



## FARA 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Side Event Report June 10-11, 2007

<b>Name of side event:</b>	<b>Farmers' Organization</b>
<b>Sponsoring organization(s):</b>	FARA
<b>Name(s) &amp; email(s) of contact persons:</b>	Desire Porquet, Farmers' Organizations Representative, FARA ExCo & Chair of ROPPA

### Background/rationale of the side event *(maximum one paragraph)*

Although functional sub-regional Farmers' Organizations (FOs) exist, (e.g., EAFF in East Africa, ROPPA in West Africa, PROPAC in Central Africa, and SACAU in Southern Africa), these have no common regional (Africa-wide) platform to work together on issues affecting farmers in African Agriculture. The recent membership of North African countries in FARA, opens new opportunities for cross learning in the agriculture value chain from that part of Africa. Farmers' institutions remain generally weak and farmers are poorly represented in agricultural research for development agenda. Although some degree of farmer participation in research programs mainly through participatory approaches exists, their full participation in the governance, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of research programs and activities is still very poor. Farmer groups themselves, have a problem of representation and in general, have weak capacity to efficiently manage internal and external resources and events. The organizational management of farmer groups and retention of interest of its membership remains a fundamental challenge. African farmers and farmer groups do not have the requisite capacity to effectively engage and participate in international trade negotiations and defend their interests in a global competitive market.

### Principle agreements/actions/recommendations

- Farmer participants present at the 'Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly 2007' in Jo'Burg, South Africa agreed to create **'Africa Alliance of sub-regional Farmer Organizations'**
- And this should comprise existing sub-regional farmers' organizations ie EAFF, ROPPA, PROPAC, SACAU, North Africa
- **'Africa Alliance of sub-regional Farmer Organizations'** should adopt the laws and bye laws of the existing sub-regional farmers' organizations EAFF, ROPPA, PROPAC, SACAU, North Africa
- FARA/GFAR/IFAP/IFAD should work together and support the realization of **'Africa Alliance of sub-regional Farmer Organizations'**
- FARA/GFAR/IFAP/IFAD should support 1<sup>st</sup> proposed meeting of the Alliance of 30 representatives from farmers' organizations in sub-Saharan and North Africa to meet and determine the operations of the **'Africa Alliance of sub-regional Farmer Organizations'**
- The venue of the proposed **'Africa Alliance of sub-regional Farmer Organizations'** should be at the FARA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana
- Farmers recognize their weak institutional capacity and need strengthening
- Farmers should be at the heart of agricultural programs and initiatives as set out in the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP)
- Farmers recognize poor access to information and learning and need strengthening
- Farmers poorly engaged with the public agricultural research
- Farmers need increased strengthening to be more productively involved in extension/advisory service
- Farmers poorly represented at agricultural fora and events and that need redress
- Farmers and agric-business should collaborate more and establish **TRUST** and **CONFIDENCE**
- FARA GA 2007 requested to endorse the **'Africa Alliance of sub-regional Farmer Organizations'** for

the follow-up action of FARA in partnership with GFAR/IFAP/IFAD

**Side event linked to which FARA networking support function?**

- Advocacy and resource mobilization**
- Access to knowledge and technologies**
- Regional policies and markets**
- Capacity strengthening**
- 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: EAFF in East Africa, ROPPA in West Africa, PROPAC in Central Africa, SACAU in Southern Africa, and the one for Northern Africa

SROs: ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, SADC-FANR, Northern Africa countries through AARINENA

Facilitation: FARA & GFAR

Technical support: IFAP & IFAD, SROs, NARS, CGIAR Centers, FAO