**African Union Research Grants Open Call for Proposals -2016**

In 2016, the Commission received 17.5 million Euros under the EU Panaf programme to lunch Calls under phase II of the African Union Research grant programme on the theme: Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture. The 2016 Open Call for Proposals which follows the 2011 and 2012 calls was launched on the 18th of May, 2016 with a deadline for submission of application set on the 31st of August, 2016.

A couple of activities were carried out to enhance visibility of the call, for example, the programme management team under took visits to 5 countries across the region to enable prospective applicants opportunity for face to face enquiries on how to apply, the call was published in 5 popular African journals, websites of 22 partner institutions, sent over 2000 emails to professionals, published in the social media and distributed call documents to embassies of the AU member states for onward dissemination to their relevant ministries. Subsequent to the success of the publicity, a total of 265 Applications from 31 African Countries and 8 European Countries were received and assessment process of these proposals begun with recruitment of the assessment team supported by inter departmental members of the evaluation committee. With the completion of the assessments, it is expected that grants ranging from 500,000 to 1000,000 USD will be awarded to each successful applicant by December 2016.

This call is a platform for the implementation of the Africa’s Science Technology and Innovation Strategy-2024 which addresses the aspirations identified under Agenda 2063 andPriority 3 on Human development of the EU-Africa partnership. In addition to the implementation of the 2016 call, financial installment payments and review of final technical reports continued for previous projects of the first phase calls of 2011 and 2012, with 6 out of the 20 projects having rounded up their research activities before end of 2016. A compendium of these reports is in view once all final reports from all 20 institutions are submitted to the Commission.

**EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation**

The third meeting of the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 4-5 April 2016. The meeting gathered senior officials from Research and Innovation Ministries from 34 African Union and 13 European Union member states as well as representatives from the Regional Economic Communities, the UN and other partners’ institutions. During the meeting, the HLPD adopted the Roadmap towards a Research and Innovation Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). This Roadmap outlines the basis for a joint research agenda as well as short-to-medium and long-term actions towards implementation. In the margins of this meeting the Bureau of the Africa-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), in collaboration with a group of Africa-EU STI projects and initiatives, also convened a stakeholder forum on 5 and 6 April 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the implementation of the Africa-EU Research and Innovation (R&I) Roadmap on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture. The stakeholder s meeting was attended by more than 100 representatives drawn from relevant sectors including the public sector, civil society and business representation from Africa and Europe. A key milestones achieved in this meeting was the creation of a platform for key actors to actively participate in and discuss tangible mechanisms for implementing novel measures that addresses societal grand challenge of mutual interest right across national and continental boundaries. More also, through the Forum, the formal bi-regional R&I partnership interacted with FNSSA industry representatives and R&D funders on pragmatic steps in towards the short, medium and long-term implementation of the Roadmap. Thee Forum recommended the establishment of a Steering Committee to support the implementation of the Research and Innovation Partnership on FNSSA. Hence the Bureau initiated the process towards establishing a Steering Committee. This committee will provide strategic support and oversight to the HLPD and its Bureau in the **implementation**, **monitoring**, **evaluation**, and **future planning** of the R&I Partnership on FNSSA.