertise covering all relevant stages of the value chain.

All participants are very clearly assigned to valid roles, and they have the resources required to fulfil their tasks.

The partners have access to the critical infrastructure required for the project. Facilities and platforms are well described and fully relevant.

Scope of the application

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

Exceptional funding

A third country participant/international organisation not listed in [the General Annex to the Main Work Programme](#) may exceptionally receive funding if their participation is essential for carrying out the project (for instance due to outstanding expertise, access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, possibility to involve key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.). (For more information, see the [HE programme guide](#))

Please list the concerned applicants and requested grant amount and explain the reasons why.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

Based on the information provided, the following participants should NOT receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

Status: No

If YES, please state whether the use of hESC is, or is not, in your opinion, necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposal and the reasons why. Alternatively, please state if it cannot be assessed whether the use of hESC is necessary or not, because of a lack of information.

Not provided

Use of human embryos

Status: No

If YES, please explain how the human embryos will be used in the project.

Not provided

Activities excluded from funding

Status: No

If YES, please explain.

Not provided

Exclusive focus on civil applications

Status: Yes

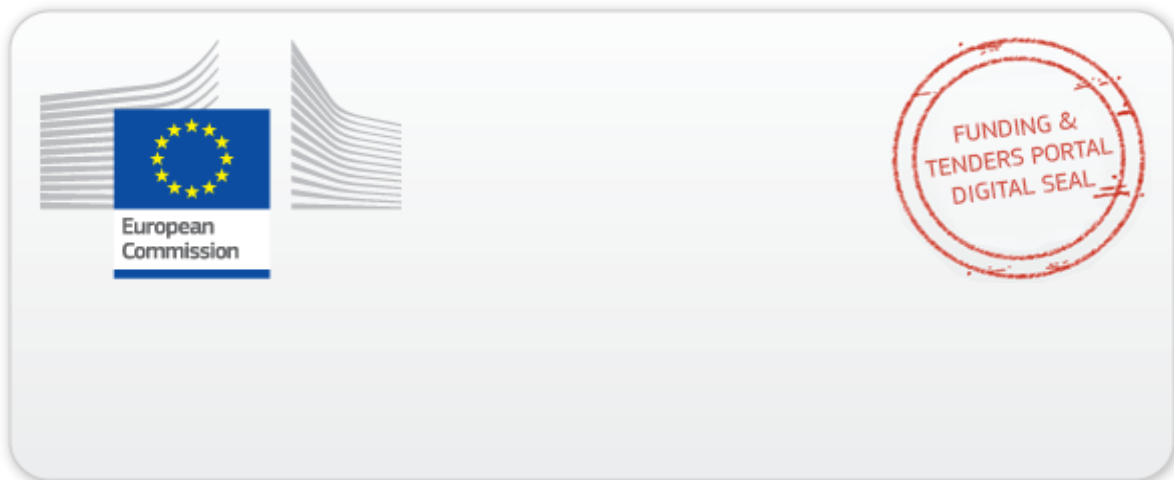
If NO, please explain.

Not provided

Overall comments

Please provide any overall comments:

Not provided



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