



CONCEPT NOTE¹

Title *African caucus at CG AGM: collaborating for change*

Background In every CGIAR Annual General Meeting, FARA organizes an African caucus with a specific theme in response to emerging issues in Africa which could contribute to FARA-CGIAR partnership.

This year, we've chosen the theme '*collaborating for change*', as a response to CGIAR change management process. FARA considers CGIAR as a vital stakeholder in the forums' activities and mandate.

At the same time, FARA is cognizant of the positive changes in African agricultural research for development (ARD) environment. African government agencies are responding to the call of CAADP and FAAP for a more coordinated and harmonized interventions in African agriculture. Some of which were presented in last year's African caucus in Beijing, China.

We've seen for the past few years, how agricultural science and technology are evolving. There is more emphasis on impact to rural livelihood beyond the cutting edge science through new concepts centred on rural/agricultural innovations systems. This is facilitated by the rapidly spreading information technology in rural areas. Scientists are getting more influenced through increased communication with the rural community. The rural economy is becoming knowledge driven through improved access to information such as market prices and input supply.

At the institutional level, there is greater recognition of the added value of regional and continental bodies such as the SROs and FARA for research but also with regional bodies of farmer's organization, NGOs and private sector.

These changes and progress are being captured at the national level through the CAADP country compacts. Institutions and agencies are regularly communicating to define the CAADP process. Focal or lead institutions for each CAADP pillar are encouraged to work with national focal points using the CAADP guidelines to ensure integrated implementation with the adequate capacities.

With this background, and considering that the CGIAR – AGM is being held in Africa, FARA will gather leading advocates of positive change for African ARD to speak in its annual African caucus meeting. This concept notes provides a background on how this gathering will be organized.

Purpose and objectives The African caucus meeting is being organized to gather advocates of change in African agricultural research for development. It will create an open space to create public awareness amongst scientists, policy makers and civil society on various initiatives in Africa geared towards changing perceptions and approaches in ARD.

Outputs and milestones The expected output of such gathering is better awareness of initiatives that focuses on increased impact of science and technology to African economy.

The milestones will be the responses of distinguished speakers who can contribute to the discussions. Speakers who can advocate for change but at the same time have the knowledge and experience on how to implement change within their working environment.

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Approach	<p>The African caucus meeting will be facilitated by the FARA Chairman, with support from its key constituent, the SROs and civil society organizations. The discussions will be held on 30 November at 10h00 to 13h00. Considering the limited time and various competing meetings, most of the discussions will be through panel discussions with key panellists appropriately selected based on their capacities and knowledge to contribute to the selected theme.</p> <p>The discussion will be set by a paper presentation from the FARA Secretariat Executive Director on how FARA is collaborating with various stakeholders to catalyze change in African agriculture. Comments on the paper will be initiated by the SRO panellists consisting of the Executive Directors of each of the SROs.</p> <p>The consecutive discussions will be categorized on geographic grouping of various institutions involved in African agricultural research, i.e. the international institutions such as the CGIAR, EIARD, NASULGC. This will be followed by the regional fora perspective, specifically from Asia (APAARI), Latin America (FONTAGRO), Europe (EFARD) and Middle East and North Africa (AARINENA) which is coordinated by GFAR.</p> <p>The voices of the civil society will be heard through their regional representatives. They will be asked on their perceptions on how these changes (if there is any) are improving their performance or capacity to deliver relevant farmer advisory services.</p> <p>An open discussion from the floor will be given after each of the panel discussions. The FARA Chairperson will give the summary and closes the meeting.</p>
Impact and beneficiaries	<p>The major beneficiary of such meeting will be FARA and the SROs. They are given the opportunity to present to the international knowledge community their initiatives or contribution in improving the impact of science and technology in African economy.</p> <p>The impact will be felt by the international institutions such as CGIAR who will have the opportunity to listen to the various views of its stakeholders beyond the CGIAR centres.</p> <p>The civil society organizations will be given the opportunity to contribute to the debate of change in ARD.</p> <p>The regional fora are given the recognition of their contribution and willingness to cooperate with African institutions.</p>
Project location	Maputo, Mozambique
Collaborators	<i>SRO, CSO, RF, GFAR, CGIAR</i>
Duration	<i>3 hours</i>

Annex 1. Draft program

30 November 2008

10h00-13h00

- 10:00 Opening and welcome by the FARA Chairperson, Dr. Denis Kyetere
- 10:10 How is FARA collaborating for change?, Dr. Monty Jones
- 10:30 Panel Discussions commenting on the paper
SROs (ASARECA, CORAF, SADC-FANR, NASRO)
- 11:00 Panel discussion on *How are international institutions responding to African call for change?*
Panellists: CGIAR, EIARD, NASULGC
- 11:45 Panel discussions on *'the role of regional fora to catalyze changes'*
Panellists: GFAR, FONTAGRO, APAARI, AARINENA, EFARD
- 12:15: Panel discussions on *'perceptions of the civil society on current changes in African agricultural research for development'*
Panellists: African forum of Farmer's organizations, NGOs and private sector
- 12:45 Summary and closing, FARA Chairperson, Denis Kyetere
- 13:00 End of the session

Annex 2. Potential participants to be sponsored by FARA

FARA Executive Board (management)

- 1. Chairman Denis Kyetere
- 2. Vice Chairman Tiemoko Yo
- 3. Executive Director Monty Jones

SRO

- 4. ASARECA Seyfu Ketema
- 5. CORAF Paco Sereme
- 6. SADC-FANR Margaret Nyirenda
- 7. NASRO Chermiti Amor

Civil Society organization

- 8. Farmer's organization Desire Poquet
- 9. NGO Sylvie Mbog
- 10. Private Sector Lucy Muchoki

FARA Secretariat

- 11. NSF1 Samira Hotobah During
- 12. NSF2 Myra Wopereis-Pura
- 13. NSF3 Emmanuel Tambi
- 14. NSF4 Ralph von Kaufmann
- 15. NSF5 Adewale Adekunle
- 16. ED Technical Adviser Aggrey Agumya
- 17. Logistics Evado Mensah
- 18. Logistics Joelene Anom