**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. **Background**

GFAiR is a unique multi-stakeholder global forum where public, private and civil actors engage in all aspects of agri-food generation, access, transformation and use. Through their representative mechanisms, these actors come together to collectively shape the future of agriculture and realize desired SDG impacts.  With close to 1,000 members spanning 13 Constituencies, GFAiR facilitates collaboration through [Collective Actions](https://gfair.network/collectiveactions) (CAs) based on [Partnership Principles](https://gfair.network/sites/default/files/GFAR%20Partnership%20Principles_0_1.pdf) (PPs), aiming to empower Small-Scale Producers (SSPs) as key actors in pro-poor agri-food Research & Innovation (R&I) systems. By fostering inclusivity, participation and accountability, GFAiR endeavours to cultivate more efficient, resilient and equitable agri-food R&I systems, addressing key challenges such as climate change, food and nutritional security, sustainable agriculture, and poverty reduction, whilst safeguarding environmental resources.

CAs are multi-stakeholder programmes of work at local, national, regional or international level, initiated by three or more partners, focusing on SSPs, women and youth. Partners commit to generating resources together and to catalyse actions or advocacy towards shared, demand-driven development aims. These actions are fostered and supported by the GFAiR Secretariat.

Through dialogue, knowledge exchange, and innovative partnerships, GFAiR aims to break down institutional barriers, support stakeholder learning, and mobilize diverse sources of knowledge for the co-creation of context-specific, sustainable solutions. GFAiR operates as a facilitator and platform for collaboration rather than a funding organization. CAs are part of a project funded by the European Commission (DG INTPA). In this framework, a limited amount of seed-funding is available to facilitate selected CAs. In collaboration with other organizations, GFAIR, may also provide business development support including capacity strengthening and assistance with fundraising efforts.

1. **Objective of the Collective Action**

Digital Agriculture holds immense potential to revolutionize agricultural production, mitigate climate change impacts, optimize natural resource utilization, and enhance the efficiency of agri-food value chains. However, while digital solutions have demonstrated their effectiveness in advantaged and homogeneous contexts, such as large-scale agriculture and research projects, they remain largely underutilized by small-scale farmers. This gap exacerbates existing disparities, widening the rural-urban divide and reinforcing power imbalances. Moreover, the promise of sustainable production and transparent "farm-to-fork" systems hinges on the active participation of all actors in the agricultural data value chain. Without the convinced and informed involvement of small-scale farmers, these promises cannot be realized.

It is in this context that a [CA on Inclusive Digital Agriculture](https://gfair.network/content/gfar-collective-action-inclusive-digital-transformation-agriculture) was launched in 2021 in Latin America and the Caribbean, later expanded to the Asia Pacific region and Near East and North Africa.  The CA progressed in a phased manner, with each stage leveraging the participatory outcomes of the preceding one, including surveys and focus groups to assess farmer-centric needs, multi-stakeholder consultations for formulating inclusive digital transformation practices and equitable business models, and capacity development initiatives and events. A key output of this CA has been the formulation of a ‘[Call for action from small-scale farmers in Asia’](https://gfair.network/sites/default/files/Inclusive-Digital-Transformation-of-Agriculture-compressed.pdf) on this issue.

Building on the achievements of this CA thus far and recognizing the needs outlined in the call for action, GFAiR seeks to embark on the next phase required to accelerate and sustain agricultural transformation. Notably, it is seeking partners to conduct pilot experiments of co-creation, ensuring farmers’ active involvement in decision-making processes to foster more responsive digital technologies. Additionally, GFAiR aims to engage with partners to advocate for policies, regulations and standards conducive to fostering an enabling environment for digital agriculture specifically tailored to benefit small-scale farmers. Through this CA, GFAiR seeks to prioritize the perspectives and needs of small-scale farmers, ensuring that their voices are heard and respected throughout the digitalization journey.

1. **Overall scope of work**

GFAiR envisions the work of the CA to include the following stages:

* **Roadmap:** This stage involves designing the process, delineating roles and partnerships, and establishing a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) mechanism that will feed into GFAiR’s MEL system.
* **Implementation:** The planned activities will take place during this phase. Conflict resolution mechanisms and grievance procedures have been developed by UNEP, FAO and UNDP (2023)2 and should be used to address any potential disputes among partners involved, including with the GFAiR Secretariat.
* **Review and way forward:** As the activities of the CA are handed over, its participants will assess the work undertaken, evaluate the achievement of objectives and reflect on the partnership model adopted. A lesson-learning exercise will be conducted to gather insights from the CA process and formulate recommendations.

1. **Working arrangement**

A contract will be signed between GFAiR and the lead organization(s) applying. Internal arrangements will be made between the lead organization(s) and the other participants. Availability of applying organizations must be ensured for the timely delivery of milestones over the duration of the contract.

1. **Duration of the assignment**

A CA can be supported by GFAiR for a maximum timespan of two years, starting with a contract of up to 11 months. The work of the CA is expected to start as soon as the selection process is completed, and the contract is signed.