



Strategic Plan for the PIPs

Deliverable 7.1

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List of Abbreviations

CSA	Climate Smart Advisor
NC	National Coordinator
CoDIE	Co-Design Innovation Experiment
CoP	Community of Practice
PDF	Pilot Demonstration Farm
WP	Work Package
PIP	Projects, Initiatives and Policymakers
AKIS	Agricultural Knowledge Innovation System
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1 Abstract

This deliverable aims to provide an overview of CSA's plan to connect with external members to the consortium along the project's lifetime, while focusing on the four target groups identified (EU Projects, Initiatives, Policymakers and EU-level organizations).

In this Deliverable, we first explain in more detail what we understand as PIPs, and what this entails in the context of CSA, including the work that has been done in constructing a PIP inventory. The document then proceeds with outlining 1) key goals and objectives, shaping the cooperation with the PIPs, 2) an overview of planned activities for each of the key target groups, including guidelines on the involvement of project partners, to facilitate the cooperation and exchange between CSA and the external network of PIPs, and 3) an overview of procedures for monitoring the CSA-PIP activities.

Therefore, although this Work Package (WP) depends highly on other members of the consortium, this deliverable is aimed at describing the **internal strategy of the Work Package**, while the connections to the consortium will be made through meetings and direct contact.

2 Introduction

In ClimateSmartAdvisors, advisors are recognised as being in a key position in developing and sharing climate smart (CS) innovations and good practices between peers and with farmers. ClimateSmartAdvisors works on improving the opportunities, knowledge, and skills of agricultural advisors to support farmers in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions across Europe. The project aims to boost the role of agricultural advisors and advisory service providers (ASP) by strengthening their capacity in providing targeted advice on climate mitigation and adaptation approaches, and by sharing solutions for impactful advisory methods. By boosting the role of the EU agricultural advisory community, the project aims to contribute to an acceleration of the adoption of climate smart farming (CSF) practices by the wider farming community within and across EU Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKISs).

ClimateSmartAdvisors WP7 aims to increase and develop cooperation beyond the project's network, by linking ClimateSmartAdvisors to other projects, flagship initiatives and policymakers (addressed as PIPs in the document). The objective of WP7 is to build a network of PIPs at European level to i) create project visibility and cooperation, ii) integrate research and knowledge from other projects, iii) produce common policy and operational recommendations, and iv) develop a sustainability strategy for the whole CSA network.

As a first task in WP7, Task 7.1 has the aim to develop a strategic plan to support the cooperation with the aforementioned PIPs. Deliverable 7.1 outlines this strategic pathway, which is designed as an adaptive six-year plan. In this Deliverable, we first explain in more detail what we understand as PIPs, and what this entails in the context of CSA, including the work that has been done in constructing a PIP inventory. The document then proceeds with outlining 1) key goals and objectives, shaping the cooperation with the PIPs, 2) an overview of planned activities for each of the key target groups, including guidelines for partners, to facilitate the cooperation and exchange between CSA and the external network of PIPs, and 3) an overview of procedures for monitoring the CSA-PIP activities.

3 Overview of PIPs

Collaborating beyond the CSA consortium (particularly with PIPs and EU-level organizations) is considered to have added value if it **contributes to CSA's development** (in the short term) or it contributes to the **upscale of Climate Smart Farming at EU level and/or to advisors' capacity development** (on the long term).

The PIPs to which we refer can be divided into four key target groups: **EU projects & flagship initiatives, policymakers, EU-level (advisory) organizations** and the **CSA sister projects**. WP7 will tailor the approach to each of these groups, establishing distinct base-line strategies for collaboration for each key target group.

3.1 EU Projects and Flagship Initiatives

EU projects are collaborative projects funded by the European Union, aimed at addressing specific challenges, fostering cooperation, and achieving common objectives among EU member states and, in some cases, associated countries. EU projects facilitate and promote EU-level knowledge exchange and often develop solutions that benefit participating countries and the broader EU community. The outcomes of such projects may lead to the development of new technologies, products, or policies with the potential to enhance both society and the economy.

Collaboration with projects will vary based on the stage of the projects:

1. **Past Projects:** Synergies with past projects will occur indirectly and through a one-way process. This involves integrating knowledge and results from past projects and collaborating with involved partners to gather insights and results relevant for ClimateSmartAdvisors.
2. **On-going and Future Projects:** Collaboration with on-going and future projects will be made directly and will involve a two-way approach for exchanging knowledge and results. WP7 can organize joint activities and events with other projects to foster collaboration. The added value lies in creating synergies and achieving a greater impact within the EU AKIS community.

Flagship initiatives are high-impact strategic programs or projects, often driven by governments, organizations, or institutions, aimed at addressing/achieving specific challenges or goals. These initiatives serve as focal points for concentrated efforts, typically involving substantial resources, expertise, and collaboration to drive innovation, research, and policy actions in critical areas, such as climate change. Flagship initiatives should have a specific aim/target group and have a broader scope than an EU project. They typically encompass broader topics, allowing for the exchange of insights and sharing of experiences and results.

The aim of synergizing with **projects and flagship initiatives** is to foster cooperation and accelerate the exchange of knowledge among various actors through facilitated discussions, organized workshops, and other activities outlined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**

3.2 Policymakers

Policymakers are individuals or entities responsible for formulating, implementing, and influencing government policies. Operating at various levels of government, from local and regional authorities to national and international institutions, policymakers play a crucial role in making decisions that

shape public policy. These decisions can impact various aspects of society, including economics, education, healthcare, environmental regulations, and more.

The purpose of collaborating with **policymakers** is to shorten the gap between policymakers and the advisory community, potentially contributing to the design and promotion of new policy incentives aimed at upscaling Climate Smart Farming.

Collaboration with European policymakers within ClimateSmartAdvisors will primarily focus on the three main European institutions: the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the European Council.

3.2.1 European Commission

Specifically targeting the European Commission, collaboration efforts will concentrate on five Directorates-General considered relevant to the CSA project:

- DG AGRI | Directorate-General for Agricultural and Rural Development
- DG CLIMA | Directorate-General for Climate Action
- DG ENVI | Directorate-General for Environment
- DG ENERGY | Directorate-General for Energy
- DG RTD | Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

3.2.2 European Parliament

The EU Parliament oversees agricultural, environmental, and climate change-related issues primarily through two main committees: the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and the Committee on Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety (ENVI). These committees have jurisdiction over relevant policy areas and were thus identified at the initial stage of collaboration.

3.2.3 European Council

Collaboration with the EU Council targets national representatives through the permanent representations of the various EU countries. The focus lies on attachés, counsellors, and diplomats who are part of the relevant working parties, which hold significant importance for ClimateSmartAdvisors.

These working parties include those that prepare the Agriculture and Fisheries Council and the Environment Council:

- Working Party on Agricultural Products
- Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN)
- Working Party on Food and Food Systems
- Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture
- Working Party on Horizontal Agriculture Questions
- Working Party on International Food and Agricultural Questions
- Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions
- Working Party on the Environment
- Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
- European Research Area and Innovation (ERAC)

3.3 EU-level organizations

These are relevant EU-level entities or institutions whose focus is on the advisory community. In total, 4 institutions were identified, due to their strong link to the advisory community or due to their objectives/focus regarding the agricultural sector in general:

1. European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services.
2. IALB – International Academy for Rural Advisory.
3. Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services.
4. Southern Eastern Europe Advisory Service Network (SEASN).

One of the aims of collaborating with **EU level advisory organizations** is to shorten the gap between the advisory community and EU Projects, flagship initiatives or other entities - particularly political institutions/organizations. Through members of these organizations, mainly due to their strong network and influence, CSA will be able to expand the reach of project outcomes and build stronger links in the advisory community. Additionally, these organizations regularly connect to EU projects and flagship initiatives, facilitating the project's connection to these two groups.

An additional organization considered for this inventory is the EU CAP Network since, similarly to the organizations above, can expand the scope of CSA's results and outcomes.

3.4 CSA's sister projects

ClimateSmartAdvisors has two sister projects, of which one is currently still in the proposal phase. These three climate-smart projects were designed considering that solutions to complex challenges like climate change must be addressed by a multi-actor group. Therefore, while ClimateSmartAdvisors focuses on the role of advisors and empowering their capacity to provide targeted advice, Climate Farm Demo¹ focuses on adapting farming systems and supporting farmers into the transition to Climate Smart Farming. The third sister project will target research stations and their role within the AKIS in the upscaling of Climate Smart Farming.

The focus for now will be on the cooperation between ClimateSmartAdvisors and Climate Farm Demo², since they are currently (in June 2024) the two active projects. Cooperation with the 3rd sister project will be considered once it is granted.

¹ Climate Farm Demo aims to accelerate the adoption of Climate Smart Farming (CSF) practices and solutions by farmers and all CS-AKIS actors with a view of adapting agricultural production systems to climate change and of achieving a carbon neutral agricultural sector by 2050. To reach this objective, the project adopts a multi-actor approach by connecting 1500 Pilot Demo Farmers and their Climate Farm Advisors (CFAs) at European and national levels to increase knowledge exchange & cross-fertilisation in their respective AKIS. The CFA's will support the PDF's in implementing Adaptation and Mitigation Plans and will assess & monitor their environmental performance thanks to harmonized methodologies & tools. Technical and social innovations covering a broad range of thematic areas will be demonstrated to the wider farming community across six annual demo-campaigns (4500 demo-events) supporting interactive and peer to peer learning.

Since both projects operate at national level, there is a clear opportunity to collaborate between national coordinators, climate farm advisors and pilot demo farmers and climate smart advisors, and between Living Labs and Co-Design Innovation Experiments. Collaborations such as joint national annual meetings, inviting the other project to a Community of Practice Meeting, or to a demonstration event, among others, are examples of collaboration between projects at the national level.

3.5 PIPs Inventory

In support of the WP7 activities, a first important step was to develop an inventory of EU-level PIPs potentially relevant for CSA's work (Milestone 51). This inventory built on the inventory already made for Climate Farm Demo but adding relevant PIPs specifically for ClimateSmartAdvisors. Therefore, the general structure of the inventory, as well as the information in it, are similar, but the CSA PIP inventory has a specific focus on PIPs in connection to advisory organisations, services and methods, peer-to-peer learning and other knowledge exchange processes that might be relevant for CSA.

The PIP inventory is a **living document**, meaning it will regularly be updated to ensure it aligns with ClimateSmartAdvisors' main topics, challenges and subjects. Throughout the lifetime of both projects, CFD and CSA aim to maintain a shared PIPs database, using Excel. The PIP coordinators assume responsibility for sourcing and inputting the required data, outlined in Table 1, for their respective PIPs, into the database.

To ensure the project effectively engages with relevant PIPs over time, WP7 aims to assess each PIP's relevance to every Work Package and Thematic Area within the project. This assessment will consider factors such as the stage of development and geographical scope of each PIP. Additionally, WP7 will identify key areas of focus and opportunities for collaboration, according to the project's development.

Table 1: PIP's database fields.

CFD & CSA DATABASE FIELDS		
Projects	Flagship Initiatives	Policymakers
Name*	Name*	Name*
Full name*	Full name*	Organization*
Summary	Summary	Department/Committee*
Keywords	Keywords	Unit*
Website*	Website*	Political group*
Stage (Start and End Date) *	Stage (Start and End Date) *	Role*
Geography-level*	Geography-level*	Description of role/work*
Country (if applicable)	Country (if applicable) *	Geography-level*
Relevance to thematic areas*	Relevance to thematic areas*	Relevance to thematic areas*
Relevance to CFD's Work Packages*	Relevance to CFD's Work Packages*	Relevance to CFD's Work Packages*
Relevance to CSA's Work Packages*	Relevance to CSA's Work Packages*	Relevance to CSA's Work Packages*
Agricultural sectors	Agricultural sectors	Agricultural sectors
Relevant methodologies/knowledge transfer dynamics	Relevant methodologies/knowledge transfer dynamics	Relevant methodologies/knowledge transfer dynamics
Lead Partner	Lead Partner	Relevant background/expertise
Initiatives/Programme	Funder	Contact information (name)
Funder	Contact information (name)	Contact information (email)
Contact information (name)	Contact information (email)	Biography (if available)
Contact information (email)	Synergy level	Synergy level
Synergy level	Relevant attachments/ documents/ links/ synergy opportunities	Relevant attachments/ documents/ links/ synergy opportunities
Relevant attachments/ documents/ links/ synergy opportunities		

The database fields marked with an asterisk (*) were established as a priority to be filled out, since they are used to assess the balance of the identified PIPs. Therefore, while not all fields are completed since it involves extensive desk work, WP7 members will prioritize the fields with an asterisk. The rest of the database will be updated as the synergies develop.

3.5.1 Mapping of relevant PIPs

The first step was assessing the relevance of the PIPs identified by Climate Farm Demo for ClimateSmartAdvisors and their relevance for the advisory community. In a second step, the WP7 core team searched for additional PIPs that might be relevant for ClimateSmartAdvisors, having a dedicated focus to advisory services and knowledge transfer methodologies. More specifically, CONSULAI searched for relevant PIPs transversally and focused on assessing the relevance of the identified PIPs for ClimateSmartAdvisors. Foodscale Hub, coordinator of EU Projects, focused on searching for Projects in the CORDIS database, but also within their own organization/peers. IDELE, coordinator of flagship initiatives, focused on searching for relevant EU initiatives within the EU Commission. Finally, EUFRAS, coordinator of EU level policy makers, focused on searching for relevant contacts within the EU Commission, the EU Council and the EU Parliament.

The collaborative effort resulted in the identification of a total of **103 Projects, 16 Initiatives, 121 policymakers and 5 EU-level organizations within the EU landscape.**

4 Objectives of the cooperation with PIPs

The objective of cooperating with the PIPs is not to organise the activities, but **to have influential and impactful activities**, whether on the short term or on the long term. However, for these cooperations and exchanges to have an actual impact, all involved parties must have an active involvement in planning, executing and following up.

The primary focus of all interactions and cooperations with PIPs should be to **emphasize the added value, opportunities, and potential synergies for both parties**. These opportunities arise through:

- Integrating new perspectives, approaches, and knowledge from other PIPs.
- Increase the awareness of the addressed issues/tasks and their outcomes to the external community.
- Collaborating in the development of similar tasks, increasing synergies and impact.
- Minimizing the costs associated with organizing joint activities and events, increasing the possibility of overachieving the expected outcomes.

In the interaction with the PIPs, CSA will also **prioritize "quality over quantity"** across various aspects: number of PIPs contacted, types of activities planned and organised, and the engagement of time-strapped actors. Time constraints are the primary challenge affecting all target groups. Whether due to an overwhelming workload or the time demands of networking activities, stakeholders often struggle to find time for active participation. We believe that by putting a clear focus on quality, we limit the risk of overburdening our target groups. Additionally, whenever feasible, WP7 will **capitalize on existing events** to disseminate CSA's outputs and facilitate brief discussions, Q&A sessions, etc.

5 Key considerations for PIP interaction

When suggesting cooperation at the EU level, WP7 will focus on assessing the added value of synergies and the relevance of the projects to each PIP. The initial contact may be done following a request from a specific PIP (demand-based approach), or from WP7 actively seeking opportunities for connecting to PIPs (supply-based approach).

Synergies are not defined in detail at this stage because we do not want to impose limitations and we aim to give complete flexibility to those developing the interactions. In this sense, the objective is to build along the way, exchange experiences between everyone involved and continuously improve the interaction process.

5.1 Interaction with Projects and Flagship Initiatives

The interaction with projects and flagships Initiatives should include, as a starting point, the following:

5. Assess the objectives, outcomes, and impacts of the Project or Flagship Initiative, comparing them with those of CSA.
6. Explore common or complementary work and assess potential collaboration opportunities among the involved.
7. Analyse the ongoing efforts of the Work Packages and CSA networks - such as Communities of Practice and thematic areas for comparison.

The progress and timeline of each Project and Flagship Initiative will be considered, since the added value of collaboration will differ depending on their stage of development - if at a later stage, they might have results and outputs to share, while others on their initial phase might offer the opportunity of developing collaborative work.

For example, when comparing ClimateSmartAdvisors and another EU Project - ATTRACTISS, four main topics overlap between the two EU projects:

FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

- Both projects are centered around enhancing innovation within the agricultural sector. ATTRACTISS aims at capturing and supporting grassroot innovative ideas from farmers to foster sustainable agriculture and forestry, while CSA focuses on promoting climate-smart farming practices.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- Both projects prioritize capacity development within the agricultural advisory community. ATTRACTISS aims to train and empower innovation support service providers (ISS) and all AKIS actors through capacity building training activities, while CSA focuses on training advisors to deliver targeted climate-smart advice and reinforcing national AKIS actors to support CS advisory services.

MULTI-ACTOR ENGAGEMENT

Both projects recognize the importance of engaging various actors within the agricultural knowledge and innovation system (AKIS). ATTRACTISS emphasizes dynamic multi-actor engagement involving the ISS community and AKIS actors, while CSA aims to strengthen the role of advisors in multi-actor innovation projects.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Both projects facilitate knowledge exchange among stakeholders. ATTRACTISS seeks to widen its EU-wide network and cross-fertilize with a diversity of innovation actors via their network platform, network events and cross-visits, while CSA establishes an EU-wide network of advisory Communities of Practice (CoPs). Both projects promote peer learning and knowledge exchange among advisors and other AKIS actors.

This analysis was made by members of both projects with the aim of organizing a joint event in 2024 and was used as a baseline to showcase and discuss topics that were considered relevant for both projects.

Interaction with EU-level organizations will be developed similarly to the interaction with Projects and Flagship Initiatives. By linking with these organizations, acknowledging their current goals and strategies, we will be able to connect CSA with EUFRAS, IALB, SEASN and GFRAS, maximizing the impact of WP7 and the project.

5.2 Interaction with Policymakers

Acquiring insights into the subjects and regulations relevant to the policymaker in question

This varies among European Institutions. For MEPs, for example, understanding their involvement in specific committees and their respective responsibilities within them proves to be valuable.

Introducing ClimateSmartAdvisors: specific objectives and expected outcomes

Initially, as project outcomes are not available yet, this explanation will be confined to the parameters outlined in the grant agreement and insights gleaned from consortium meetings. Maintaining ongoing communication with other work packages will be crucial, since it allows WP7 members to know what is available and relevant to disseminate, or what topics should be brought to these events.

Assess policymakers' needs (and the added value of CSA in their work)

Depending on the policies under development, scientific insights gained from field-level observations or comprehensive information in the areas addressed by CSA could prove highly relevant. Additionally, if necessary, we can facilitate connections between policymakers and advisors from the project. While these scenarios are speculative, precise needs can only be determined through dialogue along the project.

Maintain communication

Communicating closely with policymakers is most often not feasible as some of them have other commitments that restrict their involvement with this Horizon project. However, for those with whom a strong synergy is clear, it is crucial to maintain the connection. This involves keeping in contact, convincing them to subscribe to project newsletters, offering frequent updates, and inviting them to relevant events.

6 Planning & implementing cooperation and exchange with PIPs

As described in the introduction, this Strategic Plan aims to draft a six-year pathway outlining activities and guidelines for the development of collaboration between CSA and the external network of PIPs. The Strategic Plan is **adaptive**, meaning that it will evolve, following the project's development, emerging opportunities and identified needs, to ensure that it remains relevant, and in line with on-going work, thereby maximizing its effectiveness in fostering synergies and achieving project goals. This means that what is described in this section will be subject to change over the course of the project.

6.1 Responsibilities: who should do what?

Error! Reference source not found. establishes a framework of CSA connections beyond its own network, as facilitated by WP7. The main contributors within CSA are expected to be the Climate Smart Coaches (CSCs) and Communities of Practice (CoPs), Thematic Leaders (TLs), National Coordinators (NCs), Work Package Leaders (WPLs) and Task Leaders.

6.1.1 Role of WP7 Partners

WP7 Partners will organize and coordinate activities between CSA and external PIPs – whether in project meetings, organized workshops, webinars, or other events – at EU level. Additionally, WP7 members, particularly ReFrameFood as task leader of T7.2, are responsible for monitoring collaborations at project level, including the ones which were not initiated by WP7. There is also a specific PIP coordinator for each of the main target groups: ReFrameFood is the coordinator of activities or events with EU Projects, IDELE will coordinate the interaction with Flagship Initiatives, EUFRAS is the coordinator of events and activities with policymakers, and CONSULAI is the coordinator for EU-level organizations.

6.1.2 Role of ClimateSmartAdvisors' partners

Identification of past, current or future collaboration opportunities

Collaboration with external members to the consortium is a regular and natural process, but WP7 members might not always be aware of every opportunity. To support WP7, partners are required to:

- Report on on-going collaborations that require the integration of knowledge from other projects/initiatives or collaborative work between CSA and other PIPs (e.g. Joint knowledge repository of CFD, CSA and ClieNFarms).
- Inform WP7 of past, current or future opportunities to participate in external events to disseminate CSA, to present project outputs and results, or to plan a joint workshop. A post-activity report may also be required.

To facilitate this process, RFF will send an email every 6 months to partners for their reporting duties.

Contribution to the organization and planning of events and activities.

Partners from CSA consortium, namely Work Package Leaders and Task Leaders, Thematic Leaders, National Coordinators and Communities of Practice, will be responsible for 1) identifying their needs, knowledge gaps, barriers in an initial stage and 2) disseminating outputs, materials and results at a later stage. Additionally, when organizing events under CSA, partners are welcomed (and advised) to

invite external PIPs to actively participate (if found relevant) – and are expected to report this collaboration to WP7. By receiving this input, WP7 can effectively tailor the collaboration opportunities according to CSA’s needs or dissemination opportunities, increasing its added value towards the Project.

In specific activities, partners with a relevant connection to the topic in question may be involved in planning, executing and evaluating, if found relevant. For example, when presenting an outcome of a specific Work Package, concerned members will be either consulted or involved in the activity/event itself. This applies to all partners but particularly to Work Package Leaders/ Task Leaders and Thematic Leaders.

Contribution to follow-up and monitoring

As previously mentioned, if members of the consortium participate in these events, they are responsible to report it to WP7, along with the added value and potential follow up actions. For example, when organizing CoPs or an online Thematic Exchange, CSCs or TLs may invite external actors to exchange knowledge, learn from their experience or to receive a training session. If these collaborations happen with partners from other EU projects, Flagship Initiatives or Policymakers, the added value should be reported to WP7.

6.1.3 Close collaboration with Work Packages 1, 3, 6 and 8

Work Package 7 will aim to work closely and collaborate with the following Work Packages:

- **Work Package 1 – Networking CSA to foster peer learning and knowledge exchange**

Due to WP1’s role of establishing and engaging the network of advisors and thematic leaders in the Project, its connection to other projects’ networks is most likely an added value (particularly with the network of farmers and advisors in the ClimateFarmDemo project). Therefore, WP7 will aim to collaborate closely with WP1 members to consider these connections whenever relevant.

- **Work Package 3 – Strengthening the role of advisors in CSF multi-actor innovation projects**

Multi-actor innovation projects identified in Task 3.1 will be included in the inventory of PIPs (Task 7.1). Additionally, the white spot analysis that will identify advisory gaps in Climate Smart Farming innovations, and the experimental set-ups (CoDIEs) made in WP3 can provide useful insights for EU-level discussions with other partners (under Task 3.4).

- **Work Package 6 – Reinforcing national AKIS actors to support CS advisory systems**

WP6 will be responsible for linking the project to external partners at national level, having the national CS-AKIS as their main target. Therefore, the connection between these two WPs is clear, as they can develop similar approaches while targeting national (WP6) and European level partners (WP7). The alignment between them must be clearly defined.

Additionally, under Task 6.4, Work Package 6 aims to collaborate with other AKIS-centred projects and SCAR AKIS, which falls under EU level collaboration. These interactions can have the support of WP7 and must be reported for monitoring.

- **Work Package 8 – Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication**

WP7 and WP8 will jointly develop communication and dissemination strategies that target other EU projects, initiatives and policymakers. Initially, the focus will be on increasing the project’s visibility, while towards the mid/end of the project the WPs will also aim to share success stories, case-studies,

training sessions and methodologies, the knowledge repository, etc (Task 8.2). Synergies in monitoring and reporting will also be built, to make sure there is no duplication or unnecessary extra work for CSA partners.

6.2 Core themes for cooperation and exchange

The three core themes for guiding cooperation and exchange with the PIPs are the following:

1. Capacity Development of Advisors

Presenting project results and methodologies that have enhanced the skills and competences of advisors. These events can feature training modules, success stories, and best practices from capacity-building projects. Participants can engage in hands-on workshops, role-playing activities, and networking sessions designed to improve both technical and soft skills.

- Involvement Partners: WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5, CoPs

2. Climate Smart Farming and Innovation Uptake

Knowledge exchange events addressing Climate Smart Farming and Innovation Uptake can bring together researchers, farmers, policymakers, and industry experts to discuss the latest projects results and outcomes, as well as current research and policy needs/recommendations.

These events can **showcase successful case studies and practical applications of climate-smart practices**, and participants can learn about their implementation challenges and benefits. Interactive sessions, demonstrations, and field visits can further facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

- Involvement partners: All WPs, National Coordinators, Communities of Practice, Thematic Leaders.

3. Advisors in the AKIS and in Multi-actor approaches

This includes events with the focus of sharing insights and outcomes from various projects and initiatives that emphasize collaborative frameworks. These events can be workshops and interactive sessions where advisors, researchers, farmers, and other stakeholders share their experiences and lessons learned from multi-actor projects or initiatives.

By discussing the role of advisors in bridging the gap between research and practice, participants can explore effective strategies for co-creating solutions and enhancing knowledge transfer. The events can also highlight successful multi-actor initiatives, demonstrating how collaborative efforts lead to practical and context-specific innovations in agriculture.

- Involvement partners: WP1, WP3, WP6, WP7

6.3 Types of activities

The implementation of the Strategic Plan takes part in Task 7.3. As described before, specific activities will be designed according to the target audience and the opportunities found in collaboration. Activities will either be face-to-face or online and can be divided into three main groups:

- **Online meetings/workshops/webinars** | Knowledge exchange meetings to integrate knowledge from other PIPs, for capacity building and development, to disseminate a project result, etc.

- **Participation in other PIPs events/meetings/conferences OR External entities events|** Disseminate ClimateSmartAdvisors methodologies, insights and outcomes and search for opportunities to collaborate with respective PIPs.
- **Invitation to CSA’s events (lectures, workshops, communities of practice meetings, annual meetings, etc) |** Inviting external partners from other PIPs to contribute to and learn about the project.

To increase visibility of the Project, BioSense will establish different approaches regarding **joint CDE activities**. While some Projects, like Climate Farm Demo, ClieNFarms or Modern AKIS could have a close communication and dissemination strategy to increase impact and reached audience – such as cross-posting between projects - this approach is not feasible for every PIP. BioSense, together with WP7 members, will assess which projects should CSA have a close CDE strategy with, to better increase the awareness about Project topics and events.

6.4 Planning activities

According to the number of travels per WP7 partner and an estimated number of PMs per activity, Table 2 shows the estimated number of annual activities for Work Package 7. However, this calendar might change since there might be new opportunities for collaboration.

Table 2 - Planned activities for WP7 members from 2024-2030.

Types of events	Y2 2024 - 2025	Y3 2025 - 2026	Y4 2026 - 2027	Y5 2027 - 2028	Y6 2028 - 2029	Y7 2029-20230
Online meetings and workshops	1	2	3	3	3	3
Participation in events/meetings	4	6	6	6	6	6
Invitation to CSAs events/meetings	2	3	3	3	3	3

Additionally, ongoing collaboration meetings - such as the development of joint tasks or networks that require on going work and are not summarized in one event (e.g. joint repository of Climate Farm Demo, ClimateSmartAdvisors and ClieNFarms) – will also be a target of WP7 but are not accounted for in the previous table.

6.5 Specific activities to support cooperation with CSA’s Sister Projects

Collaboration with sister projects will depend on both projects coordination, along with CONSULAI leading Work Package 7 in both Climate Farm Demo and ClimateSmartAdvisors, and the respective partner with this task in the third sister project. This collaboration aims to build strong connections between the projects, working towards advancing Climate Smart Farming across various areas: commercial farms, advisory services, and experimental stations.

The focus of this collaboration is on working together effectively and complementing the on-going work in each project, collaborating and creating synergies whenever possible.

Table 3 – Calendar for WP7 activities regarding sister projects.

	Y1 2023- 2024	Y2 2024-2025	Y3 2025-2026	Y4 2026-2027	Y5 2027-2028	Y6 2028-2029	Y7 2029-2030
Annual meetings with CFD and third sister project	-	2	2	2	2	2	2
Joint Conferences	-	-	-	1	-	1	-

The activities between CFD and CSA started in May 2023, during the Kick-off Meeting of CSA, where CFD was formally introduced to the CSA consortium. Additionally, WP7 conducted a survey at the CSA consortium through Mentimeter, seeking input on the potential areas of collaboration between CFD and CSA.

WP7, with the coordination from both CFD and CSA (and in the future, of the third sister project), will assess potential joint actions between the two projects, looking for opportunities within national and international networks (between Communities of Practice), thematic networks, and other relevant contexts.

The actual organization of joint events and activities will be developed from 2024/2025 – and forward. The projects’ coordination and WP7 members will meet regularly to plan annual synergies. Moreover, CSA and the sister projects will plan two joint conferences, which will include dedicated workshops designed to foster working connections and synergies between the projects, and to jointly disseminate projects’ insights, recommendations and outcomes to a wider audience. Additionally, if relevant, they will aim to engage with other EU projects focused on capacity development of advisors, farmers and researchers, within the overall thematic of climate-smart transition.

These events will also serve as platforms for systematically sharing climate-smart practices, outcomes, experiences, and other relevant data related to climate smart farming or other related topics. These conferences are scheduled to take place in Year 4 (2026-2027) and Year 6 (2028-2029).

6.5.1 Collaboration at national level

Collaborations between the national network of advisors, farmers and researchers will be advisable if relevant and feasible according to the projects’ timeline. Therefore, the options of joint events, inviting members from both projects to CSA internal events, creating joint communication and dissemination platforms (e.g. Teams groups or WhatsApp groups) or developing joint outputs (such as the knowledge repository), should be discussed at Work Package level. This is particularly relevant at national level since it gives national networks the opportunity to organize and prepare joint or back-to-back events, increasing knowledge exchange and exchanges between the two projects.

By having an overview of both projects, WP7, together with the coordination and WP1 members, will be able to assess the opportunities of collaboration between national networks.

7 Monitoring & Evaluation of PIP Activities

WP7 will have a database to keep track of activities and events whose objective is increasing the project's visibility, collaborating with PIPs and integrating knowledge from CSA and other parties. The goal of this database is to summarise the core information about each activity in a single document, and include a link to the report of each activity.

Table 4 - WP7's tracking database fields.

Fields	Type of data	Example
From (date)	dd/mm/yyyy	21/11/2023
To (date)	dd/mm/yyyy	23/11/2023
Type of event	Annual Meeting (Project/National level), Conference, Workshop, Webinar, Cross-PIP Meeting	Conference
Name of event	(name)	Soil Mission Week
Date of activity	dd/mm/yyyy	22/11/2023
Type of activity	Conference, Workshop, Demo event, Webinar, Lecture/Presentation, Group discussion, Training session, Cross-PIP meeting	Workshop
Title of the meeting/session/event	(name)	"Knowledge transfer to advisors"
PIPs in the organization (Group)	Project/Initiative/Policy maker	Projects and Initiative
PIPs in the organization (Name)	Project's/Initiative's/Policy maker's name	EJP Soil, INTIA, NB SOIL, EU FARMBOOK
Target PIPs	Projects, Initiatives and Policy makers	Projects
Target groups (AKIS)	Farmers, advisors, researchers, industry, other stakeholders, n/a	Advisors, researchers, industry
Geographical scope	National/European/International	European
Expected audience (number)	(number)	40
Collaboration	Joint activity/event, external conference, activity/event of CSA with external PIP, cross-PIP meeting, activity/event of external PIP, activities/events with sister projects	Joint workshop
WP7 Responsible	WP Members, Members of the consortium	CONSULAI
Report (progress)	YES/ IN PROGRESS/ NO	Yes
Report (link)	(link to document)	<i>(link)</i>
Relevant documents/outputs (agenda, materials, meeting minutes, etc.)	(link to folder)	<i>(link)</i>
Relevant pictures (photos)	(link to folder)	<i>(link)</i>

7.1 Dynamic Action Plans and Assessment Reports

Annually, in April (M12 and onwards), RFF will develop the dynamic action plan that will describe the work to be developed by WP7 in the following year – activities and events, potential PIPs to collaborate with, as well as strategies for collaboration will be described as possible. Towards the end of the project year, in March (M23 and onwards), RFF will assess WP7s progress by developing an annual assessment report. The assessment report will summarize lessons learnt in the project.

The calendar for these milestones are presented below.

Table 5 - Milestones under WP7 | Dynamic Action Plans and Assessment Reports.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Dynamic Action Plan	M12	M24	M36	M48	M60	M72	
Assessment Report		M23	M35	M47	M59	M71	M83

An assessment form will be completed after joint activities and other collaborative events have taken place. These forms will help WP7 members monitor collaborations throughout the consortium and will feed into the development of the annual Assessment Report and the Dynamic Action Plan of the following year - allowing WP7 to follow a continuous improvement strategy.

In this document, an interim assessment form and potential feedback to be collected from participants is included. The event evaluation form will be designed to get constructive and complete feedback, while not being too complex and exhaustive to fill in. An assessment form as found in Table 6 - Interim assessment form for joint activities, will serve as a basis to develop this form. The assessment form will be designed in close collaboration with WP4 (Monitoring, evaluation and learning) and validated by the project’s partners by M23.

Table 6 - Interim assessment form for joint activities

Section	Description
Executive Summary	Brief overview of the synergy event and its objectives.
	Summary of key findings and outcomes.
Introduction	Background information on the projects involved.
	Purpose and scope of the synergy event.
Methodology	Description of how the synergy event was planned and executed.
	Explanation of data collection methods and analysis techniques used.
Analysis of Synergy Event	Identification of areas of collaboration between the projects.
	Assessment of the effectiveness of the synergy event in achieving its objectives.
Outcomes and Impact	Summary of tangible outcomes resulting from the synergy event.
	Assessment of the impact on the projects involved and any stakeholders.
Lessons Learned	Reflection on what worked well and what could be improved for future synergy events.
	Key insights gained from the experience.
Recommendations	Specific recommendations for enhancing collaboration between the projects in the future.
	Suggestions for overcoming any remaining challenges.
Appendices	Additional data, feedback collected, charts, or documentation supporting the assessment.

Table 7 - Feedback collected from participants at the end of joint activities.

Overall Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent - Good - Average - Fair - Poor
Collaboration Opportunities:	Identified opportunities for collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No
Communication:	Clarity of information shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent - Good - Average - Fair - Poor
Networking	Opportunities to network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No
Event Organisation	Smoothness of event logistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent - Good - Average - Fair - Poor
Key Takeaways	Insights gained from the event:
Suggestions for Improvement	Areas where the event could improve
Additional Comments	Any other feedback or comments:

8 Expected Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

The success of collaboration between CSA and other PIPs relies on its ability to deliver valuable inputs, foster knowledge exchange, facilitate expertise sharing, and facilitate peer-to-peer discussions. Such collaboration are deemed successful if they contribute to two objectives: **fostering CSA's development** (in the short term) and **upscaling Climate Smart Farming at EU level and/or contributing to advisors' capacity development** (in the long term).



Figure 1 - Workflow for WP7's progression.

General outputs resulting from these synergies, such as shared communication and dissemination materials, collaborative activity reports tailored for specific farming or advisory communities, jointly organized activities resulting in wider impact, among others, are examples of successful outcomes of collaboration.

Measuring success and impact in WP7 is going to be its primary challenge, due to the high involvement of external partners. In many cases, collaborations will be hardly measurable through numbers. Therefore, some successful outcomes might not be quantifiable, for example in the case of knowledge exchange between EU and national networks that might persist beyond the project's conclusion and potentially contribute to the design of new projects or initiatives, whether at the national or European level. The same is true for joint policy briefs and recommendations that may end up influencing new policy design, therefore creating a high impact at national or EU-level. In many cases, it will be difficult, or impossible, to follow up on the outcomes and impact of the collaborations created in WP7.

8.1 Policy Briefs

One of the outputs of this WP will be the production of policy briefs, whose main aim is to promote the development of national and EU legislation, by offering an analysis on the current legislative landscape and suggesting enhancements based on the Project's insights. Additionally, the policy briefs may originate from CSA's findings, leading to recommendations for new legislation or other policy related topics. In developing these policy briefs, there should be a close connection to the national networks, as well as with other Work Package members.

Five policy briefs will be produced covering five broad thematic areas that are closely linked with the project's objectives: **innovation brokering, adoption of climate smart practices by farmers, Climate-Smart AKIS, Climate Smart Advisory and international collaboration**. These topics will be later specified according to the project's outcomes and to future relevant subjects. Due to the extensive duration of ClimateSmartAdvisors, it is not feasible to already define the specific topics of each policy brief, given that future legislation is unpredictable.

The policy briefs are expected to contribute to support and strengthen the implementation of the CAP and EU Climate Policy.

8.2 Sustainability strategy for the network

By analysing the impacts of the EU PIP links and work together with other partners to build on the experience of the project, WP7 will develop a sustainability strategy for the network. By linking with Task 1.5, focused on understanding the outcomes of the Communities of Practice, and with Task 4.3, whose focus is on understanding training and peer-to-peer learning impact, WP7 will have a closer insight on the advisor network post-project.

In this task, links established with the EU level organizations identified in the inventory will be essential, straight from the beginning of the project. Organizations such as EUFRAS or IALB, that connect an extensive network of advisors in conferences or annual meetings every year, will allow ClimateSmartAdvisors to disseminate project materials while developing and strengthening relationships with advisors, policymakers or other members of the CS-AKIS, including advisors.