

# FARA News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

## FARA appoints interim Board Chairperson

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## 15th CAADP Partnership Platform opens in Nairobi, Kenya.



The 15th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM meeting is underway in the Kenyan capital. The five-day high level event is under the theme “Enhancing Trade and market access for accelerated agriculture transformation”, and brings together over a thousand participants, stakeholder organizations, policy leaders and researchers from Africa and beyond.

Delivering the Key Note Address at the conference, under the auspices of the African Union and the African Union Development Agency - NEPAD,

## FARA Leads Policy Discussion on Biofortification at the 15th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting.

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa is leading the discussion on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in Africa, at the 15th CAADP PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM in Nairobi Kenya.

Opening the session, Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong, Director of Research and Innovation at FARA challenged participants to be open-minded and feel free to share lessons learnt from policy dialogues on the concept of biofortification. She underscores the need to embrace bio-fortification as a cardinal tool to ensuring that the continent is food and nutrition secure.

“To ensure that we’re dealing with hidden hunger, we need to accept the critical role of biofortification. We need to be coherent in the interventions to ensure food and nutrition security on the continent of Africa”, she said.

His Excellency the Vice President of the republic of Kenya, Dr. William Ruto, called on participants and all stakeholders to spread the message of the willingness and readiness of the continent and its people to pay the price to achieve the Africa we want, which is a food and nutrition secure one.

On his part, Dr. Chris Muyunda, Chairman of the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition, intimated, that “CAADP remains our foremost strategy to combat hunger”, urging participants not to relent in the various interventions geared at making the continent food and nutrition secure.

Her Excellency Ambassador Josefa Sacko, the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, in her turn to assure participants about the role of the African Union Commission and its leadership towards achieving the Malabo Declaration. “We need to take control of our destiny and stop blaming others... We need to work Harder and talk less... We can make Agricultural Transformation possible by 2025; yes we can”, she said.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is Africa’s policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for all.

Participants at the session called for concerted efforts at the actualization of the research outcomes to enable the continent achieve the vision of the science agenda. Some of the participants and panelist at the session underscored the need for immediate action beyond the talk, saying;

“we can’t claim to solve food security issues when people are malnourished”

“English cannot solve the problem”.

“when we say science, it’s not only about what we do in the laboratory”. The session which was led by Dr. Abdulrazak Ibrahim, and Dr. Paul Boadu, both of FARA, discussed the outcomes of the policy dialogues engaged in over the period, with regards to biofortification.

## FARA Engages ECOWAS on Holistic Empowerment for Livelihoods Program (HELP) and the Agricultural Research Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA)

On the margins of the 15th CAADP PP meeting in Nairobi Kenya, the Forum for Agricultural Research in AFRICA (FARA), led by Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong, Director of Research and Innovation at FARA, discussed the forum's interventions on HELP and ARIFA with His Excellency Sékou Sangaré, ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources.

His Excellency Sangaré expressed his personal excitement about the ARIFA intervention, and the ECOWAS' conviction to push for budgetary allocations to support scientific research.

The Commissioner also underscored the need for proactively confronting the challenges of research since the continent risks losing out on important research knowledge, as many researchers are aging and are going on retirement.

"There's the need to act urgently to grow a new crop of young researchers to take over from the old. This is why ECOWAS is very much excited to work with FARA and CORAF on a strategic approach to leverage the ARIFA initiative being led by FARA. At ECOWAS level, we'd be pushing for each country to make additional financing available towards research, and this should be at least 1% of the country's annual budget", he indicated.



His Excellency Sékou Sangaré in a discussion with FARA delegation.

His Excellency also pointed out the challenges of insufficient financial resources to be distributed among the many fragmented research institutions spread across the West African sub-region; and mentioned the need to aggregate the resources available in the region to rationalize the intervention of the various research institutions.

HELP, is an initiative of the FARA, for strengthening strategic human capital formation, Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) and Agripreneurship.

One of the cardinal objectives of HELP, is the capacity development which is being implemented through ARIFA.

For more on ARIFA, please visit:

<https://faraafrica.org/wp.../ARIFA-Call-for-Application-2019.pdf>

## FARA Engages AUC-DREA Commissioner on Mega Agro-Parks Initiative, CAAP

The Lead Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation at FARA, Anselme Vodounhessi was part of a team that engaged the African Union Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture, H. E. Ambassador Josefa Sacko on the Common African Agro-Parks Programme (CAAP), on the sidelines of the the 15th CAADP PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM meeting.

The team discussed among other things, the realization of the promise presented by CAAPs through the mobilization of Africa's leadership to lead its implementation.



Ambassador Sacko mentioned that the CAAP is an ambitious continent-wide initiative towards the achievement of Africa's agriculture and food security targets encapsulated in the June 2014 CAADP Malabo Declaration.

Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong Director of Research and Innovation at FARA, discusses the Science Agenda with His Excellency Salifou Ourdraogo, Minister of Agriculture of the republic of Burkina Faso...



### High Level Ministerial Forum underway at the 15th CAADP PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM



24th FARA Board meeting in Picture (Part 1) | 1-2 July, 2019 | FARA Secretariat, Accra Ghana



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## “FARA is our Business”, New Board Chairperson Assures FARA Staff and Board.



24th FARA Board meeting in Picture (Part 2) | 1-2 July, 2019 | FARA Secretariat, Accra Ghana

The 24th Ordinary session of the Board of Directors of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), ended in Accra, on July 2, 2019; with a call on members to put their best foot forward towards projecting FARA as the leading light in agriculture science, technology and innovation research on the continent. The two-day meeting discussed, among other things, the annual programme progress and performance report for 2018, with projections for the ensuing year. It also provided the strategic guidance required for the organizational development of FARA.

Delivering his closing remarks, the newly appointed Chairperson ad interim, of the board of directors of FARA, Dr. Alioune Fall, assured the staff of the board's commitment to FARA, its vision and activities. He indicated, "...as you know, the board is very dedicated to working on issues related to FARA; FARA is our business, our organization. We all belong to FARA, so all we have to do to let FARA go forward, we will do it".

He also underscored the preparedness of the sub-regional organizations (SROs), partners and other stakeholders to continue to work to put FARA where it belongs.

"...all the members who are here, the SROs, development partners, NGOs, private sector, universities, NARs, all we can do for FARA to be representing research in Africa, we'd do it".

The meeting also marked the end of tenure of some members of the board, notably, Dr. Ephraim A. Mukisira, Chairperson, Dr. Alioune Fall, Vice Chairperson Dr. Jimmy W. Smith, representative of the scientific partners/CGIAR and Professor Lilia Rahajaharitompo Rabeharisoa of ASARECA.

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# African Union to launch operational phase of the AfCFTA at Summit in Niger

Source: Africa Union

“It goes without saying that the most emblematic of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 is the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA. The AfCFTA has the ambition..... in the final analysis, to establish a continental market. The idea goes back to 1963, with the testablishment of an African Economic Community.” – African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, speaking at the official opening ceremony of the 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Niamey”.

The African Union will launch the operational phase of the AfCFTA on the 7th of this month in Niamey, at an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat Chairperson of the AUC hailed the upcoming launch as a “remarkable” and “historic” achievement. The launch will be part of a series of statutory and technical meetings were held in the Nigerien capital from the 4th to the 8th, which also includes the 8 July first coordination meeting between the AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The launch of the AfCFTA follows the coming into force of the trade area on the 30th of May, after the deposit of the required minimum of 22 ratifications by member states of the AU. Since then three more instruments of ratification have been deposited, bringing the total number of countries that have ratified the AfCFTA to 25.

With the launch of the operational phase from July 2019, traders across Africa will be able to make use of preferential trading arrangements offered by the AfCFTA, with the understanding that the trade transactions are among the Member States that have deposited the instruments of ratification and those that conform to the provisions on rules of origin governing trade in the AfCFTA.”

It is also expected that at the launch, to be held at Heads of State and Government level, “The Assembly will decide on the location of the Secretariat of the AfCFTA which will have the principal function of implementing the agreement. Seven member states Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Madagascar and Senegal have submitted bids to host the secretariat.

During his opening remarks, Mr. Mahamat also reiterated the commitment of the AUC to work in close cooperation with the Permanent Representatives Committee, to strengthen the implementation of programmes, and to take immediate measures to ensure the recommendations of the internal and external auditors are implemented and enforced.

On a broader level, the African Union meeting in Niamey is considering other issues under the institutional reform programme that will allow the Union to achieve the vision and goals of its Agenda 2063 development framework. In its two-day session from 4th to 5th July, the Executive Council will consider and adopt the African Union’s budget for 2020 and the legal instruments pertaining to the African Union Development Agency (formerly known as NEPAD), as well as reviewed the proposed new organisational structure of the AU Commission which is to be finalised by February 2020.



The Council will elect four board members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) and prepare the draft agenda and decisions for the 12th Extraordinary Assembly that will launch the AfCFTA. Additionally, it will discuss the scale of contributions to the AU Peace Fund. The Chairperson of the Commission announced that US\$120 million out of the expected US\$400 million for the Peace Fund has so far been received, and he expressed the Commission’s appreciation to member states for their contributions.

The Executive Council will also review the preparations for the 1st mid-year coordination meeting between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). In line with the Institutional Reforms agenda which recommended the rationalisation of the number of meetings held by the AU, a decision was made to have one summit per year, and a coordination meeting mid-year, instead of the previous two summits per year, in order to ensure the efficient implementation of AU summit outcomes and decisions. As this will be the first such meeting, discussions will centre on the drafting of the rules of procedure, drafting proposals on the division of labour between the AU, RECs and member states, and revision of the protocol on relations between the AU and the RECs.

Today’s opening ceremony was presided over by Mr Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt in his role as the Chairperson of the Executive Council, and was addressed by Niger’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad, Mr Kalla Ankourao. Their statements are available at [www.au.int.t](http://www.au.int.t)

# Appointment of Interim Chairperson of FARA

Accra, Ghana 11 July 2019 — For Immediate Release

The Board of Directors and Management of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) announce the appointment of Dr. Alioune Fall as the new Chairperson ad interim of FARA, effective July 2, 2019. Dr. Fall was elected the Vice-Chairperson of FARA for a three-year term by the General Assembly of FARA at its 7th sitting in Kigali, Rwanda on 16th June 2016. He succeeds Dr. Ephraim Amiani Mukisira (MBS, OGW). The Board and Management of FARA gratefully acknowledge Dr. Mukisira's inspirational and steady leadership. He skillfully steered the organisation through its most testing period.

Dr. Alioune Fall is currently the Director General of Senegal's national Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA). He holds a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Agriculture from the Sam Houston State University, Texas, United States, and a Doctorate degree (PhD) in Agricultural Engineering from Michigan State University, United States. His specializations are in Technology and Agricultural Innovation Management Systems (modeling, artificial intelligence); Agricultural Research Management; Research Evaluation; Post-harvest Technology and Mechanization.

Dr. Fall's career in research spans three and a half decades. He joined ISRA in 1984 as a researcher and rose quickly to become Regional Coordinator of Farm Mechanization and Post-harvest Technology projects. Upon completion of his PhD, he was appointed National Coordinator of the Post-harvest Technology programme.

Between 2000 and 2008, Dr. Fall was the Director of the Agricultural Research Centre of Saint-Louis. In 2002, he became the National Coordinator of the CORAF Research Hub on Irrigation Systems. During that period, he was actively involved in the harmonization of the rating systems and evaluation of researchers and university lecturers, for the entry of ISRA into the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES).



He also participated in negotiations with the Government of Senegal on the regulations to make ISRA more effective. He was instrumental in the establishment of a consultation platform for Presidents of Universities and Directors of Research Institutes in West Africa to break down silos at national and international levels. He chaired this platform from 2014 to 2016. Dr Fall served as the Scientific Director of ISRA from 2008 to 2013 when he was appointed the Director General. He served as the Chairperson of CORAF's Board of Directors from 2014 to 2018. He has been a member of the CIRAD Scientific Council since August 2016 and was appointed Chairperson of the Council by Decree of the French Minister of Agriculture in February 2018. In 2017, he was elected Chairperson of the Korea-Africa Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KA-FACI) which brings together 23 African countries in bilateral cooperation with South Korea.

In 2009, he was elected President of the Senegalese Association of Agricultural Engineers.

Dr. Fall was made Knight of the Order of Agricultural Merit of France in 2017. He was also awarded Knight of the National Order of the Lion (Senegal) in 2018. He is the author and co-author of several publications in the fields of agriculture and agribusiness.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Fall as he takes up this challenging task at a very important phase of the organization's lifecycle.

# CCARDESA gets New Board of Directors



The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) has constituted a new board of directors as part of its governance restructuring process.

CCARDESA was established by SADC Member States to coordinate the implementation of agricultural research and development (R&D) in the SADC region. As one of the sub-regional organisations under the FARA umbrella, its goal is to sustainably reduce food insecurity and poverty in the region as captured in SADC’s Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the Dar es Salaam declaration on food security, and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), developed by the African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AU-NEPAD). It operates within the framework of CAADP Pillar 4 which has the objective of enhancing the livelihoods of African farmers and pastoralists.

As one of its constituent Sub-regional organizations, CCARDESA has leveraged continuous support from the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), in the area of institutional governance. In recent times, FARA has contributed to the restructuring of the CCARDESA Board of Directors, which is currently in a transition stage.

### The Old Yields to New

The incumbent board of directors of CCARDESA is in the process of being replaced by a new one. In this transition phase, about seven members of the current Board, including the chairperson, Dr. Catherine Mungoma, who has been rendering commendable service to the southern African entity since 2017, will be replaced by a new one. Dr. Castro Camadara takes over from Dr. Mungoma as the new board chairperson.

Dr. Camadara started his work in academia and research at the Agostinho Neto University, for some 14 years in — Angola; where he was Professor and Vice-Rector of the University Centre of Huambo and coordinated the CGIAR-SADC led National Grain Legume Programme. He was a member and founder of the 1st National Research Council of Angola and also worked as Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture for more than a year. He is a founding member of ADRA (an Angolan NGO on Rural Development and Environment). He worked as a freelance consultant for a while, doing consultancy work for EU, World Bank, INGOs, Government, among others, before joining FAO. Dr. Castro Camadara was with the FAO for more than seventeen years as FAO Representative in various countries managing multidisciplinary teams and large country and regional portfolios covering Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Rural Development in general.

One of his postings with FAO was in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia where besides being Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, in charge of Coordinating 8 Countries, he also represented FAO at the African Union and UNECA. He is presently back in Angola and involved in consultancy and agribusiness.



**Food Pharmacy (SaladMaster) interacting with Staff of FARA on how food can be used as medicine to prevent, reverse or even cure life style diseases. (Internal event)**



### Upcoming Events

#### Emergency Preparedness and Basic First Aid Training

Venue: FARA Secretariat (Conference Room)  
Thursday, 8th August 2019  
Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm



3 September 2019  
14:30 - 16:30



### Creating an Enabling Environment for Digitalization to Transform African Agriculture

Side-event at the African Green Revolution Forum - AGRF 2019



For more information visit [www.faraafrica.org](http://www.faraafrica.org) or email [Aggrey Agumya, aagumya@faraafrica.org](mailto:Aggrey Agumya)  
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