

Title of meeting	Transcontinental consultation to develop the mechanisms for PAEPARD
Responding to Theme 5	Positioning agricultural research institutions to be fully effective
Organizers	EFARD and FARA
Date and Time	10 June, 09:00-17:00
Contact person	Myra Wopereis and Jacky Ganry

Background

Due to the poor performance of its agricultural sector, Africa is well behind schedule for achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) of halving poverty by 2015. Agriculture is a key sector for sustainable development in Africa (MDG 7). Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) has a major role to play to reverse this deteriorating African food security and poverty situation.

In late 2006, the European Commission under its 6th Framework Program 6 (FP6): Specific Support Action, awarded a one year grant to support the building-up of a Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD). The general objective is to enhance collaboration between the African and the European agricultural research stakeholders by enabling mutual learning and knowledge sharing. It aims to assist in increasing the number and efficiency of joint research projects for African ARD aimed at achieving the MDGs, to be financed through FP7 (2007-2013), 10th EDF (2008-2012) and Food Security Thematic Program (FSTP).

The main actors of PAEPARD are the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD), through two of its institutional networks, ECART¹² and NATURA¹³.

This African-European agricultural research partnership mechanism will be based on existing frameworks or agreements such as the Cotonou Agreement, the European Consensus on Development Cooperation, the EU Strategy for Africa, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP).

The Strategic Partnership will go beyond research institutions and networks. It will strengthen the role of different types of stakeholders (farmers' organisations, non-governmental organisations, private sector, consumers) as key partners. It will also include universities and other scientific academies or networks to fully integrate the capacity building dimension.

The proposed partnerships will be developed through the following work packages: i) assessment of current situation, ii) transcontinental consultations, iii) setting-up and launching of the platform, and iv) information & communication strategy.

As part of the second work package, a transcontinental stakeholder consultation will be organized during the 4th Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly that would gather major actors in ARD from both continents, who will share their ideas on how to improve their partnerships. This concept note describes how this transcontinental consultation will be organized.

12. European consortium for Agriculture Research in the Tropics

13. Network of European Agricultural (Tropically and Subtropically oriented) Universities and Scientific Complexes Related with Agricultural Development

Purpose and objectives of the transcontinental consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to interact with the African and European stakeholder in order i) to identify the major past and current limitations, constraints and bottlenecks that are responsible for the weakness of the partnership between both continents, ii) to look at priorities, opportunities and mechanisms that could be relevant for enhancing the partnership through the implementation of PAEPARD.

Expected output

The consultation will define the mechanisms and tools on how PAEPARD could operate as an efficient platform for building-up bridges between the two continents. A framework of operation and strategy for its sustainability will also be developed.

Approach and program

As a platform, PAEPARD must be thought as a way to add value to different and diverse ongoing initiatives from the two continents, defining, catalyzing and promoting an effective balanced partnership mechanism between both continents. It profits by being spearheaded by the regional organization from each continent i.e. FARA and EFARD. As such it will take the opportunity of important gatherings of these fora to consult with relevant stakeholders on how it could effectively assist in building bridges that could open new partnerships between researchers and civil society such as the private sector. It will also need to find the appropriate mechanisms to broker partnerships between existing institutions or organizations from the two continents.

In Africa, most of the sub-regional organizations such as ASARECA, CORAF and SADC-FANR have conducted, or are currently conducting, assessments on priorities for each sub-region. PAEPARD should profit from these assessments, but also from other studies or programs such as the IAASTD¹⁴, region-wide system support to the CGIAR and other initiatives in Africa.

The 4th Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly will provide space for all FARA Stakeholders to organize side-events that could be considered as a priority for the region. It will gather major players not just from Africa, but all stakeholders working in African ARD whether they are based in Africa or elsewhere.

One of these side events, the “PAEPARD transcontinental consultation” will be held for one day on the 10th of June. The draft program is as shown below:

Session one: Setting the scene (08:30 – 09:00)

Opening and welcome by FARA

What is PAEPARD? by Monty Jones

The European perspective, EFARD by Christian Hoste

The African perspective, FARA by Monty Jones

Discussions

14. International assessment of agricultural science and technology for development

Session two: Lessons learnt from past and current partnerships (09:00-10:45)

The European experience by NATURA (Didier Pillot) and ECART (Christian Hoste)

The African experience from the SROs and NARS

- ASARECA's competitive funding mechanism, Michael Duerr
- CORAF/WECARD (PARAO and Jachere) by Paco Sereme
- SADC/FANR (ICART), Margaret Nyirenda/Krishna Bheenick
- NARS/Universities

Tea break (10:45-11:00)

Session three: Analysis on the most appropriate mechanisms and tools for PAEPARD (10:45-12:00)

An analysis of the African-European partnership funded by FP5&6, EDF8&9 by J.Ganry

Group discussions

1. Forward-looking analysis of the process leading to an active collaboration or leading to the end of the initial idea of the project
 - a. What are the key factors to ensure the successful collaboration?
 - b. What are the potential tools that could be used to facilitate the collaboration?
 - c. What were the failures and at what stage (information stage, writing-building –submitting stage, submitted but rejected, etc)?
2. Analysis of the quality of the partnership between institutions involved i.e. actors, roles they play, activities they were involved in, etc.
 - a. Who are/were the major actors of the partnership: research institutions, universities, civil society organizations?
 - b. Is/was there a leading institution/organization in the collaboration (Is/was it from Europe or from Africa) or are the responsibilities equally shared? (between Africa and Europe)
 - c. If there is/was a leading institution, how effective is/was it in mobilizing all key players for an active engagement?
 - d. What role did the funding mechanisms mobilized (i.e. FP5 or FP6, EDF, special budget lines as the Food security budget line...) played on the final result of the project preparation?
 - e. Impact achieved or not achieved i.e. has this changed the working relationships between the two institutions? Were the institutions strengthened?

Lunch break (12:00-13:00)

Session four: Group discussion on how the PAEPARD framework will be implemented (13:00-15:00)

Define PAEPARD priorities and corresponding activities

- Based on ARD stakeholders' (from Africa and Europe) priorities and lessons learnt, what should be the priority areas of collaboration between Africa and Europe for ARD?
- What are the emerging issues that should be considered by PAEPARD as crucial to increase the impact and contribution of agriculture research to African economic development?

- What is the added value of PAEPARD to FARA and EFARD existing mechanisms and initiatives?
- What are the major constraints of African stakeholders in participating in any competitive mechanisms that PAEPARD could respond to?

Tea break (15:45-16:00)

Session five: Opportunities for PAEPARD sustainability (16:00-17:00)

Opportunities from the European Commission funding mechanisms FP7, EDF10 and Food Security Thematic Program.

Are there opportunities from European Member States or African governments?

Session five: Conclusion (17:00-17:30)

Way forward