



## ***Update from the Scientific Partners***

# **The Regional Plans for Collective Action in Africa**

**13 June 2007**

**FARA General Assembly  
Johannesburg, South Africa**

# **Need for a more coherent role for the CGIAR in Africa**

## **Reviews by InterAcademy Council and SSA Task Force highlighted the challenges**

- **There are some overlaps in programmes**
- **There are some gaps unaddressed**
- **More synergy needed to contribute effectively to Africa's development agenda**

# The CGIAR Response?

## Clear commitment for greater cohesion, coordination and collective action

- Many options discussed, including adjusting the present structure of CGIAR Centers
- The Regional Plan modality selected as most promising and least disruptive
- Does not preclude later adjustments to structure, if required

# The Strategy for Regional Plans

## Two plans have been developed

- West & Central Africa
- Eastern & Southern Africa

Plans emerged from extensive consultations among Centers and Partners involving FARA, SROs & NARS

- The plans exhibit common goals & principles
- Unique emphases in each region, in response to the consultations

# The Outcome?

**A coordinated, cohesive program of agricultural research that promises:**

- **Clear economies of scale and scope at low transaction costs**
- **Successfully addresses regional priorities**
- **With priorities focusing on complex problems of accelerating agricultural productivity and poverty alleviation in the face of climate change**



# Desired outcomes

## Three main outcomes drive the plans

- 1<sup>st</sup>, a clearer picture of the research in the region
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, a program of work that adds value and addresses both regional & system priorities
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, a results-oriented culture based on shared knowledge, information and action

# **Achievements**

***5 months into operational phase***

**Inventory of CGIAR research  
completed in ESA...**

**with similar inventories envisaged for  
WCA and non-CGIAR research**

**FARA, SSA-CP, ASARECA plans  
that explicitly recognize  
programmatic synergies with the  
CG Regional Plans**

# **Achievements**

## ***5 months into operational phase***

### **In ESA: Four Flagship Programs launched**

- INRM, Markets & Institutions, Genetic Resources, and Relief & Livelihoods in Stressed and Unstable Environments
- ASARECA, FANRPAN, SSA-CP, RUFORUM & NARS Partners teaming up with CGIAR Centers

### **In WCA: Five Priority Programs kicked off with identification of focal points**

- CORAF & NARS partners as integral contributors



# **Achievements**

## ***5 months into operational phase***

## **A new culture of sharing**

- **Alliance & CGIAR Centers supporting the hubs & the center scientists participating**
- **Partnership commitments made to ASARECA, support to SSA-CP reformulation, FANRPAN, CORAF & RUFORUM engagements**

# **Achievements**

## ***5 months into operational phase***

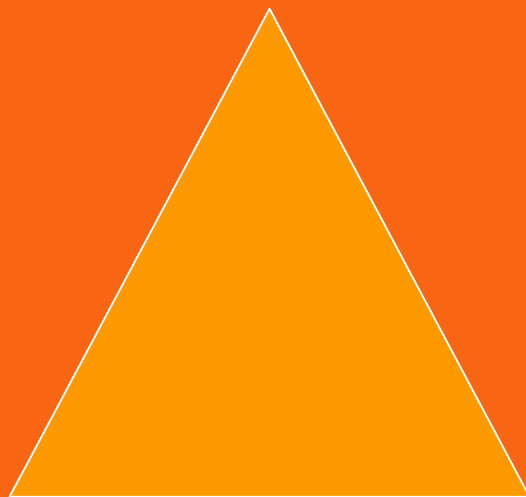
### **A new culture of coordination**

- **ESA Hub – all 15 Centers are active**  
**– to be extended to include SROs**
- **Coordination in meetings: ASARECA Board, TICAD, SSA-CP, CARRSS, FARA General Assembly**

# The operational space

*CGIAR Collective Action focuses on aligning regional goals with the global CGIAR System Priorities*

SRO Regional Goals



CGIAR System Priorities

Available Capacities  
at all levels

*Complex problems require a systemic approach and collective action*

# FARA and the Regional Plans

- **FARA was among the first to support the Regional Plans**
- **FARA & SSA-CP participated in the deliberations that developed the plans**
- **Regional Plan Coordinators participated in FARA initiatives, e.g. SSA-CP strategy and strategic planning**
- **Co-development of a strategy paper on Regional Plan contribution to FAAP**

# In Conclusion

- **FARA is the premier forum for facilitating the integration of agricultural research into Africa's development**
- **The Regional Plans are a concrete expression of the Alliance's commitment to Africa's development agenda.**
- **The Regional Plans will support FARA and the SROs in their endeavours to get agriculture moving in Africa**



**Now, as my term as a member of the FARA Executive Committee comes to an end, I note that together, FARA, the SROs, and the Alliance of CG Centres have come a long way together.**

**I want to express my gratitude to FARA and the Alliance of CGIAR Centres for the privilege of serving you as a Centre representative. And I look forward to continuing to serve this cause, along with my fellow Center directors, by making the regional plans for collective action a real and material success.**



## **3. A new culture**

### **Incentives**

- **Interest in generating economies of scale & scope**
- **Commitment to impact on regional priorities**
- **Correcting misperceptions of the CGIAR and the role of agricultural research in integrated development**



# Overview

**The context for the Regional Plans**

**Strategy**

**Current achievements**

**FARA, the SROs and the Regional Plans**

**Conclusions**

# The Context

## *Africa's development agenda*

### Africa's Development Agenda

- Articulated by AU/NEPAD through the CAADP
- Further interpreted by FARA (FAAP)
- ASARECA, SADC-FANR, CORAF/WECARD strategies

*6% Agricultural growth target*

*10% investment in Agriculture target*

# What are the payoffs?

- 1. Opportunities to achieve impact at scale, and add value through research**
- 2. Good citizenship and commitment to host region**
- 3. Pushing the frontiers of science for development**
- 4. Hopefully, more funding of cutting edge research and capacity development**
- 5. Effective response to criticisms of CGIAR and agricultural research as a whole**