



AFAPP

African Food and Agricultural Policy Platform

Report of the Inception Workshop

30–31 May 2012, Accra, Ghana



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Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

12 Anmeda Street, Roman Ridge

PMB CT 173, Accra, Ghana

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1 Introduction



Currently, FARA's Advocacy and Policy unit is collaborating with the African Union Commission (AUC), the AU/NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA),¹ the World Bank and other partners to support the integration of the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) principles in the Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (AFSIPs) of African countries.² The unit is advocating for increased and better quality investments in agriculture and AR&D through high-level ministerial and parliamentary dialogues.³ It is also involved in promoting policy debates on key regional agricultural and trade issues,⁴ facilitating linkages between policy makers and policy research outputs and supporting the use of

1. NPCA is the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency that provides overall coordination of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
2. As the Lead Pillar Institution for CAADP Pillar IV, FARA has supported 28 African countries to develop CAADP Compacts, 21 countries to formulate national AFSIPs and 15 countries to organize business meetings to mobilize resources for the AFSIPs.
3. In April 2011 FARA hosted the First Ministerial Policy Dialogue in Accra, Ghana under the theme *Catalyzing investments in African agriculture*. In April 2012 FARA hosted the Second Ministerial Policy Dialogue under the theme *Integrating research, extension and education in the CAADP country process for increased agricultural productivity*. In November 2011 FARA also organized a Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue in Abuja, Nigeria under the theme *Enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa*.
4. In 2010 FARA collaborated with the European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), the Technical Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CTA), the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture for West and Central Africa (CMA) to organize three regional policy dialogues in Accra, Nairobi and Addis Ababa on *Promoting access to regional and international markets for African agricultural commodities*. Another regional policy dialogue on *Meeting requirements relating to technical regulations and sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures along the agricultural value chain in Africa* was organized in Nairobi, Kenya in 2011.

policy research outputs for evidence-based policy formulation and decision-making in Africa. To ensure that the African agricultural growth agenda benefits from the policy support of policy research institutions, the FARA Secretariat is collaborating with the Center for International Food and Agriculture Policy (CIFAP) of the University of Minnesota to conceptualize the African Food and Agricultural Policy Platform (AFAPP). The AFAPP Inception Workshop was held at the FARA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana on the 30th and 31st of May 2012. It was jointly organized by FARA and CIFAP, University of Minnesota. The objective of the workshop was to launch AFAPP and to develop an action plan to realise its objectives⁵. The specific objectives were:

- To agree on the goals and objectives of AFAPP
- To identify relevant outputs and activities needed to achieve the objectives
- To establish the structure and operational mechanism of AFAPP
- To determine the areas in which AFAPP could add value to African policy research institutions
- To identify the possible venues for “venting” or communicating the outputs of AFAPP to policy makers and other end users
- To identify potential sources of funding for AFAPP
- To prepare a roadmap for the way forward for AFAPP

The meeting was attended by 28 policy experts from academia, research institutes, international organizations (including AUC) and regional, continental and international policy institutes. An overwhelming acceptance of the objectives and the importance of such a continental platform was expressed by the participants and the Platform was launched in the two day meeting. An interim Steering Committee was also launched, which would undertake the steps necessary to set in motion the Platform’s activities.

A detailed list of the workshop participants is presented in Appendix 2.

5. The objective of AFAPP is to enhance the effectiveness of policy support to the African agricultural growth agenda. Specific objectives include supporting the development of a policy research community in Africa, facilitating linkages between policy makers and policy research outputs in order to increase the uptake of policy research results that support evidence-based policy formulation and promoting networking among African policy research institutions.

2 Africa's agricultural growth agenda

Agricultural growth is critical for Africa's economic and social development because of its contribution to food security, employment, income and wealth creation. The overall statistics of African agriculture show that about 70 per cent of the population relies on agricultural activities for their livelihood⁶. According to the second annual Global Agriculture Productivity Report released by the Global Harvest Initiative at the World Food Prize symposium in Des Moines, Iowa in October 2011, the rate of food productivity gains in Africa is below the 1.7% required to meet the goal of feeding Africa's rapidly growing population. Africa's total factor productivity rate is growing at about 1% a year, well below the 4.4%⁷ needed to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1 by 2015.

One of the reasons why agricultural productivity is low in Africa is the gross underinvestment in science and technology, human and institutional capacity and farm productivity enhancers (credit, access to finance, and infrastructure such as transportation and storage facilities). Investment in African agriculture is the lowest in comparison to investment in other sectors such as health, education, defence, social welfare and infrastructure. African countries with high investments in agriculture, such as Rwanda, used to be a recipient of food aid. However, with

6. UNCTAD. 2010. Technology and Innovation Report 2010: Enhancing food security in Africa through science, technology and innovation. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva, Switzerland.

7. Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP), 2006. Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). Accra, Ghana.

increasing investment in agriculture over time, Rwanda continues to produce sufficient food to meet the consumption needs of its growing population, also for exports and strategic reserves. Once investment in agriculture increased food production not only met the needs to population, but allowed for export of surplus and accumulation of reserve supplies. One success story, Ghana, is one of the SSA countries which will achieve the first United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by half before the year 2015.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique provides a vision and agenda for achieving a 6% agricultural productivity growth rate by committing 10% of their countries' annual budgets to agriculture. It presents a framework with a set of key principles and targets to "guide country and regional strategies and investment programs; stimulate and support policy dialogue; ... and facilitate greater alignment and harmonization of efforts of development partners, international and local institutions, knowledge centers and think-tank institutions"⁸. The framework identifies four mutually reinforcing pillars⁹ for driving the agricultural sector towards high productivity targets.

FARA is the lead institution for the implementation of the fourth pillar on agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. This pillar contributes to the 6% growth target through broad-based improvements in agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets. FARA's FAAP was endorsed in 2006 by African Heads of State and Government in Banjul, The Gambia, to give guidance on how interventions in four thematic areas¹⁰ can enhance agricultural productivity and contribute to the 6% annual growth target. The FAAP outlines the key principles for improving agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability through innovation and calls for increased use of evidence-based approaches to policy development, priority setting and strategic planning in agriculture. It also calls for strengthening the capacities of African policy research institutions to make them more responsive to public policy needs. Correct application of the FAAP principles is a key element for a successful agricultural growth agenda for Africa.

FARA's policy support to Africa's agricultural growth agenda

In 2007 FARA revised its strategic plan to incorporate the FAAP principles and policy support to the CAADP country process. Networking Support Functions (NSFs)¹¹ were created to facilitate institutional reforms of agricultural research and development (AR&D) systems, promote access to knowledge and technologies, develop strategic decision-making options for policy, institutions and markets, strengthen human and institutional capacity for AR&D and support platforms for agricultural innovation. In 2011, a joint evaluation of the 2nd External Program & Management Review (EPMR) and a review of FARA's Medium Term Operational Plan 2007 – 2012 (MTO) recognized the strengths and weaknesses of African policy research institutions and the need for FARA to strengthen their capacities, promote exchanges among them and facilitate linkages between them and policy makers.

8. AU-NEPAD, Accelerating CAADP Country Implementation: A Guide for Implementors. November 2009.

9. The pillars address issues of sustainable land and water management (Pillar I); rural infrastructure and trade-related market access (Pillar II); hunger, food and nutrition security (Pillar III); and agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption (Pillar IV).

10. The thematic areas are: integrated natural resource management, adaptive management of appropriate germplasm, development of sustainable market chains and policies for sustainable agriculture.

11. The NSFs are Advocacy and Policy (NSF1/3), Access to Knowledge and Technologies (NSF2), Capacity Strengthening (NSF4) and Partnerships and Strategic Alliances (NSF5).

The Review Panel recommended that FARA use its convening power to facilitate networking among African policy research institutions in order to promote synergies and complementarities in the work that they do and also capture any regional spill-overs. The panel recommended further that FARA's Advocacy and Policy unit strengthen its relationships with African policy research institutions, including the international organizations that it is already working with such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and the Technical Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CTA); enhance collaboration with CAADP Pillar II¹²; and seek new partnerships with other international policy research institutions. The Panel also called on FARA to prioritize its activities in agricultural research, extension and education and link them closer to its CAADP Pillar IV mandate in order to fulfil the policy 'think tank' role that it should play at continental level.

Supporting African policy research institutions

Africa is currently facing a number of political, economic, social and technological forces and trends that are coalescing and having a profound impact on the continent's ability to address complex issues of hunger, unemployment and poverty. As the world increasingly becomes one global village, issues of food insecurity, unemployment, poverty and climate change are not only felt world-wide, but hit hardest on those regions or countries where there is the least capacity to track the trends, analyze them and communicate decision-making options to policy makers. African policy makers want to understand current and emerging trends, be ahead of them and use appropriate policies to address them. Unfortunately, African policy makers do not have adequate access to the types of evidence needed for informed policy formulation and decision-making. Inadequate policy research of relevance to public policy, limited public policy debate on regional issues of strategic importance and a disconnect between policy makers and policy research outputs are some of the main reasons explaining the missing access of African policy makers to evidence-based information as basis for their policy formulation and decision-making.

Policy research institutions support and influence public and private sector decision-making by conducting policy research, disseminating the results and engaging in advocacy for the use of the same. They also act as catalysts for new thinking and new solutions to address current, emerging and potential problems and offer a nursery of ideas on the direction policies should take. Africa has a good number of policy research institutions that serve national and regional interests. Of the 5,400 think tanks world-wide, SSA has about 550¹³. Over 95% of these think tanks operate at the national level and focus on national issues. Less than 5% focus on regional issues. Eight countries (South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Cameroon) account for 58% of all think tanks in Africa. Each think tank pursues its own agenda within its own national boundary, with little attention to what the others are doing.

FARA recognizes the existence of several national and sub-regional policy research institutions in Africa and so will not duplicate or compete with what they are doing. Rather, FARA intends to complement and add value to their work. African policy research institutions currently generate a wide range of research outputs in the form of working papers, policy reports, policy briefs,

12. Implementation of this pillar is led by the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture for West and Central Africa. This organization has its headquarters in Dakar, Senegal.

13. Source: <http://www.politicsafrica.com/2012/02/03/africa>, African Think Tanks on the Rise.

books and refereed papers. Too often, however, these do not filter into the hands of private and public policy makers and so do not contribute much to public policy. Given the many development challenges facing Africa, a good number of African policy research institutions undertake and manage research projects with a view to filling the existing knowledge gaps. However, due to the lack of coordination and the absence of a platform on which they can discuss regional issues of common interest, share ideas, experiences and lessons learnt, too many institutions devote time and resources to the same issues (e.g. climate change, bio-energy, trade); leading often to duplication, repetition and waste of resources.

As a weaver of knowledge networks in Africa, FARA will provide a continental forum for networking (catalyzing, connecting and communicating) among African policy research institutions. These institutions are members of the platform from which affiliates will be drawn to constitute the research resources by which AFAPP can carry out its mandate. The platform will provide the opportunity for them to connect and communicate, thus complementing and adding value to each other's work. The platform will also provide several venues (such as workshops, seminars, training and conferences) for "venting" or communicating research outputs to affiliates of AFAPP, policy makers, and the broader community of policy analysts. By providing a platform for promoting the production, dissemination and uptake of policy research outputs, FARA hopes to enhance the contribution of policy research institutions to public policy process in Africa.

Thus, one of FARA's responses to this was the organization of the regional policy and market stakeholder consultation workshop in 2008, which forms the basis for the FARA's Regional Policy Strategic Plan 2009 – 2012. In response to the outcome of the 2008 Consultation Workshop, FARA collaborated with the ECDPM, the CTA, the AUC, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the CMA to organize three regional policy dialogues in Accra, Nairobi and Addis Ababa on *Promoting access to regional and international markets for African agricultural commodities*. Another regional policy dialogue on *meeting requirements relating to technical regulations and sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures along the agricultural value chain in Africa* was organized in Nairobi, Kenya in 2011.

Going a step further, AFAPP is being established to respond to FARA's strategic direction and the joint evaluation of the second external program management review of FARA's Medium Term and Operational Plan.

3 The goal and objectives of AFAPP

Africa's political leaders have confirmed their commitment towards investing 10% of their countries' annual budgets to agriculture in order to achieve an annual 6% agricultural productivity growth. However, several draw-backs hinder the successful agricultural productivity increase in spite of the fact that today countries are spending more than in the last decades and allocating up to 10% of their annual budgets to agriculture.

Quite often, there is an inadequate supply of high-quality research results as a basis for relevant policy recommendations to policy makers in Africa. This limitation is partly due to the shortage of existing policy institutions in Africa or the insufficient capital/human resource of the same. In addition, existing policy institutions are lacking in qualified researchers capable of producing and supplying relevant and timely policy recommendations. Consequently, policy output is low and this makes it difficult to translate good policy into positive economic dividends for Africans.

But even if policy recommendations are available and supplied to the policy makers, quite often the agricultural landscape in Africa can be characterized by an unfavourable policy environment. This is created by a high level of policy inconsistencies and reversals. The consequence is that even with adequate policies at hand, the policy makers are not utilizing and implementing the recommended agricultural and food policies.

After all, the implementation of agricultural and food policies in Africa is hindered from the supply side as well as from the demand side. In other words, despite the fact that there has been success in the past decade in narrowing the gap between scientists and farmers, a widening gap between scientists and policy makers became evident at the same time¹⁴.

It is suggested that AFAPP be the instrument bridging the gap and facilitating linkages between policy makers and policy research outputs in order to increase the uptake of policy research results that support evidence-based policy formulation, and thereby – as the **overall goal of AFAPP** – enhance the effectiveness of policy support to the African agricultural growth agenda. To achieve this overall goal of AFAPP, there is the need to tackle the limited link between policy makers and policy research outputs as policy recommendations from the policy research community in Africa at four levels:

1. Supporting the development and strengthening the vitality of the policy research community in Africa
2. Strengthening the capital and infrastructural capacity of agricultural development policy researchers and of policy makers
3. Promoting networking activities among African policy research institutions
4. Facilitating linkages between policy researchers and policy makers

Thus, AFAPP will provide an effective platform for addressing the four specific objectives and by achieving these objectives will determine the main drivers of Africa's agricultural development and growth.

AFAPP will support the development of a policy research community in Africa

To improve the effectiveness of policy support for the African agriculture growth agenda, the fragmented policy research community in Africa has to be supported. At present, the inadequate supply of high quality research results in Africa is due partly to the shortage of policy institutions on the continent. Further, the existing policy institutes are not all sufficiently equipped to generate fore-sighted policy predictions and general policy recommendations. Consequently, policy output is low, seldom harmonized throughout Africa and often of minor quality. This makes it difficult for policy makers to pick up the right recommendations and thereby translating good policy into positive development dividends becomes a huge challenge. Furthermore, due to the continuous change and development of the economic environment in Africa, more policy recommendations are required in shorter time and the policy research institutes are often not able to keep up with the challenge presented by these changes.

AFAPP will:

- a) Encourage the production of independent and high-quality agricultural, economic (and related) research of relevance to public policy
- b) Undertake and manage regional agricultural research projects with a view to filling knowledge gaps about the key development challenges facing Africa
- c) Promote cross-boundary sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and approaches to policy research

14. James Moseley, US Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, June 2004

- d) Disseminate research outcomes through various channels including conferences, workshops and publications

Encouraging and facilitating the interaction between existing policy research institutes will increase their collaboration. Thereby, the research institutes can utilize synergies and extend their scope of research and policy recommendations. Eventually the policy research institutes in Africa will grow together to a policy research community and thereby overcome the isolation and defragmentation and at the same time enlarge the impact of each research institute. By doing so, a vibrant, active and effective policy research community can be established.

AFAPP will strengthen the capacity of agricultural development policy researchers and of policy makers

Although the number and quality of policy research institutes are slowly increasing all over Africa, there is still a need to support policy research at the level of the individual institutes and individual researchers to enable them to give answers that address agricultural policy issues. Hence, promoting and facilitating capacity strengthening for agricultural development policy research institutes and researchers will be a critical component of AFAPP.

In addition to strengthening the capacity of policy researchers in their core field of policy analysis work, AFAPP will promote capacity development activities to enable researchers to "translate" their policy research results (which are quite often too academic and abstract) into readable and short briefs for policy makers and "policy technocrats".

Besides the training of agricultural development policy researchers, the Platform will supply capacity strengthening activities specifically tailored for policy makers and "policy technocrats" to enable them to comprehend evidence-based policy options and take up policy recommendations supplied by the researchers.

AFAPP will promote networking among African policy research institutions

In Africa the number of good quality research institutes is increasing. However, these institutes are scattered over the continent and efforts to link them are limited, despite some well performing initiatives. Hence, by promoting networking among African policy research institutions, AFAPP will encourage research institutions to collaboratively undertake food policy research in Africa at national, sub-regional and continental levels. In addition, AFAPP enables policy research institutes to utilize synergies by combining their specific research and development programs, be it in the research phase or in delivering policy recommendations to policy makers.

Being a continental policy platform, AFAPP will pursue its specific objectives at three levels: at the country level of all members of AFAPP, at the regional level, with the Regional Economic Communities, and at the continental level. Hence, AFAPP will become a platform for national policy research institutes to link up and relate with other national, regional and/or continental bodies.

AFAPP will facilitate the links between policy researchers and policy makers

There exists a significant disconnect between policy researchers, policy makers and policy implementers. Too often, policy research institutions target policy makers but fail to engage them. Experienced consequences of this separation are – amongst others – a reversal of agricultural policies in some African countries, which have been the basis for their agricultural growth in the past. In order to increase the uptake by policy makers of research results that support evidence-based policy formulation, AFAPP will facilitate the links between researchers and makers and their research outputs and recommendations.

Hence, AFAPP's specific objective of strengthening linkages through promoting exchange between policy makers and policy researchers and their policy research outputs will assist policy makers in choosing the best policies based on evidence-based prescriptions. In this context, AFAPP could become an important interactive platform where decision makers interact and exchange success stories as well as providing linkages between regional research and policy organizations.

Overall, AFAPP's objective is to become a platform to connect policy researchers and their institutes, allowing policy makers to take advantage of evidence-based policy recommendations. AFAPP's approach will improve the agricultural policy environment for uptake of evidence-based policies and proven technologies and thereby bridge the big disconnect which is the missing link within the agricultural and food policy process in Africa. AFAPP's underlying task will be to inform policy makers and their "governmental technocrats" and make them understand the causes and effects of the potential policies. After all, it is their responsibility to decide upon which policy to implement.

4 Benefits of AFAPP

The discussions during the 8th CAADP PP as well as the 2012 World Economic Forum in Addis Ababa document the need to establish a strong policy-based platform in Africa in order to strengthen agricultural productivity growth in Africa. AFAPP will fill this need and add value to ongoing initiatives by various continental and international actors, thereby promoting networking among the members of Africa's policy research community. This will not only enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of African policy research institutions in the production and dissemination of economic research outputs, but also achieve scale and scope economies. Interactions among these institutions will enhance synergy and complementarities and will help capitalize on regional spill-overs.

Further value will be added through AFAPP's collaboration with other policy research programmes from national, regional and continental institutions and political organizations. At the Inception Workshop, various African research and policy agencies at regional, continental and international levels as well as intergovernmental organizations declared their interest in collaborating with AFAPP in order to achieve the stated objectives. All these organizations feel the need for AFAPP and also place increased emphasis on the propagation of evidence-based policy planning tools.

By supporting the policy research community in Africa, promoting the interaction between African policy research institutions as well as facilitating links between

policy makers and policy researchers, AFAPP stands for a systematic approach to supporting, facilitating and strengthening policy advice activities of African policy research institutes. With this approach, AFAPP will not compete with other initiatives but instead complement, supplement and support them in such a manner that it adds value to other on-going research and policy advice activities. Hence, through encouraging the interaction and collaboration between all relevant researchers, AFAPP will reduce the risks of duplication of policy research activities in Africa.

AFAPP will emphasize the link between evidence-based policy process and agricultural development and will facilitate the member institutes to identify and generate evidence-based solutions to food and agricultural problems in Africa. By promoting and facilitating the links between policy research institutions and policy makers, the uptake of research outputs will result in evidence-based policies and better informed decisions that support the African agricultural growth agenda and prove to be an added value of AFAPP.

The value of AFAPP will increase as it scales up its activities to the sub-regional and regional levels. On the structure and operational mechanism, a good institutional mapping of the policy landscape at the sub-regional and continental levels will help to identify AFAPP's niche.

Though FARA might already be doing AFAPP-related activities, the establishment of AFAPP will help to consolidate these efforts and similar ones in Africa. FARA has a wealth of experience and AFAPP will consolidate on this success and also learn from the lessons for out-scaling purposes. Thus, FARA's role in this regard, through AFAPP, includes the delivery of policy knowledge systems which comprise collaboration among policy research institutions, policy knowledge generation and dissemination.

One further added value of AFAPP lies in promoting the role of agriculture in South-South collaboration.

Finally, research activities induced by AFAPP's interactions have a high potential for generating funding.

5 Outputs and activities needed to achieve the objectives

Exemplary outputs and activities have been identified to achieve the specific objectives of AFAPP. These outputs and activities will be presented in the following pages, giving a hint of the range of issues which can be covered by AFAPP. Due to the nature of AFAPP, there will be no final list of outputs and respective activities. Instead, the list will remain a work in progress which will keep evolving depending on the needs of AFAPP's members.

After the general setting up of AFAPP according to the Road Map discussed during the Inception Workshop and the development of the operational plan, AFAPP will be able to start implementing the programmes of activities. Based on AFAPP's four specific objectives, the following outputs and activities have been identified:

Objective 1: Supporting the development and strengthening the vitality of a policy research community in Africa

- Output 1.1: AFAPP takes stock.
 - By creating a database of all policy research institutes, individual researchers and key stakeholders in Africa
 - Undertaking institutional mapping of research institutes, researchers and their research programs and dissemination pathways

- Taking inventory of policy research for gaps, strengths and opportunities at the regional and continental level
- Output 1.2: AFAPP develops strategies to implement its activities successfully
 - By identifying the strategies to encourage policy research institutes, programmes and projects to participate in AFAPP's activities and network
 - Identifying the strategies to engage policy makers in AFAPP's activities

Objective 2: Strengthening the capacity of agricultural development policy researchers and of policy makers

- Output 2.1: AFAPP takes stock:
 - By conducting capacity needs assessments for agricultural development policy researchers and policy makers
- Output 2.2: AFAPP prepares capacity development activities conducted in agricultural policy research:
 - By developing training modules
 - Identifying specific beneficiaries, including:
 - » Researchers
 - » High level policy persons (e.g., at ministerial as well as "AFAPP Leadership Dialogue" level)
 - » Policy technocrats
 - Organising capacity development workshops for knowledge exchange.
- Output 2.3: AFAPP conducts capacity development activities:
 - By organising short, medium and long term capacity development programmes for researchers, policy makers and policy technocrats
 - Conducting research-based trainings through universities and supporting participant scientists

Objective 3: Promoting networking among African policy research institutions

- Output 3.1: AFAPP takes stock:
 - By conducting an institutional mapping to understand who is doing what, where and when (based on output 1.1)
- Output 3.2: AFAPP supports the creation and sustainability of networks:
 - By sharing the results from the institutional mapping with all policy research institutes
 - Inviting policy research institutions and individual researchers to participate actively in the Platform
 - Identifying thematic areas on which the Platform will focus
 - Establishing an AFAPP exchange programmes

Objective 4: Facilitating the linkages between policy researchers and policy makers

- Output 4.1: AFAPP takes stock:
 - By identifying the target audience.
 - Developing effective communication strategies and finding the appropriate channels
- Output 4.2: AFAPP establishes a discussion platform for policy debate between researchers and policy makers:
 - By determining the policy research agenda with policy makers and researchers
 - Mapping the political context (policy makers, policy technocrats, policy making process and entry points for influencing decision making)
 - Preparing policy briefs to inform policy makers
- Output 4.3: AFAPP facilitates the interaction between policy researchers and policy makers
 - By generating a databank of existing policy research results and on-going research activities related directly to policy recommendations (based on Output 1.1)
 - Upscaling of specific research outputs in order to promote sub-regional and continental outreach
 - Organizing conferences, dialogues, thematic meetings (policymaker-focused, researcher-focused)
 - Developing working papers, policy reports, policy briefs
 - Organizing "Policy makers' Breakfast" and other activities, which will serve as entry points for policy makers

To reduce operational costs, AFAPP will utilize modern communication technologies for the Platform's activities. Hence social media will be crucial. Some of the targeted media interfaces will be:

- TV, newspapers, newsletters, policy blogs
- Websites – links to members, journalists (news/media bent) policy reports (policy bent)

"Traditional" workshops, thematic meetings and conferences will be held as part of AFAPP's activities and workplan. However, in contrast to normal meetings for the research institutes, these will be more policymaker-focused in order to improve researchers' understanding of how to better translate policy research results into policy briefs. At the other end, meetings with policy makers, policy technocrats and administrative staff will be researcher-focused to enable them to understand better research outputs. The proceedings of such meetings will be designed to meet the needs of the target groups.

AFAPP's research outputs - traditional meetings, discussions through social and general electronic media as well as from collaborative research - will be summarized in working papers, policy reports, and policy brief formats.

It is important for AFAPP to strike a balance between research-oriented and policy-oriented activities. However, AFAPP's activities in general, but especially the policy issues and the

related policy research topics, have to be demand driven. Still, there are some research topics which seem to be very crucial and have been recommended by participants at the Inception Workshop.

AFAPP needs to pay attention to cross-cutting issues, especially those concerning land use and mining policies, which are issues of relevance to agricultural development in Africa. Further, Africa's long term agricultural planning and development policies should be taken into consideration. Past experience has shown that providing sound policy recommendations does not guarantee their implementation. Hence, political economy has to be included in the envisaged capacity development programs and general activities, including the motives and the obstacles for policy makers to adopt policy recommendations.

Finally, AFAPP will be a basis for ensuring that agricultural policies are evidence-based. Thus, there is a need to inspire the re-orientation of policy research to be more evidence-based.

6 Structure and operational mechanism of AFAPP

The fundamental role of AFAPP is to facilitate and enable the policy research institutes in Africa to improve the effectiveness of their policy support to the African agriculture growth agenda. As a platform the structure should be as lean as possible and geared towards enabling AFAPP to achieve its specific objectives. Hence, the structure suggested and discussed at the Inception Workshop consists of a Steering Committee and a Secretariat, which facilitates and implements the planned activities and outputs.

The role of the **Steering Committee** is to review and approve the Platform's general strategy and work and thereby ensure that the Platform's general strategy (as well as its concrete activities) is in line with its specific objectives and overall goal. The main tasks of the Steering Committee include:

- Ensuring that AFAPP's Secretariat is staffed with highly competent persons who can contribute to AFAPP's objectives
- Discussing and approving AFAPP's Business Plan and the Secretariat's annual work plan and thereby setting AFAPP's agenda
- Discussing and approving AFAPP's annual budget as well as its three-year budget forecast
- Approving the annual technical and financial reports presented by AFAPP's Secretariat, making sure that the funds provided are being used judiciously

- Facilitating the flow of information and the exchange of experiences among stakeholders of agricultural policy research
- Commissioning an external evaluation every five years to assess the progress being made and serving as a quality control
- Establishing any sub-committees or working groups deemed necessary to accomplish AFAPP's mandate in an efficient and effective manner
- Assessing at least once every two years the performance of AFAPP's Secretariat
- Discussing and approving changes in AFAPP's goals and specific objectives
- Taking any other decision that the Steering Committee members feel necessary in the overall interest of AFAPP and in discussions with the members of AFAPP

AFAPP's Steering Committee will cut across all the different categories related to agricultural research and the members shall reflect the broad spectrum of food and agricultural policy and policy research institutions and other relevant stakeholders. In principle, there is compliance regarding the composition of the members of the Steering Committee. It will comprise FARA and the Sub-Regional Organizations, representatives of policy research institutions and Regional Economic Communities as well as representatives of the African Union, of the international agricultural research system and the group of donors (to a maximum of fifteen members). A detailed break-up of the composition is given below.

- One representative from FARA as a permanent member and ex-officio chair of the Steering Committee
- Two representatives from the four Sub-Regional Organizations (ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, CCARDESA and AARINENA) who will rotate with representatives from the other SROs according to a 3-year term
- Three representatives from policy research institutes, who will rotate according to a three year term
- Two representatives from the three Regional Economic Community organizations (ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, EAC ECCAS, CEN-SAD, IGAD, AMU), who will rotate with representatives from the other RECs according to a 3-year term
- One permanent representative from AUC
- One representative from CGIAR / IARS, who should be from IFPRI as the most relevant CG Center for AFAPP
- One representative from the group of donors, who will rotate according to a 3-year term

At the Inception Workshop, the **members of an interim Steering Committee** for the first year were selected and the terms of reference were listed for the transition phase. The members are:

- One representative from FARA as permanent member and ex-officio chair of the Steering Committee
- Two representatives from the four SROs. These representatives were from CCARDESA and NASRO
- Three representatives from policy research institutes:
 - Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FARNPAN)
 - African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)
 - Institute for Development and Economic Planning (IDEP)

- Two representatives from the three Regional Economic Communities:
 - ECOWAS
 - East African Community (EAC)
- One permanent representative from the AUC
- One representative from CGIAR / IARS: IFPRI
- One representative from the group of donors

The **tasks of the interim Steering Committee** will be:

- To set up the AFAPP Secretariat
- To finalize AFAPP's structure, especially deciding on the necessity of additional elements in the structure (e.g., an additional Scientific Committee to set AFAPP's agenda for research and training and to assure the quality of work conducted through the Steering Committee and the Platform as such; an Outreach and Networking Committee for the advice on communication strategy and other capacity needs as well as for conducting policy dialogs)
- To decide on AFAPP's structure for experts' review
- To finalize the decision on the member structure of the Steering Committee. For example, this would include the decision to invite representatives from other stakeholder groups (such as farmers' associations) when demand arises
- To develop a general Monitoring and Evaluation System, which can be applied to every component of AFAPP's activities

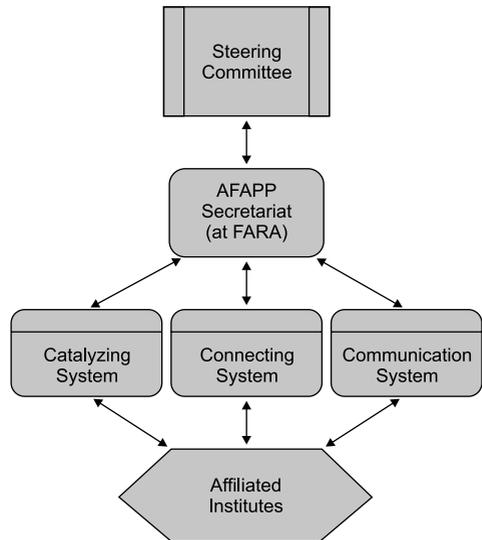
AFAPP's **Secretariat** will be hosted and managed under FARA's Advocacy and Policy Unit and its role is:

- To facilitate and coordinate the various activities planned to take place under AFAPP
- To discuss, promote and partially coordinate the various initiatives that member agricultural policy research institutions want to carry out
- To organize a General Meeting of all member institutes and relevant policy makers every three years, or according to the date determined by the Steering Committee (and possibly back-to-back with FARA's General Assembly and / or the African Agricultural Science Week to reduce costs)
- To organize conferences and symposia according to the annual work plan
- To mobilize financial and other resources for AFAPP's institutional setting and the planned activities
- To organize a continental peer review structure for AFAPP's branded products

The Structure of AFAPP Steering Committee

AFAPP's structure is kept lean to reduce transaction costs to a minimum and keep the efficiency high. Besides the Steering Committee and AFAPP's Secretariat, the interlinkage to all relevant member institutes is one of the most necessary criteria for AFAPP's successful work and its impact on the policy arena through achieving its objectives. The link to all members of AFAPP will be organized according to FARA's principle of Platforms for networking:

- Catalyze:
 - Agricultural and food policy training workshops and seminars
 - Inventory of policy research in order to identify gaps, strengths and opportunities at the regional and continental level
- Connect:
 - Engagement of policy makers and research institutions
 - Conferences (biennial) for policy makers or researchers or both
 - Electronic portal – connecting agricultural policy networks and systems
- Communicate:
 - Use of information and communication technologies to disseminate policy briefs and other documents
 - Introduction of AFAPP leadership dialogue



These are just a few initiatives that could be taken. The list is not exhaustive.

7 Possible venues for “venting” or communicating the outputs of AFAAP to policy makers and other end users

AFAPP Secretariat, in collaboration with member institutes will have to develop a thorough plan for the dissemination of outputs generated through AFAPP's activities and involvement. In general, the following ideas and examples are laying out some of the general pathways of communication, which participants at the Inception Workshop recommend:

- Electronic media including social media (Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, mobile phone).
- Print media (Press releases/press conference, opinion, advertorial), workshops and conferences
- Tele conferences, webinars, et cetera
- Selected targeted meetings, such as for ministers.
- Targeted communication for science communicators.
- Packaged information
- Stand-alone website for AFAPP
- Publications (hard copy and electronic reports) (Working reports, newsletters, policy briefs, journal articles).

8 Potential sources of funding for AFAPP

AFAPP Secretariat will have to develop an overall concept for funding and how to approach potential funders as well as how to sustain funding sources. Funding is needed for AFAPP's institutional setting and operational costs (mainly for the Secretariat) and for AFAPP's activities, which will be directly implemented by AFAPP or through one of AFAPP's member institutes.

Potential sources of funding are:

- African Development Bank
- African Union
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other foundations relevant for AFAPP's work
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
- Department for International Development (DfID)
- European Union (EU)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- RECs such as ECOWAS, SADC, EAC
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Bank

General approaches for funding will include the development of the following:

- AFAPP's Strategic Plan
- AFAPP's Communication Plan
- AFAPP's governance structure
- AFAPP's Marketing Plan (including the branding of AFAPP)
- AFAPP's Resource Mobilization Plan (including good proposals and special investors/donor meeting to raise funding).

9 Roadmap for the way forward for AFAPP

After conceptualizing AFAPP, discussing the related issues, developing and accepting AFAPP's objectives and structure and thereby launching AFAPP at the Inception Workshop, the following steps have been agreed upon to operationalize AFAPP:

- FARA calls for the first meeting of the interim Steering Committee to finalize the road map and lay down the steps to take
- AFAPP sets up and operationalizes its activities
- The interim Steering Committee establishes AFAPP's Secretariat
- AFAPP Secretariat will identify thematic areas on which the Platform will focus
- AFAPP Secretariat will develop an internet portal and utilise social medial tools.
- AFAPP Secretariat will define the policy research agenda of AFAPP
- AFAPP Secretariat will establish formal mechanisms to link up and strengthen the network, such as sign MOUs to formalize relationships, meeting schedules, etc.

Appendix 1

Acronyms and abbreviations

AFAPP	African Food and Agricultural Policy Platform
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGRA	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa
AGRODEP	African Growth and Development Policy
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAADP PP	CAADP Partnership Platform
CARD	Centre for Agricultural Research and Development
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CEDRES	Centre d'Etudes, de Documentation et de Recherche Economiques et sociales
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIFAP	Centre for International Food and Agricultural Policy
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CRES	Consortium pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale
CSEA	Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa
CMA	Conference of Ministers of Agriculture for West and Central Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CTA	Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DfiD	Department for International Development
DONATA	Dissemination of New Agricultural Technologies in Africa
DREA-AUC	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the AUC
EAC	East African Community
ECDPM	European Center for Development Policy Management
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEA	Ethiopian Economic Association
EPRC	Economic Policy and Research Centre
ESRF	Economic and Social Research Foundation
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FO	Farmers' Organization
FSC	Food Security Center
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IAR4D	Integrated Agricultural Research for Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDEP	Institute for Development and Economic Planning
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGAD	InterGovernmental Authority on Development
ISSER	Institute of Social Statistics and Economic Research
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis
LDC	Least Developed Country
MAFAP	Monitoring African Food and Agricultural Policy
MTOP	Medium Term & Operational Plan
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NASRO	North African Sub-Regional Organisation
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NBC	Namibian Broadcasting Corporation
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NSF	Networking Support Function
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
R&D	Research and Development
RAILS	Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
ReSAKSS	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SRO	Sub-Regional Organization
SSA CP	Sub Saharan Africa Challenge Program
TRALAC	Trade Law Centre
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UniBRAIN	Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation

Appendix 2

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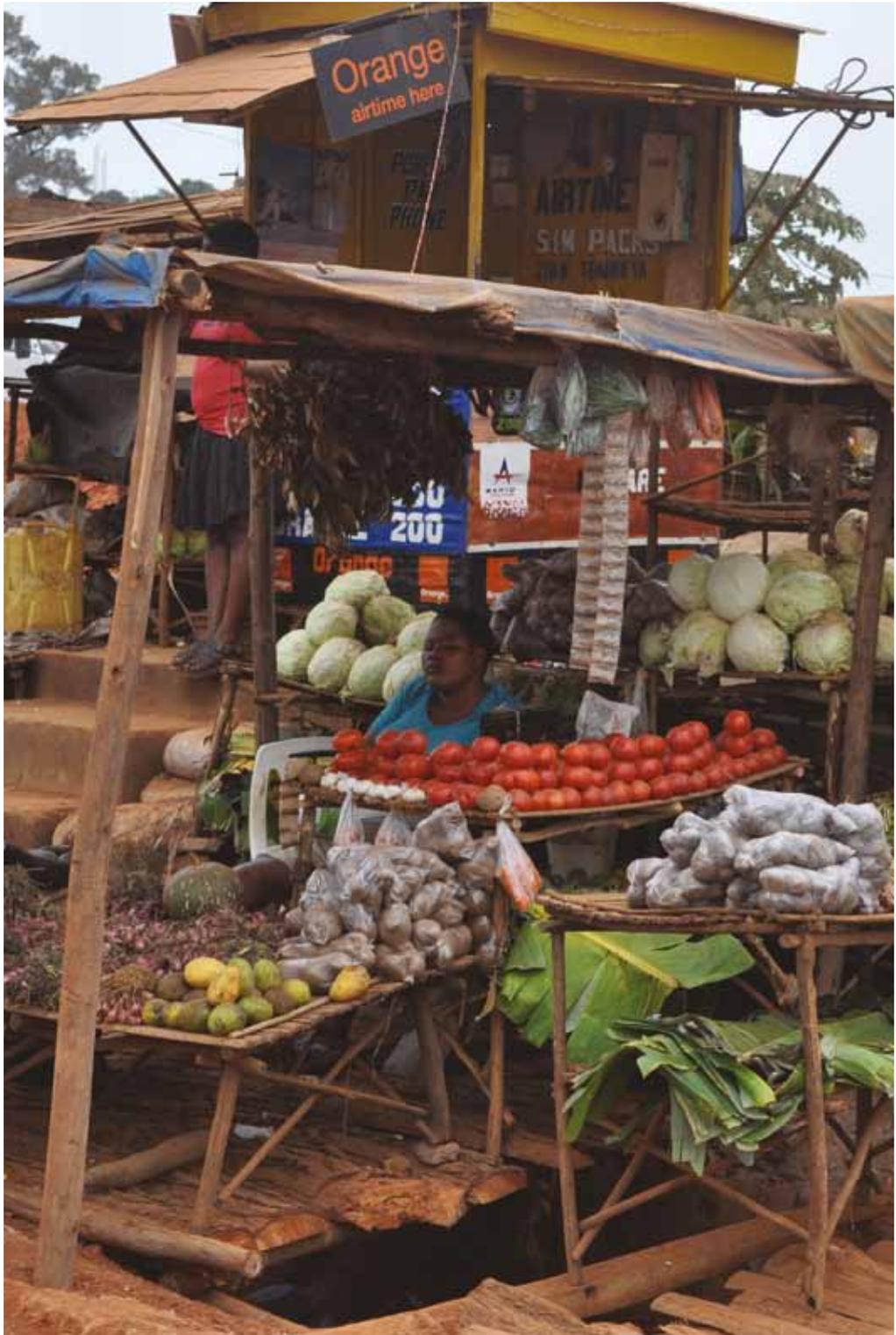
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About FARA

FARA is the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, the apex organization bringing together and forming coalitions of major stakeholders in agricultural research and development in Africa.

FARA is the technical arm of the African Union Commission (AUC) on rural economy and agricultural development and the lead agency of the AU's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to implement the fourth pillar of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), involving agricultural research, technology dissemination and uptake.

FARA's vision: reduced poverty in Africa as a result of sustainable broad-based agricultural growth and improved livelihoods, particularly of smallholder and pastoral enterprises.

FARA's mission: creation of broad-based improvements in agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets by supporting Africa's sub-regional organizations (SROs) in strengthening capacity for agricultural innovation.

FARA's Value Proposition: to provide a strategic platform to foster continental and global networking that reinforces the capacities of Africa's national agricultural research systems and sub-regional organizations.

FARA will make this contribution by achieving its *Specific Objective* of sustainable improvements to broad-based agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets.

Key to this is the delivery of five *Results*, which respond to the priorities expressed by FARA's clients. These are:

1. Establishment of appropriate institutional and organizational arrangements for regional agricultural research and development.
2. Broad-based stakeholders provided access to the knowledge and technology necessary for innovation.
3. Development of strategic decision-making options for policy, institutions and markets.
4. Development of human and institutional capacity for innovation.
5. Support provided for platforms for agricultural innovation.

FARA will deliver these results by supporting the SROs through these Networking Support Functions (NSFs):

NSF1/3. Advocacy and policy

NSF2. Access to knowledge and technologies

NSF4. Capacity strengthening

NSF5. Partnerships and strategic alliances

FARA's donors are the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Commission (EC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Syngenta Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the World Bank and the Governments of Italy and the Netherlands.



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