

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Institutional leadership, coordination
for agriculture research, building resilient
livelihoods



Institutional leadership, coordination for agriculture research, building resilient livelihoods

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Strengthening Coordination of Agricultural Research in Africa to accelerate Progress towards Development Targets

The Forum for Agricultural Research for Africa (FARA) is mandated to advocate for and coordinate agricultural research on the continent to improve the development impact of research and to increase investments in research and the returns therefrom.

FARA executes this mandate in partnership with several actors across the agricultural value chain including **the sub-regional agricultural research organisations, national agricultural research systems, university networks, policy networks, civil society actors, advisory service providers, international agricultural research institutions and funders / development partners.**

The year 2019 marked the commencement of the implementation of **FARA's new Strategy (2019-2028) and Business Plan (2019-2023).**

FARA's strategic objective during this planning phase is to contribute to the achievement of the **African Union's** agricultural development targets elaborated in the **2014 Malabo Declaration** by increasing the application of the appropriate science, technology and innovation in African agriculture. The specific targets that constitute the focus of FARA's work are: **doubling productivity, halving post-harvest losses and increasing resilience to climate-related risks, all to be achieved by 2025.** The main tool deployed by FARA towards achievement of this objective is the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa.

In a renewed commitment of the European Commission to the development of the African agriculture sector, a new initiative was launched under the auspices of the coalition of the key actors of the African AR4D fraternity.

The key highlight of 2019 was a new partnership with the European Commission (EC) aimed at strengthening the collaborative capacities of regional agricultural research institutions including **FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA** and **CORAF** (the CAADP ex-Pillar IV organisations) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their support to national agricultural research systems. The funding provided by the EC to carry out this work is administered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (**IFAD**). In 2019, FARA launched the Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (**ARIFA**) programme which aims at building skills and competencies required to achieve national and regional agricultural development targets by leveraging South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

In the inaugural year of this programme, **FARA secured a total of 181 partial scholarships from the University of Viçosa, Brazil, for African students** to enroll in tailor-made programmes to address capacity needs of their contexts. In another related partnership,



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Four full scholarships for Master's were degrees offered by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (**CIHEAM**) in Bari, Italy. Within the South-South/South-South-North scope, other universities in India, China, the Netherlands and Norway signaled readiness to participate in ARIFA by providing full or partial scholarships.

In line with its mandate as a technical arm of the African Union Commission, FARA facilitated the elaboration of the Common African Agro-Parks (CAAPs) programme, an AUC initiative that aims at building the continent's capacity to substantially increase the production and value addition of agricultural goods that will be exchanged in the African Continental Free Trade Area to improve food security and increase income, while reducing the importation of food that can be produced and processed on the continent.

FARA also renewed its partnership with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA). The areas identified for cooperation with AUDA include the development of a policy framework for linking productivity with innovation, develop the capacity of the application and the use of foresight and support countries to develop investment programmes for Agriculture Science. The Secretariat continues to provide support for the African Union Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC-DREA), in its capacity as technical arm in the realization of the Biennial Report on the Malabo Declaration. We also made significant contributions to the success of the 3rd Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of the African Union on Agriculture, Water and Environment.

From the governance perspective, the year 2019 also marked the change of guard in the leadership of FARA at the highest level. We recall with pride, the tenures of Dr. Ephraim Amiani Mukisira (MBS, OGW) and Dr Alioune Fall who completed their three-year term as the FARA Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively in July 2019. The Board of Directors of FARA appointed Dr Fall to serve as the Chairperson in an acting capacity with effect from July 2019 until the substantive Chairperson is elected by the General Assembly.

Dr Mukisira is gratefully acknowledged for the inspirational and steady leadership with which he skillfully steered the organisation through its most testing period. Dr Alioune Fall is the Director General of the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA). He has three and a half decades of experience in hands-on research and research leadership on the continent. This report highlights the major achievements of the FARA Secretariat for the period January to December 2019.

These achievements were realized in collaboration with several partners and despite significant financial constraints. In this regard, FARA acknowledges the support, commitment and participation of its stakeholders and partners including but not limited to AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF, FAO, PAFO and its regional farmers organisations, RUFORUM, AATF, AGRA, CGIAR centres, National Agricultural Research Institutes, the Government of Ghana and in particular the Ministries of Science, Technology and Innovation; of Food and Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, CIHEAM-BARI, Italy; and the University of Viçosa, Brazil.

The FARA Secretariat recognizes and is immensely grateful to its funders / development partners; the European Commission (EC), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the African Development Bank (AfDB), BMZ/University of Bonn, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR), and the Government of Ghana for financing its activities and providing in-kind support that has resulted in the achievements reported herein.

The Secretariat also acknowledges the Board of FARA for supporting and facilitating the Secretariat's functions as well as providing oversight and strategic guidance; the AUC and AUDA for providing the political and organizational support required to perform its functions. We also recognize the contributions of the FARA Secretariat staff for implementing, coordinating and facilitating the activities herein reported.

01 Scaling technologies for broad based impact



“Scaling technologies for broad based impact”

Tons of fantastic technologies do no good to a country or a continent until they are properly disseminated and brought to scale for broad based benefit. This alludes to the state of Africa agriculture where large numbers of technologies have been developed over time and barely result in measurable growth and development of the sector. It is well known that all development in human endeavors is contingent on the availability of relevant technologies and provision of enabling institutional and infrastructural factors to put the technologies to use. Over the years the FARA secretariat and its broad stakeholder groups have invested time and resources in developing the agricultural innovation systems to ensure that the technology generation efforts in Africa work in a good synchrony with other sectors to ensure good synergy and complementarity for measurable impact. The development of the IAR4D concept and the Innovation Platform (IP) as its operational instrument has played a major role in fostering the multistakeholders thinking and action in implementing agricultural research and development efforts. This has yielded good intermediate development outcomes among the stakeholders with ample business development for broad based benefits. The institutionalization of the IAR4D Concept and associated frameworks across Africa countries is vital to bringing the benefit of the framework to scale, this has progressed significantly with a number of initiatives.

Over the reporting period, FARA made significant efforts to foster the scaling of proven agricultural technologies in Africa. The efforts include the research action within the Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI). Studies were conducted to assess the spate of technology development in 12 Africa countries in the last 30 years. The output of the studies indicated that Africa is still far behind in the spate of technology generation and patents in the agricultural sector. The available technologies were largely skewed to crops related issues, which cover 71%, while technologies on issues from other sub-sectors such as livestock, fisheries, processing NRM, value chain development etc. cover 29% (Table 1)

Table 1: The Status of Agricultural Innovavation in the last 20 years

| Country | Cropping | Livestock | Fishing | Processing | Value Chain | Natural Resources Management | Finance/Market | Governance | Others | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Benin | 130 | 22 | 13 | | | | | | 1 | 166 |
| Burkina Faso | 29 | 18 | 1 | | 11 | 23 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 103 |
| Cameroon | 51 | 24 | | 10 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 15 | | 111 |
| Ethiopia | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| Ghana | 175 | 30 | 6 | 48 | | 5 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 271 |
| Kenya | 29 | 5 | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | | 43 |
| Malawi | 61 | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | 64 |
| Mali | 25 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 27 |
| Nigeria | 109 | 4 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | 116 |
| Togo | 48 | 2 | 19 | | | 26 | | | | 95 |
| Tunisia | 193 | | | | | | | 2 | | 195 |
| Zambia | 22 | 1 | | | | 9 | 1 | 1 | | 34 |
| Total | 872 | 108 | 40 | 61 | 14 | 72 | 25 | 27 | 9 | 1228 |
| % of total | 71.0 | 8.8 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 1.1 | 5.9 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 0.7 | |

Source: PARI Country Studies, 2016

Apparently, the research system in Africa needs to give considerable efforts to its technology generation systems, it still needs to be demand-driven and respond to felt need by the stakeholders such that the use of the technologies will justify the efforts in generating and testing it out. The entrenchment of the FARA led Science Agenda for Africa Agriculture (S3A) in the countries research development process could play a major role in ensuring effective demand for technologies, leveraging resources for research action and prioritization of action for future development.

FARA has conducted studies and developed a workable strategy for scaling agricultural technologies. The published volume documents the vital steps to be taken to bring proven technologies to scale and foster broad based benefits to the users. The 2019 action is focused on disseminating the published volume and fostering its use.

The Technology for Africa Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) where FARA anchors the Capacity Building and Technology Outreach compact (CDTO) provided a framework for using a model of the scaling strategy. Ample number of national stakeholders were trained in the art of the innovation systems and establishment and management of the Innovation Platforms (IPs). The different IPs were streamed to bring the preidentified TAAT technologies to scale at the country levels. A vivid example is the Aquaculture compact where its four projected technologies viz.,

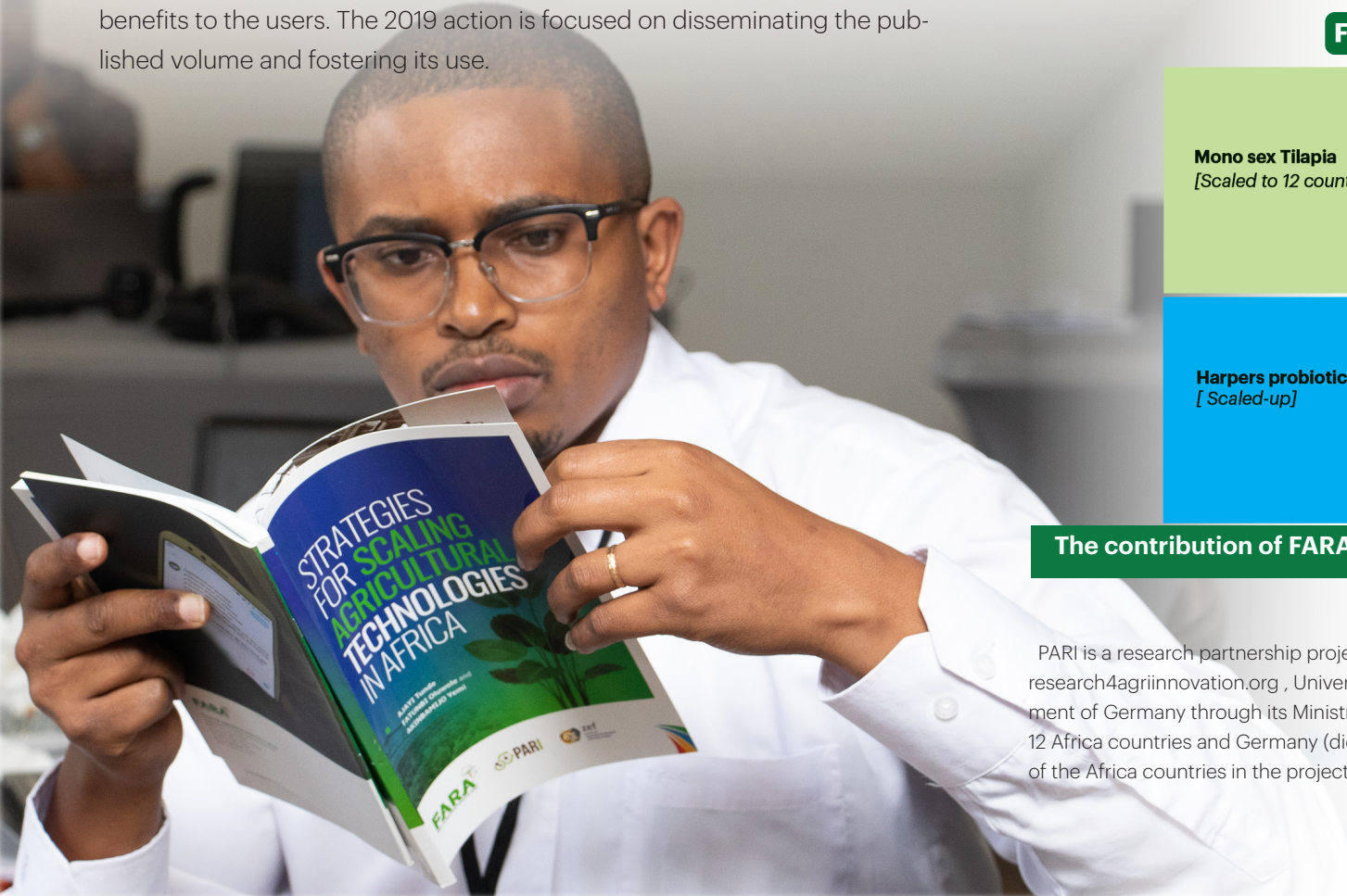
TAAT Technologies with impressive scale

FISH COMPACT

| | |
|---|---|
| Mono sex Tilapia [Scaled to 12 countries] | Fingerling & Juvenile survival technique [Scaled to 12 countries] |
| Harpers probiotics [Scaled-up] | Low cost floating feed technology [scaled-out and up] |

The contribution of FARA is largely, training the actors on the IPs.

PARI is a research partnership project of The Center for Development studies (ZEF) www.research4agriinnovation.org, University of Bonn, Germany. It is supported by the Government of Germany through its Ministry of Economic Development BMZ, and implemented in 12 Africa countries and Germany (did you mean India?). FARA is facilitating the participation of the Africa countries in the project.



02 **Integrating Data Systems for interoperability**



Integrating Data Systems for interoperability

FARA Data and Information Systems operates various Communities of Practice aimed at strengthening networks and knowledge management and they are powered by Dgroups. **Dgroups** is a professional open space collaboration tool that offers users the opportunity to contribute to dialogue and decision-making for international development. FARA's Dgroup has over the years offered various stakeholders in AR4D an effective and efficient knowledge dissemination and collaboration mechanism. **In 2019 FARA has reached over 40,000 individuals/stakeholders from all 55 African countries** from diverse agricultural interest backgrounds and globally over **131 countries**, in more than ten Communities of Practice.

FARA's online library and publication mechanisms, in 2019 produced and disseminated over 20 Research Reports, 33 Dissemination Notes and 3 books on Innovation Opportunities in poultry and dairy in Benin and Kenya while its physical library is host to **over 1000 publications**. These have been distributed to users during trainings, side events, policy dialogues, students' engagements, among others.

The development of the FARADatInformS in **2018/2019 marked** the beginning of an important coordinated effort at achieving greater integration and harmonization of FARA's knowledge systems developed over the years to drive the continent's **AR4D** and the **S3A**. FARADatInformS, an interoperable online information system that fosters generation, access and dissemination of information and knowledge by its stakeholders, is a component of the Observatory for the Science Agenda and Africa AR4D. It is built on open source and using Application Programming Interface (APIs) to integrate data from the existing relevant sources at its initial stage, while new datasets will be integrated following a phased approach. It is built with analytical features for agriculture at country level serving as the basic resource from which various information services and products are derived. The Knowledge Graph (**Figure1**) underpins the FARADatInformS model for interoperability:

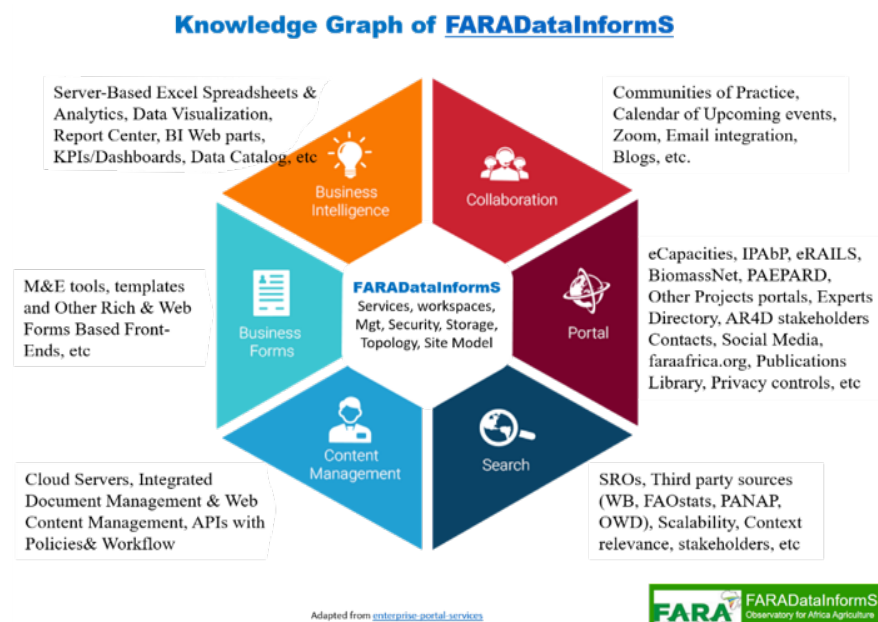


Figure 1: Knowledge Graph of FARADatInformS - KDS Sub-Strategy for Implementation of 2019-2028 Strategy

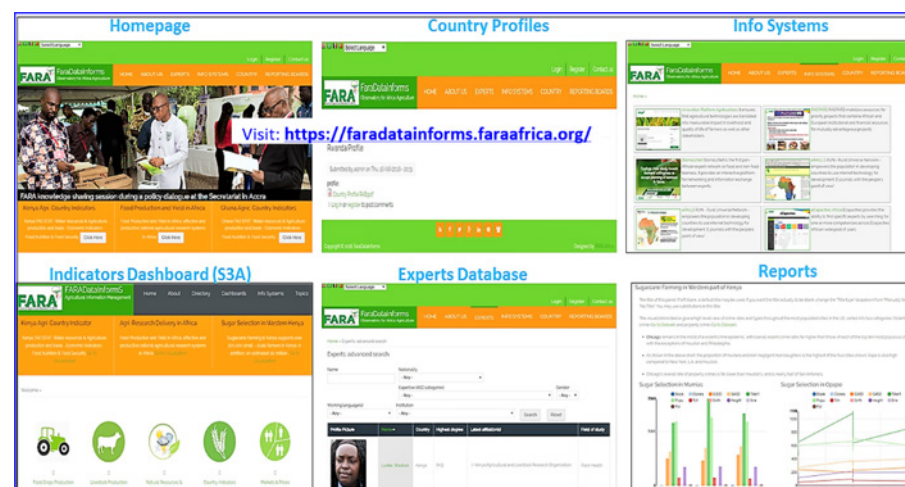


Figure 2: Online presence and statistics of selected pages of the FARADatInformS

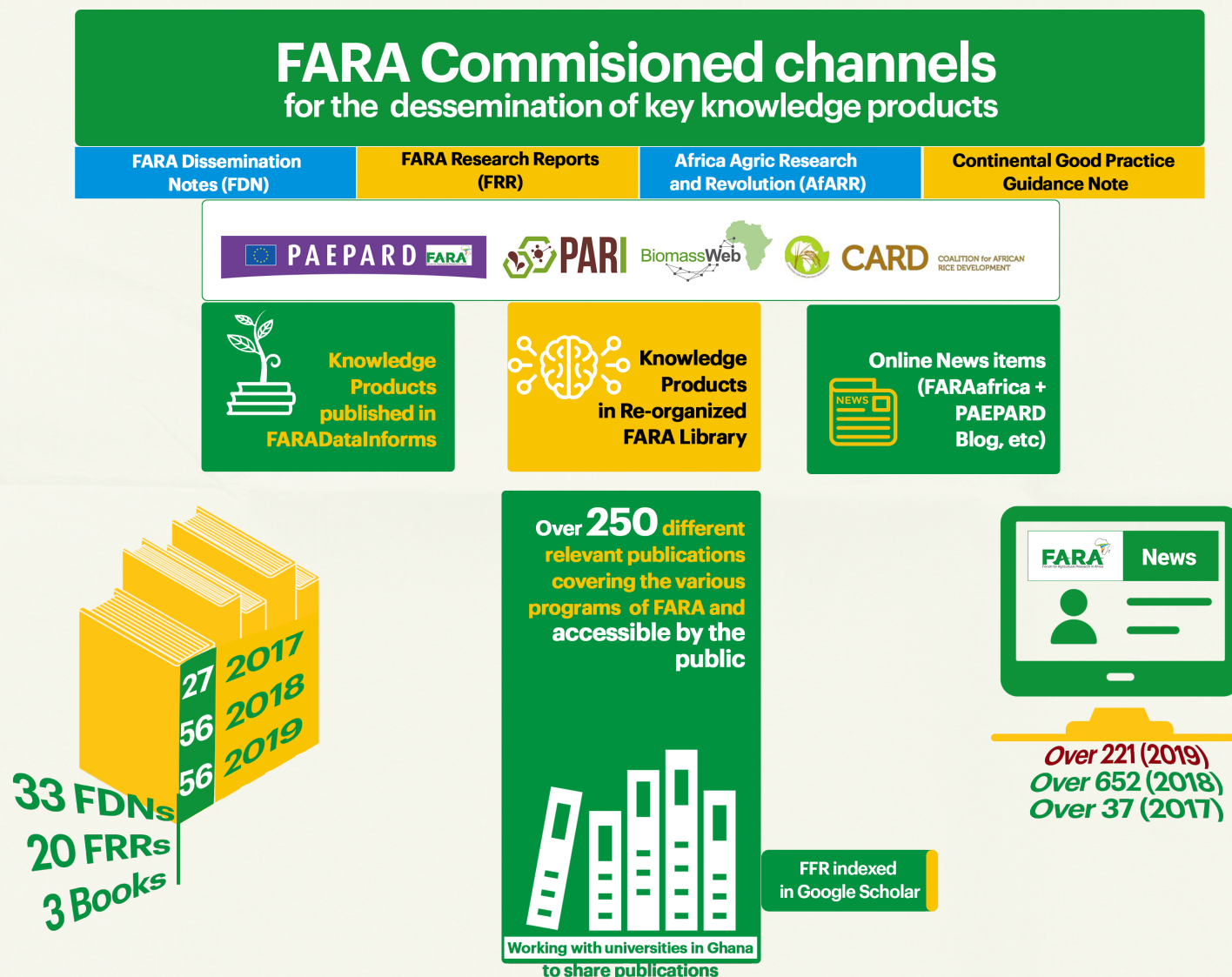


Figure 3: Knowledge Produced for the last mile

Relevant Resources for outreach

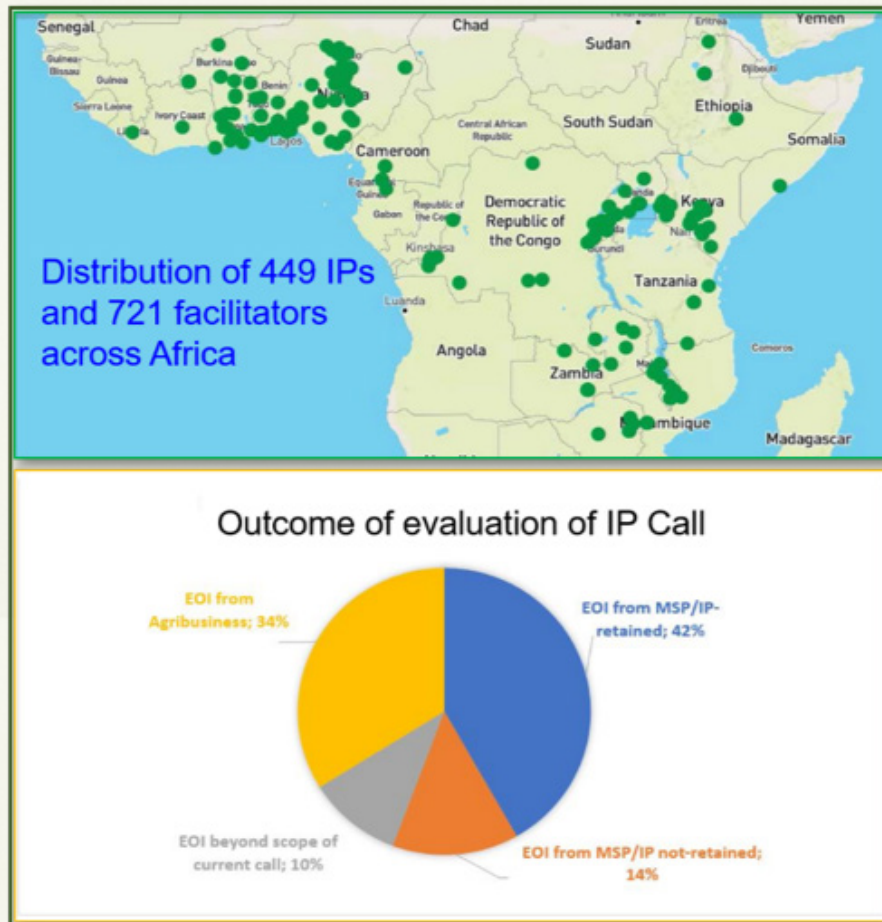


Figure 4: Distribution of Innovation Platforms in FARADatInFormS and samples of publications

In conclusion, FARA's KDS Sub-Strategy implementation plan (2019-2023) supports this agenda and in the subsequent years will specifically focus on facilitating knowledge and information management, advocate for approaches and policies that support uptake of STI, support strategic reflections and development and help position Africa ARD in global platforms



03

Advocacy for mainstreaming STI into national policies to achieve CAADP goals



Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) is a catalyst for sustainable economic and social development.

No nation in the history of development has ever developed without integration of STI into national development strategies together with institutional and organizational change. These are developmental pillars that facilitate increased productivity, improve competitiveness, foster growth that is accompanied with job creation and improved livelihoods. Within the context of the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A), FARA in collaboration with its Sub-regional organizations, supports national partners to strengthen their institutional systems for the application of science in the agri-food systems, capacity to adopt and use STI for agriculture in Africa, and provide the framework for scaling to regional and continental levels.



From 2017, FARA has been working with 5 Tier one countries to help mainstream the S3A into their National Investment Programmes (NAIPs). In 2019, FARA has worked with The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS) and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) to facilitate the participation of Senegal, Burkina Faso and Ghana in a highly level meeting held in Accra under the theme “Science, Technology and Innovation for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation in Africa: The Role of Academies”. A presentation of the S3A was made to participants by a delegate from the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI).

Considering the importance of the theme to Ghana’s very own development agenda, the meeting was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo accompanied by Prof. Frimpong-Boateng, the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI).

Furthermore, as part of efforts to promote institutional innovation, networks/linkages, and create enabling environment for policies as well as advocate for increased investment in the agricultural sector, FARA facilitated the formation of policy teams made up of representatives from national agricultural innovation systems to self-assess annually implementation of planned policies as well as the formulation of underlying policies using FARA Policy Practice Index tool. These efforts supported countries such as Ghana and Rwanda in the preparation of the second generation of the national agricultural investment plans.

FARA organized high level policy dialogues and side meeting at strategic conferences to advocate for STI agricultural policies and inform gender sensitive decision in Africa. Mentioned among them is the Regional Advocacy on Biofortification. FARA strengthened regional advocacy initiatives on making agriculture sensitive to nutrition outcomes through biofortification. FARA organized a side meeting at the 15th CAADP PP held in Nairobi, Kenya on 11th -14th June 2019 to advocate the mainstreaming of biofortification into nutritional policies on the continent.

This, among other advocacy initiatives, contributed to the inclusion of bio-fortification into strategic continental documents such as

(i) AU Business Plan to guide implementation of the CAADP-Malabo Declaration (2017–2021);

(ii) CORAF Nutrition Strategy for implementation in West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) III;

(iii) Resolution of the Pan African Parliament (PAP)-NEPAD High level event on nutrition and food systems;

(iv) NEPAD's Flagship Programmes for Nutrition and Food Security, etc.

FARA brokered collaborations with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission to advance activities under the Pan-African Network for economic analysis of Policies (PANAP) to build capacity in ex-ante policy analysis to strengthening the liaison between researchers/scientists and policy makers in Africa, and to stimulate their cooperation on selected topics linked to policy priorities reinforcing agriculture and stability of food sectors in Africa.



04

Making tools for assessing capacity needs accessible to R4D Partners



Towards Stronger Capacities in Research, Innovation and Agri-preneurship

The Capacity Development & Agri-preneurship (CDA) research cluster of FARA made significant progress in 2019 in facilitating the strengthening of country capacities for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and Agri-preneurship.

A necessary requirement for strengthening capacity for STI and Agri-preneurship is understanding current levels of those capacities. Building on previous studies on human capital formation and agri-competencies along value chains, FARA developed a framework for analysis of human and institutional capacities and capital challenges to foster countries' **commitments to achieving the CAADP-Malabo and S3A**. In 2019, 10 countries spread across three sub-regions were involved in this activity. To this end, FARA integrated the application of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Common Framework for Capacity Development of Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) following its implementation from 2015-2018. Lessons from this engagement were also drawn from FARA's approach to assessment of National Agricultural Innovation Systems and experiences gathered through **SCARDA**. This process continues with capacity assessments currently being implemented under the CAADP-X4 Program.

Inventorying of Instruments & Tools for STI Capacities

FARA has accumulated experiences in the development and application of a range of instruments on capacity development through coordination and management of various projects since 2006.

These include scene-setting studies serving to develop methodologies for **IAR4D**; establishment and facilitation of Innovation Platforms for technology adoption and agribusiness development.. In 2019, FARA established an inventory of tools and instruments countries may leverage to assess their capacity needs and articulate demand for capacity development. These instruments included those harnessed under the TAAT programme to address key capacity issues such as a Gender Mainstreaming, Experience Capitalisation, Youth engagement approaches, and Agripreneurship learning materials development (see table- please convert to more appealing infographic)

Strengthening Future STI Capacity Today

To help address the gap in innovative approaches for specialized knowledge and technical skills in the agricultural sector, FARA developed a strategy for strengthening strategic human capital formation, **Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation System (AKIS)** and Agripreneurship to drive holistic value chain development and climate relevant actions for youth empowerment and improved livelihoods. The strategy was developed as a holistic model driven by global partnerships leveraging on **South-South & Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)**. It connects African AR4D institutions and private sector with the adequate capacity for STI to address the challenges in the continent's agri-food system in a model that delivers livelihood based on a solidarity that breaks the traditional donor-recipient relationship in which partners take advantage of relevant technologies and innovations for their mutual benefits.

Agricultural Research & Innovation Fellowship for Africa-ARIFA

The Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA), aims to produce a new generation of fit-for-purpose workforce to re-engineer the African agri-food sector in the next 10 years. In 2019, ARIFA was launched through an inaugural call for masters and short courses at CIHEAM BARI,

Raising the next generation of Africa's AR4D Practitioners



PostDoc & PhD



Short Trainings & Exchange Programs



Master's Programs



Post Fellowship Agribusiness Incubation

Italy. The call attracted **over 150 applications** from across the continent, three of whom were selected for fully funded scholarships. In line with the philosophy of the HELP, these ARIFA fellows, upon their return to Africa, will be hosted for a certain period by local innovation hubs. FARA has secured **partial sponsorship for 181 African fellows to pursue Master's degrees and short training courses in Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV), Brazil starting in 2020.** FARA has received strong signals from premier research and innovation institutions and agribusiness corporations in India, the Netherlands, China, Cuba, Egypt and South Africa that they would consider to host ARIFA fellows at subsidised costs as part of their contribution to the programme.

With the signing of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), FARA recognizes that Africa will increasingly count on support from the Global South to engage all actors in agriculture to connect, learn and collaborate with each other as outlined in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action Plus 40 (BAPA+40), in their efforts at strengthening the continent's agri-food system in alignment with United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation's & South-South Galaxy Solutions. ARIFA responds to SDGs as Reduced hunger (SDG2) and Poverty alleviation (SDG1), Increased sustainable agricultural productivity (SDG 13 & SDG15), strengthened inclusive human capital formation and Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation System (AKIS) and Agripreneurship (SDG 4 & SDG10), Strengthened linkage between innovation and entrepreneurship (Goal 17) and Increased Youth and women unemployment (SDG 4)

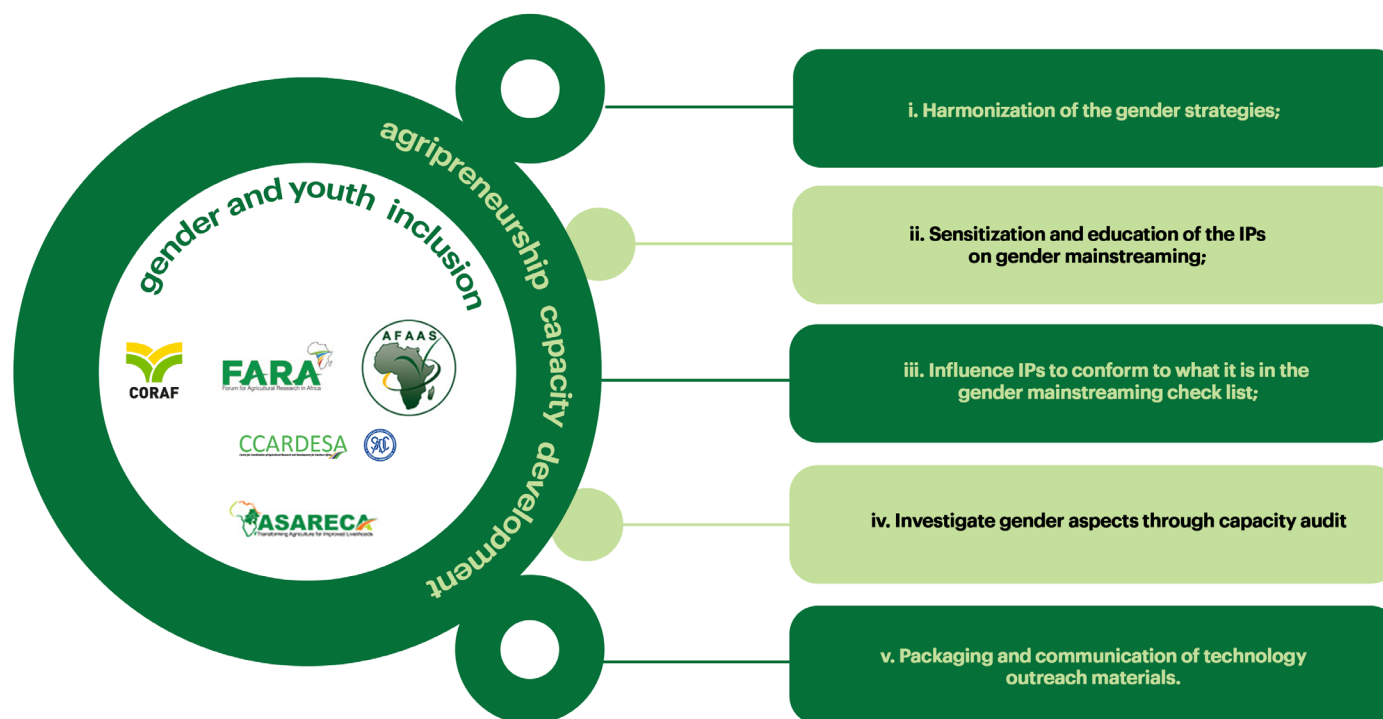
STI guided Mapping of Current and Future Vulnerabilities through Foresight Analysis

FARA recognizes that addressing the challenges facing Africa's agriculture demands a forward-thinking and anticipatory posture to ensure that agricultural research and innovation can be made more responsive to current and future development needs. Having established the African Foresight Academy (AFA) and developed the architecture for its operation at continental, sub regional and country levels, 2019 saw FARA leveraging resources to advance foresight in Africa through CAADPXP4, which contributed in situating foresight and foresight methodology as critical elements in Africa's AR4D development targets. The first cohort of AFA affiliated foresight practitioners located in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. FARA continues to advance the strengthening of capacity for foresight among more professionals in African AR4D institutions and the private sector.

Gender Instruments for Agripreneurship in Capacity Development & Technology Outreach

FARA, the Sub Regional Organizations (SROs) and African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) collectively took stock and reviewed coordinated efforts towards agripreneurship capacity development with considerations to gender and youth inclusion. The forum came up with five key strategic recommendations, namely:

- i. harmonization of the gender strategies;
- ii. sensitization and education of the IPs on gender mainstreaming;
- iii. influence IPs to conform to what it is in the gender mainstreaming check list;
- iv. investigate gender aspects through capacity audit and
- v. packaging and communication of technology outreach materials.



05 Mainstreaming gender and youth in ARD



Mainstreaming Gender in Agricultural Research and Development

There have been concerted efforts by various organizations to fast track the uptake of technologies that have been developed through research, in order to improve the outputs in African agricultural food systems. The urgency to convert the production systems into agripreneurship opportunities especially for the youth and women, led to an investment in capacity development for the adoption and scaling of proven innovative technologies, through a continental youth engagement workshop as well as a workshop for packaging gender responsive agripreneurship materials.

This report covers the period December 2018 to November 2019, during the implementation of the **Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program funded by the African Development Bank**. The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), leader of the Capacity Development and Technology Outreach (CDTO) compact of TAAT, has ensured that the achievements, successes, and scaling-up approaches have taken into consideration gender and youth integration.

FARA in partnership with the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), developed a gender mainstreaming framework for Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation. Further efforts have been put into mainstreaming gender within TAAT Capacity Development and Technology Outreach activities within the continent, through packaging materials for scaling.

Gender Mainstreaming in Packaging Capacity Development and Outreach Materials

The purpose was to strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders in gender mainstreaming while packaging materials for outreach, as corrective measures in eliminating possible barriers effecting women's active participation especially in technology adoption. In order to generate insightful deliberations, the team engaged experts from selected value chains from 10 countries as well as experts from the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS). **The value chains included participants from ten (10) commodity compacts and five (5) enabler compacts**, namely; aquaculture, cassava, high iron beans, livestock, maize, orange fleshed sweet potatoes, rice and wheat, sorghum and millet, soil, water, fall army worm, youth and capacity development.

With guidance from FARA's gender tool kit and TAAT CDTO gender framework, a call for youth essay competition and a call for Innovation Platforms (IPs), Agribusinesses and Multi-stakeholder platforms was designed and launched. It is crucial to create an enabling environment for both young and older women in agribusiness or IP facilitators to formalize their operations and influence service providers and private sector to develop gender-sensitive investment packages for easier adoption by women. On this account, about 40% women-led enterprises were targeted for possible support, and/or access to TAAT capacity development activities. The call for youth essay competition received an overwhelming response of 150 young men and women, 50% being young women.

The call for IP/agribusinesses however received a response of over 200 women and men agribusinesses/Innovation Platforms/Multi-stakeholder platforms leads, 17% being women led. Twenty six percent of the experts involved in packaging materials for technology outreach were women, which still falls below **the targeted 40% involvement of women in ARD activities**. This presents the need for collective action for advocacy aimed at encouraging women to participate in ARD activities, as well as technology adoption at all levels of the value chain.

Youth Engagement in Agriculture Research and Development

As the host of the Africa chapter of the **Young Professional in Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD)**, FARA has been keen to advocate active engagement and participation of youth in ARD. In 2019, FARA mobilized the YPARD network and the **ENABLE-YOUTH Compact** to harvest and document experiences of TAAT implementation on the ground to encourage further adoption of TAAT technologies at scale. They were sensitized on agripreneurship opportunities in specific value chains and partly trained on the technique of Experience Capitalization to enable them to capture stories of the implementation on the ground.

FARA's Youth Initiatives in 2019

FARA appreciates that in order to effectively engage the youth, there needs to be a plan made by youth, for the youth. This also involves understanding how and when to engage youth as well as creating a framework that will bring together a generation to take ownership of and become active on AR4D and more specifically, agribusiness innovations.

FARA has leveraged on publications generated through its **Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI)** to sensitize stakeholders on investment and youth employment opportunities in the area of Post-harvest and Market-linkages in 4 countries in Africa.

FARA also actively promoted the availability of publications on youth employment opportunities in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana and Malawi. Through the YPARD network, the Youth Engagement in Technology Adoption (YEATAA) report was developed and published.

The YETAA report formed the proceedings of a continental youth engagement that culminated in a workshop which set out to: 1) Increase capacity of youth to actively engage in gender responsive agri-preneurship development for TAAT technologies in the context of innovation platforms; 2) Illustrate guidelines and tools for capturing experiences from cases of youth engagement and document key lessons and good practices; 3) Validate existing frameworks for agri-preneurship capacity development interventions among youth, within specific value chains, informed by youth network representatives.

The following achievements were actualized,

- Components of a framework for youth engagement in Africa were outlined,
- Thematic for youth engagement were organized under four clusters:
 - a) Application of science;
 - b) Development of individual agri-preneurship skills
 - c) Development of collective agri-preneurship skills, c) Youth-led youth engagement initiatives
- Youth were equipped with knowledge on unique proposition to information platforms to better embed them within the Innovation Platforms (IPs) as they further develop their skills.

06

Strengthening Agricultural research leadership and management in Africa



Background: Why a research management and leadership cluster?

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (**FARA**), has learned many vital lessons in research for development partnerships and management. This has been through more than a decade of coordination of continental projects in collaboration with partners such as, the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program (**SSA-CP**), Promotion of Science and Technology for Agricultural Development Project (**PSTAD**), Regional Agricultural Information and Learning System (**e-RAILS**), Strengthening capacity for safe biotechnology management in sub-Sahara Africa (**SABIMA**), Programme for Accompanying Agricultural Research and Innovation (**PARI**), Platform for African-European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development (**PAEPARD**), Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Research and Development in Africa (**SCARDA**), Africa Human Capital, Science Technology and Agri-preneurship for Food Security Framework (**AHC-STAFF**), Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural INnovation (**UniBRAIN**) and others.

Over the period, one of the most important learnings was the need for strengthening governance (**leadership**), fiduciary responsibilities and quality assurance, the absence of which undermined the credibility of African institutions, making them less accountable. This was even more imperative as the Framework for African Agriculture Productivity (**FAAP**), developed and disseminated by FARA since 2006, was meant to promote the inclusiveness required to bring on board all AR4D actors from research institutions to end-users (**farmers and private sector**). The end result of this was to accelerate innovations.

FARA and partners identified that some of these institutions were weak **in terms of governance (structures) and that most of them have not managed external funds**. Hence the need for a cluster with the objective of improving the efficiency, accountability and ethics (minimum standards) required by research for development coordination entities to drive agricultural research, innovation and impact. **The cluster was established with the commencement of the new strategy of FARA 2019-2028.**

Grants Management & Fiduciary Systems (GGMFS) in ARD Institutions

From 2018 to 2019, FARA has been developing the **Programme Process Manual (PPM)** which will serve as the major tool for providing operating guidelines and processes for research management. An advanced draft of the PPM has been done, but the late release of CAADP-XP4 funds has stalled any further development.

The PPM is currently being upgraded to become a sourcebook with all relevant information on ARD processes, leadership, fiduciary responsibilities, quality assurance etc.

All activities related to training in **GGMFS**, ethics, leadership and quality assurance have been pending completion of the sourcebook.



Resource mobilization and proposal development

One of the functions of FARA is to mobilize resources for the secretariat and for the entire forum. Commissioned funds from development partners and/or competitive funds are those targeted in the new FARA Strategic Plan. Regarding this activity, FARA entered into partnerships for creating consortia around thematic areas and also submitted some proposals:

1. Design of Yield and Natural Resource-Augmenting Measures for the Sustainable Intensification of Farming Systems (DYNAMICS), led by SLU (Uppsala, Sweden), addressing the scope A of Horizon 2020 SFS-35-2019-A. This has not been selected at the second stage.
2. Reviving the West African food heritage for GREEN Diets, food security, improved nutrition and income generation (AGREED), led by the Danish Institute of Technology and addressing H2020-SFS-2019-2. This proposal has not been selected at the second stage.
3. Soils Information System for Africa (Soils4Africa), responding to H2020-SC2-SFS-35-2019-B call and led by ISRIC. The proposal was selected and funded. FARA will lead WP2-Stakeholder Engagement.
4. Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi Donor Trust Fund (YEI MDTF), proposal submitted to a call for proposals launched by the AfDB. This proposal is pending feedback from the AfDB.
5. Small scale dryers for post-harvest management enterprises in Africa, submitted to IFAD. This proposal has been funded.
6. Stakeholders Analysis on Rural Futures in Malawi, submitted to the Foundation for Smoke Free World. This proposal has been funded.

Long-term Europe-Africa Partnership for Food Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture



Kick Off Meeting

The Long-term Europe-Africa Partnership for Food Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (LEAP4FNSSA) kick off meeting and General Assembly took place in Accra, Ghana on 30 January 2019. It was attended by more than 80 participants from Africa and Europe among them policy makers, diplomats, coordinators of research for development, researchers, academia, farmers and private sector representatives. The meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, of Ghana. The kick-off meeting was followed by the Steering Committee meeting which was held in.... (venue???)



Support to HLPD secretariat

FARA attended 2 HLPD meetings - one in Brussels and another one in Addis Ababa- to support the secretariat. FARA contributed (by a presentation) in the discussion around the research for development priorities for Africa.



Participation in Steering Committee (SC) and WP activities

FARA participated in 8 SC meetings of which 6 online meetings and 2 face-to-face meetings. Also, FARA participated in WP activities. FARA organized a webinar on Dynamics of the AU-EU Approaches to Rural Transformation: Mainstreaming Policies into Actions & Programmes.

07

Making tools for assessing capacity needs accessible to R4D partners



In 2013, **FARA** carried out an analysis of the 'Capacity for innovation within National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in **Africa**, which was adapted to its inclusive definition of the NARS in the context of its interventions within the CAADP programme. This analysis formed part of the basis for a number of international partners, grouped around the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), to develop and promote the use of a Common Framework for Capacity Development of the Agricultural Innovation Systems. The TAP Common framework makes use of 4 core functional capacities, namely the **capacity to reflect and learn, the capacity to navigate complexity, the capacity to collaborate and the capacity to engage in strategic and political processes**, contributing to one overarching functional capacity for achieving the full potential of innovation.

FARA has remained an active member of the TAP Steering Committee and has been following the applications of the TAP Common Framework in the context of the EU-funded CDAIS project, which present the learnings of the project in June 2019. Through this project, a set of tools and instruments on the applications of the TAP Common Framework were documented, available through the TAP knowledge base at tapipedia.org. In 2019, FAO also carried out two pilot country assessments of AIS to refine the development of a method that can be applicable at country level.

FARA has interacted with the members of the TAP to follow the evolution of methods, tools and instruments for assessing capacity needs at individual, institutional and systems levels. Thus, in **its role as leader of the Capacity Development and Technology Outreach (CDTO) Enabler compact of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme, funded by the AfDB**, **FARA** has proposed to carry out Capacity Audits of various targeted value chains within **10 countries** targeted under the Feed Africa Flagship programme of the **AfDB**. In 2019, FARA launched a call for expressions of interest from active Innovation Platforms (IP) for support in their process of transformation.



A set of 58 innovation platforms, covering the 9 priority commodity value chains, across 10 countries have been identified as candidates for the capacity audits.

These IPs potentially have a reach to **114,000 farmers** across these countries. The Capacity Audit exercise, expected to take place through 2020, will be carried out by applying the principles of the TAP common framework to determine the capacities already acquired by these Innovation platforms in the course of their operations and their involvement with the **TAAT programme**, while also determining the set of additional capacities that will be required in their continued path towards agricultural transformation.

Furthermore, **as the CAADP XP4 programme gets started, FARA will be working with AFAAS and the Sub-regional organisations to develop a common instrument to carry out institutional capacity gaps assessments.** The instrument will also be aligned with the TAP Common Framework to maintain coherence in the approach, to enable comparison at different levels across countries and regions, and enable aggregation of results of assessments across the continent.

Therefore, in the coming year, **FARA** and its partners will be involved in a series of capacity assessment initiatives, providing tools and instruments that can be scaled out to more countries across Africa. In the medium term, FARA will be exploring how such information gathered can contribute to the e-capacities portal (**e-capacities.com**), as a platform that provides an updated overview of the stocktaking, demand and supply of agricultural sector specific competencies to drive agricultural transformation in Africa



08

Human Resource Management & Administration



Our Directors' Profiles



Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, a Nigerian national, is the **Executive Director** of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and has served since July 2013. Prior to joining FARA he held leadership positions in several reputable organizations including the African Union Commission, Wageningen University, The Netherlands, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, and the West African Livestock Innovation Centre, The Gambia. A thought and process leader on the continent, Dr. Akinbamijo is an agricultural research and development specialist with considerable expertise in natural resource management including crop-livestock integrated systems, market-oriented production systems, regional value chains, sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation strategies. He is an experienced research manager with proven strength in project development; monitoring and results-based evaluation.

He is a member of several Governing Boards. He holds a PhD in Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, from Wageningen University, The Netherlands, and widely published in various agricultural disciplines – Animal Production, Crop Production, Ecological and Organic Farming, Climate-Smart Initiatives, etc. He is very passionate about making science work to improve livelihoods of especially the poor.



Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong, a Ghanaian national, is the **Director for Research and Innovation** and has served since September 2008. Over the years, she has supported and led continent-wide programs like 'Strengthening the Capacity of Agricultural Research and Development for Africa' (SCARDA), the 'Universities, Business Research in Agricultural Innovation' (UniBRAIN) as well as 'Africa Human Capital for Science, Technology and Agri-preneurship for Food security' (AHCSTAFF) programme and a Science-Led and Climate-Relevant Agricultural Transformation in Africa (CAADP XP4).

She is currently a Commissioner of the Global Consortium for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Commission and has served on several boards and Steering Committees of continent-wide and global initiatives. She holds a PhD in Veterinary Sciences; an MSc in Animal Production Science and BSc. (Hons) Agriculture. She has over 30 years of rich experience as a research scientist, educationist and research manager.



Dr. Aggrey Agumya, a Ugandan national, is the Director for Stakeholder Engagement and Communications and has served in this role since March 2006. His portfolio covers strengthening and maintaining relations with FARA's strategic partners, coordinating governance processes, formulating and activating resource mobilization strategies, and communication for enhancing visibility of FARA and its work. Over the years he served in roles supporting the implementation of the Sub-Sharan Africa Challenge Programme, as well as the Technical Advisor to the Executive Director.

His experience spans targeting agroforestry technologies to domains in Southern Africa, that had a high likelihood of technology adoption and impact. He holds a PhD in Geomatics; an MSc. in Geographical Information Systems and a BSc. in Surveying and Photogrammetry.

Our Board of Directors



**FARA Forum
Acting Chairperson**

Dr Alioune Fall (Senegal)
Agricultural Engineer



**FARA Secretariat
Executive Director**

Dr Yemi Akinbami (Nigeria)
*Agricultural & Environmental
Scientist*



**Executive Secretary
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**Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba
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*Soil and Water Management
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**Acting Executive Director
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Dr Simon Mwale (Zambia)
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**Executive Director
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Dr Abdou Tenkouano (Burkina Faso)
Plant Breeder & Geneticist



**Acting Executive Secretary
NAASRO**

Dr Mohamed Soliman (Egypt)
Plant Breeder



Private Sector

Ms. Bongiwe Njobe (South Africa)
Independent Consultant



**Development Partners
Observer**

European Commission



**Pan African Farmers'
Organisation**

Mr. Nathanael Buka (D.R. Congo)
Farmer



**African Development Bank
AfDB**

Dr Martin Fregene (Nigeria)
Plant Breeder



African Union Commission (AUC)

Dr Janet Edeme (Nigeria)
Plant Pathologist



Scientific Partners

Dr Harold Roy-Macauley (Sierra Leone)
Plant Biologist

Term of office ended in June 2019



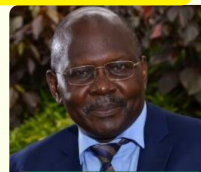
**2nd representative
ASARECA**

**Prof. Lilia Rahajaharitompo
Rabeharisoa** (Madagascar)
Soil Scientist-Agronomist



Scientific Partners

Dr Jimmy W. Smith (Canada)
Livestock Scientist



**FARA Forum
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Dr Ephraim Mukisira (Kenya)
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Capacity Development Expert



Dr. Jonas Mugabe
*Lead Specialist, Research
management & Leadership*



Mrs. Vesta Nunoo
*Grants & Compliance
Manager*



Ms Ama Pokua Asenso
*Human Resource and
Administration manager*



**Mr. Callistus Anim
Achaab**
Procurement Expert



Mrs. Karen Munoko
Agribusiness Expert



Dr. Paul Boadu
*Post-Doctoral Fellow
(Innovation Systems)*



Mr. Christoph Essikpe
Communication Specialists



Mr. Benjamin Abugri
*Knowledge Management &
Outreach Officer*



**Ms. Christabel Efua
Essel**
Translator



Mrs. Vesta Nunoo
*Grants & Compliance
Manager*

09

Financial Performance for the 2019 Financial Year

(audited financial statement for 2019)



2019 Financial overview

FARA's activities during the year were financed by two main sources of funding. The core Secretariat activities were financed by the drawing down on Reserves and other miscellaneous income while the Time Bound Activities (TBAs) were financed through bilateral agreements with various Development Partners.

Total revenue during the year ended 31 December 2019 amounted to USD1,777,017 which was grant revenue for Programme Time Bound Activities – see Donors' Contribution schedule for details. Other sundry revenue amounted to **USD113,700**.

Total expenditure incurred during the period was USD3,865,675 of which 54% was for the Secretariat and 46% for Time Bound Activities. This resulted in a negative net balance of USD774,959 taking into consideration an amount of USD1.2m drawn from the Reserves for the Secretariat operations. Funding during the year came mainly from **European Commission** who supported through IFAD, the CAADP Ex-Pillar 4 organisations Programme and the final payment for the closed **PAEPARD project**. The African Development Bank (AfDB) gave support for the "Technology for African Agriculture Transformation (TAAT)" through IITA. Other contributors to FARA's activities during the year include **BMZ/ZEF** for PARI while **GFAR/FAO** gave funding to support YPARD activities and CIP made a final payment on the closed BNFB project sponsored by BMGF.

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

Statement of Financial Performance for the years ended

| | 31-Dec-19 US\$ | 31-Dec-18 US\$ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Revenue | | |
| Donor Grants | | |
| Secretariat | 0 | 2,547,121 |
| Programmes | 1,777,017 | 2,812,996 |
| Total Donor Grants | 1,777,017 | 5,360,117 |
| Other revenue | 113,700 | 115,394 |
| Total Operating Revenue | 1,890,717 | 5,475,511 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Secretariat | 2,088,658 | 2,266,295 |
| Programmes | 1,777,017 | 2,813,996 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 3,865,675 | 5,079,291 |
| Excess of revenue over expenditure | (1,974,959) | 396,220 |
| Transfer from Reserves | 1,200,000 | 0 |
| Net (Deficit)/Surplus | (774,959) | 396,220 |

Statement of financial position

The Balance Sheet showed the **Total Assets of USD4,613,453** including Cash and Bank Balances of USD4,395,453 as at 31 December 2019. With the Current Liabilities of USD3,297,974, the **net assets of USD1,315,479** is represented by **Reserves of USD1,153,298** and the Accumulated fund balance of USD162,181 .

| Statement of financial position as at 31 December | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | 2019 | 2018 |
| | US\$ | US\$ |
| Non-Current Assets | | |
| Property, Plant & Equipment | 50,478 | 75,088 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 4,395,453 | 5,061,958 |
| Advances | 27,868 | 256,219 |
| Inventories | 6,418 | 18,014 |
| Prepayments | 133,236 | 44,972 |
| Total Current Assets | 4,562,975 | 5,381,163 |
| Total Assets | 4,613,453 | 5,456,251 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accrued Expenses & Payables | 364,698 | 913,930 |
| Temporary Restricted Funds | 2,933,276 | 1,092,056 |
| | 3,297,974 | 2,006,986 |
| Net Assets | 1,315,479 | 3,449,265 |
| Represented by | | |
| Reserves | 1,153,298 | 2,353,298 |
| Accumulated Funds | 162,181 | 1,095,967 |
| | 1,315,479 | 3,449,265 |

Donor contributions for the year 2019

| Development Partner | Project/Programme | US\$ |
|---|---|------------------|
| Time Bound Activities (TBAs) | | |
| European Commission | Platform for African European Partnership for Agricultural Research & Development (PAEPARD) | 813,946 |
| BMZ/University of Bonn | Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI) | 499,847 |
| African Development Bank (AfDB) | Technology for African Agriculture Transformation (TAAT) | 736,980 |
| EC/IFAD | CAADP Ex-Pillar 4 Project | 1,540,700 |
| BMGF/CIP | Building Nutritious Food Basket (BNFB) | 6,896 |
| Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) | Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) | 18,865 |
| Total received during the year | | 3,617,234 |
| Net Change in programme funds | | |
| (1,840,217) | | |
| Total Revenue | | 1,777,017 |

Abbreviations





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