



Africa Agriculture Science Week & FARA General Assembly

10-16 June 2007
Johannesburg, South Africa



FARA 4th General Assembly Side Event Report June 10-11, 2007

Name of side event:	Private sector consultative meeting
Sponsoring organization(s):	FARA
Name(s) & email(s) of contact persons:	Lucy Muchoki (l.muchoki@cgiar.org) Private sector representative –FARA ExCO
Background/rationale of the side event (<i>maximum one paragraph</i>)	
<p>The private sector for a long time has not had formal and functional structures. Thanks to the recognition, support and stewardship of FARA, the sector is finally getting its footing and is now considered an important partner in agribusiness by ARs stakeholder.</p> <p>FARA like the guardian angel of the sector has ensured that the efforts to establish structures and develop programs are initiated and sustained.</p> <p>The private sector as the engine of agricultural development is today challenged to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stimulated investment in agri-business. ▪ Reduce risks in the agricultural value chain. ▪ Develop market awareness and intelligence for African Agricultural products. ▪ Streamline the profit value chain in agribusiness. ▪ Brand agriculture as a viable investment option. <p>The sector like any other is bedevilled with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business under capitalization financing. ▪ Capacity weaknesses in value addition and product development. ▪ Risks in the value chain. ▪ Inadequate investment in pin point research. ▪ Little investment in infrastructure such as storage, irrigation facilities etc ▪ Unfavorable legal and statutory policies. ▪ Marketing inefficiency due to multi-layers of players in the value chain. ▪ Supply chain management inefficiency. <p>The meeting therefore was mandated to discuss and provide the way forward.</p>	
Principle agreements/actions/recommendations (<i>include who is responsible for implementation & when</i>)	
<p>Deliberations isolated the following major areas to be addressed; Agribusiness financing, product development and value addition, risks in the value chain, supply chain management, partnerships /strategic alliances, agriculture policy and regulations, market structures and intelligence as the major areas of concern.</p> <p>The forum put forward a strong case for and endorsed as the first step the establishment of a pan African private sector body whose mandate will be to address the issues indicated above.</p> <p>The forum nominated 8 interim executive committee members drawn from the 4 sub regions.</p> <p>The committee was tasked with formulating the scope and terms of reference of the pan African body within three (3) months.</p> <p>The forum further set out 3 deliverables which have to be met as an indicator for progress these are; Partnership with the public sector in business financing and investment Modalities for stimulating investment by minimising risks. Restructuring markets to target the domestic market while eyeing export. The body will also work very closely with FARA and the SROs in order to achieve its goals.</p>	
Side event linked to which FARA networking support function? (check one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to knowledge and technologies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional policies and markets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity strengthening <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnerships and strategic alliances
Where relevant, note who has success stories, &/or useful resource people or institutions related to side-event theme	

Institutions related to the side event are: FARA, CCA, ASNAPP, Wild Living resources, SROs, NARS

Facilitation: FARA and SROs

Technical support: FARA, NARS, CGIAR centres, AfDB, IFAD, FAO, & CCA