



## Project Objectives

*DP-XP4/AFAAS: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme - CAADP ex-Pillar IV/ African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services. African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation Support Project.*

Enabling agricultural innovation and extension services under the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), to contribute effectively and sustainably to food and nutrition security, economic development and climate adaptation and mitigation in Africa. This will be achieved by improving AFAAS' capability and the effectiveness of services delivered by Regional, Sub regional and National Fora and Extension Systems by improving their capacities, promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing among various actors.

## Background

Agriculture, providing two thirds of jobs and about one fourth of GDP, is backbone to Africa's economy and key driver of sustainable and inclusive growth. Realising the importance of Agriculture in Africa's economy, African leaders adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in 2003 in Maputo, which was renewed in Malabo in 2014. It outlines a broader agenda with targets to be achieved by 2025. AFAAS subscribes to this noble aspiration.

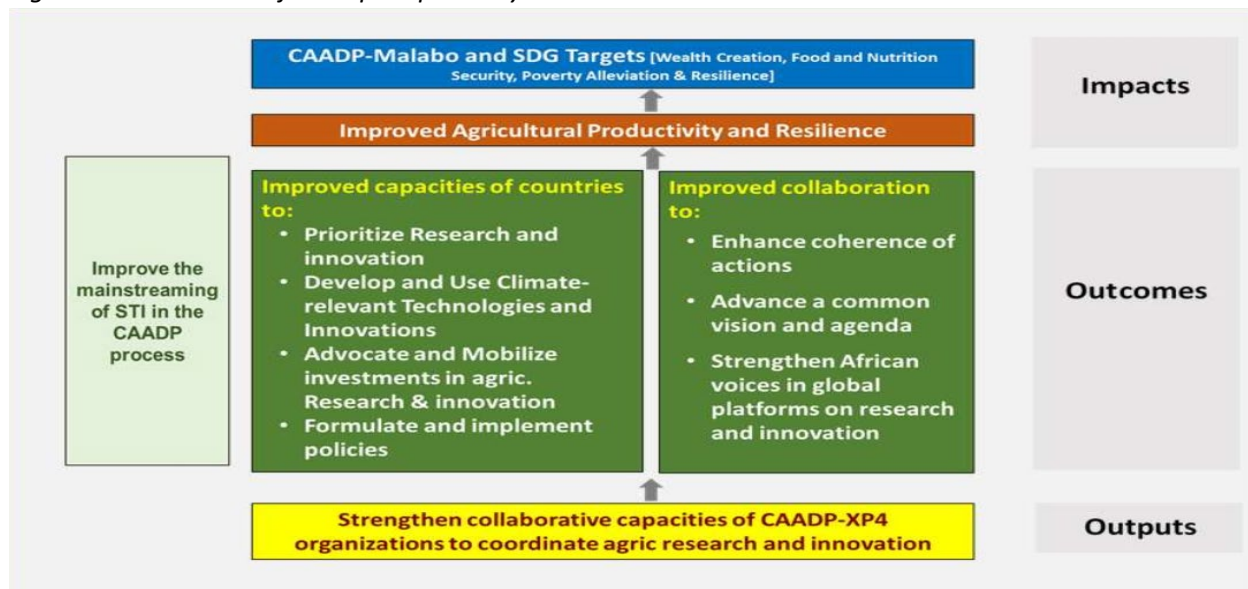
Agriculture in Africa is, however, plagued by several challenges, among which the threat of climate change and variability is highest. Some of the effects of climate change are the recurring droughts, pest and disease outbreaks including human epidemics and market shocks. The need for climate-smart agriculture for millions of smallholders - many of them women and youth - cannot be overlooked: they provide over 80 % of food in Sub-Saharan Africa and make up the largest share of undernourished. As the most vulnerable and marginalized, they are more exposed to climate change. The current global attention on climate change, food security and market driven smallholder production makes pluralistic agricultural extension and advisory services (AEAS) pivotal in the development agenda. AEAS are a fundamental part of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) and shall support people to innovate in order to deal with existing and new challenges, to improve the livelihoods of rural people in Africa.

AFAAS, as a continent-wide body and actively present in over 28 countries in Africa, is well positioned to facilitate collective actions, knowledge and innovation sharing, capacity strengthening and advocacy to

support innovation among AEAS and farmers. CAADP-XP4 project (African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation Support Project) aims to address the above challenges through supporting a science-led and climate-relevant agricultural transformation in Africa with the support of strong and well adapted advisory services. The project supports the five consortium organisations AFAAS, FARA at continental level and SROs (ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF).

## Theory of change to achieve the objectives

Figure: CAADP XP4 Project Impact pathway



Regarding AEAS, the project aims at improving and strengthening AFAAS functional and collaborative capacity to improve AEAS systems and, coordinate innovation and climate relevant initiatives. Hence, AFAAS will be better positioned to support countries through their Country Fora (CF) and Regional Fora (RF), in their planning and implementation of actions aimed at strengthening pluralistic advisory services and make better use of research results through AIS approach. The supported countries will thus be better positioned to contribute to CAADP and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets, namely wealth creation, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation & resilience and environmental sustainability.

The project develops actions in a close cooperation with the European Commission and the African Union Commission. The strategy will include strong interaction with regional/continental research organizations (CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA, FARA) and with EU ongoing initiatives like Leap Agri and DeSIRA implemented in Africa or other relevant partnerships. It brings coherence of action among the African Research and Innovation organisations for strengthening National Agricultural Innovation Systems. To achieve its objectives, the project will contribute to: enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate relevant innovations and operation; elaborate policies in support of climate-relevant agriculture and food systems; support knowledge production and Information dissemination for decision support of policy makers and AEAS actors; and, strengthen monitoring, evaluation and learning platforms.

The first expected outcome is: improved capacities of AFAAS to support CF and African countries to contribute to the achievement of CAADP results. AFAAS will improve its intervention framework and its strategy to strengthen AEAS and innovation partnerships and to promote an enabling environment for pluralistic, demand-driven and climate sensitive AEAS. AFAAS will support reviews of national institutional

frameworks and policies on AEAS and innovation. These reviews will mobilize the experiences of local actors, countries and the international community. AFAAS will also assess and promote proven extension approaches such as; Farmer Field Schools, Innovation Platforms, Management advice for family farms, capacity building models for facilitators of innovation in line with past experiences such as Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) and benefiting from the Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) hosted by FAO. Specific attention will be put on approaches sensitive to climate adaptation and mitigation, and to farmer led extension. Policy dialogue to strengthen AEAS and innovation policies will be used as advocacy instruments through governments, African Union mechanisms and potential donors/partners.

The second expected outcome is: improved capacities of Country Fora (CF) and Regional Fora (RF) to facilitate the formulation and implementation of public policies, targeted investments, knowledge management, partnerships and application of science and innovations to mitigate and adapt climate change at national and regional level. AFAAS shall build the capacity of CF, which are national platforms for AEAS and Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) actors. CF' and AEAS actor's capacity shall be built to respond to farmers' needs for climate resilience. The CF are useful for knowledge generation and sharing on AEAS policies and AEAS approaches to support innovation. They will also be the pathway for scaling up and out CAADP-XP4 approaches, tools and products. Through CF, AFAAS shall influence policy shifts towards pluralistic demand driven AEAS service provision and secondly to enhance effectiveness in delivery of technology and innovations to smallholder farmers in the field of climate adaptation and mitigation but also of agricultural production and processing with an agro ecological and sustainable perspective.

To achieve its objective, AFAAS will develop various tools for AEAS capacity building, including guideline for extension workers, audio-video material for farmers' capacity building. AFAAS will lead in the dissemination of relevant knowledge products including policy briefs, information through the web, newsletters, brochures, fliers and face to face platforms etc.

In terms risks which can impede expected outcomes, the following are key: unfavourable conditions and lack of national level political support for agricultural growth; inadequate national policies to strengthen agricultural research and development organisations and counselling services; governments unwillingness to meet their commitment on the agricultural budget share; lack of a framework for joint implementation and coordination of the action, with strategic orientation, clear mechanisms and developed capacities among partners. Other risk factors include; the effects of the emerging COVID-19 global pandemic that may constraint physical activities; the absence of strong public and private partnership in terms of definition and implementation of climate change policies and/or resilience strategy; fragmented planning and implementation among the consortium members, and limited buy in from Country stakeholders that may generate sustainability question.

### **Main Activities**

Although the action is jointly implemented through consortium arrangement, AFAAS specific activities under CAADP-XP4 project as derived from overall sub activities include:

- ✓ strengthen the internal capacities of AFAAS, mobilize and build the institutional and organizational capacities of AEAS actors to deliver innovative services - linked to all actors in agricultural innovation system and to smallholder farmers;
- ✓ development of AFAAS implementation framework to strengthen partnerships and extension systems at national and regional levels;
- ✓ strengthen the enabling environment for effective implementation of innovation AEAS,

- ✓ promote and operationalize multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate change innovations at national level through CF members and create platforms for continental and global learning;
- ✓ support demand-led climate-relevant innovation through South-South, North-South and North-South-South brokerage and linkages;
- ✓ Review institutional frameworks - policies, strategies, structures and processes - to support AEAS programmes based on system-wide synergies that leverage and complement the services of diverse actors through collaboration;
- ✓ strengthen capacities of Country Fora (CF) and Regional Fora (RF) for climate-relevant policy analysis, formulation and advocacy;
- ✓ convene policy dialogues and strategic communication sensitive to climate change for AEAS, focusing CF and Directors of extension;
- ✓ convene biannual Africa Wide Agricultural Extension Weeks for learning, dialogue and knowledge sharing
- ✓ AFAAS will be responsible for the coordination of the development of climate-relevant knowledge products and tools for dissemination to the last mile;
- ✓ undertake program planning and coordination;
- ✓ strengthen program monitoring, evaluation and learning system; and
- ✓ undertake communication and visibility actions and provide leadership in developing Standards for dissemination of information

### Organization

CAADP XP4 Programme is jointly implemented by the five former CAAADP Pillar IV institutions. AFAAS is unique in that its focus is on AEAS. In the consortium context, the five implementing institution jointly plan, set targets and agree on joint activities among others. This process is led by the Technical Committee (TC) constituted by Programme Managers from each of the five institutions. The TC is supported by an Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Executive Directors of the five implementing partners, among others. Internal implementation is through AFAAS programme units: Partnerships, Planning and Learning; Capacity Building; Knowledge Management; Monitoring and Evaluation, supported by functional units. Internal planning shall be through Programme Management Committee.



### Implementing organization

African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS). Regional Fora (SARFAS and RESCAR-AOC) and Country Fora are key players.



### Administered by IFAD

### Project partners

- ✓ Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- ✓ Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)
- ✓ West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF)
- ✓ Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA).



### Other stakeholders

Public extension service providers (ministries of agriculture and research and relevant policy and regulatory bodies), private service providers (consultancy firms, private extension agents, input suppliers, producers' buyers, apex farmer organizations, transporters etc.) and



semi-private (socio-entrepreneurs, NGOs like Sasakwa Africa Association etc.) who offer agricultural-related services.

AFAAS shall develop and activate instruments and processes of engagement with authorizing institutions, like African Union, Regional Economic Communities.

Other key stakeholders include: Farmer Organisations at National, Regional and Continental levels, Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS), European Forum for Rural Advisory Services (EUFRAS), Agrinatura, Natural Research Institute, and Access Agriculture, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, among others.

**Region**

Africa, AFAAS shall initially directly work with the following countries: Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Malawi, Madagascar, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, Cameroon, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zimbabwe. Other Country Fora shall be assessed and included in a phased manner.

**Funding and co-funding**

UE	€ 5,110,000
Total budget	€ 5,110,000

**Period**

4 years (2019-2023)