

Objectives of the project

CAADP-XP4/FARA: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-Pillar 4/ Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation Support Project.

To strengthen FARA in implementing its mandate and its capacity to collaborate effectively with AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF in order to collectively support African countries in the delivery of CAADP and SDG results through: inclusive regional and international partnerships; production and exchange of climate-relevant agricultural knowledge; effective communication, monitoring and evaluation; promotion of systemic and effective use of science, knowledge and innovation; and representation of the sub-regional and national organizations at continental level.

Background

African countries face serious climate change challenges (IPCC, 2016) which undermine efforts to maximize the benefits of agriculture using science, technology and innovation as advanced under the pillar 4 of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). According to projections by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) crop yields in sub Saharan Africa are set to drop by 22% by 2050 due to effects of climate change (IPCC, 2014). In addition, climate change has resulted in outbreaks of new pests/diseases phenomenon including aggravated aflatoxins, fall armyworm, desert locusts and other challenges leading to post harvest losses which pose a threat to nutritional security and food safety in Africa.



In a bid to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union CAADP Malabo Declaration, African countries committed to raise agriculture growth through increasing agricultural productivity and reducing post-harvest losses. They also resolved to ensure that by 2025, at least 30% of Africa's farming, pastoralist, and fishing households are resilient to climate and weather-related risks, and agricultural productivity is increased at least by 100%.

Key interventions to address climate change impacts entail strengthening the adaptive and mitigation capacities and facilitating the strengthening of the science-policy nexus. With regard to the science-policy nexus, FARA promotes and uses the Policy Practice Index (PPI) tool to evaluate agricultural sector policies and their implementation at country, regional and continental levels. Learning from existing approaches that demonstrated some success and building on them is a necessity.

To this end, collective action is required to support countries in their planning and implementation of programmes aimed at ensuring agricultural transformation that is inclusive, science and innovation-led, sustainable and climate relevant. FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF (collectively known as the CAADP ex Pillar IV organisations, or CAADP XP4) are the African supra-national research-for-development (AR4D) organisations that are positioned to facilitate collective actions, share and manage information and knowledge, strengthen implementation capacities, support regional markets and trade, advocate for enabling policies and environments and strengthen accountability systems of the National Agricultural Research and Innovation System (NARIS) in countries within respective regions. They are the supra-national institutions that facilitated the implementation of CAADP Pillar 4 in the first decade of CAADP. These organisations themselves require further

strengthening to enable them perform their mandates effectively. For instance, implementation of FARA's roles¹ often gets hampered by weak internal capacities (human, infrastructure and financial resources), as well as institutional and systemic capacities (collaborative and accountability processes and mechanisms).

A successful kick-off meeting of the CAADP-XP4 project was held in November 2019 to address these challenges.

The theory of change to achieve the objectives

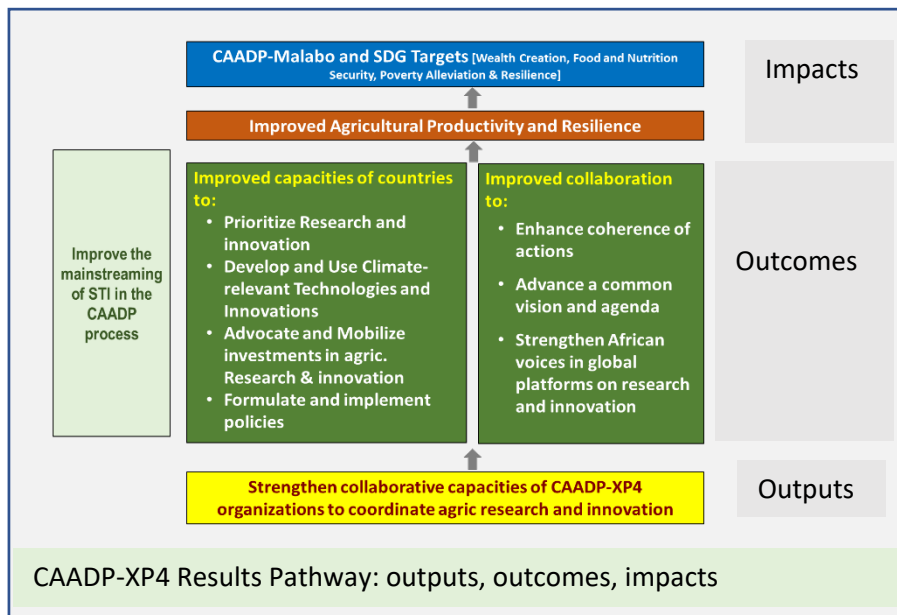
The objective of the CAADP XP4 Project in FARA, is to strengthen FARA in implementing its mandate and its capacity to collaborate effectively with AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF in order to collectively support African countries in delivering CAADP and SDGs results.

The strengthening of individual, institutional and collaborative capacity of FARA will in turn enable FARA to support the strengthening of the capacities of SROs and countries to: (i) prioritize research and innovation, develop and use climate-relevant technologies and innovations, advocate and mobilize investments in agricultural research and innovation, and formulate and implement policies; and (ii) improve collaboration amongst partners to enhance coherence of actions, advance a common vision and agenda, and strengthen the African voice in global platforms on research and innovation.

To achieve the above two outcomes, FARA would have to achieve five mutually reinforcing results in the CAADP XP4 programme with the following targets: (i) at least 48 functional multi-stakeholder partnerships for scaling up climate relevant innovation and technologies, innovations and management practices established; (ii) at least 45 regional organizations supported to reach country level organizations and strengthen their capacities in advocacy for climate-relevant coherent agricultural innovation policies, cross-boundary markets and trade reforms; (iii) policy reforms in at least 34 countries are triggered for generation and uptake of climate relevant agricultural innovations and their subsequent translation into development impact; (iv) at least 34 countries supported to develop their knowledge management strategies to facilitate the achievement of program goals in relation to CAADP; (v) at least 4,000 researchers, academia, policy makers, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Farmers' Organisations (FOs), and private sector operators involved in contributing to policy/decision making knowledge, information and data.

These results will contribute to the higher outcome of improved agricultural productivity and resilience in at least 30 African countries to allow them to reach the expected impacts of agriculture growth through science-led, climate-relevant and sustainable transformation of agriculture in low and middle-income countries in Africa, thereby contributing to the achievement of the relevant SDGs and the CAADP-Malabo targets on wealth creation, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and resilience.

¹ FARA's roles include: translating global and continental agendas for implementation at sub-regional and national levels, providing mechanisms and approaches for strengthening institutional and systemic capacities and knowledge management for supporting evidence-based advocacy at policy and operational level decisions on research.



Main activities

The main activities are organised under the following 5 outputs:

Output 1: Strengthened Capacity of African regional and sub-regional agricultural research organizations to perform their individual mandates and to better work together. The specific activities towards this output are:

- ✓ Undertaking capacity gap assessment.
- ✓ Establishing a staff development program.
- ✓ Upgrading operational systems, especially financial, Knowledge Management, procurement and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning systems.
- ✓ Developing an implementation framework that supports strengthening of the collaborative capacities of FARA.
- ✓ developing and activating instruments and processes of engagement with FARA's authorizing institutions i.e. AUC, AUDA-NEPAD.
- ✓ Undertaking high level policy dialogue and strategic meetings and developing an accountability framework.

Output 2: Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Innovation established and in operation. Under this output, FARA has set out to establish or strengthen 48 functional multi-stakeholder partnerships and 71 thematic working groups climate-relevant and linked to regional, continental and global platforms. In addition, FARA will co-develop and implement 12 programmes and involve 20 European organizations in the planning, execution, monitoring and reporting of program activities. A pool of 40 experts will be established supplying backstopping of specialised services to food and agricultural systems initiatives and partnerships – including farmer organizations initiatives disaggregated by type and region and broker 30 SS-NS and NSS partnerships on climate change data and mitigation and adaptation mechanisms. The specific activities under this output are:

- ✓ Mapping out existing climate relevant initiatives at national, regional and continental levels.
- ✓ Convening periodic meetings for existing inclusive CSA platforms, strengthening existing climate-relevant Thematic Working Groups and national multi-stakeholder innovation platforms, and linking them with regional, continental & external global platforms.
- ✓ Developing strategies and practical mechanisms for engaging with private sector (including farmers' organisations including providing space for researchers, extension services and private sector to interact.

- ✓ Establishing portals for funding opportunities and coordinating/facilitating the process of responding to the calls with AR4D actors including convening partners and developing joint proposals.
- ✓ Training country stakeholders on resource mobilization and management in conjunction with international experts.
- ✓ Establishing a fund for equitable support in proposal development including international expertise.
- ✓ Brokering partnerships for access to climate-relevant satellite data/ information held/generated by European partners.
- ✓ Developing program process manuals.
- ✓ Developing joint response mechanisms to emerging technical and innovation issues.
- ✓ Operationalizing linkages and brokering international cooperation.
- ✓ Commissioning regional case studies on effective partnerships for innovation and developing and implementing action plans based on the findings of the case studies.
- ✓ Creating and disseminating viable solutions for multi stakeholders at multiple levels (local, regional and global).

Output 3: Strengthened national policies, regional institutional arrangements and market access. Under this output, FARA is joining forces with other CAADP XP4 institutions to support the capacity strengthening of 45 country level organizations in advocacy for climate relevant coherent agricultural and innovation policies, cross-boundary markets and trade reforms. FARA will also organize 5 policy dialogues on harnessing science, markets and trade to drive agricultural transformation, and formulate 14 policy recommendations, including on investments in agriculture knowledge and innovation, mobility of capacities, technology transfer and market and trade reforms for dialogue and endorsement by Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and African Union (AU) organs. 12 countries will be supported to implement policy reforms to improve the generation and uptake of climate relevant agricultural innovations and their subsequent translation into development impact. 60 African scientists and organizations will be supported to participate in UNFCCC and related processes at different level. 10 foresight initiatives will be formulated and/or supported. The specific activities leading to this output are:

- ✓ Assessing capacity gaps and developing capacity development plans related to policy analysis and policy formulation at national and regional levels.
- ✓ Conducting training and organizing technical assistance in policy analysis, formulation, advocacy and resource mobilization.
- ✓ Developing and promoting guidelines for inclusion of climate relevant STI indicators in National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs), for use by regional and continental institutions.
- ✓ Sensitizing stakeholders about the relevance of foresight and developing competencies in conducting foresight and in interpretation of foresight results (Africa foresight academy).
- ✓ Organizing technical assistance to enable regional and national organizations to participate in foresight initiatives and apply results from past /ongoing foresight initiatives.
- ✓ Gathering feedback on the use of foresight tools and using it to inform improvements in application of foresight.
- ✓ Convening policy dialogues at regional and continental levels (including for Agricultural Extension Services - AES) on CSA, climate relevant issues and interregional trade and market access.
- ✓ Providing technical support for strategic communication, policy formulation at national, sub-regional and continental levels.
- ✓ Strengthening quality control of agricultural inputs and products, to increase cross-border trade.
- ✓ Conducting regional reviews of trade in agricultural inputs and commodities to improve implementation of existing policies e.g. regional seed harmonization policies.

Output 4: Knowledge Management: Knowledge Management (KM) and Communication for decision support, sharing innovation and advocacy related to climate relevant agriculture transformation. Under this output FARA seeks to develop and disseminate 50 knowledge products (publications) including one flagship publication, organize 20 learning and knowledge sharing events that contribute to CAADP targets, generate evidence to support advocacy to improve the implementation of existing policies on cross border trade in agricultural inputs and commodities e.g. regional seed harmonization policies, supporting 20 countries to develop KM and communication strategies to facilitate achievement of program goals. Through the above intervention FARA expects to directly reach 4,000 stakeholders (researchers, academia, policy makers and private sector operators (including farmers) with policy/decision making knowledge, information and data. The specific activities leading to this outputs are:

- ✓ Developing and operationalizing interoperable knowledge management strategies including guidelines for data capture at national, regional and continental level.
- ✓ Co-convening CSA alliance Forums at regional and continental levels.
- ✓ Developing Knowledge products with various stakeholders for dissemination via the knowledge platforms.
- ✓ Developing ISO compliance standards for sharing information.
- ✓ Developing and disseminating relevant knowledge products at all levels including up to the last mile.
- ✓ Producing a flagship publication, i.e. Africa status report on research and innovation.
- ✓ Producing best practice guidance notes based on experiences of CAADP XP4 institutions and their constituents.

Output 5: Effective Planning, coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning (MEL) and Reporting. This output is intended to strengthen capacities of the five partner organizations in MEL and Reporting. The specific activities leading to this outcome are:

- ✓ Organizing joint program review and planning meetings at different levels (national, sub-regional and continental).
- ✓ Developing a guide for project implementation and coordination.
- ✓ Convening portfolio review meetings.
- ✓ Undertaking mid-term reviews.
- ✓ Customizing existing MEL systems to ROM (Results Oriented Monitoring) in collaboration with IFAD and EC (including the development of Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) and targets).
- ✓ Developing data collection tools.
- ✓ Undertaking continuous data collection.
- ✓ Conducting Baseline Studies.
- ✓ Undertaking training on MEL.
- ✓ Documenting and sharing lessons among program partners.
- ✓ Preparing internal project completion and review reports.
- ✓ Preparing external project completion report (PCR).
- ✓ Designing and implementing a joint programme communication and visibility strategy.
- ✓ Preparing and disseminating communication and visibility materials.
- ✓ Participation in strategic events.

Organization

The overall CAADP XP4 Programme is implemented as five projects each led by one of the five ex-Pillar 4 institutions. Annual work plans and Joint activities are agreed and approved by a joint Technical Committee (TC) constituted by the Directors of Research of the five institutions. The TC is supported by an Advisory committee (AC) constituted by the Executive Directors of the five institutions.



Implementing organizations

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

Administered by IFAD



Project Partners

AFAAS, ASARECA, CORAF and CCARDESA.

Other stakeholders

Actors not included in the contract but interacting/working with the project

- ✓ Pan-African Farmers Organizations (PAFO) with its members: Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), Plateforme Regionale des Organisations Paysannes de l'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC), Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)
- ✓ European ARD stakeholders (Agrinatura)
- ✓ Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)
- ✓ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- ✓ Joint Research Center of the European Commission
- ✓ Foresight4Food Initiative
- ✓ Africa Union Commission, Africa Union Development Agency-NEPAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC

Region

The project covers the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

Funding and co-funding

UE	€ xxx
Total budget	€ xxx

Duration

March 2019 to December 2023

