



8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week
9th FARA General Assembly

Durban, South Africa

5th - 8th June 2023

3rd CCARDESA General Assembly

*Linking Science, Innovation, and Agribusiness
for Resilient Food Systems*

**REPORT OF
PROCEEDINGS**



Event Demographics

Attendance: 1,610



Youth



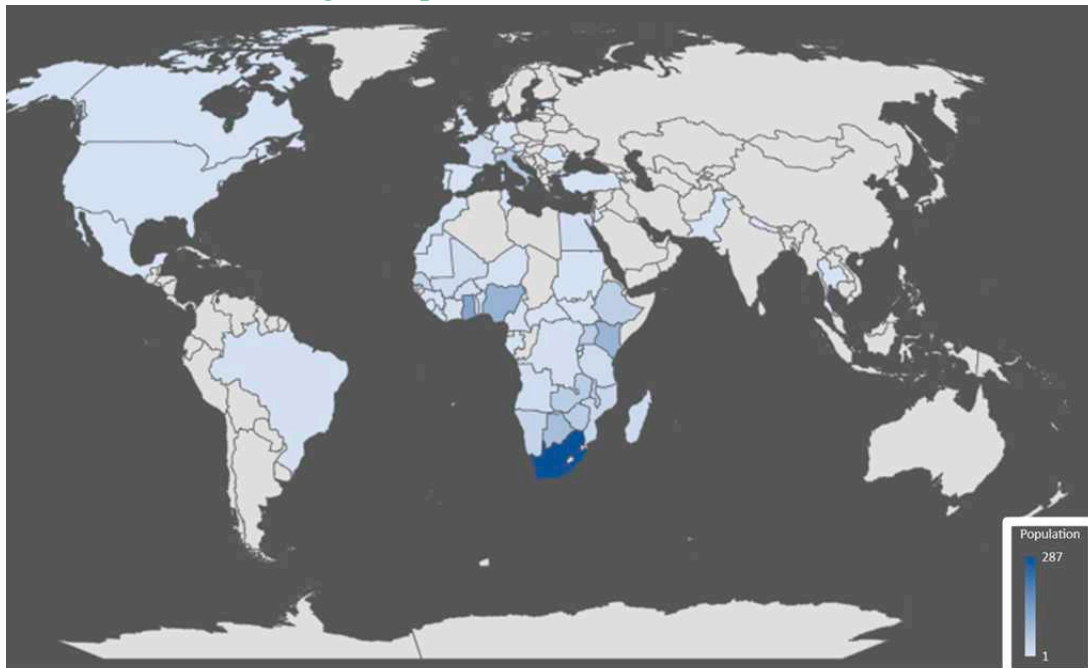
Organizations Represented



301

Research	= 85
Agribusiness	= 91
Civil Society Organizations	= 46
Universities	= 35
Development organization	= 16
Government Departments	= 15
Regional Bodies	= 13

Country Representation at the AASW8



Key: Blue shade indicates the countries that participated in the 8AASW; the deeper the blue, the higher the number of participants

Total No of countries = 66

African Countries	= 43
America (South/North)	= 5
Europe	= 13
Asia	= 5

Top Ten Countries

Countries	No of participants	Countries	No of participants
South Africa	= 287	Italy	= 49
Ghana	= 127	Uganda	= 46
Nigeria	= 98	Zambia	= 44
Kenya	= 94	Zimbabwe	= 44
Botswana	= 74	Ethiopia	= 40

Programme Of Events

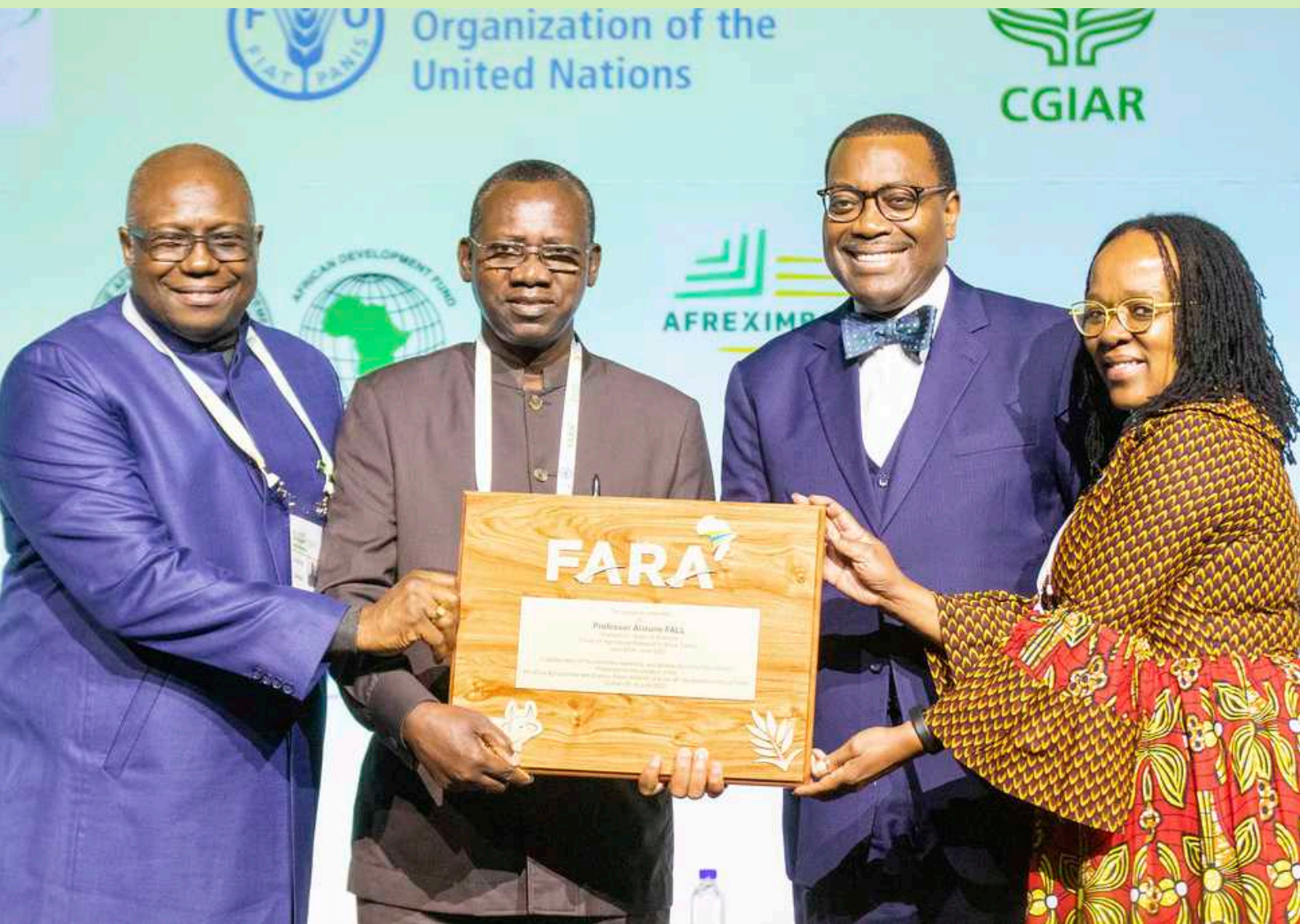
Date	0830 -1030	Break	1100 – 1300	Break	1400 -1800
REGISTRATION and pre-events (CCARDESA Board Meeting)					
5th June	<p>OPENING PLENARY</p> <p>Traditional Dance Troupe</p> <p>Welcome Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lala Razafinjara (CCARDESA Chairperson) – Alioune Fall (FARA Chairperson) – Mxolisi Kaunda (Executive Mayor, Durban City) <p>Goodwill Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Josefa Sacko (Commissioner DARBE, AUC) – Ahmadu Babagana (FAO rep. in South Africa) – Ravi Khetarpal (Chairperson, GFAR) <i>Virtual</i> – Lindiwe Sibanda (Chairperson, CGIAR System Board) – Ishmael Sunga (CEO, SACAU)– Leonard Mizzi (INTPA, European Commission) – Agnes Kalibata (President, AGRA) <i>Virtual</i> <p>Keynote Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Akinwumi Adesina (President, AfDB) <p>Statement and invitation of Chief Guest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bangokwakhe M. Zuma (MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, KwaZulu Natal Province) <p>Official opening address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Thoko Didiza (Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, South Africa) <p>Presentation of FARA Leadership Awards Akinwumi Adesina (President, AfDB)</p>	Break	<p>HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Akinwumi Adesina (President AfDB) – Papa Seck (Fmr Minister of Agriculture, Senegal) – Josefa Sacko (Commissioner DARBE, AUC) <p>Statements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Jeanine Cooper (Minister of Agriculture, Liberia)<i>Virtual</i> – Amany Asfour (President, Africa Business Council) – Sara Savastano (Director, Research and Impact Assessment, IFAD) – Denys Denya (Executive Vice President, Afrexim Bank) – Claudia Sadoff (Executive Managing Director, CGIAR) – Alexander Thiel (CEO, SAPPI Southern Africa) – Ntuthu Mbiko (Chair, AFASA Women's desk) <p>LAUNCH SESSION</p> <p>Launch of Action Plan for the Renewed Partnership between the CGIAR and African agricultural research institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Akinwumi Adesina (President, AfDB) – Josefa Sacko (Commissioner DARBE, AUC) – Lindiwe Sibanda (Chairperson, CGIAR System Board) – Alioune Fall (FARA Chairperson) <p>Launch of the Afrexim bank-FARA Research and Innovation Competencies in Agriculture (AFRICA) Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Denys Denya (Executive Vice President, Afrexim Bank) – Alioune Fall (FARA Chairperson) 	Break	<p>CCARDESA GENERAL ASSEMBLY</p> <p>DURBAN ROUNDTABLE <i>(Hosted by the African Development Bank)</i> Leveraging and combining science and agribusiness to achieve expected outcomes of the Dakar 2 Food Security Delivery Compacts. Concept Note <i>(By invitation only)</i></p> <p>SIDE EVENTS</p> <p>SE-01: <i>Can accelerator programmes catalyze private investment in climate-smart agriculture Lessons from Souther, Central and East (Read More) Africa</i></p> <p>SE-02: <i>GFAR Steering Committee meeting Room: NAIROBI(Read More)</i></p> <p>SE-03: <i>Tracking the Future of Food and Agriculture in Africa Room: CAIRO (Read More)</i></p>
Date	0830 -1030		1100 – 1300		1400 -1800
6th June	<p>PLENARY SESSION ORGANIZED BY THE CGIAR</p> <p>Strengthening Partnership between One CGIAR and African Research and Innovation Stakeholders. Read More</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introduction of the four Regional Directors for Africa · One CGIAR in Africa · Action Plan for strengthening partnership between CGIAR and African Agricultural Research and Innovation Institutions. · Partnership models for expanded out-scaling in Africa (Convened by CIMMYT) 	Break	<p>PARALLEL SESSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Strengthening Science – Business Linkages to Boost Intra-African Trade · Making African Food Systems Nutrition Sensitive and Gender-Responsive · Improving Climate Resilience, Natural Resources Management 	Break	<p>FIELD VISITS</p> <p>eThekweni North Durban Incubator Hub Ottawa site-tunnel farming site <i>(Depart ICC at 1400 hours, return at 1900 hours)</i></p> <p>SIDE EVENTS</p> <p>SE-04: Science and business dialogue</p> <p>SE-05: Continental Consultation Room:</p> <p>AGRONOMY HOUSE</p> <p>SE-06 : a. Mainstreaming land rights of the rural poor in the climate discourse (Room-ACCRA-B)– Read More</p> <p>b. Outcomes and ways forward of the GFAR webinars on: UN Food Systems Summit and National Pathways; and Regional Responses to Challenges to Soil Fertility and Sustainability (Room: ACCRA-B) –Read More</p> <p>SE-07:Supporting Pathways to Sustainable Land Management in Africa.</p> <p>SE-08: Fostering Agribusiness and Gender/Youth-Responsive Food Systems</p> <p>SE-09: Unlocking business opportunities for youth-led SMEs and enterprises</p> <p>SE-10: CGIAR Agribusiness Acceleration Approaches for Climate Smart Agriculture Innovation, Resilience, Gender and Social Inclusion. Room: CAPE TOWN-A (Read More)</p> <p>SE-11: Advancing the AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership in the context of the International Research Consortium (IRC).Room: CAPE TOWN-B (Read More)</p>

Programme Of Events

Date	0830 -1030	Break	1100 – 1300	Break	1400 -1800
					<p>SE-12: a. GFAR Talks</p> <p>b. Presentation of GFAR Innovation Survey-Meeting Room (Read more) Room: CAIRO</p> <p>c. Partnership Principles (Read More) Room:CAIRO</p> <p>SE-13: Harnessing Science and Innovation: Through strengthened capacity to innovate</p> <p>SE-14:Tackling enabling environment issues for scaling agribusinesses in Southern and Central Africa. Room: GABORONE(Read More)</p> <p>SE-15:Challenges and opportunities for Extension and Advisory Services within the African Continental Free Trade Area. Room: CAPE TOWN A-(Read More)</p> <p>SE-16:Seed Policy Harmonisation and Domestication: A tool for facilitating seed availability and affordability</p> <p>SE-17: Agricultural Biotechnology: A sustainable lever for African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Room -Durban (Read More).</p> <p>SE-18: TAAT: Leading the way with agricultural innovation across Africa. Room: Durban (Read More).</p> <p>SE-19: TAAT / TSF Innovation platform and Agribusiness Seminar</p> <p>SE-20: Developing the Implementation Modalities for the Soil Initiative for Africa and AFSH Action Plan (Read More).</p> <p>SE-26: Boosting intra-Africa trade: The agricultural midstream in the value chain</p> <p>SE-34:The sustainable mutation of the Cacao Supply Chain: Challenges and opportunities for Africa. (Read More) Room:ACCRA-C</p>
Date	0830 -1030		1100 – 1300		1400 -1800
7th June	<p>PLENARY SESSION ORGANIZED BY AFRICA BUSINESS COUNCIL AND AFREXIM BANK Agro-industrial Park models for Increasing Productivity, Value-Addition and Intra-Africa Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Africa Agro-Parks (AUC, FARA) Special Agro-processing Zones (AfDB) Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (UNIDO) <p>Lessons learned, possible complementarities and actions for scaling up, including investments.</p>		<p>PARALLEL SESSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition of Farming Systems (Read More) Knowledge Management, Digitalization, and Youth Entrepreneurship Policies, Institutions, Capacities 		<p>FIELD VISIT Dube Trade Port: Visit to the culture lab and the greenhouse project. <i>Depart ICC at 1400 hours, return 1700 hours</i></p> <p>SIDE EVENTS</p> <p>SE-21: Optimal Sector Strategies in African Agriculture and Agribusiness.</p> <p>SE-22: CAADP-X4P – CGIAR Knowledge management Session: Acting on a collaborative agenda. Room : PLENARY-A (Read More)</p> <p>SE-23: Catalyzing and coordinating Innovation and Scaling in Eastern and Southern Africa</p> <p>SE-24: Improving the Implementation of Existing Trade Policies to support Cross-Border Trade In Africa Room: ACCRA-A</p> <p>SE-25: Policy dialogue on engagement of state and non-state actors in enhancing utilization of Earth Observation Data Products and Services in Agriculture in South Africa</p> <p>SE-27: PARI: Dissemination session – How to turn the agrifood sector into an engine of job growth for Africa's youth. Room: PLENARY-B(Read More)</p> <p>SE-28: Mainstreaming Forgotten Foods into Africa Food System: What are the Next Big Things? Room: PLENARY-B (Read More)</p> <p>SE-29: Women and Youth service-based agribusiness using digital app in West and Central Africa.</p> <p>SE-30: Food Systems Transformation in Southern Africa for One Health</p> <p>SE-31:Unpacking the potential of Agroecology in Africa. Room-CAPE TOWN B(Read More)</p> <p>SE-32: Boosting Intra-African Trade through Agricultural digitalization for enhancing implementation of the AfCFTA</p> <p>SE-33: Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment for a nutrition-sensitive and Gender-Responsive Food Systems in the Drylands</p>

Programme Of Events

Date	0830 -1030	Break	1100 – 1300	Break	1400 -1800
8th June	<p>PLENARY SESSION ORGANIZED BY FAO Digitalization and Innovation to facilitate Implementation of AfCFTA and for boosting Intra-African trade</p> <p>Framework for Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) in Agricultural Commodities and Services, including an update on the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI)</p> <p>Plenary Sessions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitalization and trade facilitation to support implementation of AfCFTA Women and youth as enablers of intra-African trade, including agribusiness, in the context of the AfCFTA. 		<p>FARA GENERAL ASSEMBLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statements from Partners The Board's Accountability Report Report on the Secretariat's achievements Strategic direction of the FARA Secretariat over the medium term Synthesis of outcomes of 8th AASW 		<p>FARA GENERAL ASSEMBLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification of appointment of the new ED and Chairperson of FARA Valedictory speeches by outgoing ED and Chairperson Solidarity Statements FARA/AATF MoU & Winners of YPARD Hackathon Closing



Online Brand Monitoring Highlights



Metrics

Changes and number of mentions in the selected date range

5K

Interactions

27 May 2023 - 26 Jun 2023

▲ 4.1K

since 26 Apr 2023

325

Shares

27 May 2023 - 26 Jun 2023

▲ 289

since 26 Apr 2023

327

Positive mentions

27 May 2023 - 26 Jun 2023

▲ 280

since 26 Apr 2023

32

Negative mentions

27 May 2023 - 26 Jun 2023

▲ 29

since 26 Apr 2023

13.3M

Reach

27 May 2023 - 26 Jun 2023

Extended Reach

14.5M



Sentiment

The overall sentiment tone of the mentions



327

POSITIVE

27 May 2023 - 26 Jun 2023



32

NEGATIVE

27 May 2023 - 26 Jun 2023



134

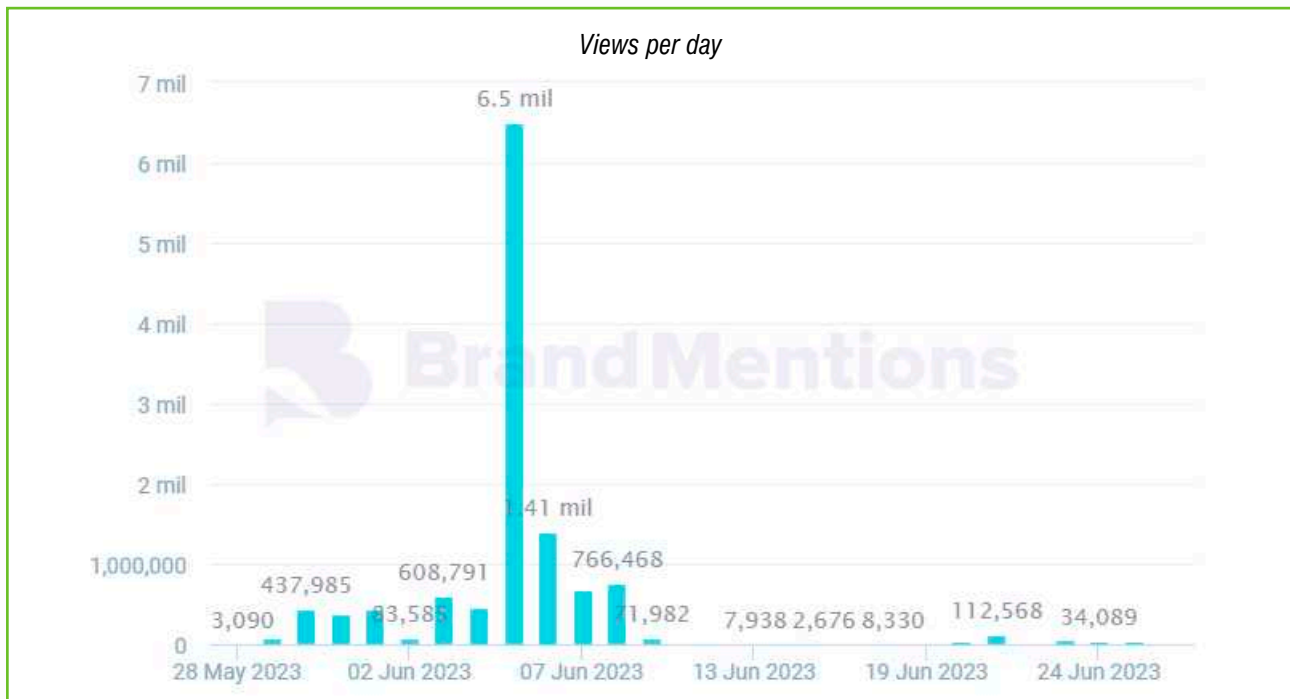
NEUTRAL

27 May 2023 - 26 Jun 2023

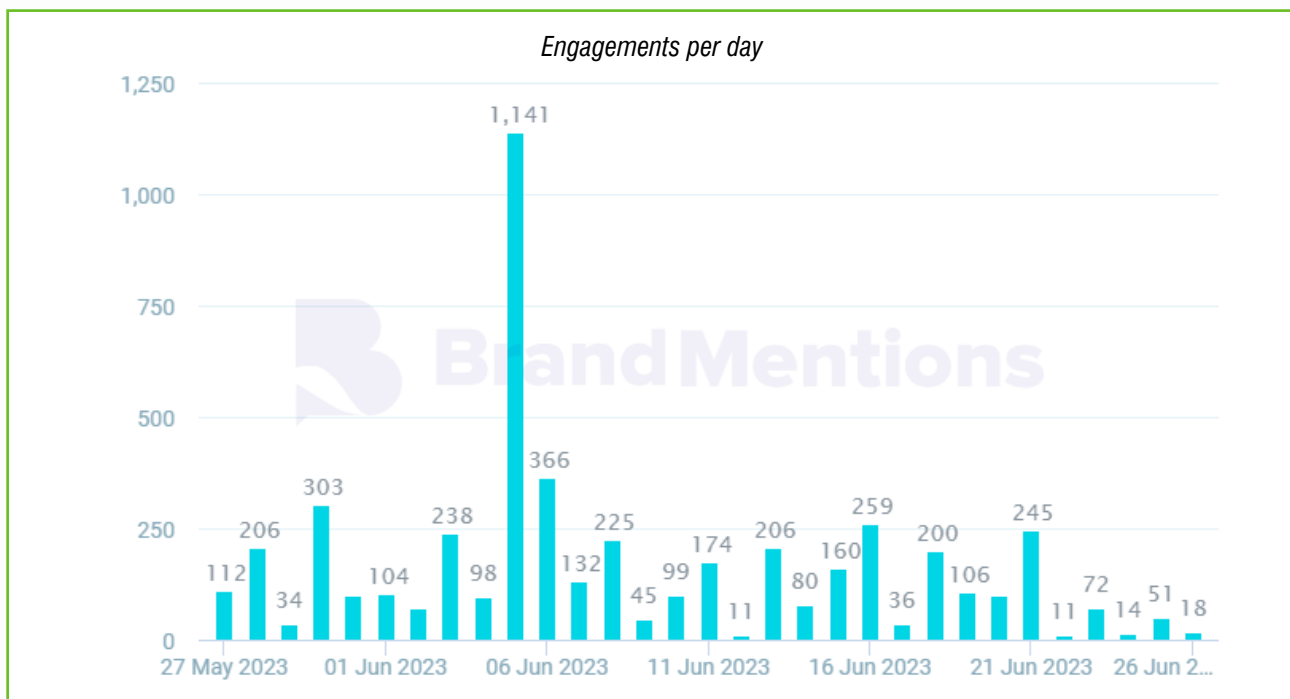


Online Brand Monitoring Highlights

Reach

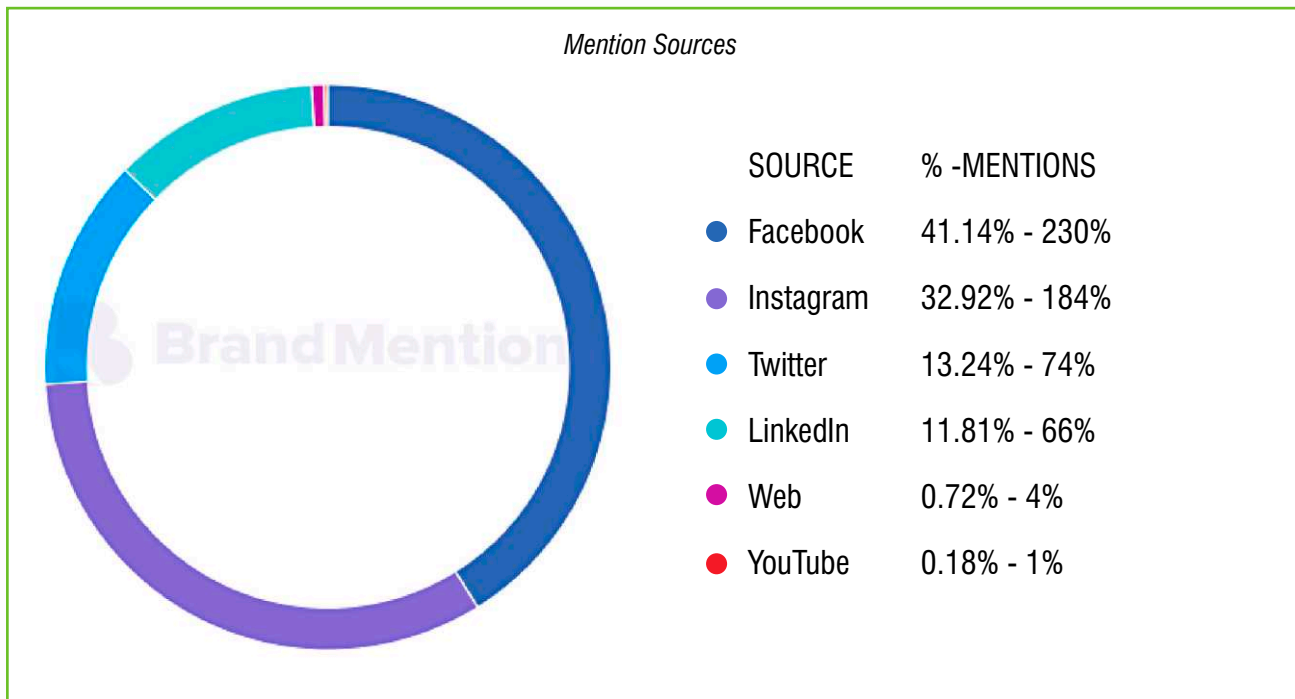


Interactions

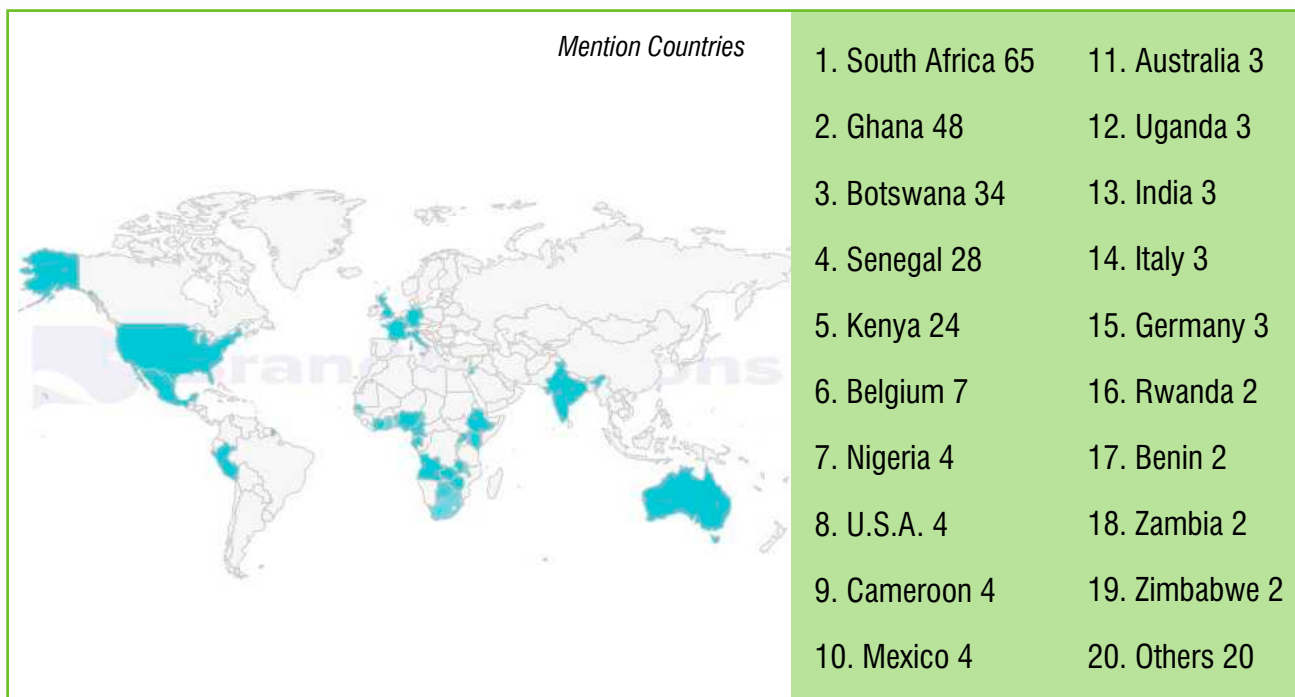


Online Brand Monitoring Highlights

Sources

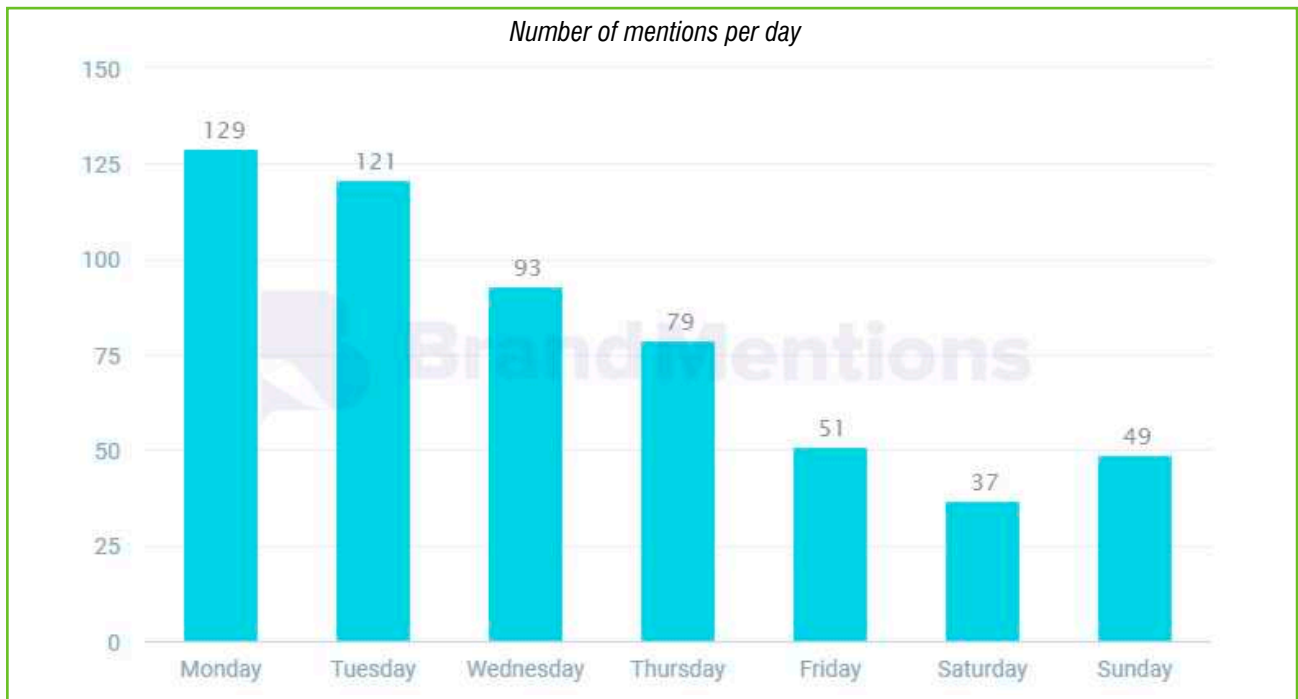


Countries



Online Brand Monitoring Highlights

Daily Stats



YouTube Only



Participants' Report

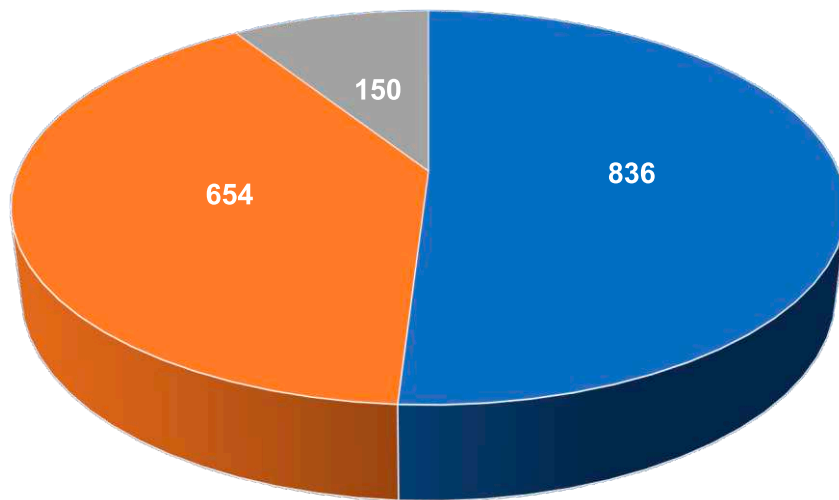
BREAKDOWN of Delegates, VIP, Media, etc

Category	Number
Delegates	401
Exhibitors	63
Host Officials	83
Organizers	49
Side Event Organizers	55
Speakers	67
VIPs	81
Wednesday Guests (One day participants who paid \$45 each)	22
Media	15
Sub Total	836

Delegates, VIP, Media, etc	836
Contractors	654
Security	150
GRAND TOTAL	1,640

BREAKDOWN of Contractors & Security Personnel

Category	Number
Contractors	654
Metro Police	6
POP	8
PSS Command	15
PSS CPO	12
PSS Support	67
PSS VPO	54
Security	8
Sponsor	1
VISPOL	9
VISPOL Command VOC	3
VPO Explosives	8
VPO K9s	4
VPO Technical	4
TOTAL	804



■ Delegates ■ Contractors ■ Security ■



Keynote Address by Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President, African Development Bank Group

Good morning, everyone!

I am delighted to join you at this year's Agribusiness and Science Week. Congratulations to the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), its Chairman, Alioune Fall and Executive Director, Dr. Akinbamijo, on the organization of this event. Thank you for inviting me to speak.

I have such great admiration for the work of FARA and for the remarkable leadership of its Executive Director, Board of Directors, and staff.

As we meet today, an alarm bell has sounded on the status of development in our world.

The UN Secretary General sounded an alarm few weeks ago on the Sustainable Development Goals. The sound was unmistakable: the SDGs are off-track. Of particular concern is that over 900 million people still go to bed hungry every day. Over 283 million Africans suffer from hunger, including over 216 million children that suffer from stunting and malnutrition.

The situation is made more serious due to climate change, including severe droughts, floods and cyclones that have devastated large parts of Africa; including the desert locusts and Fall Army Worms that ravaged several parts of Africa.

Today, much of the Horn Africa and Sahel have not had rains for several seasons.

Climate change is costing Africa \$7–15 billion in losses annually and this is projected to rise to \$50 billion by 2030. Yet, the resources that Africa needs are not there. The continent receives just \$30 billion annually in climate finance, while it needs \$2.7 trillion to meet its climate finance needs between 2020 and 2030. The challenge for Africa is to adapt to climate change. Here again, financing for climate adaptation is low, estimated at only \$3.5 billion-\$7.5 billion per year.

At the African Development Bank, we are mobilizing \$25 billion for our African Adaptation Acceleration Programme, jointly with the Global Center on Adaptation, to support countries. We pledged to commit 40% of our total finance to climate finance; we have exceeded that as we devoted 45% of our financing for climate last year. Similarly, the Bank devoted 67% of its total climate finance to climate adaptation, far exceeding the 50:50 parity between climate adaptation and mitigation called for by the UN Secretary General.

I am excited about what the Bank is doing to support farmers to adapt to climate change, through our flagship programme--- Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT).

TAAT, a platform being implemented through partnerships with the CGIAR, national and regional agricultural research institutions and the private sector, is the largest ever effort to get technologies at scale to millions of farmers across Africa.



Keynote Address...

Over the past three years, TAAT delivered climate resilient agricultural technologies to 25 million farmers or 62% of the 40 million farmer target. Let me cite three examples.

First, when drought affected East Africa in 2018, TAAT helped to deliver water-efficient maize, developed by the CGIAR and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, to over 5.2 million farmers, averting a food crisis.

Second, to tackle the Fall Army Worms, TAAT deployed technologies to 2 million farmers across Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Third, TAAT helped to deliver the NERICA rice varieties to over 3.2 million farmers.

The Bank is also deploying instruments to support farmers that are affected by extreme weather patterns. Through our Agricultural Risk Insurance initiative, the Africa Disaster Risk Financing Programme (ADRFi) we have provided \$55 million to pay for sovereign risk insurance for countries and smallholder farmers through the Africa Risk Capacity. And it is working well.

When drought hit Malawi in 2021, they got a payment of \$14.2 million to compensate farmers. When Tropical Cyclone hit Madagascar in 2022, they received \$10.7 million to pay 628,000 farmers.

What is exciting about all these is that we are combining the power of science, technology, and innovations to build climate resilient agricultural production systems; and we are connecting global research and development systems with national, regional agricultural research and development systems, as well as private sector value chains.

The successes being achieved also point to the importance of supportive national food and agricultural policies. In Ethiopia, heat tolerant wheat varieties delivered by TAAT allowed the country to expand area under cultivation in the varieties from 5,000 ha in 2018 to 1.2 million ha by 2022/2023 wheat season. In just three years, Ethiopia achieved self-sufficiency in wheat and expects to be a net exporter of wheat by this year; 0.6 million tons of wheat is expected to be exported by Ethiopia to Djibouti and Kenya this year. An amazing achievement!

To enhance food processing, value addition and competitiveness of agricultural supply chains, the African Development Bank is committing resources to the establishment of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones.

These zones, enabled with infrastructure and logistics to support food and agribusiness companies close to zones of production, will help reduce food losses, enhance value addition, and support the emergence of competitive food and agricultural value chains while creating jobs and transforming rural areas from zones of economic misery into new zones of economic prosperity. The Bank, along with its partners (which include the Islamic Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development) have invested more than \$1.5 billion for the establishment of these zones in eleven countries.

Despite these achievements, there is still much to do to help Africa achieve zero hunger.

To achieve scale across all of Africa, President Macky Sall of Senegal, and I, organized in January 2023, the Feed Africa Summit, which was attended by 34 Heads of State and Government. Working with development partners from around the world and the African Union Commission, the private sector companies, and global and national agricultural research centers, we developed Food and Agricultural Delivery Compacts for 41 countries.

The goal is clear: use the Food and Agricultural Delivery Compacts to achieve food self-sufficiency for Africa within five years, and fully unlock Africa's agricultural potentials to be competitive in global markets.



Keynote Address...

It was an incredible coordination of global effort. I am delighted that we have mobilized \$72 billion towards the Food and Agricultural Delivery Compacts to help accelerate the transformation of Africa's agriculture. I have appointed Special Envoys to work with all the partners and countries for the effective implementation of these Compacts.

Today, I am pleased to announce that one of the Special Envoys is Dr. Timothy Williams, a former director in the CGIAR, with decades of experience that spanned International Livestock Research Institute and the International Water Management Institute. I expect that the second Special Envoy will also be from the CGIAR.

This should tell you how much I think of the CGIAR and why we must advance on making the CGIAR work better for Africa. We must collectively achieve zero hunger in Africa in the next five years. We have the technologies; we have the technology delivery platforms; we have the science, technology, and innovation platforms such as CGIAR, FARA and others; we have the political will. All we must do is action.

Your gathering today for this Agribusiness and Science Week is very important. We must pull together the best of science, technology, and innovations to drive a more productive, efficient, and more competitive agricultural system.

New digital technologies are offering innovative solutions to challenges faced by farmers. They now provide improved access to agricultural information and knowledge. Farmers can now access weather forecasts, market prices, best farming practices, and pest management techniques through mobile applications, online platforms, and SMS services. Mobile banking now facilitates financial inclusion of farmers. Fintech companies now allow farmers to send and receive payments, access credit, and conduct financial transactions more efficiently.

The use of remote sensing, drones and satellite imagery has enhanced the emergence of precision agriculture in Africa, providing critical data on soil health, crop growth and water availability for effective farm management on critical inputs such as water and fertilizers, while reducing environmental impacts.

Online marketplaces and e-commerce platforms, and commodity exchanges have emerged, connecting farmers directly to buyers, reducing farm losses and allowing farmers to get better prices.

And in supply chain management, blockchain technology is being used to enhance transparency and efficiency in agricultural supply chains. This helps to track and verify origin, quality, and movement of agricultural products, reducing fraud, improving traceability, and enhancing fair market engagements.

From the farm to the table, technologies, scientific innovation, institutional innovations, are emerging to transform the entire agricultural systems, and food systems in Africa.

Agricultural systems that are sustainable and climate resilient.

And food systems that will unleash \$1 trillion of value by 2030.

For that to be achieved, we must strengthen and support the CGIAR with a lot more resources, ensure that it works in and delivers for Africa based on our priorities, and support regional research and development institutions, such as FARA and the sub-regional agricultural research organizations.

In the past year, the African Development Bank has hosted two high-level consultations co-organized by the African Union Commission, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The objective of these consultations was to gain a better understanding of the One CGIAR reforms and discuss concerns about CGIAR's engagement with African stakeholders.

Keynote Address...

The outputs of these consultations, when fully addressed, will strengthen the partnership with CGIAR for supporting Africa's agricultural research and innovation institutions, particularly national agricultural research systems, and for scaling impact to achieve the continent's food and agriculture targets.

Partnerships like this are essential for scaling up innovations to support millions of smallholder farmers across Africa. This is very much in evidence today as we look at the Abidjan II Agreement and subsequent Action Plans, which will commit the Bank along with CGIAR, FARA and the AUC to coordinate activity for boosting agricultural research and innovation over the coming years.

Our organizations-along with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture-are unveiling this action plan at the One CGIAR moderated session and press conference here in Durban this morning.

Our untapped opportunity to put Africa's food security on a sounder footing. Unleashing the continent's agricultural potential through proven innovations and a commitment to research holds the key to food security in Africa and throughout the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
As the stewards of Africa's agribusiness and science sectors, we bear a huge responsibility-to transform this continent into a food-secure, economically prosperous, sustainable, and resilient beacon for the world.

Our toil is monumental, but our resolve is undeterred. We are turning the tide on food insecurity, unlocking the vast agricultural potential of our continent, and planting the seeds of prosperity in the very soil that feeds us.

Through our collective efforts, we have mobilized significant resources, developed innovative programmes, and initiated transformative actions. Our success in the Special Agro-industrial Processing Zones and the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation programme for example, attests to our unfaltering commitment.

Yet, as we commend our collective progress, we must not become complacent. Africa's ability to feed nine billion people by 2050 is not a foregone conclusion; it is a call to action. It beckons us to harness our strengths, confront our challenges, and work relentlessly towards our shared vision.

Therefore, let us rise to this grand challenge. Let us forge ahead, knowing that our efforts today will determine the future of food in the world.

Our commitment to research, innovation, and investments, must be strong and consistent. Let us collectively do all we can to ensure that every African, every night, goes to bed with a full stomach.

With unyielding resolve and unwavering dedication, let us continue our march towards a vibrant, prosperous, and food secure Africa, where agriculture is a key driving force for economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability.

Let us seize this moment and work hand in hand to unlock the full potential of agriculture in Africa.

We have all it takes to succeed.
Let us rise, powered by science, to unlock Africa's potential in agriculture.
Africa must feed itself.
And Africa must feed the world.
Together, let's make it happen!

Thank you very much.

Afreximbank-FARA Research-Innovation Competence in Agriculture (AFRICA) Awards



What is AFRICA?

The AFRICA Prize is a prize jointly awarded by Afrexim Bank and FARA to recognize and celebrate individuals, groups of individuals, or established organizations that have recorded excellence in ASTI, advancing Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) and Agripreneurship in Africa.

Prize	Category
Africa Research Excellence Prize	Research & Extension
Africa Innovation-based Entrepreneurship Prize	Private Sector
Africa Impactful and evidence-based Policies	Policy Makers

Timelines

Activity	Deadline
<i>Call for Nomination Opens</i>	1st August 2023
<i>Nomination Closes</i>	September 30, 2023
<i>Announcement of Laureates</i>	March 2024
<i>Presentation of Awards</i>	June 2024



#AASW8

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES





FARA 9th General Assembly

Overview

FARA's 9th General Assembly was attended by all stakeholders in agriculture innovation systems, continental and regional bodies, SROs, higher education sector, inter-governmental organisations, financial and technical partners, scientists, farmers' organisations and other members of the private sector. The event was graced by Minister Thoko Dduza, Minister for Agriculture and Land Reforms, South Africa.

The immediate-past Board Chairperson of FARA, Dr Alioune Fall applauded participating organizations, sponsors, exhibitors and participants for a successful 8th African Agriculture and Science Week and the FARA General Assembly.

Giving an account of the Board's work, Dr Fall recalled that during the heights of COVID, the solutions and recovery plans showed the power of collated efforts among scientists. He also congratulated the FARA Leadership Prize For Advancing Science And Innovation In Agriculture laureates for their outstanding contributions, which serve as inspiration and a constant reminder of the immense potentials of African agriculture.

He applauded the Board's work in operationalizing FARA's business plan, the formation of CAADP-XP4, the relocation of FARA's office, appointment of an external auditor for the 2021 to 2023 financial year, and various partnerships to streamline operations, among others.

The General Assembly ratified the appointment of a new Board of Directors for FARA. The Board, chaired by Ms. Bongiwe Njobe, comprises Dr Abdou Tenkouano, Mr Philip Boahen, Dr Simeon Ehui, Dr Enock Warinda, Prof Cliff Dlamini, Prof Mohamed Soliman, Madam Elizabeth Nsimadala, Madam Janet Ngombalu, Mrs Beatrice Nakacwa-Egulu, Mr Christophe Larose, Mr Anthony Boateng, and Dr Aggrey Agumya, who is FARA's Executive Director and Secretary to the Board.

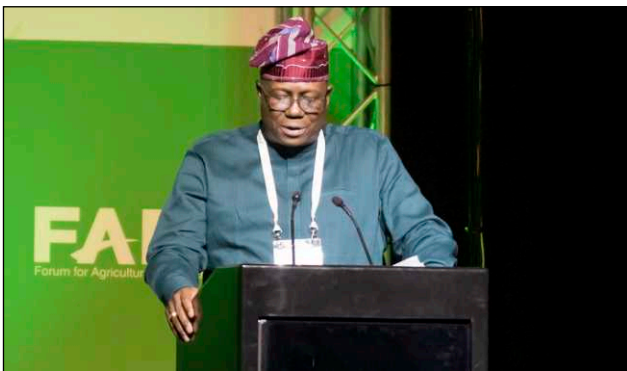
In her acceptance address, Ms. Bongiwe Njobe, the Board Chairperson, applauded the Government of Ghana and her predecessors for their continuous support and assured that in the next three years, she will deliver on the strategic vision and work together to enhance the overall effectiveness of FARA.

She further added that her leadership will focus on the critical and much-needed relationship for enhancing participation in the ecosystem by the private sector through drawing insights from FARA's relationship with the African Development Bank, AFRIEXIM Bank, African Business Council, etc. that are aimed at boosting intra-Africa trade.

Also ratified by the General Assembly was the appointment of Dr. Aggrey Agumya as Executive Director. He succeeded Dr Yemi Akinbamijo who served as the second Executive Director of FARA from 2013 – 2023.

The Executive Director, Dr. Aggrey Agumya, presenting FARA's medium-term strategy for 2023-2026, said that the institution is in a business and leadership transition phase and it will draw an institutional assessment carried out in the context of CGIAR which will be in line with CAADP research and innovation strategy.

Recounting FARA's successes in the past years, he said that the entity still has its mandate and convening power aligned with the CAADP and AUC, among others; however, low funding has affected its operations. He also cited the fragmentation in innovation system as a challenge but said that FARA has made tremendous progress, nonetheless.





CCARDESA

Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa



CCARDESA 3rd General Assembly

Overview

CCARDESA held its 3rd General Assembly which was attended by representatives from member countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) (15 countries). The representatives included scientists, farmers' policymakers and regulators which were nominated by the member countries.

The event was graced by the Thoko Duda, Minister for Agriculture and Land Reforms, South Africa. The Minister mentioned that there was need to conduct community-oriented research that will resolve regional farming problems and inform policymakers to make informed decisions in developing relevant and responsive policies that enable food movement and food security within the region.

The new strategy of CCARDESA is focused on expanding its projects to livestock (including carbon), forestry, fishery, agroforestry and other sustainable livelihoods programmes. However, inadequate funding and staffing may affect these strategy initiatives. CCARDESA has over 240 productive technologies from various National Institutions of research within the region; however, these technologies are not reaching farmers. Further, CCARDESA member states are not paying the agreed annual fees; hence, the institution is surviving only on donor funding.

At the General Election, Dr Grace Kauzu (Malawi) was elected the Chairperson of the General Assembly. The other nominees were Mrs Gaothogwe (Botswana) and Mr Phillip (Namibia).



Key Recommendations

The General Assembly discussed and agreed to the following recommendations and interventions:

- To consider appointment of youth Ambassadors in the BOARD. This will help connect the youth around the region.
- The Partnership strategy to be targeted at individual organisational, while country level and regional collaborations to be strengthened with FARA, CGIAR, I FAD, etc.
- Board members should be ambassadors and champions for Resource mobilisation.
 - Ensure translation of all the knowledge collected into local language to facilitate access and use by the region and technology adoption.
 - To identify a champion for Research and Development

Main Action Points

- Member states (ministries & departments) to continue paying membership fee at country level for sustainability. CCARDESA should consider increasing the membership fee at country level instead of adopting the individual membership subscription.
- Strategic direction 2023-2025 was considered and endorsed.
- Relevant documents were conditionally approved pending the adoption of recommendations and will be implemented in line with the Charter.

CCARDESA 3rd General Assembly

in order to strengthen research and development institution's and stronger research regionally.

- The Information and knowledge Management function to avail information on relevant Markets for various commodities and document information and research on the Value Chain.
- To consider having a committee representative for Farmers to enhance its research outreach and extension linkages and direct involvement with Farmers.
- To consider having a panel for research ethics review, evaluate our research with our members, drawn from each to ensure it's respectful to the human rights and ecosystem.





#AASW8

PARALLEL SESSIONS



Improving Climate Resilience and Sustainability of Farming and Food Systems: Exploring the Contribution of Agroecology



Presenters and presentation titles

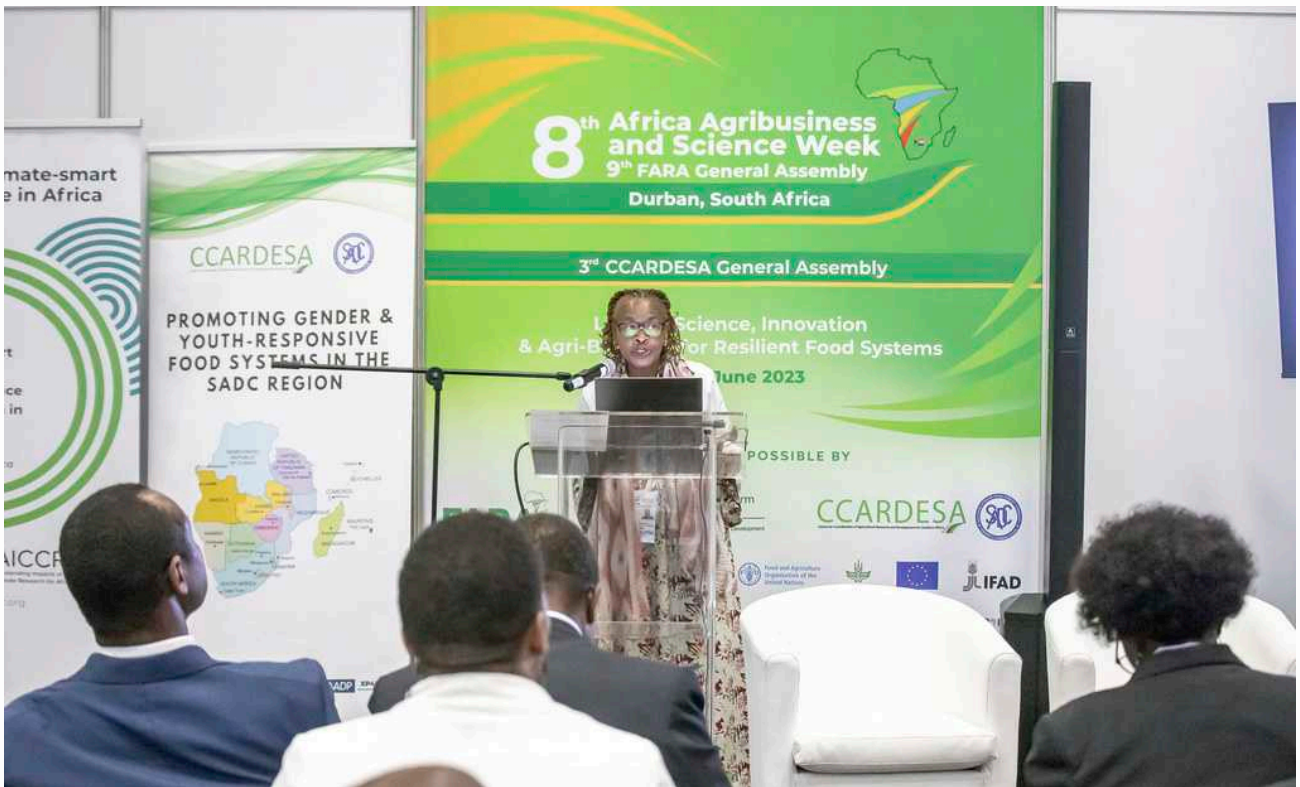
1. **The Role of Agrobiodiversity in Promoting Climate Resilience: Mainstreaming NUS and agroecological practices into the food system** - Sara Savastano, IFAD
2. **Climate Change Resilience and Agroecology: The Evidence** - Lini Wollenberg, Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT
3. **The Case of Some Neglected African Crops Associated with Agroecology** -Carlo Fadda Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, Kenya
4. **Multistakeholder Approach: The Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa**, - Mamadou Goïta, IRPAD, Mali Online
5. **Circular economy: Converting agricultural waste into biofertilisers** -Samuel Rigu, CEO, SAFI Organics Ltd, Kenya
6. **Dissemination of Agro-ecological Practices through School Farms Promoted by Youth in Togo**, Afantchawo Koudasse, President, Youth College ROPPA, CTOPTogo

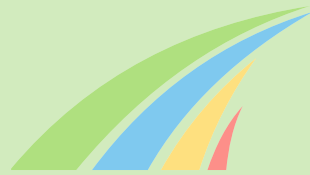
Main Presentation Highlights

- Climate emergency and other concerns has resulted in a proliferation of sustainability frameworks intending to guide research and decision makers.
- Agroecology (AE) as a science, practice and social/ political movement is attracting increasing attention, but with very diverse perspectives.
- There is evidence in scientific papers that AE (e.g. diversification, organic amendments) can contribute to higher yields and strengthen adaptive capacity; but this is at higher costs and benefits and may take more time.
- AE thinking goes beyond production practices to consider the wider food system.
- Actions aligned with AE can create opportunities for farmers, local enterprises and other actors (biofertilizer, Kenya); neglected crops (e.g. durum wheat, Ethiopia); and youth livelihoods (Togo).
- Multi-stakeholder networks and alliances guided by AE offer opportunities for learning, e.g. West Africa.

Key Recommendations

1. Actors should start with the challenges and opportunities related to the food system in a specific African contexts, taking into account interests and influences at local, national, regional and global levels.
2. More science needed to measure the multidimensional aspects of AE and food systems, but also prioritise practices with evidence of working. Integrate these practices with other approaches.
3. Multi-stakeholder dialogue and co-learning with an emphasis on outcomes and processes rather than labels. Non-research actors have an important role to play.
4. Approaches and technologies to support AE knowledge-intensive processes should make full use of latest technology, but with human interface and support.
5. Enabling environment for AE -informed transitions need to consider policies, finance and culture at all levels.





#AASW8

SIDE EVENTS





Leading the way with agricultural innovations across Africa: The TAAT Example

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the leader of the TAAT Capacity Development and Technology Outreach Compact.

Overview

The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme was formulated as a major continental initiative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and aims at boosting food production. It is a key flagship programme of the African Development Bank's Feed Africa Strategy (2016 – 2025). TAAT Phase I ended and has been succeeded by Phase II. The idea is to increase incomes and productivity and re-align the activities of TAAT II to Dakar II. Nutrition is a key component of TAAT II. It has been instrumental in responding to emerging issues such as COVID-19 and Fall Army Worm infestation, and provides support for interventions meant to cushion ongoing crises e.g the African Emergency Food Production Facility (AEFPF) through its various Compacts.

Main Presentation Highlights

These key points highlight the significance of TAAT as a continental initiative, its response to emerging challenges, the importance of political commitment and resource mobilization, collaboration with research institutions, the role of diverse partnerships, and involvement of the private sector in driving agricultural transformation in Africa:

- **TAAT as a major continental initiative:** TAAT is a significant continental initiative aimed at boosting food production and is a key flagship programme of the African Development Bank's Feed Africa strategy.
- **The transition from TAAT Phase I to Phase II:** TAAT Phase I has been concluded, and Phase II is being implemented with a focus on increasing incomes, and productivity and aligning activities to support Dakar II.

Importance of nutrition in TAAT Phase II: Nutrition is recognized as a crucial component of TAAT Phase II, highlighting the programme's commitment to addressing food security and improving dietary outcomes
- **TAAT's response to emerging challenges:** TAAT has demonstrated its ability to respond effectively to emerging issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Fall Armyworm infestation. It has also provided support through initiatives like the African Emergency Food

Production Facility (AEFPF) of the Bank.

- **Political commitment through Country Food Delivery Compacts:** The establishment of Food Delivery Compacts, chaired by Africa's Heads of States, reflects the highest level of commitment to supporting agricultural development. Presidential Delivery Councils are being set up to coordinate the implementation of these Compacts.
- **Mobilization of resources:** The Bank has engaged in country consultations and mobilized significant funding, with USD 2.3 billion raised so far, to support Country Food Delivery Compacts. Further investments of over USD 4.9 billion are planned in collaboration with partners.
- **Collaboration with CGIAR and FARA:** The Action Plan launched by CGIAR and FARA presents an opportunity for collaboration among the Bank, TAAT, and partners to develop a comprehensive approach to agricultural research that enhances resilience in food systems and promotes food sovereignty.
- **Role of diverse partnerships:** TAAT's success is attributed to its diverse partnership, including the Bank, CGIAR Centres, specialized institutions, governments, and the private sector. A programme management unit coordinates this partnership.

Main Presentation Highlights

• Importance of private sector involvement:

Private sector's involvement is crucial for the success of agricultural transformation programmes, as they can provide the necessary services to advance value chains and drive innovation.

Conclusion, Lessons Learned, and Way Forward

The TAAT programme has emerged as a pivotal force in driving agricultural transformation in Africa. With its instrumental role in country engagements and its position as a key player in planning and implementing Country Food Delivery Compacts, TAAT has proven its effectiveness in mobilizing resources, fostering partnerships, and incorporating gender considerations. Through support from the AfDB and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as its main funding agencies, collaboration with other development agencies, governments, research institutions, and the private sector, TAAT has created a platform for sustainable agricultural development, innovation, and resilience in food systems. Looking ahead, it is crucial to strengthen country

engagements and partnership coordination, ensuring the active involvement of diverse stakeholders. Mobilizing resources and securing funding will be essential for the successful implementation and scaling of initiatives. Monitoring, evaluation, learning, and impact assessment systems will play a critical role in tracking progress, ensuring accountability, and facilitating continuous learning and improvement. Furthermore, continued engagement with high-level bodies for political support will provide the necessary momentum to advance agricultural transformation agendas. Gender and inclusive approaches to addressing gender, youth, and marginalized groups within food systems need to be reinforced beyond gender equality, encompassing the empowerment of some and addressing the specific needs and challenges of the youth and other marginalized communities. Finally, involving the private sector as a key partner will local innovation services required to advance value chains and maximize the program's impact.

Key Recommendations

Overall, the key recommendations include prioritizing and strengthening the implementation of TAAT, enhancing its capacity to respond to emerging challenges, coordinating with high-level bodies for effective implementation, mobilizing resources for Country Food Delivery Compacts, and fostering collaboration with research institutions to support agricultural research and innovation. These actions will contribute to advancing agricultural transformation, improving food security, and enhancing the resilience of African food systems:

1. Prioritizing and strengthening the implementation of TAAT as a key program to drive agricultural transformation, aligning its activities with continental strategies and priorities.
2. Enhancing TAAT's capacity to respond effectively to emerging challenges and crises, ensuring the programme remains agile and adaptable to support

farmers and food systems during times of disruption.

3. Support the Bank's efforts to establish Presidential Delivery Councils and coordinate with these high-level bodies to ensure effective implementation of Food Delivery Compacts, leveraging TAAT's expertise and proven technologies.
4. Collaborate closely with the Bank and other partners

to mobilize resources for TAAT and ensure the effective implementation of Country Compacts, leveraging TAAT's proven technologies to achieve desired agricultural transformation outcomes.

5. Strengthen collaboration with CGIAR, FARA, and other research institutions to support agricultural research and innovation, aligning efforts to enhance food system resilience and contribute to achieving food sovereignty in Africa.



Main Action Points

The following resulting points emphasize the importance of continued engagement, partnership coordination, resource mobilization, gender mainstreaming, inclusive approaches, research collaboration, monitoring and evaluation, political advocacy, and private sector involvement to drive the successful implementation of country compacts and achieve agricultural transformation goals:

- 1) **Strengthen country engagements:** Continue actively engaging with governments and relevant stakeholders to effectively plan and implement country compacts.
- 2) **Enhance partnership coordination:** Foster collaboration with diverse partners, including governments, specialized institutions, and the private sector, to leverage their expertise and resources for successful implementation.
- 3) **Mobilize resources:** Secure funding and resources to support the implementation of country compacts, leveraging partnerships with the African Development Bank and other stakeholders.
- 4) **Strengthen gender and inclusive approaches:** Go beyond gender equality by prioritizing the empowerment of women and addressing the unique needs and challenges of youth and marginalized communities within food systems.
- 5) **Foster research collaboration:** Collaborate with research institutions such as the CGIAR, FARA, and other Specialized research and development partners to support agricultural research and innovation, promoting resilience in food systems.
- 6) **Strengthen monitoring and evaluation:** Invest in robust monitoring, evaluation, learning, and impact assessment systems to track progress, ensure accountability, and drive continuous improvement.



Promoting gender and youth - responsive food systems in the region

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

CCARDESA

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

CCARDESA

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

CORAF, ANARECA, FARA, AFAAS

Overview

The was attended by participants from various stakeholder groups including farmers, gender specialists, knowledge management experts, Scientists, and innovators. The discussions and presentations focused on the Promotion of Gender and Youth-responsive food systems in the region.

During the discussions, it was evident that there are still a few women-youth representation within the agric sector and its value chains. Issues limiting women from engaging in agriculture include cultural and social roles, lack of transport to markets, lack of access to inputs, unpaid care and domestic work, religious restrictions, and access to weather information; the youth are affected by lack of access to land, affordable credit facilities and climate-smart technologies.

Main Presentation Highlights

The discussions and presentations focused on Promotion of Gender and Youth-responsive Food systems in the region. It was evident from the discussions that there is still little women-youth representation within the agric sector and its value chains.

Various Gender-Youth specialists, such as Dr Nawa Shale Mwale, Dr Theresa Gondwe and Dr Sophia Huyer made the following submissions:

- Not integrating Gender into Climate-smart Agricultural business will only bring economic interference in the sector.
- Women-youth leadership balance is crucial for addressing gender inequality and better agricultural and development outcomes.
- Agricultural institutions, such as CCARDESA, FARA and others should be more responsive to gender roles through the implementation and dissemination of gender equality policies.
- Integration of gender roles in the job design and research on women-youth to generate evidence-

based data which will facilitate better decision making on gender roles.

Participants also highlighted that, to improve participation of women-youth, there is the need for:

- engagement at all levels,
- budget allocation to women-youth should be monitored and reported and
- women-youth leadership should be strengthened.

This will help strengthen gender-smart agriculture and build resilience among women-youth to participate fully in the agriculture sector.

Women and youth from CCARDESA member states presented their involvement, activities and success stories in agriculture. They also discussed the challenges they faced. These included Ms Marcia Sento (Botswana), Mr Orapeleng (Botswana), Ms Felista Joseph Mpore (Tanzania), Mr Michael Malunga (Namibia), Ms Lilian Mangano (Malawi), Mr Sydney Simelane (Swaziland) and Ms Marelebohile Thakane Ramokone (Lesotho).

Key Recommendations

The following focus/thematic areas were recommended for improvement of the CCARDESA gender mainstreaming action plan:

- a. The gender-mainstreaming action plan should benefit the higher gender population.
- b. There should be separation of gender around women, men, boys and girls in agriculture
- c. Gender and climate -resilience empowerment framework should be developed.
- d. There should be promotion of gender -smart agriculture.
- e. Mind-set change and gender imbalance should be addressed at community level; for example, enrolment of girls at agriculture tertiary institutions.
- f. The need to promote research and gender mobilisation.
- g. Review and strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the impact of gender roles in agriculture.
- h. The need to develop women-youth training programmes on fertiliser application and pesticides

Main Action Points

- The draft gender-mainstreaming action plan was presented and validated with recommendations.





TAAT CDTO

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

FARA

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

AfDB

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

Overview

Technology tool kit

It is about developing the value chain from a holistic approach.

In the given case study, the kit supports seed production by giving training on rapid multiplication techniques with new varieties, thereby making seeds available to farmers, and supports processing actors so that they use more harvested tubers and train bread bakers to use cassava flour, hence creating a market for processors.

Main Presentation Highlights

The case study was about supporting seed production by giving training on rapid multiplication techniques with new varieties, thus, making seeds available for farmers and supporting processors so that they use more harvested tubers and train bread bakers to use cassava flour. This helps create market for processors.

Climate smart varieties helps farmers to increase yields.

These technologies and innovations are spread in 26 countries in Africa with considerable results. In Nigeria, a farmer had an increase in yield of up to 56% with a new variety.

Linking research to extension allows research findings to get to the farmer.

- The focus should be on key products that can reach all type of audience (farmers, youth, women, etc)

- Key products should be repackaged and disseminated.
- Funding research and extension will positively impact farmers.
- The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) should target sustainable transformation of farmers by establishing agreement alliances.
- New innovation platforms should be established, while existing ones should be strengthened.

The Acronym PERFECT is a typical description of the strategy used to gather different categories of actors around the table. It is self-determined, and stands for:

P - Policy

E - Extensionists

R - Researchers

F - Farmers

E - Educators

C - Communities

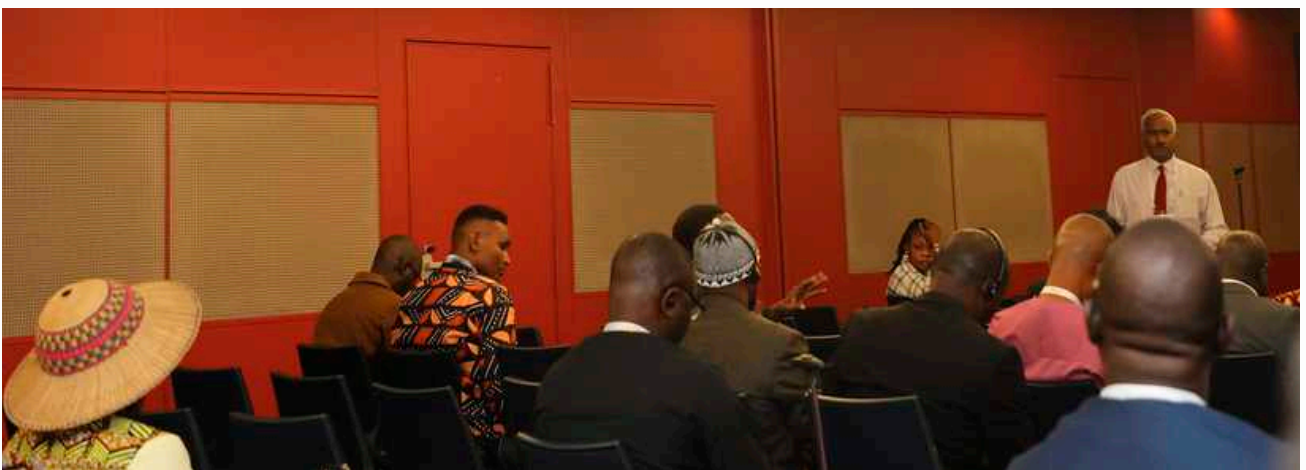
T - Technology

Key Recommendations

- TAAT is demand-driven, any country can request (through a proposal) to get involved.

Main Action Points

- Policy, capacity building and youth are the next TAAT enablers.
- Make sure the results obtained are embedded in country programmes to be scaled up.





Empowering Africa's Agricultural Transformation: Unleashing the Potential of Science, Innovation, and Productivity



Michael Sudarkasa,
CEO, African Fertilizer and
Agribusiness Partnership
(AFAP)
Session Moderator



Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong,
Lead, AU-EU International
Research Consortium;
Directorate of Research and
Innovation at Forum for
Agricultural Research in Africa
(FARA)
Presenter

Overview

This session explored the critical role of science, innovation and enhanced productivity in driving sustainable agricultural development across Africa.

Presenters/panelists

- **Dr. John Recha**, Scientist, Climate-Smart Agriculture and Policy, International Livestock Research Institute
- **Jehiel Oliver**, Founder and CEO, Hello Tractor
- **Dr. Canisius Kanangire**, Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)
- **Saulo Guerra**, Director of Tech Transfers, São Paulo State University- Brazil (AUIN-UNESP Innovation Agency)

Main Presentation Highlights

Setting the scene- Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong

The presenter underscored the following key issues: -

- The need for platforms where the use of science in leveraging private sector needs is addressed. Knowledge and expertise should be brought together on this platform for ease of access by private and public sectors users
- The need to create vibrant markets and trades which will be pushed/spearheaded by private sector actors.
- Enhancing access to finance and markets, which are critical in driving productivity and sustainable agricultural development. The private sector should engage with research and other actors to achieve scale in the agriculture and agro-industry sector.
- Ensuring there are right policies as well as regulatory frameworks to facilitate the translation of science outputs into viable agribusinesses and enable businesses to thrive. This would support the private sectors' focus, which is, the monetization of outputs.

Key Points from the Discussions

- The need to have smallholder access mechanization, which is huge and can be best led by the private sector.
- Having a complete continuum from ideation to outcome in the innovation spectrum. This seems lacking; hence, the need to identify the gaps inhibiting this continuum and bridge them for enhanced success.
- The need to have a compendium of market-ready technologies, as a strategy within the TAAT programme
- Role of partnerships for development is underscored, where linkage of climate-smart agriculture actors to markets and high-quality inputs, plus accessible service providers, has led to success in scaling out and scaling up of production. This has led to farmers accessing local as well as regional markets. Such partnerships need to be nurtured to ensure that ultimate gains are achieved.
- The need for co-development of agri-based solutions with farmers that are demand-driven. This leads to sustained improvement in productive and adoption of innovations.

- The need to enhance access of biotechnology solutions that have been developed and have significantly improved production. This requires significant commitment to commercialization and calls for increased partnership with the private sector.
- There has been a huge challenge in uptake of technologies to drive market expansion. All actors should work together to ensure uptake of technologies to enhance productivity.

Key Recommendations

1. A platform should be established to connect science and the private sector to enable exchange of knowledge and expertise as well as facilitate translation of science to agribusiness.
2. The need to develop and patent varieties of crops to ensure the continuum of science-based solutions and production of competitive technologies.
3. A proposal to facilitate co-development of agri-based solutions with farmers that are demand-driven.





Transforming Agribusiness: Accelerating Aggregation, Finance, Supply Chain Development, and Trade for Sustainable Agricultural Growth



Michael Sudarkasa,
CEO, African Fertilizer and
Agribusiness Partnership
(AFAP)
Session Moderator



Komla Prosper Bissi,
Senior Advisor to the
Secretary-General of AfCFTA
Presenter

Overview

This session delved into the critical elements of agribusiness value chains and explored strategies to enhance aggregation, increased finance, supply chain development, and intra- African trade in the agriculture and food sectors.

Presenters/panelists

- **Munoko Karen Musikoyo**, Agribusiness and Gender Specialist, Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA)
- **Litha Kutta**, Enterprise and Supplier Development Executive
- **Justy Range**, Business Development, Freshmark Systems, Shoprite
- **Nana Aisha-Mohammad**, West Africa Implementation Lead and Ghana Country Manager, AFAP

Main Presentation Highlights

Setting the scene- Mr. Komla Bissi

The AfCFTA established a single market for made-in-Africa goods and services, eliminating tariffs by 90 per cent and tackling non-tariff barriers, such as customs delays. This unified market of 1.2 billion people, with a combined GDP of \$3 trillion is a strong foundation for industrialization. Currently, intra-African exports stand at about 17% of total continental exports. Increasing this share could increase value addition, help create jobs and boost incomes.

Some Bottlenecks in Intra Africa Trade

- Inadequate access to technology and science to, for instance, store produce to meet export standards.
- Presence of a huge productive capacity and productivity, but a lack technology and innovation to exploit the potential.
- A clear disconnect between discussions and commitment to implement the actions agreed on by continental leaders
- Partnerships seem to be weak to undertake responsibilities assigned; hence there is a need to strengthen existing partnerships for successful delivery.
- There is inadequate capacity within the continent to tap into opportunities provided by the AfCFTA platform.

What needs to be done

- Develop lasting partnerships with various actors, such as financial institutions and SMEs to enable access to regional markets.
- Explore capacity enhancement of research systems and governments to stimulate and accelerate development of agro-industrial parks to enhance the readiness of SMEs to tap into the huge market opportunity created by AfCFTA.
- Categorize and make available agribusiness funding based on the needs of value chain actors to enhance trade.

- Address the challenge of underutilized agro-dealers due to probably a disconnect with the value chains and advocate for enhanced government coordination role.
- Explore how private actors, who are serial researchers, can fit or feed into the parallel scientific research. This is a gap that needs to be addressed to ensure harmonization of activities and consolidation of gains.
- Risk elements that affect the intra-Africa trade need to be brought out into perspective and risk mitigation strategies developed to ensure traders have safe buffer zones for trade to thrive.
- The need for AfCFTA to facilitate linkages to structured markets. This will help producers to ensure a sustainable conveyor belt that assures them to keep producing.
- AfCFTA should explore ways to develop capacities of producers to meet market requirements, such as acquisition of relevant certifications, and acquaintance with trade regulations to avoid produce rejection at the market and allow for product traceability.
- Establishment of agribusiness learning alliance which is a key objective of FARA, to ensure there is a systemic approach towards pushing produce from Innovation Platforms (IPs) to the market sustainably.

Key Recommendations

- The need for recommitment to agreed upon actions on AfCFTA over the years to achieve targeted milestones
- The need to map and pursue all desired partnerships to make AfCFTA work.
- PPID (Public Private Institutions Dialogues) should get more conversations going on, to help ensure that commitments to supply the global food systems are actualized through AfCFTA
- The development of a research agenda that entails top-down coordination in the value chains to address gaps eminent in the value chains and which impede the success of AfCFTA.
- Since private actors are serial researchers and not scientific researchers, there is need to create a link that helps fit their research in the mainstream scientific research.





Improving the Implementation of Existing Trade Policies to Support Cross-Border Trade in Africa



Dr. Nalishebo Meebelo
Executive Director (ReNAPRI)
Session Moderator

Presenters and title of presentations

- Dr. Emmanuel Mwakiwa: **SADC regional status study report on constraints in the implementation of existing policies aimed at increasing cross-border trade**
- Dr. Takemore Chagomoka: **Improving cross-border trade in agriculture inputs for improved productivity: opportunities and challenges.**

Panelists

Mr. Martin Muchero (SADC); **Mr. Kenneth Malot** (KIPPA); **Mr Kisutu Asadu** (Ugandan Revenue Authority); **Ms Nasser Achatou** (Alnomma Seeds); **Mr. Komla Biss** (AfCFTA);

Main Presentation Highlights

- Agricultural trade is a key enabler of economic growth and poverty eradication in Africa.
- There is very limited trade among African countries, as compared with the rest of the world.
- Key constraints to increased intra-Africa trade include tariff and non-tariff barriers, such as corruption, lack of infrastructure (roads, rails, and ports), cumbersome customs procedures, lack of harmonized trade laws and regulations, and language barriers.
- Trust is important in building good trade relations between and among countries.
- Ad hoc unilateral imposition of import and export bans reduces trust, leading to poor implementation of regional trade agreements that are already in existence.
- Some countries join multiple regional economic communities, which complicates alignment with trade policies.
- A trillion-dollar agribusiness sector can be unlocked with increased intra-Africa trade.
- A lot of unrecorded informal cross-border trade takes place in Africa and is dominated by women and youth, in some instances, about 50% of the trade.

Key Recommendations

- AfCFTA to be specific on what is to be achieved and make realistic targeted efforts.
- Build the capacity of producers and traders, including informal traders, to enhance supply once trade barriers are removed through the ongoing efforts under AfCFTA.
- African countries to improve infrastructure to handle increased intra-Africa trade, e.g., multiple carriage roads at ports, rail and cold storage facilities at borders.
- Simplify trade through harmonization of standards and regulations, digitalization and adoption of one document policies.
- Governments should remove taxes on traded agricultural products, since they are essential for food security and livelihoods.
- There is a need for coordination of continental (FARA, AU), regional/sub-regional organizations (CORAF SADC, ASARECA), and national governments for unified efforts on agricultural development and trade issues to void the current 'separate silos' situation.
- More action-oriented interventions are needed to speed up the implementation of policies and regional trade agreements reached under the AfCFTA.
- Deliberate policies to ensure smallholder farmers, women, and youth benefit from increased intra-Africa trade need to be implemented.



Agricultural Biotechnology: A sustainable Lever for African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

AATF

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

AATF

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

Presentation titles and their presenters

1. **Scaling for Impact (AATF Strategy 2023-2027): AATF's Contribution to the Success of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** - Dr. Canisius Kanangire, AATF, Executive Director
2. **Agricultural Biotechnology: A sustainable lever for African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** - Dr. Francis Nang'ayo (AATF)
3. **TELA Maize Potential in Mozambique** - Dr Pedro Feto (IIAM, Mozambique)
4. **Lessons from over 20 years of growing GMOs in South Africa** - Dr Kingstone Mashingaidze (ARC, South Africa)
5. **Policy Readiness for Agricultural biotechnology in Africa** - Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila (FANRPAN)

Main Presentation Highlights

1. Scaling for Impact (AATF Strategy 2023-2027): AATF's Contribution to the Success of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

- The presentation was on the AATF strategy 2023-2027 that seeks to transform farmers' livelihoods in Africa through the scaling of agricultural technologies.
- Challenges in Africa driving AATF interventions include food insecurity, high rates of poverty, low yields, limited access to technologies and know-how, and slow adoption of technologies, among others.
- Africa's agriculture is rapidly transforming with improved technologies driving yield improvements by up to 50 %; and millions of farmers are accessing seed-based technologies.
- Improved agricultural productivity would reduce Africa's food import bill in addition to incentivizing sustainable production in the continent.
- AATF supports the AfCFTA by promoting industrial development through diversification and regional value chain development, agricultural development and food and nutrition security.

2. Agricultural Biotechnology: A sustainable Lever for African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

- Approaches to genetic modification regulation are categorised into three: 1) Permissive-where approvals are made on case-by-case basis, using risk assessment considerations, 2) Precautionary-where approvals are based on precautionary considerations, 3) Prohibitive-where GM technology is perceived as risky; hence countries impose bans, moratoria & other restrictive practices.
- During the last 30 years, African countries have made various endeavours to develop National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs)
- The AfCFTA was established to promote intra-Africa trade to progressively eliminate tariffs and propel African economy to reach \$29 trillion mark by 2050.
- Any barrier to international trade - including tariffs and non-tariff barriers—limit the functions of the free market.

3. TELA Maize Potential in Mozambique

- Drought and insect pests are major challenges facing maize production in Africa.
- More than a third of African population depend on maize as major food source, with consumption highest in Southern Africa, e.g. Lesotho with 120kg/yr/person

- Frequent droughts lead to reduced production, loss of investments, and food insecurity. In addition, stem borers and Fall Army Worm (FAW) affect maize production in Africa.
- TELA Maize Project, a public-private partnership, is working towards initiating commercialization of transgenic drought-tolerant and insect-protected (TELA®) maize varieties to enhance food security in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Africa.
- Delays in the biosafety regulation processes is affecting steady progress of TELA Project in Mozambique and, in turn, denying farmers the potentials of the technology.

4. Lessons from over 20 years of growing GMOs in South Africa

- South Africa has commercialized transgenic maize since 2002. In total, South Africa has commercialized three GM crops (maize, cotton and soybean), giving South Africa 20 years' experience in development, deployment and adoption of GM crops in the continent.
- Economic gains from biotechnology crops are estimated at US\$245 million per annum.

5. Policy Readiness for Agricultural biotechnology in Africa

- There is need to mobilize research, policy and practices around biotechnology. In addition, there is need for a continental framework on agricultural biotechnology.
- Areas for policy opportunities to harness agricultural biotechnology in Africa include the need to focus on policy research and analysis.
- Biotechnology can deliver for the AfCTA.

Key Recommendations

1. African countries would benefit from GM technologies as a tool to improving crop yields, food safety, and reducing production challenges - Biotechnology can deliver for the AfCTA.
2. There is need to build the capacity of national and regional institutions to address agricultural biotechnology policy -
3. There is need for a continental framework on agricultural biotechnology.
4. Africa needs to increase debate and dialogue on coordinated regional agricultural policy on biotechnology
5. Targeted partnerships are needed to drive agricultural biotechnology in Africa.





Improving Climate Resilience and Sustainability of Farming and Food Systems: Exploring the Contribution of Agroecology



Host(s)/Sponsors
ZEF/FARA- PARI

Presenters /panelists presentation areas

1. **Oluwole Fatunbi**, FARA, on strengthening agripreneurs.
2. **Heike Baumüller**, ZEF, on employment opportunities in the agro-processing sector

Main Presentation Highlights

- Africa's youth population is currently at 63% and it is least prepared for its youth explosion. Due to low job availability in the continent, the youth turn to migrate to other continents or engage in menial jobs, which sometimes lead to frustration and crime.
- Increased availability of technologies does not require much human labour; hence majority of the youth try to find space in the sector rather than interest in agricultural activities, which are considered too laborious.
- The youth are largely uninterested in agriculture, leading to acute shortage of farm labour, which then results in production shortage and food security problems.
- The few youths engaged in agriculture largely prefer ICT, processing and marketing to other areas. They also consider profitable farming as being capital and labour-intensive.
- The barriers to entry into farming and agribusiness for youth spans from unstructured business environment, to high-risk nature of farming and the value chain, poor policy, especially for producers, unstructured markets, and poor infrastructure (irrigation facilities, storage, warehousing, road network etc).
- A survey of registered food processing firms in Ethiopia, Ghana and Tunisia shows that 13-29% engage in manufacturing jobs.
- Agroprocessing is labour-intensive, with high employment elasticity, higher than most other economic sectors and has high share of female workers.

Key Recommendations

- Upgrade infrastructure to create jobs in rural areas.
- Invest in building technical and soft skills.
- Provide lifelong learning opportunities to adapt to evolving technologies.
- Bring more women into the technical professions.
- Improve the quality of jobs to increase attractiveness of the sector to the youth.
- Look beyond the agro-processing sector to capitalize on spill-over effects, e.g. in production, logistics, retail.

Alliance



Mainstreaming Forgotten Food into Africa Food System: What are the Next Big Things?

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

Biodiversity-CIAT



Dr. Alessandro Meschinelli
Session Moderator

Presenters

Dr. Carlos Fadda (Alliance of Biodiversity and CIAT)

Dr. Wole Fatunbi (FARA)

Dr. Sukati Mphumuzi (FAO)

Panelists

Evalyn Okoth

Carolyne Alango -

Dominic Uchi

Main Presentation Highlights

- When we think of forgotten foods, we should consider forgotten knowledge and forgotten people because these three terms are connected.
- To mainstream forgotten foods, we also need to consider the material benefits of these foods, such as nutrition, biodiversity and resilience.
- Mainstreaming may not be an appropriate term for a forgotten people. Hence, There are four (4) dimensions to consider in forgotten foods: the material, economic (agronomic), empowerment, and transformation of research and innovation systems.
- We need new technologies, innovations, and very importantly, new processes. We have not spent enough time on these new processes that we defined as core innovation and research. It is thus important to look at mainstreaming forgotten foods as an opportunity for moving faster towards core innovation and research.
- More than \$100 billion is lost yearly across Africa through deforestation: Some 3.4 million hectares lost at a cost of \$6 billion; soil erosion (\$68 billion) lost in reduced crop yields, increased fertilizer use, and loss of agricultural land; water scarcity and inadequate management could cost around 5% of GDP by 2025. Moreover, desertification and land degradation result in \$9 billion in losses, according to the African Union. Loss of biodiversity amounts to several billions of dollars. The effects of climate change may cost 1-3% of GDP by 2030 .
- Food security and food dependence in Africa shows that Africa imports: \$44 billion; mainly wheat, maize, rice, vegetable oils, meat, sugar.
- The level of food insecurity also has it that 246m people (20%) undernourished (FAO); 87m face acute food insecurity (WFP)

- Global Nutrition Report showed that 35.2% of children are stunted and 75% of food-insecure people are exposed to adverse weather conditions.
- Factors contributing to food insecurity in Africa include poverty, climate change, limited productivity, conflict, political instability, population growth, urbanization, limited market access, trade barriers, gender inequality, and inadequate agricultural development policies.
- Traditional African crops have the potential to improve food and nutrition security; increase climate-change resilience; improve livelihoods; cover all needs of a balanced diet; and provide year-round sustenance.
- The constraints to the forgotten crops' agenda are: limited investment in forgotten crops, from farm to fork, which includes post-harvest processing, consumption, lack of consumer education, and lack of interest from the private sector.
- The forgotten foods have immense cultural and consumer significance and provide nutritious and healthy food options and are resilient to the vagaries of climate change and other adversities.
- Forgotten foods are known to be well adapted to the landscape and natural resource domain.

Key Recommendations

- There is a need for new science, a new way of building knowledge to mainstream forgotten food into the current food system.
- The enthusiasm is high and private sector enclaves are keenly interested, the women group are also keen about this. What we need is a trigger.
- FARA needs resources to push the agenda of forgotten foods.
- Those who have the knowledge on forgotten crops are the farmer, so we need to really participate, listen and learn from that knowledge to be able to advance in the forgotten food elements; hence, we need participatory action to drive the forgotten foods agenda.
- FAO, being a technical organization, should engage in partnerships to promote advocacy for the forgotten food crops. FARA has been chosen as one of FAO's partners in research and advocacy; hence, the two should develop platforms for promoting traditional foods, especially forgotten foods.





Advancing the AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership in the Context of the International Research Consortium (IRC)

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

FARA, AU-EU HLPD Working Group on FNSSA

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

FARA, AU-EU HLPD Working Group on FNSSA

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

FARA, CAADPXP4, European Commission, Africa Union Commission (ESTI & DARBE), DST-SA, UH-Finland, ACU-UK, SLU- Sweden, CIRAD-France, WUR-The Netherlands, ARC-SA, NRF-SA

Presenters and presentation titles

- 1. Key hindrances likely to affect the achievement of the SDGs caused by fragmentation of actions in STI** [Imme Gerke IDRG, Germany]
- 2. FNSSA Partnership** [Beate Knight, Assoc. of Commonwealth Univ. (ACU), UK.]
- 3. FNSSA project database and KM tools** [Petronella Chaminuka ARC -SA/ Loannis Dimitriou, Swedish University of Agric. Sci.]
- 4. The IRC in advancing the AU-EU research partnership** [Irene Annor-Frempong, FARA]

Panelists

1. Magdalena Gajdzinska, EC-RTD
2. Antonella Zona, EC-DG Agri
3. Genna Tesdall, YPARD
4. Michael Sudarkasa, AFAP
5. Russell Curtis, Invest Durban

Main Presentation Highlights

The objective of the side event was to continue the dialogue that started during the LEAP4FNSSA project on consolidating the membership of the IRC as well as building the sustainability of IRC towards playing its expected role as the main AU-EU platform of FNSSA partnerships for building stronger food systems, sustainable growth and jobs. The key discussion points were on the following:

1. The main problem of fragmentation to be addressed by the IRC was clarified through an example of crop protection and regulatory system. For example, it was noted that most of Africa's yield is lost after harvest because it is not processed. In addition, if Africa would export processed foods instead of non-renewable resources, it would create jobs and protect the resources of the continent. There is thus the need to identify at the event who will pick this up.
Tools that companies, scientists and regulatory authorities need to incorporate in crop protection and authorization of biological and chemical pesticides are available for free: <https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/pesticides-biocides/>. FARA should provide / serve as the Africa link specifically for generating global data packages for product approval of crop protection regulatory processes, which is currently being undertaken by IDRG.
2. The impact assessment of the FNSSA partnership indicated issues around leadership of projects, gender considerations, funding and capacity of partners.
3. The AU-EU FNSSA database and knowledge management tools were presented, discussed and recommendations provided.
4. The clarity of FNSSA partnership elements, IRC membership, functions, governance, funding and sustainability were also discussed.

were presented.

Results of the panel discussion

Stakeholder and EC Support for the IRC: The game-changing prospect of NSSA IRC for the AU-EU research and innovation partnership was reaffirmed, while support for its operationalization was confirmed by the EC through its strategic policies and programmes.

Strengthening the FNSSA partnership and the IRC: To strengthen the FNSSA partnership and the IRC as a network of networks, new networks should be introduced in the partnership based on identified funders, projects and food system needs. IRC membership should be improved by involving more private sector and business actors, as well as the marginalized groups (such as youth and women). Also, the gender aspects of the IRC should be promoted by facilitating multi-level gender expertise in research projects.

Key action tools for the IRC: The FNSSA project database and knowledge management system present a great opportunity for achieving the main objective of the IRC. There are opportunities to merge/rationalise this with other databases, e.g. CG database of African initiatives.

Funding and sustainability issues for the IRC were also discussed.

Key Recommendations

1. The outcomes of the side event should be synthesized for presentation at a session allocated to IRC and related efforts, such as soil health and PANAP during AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference in Rome on June 30th .
2. There is opportunities to bring business and gender into the IRC membership and agenda. This should start immediately.
3. The FNSSA project database and knowledge management system promise to be fit for IRC purpose. The database should be open access, easy to use with data and information synthesized / distilled to develop targeted messages for different stakeholder groups.
4. In addition to membership fees, other funding mechanisms and additional models of funding such as crowdfunding or venture capital should be considered. Attention should be given to industrial clustering and commercial linkages.





Optimal Sector Strategies in African Agriculture and Agribusiness

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

Afreximbank

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

Afreximbank

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

Presenters and presentation titles

- **How Afreximbank's Export Development Advisory and Trade Facilitation Products support Agriculture and Agro-Industrialisation in Africa:** Senior Manager, Export Development Advisory, Afreximbank (Abah Ofon)
- **The Role of Science in Enhancing Value in Agricultural Value Chains:** Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director of FARA
- **Continental Efforts to Mobilise the Private Sector towards a Modern, Robust, and Inclusive African Agribusiness Industry:** Dr Janet Edeme, Head, Rural Development Division Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment
- **Optimal Sector Strategies in African Agriculture and Agribusiness** Modreation by SM EXDE Advisory, Afreximbank (Abah Ofon)

Discussants

- **Dr. Barbara Oliveira Ramos**, Chief Research and Strategy for Export, UN International Trade Centre (Virtual)
 - **Mr, Migan Casimir**, Vice President, Agriculture and Agribusiness Technical Committee, African Business Council (Physical)
 - **Mr. Dejene Tezera**, Director, Department of Agribusiness, UNIDO (Physical)
 - **Ms Esther Makamure**, Manager, Client Relations, Southern Africa, Afreximbank
- Closing Remarks** was by Dr. Hippolyte Fofack, Chief Economist, Afreximbank

Brief of Presentation

The side event was organised to showcase how best to deliver effective sector strategies in the agriculture value chain. It discussed how to develop and implement effective strategies for strengthening the sector's value chains and service maps at national levels. The discussions also identified the constraints to the sector's growth and export potential, as well as showcased examples of appropriate sector strategies in the design and implementation of agriculture and agribusiness interventions.

Practical examples were drawn from the experiences of regional organisations, policymakers and the private sector to articulate the pivotal role of value chain strategies in identifying opportunities for capturing additional sources of revenue within the agribusiness sector. The event also showcased Afrexim's products and services that can help enhance the competitive advantage in agribusiness industries and develop strategies to leverage such advantages effectively.

Highlights of Presentation

- The role of science and technology in enhancing agricultural value chains.
- Continental efforts to mobilise the private sector to a modern, robust, and inclusive African agribusiness industry.
- The importance of sound technical strategies in agriculture and agribusiness strategies, such as producer and firms' competitiveness surveys and domestic market research.
- How best to align an agribusiness strategy with the government's framework, for successful implementation.
- Agriculture programme—specific actions that must be taken to address the identified constraints and capitalize on the opportunities within the sector.

- How to introduce tangibles measures on agriculture sector growth including policy reforms, infrastructure investments, capacity building initiatives and market development programme.
- Establishing accountability frameworks in agriculture and allowing for adaptive management and continuous improvement.
- Smallholder farmers represent more than 70% of production systems in Africa; but they lack access to technologies, have poor linkage to markets, and are disconnected from the food value chains which rely on external markets, imports processed foods and in some cases, raw products.
- The AUC adopted the Food Security Action Plan in November 2022 in partnership with FARA and CGIAR, and hosted by AfDB. The action plan highlighted a strong commitment to increase attention to African farmers with the needed technology and innovations, and boost production for smallholder farmers.
- The AUC is establishing a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model to improve agreements that will evolve a private sector-led transformation of the agricultural sector in Africa.
- The AUC will continue to rely on the support of Afreximbank and other partners to promote workable models for private sector-development in the agro-industrial sector Africa.
- The AUC is keen on engaging small holder farmers, private sector, and development partners especially in the implementation the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) agenda.
- To contribute to the CAADP agenda, the AUC has been cooperating with FARA to find solutions to build resilient food systems and ensure coordinated efforts to deploy science, technology and innovations. In this regard, the need to support and strengthen Africa-based research institutions and participating organizations such as FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CORAF, CCARDESA, and NASRO, cannot be overemphasized.
- It is important to link science innovation and agribusiness in establishing competitive agriculture value chains and enhancing resilience in Africa.
- The AASW is one of FARA's platforms for strengthening the coordination mechanisms of scientific research and technology transfer, to increase access to technological solutions and performance of agribusiness.

Conclusion

The session was concluded by affirmative action that a good strategy should address not only individual challenges but must also do this through aggregate institutional frameworks within the countries. These institutions will then address individual challenges and experiences. A good strategy should have a combined top down and bottom-up approach. It should be needs-driven and market-oriented, with a key element on capacity building.

Afreximbank is committed to ensuring that appropriate support is provided for smallholder farmers, women and youth in Africa, while increasing intra-Africa trade, access to markets and finance. The Bank offers a wide array of products and services to strengthen entrepreneurship in Africa, reduce 50-billion dollar import of foods, increase productivity, and ensure financial access through the Fund for Export Development in Africa (FEDA).

Key Recommendations

- 1 Strategies for trade and international competitiveness have to be well-designed. It should be about setting priorities, and allocating resources (financial, human and institution) to the priorities.
- 2 Having the right strategy, policy framework, or regulatory and geographical framework for communities, requires deep analysis on what exactly are the results that the community is after.
- 3 While supporting countries with technical expertise in the implementation of their strategies, partners should ensure that strategies are in line with the national economic development strategies of those countries.
- 4 Processes should be inclusive and consultative with private sector and other associations.
- 5 Making ownership of a strategy should be clearly defined and agreed upon by all stakeholders. The strategy should have a clear road map of implementation, including financing mechanism.





Developing the Implementation Modalities for the Soil Initiative for Africa and AFSH Action Plan

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

FARA

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

FARA

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

Presenters

– Dr. Liesl Wiese-Rozanov

– Dr. Shamie Zingore

– Dr. David Nielson

Moderator

Dr. Oluwole Fatunbi

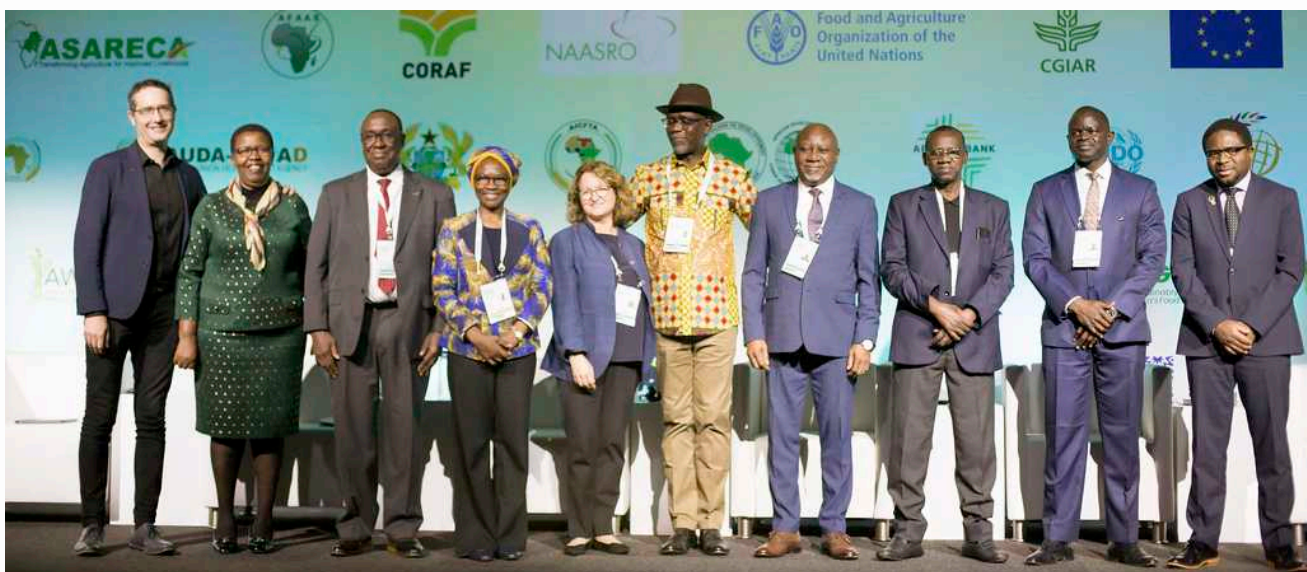
Main Presentation Highlights

- The long-term SIA framework is designed to systematically improve the health and productivity of Africa's soils in line with Agenda 2063, CAADP and Malabo initiatives.
- To achieve this, SIA prioritized four investment areas: (1) Optimise integrated soil health and water management planning and implementation, (2) Build human, institutional, and social capital for research, development, education, extension, and support for sustainable soil management, (3) Optimise data and information for effective planning and monitoring, and (4) Ensure an enabling policy, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks.
- The implementation will follow these principles: Landscape approach; Farmer and community-centric approach Building on local successes; Leveraging existing institutions and systems; Working through a 10-year Action Plan; Subsidiarity; Accountability and transparency; and Diversity.
- The SIA aims to bring together all key actors to identify and launch a continental framework for Africa, which will help eliminate unnecessary project duplication and lack of coordination; achieve land use empowerment; increase access to policy and science information; build institutional and human capital; develop digital tools, investment dashboard and scaling.
- The AUC will have ownership and leadership of SIA. A coordination mechanism may be considered to facilitate and support the adoption of recommendations of SIA at every level, to implement the institutional services, programmes, policy initiatives, investments, projects, and activities that are needed at each level.
- A coordination mechanism would encourage the use of materials developed within SIA and Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan, to guide the design and implementation of all SIA-related activities at every level.
- A coordination mechanism may connect and liaise with related partners on soil health in Africa and globally (i.e., Global Soil Partnership, African Soil Partnership, Near East and North Africa Soil Partnership, Coalition of Action for Soil Health, among others) to ensure effective coordination of efforts and utilization of existing mechanisms, tools, and systems.
- The preliminary steps to identifying country priorities will be: (1) Review existing national plans, targets, commitments, policies, projects, institutions, etc. against SIA and AFSH Action Plan, to identify which outcomes and activities are already addressed, (2) Identify existing priorities that may not be reflected in the AFSH Action Plan Activities, and (3) Identify gaps in improving the efficiency of existing plans, targets, etc.

- The AUC will have overall responsibility and leadership for the AFSH Action Plan.
- The AUC and AUDA-NEPAD will coordinate stakeholder organizations within and outside the continent to ensure effective implementation of the AFSH Action Plan.

Key Recommendations

- Harnessing multistakeholder partnerships and investments to drive policies, finance, research and development (R&D) and markets, and capacity for fertilizer and sustainable soil health management.
- SIA and AFSH are complementing each other; while AFSH is a 10-year action plan, SIA is a long-term initiative which will contain the AFSH.
- SIA and AFSH-AP are instruments of the AUC; hence, the AUC should secure a host institution for SIA and its implementation.
- The SIA and AFSH-AP are not the first initiatives of the AUC; hence they should draw lesson from previous initiatives to help them achieve their set goals.
- AUC should consider an institution with the capacity in Africa AR4D to host and run the SIA.





Unlocking Business Opportunities for Young Entrepreneurs

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

FARA, GFAR & YPARD

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

FARA, GFAR & YPARD

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

Presenters and presentation titles

1. Innovations by young African entrepreneurs in value addition

- Phayo Manyatsi and Gcini Dlamini, Rural Grown Farms, YPARD Eswatini
- David Foli Ayivor, Agromyx, Founder and CEO, Ghana
- Marlene José, Founder and CEO, FoodCare, Angola

2. Support services needed by entrepreneurs to grow

- Mary Njeri Thiongo, Training Officer, Triangular Partnership programme, UNHQ]
- Babafemi Oyewole, CEO, Panafrican Farmers Organisation
- Ishmael Sunga, CEO, SACAU]
- Elizabeth Nsimadala, President, EAFF]

Moderator

Dr. Oluwole Fatunbi

Main Presentation Highlights

- Many young farmers and agripreneurs are innovators and risk-takers. They are increasingly involved in high-profit businesses related to marketing, processing, packaging, and food services, in addition to on-farm production. They are particularly responsive to new economic opportunities and trends and are active in high growth sectors.
- Connectivity – to people, markets, services, ideas and information – creates opportunities for rural youth to become more fully integrated with their transforming economies, which increases their productivity.
- Changes in consumption are expanding employment opportunities in improved seed, fertiliser and machinery service provision, as well as in post-harvest handling, marketing and food manufacturing.

Key Recommendations

1. There is a great urgency to roll out capacity development programmes to expand the number of youths better prepared to seize new markets and develop new products. Youth entrepreneurs engaged in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and clusters of agrifood-related businesses and services require assistance to analyse market potential for their products, and to identify and address priority policy and regulatory issues that affect value chain development. Green jobs can provide more sustainable livelihoods, provided that rural youth access the necessary skills, market information and available green technologies.
2. Investing in the education and training of young rural people is becoming ever more important as the challenges associated with adopting sustainable climate-smart production methods and linking up with marketing opportunities in modern value chains are growing. Youth need to be able to access specialised skills development programmes and trainings, information and technical services, to expand thriving businesses.
3. Links to research remain important to ensuring product development, technology and innovation adoption which contributes to green and sustainable growth while meeting the expectations of consumers. FARA could play a critical role in linking research and youth agribusinesses through innovation.



Boosting Intra-Africa Trade: The agricultural midstream in the value chain

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

IFAD

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

IFAD

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

Presenters and presentation titles

1. **Impacts of the midstream of value chains transformation on the food industry: prospects for Africa - Thomas Reardon**, Professor, Michigan University, USA
2. **Investing in Value Chains for Rural Transformation: Lessons from IFAD Projects**
- Sara Savastano, Director of IFAD's Research and Impact Assessment Division
3. **Innovations from operators in the value chain**
 - Jane Maina, Managing Director, Vert Ltd, Kenya
 - Affiong Williams, Founder and CEO, Reelfruit, Nigeria
 - David Foli Ayivor, Founder Agromyx, Ghana
 - Fannie Gondwe, Perisha Agro and Packaging Enterprise, Malawi

Main Presentation Highlights

- Over the last 50 years, processed food increased in Africa in different stages and the midstream is largely driven by many small operators and MSMEs which have developed innovations.
- Drivers of transformation include: (i) ways of living: the increased number of women working outside their homes; (ii) Technologies: There has also been technology drivers for the agrifood transformation, including packaging technologies (from bulk to single packaging); (iii) Commercialisation: diversification of market places, packaged sake in small shops but also in supermarkets.
- Presentations by successful African entrepreneurs confirm that value addition and processing require investment: governments need to create an enabling environment in which investors have confidence in the business /activity. They also recognize that the AfCFTA offers business opportunities that the local private sector should not miss and that more women need to be in the agroprocessing sector.
- The competitive environment requires that entrepreneurs and value chain actors constantly reskill themselves, acquire equipment, develop business networks across the chain and access adapted finance. Linkages with research remain critical.

Key Recommendations

1. Innovations happen at research and operators' level, and linkages need to be strengthened across sectors.
2. Innovations happening in the agricultural midstream help to increase efficiency, reduce waste, and improve the quality and safety of agricultural products, which ultimately benefits farmers, consumers and the environment. These innovations should be identified and disseminated.
3. African research and the private sector can work together to identify, roll out and upscale innovations in the agricultural midstream, giving increased voice to African entrepreneurs.

FARA was congratulated for bringing agribusiness and the private sector to the science debate in Africa at AASW.



Catalyzing and Coordinating Innovation and Scaling in Eastern and Southern Africa

Host(s)/Sponsor(s):

ILRI

Organiser(s)/Sponsor(s):

ILRI

Co-Organiser(s)/Partner(s):

Presenters presentation areas

1. **CGIAR Results Dashboard** (Iddo Dror)
 2. **Update on IPSR/IPM in Ukama Ustawi (UU) and across ESA** (Iddo Dror)
 3. **Scaling Fund and Nairobi hub plans** (Iddo Dror)
 4. **9 June UU event - purpose and highlights** (Iddo Dror)
 5. **Generating Demand and co-creation for IPSR** (Iddo Dror)
 6. **UU Food systems accelerator update** (Iddo Dror)
- Save the date: 23-27 Oct in Nairobi - UU/CGIAR/GIZ/others scaling week** (Iddo Dror)

Main Presentation Highlights

The big picture of reporting innovations within the CGIAR initiatives was shown and how the CGIAR plans to manage its portfolio of innovations.

This led into demonstrating how many innovations were reported in Eastern and Southern African in 2023 by all initiatives, and those by Ukama Ustawi alone. The basics of what is in an innovation profile were also discussed. How each profile includes supporting information, like partners and the Sustainable Development Goals – and pointing out the next step for use of the profiles.

The goal of innovation development is to link demand from farmers, donors and governments to supply from stakeholder co-creation, which requires investments of time and money.

The plans for increasing scaling from the Ukama Ustawi initiative include:

- A Scaling Fund
- A Scaling Hub in Nairobi
- Dialogue between all initiatives reporting innovations in Eastern and Southern Africa
- Supporting the Ukama Ustawi Food Systems Accelerator
- A “Week of Scaling” event planned for October in Nairobi. Participants showed interest in the planned Week, scheduled for 23-27 October 2023 in Nairobi.

The idea of cross-training the practice of scaling to other CGIAR regional initiatives and TAAT programme was enthusiastically received and encouraged.

Participants were excited about the public CGIAR dashboards; which is a handy reference to developing new projects and marketing the value of CGIAR. The need to create a survey in 2024 to improve the innovation dashboard was suggested.

Possible improvements to innovation profiles and reporting include:

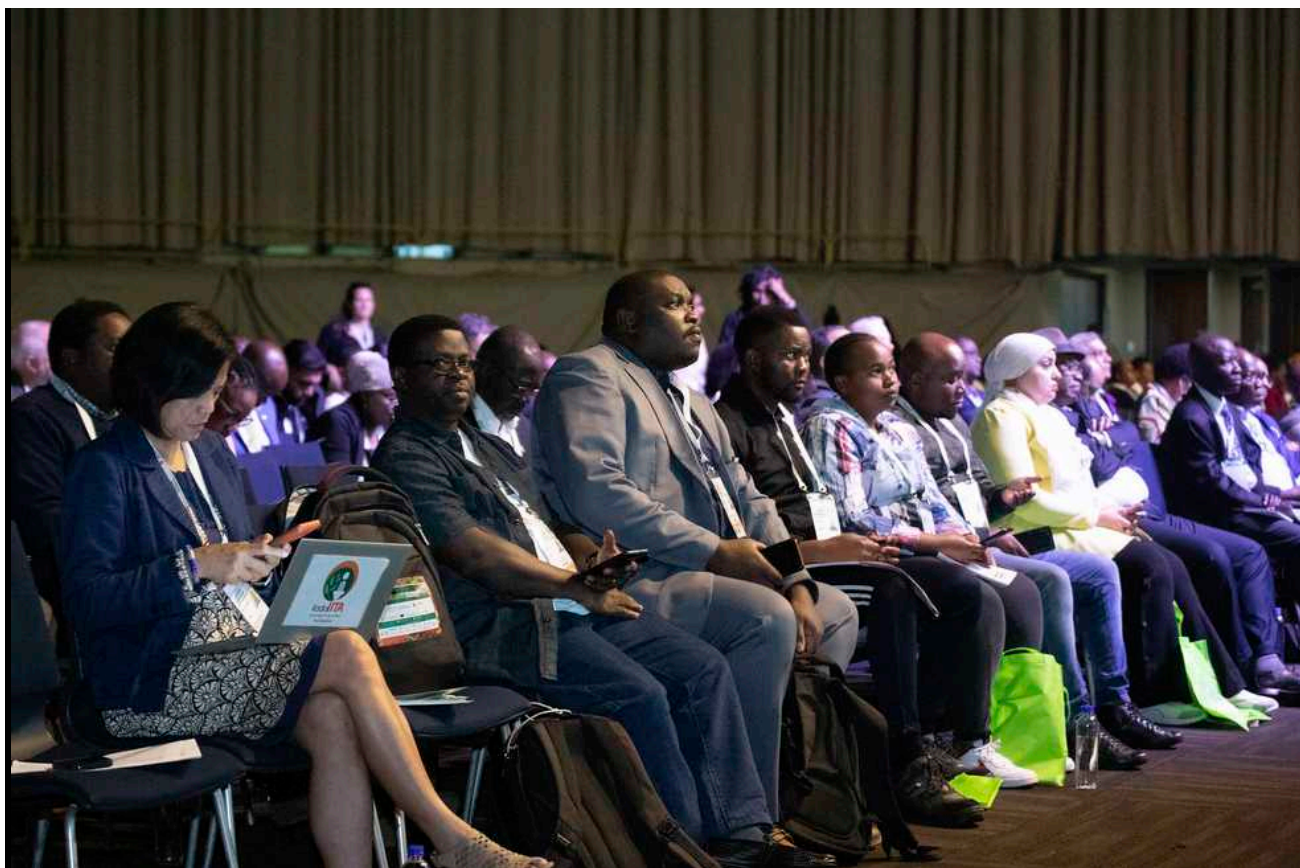
1. How much money was invested in developing the innovation
2. Who the target audience was for the innovation.

It was suggested to include lessons learned from Global North research; for instance, the Netherlands now uses innovations from African farming to reduce their use of nitrogen; or how Bracharia grass went from Africa to Brazil and back.

New challenges in innovation reporting include: identifying the social impact on the vulnerable groups; how the CGIAR innovation can connect with outside partners; and the inclusion of innovations from bilateral funded projects.

Key Recommendations

1. Host an event to connect different CGIAR initiatives in Eastern and Southern Africa to synchronize efforts and identify areas ripe for collaboration across CG Centers and initiative platforms – planned for 9 June 2023.
2. Accelerate scaling of agricultural technologies in Eastern and Southern Africa by endowing a fund within the Ukama Ustawi initiative.
3. Create a Scaling Hub in Nairobi to bring together CGIAR experts in a shared workspace with conferences and other support.
4. Host a flagship “Week of Scaling” in Nairobi the week of 23-27 October, open to CGIAR and partners to build capacity in the practice of scaling.





CAADP-X4P - CGIAR Knowledge Management Session: KM4AgD, Acting on a Collaborative Agenda



Prof. Andreas Brandner,
K4DP
Session Moderator

Panelists

Harold Roy-Macauley, MD Regions and Partnerships, CGIAR, **Max Olupot**, Director Partnerships AFAAS (representing CAADP-XP4), **Peace Lydia Mutuwa**, representing AUC DABRE, **Bebel Nguepi**, YPARD Cameroon, **Sharon Ibenu**, UFAAS Uganda, **Paul Atsu**, YPARD Ghana, **Bridget Kakuwa**, CCARDESA, **Michael Victor**, ILRI, **Boniface Akuku**, **Mulimi Apunzile**

Host(s)/Sponsor(s)

CAADP-XP4 Partners (FARA, AFAAS, CCARDESA, CORAF, ASARECA), CGIAR (ILRI, IITA, CIAT, AfricaRise)

Main Presentation Highlights

The key objectives of the side event were:

- Launch the CAADP X4P-CGIAR Knowledge Management Partnership Framework for AR4D in Africa and get high level buy in for its implementation.
- Learn from the progression of national KM action plan implementation.
- Identify best practices and lessons learned in the design and delivering of regional learning alliances
- Enhance collaboration and coordination among researchers, AEAS workers, and farmers.
- Support the general publicity and documentation of the AASW8 events

The launch of the CAADP X4P-CGIAR Knowledge Management Partnership Framework for AR4D in Africa was done with speeches, and commitments from the key partners: CGIAR, CAADP-XP4 and AUC, through their representatives.

The relevance of KM was highlighted, as well as the systematic approach to collaboration which reflects the Akosombo integration agenda that guided the KM4AgD Community in the previous years.

It was pointed out that the implementation of the Framework has not been explicitly integrated in the FARA-CGIAR cooperation agreement; but all partners have stated that the implementation will not be hindered by financial limitations, and that many activities will be low-cost. Willingness, active partnership and regular communication were identified as critical elements in KM, for which structures and communication channels are developed.

The presentation of different country achievements in KM, following the KM4AgD Challenge, showed significant output and impact in the countries.

Due to the different backgrounds of the participants in the KM4AgD Challenge, the focus of implementation was different. Since Uganda had the largest number of participants (representing UFAAS, NARO and YPARD) with very active contribution of the Ministry and Makerere University, its approach was considered most collaborative, linked and aligned. A KM4AgD knowledge partnership was established, a national policy brief developed, a K4D Centre established, extension events implemented, KM Strategy at NARO, among others, in Uganda. The participation of a wider group of representatives within the agricultural knowledge ecosystems in educational programmes, like the KM4AgD Challenge was therefore strongly recommended.

In Ghana, the collaboration of KM4AgD fellows is also extraordinarily strong and the partnership of key institutions is starting to create a wider attention and outreach. Programmes are starting and are prepared that will have a wide and comprehensive impact, including the development of a national knowledge hub for agricultural development.

In Cameroon, the drivers of the process are the entrepreneurs of YPARD, and it is remarkable how much impact youth can have on agricultural development as they are the key linkage between scientific organisations or technology providers and the farmers. They are the heart of the entrepreneurial extension system, the knowledge industry, which enables farmers to increase profitability and impact. There was thus a strong recommendation to focus actively on the strengthening of the private consulting and extension industry, which is mostly driven by people considered to be youth. Public institutions could focus more on capacitating youth to be professional knowledge service providers.

The discussions about learning alliances strongly pointed out the need for a collaborative approach to partnership along common goals for learning, professionalization and knowledge. The examples presented showed positive experiences of how learning can directly change the work and profitability of farmers; the importance of digital solutions was also highlighted. The knowledge portal of KALRO was a good example of reaching out to users, who have limited technological equipment, data, scientific background and language/knowledge skills. Inclusion is a key challenge in learning alliances, specifically as knowledgeable and competent participants may need the alliances less than others.

Key Recommendations

- Focus on integrated approaches in the countries through knowledge partnerships.
- Capacitate more stakeholders in the agricultural knowledge ecosystem through national educational programmes or national KM4AgD Challenges.
- Develop knowledge hubs to integrate activities and strengthen digitalization in the learning processes with inclusive technologies (mobile apps, low data consumption, languages, etc.)
- Strengthen the knowledge industry – specifically, young entrepreneurs working as consultants, trainers, technology suppliers – to perform better. Public institutions to focus on strengthening the private sector than increasing the public extension system.



Improving the Implementation of Existing Trade Policies to Support Cross-Border Trade in Africa

Presenters and presentation titles

1. **SADC regional status study report on constraints in the implementation of existing policies aimed at increasing cross-border trade**- *Dr. E, Mwakiwa (ANAPRI)*
2. **Improving cross-border trade in agriculture inputs for improved productivity: opportunities and challenges**- *Dr. T Chagomoko (SeedCo)*

Panelists

Mr. Martin Muchero (SADC); **Mr. Kenneth Malot** (KIPPA); **Mr. Kisutu Asadu** (Ugandan Revenue Authority); **Ms. Nasser Achatou** (Alnomma Seeds); **Mr. Komla Biss** (AfCTA); and **Dr. Nalishebo Meebelo**(ReNAPRI)

Main Presentation Highlights

SADC regional status on constraints to the implementation of policies aimed at increasing cross-border trade

Agriculture is a key driver of economic growth and can help in the effort to reduce poverty. About 70 of the population in SSA derive their livelihoods from agriculture. Barriers to regional integration and intra-trade include:

- The affiliation to sub-regional organizations is not strong.
- Countries have some kind of trade wars or conflicts among themselves.
- The regional bodies are usually weak institutions and are not able to stand the pressure of global economic communities.
- Low human resource development across Africa and by regional bodies
- Trade laws are not harmonized. Some laws and regulations are outdated, while others have conflicts or inconsistencies from one country to another within the region.
- Customs procedures are complicated and full of bureaucracy at borders leading to long delays and increased trade costs.
- There is a need for strong harmonized regional integration policies that include informal trade
- Instability (political and economic crises such as war) has a negative impact on regional trade.

Informal Trade

- There is a lack of data on this very important activity across all countries in Africa.
- There is no clear policy that deals with informal trade in most regional countries.
- Informal trade contributes quite a significant proportion to total trade, as much as 50% for some countries.

2. Improving cross-border trade in agricultural inputs for improved productivity

Opportunities in Africa cross-border trade

- Improved cross-border trade will trigger the tapping into an agribusiness market worth, about a trillion USD, which is currently satisfied through imports.
- Import substitution at the continent level is a growth strategy that may limit dependency and the associated vulnerability to global markets.
- The global shocks resulting from the geopolitical events in Russia-Ukraine have increased pressure on most African countries' currencies, as prices of oil and wheat soar.

- Increased intra-Africa trade has opportunities for industrialization through the beneficiation of raw agricultural and forest products.
- Africa has a growing population that favours market and economic growth.

Challenges experienced in moving seed across African borders

- Some countries have multiple membership of regional economic communities, which complicates trade laws
- Countries have diverse standards, e.g. on phytosanitary requirements.
- Most governments operate prohibitive taxes for trade, which cut into profits and the viability of an enterprise.
- Poor infrastructure (roads, rail, cold chains, ICT) lead to high transaction and transport costs.
- Delays at borders may lead to spoilage of biological goods, such as seeds.
- The level of corruption at the borders of some African countries is unacceptably high
- There are logistical difficulties because of poor infrastructure and cumbersome customs clearance processes, which lead to congestion at borders.

Key Recommendations

- AfCFTA to be specific on what is to be achieved and make realistic targeted efforts.
- Build the capacity of producers and traders, including informal traders, to be able to supply once trade barriers are removed through the efforts under AfCFTA.
- African countries to improve infrastructure to handle increased intra-Africa trade, e.g., multiple carriage roads at ports, rail and cold storage facilities at borders.
- Simplify trade through harmonization of standards and regulations, digitization, and adoption of one document policies.
- Governments should remove taxes on traded agricultural products, since they are essential for food security and livelihoods.
- There is a need for coordination of continental (FARA, AU), regional/sub-regional (CORAF SADC, ASARECA) organizations, and national governments for unified efforts on agriculture development and trade issues to avoid the current “separate silos” situation.
- More action-oriented interventions are needed to speed up the implementation of policies and regional trade agreements reached under the AfCFTA.
- Deliberate policies to ensure smallholder farmers, women, and youth benefit from increased intra-Africa trade.





The African Union Land Governance Strategy

Presenter

Nsama Nsemiwe Chikolwa

Background

Agenda 2063 recognises the need for African Union Member States to address various land-related issues on the continent. In July 2009, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union endorsed the adoption of the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, reiterating the commitment of African Union (AU) Member States (MS) to ensure that land is governed adequately on the continent.

In addition, the Declaration highlights the importance of protecting and securing land rights for all land users, with a particular emphasis on women and other vulnerable groups. The Land Governance Strategy (LGS) was put in place to ensure that land is managed and used sustainably and equitably and addresses land tenure security, land use planning and land-based investment issues.

Main Presentation Highlights

Strategic Objective 1: Strengthening the capacity of AU-Commission, ALPC, AUDA, Regional Economic Communities and AU member states to implement the AU agenda on land.

Outcome 1: Enhanced awareness and understanding among AUC and other stakeholders on the AU agenda on land and its importance in the economic transformation of African states.

Outcome 2: Strengthened technical capacities and skills of AUC, ALPC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs and MS staff to support the implementation and monitoring of the African Union Agenda on land.

Outcome 3: Land issues are mainstreamed in the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and REC programmes and projects and ensure collaboration among AU institutions and Member States.

Outcome 4: Improved collaboration and learning among AU institutions on land governance.

Strategic objective 2: Promoting the advancement of land policies, laws, administration systems and responsible land governance in the AU Member States

Outcome 5: AU Member States domesticate the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy, VGGTs and other international frameworks and conventions within their policies and legal frameworks.

Outcome 6: AU Member States have non-discriminatory land management regulations that enhance access to land and security of tenure for all categories of landowners and users.

Outcome 7: AU Member States have land administration systems that are decentralised, cost-effective, transparent, responsive to the needs of citizens and promote participatory approaches to land management.

Strategic Objective 3: Promoting responsible and fair land-based investments in Africa that are environmentally sound, scalable, inclusive and equitable, contributing to the sustainable development of the country and meeting community needs.

Outcome 8: Large -scale land-based investments in Africa are adopting responsible land acquisition approaches and inclusive business practices that help countries to increase agricultural production, environmental conservation and overall sustainable development.

Outcome 9: Strengthened capacity of AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, Member States and affiliated entities to negotiate and advocate for sustainable and responsible land-based investments within their regions, countries and work.

Strategic Objective 4: Enhancing the security of land tenure and access to land and other productive resources for women, youth, pastoralists, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups in Africa

Outcome 10: Reduced risks of land conflicts and increased access to land for women, youths, pastoralists, indigenous people, and poor and vulnerable community members

Outcome 11: Slum and informal settlements are upgraded and recognised among formal residential neighborhoods as part of inclusive and sustainable urban development.

Outcome 12: Improved shocks management (climate change, disaster risk, pandemics) and resettlement of displaced communities

Outcome 13: Land governance issues are incorporated into reconstruction and reconciliation policies and processes of post-conflict states

Strategic Objective 5: Facilitating and supporting the operationalisation of the AU Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa (MELA) as a tool for measuring and reporting on progress towards achieving the AU agenda on land in Africa

Outcome 14: Production of a high-quality report depicting the progress made towards achieving the AU Declaration on Land and, overall, the agenda on land in Africa.

Implementation Framework

- Strategic objectives, outcomes and actions will be delivered with a detailed implementation plan.
- Institutional arrangements, with defined roles and responsibilities of different institutions have been explained in the draft LGS.
- MELA will be used as a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework tool.
- Communication plan with 8 strategic communication actions has been developed to promote dissemination of the draft strategy.

Conclusion

- Sustainable land use management is paramount in achieving the AU Agenda 2063.
- There is need for continuous collaboration and partnerships for this to be attained.
- Research plays a pivotal role in developing innovation in land use management. However, there is need to also link research to policy and practice.





From agricultural innovations to implementation: pathways to impact

Presenter

Dr. Tina Beuchelt

Background

- Several overlapping problems in the rural sector in Africa are: Climate change, low agricultural productivity, soil degradation, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, poverty, gender and social inequities.
- Land management and the securing, use, control and governance of land-related natural resources as a key driver for sustainable development in Africa.
- Many technological solutions and concepts for better land management available.
- Low adoption and implementation rates of research innovations amongst smallholder farmers & other land user.
- 15 million € funding programme “Sustainable land management in Sub-Saharan Africa: Improving livelihoods through local research” (BMBF, Germany).
- Testing, adapting and out-scaling existing and new approaches to sustainable, climate resilient agriculture and pastoralism – including digital approaches - in West Africa, Kenya and Namibia.
- Four regional research projects and INTERFACES:
 - COINS** - Co-developing innovations for sustainable land management in West African smallholder farming systems.
 - DeClaRe** - Decision support for strengthening land resilience in the face of global challenges.
 - InfoRange** - Increasing efficiency in rangeland-based livestock value chains by co-designed digital technologies and machine learning approaches.
 - Minodu** - Fostering local sustainable development through technology and research.

Our Objectives

1. Establishing transdisciplinary dialogues and learning platforms on future visions and theories of change for land management, contributing to joint knowledge synthesis and change
2. Strengthening the contribution of regional projects to visions and theories of change for sustainable land use management;
3. Identification of socio-cultural and gender-responsive strategies to bridge the knowledge behavior gap;
4. Knowledge management, communication and networking to contribute to social change;
5. Formation of change agents and advancing the concept of implementation research in science and policy.

Impact-oriented support activities

Outreach and knowledge management

- Development of a communication & dissemination strategy for all projects based on scientific approaches, including training for media appearances in audio / video media
- Coordinating the communication, visibility, learning, sharing and collaboration between the different regional project teams - FARA's knowledge management system, D-Groups
- Establishing/strengthening exchange, linkages and networks with UN Organisations like UNCCD, UNFCCC, IPBES, UNU-EHS, etc.
- Integration of the regional projects into a wider African and international arena

Impact-oriented support activities:

Capacity development

- Integration of research results into the curricula and lectures of already existing educational programs – contributing to African education and training networks on land management, climate and environment.

- Seminar and colloquium series for scientists and regional project partners
- Training workshops on gender-sensitive and gender-responsive research and implementation approaches
- "Gender mainstreaming" - aligning research and implementation in a gender-sensitive way: project screening and advice on how projects could take gender-aspects into account, courses, linking up with NGOs...

Transfer analyses / implementation research

To be aligned with the theories of change for the various regions/countries

- Intervention-specific impact pathway modeling to guide selection of practices and data
- "Follow-the-innovation" from research to implementation (participatory observation of activities, complementary research)
- Nudging & incentive systems (financial/non-financial) to contribute to behavior change
- Gender analysis, roles, norms, power dynamics and how they relate to implementation of sustainable land management practices – to achieve a gender-just transition

What and how can research do better

- to achieve improved implementation of sustainable land management practices by female and male farmers, and
- to contribute to an equitable transformation and necessary social changes?



Visit INTERFACES Portal for more Resources

<https://www.zef.de/interfaces>

<http://www.faraafrica.org/interfaces>

Join: <https://faraafrica.community/interfaces>

Supporting Pathways to Sustainable Land Management

#interfaces



#AASW8

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENTS



“It was a pleasure attending AASW & connecting our partners to the relevant opportunities”

Hennie van der Merwe



ADC Africa Group Members & Associates

I am happy to report that our involvement as technical advisors and exhibitors (as group) in the recent Africa Agribusiness & Science Week (AASW) in Durban was a revealing and rewarding experience, affording us an important window into the world of the African agri-science and development community.

We have answered the call by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) & its partners for the private sector to engage and trust that our presence as group was not only noticed, but also our intention to get actively involved in the planning and execution of pan-African development programmes and initiatives taken to heart.

The capacity and expertise of the private sector to design and execute integrated commercially focused agribusiness projects and programmes are essential components of the African agribusiness development agenda. As group we already bring a very substantial pool of technology and experience to the table and can also mobilize many other important private sector actors to join the drive in 'linking Science, Innovation and Agribusiness for Resilient, Profitable and Sustainable Food Systems in Africa'.

I would like to use this opportunity to also thank everyone that participated and/or contributed in any way to the success of this endeavour for your involvement and support. It is highly appreciated and valued! A special word of thanks goes to Ed Hill and Zaida Enver of the local organising committee for their unwavering efforts to drive this initiative and for actively supporting our participation and networking.

Best regards,

Hennie van der Merwe (CEO & Coordinator: ADC Africa Group)



#AASW8

REFLECTIONS





The 8th African Agricultural and Science Week was a phenomenal event that brought together scientists from across the continent to discuss their research, innovations, and partnerships in addressing Africa's agricultural sector.

I, Daniel Abugre Anyorigya, had the opportunity to attend the conference through the support of FARA as a journalist and digital content producer. I was able to capture the synergy between scientists as they shared their work and ideas, and I also conducted interviews with several participants.

In addition to my work as a journalist, I also took the opportunity to network with other journalists, communication leads, and organizations at the conference.

I established contacts with a number of organizations, including Women in Agriculture (Namibia), the Agricultural Research Council (South Africa), Legacy Seed (Ghana), Seed Co, CORAF, FAO, IITA, CCARDESA, CERAAS, the International Water Management Institute, INTERFACES, and Knowledge Management for Development Partnership.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended the 8th African Agricultural and Science Week.

It was an eye-opening experience, giving me a glimpse into the future of African agriculture. I am confident that the partnerships and collaborations that were formed at the conference will help to accelerate progress in the agricultural sector and improve food security for millions of Africans.

I have scheduled interviews with these organizations and partners of FARA in the subsequent weeks.





#AASW8

ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES





Online News Articles About AASW8

1. **Invest in agricultural research to address food insecurity in Africa - Josefa Sacko**
Author: Daniel Abugre Anyorigya | **Date:** June 5, 2023 | **Publisher:** Citinewsroom | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
2. **Okonjo-Iweala receives FARA Leadership Award for contributions to Africa**
Author: Olufemi Terry | **Date:** June 5, 2023 | **Publisher:** Citinewsroom | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
3. **Africa has technology and innovation to achieve zero hunger-African Development Bank head Adesina at Africa Agribusiness and Science Week**
Author: Daniel Abugre Anyorigya | **Date:** June 5, 2023 | **Publisher:** Afdb | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
4. **Africa's ability to feed 9 billion people by 2050 achievable – Adesina**
Author: Daniel Abugre Anyorigya | **Date:** June 5, 2023 | **Publisher:** Citinewsroom | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
5. **CGIAR, FARA launch plan to transform agric in Africa**
Author: Daniel Abugre Anyorigya | **Date:** June 5, 2023 | **Publisher:** Citinewsroom | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
6. **AfBC, FARA sign MoU to boost agribusiness in Africa**
Author: Daniel Abugre Anyorigya | **Date:** June 7, 2023 | **Publisher:** Citinewsroom | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
7. **Profile of AfBC President Amany Asfour**
Author: Daniel Abugre Anyorigya | **Date:** June 7, 2023 | **Publisher:** Citinewsroom | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
8. **AATF and CCARDESA to help improve food security and livelihoods for African farmers.**
Author: J. Muthie | **Date:** June 8, 2023 | **Publisher:** AATf | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
9. **Africa needs agricultural innovation to achieve the full potential of AfCFTA**
Author: Dr Yemi Akinbamiyo, Dr Claudia Saddof | **Date:** June 2, 2023 | **Publisher:** Afcta | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
10. **AASW8, Agribusiness, Innovation and Technology**
Author: Steve Alabi | **Date:** May 29, 2023 | **Publisher:** FARA | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
11. **Meet The Laureates Advancing Agricultural Science, Technology, and Innovation in Africa #AASW8**
Author: Steve Alabi | **Date:** May 28, 2023 | **Publisher:** FARA | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
12. **Who's Next?– FARA Leadership Prize for Advancing Agricultural Science, Technology, and Innovation in Africa**
Author: Steve Alabi | **Date:** May 28, 2023 | **Publisher:** FARA | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
13. **From Kigali to Durban, Capacity Development Experts Converge at the 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week (AASW8)**
Author: | **Date:** May 24, 2023 | **Publisher:** FARA | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
14. **In Durban, Business meets Innovation: 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week (AASW8)**
Author: Steve Alabi | **Date:** May 22, 2023 | **Publisher:** FARA | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
15. **All you need to know about the 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week Conference**
Author: | **Date:** May 16, 2023 | **Publisher:** FARA | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
16. **Africa Agribusiness and Science Week (AASW8)**
Author: | **Date:** May 30, 2023 | **Publisher:** IFAD | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>
17. **Africa Agribusiness and Science Week (AASW8)**
Author: | **Date:** May 30, 2023 | **Publisher:** CGIAR | **Online Link:** [Read Here](#)>>



Online News Articles About AASW8

- 18. WTO & AFWE chiefs urge African gov'ts to boost AfCFTA, agric investment, infrastructure**
Author: | Date: June 7, 2023 | Publisher: The North Africa Post | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 19. Africa Agribusiness & Science Week (AASW8)**
Author: | Date: April 27, 2023 | Publisher: Eagmark Agrihub | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 20. Africa Agribusiness and Science Week to provide Platform For Agriculture Sector**
Author: | Date: May 30 2023 | Publisher: Farm Digital | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 21. 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week**
Author: | Date: JMay 30, 2023 | Publisher: World fish Center | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 22. 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week & 9th FARA General Assembly**
Author: | Date: May 30, 2023 | Publisher: WikiFarmer | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 23. AfBC, FARA sign MoU to boost agribusiness in Africa**
Author: | Date: June 5, 2023 | Publisher: Songs.com.gh | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 24. Profile of AfBC President Amany Asfour**
Author: | Date: May 23, 2023 | Publisher: COLEAD | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 25. Agroecology & climate resilience: multistakeholder session at 8th AASW**
Author: | Date: June 5, 2023 | Publisher: COLEAD | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 26. Boosting intra-african trade with vert ltd: ffm+ in action at aasw8 side event**
Author: | Date: May 26, 2023 | Publisher: COLEAD | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 27. Unlocking business opportunities with david foli ayivor: ffm+ in action at aasw8 side events**
Author: | Date: May 26, 2023 | Publisher: COLEAD | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 28. African leaders in agriculture gather in Durban for the 8th Africa Agriculture and Science Week (AASW8)**
Author: | Date: June 5, 2023 | Publisher: ProAgriMedia | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 29. Pari @ aasw8: how to turn the agrifood sector into an engine of job growth for africa's youth**
Author: | Date: June 7, 2023 | Publisher: PARI ZEF | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 30. Africa Agribusiness and Science Week Kicks Off in Durban**
Author: Source: citinews | Date: June 5, 2023 | Publisher: Businessghana.com | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 31. AASW8 side event: Unlocking business opportunities for young entrepreneurs**
Author: | Date: June 7, 2023 | Publisher: FARMd | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 32. 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week**
Author: | Date: June 5, 2023 | Publisher: OACPS-RI | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 33. AASW8 - Africa Agribusiness and Science Week Conference**
Author: | Date: June 5, 2023 | Publisher: PlumTri | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 34. Africa Agribusiness & Science Week (AASW8)**
Author: | Date: June 5, 2023 | Publisher: Inter-Réseaux Developpement Rural | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>
- 35. Africa Agribusiness and Science Week (AASW8)**
Author: Daniel Abugre Anyorigya | Date: June 12, 2023 | Publisher: Citinewsroom | Online Link: [Read Here](#)>>

Appreciation



Ms. Bongiwe Njobe, Board Chairperson, FARA

Your participation and immense support made AASW a memorable event.

Our appreciation goes to the government of Ghana, which first agreed to host FARA over twenty years ago and continue to provide immense support to the organisation.

I wish to thank all stakeholders in agriculture innovation systems, continental and regional bodies, SROs, the higher education sector, intergovernment organisations,

financial and technical partners, scientists, farmers' organisations and the private sector.

During AASW8, we had the privilege of hearing from our partners at plenary sessions and side events, who shared their vision, insights, success stories and upcoming programmes.

The governments and authorities who attended the event showed their willingness to transform African agriculture to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from the continent.

We had exhibitions that focused on agribusiness to showcase the available innovations and technology to agribusiness to transform agricultural activities, create jobs for the youth and new products for farmers.

Speaking about what we have been able to achieve this week, I think the most important thing about the week is that in as much as we acknowledge the complexities that we face, what is inspiring is that we also affirmed the clarity of the direction of the pathways we have designed and are implementing to take us to the dream Africa we desire.

My appreciation also goes to the African agricultural research community, the FARA ecosystem and the collective of partner organisations that have participated this week, physically and virtually.

FARA will provide a platform for you to collaborate, exchange knowledge and strengthen networks to ensure that our research efforts align with and meet the African farmers and modern agribusiness needs and aspirations.

Reflecting on the challenges FARA has faced and considering its achievements, I am convinced that we are not punching above our weight; but rather, we are punching at our weight and doing what is expected of the apex African research organisation.

We need the support of those who can avail resources to support it to see that the urgency for Africa to feed itself is now and not in the next decade. I consider it imperative that we believe in our vision and that it is achievable.

Together, let us embark on the journey where African agriculture thrives, nourishing our peoples, stimulating economic growth and preserving our natural resources to forge a sustainable future for African agriculture.

I wish you all safe journey back to your various countries.



Appreciation



Rosemary Nokuzola Capa

Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, SA

Thank you for choosing South Africa. We are happy to have hosted this great conference. You have graced our shores since Monday. I believe those preparing to leave are leaving as South Africans and probably speaking Zulu now.

The government, department and all departments in the country have felt your warmth. I did feel there was big business going on at this venue with the belief that it is a historic first step that we will continue to build on. I joyfully appreciate your effort in seeking to unite all nations and Africans. We cannot only unite in this manner. We are uniting on a programme that deserves continuous attention because its agenda will be instrumental in preparing another agenda.

Listening to your presentations, business links and shared thoughts with a desire to proceed to greater heights. I will inform my Minister and Director General of the need to do more in implementing technology as we would be including this in our national strategy, especially for rural development. Sometimes, rural communities are said to be inaccessible; but on the other side, I might say governments are not accessible to them.

I wish to mention that our government, people, rural communities and provinces have felt your warmth because you have brought strategies to solve their problems. There is so much rain, but we have issues with having potable water. We found the solution in your resolutions here.

We have issues with poverty, hunger and starvation despite our prime quality land ready to produce food. From what you have left us in the form of documentation, discussions and insights coupled with our energy, what is lacking is the technology to foresee future scenarios and outcomes.

I also want to acknowledge that from your decisions and recommendations, we have witnessed the fast-growing synergy and understanding between businesses, inventors and researchers.

It is the wish of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to infuse the indigenous practices to the new approaches, by building upon them as indigenous knowledge and not considering them as useless and unworthy of being developed.

Researchers, innovators, extension practitioners and governments need to hold hands tightly with the rural populace by being accessible and carrying them along in innovations. Without being technologically ready, diseases like HIV and COVID caught us unaware without any response mechanism in place. We have now learnt to focus on preventive measures to promote good health. Today, we can talk of South African-produced vaccines and immunisations, but these were developed because we were under pressure to survive.

Your memorandum of understanding and signed pacts will go a long way in helping to develop continental collaborations. We are happy for the strides being taken in individual countries and your capability for extending them beyond your shores. We are counting on your continued support and hope you have enjoyed the rural climate and scenery. We no more look for hi-rise buildings but the real African fauna and flora.

We should ensure we maintain peace and engage in the collaborative growth of our economies. We need to abstain from practices that destroy the future, bearing in mind that we borrowed the land that we live on today from our future generations. We must fight climate change through practices and sustain our future and that of the next generations.

I hope you will remember rural women and young people who need your technology and medical intervention on your return to your various countries.

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the entire country, we thank and salute you for keeping the fire burning. We hope to gain more from your resources.

I wish you all a safe journey back to your respective homes.

Conclusion & Recommendations



Dr. Aggrey Agumya, Executive Director, FARA

The recommendations presented highlight the critical aspects required to improve climate resilience and sustainability in farming and food systems in Africa. Agroecology remains a pivotal approach, integrating evidence-based practices, promoting multistakeholder dialogue, and utilizing technology for knowledge-intensive processes. The consideration of policies, finance, and culture at all levels is essential for facilitating informed transitions.

Gender mainstreaming within agriculture is a crucial focus area, necessitating efforts to promote gender-responsive food systems, address gender imbalances and empower women and youth through training. Empowering Africa's agricultural transformation

calls for the need to establish platform for knowledge exchange between science and the private sector, patent crop varieties, and co-develop agribusiness solutions with demand-driven farmers.

The transformation of agribusiness requires a renewed commitment to AfCFTA actions, partnership mapping, PPIs (public private institutions dialogues), and research agenda development to address value chain gaps. Private actors must bridge the gap between their research and scientific findings to achieve sustainable agricultural growth.

Improving trade policies for cross-border trade in Africa requires specific goals, capacity building for producers and traders, infrastructure improvements, harmonizing trade procedures, and eliminating taxes on traded agricultural products. Coordinating efforts among continental, regional, and national organizations is vital for effective agricultural development and trade initiatives, with a focus on actionable interventions to benefit smallholder farmers, women, and youth through increased intra-Africa trade.

Agricultural biotechnology holds great potential for enhancing crop yields and food safety, and eliminating production challenges in Africa. To realize its benefits, national and regional institutions must focus on capacity-building, research mobilization, policy implementation, and establishing targeted partnerships.

Mainstreaming forgotten foods into the African food system requires a strong focus on building knowledge and involving private sector interests and women groups. Resources and participatory action are crucial to advancing forgotten food elements, with support from technical organizations like FAO and the promotion of advocacy through partnerships.

The AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership aims to present outcomes at the AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference in Rome, focused on exploring opportunities for business and gender inclusion in IRC membership and agenda. The FNSSA project database and knowledge management system should be user-friendly and open access, with considerations for additional funding mechanisms like crowdfunding or venture capital to foster industrial clustering and commercial linkages.

Optimal sector strategies in African agriculture and agribusiness require alignment with government frameworks, designing successful interventions and implementing tangible measures for growth, encompassing policy reforms, infrastructural investments, capacity-building, and market development programmes.

Capacity development programmes are vital for young entrepreneurs to seize new markets and adopt sustainable production methods, supported by education, training, and research links facilitated by organizations like FARA. Enhancing intra-Africa trade in the agricultural midstream involves strengthening linkages across sectors, fostering innovation, and scaling practices, with collaboration between African research and the private sector. This plays a central role in identifying and upscaling efficient and sustainable practices.

Lastly, catalyzing and coordinating innovation and scaling in Eastern and Southern Africa should involve connecting CGIAR initiatives, accelerating agricultural technology scaling through initiatives like Ukama Ustawi, and hosting flagship events to promote innovation and scaling practices. Additionally, KM4AgD should focus on integrated approaches for empowering stakeholders and strengthening the knowledge industry, particularly supporting young entrepreneurs.

Overall, implementing these comprehensive and strategic recommendations will significantly contribute to advancing African agriculture and agribusiness, fostering sustainable development and addressing challenges in the food systems, and thus paving the way for a prosperous and resilient future.



**8th Africa Agribusiness
and Science Week**
9th FARA General Assembly

Durban, South Africa

5th - 8th June 2023

3rd CCARDESA General Assembly

*Linking Science, Innovation, and Agribusiness
for Resilient Food Systems*

**REPORTS OF
PROCEEDINGS**

