

Title of meeting	Capacity Strengthening, Information Exchange, Learning, Foresight and, Science and Technology Policies for Agricultural Innovation
Responding to Theme 4 and 7	The status of the 5 requirements for turning Africa's agriculture around Africa's capacity to build human and institutional capacity for agricultural industry
Organizers	CTA, FARA, RUFORUM
Date and Time	10 -11 June, 08:00-18:00
Contact person	Judith Francis, Ralph von Kaufmann, Adipala Ekwamu and Myra Wopereis

Background

Africa is not meeting the food needs of 27% of the estimated 900 million people who live on the continent. Her population is expected to reach 1.3 billion by the year 2020 and agricultural production must increase by at least 4 – 6 % in order to meet present and future needs. Africa is further challenged to remain competitive in regional and international markets but resources are limited and the policy machinery is not responding in a timely fashion. To meet the challenges of a dynamic sector in which the environmental and market conditions are changing rapidly, Africa must have sufficient human and institutional capacity for innovation. The innovators need access to information and opportunities for lifelong learning and enabling evidence-based and responsive science and technology policies and strategies.

Innovation is a continuous process of learning and managing knowledge, whether old or new, in a creative manner to respond to market demands and other social needs. In this globalized world, the production of goods and services is even more knowledge-intensive with increasing reliance on the application of science and technology and a highly skilled workforce. Innovation is not invention but focuses on making ideas and knowledge economically useful. In February 2007, the World Bank President called on developing nations to invest more in science to fuel the innovation required for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Agricultural innovation systems require actors at all levels in the value chains, including smallholders and pastoralists, processors, traders, extension workers and scientists to be well informed and able to contribute to joint learning about how to solve problems and seize opportunities. The rapid advances in communications in Africa are opening up new and exciting opportunities for exchanging information and enabling lifelong learning that are especially critical to Africa because of the vast distances, poor infrastructure and lack of resources for traditional extension systems.

Successful and sustained innovation depends on the existence of substantial human and institutional capacity. For many reasons, this is an area in which Africa is in most urgent need. For Africa to catch up with other developing regions, African universities must be enabled to adopt modern approaches to learning underpinned by training materials that are not only up-to-date but also relevant to the circumstance in which the graduates will pursue their careers. The graduates must also be equipped with the systems skills they will need to function effectively in holistic and diverse innovation systems.

Foresighting is a participatory process for creating shared long-term vision of science, technology, the economy, the environment and the society. The process brings together key stakeholders

and experts to share knowledge and ideas and to look beyond the present. It mobilizes them to create broad-based support for enabling policies. Developing and using foresight capabilities, should assist Africa in directing its science, technology and innovation agenda for making optimum use of its resources and responding to emerging threats and opportunities to spur growth and development in the agricultural sector.

The mission of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP- EU (CTA) is to strengthen information and communication management capacities of agricultural and rural development organizations in the 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States. It is also charged with policy and institutional capacity development. CTA is committed to supporting the ACP region in building capacity and strengthening information and knowledge networks to participate in and lead the policy processes on Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) to achieve sustainable and measurable impact in the agricultural and rural sectors.

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is the apex organization for African agricultural research and is a coalition of all stakeholders involved in African agricultural research and development. FARA plays a key role in complementing the activities of the sub-regional organizations in supporting national agricultural research systems, which include universities and regional and international organizations working in the countries to deliver more responsive and effective services to their stakeholders. FARA's primary roles are to advocate for investment in agricultural research for Africa's development, to promote value adding partnerships, and to enhance the exchange of agricultural information and learning.

The Regional Universities Forum for capacity building in Africa (RUFORUM) is an umbrella organization of twelve (12) universities based in seven (7) countries in East and Southern Africa. It serves to promote integration of university research, training and outreach into national and regional research for development. This task is addressed not only through better trained graduates entering the rural development workforce, but also by conducting more relevant and development-oriented research that is directly linked to participatory outreach programmes.

CTA, FARA and RUFORUM will convene this Side-Event on "Capacity Strengthening, Information Exchange, Learning and Foresight for Agricultural Innovation" with emphasis on addressing Africa's capacity to build capacity and to enable all actors in agricultural innovation to participate and be empowered by enabling strategies and policies to complement FARA's 4th General Assembly meeting. Recommendations from the Side-Event will feed into the deliberations of the FARA GA and the wider African development agenda. This conference builds on the outcomes of the 5th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development and the 2006 African regional S&T meetings, which focused on enhancing the participation of Women and Youth in the ST&I processes.

Workshop Objectives:

The overall objective is to boost agricultural competitiveness, improve food and nutrition security and contribute to poverty alleviation in Africa. More specifically:

- To discuss the nature of agricultural innovation and the enabling requirements for rapid development of African agriculture
- To bring to the attention of African stakeholders the urgency and the means of strengthening Africa's capacity to build capacity
- To raise awareness of the potential and means of enhancing the exchange of information and learning by all actors in agricultural value chains across the continent

- To bring to the attention of African stakeholders and facilitate dialogue on the relevance of foresight in charting the future of African agricultural scientific endeavours.
- To identify strategies for strengthening the African ST&I and agricultural research and development infrastructure and learning and knowledge networks to meet the challenges.
- To strengthen inter and intra-regional partnerships in Africa to advocate for increasing investments in ST&I for African agricultural and rural development and advanced training in science and agriculture.

Expected Outcomes:

- African stakeholders committed to building the human and institutional capacity for agricultural innovation
- A commitment to raising the quality of teaching and learning in tertiary agricultural education
- An awareness of ongoing developments that will enable African's to both use and to contribute to agricultural knowledge
- Using foresight as a tool in developing agricultural and rural development policies and strategies.
- Partnerships strengthened and new alliances forged for capacity strengthening, increasing information, learning and knowledge networks and improving advocacy on ST&I issues for agricultural and rural development.
- Programmes launched for increasing the participation of women and youth in ST&I processes for agricultural and rural development in Africa.

June 09 – Welcome Dinner

Keynote Speaker – “The Imperative for Africa to Have Endogenous Human and Institutional Capacity for Innovation in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management”- Dr. Monty Jones, Executive Secretary, FARA

Day 1 - June 10

8:30	Registration
8:30 – 12:30	Opening Plenary Focus – Innovation and Foresight Chairperson
8:30 – 9:30	Welcome & Opening Remarks – FARA, RUFORUM, CTA
9:30 – 10:15	Keynote Presentation – Safeguarding the Future of African Agriculture: Innovation & Foresight – UK based Regional Expert
10:15 – 10:45	National Growth and Innovation System – Commercial Best Bets in Agriculture using Foresight, Dr. Neill Allan, Managing Director, Partners in Performance, United Kingdom (proposed)
10:45 – 11:00	Discussion
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break

- 11:30 – 13:00 **Focus – Agriculture Science, Technology and Innovation System/Going Beyond ARD**
Chairperson
- 11:30 – 11:45 Experiences in Building ACP Capacity on Agricultural, Science, Technology and Innovation Systems – J.A. Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator S&T Strategies, CTA
- 11:45 – 12:00 The Maize ASTI System - Lessons from a National ASTI Case Study – Dr. Andy Safaloah, Bunda College, Malawi
- 12:00 – 12:15 Demand-Led Research and the Floriculture Sector, Kenya / Lessons from a National Case Study – Maurice Bolo, ATPS, Kenya
- 12:15 – 12:30 Farmer Innovation in the Rice Sub-sector - Lessons from a National ASTI Case Study – Dr. Mbene Dieye Faye, ISRA, Senegal
- 12:30 – 13:00 Discussion
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 – 18:00 Focus Strengthening Africa’s Capacity to Build Capacity**
Chair – Prof John Kaboggoza, Chair of African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE). Dean, Faculty of Forestry Nature Conservation, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.
- 14:30 – 15:15 Keynote Presentation - Dr. William Saint**
The Outcomes of the World Bank’s Assessment of Post-Secondary Agricultural Education and Training in Sub-Saharan Africa. Consultant on Higher Education to the World Bank.
- 15:15 – 15:40 Discussion**
- 15:40 – 16:00 Mr. Ralph von Kaufmann**
FARA’s Programme for Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa (SCARDA).
- 16:00 – 16:45 Panel Statements: Strengthening Africa’s Capacity to Build Capacity in Agriculture and Natural Resources**
- Panelists:**
Dr Bill Delauder, NASULGC
Prof August Temu, ANAFE
Prof Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM
Prof Kay Muir Leresche, Economics Africa
Prof Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere, IFPRI -ISNAR
Dr Recke Helga, CGIAR Gender and Diversity Programme

Day 2

8:30 – 12:00	Focus – Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems / Strengthening Knowledge Networks Chairperson – Dorothy Mukhebi, RAILS Taskforce leader, ASARECA-RAIN Coordinator
8:30 – 9:00	Keynote Presentation - Learning to Make Change - Developing Innovation Competence for Recreating the African University of the 21st Century – Dr. Paul Kibikwa, Makerere University, Uganda
9:00 – 9:30	Keynote Presentation – Towards an Integrated Strategy for Strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation System / The Role of ICTs – CTA Expert(s)
9:30 – 9:45	Discussion
9:45 – 10:00	Panel discussions on experiences in Developing National Strategies on Agricultural ICTs (Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Namibia, South Africa)
10:00 – 10:30	Defining Sub-regional Priorities for Agricultural Information (ASARECA-RAIN, CORAF/WECARD, SADC-FANR-AIMS/ICART, North Africa)
10:30 – 10:45	Discussion
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:00	Building the Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems in Africa: Key Components – Myra Wopereis
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 18:00	Focus – Planning for the Future
13:30 – 14:15	Panel Discussion - Enhancing the Participation of Women in Science, Technology and Innovation – Regional Women as Lead Discussants
14:15 – 14:30	Discussion
14:30 – 15:15	Panel Discussion - Enhancing the Participation of Young Professionals in Science, Technology and Innovation - Regional Young Professionals as Lead Discussants
15:10 – 15:30	Discussion
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:15	Panel Discussion – ST&I Response to Emerging Challenges – Lead Discussants on Climate Change, Biofuels and Drylands
17:15 – 17:30	Discussion
17:30 – 18:00	Closing Ceremony