STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM FOR INCLUSIVE RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND LIVELIHOODS IN EASTERN AFRICA (AIRTEA) PROJECT

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Proceedings of the AIRTEA Project Closeout and Capitalization Meeting

Project Workshop:

FINAL CAPITALIZATION AND EVALUATION MEETING

Dates	Venue	Guest of Honour
25th – 31st , January 2026	Maanzoni Lodge, Machakos, Kenya	Dr. Alice Murage (PhD) Acting Director General, KALRO, Kenya



Hosted By

The Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAFF) in Collaboration with:

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym/Abbreviation	Full Meaning
AIRTEA	African Innovations for Resilient, Efficient, and Transformative Agrifood Systems
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
EAFF	Eastern Africa Farmers Federation
EAC	East African Community
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Platform
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPV	Net Present Value
OACPS	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
R&D	Research and Development
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
TA	Technical Assistance
TP	Third Party
TPP	Third-Party Project
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(i) Background and Context

The '*Strengthening agricultural knowledge and the innovation ecosystem for inclusive rural transformation and livelihoods in Eastern Africa* (AIRTEA)' Project was conceived and implemented to catalyze sustainable agricultural transformation through multi-stakeholder Innovation Platforms (IPs), agriculture technology testing, market integration, and institutional strengthening across Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. Supported by the development partners and coordinated through a regional consortium led by the *Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)*; *Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF), and Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA),* AIRTEA aimed to demonstrate the scalable business models for improving productivity, resilience, and livelihoods in priority commodity value chains and access to business services.

As the first phase of the AIRTEA implementation reached project completion, the implementing consortium convened the Final Project Capitalization and Close-Out Meeting to synthesize evidence from the pilot interventions, assess progress against results frameworks, and prepare a pipeline of scaling proposals for the potential second phase (AIRTEA II). The meeting served as a strategic forum for consolidating the learning, strengthening proposal quality, aligning interventions with regional and national priorities, and positioning the program for renewed donor engagement—particularly in line with European Union (EU) cooperation objectives related to climate resilience, food security, youth employment, and private-sector development.

(ii) Rationale

While AIRTEA *Third Party Projects (TPPs)* pilots generated promising technical and institutional results, the transition from experimentation to sustained, large-scale impact required deliberate capitalization, rigorous impact articulation, and commercially viable business models. This meeting was therefore organized to:

- Share and document concrete achievements and lessons learned across the AIRTEA TPPs.
- Strengthen the strategic coherence of proposed scalable initiatives;
- Improve Theory of Change (ToC) and impact pathways for sustaining and scaling out project results;
- Reinforce sustainability, climate finance, and circular-economy dimensions within the IP frameworks;
- Enhance readiness for competitive donor funding processes for the TPP projects and stakeholders; and
- Outline the key inputs to transition from AIRTEA I to AIRTEA II.

The meeting also responded to donor calls for programs that emphasize demonstrable impact rather than activity expansion, integrate co-financing and private investment, and align with the CAADP-Kampala declaration targets, African Union Commission (AUC) Agenda 2063, national agricultural investment plans, and EU Global Gateway priority areas in Africa.

(iii) Objectives

The specific objectives of the Final AIRTEA Capitalization and Close-Out Meeting were to:

[1] Review and validate results achieved by the eleven TPPs across countries and value chains.

[2] Record lessons and best practices from implementation, partnership models, and IPs.

[3] Refine scaling proposals for the next phase through expert critique and peer learning.

[4] Strengthen investment readiness by sharpening the TPP project titles, business cases, and impact narratives.

[5] Promote sustainability and commercialization, including climate-finance and private-sector pathways.

[6] Agree on next steps and timelines for proposal submission, reporting, audits, and asset transfer.

[7] Reaffirm consortium collaboration and future resource-mobilization efforts.

(iv) Participants

The project closeout and capitalization meeting brought together a total of 61 participants, comprising 40 males (65.6%) and 21 females (34.4%), indicating a moderate level of gender representation with a notable gap in female participation. The meeting also convened many stakeholders representing the AIRTEA ecosystem:

- TPPs from Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, including the private sector institutions and public agricultural research institutions, public and private universities, research institutes, NGOs, youth organizations, and farmer organizations.
- Consortium partners, notably the EAFF, FARA, and ASARECA, including Senior AIRTEA leadership—including Executive Directors, Steering Committee members, and technical facilitators who guided deliberations and ensured alignment with regional development agendas.
- Partners in specific value chains relevant to AIRTEA interventions and scaling, together with coordinating institutions and technical advisors.
- Donor representatives, including the OACPS Research and Innovation Technical Assistance Unit.

(v) Methodology

The meeting adopted a participatory, evidence-driven capitalization methodology comprising:

- TPP presentations, documenting achievements, innovations, challenges, and emerging business models.
- Pitch sessions for scaling proposals, followed by expert panel reviews.
- Technical clinics on Theory of Change, impact pathways, proposal writing, and resource mobilization.
- Peer-to-peer learning exchanges across countries and value chains.
- Scoring and feedback frameworks to assess readiness for scale-up.
- Plenary discussions on sustainability, climate finance, digitalization, and institutionalization of IPs.
- Action-planning sessions that generated timelines and deliverables for AIRTEA II.

(vi) Proceedings

Over multiple days, sessions progressed from technical reflection to forward-looking strategy:

- TPP teams presented progress in dairy, Irish potatoes, cassava, maize, fish, vegetables, youth extension services, and digital advisory systems.
- Facilitators emphasized strengthening project logic, clarifying end-user orientation, quantifying impact, and articulating return on investment.
- Donor and consortium leaders challenged teams to sharpen regional perspectives, strengthen private-sector roles, embed circular-economy models, and develop climate-finance propositions.
- Dedicated sessions addressed fundraising strategies, co-financing, risk management, and proposal competitiveness.
- Closing sessions consolidated timelines for revised submissions, capitalization reports, audits, and asset-transfer processes.

(vii) Outcomes and Lessons Learnt

Key Outcomes

- Refined scaling concepts for eleven TPPs.
- Draft mega-proposal outlines for AIRTEA II.
- Strengthened Theory of Change frameworks and impact narratives.
- Agreed on reporting, audit, and asset-handover schedules.

(ii) Lessons Learnt

- Impact articulation must be quantified and evidence-based.
- Private-sector engagement is critical for sustainability.
- Innovation Platforms require institutionalization to function beyond project cycles.
- Titles, objectives, and value propositions must be donor-oriented and problem-driven.
- Co-financing signals ownership and increases investment attractiveness.
- Climate and circular-economy components enhance strategic relevance.

(viii) Recommendations and Action Points

- Narrow project focus to high-impact interventions.
- Strengthen business cases integrated with Return on Investment (ROI) and a SOAR analysis (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results).
- Embed climate-finance pathways and gender-responsive models.
- Scale impact rather than activities.
- Improve Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems with longitudinal tracking.

Table 1: Overview of Action Points, Responsible Entities, and Timelines

Action	Responsible	Timeline
Submit revised scaling proposals.	TPPs	February 13th, 2026
Disseminate the capitalization report to TPPs.	Consortium	March 2026
Consolidate mega-proposal	FARA/ASARECA	June–July 2026
Final audits and asset transfer	Implementers	Q1–Q2 2026
Reporting workshop	Consortium	2026

(ix) Conclusions

The Final Capitalization and Close-Out Meeting marked a pivotal transition from pilot experimentation to investment-ready programming. By rigorously interrogating results, strengthening partnership models, and sharpening scaling strategies, the consortium positioned AIRTEA for a second phase capable of delivering measurable, durable impact across Eastern Africa.

Participants reaffirmed their collective commitment to mobilizing new resources, institutionalizing Innovation Platforms, and advancing climate-smart, market-driven agricultural transformation while integrating strong extension frameworks for farmers. With revised proposals, strengthened impact frameworks, and an agreed roadmap for next steps, AIRTEA emerged from the meeting with renewed strategic clarity and a unified vision aligned with EU development cooperation priorities and regional agricultural agendas.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and context

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of livelihoods and economic development in Eastern Africa, employing between 60–70% of the labor force and contributing approximately 30–40% of gross domestic product (GDP) across Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda (World Bank, 2022[1]; FAO, 2023[2]). The sector is predominantly driven by smallholder farmers, who account for over 80% of food production in the region, with women comprising nearly 51.7% of the agricultural workforce (FAO, 2025)[3]. Despite their central role, smallholders continue to face structural constraints, including limited access to the markets, weak research–extension–farmer linkages, inadequate access to quality inputs and technologies, and low levels of value addition. These challenges also depress agricultural productivity and incomes, contributing to persistent rural poverty and food insecurity.

Youth participation in agriculture remains particularly low, despite high unemployment rates. In Eastern Africa, youth (aged 15–35 years) constitute over 60% of the population, yet agriculture is often perceived as unprofitable and unattractive due to low agricultural returns, high risks, and limited innovation uptake (African Development Bank [AfDB], 2021)[4]. The lack of an all-inclusive and functional innovation ecosystem further constrains opportunities for youth and women to engage meaningfully in agribusiness value chains. As a result, agricultural growth has not translated adequately into broad-based rural transformation and livelihoods.

Recognizing these systemic challenges, the Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation and Livelihoods in Eastern Africa (AIRTEA) Project was designed to promote demand-driven, inclusive, and partnership-based agricultural innovation in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. Implemented over a five-year period (2021–2025), the AIRTEA sought to strengthen the agricultural knowledge systems by fostering effective collaboration among farmers, researchers, universities, extension services, private sector actors, and policymakers. Evidence shows that multi-stakeholder innovation platforms (IPs) significantly enhance agricultural technology adoption, institutional learning, and scaling of innovations when compared to linear research–extension models (Kilelu et al., 2017[5]; Spielman et al., 2019[6]).

AIRTEA Project was implemented by a consortium comprising the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), and the East African Farmers Federation (EAFF), with financial support from the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS) through the ACP Innovation Fund, funded by the European Union (EU) under the 11th European Development Fund to a tune of EUR 4,799,035. Through this framework, AIRTEA provides technical and financial support to competitively selected multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) projects that address priority constraints along agricultural commodity value chains.

1.2 Objectives and outputs of the AIRTEA project

The overall objective of the Project was to *contribute to achieving sustainable agrarian livelihoods and rural transformation by fostering an inclusive innovation environment*. The three specific objectives were to:

[1] To strengthen the capacities of youth and women in East Africa's multi-stakeholder innovation platforms and link to solutions within national, regional, and global food systems;

[2] To facilitate technology transfer and uptake through learning routes and multistakeholder engagement;

[3] To improve profitability and employment opportunities along agricultural commodity value chains by establishing national and regional ABLA platforms, business development services, and mentorship.

[1] World Bank. (2025). *World development indicators*. World Bank. https://databank.worldbank.org
[2] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2023). FAOSTAT statistical database. FAO. https://www.fao.org/faostat/
[3] Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. (2022). The status of women in agrifood systems. FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5060en
[4] African Development Bank. (2021). Jobs for youth in Africa: Strategy for creating 25 million jobs and equipping 50 million youth. AfDB Group. https://www.afdb.org
[5] Kilelu, C. W., Klerkx, L., & Leeuwis, C. (2017). Supporting smallholder commercialisation by enhancing integrated coordination in agrifood value chains: Experiences with innovation platforms in Eastern Africa. Experimental Agriculture, 53(3), 1–21. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0014479716000726
[6] Spielman, D. J., Birner, R., & Davis, K. (2019). The performance of agricultural innovation systems: Evidence from developing countries. World Development, 122, 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.05.014

The expected outputs of the AIRTEA projects were:

[1] Multi-stakeholder IPs established and supported along commodity value chains.

[2] Strengthened the entrepreneurial capacity of youth and women involved in multi-stakeholder IPs.

[3] Practical solutions and related knowledge products are developed and made available along value chains.

[4] Strengthened the capacity of commodity value chain actors to scale up practical solutions.

[5] Collaborative partnerships established and strengthened between women, youth, and other agri-commodity value chain actors along value chains.

[6] New services offered by business service providers along commodity value chains.

To achieve the aforesaid objectives and outputs, AIRTEA operationalized 11 MSP Third-Party Projects (TPPs) across the priority agricultural value chains such as aquaculture, crops, livestock, and digital agriculture. The FARA consortium technically and financially supported the projects in agricultural research for development (ARD) that address multidimensional challenges and/or opportunities at the local, national, or regional level in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.

1.3 Overview of the Third-Party Projects (TPPs)

The AIRTEA's theory of change is anchored in strengthening the research–policy–practice interface to enable knowledge generation, exchange, and learning; technology transfer and uptake; and agribusiness development through capacity building. By focusing on both women and youth, enhancing entrepreneurial skills, supporting business development services, and facilitating the ABLA platforms, the project aims to improve agricultural profitability, employment creation, and resilience across agri-food systems. Through the eleven third-party projects (Table 2) spanning dairy, cassava, Irish potato, grains, fisheries, and indigenous vegetables, AIRTEA contributes to building robust agri-innovation ecosystems capable of delivering measurable socio-economic impacts and inclusive rural transformation in Eastern Africa.

Table 2: List of the Eleven Third-Party Projects under the AIRTEA Projects

TPPs	Name of Third-Party Projects (TPP)	Project Lead Institution(s)	Country(ies)
011	Harnessing multi-stakeholder innovation platforms for knowledge transfer and aquaculture value chain development in Uganda	NARO/Abi ZARDI	Uganda
006	Enhancing inclusive market access for African Indigenous Vegetable seed and value-added products by Smallholder farmers in Uganda	Uganda Christian University (UCU)	Uganda
001	Upgrading of silver cyprinid (Rastrineobola argentea) value chain through multi-stakeholder partnerships and novel climate-smart postharvest processing technologies and practices for improved rural livelihoods	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)	Kenya
008	Strengthening cassava innovation ecosystem and knowledge transfer for inclusive rural livelihoods development in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda	University of Nairobi (UoN)	Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda
009	Digital Connectors for farming communities	Africa Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)	Kenya, Uganda
004	Unlocking productivity within smallholder farming systems through the use of geospatial technology (GIS), artificial intelligence, and biological technologies in the face of climate change	Koppert Biological Systems (KBS)	Kenya
002	Promoting technologies and innovations for improving access to quality potato seeds by smallholder farmers through strengthening potato seed systems and multi-stakeholder collaboration in Rwanda	Seed Potato Fund Joint Ventures Ltd (SPF)	Rwanda
003	Technology Transfer through Innovation Systems: Enhancing Smallholder farmers' capacity for profitable and sustainable potato production	SGD Center for Africa	Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda
010	Leveraging The Benefits of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Support Rural Women and Youth in the Dairy Sector in Kenya	Cooperatives Alliance of Kenya	Kenya
005	Retaining next-generation farmers in agribusiness via enhanced knowledge-sharing platforms along with the dairy and grain value chains in Uganda	AGRENES (Agriculture, Environment & Ecosystems)	Uganda
007	Youth Leading Changes in Resilient Private Extension and Advisory Services for Job and Wealth Creation	Youth Engagement in Agriculture Network (YEAN)	Rwanda

1.4 Target audience: organisers, partners, and participants

1.4.1 Organisers of the Meeting

The final capitalization and evaluation meeting was organized and coordinated by the AIRTEA Consortium, comprising *the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA: https://faraafrica.org/), the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA: https://www.asareca.org/)*, and the *Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAFF: https://www.eaffu.org/)*. The consortium provided overall strategic leadership and oversight for the event, developed the programme and agenda, and ensured alignment with donor requirements and project closure protocols (Table 3).

FARA led the overall coordination of the meeting and oversaw preparation of the final capitalization and evaluation report, with technical and logistical support from both the ASARECA and EAFF. The consortium institutions jointly managed travel arrangements, meeting venue, and accommodation logistics for participants, facilitation of technical sessions, and documentation of proceedings. They also coordinated engagement with the *Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS: https://www.oacps.org/)* Technical Assistance Unit and the *European Union Delegations (EUD)* to ensure compliance with all the administrative and reporting requirements (Table 3).

Table 3: Overview of the Organizers and their key roles at the final capitalization and evaluation meeting

Organising Institution	Primary Roles During the Meeting
FARA (Lead Coordinator)	Overall convening and leadership; donor liaison; project-closure oversight; coordination of final capitalization and evaluation report; financial and administrative closure guidance.
ASARECA	Programme development; technical facilitation; moderation of sessions; support to lesson-learning processes; contribution to synthesis reports and policy recommendations.
EAFF	Stakeholder mobilization; facilitation of farmer-focused discussions; coordination of exhibitions and experience-sharing sessions; communications and visibility support.
Consortium Technical Teams & Rapporteurs	Session documentation; capture of lessons and recommendations; preparation of factsheets; synthesis of group-work outputs.

Session facilitators, rapporteurs, and technical staff drawn from the consortium and the Third-Party Projects (TPPs) supported structured discussions, captured key lessons and recommendations, and contributed to the development of factsheets, sustainability roadmaps, and policy-relevant outputs arising from the meeting.

1.4.2 Participants and their roles during the meeting

The meeting convened a diverse set of strategic project partners and stakeholders from across the agricultural innovation ecosystem who had supported AIRTEA implementation or were positioned to sustain and scale its achievements beyond project closure. The strategic partners—including representatives of *the EUD, OACPS, and its Technical Assistance Unit (TAU), and members of the AIRTEA Project Steering Committee*—provided high-level oversight. Together, they reviewed overall project performance, validated results and deliverables, and offered guidance on sustainability, policy uptake, scaling pathways, and future programme design.

The *AIRTEA Third-Party Projects (TPPs)* implementing organizations, which ranged from universities, research institutes, farmer organizations, private sector firms, and civil-society groups, presented key technical results, shared operational experiences, and engaged in cross-project learning. They also contributed to exhibitions, knowledge-capitalization activities, and the formulation of post-project action plans and recommendations.

The government representatives from the AIRTEA host countries, led by Kenya, discussed policy alignment, extension systems, youth and gender inclusion, climate change effects, and institutionalization of the AIRTEA approaches, identifying opportunities for regulatory support and public-sector uptake (Table 4).

Table 4: Overview of the Participants and their key roles at the final capitalization and evaluation meeting

Participant Category	Institutions / Actors	Roles and Responsibilities During the Meeting
Strategic Partners & Donors	OACPS & TAU; European Union; Project Steering Committee	Provided oversight and strategic guidance; validated project results and closure requirements; advised on sustainability, scaling, and future programming.
TPP Implementing Partners	Universities, research institutes, NGOs, farmer organizations, and private firms	Presented project achievements; shared lessons and innovations; contributed to exhibitions and working groups; co-developed sustainability and post-project action plans.
Government Institutions	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda	Reviewed policy relevance; guided institutional embedding of results; identified scaling and regulatory pathways; supported national uptake.
Private-Sector Actors	Agribusinesses, agri-tech companies, processors, financiers	Highlighted commercialization opportunities; explored partnerships and investment options; provided market perspectives.
Last-Mile Beneficiaries	Youth groups, women farmers, cooperatives, producer organizations	Shared field experiences; validated impacts; articulated sustainability needs at the community level.

The private-sector actors highlighted commercialization opportunities and post-project partnerships, while development partners and technical experts facilitated analytical reflection and synthesis of lessons. AIRTEA beneficiaries, mainly the youth, women, farmer groups, and producer organizations, validated community-level outputs, outcomes, and impacts from the project and future investment priorities. Together, all the participants contributed to evidence-based reflection, confirmed AIRTEA's achievements, and shaped sustainability and scaling strategies documented in the final capitalization outputs.

1.4.3 Participants' engagement and selection process

Participants were selected through a structured and consultative process led by the Consortium in collaboration with the AIRTEA Project Steering Committee and partners. Selection criteria emphasized institutional relevance to the AIRTEA project objectives, direct involvement in project implementation, capacity to influence sustainability and scaling, and representation across the countries, value chains, and stakeholder categories. Special attention was given to balanced representation of the youth and women, inclusion of public and private sector actors, and participation from key policy-making institutions to ensure that discussions reflected diverse perspectives across the agricultural innovation ecosystem.

Invitations were issued to all the participants, including implementers of the *Third-Party Projects (TPPs),* key resource persons from the private sector, and government counterparts in the three project countries. Strategic partners and donor representatives were also formally invited to participate in high-level sessions and closure deliberations. Private-sector actors and development organizations were selected based on their engagement in project value chains and potential to support post-project investments and partnerships.

The engagement during the meeting was structured through plenary presentations, thematic working groups for all 11 TPPs, moderated group discussions, exhibitions, and experience-sharing sessions. These formats enabled active participation, peer learning, and collective reflection, while rapporteurs documented discussions and synthesized key messages for inclusion in the capitalization report and sustainability framework.

1.5 Relevance of the workshop to the national, regional, and global development priorities

1.5.1 Alignment with National Development Agendas (NDAs)

The final Capitalization and Evaluation workshop directly supported agricultural transformation priorities in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, including national strategies on climate-smart agriculture, commercialization of smallholder farming, youth employment, gender inclusion, and private-sector participation. Discussions on innovation scaling, agribusiness incubation, extension reform, and institutionalization of AIRTEA approaches resonated with policy frameworks such as Kenya's Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS), Rwanda's Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA IV), and Uganda's Agriculture

Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP II) (Government of Kenya, 2019[7]; MINAGRI, 2018[8]; MAAIF, 2020[9]). By linking research outputs with market systems and regulatory processes, the workshop reinforced national goals related to food and nutrition security, climate resilience, and value-chain development.

1.5.2 Contribution to Regional Integration and African Policy Frameworks

At the regional level, the workshop aligned strongly with the *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)* and the *African Union's Agenda 2063*, both of which prioritize innovation systems, productivity growth, and inclusive agribusiness development (African Union Commission, 2015[10]; AUDA-NEPAD, 2019[11]). AIRTEA learning exchanges supported East African Community and COMESA strategies that promote cross-border technology diffusion, harmonized seed and input systems, and regional agrifood markets (EAC, 2018[12]; COMESA, 2014[13]).

1.5.3 Linkages to Global Development Commitments

Globally, the workshop contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) (United Nations, 2015)[14]. It also aligned with EU development cooperation priorities on sustainable food systems and innovation partnerships, as well as OACPS strategies on agri-climate resilience and private-sector-led growth (EUC, 2021[15]; OACPS, 2020[16]).

1.5.4 Strategic Coherence and Policy Uptake

Overall, the final Capitalization and Evaluation Meeting strengthened coherence between AIRTEA outcomes and broader development frameworks by generating evidence for policy discussions and dialogues, identifying institutional pathways for scaling innovations, and fostering partnerships for long-term sustainability. These contributions position the project lessons to inform the national reforms, regional coordination mechanisms, and global development investments.

1.6 Workshop agenda and thematic focus

The agenda was designed to facilitate structured reflection on the AIRTEA project implementation, stimulate cross-country learning, and generate forward-looking strategies for sustainability, scaling, and policy uptake. The workshop was structured for five days with sessions sequenced to engage the participants from evidence-based assessment of the AIRTEA project achievements to collaborative formulation of post-project actions, ensuring strong alignment with the national, regional, and global development priorities. Each day focused on complementary project thematic areas designed to engage diverse stakeholders, including strategic partners, namely the TPPs implementors, public institutions, and government representatives, thus *Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)*, private-sector actors, development partners, and last-mile beneficiaries, as explained below.

1.6.1 Day One - Opening Sessions, Strategic Framing, and Consolidated Review of AIRTEA Results

The first day focused on strategic framing, institutional leadership, and consolidated reporting at the AIRTEA consortium level. The participants included strategic project partners, the project steering committee, TPP implementers, government representatives, and private-sector actors. The opening session featured high-level

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[15] European Commission. (2021). An EU action plan for the development of organic production. https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-03/farm2fork_action-plan_organic-production.pdf
[16] Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). (2020). Strategic Framework 2020–2030. https://www.oacps.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/OACPS-Strategic-Framework-2020-2030.pdf

remarks from the OACPS, ASARECA, FARA, EAFF, and the KALRO, emphasizing accountability, results validation, and future orientation of the EU–OACPS investment.

Participants viewed documentary success stories and toured exhibition booths showcasing TPP's innovations. Thematic sessions examined AIRTEA-wide performance across four work packages: project coordination and *Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)*; stakeholder synergies in innovation systems; technology transfer and knowledge management system; and inclusive development and business incubation. Financial status updates reinforced transparency and discipline across the AIRTEA cycle.

1.6.2 Day Two – Presentation and Review of TPPs, Innovation Pathways, and EAFF Experience Sharing

The second day concentrated on a detailed presentation of technical outputs, outcomes, and impacts from all eleven TPPs. These covered climate-smart postharvest systems, seed system strengthening, digital agriculture tools, youth-led advisory services, aquaculture feed development, cassava innovation platforms, and women-focused dairy enterprises.

Each TPP presentation was followed by a structured question and answer (Q&A) session that promoted peer learning and comparative analysis across countries and value chains. An afternoon session included a thematic block on experience sharing and lessons learned, facilitated direct interaction among the TPPs, and drew insights from the AGRiDI project on scaling the OACPS-funded innovations. This experience sharing strengthened the capitalization mandate of the meeting.

1.6.3 Day Three – Experience Sharing and Synthesis of the Knowledge Capitalization Plans

The third day was devoted entirely to the structured lesson-drawing and synthesis of the capitalization plans. Through repeated cycles of facilitated working-group discussions, participants interrogated success factors, institutional arrangements, partnership models, financing strategies, and policy enablers emerging from AIRTEA project implementation. The sessions emphasized cross-country comparisons and thematic clustering across the digital agriculture, seed systems, fisheries, dairy, youth entrepreneurship, and innovation platforms. Outputs from these thematic working groups formed the analytical backbone for the capitalization products and strategic recommendations.

1.6.4 Day Four – Strategic Framing, Development, and Refinement of the TPP Scaling Project Proposals

On the fourth day, thematic working groups developed knowledge capitalization and TPP scaling concepts. The draft project results were presented in plenary and refined into consolidated strategic messages. Attention then shifted to the formal project-closure processes, including financial compliance, contractual obligations, reporting requirements, and documentation protocols, ensuring accountability to FARA and EU–OACPS partners. The extended discussion periods enabled implementers to clarify administrative and sustainability implications, reinforcing readiness for transition beyond project funding.

1.6.5 Day Five – Future Programming, Review of TPP Scaling Proposals, and Closing Reflections

The final day emphasized forward-looking strategy and institutional learning. Sessions addressed post-project next steps, sustainability pathways, partnership development, and integration of AIRTEA results into regional and national programmes. A formal workshop evaluation captured participant feedback on effectiveness and learning outcomes, followed by closing remarks from the OACPS, ASARECA, EAFF, and FARA leadership, underscoring commitments to scale successful TPP project innovations and apply AIRTEA lessons in future programming. The project networking events concluded the stakeholder meeting, reinforcing collaboration across the African agricultural innovation ecosystem.

Overall, the five-day meeting agenda blended strategic oversight, technical scrutiny, participatory learning, and forward planning—ensuring that AIRTEA achievements were rigorously assessed and translated into the sustainability and scaling strategies for policymakers, investors, and development partners.

2. WORKSHOP PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Purpose of the workshop

2.2 Rationale of the Closeout and Capitalization Meeting

Throughout the AIRTEA project lifecycle, the 11 TPPs have delivered diverse results, including technology transfer interventions, youth and women capacity development, strengthened innovation platforms, enhanced research outputs, public-private partnerships (PPPs), policy engagement, agribusiness learning exchanges, and comprehensive knowledge management efforts. Together, these achievements have significantly contributed to strengthening innovation ecosystems and promoting rural transformation across the three project countries.

With the AIRTEA project ending, it was essential to convene a final close-out meeting to provide a platform for the implementors and stakeholders to consolidate and review results and achievements, document lessons and best practices for scaling. The workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders to deliberate on any outstanding issues and agree on follow-up actions for sustainability and scaling out the project results.

This final closeout and capitalization meeting represented the culminating event for the AIRTEA project. The meeting aligns with good international practices in project management by promoting accountability, shared learning, sustainability planning, and strategic reflection among all participating stakeholders.

2.2 Objectives of the Closeout and Capitalization Meeting

2.2.1 General objectives

To formally conclude the AIRTEA Project by reviewing and validating its achievements, ensuring completion of deliverables, capturing knowledge and lessons, and establishing clear pathways for sustainability, scaling, and continued multi-stakeholder collaboration in Eastern Africa.

2.2.2 Specific objectives (SOs)

[1] Review and Validate Project Performance: To comprehensively assess AIRTEA project results, outputs, outcomes, and impacts across Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, including the performance of Third-Party Projects (TPPs), against planned targets and indicators.

[2] Confirm Completion of Technical and Financial Obligations: To verify that all technical, administrative, and financial deliverables have been finalized and accepted in accordance with donor requirements and consortium agreements.

[3] Document Lessons, Innovations, and Good Practices: To systematically capture, analyze, and compile lessons learned, innovations, and successful approaches generated throughout project implementation to inform future agricultural research-for-development programmes.

[4] Identify Outstanding Issues and Post-Project Actions: To highlight unresolved operational, institutional, or policy-related matters (if any) and agree on clear responsibilities and timelines for actions beyond the project lifecycle.

[5] Develop Sustainability, Scaling, and Policy Uptake Strategies: To define practical strategies for sustaining project outcomes, replicating or scaling proven interventions, strengthening integration into national and regional innovation systems, and enhancing policy engagement.

[6] Strengthen Networks and Future Collaboration: To reinforce strategic partnerships among the AIRTEA consortium members, TPP implementers, government agencies, private-sector actors, and development partners to support continued innovation, investment, and rural transformation.

2.3 Expected outputs

By the conclusion of the Closeout and Capitalization Meeting, the following outputs were expected:

[1] Final AIRTEA Capitalization and Evaluation Report: A comprehensive synthesis of project achievements, outcomes, impacts, challenges, and lessons learned across all countries and Third-Party Projects.

[2] Completed Project Closure and Handover Package: Approved technical, financial, and administrative closure documentation, including asset handover and institutional transition arrangements.

[3] Consolidated Knowledge and Innovation Products: A curated portfolio of best practices, technologies, business models, policy engagement outputs, and success stories produced by AIRTEA and its partners.

[4] Post-Project Sustainability and Scaling Framework: a strategic framework with a roadmap outlining the key mechanisms for sustaining results, scaling successful interventions, and embedding approaches within national and regional innovation systems.

[5] Policy and Future Programme Recommendations: Evidence-based recommendations to inform policy uptake, institutional strengthening, and design of future agricultural innovation programmes.

[6] Strengthened Multi-Stakeholder Networks and Collaboration: Reinforced partnerships and coordination platforms among consortium members, TPP implementers, governments, private-sector actors, and development partners beyond the project lifecycle.

AIRTEA
Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation & Livelihoods in Eastern Africa

3. PARTICIPANTS

3.1 Overview of Participation

The project closeout and capitalization meeting brought together a total of 61 participants, comprising 40 males (65.6%) and 21 females (34.4%), indicating a moderate level of gender representation with a notable gap in female participation. These participants were drawn from the implementing institutions, regional coordinating bodies, policy organizations, development partners, and independent experts. The diversity of participants reflected a multi-actor innovation-systems approach and ensured that technical validation, policy dialogue, financial accountability, and forward-looking strategy development were addressed in an integrated manner, as documented in the official register (Annex 1).

The meeting was deliberately designed to function simultaneously as a project technical review forum, a policy dialogue platform, and a forward-planning space for sustaining and scaling the project achievements beyond the project completion (Figure 1). This was made possible by inclusive gender-balanced representation of operational implementers, consortium leadership, strategic policymakers, and external advisers.

3.2 Third Party Project (TPP) Implementers

3.2.1 Composition and Institutional Representation

The Project Closeout and Capitalization Meeting brought together a total of 61 participants, reflecting a strong implementation-oriented and multi-institutional composition. Participants included principal investigators, co-investigators, project managers, and technical specialists drawn from the universities, national agricultural research systems (NARs), farmer organizations, private sector firms, farmer advisory networks, and youth-led agribusiness platforms (Figure 1).

The stakeholder institutions represented included the *Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)*, the *Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAARDB)* partners, *Uganda Christian University (UCU)*, *University of Nairobi (UoN)*, *African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)*, *Koppert Biologicals, National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO*), *Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK),* and youth agribusiness networks.

The majority of the participants (48; 78.7%) were drawn from the AIRTEA Third-Party Projects (TPPs) and affiliated institutions, underscoring the central role of implementers in sharing field-based experiences, validating results, and contributing to knowledge capitalization. This was complemented by representation from key regional and coordinating bodies, including EAFF with 5 participants (8.2%), and both the FARA and ASARECA, each contributing 4 participants (6.6%), thereby ensuring strategic oversight, policy alignment, and regional research coordination.

In terms of gender distribution, the meeting comprised 40 male participants (65.6%) and 21 female participants (34.4%). While this reflects a reasonable level of inclusion, it also highlights a gender imbalance, with women being underrepresented relative to men. Overall, the composition of participants provided a balanced platform that combined practical implementation perspectives with institutional and regional insights, though future engagements could benefit from strengthened efforts toward greater gender equity.

3.2.2 Roles and Contributions

TPP implementers were responsible for presenting technical results, reporting on outcomes and impacts, and participating in the cross-project learning and knowledge-capitalization working groups. They also played a central role in jointly formulating recommendations for sustainability, institutional embedding, and scaling pathways. Their contributions ensured that discussions were firmly grounded in empirical field-level evidence across fisheries, seed systems, cassava, dairy, aquaculture, digital advisory services, and youth- and gender-responsive value-chain interventions.

3.3 AIRTEA Consortium and Regional Coordinating Institutions

3.3.1 Institutional Representation

AIRTEA's core consortium partners were represented by 13 senior staff members drawn from three regional organizations:

- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) – 4 participants, providing leadership on consortium coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), and financial oversight;
- Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) – 5 participants, supporting the beneficiary farmer engagement, communications, and exhibition activities; and
- Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) – 4 participants, facilitating technical sessions and regional learning processes.

3.3.2 Strategic Functions During the Meeting

These stakeholder institutions collectively formed the institutional backbone of the meeting. They oversaw agenda delivery, moderated sessions, coordinated documentation and reporting, and guided discussions on compliance, capitalization outputs, and project closure procedures.

3.4 Strategic stakeholders and policy-level representatives

(i) Institutional Participation: High-level policy engagement was ensured through the participation of one senior official from the KALRO and one representative from the OACPS Technical Assistance Unit.

(ii) Policy engagement and strategic relevance: Their engagement linked AIRTEA's technical results to the national agricultural research priorities and EU–OACPS cooperation frameworks. It also reinforced pathways for institutional uptake, regional replication, and future investment beyond project completion.

(iii) Independent expertise and advisory support: An experienced project consultant specializing in agricultural innovation systems and scaling participated in the meeting and provided independent analytical perspectives. This expert contributed to the lesson-learning and capitalization exercises and supported the translation of project-level evidence into strategic recommendations for future programming.

3.5 Overall stakeholder balance and added value

Overall, the diverse participant profile—spanning the implementers, consortium partners, policymakers, and technical advisers—enabled the meeting to function simultaneously as a technical review forum, a policy dialogue platform, and a forward-planning space for sustaining and expanding the AIRTEA's achievements beyond project closure. This carefully calibrated mix of the project technical, institutional, policy, and advisory actors (Figure 1) enabled the final AIRTEA Capitalization and Evaluation meeting to operate simultaneously as a project performance-review platform, a knowledge-capitalization forum, and a strategic planning space for sustaining and scaling the AIRTEA's achievements beyond project completion.



Figure 1: Photos of the participants for the Final Capitalization and Evaluation Meeting (January 25th – 31st, 2026) for the AIRTEA project at the Maanzoni Lodge, Machakos, Kenya

4. MATERIALS AND METHODS

4.1 Overall approach and workshop design

The AIRTEA Final Capitalization and Close-Out Meeting was designed as a participatory, multi-stakeholder learning and co-creation process aimed at synthesizing evidence from the TPP implementation, validating results, and preparing the TPPs for scaling under a likely AIRTEA Phase II. The methodology combined TPP plenary presentations, facilitated technical clinics, peer-review exercises, pitching sessions, structured group work, and group discussions with stakeholders. The design followed principles of agri-innovation systems thinking, emphasizing interaction among research, extension, the private sector, policy actors, and end-users.

4.2 Participants and sampling strategy

Participants were purposively selected to ensure balanced representation across countries (Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda) and stakeholder categories. These included the consortium partners (*FARA, ASARECA, EAFF*), donor representatives, members of the AIRTEA steering committee, government officials, private sector actors, national agriculture research institutions, universities, farmer organizations, youth networks, and civil-society organizations. The TPP implementers constituted the core technical group. The participant selection criteria prioritized active involvement in the AIRTEA Phase I, relevance to results scaling pathways, policy influence, commercialization potential, and capacity to contribute to regional public goods.

4.3 Documentary materials and evidence sources

Multiple data sources were mobilized to support the capitalization and learning. These included: *(i) project technical and financial reports; (ii) monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) datasets; (iii) documentary videos produced by TPPs in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda; (iv) policy briefs and national strategy documents; (v) logframes, theories of change, and business models submitted by TPPs; and (vi) draft scaling proposals and pitch decks prepared in advance of the meeting*. These materials were circulated prior to the workshop and used as reference documents during technical clinics and review sessions.

4.4 Facilitation tools and analytical frameworks

A suite of structured analytical tools guided discussions and proposal refinement. The TPPs applied the Theory of Change mapping to articulate causal pathways from inputs to impact, identify assumptions, and clarify the roles of partners. Impact-pathway development exercises emphasized sequencing of activities, adoption dynamics, and medium-term outcomes. The SOAR and SWOT framework analyses were used internally by teams to diagnose strategic positioning and risks. Innovation Platforms (IPs) thinking framed the role of multi-actor partnerships, while the agricultural commodity value-chain analysis supported identification of bottlenecks, investment drivers, and commercialization opportunities.

Project-development-cycle models—covering conception, design, implementation, monitoring, learning, and exit strategies—were presented to harmonize proposal structure. More tools included problem-tree analysis, logframe matrices, six-sigma–inspired diagnostic exercises for identifying root causes of under-performance, and technology-readiness-level assessments to gauge the maturity of innovations proposed for scaling.

4.5 Pitching and peer-review process

Each TPP prepared a concise scaling pitch following a standardized template that covered the development challenge, proposed innovation, geographic scope, target beneficiaries, sustainability model, budget envelope, and expected impact. Pitches were delivered in timed sessions (typically 3-minutes), followed by clarifying questions and scoring by peers and facilitators using qualitative criteria captured in an Excel-based evaluation matrix. Donor representatives and consortium leaders provided structured feedback focusing on clarity of problem statements, realism of budgets, private-sector engagement, policy relevance, gender and youth inclusion, environmental sustainability, and prospects for regional scaling.

4.6 Group Work and Co-Creation Sessions

Breakout groups were convened around thematic areas such as dairy systems, root and tuber crops, cereals, fisheries, digital advisory services, youth employment, and climate-smart circular economy models. Groups undertook guided exercises to: (i) refine objectives and titles; (ii) revise the Theories of Change; (iii) articulate business and financing models; (iv) map stakeholder roles; (v) identify risks and mitigation measures; and (vi) outline post-project sustainability strategies. Facilitators synthesized outputs in plenary, enabling cross-country learning and comparison of alternative scaling pathways.

4.7 Monitoring, evaluation, and learning integration

MEL considerations were embedded throughout the methodology. The TPPs were required to link proposed outcomes to measurable indicators, including productivity gains, income changes, adoption rates, gender and youth participation, greenhouse-gas mitigation and adaptation benefits, and market access. The participants reviewed reporting challenges experienced during Phase I and identified improvements for Phase II, such as standardizing the project reporting templates, capacity-building workshops on results-based management, and institutionalizing post-project impact tracking.

4.8 Synthesis and validation

Rapporteurs documented all plenary discussions, technical feedback, and group outputs. These records, together with scoring sheets and revised pitch decks, formed the empirical basis for the AIRTEA capitalization report and the consolidation of national proposals into regional "mega-projects." Validation occurred through plenary endorsement of key lessons, priority investment areas, timelines for submission of revised proposals, and agreed action points for consortium partners and donors.

5. PROCEEDINGS: KEY DISCUSSIONS AND INSIGHTS

5.1 Day One: Opening Sessions, Strategic Framing, and Consolidated Review of AIRTEA Results

The first day of the Final AIRTEA Project Capitalization and Evaluation Meeting set a strong foundation for the week's proceedings, combining inspirational demonstrations of the project achievements with strategic reflection, consortium-level assessments, and evidence-based reviews of the results across the four AIRTEA work packages. The first day emphasized both technical evidence and institutional leadership, highlighting impacts on productivity, income, youth engagement, and gender inclusion.

5.1.1 Session 1: Video Documentary of AIRTEA Success Stories

The Final Capitalization and Evaluation meeting opened with a documentary-style video presentation, led by Mr. Hillary Cheruiyot (EAFF), highlighting the key Third Party Projects (TPPs) interventions across Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. The presentation illustrated how the use of integrated technological, institutional, and market-based innovations addressed persistent challenges in fisheries, root crops, dairy, horticulture, and youth agribusiness systems, as highlighted below.

1.1 Highlights for Kenya - Solar Dryers and Market Access for Omena

In Kenya, AIRTEA addressed the post-harvest losses in the omena (silver cyprinid) value chain—caused by open-ground drying during wet seasons—through greenhouse-style solar–biomass hybrid dryers. These systems combined solar energy with biomass backup heating to ensure efficient, high-quality drying, reducing contamination and spoilage. Two pilot solar dryers were installed and demonstrated to farmer groups and processors, enabling higher-quality products for local and niche markets.

The AIRTEA project also integrated digital marketing platforms, linking processors to buyers through mobile applications such as M-FISH and CroDig. This digital approach enabled farmers to negotiate prices, transact via mobile money (e.g., M-Pesa), and access niche markets like supermarkets and institutional buyers.

The fish value addition initiatives—such as omena-enriched noodles, fish fingers, smoked fish, and air-fried products—generated new income streams and employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth. Over 100 women were actively engaged across pilot sites, with additional adoption anticipated in surrounding communities. Beyond fisheries, the hybrid solar dryers were piloted for cassava processing, reducing post-harvest losses and enabling diverse value-added products, including chips, flour, porridge, posho, and baked goods. Demonstration plots and greenhouse facilities demonstrated the integrated use of solar drying with crop production and market-oriented processing.

1.2 Highlights in Rwanda: Climate-Smart Production and Cassava/Potato Value Chains

In Rwanda, modified greenhouse solar dryers improved drying efficiency for multiple crops, reducing losses and increasing household incomes. Farmers reported greater dietary diversity and the ability to meet school fees and savings obligations through communal Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOS). Complementary investments in solar-powered irrigation systems enhanced year-round production.

Cassava and potato value chains were strengthened through improved planting materials provided via FARA and ASARECA, which significantly increased production and productivity. Cassava farmer groups evolved into organized production hubs supplying Kigali markets and were formally registered as business entities. These interventions leveraged collaborations with the University of Rwanda and local private-sector partners via competitive grants supporting innovation and agribusiness incubation. Key challenges highlighted were limited resources for scaling, commercialization of new products, and sustained delivery of advisory services.

1.3 Highlights in Uganda: Fisheries, Dairy, and Horticulture Innovations

In Uganda, fisheries projects led by the NARO trained farmers in smoking, air frying, and value addition, doubling fish prices from US$ 2 to 4 per unit. Over 125 women and youth benefited from these initiatives, which were complemented by financial-literacy manuals tailored to the fish value chain.

Circular dairy intervention Centres (DICs) incorporated integrated feed and livestock management systems, including commercial forage/hay production, bale storage technologies, milk-cooling facilities, biogas units, drought-tolerant cowsheds, improved pasture seeds, and circular bioeconomy approaches using manure for energy and organic inputs. These circular DIC innovations enhanced milk productivity and reduced household energy costs whilst facilitating a sustainable transition to the bioeconomy.

Horticultural initiatives in Uganda, complemented by the Kenyan interventions, applied resilient greenhouse technologies and digital extension services. Crops such as coffee, onions, nakati, potatoes, and tomatoes were integrated into traditional systems, strengthening diversification, market access, and income generation.

5.1.2 Session 2: Setting the Scene - Purpose, Objectives, and Expected Outputs of the Meeting

Following the video presentations, Dr. Kwaku Antwi (FARA) outlined the rationale for convening the meeting as part of AIRTEA's formal close-out, capitalization, and evaluation process. The gathering brought together strategic project partners, MSP actors, researchers, private-sector representatives, and policymakers to review implementation performance, consolidate lessons learned, and plan pathways for sustainability and scaling. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review AIRTEA implementation performance, document achievements and lessons learned, showcase innovations, and agree on integrated pathways for sustainability and scaling the project outputs to more communities and across the countries.

Four principal objectives were also presented, as follows: (1) review and consolidate achievements, outcomes, and impacts; (2) confirm completion of all activities and results; (3)document good practices and innovations; and (4) develop strategies for scaling and replication of successful innovations and case studies.

Dr. Antwi further outlined the three expected deliverables of the meeting, which included: (i) a consolidated achievements report, (ii) an inventory of innovations and success stories, strengthened stakeholder networks, documented scaling proposals, completion of administrative and financial closure requirements, and (iii) a comprehensive meeting report. He concluded by encouraging the participants to engage actively in all coming sessions, provide constructive feedback, and help refine proposed concepts into viable and scalable initiatives.

5.1.3 Session 3: Opening Remarks and High-level Statements from AIRTEA Consortium Leadership

3.1 Opening Remarks by Mr. Stephen Muchiri (CEO of EAFF and Chair of the meeting)

Mr. Muchiri traced the origins of the AIRTEA Project and emphasized EAFF's commitment to ensuring a strong partner engagement through the Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and profitability enhancement. He noted that the farmers, researchers, and private-sector actors had worked collaboratively to reduce post-harvest losses, expand digital solutions—particularly among the youth within the circular dairy systems—and scale innovations for wider adoption. He commended the AIRTEA Steering Committee, comprised of FARA, EAFF, and ASARECA, for their good leadership and support to the TPPs during execution of the AIRTEA project. He concluded by urging participants to transform emerging technologies and solutions from the TPP ideas into bankable proposals for in-country and in-regional scaling.

3.2 Opening Remarks by Dr. Sylvester Dickson Baguma (ED of ASARECA)

Dr. Baguma framed the meeting around three dimensions of scaling: scale up, by consolidating achievements and documenting lessons; scale out, by expanding geographic reach and influencing policy, institutional reform, and investment; and scale deep, by generating higher incomes, transforming mindsets and capacities among stakeholders. He concluded by reaffirming ASARECA's commitment to sustainability, resource mobilization, partnership strengthening, and addressing emerging issues through future programming.

3.3 Opening Remarks by Dr. Aggrey Agumya (ED of FARA)

Dr. Agumya highlighted AIRTEA's role in advancing agricultural value chains, knowledge dissemination, and institutional learning. He underscored the importance of ensuring that local administrators and service providers adopt proven approaches and stressed that follow-on projects would be critical for sustaining momentum. He expressed appreciation for the coordination teams and acknowledged the contributions of Dr. Gerard, Kwaku, and Vesta in steering the project (Figure 2).

3.4 Opening Remarks by Dr. Gerard den Ouden (OACPS Technical Assistance Unit)

Dr. Gerard den Ouden reflected on how AIRTEA was conceived through collaboration among FARA, EAFF, and ASARECA and emphasized the need for continued networking and resource mobilization to build on project results. He encouraged AIRTEA partners to scale the multi-stakeholder platform model and develop new initiatives that further advance rural development (Figure 2).

3.5 Official Opening by Dr. Alice Murage (Deputy Director General, KALRO)

Dr. Murage, who represented the Director General of KALRO, thanked the project coordinating institutions for their leadership and emphasized the AIRTEA's demonstration of effective innovation ecosystems that align technology with markets. She recognized the project's contribution to job creation, food productivity gains, and inclusive development with youth inclusion and MSP models. Stressing that impact matters, she urged partners to move beyond pilots by documenting economic returns, strengthening research-to-practice linkages, and scaling successful models across Africa.



Figure 2: Photos of Stakeholders and Consortium Leaders giving opening remarks and high-level statements

3.6 Key lessons and strategic messages from the opening session

Across the opening sessions, several cross-cutting lessons emerged: the hybrid technologies enhance climate resilience; digital platforms improve market transparency; value addition drives income growth and youth engagement; strong partnerships underpin impact; and early documentation supports accountability and scaling. Participants agreed on the need to finalize documentation of achievements, strengthen sustainability and financing strategies, scale proven innovations regionally, and maintain collaboration across institutions.

5.1.4 Session 4: Consortium-Level Results across the AIRTEA Work packages and Financial Performance

Session 4 provided a consolidated overview of both technical and financial performance across AIRTEA's four work packages (Table 5), demonstrating strong delivery against targets and wide-reaching engagement of farmers, youth, women, research institutions, and private-sector actors.

4.1 Work Package 1: Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) and Innovation Systems

Overall project achievements under *Work package 1: Creating synergies for stakeholder action in national agricultural research and innovation ecosystems* were presented by Dr. Joshua Okonya (ASARECA). Under work package 1, the results highlighted the substantial progress in building inclusive innovation ecosystems. Participation across supported platforms reached 53% youth and 51% women, reflecting AIRTEA's strong emphasis on gender equity and youth empowerment. A total of 29 innovation platforms were established and trained farmers in collaborative problem-solving and business development, leading to the preparation of ten structured business plans aimed at improving commercialization pathways. The project also geo-referenced 67 innovation platforms, enabling systematic monitoring and spatial analysis of intervention sites (Table 5).

This presentation session also highlighted a flagship success story: a beneficiary from the AIRTEA project (TPP008) received continental recognition as Africa Agribusiness Woman of the Year 2023, underscoring the project's contribution to women-led agribusiness entrepreneurship and leadership.

Across the seven commodity value chains—including fisheries, dairy, cassava, potato, and horticulture—401 demonstration sites were established to accelerate farmer learning and technology uptake. These platforms served as practical learning laboratories where producers, extension agents, and agribusiness actors jointly tested new *Technologies, Innovations, and Management Practices (TIMPs)*.

4.2 Work Package 2: Technology Transfer and Knowledge Management

Overall project achievements under *Work package 2 - Support technology transfer, knowledge management, and information communication among stakeholders*, were presented by Mr. Hillary Cheruiyot (EAFF). The work package 2 focused on communication, digital engagement, and large-scale dissemination of AIRTEA innovations. The project supported digital interaction across the 383 Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), facilitating real-time knowledge exchange and coordination among producers, service providers, and buyers.

More than 30 technical and policy-oriented publications were produced, capturing lessons, tools, and evidence for scaling across Eastern Africa. Through demonstration-based extension approaches, AIRTEA reached **over** 30,000 farmers, significantly expanding awareness and adoption of improved production and post-harvest technologies (Table 5). Special emphasis was also placed on strengthening youth- and women-led service provision, particularly through digital advisory systems and market-linkage tools, enabling these groups to participate more competitively in agri-food value chains.

4.3 Work Package 3: Agribusiness Platforms and Market Systems (ABLA Approach)

The results under *Work Package 3: Operationalized the Agribusiness-Based Learning Approach (ABLA) as a structured methodology for market-oriented innovation*, were presented by Dr. Robin Buruchara. Under the ABLA framework, the project facilitated co-creation processes in which farmers, processors, researchers, and private firms jointly developed and tested new products, services, and business models. An updated ABLA toolkit (2025) was finalized and rolled out to partners, providing standardized guidance for future agribusiness incubation and scaling programmes. In addition, targeted assessments were conducted across six Third Party Projects, generating early evidence on the last-mile adoption trends, business performance, and market integration (Table 5).

4.4 Work Package 4: Management, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Coordination

Results under *work package 4: Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), Challenges and Lessons Learnt,* were presented by Dr. Kwaku Antwi (the Project Lead, FARA), who provided an overview of the AIRTEA Project and overall achievements. The results demonstrated a strong institutional performance in the project coordination, financial oversight, monitoring, and learning systems. FARA strengthened reporting structures, field-monitoring protocols, and communication channels across the consortium, ensuring alignment with EU–OACPS requirements (Table 5).

Performance milestones were reported as largely achieved against the established baselines, and consortium partners were commended for effective collaboration and timely implementation of the project. The MEL system also supported continuous learning by feeding emerging field evidence into adaptive management and capitalization processes.

4.5 Financial Performance and Commitments

Mrs. Vesta Nunoo (FARA) presented the financial status, noting an overall burn rate of 85%, projected to reach 90% following the final capitalization and evaluation meeting. She also emphasized several compliance and closure priorities:

- Completion of all outstanding financial audits;
- Timely submission of technical and financial reports to enable final approval by the European Commission by August 2026;
- Observance of the EU-mandated five-year document-retention period; and
- Release of final disbursements upon European Commission clearance.

In closing, the Executive Directors of FARA and ASARECA reaffirmed their institutional commitment to mobilizing additional donor resources and strategic partnerships to sustain and expand AIRTEA interventions beyond the current funding cycle.

Table 5: Overview of Consortium-Level Results across AIRTEA Workpackages and Financial Performance

Work package	Lead Entity	Key Achievements	Strategic Significance
Work Package 1: MSPs & Innovation Systems	ASARECA	53% youth and 51% women participation; 29 IPs trained; 10 business plans; 67 IPs geo-referenced; 401 demonstrations; Africa Agribusiness Woman of the Year 2023 awardee	Strengthened inclusive innovation ecosystems and commercialization pathways
Work Package 2: Technology Transfer & KM	EAFF	383 MSPs digitally engaged; 30+ publications; 30,000+ farmers trained; youth/women service provision strengthened	Accelerated regional dissemination and adoption of AIRTEA innovations
Work Package 3: Agribusiness Platforms (ABLA)	ABLA / Consortium	Co-creation processes; ABLA Toolkit (2025); adoption assessments across six TPPs	Institutionalized market-oriented incubation and scaling frameworks
Work Package 4: Management & MEL	FARA	Strengthened coordination and monitoring systems; milestones largely achieved	Ensured accountability, learning, and regulatory compliance
Financial Performance	FARA	85% burn rate (projected 90%); audits underway; EC reporting by Aug 2026; five-year retention rule	Secured compliant closure and positioned the project for follow-on funding

Overall, Day One combined technical evidence, strategic reflection, and institutional leadership to validate AIRTEA's achievements and lay the groundwork for scaling successful innovations across Eastern Africa.

Day 1 successfully combined technical evidence, strategic reflection, and leadership perspectives, validating AIRTEA's achievements and laying the groundwork for scaling innovations across the entire Eastern Africa region. Participants left with a clear understanding of project impacts, strategic priorities for sustainability, and pathways for regional replication.

5.2 Day Two: Detailed Technical Reviews, Sustainability Pathways, and Strategic Scaling Dialogues

The second day of the meeting was devoted to rigorous technical interrogation of the Third-Party Projects (TPPs). Participants examined evidence on the outputs, outcomes, impacts, asset inventories, custodianship arrangements, and post-project sustainability prospects for scaling. The consortium leaders, national research agencies, universities, farmer organizations, private-sector partners, and development institutions engaged in frank exchanges designed to ensure that promising innovations would not end at the pilot stage but would be transitioned into commercially viable and institutionally anchored models capable of regional replication.

Administrative Recap and Implementation Deadlines

Proceedings opened with a brief recap of decisions taken on Day One, including reaffirmed commitments by consortium heads to mobilize additional resources to support scaling of successful TPP models. Participants were reminded that all eligible field expenditures must cease by 31 January 2026, emphasizing the urgency of completing remaining activities, documenting results, transferring assets, finalizing audits, and preparing sustainability plans within the project's closing window.

5.2.1 Session 1: Presentation and Review of TPP results, Innovation and Scaling Pathways

1.1 Overview of TPP001 - Solar Dryers, Value Addition and Market Access for Omena in Kenya

TP001 demonstrated how solar–biomass hybrid dryers were reducing post-harvest losses in omena fisheries while improving quality and shelf life. Reviewers stressed that long-term success would depend not only on technology performance but also on the robustness of Innovation Platforms (IPs), which require business plans, pricing models, diversified market channels, and clear resource-management strategies. Project leaders explained that most fish was still sold through intermediaries who captured disproportionate margins. To correct this imbalance, the project had introduced digital marketing platforms designed to link the producers directly to premium buyers such as supermarkets and institutional caterers.

Business registration processes with the county governments were underway, and commercialization plans were being refined. Although Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) had not yet matured, these were identified as central to scaling. During the discussion session, participants also urged the team to develop fortification partnerships, rotate dryer use among farmer groups transparently, and align future incubation efforts with the MSP structures and the ABLA framework.

1.2 Overview of TPP002 – Potato Seed Systems and Business Incubation in Rwanda

The TP002 project team reported that farmer adoption of improved seed varieties had increased significantly through demonstration plots, farmer field days, and radio programming. Comparative varietal trials enabled producers to observe yield and quality differences directly, accelerating uptake.

Discussion turned to sustainability, with the reviewers calling for stronger post-harvest management, private-sector participation, and cross-border learning. Greenhouse seed production and IP-level business plans were highlighted as responses to Rwanda's land constraints, yet the team acknowledged that current operations meet only around 10% of national demand—revealing major scope for expansion. Policy barriers to regional seed trade and earlier gaps in MSP participation were also recognized as issues to be addressed during scaling.

1.3 Overview of TPP003 - Potato Seed and Commodity Value Chain Development in Uganda

TP003 reflected on how implementation had continued despite the loss of a development partner, thanks to close coordination with FARA. The project shifted focus toward promoting four potato varieties that aligned most closely with market demand. Participants emphasized that strengthening off-taker capacity and regional market integration would be critical for sustaining varietal adoption beyond the project lifecycle.

1.4 Overview of TPP004 - Digital and Green Innovations for climate-smart maize value chain (Kenya)

TP004 centered its presentation on the commercial logic underpinning digital agronomic tools and biological inputs. The team demonstrated how real-time crop monitoring, return-on-investment analyses, and youth-led advisory services had encouraged adoption. Revenue streams were expected to come primarily from the input sales, supplemented by subscription fees for digital services after project closure. Although current application usage remained modest, scaling strategies included cross-project collaboration, gradual introduction of paid services, and deployment of community-based e-extension agents to overcome smartphone and connectivity limitations.

1.5 Overview of TPP005 - Dairy Innovation Centres (DICs) under Circular Bioeconomy pathways (Uganda)

TP005 showcased three Dairy Innovation Centre (DIC) models tailored to contrasting agro-ecological zones. Assets such as milk coolers, feed-processing units, and biogas digesters were being formally transferred to farmer custodians, alongside intensive capacity-building programmes to ensure technical and managerial competence. The team articulated long-term PPP strategies through the NARO partnerships and outlined how zone-specific models—rangeland feed hubs, zero-grazing systems, and diversified mixed farms—offered templates for replication. Participants pressed for clearer depreciation planning, certification of forage-seed producers, and consolidated business cases for scaling.

1.6 Overview of TPP006 - Indigenous Vegetables and Corridor-Based Market Systems (Uganda)

TP006 described a corridor approach linking producer clusters, lead farms, and off-takers under contract-farming arrangements. Seventeen contracts extending to 2026 were already in place, enabling the farmers to secure credit and tailor production to buyer specifications. Nonetheless, informality among traders, stringent export standards, and limited farmer literacy constrained faster commercialization. Strategic partnerships with UNFFE and the development of digital information-management systems were positioned as mechanisms for long-term scaling. The university proposed expanding value-chain training modules and integrating digital connectors under a future programme phase.

1.7 Overview of TPP007 - Youth-Led Advisory Services and Enterprise Incubation (YEAN) in Rwanda

YEAN reported substantial youth employment gains through the recruitment and training of extension agents deployed within their home communities. Collaboration with national employment boards provided stipends and strengthened institutional anchoring. The incubation model blended hub-based facilities with on-farm enterprises, creating a flexible ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship. Participants welcomed this hybrid approach as a scalable model for embedding private advisory services into national systems.

1.8 Overview of TPP008 - Cassava Innovation Ecosystems across Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda

TP008 acknowledged uneven implementation across Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda and outlined plans to harmonize seed systems, synchronize production schedules, and expand irrigation to stabilize supply. Concrete achievements included the equipment acquisition, processor training, youth employment, and early revenue generation from cassava products. Scaling discussions centered on infrastructure expansion, quality seed multiplication, and adoption of climate-smart agronomic practices such as ZAI pits.

1.9 Overview of TPP009 - Digital Connectors and Policy Engagement (Uganda)

TP009 explained how tiered training programmes responded to varying beneficiary skill levels, with youth recruited competitively and supported to develop sustainable business plans for fee-based advisory services. Policy influence was pursued through national extension forums, while partnerships with universities and youth programmes amplified outreach. Sustainability hinged on embedding digital connectors within broader rural service markets.

1.10 Overview of TPP010 - Digital Dairy Platforms and Multistakeholder Partnerships (Kenya)

TP010 highlighted the strategic selection of advisory applications across the dairy value chain, including climate-enabled forecasting tools and herd-management platforms. Sustainability strategies for upgrading cooperative-led dairy systems were presented, although reviewers requested stronger articulation of financial flows and commercialization models.

1.11 Overview of TPP011 - Aquaculture Value-Chain Upgrading (Uganda)

TP011 made investments in Black Soldier Fly feed systems, pelleting units, drying infrastructure, packaging materials, and adaptive research to strengthen fish-farming enterprises. Asset-retention approvals had been sought, and the impact studies were underway to quantify the economic returns and inform scaling strategies.

5.2.2 Session 2: EAFF Strategic Initiatives and Future Investment Orientation

EAFF closed the day with a forward-looking presentation linking AIRTEA results to its 2021–2028 Strategic Plan, which prioritizes aggregation for scale, digital transformation, economic services, policy advocacy, and farmer-capacity development. The federation highlighted continental resolutions on climate finance, youth leadership, land productivity, and market integration, as well as lessons from its EUR 4.3 million FO4ACP programme supporting cassava, maize, and soybean value chains. The proposed future investment focus areas were identified around climate resilience, agri-climate advisories, and access to green-finance mechanisms.

In summary, Day Two also consolidated technical learning across value chains, sharpened commercialization strategies, and reinforced the consortium's collective commitment to move AIRTEA innovations from pilots to region-wide, investment-ready programmes.

5.3 Day Three: Experience Sharing and Synthesis of the Capitalization Plans through Working Groups

5.3.1 Session 1: Recap and Outstanding Administrative and Technical Clarifications

The morning opened with a targeted recap of the day two deliberations, with particular attention to the TPPs, whose presentations were incomplete. More clarifications were provided for TP008, drawing on perspectives from the ASARECA leadership that had not been presented earlier, and for TP003, ensuring that market-development strategies, varietal promotion efforts, and sustainability pathways were fully captured in the official record. These reflections reinforced earlier conclusions that future phases of AIRTEA must prioritize commercial viability, stronger market linkages and integration, institutional anchoring and networking, and cross-border learning, especially for the seed systems and staple-crop value chains.

5.3.2 Session 2: Dairy Value-Chain Transformation—Experience from MOKI Farmer Groups

A farmer-led perspective on dairy commercialization was presented by Mr. Bonface Mwangi, representing the MOKI cooperative network. He described how structured aggregation and professional management had transformed smallholder milk marketing.

MUKI currently mobilizes more than 8,000 members, collectively delivering approximately 60,000 litres of milk per day. The farmer cooperative provides bundled services—including agro-veterinary inputs, artificial insemination, and extension advice—through deferred-payment schemes that lower barriers for resource-constrained farmers. A dedicated quality-assurance unit ensures that milk meets processor standards, enabling the society to shift from unreliable informal markets to stable private-sector buyers.

Genetic improvement through artificial insemination has led to dramatic productivity gains, with daily milk volumes rising from below 10,000 litres to current levels. The MUKI enterprise now employs over 110 staff, supplemented by community-based dairy assistants who deliver tailored advisory services. Financial inclusion is supported through MUKI SACCO and an affiliated investment arm that pre-finances operations.

Despite these successes, persistent challenges were also acknowledged: seasonal production fluctuations, high feed costs, limited cooling capacity—that recently expanded to 40,000 litres—weak information-management

systems, and liquidity constraints that had slowed the establishment of a revolving fund. Demographic concerns were also highlighted, as ageing farmers dominate the sector while youth participation remains low.

Participants proposed synchronizing the farm production cycles to smooth seasonal gluts, expanding cooling infrastructure, and adopting youth-targeted incentives such as subsidized agro-inputs, land-access schemes, contract farming, and bundled farmer extension-and-market packages. The cooperative expressed hope that a potential AIRTEA II phase would mobilize resources to address these structural constraints.

5.3.3 Session 3: Knowledge Capitalization: From Lessons to Investment-Ready Concepts—Scaling Clinics

The afternoon session, facilitated by Dr. Gerard (OACPS Technical Assistance Unit), focused on converting project experience into bankable knowledge capitalization plans and scale-up concepts. He introduced the distinction between early-stage concept notes and full proposal development templates, emphasizing the need for clear theories of change, market logic, institutional arrangements, and measurable impact. Each of the 11 TPPs delivered rapid three-minute pitches outlining proposed scaling strategies, followed by peer review and two-minute scoring exercises using qualitative criteria drawn from a standardized template. This process encouraged cross-learning while surfacing strengths, weaknesses, and innovation potential in all value chains.

Participants then broke into working groups to refine project ideas, stress-test assumptions, and articulate impact pathways linking inputs and activities to outputs, outcomes, and long-term development impacts. Dr. Gerard complemented these exercises with a presentation on a project development cycle, innovation systems thinking, and the use of proposed SOAR (*Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results*) and SWOT (*Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats*) analytical frameworks to assess strategic positioning. Special emphasis was placed on innovation platforms as vehicles for multi-actor collaboration, commercialization, and policy engagement—reinforcing the AIRTEA's core philosophy that sustainable transformation emerges from coordinated action among farmers, researchers, private firms, financiers, and public agencies.

Overall, Day Three marked a transition from the retrospective evaluation to prospective design, equipping participants with needed practical skills and tools to translate the AIRTEA's proven models into scalable, investment-ready programmes capable of attracting new funding and delivering lasting regional impact.

5.4 Day Four: Strategic Framing, Development, and Refinement of TPP Scaling Proposals

The fourth day of the AIRTEA Final Capitalization and Close-Out Meeting concentrated on intensive learning clinics and structured proposal-development exercises aimed at strengthening participants' capacity to convert pilot interventions into large-scale, investment-ready programmes. Drawing directly on insights from the dairy value-chain case study and earlier pitching sessions, the day blended reflective recaps, technical training on project design, and group-based analytical work on sustainability and impact pathways.

5.4.1 Session 1: Recap of Strategic Project-Design Clinics and Scaling Clinics framework

Proceedings began with the recap presentations facilitated by TPP5 and TPP10, which revisited key lessons from the MUKI dairy cooperative case. Mr. Mwangi's account of cooperative-driven aggregation, bundled service delivery, and contractual arrangements with processors was highlighted again as a powerful example of how beneficiary farmer organizations can professionalize value chains through pre-financing mechanisms, agroveterinary services, artificial insemination, and structured marketing under both business-to-consumer and business-to-business models.

Participants reflected on persistent bottlenecks identified during the earlier discussion, notably the limited engagement of youth in the dairy enterprises and inadequate cooling and processing infrastructure, which continue to constrain value addition and profitability. TPP10 underscored opportunities for cross-fertilization among AIRTEA projects, particularly by adapting technical and agribusiness innovations emerging from the Dairy Innovation Centres (DICs) for TPP005, to strengthen cooperative-based commercialization strategies.

Dr. Gerard then led a highly interactive masterclass on proposal development. He grouped participants into four archetypes—scientists, innovators, project managers, and strategists—to demonstrate the range of competencies required to design scalable development programmes. Using this framework, he walked the audience through the full project development cycle, from idea conception and planning, through launch and execution, to performance management, monitoring, and evaluation, and formal closure.

Special emphasis was placed on the craft of proposal writing, including the importance of strong project titles, coherent logical frameworks, and well-articulated Theories of Change (ToC) that clearly explain how project activities generate outcomes and long-term impacts. Third-Party Project teams then presented their proposed next-phase concepts, receiving structured peer feedback and scores that fostered learning, refinement, and comparative benchmarking across initiatives. The session concluded with a focused lecture on impact-pathway design, in which Dr. Gerard stressed the need to retain a strategic, long-term vision while sequencing interventions into manageable steps that cumulatively lead to systemic transformation.

5.4.2 Session 2: Learning from Pilots, Food-Systems Perspectives, and Sustainability Analysis

The afternoon segment deepened the analytical dimension of the day. Participants were introduced to quality-improvement frameworks inspired by the Six-Sigma methodologies, which were applied to dissect implementation challenges encountered during the pilot phases of AIRTEA projects. Through guided reflection exercises, teams examined what had originally been planned, what was actually delivered, and the factors that shaped divergences between intention and execution—turning operational constraints into design insights for future programming.

Dr. Gerard broadened the conversation by situating AIRTEA interventions within a food-systems approach and the policy-management cycle, illustrating how technological innovations must be supported by enabling institutions, regulatory frameworks, market incentives, and governance structures if they are to achieve sustained adoption at scale.

Working groups then refined their draft impact pathways, mapping the logical progression from financial and technical investments to implementing partners, first-line users, and final beneficiaries. These pathways were stress-tested against environmental, social, and economic criteria, including:

- the readiness and adaptability of technologies;
- institutional capacity and long-term governance arrangements;
- financial-sustainability and cost-recovery strategies; and
- prospects for commercialization and market integration.

Throughout the discussions, facilitators repeatedly highlighted the central role of multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs), emphasizing that durable agricultural transformation depends on coordinated action among farmers, researchers, private enterprises, financial institutions, extension services, and policymakers.

5.4.3 Session 3: Development and Refinement of the TPP Scaling Project Proposals

Session 3 constituted the technical core of the capitalization workshop, during which the TPP teams developed and presented draft scaling concepts and received structured peer review and donor-oriented critique aimed at transforming pilot-phase interventions into bankable, impact-driven investment proposals. Moderated by senior consortium leadership and facilitated by Dr. Gerard, the session emphasized analytical rigor, clarity of value propositions, and alignment with regional development priorities and financing windows.

Each TPP delivered a short, time-bound pitch outlining its proposed scale-up focus, Theory of Change (Toc), partnership model, investment requirements, and expected development impacts (Figure 3). The presentations were followed by feedback from the consortium executives, technical specialists, and fellow implementers, with particular attention given to*: (i) coherence and plausibility of the TPP impact pathways; (ii) articulation of commercial and sustainability strategies; (iii) integration of private-sector partners and public institutions; (iv) cross-country scalability; and (v) justification of budgets relative to the outcomes*.

Recurring guidance across proposals included the need to sharpen problem statements using evidence-based diagnostics, clarify the distinction between outputs and outcomes, and ensure that scaling strategies were selective rather than overly expansive. Teams were urged to quantify projected benefits—such as productivity gains, income growth, cost reductions, and job creation—and to demonstrate how pilot-phase lessons were being incorporated into improved second-phase designs. Particular emphasis was placed on embedding the climate resilience, circular-economy principles, youth and gender inclusion, and digital enablement within the future TPP project architectures (Figure 3).

Participants were encouraged to adopt donor-friendly presentation formats, including developing concise titles, visual schematics of the *Theories of Change (ToCs),* phased implementation calendars, and transparent co-financing arrangements. The IPs were repeatedly highlighted as preferred vehicles for anchoring sustainability, with calls to institutionalize them as long-term hubs for learning, service delivery, and commercialization.

By the end of the session, all TPPs had compiled annotated revision notes and agreed to refine their concepts into stronger regional or multi-country proposals, integrating feedback on governance structures, financial models, risk management, and impact measurement systems (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Photos during presentation of draft TPP scaling concepts, peer review, and donor-oriented critique aimed at transforming pilot-phase interventions into bankable, impact-driven investment proposals.

The session played a decisive role in converting AIRTEA's portfolio of pilot interventions into a pipeline of credible scale-up initiatives positioned for submission to development partners and climate-finance windows in the post-project phase (Figure 3).

Overall, Day Four advanced the meeting's shift from the retrospective assessment toward forward-looking design, equipping participants with the conceptual tools, systems perspectives, and collaborative strategies required to translate the AIRTEA's pilot successes into sustainable, scalable programmes capable of delivering lasting regional impact and sustainable transition to circular bioeconomy across Africa (Figure 3).

5.5 Day Five: Future Programming, Review of the TPP Scaling Proposals, and Closing Reflections

5.5.1 Session 1: Future Programming - Principles and Strategies for Resource Mobilization

Dr. Gerard opened the day with a strategic presentation on resource mobilization, emphasizing that future AIRTEA-type initiatives must diversify funding sources by engaging both domestic and international partners and by developing revolving funds capable of financing the continued diffusion of *Technologies, and Management Practices (TIMPs)* across all nodes of the agricultural commodity value chains.

He stressed that fundraising should be approached as a team-based, long-term enterprise, requiring careful alignment between donor priorities and thematic focus areas such as climate resilience, youth employment, digitalization, nutrition, and value-chain upgrading. Proposals, he argued, must be grounded in robust impact-evaluation and sustainability plans, demonstrating clear returns on the investment and learning from past implementation cycles.

Participants were encouraged to treat fundraising as a strategic career milestone rather than an administrative obligation, focusing on a limited set of transformative innovations instead of diffusing effort across too many activities. Dr. Gerard also underscored the importance of cultivating relationships with development partners, inviting funders into project networks early, and leveraging those relationships to reach additional financiers.

Finally, he noted that competitiveness depends heavily on preparation: nearly 80% of proposal success lies in readiness, including end-user-oriented titles, concise objectives, coherent activity chains, and strong value-for-money arguments.

5.5.2 Session 2: Presentation and Critical Review of the TPP Scaling Proposals

During this session, TPPs presented draft scaling proposals and received structured technical and strategic feedback from the AIRTEA consortium leaders and resource-mobilization experts, as highlighted below. The discussions focused on sharpening the Theories of Change (ToC), strengthening commercialization pathways, expanding regional ambition, and aligning proposals with donor expectations.

1.1 Review of TPP001 - Solar Dryers, Value Addition and Market Access for Omena in Kenya

The review panel emphasized that the proposed Theory of Change (ToC) required substantial strengthening. Presenters were also encouraged to engage stakeholders more deliberately in validating how proposed inputs would translate into measurable outcomes and long-term impacts, noting that the current articulation lacked clearly defined overall results and impact pathways. Reviewers questioned why the proposal focused on a single country when the Omena fisheries span multiple lake-zone economies (mainly Lake Victoria countries), highlighting the opportunity for regional scale-out across East Africa.

Strong encouragement was given to integrate quantitative projections—particularly production volumes, unit prices, and expected *Returns On Investment (ROI)*—to enhance the funder's confidence. Given the emphasis on commercialization of the key results, participants were urged to foreground market opportunities and to prioritize transformative value-chain investments such as solar drying technologies.

Concerns were also raised about the limited visibility of private-sector partnerships and the insufficient articulation of five-year investment trajectories and sustainability cycles. Although proof-of-concept work and interest from county authorities in Busia had been demonstrated, the panel stressed that future proposals must more convincingly embed private investors.

Dr. Gerard further advised that the proposal would benefit from clearer visual illustrations, a sharper and more compelling title, and a more assertive problem statement aimed at persuading donors. He recommended streamlining the Theory of Change, adding time-bound milestones, and reserving SOAR analysis for internal planning rather than proposal narratives.

In response, the TPP001 noted that existing Innovation Platforms were functioning and being strengthened, with plans to expand into additional hubs and collaborate with the TPP011 to enter Uganda and Kenya. The revised scale-out concept would incorporate environmental-footprint considerations and broaden regional engagement of stakeholders across all nodes of the commodity value chain.

1.2 Review of TPP002 - Potato Seed Systems and Business Incubation in Rwanda

Reviewers welcomed the proposal's focus on resilient seed systems but argued that its background analysis should more explicitly address socio-economic vulnerabilities and climate-related shocks while articulating a clearer, unique value proposition. Particular attention was drawn to logistics, seed-performance management, and last-mile delivery mechanisms as critical components requiring stronger elaboration.

The review panel questioned the exclusive national focus, recommending a multi-country regional approach involving Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya to enhance attractiveness to donors and align with ASARECA's regional mandate. They further advised reframing objectives to incorporate environmental, institutional, and financial sustainability dimensions.

Recognizing that many funders may be unfamiliar with the potato seed systems, reviewers urged the team to simplify technical language and highlight the crop's importance to food and income security, as well as the rapid degeneration of planting material that necessitates sustained research investment. Expansion beyond Rwanda and stronger ownership by regional institutions were seen as essential for scaling.

Discussions also centred on clarifying the main investment drivers—whether reducing seed costs, increasing availability, strengthening private-sector linkages, or improving access to the agrifinance—and on articulating lessons from Phase I more explicitly. Dr Gerard encouraged the use of concise visual models, sharper end-user-oriented objectives, and a farmer-centred Theory of Change aligned with commercially viable business models emerging along the value chain.

Responding to these inputs, the TPP confirmed that all recommendations would inform the final revision. The team explained that seasonal fluctuations in seed demand shaped their intervention logic and that universities and research institutes were central partners in addressing systemic bottlenecks. They proposed scaling into both Rwanda and Kenya through collaboration with other TPPs, with particular focus on improving seed access, ensuring sustainable supply, stabilizing market delivery, and reducing costs for farmers.

1.3 Review of TPP003 - Potato Seed and Commodity Value Chain Development (Uganda)

The review panel acknowledged the ambition of TPP003 to reduce the Uganda national potato seed deficit by 40% but expressed concern that the proposal attempted to integrate too many components simultaneously, making it difficult to discern its primary investment drivers. Reviewers urged the TPP003 team to clarify which elements of the value chain would anchor the intervention—particularly whether Innovation Platforms (IPs) were intended to function as commercial seed suppliers as coordination and learning mechanisms.

Further comments emphasized the need to streamline the farming-systems approach and define more clearly the role of producers within the proposed transformation agenda. Panelists also questioned the realism of the proposed US$800,000 budget, noting that the scale of infrastructure investments appeared disproportionate to anticipated outputs, especially given that the economic value of the regional seed systems already exceeded projected commodity returns.

From a financing perspective, Dr. Sylvester Baguma (ED, ASARECA) recommended that the proposal explicitly indicate co-funding commitments from partners to demonstrate ownership and improve investor confidence. Dr. Gerard reinforced this point, cautioning against an overemphasis on infrastructure—estimated to absorb nearly 70% of the budget—and encouraging the team to highlight complementary resources such as private-sector leverage, technical assistance, and institutional strengthening. He also advised sharpening the project title and redesigning the *Theory of Change (ToC)* so that activities and outputs were linked through

clear causal arrows to final development impacts, rather than being presented as disconnected boxes along a timeline.

In response, the TPP clarified that Innovation Platforms would serve as centres of learning and coordination, bringing together farmers and other value-chain actors, while anchoring commercialization through seed-focused hubs and decentralized production platforms. The team explained that the seed value chain was intended to catalyse wider sectoral investment in research and innovation, including the piloting of elite seed-cutting varieties already developed by national research institutes.

They further noted that the scale-out strategy would be adapted to the country-specific policy and resource contexts, and that the project title would be revised to better reflect its strategic focus. Drawing lessons from Phase I, the team argued that additional infrastructure was now required to sustain IP functionality and support seed commercialization, which had previously operated without physical assets. The proposal was described as a work in progress, with refinements planned to align costs, objectives, and impact pathways more clearly.

1.5 Review of TPP004 - Digital and Green Innovations for climate-smart maize value chain (Kenya)

For TPP004, reviewers concentrated on the need for stronger continuity between earlier investments and the proposed scale-out phase. They questioned how the previously developed Agricultural Productivity Platform (APP) related to the newly proposed digital tools and how extension networks such as KeFAAS would be strategically leveraged within a maize-focused intervention, warning that insufficient linkage could give the impression of an entirely new project rather than an expansion of existing work.

The panel also challenged the inclusion of cassava within the concept, arguing that its economic viability in Kenya—particularly when coupled with the costly biological control agents—required a more convincing case and justification. Regarding digital advisory services, participants requested clearer evidence from Phase I on what had worked, such as aflatoxin management, soil diagnostics, or e-extension models, and how these successes would now be promoted and scaled.

Concerns were raised about vague partnership descriptions, with reviewers asking for explicit articulation of partner roles and responsibilities. The use of broad terminology—such as *"green technologies" and "digital advisory"*—was seen as insufficiently precise, and the TPP team was encouraged to benchmark proposed innovations against CIMMYT research outputs to sharpen the project's value proposition.

Dr Gerard added that inconsistencies between the project title and internal framing—particularly references to *"Living Labs"*—should be resolved to present a coherent narrative to donors. He further advised that the specific objectives be rewritten in results-oriented language and that the proposal clearly identify who would benefit and how.

In response, the TPP explained that although some biological control products were costly, others were increasingly affordable, and that the project would focus on developing locally adapted solutions to improve cost-effectiveness and sustainability at the farm level. The team reaffirmed maize as a strategic priority crop in Kenya while remaining open to complementary value chains.

They acknowledged that subscription-based sustainability models for the digital APP had discouraged uptake and proposed working with input suppliers and manufacturers to subsidize digital services for farmers. The project title, impact framing, and objectives would be revised accordingly, and much of the supporting data would be drawn from KALRO to strengthen the technical foundation of the proposal.

1.5 Review of TPP005 - Dairy Innovation Centres (DICs) under Circular Bioeconomy pathways (Uganda)

During the review of TPP005, panelists commended the strategic positioning of DICs as new entry points for broader climate-smart and circular-economy investments. Dr. Aggrey Agumya (ED, FARA) noted that earlier field visits had revealed the strong potential of DICs to anchor climate-finance proposals, particularly through school-based interventions that were already replacing firewood with biogas systems, reducing deforestation

across targeted institutions, and improving school nutrition through dairy-based feeding programmes. He further indicated that discussions with prospective funders were underway to advance such a climate-finance–oriented DIC concept within the AIRTEA framework.

Reviewers encouraged the team to strengthen its framing around a circular dairying model, explicitly linking manure management, biogas production, feed efficiency, and nutrient recycling to adaptation and resilience objectives aligned with Green Climate Fund (GCF) priorities. They advised that several proposed "objectives" were in fact activity statements—such as farmer training—rather than higher-level development results, and recommended that these be reformulated to emphasize tailored capacity strengthening, enterprise viability, and emissions reduction. The concept of farmer-led dairy innovation was also highlighted as requiring a clearer definition, while the role of the *Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs)* and lessons from comparable dairy hub models—such as those supported by Heifer International in Kenya—were proposed as useful benchmarks.

Dr. Gerard added that although the proposal demonstrated strong impact potential, it required a more coherent Theory of Change (ToC), clearly distinguishing between zero-waste and circular-economy pathways and explaining how the next phase would build on the first, particularly in light of the existing network of approximately 30 DICs. He further recommended reconsidering the configuration of "nucleus" DICs and subsidiary centres to strengthen scalability and financial sustainability, and sharpening the project title to reflect both continuity and forward-looking ambition.

1.6 Review of TPP006 - Indigenous Vegetables and Corridor-Based Market Systems (Uganda)

The review of TPP006 focused primarily on conceptual clarity and strategic alignment. Panelists observed that several proposed outputs were framed as outcomes, blurring the logical structure of the results framework. Dr. Agumya questioned the narrow focus on pumpkins and urged the team to articulate more clearly which specific value-chain constraints were being addressed—from production through processing to market access.

Dr. Gerard echoed these concerns, emphasizing the need to distinguish outputs from outcomes in the logframe and to specify end-user groups—such as smallholder farmers, processors, traders, and consumers—within each output statement. He also noted that the proposal lacked a clearly articulated value-chain approach and recommended mapping interventions across different nodes, including seed systems, production practices, post-harvest handling, value addition, and market linkage. Programme management, he added, should be treated as a cross-cutting function rather than presented as a standalone output. In addition, reviewers advised aligning the intervention more explicitly with FARA's mandate on underutilized and indigenous food crops.

In response, the TPP explained that pumpkins had emerged during Phase I as the most resilient among several indigenous vegetables tested, performing consistently across agroecological zones and during dry spells. They highlighted the crop's strong potential for diversification into multiple value-added products and the high market demand for pumpkin seed, which offered promising commercialization pathways. The team also noted growing opportunities to broker niche-market linkages and committed to refining the proposal to reflect clearer value-chain logic, market orientation, and development outcomes.

1.7 Overview of TPP007 - Youth-Led Advisory Services and Enterprise Incubation (YEAN) in Rwanda

The review panel engaged YEAN in a substantive discussion on the conceptual framing and feasibility of its proposed "Beyond Extension" initiative, which seeks to professionalize youth-led agricultural extension and advisory services. A central concern raised by reviewers related to the notion of certification for youth service providers. Clarification was requested on whether certification implied formal licensing, whether *Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS)* are regulated in Rwanda, and which institutional body would oversee such a process. Panelists cautioned that if regulatory approval were not secured, the viability of the entire project could be jeopardized.

Further questions focused on the proposed AEAS curriculum, including whether its development, validation, and approval could realistically be completed within a three-year project cycle, and how YEAN intended to

measure the impacts of training on farm productivity, incomes, and service quality. Several experts advised that YEAN might achieve greater traction by focusing less on navigating complex certification systems—especially in light of emerging artificial-intelligence–enabled advisory services—and instead aligning with existing national frameworks, like *Rwanda's Customized Agricultural Extension System (CAES)* structures for onboarding youth and women into agribusiness and service delivery. Regional efforts to professionalize extension, including the growing role of para-extension workers, were also highlighted, alongside the absence of a dedicated accreditation institution—prompting suggestions to reconsider anchoring the initiative within *Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)* systems if this risked diluting its extension focus.

The Executive Director of ASARECA underscored that extension is a professional discipline and urged YEAN to sharpen its problem diagnosis: whether the core challenge lay in low agricultural productivity, youth unemployment, or inadequate service-delivery models. Dr Gerard added that project titles required refinement and called for a more forward-looking, market-oriented vision, centred on the self-sustaining commercial extension models, potentially drawing lessons from established models such as those used by *One Acre Fund.*

In response, YEAN clarified that its intention was not merely to pursue formal licensing but to establish a structured platform for youth extension providers, enabling quality assurance, market linkage, and financial inclusion. The "Beyond Extension" concept, they explained, reflected a broader ambition to bundle advisory services with finance, aggregation, and digital platforms, thereby professionalizing youth engagement along the value chain. The team proposed working through existing TVET institutions so that agricultural advisory skills could be embedded within school curricula, preparing young people before they enter the labour market. YEAN is committed to incorporating the panel's recommendations to sharpen the Theory of Change, refine objectives, and strengthen the project's commercial and institutional sustainability.

1.8 Review of TPP008 - Cassava Innovation Ecosystems across Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda

The proposed cassava value-chain project by the University of Nairobi was scrutinized for its results logic, innovation profile, and market orientation. Dr. Kwaku noted that productivity targets were framed too broadly and urged the team to specify measurable improvements, while also clarifying the distinction between clean planting material, certified seed, and quality-declared seed. He observed that the impact pathway included numerous livelihood indicators—such as income and status—without prioritization, which risked weakening the proposal's analytical focus.

Dr. Baguma called for a more rigorous *Theory of Change (ToC),* including explicit assumptions, identification of policy and institutional enablers, and recognition that some interventions might need to operate closer to impact level to stimulate demand. Dr. Agumya emphasized that innovation needed to be more prominently articulated, particularly around value addition, which could significantly strengthen the project's appeal to investors and donors. He highlighted the importance of engaging private-sector actors in downstream uses such as animal feed, biofuels, and processing technologies like the TAI pit, while also questioning whether production volumes were sufficient to justify industrial partnerships. Where market absorption was weak, he suggested incorporating a stronger policy dimension, for example, through advocacy for blending cassava flour in bakery products such as pastries and nutraceutical industries.

Dr. Gerard reinforced these points by observing that innovation was insufficiently reflected in the project's objectives. He encouraged the team to foreground social innovations—including the cooperative models and private-sector engagement—and to frame the circular-economy approaches, such as commercialization of by-products, as central sustainability mechanisms. He further warned that the proposed eight outputs were overly ambitious and recommended narrowing the scope to a manageable set of high-impact interventions. Concerns were also raised about whether breeding new cassava varieties was genuinely demand-driven or aligned with community preferences.

Dr. Rosermita added that the proposal needed to more clearly differentiate between food-security–oriented cassava systems and industrial cassava commercialization. She suggested that piloting with smaller actors,

such as Divine, would be more appropriate for food markets, while pharmaceutical or brewery supply chains would require engagement with large-scale commercial producers.

Overall, the panel urged TPP008 to sharpen its productivity targets, strengthen the Theory of Change, elevate innovation and value addition as core pillars, integrate private-sector and policy actors more explicitly, and streamline the results framework to present a compelling, investor-ready cassava transformation agenda.

1.9 Review of TPP009 - Digital Connectors and Policy Engagement (Uganda)

The panel undertook a detailed interrogation of the AFAAS's proposed *Digital Connectors (DC)* scaling initiative, focusing on conceptual clarity, commercial viability, and long-term vision. Reviewers first sought clarification on what the AFAAS team meant by a *"systems-based value-chain approach"* and the practical requirements for an individual to qualify as a Digital Connector. Questions were raised about the operational logic of the model, including how DCs would function on a day-to-day basis, what services they would offer, and how these services would be bundled into commercially viable packages.

A central line of critique concerned the business model underpinning the DC concept. Panelists asked how Digital Connectors would then generate revenue, what feedback loops would justify a proposed US$800,000 investment, and whether reliance on DC platforms such as YOPAY—linked to Mastercard—would require expanding revenue sources beyond farmers alone. The cost of training Digital Connectors and the replicability of the model at scale were flagged as critical unknowns, as was the evolving suite of digital tools: reviewers noted that new applications appeared to have been added late in the project cycle, while one of the proposal's major objectives seemed to focus narrowly on development of a single application, prompting calls for a reconfiguration of dashboards and portals to enable real-time decision support across multiple services.

Dr. Gerard urged the team to simplify and sharpen the language**,** distinguishing clearly between "extension" and "advisory" services and avoiding jargon that obscured the hybrid nature of the DC model, which combines digital tools with face-to-face facilitation, input brokerage, and market linkage. He challenged AFAAS to also articulate where the initiative would position the extension services in the next decade, asking whether the organization envisioned evolving into a form of Digital Connector–focused TVET institution and encouraging the team to adopt a forward-looking, 2030–2050 perspective.

Dr. Agumya pressed for stronger evidence of proof of concept, including empirical data from pilot sites demonstrating that Digital Connectors reduced farmers' transaction costs or improved productivity. He also questioned the plausibility of scale assumptions—such as one DC reaching 10,000 farmers and a cumulative target of two million beneficiaries—arguing that these figures required more convincing justification.

In response, AFAAS explained that the bundled-services approach was designed to overcome the long-standing challenge that extension is often treated as a public good and, therefore, difficult to finance directly. By packaging advisory services with agro-input supply, output marketing, and financial linkages, the project aimed to commercialize AEAS indirectly. The team acknowledged that the full cost structure for training Digital Connectors still needed to be quantified and that stronger farmer-level impact data would be generated and incorporated into the revised proposal.

1.10 Review of TPP010 - Digital Dairy Platforms and Multistakeholder Partnerships (Kenya)

The dairy value-chain proposal attracted attention for its emphasis on cattle registration and traceability, which reviewers regarded as a potentially powerful competitiveness lever, particularly if extended to capture end-market requirements and buyer specifications. However, panellists cautioned that the project appeared to span too many thematic areas at once and urged the team to identify a small number of genuinely novel, high-impact interventions**,** noting that the post-production innovations—such as the product quality assurance, cold-chain management, and differentiated market access—could give the proposal a sharper edge.

Dr Gerard advised the proponents to revisit the project title, warning against multi-part constructions of the project titles *("through," "by," or similar formulations)* and recommending a concise, compelling headline that clearly signalled innovation. He further observed that the stated objectives read largely as activity lists rather than outcome-oriented ambitions and encouraged the team to recycle and synthesize existing content into a more coherent value proposition centred on measurable change.

1.11 Review of TPP011 - Aquaculture Value-Chain Upgrading (Uganda)

The review panel emphasized the need for clearer communication in the NARO's fish-value-chain proposal, noting that it appeared to assume a technically specialized audience rather than the general public. Reviewers encouraged the team to simplify the language to ensure accessibility to generalist donors and policy audiences.

Substantive technical questions focused on the *Black Soldier Fly (BSF)* feed system**.** Panelists requested clarity on who would produce the larvae at scale and why projected feed-cost reductions of up to 70 percent had not yet materialized, given that AIRTEA pilots reported reductions closer to 15 percent and other agroecological initiatives suggested around 30%. At the same time, project reviewers highlighted successful farmer-level innovations—such as a case in Arua where a producer diversified multiple BSF-derived products—as potential selling points that could strengthen the proposal's commercial narrative.

Further scrutiny centred on partnership strategies and reach, with panelists asking how many fish farmers would be targeted and how the national agriculture research institutions, private-sector actors, and producer groups would be integrated during scale-up. The project title was also criticized for being technically narrow; reviewers suggested reframing it to emphasize feed formulation, market potential, and return on investment, and to ensure that objectives were clearly results-driven rather than descriptive.

In response, NARO committed to revising the financial architecture and establishing BSF production facilities across nine agroecological zones, leveraging existing regional infrastructure. The team explained that feed-cost reductions remained at approximately 15% because substrate optimization was still underway, but pledged to include explicit cost-reduction targets in the revised proposal. They confirmed that approximately 1,500 farmers would be direct beneficiaries in the next phase and that both the title and output framework would be refined to enhance competitiveness and investor appeal.

5.5.3 Session 3: Consolidated Feedback to TTPs from the AIRTEA Consortium Leadership

In his closing synthesis of the technical deliberations, Dr. Antwi Kwaku (FARA), on behalf of the consortium leadership, conveyed strong appreciation to all TPPs and consortium partners for their sustained engagement throughout the AIRTEA implementation period. Addressing the Kenyan teams, he commended their active participation and technical rigor, noting that all TPPs had largely achieved their stated objectives to date. He emphasized that the lessons generated during this phase would provide critical benchmarks for strengthening performance and ambition under a prospective second phase, AIRTEA II.

Turning to Ugandan TPPs, Dr. Antwi thanked implementers and acknowledged the facilitative roles played by ASARECA and the consortium. He underscored the importance of transforming emerging scale-up concepts into robust, bankable proposals capable of attracting financing and deepening collaboration.

For the Rwandan teams, he expressed gratitude to the European Union, FARA, and ASARECA for their strategic support and highlighted notable project achievements—particularly the strengthening of potato seed systems—as evidence of the programme's tangible impact. He described the prospect of a second phase as *"light at the end of the tunnel,"* applauding the culture of partnership, networking, and knowledge exchange fostered through AIRTEA.

Dr. Antwi also offered a candid assessment of areas for improvement, stressing that responsibility lay jointly with TPPs and donors. On the financial front, participants observed that while much had been learned about compliance and accountability, disbursement schedules had not always aligned with implementation realities.

Technically, he praised the quality of learning and innovation but acknowledged that some TPPs had faced challenges in reporting, recommending the organization of targeted workshops on the development-project reporting to strengthen compliance and analytical rigor.

He further called on ASARECA and FARA to enhance timeliness and clarity of communication, noting that early adjustments—such as shifting from semi-annual to quarterly reporting cycles—were part of adaptive project management and had ultimately strengthened delivery. He credited Dr. Gerard with helping refocus project teams and sharpen execution strategies through hands-on guidance.

5.5.4 Session 4: Agreed Next Steps and Implementation Milestones for AIRTEA Closure

Dr. Kwaku concluded with a forward-looking roadmap outlining the programme's immediate post-workshop actions. TPPs were requested to submit revised scaling-up proposals by 15 February 2026, incorporating the technical and strategic feedback received during the meeting. The consolidated capitalization report would be finalized and disseminated by March 2026, while a dedicated write-shop to merge promising scale-up concepts into a flagship "mega-proposal" was scheduled for June–July 2026.

From a fiduciary perspective, auditors were expected to receive final documentation in January 2026, and all partners were required to submit asset transfer lists by 28 February 2026. Transaction records would then undergo final reconciliation and cleaning in April 2026.

Finally, TPPs were instructed to revise and strengthen their technical reports, with particular emphasis on articulating impact pathways and integrating insights generated during the workshop discussions—ensuring that final outputs captured both evidence of achievement and a credible foundation for future investment.

5.5.5 Session 5: Closing Reflections and Remarks from the AIRTEA Consortium Leadership

1. Strategic Guidance on the Reporting, Sustainability, and Future Proposal Development (Dr. Gerard)

In his concluding technical address, Dr. Gerard provided detailed, practical guidance aimed at strengthening the quality of AIRTEA's final outputs and positioning TPPs competitively for future funding opportunities. He urged project teams to treat the revision of technical reports as an active and analytical writing process, emphasizing that reports should be written with the reader in mind, clearly reference logframe indicators, and present factual evidence of activities and results. Beyond describing achievements, he encouraged teams to explain *how* results were obtained, what assumptions proved valid, and what challenges or missteps were encountered—underscoring that honest reflection is a hallmark of credible project management.

Dr. Gerard stressed the importance of including a dedicated forward-looking sustainability section, outlining post-project financing strategies, institutional anchoring, and mechanisms for maintaining service delivery.

Turning to proposal pitching and design, he advised teams to employ strong visual illustrations that are both compelling and analytically grounded, supported by concise narratives. He noted that FARA's proposal template could be updated and re-circulated to enhance consistency across the TPP concept submissions. He welcomed emerging plans to institutionalize Innovation Platforms (IPs), arguing that—if properly structured—IPs could evolve into regional centres of excellence, though further conceptual refinement would be required to ensure long-term viability.

He called for a reworking of *Theories of Change (ToCs)* to make them time-bound, linear, and outcome-focused, with credible five-year impact horizons. Scaling strategies, he cautioned, should be selective and strategic rather than overly ambitious, and problem statements should be anchored in clear problem-tree analyses. Project organograms and workflows were highlighted as persuasive tools for donors, while teams were urged to write in simple, precise language, avoid multi-tiered jargon, and use terminology consistently.

Dr. Gerard further advised the TPP proponents to distinguish clearly between *scaling*, *piloting*, and *adapting* innovations, and to craft project titles that directly reflected the core development challenge—such as low

productivity or market failure—rather than vague threats or risks. He encouraged the deliberate inclusion of social innovation objectives, such as co-design with beneficiaries and targeted engagement of women-led farmer groups. Finally, he underscored the importance of rigorous risk management, recommending concise but honest risk matrices focused on the most material threats to delivery and sustainability.

As a final remark, Dr. Gerard reiterated that the co-financing signals ownership and credibility, demonstrating that proponents are not seeking full external support but are investing their own resources in proposed initiatives. He further stressed that robust impact assessment is indispensable, urging teams to institutionalize post-project monitoring systems capable of tracking outcomes and long-term effects.

2. Closing Reflections and Remarks from ASARECA

Dr. Sylvester Baguma (ED ASARECA) formally thanked the TPPs for collaboration and networking efforts, crediting Dr. Kwaku and Dr. Joshua for steering technical processes across the consortium. He highlighted the project documentaries as an innovative mechanism for capturing lessons and showcasing impact, and expressed appreciation to FARA and EAFF for fostering a strong partnership platform.

Drawing on reflections from the previous IDRC (*International Development Research Centre*) meeting, he reminded the participants that development programmes ultimately aim to scale impact rather than activities, challenging future project designers to embed rigorous impact assessment frameworks from the outset. He cautioned against overpromising within short project cycles, urging teams to remain realistic and focused in defining deliverables. He also acknowledged the critical role played by finance departments across the three consortia—particularly under the guidance of Ms. Vesta—in ensuring accountability and smooth programme execution. He closed by encouraging continued networking and collaboration, wishing participants safe travel and sustained engagement as new development opportunities emerge.

3. Closing Reflections and Remarks from FARA

In his closing address, the Chairperson of the AIRTEA Steering Committee and Executive Director of FARA, Dr. Aggrey Agumya, commended all the TPPs and consortium partners for their resilience and commitment over the project's three-year lifespan. He recalled that the meeting's opening focus on resource mobilization was intended to lay the groundwork for a possible second phase, contingent on successful fundraising.

He thanked all the project teams for completing final reports, synthesizing lessons learned, and co-developing forward-looking proposals. Reflecting on the documentary evidence presented earlier in the week, he noted impressive progress but emphasized the need for stronger quantification of impact, including case studies supported by numerical data.

Regarding future proposals, he observed that while ambitions were high, budgets would need to be better aligned with delivery capacity and complemented by evidence of co-financing and institutional commitment. He reaffirmed FARA's resolve to champion promising scale-up concepts and to pursue every opportunity for resource mobilization, describing the forthcoming writeshop as a launchpad for a new AIRTEA-like initiative.

He concluded by thanking all partners for their dedication and teamwork, acknowledging the *"AIRTEA family"* spirit that had emerged, and expressing gratitude to Dr. Kwaku Antwi for guiding the overall process. Following these remarks, the Executive Director formally closed the meeting and wished all participants a safe journey home, marking the conclusion of the AIRTEA Final Capitalization and Close-Out Workshop.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION POINTS

Drawing on the technical critiques, donor guidance, and strategic reflections articulated throughout the AIRTEA Capitalization and Close-Out Meeting, the following recommendations and action points were formulated to strengthen the quality, fundability, and long-term impact of the proposed TPP scaling initiatives and future consortium programming.

6.1 Strategic and Programmatic Recommendations

(i) Sharpen problem definition and value propositions: All TPPs should revise their proposals to articulate clearly defined development problems, supported by evidence and diagnostics from Phase I implementation. Problem statements should be directly linked to farmer constraints, market failures, and systemic bottlenecks along priority value chains. Project titles must be concise, compelling, and aligned with the primary challenge being addressed.

(ii) Strengthen *Theories of Change (ToCs)* and Impact Pathways: Each proposal should include a simplified, time-bound Theory of Change that clearly links activities, outputs, outcomes, and five-year impact targets. Assumptions, risks, and enabling policy or institutional conditions must be explicitly stated, accompanied by mitigation measures.

(iii) Focus and prioritize scaling strategies: TPPs were advised to avoid overly broad intervention packages. Scale-up strategies should concentrate on a limited number of high-leverage innovations that demonstrated effectiveness during the pilot phase, with clear justification for scaling out across countries and regions.

(iv) Deepen private-sector engagement and commercial orientation: Future proposals should visibly integrate agribusinesses, input suppliers, processors, financial institutions, and service providers as core partners rather than peripheral actors. Commercialization pathways—including revenue models, investment prospects, and return-on-investment projections—should be embedded across all value-chain interventions.

(v) Institutionalize the Innovation Platforms (IPs): Innovation Platforms should be repositioned as permanent regional centers of excellence for research translation, service provision, and market linkage. Governance structures, hosting institutions, and sustainability plans beyond donor funding should be clearly articulated.

(vi) Integrate climate finance and circular-economy models: Proposals—particularly in dairy, fisheries, and crop systems—should be aligned with emerging climate-adaptation and mitigation priorities, including zero-waste approaches, renewable energy use, and resource-efficient production systems. These elements should be framed in ways that attract climate-finance instruments such as the global Green Climate Fund (GCF).

(vii) Strengthen the regionalization and cross-border learning: Where technically and institutionally feasible, TPPs should adopt multi-country approaches and articulate mechanisms for regional coordination through ASARECA and FARA. Lessons from national pilots should be packaged into scalable regional public goods.

(viii) Enhance inclusion of youth and women: Youth-focused initiatives and gender-responsive innovations—such as professionalized extension models and female-led agribusiness groups—should be mainstreamed, with measurable targets for participation, employment creation, and enterprise development.

6.2 Technical and design recommendations for TPP scaling projects

(i) Clarify Outputs, Outcomes, and End-Users: Proposals must distinguish clearly between activities, outputs, and outcomes, and specify the primary beneficiaries at each node of the commodity value chain—farmers, processors, traders, extension agents, or youth enterprises.

(ii) Strengthen business models and financial logic: All the project scaling concepts should include concise business-model summaries showing cost structures, revenue streams, partner contributions, and pathways to financial sustainability. Explicit co-financing and investment commitments from the AIRTEA partners should be highlighted to demonstrate ownership.

(iii) Quantify impact and investment requirements: TPPs were encouraged to include realistic, evidence-based projections of productivity increases, income gains, market volumes, and cost reductions, ensuring that budget requests are proportional to anticipated impacts.

(iv) Simplify language and improve presentation: Technical jargon should be minimized. Proposals must be accessible to non-specialist project reviewers and supported by diagrams, value-chain maps, implementation calendars, and organograms illustrating governance and workflows.

(v) Embed risk management frameworks: Each of the TPP scaling proposals should include a dedicated risk-management matrix identifying technical, financial, institutional, and market risks, together with probability ratings and mitigation strategies.

(vi) Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and impact tracking: the robust MEL systems should be incorporated from inception, including baseline surveys, learning loops, and post-project impact-tracking mechanisms to support adaptive management and future resource mobilization.

6.3 Consortium-level and process recommendations

(i) Standardize proposal templates and guidance: the consortium EAFF, FARA, and ASARECA should update and circulate harmonized proposal templates, including sections on co-financing, sustainability strategies, climate relevance, and innovation pathways.

(ii) Build capacity for reporting and proposal development: Dedicated workshops should be organized to strengthen capacities in results-based reporting, financial forecasting, and donor-oriented proposal writing.

(iii) Improve communication and coordination mechanisms: Timely and predictable communication channels between the AIRTEA consortium secretariats and the TPPs should be institutionalized to reduce transaction costs and accelerate technical back-and-forth during proposal refinement.

(iv) Consolidate selected TPPs into Mega-Proposals: High-potential TPP concepts should be clustered into regional flagship programs for submission to the large donors, climate-finance windows, and blended-finance facilities.

6.4 Immediate action points and deadlines

Table 6: Overview of the agreed-upon action points and responsible actors

Action Point	Responsible Actors	Timeline
Revise and resubmit TPP scaling proposals incorporating workshop feedback	TPP Teams	13 February 2026
Finalize and disseminate the AIRTEA capitalization report.	FARA / ASARECA	March 2026
Submit asset-transfer lists and transaction close-out documentation	TPPs / Finance Teams	28 February–April 2026
Organize proposal-writing and reporting workshop.	FARA / ASARECA	Q2 2026
Consolidate selected TPPs into a regional mega-proposal	Consortium Partners	June–July 2026
Update proposal templates and guidance notes	FARA Secretariat	Q1–Q2 2026
Institutionalize post-project impact-tracking mechanisms.	TPPs / Consortium MEL Units	Ongoing

This set of recommendations and action points provides a strategic roadmap for converting AIRTEA's pilot achievements into scalable, climate-smart, and commercially viable regional programs capable of attracting sustained development and investment financing.

AIRTEA
Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation & Livelihoods in Eastern Africa

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 Strategic Transition Toward Phase II Programming

The Final Capitalization and Close-Out Meeting represented a decisive shift from pilot experimentation to structured, investment-ready scaling across East Africa. Participants used the forum to consolidate evidence from Phase I implementation while stress-testing the readiness of the Third Party Projects (TPPs) to transition into AIRTEA Phase II. Detailed peer review and donor feedback enabled project teams to sharpen problem statements, align objectives with measurable development outcomes, and recalibrate budgets to match ambition with operational realism. This reflective process strengthened the overall credibility of the AIRTEA portfolio and laid the groundwork for a new generation of multi-country, impact-oriented interventions.

7.2 Consolidating Learning and Strengthening Technical Quality

Across the 5-day agenda, technical exchanges underscored the importance of moving beyond activity-based reporting toward outcome- and impact-driven narratives supported by quantitative evidence. Consortium leaders emphasized relevant and clearer *Theories of Change (ToC)*, time-bound impact pathways, and systematic monitoring of adoption, income gains, productivity, and environmental performance. TPPs were encouraged to embed the agribusiness strategies, youth engagement models, and climate-resilient innovations into their core designs rather than treating them as add-ons. The meeting also reinforced the role of *Innovation Platforms (IPs)* as long-term institutional anchors capable of sustaining partnerships among the agricultural commodity value chain actors and stakeholders.

7.3 Reinforcing Regional Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

Senior representatives from FARA, ASARECA, EAFF, and donor institutions reiterated their commitment to coordinate regional programming and collective resource mobilization. The capitalization process—through the documentary videos, synthesis reports, and cross-country learning—was recognized as a strategic asset for engaging new financiers and policymakers. Participants agreed that future proposals must demonstrate co-financing, private-sector participation, and policy relevance to increase bankability and long-term viability. The intention to merge selected national initiatives into larger "mega-proposals" further reflected a shift toward regional public goods and economies of scale.

7.4 Operational Roadmap Beyond Project Closure

Clear post-meeting milestones provided structure for sustaining momentum after the formal close of AIRTEA Phase I. These included submission of revised scaling proposals, dissemination of capitalization outputs, consolidation workshops for regional proposals, final audits, and asset transfer processes. This sequenced roadmap was designed to ensure accountability while maintaining continuity between implementation and future funding cycles. All participants acknowledged that disciplined follow-through on these commitments would be essential to preserving the trust built among consortium partners and development financiers.

7.5 A Collective Commitment to Impact and Sustainability

The meeting concluded with a strong sense of shared ownership and optimism about AIRTEA's future trajectory. Leaders called for realistic target setting, transparent reporting of both successes and setbacks, and institutionalized impact tracking beyond project lifespans.

By aligning technical rigor, partnership depth, and strategic focus on inclusive growth, climate resilience, and market integration, AIRTEA positioned itself as a credible platform for long-term agricultural transformation. The conclusion signaled not an endpoint, but the opening of a renewed collaborative chapter dedicated to scaling innovation and delivering lasting benefits for smallholder farmers across East Africa, with a cascading impact across Africa and globally.

8. ANNEXES

8.1 Agenda: Program for the Final AIRTEA Project Capitalization and Evaluation Meeting

Time	Activity	Responsibility
Day 0	Saturday, 24th January 2026	
	Planning meeting by consortium members	Meeting Organizers
Day 1	Sunday 25th January 2026	
	Arrival of Participants	Participants
Day 2	Monday 26th January 2026	
10:00	Registration	FARA
	OPENING SESSION	Facilitator: ASARECA Rapporteur: TPP004
10:30	Video Documentary of Success Stories	Hillary Cheruiyot (EAFF)
11.00	Meeting Objectives and Expectations	Dr. Joshua Okonya(ASARECA)
11:30	Welcome Remarks by the CEO of EAFF and Chair of the meeting	Mr. Stephen Muchiri
	Remarks from the ED of ASARECA	Dr. Sylvester Dickson Baguma
	Remarks from the ED of FARA	Dr. Aggrey Agumya
	Remarks from the Project Manager of AGRIDI (Similar EU-Funded Project)	Dr. Jonas Mugabe (ICIPE)
	Remarks by OACPS Technical Assistance Unit (TAU)	Dr. Gerard den Ouden
	Remarks by the EU Delegation to Kenya	TBD
	Official opening by DDG, KALRO	Dr. Alice Murage
	Group photo & Media interviews	Comms Team
	Guided Tour of Exhibition booths of AIRTEA Third Party	Hillary Cheruiyot (EAFF)
13:00	LUNCH BREAK	Hotel
Session	AIRTEA CONSORTIUM LEVEL PRESENTATIONS	Rapporteur: TPP001
14:00	Overview of the AIRTEA Project and overall achievements under work package 4: Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), Challenges and Lessons Learnt.	Dr. Kwaku Antwi (Lead – AIRTEA Project, FARA)
14:30	Overall project achievements under Work package 1: Creating synergies for stakeholder action in national agricultural research and innovation ecosystems.	Dr. Joshua Okonya (ASARECA)
15:00	Overall project achievements under Work package 2: Support technology transfer, knowledge management, and information communication among stakeholders.	Mr. Hillary Cheruiyot (EAFF)
15:30	Overall project achievements under Work package 3: Support inclusive capacity development and business incubation along country priority value chains for smallholders and other value	Dr. Kwaku Antwi
16:00	HEALTH BREAK	HOTEL
16.30	Financial Status (TPPs Disbursements and Burn Rates)	Mrs. Vesta Nunoo (FARA)
17:00	End of day 1	All
Day 3	Tuesday 27th January 2026	Facilitator: FARA
8:30	Recap of Day 2	TPP 1 & TPP04
Session	**KEY RESULTS, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES & IMPACTS OF AIRTEA**	Rapporteur: TPP008
9:00	**TPP 001:** Upgrading of Silver Cyprinid (Rastrineobola argentea) Value Chain through Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and Novel	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)
9:15	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
9:30	**TPP 002**: Promoting technologies and innovations for improving access to quality potato seeds by smallholder farmers through	Seed Potato Fund (SPF)
9:45	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
10:00	**TPP 003:** Technology Transfer through Innovation Systems: Enhancing Smallholder farmers' capacity for profitable and	SDG Center for Africa/Partners (KALRO)
10:15	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
10:30	**TPP 004**: Unlocking productivity within small- holder farming systems through the use of digital and green technology in the	Koppert Biologicals (K) Ltd
10:45	**Discussion, Q&A**	All

11.00	HEALTH BREAK	Hotel
Session	**KEY RESULTS, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, AND IMPACTS OF**	Rapporteur: TPP03
11:30	**TPP 005:** Retaining next-generation farmers in agribusiness through enhanced knowledge-sharing platforms along the dairy and	AGRENES
11:45	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
12:00	TPP 006: Enhancing inclusive market access for African Indigenous Vegetable seed and value-added products by farmers in Uganda	Uganda Christian University (UCU)
12:15	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
12:30	TPP 007: Youth Leading Changes in Resilient Private Extension and Advisory Services for Job and Wealth Creation	YEAN
12:45	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
13:00	LUNCH BREAK	Hotel
Session	**KEY RESULTS, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, AND IMPACTS OF AIRTEA TPPS**	Rapporteur: TPP06
14:00	TPP 008: Strengthening cassava innovation ecosystems and knowledge transfer for inclusive rural livelihood development in	University of Nairobi
14:15	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
14:30	TPP 009: Digital Connectors for farming communities	AFAAS
14:45	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
15:00	TPP 10: Leveraging the benefits of multi-stakeholder partnerships to support rural women and youth in the dairy sector in Kenya	Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK)
15:15	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
15:30	TPP 011: Harnessing a multi-stakeholder innovation platform for knowledge transfer and aquaculture value chain development in	Abi ZARDI/ NARO
15:45	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
16:00	HEALTH BREAK	HOTEL
Session	EXPERIENCE SHARING & LESSON LEARNING	Rapporteur: TPP07
16:30	Experience Sharing among TPPs (TPP Interactions for Future Collaborations)	All TPPs/Consortium Partners
17:00	Presentation of lessons learned from the OACPS project (AGRiDI)	Dr. Jonas Mugabe (AGRIDI Project Lead)
17:15	**Discussion, Q&A**	All
17:30	End of day 3	All
Day 4	Wednesday, 28th January 2026	Facilitator: EAFF
9:00	Recap of Day 3	TPP003, 6, 7, 8
Session	EXPERIENCE SHARING & LESSON LEARNING	Rapporteur: TPP05
9:30	DRAWING LESSONS FROM DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES Format: Working groups	Dr. Gerard den Ouden (OACPS)
10:30	HEALTH BREAK	Hotel
11:00	DRAWING LESSONS FROM DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES Format: Working groups	Dr. Gerard den Ouden (OACPS)
13:00	LUNCH	Hotel
Session	EXPERIENCE SHARING & LESSON LEARNING	Rapporteur: TPP10
14:00	DRAWING LESSONS FROM DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES Format: Working groups	Dr. Gerard den Ouden (OACPS)
16:00	HEALTH BREAK	Hotel
16:30	DRAWING LESSONS FROM DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES Format: Working groups	Dr. Gerard den Ouden (OACPS)
17:30	End of day 4	
Day 5	Thursday 29th January 2026	Facilitator: FARA Rapporteur: TPP10
9:00	Recap of Day 4	TPP005 and TPP10
9:30	Plenary Session - Working groups	Group Leaders
10:30	HEALTH BREAK	Hotel
11:00	**Project Closure Procedures**	**Vesta Nunoo (FARA)**

13:00	**LUNCH BREAK**	**Hotel**
14:00	Questions and Discussions on Closure Procedures	**Vesta Nunoo (FARA)**
16:00	**HEALTH BREAK**	**Hotel**
16:30	Questions and Discussions on Closure Procedures	**Vesta Nunoo (FARA)**
17:30	**End of day 4**	**All**
Day 6	Friday 30th January 2026	**Facilitator: EAFF & ASARECA**
9:00	**Recap of Day 4**	**Joyce Wanjiru (EAFF) & Annet Wanyama (ASARECA)**
9:30	Presentation and Discussion on Next Steps	**Vesta Nunoo & Dr. Kwaku Antwi (FARA)**
10:30	**HEALTH BREAK**	**Hotel**
11:00	**Workshop Evaluation**	**All**
Session	Closing Remarks	Facilitator: FARA
11.30	OACPS ASARECA EAFF FARA	Dr. Gerard Denouden Dr. Sylvester Dickson Baguma Mr. Stephen Muchiri Dr. Aggrey Agumya
12.00	Networking	All
12.30	End of Meeting	All
1.00	LUNCH	Hotel
Session	Closing Remarks	Facilitator: FARA
14.30	OACPS ASARECA EAFF FARA	Dr. Gerard Denouden Dr. Sylvester Dickson Baguma Mr. Stephen Muchiri Dr. Aggrey Agumya
15.00	Networking	All
15.30	End of Meeting	All

8.2 Annex 2: List of participants for the project Closeout and Capitalization Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya

No.	TPP/ Organization	Title (Dr/Ms/Mrs/ Mr)	First Name	Last Name	E-mail
(i) Third Party Projects (TPPs) Implementors					
1	TPP001	Prof	Nelson Kennedy Ojijo	Olango	ojijonko@jkuat.ac.ke
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No.	TPP/ Organization	Title (Dr/Ms/Mrs/ Mr)	First Name	Last Name	E-mail
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48	OACPS	Mr	Gerard	Den Ouden	Gerard.Denouden@gopacom.eu
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No.	TPP/ Organization	Title (Dr/Ms/Mrs/ Mr)	First Name	Last Name	E-mail
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61	ASARECA	Dr	Sylvester	Dickson	sd.baguma@asaeca.org

AIRTEA
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