FARA
Annual Report 2002

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FARA Secretariat
c/o FAO Regional Office for Africa
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The year 2002 marked the beginning of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa in real action, and it is grateful to the Special Programme for African Agricultural Research (SPAAPR) and International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) for helping it to become a fully functioning body. The year started with the successful first FARA General Assembly, attended by more than 100 representatives from the African research community and its international partners. This meeting has been very crucial in defining FARA's way forward and in identifying the Vision for African Agriculture as the guiding framework of agricultural research for development in Africa. This vision also converges with the agenda on agriculture of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). The meeting included other seminars on major issues in Africa, such as HIV/AIDS, its effect on African agriculture, and sustaining financial stability of agricultural research from the national to international level. FARA's General Assembly has ratified its constitution and endorsed the one-year agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to host the FARA Secretariat at its Africa regional office in Accra, Ghana. The meeting also elected the first group of FARA's Executive Committee members for a two-year term. A brief background of each member is given in this Report.

During the First General Assembly, the first FARA Executive Secretary was identified. The selection committee approved the appointment of Dr Monty Jones, the world-renowned breeder of the
New Rice for Africa (NERICA), who was earlier WARDA’s Deputy Director of Research. Dr Monty Jones joined FARA in July 2002 and since then has produced several documents that establish FARA as a functioning body, e.g., the FARA strategy and implementation framework. He has also actively pursued several programs for FARA, such as the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme, which has been approved by the CGIAR International Science Council (CG iSC) for full proposal development. FARA has been actively involved in the development of the Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme (MAPP), Chapter 5 of NEPAD’s Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), and the guidelines for subregional organizations’ (SROs) competitive grant scheme.

FARA has also been actively involved in major international conferences such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). These meetings presented opportunities for FARA to present itself and its programs.

While FARA has been busy establishing itself, the three SROs — the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Conseil ouest et centre africain pour la recherche et le développement agricole (CORAF) and the South African Development Community (SADC)/Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) have been actively pursuing their programs and activities, as reported here. The SROs continue their activities within the subregion, but are now coordinating regional work through FARA’s leadership. ASARECA has been functioning strongly in Eastern Africa and CORAF has been working in Western and Central Africa. The Southern Africa Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Training (SACCAR), which has been phased out, is continuing its functions and activities through the SADC/FANR.

As the year ends, FARA’s future seems bright, because of all the support it gets from its partners, ranging from national to subregional organizations and from international institutions to investors.
Executive Committee Members

Joseph Mukiibi, Chairperson

A Ugandan from Kibaale District, Prof Joseph Mukiibi obtained his BSc from Makerere University (Uganda), and PhD from the University of St Andrews (Scotland, UK). He lectured at Makerere University for 21 years, rising to become Head of the Department of Forestry, Head and Professor of Crop Science, and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. He was also Visiting Professor at the University of Nairobi, Kenya (1 year) and Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania (2 years). He has conducted research and published widely on Tropical Crop Diseases.

Prof Mukiibi has been involved extensively in institution building and improvement in agricultural research and development. He set up and, for 10 years, managed the Ugandan National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), which became a center of excellence in the East African region. He initiated and chaired ASARECA (4 years), which has been very successful in fostering cooperation and collaboration in intraregional agricultural research. He initiated the founding of FARA, and is currently Chair. Actively involved in international agricultural research, he worked for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), served on the boards of three Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centers, the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), and the CGIAR Executive Council. He is one of the founding members of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR).
Gisele d’Almeida

An entrepreneur, who became the first woman representative from the private sector in the Executive Committee of SPAAR, Ms Gisele d’ Almeida has been an active advocate of Africa’s development by Africans. She started the pilot project on the marketing of potato vitroplants, in collaboration with scientists and the private sector.

Ms Almeida is currently the chairperson and founder of INTERFACE, a network of African investors in agricultural food production in West Africa. The network members invest in agricultural research output that gives value to local products and creates local employment. Members of INTERFACE are from Bénin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sénégal and Togo.

INTERFACE plans to expand to Central, Eastern and Southern Africa to become a regional network, gaining membership of major African investors to create regional and international markets for agricultural, livestock, fish and forestry products. As a national, regional and international network, it will facilitate information exchange and form working groups on actions to emphasize the important role of the private sector in the development of agro-industry, to help improve African economy.

Keogile Molapong

Born in Botswana, Dr Molapong obtained an MSc in Soil Science from the Agricultural University of Norway in 1987, and a PhD in Soil Science from the North Carolina State University, USA, in 1994.

Dr Molapong started his career in soil chemistry in Botswana and gained experience from Nebraska, USA. He later became the Senior Agricultural Research Officer in charge of soil testing and advisory, and soil fertility research at the Department of agricultural research, Botswana. He then became the Program Leader for the Agricultural Engineering and Soil Management Research.

From 1998 to 2000, he held the position of Director of SACCAR. The Center was responsible for coordinating agricultural research and training in SADC. It was also responsible for regional strategic planning for research, priority setting, resource mobilization, information exchange, training and research networking. He is currently the Agricultural Research Expert, SADC Secretariat, responsible for the coordination of Agricultural research in SADC. He has several publications to his credit, in the area of soil testing methodology, and soil fertility.

Romano Kiome

Dr Romano Kiome was born in Kenya and got his BSc in 1981, MSc in 1985 from Wageningen University, The Netherlands, and PhD in 1992 from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

He is currently the Director General of the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), which develops and disseminates appropriate agricultural technologies in collaboration with its stakeholders. KARI further contributes to the sustainable improvement in the livelihood of Kenyan citizens by increasing agricultural productivity, postharvest value of agricultural and
livestock products, and conserving the environment. In pursuit of this Mission, KARI proactively seeks to acquire and contribute knowledge and creative solutions that are participatory and client-oriented; holistic and system-oriented; gender-sensitive and affordable to its stakeholders.

It is said in Kenya that when there is a shortage of maize, there is famine. Owing to Dr Kiome’s efforts, KARI’s Maize Programme has supplied germplasm to produce 80% of the maize seed in Kenya’s principal maize-growing areas, providing different varieties for the different growing areas. Small-scale farmers have benefited greatly from KARI’s maize research.

Dr. Kiome has been actively involved in promoting food security in Kenya and Eastern Africa. This has resulted in reforms in agricultural research systems, especially in Kenya, and gained donor supports to KARI’s programs. Dr Kiome is a board member of the Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT), Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC) and various research and inspectorate institutions in Kenya. He has 38 publications to his credit, which include journal articles, book chapters, conference papers and reports.

**Kanayo F Nwanze**

Dr Kanayo F Nwanze holds a BSc in Agricultural Biology from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria (1971), with an MSc (1973) and a PhD (1975) from Kansas State University, USA. Married to Juliana, with four children, Kanayo Nwanze is a Nigerian.

Dr Nwanze is widely traveled, with a well-established scientific publication record, and 25 years of extensive experience in international agricultural research, research management and development in sub-Saharan Africa (both in Anglophone and Francophone countries) and in Asia, with CGIAR at three of its Centres (IITA/ICRISAT/WARDA), in close partnership with the national agricultural research systems (NARS).

He has been Director General of WARDA since December 1996, with the mandate to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and overall well-being of poor rural and urban populations through increased productivity of rice-based systems. Earlier experience includes 12 years in West and Central Africa, and 10 years in India in crop improvement research on highly relevant food crops, as well as research management and leadership roles in multicultural and multidisciplinary environments.

Dr Nwanze is a member of several scientific associations and a board member of several Africa-based institutions. In September 2001, he was conferred the title of Commander of the National Order of Merit of Côte d’Ivoire.

**Moctar Toure**

Born in Dakar, Senegal, Dr Moctar Toure was educated in France at the University of Orleans, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Rennes and the University of Rennes; with diplomas in 1967, 1970 and 1973, and a PhD in 1973.
Dr Toure was advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture, Rabat, Morocco, 1973–74; soil scientist with the Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA), 1974–79; Director of the Rice Research Centre, Djibêlor/ISRA, Senegal, 1975–81; Director of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Scientific and Technical Research, 1981–85; Scientific Director of ISRA, 1985–86 and Director General, 1986–89; Executive Secretary of SPAAR from 1989 to 2002; and Land Specialist, Agricultural Services for the World Bank, from 2002 to the present.

Dr Toure is a former member of several Boards of Trustees of IAR Centres, WARDA, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), International Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM); and a member of the Third World Academy of Science, the African Academy of Sciences, and the Senegalese Academy of Science. His research areas are the natural sciences, agronomy, and land and water management.

Adama Traoré

Dr Adama Traoré is Malian, and has a BSc in Animal Veterinary and a PhD in Animal Reproduction from the University of Leipzig in Germany. He is currently the head of the National Council for Agricultural Research of Mali and has been the advisor of the Ministry for Rural Development in matters of agricultural research since 1998.

Dr Traoré began his career as a researcher at the National Animal Breeding and Research Centre of Sotuba in Mali. He also lectured in reproduction physiology and pathology at the University in Mali. In 1982, he joined the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA, now ILRI) and was responsible for animal nutrition and health. He was later involved in an animal reproduction research program in semi-arid and arid zones, based in Niono (Mali). From 1990 to 1997, he was an FAO expert in Togo, in charge of applied research and training at the National Programme for the Development of Small-Scale Livestock Production.

Dr Traoré has devoted his career entirely to research and training at national and international levels. From 1999 to 2002, he was the chairperson of the Executive Committee of CORAF/WECARD (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development). He is also a Trustee of IITA.

Anne Muthoni Wambaa

Ms Anne Muthoni Wambaa is a Kenyan who received the Moran of Burning Spear (MBS), one of the highest presidential awards in Kenya, given in recognition of services rendered in the field of agriculture and community service for over 25 years. She is National Chairperson (President) of the Agricultural Society of Kenya, the biggest and oldest farmer organization in Kenya, established in 1901, and is the first woman to head the organization. Ms Wambaa is a board member of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC), and Commissioner of the Electoral Commission of Kenya.
**Florence Wambu**

A passionate believer in the power of biotechnology to boost food production in Africa, Dr Wambu was born on a small farm in Kenya Highlands. She studied at the University of Nairobi, and then worked at KARI's Mugaga research station. Here, scientists from the Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP) gave her an opportunity to work on sweet potato and tissue culture. She became interested in the potential to improve the supply of high-quality planting materials to farmers. In 1982, she went to North Dakota State University, USA, and obtained an MSc in Plant Pathology. Through the 1980s, she continued her work with KARI and CIP. In 1991, she received her PhD from the University of Bath, UK, where she learnt that conventional breeding research had proved powerless to develop varieties resistant to viruses.

Dr Wambu received a USAID scholarship, and became the first African scientist to receive a fellowship in biotechnology at Monsanto’s Life Sciences Research Center, in Missouri, USA. She then worked with KARI and Monsanto to develop Kenya’s first ever genetically modified sweet potato plants, resistant to the mottle virus. The plants are now being field tested in Kenya. In 1994, she became the Director of the AfriCenter of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotechnology Applications (ISAAA). A prominent scientist in her own country and region, Dr Wambu has also become well known internationally for her expertise and advocacy of biotechnology. She has combined her career with family, raising three children in Nairobi.

**Monty Jones**

Dr Monty Jones is a Sierra Leonean, and has spent the last 15 years of his career in international agricultural research for development. He did his BSc in Agriculture General from Njala University in Sierra Leone, MSc in Plant Genetic Resources and PhD in Plant Biology from the University of Birmingham in the UK.

He started his career at the Rice Research Station in Sierra Leone, where he worked as a breeder for 13 years. He started his international career with the CGIAR as coordinator of the IITA/United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Cameroon rice program from 1987 to 1990.

In 1991, Dr Jones moved to WARDA to become its principal breeder where he developed the world-renowned NERICA rice. This led him to work with people at different levels: with international scientists while developing the NERICA, with development agents who helped out with the dissemination of NERICA, with farmers during the dissemination of NERICA through the participatory varietal selection, and with donors in letting them be actively involved in their own investment projects.

Dr Jones’ work on NERICA has given WARDA the prestigious CGIAR’s King Badouin Award in 2000. In September 2001, he received the National Order of Merit of Côte d’Ivoire.

At the time he left WARDA to join FARA in July 2002, he held three offices—as Principal Rice Breeder, Rainfed Program Leader and Deputy Director of Research.

**Executive Committee Members**
Message from FARA’s Executive Secretary

Monty Jones

FARA: Catalyzing innovation and change in agricultural research for development in Africa

Taking up the job as FARA’s Executive Secretary has been a major challenge. It has involved intense planning, and active communication and interaction with the African research community and international institutions and investors working in Africa. But as the year ends, I am grateful for all the support I get from different levels, be it moral or financial. This support has led to great achievements in less than a year of the existence of the FARA Secretariat. Among them are the establishment of FARA’s Secretariat at FAO’s Regional Office for Africa, approval by the CG iSC of the full proposal development of the sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme, ongoing negotiation of the MAPP, and finalization of the guidelines of the competitive grants scheme.

FARA has also been able to draft its strategy titled Catalyzing innovation and change in agricultural research for development in Africa: the role of FARA. The strategy emphasizes FARA as the apex body for the African agricultural research for development with five primary functions:
• Advocacy of the role of agricultural research.
• Promotion of functional partnerships and strategic alliances with major stakeholders.
• Accelerating sharing and exchange of knowledge on agricultural research and production in Africa.
• Stimulating development and dissemination of new technologies and methodologies in natural resource management, genetic resource management and biotechnology.
• Stimulating agricultural policy and market development.

FARA’s three SROs continued their activities within the subregion, and coordination of work among them has begun.

For ASARECA, the year in review marks an important turning point: a new Executive Secretary was appointed and the Regional Support Unit was established. There were nine additional networks, programs and projects (NPPs) supported by the European Union (EU) and Sida. In mid-May, the third annual NPP consultative meeting was held. Outcomes included the delivery of ASARECA’s strategic objectives, endorsement of ASARECA’s conceptual framework and the formation of a subcommittee to finalize specification of its indicators of success. A second retreat for its Committee of Directors was held in Kigali, Rwanda, with emphasis on institutional and organizational factors affecting ASARECA’s operational efficiency and effectiveness.

For CORAF/WECARD, activities included support to research on millet, sorghum, rice, maize and genetic resources management. The maize network was harmonized, while millet and sorghum network harmonization is ongoing. Funding difficulties hindered the implementation of the Programme d’Appui a la recherche agricole en Afrique de l’Ouest (PARAO), but several volumes of CORAF Action were published.

CORAF/WECARD held its General Assembly in July in Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire. Participants included representatives from NARS, International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) and Advanced Research Institutions (ARIs), who assessed and discussed CORAF’s future action plan and identified priority areas such as biotechnology and capacity building.

For SACCAR, the year has been very difficult, considering that SADC has undergone restructuring, which phased out all SADC’s units including SACCAR. The new FANR directorate has absorbed SACCAR’s function as the subregional agricultural research and training unit. The unit’s vision and mission remain the same and SACCAR’s former Director and its French Adviser has been seconded to the SADC/FANR Department. They have continued to implement several activities, such as priority setting for agricultural research and training, establishing new programs and promoting an integrated approach to research and training in Southern Africa.

One of FARA’s functions is to add value to these SRO activities in order to achieve the African Vision for FARA. Africa needs to create its own agriculture agenda that would serve as a framework to coordinate efforts to achieve this vision.

The year ahead for FARA will therefore involve intense consultation with major stakeholders to implement its programs and further enhance functional partnerships and strategic alliances.
Regional Activities: FARA

African Agricultural Research Week 2002
and the first FARA General Assembly:
summary and recommendations

Nearly 100 representatives from civil societies, NARS, IARCs, ARIs, and investors forming the African Agricultural Research Coalition, attended the first FARA plenary at Maputo, Mozambique, 21–22 March 2002.

The program was divided into five parts:

- The Mozambican agricultural research development day, which showcased Mozambique’s agricultural research experience and its future development plans.
- Seminar on African Agricultural Research Agenda within the Framework of the NEPAD and FARA: From Vision to Action. Several speakers were invited to describe the context and to review the challenges and opportunities of agricultural research for development in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Seminar on Tackling the challenges of HIV/AIDS: Protecting people and adjusting the research agenda.
- Seminar on Sustainable Financing for Agricultural Technology Systems.
- FARA General Assembly.

Details of these are given in the following pages.
Mozambican agricultural research development day

A 1-day program was devoted to the Mozambican agricultural research experience and future development plans.

Participants visited the Chokwe District, located in the Gaza Province in Mozambique, an area affected by heavy flooding 2 years ago—a major constraint faced by farmer communities in an irrigated system. The visit showed the potential of irrigated agriculture and agro-industry in promoting growth for large-scale development. The participants visited rice production smallholdings, rice seed multiplication systems, the agricultural research station of Chokwe, an animal farm and animal health facilities, meat-processing plant, and irrigation rehabilitation sites.

Additional inputs were the experiences of institutional reforms conducted in other African countries and regional and subregional organizations, contributed by Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, the World Bank and USAID. The meeting was officiated by Dr Helder Muteia, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mozambique, and Professor Brito, Minister of High Education, Science and Technology, Mozambique.

Seminar on African agricultural research agenda within the framework of NEPAD and FARA: from vision to action

Professor Mukiibi, Chairperson of FARA, presented the introduction to the seminar. He talked about the convergence between NEPAD and the 1999 FARA Vision for African Agricultural Research. Both crystallize the commitment of African political, intellectual and civil society leaders to an effective and sustained development of African economies and societies, their vision for action, and the thrusts and objectives of the African Research Community.

Two presentations followed, describing the context and reviewing the challenges and opportunities for the agriculture sector in sub-Saharan Africa.

Peter Hazel of IFPRI pointed out the enormous potential for growth that exists in Africa, despite the current gloom-and-doom scenario. The situation is similar to that in Asia on the eve of the Green Revolution. The potential for growth in agriculture lies in abundant natural resources, a still growing labor force (in spite of HIV/AIDS), and the win-win opportunities arising from small but efficient farms, growing domestic markets and new export possibilities.

William Master from Purdue University spoke about the role of technology in addressing these challenges. Technology can play an essential role in changing Africa’s comparative advantage for food crops yields, with the utilization of fertilizer and the adoption of new varieties. Lessons learnt from the series of impact assessment studies carried out on the rate of return (ROR) demonstrated that payoff from investing in new higher-yielding varieties has been substantial, especially when combined with pest resistance, disease pressure, drought resistance and soil moisture availability.

Ms Njabulo Nduli of National Department of Agriculture (NDA), South Africa, Vice-Chairperson of SACCAR, presented NEPAD’s overall strategy, goals and thrusts, which include agriculture, science and technology among its six priority areas to eradicate poverty in Africa. The other areas are
infrastructure, human resources development, and environment and culture.

Cyrus Ndiritu, a FARA consultant, presented FARA’s Initial Response in (a) reshaping and aligning its Vision; (b) expressing its strategic objectives and expected outcome in view of the formulation of a future Action Plan; and (c) assigning roles and responsibilities to its constituencies.

Other responses were given by donors and scientific partners such as AfDB (A. Aklilu), Canada (E. Madueno), EU (P. Viallat), FAO (I. Alvarez), USAID (J. Hill), the World Bank (K. Brooks and H. Binswanger), and the CGIAR (K. Nwanze).

Emphasis was given throughout to the congruence of NEPAD’s priorities and the Vision for African Agricultural Research, formulated by FARA in consultation with its scientific and development partners. Both initiatives agree on the critical role that agriculture must play in the economic and social transformation of Africa, and in achieving the strategic objectives of poverty alleviation, food security, a productive and competitive agricultural sector, dynamic markets, active private sector participation, and the use of science and technology for the development and sustainable use of the natural resource base.

FARA, the African agricultural research community and their partners must provide technical and scientific input into the NEPAD process, which includes agriculture as one of the priority sectors for development. The ongoing process of transforming the Vision for African Agricultural Research into action must meet the challenges to agricultural development. Among the recommendations was a call for the establishment of a NEPAD Council of Ministers of Agriculture and Trade.

In his closing intervention, Seifu Ketema, ASARECA, crystallized the consensus reached and presented the way forward for FARA. Karen Brooks from the World Bank, summed up the discussions and conclusions of the meeting.

**Seminar on tackling the challenges of HIV/AIDS: protecting people and adjusting the research agenda**

The session took the HIV/AIDS debate within FARA to its next level and agreement on the key components that would form the basis for a cohesive and proactive Action Program to promote, guide and support a sustained HIV/AIDS mainstreaming effort into FARA, SROs and NARS program planning and implementation processes and institutional mechanisms. It addressed the issues of protecting people within the workplace and adjusting the research and technology development agenda to identify and cope with the implications and impact of HIV/AIDS for and on agricultural productivity, natural resources management, trade and marketing, and rural social structures. Special attention was given to approaches to financing HIV/AIDS interventions. The speakers included K. Nwanze (DG of WARDA), R. Kiome (DG of Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, KARI), S. Gavian (Abt Associates Inc) and H. Binswanger (The World Bank). Two breakout groups deliberated on each of the above topics and made recommendations to the General Assembly.

**Seminar on sustainable financing for agricultural technology systems**

The seminar was structured by:

- A concept note on sustainable financing of agricultural technology generation and adoption systems.
• Case studies on experience gained in Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.

The EU, complemented by highlights on Kenya and Senegal experiences, presented regional funding options and opportunities. The discussion that followed focused on Funding Objectives and Mechanisms as well as National Policy and Institutional Conditions to Qualify for New Funding, and resulted in the following main recommendations:

Funding Objectives and Mechanisms

1. Public funding for technology systems needs to be doubled and available for:
   • End-user access and adoption (farmers, agribusiness firms, small and medium enterprises [SMEs], etc.).
   • National Agricultural Research Institutes and programs.
   • Subregional organizations and networks.
   • Regional Initiatives and programs, including those to be carried out by International Agricultural Research Institutions (IARCs and ARIs).

2. Research agendas and services need to be demand driven.

The World Bank proposal to support a new generation of grants and lending that will strengthen all levels of the technology system, with affiliated institutional and policy reform at the national, regional and global level in a coordinated way with other donors, is very timely and welcome. It should be easily combined with the European Union focus on financing Technology Development and Transfer (TDT) programs at the subregional level as well as SROs’ core budget.

3. At the subregional level, grants and loans will provide funding and mechanisms to support:
   • Functions and services of SROs.
   • Research networks.
   • Regional and across subregion’s programs.
   • Global institute programs for the subregion.
   • Competitive fund (proposed one per subregion).

4. At the national level, grants and loans will provide funding and mechanisms to support:
   • National Agricultural Research Institution (NARI) operations and programs.
   • Regional services and programs for the country.
   • Global services and programs for the country.
   • Competitive funding (and other diversified mechanisms).
   • Extension and capacity building.

5. At the global level, grants will provide funding and mechanisms to support:
   • Global programs across subregions, focused on Africa.
   • Linkage programs across advanced research institutes.
   • Partnerships among advanced research institutes and African research organizations.

National Policy and Institutional Conditions to Qualify for New Funding

Reform measures and targets should be development-results oriented, and place less emphasis on structural targets. For example:

1. Structural reform of research should only be pursued where a clear need is identified, i.e., to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the
research and technology system to achieve its goals, objectives and targets.

2. Reform efforts should strengthen links to clients and build coherence and complementarity throughout the national, regional and global level.

3. Agricultural Research Institutes must develop their operational capacity using their available resources and live within their means to deliver. This requires hard choices.

4. A national agricultural science and technology policy framework should be established that covers:
   • Institutional autonomy from public service of NARIs.
   • National objectives and performance targets for agricultural science and technology.
   • Financial and political commitments tied to performance targets, to double funding levels.
   • Incentives and authorities to link partners and mobilize resources.
   • Long-term capacity targets.
   • Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
   • Harmonized seed standards and certification, plant and animal trade regulations.
   • Retention and use of funds generated through services and research products.
   • Participation in regional and global knowledge and technology systems.
   • Cost-sharing and roles that are identified between public and private agents at local and national levels, national and regional levels, national and global levels.
   • Stimulation of the roles of farmer organizations in improving access to technology.

5. National research and technology transfer institutional framework should enhance:
   • Capacity
   • Management and Incentives
   • Governance and System Coordination
   • Strategy
   • Partnerships

Subregional policy and institutional conditions to qualify for new funding

There should be a subregional science and technology policy framework, with elements covering:
   • Financial and political commitments, tied to performance targets.
   • Incentives and authorities in partnership with the global knowledge systems.
   • Subsidiarity.
   • Regional objectives and performance targets for agricultural technology development and transfer.
   • Institutional autonomy of the SRO.

There should be a subregional Institutional Framework, with capacities and systems covering:
   • Strategy
     – Full participation of national, regional and global interest groups (seed associations, commodity associations, producer organizations, consumer organizations, policymakers, non-governmental organizations [NGOs], NARIs, regional networks, advanced research institutes, universities)
     – Priority setting
   • Coordinating Secretariat
     – Management
– Financial management systems
– Planning and monitoring

• Funding mechanisms
– Functional activities and services
– Competitive funding

• Governance
– Autonomous agency
– Council/Board of member organizations with authority for strategy, programming, operating procedures, and budget approval.

• Research networks, projects and programs
– Mechanisms for steering, coordinating and implementing NPPs
– Mechanisms for efficient sharing of knowledge/technology among participating countries.

• Capacity building agenda

**FARA General Assembly**

The opening ceremony of the first FARA General Assembly was officiated at by the Honorable Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development; Higher Education, Science and Technology; the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development; and the Mayor of Maputo (Mozambique). Representatives of SADC and the World Bank, and the Chairperson of FARA addressed the meeting.

The General Assembly received several progress reports on the FARA transformation process, as well as on current initiatives on African agricultural research and development. Deliberations on these reports led to the following conclusions, recommendations and decisions:

1. **The FARA Constitution was ratified. Contributions from the floor prior to the ratification will be reflected as necessary in future revisions of the Constitution.**

2. **The FARA/FAO Agreement was adopted. Calls from the floor, encouraging FARA to be established as a free-standing entity were noted.**

3. **The following FARA new governance and executive organs were elected by acclamation:**

   • Chair: Joseph Mukiibi
   • Members from the Subregional Organizations:
     – ASARECA: Romano Kiome
     – CORAF: Adama Traoré
     – SACCAR: Keogile Molapong
     – Private Sector representation: Gisèle d’Almeida
     – Farmer ‘s Organizations: Ann A. Wambaa
     – NGOs and Foundations: Florence Wambugu
     – International scientific partners: Kanayo Nwanze
     – Development partners: The World Bank
     – Ex-officio: Monty Jones, Executive Secretary, FARA

4. **FARA’s program proposal for NEPAD was reviewed and endorsed. It was resolved that:**

   • FARA endorses the resolution on NEPAD passed by the FAO regional conference of African Ministers of Agriculture during its recently concluded meeting 18–22 February, 2002 in Cairo (Egypt) to establish a Council of Ministers of Agriculture and Trade in Africa (CMATA) under the auspices of the African Unity.

   • FARA should seek to be recognized as the Technical Advisory Body of the CMATA and NEPAD.
• FARA should establish linkages and engage with:
  – Agro-industry and the trading sector operating in the Continent to develop partnerships and profitable business niches, such as oil seed, horticulture, natural products, etc.
  – UN Conventions on Environment, in particular, those on climate change, biodiversity and desertification.
  – Emerging initiatives on African agricultural development.
  – Political and financial bodies to (a) advocate for increased public funding for agricultural research, not less than 1% of the Agriculture Gross Domestic Product (AgGDP); and (b) convince National and Regional Authorizing Officers to include agricultural research and development in the Indicative Plans to be submitted to the European Union Planning Cycles targeting regional integration of R&D and regional economic cooperation.

5. The General Assembly welcomed the EU delegation’s suggestion to establish a Working Group to develop guidelines on regional competitive funds and proposed to use this opportunity to put into operation the concept note on Sustainable Financing presented by the World Bank.

6. The meeting endorsed the need for action-oriented programs in creating awareness and developing appropriate technologies to cope with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly at the national and regional levels.

7. The meeting endorsed the initial FARA activities, including the establishment of the Secretariat and articulation of a process for the formulation of FARA’s Strategic Plan. The meeting also noted the need for advocacy for FARA to stimulate recognition and legitimacy as the Technical Advisory Body for Agricultural Research in Africa.

The General Assembly expressed deep appreciation to the government and people of Mozambique for their warm welcome and hospitality and for providing effective support in hosting the meeting.

The meeting also extended its appreciation to the FAO for hosting the FARA Secretariat, to ISNAR for managing the FARA transition process, and to the donor community for their continued support.

Establishment of FARA in the FAO regional office for Africa

The FARA Secretariat started functioning when the Executive Secretary, Monty Jones, was appointed. The FAO agreed to host FARA in its Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana, for one year. Several major activities were performed through this office as listed below:

Strategy and implementation plan

A draft of the FARA strategy document was developed, entitled Catalyzing innovation and change in agricultural research for development in Africa: The role of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The strategy emphasizes FARA as the apex body for the African agricultural research for development with five primary functions:

• Advocating the role of agricultural research, for example, in promotion of agriculture as the engine of economic growth, campaigning for pro-active support by the African govern-
ments, creating an enabling environment for agricultural research, diversifying investment in agricultural research and developing innovative methods of attracting funds.

- Promoting functional partnerships and strategic alliances with major stakeholders, such as civil societies, NARS, IARCs, ARIs, NGOs and the private sector.
- Accelerating the sharing and exchange of knowledge on agricultural research and production in Africa, promoting awareness of regional and global issues and expanding the use of information technology in Africa.
- Stimulating development and dissemination of new technologies and methodologies in natural resource management, genetic resource management and biotechnology.
- Stimulating agricultural policy and market development.

A framework of action for this strategy was developed for short- to medium-term activities. These two documents will be presented and endorsed during the Second FARA Plenary, 19–20 May 2003 in Dakar, Senegal.

**CAADP’s research component—Chapter 5**

FARA’s Executive Secretary has been involved in the development of Chapter 5 of NEPAD’s Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme. This chapter gives a framework for the African agricultural research agenda, which guides the formulation of most of FARA’s programmes listed below.

**SSA CP approved for full proposal development**

The CGIAR iSC has approved the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme (SSA CP) pre-proposal. It has given support so that FARA can develop it into a full proposal to be submitted to the iSC in June 2003. The full proposal should be endorsed by the FARA plenary before submission to the CGIAR Secretariat. A workshop is planned, inviting all major stakeholders to develop the full proposal. This workshop will be held in Accra, Ghana, 10–13 March 2003.

This Challenge Programme will help coordinate agricultural research in Africa by the CGIAR Centers based in Africa, other IARCs, the ARIs and donors working with the NARS, and other partners from civil societies. The partners of SSA CP hope that by 2020, it will have contributed to the African agricultural research community’s goals of attaining food security and poverty eradication through research, policy support and capacity building, based on environmentally sound management of natural resources. The overall objectives are to:

- Design technologies, policies and institutional options that will stem and reverse the loss of natural resources, especially the degradation of soils in SSA.
- Improve input and output markets for smallholders to increase their returns and options, to generate income to improve livelihood and to enable investment in natural resource conservation.
- Generate policy options that promote increased income, food security and sustainable land use through the adoption of sustainable farming practices.

*Regional Activities: FARA*
• Build capacity of researchers in SSA to exploit new approaches and new science in integrated natural resource management.

The SSA CP has four themes—integrated natural resource management, development of sustainable market chains, policies for sustainable agriculture and scientific capacity building.

MAPP under negotiation

The FARA Secretariat has been actively communicating with the World Bank to initiate the process of implementing the Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme in Africa.

MAPP’s central goal is to support NEPAD’s strategy to achieve sustained rural poverty reduction through a broad-based agricultural growth, focused on smallholders and vulnerable groups. Its objective is to strengthen the African agricultural technology system through Africa’s increased participation in agricultural revolution, and investments in an efficient agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption system. It will have two major components—a country-specific component that includes demand-driven operations focused on technology generation and dissemination, and a regional component focused on technology development, institutional and capacity building activities. The challenge is long-term and country-specific, phased over a 13-year period, progressing ‘horizontally’ to several countries and ‘vertically’ to different levels within a country.

SRO CGS manual of procedure finalized

The manual of procedure for the subregional organizations’ competitive grant scheme (CGC) was finalized. The CGC serves as support to NARS in their agricultural research.

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Active involvement in major international conferences and meetings

Ever since FARA’s Executive Secretariat started functioning, FARA has been represented in major international conferences and meetings, such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg (South Africa) and the AGM 2002 in Manila (The Philippines). During these meetings, FARA presented its programs and activities and received wide support for these programs and further collaboration from appropriate partners.

Funds mobilized. Several funds were mobilized to support various FARA activities, such as development of the SSA CP proposal, communication with the SROs and establishment of the FARA Secretariat. Initial donors to FARA are the World Bank, African Development Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Potential donors include USAID, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Department for International Development (DFID), the Gatsby Foundation, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Community, Belgium and the Netherlands.
Subregional Activities: ASARECA

ASARECA’s second retreat in Kigali, Rwanda

A second retreat was organized by ASARECA for its Committee of Directors (CD) from 30 September to 4 October 2002 in Kigali, Rwanda. This is part of the process of making ASARECA responsive to the emerging challenges and opportunities for agricultural research and development at the global, regional and national levels. Other participants included the Directors of the NARIs and ASARECA’s Secretariat staff. The Minister of Agriculture, Dr Ephraim Kabaija talked about the increasing hunger in the region and finding effective solutions, considering the realities in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Chairman of ASARECA’s CD, Dr Jeremiah Haki, asked participants to reflect on the issues and decisions made during the first retreat to define the future of ASARECA. The Executive Secretary of ASARECA, Dr Seyfu Ketema, stated that clear decisions would help in fulfilling the mission to serve ASARECA’s ten member countries and the region.

The NARI Directors made presentations on the status, trends and future directions of their institutions. Discussions centered on the key elements of the NARS, and the need to revisit ASARECA’s priorities. Other topics were identifying and prioritizing elements that could add value to national programs, using available resources to support regional programs. A review of ASARECA’s institutional and organizational structure from an internal and external perspective was also presented.
Discussions during the retreat led to the following decisions:

- Revisit and update ASARECA’s research priorities and strategic plan.
- Redefine attributes of a ‘subregional good’.
- Identify and prioritize the most suitable mechanisms to effectively and efficiently achieve regional objectives.
- Re-affirm the need for ASARECA to remain a non-political association.
- Review and update organizational documents, i.e., Memoranda of Agreement, ASARECA’s constitution and by-laws.
- Define clearly the roles and responsibilities of the CD, members of the CD, Executive Committee (EC), Chairman and Vice-Chairman of EC, Executive Secretary, Technical Working Group, donors’ working groups, IARCs, steering committees in relation to ASARECA’s governance, leadership and oversight functions.

**Towards an effective and efficient ASARECA portfolio**

ASARECA has grown considerably the past few years. Currently, it is working with 19 NPPs. ASARECA’s clients and stakeholders have entrusted to it a long-term objective—agricultural research as a tool for economic growth, social welfare and sustainable use of natural resources in the East and Central Africa (ECA) countries.

**Coordination units established for the EU-funded RSP programmes**

The RSP provides core funding to eight NPPs (A-AARNET, BARNESA, CORNET, ECAMAW, ECARSAM, RAIN, SWMnet and TOFnet) for the support of coordinating units and modest research activities. The recruitment process for the coordinators of these NPPs was initiated towards the end of 2001, and interviews were held at the 22nd CD meeting in 2002. Because of budgetary constraints, implementing agencies and hosting institutions were consulted to identify supplementary measures. Packages of options were presented during the 24th CD meeting and one option was approved and implemented to finalize the appointment of the NPP coordinators.

The RSP workplan for the ASARECA Secretariat was submitted and approved by the EC in Brussels. This includes the establishment of the RSP-supported NPP coordination units, finalizing the appointment of new NPP coordinators.

**ASARECA regional support unit established**

The newly launched RSP and the appointment of the ASARECA’s Executive Secretary (ES) as the Regional Authorizing Officer (RAO) created greater management responsibilities for the ASARECA Secretariat. To meet this greater demand, a regional support unit (RSU) was established and placed at the Secretariat under contractual arrangements with GFA Terra Systems. The RSU started functioning in May 2002 with the recruitment of international and national staff.
Updates on the Plant Genetic Resources Network

Two consultative meetings were held in February 2002 between the ASARECA CD and its Secretariat, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to discuss support modalities to East African Plant Genetic Resources Network (EAPGREN) and its core Secretariat. The issue of country contribution was resolved to accommodate the concerns of both Sida and the CD. Sida agreed to increase donor contribution to reflect the increase in exchange rate and new activities, i.e., participation of PGR in international fora. Recommendations during these meetings were recorded and the EAPGREN document was consequently revised for approval by the CD. Approval was granted during the 22nd CD meeting, 4–8 March 2002. This included a 6-month start-up workplan in agreement with Sida. The recruitment process for the EAPGREN coordinator received 19 applicants, of whom four were short-listed for an interview on 14 December 2002.

ASARECA’s conceptual framework for effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation

A conceptual framework (Figure 1) was developed to guide the planning, monitoring and evaluation of ASARECA’s decentralized portfolio. This will create clear linkages between NPPs and ASARECA’s objectives. Indicators of success will be used at different operational levels with different reporting schedules. The whole process will be synthesized by the Secretariat for approval by the CD.

Development of the conceptual framework was participatory, involving all NPPs and their key stakeholders. The framework will have the following elements for the development of monitoring and evaluation:

- Indicators of success.
- Data collection based on indicators of success.
- Data sources that depend on the specified data needs.
- Responsibilities for data collection that will be based on comparative advantage of the respective actors.

Third annual NPP meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya

The third annual NPP meeting was held 13–17 May 2002. The aim was to provide a forum for NPPs to negotiate and form partnerships to increase their efficiency and effectiveness. ASARECA’s conceptual framework was also presented. The meeting revealed that:

1. NPPs were changing their approach to effectively respond and contribute to ASARECA countries’ development objectives. Activities included institutionalization of impact-oriented planning, emphasis on market orientation, integration of natural resource management, socio-economics and use of innovative technologies, i.e., biotechnology. Strategic partnerships were also expanding.

2. NPPs’ outputs were increasingly multi-dimensional, focusing on technologies for the end-user (production-to-consumption chain), i.e., improved varieties, NRM options, postharvest and product development.

3. An analysis of gaps within ASARECA resulted in the following strategic resolutions:
Figure 1. Agricultural Research for IR 3.3: Strategic Partnerships Established

Increased economic growth and improved social welfare in the ECA while maintaining quality of the environment

SO: Enhanced productivity, value-added and competitiveness of the regional agricultural system

IR 1: Demand-driven technologies utilized

1.4: Mechanisms for access to input/output/financial markets improved

IR 1.4.1: Mechanisms for improved access to input/output/financial markets identified

IR 1.3: Demand-driven technologies disseminated

IR 1.2: Demand-driven technologies generated

IR 1.1: Demand-driven regional research for development portfolio identified
- Opportunities and challenges identified
- IR 1.1.1 Markets
- IR 1.1.2 Natural resources
- IR 1.1.3 Socio-economic factors

IR 2: Enabling regional policy environment for agricultural transformation facilitated

IR 2.4: Enhanced policy advocacy

IR 2.3: Policy options availed by key stakeholders

IR 2.2: Enhanced policy analysis
- IR 2.2.1: Methodologies for harmonizing national data identified
- IR 2.2.2: Comparable national data generated
- IR 2.2.3: Capacity in policy analysis strengthened

IR 3: Performance-driven institutional arrangements promoted

IR 3.1: Performance-driven governance system for ASARECA operationalized

IR 3.2: Sustainable financing arrangements for ASARECA established

IR 3.3 Strategic partnerships established

IR 3.4: Human and physical resources for agricultural research for development strengthened

IR 4: Enhanced utilization of information for regional agricultural research and development
- IR 4.1: Regional capacity in information and communication management enhanced
- IR 4.2: Mechanisms for the regional harmonization of information developed and applied
- IR 4.3: Regional Information to support agricultural research and development generated
- IR 4.4: Improved access to regional information for research and development
• To create policies with higher impact on research for development.
• To increase initiatives in human resource development and management.
• To formulate and implement strategies to develop and/or maximize use of physical resources in the region.
• To mobilize funds more vigorously to enhance technology transfer, i.e., through partnerships and innovative approaches.
• To strengthen linkages between NPPs.
• To improve information management systems.

4. Suggestions to improve ASARECA’s conceptual framework included:

• Environmental concerns and market orientation should be taken into consideration.
• NPPs should contribute to the dissemination of technologies.
• Generation of technologies should be more explicit.
• There should be direct impact on the policy environment.
• Internal institutional outputs should be generated for sustainability, better performance and partnerships.
• Monitoring and evaluation should gather minimum data to facilitate information management, analysis and reports for different management levels.

5. Proposals were developed through group work to identify indicators of success. ASARECA will later consolidate all proposals. The final output will be validated in consultation with NPPs and other stakeholders.

6. Integration of ASARECA’s activities with international centers should be built upon agreed priority constraints and opportunities in the region. There was consensus that ASARECA should lead the process, taking into account the eight regional thematic programs proposed for integration of CG activities in the region. It was recognized that the process would be accelerated if donors coordinated their actions and funding to minimize overlaps and duplication in activities. The following were recommendations for immediate action:

• A Committee of Directors General (three from the CG Centers and three from ASARECA’s CD) should be established to deal with policy issues and resource mobilization
• A taskforce should be established to define the process of integration.
• The taskforce should develop proposals for consideration by the ASARECA CD.

Towards an operational competitive grants scheme

Trends in agricultural research funding in Africa and the rest of the developing world, including the ECA region, show that public investment is declining, there is increased dependence on international donors, and declining efficiency and effectiveness of NARS. More and more research funds from the governments and international donors demand accountability and impact. Research financing is moving away from open-ended institutional support towards performance-based, restricted funding. ASARECA, together with the other SROs, has initiated a competitive grants scheme in response to this trend. It is hoped that this system will ensure sustainability in funding. Progress towards this end are:
1. Prepared drafts for the CGS procedures manual and guidelines to access the grants.

2. Design of a management structure for the CGS for the ASARECA region.

3. Development of terms of reference for a consultant who will work on the activities listed below, based on the EU financial procedures and ASARECA’s conceptual framework:

   - Finalize the administrative and institutional framework for the management of the CGS in the ASARECA region.
   - Finalize procedures and recommendations for submission and evaluation of project proposals to the CGS.
   - Identify a pool of independent reviewers (regional and international) and suggest an appropriate system of honoraria.
   - Identify training needs within ASARECA, including NPPs for the successful implementation of CGS.
   - Present results for endorsement of the stakeholders and other participants of CGS.

**Updates on ASARECA’s endowment fund**

Increased donor support has given hope of sustainable funding for ASARECA (Table 1). The ASARECA Trust was established in 2000 and the EU allocated 2 million euros to its capital reserve

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<th>Table 1. Financial status by the last quarter of 2002.</th>
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<td>Activities</td>
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<td>Core Secretariat</td>
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<td>Core Secretariat</td>
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<td>ASARECA portfolio</td>
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fund. USAID, through its Africa Bureau’s Office of Sustainable Development (AFR-SD) and Regional Economic Development Services Office (REDSo) has agreed to contribute US$900,000. To put the endowment fund into operation with the EU allocation and to attract other donors to contribute to the fund, the Secretariat has developed terms of reference for a consultancy to do the following:

1. Develop an appropriate legal, financial and organizational framework for the establishment of the ASARECA endowment fund.
2. Propose an appropriate structure for the governance of the fund.
3. Propose an initial asset management strategy for the endowment fund and identify mechanisms where future changes can easily be identified, agreed upon and implemented.
4. Propose a mechanism acceptable and attractive to the needs and requirements of major donor agencies to encourage contribution to the ASARECA endowment fund.
5. Identify any training needs within ASARECA for the successful functioning and utilization of the endowment fund.

### Meetings/Conferences/Workshops attended by ASARECA’s Chairman, Executive Secretary and Committee of Directors in 2002.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>FARA Retreat</td>
<td>18–21 Feb</td>
<td>Cape Town, South Africa</td>
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<td>FARA Plenary</td>
<td>22–26 Apr</td>
<td>Maputo, Mozambique</td>
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<td>Developing a challenge program on climate change and rural prosperity</td>
<td>23–26 Apr</td>
<td>ICRAF, Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<td>SROs/Donors meeting on the Competitive Grants Scheme (CGS)</td>
<td>24–26 Jun</td>
<td>EC, Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<td>World Bank Eastern and Southern Africa regional consultation on rural development strategy</td>
<td>7–9 Aug</td>
<td>ILRI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural initiative to cut hunger in Africa</td>
<td>16–18 Oct</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholders’ meeting for the biofortification challenge program</td>
<td>21–22 Oct</td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual General Meeting of the CGIAR</td>
<td>28 Oct–1 Nov</td>
<td>Manila, The Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>An international assessment of the role of agricultural science and technology in reducing hunger and improving rural livelihoods</td>
<td>6–8 Nov</td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTSORMIL principal investors’ conference</td>
<td>18–20 Nov</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
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Subregional Activities: CORAF/WECARD

CORAF/WECARD General Assembly held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire

The General Assembly or stakeholders’ meeting was held 23–26 July 2002 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire. There were over 100 recorded participants, including 13 Directors General from NARS, three Directors General from the CGIAR, several scientists from NARS and the CGIAR, members of civil society (NGOs and farmer organizations) and research cooperation networks, including the agro-industry network, INTERFACE. Also present were the FARA Executive Secretary, Directors of three of CORAF’s regional research base centers, representatives from universities and advanced research institutes from the North. Highlights of the meeting were:

1. Good performance. CORAF was commended for:

- Its continued role in promoting regional cooperation in research and improved relationships between the NARS and international scientific partners.
- The successful screening of the proposal for the subregional organizations CGS and the USAID
competitive Technology Applications for Rural Growth and Economic Transformation (TARGET) program.

- Its good performance with limited financial resources.

2. **Involving civil society.** CORAF should open up to civil societies by assisting the Association for the Development of Activities on Promotion and Formation–Gallè (ADAF/GALLE) to hold a meeting of partners, i.e., NGOs, the private sector and farmer organizations. This meeting will help identify three representatives of civil societies for the CORAF/WECARD Executive Committee (EC), positions that are currently vacant, pending nominations.

3. **CORAF Secretariat.** The EC should implement the adopted procedure to renew the staff of the CORAF Secretariat within the recommended 12-month period.

The mandates of EC members were renewed, maintaining institutional memory and continuity, with two outgoing members being retained in the new EC.

4. **Biotechnology and biosafety.** CORAF’s study on biotechnology and biosafety could be used by FARA as a facilitating body for Africa. Biosafety negotiations should directly involve national governments. CORAF should set up a Biotechnology and Biosafety Committee that could coordinate donor support and activities in the region.

5. **Capacity building.** CORAF should create a mechanism for (a) national institutional capacity building to reduce exit of trained manpower; (b) stronger institutional linkages within and across the region, i.e., exchange of experiences between NARS and the Faculties of Agriculture; and (c) modernization of the national agricultural research and extension systems in response to the changing agricultural environment.

An end-user behavior study was conducted on the perception, adoption and diffusion of agricultural technologies. This study showed weaknesses of the national agencies in doing impact assessment of technologies on livelihood. It was therefore recommended that CORAF build a strategy for capacity building to enable the NARS to assess properly the impact of agricultural technologies.

6. **Annual report and workplan.** The CORAF annual report and workplan should distinguish between CORAF-led activities and activities coordinated by CORAF, but implemented by CORAF partners. The two documents should also link activity results to CORAF’s strategy and regional priorities so that necessary changes can be adopted. A financial report should be included.

7. **Scientific committee.** The roles and responsibilities of CORAF’s Scientific Committee should be defined.

**Implementation of networks, linkages and partnerships**

1. **SRO competitive grants scheme.** The screening procedure for the SRO CGS should be developed and published. Expert reviewers should be identified as needed. Reviewers will work according to standard review procedures and prohibitions that will be developed.

2. **PARAO.** Implementation of EU’s programme support to agricultural research in West Africa.
PARAO, has been delayed. However, the EU representative who attended the General Assembly assured CORAF that the funding decision made by Brussels remains unchanged.

3. **Challenge Programme (CP) and Global Partnership Programme (GPP)**. CORAF should be actively participating in CP and GPP development and progress. A steering committee should be created to work with other SROs and FARA in the CP pre-proposal development.

4. **African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)**. This was endorsed by the General Assembly and its potential in adding value to the agricultural production of its member countries was noted.

5. **Research integration program for West and Central Africa**. Significant progress was made after the two meetings in Bouake (2001) and Ibadan (2002). CORAF should create a steering committee that could actively participate in this process, together with the SROs and the ARIs.

**General Assembly of the seed and planting materials network held in Banjul, The Gambia**

The first General Assembly of the seed and planting materials network was held in Banjul, The Gambia, 22–24 January 2002. Outcome of the meeting included election of various management committees and drafting of the terms of reference for the development of its strategy. In September 2002, the blueprint for the network’s activities was developed, and is available upon request.

**Commodity networks harmonized**

Two commodity networks, the subregional maize network and the West and Central African maize network (WECAMAN), were harmonized into one network, based on a decision made during CORAF’s 2001 General Assembly. A management structure was set up for ongoing activities. Efforts are still being made to harmonize the millet and sorghum networks.

**Workshop held to institutionalize impact assessment**

The CTA Netherlands and INSAD (Institut du Sahel) organized a workshop, 26–29 March 2002, to identify elements for a subregional strategy to institutionalize impact assessment of agricultural research. Participants were NARS leaders, impact assessment experts and project managers. The workshop focused on mechanisms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of NARS, through sustainable funding of research for development initiatives aimed at food security, poverty eradication and conservation of natural resource management. The workshop also reviewed concepts, methodologies and modalities to utilize the results of impact studies. The strategy document is in preparation.

**Updates on CORAF’s publications**

Exchange of agricultural research and development information is one of CORAF’s pivotal functions. Despite financial constraints, four volumes (vol. 22–25) of *CORAF Action* were published in English and French, and are available on
CORAF’s website (www.coraf.org). Over 20,000 copies of the French version and 12,000 copies of English version have been distributed.

The publication of Sahel Agroforestry was hindered by financial constraints. Currently, CORAF has a project to implement its information and communication strategy in five pilot countries. Details can be found in CORAF’s 2003 workplan. CORAF is also planning to launch two international peer-reviewed journals in the coming months.

**PARAO workshop held**

In February 2002, a workshop was held to evaluate the implementation of PARAO, an EU-funded program to help CORAF and its operational units. Several controversies broke out, delaying its implementation in 2002. In order to launch the PARAO initiative with minimum management difficulties, an ex-post evaluation of the Regional Centre for the Study of Crop Adaptation to Drought (CERAAS), and of the regional fallow project, and an ex-ante evaluation of PARAO were carried out. An evaluation report was presented during the workshop. There was consensus on many issues. Tasks and dates were assigned for all partners and a contract was formulated. At the time of this report, CORAF has completed its obligation and signed the contract. Signatures of the other partners are still to come.

**Updates on research cooperation units**

**Millet.** Several activities were finalized in view of unification with the sorghum network, i.e., technology transfer project, 11 brochures reported results from 1991 to 2001, baking qualities of the millet landrace called *Thialak*; and a pilot project was started to develop contracts between producers and processors.

**Sorghum.** The sorghum network, Réseau ouest et centre africain de recherche sur le sorgho (ROCARS), in partnership with the NARS, concentrated on quality seed multiplication, distribution and farmer training in seed production and marketing. It has completed adaptation trials of 60 varieties that were started in 1998 and began new trials. Several activities continued, e.g., biological control, postharvest sorghum products (high-calorie, 100% sorghum flour cookies and cakes enriched with protein), and development of low-cost ovens for their rural production.

**Rice.** The rice network, ROCARIZ (Réseau ouest et centrafricain du riz—WARDA/CORAF Rice Research and Development Network for West and Central Africa), has been actively involved in increasing rice genetic diversity in the subregion, increasing production while conserving the natural resources, and making technologies available to NARS to strengthen research and development (i.e., effective participatory methodologies for technology dissemination).

A monitoring tour was organized, together with NARS and WARDA, to assess collaborative trials and exchange experiences between scientists and rice producers. The team was composed of breeders, soil scientists, agronomists, economists, entomologists, pathologists and development partners. The team visited Benin, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo. Highlights of the monitoring tours were: evidence of the increasing role of rice as a food security commodity in the subregion, problems in farmers’ access to improved seed varieties and seed marketing opportu-
nities between the countries visited, i.e., Sahelian and Humid coastal countries.

The ROCARIZ held its General Assembly in April 2002 at the WARDA headquarters in M’be, Côte d’Ivoire, at the same time as the biennial Regional Rice Research Review (RRRR) was held.

**Maize.** Maize network activities continued in the promotion of sustainable seed production systems, maize breeding for tolerance to major biotic and abiotic stresses, NARS capacity building, and promotion of maize marketing under increased production.

**Genetic resources.** Created 5 years ago, the genetic resource network, GRENEWECA (Genetic Resources Network for West and Central Africa), has since been actively involved in strengthening national genetic resource programs. Its activities include procurement and maintenance of equipment for genetic resource conservation, NARS capacity building, and research collaboration with various countries in the subregion. GRENEWECA is also collaborating with several universities for degree and on-the-job training programs. Research collaboration includes collection and evaluation of indigenous vegetables and cereals, i.e., *fonio*. A public awareness campaign on biodiversity conservation includes electronic conferencing. One was organized in line with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) model legislation to protect local community rights (i.e., farmers’ and breeders’ rights) and regulation of access to biological resources.

**Groundnut.** The first phase of the subregional groundnut germplasm project (GGP), ended in December 2002. The project was to characterize, evaluate and distribute groundnut varieties, and to produce and distribute improved varieties in West and Central Africa (WCA). There are 6,327 samples in the gene bank, and several thousand samples were characterized and rejuvened. Technical assistance was given to NARS to evaluate data compiled in the catalogues and to develop databases in Niger, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. There was an end-of-project workshop in June 2002 and the project is currently being evaluated.

Different groundnut varieties were screened for their adaptation to different WCA countries, e.g., in Mali for aflatoxin tolerance, in Nigeria for rosette resistance, in Senegal for use as confectionery and drought, and in Burkina Faso, for iron tolerance. Foundation seeds were multiplied and distributed in WCA countries and Kenya.

Several workshops were organized, e.g., a groundnut seed production, storage and distribution workshop and an aflatoxin and virus detection workshop.

**Yams.** The yam project started 3 years ago with backstopping from IITA. It covers Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo. Three genotypes of *Dioscorea rotunda* were recently released, marking the first formal yam varietal release through subregional research collaboration.

Several activities continue, such as on-station and on-farm adaptive trials, nutrient management studies and socio-economic studies on yam production and use.

**Livestock.** Activities involved collaboration with the Centre International de RechercheDéveloppement sur l’Élevage en zone sub-humide (CIRDES) and the International Trypanotolerant
Centre (ITC). CIRDES continued its research on integrated biological pest control, especially on trypanosomes and cowdriose diagnoses, major vector identification, epidemiology and vector control (i.e., use of vector attractants, chemosterilization and tick control). Other CIRDES activities related to livestock health and environment, i.e., crop-livestock integration and animal production for meat and dairy.

Training and capacity building included research visits by 48 scientists and students from the subregion and Europe, study fellowships at CIRDES for 3–4 months, and training courses for 22 scientists.

ITC’s activities during the year were dissemination of improved genetic stocks to producers, establishment of cattle herd multipliers, distribution of small ruminants from multiplier villages to farmer producers, participatory assessment of breeding objectives with agro-pastoralists, and estimation of the genetic parameters of local populations of N’Dama cattle under tsetse challenge. ITC also has a market-oriented systems improvement program. Its aim is to enhance economic efficiency of medium- to high-input livestock, through farm and market resource optimization and environmental conservation.

**Improving crop adaptation to drought.** The regional research centre for the study of crop adaptation to drought (CERAAS) focused its activities on (a) identification and selection of food crops adapted to drought for increased food production, and (b) training of scientists working on food crop adaptation to drought. Research activities included the development of new tools for groundnut aflatoxin control in the Sahel, improvement of sesame production, and improvement of cowpea-rhizobium association through varietal screening for water deficit adaptation.

Financial difficulties hindered the full implementation of the CERAAS training program but thesis support was given to eight BSc, five MSc and three PhD students.

**Funding resources**

CORAF/WECARD operations were financed by contributions from member NARS, EDF8 and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The USAID, Swiss cooperation, EDF8, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, financed the research cooperation units (networks, research base centers and special projects). The CORAF Secretariat’s activities were supposed to be financed by EDF8, but were constrained by the non-mobilization of enabling funds.
**Subregional Activities: SADC/FANR**

**Organizational restructuring in SADC**

The performance of the subregional agricultural research and training coordination sector was hampered in 2002 by the SADC restructuring process. The Southern Africa Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and training (SACCAR), which was a SADC Sector Coordinating Unit, has been phased out and integrated as the research and training unit within the FANR Directorate at the SADC Secretariat. SACCAR was handed over to the SADC Secretariat on 30 April 2002. The former Director of SACCAR and its French Technical Advisor have been seconded to the FANR Directorate.

The vision and the mission of the FANR unit for agricultural research and training remain unchanged, as follows:

**Vision:** SADC will, by year 2020, have made a significant contribution to poverty alleviation and sustainable growth through agricultural research and training in the SADC region.

**Mission:** To foster regional integration of agricultural research and training systems by assuming coordination and catalytic functions and delivering relevant services, through regional research networking and integration, forging of regional and global partnerships, human capital development, resource mobilization, and information and technology exchange.
Overall objectives of agricultural research and training in Southern Africa

The overall goal of agricultural research in the region is to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable growth through agricultural and natural resources research and training in the region. The specific objectives are to:

1. Develop technologies for a more efficient use of natural resources and improvement of sustainable market-oriented smallholder production systems.

2. Reduce the high rate of natural resource degradation, with focus on soil, water and conservation of biodiversity.

3. Promote institutional and financial reforms aimed at making NARS more sustainable, and to develop the research-farmer-extension linkages in order to improve transfer and adoption of technology.

4. Strengthen the capacities of institutions and farmer organizations to support the agricultural production systems.

5. Develop a regional research information and communication management system and support regional training programs for rural development.

Agricultural research and training activities in SADC

In most SADC member states, the agricultural research on crops and livestock is conducted by NARIs, while other national research institutions (universities, faculties of agriculture, etc.) are part of NARS. The NARS size and capacity varies considerably from country to country, and in most countries, the public sector research systems are small, and are poorly funded.

In addition to the NARS, there are several IARCs, involved at the regional level that support agricultural research networks and activities in the SADC region. Most of the networks were established in collaboration with NARS and under the umbrella of the SADC Co-ordinating Unit for Agricultural Research and Training. The SADC agenda and research priorities are addressed through these networks.

Priority setting process for agricultural research in Southern Africa

SADC Agricultural Research and Training continues to review the regional research priorities from time to time, in view of changes in challenges and opportunities. The last review of priorities for agricultural research for rural development in the SADC region was conducted in 2001. Four broad themes were identified as priority areas (Table 2, see next page).

Promotion of an integrated approach for coordination and implementation of research at different levels

Rural development in Southern Africa is very diverse, hence challenges on research activities can be carried out at different levels and through a diversified range of research partnerships. A new paradigm for agricultural research for development (ARD) is progressively emerging, in which a
### Table 2. Priority areas for research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural development challenge</th>
<th>Relevant research and development themes to match the rural development challenge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development and improvement of sustainable market-oriented</td>
<td>• Genetic improvement of plant and animal genetic resources for increased productivity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smallholder production systems</td>
<td>• Productivity improvement of smallholder production systems (mixed crop-livestock, urban and peri-urban, extensive) through better management techniques for livestock and crop production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Integrated pest/disease management and control for improved production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Production diversification—development and exploitation of under-utilized and orphan species and commodities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable management of natural resources and the environment</td>
<td>• Development of integrated soil-water management practices based on indigenous knowledge and available new technologies to improve the sustainability of agricultural production systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mitigation of the effects of animal and crop production and agricultural interventions on the environment and sustainability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Land management, including land use, land rights and local governance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Management, techniques and strategies for improved utilization of water resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowerment of institutions for rural development</td>
<td>• Analysis of the institutions, agriculture-based enterprises and farmer organizations that support agricultural production systems, with a view to improving their effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Analysis and improvement of the current commodity market chains for the major crop and livestock commodities in the SADC region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development and support of postharvest technologies to add value to the commodity chains and improve access to local, regional and global markets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Analysis of the current product safety and quality regulations and procedures, with a view to identifying policy options to improve the competitiveness of smallholder producers in terms of production efficiency, and high-quality and safe products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and communication management</td>
<td>• Development of information and communication products based on regional research and development outputs, to support agricultural development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional training program</td>
<td>• Establishment of a subregional Scholarship Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of teaching resources and tools based on local resources to make university teaching more effective and relevant to local situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of subregional scientific, managerial and technical training capacity to support science-based sustainable agricultural development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A diversified range of research partnerships are built. The main challenge is to develop a general framework that will facilitate strategic alliances and joint ventures between the various actors involved at all levels (local, subregional, regional, national, and global). Each program responds to the specific topic addressed that leads to diverse organizational and operational arrangements. No single model is possible, but it is important to effectively involve stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of these programs, to get their commitments towards the common objectives.

The following levels of partnerships have been taken into account to implement and coordinate research activities in SADC:

**National level**

Despite considerable efforts to strengthen, the NARS remain small and often poorly funded. Given the diversity of the region in terms of agro-ecologies and the large number of commodities and agriculture-related factors needing research attention, it is unlikely that any of the countries of the SADC region will be able to individually finance research programs that have the critical mass of scientists, resources and facilities to cover all required fields adequately.

**Subregional level**

Subregional cooperation between NARS and other stakeholders of agricultural research develops subregional research programs to address specific development concerns shared by a broad range of countries; for example, Land and Water Management Regional Programme and Maize and Wheat Regional Improvement Programme.

The SADC Agricultural Research and Training Sector has developed several regional projects in collaboration with the NARS and IARCs. In most cases, the IARCs are still managing the projects and providing technical backstopping, with the objective of progressively committing the NARS to the management of subregional initiatives.

**Pan-African level**

Regional initiatives from different subregions include the Banana Research Network for East, Central and Southern Africa (BARNESA) and the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Rice Research Network (ECSARRN).

At the Pan African level, the SADC region takes part in the activities of FARA, which represents the Agricultural Research Organizations in the GFAR.

**Global level**

Global Partnerships Programmes or Networks that emerge in specific research areas, identified from the analysis of priorities and action proposals across regions. This global research arrangement facilitates exchange of knowledge and provides advocacy for the NARS. The current level and type of partnerships is presented in Table 3.

**Current status of subregional research networks and programs**

The subregional programs presently implemented in the SADC region are often wrongly called Networks. They go far beyond the simple promotion of information exchange or adding value to the research activities of different partners. They mix
network activities with implementation of research, regional programming and coordination. The network activities (dissemination of information, priority setting, workshops and regional surveys, etc.) will be progressively separated, in terms of function and budget, from research activities. The Subregional Collaborative Research Networks/Programmes developed and currently coordinated by SRCU are presented in Table 4.

**Proposed new research and training programs**

**Consolidated subregional agricultural research and training program support**

In 2001, SADC’s SACCAR was disbanded as a consolidated subregional program, intended to address the need for institutional support to SADC research. SACCAR’s functions are now under the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Unit (FANR) of SADC. It coordinates operation of networks and implementation by NARS consortia of regional research projects, through a competitive grant system. The total regional budget for implementing the Five-Year Strategic Program (2003–07) is US$72.4 million. So far, the EU and the AfDB are considering supporting the program (Table 5).

**Fund for Innovative and Regional Collaborative Projects (FIRCOP)**

The aim of this program is to improve the performance of small-scale farmers and hence, to contribute to the poverty alleviation of the rural population. To achieve this goal, the project will:

- Strengthen the coordination between the NARS.
- Promote regional integration to improve the impact of research and training activities.
- Facilitate and stimulate regional innovative research and training activities.

Projects will be implemented through collaborative consortia of public and private research institutions and universities.

Funding for research projects under this program will be through a competitive fund. The French Government has agreed to support the program with €1.6 million, and a financial agreement was signed on 6 December 2002 between SADC and the French Embassy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subregional collaborative network (program)</th>
<th>Executing agency</th>
<th>Coordination site</th>
<th>Date of creation</th>
<th>Present status of the program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agroforestry Research Programme</td>
<td>ICRAF</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Ongoing CIDA grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa Bean Research (SABRN)</td>
<td>ICRISAT</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Ongoing AfDB-CIAT grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biosystematic Network for Southern Africa (SAFRINET)</td>
<td>ARC (South Africa)</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Ongoing Bionet International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut and Legume Improvement Programme (GLIP)</td>
<td>ICRISAT</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Ongoing GTZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADC Land and Water Management Training and Research Programme (L&amp;WMRP)</td>
<td>SADC</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Under negotiation with the EU for a second phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize and Wheat Improvement Network (MWIRNET)</td>
<td>CIMMYT</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Proposal prepared for a second phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum and Millet Improvement Programme (SMIP)</td>
<td>ICRISAT</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Ongoing USAID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Collaborative Network for Vegetable Research and Development in the Southern African Region (CONVERDS)</td>
<td>AVRDC</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Ongoing Internal Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC)</td>
<td>SADC</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Under negotiation with Nordic countries, cooperation for a second phase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regional training project for sustainable agriculture in the SADC region**

The capacity of the NARS to undertake relevant research is hampered by inadequate levels of trained human resources, especially at the postgraduate level. Adequate and highly trained human resources are essential for the science-led development of the SADC region. Conducting training within the region rather than overseas is more desirable as it would be cheaper, more relevant, and would enhance the capacity of universities in the region.

Over the years, the former SADC sector-coordinating unit for agricultural research and
training has put in place a Master of Science (MSc) program and coordinated efforts in research and training at the postgraduate level. A second phase of this program has been developed with the following vision and goal:

**Vision:** To develop a network of institutions of excellence in higher learning with curricula and programs that produce high quality, appropriately trained and innovative agricultural scientists and field practitioners, who would make a significant contribution to sustainable livelihood in SADC.

**Goal:** To develop and implement relevant and cost-effective postgraduate programs that are regionally linked, flexible and accessible by all, addressing gender, social, current and emerging issues, while integrating indigenous knowledge and locally generated technology.

The implementation of this regional Postgraduate Training Program will require about US$14 million over a 5-year period. The governments of Belgium, Norway and Germany (GTZ) have expressed interest in contributing to this program.

*Harmonization of the management of the competitive funds system at the sub-Saharan level (FARA)*

A consultative meeting on competitive funding for agricultural research for Africa (EU Brussels, 24–26 June 2002) was organized by the European Community with the following objectives:
• To design a clear, transparent, practical and harmonized management system of competitive grants for the subregional organizations — ASARECA, CORAF and SADC — based on the respective strategies and priorities of the SROs. The criteria and guidelines for implementing competitive grants were defined, including the framework to be used by all the donors.

• To articulate the complementarities of competitive grants with other financial resources allocated at the subregional level. It was agreed to define a common fund management system for all the competitive grants, but to maintain different funding envelopes for different donors.

**Participation in FARA**

The mission of subregional agricultural research and training coordination includes the facilitation of regional research networking and the forging of regional and global partnerships. Agricultural research is coordinated at four levels: global, national, regional and subregional.

At the Sub-Saharan Africa level, the three SROs—CORAF, ASARECA, and the SADC coordinating unit—are recognized as representing African research institutions.

**SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource**

SACCAR, as the SRO for Southern Africa, took part in the establishment of FARA in Addis Ababa in 2001. The SADC/FANR agricultural research unit, which took over the subregional mandate of the former SACCAR, is considered a founding Member of FARA. SADC/FANR Ministers, at their meeting on 5 July 2002, directed the SADC Secretariat (FANR Directorate) to participate in FARA’s activities and consider taking up membership in it.
FARA Staff

FARA Executive Committee

Chairperson: Joseph Mukiibi
Vice-Chairman: Adama Traoré (CORAF)

Members
Gisele d’Almeida (Private sector)
Romano Kiome (ASARECA)
Keogile Molapong (formerly SACCAR)
Kanayo F Nwanze (International Scientific Partners)
Moctar Toure (Donor Community)
Anne Muthoni Wambaa (Farmer’s organization)
Florence Wambugu (NGO and Foundation)
Monty Jones (Ex-officio)

FARA Secretariat Staff

Monty Jones (Executive Secretary)
Ma. Myra Wopereis-Pura (Consultant—Agricultural Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation)
Josiane Gaveh (Secretary)
Emmanuel Appiah (Driver)
# Abbreviations and Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AATF</td>
<td>African Agricultural Technology Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADAF/GALLE</td>
<td>Association for the Development of Activities on Promotion and Formation- Gallè</td>
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<tr>
<td>AfDB</td>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR-SD</td>
<td>USAID’s Africa Bureau’s Office of Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AgGDP</td>
<td>Agriculture Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRIFORUM</td>
<td>A quarterly newsletter published by ASARECA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Agricultural Research Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARD</td>
<td>Agricultural research and development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARIs</td>
<td>Advanced Research Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASARECA</td>
<td>Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVRDC</td>
<td>Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARNESA</td>
<td>Banana Research Network for East, Central and Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAADP</td>
<td>Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>CABI</td>
<td>Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>Committee of Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERAS</td>
<td>Regional Centre for the Study of Crop Adaptation to Drought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGIAR</td>
<td>Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG iSC</td>
<td>CGIAR International Science Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGS</td>
<td>Competitive Grants Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIAT</td>
<td>Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIDA</td>
<td>Canadian International Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIMMYT</td>
<td>Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIP</td>
<td>Centro Internacional de la Papa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIRDES</td>
<td>Centre International de Recherche-Developpement sur l’Élevage en zone sub-humide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMATA</td>
<td>Council of Ministers of Agriculture and Trade in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONVERDS</td>
<td>Regional Collaborative Network for Vegetable Research and Development in the Southern African Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORAF</td>
<td>Conseil ouest et centre africain pour la recherche et le développement agricole (French of WECARD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Challenge Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTA</td>
<td>Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANIDA</td>
<td>Danish International Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAPGREN</td>
<td>East African Plant Genetic Resources Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>East and Central Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECAPAPA</td>
<td>Eastern and Central Africa Programme for Agricultural Policy Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECSARRN</td>
<td>Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Rice Research Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>FANR</td>
<td>Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARA</td>
<td>Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRCOP</td>
<td>Fund for Innovative and Regional Collaborative Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFAR</td>
<td>Global Forum for Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGP</td>
<td>Groundnut germplasm project</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLIP</td>
<td>Groundnut and Legume Improvement Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPP</td>
<td>Global Partnership Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRENWeca</td>
<td>Genetic Resources Network for West and Central Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IARC</td>
<td>International Agricultural Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBRAM</td>
<td>International Board for Soil Research and Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICIDE</td>
<td>International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRAF</td>
<td>International Centre for Research in Agroforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRI</td>
<td>International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDRC</td>
<td>International Development Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IITA</td>
<td>International Institute of Tropical Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILCA</td>
<td>International Livestock Centre for Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILRI</td>
<td>International Livestock Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSAH</td>
<td>Institut du Sahel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTSORMIL</td>
<td>USAID Title XII International Sorghum/Millet Collaborative Research Support Program (USA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPGRI</td>
<td>International Plant Genetic Resources Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPR</td>
<td>Intellectual Property Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISAAA</td>
<td>International Service for the Acquisition of Agri biotechnology Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISNAR</td>
<td>International Service for National Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISRA</td>
<td>Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITC</td>
<td>International Trypanotolerant Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARI</td>
<td>Kenya Agricultural Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L&amp;WMRP</td>
<td>Land and Water Management Training and Research Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAPP</td>
<td>Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBS</td>
<td>Moran of Burning Spear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEAPU</td>
<td>Monitoring, Evaluation, Analysis and Planning Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MWIRNET</td>
<td>Maize and Wheat Improvement Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARI</td>
<td>National Agricultural Research Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARO</td>
<td>Ugandan National Agricultural Research Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARS</td>
<td>national agrical research systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>National Department of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for African Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NERICA</td>
<td>New Rice for Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPPs</td>
<td>Networks, Programs and Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAU</td>
<td>Organization of African Unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARAO</td>
<td>Programme d’Appui a la recherché agricole en Afrique de l’Ouest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REDSO</td>
<td>Regional Economic Development Services Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAO</td>
<td>Regional Authorizing Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RASC</td>
<td>Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ROCARIZ</td>
<td>Réseau ouest et centrafricain du riz (WARDA/CORAF Rice Research and Development Network for West and Central Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCARS</td>
<td>Réseau ouest et centre africain de recherche sur le sorgho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROR</td>
<td>rate of return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRRR</td>
<td>Regional Rice Research Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSU</td>
<td>regional support unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABRN</td>
<td>Southern African Bean Research Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACCAR</td>
<td>Southern Africa Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADC/FANR</td>
<td>South African Development Community / Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFRINET</td>
<td>Biosystematic Network for Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARRNET</td>
<td>Southern African Root Crops Research Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDC</td>
<td>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGC</td>
<td>competitive grant scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sida</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SME</td>
<td>Small and medium enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMIP</td>
<td>Sorghum and Millet Improvement Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAAR</td>
<td>Special Programme for African Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPGRC</td>
<td>SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRO</td>
<td>subregional organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSA CP</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGET</td>
<td>Technology Applications for Rural Growth and Economic Transformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDT</td>
<td>Technology Development and Transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WARDA</td>
<td>West Africa Rice Development Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WECAMAN</td>
<td>West and Central African maize network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WECARD</td>
<td>West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (English of CORAF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSSD</td>
<td>World Summit on Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FARA’s Subregional Organizations
About FARA

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is an apex organization in Sub-Saharan Africa, and plays a major advocacy role in agricultural research and development. FARA forges strategic alliances with, and among its stakeholders—the African national agricultural research systems (NARS), subregional organizations (SROs), Advanced Research Institutions (ARIs), civil societies, investors and other partners—for improved food security and poverty alleviation, while safeguarding the natural resource base. FARA’s vision is for African agriculture to become vibrant and competitive in the international market, growing by at least 6% per annum by the year 2020.

At the pan-African level, FARA complements the innovative activities of the national and subregional research institutions to deliver more responsive and effective services to their stakeholders. It serves as the knowledge hub and voice of Africa on agricultural research for development.

FARA was built by a coalition of African research and development stakeholders in 1991, and was operating through the Special Programme for African Agricultural Research (SPAAR) until 2001. FARA’s Secretariat started functioning in July 2002. FARA is currently hosted by the FAO’s Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana.

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

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