

## ***A joint African – European platform for agricultural research for development***

**The platform for African – European partnership on agricultural research for development (PAEPARD) aims to mobilize African and European resources to achieve the objectives of the African Union/ NEPAD<sup>1</sup> CAADP<sup>2</sup> and the European Union Strategy for Africa.**

**It is a tool for the *Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)* and the *European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD)* to strengthen their constituent's capacity to deliver agricultural innovations for Africa and Europe.**

<sup>1</sup> *New partnership for Africa's Development*

<sup>2</sup> *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program*



## Starting up PAEPARD

- 1. Assessment of selected African – European partnerships in ARD. This involves: Analysis of past EU - funded activities such as the competitive funding scheme provided to the African subregional organizations i.e. ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD and SADC-FANR, as well as technical and financial support provided by the European member states to Africa. Face to face consultation with selected partners from identified countries. Analysis of researcher mobility between the two continents and look at how it has improved the capacities in both regions. Identification of capacity requirements to improve the ability of African institutions to respond to calls for proposals of diverse funding agencies or mechanisms such as those of the European Commission.**
- 2. An electronic discussion to present the outcome of the assessment. Participants will be selected based on nominations from EFARD and FARA. Discussions will consolidate ideas on where PAEPARD could have distinct added value to FARA and EFARD initiatives.**
- 3. Stakeholder consultations or workshops will be organized during FARA and SRO General Assemblies or meetings to present the PAEPARD concept and proposed activities to the African (FARA) stakeholders. A similar workshop will be organized for the European stakeholders that could be held back-to-back with any European ARD gathering such as an ERA-ARD, ECART, NATURA meetings.**

If you are interested to be part of PAEPARD, participate in any of the activities below:

1. Electronic consultation in May 2007.
2. Stakeholder consultation at the FARA General Assembly: 10 June 2007, Johannesburg, South Africa
3. European consultation in June/July 2007.
4. African subregional consultations in July, August & September 2007.
5. Launching of PAEPARD in October 2007.

For more detailed information visit our website: [www.paepard.net](http://www.paepard.net) or [www.paepard.blog.com](http://www.paepard.blog.com).

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.

The general objective to build a joint European and African Platform on ARD is to enhance collaboration among the European and African agricultural research stakeholders by enabling mutual learning and knowledge sharing. It will also increase the number and efficiency of joint research projects for African ARD aimed at achieving the MDGs, to be financed through FP7 (2007-2013), EDF10 (2008-2012) and the Food Security Thematic Program.

The main partners 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, ECART and NATURA.

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-government 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.

### PAEPARD will facilitate:

Sharing lessons learnt from recipients of European Commission funding, bilateral and multilateral cooperation among European African countries. Analysis will be made on how this support/assistance were effectively provided and used to ensure impact on improving agricultural productivity in Africa.

Broker partnerships among African and European ARD stakeholders to create and build synergies towards a more effective and efficient ARD implementation and resource mobilization.

Build bridges to open new partnerships among researchers and private sectors. It will identify or develop appropriate mechanisms to attract the support of the private sector from Europe and Africa for ARD outputs.