



Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa

(SCARDA)



FARA's 2007-2016 Strategic Plan

Extensive consultations, the SRO's new strategies, problem and objective tree analysis identified:

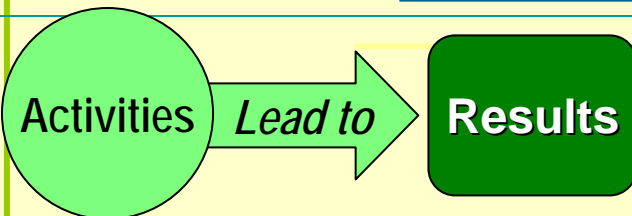
➤ the requirements for Africa to have efficient and effective agricultural innovation capacity to which FARA can contribute from its comparative advantages

- 1. Harmonised policy and sustainable financing**
- 2. Broad-based stakeholders have access to the knowledge and technologies necessary for innovation**
- 3. Strategic decision-making options for policy, institutions, and markets;**
- 4. Human and institutional capacity for innovation**
- 5. Platforms for agricultural innovation**



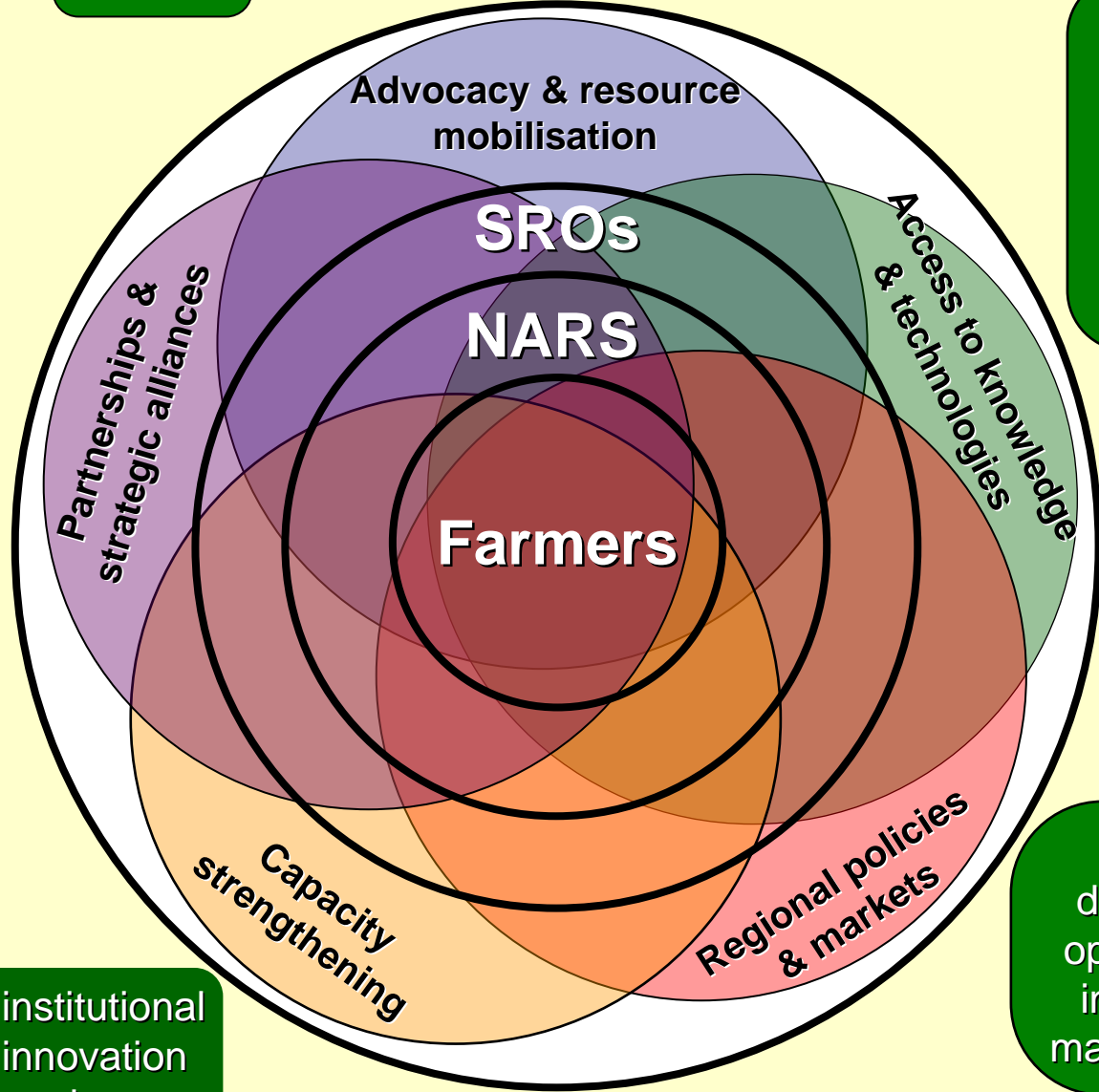
Networking Support Functions

1. **Advocacy and resource mobilisation**
2. **Access to knowledge and technologies**
3. **Regional policies and markets**
4. **Capacity strengthening**
5. **Partnerships and strategic alliances**



1. Supportive environment for agricultural R&D

2. Broad-based stakeholders have access to the knowledge and technology necessary for innovation



5. Platforms for agricultural innovation supported

3. Strategic decision making options for policy, institutions and markets developed

4. Human & institutional capacity for innovation developed



THE NEED FOR CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

The dire urgency for strengthening human and institutional capacity has been recognised by:

- *Association of African Universities Millennium Declaration*
- *Cape Town Declaration of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology*
- *African Union Heads of State meeting in Sirte*
- *InterAcademy Council Report*
- *Report of the Commission for Africa*
- *Meeting of Deans of East African Universities 2002*
- *Meeting of 60 Vice Chancellors and Deans in the African Union, Addis Ababa, September 2004*
- *Presentations and consultations at African universities*



Networking Support Function 4: Capacity strengthening (activities)

- **Development of a strategy for creating adequate human and institutional capacity for innovation**
- **Development of a regional mechanism for information exchange and sharing of teaching and learning experiences**
- **Development of capacity to enable optimal use of ICTs and e-learning**



August 2003 SRO – FARA Retreat

Decided that there was a need to develop a framework for revitalizing African agricultural research systems which would include:

Improving research governance and management

Improving research funding and financial management

Strengthening scientific capacity

Strengthening collaboration

2005: FARA Commissioned an assessment of NARS capacities to identify areas of weakness and strategies for strengthening them



The NARS ASSESSMENT

The assessment recommended a combination of strategic options for:

1. improving the impact of African agricultural research, including adoption of holistic and inclusive innovation systems concepts
2. supporting African NARS to make institutional changes and strengthen their systems skills
3. creating new directions and mechanisms to strengthen capacities of NARS in agricultural science and research management



Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and development in Africa (SCARDA)

SCARDA is project for responding to the recommendations of the NARS assessment supported by UK-DFID

The SCARDA purpose is:

- to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of African agricultural research systems to identify, generate and deliver research outputs that meet the needs of poor people



Responding to the NARS assessment: The SCARDA Proposal

SCARDA will develop capacities of Sub Saharan African NARS for:

- for world class agricultural science and research management
- developing and implementing strategies and work plans that demonstrate the value and impact of innovative, demand-driven integrated agricultural research for development
- providing continued professional development
- up-scaling and out-scaling research outputs through inclusive innovation systems approaches



The SCARDA PRINCIPLES

SCARDA will:

- Meet the specific requirements of the three sub-regions in sub-Saharan Africa
- Be in full alignment with NEPAD's concept of African ownership
- Emphasize organizations that have embraced reforms envisaged in CAADP and contribute to its objectives
- Be compliant with the FAAP guidelines and principles
- Facilitate and empower on-going related initiatives
- Add value and minimize duplications for example to ANAFE and RUFORUM programmes



The SCARDA PRINCIPLES

SCARDA will:

- strengthening capacities for linking farmers to markets through holistic innovation systems approaches
- Generate measurable and sustainable outcomes which can impact significantly on economic growth, wealth creation and poverty reduction
- Strengthen capacities in countries emerging from civil conflict
- Increase the numbers of African women in African agricultural research and development. The target is to have at least 1/3 female involvement



SCARDA Programme Components

6 month Inception Phase

Three year Implementation Phase

Needs analysis; development of programme activities; M&E and communication strategies

Component 1:
Strengthening competencies and capacity in agricultural research management

Component 2:
Strengthening capacity for professional development in agricultural research and development

Output 1:
Detailed capacity strengthening programme

Output 2:
Improved agricultural research management systems and competencies.

Output 3:
Improved capacities of NARS institutions, scientists and extension agents

Output 4:
Adoption of the innovation systems approaches to underpin ARD

SCARDA activities will be determined by **institutional analysis** to ensure that the participating **institutions will be sustainably strengthened** to be more effective and achieve greater impact



SCARDA ACTIVITIES FOR STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

Possible activities:

group training on priority subjects. Selection of participants in these programmes will give priority to strengthening the capacities of women scientists and the capacity of agricultural research institutions to address the needs of women farmers

post-training support for up to one year after delivery of the training. The purpose to consolidate the skills acquired through the group training and to enhance appropriate application of their newly acquired skills.



SCARDA ACTIVITIES FOR STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

Possible activities:

fellowships to support serving African NARS scientists, nominated by their organisations, to undertake

- post-doctoral internships,
- short term technical visits
- attachments for capacity strengthening

professional mentoring scheme designed to improve the career experience and continued learning of new entrants into agricultural research

The mentors will be drawn from the senior staff of NARIs, universities and where appropriate NRI or other international institutions



SCARDA ACTIVITIES FOR STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

Possible activities:

Postgraduate training to address the highest priorities weaknesses and gaps in institutional staff

The capacity strengthening activities will be provided by African universities and other training institutions and, where the particular expertise or experience is not available in Africa, at NRI or other international institutions



SCARDA ACTIVITIES FOR STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

Possible activities:

Strengthening capacity to build capacity to address deficiencies in particular subjects or skills may be addressed through activities linked to the programme for

Building Africa's Scientific and Institutional Capacity (BASIC)

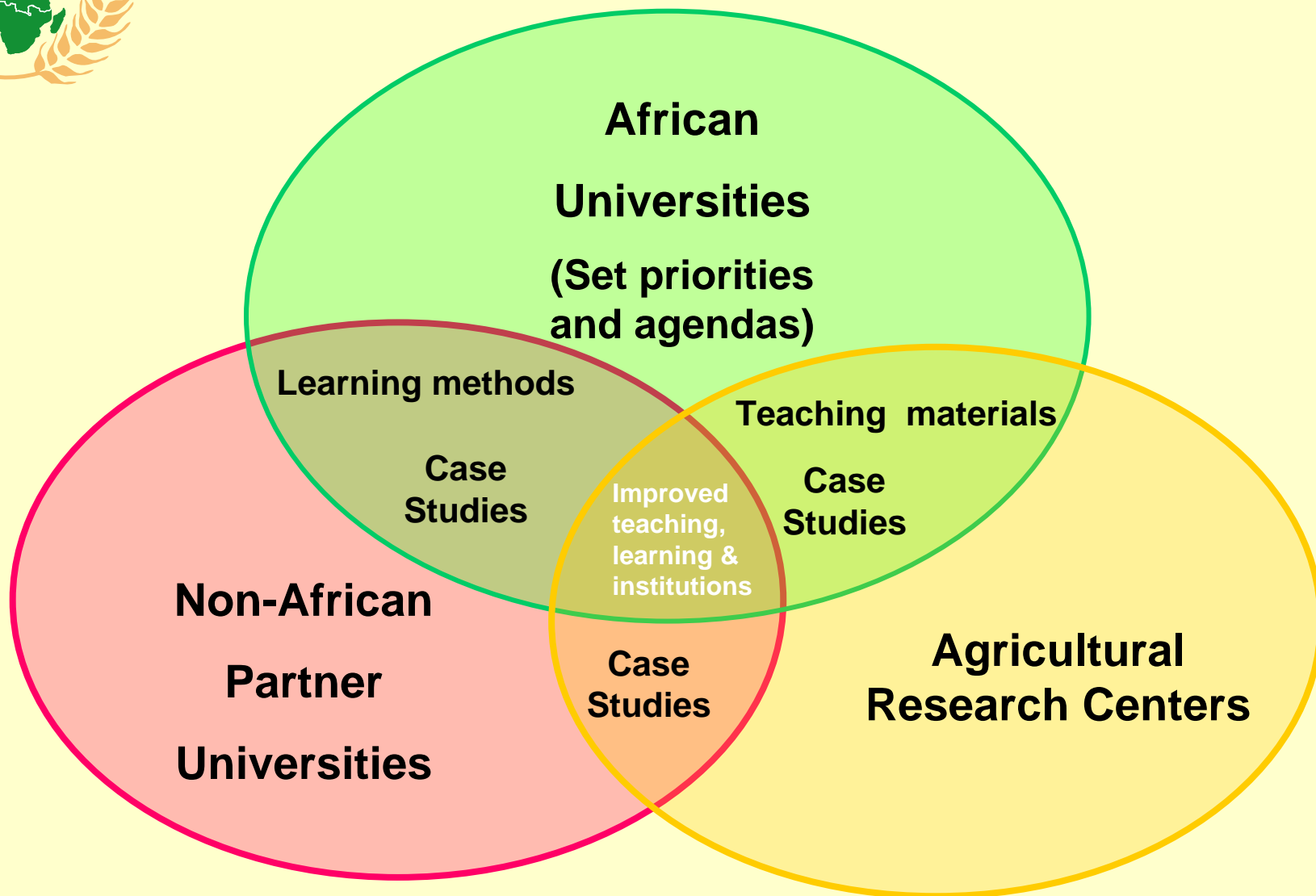
BASIC is a novel partnership between African and non-African universities and research centres in Africa dedicated to strengthening Africa's capacity to build capacity in agriculture and natural resources.



FARA

BASIC

strengthening capacity to build capacity





SCARDA is concerned with sustainably strengthening institutions

Strengthening competencies and capacity in agricultural research management

Strengthening capacity for professional development in agricultural research and development

Thank you for your attention