

2020 Annual Report

INNOVATIVE
PARTNERSHIPS FOR
KNOWLEDGE
MANAGEMENT AND
AGRIPRENEURSHIP
CAPACITIES





Chukwu Emeka, A livestock Farmer, Koforidua, Ghana

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Cover Page Photo

Chukwu Emeka (Elohim Farms) and his family,
have benefited from FARA Knowledge tools and Services and continues to express joy in accessing
FARA knowledge products and Programs to improve his capacity.

Photo credits: FARA

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

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Foreword

This report presents progress for the first six months of the third year of the implementation of FARA's 2019-2023 Business

Plan (BP). FARA's strategic goal throughout the BP period is to contribute to the achievement of CAADP-Malabo 2025 targets of doubling productivity, halving post-harvest losses, tripling intra-Africa trade and increasing resilience to the effects of climate change, by supporting the increased application of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in the domain of food and agriculture.

The strategic objectives, which also depict the main programmatic thrusts of FARA are outlined in Figure 1. The programme was reorganised at the end of 2020 to improve its coherence and increase the cost-effectiveness of its implementation in light of the shortfalls in anticipated funding. The actions to achieve the strategic objectives are organized into four mutually reinforcing programme clusters which map the strategic objectives, as shown in Figure 1.

Moreover, the year 2020 was substantially affected by the restrictions to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the year turned out to be one of the most difficult for agricultural development globally due mainly to the severe and prolonged economic lockdown, especially in Africa where agriculture is the economic backbone, contributing to about 50 percent of employment. Beyond its severe impacts on public health, the pandemic considerably affected the AR4D system. Due to mobility restrictions, farmers, extension service providers, researchers and other development partners encountered numerous challenges—which were not, however, unique

to FARA. Although the impact of the restrictions was initially severe, the Secretariat subsequently adapted, adjusting its work plan to take advantage of the few opportunities that emerged.

The highlights of this Report are the milestone achievements in the four programme clusters. In the CDA programme cluster, the capacity on foresight and STI was built for professionals in at least 110 African AR4D institutions and private sector. Also, the capacity of 2,500 African AR4D practitioners was also enhanced for and for agripreneurship, while at least 5,000 youth benefitted from the capacity development initiatives towards achieving the CAADP-Malabo goals. These initiatives all recorded over 100 percent of their 2020 set targets. Remarkably, a virtual Africa Foresight Academy (AFA) portal was established and its contents generated for the site through a series of webinars and online discussions organised in collaboration with several partners. Also, information on over 60 technologies was delivered in collaboration with 9 TAAT compacts; while about 12 promotional briefs, 12 modular extension manuals and 6 webinar summaries were prepared and disseminated in partnership with AFAAS.

FARA also made noteworthy achievements in the 2IPS programme cluster, identifying and scaling up and out eleven(11) proven technologies to yield commercial benefits for value chain actors. These activities empowered about 400 extension and other stakeholders with knowledge and skills to establish and operationalize the agricultural innovation platforms as mechanisms for generating and scaling out technologies. Moreover, five (5)

research partnerships were established to respond to emerging issues—this entailed the development of a framework for establishing and operationalizing research think-tanks in partnership with SROs, as well as the deployment of STI partnerships to respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

With regard to the KDS programme cluster, more than 114 knowledge products (research reports, technical papers, analyses and briefs) were generated and disseminated. These comprised papers published to provide mitigation measures on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on production and productivity; webinars involving over 4,500 participants, and platforms for online engagement in AR4D. Thus, in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, thousands of actors were facilitated with relevant information, expert solutions and evidence-based policies through FARA's observatory for informed decision-making.

Generally, the budget performance for 2020 has very low spend rate due to the pandemic peculiarities of the year—most of the budget items covered workshops, travel, consultancies, supply of goods and sub-grants, all of which were suspended owing to the restrictions. The procurement of some consultancy assignments and goods was only initiated in late August when COVID-19 restrictions were eased.

It is noteworthy that the level of achievements highlighted in this report was made possible through collaboration with several partners. In this regard, FARA acknowledges the support, commitment and participation of its stakeholders and partners—such as AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF, GFAR, NAASRO, PAFO, EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU, RUFORUM, AATF, AGRA, Foresight4Food, National Agricultural Research Institutes, the Government of Ghana (in particular the Ministries of Science, Technology and Innovation; Food and Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration), CIHEAM-Bari, Italy; Soils4Africa, TetFund Nigeria, and Afrexim Bank. We are immensely grateful to the

European Commission (EC), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for providing supports that have resulted in the achievements reported.

In line with the mandate as a technical arm of the African Union Commission (AUC), FARA would continue to project a positive outlook in its institutional approach to innovative partnerships and systems, support to knowledge management, capacity development and agripreneurship, and research management and leadership. We are confident of our transformative role in Africa's development through strategic partnerships, alliances, and programme designs and implementation. As we look forward with renewed hope to a more productive 2021, the Board of Directors and Management of FARA wish to appreciate all and sundry.



Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo
Executive Director



Dr. Alioune Fall
Board Chair

Abbreviations

2IPS	Innovation to Impact Partnerships & Systems
AAPHCE	All Africa Post Harvest Congress and Exhibition
AFA	African Foresight Academy
AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
AfCFTA	African Free Trade Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank
AgMOOCs	Agriculture Massive Open Online Courses
AIRTEA	Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation and Livelihoods in Eastern Africa
AR4D	Agricultural Research for Development
ARI	Agricultural Research and Innovation
ARIFA	Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowships for Africa
ASARECA	Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
ATI	Agricultural Transformation Initiative
AUC	African Union Commission
AWARD	African Women in Agricultural Research and Development
BADEA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BP	Business Plan
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAADP-XP4	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-Pillar IV
CCAFS	Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural research and Development for Southern Africa

Abbreviations

CDTO	Capacity Development and Technology Outreach
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CoL	Commonwealth of Learning
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CSAYN	Climate-Smart Agriculture Youth Network
CSIR-STEPRI	CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EDU	Executive Directorate Unit
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FDNs	FARA Dissemination Notes
FPBs	FARA Policy Briefs
FRRs	FARA Research Reports
GACSA	Global Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture
GASIP	Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation
HRA	Human Resource and Administration
ICF	Institutional Capacity and Future Scenarios
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization
KM4AgD	Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development
KMLC	Knowledge Management, Learning and Communication
LEAPFNSSA	Long-term Europe-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (system)
NAASRO	North Africa Agricultural Research Organisation
NAIPs	National Agriculture Investment Plans and Programmes
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
OWSD	Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World
PANAP	Pan-African Network for economic Analysis of Policies
PARI	Programme of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation
PO	Programme Oversight
ReNAPRI	Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes
RPIIn	Research, Policy and Investment
S3A	Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa
SROs	Sub-regional Organisations
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
TAAT	Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
YPARD	Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

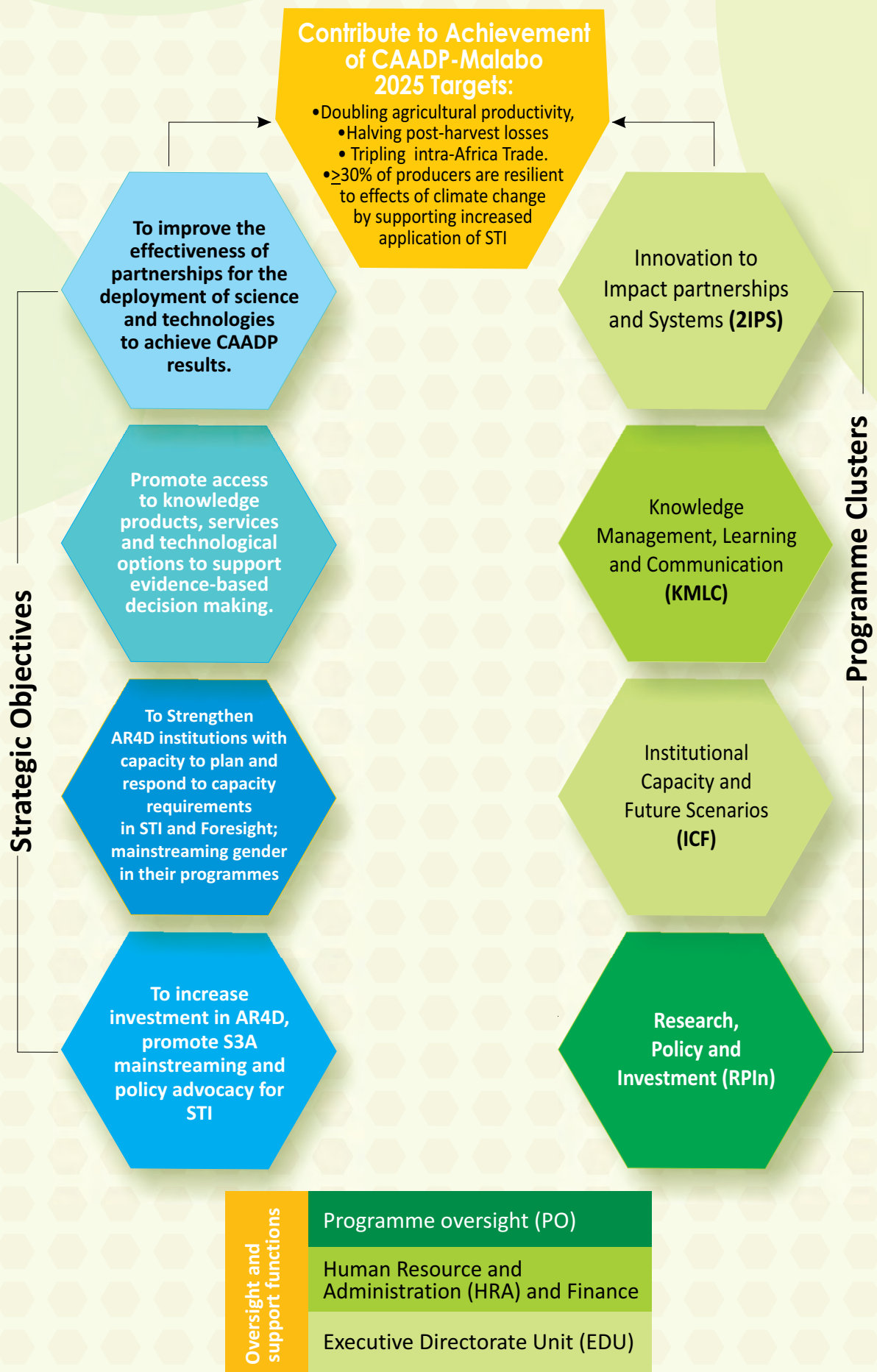


Figure 1: Contribution of 2019-2023 Business Plan to the 2025 CAADP-Malabo Target.



Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong, FARA Outgoing Director of Research and Innovation receiving a package as appreciation from the Executive Director during her send-off ceremony in Accra.

3.0 Summary of Key Achievements

Structured according to programme clusters

2IPS

Innovation to Impact Partnerships & Systems

Outcome

Strengthening partnerships for research and scaling innovations

Mobilizing science to respond to emerging risks and opportunities including climate change and bioeconomy

Leveraging innovation to improve agribusiness performance that impact on livelihoods for the youths

Highlights of Achievement

400 extension & research stakeholders empowered with knowledge and skills to operationalize Ips

11 Technologies developed for fish (5), livestock (2), OFSP (2) & sorghum (2)

Several research clusters established on seeds and fertilizers

5 Partnerships established on mechanisation, digitalisation, youth, livestock, & policy

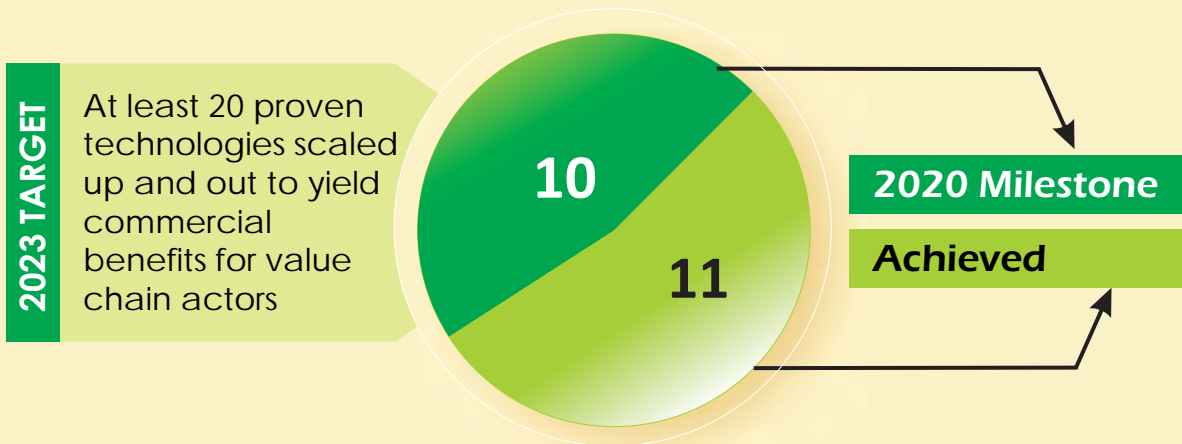
Published 3 books on innovations in mechanisation, youth employment & livestock Biennial CSA conference organised to generate over 40 publications

OVERALL
ACHIEVEMENT:

85%



3.1.1 Scaling Technologies



Achievements



5 Fish technologies



2 Livestock technologies



2 Orange fleshed sweet potatoes



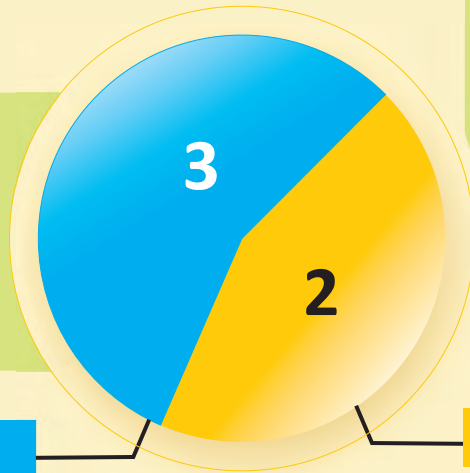
2 Sorghum technologies (Achieved through TAAT).

Remarks

400 extension and research stakeholders empowered with knowledge and skills to establish and operationalize the agricultural innovation platforms.

3.1.2 Strengthening partnerships and strategic alliances for translating innovation to impacts

2023 TARGET
At least 10 functional and equitable multi-stakeholder partnerships formed or strengthened



Research clusters established on seeds and fertilizer manufacture and use through PARI project Partnership to map climate change initiatives established (CAADP Xp4)

2020 Milestone

Achieved

WP2 of Soils4Africa project: Stakeholders' engagement to jointly develop a soil information system.



Some section of Agricultural research students having practical sessions at the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research organization, Naivasha, Nakuru County, Kenya

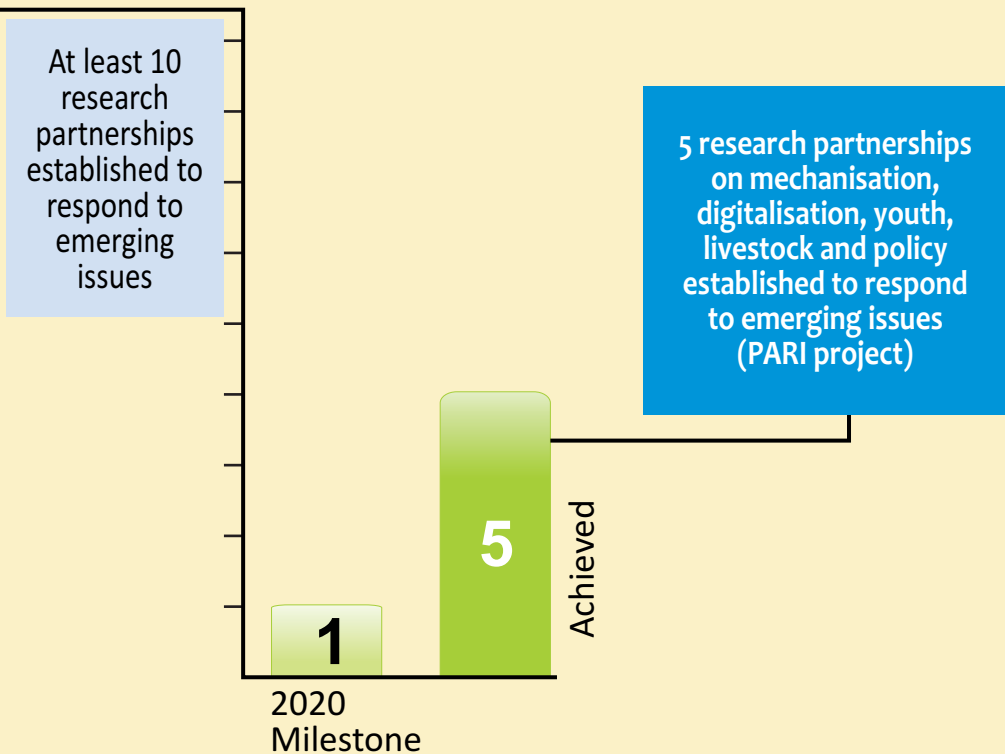
Photo Credit: FARA Communications Unit



Prof. Fatunbi (Left), Lead Specialist, Innovation Systems and Partnerships at FARA interacting with Dr. Baitsi Kingsley Podisi, CAADP-XP4 Regional Programme Coordinator, CARDESA.

3.1.3 Responding to emerging issues and mega trends affecting African Agriculture, Cross-cutting: Land Use and Climate change

2023 TARGET



A framework for establishment and operationalization of a research think-tank was developed in partnership with the SROs.

Partnerships to deploy STI to respond to COVID-19 being shaped:
Dgroups, webinars, etc

3.1.4 Cross-cutting Issues in Land Use and Climate change

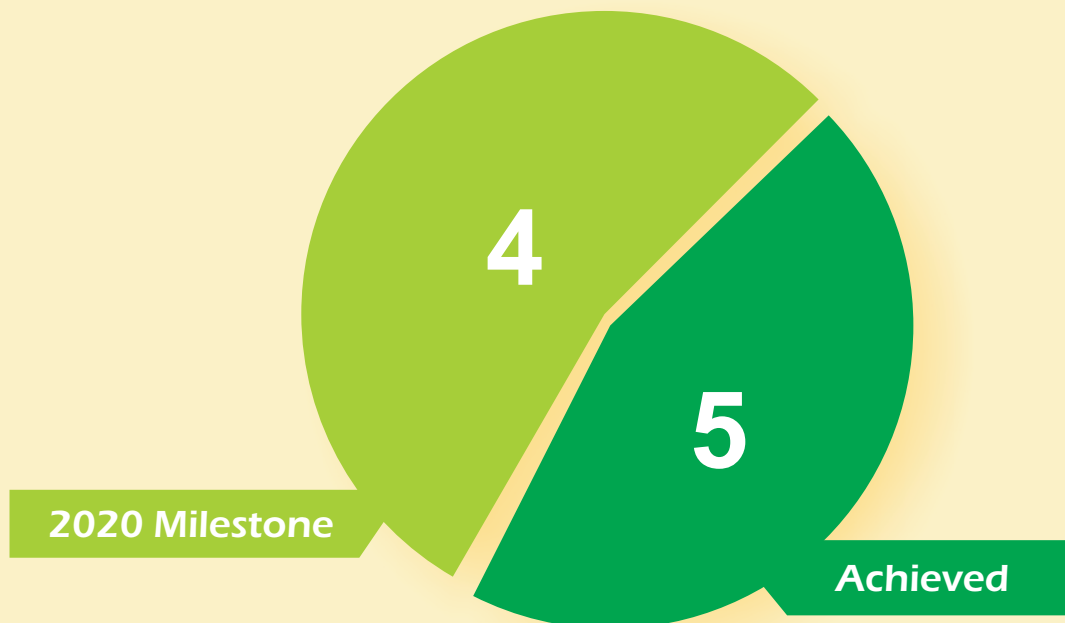


3 books on innovations in mechanisation, youth employment and livestock value chain published and disseminated (PARI project)



2023 TARGET

At least 20 research products developed and disseminated to influence policies and investment on climate change, bio-economy and resource use in Africa.



Indicator of use of the publications: Downloaded 840 times.

Biennial CSA conference in December 2020 to generate 40 publications to be disseminated through a special edition of the Journal Sustainability (20) and FARA Research Reports (20).

KMLC

Knowledge Management, Learning & Communication

Outcome:

Develop and maintain an interoperable Agricultural Research and Innovation data management system: FARADDataInfoms

Develop and maintain an observatory for Agricultural STI

Facilitate and promote knowledge and information dissemination, and communication among ARI actors

Highlight of Achievement

206 new IPs on the IP portal

0.96 million value chain actors reached

10 Knowledge platforms integrated and made accessible through FARADDataInformS

114 Knowledge products generated and disseminated

4 papers published on measures for Covid-19 pandemic

11 webinars, involving over 4,500 participants, organised on Covid-19.

Information on 60 technologies under 9 TAAT compacts and enablers packaged in extension manuals

2,500 experts from over 40 countries availed in FARA databases

4 countries (Rwanda, Egypt, Malawi and Ghana) self-assessing policies using the PPI

2 policy briefs from country policy practice assessments developed

2 policy briefs on aflatoxin produced

4 partnerships established for knowledge sharing

OVERALL
ACHIEVEMENT:

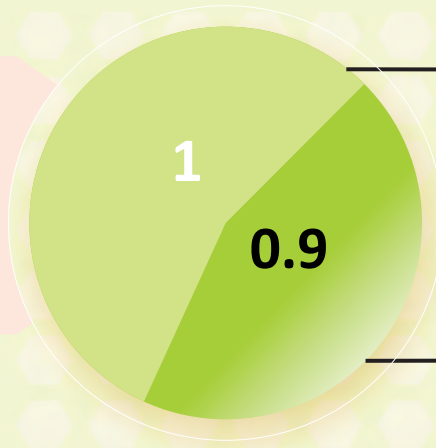
80%



3.2.1 Facilitating knowledge and information management

2023 TARGET

At least 5 million value chain actors reached through FARA online platforms



2020 Milestone: 1 million

Achieved: 0.96m

0.96 million value chain actors reached through the following online channels which are part of DataInforms

- **78,439 Online library**
- **274 Biomassnet**
- **481,987 IP-Portal**
- **20,996 Dgroups**
- **2,560 E-Capacities**
- **375,634 PAEPARD**

&

206 New IPs were formed, bringing the total IPs to 454 under the management of 732 FARA-trained IP facilitators.



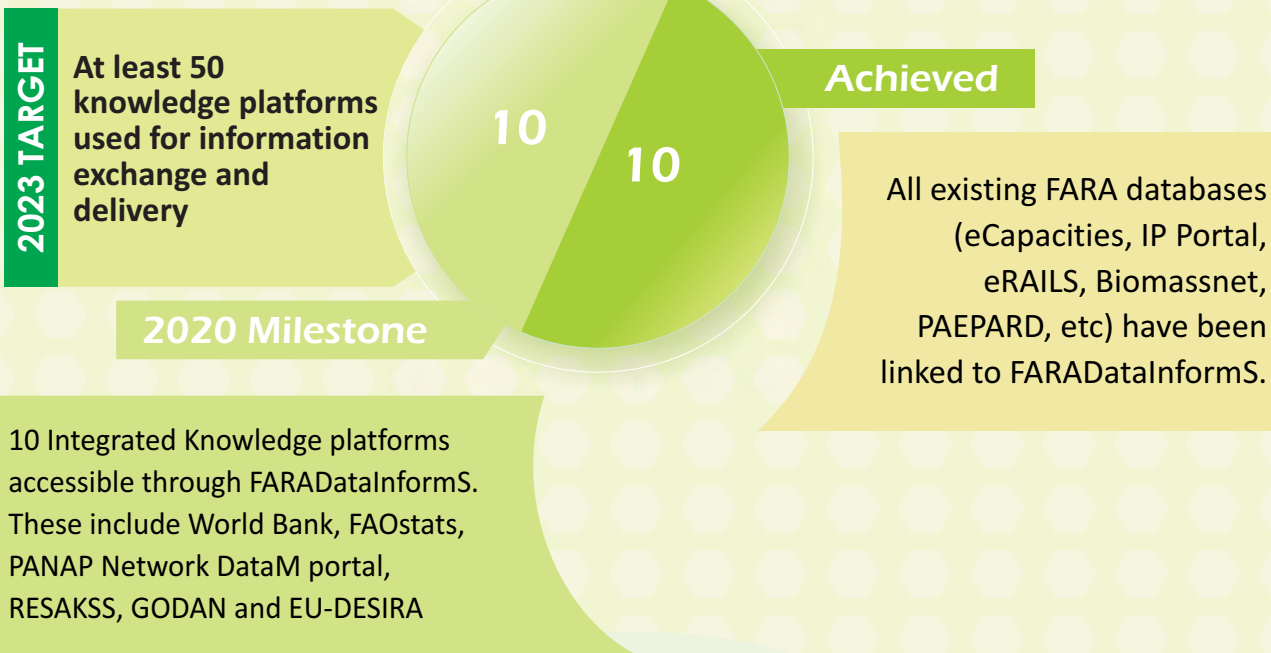
From Left Krishan Bheenick, Lead Specialist for CDA and Coordinator for TAAT-CDTO in an open conversation with Mr. Benjamin Abugri, Knowledge Management & Outreach Officer



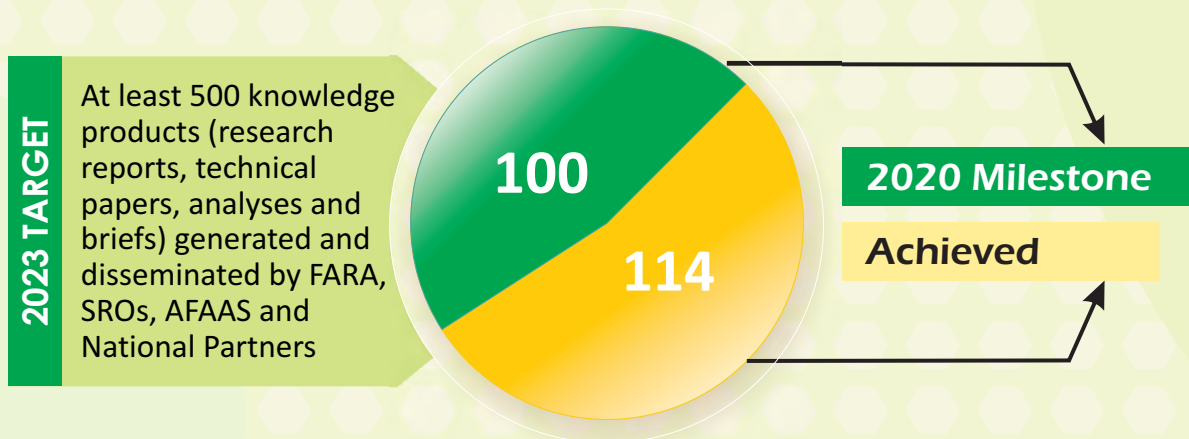
A demonstration of how digitalization is becoming more effective with nursery. Giwa, Nigeria.

Communications Unit

3.2.2 Advocating for approaches and policies that support uptake of STI



3.2.3 Supporting strategic reflections and development at continental, regional and national levels



In the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic:

**4 Papers were published to provide mitigation measures.
11 webinars organized with over 4,500 participants.**

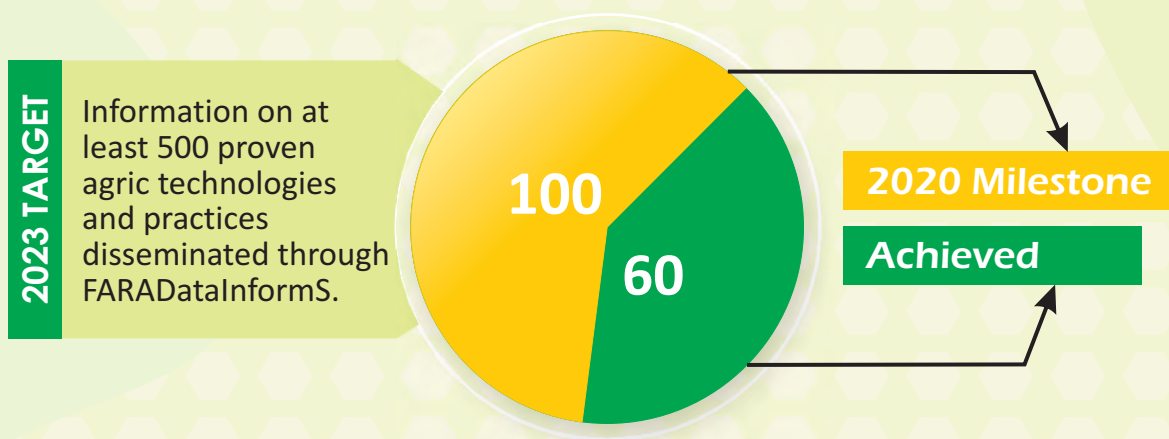
FARA has become a formidable platform for online engagement with AR4D actors across Africa

114 Knowledge Products generated and disseminated		
57 research reports	31 Dissemination notes (10 TAAT)	2 policy briefs
14 Agric tech guides		10 webinar briefs



FARA Annual Board meeting, FARA Secretariat, Accra Ghana.

3.2.4 Positioning Africa ARD in global platforms

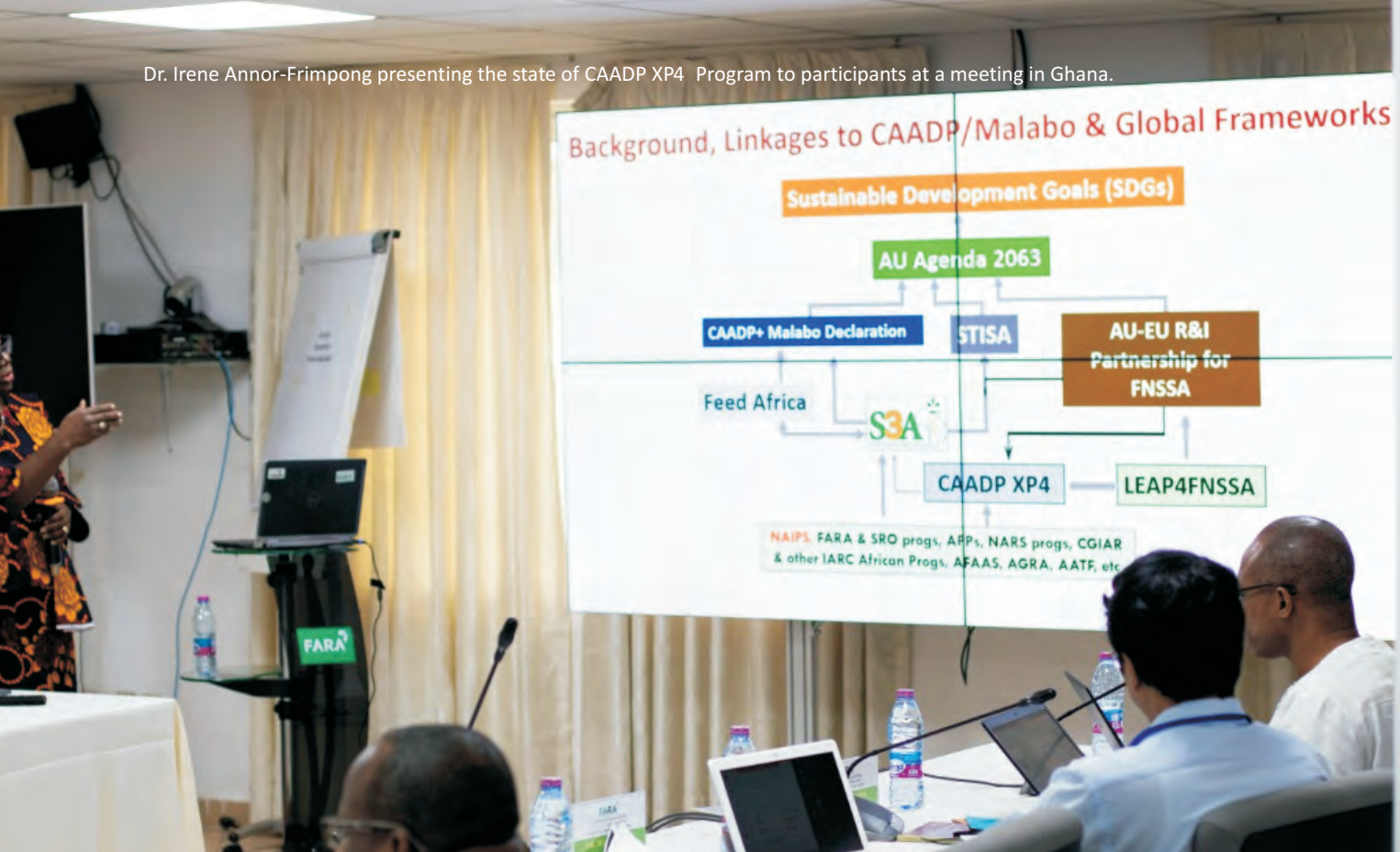


60 Technologies packaged in collaboration with 9 TAAT into extension manuals and also published through FARADatInformS for users to access

Highlight

The compacts are Fish, OFSP, Cassava, HIB, Livestock, Rice, Wheat, Sorghum/Millet & Maize) and Enablers (Water, Youth & Soil). Initial dissemination was through Webinars

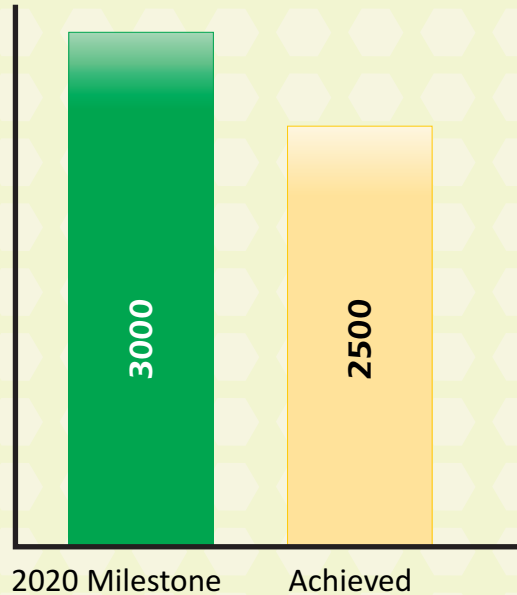




3.2.5a Cross-cutting: Policy advocacy on land and water, nutrition and intra-regional trade

2023 TARGET

At least 15,000 experts (African & non-African) availed in a database that is accessible by AR4D users



2,500 experts from over 40 countries availed in FARA databases accessible to users

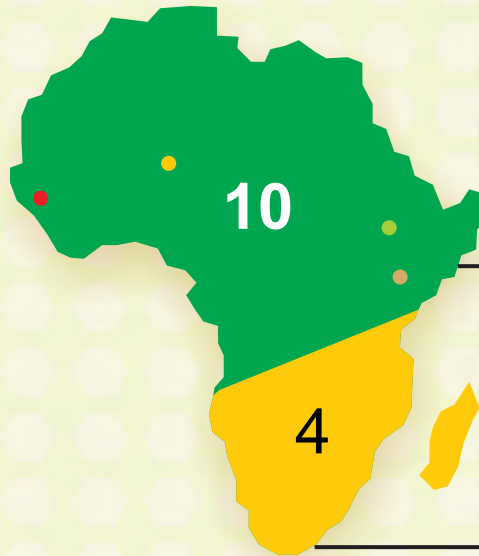
1345 experts in Dgroups from the TAAT project.

557 experts from Foresight Academy

598 experts from All Africa Animal Agriculture Association

3.2.5b Cross-cutting: Policy advocacy on land and water, nutrition and intra-regional trade

2023 TARGET
At least 40 African countries self-assessing existing policies and their implementation using Policy Practice Index tools



4 countries (Rwanda, Egypt, Malawi and Ghana) self-assessing policies using the PPI

2020 Milestone
Achieved

Remarks

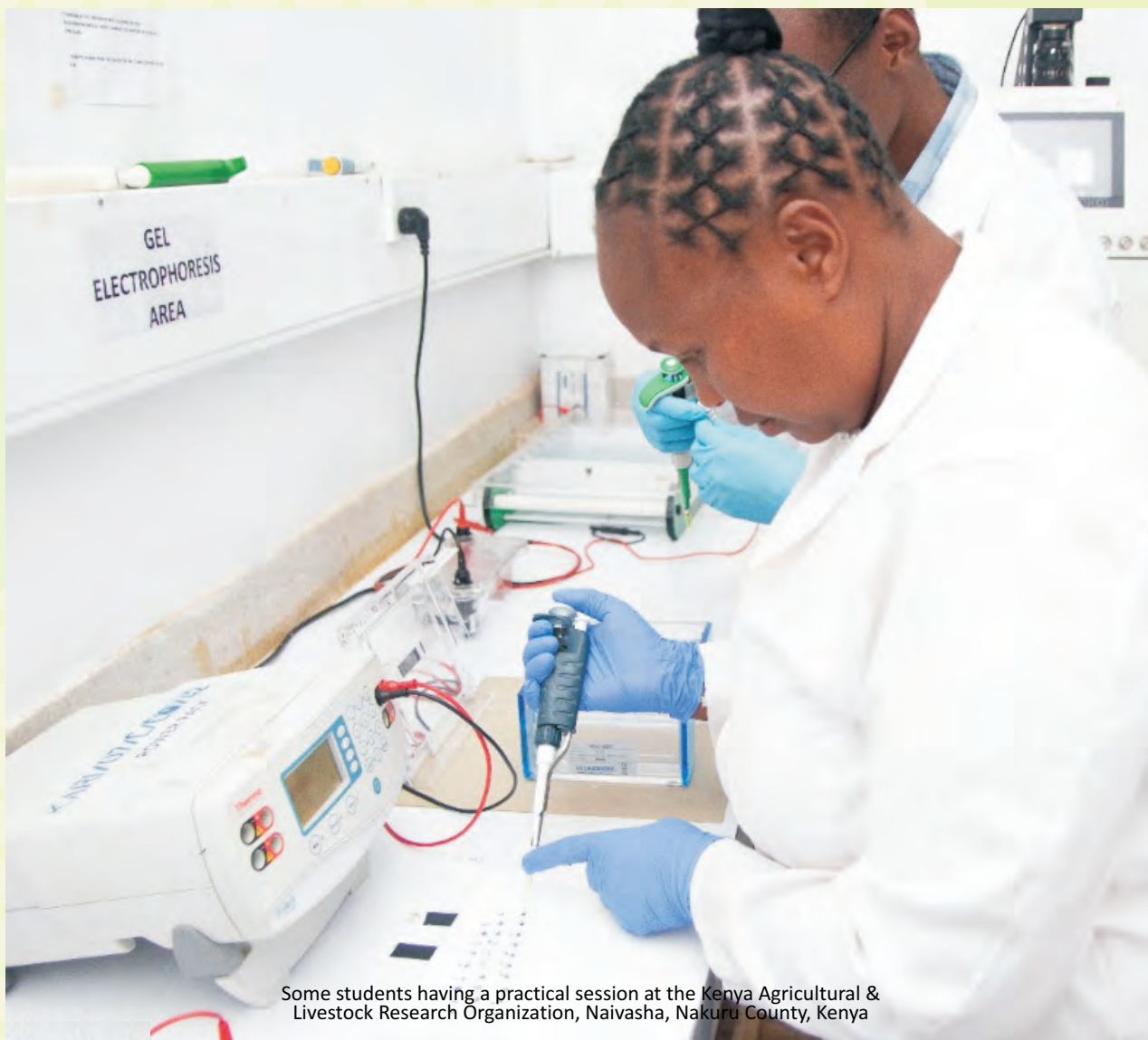
Capacities of SROs and AFAAS to be built through CAADP-XP4 to accelerate the process.

PANAP (Pan-African Network for Economic Analysis of Policies) AU-EU initiative is to be leveraged to advance this work.

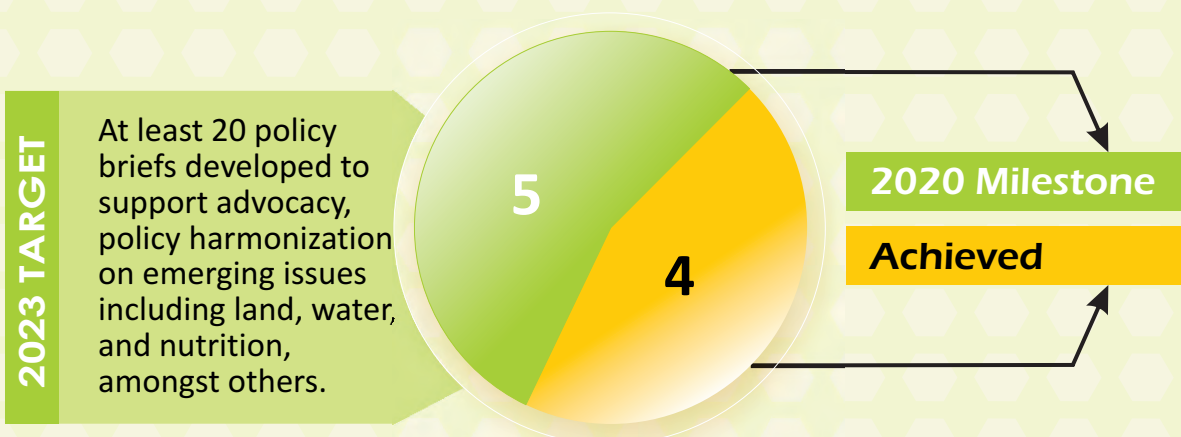
A section of FARA's Hybrid Meeting which took place at the Secretariat in Accra



3.2.5c Cross-cutting: Policy advocacy on land and water, nutrition and intra-regional trade



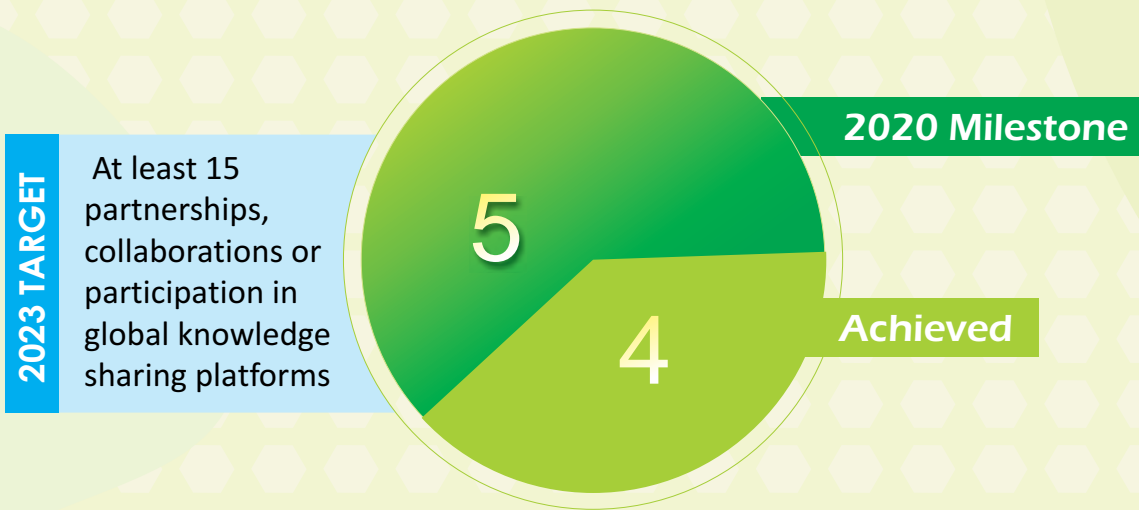
Some students having a practical session at the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization, Naivasha, Nakuru County, Kenya



2 policy briefs from country Policy practice assessment reports developed

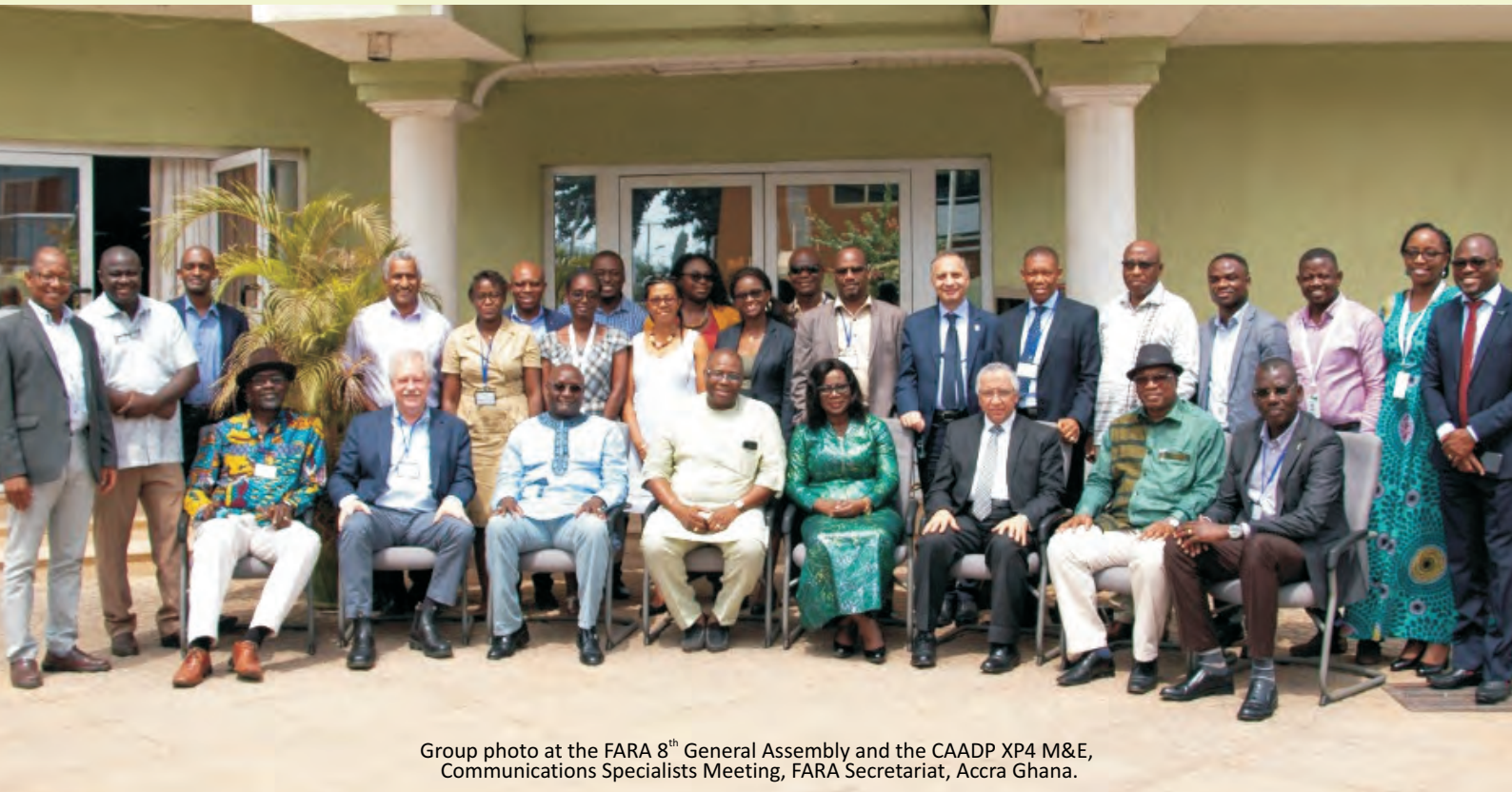
2 Policy briefs on aflatoxin produced and published in collaboration with Ghana CSIR-STEPRI (NARI)

3.2.5a Cross-cutting: Policy advocacy on land and water, nutrition and intra-regional trade



4 partnerships established for knowledge sharing

- Partnership with Africa-Seed on the Seed Knowledge Gateway
- Letter of intent to collaborate with AOSTI
- Partnership with PANAP's DataM
- Partnership in the context of FARADDataInformS with CAADP-XP4 institutions



ICF

Institutional Capacity and future Scenarios

Outcome

Identifying institutional capacity needs and relevant tools for bridging the gap

Responding to priority capacity needs for science, research management, outreach, agribusiness, foresight, gender mainstreaming and leadership

Strengthening insitutional capacities for future scenarios analysis for improved long term planning

Building institutional capacity for mainstreaming gender

Highlight of Achievement

Capacity audits carried out in 10 countries covering 19 value chains

10 countries covered by Capacity audits using new instrument

30 capacity assessment tools compiled on Planning (11), Implementation (9) and Scaling (10)

Virtual Africa Foresight Academy (AFA) portal established

45 African institutions engaged on Foresight through FARA webinar series

Supported capacity development of 34 Nigeria universities through FARA-TetFund-UFV partnership

Organised 6 webinars on commercialisation of technologies for 3,000 participants and 610 private sector actors

Book on gender mainstreaming framework for TAAT published in collaboration with AWARD

Engagement of 37% women through webinars and online discussions

1,260 youth engaged through webinars and online discussions

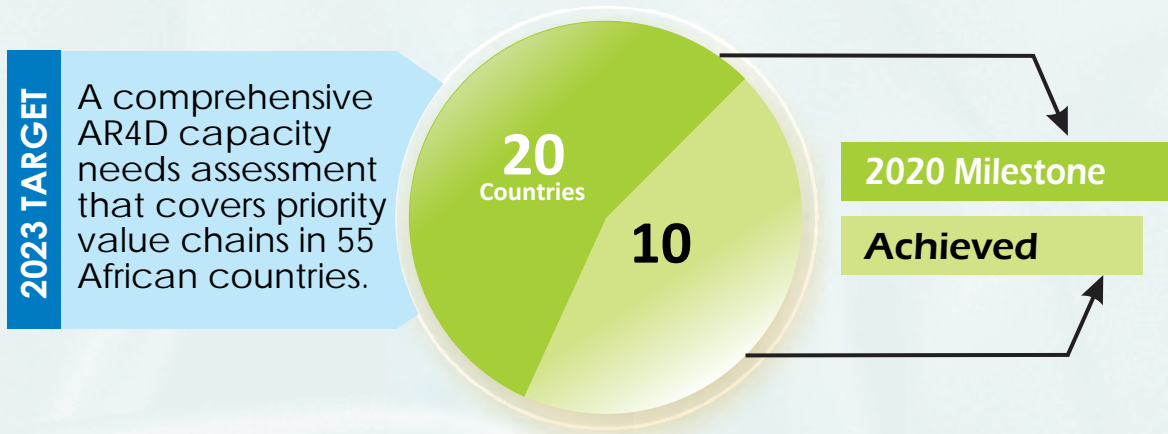
·Conceptualized the Africa youth agriprenurship engagement strategy with partners



OVERALL
ACHIEVEMENT:

89%

3.3.1 Identifying, establishing and updating Africa's AR4D capacity needs



Capacity audits carried out in 10 countries covering 19 value chains with SROs and AFAAS (TAAT)

Remarks

Capacity Assessment approach, based on TAP Common Framework, for institutions and value chains
Capacity gap assessments to be carried out in 20 countries under CAADP XP4 project
E-capacities to match supply and demand

The Executive Director, Dr Yemi Akinbami in a virtual Meeting.

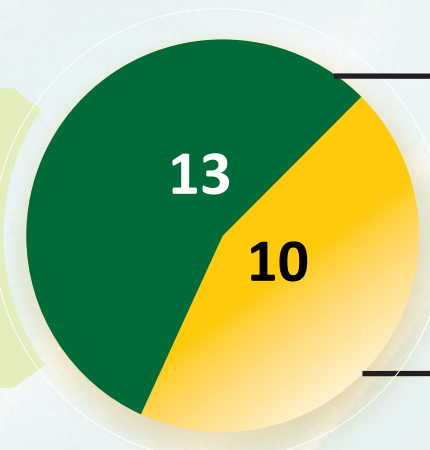




3.3.2 Updating tools and instruments for capacity needs assessment

2023 TARGET

55 African countries benefit from tools and instruments to develop/update capacity action plans.



2020 Milestone

Achieved

10 countries covered by capacity audits using 30 assessment tools

- Capacity to plan (11)
- Capacity to implement (9)
- Capacity to scale (10)

6 Capacity Development tools also updated in collaboration with FARA partners.



Maize Scientists at a farm in Zaria, Nigeria

3.3.3a Responding to priority capacity needs for foresight, STI and Agripreneurship

2023 TARGET Capacity for Foresight among professionals acquired by at least 110 African AR4D institutions and private sector.



45 African institutions engaged on Foresight through the FARA Webinar series (8 webinars)

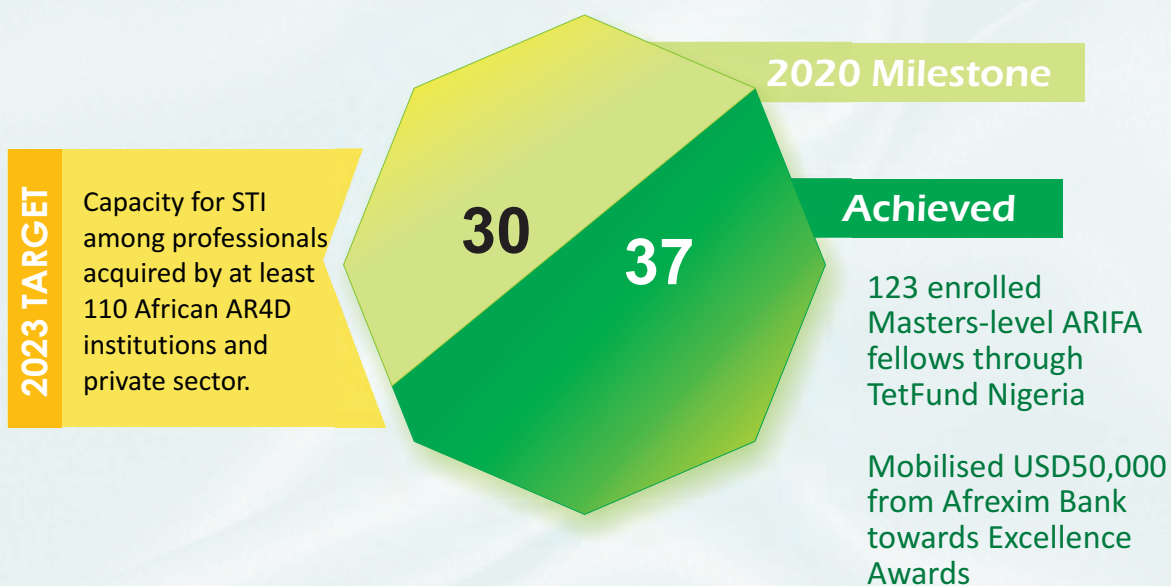
Foresight studies in Malawi through small grant from Foundation for a Smoke-free World

A virtual Africa Foresight Academy (AFA) portal has been established and contents generated for the site through a series of webinars and online discussions organised in collaboration with Foresight4Food & GFAR.

Executive members of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Tetfund) led by Professor Suleiman Bogoro in an official visit to the FARA Secretariat ahead of the signing of the MOU to commence ARIFA.



3.3.3b Responding to priority capacity needs for foresight, STI and Agripreneurship



Supported capacity development of 34 Nigeria Universities through the FARA-TetFund-UfV partnership on Agriculture Research and Innovation Fellowships for Africa (ARIFA)
 3 institutions supported through the FARA-CIHEAM-Bari partnership on ARIFA

3.3.4a Cross-cutting: Mainstreaming gender and youth

Cross-section of the FARA 8th General Assembly held in Accra at the FARA Secretariat.



2023 TARGET

Capacity for Agripreneurship acquired by at least 2,500 African AR4D practitioners.



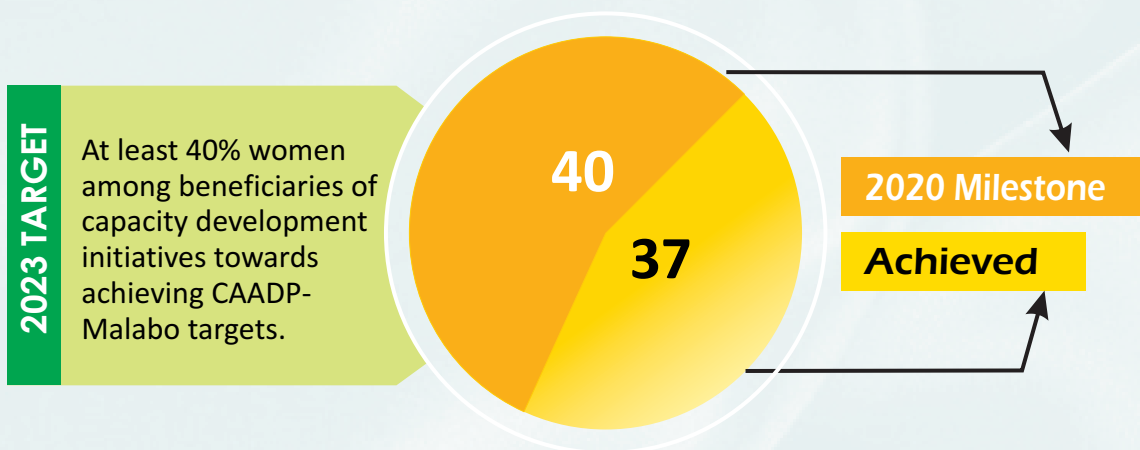
6 webinars on commercialisation of technologies with 3,000 participants among 610 private sector actors.

Information on 60 technologies delivered in collaboration with 9 TAAT compacts. 12 promotional briefs, 12 modular extension manuals and 6 webinar summaries prepared and disseminated (with AFAAS)



Patience Agbayizah works as an extension officer in the Ho Municipality, Ghana. She provides technical advice to people venturing into Farming or Expanding their Agricultural farms.

3.3.4b Cross-cutting: Mainstreaming gender and youth



2023 TARGET
At least 40% women among beneficiaries of capacity development initiatives towards achieving CAADP-Malabo targets.

2020 Milestone
Achieved

A gender mainstreaming framework developed for TAAT in collaboration with AWARD

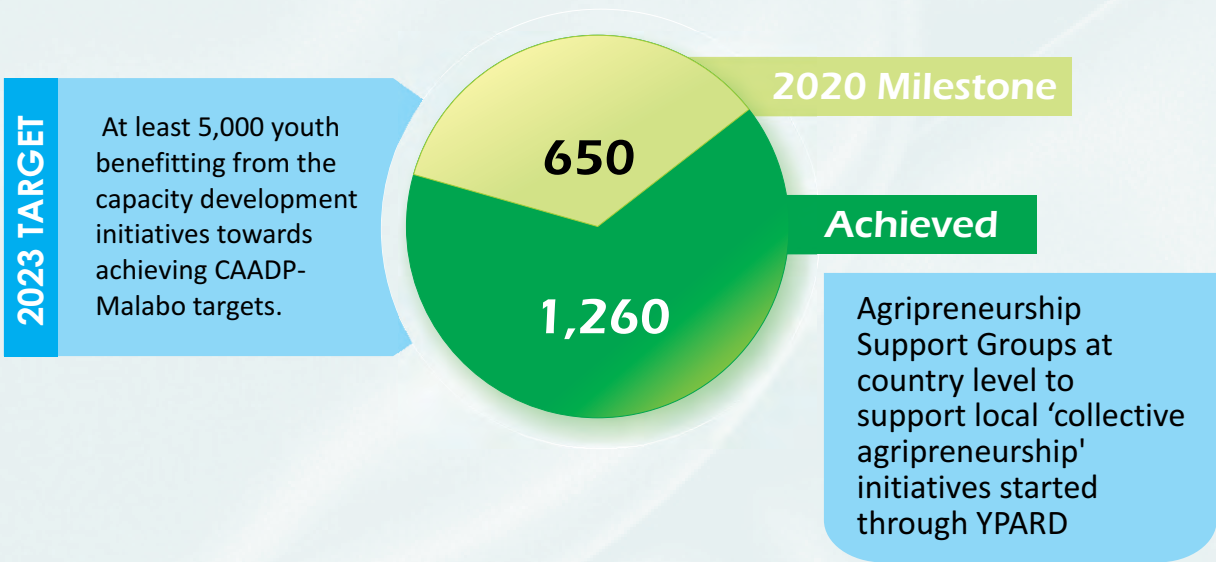
Achieved Engagement of 37% women through webinars and online discussions

1 position paper and 2 opinion pieces providing guidelines on priority areas for increasing women and youth participation in AR4D prepared and disseminated



Amevor farms, managed by Obed Amevor (Center) has mango plantation that spans across over 300 acres in the Eastern Region, Ghana, empowering livelihoods of many and also proving training programs for young farmers.

3.3.4c Cross-cutting: Mainstreaming gender and youth



1,260 youth engaged through webinars and online discussions (TAAT and foresight)
 Conceptualized the Africa youth agripreneurship engagement strategy with partners (CORAF, ENABLE TAAT, ALA and YPARD)

RPIIn

Research, Policy & Investment

Outcome

Improving the science-policy environment to enhance the impact of AR4D

Support actions to increase investments in AR4D through resource mobilization

Support mainstreaming of the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A) into national agricultural investment plans and programmes (NAIPs)

Highlight of Achievement

Mobilised USD 14.65m in 7 funded programmes, under CAADP-XP4, Soils4Africa, LEAP4FNSSA, SSTC-IFAD, CP Innovation Fund, ARIFA (TetFund), and Afrexim Excellence Award

Developed and shared guidelines for establishing equitable partnership fund facility

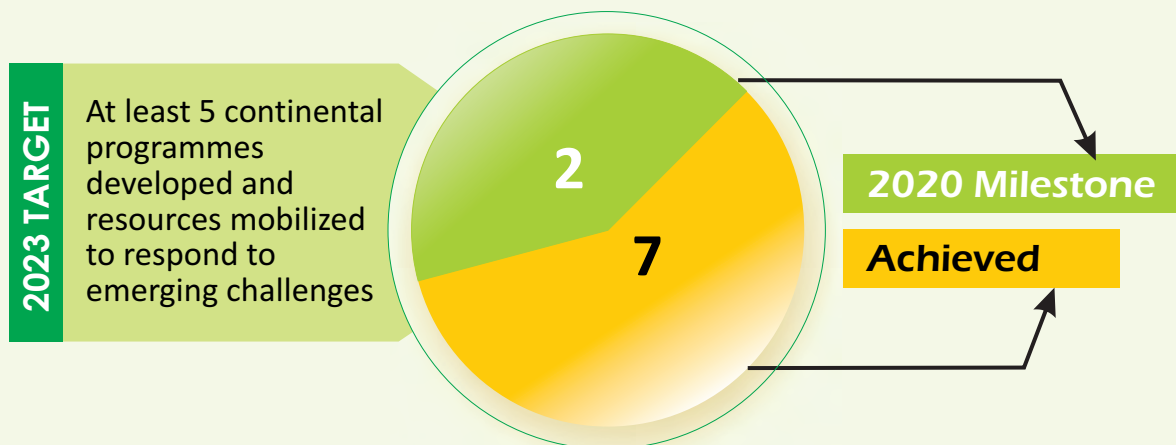
Facilitated the domestication of S3A in NAIPs, under MESTI 1 by Ghana

OVERALL
ACHIEVEMENT:

34%



3.4.1 Facilitating the development of continental programmes/projects and research to respond to emerging challenges and testing of new paradigms



7 funded programmes

- 5.46m CAADP-XP4
- 0.46m Soils4Africa
- 0.27m LEAP4FNSSA
- 0.5m SSTC-IFAD
- 5.67m ACP innovation fund
- 2.30m ARIFA (TetFund)
- 0.05m Afrexim Excellence Award

Other Programmes under negotiations

- AFRICA fund (AfDB)
- Common African Agro-Parks (Afrexim bank)
- Malabo Stay-on Track Programme (CAADP PP DPs)
- Soil Initiative for Africa





A scientist at the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization, Naivasha, Nakuru County, Kenya

3.4.2 Facilitating the mainstreaming of S3A in national processes to achieve CAADP goals

2023 TARGET

S3A mainstreamed in at least 45 additional national processes (e.g. NAIPs) to achieve CAADP goals.



1 country (Ghana) has domesticated the S3A in the NAIPs and under MESTI.

This is one of the activities most heavily impacted by COVID-19 restrictions because consultations with countries on S3A were envisaged to involve physical interaction

3.4.3 Facilitating the coordination of continental programmes (CAADP-XP4, TAAT, LEAP4FNSSA, etc)

2023 TARGET

All programmes (CAADP XP4, TAAT, LEAP4FNSSA, Soils4Africa, etc) hosted at FARA well-coordinated (ranked at least moderately satisfactory in partners' rating systems).



Activities to track level of satisfaction with coordination to be given strong attention going forward

Frequency of measuring progress towards this target is not more than once annually. So no objective data yet.

Nevertheless, FARA's view of its coordination of continental projects is satisfactory and improving. FARA's continental leadership is often solicited. COVID-19 restrictions have also offered opportunities for consolidating coordination, e.g. TAAT

PO

Programme Oversight

Outcome

Management and support functions necessary for successful delivery of expected result from the programme clusters

Highlight of Achievement

Developed automated M&E system for systematic tracking and reporting

Coordinated the preparation of biannual progress reports

Supported preparation TAAT, PARI, and LEAP4FNSSA reports

Coordinated compilation of CAADP-XP4 Technical Report to IFAD

Supported SROs, AFAAS and the AUC in technical M&E development and reporting

Established M&E working groups for FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF

Developed Quality Assurance instruments, including: Programme Implementation Profile (PIP) template for reporting of progress by individual staff; Project proposal development checklist templates; and Project Closure reporting template

Developed Sub-grant Quality Assurance report template manual

Facilitated CAADP XP4-wide working groups on M&E, communications and knowledge management.

Facilitated joint CAADP XP4 activities on M&E, Resource Mobilisation, and ISO standards for sharing information.

Convened PC panel meeting for joint planning among CAADP-XP4 organisations



Broad activity	Achievements
M&E Tools development, Adjustment and Automation	<p>Development of an automated M&E system for systematic tracking and reporting on progress of FARA's programmes including those co-implemented with partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS-Access database management system developed and tested • System now upgraded to web-based system • System to be linked to other databases e.g. CAADP Malabo DB and DataInformS
Reporting and Support to Mutual Accountability platforms	<p>Coordinated the preparation of progress reports (2 quarterly, 1 biannual).</p> <p>Supported preparation of project reports (TAAT, PARI, LEAP4FNSSA)</p> <p>Coordinated compilation of CAADP-XP4 technical progress report to IFAD in Feb 2020</p>
M&E Capacity Strengthening of Partners and Peer Learning	<p>Responded to demands of SROs, AFAAS and the AUC for technical support in M&E.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC: support to preparation of the CAADP-Malabo Biennial Review report and scorecards • SROs and AFAAS: Peer learning in M&E; technical in automatic of M&E systems <p>Establishment of M&E working group for FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF strengthen coordination of M&E.</p>
Planning of FARA strategy and programmes	<p>The 2020 workplan was revised due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Brought forward activities that did not require travelling e.g. development of concept notes, ToRs, technical proposals.</p> <p>By September, 35 concept notes and ToRs had been developed and approved to cover most of the 2020 activities.</p>
Quality Assurance and Grants Compliance	<p>The following Quality assurance instruments were developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Implementation Profile (PIP) template for reporting of progress by individual staff • A project proposal development check list templates; • Project Closure reporting template <p>sub grant quality Assurance report template Programmes Process Manual</p>
Programme Oversight (Technical Leadership, Management, Administration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular administrative support activities (staff appraisals, mentorship and orientation) • Programme management meetings (12 portfolio review, Directorate and joint planning and review meetings) • Facilitate CAADP XP4 -wide working groups on M&E, Communications and Knowledge Management.

Financial Performance

FARA's activities during the year were mainly financed by the Time Bound Activities (TBAs) through bilateral agreements with various Development Partners. Core Secretariat activities were financed by transfer from restricted funds, Reserves drawdown and other miscellaneous income.

Total revenue during the year ended 31 December 2020 was USD1,491,985 which was grant revenue for Programme Time Bound Activities – see Donors' Contribution schedule for details. Other sundry revenue amounted to USD81,907.

Total expenditure incurred during the period was USD2,878,352, of which 48% was for the Secretariat and 52% for Time Bound Activities. This resulted in a positive net balance of USD111,546, taking into consideration an amount of USD270,000 drawn from the Reserves and USD1.146m transferred from Closed Restricted funds for the Secretariat operations.

Funding during the year came from BMZ/ZEF for PARI activities and TETFUND (Nigeria) for ARIFA project. The African Development Bank (AfDB) gave support for the “Technology for African Agriculture Transformation (TAAT)” through IITA. Other contributors to FARA's activities during the year were: EC/CIRAD for LEAP4FNSSA, while GFAR/FAO gave funding to support YPARD activities; AGRIDEA and EC, through ISIRIC, gave funding for Soil for Africa; Foundation for Smoke Free World (FSFW) supported Foresight studies, while CTA gave funding for Asset Legacy transfer.

FARA is sincerely grateful to, and acknowledges the contributions made by all its development partners mentioned in this report.

Statement of Financial Performance for the years ended

	31-Dec-20 US\$	31-Dec-19 US\$
Operating Revenue		
Donor Grants		
Secretariat (Restricted Reclassified)	1,146,006	0
Programmes	1,491,985	1,777,017
Total Donor Grants	2,637,991	1,777,017
Other revenue	81,907	113,700
Total Operating Revenue	2,719,898	1,890,717
EXPENDITURE		
Secretariat	1,386,367	2,088,658
Programmes	1,491,985	1,777,017
Total Operating Expenses	2,878,352	3,865,675
Excess of revenue over expenditure	-158,454	-1,974,958
Transfer from Reserves	270,000	1,200,000
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	111,546	-774,958

Statement of financial position

The Balance Sheet showed the Total Assets of USD4,088,353, including Cash and Bank Balances of USD3,768,856 as at 31 December 2020. With the Current Liabilities of USD2,931,328, the net assets of USD1,157,024 is represented by Reserves of USD883,298 and the Accumulated fund balance of USD273,726

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December

	2020	2019
	US\$	US\$
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	29,630	50,478
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,768,856	4,395,453
Advances	245,724	27,868
Inventories	5,658	6,418
Prepayments	38,484	133,236
Total Current Assets	4,058,722	4,562,975
<u>Total Assets</u>	4,088,353	4,613,453
Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses & Payables	646,498	364,698
Temporary Restricted Funds	2,284,830	2,933,276
	2,931,328	3,297,974
Net Assets	1,157,024	1,315,479
Represented by		
Reserves	883,298	1,153,298
Accumulated Funds	273,726	162,181
	1,157,024	1,315,479

Donor Contributions for the Year		2020	2019
Development Partner	Project/Programme	US\$	US\$
European Commission	Platform for African European Partnership for Agricultural Research & Development (PAEPARD)	0	813,946
BMZ/University of Bonn	Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI)	516,043	499,847
African Development Bank (AfDB)	Technology for African Agriculture Transformation (TAAT)	376,365	736,980
EC/IFAD	CAADP Ex-Pillar 4 Project	0	1,540,700
BMGF/CIP	Building Nutritious Food Basket (BNFB)	0	6,896
GFAR/AGRIDEA	Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD)	27,371	18,865
EC/CIRAD	Long-term EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (LEAP4FNSSA)	46,573	0
TETFUND	Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA)	914,020	0
EC/ISIRIC	Soil Information System for Africa	43,028	0
FSFW	Foresight Studies	42,302	0
The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)	CTA Legacy Asset Transfer	23,844	0
Total Received during the Year		1,989,545	3,617,234
Net Change in programme funds		-497,561	1,840,217
Total Revenue		1,491,985	1,777,017

Concluding Remarks

The second year of implementation of the business plan has been substantially affected by the restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19. These effects are not unique to FARA. Although the impact of the restrictions was initially severe, the Secretariat subsequently adapted, adjusting to take advantage of the few opportunities that emerged.

There was significant improvement in the progress posted by KDS and CDA because their activities could be implemented with online tools. On the other hand, RML registered a decline in progress because some of its key activities, such as science agenda mainstreaming and write shops on resource mobilisation required face-to-face engagement. The re-clustering is expected to strengthen the coherence within clusters (e.g. RML and CDA) and improve the effectiveness of the clusters in delivering their milestones and outcomes. It is therefore a useful intervention towards improving the level of achievement.

The high level of achievement registered using a modest proportion of the budget is an important revelation. It will be examined further to gain lessons and identify opportunities the Secretariat should capitalise upon and mainstream to improve its cost-effectiveness and relevance. Examples include the use of online meetings and leveraging our now-recognised competences in organising webinars.

Refreshingly, the collaboration with SROs and AFAAS is strengthening, as opportunities for joint actions grow through CAADP-XP4 and calls for proposals that require creation of consortia. This is a very welcome trend because the sustainability of the supra-national AR4D system is strongly tied to the cohesiveness of the system.

From left, Dr. Aggrey Agumya (Director for Stakeholder Engagement and Communications, FARA), Dr. Yemi Akinbami (Executive Director, FARA), Professor Suleiman Bogoro (Executive Secretary, TETFund), Dr. Irene Annor Frempong (Director, Research and Innovation, FARA)



Board of Directors



Dr. Alioune Fall
Chairperson



Dr. Yemi Akinbami
Executive Director



Dr. Abdou Tenkouano
Executive Director of CORAF



Dr. Enock Warinda
Interim ED of ASARECA



Dr. Cliff Dlamini
Executive Director of CCARDESA



Prof. Mohamed Soliman
President of the Agricultural Research Centre



Dr. Janet Edeme
Head, Rural Economy Division, AUC



Dr. Harold Roy-Macauley
Director General, AfricaRice



Ms. Bongiwe Njobe
Private Sector



Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala
Pan Africa Farmers' Organization



Dr. Bouchaib Boulanouar
African Development Bank



Mr. Christophe Larose
EU-Development Partners (Observer)

Directors' Profiles



Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, a Nigerian national, is the Executive Director (ED) of FARA and has served in this position since July 2013. As the ED, he is FARA's Chief Executive Officer with the prime responsibility of managing the Secretariat's staff, programmes, finances and assets. He is the chief spokesperson of FARA and manages FARA's stakeholders within and outside Africa. He serves as the Secretary to FARA's Board of Directors.



Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong, a Ghanaian national, is the Director for Research and Innovation. She joined FARA in September 2008 and has served in senior management positions since then. She is responsible for technical oversight and coordination of FARA's programme. She is currently a Commissioner of the Global Consortium for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Commission.



Dr. Aggrey Agumya, a Ugandan national, is the Director for Stakeholder Engagement and Communications and has served in this role since January 2016. His portfolio covers strengthening and maintaining relations with FARA's strategic partners, coordinating governance processes, formulating and activating resource mobilization strategies, and communication for enhancing visibility of FARA and its work. He joined FARA in 2006.

Professional Staff



Mr. Johnson Ukpong
Finance Manager



Ms. Ama Pokuah Asenso
Human Resource and Administration Manager



Mrs. Vesta Nunoo
Grants & Compliance Manager



Dr. Jonas Mugabe
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Mr. Benjamin Abugri
Knowledge Management & Outreach Officer



Mrs. Keren Munoko
Agribusiness Expert



Dr. Kwaku Antwi
Policy Officer



FARA

Continental Data Capture Strategy (CDCS)

A Practical Guide for Knowledge Managers in Africa 2020

CAADP
XPR
Programme

IFAD

STRATEGIES

ASARECA
CARLESA
COMAF

May 2021