

A Report and Guidelines on the Operationalisation of the PANAP Website and Knowledge Platform

StEPPFoS Deliverable Report: D3.3



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Abstract	<p>The PANAP website and Knowledge Platform (StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform) constitute a critical digital component of the StEPPFoS project's broader effort to operationalise evidence-based policy and research collaboration between African and European partners. Initially hosted within the European Commission's DataM platform, the PANAP site functions as a living repository of models, datasets, publications, and analytical dashboards supporting the Pan-African Network for Economic Analysis of Policies (PANAP). Under WP3, the platform has been expanded and integrated into FARA's institutional digital infrastructure through the StEPPFoS website, creating an interoperable and federated knowledge ecosystem that connects DataM, FARADatInformS, KM4AgD, and other African</p>
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	<p>digital knowledge assets.</p> <p>This deliverable documents the technical and operational development of the platform, its architecture and features, as well as its alignment with AU–EU Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) priorities. It demonstrates the system’s functionality, showcases the benefits to stakeholders, and provides reflections for future enhancement and sustainability.</p>
Keywords	PANAP, FARA, JRC, DataM, Knowledge Platform, FNSSA, Digital Infrastructure

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Abbreviations

AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
AU-EU	African Union - European Union
CCSE	Climate Change and Sustainable Energy
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
FARADDataInforms	FARA Data and Information Systems
FNSSA	Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture
H2020	Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program
HLPD	High Level Policy Dialogue
ICA	Association for European Life Science Universities
IRC	International Research Consortium
JRC	Joint Research Consortium
KEOPS	Knowledge Extract or Pipeline System
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PANAP	Pan African Network for Economic Analysis of Policies
R&I	Research and Innovation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SANBio	Southern Africa Network for Biosciences
SEW	Stakeholder Engagement Week
StEPPFoS	Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy Practice for Sustainable Food Systems under the EU-AU Partnership
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
WP	Work Package

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose, context and scope of this deliverable

This deliverable provides a consolidated report on the operationalisation of the PANAP website and its integration into the broader StEPPFoS Knowledge Platform. It highlights progress made in developing the technical and institutional frameworks that enable knowledge exchange, policy analysis, and stakeholder engagement within the AU–EU partnership for sustainable food systems.

The report builds upon the earlier PANAP web architecture developed under the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and documents its evolution under WP3 towards a multi-functional, interoperable, and Africa-hosted digital infrastructure maintained by FARA and now referred to as the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform.

The deliverable focuses on the operational and technical development of the StEPPFoS website and associated knowledge tools. It describes the design, hosting, integration, and user functionalities of the platform, as well as its interconnections with related digital systems under the StEPPFoS project.

The accompanying *user guidelines* has been developed as a separate annexe and attached to this report.

1.2 Structure and content of this deliverable

The report is organised into seven main sections covering the context, objectives, platform architecture, integration, capacity building, achievements, and reflections for future development.

Operationalisation of the PANAP Website and Knowledge Platform

This is aimed at establishing a functional and integrated knowledge management infrastructure to support the PANAP network and the broader objectives of evidence-informed policy making under StEPPFoS.

The task that produced this deliverable was led by FARA with contributions from the JRC, ACU, CORAF and CSIR–Ghana. It focused on:

- Developing and maintaining the PANAP Knowledge Platform hosted under FARA's institutional infrastructure.

- Integrating the original PANAP database and models into a federated knowledge architecture.
- Enabling open access, interoperability, and long-term sustainability across the AU–EU knowledge ecosystem.

The outputs of this task directly contribute to building digital public infrastructure that supports knowledge co-creation, policy visibility, and cross-continental collaboration. For example, the outputs of this deliverable underpin all StEPPFoS Work Packages by providing the digital tools, services, and content required for knowledge exchange, co-creation, collaboration, retention, and sustainability across the consortium. The operationalised platform acts as a shared digital public infrastructure that directly supports WP4 in its data collection and analysis functions under the PANAP-FNSSA Partnership and WP1 in hosting the database of countries' research priorities, while also aligning with broader FARA-coordinated initiatives such as the CEA-FIRST Project, which enhances evidence systems for innovation, and the Regional Multi-Actor Research Networks (RMRN) Project. The latter will establish regional PANAP Desks in Western, Eastern, and Southern Africa that can utilise this platform to host policy datasets, coordinate regional dialogues, and facilitate joint analysis. Beyond StEPPFoS, the deliverables' outputs provide a reusable architecture and interoperable services that can benefit policy-related organisations, such as KIPPRA, AKADEMIYA 2063, and other African and European centres of excellence working to advance data-driven policy design and evidence-based decision-making across the AU-EU partnership.



Figure 1: Homepage of the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform

1.3 Development and Operationalisation of the PANAP Website and Knowledge Platform

Technical and Structural Overview

The PANAP Knowledge Platform was established as part of the StEPPFoS website (<https://steppfos.faraafrica.org>), linking directly with FARA's institutional digital systems, notably [FARADataInformS](#), which is accessible under the 'Other Resources' section of the platform. While the [KM4AgD Fellows Hub](#) is conceptually aligned with the platform's knowledge co-creation objectives, it is currently hosted as part of FARADataInformS and not yet directly integrated; however, it will be considered for linkage in subsequent phases.

The platform's back-end architecture supports:

- ➔ Role-based access and modular scalability
- ➔ Integration with EU and AU data compliance frameworks (GDPR, FAIR principles)
- ➔ Future linkage with AUDA-NEPAD's Africa Knowledge Platform

Overview of Current Platforms

The StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform has been designed as a federated digital

knowledge infrastructure, bringing together several complementary platforms that serve distinct purposes while collectively supporting evidence-based policy engagement, knowledge co-creation, and long-term sustainability under the AU–EU Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) Partnership.

At the core of this architecture is the **StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform** (<https://steppfos.faraafrica.org>), which serves as the **primary entry point** for users. It provides project-level information, curated access to tools and resources, collaboration spaces, and links to specialised platforms hosting datasets, policy models, repositories, and learning services.

The main platforms involved and their respective roles are as follows:

- **StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform** (<https://steppfos.faraafrica.org>)
Acts as the **integrating layer and user-facing gateway**, aggregating content, services, and links from multiple knowledge systems. It supports navigation, collaboration, visibility, and coordination across all StEPPFoS Work Packages.
- **PANAP Portal (JRC DataM Platform)** -
<https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/area/PANAP>
Hosted within the European Commission’s **DataM** environment, the PANAP portal offers **advanced economic modelling tools, analytical dashboards, datasets, and simulations** developed in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre. It serves specialised users, such as analysts, researchers, and policymakers, who require quantitative policy analysis.
- **FARADaInFormS (Continental Knowledge Hub)** -
<https://datainforms.faraafrica.org/>
FARADaInFormS is FARA’s **long-term institutional knowledge repository** and continental digital public infrastructure. It hosts validated knowledge products, datasets, policy briefs, innovation resources, and institutional directories. The StEPPFoS platform is linked directly to FARADaInFormS under the “**Other Resources**” section, ensuring the long-term hosting, discoverability, and sustainability of StEPPFoS outputs beyond the project lifecycle.
- **AARIISpace (Restricted Project Repository)** -
<https://archive.faraafrica.org/s/J5ZSCCawp77CtHd> (View Only access link)

A secure document management system used for **internal project documents**, including draft deliverables, meeting records, and sensitive materials. Access is restricted to consortium members to ensure governance and version control.

- **ColabNet (Collaborative Platform / Community of Practice)** - <https://steppfos.network4collaboration.lifewatch.eu/>

Provides a **collaboration and co-creation environment**, enabling working groups, discussions, document co-editing, and peer exchange across thematic areas and Work Packages.

- **Training and Learning Platforms (LifeWatch)** - <https://training.lifewatch.eu/international-projects/resources/?category=34>

Linked to the StEPPFoS platform to provide **capacity strengthening, digital learning, and skills development** resources supporting uptake and effective use of knowledge products.

Together, these platforms form a **coherent and complementary ecosystem**. The StEPPFoS platform integrates and contextualises content, while PANAP/DataM provides advanced analytics and modelling; FARADatInFormS ensures long-term institutional memory and sustainability. Collaboration and training tools support continuous learning and engagement. This modular yet interconnected design avoids duplication, leverages existing institutional investments, and ensures scalability for future initiatives, including WP4, CEA-FIRST, and the Regional Multi-Actor Research Networks (RMRN).

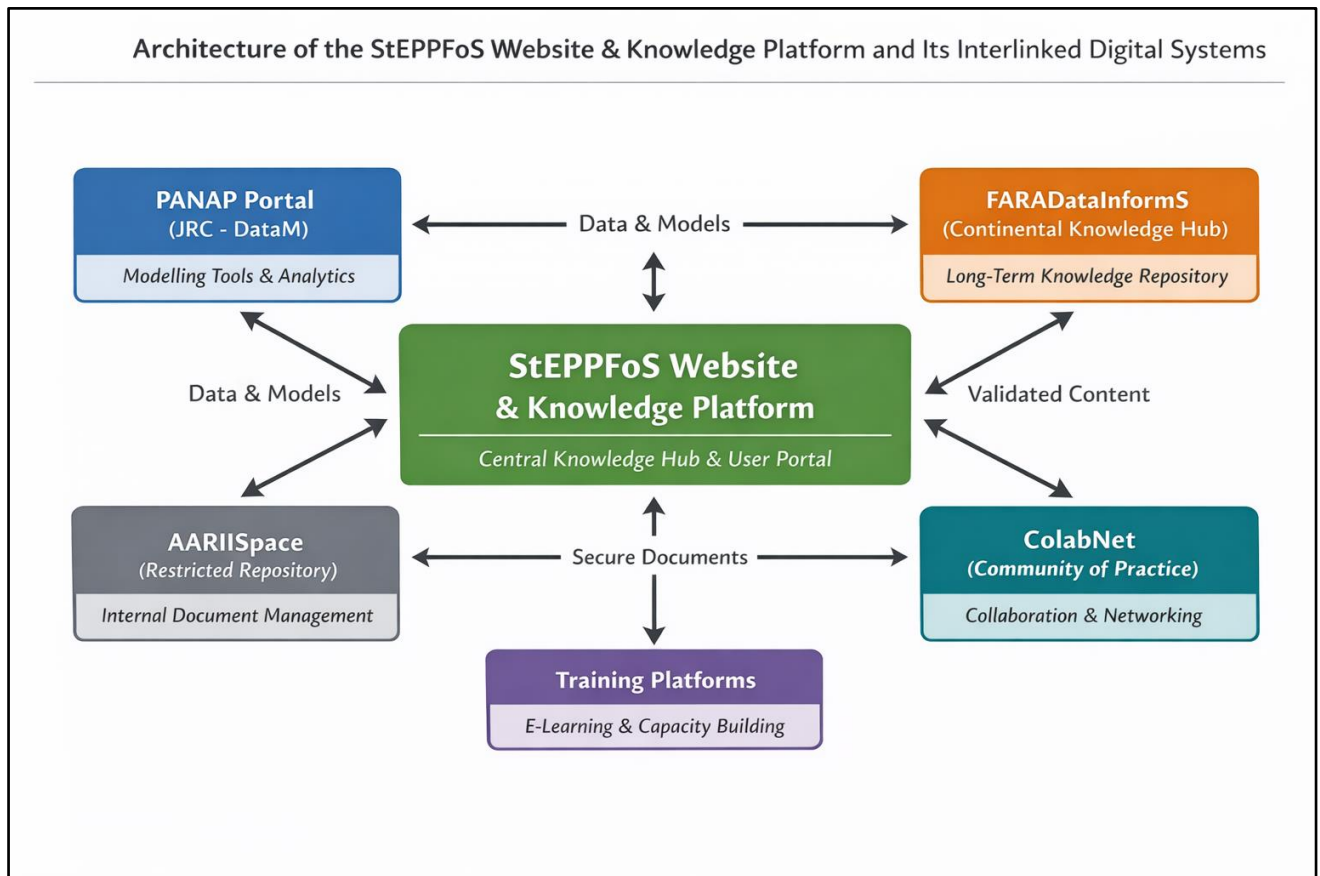


Figure 2: Architecture of the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform and Its Interlinked Digital Systems

Integration of PANAP DataM Portal with StEPPFoS Website

In the context of this deliverable, integration with the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform does not imply a physical merger or transfer of databases or modelling engines across platforms. Rather, it refers to the establishment of a federated and layered digital architecture, where distinct platforms retain their hosting environments and governance arrangements while being functionally connected through structured linkages, shared standards, and coordinated access.

The StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform serve as the primary entry point and orchestration layer. It provides users with curated access to tools, datasets, models, repositories, and collaboration services that are hosted across complementary platforms (EU-based and Africa-based), without duplicating or relocating core assets. This approach was intentionally adopted to respect institutional mandates, ensure data governance compliance, and support long-term sustainability.

Accordingly, integration under WP3 is implemented at **three complementary levels**, rather than through full system merger.

Levels and Steps of Integration Implemented under WP3

1. Entry-Point and Navigational Integration (Implemented)

The StEPPFoS Website aggregates and contextualises access to multiple platforms by acting as a single, user-facing gateway. Through dedicated sections and menus, users are directed to:

- The PANAP Portal which is hosted on the JRC DataM platform for modelling and analytics.
- FARADaInFormS for validated knowledge products and long-term repositories;
- AARIISpace for restricted consortium documents;
- ColabNet for collaboration and co-creation;
- External training platforms for capacity strengthening.

This level of integration ensures **discoverability, coherence, and user orientation**, while maintaining technical independence among platforms.

2. Federated Knowledge Integration (Partially Implemented, Ongoing)

The reference in the report to “integrating the original PANAP database and models into a federated knowledge architecture” refers specifically to this level. Under WP3, federation has been achieved through:

- Harmonisation of content classification and metadata conventions between the StEPPFoS platform and the PANAP/DataM environment;
- Coordinated curation of outputs so that models, dashboards, and publications hosted on DataM are systematically referenced, contextualised, and updated via the StEPPFoS platform;
- Alignment of institutional roles, whereby the JRC remains responsible for model execution and DataM hosting, while FARA ensures visibility, uptake, and sustainability through African-based knowledge infrastructure.

This federation enables functional integration without database replication or transfer, avoiding inconsistencies and governance risks.

3. Data and Service Interoperability (Targeted, Incremental)

Full automated data exchange or system-to-system synchronisation was not pursued

under WP3, as the priority was to establish a stable, reusable architecture. However, WP3 laid the groundwork for interoperability by defining interfaces, standards, and protocols that can be activated in subsequent phases (notably WP4). Interoperability under WP3 has been enabled through a combination of governance, standards, and technical design measures. All platforms involved (DataM, FARADaInFormS, and AARIISpace) apply FAIR data principles and GDPR-compliant governance, ensuring consistency and trust. Metadata harmonisation has been implemented by aligning content descriptors (e.g. country, theme, year, and policy domain), enabling effective cross-referencing across platforms. A role-based governance model clearly separates responsibilities between JRC (modelling, analytics, EU hosting) and FARA (knowledge aggregation, dissemination, and sustainability). In addition, both DataM and FARADaInFormS are API-ready, allowing future automated data exchange and analytics under WP4 and related initiatives such as CEA-FIRST.

Collaboration with JRC and Other Partners

Joint sessions between FARA and JRC are held periodically to align data protocols, interface designs, and interoperability standards. These efforts ensured seamless integration between the EU-hosted PANAP environment and the Africa-based StEPPFoS platform, thereby fostering mutual accessibility, data security, and operational sustainability.

1.4 Platform Features and Functional Architecture

Overview of the StEPPFoS Knowledge Platforms

The StEPPFoS Knowledge Platform employs a *federated digital infrastructure model*, a distributed yet interconnected framework that links institutional repositories, thematic databases, and collaboration tools. It reflects FARA's commitment to open access, co-creation, and digital sustainability.

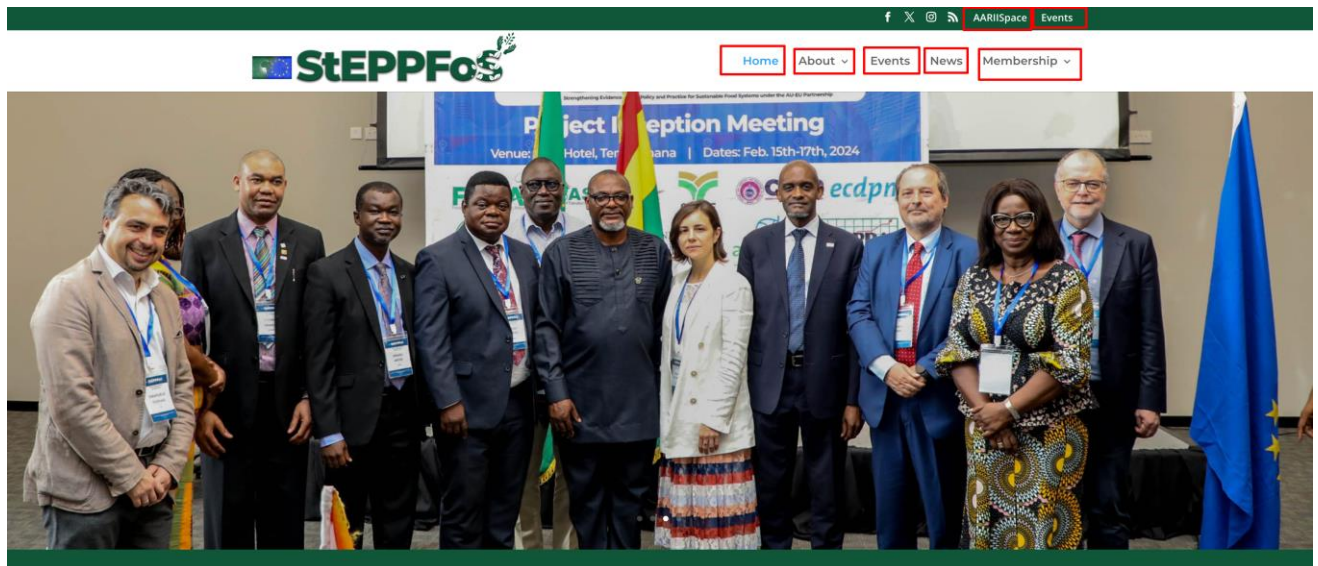


Figure 3: Overview of the StEPPFoS Knowledge Ecosystem

Description of Core Platform Components

This section describes the core components of the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform, clearly distinguishing between functionalities currently implemented and those planned for subsequent phases. The platform employs a modular and federated approach, where some resources are hosted directly, while others are accessed through structured external linkages.

1. Home

The Home page provides an overview of the StEPPFoS project, including objectives, news, events, and navigation cues to key resources. It also features visual sliders that guide users to related services such as training resources and collaboration spaces. The Home page functions primarily as an orientation and visibility layer, rather than a hosting environment for specialised tools. It conforms to Horizon Europe visibility guidelines and is optimised for mobile and desktop devices.

2. PANAP Portal (Externally Hosted – Linked, Not Integrated)

The PANAP analytical and modelling tools are hosted by the Joint Research Centre within the European Commission’s DataM platform and are accessible at:

<https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/mashup/PANAP/>. These tools include economic models, dashboards, and policy simulation environments. As of this reporting period, the

PANAP DataM portal is not embedded nor directly visible as a dedicated tab within the StEPPFoS Website. Instead, information related to PANAP governance (including the PANAP Charter and membership registration form) is currently accessible under the “Membership” section of the StEPPFoS platform. A clearer and more visible navigational link to the DataM-hosted PANAP portal is planned as part of platform refinements in the next implementation phase.

3. Knowledge Hub/ FARADatInformS (Implemented via External Link)

The StEPPFoS platform links to [FARADatInformS](#), FARA’s continental knowledge hub, under the “**Other Resources**” section. FARADatInformS hosts validated [knowledge products](#), datasets, policy briefs, and institutional resources, serving as the long-term repository for StEPPFoS outputs. Content is not duplicated on the StEPPFoS website but is accessed through structured external linkage to ensure sustainability and version control.

4. Policy Priorities Database (Planned – Not Yet Integrated)

The Policy Priorities Database, developed under WP1, is not yet hosted on the StEPPFoS platform. At present, data are stored and managed through interim tools (including shared drives) by WP1 partners. The Conceptual framework, platform architecture, including technical integration and public deployment, are scheduled for WP4, once data validation, governance arrangements, and dashboard specifications are finalised. This module, when developed, will display information:

- National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs)
- Country-specific policy priorities and updates
- Data entry and validation forms for national focal points

5. Resources and Training (Implemented – Clarified Naming)

Training resources are accessible through [links and sliders](#) on the StEPPFoS Home page, directing users to the StEPPFoS Training Platform, which aggregates learning materials hosted on external training services (including LifeWatch ERIC resources). The report uses “Resources and Training” as a functional description rather than a standalone hosting platform, and future iterations will harmonise naming conventions to improve user clarity.

6. ColabNet (Community of Practice)

[ColabNet](#) provides a collaborative digital environment supporting knowledge exchange, working groups, and co-creation among project partners and thematic communities. It enables discussion forums, document sharing, and interaction across Work Packages.

In summary, it is an interactive workspace enabling:

- Co-creation and joint document editing
- Real-time discussions and working groups
- Cross-institutional collaboration within thematic areas of StEPPFoS

7. Events and Funding Opportunities

Showcases [upcoming calls](#), workshops, and conferences relevant to the FNSSA agenda, encouraging decentralised content submission by partners. With [Funding opportunities](#) shared from the FARADDataInformS PAEPARD Blog for access by Stakeholders.

8. PANAP Membership Registration

Facilitates online [membership](#) through a structured form capturing institutional profiles, expertise areas, and engagement preferences for collaboration and matchmaking.

9. Social Media Integration

Connects with the [StEPPFoS LinkedIn](#) page to amplify visibility, featuring embedded updates and one-click sharing functionalities.

10. Integration with the CEA-FIRST Platform (Strategic Alignment – Planned)

At this stage, integration with the CEA-FIRST Project platform (<https://irc-ceafirst.org>) is strategic rather than technical. Although a visible link has not yet been implemented, both platforms have been aligned in terms of knowledge architecture, metadata standards, and governance principles. This alignment enables future interoperability, cross-referencing of outputs, and shared use of the StEPPFoS platform as a backbone for regional and thematic policy networks, to be operationalised in later phases.

1.5 PANAP Website within the EU JRC DataM Environment

Technical Hosting and Features

The PANAP website is hosted within the European Commission’s DataM platform, a data and modelling infrastructure for resource economics. PANAP’s section in DataM benefits from the platform’s robust functionalities, including:

- Automatic open data compliance (FAIR principles)
- Machine-to-machine API interfaces
- Integrated content management (news, publications, authors, partners)
- Responsive design and access control
- Built-in analytics engines (Qlik) and modelling tools (GAMS MIRO)

Navigation and Access

Users access the PANAP portal at <https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/area/PANAP> through a left-side menu and a “PAN-App Navigator,” which allows sorting by country, content type, model, year, and keywords. The navigator is also available in French, supporting inclusivity.

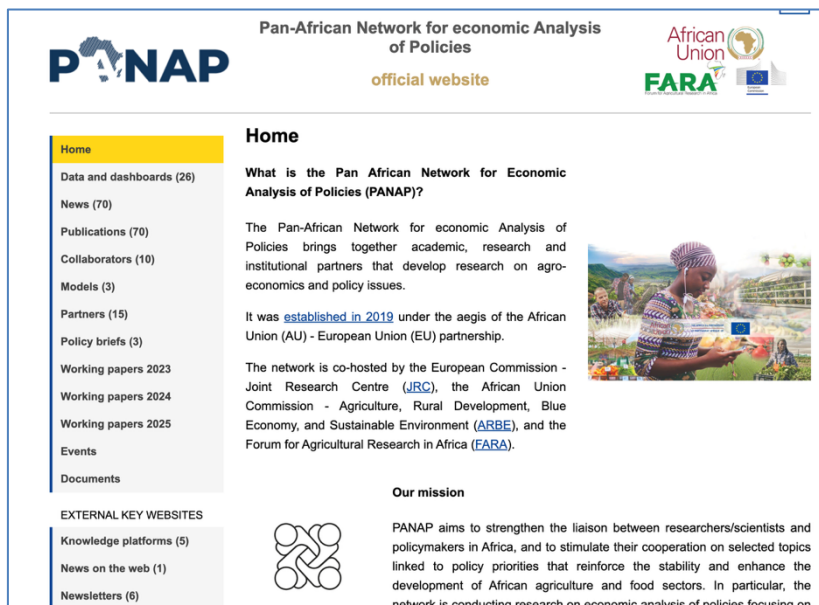


Figure 4: The menu on the left with the very structured organization of infos

Benefits and Use Cases

The integrated structure allows:

- Centralised access to models, datasets, and policy analysis tools
- Real-time collaboration between African and European researchers
- Transparent monitoring of PANAP deliverables and events
- Enhanced visibility of AU–EU partnership outcomes

Table 1: Sample lists of 2024 outputs published in the portal

Outcome 2024	Link
AFCFTA Ghana - dashboard	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/5f2f1160-0cdc-418f-bb30-84fc464d66b3
AFCFTA Nigeria - dashboard	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/f4afbda5-5a18-4c97-9659-c5a9b7e15992
AFCFTA Tanzania – dashboard	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/cd0079b9-2f57-4bbe-93c8-6f2046ceb766
AfCFTA tariff offer analysis – dashboard	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/640120be-ae2-4372-8852-bd782fdb38da
PANAP 2 nd newsletter	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/145751b2-1f7a-4e16-8d12-9bdc15b56a72
PANAP 3 rd newsletter	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/3d9eca60-cc25-4907-a31b-636006b1ac16
PANAP annual meeting 2024 - page	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/90ff9fb7-df58-44aa-81e7-3d5364d08f06
Policy Emulator for Kenya – dashboard	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/mashup/MOEA_DEMETRA_TOOL/
SAM Nigeria – dashboard	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/mashup/SAM_NG
SAM Tanzania – dashboard	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/c29834ec-196e-4fbc-b444-b382c7d02098
Update DEMETRA page	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/model/DEMETRA/
Workshop #2 DEMETRA -page	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/5ee5bbe4-075f-45a4-86ba-4cb7788b6d15
Workshop about AFCFTA for Nigeria – page	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/12762ff4-7d0d-470c-bdea-2cf2b58cb6d2
Publications	https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/13069cd7-d741-4f7d-a45a-c8981630ae11 https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/perm/news/a4f07894-2c72-496c-be9a-357fea8b2a8d

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1.6 Capacity Strengthening and Stakeholder Engagement

Capacity strengthening and stakeholder engagement under WP3 focused on enabling project partners and PANAP stakeholders to effectively use, contribute to, and sustain the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform. Trainings and demonstrations were conducted using a combination of virtual meeting platforms (e.g. Zoom/Teams) for live sessions and the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform for demonstrations of functionalities and workflows. Where relevant, recordings and supporting materials were subsequently made available through linked training resources.

The primary target groups included StEPPFoS consortium partners, WP leads, technical staff and PANAP members. The focus was on familiarisation with the platform architecture, navigation of the portal and related resources, content contribution processes, and feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement.

Key engagement activities included orientation sessions during the StEPPFoS Inception Meeting in February 2024, where initial reviews were received from the Project’s General Assembly and Steering Committee. Technical demonstrations were also presented at monthly WP coordination meetings and Steering Committee sessions aimed at strengthening digital literacy and knowledge management capacities. These engagements supported user adoption, reinforced ownership among partners, and laid the groundwork for sustained use of the platform beyond the project lifecycle. These activities will continue in WP4 to ensure the sustainability of the platform.

Table 2: Summary of capacity building activities

Event / Activity	Date	Location / Platform	Target Participants	Approx. Number of Participants
StEPPFoS Inception Meeting – Platform	Feb 2024	Hybrid (In-person &	General Assembly Members,	40 +

Orientation		Online)	Consortium partners, WP leads	
Monthly WP Technical Meeting – Platform Demonstration	2024 - 2025	Online (Zoom/Teams)	WP3 & WP4 technical teams	10 +
Quarterly Steering Committee Session – Knowledge Platform Overview	2024 - 2025	Online	Steering Committee members	25 +

1.7 Achievements, Lessons, and Reflections for Future Development

The operationalisation of the PANAP Website and Knowledge Platform under WP3 has delivered several concrete achievements that contribute to strengthening evidence-based policy practice under the AU–EU partnership. Key achievements include:

Establishment of a federated and interoperable knowledge infrastructure

A first operational version of the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform has been successfully established as a federated digital infrastructure. In practical terms, this means that the platform now functions as a central entry point linking multiple African and European knowledge systems without duplicating or transferring ownership of data and tools. Concrete outputs include the live deployment of the StEPPFoS website, structured linkages to the JRC-hosted PANAP portal on DataM, integration with FARADDataInformS as a long-term continental repository, and the alignment of collaboration and training services. This federation enables users to access complementary resources across platforms through a coherent architecture while respecting institutional mandates and data governance requirements.

Development of a functional and accessible digital platform supporting research–policy linkages

The StEPPFoS Knowledge Platform has been operationalised with several implemented functionalities that directly support research–policy interaction. These include: (i) access to PANAP economic models and policy dashboards via the JRC DataM platform; (ii) visibility and dissemination of research outputs, policy briefs, and datasets through linkage with FARADaInFormS; (iii) structured information on PANAP governance, membership, and policy engagement mechanisms; (iv) an events and funding opportunities section that connects users to policy dialogues, calls, and workshops; and (v) collaborative spaces (ColabNet) that enable interaction between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Together, these functionalities create practical pathways for translating research outputs into policy-relevant knowledge.

Strengthened collaboration among consortium partners and policy actors

Collaboration has been strengthened through both technical and organisational measures. Joint technical sessions between FARA and JRC ensured alignment between the EU-hosted PANAP portal and the Africa-hosted StEPPFoS platform. Consortium partners were engaged through platform demonstrations during the inception meeting, technical working group meetings, and Steering Committee sessions, fostering a shared understanding and ownership. The establishment of ColabNet as a collaboration space further supports continuous interaction, co-creation of knowledge products, and cross-WP engagement among African and European partners.

Lessons Learnt

Key lessons emerging from WP3 include the importance of adopting a federated approach rather than full system integration to balance interoperability with governance constraints, as well as the need to clearly distinguish between implemented functionalities and planned enhancements to manage expectations among users and reviewers. Early partner engagement and iterative demonstrations proved critical in promoting platform adoption and usability.

Next Steps and Planned Actions (RP2 / RP3)

To ensure full operationalisation and progressive enhancement of the platform, the following actions are planned for the next reporting periods:

Table 3: Planned actions for the next reporting periods

Action	Description	Timeline
Enhanced visibility of PANAP portal	Introduce clearer navigation links from the StEPPFoS platform to the DataM-hosted PANAP portal. This will also call for an update of the user guide.	RP2
Policy Priorities Database integration	Technically integrate and publish the WP1 Policy Priorities Database on the StEPPFoS platform following data validation	RP2– RP3
Advanced interoperability features	Activate API-based data exchange and analytics functionalities between StEPPFoS, DataM, and FARADaInFormS	RP3
Expanded capacity strengthening	Deliver additional targeted trainings and webinars for PANAP members, the KM4AgD CoP and regional actors	RP2– RP3
Regional reuse and scaling	Leverage the platform for regional PANAP desks under RMRN and related initiatives	RP3
Knowledge Portal and MEL Portal Indicators reporting	Work towards linking some indicators of the project MEL portal to the Project’s Knowledge Platform for data analytics and reporting.	RP2 – RP3

1.8 Institutional Hosting and Long-Term Maintenance

- FARADatInformS is the **institutional knowledge management backbone** of FARA and its regional partners.
- By hosting StEPPFoS outputs (datasets, publications, dashboards, and training materials) within this continental hub, the project ensures **long-term visibility, access, and custodianship** beyond the Horizon Europe funding period.
- This approach mirrors what FARA did for **PAEPARD, CAADP-XP4 and SSA-CP** projects, whose platforms and digital assets are now sustainably maintained under FARADatInformS.

FARADatInformS functions as a “digital home” and legacy anchor for the StEPPFoS Project’s PANAP website and Knowledge Platform. It ensures that the project’s data, knowledge, and partnerships remain accessible, discoverable, and usable beyond the funding cycle, transforming short-term project outputs into sustained institutional assets within Africa’s continental knowledge architecture.

1.9 Conclusion

The operationalisation of the PANAP Website and Knowledge Platform under WP3 has established a robust and scalable foundation for knowledge management, research–policy engagement, and cross-continental collaboration within the AU–EU partnership. By deploying a first operational version of the StEPPFoS Knowledge Platform and linking it with complementary African and European digital systems, the project has demonstrated the feasibility and value of a federated digital public infrastructure. The planned enhancements in RP2 and RP3 will build on this foundation to deepen interoperability, expand functionality, and ensure that the platform continues to support evidence-based policymaking and sustainable knowledge exchange beyond the project lifecycle.

1.10 Annexes

D3.3 Annex 1: Structural Overview and Navigation Map of the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform for Users

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Website Structure

This annex provides a structural overview and navigation map of the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform as implemented at the time of reporting. It describes the main sections of the platform, the type of content available in each section, the hosting location (internal or external), and their current operational status. Given the federated and phased design of the platform, this annex should be read as a guide to platform structure and access pathways, rather than as a procedural user manual.

Homepage

The Home page provides a general overview and serves as the landing point for the StEPPFoS project's [PANAP Website and Knowledge Portal](#).

The Homepage serves as the **main entry point** to the StEPPFoS Website and Knowledge Platform. It provides:

- A high-level introduction to the StEPPFoS project and its objectives.
- Dynamic visibility of news, events, and updates;
- Visual sliders linking users to key areas such as training resources and collaboration platforms;
- Information on project partners, geographic coverage, and funding.

The Homepage functions primarily as an **orientation and visibility layer**, guiding users to internal sections and externally hosted platforms.



Figure 1: Website and Knowledge Portal Homepage

About the StEPPFoS Project

The “About” section provides **contextual and descriptive information** on the project, including:

- The project rationale and objectives;
- Alignment with the AU–EU Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) framework;
- Project duration, scope, and expected impact.

This section is informational and does not host interactive tools.

i. The “About” Page

The “About” page for StEPPFoS presents a comprehensive picture of the project:

- **Problem & rationale:** gaps between policy and practice in Africa’s agri-food systems.
- **Goal & objectives:** coherence between policy networks (PANAP) and sector agenda (FNSSA), capacity building, science–policy interface, digital tools, and network strengthening.

- **Scope & duration:** 48 months, Jan 2024-Dec 2027, multi-partner across Africa and Europe.
- **Outcomes & impact:** improved policy alignment, stronger networks, better evidence-based decision-making in sustainable food systems.
- **Consortium & funding:** European Union Horizon Europe funding; lead and partner institutions across research, policy, region.



Figure 2: The About Page

ii. Partners

This page lists the organisations and institutions that partner in the StEPPFoS project. It provides a clear view of who is involved in the consortium, from both Africa and Europe, and illustrates the breadth of the network.

It serves to highlight the collaborative nature of the project, emphasising that tackling food & nutrition security, sustainable agriculture, and the policy research interface in Africa & Europe is not a solo endeavour.

Through the partner list, you can infer the geographic spread, institutional types (research institutes, policy networks, universities, governmental bodies) and the multi-stakeholder nature of the project.

Each partner on this page links to their corporate website.

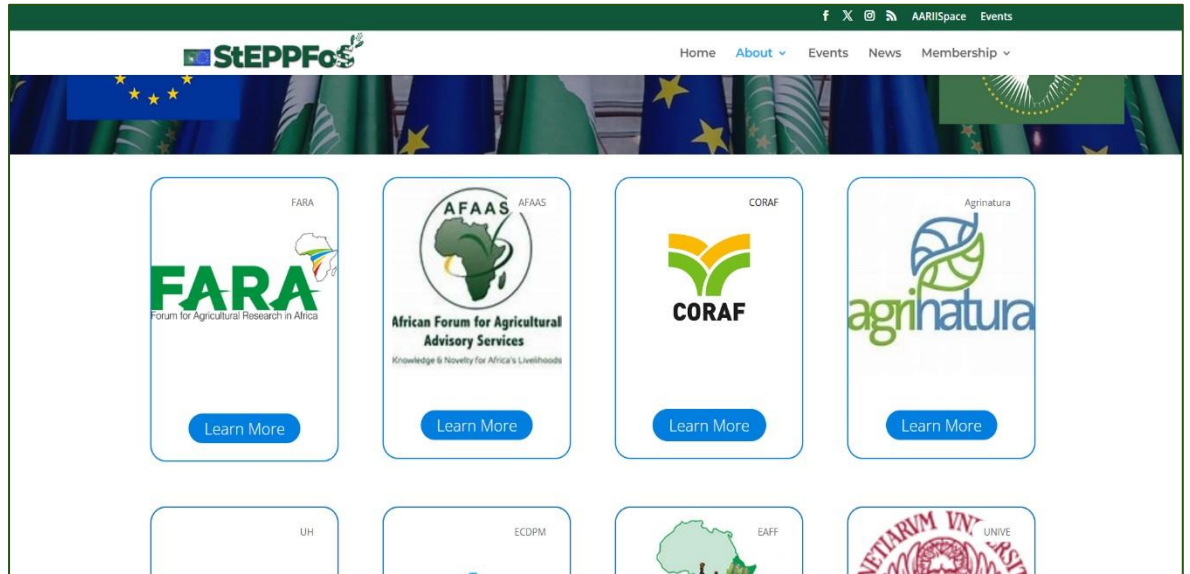


Figure 3: Project Partners

iii. Work packages(WP)

This section breaks the project into discrete work packages (WPs) labelled WP 1 through WP 8.

- Each WP has its own page (e.g., “Work Package 1”, “Work Package 2”, etc.) where the scope, tasks, and deliverables of that WP are described.
- This is useful for understanding how the project is organised and what each component does.



Figure 4: Project Work Packages

Events Page

The page serves as a listing for upcoming and past events related to the project, including conferences, webinars, side events, general assemblies, and more.

Each event entry typically shows:

- Event title and type (conference, side-event, webinar)
- Date(s) and sometimes venue/location.
- A short description of the theme or purpose of the event (e.g., bridging science-policy for agri-food systems)
- Some also include external links (to registration, event website) or mention that the event has passed.

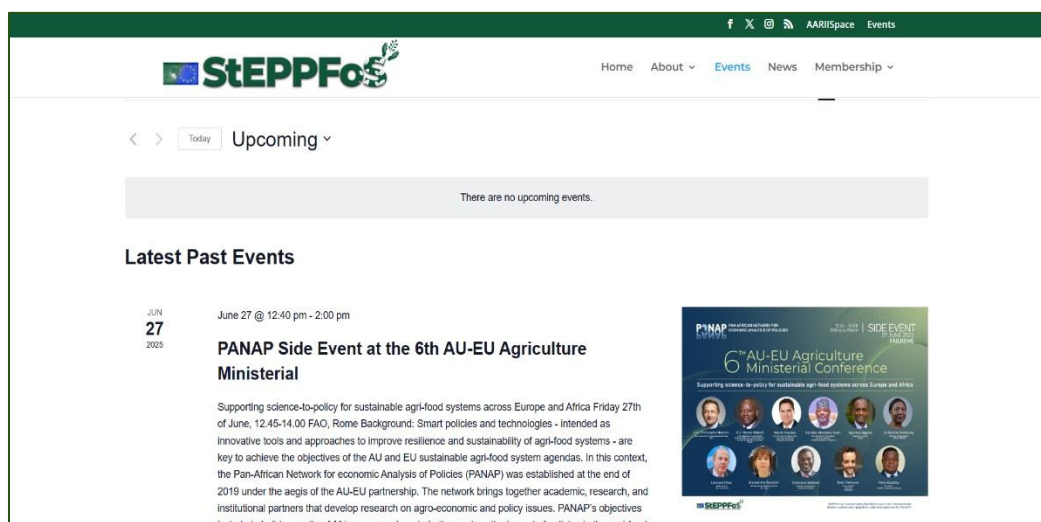


Figure 5: Events Calendar Page

News

It is titled “**News Update**” and acts as a repository for announcements, articles, and opportunities related to the project.

This page serves as a communication tool, keeping stakeholders (researchers, policymakers, and partners) informed about recent developments, events, training opportunities, and publications linked to the StEPPFoS project.

From a project-management perspective, it supports transparency, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge dissemination, all of which are key for a large, multipartner initiative like this.

The “Opportunities” category is particularly useful if you or your team want to engage with the project’s activities (webinars, modelling mentoring, etc.).

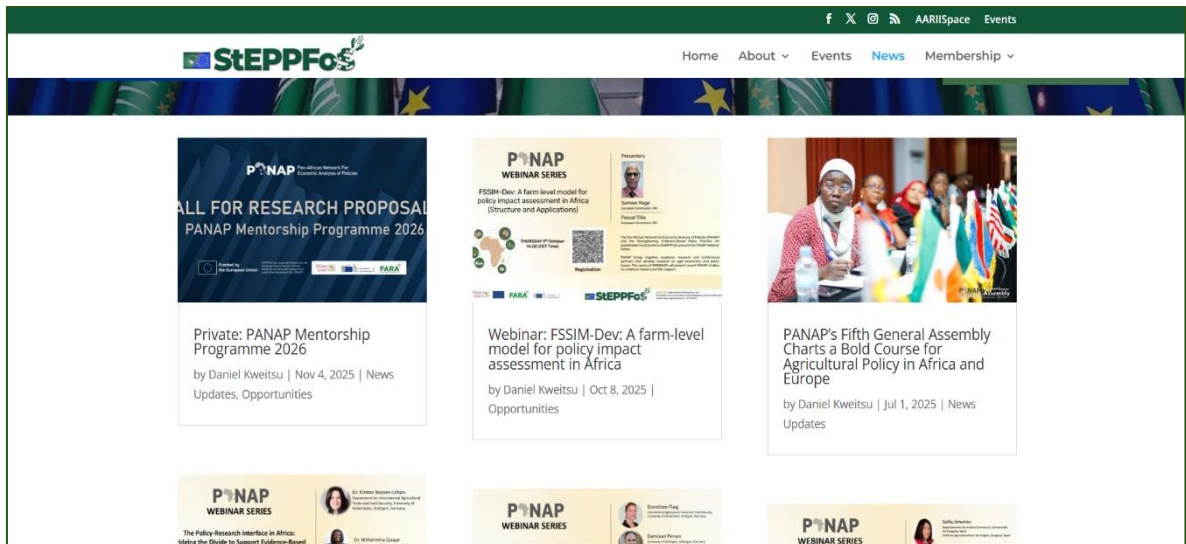


Figure 6: News Page

Membership

Under the menu “Membership”, you’ll find items like “PANAP Membership Application” and “PANAP Charter”.

The “Membership Forms” page provides information about membership categories (ordinary members, external investors/backstopping members, honorary members). The Charter page likely outlines the governance, objectives, rights and responsibilities of members.

This is relevant if organisations want to join the network or collaborate with it.

iv. Membership Application Forms

This page outlines the process for organisations to apply for membership to PANAP.

It describes the membership categories, eligibility and the application process.

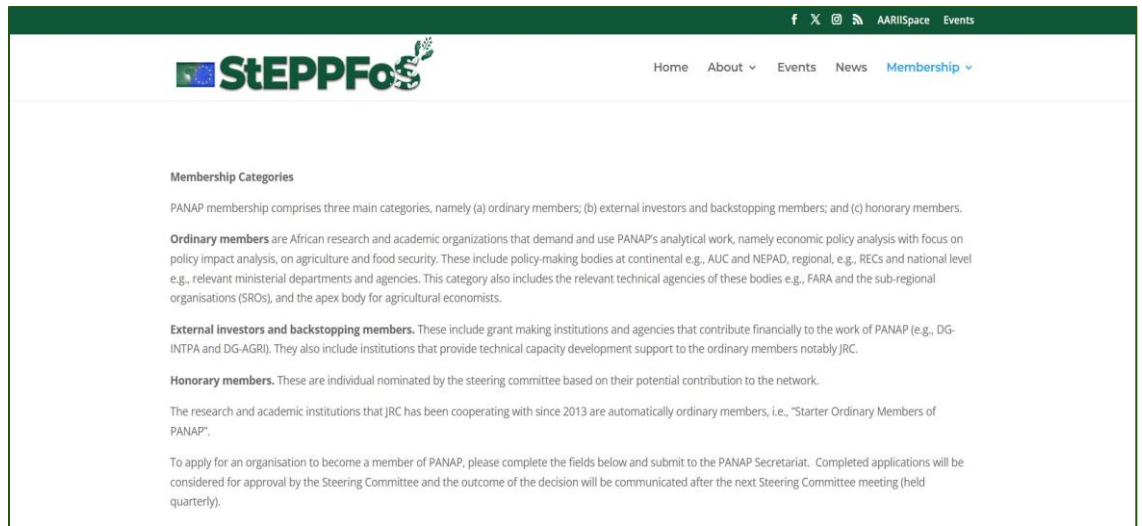


Figure 7: PANAP Membership Registration page

v. PANAP Charter

The Charter is a document that provides PANAP with a clear purpose, mandate, and scope, which is essential for effective governance, stakeholder alignment, and donor clarity.

It emphasises capacity & tool building, policy relevance, sharing of models/data, and network growth, all key elements for sustainable impact, not just one-off outputs.

The notion of “policy-driven” work and the obligation to serve policymakers adds accountability and relevance (good practice for large projects).

The membership structure and expansion aim indicate how the network plans to grow and institutionalise itself beyond immediate projects.



Figure 8: PANAP Membership Charter

AARIISpace

The AARIISpace platform serves as the project’s central document repository, housing both internal materials restricted to project members, secured with password protection, and external documents intended for public access.

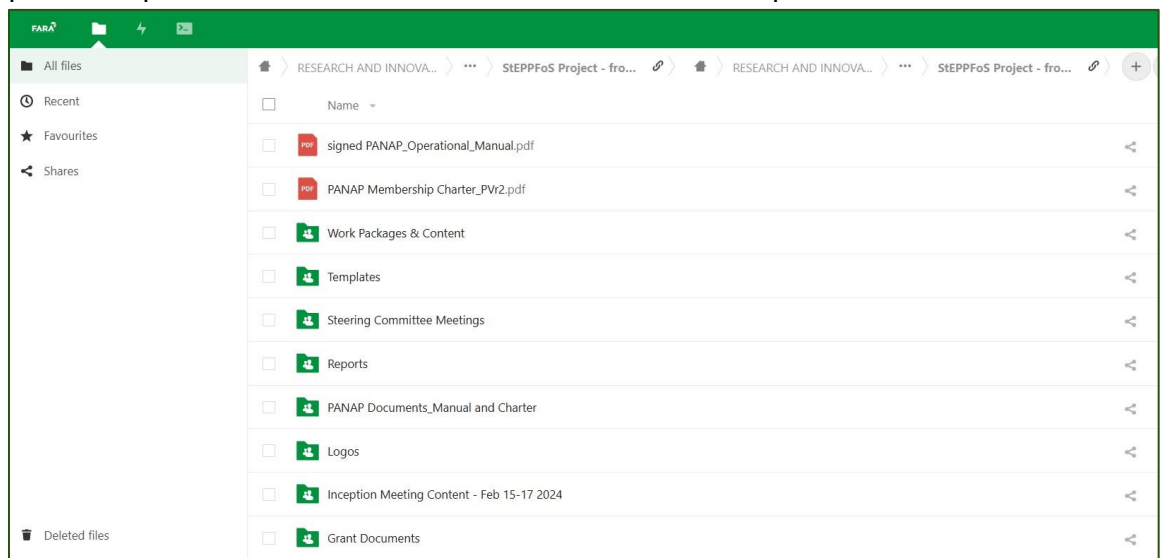


Figure 9: AARIISpace Database

Other Resources(External)

vi. Colabnet

This collaborative platform aims to facilitate sharing of ideas, knowledge and experiences on agricultural and food system innovations and promote research-policy dialogue among stakeholders of the StePPFoS project and PANAP network.

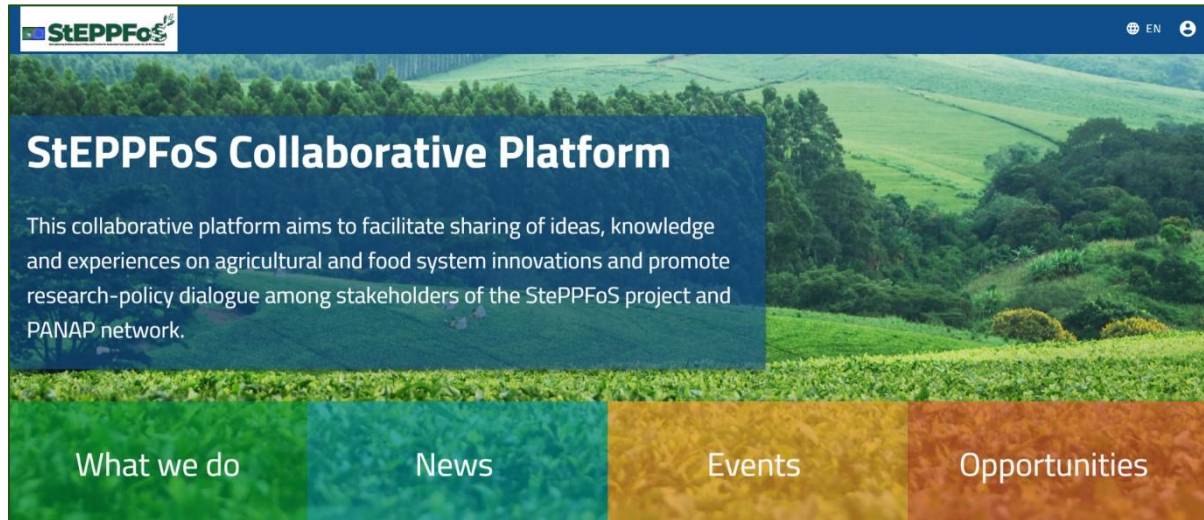


Figure 10: ColabNet Platform

vii. FARADatInformS

FARADatInformS is a web-based information system that serves as the African continental observatory of Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) metrics for agriculture and agricultural research in Africa. Its key goals include:

Improving access to accurate, up-to-date information on agricultural research, innovation, institutions and related metrics across the African continent.

Providing an integrated knowledge hub to support planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural research and innovation activities (AR4D – Agricultural Research for Development) in Africa.

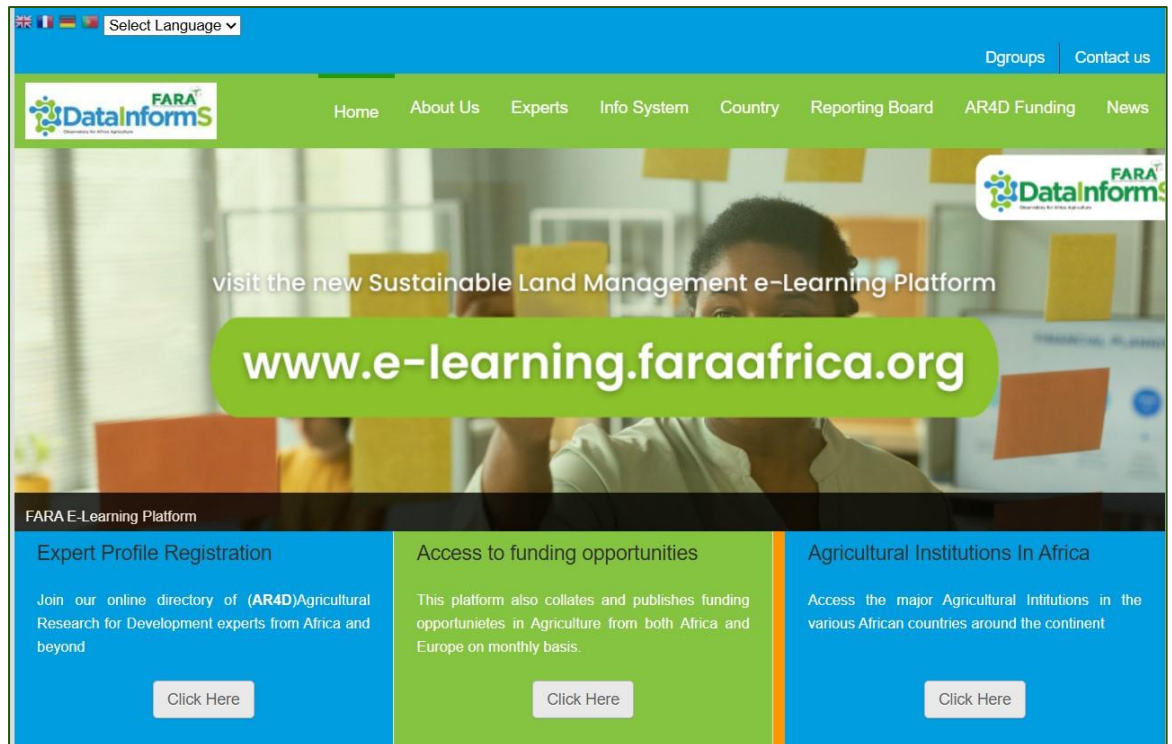


Figure 11: The FARA Data and Information System, a Continental Knowledge Hub

The FARADataInformS provide the following synergies, resources, tools and services relevant to the project

I. **Expert Profile Directory**

The platform allows registration of AR4D (Agricultural Research for Development) experts. <https://experts.faraafrica.org/>

Provide users with a directory to identify and map PANAP network members, link them to CoP (Community of Practice) activities, match expertise with policy analysis tasks, and foster cross-continental collaboration between Africa and Europe.

II. **Funding / Grant Opportunities Module**

FARADataInformS publishes and updates funding opportunities (Africa & Europe) regularly. <https://datainforms.faraafrica.org/funding>

Helps users stay informed about complementary grants, encourages PANAP members to participate, and embeds alerts on your StEPPFoS platform, thereby strengthening your network through funding-linked collaboration.

III. **Agricultural Institutions / Organisations Directory**

The system provides a listing of institutions in African countries (agricultural research institutions, national Ag.R&D systems etc.).

https://datainforms.faraafrica.org/ag_institutions-directory

Use this directory to map institutional linkages for PANAP, align country focal points, facilitate partnerships, and integrate institutional metadata into your platform (e.g., linking institutional profiles in the PANAP portal).

IV. **eLibrary / Knowledge Products Repository**

The hub hosts knowledge products, research reports, indicators and datasets. <https://library.faraafrica.org/> (Migration ongoing to <https://aaspace.org/communities/1e005d7a-7661-4b9f-a252-1af66626431f>) Use this as a content feed for your Knowledge Platform: publish or pull relevant policy briefs, datasets, and indicators for FNSSA themes, and embed or link them in the PANAP/StEPPFoS portal to enrich the repository and avoid rebuilding everything from scratch.

V. **Knowledge-Management and Analytics Tools (Observatory, STI Metrics, Interoperability APIs)**

FARADatInformS is in the process of upgrading to integrate science-technology indicators (STI), APIs for interoperability, and enhanced analytics.

The project will utilise this infrastructure to populate analytics dashboards in the PANAP portal (e.g., metrics on policy uptake, research collaboration, and modelling outputs), link APIs for data exchange between the PANAP site and FARADatInformS, and establish performance monitoring for your platform's usage and impact.

viii. **Africa Agriculture Space**

AASpace, short for *Africa Agriculture Space*, is a **digital knowledge repository and platform** designed to support agricultural research for development (AR4D) across Africa. It is powered by the open-source repository software DSpace and is intended as a shared infrastructure for managing and sharing research outputs, institutional knowledge, reports, datasets and library resources among partner institutions.

Key partner organizations include the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

(FARA), as well as regional bodies such as Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), West and Central African

Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), Centre for

Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), and African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS). This provides a wider visibility and outreach for the outputs of the StEPPFoS Project and the PANAP initiative.

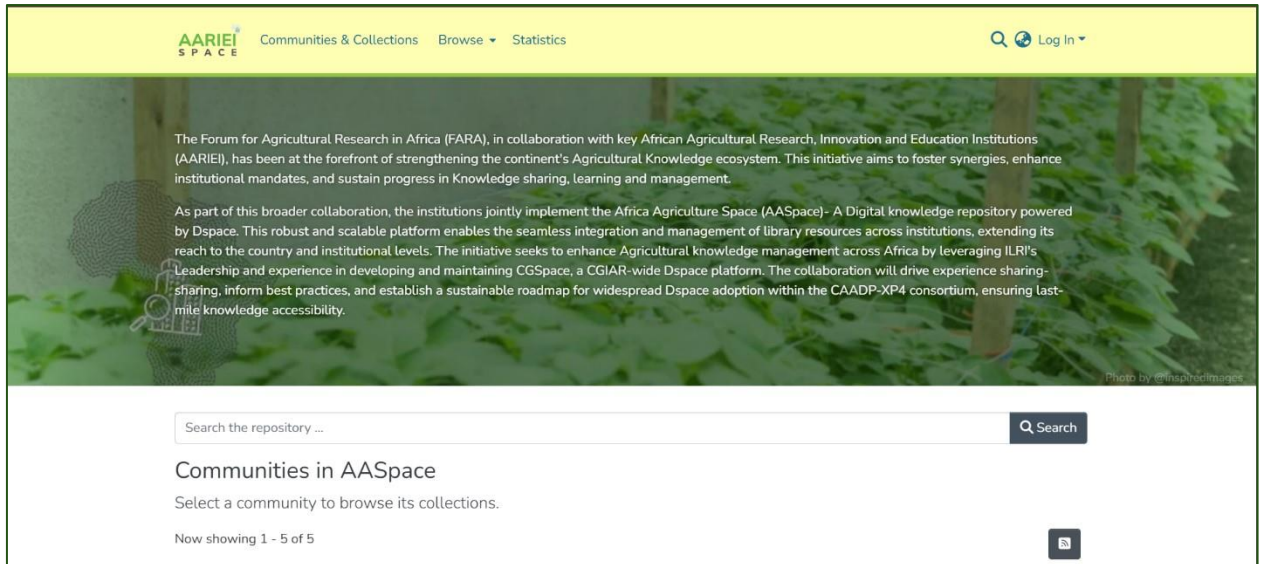


Figure 12 The AASpace joint portal

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