



Australian Government

Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research

## **FARA-ACIAR Consultation on the Australian International Food Security Centre**



10 February 2012  
FARA Secretariat, Accra, Ghana



Australian  
International  
Food Security  
Centre

[aciarc.gov.au/aifsc](http://aciarc.gov.au/aifsc)

## Preface

This document summarizes a consultation between Africa and Australia on the development of the new Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC) within the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR). It was jointly organized by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and ACIAR, and was attended by senior representatives of FARA, sub-regional organizations, farmers' organizations, civil society organizations, regional economic organizations and agricultural universities.

The conference's main purpose was to introduce the concept of the AIFSC to FARA and African partners, and to identify priority areas for research, education and training related to enhancing food security from a geographical regional perspective. The consultations were enthusiastically received by African counterparts, who welcomed the AIFSC initiative. This report will provide critical information for the development of the AIFSC and its future strategic directions.



Prof Monty Jones  
Executive Director  
FARA



Dr Nick Austin  
Chief Executive Officer  
ACIAR

April 2012

## Executive Summary

The Australian Government recently announced additional support for food security through the establishment of the Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC) within the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The AIFSC will have a broad international focus, recognising the significance of food security to developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Particular emphasis will be given to Africa, where the highest proportion of the world's poor are found. The Centre will: support smallholder-driven research partnerships to tackle clearly articulated, major food security challenges that require medium- to long-term collaborative efforts; stimulate broader education and training for postgraduate students; and provide a global portal for access to Australian research, technical and policy expertise in areas of national comparative advantage. Research coverage will include tropical, subtropical and temperate agriculture based on principles of cooperative contribution and collaboration. This will build onto and diversify existing programs by linking a range of Australian, African and international research and development agencies; and facilitating collaboration of businesses and researchers, including private sector organisations, industry associations, the CGIAR, universities and Australian research agencies such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), national agricultural research systems (NARS) and other end users.

The four pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) developed under the auspices of the African Union's New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) provides the framework for identifying priority research themes. There are currently 39 African countries that initiated the CAADP process, out of which 29 have signed the compact and 6 have approved business plans that are in the process of being funded and implemented.

The FARA-ACIAR Consultation on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012 was attended by representatives of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), sub-regional organizations (SROs), farmers' organizations, civil society organizations, regional economic organizations and agricultural universities. The participants elicited an inventory of good research experiences and lessons learned (from the stakeholder point of view); elicited an inventory of relevant agricultural research themes for the different geographical regions of Africa matching with ongoing agricultural research; identified subjects that need far more attention from agricultural research taking into account criteria like contribution to poverty reduction, smallholder focus, ownership, involvement; and identified a number of priorities for new agricultural research in Africa.

The identified themes fell into four broad programmatic clusters that complement existing research thrusts:

- Diversifying and enriching farming systems, including crop diversification, incorporation of orphan crops, integrated crop and livestock systems, aquaculture and food quality/nutrition for health;
- Bridging research and extension, fostering scaling-out mechanisms, empowering farming communities, knowledge management (of policy, technologies, etc);

- Strengthening policy and socioeconomic research, including value chains, post harvest, value addition, food safety, financing, foresight, biotechnology stewardship, land rights, gender, monitoring and impact assessment and fostering uptake of the foregoing research; and
- Building individual and institutional capacity, including research institution building, research management, strengthening trade negotiation, emerging issues and farmers organizations.

Some fast-track research and capacity-building programs that are broadly aligned with the above thematic clusters and build on existing ACIAR related activities are being initiated as a first step while longer-term collaborative arrangements with African and other partners are being developed.

The nature of successful agricultural research and capacity building partnerships was discussed. The following principles were identified for effective partnerships: subsidiarity; institution-to-institution arrangements; joint planning, execution, reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and impact assessment; inclusiveness; accountability and transparency; adaptive/flexible management; and results-based, well-defined adoption pathways.

Further foresight and farming systems analysis and stakeholder partnerships for the above thematic clusters will shape future AIFSC programs for consideration at the mid-2012 conference to launch the Centre.

## Background

Today, the world has reached a population of 7 billion; food security is back in the agenda as natural resources become limited. It becomes more complex as the world is more connected due to globalization and cross-border challenges such as climate change, financial crisis and resource scarcity. Africa has not escaped this challenge with its increasing population, degrading natural resources and complex and diverse environment including climate change. The African governments recognized that agriculture and agricultural science have major roles to play to respond to such challenges.

Therefore, the Australian government's renewed interest in African agriculture and agricultural research is welcome. Having inclusive decision making to prioritize its investment in the continent is further appreciated by the African constituents and its leaders.

A stakeholder consultation between Australian and African partners was organized at the FARA Secretariat on 10 February 2012. This was to initiate discussions on potential themes for investments in Africa by the Australian Government's new Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC). Australia's renewed focus is based on the global recognition of complexity in responding to the recurrent food security crisis. At the same time, it recognized the success of the green revolution in increasing food productivity in the 1960s and 1970s. The green revolution in Asia and Latin America was successful due to the integrated interventions based on relevant scientific results, supporting policy and sustainable investments. The scientific breakthroughs were recognized and invested upon by governments through appropriate policies as well as the private sector. Through the right leadership and vision, Asia and Latin America saw the positive impact of the green revolution, which increased their agricultural productivity to feed the increasing population.

The FARA-ACIAR Consultation (see Annex 1 for the program) was attended by representatives of Africa's agricultural research, education and civil society organizations (see Annex 2 for list of participants). Participants were welcomed to the FARA Secretariat and Accra by Prof. Monty Jones of FARA and Dr Nick Austin of ACIAR. This document forms the report of that consultation.

## Introduction

The Australian Government recently augmented its focus on food security through an announcement of increased investment to be managed by the AIFSC within ACIAR (see [media release](#)). The background of this investment and future directions was presented to the group by Dr Nick Austin of ACIAR (Annex 3). The AIFSC will have a broad international focus, recognizing the significance of food security to developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Particular emphasis will be given to Africa, where the highest proportion of the world's poor are found. The Centre will: support smallholder-driven research partnerships to tackle clearly articulated major food security challenges that require medium- to long-term collaborative efforts; stimulate broader education and training for postgraduate students; provide a global portal for access to Australian research, technical and policy expertise in areas of national comparative advantage, including tropical, subtropical and temperate agriculture; be based on principles of cooperative contribution and collaboration, building on existing programs and linking a range of Australian, African and

international research and development agencies; and facilitate collaboration of businesses and researchers, including private sector organisations, industry associations CGIAR, universities and Australian research agencies such as the CSIRO, national agricultural research systems (NARS) and other end users.

The Centre will harness African capacities in partnership with technical research capacities of Australia. Interventions will be managed and coordinated through the AIFSC. The Australian managers will be working over the next few months to define the directions and programs of the new Centre. They will listen to African partners, canvass African perspectives and consult to identify fast-start concepts where the centres can contribute. It will have a defined geographic focus as well as thematic focus.

While the AIFSC will be based in ACIAR in Canberra, the location of an AIFSC node(s) in Africa is under consideration, together with the overall partnership and governance structure. But the people of Africa clearly lie at the centre of its operation.

Participants at the consultation raised the issue of partnership mechanisms and sustainability. Research has long-term impact, but the Australia Government has given a 4-year timeframe for this initiative to build and deliver initial results. Therefore the AIFSC will build on successes while also expanding and diversifying research partnerships within budget limits and seeking to leverage joint funding from other donors. Continuity, sustainability and focus on smallholder farmers are important drivers of this initiative.

## **The African perspective**

The CAADP concept and progress was shared with the group by Prof. Mkandawire (Annex 4). There are currently 39 African countries that initiated the CAADP process, out of which 29 have signed the compact and six have approved business plans which are in the process of being funded and implemented. Research is well integrated in the process, but their argument could be further strengthened through reports on the impact of agricultural research to economic development in Africa. Communicating research benefits to policy makers has to be improved.

Contributions of research to improving agriculture productivity were highlighted by the presentation from FARA by Prof. Jones (Annex 5). He shared the initiatives from research, education and extension in Africa with support within and outside Africa (CGIAR, international development agencies). There are research gaps through thematic focus as well as geographical targeting (i.e. central Africa receives the least support). Current interventions are provided through well-structured institutional arrangements at continental, regional and national level. The education arm is strongly led by Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), as shared in the presentation by Dhlamini Nodumo (Annex 6).

Across the continent, there are strong emphases on demand-driven research and education. The ability of research agencies to respond to farmers' needs as well as agriculture education and training graduates' ability to work with rural communities was emphasized. Collective support to civil society, especially farming communities, is provided through both private and public sector.

## **Defining themes and partnership principles**

The stakeholder consultation was facilitated by Ms Marie-José Niesten of MDF West Africa. Group discussions were organized to enable participants to share their institutional priority research themes and assess current gaps in agricultural research which could be addressed through international collaboration. The discussions took note of the diversity of the participants coming from farmers' organizations, regional and sub-regional agricultural research organisations, economic partners and the agricultural education sector. The geographic differences and uniqueness were also taken into consideration. The discussion process took various steps, including:

- inventory of good research experiences and lessons learned (from the stakeholder point of view)
- inventory of relevant agricultural research topics for the different geographical areas
- relationship with ongoing agricultural research
- identification of subjects that need additional agricultural research commitments, taking into account criteria such as: contribution to poverty reduction, smallholder focus, ownership and collaborative involvement.

Finally, participants (in two groups) selected a number of themes, which are indicated as priority areas for agricultural research in Africa.

Both groups indicated similar themes and foci. This shows the relevance and common purpose of the topics selected (see Table 1). Participants stressed that the investors should keep in mind that the full impact of research can only be seen at long term, but that some subjects can show incremental results within the four years nominated as the start-up phase for the planned longer-term support.



**Table 1. Key outputs on themes, gaps and priorities**

Research relevant for agriculture development	Research already receiving attention	Themes that require further research
<b>West and Central Africa</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy issues related to land property right and women’s access to land</li> <li>• Agro-forestry</li> <li>• Technology and innovations to address climate change</li> <li>• Relationship between food and nutrition</li> <li>• Access to input and output markets</li> <li>• Value addition through post harvest management</li> <li>• Policy research – inclusiveness in policy processes</li> <li>• Attention to legumes (soybeans, cowpea, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop breeding: rice, cassava, millet, maize, sorghum</li> <li>• Pest management and agronomic practices</li> <li>• Policy research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uptake of policy research outputs</li> <li>• Access to markets (enhanced value chains) – as incentive to produce more, adopt technologies and attract/retain youth in agriculture</li> <li>• Value addition and competitiveness (post-harvest losses, standards, handling, storage)</li> <li>• Integrated natural resource management (climate change, land and water management, soil fertility)</li> <li>• Labor productivity and returns to labor (retain youth in agriculture; reward producers)</li> <li>• Research on dissemination of technologies to avoid islands of success and achieve economies of scale</li> <li>• Stewardship in biotechnology</li> <li>• Capacity strengthening including rural women</li> </ul>
<b>Southern Africa</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-harvest handling (capacity to manage, seed multiplication)</li> <li>• Crop management</li> <li>• Conservation agriculture</li> <li>• Soil and water management (diversity and integrated management)</li> <li>• Research to push yields upwards</li> <li>• Governance of agriculture sector (how resources are used, agriculture and resource economics)</li> <li>• Aquaculture and fisheries science</li> <li>• Agriculture information and communication management</li> <li>• Research into Use (bridging research and extension)</li> <li>• Instruments to improve market access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop management</li> <li>• Soil management (conservation agriculture)</li> <li>• Research on yield enhancement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-harvest chain approach, considering that 20-40% of harvest is lost before it reaches consumers; direct impact to food security; increase efficiency in use of limited resources (water, inputs, land, etc)</li> <li>• Enhancing performance of traditional breeds/varieties to meet consumer needs, mainly due to increasing demand for local food as population increases in urban areas as well as increasing affluence of African population</li> <li>• Water and soil management broader research, and increase efficiency in use of resources, capitalize on rich resources + intensification due to increasing population</li> <li>• Aquaculture and fisheries to compensate for decline in small ruminant protein source and depletion of lake fish</li> <li>• Foresight and planning including better information management</li> <li>• Use of scorecards for country-per-country comparison = improve evidence-based policy making and increase preparedness (risk management)</li> </ul>
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value addition – processing and use of new products</li> <li>• Food security and nutrition</li> <li>• Climate change – risk management and resilience</li> <li>• Capacity building along whole value chain</li> <li>• Policy analysis, advocacy and development</li> <li>• Integrated crop and livestock systems</li> <li>• Post-harvest losses</li> <li>• Knowledge development, management and dissemination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maize</li> <li>• Capacity development for research</li> <li>• Livestock including beef and dairy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different marketing modes</li> <li>• Private sector engagement (approach, participation and understanding)</li> <li>• Orphan crops (their nutritional value especially traditional crops)</li> <li>• Livestock – pastoralists especially non-cattle</li> <li>• Bi-products of livestock (e.g. leather use) and crops (food products)</li> <li>• Research and adoption</li> <li>• Socio-economic studies (markets, land, inputs, local intra-regional and international trade)</li> <li>• Land ownership and investment by smallholders</li> <li>• Foreign investments in agriculture (analysis, advocacy and good governance)</li> </ul>



**Through consolidation of the above outputs, the following major themes were identified for consideration of future research and capacity building partnerships:**

- Crop diversification (including orphan crops)
- Integrated crop and livestock systems
- Uptake of research output by bridging research and scaling out, especially on i) how policy can be influenced and ii) empowering farming communities
- Knowledge management (policy, technologies, etc.)
- Commodity value chain analysis (especially on post harvest, value addition/enhancement)
- Foresight use in planning, risk management and monitoring
- Socio-economic studies, especially on impact of research/innovations, land rights, gender and women's rights, impact assessment of technologies
- Food safety, quality and nutrition for health
- Agriculture financing, especially incentives for private sector investment and youth engagement
- Biotechnology stewardship
- Capacity strengthening (trade negotiation, emerging issues, institution building, research management, farmers' organization, research-extension-farmers linkages).

## **Summary and conclusion**

The group agreed that this consultative process is a good start to building towards priority themes. The AIFSC will build on existing initiatives and investments to ensure sustainability. Several key principles were identified to guide the formation of Australian-African partnerships, in particular towards effective research and capacity-building partnerships. The Centre should at conceptualization be inclusive, have the agility and dynamics to take on the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities within Africa and Australia. In its design phase, it should have well-defined adoption pathways that are results-based and focused on contributing to the CAADP objectives and Australian Government priorities.

During its implementation it should use the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) principles centred on empowering farmers; be guided by the principles of subsidiarity especially in defining clear roles and responsibilities; encourage institution-to-institution support, joint planning, execution, reporting, M&E and impact assessment. As it moves forward, the partnership should practice empathy among institutions, especially taking note of the differences in capacities and abilities.

The group agreed that the outputs and outcomes of the first consultation will be the basis to move forward with the Australian-African partnership for agriculture and agricultural research. Various processes and consultations will be conducted to ensure relevance, inclusiveness and accountability, especially as the AIFSC enters into the final phase of the identification of its main themes and partnership modalities.

**List of Acronyms:**

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ACTESA	Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa
AIFSC	Australian International Food Security Centre
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CORAF	Conference of African and French Leaders of Agricultural Research Institutes
COMESA – AAMP	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa – The African Agricultural Markets Programme
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EAFF	East African Farmers Forum
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FONG	Farmers' Organization Network in Ghana
NARS	national agricultural research systems
NEPAD-AU	New Partnerships for Africa's Development of the African Union
PAFFO	First Pan African Farmers Forum
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
SRO	sub-regional organisation

## Annex 1: Consultation program

**Date:** 10 February 2012, 09:00 – 17:00 hrs

**Venue:** FARA Secretariat, Accra, Ghana

Topics	Resource person
Welcome	Monty Jones, Executive Director FARA
Opening remarks	Nick Austin, CEO ACIAR
Introductions	Facilitator Marie – Jose Niesten
Scope and intent of the AIFSC	Nick Austin
Background on African agricultural research and education Presentation (10 min) on CAADP, research (by FARA) and education (by RUFORUM) giving an overview of current capacities, major agriculture research initiatives (highlighting achievements and challenges)	CAADP – Richard Mkandawire FARA – Monty Jones RUFORUM – Dhlamini Nodumo
Coffee tea break (10:30)	
Facilitated discussions of current research gaps in the region. SROs and other organizations will be encouraged to highlight their experiences and lessons learnt from various initiatives	Facilitator
Lunch break (13:00)	
Facilitated discussions to identify potential themes and mechanisms for partnerships with Australian institutions and/or scientists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for immediate action</li> <li>• for medium term</li> </ul>	Facilitator
Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• moving forward agreed concepts</li> <li>• process leading to the international conference, etc.</li> </ul>	Facilitator
Close	Monty Jones Nick Austin

## Annex 2: List of Participants at the Consultation

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Country	Address	Email	Tel
Mkandawire	Richard	NEPAD-AU	South Africa	P.O. Box 1234, Midrand (Jo'burg), 1684	mkandawirer@nepad.org	+27 11 313 3153
Komla	Bissi	Agribusiness Advisor, NEPAD-AU	South Africa	P.O. Box 1234, Midrand (Jo'burg), 1684	<a href="mailto:komlab@nepad.org">komlab@nepad.org</a>	
Methu	Joseph	ASARECA	Uganda	P.O. Box 765, Entebbe	secretariat@asareca.org; asareca@imul.com	+ 256 41 220 607
Roy - Macauley	Harold	CORAF	Senegal	BP 48, Dakar	h.roy-macauley@coraf.org	+221 8699618
Mukutioj	Lutangu	COMESA - AAMP Senior Policy Coordinator ACTESA	Zambia	Plot No 20849, Corporate Park, Alick Nkata Rd, Lusaka	lmukuti@comesa.int	+ 260- 211253572
Mbog	Sylvie	Org de Dév, d'Etude, de Formation et de Conseils	Cameroon	BP 4263, Yaoundé	odeco1000@yahoo.fr odeco@icnnet.cm	+ 237 223 3984 / 237 752 21 31
Sasu	Lydia	FONG	Ghana	P.O. Box DK216, Darkuman, Accra	<a href="mailto:daa@africaonline.com.gh">daa@africaonline.com.gh</a>	
Muchiri	Stephen	EAFF	Kenya	Rhapta Rd, Westlands, Nairobi	smuchiri@eaffu.org	
Kiriro	Philip	PAFFO- EAFF	Kena	Rhapta Rd, Westlands, Nairobi	<a href="mailto:info@eaff.org">info@eaff.org</a>	+ 254 20 4451691
Dhlamini	Nodumo	RUFORUM	Uganda	Secretariat, Plot 151 Garden Hill, Makerere University, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala	<a href="mailto:n.dhlamini@ruforum.org">n.dhlamini@ruforum.org</a>	
Niستن	Marie - Jose	Facilitator	Ghana		<a href="mailto:MN@mdf.nl">MN@mdf.nl</a>	+233 240 703104
Cass	Louisa	AusAID	Kenya	Australian High Commission, P.O. Box 39341-00623, Nairobi	<a href="mailto:cass.australianaid@regionaloffice.org">cass.australianaid@regionaloffice.org</a>	
Austin	Nick	ACIAR	Australia	38 Thynne St, Bruce, ACT, 2617	<a href="mailto:nick.austin@aciarc.gov.au">nick.austin@aciarc.gov.au</a>	
Dixon	John	ACIAR	Australia	38 Thynne St, Bruce, ACT, 2617	<a href="mailto:john.dixon@aciarc.gov.au">john.dixon@aciarc.gov.au</a>	+61262170531 cell +61 438 642 997
Hearn	Simon	ACIAR	Australia	38 Thynne St, Bruce, ACT, 2617	<a href="mailto:simon.hearn@aciarc.gov.au">simon.hearn@aciarc.gov.au</a>	
Willis	Sarah	ACIAR	Ghana	Australian High Commission, 2 Second Rangoon Close, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Willis@dfat.gov.au">Sarah.Willis@dfat.gov.au</a>	
Jones	Monty	FARA	Ghana	12 Anmeda St, PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:mjones@fara-africa.org">mjones@fara-africa.org</a>	+233 302772823
Tabo	Ramadjita	FARA	Ghana	12 Anmeda St, PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:rtabo@fara-africa.org">rtabo@fara-africa.org</a>	+233 302772823
Tambi	Emmanuel	FARA	Ghana	12 Anmeda St, PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:etambi@fara-africa.org">etambi@fara-africa.org</a>	+233 302772823
Wopereis	Myra	FARA	Ghana	12 Anmeda St, PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:mwopereispura@fara-africa.org">mwopereispura@fara-africa.org</a>	+233 302772823


Last Name	First Name	Organization	Country	Address	Email	Tel
Frempong	Irene	FARA	Ghana	12 Anmeda St, PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:ifrempong@fara-africa.org">ifrempong@fara-africa.org</a>	+233 302772823
Adekunle	Adevale	FARA	Ghana	12 Anmeda St, PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:aadekunle@fara-africa.org">aadekunle@fara-africa.org</a>	+233 302772823
Bjork	Kaj	FARA	Ghana	12 Anmeda St, PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:kbjork@fara-africa.org">kbjork@fara-africa.org</a>	+233 302772823
Agumya	Aggrey	FARA	Ghana	12 Anmeda St, PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra	<a href="mailto:aagumya@fara-africa.org">aagumya@fara-africa.org</a>	+233 302772823





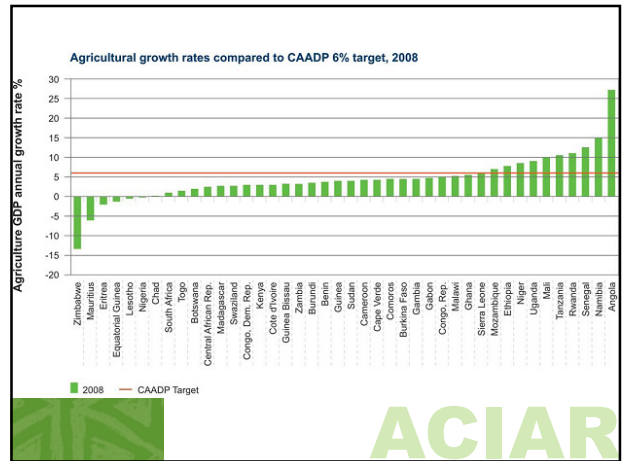
### Outline

- Agriculture
- Africa
- ACIAR
- ACIAR and Africa
- AIFSC




### Africa and Agriculture

- Agriculture
  - Fundamental driver of economic growth
  - Effective in lifting the poor out of poverty
  - Dependent on research for productivity growth
- Africa
  - Need and potential are enormous
    - Agricultural production 12.3% GDP
    - 200mil ha (54%) world's uncultivated land
    - Smallholders account for 80% of all farms in Africa
  - Africa Union
    - Vision of agriculture-led development
    - New Partnership for Africa's Development
      - Agriculture program guided by CAADP
      - Framework for African Agricultural Productivity


### What is ACIAR

- A statutory authority within the Australian Government's Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio
- Part of Australia's Aid Program, with the objectives of advancing Australia's national interest through poverty reduction and sustainable development
- A research funder and manager



### ACIAR

- **Vision**
  - ACIAR looks to a world where poverty has been reduced and the livelihoods of many improved through more productive and sustainable agriculture emerging from collaborative international research
- **Mission**
  - To achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia through international agricultural research partnerships



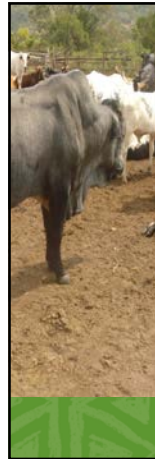




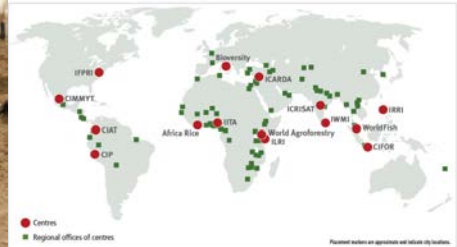
## What we do

- Commission research into improving sustainable agricultural production in developing countries
- Fund project related training
- Communicate the results of funded research
- Conduct and fund development activities related to research programs
- Administer Australia's contribution to the IARCs

ACIAR



## International Agricultural Research Centres & offices



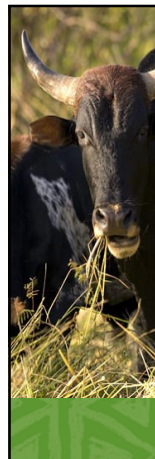
ACIAR



## Engagement with Africa

- ACIAR has worked in Africa since 1983 with 40 completed projects including
  - Support for emerging farmers to engage with new markets
  - Newcastle disease vaccines
  - Tick fever vaccine and diagnostic test
  - Utilisation of Australian tree species
  - Input fertiliser strategies for crops in risky environments

ACIAR



## Engagement with Africa

- Australian Government renewed focus on food security
  - Food Security through Rural Development initiative
  - Australian International Food Security Centre
- Alignment with AU's CAADP
- Africa now represents >20% of ACIAR funds under management

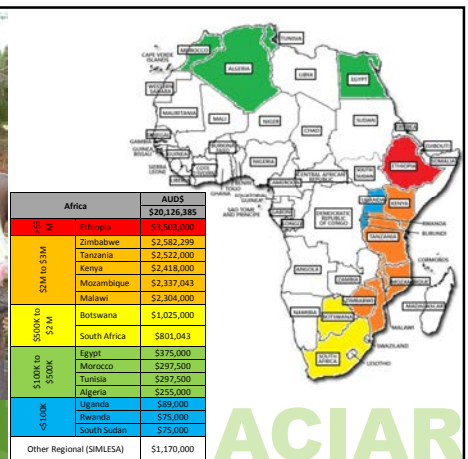
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## Engagement with Africa

- North
  - Conservation agriculture in wheat-based farming systems
- South and East
  - Sustainable intensification of maize-legume farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa
  - Increasing the profitability and sustainability of crop-livestock farming systems
  - Support of livestock sector
- West
  - Western African food security initiative supported by AusAID

ACIAR



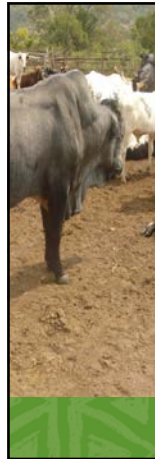
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## The AIFSC

- AIFSC - Australian International Food Security Centre
- CHOGM initiative
- Portal to access Australian research, technical and policy expertise
- Tackle major food production, nutrition and water management challenges
- Africa-focused

ACIAR



## The AIFSC

- Committed funding of A\$33 million over 4 y
- Will
  - Align AU's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
  - Complement Australian's *Food Security through Rural Development* initiative
  - Evolve from genuinely consultative processes
  - Be led by ACIAR
    - See <http://aciar.gov.au/aifsc>

ACIAR



## Role of the AIFSC

- To assist developing countries maximise the benefits and opportunities of agricultural productivity to achieve food and nutritional security
- To provide partner countries access to Australian research, technical and policy expertise in areas of national comparative advantage

ACIAR



## Some AIFSC principles

- Strategy and program that will deliver results in 4 years
- Measurable indicators of success in improving food security
- Led by ACIAR but have an identity distinct from ACIAR
  - Operate under the auspices of ACIAR Act 1982
- Established in a manner consistent with the
  - Overall policy directions for the Australian Aid program
  - Strategic Framework for International Agricultural Research
- Established on
  - Genuine partnerships
  - Open, honest communication that is personally and culturally sensitive
  - Scientific and professional excellence to guide decision making

ACIAR



## A cooperative approach

- The Centre will
  - Operate on principles of cooperative contribution and collaboration
  - Link a range of Australian, African and international R&D agencies
  - Bridge the gap between
    - Discovery research
    - International public good research of the CGIAR
    - Requirements of smallholder production systems

ACIAR



## Partnerships

- Prospective partners include
  - Private sector organisations (both large and small enterprises)
  - Regional and sub-regional fora
  - Farmers associations
  - The CGIAR
  - Universities
  - National agricultural research systems
  - Non-government organisations
  - Other end users
- Collaborators will undertake R&D leading to practical outcomes that have positive social and economic impacts

ACIAR



## Activities of the Centre

- The Centre is currently defining the appropriate systems in which to create partnerships that will transfer Australian agricultural knowledge to Africa through the following activities
  - Medium to long-term end-user driven collaborative agricultural research for food and nutrition security
  - Development of innovation and R&D capacity including education and training programs
  - Support to deploy and utilise research outputs and encourage take up by smallholders
- The Centre will foster 'hands-on' learning
  - Heavily focused on postgraduate and other tertiary education
  - Also other levels of the education and training system

ACIAR



## This mission

- Part of an ongoing dialogue
  - Listening
  - Canvassing African perspectives
  - Sharing experiences
  - Exploring AIFSC design elements
  - Analysing options
  - Gauging interest in further engagement and potential involvement with the AIFSC
- It is not for project development *per se* but includes validation of 'fast start' concepts

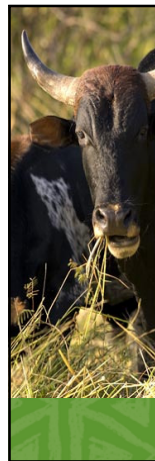
ACIAR



## Geographic focus

- Identifying the most appropriate geographic focus for Africa-Australia research partnerships, within CAADP framework
  - Where are the rural poverty hotspots?
    - Regionally?
    - Countries?
  - In poverty hotspots, which farming systems have the best potential for increased productivity?
    - Irrigated or rainfed?
    - High potential (with adequate land and water and market access) or low potential?

ACIAR



## Thematic focus

- Identifying the most appropriate thematic foci (priority research gaps) for partnerships
  - Sustainability or productivity?
  - Which agricultural systems have the best potential for increased productivity (considering resource base and markets)?
    - Pastoral?
    - Agro-pastoral/low potential rainfed crop-livestock-tree?
    - High potential rainfed?
    - Irrigated?
  - Stage of the innovation and impact pathway?
    - (Balance of) basic or applied 'actionable' research?
    - Research – extension interface?
    - Extension (incl. private delivery) research
  - Type of research
    - Disciplinary? Which? Social science/policy research?
    - Commodity? Which?
    - Systems research?

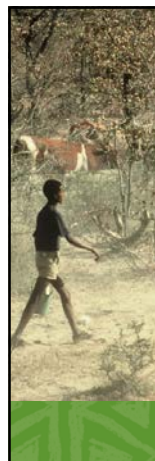
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## Partnership modalities

- Principles of effective agricultural research partnerships
  - 
  -
- Features to avoid in agricultural research partnerships
  - 
  -

ACIAR



## Fast track opportunities principles and examples

- Principles
  - Modest start-up
  - Alignment with CAADP
  - Build on recent/existing ACIAR partnerships
  - Build capacity
- Examples
  - Evergreen agriculture (trees+food crops)
  - Poultry development (incl ND vaccine chains)
  - Small scale mechanization
  - Economic incentives for technology adoption

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## Next steps

- February 2012
  - ACIAR mission to Africa to engage with regional institutions in the establishment of the strategic focus of the Centre
  - Commissioning of scoping activities to inform design process
- March 2012
  - Australian research institution engagement in developing appropriate partnerships for delivery
  - ACIAR Commission to meet with African (and international) research institutions contributing to food security in Africa, including engagement at national Ministerial level
- April 2012
  - Theme working group meetings in Africa to develop research focus and possible operational approaches
- June 2012 (TBC)
  - International Conference on African Food Security

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## International conference

- International conference on African food security
  - To be held in mid-2012 under the auspices of the Centre
  - Foundational in formalising the partnerships and priorities
  - Will build on achievements of IFPRI Conference, *Increasing Agricultural Productivity and Enhancing Food Security in Africa*, Addis Ababa, Nov 2011
    - <http://addis2011.ifpri.info/>

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Thank you

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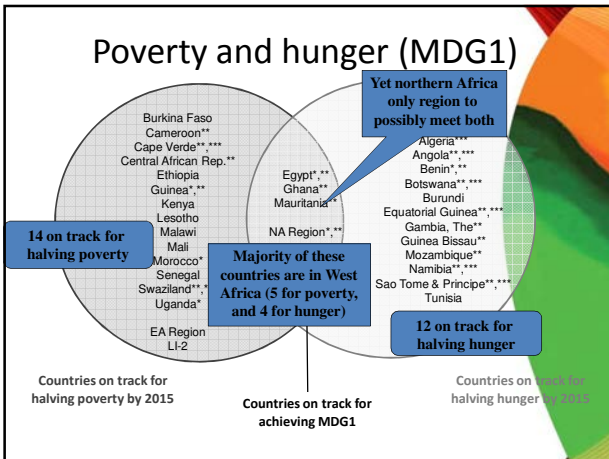


**THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CAADP): STEWARDING A PARADIGM SHIFT IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

Richard Mkandawire  
Partnerships Resource Mobilization and Communications –NEPAD Agency

### Transformation is happening in Africa!

- In the last decade:
  - 18 countries have maintained an average economic growth of 5.5%
  - 10 countries met the 6% CAADP agricultural growth rate in 2008
  - The decline in the average malnutrition rate is encouraging, but is still high at 29%
  - 10 countries have reached or exceeded Maputo 10% commitment .



### Many reforms underway

New political and economic spaces are opening up to non-state players to actively participate in national agriculture development processes, including research, technology development and transfer, trade and agribusiness ventures.

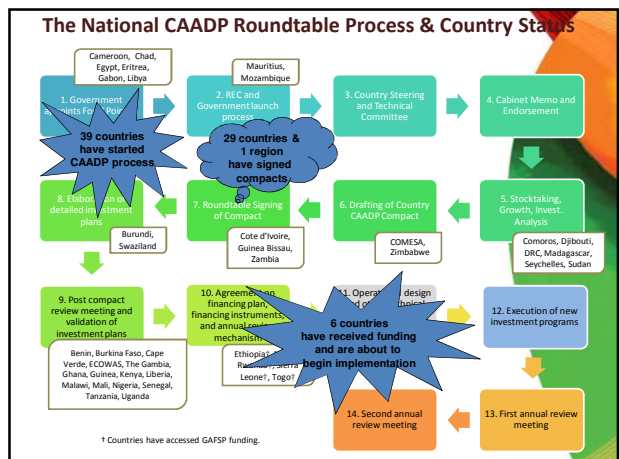


But, despite the recent recovery, the gap between Africa and the rest of the world has considerably widened, in particular in terms of agricultural performance.

### CAADP AS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

#### MAIN FEATURES & PRINCIPLES

- AU PROGRAM: OWNED BY AFRICAN COUNTRIES
- OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS SET BY HSG
- AGRICULTURE-LED GROWTH TO REACH MDG1
- TARGET GOAL OF 6% GROWTH RATE
- INCREASED PUBLIC INVESTMENT (10% BUDGET SHARE)
- FOUR MAIN PILLARS TO GUIDE INVESTMENT
- POLICY EFFICIENCY, PEER REVIEW, ACCOUNTABILITY
- INCLUSIVENESS: FARMERS, AGRIBUSINESS, CIVIL SOCIETY



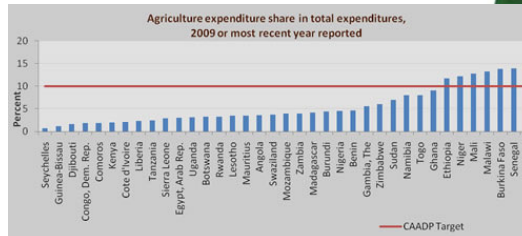
### Number achieving selected Milestones

Region/REC	Focal point appointed	Stocktaking, Growth and Investment Analysis undertaken	Round table held and compact signed	Investment plan drafted, reviewed and validated	Financing plan secured and annual review mechanism agreed upon	Execution of investment plan
<b>Africa</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>
Central	5	2	1	0	0	2
Eastern	12	10	6	6	1	1
Northern	2	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	5	4	3	1	0	0
Western	15	15	15	13	2	2
RECs	5	2	1	1	1	0

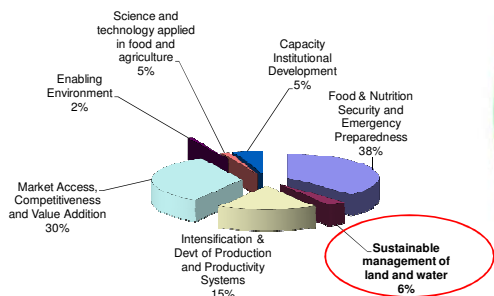
### CAADP TARGETS

10%

Which countries are allocating at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture?



### Key Priorities National Agriculture & Food Security Investment Plans



### Why things have to change:

- The emerging trends for food production, trade, and consumption are not acceptable.
- Current trends can be reversed to restore growth, cut poverty, and improve nutrition.



Poverty reduction and food and nutrition security are achievable, but they require higher levels and greater efficiency in agricultural spending by national governments.



### Poverty reduction and food and nutrition security are achievable but:

- They require increased competitiveness in domestic, regional and foreign markets
- Investing in technology and productivity as well as capacity development,
- Policy and institutional changes that seek to improve the operation of domestic and regional markets and reduce the costs of moving goods, factors and services within the region.

### Commitments and Actions Required from African Governments and Development Partners

- AUC and NEPAD Agency will continue to track 10% budget commitment
- Incremental financing for agreed investment plans is critical
- Evidence based planning, policy design and implementation, facilitate knowledge generation and documentation of progress in the implementation
- Establishing and expanding public, private partnerships to mobilise smallholder farming and expand domestic and foreign direct investment in agriculture by

- building the capacities of farmers organisations to provide services to their members and participate in markets, and
- increasing investments in technical and commercial public infrastructure to promote agriculture based businesses and support the emergence of business alliances in the sector.



### The commitments of development partners is growing

- CAADP Partnership Platform testimony to growing commitments
- Post L'Aquila and G8 pledges and the establishment of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP)



### GROWING THE FUTURE OF AFRICA IS OUR COMMITMENT



African Union



NEPAD

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)





Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

## Priorities for Research to Improve Food Security in Africa



**Prof. Monty P. Jones**  
Executive Director, FARA

## Outline

1. Africa's Development Context
2. Challenges and Opportunities for improving food security in Africa
3. Research Priorities and Gaps
4. About FARA

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## Africa's Development Context

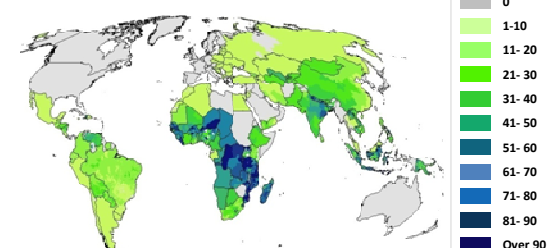
Africa's development challenges are well documented

- Poverty, food insecurity, poor governance & conflict, inherently poor soils, poor infrastructure, mindset of dependency, etc
- Mutually-reinforcing, most severe

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## Africa's Development context: Poverty

**% of population living on less than US\$1.25 (PPP 2005) per day**

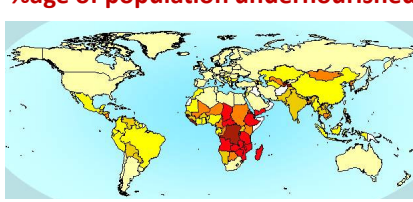


0
1-10
11-20
21-30
31-40
41-50
51-60
61-70
71-80
81-90
Over 90

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## Development Context: Food insecurity

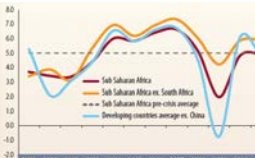
**%age of population undernourished**



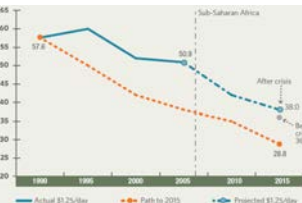
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## Recent trends (GDP growth & Poverty rate)

**Percent growth in GDP**



**Poverty rate in SSA (1990-2015)**



- Several success stories (*Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mali, Malawi, etc*)
- Benefits of growth not equitably distributed

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## Improving food security in Africa

### Challenges

- Scale of the Problem
- Heterogeneity & numerous small countries
- Weak capacities for innovation & marketing
- Climate change & resource degradation

### Opportunities

- CAADP, FAAP
- High level attention to agric & food security
- Trajectory of economic growth
- N-S & S-S partnerships & initiatives

## Improving Food Security in Africa

- Focus on smallholders (SHs) & productivity especially for staples
- Improve delivery of services to SHs across value chains:
  - enhance productivity, reduce post harvest losses, support value addition & food utilization
  - Reduce transaction costs (infrastructure) & increase access to markets
  - Reduce exposure and resilience to risks (safety nets)

## Current Agric. Productivity initiatives aimed at improving food security in Africa

- CAADP: Refocus attention of national govts to agric. (10% investment & 6% growth)
- Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programmes
- Sub regional and Regional AR&D Organizations
- CGIAR reform (*global including Africa*) & CRPs
- FARA Pan-african initiatives (*SSACP, PSTAD, SCARDA, UniBRAIN, SABIMA*)
- AGRA, AATF
- CARD
- SARD-SC (AfDB)
- Feed the Future
- GAFSP
- Australia-Africa Food Security Initiative

## Improving Service Delivery

(*research, extension, education, agribusiness, utilities*)

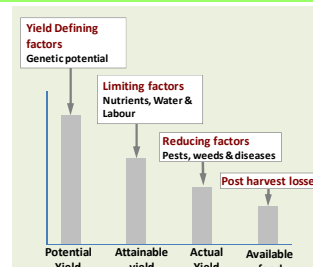
- Increase investment in services & improve allocation to priority areas (*planning processes*)
- Enhance capacities of service providers & their effective functioning as a holistic demand-driven system
- Incentives for private sector engagement & utilization (adoption) of services
- Address bottlenecks requiring specific attention

## Identifying Research Gaps at Pan-Africa level

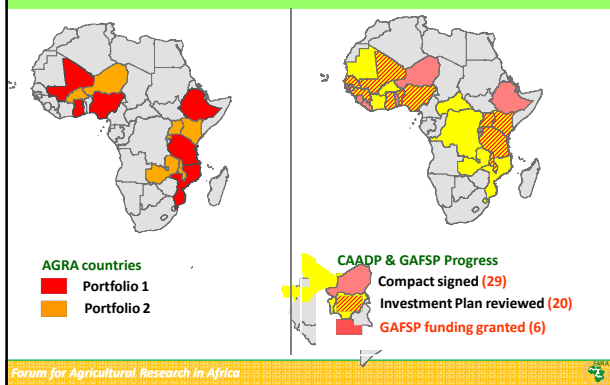
- IAC study (2004), GCARD consultations (2009)
- Developing a Science agenda for Africa (*ongoing*)
  - Analysis of demand for ARD (*CAADP investment plans*) and supply from (*CRPs and ongoing programs*) over the medium term
  - Use this analysis to identify gaps for medium term
  - Use foresighting to identify gaps in the long term

## Agricultural research gaps

- At thematic level IAC recommends focus on realizing attainable yield
- GCARD highlights coping with risks (climatic, prices etc)
- Priority setting and foresighting
- Development of markets, institutions and policies
- Research support & management (M&E, Biometrics, stewardship)



## Gaps in geographical targeting



## Desired Characteristics of a new Pan-African Food Security initiative

- Long-term & focused
  - Aligned to or support CAADP (*demand-driven*)
  - Conceived to have Pan-African reach/impact
  - Complement existing initiatives, i.e. avoid duplicating them
  - Fill gaps not covered by existing initiatives
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

## Implementing a Pan-Africa Initiative

- Draw on mandates of actors at all levels (*local, national, sub regional, Pan-African, Global*)
  - Harness collective action (*economies of scale*) and subsidiarity
  - Promote spillovers
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

## Organization of actors engaged in improving Africa's agricultural productivity

Global	Pan African	Sub regional	National	Stakeholders
GFAR, CGIAR	FARA	ASARECA, CORAF, CCARDESA, NASRO	NARIs	Research
GFRAS	AFAAS	?	Nat. Agric Extension Systems	Extension
GCHERA	ANAFE	RUFORUM	Networks of Universities	Education
?	PAFFO	Sub regional Farmers organizations	National Farmer Organizations	Farmers
?	PANGOC	?	National NGO Platforms	NGOs
?	PanAAC	?	Agribusiness Platforms	Private Sector
UN -GA	AUC	ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, EAC , AMU	Ministry of Agric	Policy / Political

## The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

- Apex organization for coordinating and facilitating agricultural R&D in Africa
- Technical arm of AU commission & Lead Institution for CAADP Pillar IV (research, education & extension)

### Value Proposition

To provide a strategic platform for networking to strengthen capacities of Africa's agric. R&D systems

### NSFs

1. Policy + advocacy;
  2. Access to knowledge and technology;
  3. capacity development and
  4. partnerships
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

## FARA ....

- welcomes renewed commitment of Australia to engage with Africa on food security
  - supports the 5 broad areas of engagement laid out by the AIFSC
  - looks forward to discharging its mandate with regard to AIFSC
  - success of AIFSC hugely depends on buy-in, collaboration and leadership by beneficiaries
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa



Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

**Thank you for  
the attention**

[www.fara-africa.org](http://www.fara-africa.org)

## The Case for Capacity Building: Towards Agricultural Development in Africa



Australian FARA Consultation  
10<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
Presented By Nodumo Dhlamini



## The Situation in Africa

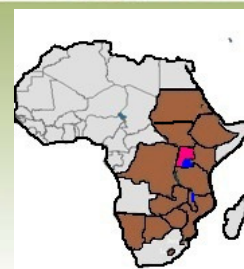
- More relevant research needed to increase value added and provide food for growing populations.
- Need to attract high quality faculty and students to agriculture, environment and food security programs
- CHEA 2010 renewed calls for greater investment in higher education and for incorporation into CAADP and to encourage international partnerships
- Increasing acceptance of the need to reform HE to better adapt university programs and graduates to address urgent issues and be more relevant in the market.

## The Hypotheses

- Achieving rapid **and sustainable** agricultural productivity growth is essential to raising overall economic growth and meeting the MDGs
- The welfare of smallholder farmers throughout much of Africa remains linked to agriculture.
- Food Security achievable through support for smallholder farmer driven research
- Broad but practical training of post-graduate students is key
- **Capacity for responsive research and training of high performing graduates is critical**

## RUFORUM

- Established in 2004; Formerly a Rockefeller Funded Project which was called FORUM (1992-2003)
- 29 Member Universities in 17 countries
- Secretariat based at Makerere University, Kampala Uganda



## Our Vision

- RUFORUM sees a vibrant **agricultural sector linked to African universities** that can produce **high-performing graduates** and **high-quality research** responsive to the demands of Africa's farmers for innovations, and able to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development.

## RUFORUM Strategic Goals (I)

- ✓ Train a critical mass of Masters and PhD graduates, **who are closely connected to small farmers and rural areas**
- ✓ Encourage collaborative research and training **that engages a wide range of stakeholders**
- ✓ Encourage the participation and **voice of women**
- ✓ **Enhance the adaptive capacities of universities** to changing technologies, the knowledge economy and climate change

## RUFORUM Strategic Goals (II)

- ✓ Assisting universities to **use new technology to support learning & knowledge management**
- ✓ Mainstream new **pedagogical and research approaches**.
- ✓ Facilitate a **dynamic regional platform** for policy advocacy, coordination, and resource mobilization

## Purposes of our Business Plan

- To ensure that RUFORUM develops as an efficient & effective higher education platform enabling the African university community to contribute to the productivity of smallholder farmers
- To refine the RUFORUM business model to secure long-term institutional/financial stability, enhance RUFORUM's marketing potential, & establish clear milestones underlying tangible impacts
- To define challenging but achievable annual targets for expansion in RUFORUM's core business areas
- To ensure that RUFORUM is based on strong strategic and operational management that can identify risks and factors for success
- To position RUFORUM as a robust contributor to COMESA, NEPAD, and CAADP strategic frameworks and goals

## RUFORUM's Business Principles

RUFORUM's strategy is built on the principles of:

1. **Grounding** agricultural research in the hands of a well-informed critical mass of locally based professionals
2. **Quality** postgraduate training
3. **Relevance** of research, training and related services responsive to farmer needs and innovation opportunities
4. **Leverage** as a network across 17 countries and 29 universities for collective action
5. **Affordability** of joint university programmes building economies of scale
6. **Retention** of capacity through farmer and employer demand
7. **Financial Sustainability** through recovery of all direct and indirect costs for staff and operations, while building a Capital Reserve Fund reflective of clients evolving needs

## The RUFORUM Business Plan

- **Strong focus on** activities supporting improved engagement with the smallholder farmers, communities and the poor.
  - Earth University initiative: experiment with application to Africa
  - MSc flagship program: the flow into graduate education by people with field experience and knowledge; sensitivity to collaboration regionally
  - PhD and CARPs: necessary for quality higher education and training.
  - Learning from synthesizing and sharing experience

## RUFORUM Model

- **The type of FORUM that engages all the stakeholders that must be on board:**
  - The farmers engaging with faculty and students
  - Government agencies, NGOs, the private sector and other development agencies engaged in research and interacting closely with universities on policy and curricula
  - MSc graduates with the right experience
  - Universities that act collaboratively to share ideas and resources
  - Unique participation by university vice chancellors who pay their own costs of participation in board meetings.

## End-User Driven Collaborative Agricultural Research for Food & Nutrition Security

### Community Action Research Projects (CARPs)

- \$300,000 Grant Value

- Purpose is to demonstrate innovative approaches that strengthen engagement between universities, farmers, communities and development agencies on problems with relevance throughout ECSA.
- Designed to encourage universities to develop partnerships and invest in sustained action research over time within a particular community or in a selected commodity along the full value chain.



### End-User Driven Collaborative Agricultural Research for Food & Nutrition Security

- The RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants US\$60,000 (GRG) - a tool for stimulating and sustaining a 'business unusual' action research and training orientation in African faculty; providing incentives for increasing the relevance and quality of research.



Over 130 CG'S awarded since 2004

### Education & Training Programs (I)

Over 600 graduates supported since 1992

- RUFORUM uses three approaches: the MSc/M.Phil and PhD programmes, attachments and short targeted courses for professional and skill development
- Facilitated establishment of 5 regional PhD training programs with 2 other PhD programs to be launched
- Established 3 regional M.Sc programs focusing on Research Methods, Plant Breeding and ICM

### Education & Training Programs (II)

- Supported building of national agricultural research institutes of smaller NARS in the region- i.e. Rwanda, Burundi and Southern Sudan. Students from RUFORUM regional programmes heading NARI research programmes immediately on graduation;
- Unique Features of our regional programmes:
  - classroom sizes for effective learning and teaching
  - partnerships (north-south and south-south);
  - inclusion of course work as a change from previous research based PhD programmes;
  - creation of networks of scientists in the region.

### TEAM Africa Opportunity

- Through Tertiary Agricultural Education Networks leadership:
  - A mechanism for improving tertiary agricultural education in Africa has been set up - TEAM Africa (Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism )
  - Includes RUFORUM, ANAFE, and FARA and participation by a number of partners including NPCA, Development Partners, higher education associations from outside Africa including APLU, AGRINATURA and others.

### RUFORUM contribution to the Australian program....

- Providing entry to 29 universities in ECSA: Linking the RUFORUM Networks of Specialization to Australian Universities: dual role of knowledge generation (research) and outreach (service)
- Platforms for collaborative research programs that link Australian faculty and students with African faculty and students in food security action research with relevant stakeholders in rural areas.
- Opportunities to support effective graduate research and training facilities in countries emerging from war.

### Potential Themes for Australian Partnership (I)

- ✓ Support for food security research through the **Community Based Research (CARPs) and Competitive Grants** to address smallholder farmer needs and closely link universities to rural areas
- ✓ Linking Australian universities into the Agricultural Higher Education dialogue in Africa
- ✓ Strengthening platforms for joint learning



## Potential Themes for Australian Partnership (II)

- ✓ Australian researchers as partners in the educational system that develops researchers in an innovative Food Security initiative.
- ✓ Development of younger university faculty: field research, skills enhancement and reinforcement of teaching capacities at our 'weaker' universities.
- ✓ AIFSC fellowships for twinning universities with some of our 29 member universities. Particular attention to be given to **3 way links which bring together a new member university, an Australian university and an established RUFORUM members.**

## Conclusions (I)

- ✓ We welcome the Australian International Food Security Centre Initiative
- ✓ We are already working with strategic partners such as ANAFE, FARA and various development partners
- ✓ E.g. RUFORUM participated in the consultation for the AusAid research strategy that was coordinated by Jonathan Harle in the UK
- ✓ We have strong links with the SROs, including ASARECA, CORAF, SADC-FANR and the recently formed CCARDESA .

## Conclusions (II)

- ✓ RUFORUM provides a platform for universities to innovate on agricultural post-graduate training and research targeting small holder farmers
- ✓ We have a model that has been tried and tested: we need wider networks to help us scale up our efforts