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POSITIONING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE

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Introduction (1)

- Challenge to overcome hunger
- Africa
  - 30% of the population, mainly women and children, suffer from malnutrition
  - 50% of the African population live below the poverty line of US$1 per day
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 30% of people live in absolute poverty
- Prospects for improvement challenging
  - 85% in countries falling far behind in achieving the MDG for nutrition

Introduction (2)

- NEPAD: Priority to agricultural development
- CAADP
  - Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption
- FARA intended to provide scientific underpinning for long-term productivity gains and competitiveness
- Requirements:
  - enhanced rates of adoption: efficient linkages (research, extension systems, producers)
  - technology delivery systems: innovations to farmers and agribusinesses
  - agricultural research systems: generate and adapt new knowledge and technologies
  - reduce costs and risks: adopt new technologies

Context

- Review
  - Consultation process (2002 – 2004)
  - 21 SRO conditions
- Assessment to identify mechanisms for strengthening NARS and concurrently the SROs (Mukiibi and Youdeowei, 2006)
- *"Technical innovation in African agriculture must be accompanied by institutional change to provide an appropriate context for innovation, supported by the prospects of a sustainable and equitable "Green Revolution" in Africa; one that will dramatically increase the productivity of smallholder farms"*
- Agricultural revolution in Africa
  - focus on smallholder family farms to address rural poverty and development

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Assessment

- Context of results and strategic recommendations of FARA report assessed
- *"Position agricultural research institutions to be fully effective"*
- Four major domains of interventions
  - improving governance and management
  - improving financial status and management
  - strengthening scientific capacity and management
  - strengthening collaboration
- Evolution of the South African NARS
  - ARC

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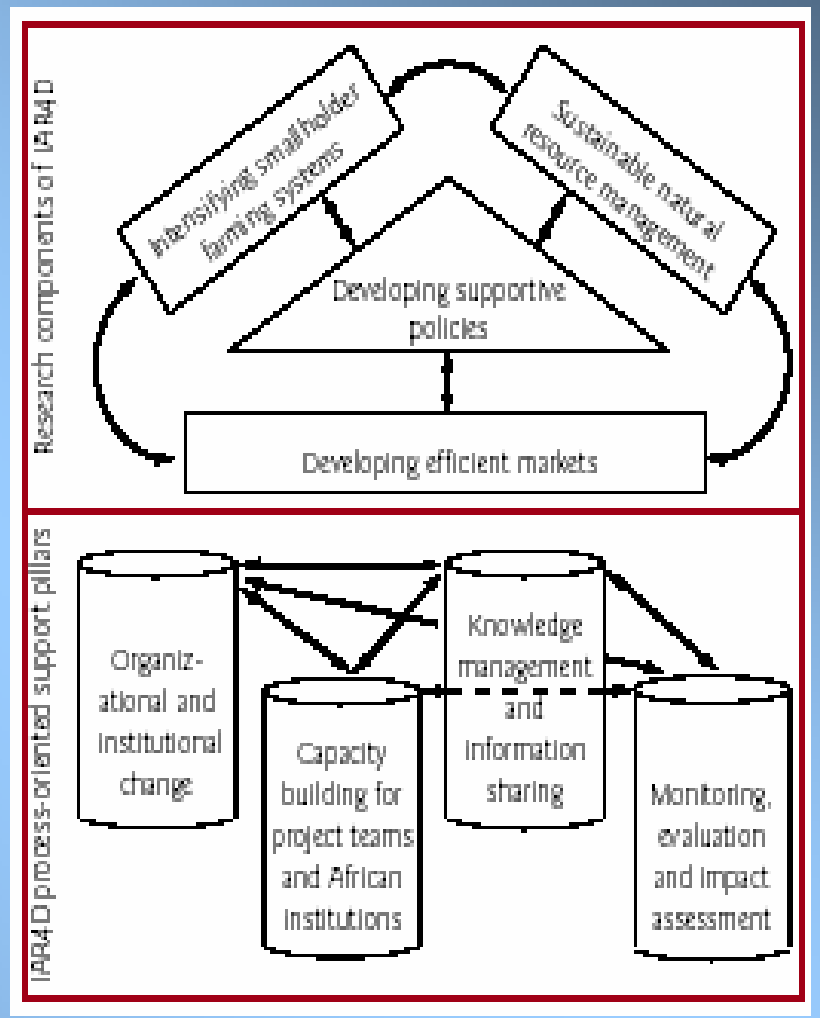
1. Governance and Management

- NARIs: traditional disciplinary-centred approach
- Adopt IAR4D
- SSA CP: new paradigm - synergy among disciplines and institutions
- SA ARC matrix system
  - cross-cutting Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Division
- Recommendation: AARSF, highly commendable
- Crawford Fund with ACIAR
  - Master Classes in Agricultural Research Management
- Need for Africa to take responsibility to building the management capacity of its agricultural leaders
- University of the Free State and CGIAR institutions
  - tailored two-week course for African agricultural research managers during 2008



Activity domains of SSA CP/ IAR4D (Acosta et al., 2005)

2. Improving Financial Status and Management

- Fertilizer: little impact on the productivity of African smallholdings
  - poor delivery infrastructure
  - lack of inventory finance for rural farm input suppliers
  - lack of access to output markets
- African NARIs under-funded, depends mainly on donor support
  - Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa (ARC). *The annual budget of the ARC of South Africa is almost ten times the combined average annual budget of the next eight best funded NARIs in Africa*
- FARA, SROs, NARIs: explore new and innovative mechanisms for the funding of agricultural research
  - Pro-actively engage the private sector participation
  - Strategic alliances and partnerships with Universities
- High Priority: Infrastructure and expert capacity to develop entrepreneurial goals

3. Building Human Resource Capacity

- Centrality of human capacity for change in increasingly knowledge-based economies (ACP, 2002)
- Too few scientists
  - FARA: studies of the critical mass of scientists
  - Agricultural R&D capacity in SA by DST and DoA
- In collaboration with partners: integrated scientific and institutional capacity building in all regional programmes
  - training of trainers
- Women agricultural research scientists
- NARIs: additional resources
  - ICTs and connectivity
  - Partnerships with i.e. CTA and FAO

4. Collaboration, Strategic Alliances and Partnerships

- Viable, functional alliances and partnerships
  - optimal exploitation of research resources and strengthening of the individual members of the partnership
  - Successful networking in Africa
- But not institutionalised, mainly driven by development partners and donors
  - Barkino Faso example
  - SA ARC and Provincial Departments of Agriculture - some progress
  - National Agricultural Research Forum (NARF)
    - strengthen and support efforts through a more unified, integrated and mutually supportive NARS model
- Collaboration and partnerships between NARIs, the universities and NGOs formalise
- Guide FARA and other NARS in extending the successful partnership model
- Important role of Universities (former ISNAR, WUR, etc.)
- SA Initiative for integration of research, education and extension

Conclusion

- CAADP priorities, FAAP framework for implementing Pillar IV
- NARIs, SROs, FARA, NEPAD, African Union = MDGs
- Adherence to FAAP guidelines and principles
- FARA: to lead programmes
  - enhance impact of agricultural research
  - build human capacity to implement agricultural research and development
- Stimulate and support innovation systems
  - involve all stakeholders
  - encourage institutional change
- Recommendations (Mukiibi and Youdeowei, 2006)
  - CAADP: significant contribution in eradicating poverty and food insecurity
  - Enhance the management of the continent's natural resources and biodiversity - vital to global well-being