

# Farmers' Organization Side Event FARA GA 2007

## Background

Although functional sub-regional Farmers' Organizations (FOs) exists ie **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**

# Background cont'd

Although some degree of farmer participation in research programs mainly through participatory approaches exists, **Farmers 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**

# Agreements/actions/recommendations

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- 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 1st 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 FARA networking support functions**

- **Advocacy and resource mobilization**
- **Access to knowledge and technologies**
- **Regional policies and markets**
- **Capacity strengthening**
- **Partnerships and strategic alliances**

# Institutions

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- Institutions related to the side event:
  - EAFF in East Africa
  - ROPPA in West Africa
  - PROPAC in Central Africa
  - SACAU in Southern Africa
  - Farmers' organization in Northern Africa
- SROs: work closely with ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, SADC-FANR, Northern Africa countries through AARINENA
- Facilitation: FARA & GFAR
- Technical support: IFAP & IFAD, SROs, NARS, CGIAR Centers, FAO

Thank You