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

The vision of FARA is for African agriculture to become vibrant and competitive in the international market, growing at a rate of at least 6% per annum by the year 2020.

The mission of FARA is to enhance and add value to the effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural research systems in Africa that will contribute to agricultural development, economic growth and sustainable use of natural resources.

FARA complements the innovative activities of national, international and sub-regional research institutions to deliver more responsive and effective services to its stakeholders. It plays advocacy and coordination roles for agricultural research for development.

FARA is the technical arm of the African Union on rural economy and agricultural development and New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) to implement the fourth pillar of Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), involving agricultural research, technology dissemination and uptake. FARA identified five requirements to enhance continental impact on livelihoods and economic development:

• A framework for reform and investment in agricultural research and harmonization of actions and actors of ARD in Africa, i.e., the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP).
• A new innovation systems approach to agricultural research for development, i.e., The Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme (SSA CP).
• The human capacity to implement, internalise and upscale new approaches to researchers, change agents, processors, marketers, and not the least, policy makers, i.e., Building African Scientific and Institutional Capacities (BASIC).
• Immediate applications that can make a difference and restore credibility in agricultural development, i.e., Disseminating New Agricultural Technologies in Africa (DONATA).
• African scientists better able to retrieve and contribute to global knowledge of agricultural sciences & development, i.e., Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems (RAILS).

These programmes respond to FARA’s primary functions, which are advocacy of the role of agricultural research, promotion of functional partnerships, and accelerating sharing and exchange of knowledge.

FARA donors in 2005 were The African Development Bank, The Canadian International Development Agency, European Commission, the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, Italy, Ireland, Germany and France, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the Rockefeller Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, FAO, the World Bank, and the United States Agency for International Development.
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The successful 3rd FARA General Assembly held at Entebbe, Uganda, in June 2005 was the ultimate proof that FARA’s credibility and ability to deliver is gaining momentum among its stakeholders not just in Africa, but also on the international scene.
The main issue of this report is to show how—within a span of just 3 years—FARA has been able to develop its regional initiatives in consultation with its stakeholders. The year 2005 is crucial as most of its initiatives began to be implemented and to gain momentum among its stakeholders such as the sub-regional organizations (SROs)—the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC–FANR)—and the national agricultural research systems (NARS). At the same time, FARA is gaining momentum among its development partners as there is increasingly greater confidence in its technical, administrative and financial management capabilities.

FARA is also gaining momentum among African political leaders evidenced by the recently signed MoU with the African Union. This new partnership strengthens its relationship with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), to help implement its Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Research and Development Programme (CAADP) Pillar 4, as well as with other African Union programmes on rural economy and agriculture.

Momentum is also building up on the NARS front, as FARA, guided by the results of its assessment of the NARS, strengthens the African NARS, which are its building blocks. Hence, the strength and sustainability of FARA depend on the quality performance of the NARS, which are not only composed of the National Agricultural Research Institutions (NARI)—but also include the civil societies such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), farmers’ organizations and private enterprise. Recognizing the importance of this group, FARA has therefore facilitated the creation of an NGO consortium, to encourage consultation among civil society organizations at subregional and regional level.

The successful 3rd FARA General Assembly held at Entebbe, Uganda, in June 2005 was the ultimate proof that FARA’s credibility and ability to deliver is gaining momentum among its stakeholders not just in Africa, but also on the international scene. Development partners as well as international research institutions were all keen on developing collaborative programmes with FARA. But the most exciting news is that the FARA General Assembly welcomed to its group the northern African countries, making FARA truly an Africa-wide organization.

This annual report will focus on the achievements that have gained momentum, and is structured according to FARA’s three main functions, with some specific features from the Executive Committee and the SROs.
The 3rd FARA General Assembly, held at Entebbe, Uganda, elected new officials to the FARA Executive Committee—the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Farmer Representative.

**FARA CHAIRPERSON**

**Ms. Njabulo Nduli** is not new to FARA; she is one of its founders and has seen its transformation from the Special Programme for African Agricultural Research (SPAAR) to FARA. She is currently Deputy Director-General of the Agricultural Production and Resource Management of South Africa, Department of Agriculture. She has an MSc degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Wales, UK; a BSc in Chemistry and Botany from the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; and an Advanced Project Management Programme Certificate from the University of South Africa. Her technical background is complemented by several leadership and development programmes attended nationally and internationally.

She has been with the Department of Agriculture since 1996, and has held several managerial positions. Before 1996, she was technical adviser to a farmer support group in South Africa, which develops enabling policies directed at resource-poor farmers. It was this first-hand experience that enabled Ms Nduli to make significant contributions to agriculture policy formulation and providing strategic leadership at national, continental and international levels over the last two decades.

At the national level, she represents the Department of Agriculture, and serves on various boards and committees that deal with policies...
Senior Research Officer and became Maize Breeder and later the Programme Leader of Cereals Programme in the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) (1996–2000).

Farmer-participatory research was the drive in all the research activities in the Maize Programme. Dr. Kyetere’s team worked with NGOs, community-based organizations and farmer groups in the generation and promotion of developed technologies.

Dr. Kyetere built a strong team in the Cereals Programme, organizing meetings, workshops and seminars, and providing guidance to his colleagues in various activities. He was responsible for the efficient utilization and accountability of funds and other resources. He also assisted the Director, NAARI, in management, research planning, monitoring, evaluation and priority setting at the Institute. He also solicited funds from other sources, including from overseas, which enabled the Programme to carry out its activities successfully.

Dr. Kyetere was nominated as a member to several Task Forces, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Eastern and Central Africa Maize and Wheat Research Network (ECAMAW), legislation related to plant and animal health, and agriculture products, and acts as Chair of intergovernmental committees. She initiated and contributed to various national programmes including the National Landcare Programme, the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme and the establishment of a National Agriculture Research Forum (NARF).

She also represents the Department of Agriculture in various international organizations including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), CAADP of the NEPAD, and the UN. Her leadership skills were further demonstrated in 2002 at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD). At the sub-regional and continental level, Ms Nduli participates in agriculture committees within the SADC and represented the region and the agriculture sector on various platforms.

She is a member of the Hunger Task Force appointed by the General Secretary of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG); and alternate member of the NEPAD Gender Task Force representing FARA.

**FARA VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

**Dr. Denis Kyetere** has a Ph.D. in Genetics from the Ohio State University, Ohio, USA. He has several years of experience in crop research, especially maize, one of the staple foods in his country, Uganda. He began his career in 1979 as Scientific Officer / Maize Agronomist, at Kawanda Research Station, Uganda.

After his M.Sc. in 1988, he was appointed Research Officer, Maize Breeder, Kwanda Research Station. His major achievement during this time was the development of the successful maize variety, Longe 1, which was produced and grown in Uganda. In December 1993, he was appointed Vice-Chairperson Dr. Denis Kyetere is Acting Director General of NARO, Uganda, and Chairperson of the Committee of Directors of ASARECA.
leading the Network to the year 2000 as its Chairperson. He is a member of the Seed–Regional Working Group on harmonization of policies and regulations within the East African Region. He is also the Chairperson of the Coffee Research Network (CORNET) of the ASARECA.

In 2000, Dr. Kyetere became the Director of Research for the Coffee Research Institute (CORI). Despite tough challenges, he continued with vigour and enthusiasm, and the Institute is now seen as a model institution and has produced many technologies including coffee wilt-resistant robusta germplasm. In June 2005, he was appointed Acting Director General of NARO. He is also the Chairperson of the Committee of Directors of ASARECA.

**FARMER REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr Désiré Porquet was nominated and elected new farmer representative in the FARA Executive Committee. He is an Ivorian Banker-turned-farmer, having worked with the Société Générale de Banque en Côte d’Ivoire and the Union de Banques en Côte d’Ivoire. He is currently farming Hevea and oil palm trees, and has a piggery. Realizing the benefits of networking to gain access to new technologies or any information to increase his production, he became active in a farmers’ organization called the Association nationale des organisations professionnelles agricoles de Côte d’Ivoire (ANOPACI), where he is currently the Vice-President. His active role in farmer empowerment and innovative farming systems gained him two awards: Chevalier de l’Orde National de la Republique de Côte d’Ivoire and the Commandeur de l’Ordre du Merite Agricole de la République de Côte d’Ivoire. Both awards recognize distinguished achievement and are given by the Republic’s President.

Having gained recognition in his own country and realizing the potential of cross-country partnerships, he actively participated in creating the Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l’ Afrique de l’ Ouest (ROPPA). He is currently the first Vice-President, and it is from this organization that he was nominated as FARA’s farmer representative.
ADVOCACY AND CONSTITUENCY BUILDING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

THE 3RD FARA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE WEEK: ASSEMBLING KEY STAKEHOLDERS TOWARDS A COMMON AFRICAN AGENDA

The General Assembly of FARA is held every two years, together with the African Agricultural Science Week. It is rotated among the three founding subregions, i.e., East and Central Africa, West and Central Africa, and Southern Africa. The 3rd General Assembly was held 6–12 June 2005 in Entebbe, Uganda. The purpose was to provide opportunities for FARA’s stakeholders to review the Forum’s achievements, programmes, projects and proposals developed since the last General Assembly, and to inform and guide FARA’s activities over the next biennium. The Assembly is organized within the African Agricultural Science Week, wherein FARA’s stakeholders are given the chance to exhibit their programmes or research outputs either through stands or posters. At the same time, side-events are held just before the plenary to provide opportunities for more formal discussions on relevant issues that could later be submitted to the plenary for FARA’s action.

This year brought together the biggest number of FARA stakeholders—almost 600 agricultural research and development (ARD) players. The most significant and novel participation was the week-long attendance of Ministers of Agriculture from Uganda, South Africa, Rwanda, Nigeria and Kenya, not to mention the Ugandan parliamentarians who stayed to witness the closing ceremonies. Indeed this was a great event for FARA, when it welcomed to its group the Northern African
countries as represented by AARINENA, i.e., Morocco. Other regional fora were also present such as APAARI and FORAGRO led by GFAR.

International organizations, notably the CGIAR Centers, were all present to give support and create new partnerships with either FARA, the SROs, the NARS or the civil society.

The 3rd General Assembly was marked by a stronger presence than earlier, of civil society organizations such as NGOs, the private sector and farmers’ organizations. Each of these groups held side-events emphasizing key areas that FARA could consider in developing its initiatives. The farmers’ groups were very keen on stronger participation in research activities than they earlier did. The private sector suggested creating business development and entrepreneurship centres to provide the framework to take research results to interested private investors. The NGOs created a consortium to facilitate a harmonized voice among NGOs, and increase the accountability of NGOs to their stakeholders. The extension agencies, relying on limited African government funding, requested greater collaboration with research institutions in order to strengthen their capacity to deliver results.

The main theme of the week was Innovations to transform agriculture to improve livelihoods and development in Africa. The summaries of discussions in each of the sub-themes are given below. The sub-themes were later presented to the Plenary, which in turn endorsed the recommendations from the side-events organized around the subthemes. FARA will then include these issues in developing and implementing its initiatives in the region.

1. Improving and sustaining investment in agricultural innovation

Although studies show that the return to research investment is high, there is still very low investment from the government or the private sector. Agricultural commitments to increase budget by governments to 10% of GDP still require concrete actions and probably guidance from research on
how best to invest. Proper definitions of investments to agriculture could be standardized so that direct investments are correctly recorded (For example, is investment in rural roads an investment in agriculture?) Tracking of commitments and implementation mechanisms are yet to be developed. Public-private partnerships might be the best solution in the short-term for Africa. Lessons learnt from the other regions of the world could provide guidance. Or perhaps strategic public awareness of successful results conveyed to policy makers could encourage investments and development of enabling policies especially for small-scale producers.

2. Enhancing capacity for accelerated development

The region as well as African leaders throughout the African Union are aware of the need to enhance capacity building. Centres of Excellence and/or networks for agriculture and natural resources are one of the initiatives of the African Union and NEPAD. But criteria for selection are yet to be properly defined. While the quality of research is sustained at the level of international, regional and subregional research institutions, there is also a demand for long-term supply of quality graduates from the primary and tertiary education levels. African youth need to be continuously encouraged about the future in agriculture. Universities are also encouraged to increase their linkages with farmers as well as extension workers and research institutions. Distance education or learning might be an answer to increase the scale of capacity building in Africa, as long as there is good information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure.

3. Developing and applying appropriate agricultural science and technologies for equitable wealth creation and distribution

Research has an important role to play to solve hunger and poverty in Africa, together with other major actors such as policy makers and the civil society. National research institutions need to adopt new approaches not just in conducting research, but in the entire process—from conception of

Research has to focus on achieving sustainable local production since most of African staple food is not traded globally.
The quality of nutritional intake could be achieved through nutrition education, enhancement of nutritional contents through research, training on basic health tips and awareness of input specifics such as fertilizers or pesticides.

research programmes to impact evaluation and scaling-up and scaling-out to end-users. Research has to focus on achieving sustainable local production since most of African staple food is not traded globally. Technologies abound for farmer wealth creation, but the challenges lie in putting these technologies together in an economically viable way for the right groups, sizes of operation and market needs. Risk reduction is also important because farmers have to cope with a range of biological, commercial, and political risks and natural disasters. New opportunities could be explored, such as horticulture and the use of biotechnology coupled with appropriate biosafety measures.

4. Addressing policy and institutional constraints affecting agricultural development for better market access and global competitiveness

The majority of African farmers are smallholders and they should not be marginalized in the whole production chain, up to trade negotiations either globally or regionally. Farmers face several biophysical constraints, but, at the same time, lack an enabling environment to have a dynamic, productive and commercial agriculture. They usually have poor access to finance and investment opportunities. Access to market information could assist in selling their produce and buying the required inputs. Some countries in Africa are using public phones or cellular phones to communicate market prices. This could be scaled-out to other regions or countries in Africa. Regional consortia on input supplies could reduce costs of inputs such as fertilizers. Policies could be improved to enable farmers to be more competitive globally and be suppliers to supermarkets and global value chains. The policies could cover a wide range of areas—policies for the access and use of plant genetic resources, intellectual property rights (IPR), phytosanitary standards, product grading and standards, legislation for community groups, certification of agribusiness dealers, and information and communication technology policies.
5. Encouraging investment and promoting business opportunities for the private sector in science and technology innovation

The private sector comes in many shapes and sizes, but at the local level, small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) are the most important. They could be adversaries to progress by promoting corruption in the government, or they could be promoters of progress by investing in new opportunities based on research results. The idea is to have a centre of entrepreneurship to facilitate positive engagement of SMEs in research and partnerships among researchers and farmers. Farmers are also entrepreneurs since they are also investing and taking risks.

6. Strengthening the links between health, nutrition and food security in Africa

Food production should emphasize on increase not only in food quantity, but also in the quality of nutritional intake. This could be achieved through increased awareness of food nutritional values (nutrition education), enhancement of nutritional contents through research, training on basic health tips, and awareness of input specifics such as fertilizers or pesticides. The idea is to get agricultural interventions to include nutritional values and education. Research could play a role in linking actors of health, nutrition and agriculture. Policies and perceptions should not look at food production for its economic gain but should put emphasis on its effects on food security and people’s health. Nutritional status is dependent on several factors such as natural resources, economic status, prevailing political and ideological framework and institutions.

7. Sharing information and building critical mass through networking and partnership for increased and sustainable development

Partnerships and networks are either formed by themes or by topics as specified by its members or initiators. But should there be formal or informal collaboration? It should not be limited to ‘sexy’ technologies alone, but rather on promoting innovations. One of the most important points in ensuring sustainable partnerships is mutual confidence, sharing and accountability of all partners. There are no givers and takers—it has to be a two-way process with assured quality. The use of advanced ICT could facilitate lesson learning and sharing of experience, but should avoid information overload. Access must be to the right information, by the right stakeholders, at the right time.

The discussions at the 3rd General Assembly were very rich as recorded in the full proceedings of the meeting available online at the FARA website (hardcopies are available from the Secretariat). But FARA does not work on these issues alone; all

The Proceedings of the 3rd General Assembly are available at the FARA Secretariat; and online at www.fara-africa.org.
stakeholders were asked to work together towards the promotion of innovations to transform African agriculture. FARA is to develop an action matrix to indicate the leading institutions who could assist FARA for each specific topic. These could provide a baseline for the evaluation of the subsequent General Assemblies.

2.2 FARA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AFRICAN UNION AND NEPAD

African agricultural research has been accused of demonstrating only a limited impact in the improvement of African livelihoods or economies. This has been due to several reasons, and FARA is tackling the situation by prioritizing different issues. One of the most important issues has been the lack of linkage between research on the one hand, and the policy makers who influence or create an enabling environment so that research results are used, disseminated and adopted by agricultural producers. FARA, as the voice of African ARD, has already been mandated by NEPAD to be its technical arm for CAADP Pillar 4. To complete the link, FARA has been recognized by the African Union as its technical arm in agricultural research with a direct link to improving African rural economy and agriculture. The new partnership recognizes that:

• Agricultural and rural development is one of the bases for Africa’s development, and that Africa must have its own capacity to capitalize on advances in science by adapting products to suit its own needs and circumstances and, where they are lacking, to develop its own innovations to overcome constraints to sustainable agricultural intensification.

• Biotic, abiotic and agricultural stresses and diseases are not contained by national boundaries, and that cooperation between nations will build a critical mass and accelerate the production of science-based controls and remedies.

• Enhanced trade in agricultural products among African countries offers the best prospects to raise national incomes and generating employment, but is dependent on developing common enabling policies and efficient marketing systems that require collaboration between nations and regional economic communities.

• NEPAD’s CAADP stresses the need for a comprehensive and coherent approach to agricultural research for development, and that this will require coordination of all public and private national, regional and international agricultural research institutions active in Africa.

This is an action towards the African Union Sirte Declaration, on the challenges of implementing integrated and sustainable development in agriculture and water in Africa, with emphasis on the promotion and strengthening of Centres of Excellence and/or networks. In other words, Centres of Excellence and/or networks should be established, where they do not exist, for crops, animals, forestry, fisheries, and range management, followed by the strengthening of related tertiary and research institutions at continental and regional levels.

2.3 THE NARS ASSESSMENT

Effective NARS are the principal providers of agricultural research for Africa’s development. The SROs were established to support the NARS by promoting collaboration on sub-regional priorities and trans-boundary issues. The SROs established FARA to provide a continental perspective in supporting their efforts to strengthen the NARS. To advance efforts to do this, FARA commissioned an assessment to identify mechanisms to strengthen NARS and concurrently the SROs. The assessment focused on the 21 conditions identified by the SROs
and FARA at their retreat in August 2003. These were aggregated into four main potential areas of intervention as discussed below.

**Governance and management.** Although most NARIs have clearly defined research goals, vision and mission statements, there is general weakness in institutional capacity to prioritize, develop programmes, and monitor and evaluate research and research outputs. NARI governance is dominated by scientists and policy makers with very few or non-existent representation from the civil society. Internal reviews are conducted annually, but external review is generally not conducted owing to financial limitations, since they are not included in the budgets.

**Financial status and management.** Most NARIs are chronically short of funds, and depend mainly on external donor support to conduct research or even for daily operation. There are only three countries where government support is sufficient—Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa. Self-generated funds are insignificant, while private sector support is almost non-existent. Seventy-five percent of the NARI budgets are derived from development agencies. This support is provided either as short-, medium- or long-term projects. Funds from national governments come from the Ministry of Finance, either on a monthly or quarterly basis, but are not released in a timely manner. Most funds are usually received late, if at all.

Some NARIs (though very few) have functioning agricultural research trust funds which are supposedly supported by WB loans. National governments were supposed to contribute to ensure sustainability but to date, no government has ever contributed.

Financial management standards are very poor, requiring further staff training and review of accounting tools and mechanisms.

FARA has been recognized by the African Union as its technical arm in agricultural research with a direct link to improving African rural economy and agriculture.
Scientific capacity and management. In most NARIs, there are less than 100 scientists, with the exception of South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya, where there are more than 500 scientists. There are no policies to sustain quality staff or strategies for the transition or continuity from veteran scientists to promising new scientists. Because of limited resources, scientists are usually multi-disciplinary; and not necessarily focused on their areas of specialization. Common formal disciplines among NARIs are plant breeding, livestock management, animal diseases, plant pathology, insect pest management, agronomy and soil science. Most institutions are weak in social sciences, agricultural science, forestry and agroforestry, biotechnology, biometrics, information technology, aquaculture and fisheries.

The terms and conditions for hiring scientists are not very competitive, which is the main reason for the brain drain. Specialized or advanced training as an incentive is very rare. Interviews showed that complementary training is required in areas such as impact assessment, IPR management, project management, monitoring and evaluation and priority-setting. Capacity building is required in biotechnology and research programme design, scientific publishing and additional specializations, as mentioned above.

Technology generation and the capacity to disseminate research is very weak. The research-extension-farmer linkage needs to be strengthened, and there are very few places where this partnership works effectively. Most NARIs still practise the linear approach where research is conducted by scientists and technologies are transferred by extension agencies. Therefore, research results are not disseminated either because they are not suitable to the needs of the farmers, or there is no effective communication or partnership among the major actors of agricultural development.

Internet connectivity is still very limited, and the ICT facilities to share and access agricultural information systems are bad. Publications brought out by scientists are of very poor quality.

Collaboration. During the past decade, partnerships or collaboration among research institutes,
agricultural universities, civil society organizations, and international research institutions have mainly been driven by external partners. Projects funded by external donors would require that international organizations should partner with national research institutes. But in the past five years, some NARIs have begun to initiate innovative partnerships with local universities, civil society organizations or with international partners. But the numbers still need to improve. Potential partnership with foreign universities, not just from the North but also the South are not sufficiently exploited. Partnership among African institutions could also be further improved, not to mention with civil society organizations. International research centres such as the CGIAR, or international NGOs have abundantly been operating in Africa. But there are no strategies within the NARS on how to exploit these different sources of knowledge and technologies.

SROs are seen as the coordinating bodies or as a forum where NARS could share their ideas and needs to create the economies of scale and harmonize programmes with subregional leverage. SROs are the creation of the NARIs; hence their programmes are usually a reflection of their priorities. The civil society is represented in the oversight committee of CORAF and its corresponding programmes or networks. While ASARECA has only the NARIs in their oversight committee, the civil society is involved in their networks, programmes and projects.

The roles of SROs are very well defined, but their funding is still very much donor dependent. Contributions from member countries only represent 0.3% of their funding. Long-term sustainability is still a question.

The overall result of this assessment tends to paint a rather gloomy and frustrating picture of the state of the NARIs, which are institutions vital to national development. The major challenge is to create a truly functional NARS, but that is a highly complex and even daunting task.

However, it is important to draw attention to the fact that some African NARIs are much better off and much more functional and productive than others, especially where the national governments provide adequate financial support and other resources, and a conducive and enabling policy environment for agricultural research to function efficiently, as in Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa. An enabling climate for high-impact agricultural research requires well-articulated national science and technology policies and strategies, adequate and sustained investments in science and technology, particularly agricultural research for development, and programmes that identify, prioritize and address critical national needs for agricultural development. The Inter-Academy Council Panel suggested that developing countries must increase investments and spending on national research and development activities to 1.5% of GDP if they expect to keep pace with industrialized countries.

However, the big question is: what strategies should be adopted to strengthen African NARS and what options are available for implementing them? There are different ways to respond to such a question, but it is wise to prioritize and focus on the most relevant and effective approach. There are three options that could be derived from this assessment, considering the current ARD environment in Africa and considering what FARA could offer.

**Option 1:** The first option would be to strengthen individual NARS, based on the four areas of intervention identified by the SRO-FARA retreat.

**Option 2:** Privatize agricultural research to provide them the autonomy to source funds not just from
In the context of FARA and the SROs, several recommendations were formulated as interventions to strengthen African NARS.

Governments and donors, but also to private sector. Staff could be more motivated.

**Option 3:** Adopt the use of Centres of Excellence for agricultural research. This will promote specialization among national research institutes and collaboration with other institutions, not just within the country but within Africa. Scarce resources could be more efficiently used.

**Recommendations:** In the context of FARA and the SROs, several recommendations were formulated as interventions to strengthen African NARS, based on the four areas of interventions discussed above.

1. **Improving governance and management**
   - Promotion of innovation system approach through the five regional initiatives of FARA and the networks of the SROs.
   - Facilitating development and implementation of appropriate strategies by the NARS.

2. **Improving financial status and management**
   - Advocate for inclusion of civil society representatives in the NARI governance structure.
   - Establishment of an African agricultural research service facility within the FARASecretariat to coordinate sustained support to the NARS.
   - Identify innovative mechanisms or approach to encourage national governments to implement their commitment declared through the AU/NEPAD agriculture vision.
   - Facilitate the harmonization of support from external donors with immediate plan of action.
   - Financial management training should be included in capacity building programmes of FARA and the SROs.
   - Formulate strategies to strengthen the private-public sector partnership.
3. **Strengthening scientific capacity**

- Scientific and institutional capacity building should be incorporated in all FARA and SRO programmes or initiatives. This should also include promotion of women scientists.

- Conduct studies that could determine the critical mass of scientists required for the NARIs to effectively function and provide quality scientific results.

- FARA could establish an annual FARA award for the best African scientists.

- Develop a strategy that would increase the number of publications by African scientists, and provide training on scientific writing and communications. It should include support to agricultural journals that publish research done by African scientists.

- Advocate for increased investment in ICT and internet connectivity by scientists and institutions.

4. **Strengthen collaboration**

- Monitor and evaluate how FARA’s five regional initiatives are promoting partnerships and collaboration among different institutions and organizations within Africa and the international research community.

- Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to participate in ARD.

- Promote South-South cooperation, true partnership with international centres and UN agencies.

- Continue to conduct SRO-FARA retreats

The assessment has provided FARA the broad and detailed aspects of interventions required to strengthen African NARS. The tasks can be daunting, but impact could be achieved if interventions are prioritized based on the needs and requirements of its major clients.

More details of the assessment are available on the FARA website and at the Secretariat in Accra.
CORAF-WECARD: A YEAR OF CONSOLIDATION AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

As one of the oldest SROs in the region, CORAF/WECARD focuses on its ability to coordinate subregional cooperation, sharing and dissemination of information and assist members to identify and mobilize resources to support priority research areas. The year 2005 brought about review and changes in the capacity and functions of the Secretariat, the governing organs and its operational units. The Secretariat strengthened its financial management capacity by providing training to its staff on accounting system software. Support staff were matched with their qualifications to actual job descriptions. Professional staffing was reviewed for adequacy based on current work programme. A new impact evaluation unit was created to ensure that research programmes have direct relevance to end-users. The Executive Committee, which provided oversight to the Secretariat, was transformed into a governing council.

Coordinating partnership with stronger political support. CORAF/WECARD had discussions and negotiations with key regional economic bodies in West and Central Africa, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (EMCCAS). It also reviewed its long standing partnership with the Permanent Interstate Committee for the Struggle against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS). In all these discussions, CORAF/WECARD was mandated as the leader in the subregion to promote agro-food systems through research for development and utilization of adapted technologies under the
framework on agricultural policy of ECOWAS and West African action for NEPAD’s CAADP.

**Sharing and exchange of information.** Several databases are in existence in different countries. A review of the status of these databases was conducted to analyze how linkages could be achieved using different media of communication. As an initial step, mapping of agricultural organizations, institutions, experts, projects and funding was initiated with assistance from the German centre for documentation and information in Agriculture (ZADI/Infosys+). National partners were identified as national nodes and trained accordingly on use of the open-source system. At the same time, rural radio is recognized as the cheapest medium of communication in the region. Partnership with research, farmers and journalists were developed on how to exploit this opportunity.

**Assessment of the operational units of CORAF/WECARD.** An assessment was conducted to identify how best to operationalize the new strategic plan matched with the existing operation and rationalize limited resources. Operational units or networks could be reorganized to meet different factors affecting its operation such as eco-geographic areas in the region, host country resources and the operational unit’s internal capacity to deliver. It was recommended that the governing council take appropriate action towards these recommendations and advise the Executive Secretariat on how they could be properly implemented.

**SADC–FANR: Responding to the call for a comprehensive framework for agricultural productivity**

The SADC member states are setting the path for fast economic growth and poverty reduction. Stopping an increase in the number of absolute poor in the SADC will require a sustained annual growth of at least 5% (almost twice the level achieved since 1980) and halving severe poverty within the next 15 years. The stated goal of SADC Heads of State will require GDP growth to average 8% annually. This, in turn, will require agriculture to grow at an annual rate of 6% over the same period. Achieving this very ambitious goal is possible. SADC’s Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and action plan for ‘Enhancing Agriculture and Food Security for Poverty Reduction in the SADC Region’ provide a sound framework for achieving strong and sustained growth in agriculture and the overall rural economy. SADC, together with FARA, is developing the SADC Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme (SADC-MAPP), which is at the core of SADC agricultural development strategy. It is in line with NEPAD’s vision and strategy to set African agriculture on the path of fast and sustained growth. SADC political leaders are committed to undertake the deep reforms and provide the resources necessary for the programme’s successful implementation. An increased coordinated support by SADC development partners towards this initiative is also required.

SADC–MAPP’s central objective will be to establish a regional technology development system anchored on regional ‘Centres of Excellence’: (i) fully owned by, and accountable to, SADC stakeholders, (ii) focused on the pressing issues of SADC agriculture; and (iii) able to carry out both world-class and adaptive research and to ensure...
that technologies are efficiently disseminated to end-users.

In view of the currently fragmented regional institutional framework and limited capacities at both the regional and national levels, SADC-MAPP will be implemented in several phases. The first phase would focus on building a solid regional foundation to (i) provide improved assistance to national programmes and institutions through country-specific operations; and (ii) efficiently tackling through collective action, issues of common interest that cannot be efficiently addressed only at national level. During the first phase, MAPP would support only selected key activities at national level, clearly linked to programmes of regional interest. It will, however, ensure coherence and synergy with on-going country-specific programmes. The programme’s second and third phases would then get deeper into providing increased assistance to national programmes/institutions on the basis of the strong foundation established under the first phase.

The programme would be designed on the basis of the following guiding principles:

- **An instrument to implement SADC strategy.** MAPP is not a new initiative but a framework programme to implement SADC’s RISDP and Agricultural Action Plan. As such, the programme would consolidate and fully align with SADC priorities: programmes/activities already under implementation; and programmes under preparation such as the Disseminating New Agricultural Technologies in Africa (DONATA), Building African Scientific and Institutional Capacities (BASIC), SSA CP and Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems (RAILS).
• **Sustained productivity.** The programme would focus on jump-starting a process of sustained productivity-enhancing technical development that would (i) be driven by market opportunities; (ii) deal with every level of value chains; (iii) promote the integration of the regional technology and input market and increased collective action on common issues.

• **Quick impact.** A strong emphasis would be placed from the beginning on the adaptation and quick upscaling of known and ‘best bet’ technologies, while building capacity for sustained technology development. It would also focus on the efficient production and distribution of key inputs and equipments for ensuring their wide-spread uptake.

• **Specific emphasis on the need of poor and vulnerable groups.** While the programme would emphasize market-led technology development, it is also recognized that the needs of a large part of the region’s smallholders, which are not yet fully integrated into the markets and those of other vulnerable groups such as HIV-affected households, in terms of crops (staple crops that have so far been neglected by research, the ‘orphan crops’) and other production/processing technologies will require specific attention.

• **Emphasis on mobilizing the private sector.** A major emphasis would be given to promoting partnerships with the private sector through inter alia (i) reforms in the policy/institutional environment (IPRs) to improve incentives for private sector investments; and (ii) the promotion of joint ventures in critical areas.

• **Importance of accountability for results.** Programme design and implementation arrangements/incentives would be driven by a strong accountability to achieve the programme objectives, and in particular, fast (6% p.a.) and wide-spread (poor and vulnerable groups) growth.

• **Additionality and subsidiarity.** The activities to be supported would be selected according to the principle of additionality (adding value not only at the regional but also at the national level) and implemented according to the subsidiarity principle. Their implementation would involve both regional and national institutions, and be the instrument to build capacities and strengthen mechanisms for effective collaboration.

• **Overall coherence and reduction of transaction costs.** This global, integrated framework programme would be supported by all interested donors under the coordination of NEPAD, SADC and national governments. External support would be channeled through a common ‘basket-funding’ mechanism administrated according to common agreed-upon financial/budgetary procedures.

The main components of the programme contain a menu of possible activities such as:

- Improving access to markets and deepening regional integration.
- Developing efficient regional technology development systems.
- Promoting technology dissemination and agro-enterprise development.
- Improving the productivity and incomes of vulnerable groups.
- Improving regional risk management.
- Strengthening the provision of core public goods at the regional and national level.

The first phase of the programme would not include all of the activities mentioned above, but a set of coherent activities tailored to stakeholders’ key priorities and existing institutional and implementation capacity.

**Implementation arrangements.** The programme would rely on existing regional and national
institutions for its implementation. Regional activities would be implemented by existing regional institutions, under the operational coordination and guidance of SADC’s FANR Directorate. The national-level activities of MAPP-specific regional sub-programmes would be undertaken by relevant national institutions under the operational coordination of the responsible regional institution. A Program National Coordinating Committee (PNCC) would be established in each participating country to coordinate all MAPP activities undertaken in that country. The PNCCs would include representatives from participating national institutions and stakeholders. They would be responsible for (i) approving the annual MAPP programme of work and budget; (ii) monitoring and evaluating all national MAPP activities; (iii) approving annual and technical reports emanating from the national MAPP programme. In each country, an institution will be designated as the MAPP Focal Point to house the national MAPP Secretariat and serve as the coordinating centre for all national MAPP activities. Actual implementation responsibilities and arrangements would depend on each country’s circumstances. The management and reporting capacities of implementing institutions would be assessed during programme preparation. Specific eligibility criteria/performance indicators and detailed programme monitoring and evaluation system would also be developed during programme preparation.

**ASARECA: DEVELOPING A NEW STRATEGY TO BETTER RESPOND TO THE CHANGING SUBREGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

In 1994, ASARECA was created as a non-political association of directors of research institutions in 10 eastern and central African countries—Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It is a forum promoting agricultural research and partnerships among NARS and...
ASARECA is a forum promoting agricultural research and partnerships among NARS and international agricultural research organizations. It has an informal status as an association with the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and opportunities.

In the 10 years of its existence, ASARECA has evolved in several significant directions. It moved beyond the forum function, to programmatic oversight and management of 17 networks, programmes and projects. But at the same time, it has an impact orientation culture among the NPPs and partner NARS. It has reduced transaction costs to donors and partners by taking on information and reporting functions that would not be supportable by donors on a project-by-project basis. It is providing flexible leadership in linking research for development to a broader policy and development environment, particularly as new agendas are transacted in the NEPAD-CAADP framework. It kept its function as a forum for its members to generate and share innovative ideas and develop a common voice on global, regional and subregional issues.

ASARECA recognized that the environment where it is functioning is changing in terms of social, economic, political, technical and institutional issues. This required revision of its 1998–2007 strategy to fit into this changing environment. The approach taken was a mixture of rational, evolutionary and processual outlooks. Rational to provide predictions, clear intentions and reasonable behaviour; evolutionary to give perspective on emergent behaviour but assuming that some transmissible memory of successful events could guide decisions. The processual approach provided integration of experience, sense-making and action through flexible processes and learning. The strategic planning process included elements of all three approaches. It worked within an innovation systems framework that encompassed new concerns with policy and institutions, production to consumption chains, and broader economic and political influences. Strategic inputs to the plan came from many sources:

- A study of strategic priorities for agricultural development and agricultural research for development in East and Central Africa (ASARECA/IFPRI, 2005).
- A survey of NARS priorities and researchable constraints in five sectors: crops, animal agriculture, natural resources management, socio-economics and policy and post-harvest.
- Two strategic planning retreats between ASARECA and its NARS focal points.
- Strategic planning and priority setting within ASARECA’s networks, programmes and projects.
- Development of an overarching strategy for the five NPPs oriented to natural resource management.
• Consultation and interaction with the committee of directors, key partners and broader initiatives at the continental level such as COMESA and NEPAD.

The situation analysis and assessment of strategic priorities suggests that to have a large impact on the Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty and hunger, ASARECA NPPs should continue to address basic staples and commodities with a growing domestic market (cereals, livestock, dairy products, edible oils). These offer a larger impact and broader distribution of gains than either traditional exports with mature markets or niche exports with thin markets. ASARECA will move to strengthen its coverage of commodities with the capacity to reduce poverty. The prominent role of livestock calls for strengthening support to the work of A-AARNET, which has a broad portfolio but narrow funding. ASARECA will study the opportunity to undertake an initiative in oilseeds, a commodity sub-sector that has demand potential but its potential for regional action may be limited.

Fruits, vegetables and horticultural crops are the third area in which increased attention is indicated.

The priority assessment identifies three thematic areas critical for strengthening NARS: applied social sciences in agricultural research; integrated natural resource management and technology uptake and upscaling. These three issues highlight the need for greater integration of ASARECA’s technical portfolio. Commodity networks have moved vigorously to incorporate the production-to-consumption chain in their analysis. They have all tried experiences with technology uptake in some fashion and have all identified weaknesses in their capacity to do policy analysis, applied social sciences and marketing. Institutional analysis is absent.

NARIs and the NPPs are faced with the challenge of mainstreaming critical issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender, and climate change. ASARECA will never have the capacity to lead the technical response, it could spearhead internalization of the implications of these topical issues in ECA.

The strengthening of ASARECA’s programme management and integration is a precursor and precondition of serious efforts to rationalize the portfolio, structure and management of NPPs.

Aiming to strengthen NARS and link them regionally, ASARECA will expand its initiatives and leadership in linking research to the political dialogue possible in COMESA and NEPAD.

To meet the expectations of its many partners and investors, ASARECA will maintain multiple mechanisms, applying those best suited to particular tasks. Among its current mechanisms are 17 networks, programmes and projects; competitive grant scheme; a Secretariat with planning, monitoring and evaluation capability; management of the SSA CP and an endowment fund. These mechanisms will be applied in ways that minimize ASARECA’s exposure to a range of external risks.

The balance of funding allocated to each of these mechanisms and their attachment to the ASARECA strategy and goals will be assessed in the light of ASARECA’s broader response to its strategic priorities in agreement with its partners.

The Secretariat will seek support of its members and investors to provide the resources to strengthen its effectiveness in three critical areas—inTEGRATIVE programme leadership, leadership of policy foresight and strategic initiatives and professional communication.

With this strategy, ASARECA will become a force for agricultural development in the region and a true vehicle of its members to access and contribute
to knowledge exchange. If ASARECA’s partnership is successful, it could reduce transaction costs and present economies of scale in conducting ARD in the region. But ASARECA’s sustainability is of mutual interest to NARS and donors alike, and requires commitment from both sides.

**FEATURE: AARINENA REPRESENTING THE NORTHERN AFRICA REGION**

The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) is the counterpart of FARA in the Western Asia and North Africa (WANA) region. It was established in 1985 to strengthen cooperation among national, regional and international research institutions and centres through the dissemination and exchange of information, experiences and research results.

Its mission is to contribute to the enhancement of agricultural and rural development in the WANA Region. It’s main thrust is to foster agricultural research and technology development and to strengthen collaboration within and outside the region. The WANA region is economically diverse, including the oil-rich countries of the Gulf and resource-scarce countries. The region is composed of 26 countries subdivided into five sub-regions (Maghreb, Nile Valley and Red Sea, Mashreq, Arabian Peninsula, and Western Asia) as shown in Table 1. The region covers roughly 21.6 million sq. km with some 610 million people. Population grows at an estimated annual rate of 2.1%, with a life expectancy of about 67 years. Gross National Product (GNP) in the region is around US$ 2200 per capita (Middle East and North Africa region).

AARINENA is governed by a General Conference and an Executive Committee. Each of the five SROs within the AARINENA region, provides one representative to the Executive Committee serving for 2 years. The AARINENA seat is rotated among member countries and the Executive Secretary is appointed from the technical staff of the research institution of the host country. Members are classified into two full members and associate members. Full members are from the NARIs, councils and organizations, and agricultural

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subregions</th>
<th>Member countries</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arabian Peninsula</td>
<td>Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maghreb</td>
<td>Algeria, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mashreq</td>
<td>Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Syria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nile Valley and Red Sea</td>
<td>Djibouti, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen</td>
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<td>Western Asia</td>
<td>Iran, Pakistan, Turkey</td>
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AARINENA was established in 1985 to strengthen cooperation among national, regional and international research institutions and centers through the dissemination and exchange of information, experiences and research results. Its mission is to contribute to the enhancement of agricultural and rural development in the Western Asia and North Africa Region.

universities and colleges or similar institutions of higher agricultural education. Associate membership is open to (a) regional and international agricultural research institutions and organizations operating in the region; (b) basic research centres operating inside or outside the Region and furthering the objectives of the Association; (c) agricultural research-oriented private sector institutions and NGOs, and natural resources management institutions; and (d) other organizations or bodies as may be decided by the General Conference of the Association.

Memberships are acquired upon endorsement of the General conference and payment of membership fees.

Six countries from AARINENA were welcomed into FARA during the 3rd FARA General Assembly in Entebbe, Uganda. Countries were from the Maghreb subregion and Nile Valley and Red Sea subregion, that is, Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. These countries have very diverse economies with average per capita GNP ranging from US$650 to US$3000. Agricultural production is hindered by harsh and variable climate, water scarcity and conflicts in some countries. Agricultural research is conducted to improve food security, desertification, and loss of precious biodiversity. AARINENA provides a framework for planning effective collaborative interventions by various stakeholders addressing these challenges. Currently, it has several functioning technical cooperation networks such as Olive network, Water Use Efficiency Regional network, Medicinal and Herbal plants network, inter-regional cotton network and information and communication management networks.

These North African countries have well established research institutions, universities and colleges, not to mention growing private sector investing into agricultural research. Their entrance into FARA could provide the necessary resources for Sub-Saharan African countries to strengthen their research capacities, either through individual training or institutional cooperation through existing or innovative thematic networks.
Civil Society Organization Focus

Promoting inclusiveness of civil society organizations (CSO) in African agricultural research agenda: A FARA/GFAR collaborative initiative

The 3rd Biennial FARA General Assembly (FARA GA) and African Agricultural Scientific Week in June 2005 provided the Sub-Saharan Africa civil society organizations the opportunity to meet and discuss their involvement in the African ARD agenda. An SSA NGO consortium was created with cohesive regional approach. The NGO consortium reaffirmed their commitment to support the rural and urban poor. It declared its strong desire to strengthen partnerships with the agricultural research community, especially with regard to the scaling-up and out of research outputs and outcomes for sustained development, entrepreneurship and improved livelihood and welfare.

In October 2005, a CSO meeting was held at Accra, Ghana, that brought together indigenous Africa-based CSOs such as the Sub-Saharan Africa NGO Consortium, farmer organizations, and the private sector, as well as SROs, in particular CORAF/WECARD, and the CG Centers represented by IITA. There are several CSO stakeholder groups, but their participation in regional and sub-regional agricultural research for development fora is still weak. While some NGOs have good institutional structure, grassroots organizations such as farmers’ groups, women and youth organizations, water user and producer groups are comparatively weak. Consequently their participation in regional fora, both in terms of number and diversity, is very limited. This particular meeting was unique in a way because it brought together NGOs, farmers, private sector, sub-regional research organizations, and international agricultural research institutes with a view to develop action plans that could enhance inclusiveness in the planning and decision-making processes of the ARD agenda, and foster regional cooperation and integration.

Below are summaries of discussions and recommendations by each CSO group.

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) NGO Consortium

Based on discussions and recommendations from the June 2005 meeting, a work programme for 2006–2008 was developed that would facilitate the integration of indigenous NGO groups in national, sub-regional and regional agricultural research
initiatives. Partnership with other civil society organizations such as farmer groups and private sector was included.

The Centre for Innovation in Development (NovAfrica) based in South Africa, an NGO involved in innovative research, training and empowering of communities including farmers is testing and promoting innovative approaches with active community involvement. Participatory tools such as Participatory Development Management (PDM) and Participatory Extension Management (PEA) are used in empowering communities. The more communities were empowered, the more complex they became and their demand on goods and services increased. At that point in time, government policies and programmes responded to the community’s needs instead of determining the needs of communities. Empowering communities through innovation research and training significantly contributed to grassroots participation and ownership at various levels. The financial dependence of communities and individuals through remittances reduced, and savings and social and human capital increased. It is worth mentioning that this particular initiative is a joint venture between NGO group and the Government of South Africa, and is a good example of partnership between the public sector and civil society constituent.

Farmer Groups

Farmers’ organizations are weak and not adequately represented in agricultural research for development, both at the governance and end-user levels. Although some degree of farmer participation in research programmes mainly through participatory approaches exists, their full participation in the governance of research is still very weak. For instance, while CORAF/WECARD embraced CSO groups at the governance level, ASARECA on the other, is fully managed by NARS Directors General. Recently however, ASARECA elected CSO group representatives to serve on the SSA CP Pilot Learning Team Committee at the Lake Kivu Piloting Learning Site and this could be an indication that ASARECA is beginning to respond to such an important need to engage the non-traditional stakeholders in ARD. However, farmer groups themselves have a problem of representation and in general, have weak capacity to efficiently manage internal and external events and resources. African farmers and farmer groups do not have the requisite capacity to effectively
engage and participate in international trade negotiations and defend their interests in a global competitive market. Above all, the capacity of African farmer groups is weak. Organizational management and retention of interest of its members and sustainability remains a fundamental challenge. But there are significant advances such as the recent act of the Parliament in Uganda that empowers farmers to become members of the NARO governance committee. Farmer organizations in Uganda now have direct access to public resources such as new technologies produced by national research institutions.

Taking these lessons and perspective from different aspects such as institutional structure and individual and institutional resources, the farmers’ group identified several issues where research interventions could assist in empowering them.

These are:

• **Capacity building.** Farmers require training on how to organize themselves and learn to advocate their needs and requirements to agricultural research institutions and policy makers. They also require training on how to participate in international trade negotiations and become more competitive. Their traditional knowledge is very rich, but requires fine tuning to adequately respond to diverse constraints and create appropriate channels of communications among themselves to share lessons learned and existing knowledge among ARD stakeholders.

• **Institutional reform.** Farmers are always thought of as only end-users of research, where research outputs are transferred by extension agencies. This approach has not produced enough technologies that could improve agricultural productivity. It hindered innovative ideas that could also come from farmers. There should be stronger linkages and partnership among research, extension and farmer’s groups, guided by the innovation systems approach. Partnerships created should have genuine participation of farmers and should be transparent and accountable to all partners.

The traditional knowledge of farmers is very rich, but requires fine tuning to adequately respond to diverse constraints.
Private sector

The private sector recognizes the need for a political lobby to create an enabling environment for their effective participation in agricultural development. High on its agenda, is to add value to Africa’s primary produce with a view to fully develop regional and international markets and become competitive. Farming should be taken up as a business and not as subsistence, as widely practised in Africa. The perception that farmers are bad debtors and not good creditors should be reversed if we are to make impact on the agricultural sector.

Market information systems enhance farmers’ capacity to market their produce and mobile SMS texts are increasingly impacting access to agricultural markets by rural communities. Although medium and commercial farmers use the internet to access market information, conventional media such as radio and print media, as well as rural markets still play a major role in the marketing of agricultural produce. The Kenya Agricultural Commodities Exchange (KACE), for instance, gathers market information data in Kenya and Uganda, and occasionally in Tanzania for distribution in its market information networks. The South African private sector acknowledged that biotechnology crop-based products including GMOs are expensive, but it prefers to grow them because of their higher yield and profitability as a result of significantly reduced demand on management practices. The private sector emphasized the need for strengthened capacity in trade negotiations so that Africa can be competitive both within and outside the continent.

Taking the above intervention, FARA can be considered the most inclusive regional agricultural forum. It is also the first regional forum to convene such a multi-stakeholder consultation process, bringing together CSO stakeholders in ARD for collective planning and engagement. This significant first step should continue and go in tandem with the strengthening of farmer human and institutional capacity so that they can take ownership of agricultural research products and processes.
FAAP: AT THE FINAL STAGE OF CONSULTATIONS AND ENDORSEMENT

Africa’s leaders see agriculture as an engine for Africa’s overall economic development. Sustained agricultural growth at rates higher than in the past is also seen as a necessary condition for reducing hunger and poverty. They have set a goal of 6% per annum growth for the sector. Through AU-NEPAD, the leaders have set out in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) their vision of how this can be achieved.

A key component of the vision calls for improving agricultural productivity through innovation. Addressing this need, Pillar IV of CAADP is NEPAD’s strategy for revitalization (through reform where needed) and expansion of Africa’s programmes in agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. Currently, chronic shortcomings afflict many of Africa’s agricultural productivity programmes. These have contributed to the underperformance of the sector and the plight of Africa’s farmers. Consultations with Africa’s agricultural leaders, agricultural professionals, agri-business, and farmers reveals substantial agreement that broad categories of institutional issues—capacity weaknesses, insufficient end user involvement, and ineffective farmer support systems—prevail and persist across many of Africa’s agricultural productivity programmes and institutions and hamper progress in the sector. These problems are compounded by the fragmented nature of external support from funding agencies and by inadequate overall investment in agricultural research and technology dissemination and adoption by the African governments.
Although shortcomings persist, opportunities and support for the revitalization and expansion of Africa’s agricultural productivity programmes are at hand. Through CAADP, the AU and NEPAD have signalled political support for this effort. Through the establishment of FARA, Africa has signalled its intention to bring technical leadership and support to this effort; and lessons learned suggest that technical intervention can improve the effectiveness of these programmes and their institutions. In responding to Africa’s call, Africa’s development partners have signalled—during the G8 Summit at Gleneagles, UK, at the UN, through the Blair Commission, and in many other venues—their intention to provide technical and financial support to this effort.

The Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) presents guiding principles for the evolution of Africa’s agricultural productivity programmes. These principles have been derived from consultation with Africa’s agricultural people and with their development partners. The FAAP indicates how these principles can be employed to improve the performance of Africa’s agricultural productivity programmes. Beyond improving their performance, the FAAP also suggests the need to scale up these programmes through increased levels of investment, which is made available through mechanisms much less fragmented than has been the case in the past. This will require harmonization by Africa’s development partners in their support for these programmes.

The FAAP has been developed as a tool to help stakeholders come together to bring these political, financial, and technical resources to bear on addressing current problems and on strengthening Africa’s capacity for agricultural innovation. This document indicates how this might be done. It also suggests that commitments by the AU/NEPAD and of development partners to work in this way be formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding. Such an MoU would reinforce the importance of the FAAP initiative and would facilitate its implementation at every level.

The FAAP process comes from a very long way, initially as the MAPP, into a framework that is owned and developed by all African ARD stakeholders. It has been endorsed by the FARA donor group and will be submitted to the African Union for endorsement by the African Heads of States in June 2006.
SSA CP: AT ITS INCEPTION PHASE

The proposal for Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme (SSA CP) was approved by the CGIAR in 2004 for a first phase of 5 years, subject to a successful assessment of its 18-month inception phase that commenced in January 2005. The Science Council (SC) recommended that the first (inception) phase of the CP’s implementation should be devoted to developing appropriate institutional arrangements and participatory identification of research priorities and expected outputs. An Implementation Workshop organized by FARA in January 2005 mapped out modalities for implementation of the inception phase of the Programme. The principal outputs envisaged from this phase include institutional arrangements for governance and management of the Programme; validated hypotheses and entry points; Concept Notes (CNs), and full proposals that will be submitted to the Science Council for approval of their implementation.

Management philosophy

The SSA CP operates at three levels: programme-wide, PLS/sub-regional and at the task force level. The management philosophy of the SSA CP draws on the principle of Subsidiarity, whereby each level of management is responsible only for tasks that cannot be performed more effectively at lower levels.

Achievements to date

Governance and management structures established

All structures for governance and management of the Programme are in place. The Programme Steering Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the Programme, is fully constituted and held two meetings during the first year of the inception phase. The Programme’s Coordination Unit (PCU),

The SSA CP aims to transform the way sectors and institutions at all levels approach agricultural research for development in order to increase its impact on improving rural livelihoods throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.
which is responsible for operational management of the programme, is also fully functional, although it needs further strengthening in the area of communication. Governance structures at the sub-regional level, namely SROs and Pilot Learning Team Management Committees (PLT-MC) have also been established and are fully operational with clear terms of reference. It is worth noting that PLT-MCs were not provided for in the CP proposal. However, their relevance became clear when it emerged that PLTs needed a body to represent their interests to other structures of the CP. The instruments (memoranda of agreement and letters of agreement) governing the relationships, roles and responsibilities between various CP institutions have been sanctioned and signed.

A lead institution was appointed for each PLS to manage and account for funds; oversee progress of activities at the site; report progress and outcomes to the relevant SRO and the Programme Steering Committee; facilitate partnership among PLT members, organize inputs from service providers (facilitation-and-mentoring, impact-assessment and capacity building) and oversee the management of activities by Task Forces responsible for implementing projects. Lead institutions were appointed by SROs. The International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) was selected as the lead institution for both Kano-Katsina-Maradi (CORAF/WECARD sub-region) and Zimbabwe-Mozambique-Malawi (SADC-FANR sub-region) while a Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical/ Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Rwanda/ Africa Highland Initiative (CIAT/ISAR/AHI) consortium was selected as the lead institution for Lake Kivu (ASARECA sub-region). The lead institutions have discharged their responsibilities commendably.

Work plans for the inception phase were developed by each PLT. The PCU facilitated their harmonization to ensure the three learning teams progressed at a uniform pace. The work plans were continuously adapted as the inception phase took shape. Such flexibility is consistent with IAR4D.

**Identification/validation of entry points**

Validation exercises were conducted to identify, in participatory fashion, the livelihood constraints across the PLS and opportunities for their alleviation. Outputs of validation exercises consisted of priority research themes and hypotheses, and the science or technology required to address them. These outputs served as inputs into the development of logical frameworks for the PLSs.

**Early review by the European Union**

The programme was reviewed externally by the EU during the first half of the inception phase. UK (DFID) and Italy joined in the review process. The review was positive and provided several recommendations that have already been implemented and are helping in shaping the programme.

**Concept note workshop**

The decisions concerning awarding research-for-development grants are among the most critical for the inception phase because they will determine the content, mode and outcome of the Programme as a whole. Thus, extra care was taken in planning and implementing each stage of this process. The Programme has adopted a competitive grant mechanism to ensure high quality, and to make merit the overriding criterion for PLT members who wished to participate in the next phase of the Programme. Realizing the importance of a common Concept Note (CN) format and review process across the three PLS in facilitating comparisons of SSA CP projects and their impact, FARA convened a workshop in Nairobi 10–12 October 2005, to
develop a generic CN format and agree on the review process. Outputs from the CN workshop were invaluable in formulating the calls for CNs.

**Development of PLS log-frames and calls for concept notes**

The CN workshop highlighted the need for each PLS to develop a log frame defining its goal, purpose, results and broad activities. Workshops for selected PLT members to develop PLS log frames were convened in October and November 2005. A separate workshop was convened for each PLS, but with the same facilitator. The log frames were based on findings from validation exercises. They were integral to calls for CNs because they highlighted the specific results to which concepts/projects were expected to contribute. They also served as an important reference for reviewers and management committees in their selection of CNs that proceeded to the proposal development stage.

Calls for CNs for each PLS were based on the generic format developed at the CN workshop but adapted to suit the needs of the individual PLS. They were circulated to PLTs by the respective SROs. The response to the calls for CNs was positive. A total of 90 CNs were submitted to SROs, where 22 were screened out and 68 CNs were forwarded to FARA headquarters for review.

**Concept note review**

An independent panel was assembled at FARA headquarters to review CNs from all the PLSs. Each CN was reviewed by at least five panel members. The review criteria included the four pillars of SSA CP (organizational change, capacity building, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation); innovativeness of the proposed methodology; and contribution to poverty alleviation and environment management. Only CNs that achieved an aggregate score of at least 60% in all aspects were approved to proceed to development into full proposals, subject to recommendations by their respective PLT management committees. The review approved six CNs in the ZMM PLS, four CNs in the KKM and 10 CNs in the Lake Kivu PLS, indicating a success rate of 22% of the submitted CNs. The reviewers pointed out several aspects in which Task Forces require mentoring, namely mentoring and evaluation, use of log frames, knowledge management and partnering into teams with a balanced mix of competence.

**Next steps (January to June 2006)**

FARA is pleased to report that the Programme is firmly on track. Virtually all the incomplete
activities were scheduled to be completed during the first half of 2006. The key milestone for the inception phase is the development of IAR4D project proposals that will be evaluated by the CGIAR SC in early April 2006. The main activities to which the Programme will devote attention during the remaining period of the inception phase are listed below:

- Development of a strategic plan for the SSA CP by key stakeholders. This is scheduled for 20–24 February 2006 in Nairobi.
- Development of a Medium Term Plan (MTP). The SSA CP MTP development workshop will take place at FARA HQ in Accra, Ghana, 6–9 March 2006. The exercise will also generate a programme-wide logical framework.
- Development of a communication strategy and recruitment of a communication specialist.
- Undertaking an interim review of CP and facilitation and mentoring activities to date.
- Conducting a comparative analysis of experiences in the three PLSs.
- Assembling the most essential baseline information.
- Reviewing the composition and terms of reference for PLT-MCs.
- Training tasks forces for preparation of full proposals.
- Review of full proposals and their submission to the PSC for further review and onward transmission to the Science Council.

**Lessons learned**

Stakeholders recognize that under IAR4D, processes are as important as apparent ‘tangible’ results such as reports, innovations and increased productivity on farms.

An examination of PLT membership shows that development organizations and the private sector are under-represented. The lesson here is that calls for expression of interest in the Programme appealed mostly to research organizations. Thus, in order to attract institutions that are development and profit oriented, the SSA CP should employ a more pro-active approach that targets institutions in this category.

Although not originally provided for in the Programme’s proposal, management committees at the PLS level have proved to be an important element in the governance of the Programme. This was a clear example of the advantages offered by the flexibility entailed in IAR4D.

The SSA CP probably underestimated the communication demands of IAR4D. It will allocate more resources to this function.

The validation exercise would have benefited from harmonization across the three PLS (just as was done with the calls for concept notes), and from training by validation teams in IAR4D prior to embarking on their tasks. Further, the F&M service should have provided mentoring and facilitation rather than serve as another member of the validation team.

The review of concept notes highlighted an overarching need for mentoring/capacity building in several areas, such as monitoring and evaluation, use of log frames, knowledge management, the formation of partnerships with a balanced mix of competencies to address constraints across an entire value chain and in proposal writing.

**BASIC: CREATING HARMONY AND COMPLEMENTARITY**

From 23 to 25 November 2005, FARA convened a meeting of key networks involved in capacity building at the tertiary education level in Africa. This was done as part of the process of developing the FARA-led programme for BASIC. The goal was to achieve harmony and complementarity
Building African Scientific and Institutional Capacity (BASIC) is aimed at strengthening Africa’s capability to build capacity with special emphasis on undergraduate programmes in agriculture and natural resources.

among the different capacity building initiatives, projects and networks. The meeting was hosted by the African Network for Agro-Forestry and Agriculture Education (ANAFE) at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi.

BASIC is aimed at strengthening Africa’s capability to build capacity with special emphasis on undergraduate programmes in agriculture and natural resources. BASIC is responding to major weaknesses in agricultural education programmes that affect the quality and relevance of agricultural graduates and impede the development of Africa’s predominant industry. BASIC will restore the integrity of African universities in the delivery of high quality and relevant agricultural education that prepares competent graduates for rural development and endogenous scientific and technological innovations.

BASIC is a medium-term programme to which various components that address priority needs will be progressively attached. African universities will set the priorities and agenda, and as far as possible, assist one another. Additional resources for developing teaching and training approaches, methods and tools may be drawn (as needed) from non-African partners in conjunction with ICRA, The Network of European Agricultural Tropically and Subtropically Oriented Universities and Scientific Complexes Related with Agricultural Development (NATURA) and National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) among others. Up-to-date and locally relevant course materials will be developed in collaboration with the Training Community of Practice of CGIAR Centers and NARIs.

The BASIC initiative is reaching out to the many networks and scientific associations involved in building capacity in agriculture and natural resources management in Africa. The purpose is to ensure that current experiences are taken into account and used in further development of the BASIC programme, and that the collaborative
advantages of the various networks and associations are fully exploited, especially to fill gaps, minimize conflicts, and eliminate unproductive competition and duplications of effort.

The main achievements of the meeting are:

- Thematic and geographic coverage of each network were mapped and made known to peer networks.
- The objectives, funding mechanisms, modus operandi and strategies of the various networks were shared and opportunities for synergy identified.
- Recommendations and action plans were formulated to enable the complementary networks to contribute to and benefit from BASIC.
- This was the first ever meeting of networks involved in capacity building in agriculture and natural resources in Africa. The participants confirmed that further meetings of this nature would result in significant collaborative benefits. They agreed to hold similar meetings each year to enhance sharing of information and experiences, especially on agenda and strategies, and to build upon the achievements of this meeting.

The BASIC Interim Implementation Committee (BIIC) attended the meeting and gained much information and encouragement for advancing BASIC in the wider context of the mandates and products of existing networks and projects. BIIC members informed participants about BASIC and provided guidance on future collaboration with the networks and projects.

**RAILS: LINKING THE SUBREGIONAL INITIATIVES WITH GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

Although there has been a great deal of exchange of agricultural information globally, African NARS have been left behind. Several international service providers provide different systems to facilitate exchange of information through internet or other media such as books and newsletters.

FARA in its response to its stakeholders to strengthen their capacity to access and contribute to the global knowledge exchange, developed RAILS, which was endorsed by the 3rd FARA General Assembly in June 2005 as a tool to achieve its function of disseminating agricultural research information and technologies among its stakeholders. It is one of the instruments that could be used by FARA to be a true forum for African ARD.

However, RAILS will not re-invent the wheel, rather it will consolidate existing tools and

---

**FARA developed the Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems (RAILS) as a tool to achieve its function of disseminating agricultural research information and technologies among its stakeholders.**
information exchange systems that could add value or strengthen NARS capacities to access and contribute to knowledge exchange. Its objectives are simple:

- Strengthen the advocacy that agricultural information and communication management tools are crucial in ARD.
- Strengthen capacity development of institutions and managers on agricultural information systems.
- Consolidate national and subregional information systems towards a common African platform with regional perspective.
- Make institutional arrangements to ensure that all actors are involved and the programme is responsive to the needs of its clients.

RAILS oversight is provided by a taskforce comprised of representatives from the SROs, NARS, civil society organizations, and observers from GFAR, international service providers such as EARD-infosys+, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), CAB International, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural cooperation nACP-EU (CTA) and interested CGIAR Centers.

The first taskforce meeting was held in January 2005 and recommended, based on the plan of action presented by SROs, the following common areas of activities:

- Definition, implementation and monitoring of an Information System on experts (contacts), ongoing activities, institutions and technologies (outputs) relevant in ARD. This could be achieved through expert consultations, face-to-face workshops, and Open and Distance Learning contents (ODL).
- NARS leaders and ICM managers’ sensitization, enabling them to advocate on ICT-enabled agricultural information systems.
- Strengthening RAILS and the corresponding subregional initiatives towards communities of practices (CoPs).
- Training Need Assessment (TNA), including organization of training workshops on ICT/ICM.
- Strengthening National Focal Points in order to develop the sub-regional and regional networks.

RAILS will need to develop its action plan and communication and advocacy strategies. The taskforce will meet once a year, possibly in November, to define annual action plan and budgets.
In June 2003, during its 2nd General Assembly, FARA was mandated by its constituent SROs and other institutions such as FAO, NEPAD and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), to initiate a consensual process with its stakeholders in order to address the issue of biotechnology and biosafety in Africa. This FARA-led consensual process was termed the FARA-African Biotechnology and Biosafety Initiative (FARA-ABBI).

The objective of this Initiative is to create an enabling environment for accelerating and improving the development and implementation of biosafety systems in order to maximize the benefits offered by modern biotechnology to contribute to solving the problems of food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition in Africa. The specific objectives are to:

- Create robust policies that will stand the test of time. This will be accomplished by advocating for processes that allow for the interests of all stakeholder groups to be adequately represented.

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- Create robust policies that will stand the test of time. This will be accomplished by advocating for processes that allow for the interests of all stakeholder groups to be adequately represented.
in discussions related to biotechnology and biosafety policy. FARA will focus, in particular, on ensuring that the agricultural sector is positioned and empowered to play a productive role in such discussions. FARA will play this role in particular at the Pan-African and international levels.

• Improve the efficiency of processes designed to develop and implement biosafety systems by promoting communication among sub-regions to share lessons learned and, where possible, technical expertise and other resources.

• Raise awareness about the importance of biosafety systems with political leaders so that biosafety legislation is not only developed, but implemented.

In 2004, FARA was given a grant by the Rockefeller foundation to create a forum on biosafety, help subregions prepare for international events and build political awareness.

In order to achieve the above objectives, FARA hired a consultant to facilitate and coordinate the activities of the African biosafety and biotechnology initiative. The activities conducted were:

• Consultation with major African stakeholders such as the SROs, NARS experts from Togo, Congo, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Benin, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa; and representatives of the biosafety and biotechnology institutions and organizations such as United Nations Environmental Fund and Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF), AATF and AfricaBio; as well political bodies developing policies for the region such as the African Union (AU) and NEPAD.

• An electronic forum was held from 5 September to 7 October 2005, to consult with FARA stakeholders and experts of the field on specific roles or activities that FARA could play in biosafety and biotechnology issues, such as developing a regional strategy, harmonizing frameworks, advocacy and specific capacity building required in the region.

• Validation of the above consultations through a side-event during the 3rd FARA General Assembly meeting.

• Capacity building of African scientists to handle issues on biotechnology and biosafety systems.

Stakeholders agreed that in accelerating and improving the development and implementation of biosafety systems in Africa, FARA should play a role at the regional level, which in particular, would add value to on-going national and sub-regional level initiatives and minimize duplication. The relevant issues, which stakeholders thought merited the intervention of FARA at the regional level, were put into four main categories as follows:

The objective of the FARA-led African Biotechnology and Biosafety Initiative (FARA-ABBI) is to create an enabling environment for accelerating and improving the development and implementation of biosafety systems in order to maximize the benefits offered by modern biotechnology to contribute to solving the problems of food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition in Africa.
1. **Development of an African agricultural biotechnology and biosafety strategy.** FARA should be a strong voice and a resource on agricultural biotechnology within the AU-NEPAD Panel on Biotechnology, charged with designing an African Policy and Strategy on Biotechnology and providing comprehensive and independent science advice to the AU.

2. **Building capacity in agricultural biotechnology research.** FARA should equip itself with information on relevant strategies for developing capacity in agricultural biotechnology, especially for improving endogenous products, financial and human resource gaps and opportunities for developing agricultural biotechnology research, and innovative ways of building sufficient critical mass in modern biotechnology research capacity in the continent.

3. **Harmonizing biosafety frameworks.** FARA should encourage the ongoing engagement of SROs and the political and sub-regional economic communities in facilitating the harmonization of biosafety regulatory frameworks, as well as the involvement of multiple institutions in fostering public participation and communication for the enhancement of the effective transmission of information to different target groups at the national level.

4. **Increasing and diversifying the participation of African delegates in international negotiations relevant to the application of modern biotechnology to agriculture.** FARA should help African research and agricultural organizations, as well as African policymakers to understand the importance of their involvement in International negotiations concerning modern biotechnology, and serve as a conduit of information, and partner with initiatives such as the Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI), which seeks to engage public researchers in understanding the implications of the CPB for research.

The consultation process provided an opportunity for FARA to create a forum of biosafety and biotechnology stakeholders, to build an African strategy that will harmonize and coordinate the safe development and implementation of modern biotechnology. It was concluded that FARA can contribute to creating an enabling environment in Africa, for the rapid and improved development and implementation of biosafety systems leading to maximum benefit, especially from modern biotechnology. There was consensus that FARA should be a strong voice and resource on agricultural biotechnology within the AU-NEPAD Panel on Biotechnology.

In order to implement the recommendations of the consultations, FARA has to develop a region-wide program on biosafety and biotechnology with a long-term vision.
FUNDING

The total contributions received by FARA from development partners during the period under review increased by 304.7% from US$1.444 million in 2004 to US$5.844 million in 2005 (US$1.602 million for FARA Secretariat and US$4.242 million for SSACP).

In 2005 CIDA was the major contributor to the Secretariat activities with support also coming from the Netherlands, USAID, Ireland and others (see Balance Sheet). The Rockefeller Foundation contribution received in 2004 was utilized in 2005 on the African Biotechnology and Biosafety Programme. The SSA CP funding came from The Netherlands, European Union, Italy and the Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

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

EXPENDITURE

Overall FARA expenses for the period under review increased by 227.49%, from US$1.423 million in 2004 to US$4,661 million in 2005 (US$2.210 for Secretariat and US$2,452 for SSACP in its inception phase).

Notable increases were recorded in personnel costs including Consultants, and the FARA Biennial Plenary. The increase in personnel costs was due to the increase in the number of General Support Staff positions and the establishment of SSA CP Coordination Office at the FARA Secretariat. The number of Consultants during the year under review also increased considerably.

Other expenses either remained stable or increased minimally in the year under review when compared with the previous financial year.

AUDITS

For the third year running, FARA retained the services of Deloitte & Touche as its external auditors. However, with the expiration of its 3-year tenure after the 2005 audit, Deloitte has ceased to be FARA’s auditors with the appointment of Price Waterhouse Coopers — another international firm of Auditors—by FARA’s Executive Committee at its 2006 ExCo meeting.
FARA Financial Statements (Audited)

Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 31st December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 (US$)</th>
<th>2004 (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>558,902</td>
<td>824,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted (Secretariat)</td>
<td>5,284,701</td>
<td>618,944</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Grant Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conferences, Workshops and Meetings</td>
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<td>FARA Biennial Plenary</td>
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<td>SSA CP Service Providers</td>
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<td>Consultants</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>121,875</td>
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<td>Services and Supplies</td>
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<td>415,835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>33,852</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRO Coordination</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSA CP Administrative Overhead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect Cost Recovery</td>
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<td>(117,983)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure for the Year</strong></td>
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<td>1,423,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to Accumulated Fund</td>
<td>1,273,277</td>
<td>31,145</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated Fund</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance as of 1st January</td>
<td>36,467</td>
<td>5,322</td>
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<tr>
<td>From Income and Expenditure Account</td>
<td>1,273,277</td>
<td>31,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance as of 31st December</strong></td>
<td>1,309,744</td>
<td>36,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>==========</td>
<td>==========</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Balance Sheet

**As of 31st December each year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 (US$)</th>
<th>2004 (US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<td>Bank and Cash</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>2,473,185</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td>2,574,297</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Represented by:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Fund</td>
<td>1,309,744</td>
<td>36,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities (Payables)</td>
<td>2,054,388</td>
<td>2,537,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balance and Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>3,364,132</td>
<td>2,574,297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contributions from Development Partners

**For the Financial Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 (US$)</th>
<th>2004 (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Contributions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>180,900</td>
<td>293,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>GTZ</td>
<td>17,936</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>47,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>63,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFAR/FAO</td>
<td>49,866</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>31,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>558,902</td>
<td>824,982</td>
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For the Financial Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 (US$)</th>
<th>2004 (US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Contributions</td>
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<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIDA</td>
<td>764,128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockefeller Foundation</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID, UK</td>
<td>1,144,273</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>European Union</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>NEPAD/World Bank</td>
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<td>CTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,284,701</strong></td>
<td><strong>618,944</strong></td>
</tr>
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Total from Development Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,843,603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advance contribution received in 2005 and 2004 from Development Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006 (US$)</th>
<th>2005 (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the Financial Year</td>
<td>2006 (US$)</td>
<td>2005 (US$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIDA</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>249,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands (for SSA CP)</td>
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<td>1,582,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockefeller Foundation</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>602,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,982,080</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FARA executive committee 2005

Chairperson: Njabulo Nduli
Deputy Director General
NDA
Private Bag X250, Pretoria
South Africa
Tel.: +27 123197215
Fax: +27 123197001
Email: dgdaprm@nda.agric

Vice-Chairperson: Denis T. Kyetere
Director General
National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)
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Representative of the Southern Region: Keoagile Molapong
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Email: fwambugu@ahbfi.or.ke

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Emmanuel Appiah       Senior Driver
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Hylante Tabiou-Malkaye Senior IT Assistant

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Diane W. Somda        Receptionist/Administrative Clerk
Tanko Dombo           Driver
Robert Botchway       Driver
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Agartha Kokoi         Cleaner
Cynthia Nangsoob      Cleaner
Cynthia Siebuna       Cleaner
Musa Zacharia         Gardener

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Augustin Gaschignard  SIST Coordinator
Aimee A. E.Nyadanu    Bilingual Secretary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AARINENA</td>
<td>Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AATF</td>
<td>African Agricultural Technology Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABBI</td>
<td>African Biotechnology and Biosafety Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANAFE</td>
<td>African Network for Agro-Forestry and Agriculture Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANOPACI</td>
<td>Association Nationale des organization professionnelles</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARD</td>
<td>Agricultural research for development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSARECA</td>
<td>Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>BASIC</td>
<td>Building African Scientific and Institutional Capacities</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIIC</td>
<td>BASIC Interim Implementation Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAADP</td>
<td>Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>CGIAR</td>
<td>Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>CILSS</td>
<td>Committee for the Struggle against Drought in the Sahel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIMMYT</td>
<td>Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo</td>
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<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Concept Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>CoPs</td>
<td>communities of practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORAF/WECARD</td>
<td>Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricole/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORNET</td>
<td>Coffee Research Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>civil society organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>DONATA</td>
<td>Disseminating New Agricultural Technologies in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECAMAW</td>
<td>Eastern and Central Africa Maize and Wheat Research Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMCCAS</td>
<td>Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAAP</td>
<td>Framework for African Agricultural Productivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>FARA</td>
<td>Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>FARA-GA</td>
<td>FARA General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNP</td>
<td>Gross National Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICRAF</td>
<td>World Agroforestry Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>information and communication technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>IITA</td>
<td>International Institute for Tropical Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>INPRONET</td>
<td>Intellectual Property Network Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPR</td>
<td>intellectual property rights</td>
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<td>KACE</td>
<td>Kenya Agricultural Commodities Exchange</td>
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<td>KWCA</td>
<td>Kawanda Composite A</td>
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<td>LEAD</td>
<td>Leadership for Environment and Development</td>
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<td>MAPP</td>
<td>Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>NASECO</td>
<td>Nalweyo Seed Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>NARF</td>
<td>National Agriculture Research Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>NARI</td>
<td>National Agricultural Research Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAARI</td>
<td>National Agriculture and Animal Production Research Institute</td>
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<td>NARO</td>
<td>National Agricultural Research Organization, Uganda</td>
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<tr>
<td>NARS</td>
<td>National agricultural research system</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASULGC</td>
<td>National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATURA</td>
<td>Network of European Agricultural Tropically and Subtropically Oriented</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NovAfrica</td>
<td>Centre for Innovation in Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODL</td>
<td>Open and Distance Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDM</td>
<td>Participatory Development Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEA</td>
<td>Participatory Extension Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLT-MC</td>
<td>Pilot Learning Team-Management Committee</td>
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<td>PNCC</td>
<td>Program National Coordinating Committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRRI</td>
<td>Public Research and Regulation Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSLDP</td>
<td>Presidential Special Leadership Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAILS</td>
<td>Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISDP</td>
<td>SADC’s Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROPPA</td>
<td>Reseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADC-FANR</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community-Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>SC</td>
<td>Science Council (of the CGIAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>small- and medium-scale enterprises</td>
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<td>SPAAR</td>
<td>Special Program for African Agricultural Research</td>
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<td>SRO</td>
<td>Subregional Research Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSA-CP</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme</td>
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<td>TNA</td>
<td>Training Need Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP-GEF</td>
<td>United Nations Environmental Fund and Global Environment Facility</td>
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<td>WAEMU</td>
<td>West African Economic and Monetary Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>WANA</td>
<td>Western Asia and North Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>WECARD</td>
<td>West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development</td>
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<td>WSSD</td>
<td>World Summit for Sustainable Development</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
About FARA

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

The vision of FARA is for African agriculture to become vibrant and competitive in the international market, growing at a rate of at least 6% per annum by the year 2020.

The mission of FARA is to enhance and add value to the effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural research systems in Africa that will contribute to agricultural development, economic growth and sustainable use of natural resources.

FARA complements the innovative activities of national, international and sub-regional research institutions to deliver more responsive and effective services to its stakeholders. It plays advocacy and coordination roles for agricultural research for development.

FARA is the technical arm of the African Union on rural economy and agricultural development and New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) to implement the fourth pillar of Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), involving agricultural research, technology dissemination and uptake. FARA identified five requirements to enhance continental impact on livelihoods and economic development:

- A framework for reform and investment in agricultural research and harmonization of actions and actors of ARD in Africa, i.e., the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP).
- A new innovation systems approach to agricultural research for development, i.e., The Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme (SSA CP).
- The human capacity to implement, internalise and upscale new approaches to researchers, change agents, processors, marketers, and not the least, policy makers, i.e., Building African Scientific and Institutional Capacities (BASIC).
- Immediate applications that can make a difference and restore credibility in agricultural development, i.e., Disseminating New Agricultural Technologies in Africa (DONATA).
- African scientists better able to retrieve and contribute to global knowledge of agricultural sciences & development, i.e., Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems (RAILS).

These programmes respond to FARA’s primary functions, which are advocacy of the role of agricultural research, promotion of functional partnerships, and accelerating sharing and exchange of knowledge.

FARA donors in 2005 were The African Development Bank, The Canadian International Development Agency, European Commission, the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, Italy, Ireland, Germany and France, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the Rockefeller Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, FAO, the World Bank, and the United States Agency for International Development.