

Title of meeting	Fostering partnerships for ARD⁸ in Africa
Responding to Theme 4	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	FARA/CGIAR
Date and Time	11 June, 09:00-17:00
Contact person	Freddie Kwesiga

Background

Agricultural research is experiencing a paradigm shift towards increasingly collaborative / partnership modes of engagement among research actors. This move is driven by the recognition of the important contributions that various actors (people, institutions and organisations) in the agricultural system including value chains bring to the research-to-development process. It is also informed by decades of pursuing linear and largely fragmented research approaches whose impact has been unsatisfactory, especially in heterogeneous, dynamic and complex environments that characterise developing regions, and in particular Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, agricultural research for development organisations at all levels (international e.g. CGIAR and national e.g. NARS) are increasingly acknowledging the fragmentation as well as the duplication of their activities. In response, these organisations are making efforts towards collective action and integration of their programmes. Partnerships in ARD can be grouped into those: (i) among actors in specific value chains, agro-ecologies, watersheds etc; and (ii) among research organisations, typically with mandates that span numerous value chains, agro-ecologies, watersheds, etc.

It is well known that collaboration requires effort and entails investment, which therefore implies that incentives are required to drive it. The incentives include the promise for the actors in agricultural research and development to (i) get more out of scarce resources; (ii) increase the relevance and consequently the impact of research; and (iii) contribute to the creation of products/services they are unable to generate/deliver on their own. The growing emphasis on leveraging partnerships in the conduct and management of agricultural research and in the delivery of its outputs is spawning initiatives to test and promote multi-stakeholder ARD approaches and collective action among institutions.

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is the apex organisation 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 agricultural research organisations (SRO) (ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, SADC-FANR, AARINENA⁹) in supporting national agricultural research systems, which include national agricultural and forestry research and extension institutions, universities, non-government organisations, farmer organisations and the private sector, 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.

8. ARD (Agricultural Research and Development)

9. ASARECA—Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa; CORAF/WECARD—West Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development; SADC-FANR—Southern Africa Development Community-Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Division; AARINENA—Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa

FARA coordinates the Sub Saharan Africa Challenge Programme (SSA CP), which aims to transform the way agricultural research is carried out in order to improve its impact on livelihoods in SSA. The extensive consultations that led to the formulation of the SSA CP concluded that the principal constraint of African agricultural research is not the lack of scientific excellence or expertise, but rather a failure to translate research outputs into developmental impact at significant scales. Thus, the SSA CP seeks to contribute to increasing the impact of agricultural research by testing and promoting Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D)—an action research approach for investigating and facilitating the organisation of stakeholders (including researchers) for innovation in response to changing agricultural and natural resources management contexts.

Agricultural research for development (IAR4D) builds on four components:

- interventions that address the interfaces between productivity enhancement, sustainable natural resource management, efficient markets, and policies and institutions;
- working from a value-chain perspective;
- taking a watershed or agro-ecosystems approach; and
- working through innovation platforms.

In testing IAR4D, the SSA CP aims to develop principles for investigating and facilitating the organisation of stakeholders in agriculture and natural resource management to generate and use innovations that are relevant for their needs and opportunities and subsequently result into livelihood outcomes. Clearly, partnerships feature strongly in IAR4D, but they may take different forms, serve different functions, address different issues, and face different kinds of challenges.

The CGIAR's Regional Plans for Collective Action in SSA are the response of the CGIAR System to recommendations and criticisms from the Inter Academy Council and the CGIAR's own Sub-Saharan Africa Task Force (Tervuuren Consensus), among others. The two Regional Plans in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and in West and Central Africa (WCA) are institutional innovations designed to foster the emergence of a coordinated, cohesive program of agricultural research that produces clear economies of scale and scope at low transaction costs, in order to successfully address regional priorities. These priorities range from complex problems of stagnant or falling agricultural productivity and poverty, to impacts of climate variation. The Regional Plans work closely with sub-regional organizations and national partners as they seek to deliver research that adds value, assures impact and engenders the emergence of a cohesive research agenda through collective action. These Plans are the only form of collective action within the CGIAR that explicitly address regional development goals, reflecting the importance of the development agenda set by the African Union (CAADP¹⁰) and African partners (FARA's FAAP¹¹ and SRO strategies) for the Centres. Each Regional Plan is carrying out a focused research program which is an outcome of widespread consultations with all stakeholders.

The side-event will serve as a forum for identifying conceptual partnership issues and practical actions that should be taken at the level of the regional collective action initiatives and the SSA CP to ensure that partnership issues are adequately addressed in African agricultural research and development. This objective will be informed by brief reports of case studies of IAR4D in practice – what is the partnership dimension, what factors contribute to successful partnerships, what are the challenges, and what lessons can be learned.

10. Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

11. Framework for African Agricultural Productivity

Objectives of the Side-Event

The overall objective of the workshop is to share experiences and lessons that will contribute towards increasing the impact of agricultural research and development on livelihoods in sub Saharan Africa by leveraging the latent benefits of effective partnership among agricultural research for development actors in the region. The specific objectives of the workshops are to:

1. Identifying challenges in commencing the SSA CP's research and reaching agreeing on how the challenges should be addressed;
2. Joint planning for actions by the CP's principal research actors, up to June 2008.

Expected Outcomes of the Side-Event

1. Increased awareness and a common understanding of the SSA CP and the CGIAR's regional plans for collective action
2. Issues that need to be addressed to promote partnership and synergies among agricultural research and development actors in SSA
3. A broad action plan for fostering partnerships particularly between the SSA CP and the CGIAR's regional plans for collective action
4. Networking among side event participants

Side-event Program

Time	Item	Session/ Chair
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks by the Executive Secretary of FARA, <i>Monty Jones</i> Remarks by the PSC chair, <i>Joseph Mukiibi</i>	Session I Joseph Mukiibi
09:30 – 10:30	Highlights of the SSA CP's research plan (2007/8-09/10) including its M+E plan and the CRST's roles and rules of engagement. <i>Freddie Kwesiga</i>	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
11:00 – 13:00	Very brief presentations of taskforce sub-projects (maximum of 8 minutes each). Each presentation will focus on only the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The problem to be addressed by the sub-project and entry points • What the first innovation platform will be addressing and the actors envisaged to constitute it. • Challenges expected in establishing the said innovation platform and skill gaps for example in facilitation of platforms, establishing baseline, selection of comparison sites, monitoring of processes, etc <p>Synthesis of presentations to identify cross cutting challenges for research implementation and proposition of strategies for addressing them.</p>	Session II Christian Hoste
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	

Side-event program contd...

14:00 – 1530	<p>Lessons from ongoing IAR4D / agricultural innovation systems initiatives: brief presentations (maximum of 15 minutes each) on experiences and lessons in conducting IAR4D by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning INnovation Knowledge (LINK), <i>Andy Hall</i> • IAR4D within National Agricultural Research Organisation (Uganda), <i>Emily Twinamatsiko</i> • IAR4D approach by Royal Tropical Institute of The Netherlands (KIT), <i>Willem Heemskerk</i> • PROLINNOVA: <i>Ann Walters-Bayer</i> <p>Synthesis of lessons from ongoing IAR4D initiatives that can inform the SSA CP's research</p>	<p>Session III Leonard Msemakweli</p>
1530 – 1545	Coffee/Tea Break	
1545 – 1715	<p>Planning for immediate actions (up to June 2008) including the identification of principal activities, how they will be carried out, who will be responsible, when they will be started and completed, milestones at end of 2007, resources, and management and use of data generated by all actors in the research.</p>	<p>Session IV Sylvester Oikeh</p>
1715 – 1730	Closing remarks, <i>Joseph Mukiibi</i>	