Capitalizing on PAEPARD experience of multi-stakeholder partnerships in agricultural research for development
Introduction

The Platform for African European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD) was launched in April 2007, with the initial aim to build an African-European platform for mutual learning and knowledge sharing. At the end of this initial phase, in September 2008, it was indicated that the existing partnerships were driven by the European partners, while the contribution of African partners was limited. Based on this lesson, PAEPARD II was established in December 2009 with the specific objective to foster “enhanced, demand-driven, more balanced and mutually beneficial collaboration between Africa and Europe for agricultural research for development (ARD) with the aim of attaining the Millennium Development Goals,” now the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

This through objective, PAEPARD II seeks to better identify users’ needs to drive the research agenda and nurture more balanced African-European multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSP), involving non-research actors, such as farmer organizations (FO), non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the private sector.

Coordinated by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and sponsored by the European Commission, PAEPARD entire structure is built on African-European partnership. In addition to FARA, the African partners include the Regional Universities Network for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) based in Kampala, Uganda, as well as the Pan-African Farmers’ Organization (PAFO) and its members, the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAPP) in Nairobi, Kenya; the Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs de l’Agricole de l’Ouest (ROPPA) based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; the Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes de l’Agricole Centrale (PROPAC) based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) – a regional network of organizations charged with mobilizing African stakeholders in southern Africa – based in Pretoria, South Africa.

PAEPARD background

The European partners are coordinated by AGRINATURA – an alliance of 32 ARD institutions in 18 European countries – and include the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP), which represents the private sector in Europe; Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA), representing European NGO; ICRA, an organization specialized in capacity building of MSP for ARD; and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

The user-led process (ULP)

In 2011, PAEPARD launched the concept of user-led process (ULP) to better articulate the end-users’ needs in multi-stakeholder research and innovation partnerships. The ULP comprises of six critical steps, which engage end-users from the start.

1. The identification of a federating theme
2. A desk review
3. An introduction workshop
4. A multi-stakeholder research question inception workshop (MSHRQ)
5. Development of the concept note
6. Full proposal development

The three objectives of the ULP are to: promote research based on users’ needs and challenges; improve existing MSP, and promote user-led ARD dialogue at national and regional level.

Competitive research fund & incentive fund

Another mechanism launched by PAEPARD to support consortia is the competitive research fund (CRF) and incentive fund (IF). Created in 2013, the CRF-IF mechanism aims to strengthen the capacity of promising PAEPARD consortia to improve and implement impact-oriented, demand-driven ARD projects. The CRF has provided seed funding to four consortia with the aim of helping the teams identify alternative sources of funding and increasing their sustainability.

The IF mechanism was created to support consortia in the development of concept notes through inception workshops, write-shops and exchange visits between partners.

Lesson-generic recommendations

Partnership building & brokerage

- Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) should continue to capitalize on existing farmer networks and relationships to engage stakeholders (research, industry, civil society, policy makers) with similar development agendas, aiding the sustainability of, and commitment to, the partnership.

- The strategic selection of stakeholders with diverse capacities is recommended to enhance the skills of MSP actors at the ground level, and to facilitate consortia to achieve project objectives.

- Partner roles and responsibilities must be clearly defined during the conception of MSP to mitigate conflict and ensure a coordinated approach towards achieving impact in the field.

- Resources need to be made available to encourage regular, face-to-face interaction of partners to build trust and commitment, and for the analysis and evolution of project processes.

- Project objectives should continue to respond to the needs of stakeholders - particularly end-users, who should be facilitated to take part in the design of research initiatives that are relevant to their fields.

- Consortium partners consider inception workshops and write shops critical to consolidating and building their partnerships, these incentive mechanisms should therefore be continued with more flexibility in future MSP development.

Communication & advocacy

- The expectations of MSP actors should be communicated at the beginning of a partnership and managed effectively to ensure partners are contributing to a shared vision that has been jointly created.

- Human and financial resources should be allocated to the development of a widely accessible and inclusive communication strategy that capitalizes on information and communication technologies (including social media), to engage actors at all levels, particularly the youth, and spread enthusiasm for MSP as well as document the achievements of PAEPARD consortia in a knowledge management system.

- To increase PAEPARD visibility in the ARD arena and attract project funding, consortia should take full advantage of the publication platform to transform their research experience into scientific papers and opinion features, and target the dissemination of research outcomes and innovation processes towards donors and policymakers.

Project management & coordination

- Flexibility within program strategies is required to allow for the evolution and adaptation of research/development agendas so that resources can be channelled into areas benefiting end-user engagement.

- Implementing a multiplicity of project objectives, such as research dissemination and sensitization of target groups, requires a holistic approach in order to achieve a change in attitudes among ARD actors, and increase the uptake of research outputs at the ground level.

- In order for consortia to avoid overspending and fund request rejection, comprehensive cost breakdowns of project activities should be developed and agreed upon by all partners.

- To avoid errors in financial reporting submissions and subsequent fund dispatch delays, consortia finance officers, at all levels, should continue to receive ongoing financial training and support.

- Monitoring & Evaluation tools need to be developed to track project achievements and unintended outcomes, as well as to ensure project target indicators align with those at the FARA-PAEPARD level.

Capacity building & sustainability

- The CRF-IF mechanism should be considered but with much more flexibility and capacity building of facilitators, coordinators and youth (for the latter, this could be through the training and support of MSF/PhD students).

- MSP should contribute to a public-private funding mechanism to ensure project sustainability and long term financial security. It is recommended that consortia design effective business models to attract private sector investment alongside their research agendas to secure public funding.

- PAEPARD should rethink the role of external AIF within the ULP as overall, they were not considered useful for the latter, this could be through the training and support of MSF/PhD students).

- Current ULP projects with strong involvement of the private and public sectors and market linkages should be scaled-up.

- The institutionalization of PAEPARD as a core program under the African and European Unions guidance would ensure its future.

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The lessons and recommendations outlined in this paper were captured at a PAEPARD Capitalization Workshop with all partners, held in Cotonou, Benin, on 2-6 October 2017. The workshop was key to the overall evaluation of PAEPARD II, as it encouraged participants to analyse and reflect on their experiences of the African-European MSP for ARD processes facilitated by PAEPARD over the last 7 years.

During discussions, the partners reflected on the way forward for PAEPARD activities and the sustainability of its achievements, with recommendations for a potential ‘new era’ and promoting the MSP structure at both policy and ground levels. The main objective of the workshop was to draw specific lessons (both successes and failures) from the ULP, CRF-IF and consortia, which are outlined below.

Regional ULP:
- The extensive livestock value chain consortium in Kenya and Uganda, led by EAAP, promotes innovative aflatoxin control strategies to make grain and animal feed safe;
- The urban horticulture value chain consortium in Malawi, South Africa and Zambia) led by FANRPAN.

CRF:
- The Trichoderma sp. biofertilizer consortium in Burkina Faso, involving private sector companies BIOPROTECT and BIOPHYTECH, as well as the NGO Association pour la Recherche et la Formation en Agroécologie (ARRA);
- The soybean consortium in Benin, led by the NGO SOJAGNOM which has been supporting the processing of soybean-derived products such as milk and Dodana (a local taste enhancer);
- The African indigenous fruit and vegetables (AIFV) consortium in Uganda, which focuses on innovative processes for extending the shelf life of AIFV without degrading their nutritive qualities;
- The GnuVC consortium also received CRF for a project in Malawi-Zambia led by the National Association of Smallholder Farmers (NASAFAM).

Consortia:
- The hot pepper consortium in Togo, which supports the exchange of improved seed varieties of hot pepper from Brazil;
- The citrus consortium in Ghana, which aims to overcome the fungal Angular Leaf Spot disease and improve postharvest management of citrus fruit;
- The poultry feed consortium in Nigeria; addresses the issue of high cost, poor quality poultry feeds in Nigeria with alternative feed ingredients;
- The potato seed consortium in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali led by ROPPA;
- The value addition for mango waste consortium in West Africa (Burkina-Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Senegal) led by COLEACP;
- The stemming aflatoxin contamination in the groundnut value chain (GnuVC) consortium in Southern Africa (Malawi, South Africa and Zambia) led by FANRPAN.

Lessons learned

**Partnership building & brokerage**

**Strategic selection of partners & clarity of their different roles**

Consortium partners were strategically selected according to their complementary interests and relevant experience to ensure their long-term commitment, as well as to build a diverse range of capacities to facilitate the consortium different activities. In the AFIV project, the partners each fulfilled different functions in the partnership, for example, Makerere University provided capacity building training for the research team in chromatography, while the local government facilitated the team access to international germplasm. The support of both partners has since enabled the team to establish a germplasm and conservation centre at the Ugandan Christian University, and vegetables with good postharvest traits that meet consumer preferences have been identified.

When the roles and responsibilities of the different partners are clear, MSP are more likely to achieve their objectives. In the Trichoderma-enriched compost project in Burkina Faso, the research institutions (NERA and IRD) fulfilled their role in testing the optimum substrate and local strains of Trichoderma for vegetable composting, the NGO (e.g. ARRA) met their responsibility to facilitate the extension of research to farmers, and the private sector (BIOPROTECT and BIOPHYTECH) invested in the commercial products, enabling the project to become economically sustainable. This coordinated approach has had proven benefits for the end-users with participating farmers increasing their tomato yields by 24%.

Brokage & creation of a shared vision

Partners need to meet regularly to build trust and long-term commitment, as well as ensure that they are all working towards the same goal. PAEPARD consortium partners originally aimed to meet quarterly, but this target was amended to more frequent and flexible meetings to ensure functional partnerships and allow for regular evaluation of the brokerage mechanism. The maintenance of monthly meetings has not been realized, due to insufficient resources, including time and travel costs.

Despite this, PAEPARD has often been successful in fulfilling its brokerage role. For instance, it played a key role in linking Plant Research International (at WUR) to the Burundi potato consortium and creating a solid partnership. Having this European partner with extensive knowledge of the region on board was a great asset. The strong relationship between partners of the Burundi potato consortium provides a lasting and solid platform from which to expand activities and build new partners; other crop seeds have already been developed by the consortium, including tomato.

However, the mobilization of European partners has proven difficult in some cases, which has been partly attributed to the need to strengthen PAEPARD brokerage mechanism to enhance the facilitation of African-European partnerships. For example, the coordinating body of the European partners, AGRINATURA, was not able to identify a German partner for the Togo pepper consortium with a call

Consortia should capitalize on the networks of the different partners involved. In the potato project in Burundi, the network of Confédération des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement (CAPAD) du Burundi helped establish a good working relationship with the research partners – Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU) and Wageningen University and Research Center (WUR) in the Netherlands. CAPAD network of farmers’ organization was also useful in the dissemination of research outputs among farmers and increasing uptake of the improved seed materials. Looking forward, there is potential to harness the PAEPARD network of different consortia to share research outcomes and collaborate in the extension of technologies and market upscaling. For example, the Cameroonian urban agriculture consortium could benefit from the positive selection process for improved seed used by the Burundi potato consortium.
by the German Ministry (BLE) – which limited the consortium funding network and potential to upscale activities to an international level. Similarly, some partners in the consortium addressing aflatoxin contamination in the GNVC consortium in Malawi-Zambia were restricted in the amount of time they could contribute to the research. In the case of the European partner, the Natural Resources Institute (NRI, UK), this was due to resource constraints as the available budget was not sufficient to support substantial inputs from its researches. It is important that any such factors that may reduce the capacity of the partnership to fully achieve its aims are recognised at the outset and that early measures are taken to mitigate the effects.

**Communication & advocacy**

**Internal communication**

Originally, consortia were left to manage their own communication, but this led to a failure to publish relevant information and a lack of effective internal communication. Most consortium partners had no proper communication training and capacities. Therefore, PAEPARD reassessed its communication strategy and looked more deeply into the communication needs of the consortia. As a solution, the Online System to Improve Relationships by Information Sharing (OSIRIS) was developed in 2015, which gathers information from all the consortia and feeds it into the website. This decentralized tool allows the consortia autonomy over their communication outputs, and ensures PAEPARD external communication is well coordinated. However, there was still relatively low usage of OSIRIS by the consortia as PAEPARD communication strategy was not clearly stated from the outset and consortium members were not immediately trained in communication.

**External communication**

Dissemination of consortium outcomes on the ground level can motivate other users to work with research projects and give the MSP increased credibility, for example, the proven success of the soybean consortium in Benin has encouraged other innovations in the processing of soybean, including production of soya soap and soya ‘skewers’ by other farmer groups. Additional support from PAEPARD for large-scale dissemination of research outputs helps up-scale consortium activities. Explaining in simple words how the Trichoderma-enriched compost consortium has successfully achieved its objective to secure and improve the income of vegetable farmers through the development of biofertilizers, has raised the interest of many more communities currently being reached that could benefit from this innovation.

Presenting information through different channels increases its dissemination, as shown by the many end-users using social media to access information, which is the reason why PAEPARD established a presence on ‘Facebook’ and ‘Twitter’ (e.g. during the European Development Days 2017). Additionally, analysis of the reach of online outputs can help further the dissemination of research outcomes; announcements about PAEPARD upcoming events and funding opportunities receive a lot of attention online (about 1 000 hits per hour), PAEPARD capitalizes on this interest by including other information that it wants to disseminate in these announcements, targeting the youth in particular.

An accessible and inclusive communication strategy to disseminate research and project information is also needed to reach all consortium actors along the value chain. For the citrus project in Ghana, a ‘WhatsApp’ group was created to share issues pertinent information and a lack of effective internal communication. Most consortium partners had no proper communication training and capacities. Therefore, PAEPARD reassessed its communication strategy and looked more deeply into the communication needs of the consortia. As a solution, the Online System to Improve Relationships by Information Sharing (OSIRIS) was developed in 2015, which gathers information from all the consortia and feeds it into the website. This decentralized tool allows the consortia autonomy over their communication outputs, and ensures PAEPARD external communication is well coordinated. However, there was still relatively low usage of OSIRIS by the consortia as PAEPARD communication strategy was not clearly stated from the outset and consortium members were not immediately trained in communication.

**Project management & coordination**

**Strategy building**

Consortia using a well-planned strategy ensure research provides the right technology at the right time. In the case of the soybean consortium in Benin, the project sought to fill the gaps in development by building on the women’s pre-existing knowledge and capacities, as well as the work of several projects. By consulting the women on their needs, the researchers were better able to identify the remaining problems in the soybean value chain. Once the short shelf life of soya milk was identified as one of the most limiting constraints, researchers were soon able to offer a solution. As a result, the women producers are now able to stabilize their milk so that it lasts for up to 3 months (against 8 hours before). Uptake of this innovation was immediate as it directly responded to the needs identified by the end-users.

Achieving the ambitious objectives of a project requires a holistic approach, particularly when addressing a global challenge such as stemming aflatoxin contamination in food. In the GNVC consortium in Malawi-Zambia, the project is not only seeking to disseminate research findings, but is also exploring mechanisms to change the attitudes of the actors along the groundnut value chain to better understand the health risks related to aflatoxin. Such mechanisms ensure end-users are committed to the...
Data and knowledge management

Regular and coordinated documentation of consortia data and outputs, as well as efficient knowledge management, are essential for MSP functioning. Otherwise, when a key stakeholder is lost from a partnership, unforeseen complications can arise. This was seen in the Uganda AIFV project when the partner in charge of data management sadly passed away and the consortium data could not be fully recovered. In addition to internal documentation and knowledge sharing, to produce external publications of consortium outcomes increases visibility and promotes the benefits of the consortium.

Until 2014, PAEPARD did not produce a strategy for its project publications and there were no pamphlets or flyers to give visibility or explain the platform’s activities during this time. To respond to this shortfall, a publication taskforce directly related to the management of PAEPARD was created. Since 2015, the dedicated graphical chart and publication guidelines of PAEPARD gave visibility to each of its releases, with some potential impact particularly among policymakers, although it could still be improved to support the up-scaling of activities. For example, for 2 years, the European Union (EU) has called for interventions related to aflatoxin contamination in Africa, improved documentation and publication of PAEPARD consortium achievements in this area could help mobilize EU support.

Resource management

The development of detailed work plans with budget breakdowns before MSP activities began was essential to avoid overspending. During PAEPARD’s first 5 years, big budgets were shared with consortia without a breakdown of spending for different activities. This process has since been amended to ensure the cost-efficient distribution of funds. Since 2014, PAEPARD has encouraged consortia to work within their budgets by refusing any funding requests from partners that have spent above their budgets or that have not delivered according to the work plan.

During evaluation of consortia budgeting and funding, PAEPARD management emphasised the importance of all stakeholders being on the same page regarding available resources and the budget, from the start of the partnership, to manage expectations and further avoid overspending. The importance of thoroughly reviewing financial contracts and ensuring that the terms are accepted by all partners before agreements are signed was also evident in this evaluation.

Some consortia encountered problems due to grant agreements being signed off by financial officers without being read properly, which led to confusion relating to the timing and amount of funds to be received from management.

Consortia partners have also reported frustrations with the changing of PAEPARD financial reporting formats without updates being adequately circulated internally.

In addition to better communication of these format changes, which should aim to make financial reporting more ‘partner-friendly’, training and capacity support should have been provided to financial officers at all levels to avoid errors and delays in report submissions and contract agreements.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

As part of an M&E analysis into how intended outcomes are tracked across projects, it was found that target indicators at the project level had not been compared with those at the FARA/PAEPARD partnership level. Indicator alignment is therefore necessary to ensure the same parameters are being tracked at project and management levels. The PAEPARD theory of change (ToC) was suggested as a useful model to track intended project achievements and the objectives that were not met. However, this conventional method was not agreed upon by PAEPARD partners when tested previously (2015) and was found to be too theoretical and inconvenient. The lessons from this experience should be analyzed so that the approach can be adapted to suit the M&E needs of MSP.

PAEPARD also needs to ensure its M&E incorporates continued evaluation of project impacts on the ground level, and design tools for capturing research implementation processes, long and short-term outcomes, and unintended results, which can point to impact in the field.

Capacity building & sustainability

Public-private partnerships and funding

In the interest of sustainability, it is important for consortia to identify future sources of funding before current funding ends, and to try to establish self-funding solutions from the beginning of the partnership. For example, the citrus consortium in Ghana has been able to secure funding from one of its key public partners, the University of Ghana, for a soil fertility project before its funding from FARA run out. Starting a consortium with small funding offers the opportunity to test the strength of partnerships and the motivation to go for a bigger project. The Trichoderma consortium won several small grants under 10 000 € before the PAEPARD-CRF of 300 000 €. The seed money effect of CRF has proved effective with the soybean consortium in Benin which has won two additional funding from the Netherlands (NWO-WOTRO) applied research funds.

Farmer-private involvement from the start of a partnership ensured the integration of research themes in local research agendas, funding of research using local resources, and adoption of and investment in research outputs by companies. The seed money provided by CRF helped achieve the current outcomes of the soybean consortium, and a sustainable business model has been elaborated between the CRF and the soybean consortium to ensure long-term sustainability.

Lesson-specific recommendations

A thoroughly planned, yet flexible strategy needs to be established through the involvement of all stakeholders in the consortium.

Data should be stored within an independent database established at the beginning of the project and made accessible to all members of the research team.

Those at management level should work on the publication strategy and ensure research knowledge is transformed into publications.

Target indicators at project and management level need to be distinguished and linked to see how they align.

M&E of MSP must include an impact assessment on the ground level, as well as a broader evaluation of the partnership processes.
Economic self-sufficiency allows the partnership to diversify the activities (new project on the extended shelf life and nutritional benefits), and consumers, drawing on its unique selling points (i.e. Kersting’s groundnut funded by the Netherlands).

One of the dedicated potato seed storage facilities that PAEPARD anticipated that external, neutral agricultural innovation facilitators (AIF) would work better with teams than internal AIF from within partner organizations. However, feedback from participants is that the external AIF did not have relevant, technical knowledge on the subject matter, and did not demonstrate the same commitment to achieving partnership goals as internal AIF. Internal facilitators are part of the success of the sustainable consortia of PAEPARD, time being a key factor for building trust in partnership.

When external AIF were not paid by PAEPARD and consortia were either reluctant or unable to take on this extra cost, they disappeared from the process, demonstrating their low sustainability. However, the preference for internal AIF was debated and some consortia reported the involvement of external AIF as critical to success.

Looking forward

Through the use of ARD frameworks and brokerage and facilitation processes, PAEPARD II has achieved its goal to create African-European MSP for mutual learning and knowledge sharing.

Benefits of the MSP approach within ARD can be seen at all consortia levels, particularly in relation to capacity building and the ability to respond to end-users’ demands. The MSP have captured a wealth of research knowledge, and in a new phase of PAEPARD, there is potential to harness the network of consortia to share experiences and increase collaboration between them to extend the reach of ARD innovations and technologies.

PAEPARD unique ULP mechanism has shifted the agricultural innovation approach from linear and ‘top down’, to a broad and inclusive framework, where end-users have a central position in the design of the research agenda.

The dialogue built between researchers and other actors using the ULP is a legacy that will endure. The CRF-IF mechanism has been positively received by partners and has unlocked the potential of some consortia to generate impactful results, such as improving the socio-economic conditions of the end-users involved.

PAEPARD has carried out extensive facilitation to bring partners together based upon shared objectives, but has experienced both successes and failures in securing European partners. The CRF-IF mechanism should be carried through to a next phase, but strengthened and adapted to factor in the costs associated with acquiring a European partner in order for projects to take their activities to an international scale and increase project longevity.

In the absence of PAEPARD, the ARD arena would be missing a coordinated approach to African-European partnership brokerage, which is so valuable for the capacity strengthening of agricultural value chain actors, and the growth of promising agricultural innovation projects.

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Looking forward, particular attention should also be paid to the training of internal facilitators to support up-scaling of the project including. This should include better marketing of the soya milk to consumers, drawing on its unique selling points (i.e. the extended shelf life and nutritional benefits), and increased investment from the private sector through a diversification of the activities (new project on Kersting’s groundnut funded by the Netherlands). Economic self-sufficiency allows the partnership to pursue ARD in other fields, with other partners, in other regions.

Agricultural innovation facilitators (AIF)

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One such consortium to express appreciation for the external AIF was the COLEACP-ULP mango waste consortium, which highlighted the important role of the facilitators in helping the consortium progress along the various ULP steps. The AIF were selected by consortium members and were highly valued for their expertise and experience in the mango industry, as well as their capacity to facilitate meetings and assist the core group in the development of the concept note. The AIF had planned to support consortium organization and brokerage processes as well, but due to limited budgets at both the PAEPARD and consortium level, their role within the COLEACP-ULP was prematurely brought to an end.

Capacity building of farmers & youth

Capacity building of youth and farmers’ participation in consortia activities both ensure sustained impact of the program after PAEPARD involvement will cease. For example, the involvement of young people at the research level of the soybean consortium has taught them new skills in terms of fund raising and project management. Building the capacity of youth in these areas will facilitate and encourage them to create their own ARD projects.

Additionally, through the AIF Uganda consortium, farmers have been trained to take part in participatory research methods and public speaking to improve their engagement in the project and give them confidence to promote and share their experiences at events to a multi-stakeholder floor. Farmers have also been trained in good practices for vegetable production and postharvest, with some taught to become trainers themselves in these practices, and others facilitated to establish their own seed business. Strengthening farmers’ capacities in all of these areas contributes to the sustainability and continued expansion of the consortium activities.

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Benefits of the MSP approach within ARD can be seen at all consortia levels, particularly in relation to capacity building and the ability to respond to end-users’ demands. The MSP have captured a wealth of research knowledge, and in a new phase of PAEPARD, there is potential to harness the network of consortia to share experiences and increase collaboration between them to extend the reach of ARD innovations and technologies.

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The dialogue built between researchers and other actors using the ULP is a legacy that will endure. Participants at the Capitalization Workshop agreed that PAEPARD has played an active role in brokering ULP partnerships, but in future, more emphasis needs to be placed on mobilizing European partners. Looking forward, particular attention should also be paid to the training of internal facilitators to support MSP in the ULP steps, and to integrate capacity building within consortia.

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The Platform for Africa-Europe Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD) is a 8-year project sponsored by the European Commission (80%) and partners’ own contribution (20%). It is coordinated by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) since December 2009, and extended until end of 2017. It aims at building joint African-European multi-stakeholder partnerships in agricultural research for development (ARD) contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. On the European side, the partners are AGRINATURA (The European Alliance on Agriculture Knowledge for Development, coordinating the European partners), COLEACP (representing the private sector), CSA (representing the NGOs), ICRA, specialized in capacity building in ARD, and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). On the African side and in addition to FARA, the partners are the Pan-African Farmers Organization (PAFO), the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) based in Kampala, and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) based in Pretoria. PAFO involves its members that are the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) based in Nairobi, the Réseaux des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs d’Afrique de l’Ouest (ROPPA) based in Ouagadougou, and the Plate-forme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d’Afrique Centrale (PROPAC) based in Yaoundé. The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) is an associate partner of PAEPARD.

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