



SIDE EVENT 15: Africa human capital in science, technology & agripreneurship for food security framework (AHC-STAFF)

**Concept Note for Side event 15 During the 4<sup>th</sup> RUFORUM Biennial Conference**

**Background**

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is the apex organization for agricultural research for development in Africa. Formed by African stakeholders in 2003, FARA is committed to supporting the agendas of the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities (RECs), the sub-regional research organizations (SROs), and other continental and regional stakeholder agencies with a focus on agricultural sector development.

Working closely with key stakeholders, FARA, as Pillar Lead Institution for Pillar IV of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), supported the strengthening of a formidable *continental agricultural innovation system* comprising key facilitative knowledge organizations, viz.: PanAAC (agribusiness), PAFO (farmer engagements), ANAFE and RUFORUM (education), AFAAS (advisory services and extension), CCARDESA & NASRO (research), and PANGOC (civil society mobilization).

FARA's new Strategic Plan (2014 – 2018) and associated Medium Term Operational Plan (MTO, 2014 – 2018) respond to the transformative phase of the CAADP dubbed the 'Sustaining the CAADP Momentum' initiative. The strategic plan and MTO identify three areas for priority action thus:

- Strategic Priority 1: Visioning Africa's agricultural transformation with foresight, strategic analysis and partnerships
- Strategic Priority 2: Integrating capacities for change by connecting and learning
- Strategic Priority 3: Enabling environment for implementation by advocating and communicating

As CAADP implementation gathers momentum, so will the demand for human and institutional capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver results and sustain the impact. Expectedly, huge gaps in human capacity to implement agricultural programs (i.e. for technology generation, technology dissemination and technology adoption) exist in many African countries. Moreover, there is lack of critical mass as well as imbalances for scientists, technicians, managers, public administrators, and change agents. A cursory review of individual NAFSIPs points to significant capacity deficits that will have to be addressed for their successful implementation. Addressing such capacity deficits will require holistic needs assessments for all key commodities identified in the NAFSIPs and other national and regional food security strategies.

FARA and partners (e.g. NPCA, SROs, ANAFE, RUFORUM and other key regional agencies) are jointly implementing a project known as the Africa Human Capital in Science, Technology & Agripreneurship for Food Security Framework (AHC-STAFF). The AHC-STAFF seeks to undertake exhaustive studies to determine current and future capacity needed to propel Africa's agriculture and recommend appropriate capacity strengthening actions to address the identified needs. The project has adopted a technology capital (within the wider value) chain' approach to elucidating requisite capacity for technical change needed to uplift Africa's agriculture.



The project will assess the overall national capacity needs for knowledge/technology generation, knowledge/technology diffusion, and knowledge/technology adoption and utilization in priority program areas of the NAFSIPs. The assessments will be conducted in all the CAADP post-compact countries over a three-year period, and will furnish credible grounding for comprehensive human capital formation and institutional strengthening. In the first year, the following countries will be targeted:

<b>SRO</b>	<b>Countries</b>
ASARECA	Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Djibouti
CCARDESA	Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia
CORAF/WECARD	Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia
NASRO	Tunisia, Mauritania

The outcome of these assessments will inform the design of a framework for future action and investments by the EU and other development partners towards creating a human capital base for the transformation of Africa's agriculture.

Key project partners attended an inception workshop held 29 - 30 April 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and made important contributions and inputs that were used to produce a final version of the project. One of the key stages delineated at the inception workshop is the need for a scoping and initialization stage, to lay the ground for full project implementation by national partners.

#### **Purpose and Objectives**

The side meeting will bring together key AHC-STAFF partners to consider the following with respect to project scoping and initialization:

1. Sub-regional and country scoping,
2. Constitution of national implementation teams (NITs)
3. Selection of national Lead Implementation Agency (LIA)
4. AHC-STAFF internalization, integration with existing initiatives and work planning
5. Engagements of country consultants
6. Budgets and funding

#### **Outputs and Milestones**

By the end of the meeting, clear implementation protocols for sub-regions and target countries are expected to emerge.

#### **Approach and Activities**

The meeting will be half-day and will mainly involve consultative discussions based on the agenda shown below. However, an initial project outline will be presented by FARA to inform the discussions.

#### **LOCATION**

The side event will be convened at the main venue of the RUFORUM 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Maputo at the VIP Grand Maputo Hotel. This side event will take place in Save Hall, on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014, from 10.10 AM to 12.45 PM.



## Organisers

This event is organised jointly by FARA, AUC/DREA, AUC/HRST, NPCA, ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, CCARDESA, AAU, RUFORUM, ANAFE, REESAO

## AGENDA

1. Introduction – Facilitator and all (10 minutes)
2. Project highlights – FARA (10 minutes)
3. Sub-regional and country scoping (1 ½ hours):
  - a. How AHC-STAFF fits into existing SRO and country initiatives (AHC-STAFF internalization, integration with existing initiatives and work planning)
  - b. Who to include in the project and for what roles
  - c. Arrangements for SRO and country coordination and implementation
4. Constitution of national implementation teams (NITs) and implementation support teams (ISTs) and selection of national Lead Implementation Agency (LIA) (1 hour)
5. Engagements of country consultants (30 minutes)
6. Roles, associated budgets and fiduciary guidelines (1 hour)
7. End

## PARTICIPANTS

1. Dr. Yemi Akinbamiyo – Executive Director, FARA – to chair the meeting
2. Prof. Timothy Simalenga – Executive Director, CCARDESA
3. Dr. Fina Opio – Executive Director, ASARECA
4. Dr. Harold MaCauley – Executive Director, CORAF/WECARD
5. Dr. Aissetou Drame Yaye – Executive Secretary, ANAFE
6. Prof. Adipala Ekwamu – Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
7. Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong – FARA
8. Prof. Frans Swanepoel – South Africa
9. Dr. Simon Mwale/Dr. Baitisi Podisi – CCARDESA
10. Dr. Joseph Methu – ASARECA
11. Dr. Alsácia Atanásio - National Director for HR Development & Capacity Building for Science and Technology Ministry of Science & Technology, Mozambique
12. Dr. Mick Sikaenyi Mwala – Dean, SoAS, UNZA
13. Dr. Carl Larsen - Sr. Agric. Education Specialist, World Bank, Africa Region
14. Dr. Nelson Ojijo – FARA – to facilitate the meeting
15. Other representatives from Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Djibouti (ASARECA); Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia (CCARDESA) present at the RUFORUM Conference