

Agriculture in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic

ANNUAL CORPORATE REPORT 2020



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▶ ASARECA at a Glance

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is a not-for-profit sub-regional organization that brings together researchers from the National Agricultural Research and Extension Services (NARES) of the member countries and other strategic development partners to generate, share and promote knowledge and innovations to solve common challenges facing agriculture in the member countries.

The 14 member countries are: Burundi, Cameroon and Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda





Find out more on;

www.asareca.org

ASARECA Vision



A Transformed Eastern and Central Africa Agricultural Sector Supporting Improved Livelihoods, Sustained Economic Growth and Inclusive Development

ASARECA Mission



To Contribute to Increased Productivity, Commercialization and Competitiveness of the Eastern and Central Africa Agricultural Sector through Strengthening, Catalyzing and Coordination Agricultural Research for Development in the Sub-Region.



Global and continental context

ASARECA is strategically positioned to contribute to international and continental initiatives such as: (i) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1 – poverty eradication; SDG 2 – hunger reduction; SDG 13 – climate change; and SDG #15 – ecosystem management); (ii) AUDA/NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Agenda 2063; (iii) the Maputo and Malabo Declarations; and (iv) FARA-led Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A). ASARECA's efforts in contributing towards the continental agenda are supported by its new Strategic Plan and Results Framework (A-SRF: 2019-2028) and the Medium-Term Operational Plan 1 (MTOP 1: 2019-2023).

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



15 LIFE
ON LAND



▶ **ASARECA Stakeholders**

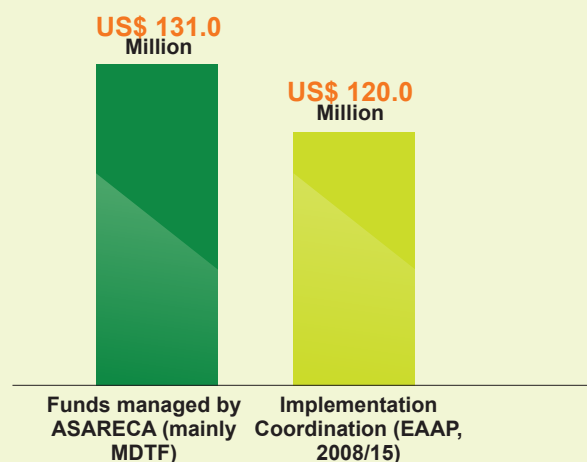
- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ministries Responsible for Agricultural Research and Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional and National Individual Value Chain Organizations and Agribusinesses |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Associated Ministries affecting Agriculture such as Water, Fisheries, Environment, Forestry, Industry and Trade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional Higher Education Umbrella Organizations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Associated Higher Education Institutions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional and National Farmers Umbrella Bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The CGIAR Centres |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional and National Farmer Organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional Economic Communities (RECs) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional and National Extension and Advisory Umbrella Bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Associated International and Regional NGOs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional and National Private Sector Umbrella Bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Local NGOs with interest in AR4D |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ National Private Sector Organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional and National Youth Umbrella Organizations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Development Partners Organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional and National Women Umbrella Organizations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Development Partners Groupings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Financial Institutions wishing to invest in AR4D |



Find out more on;

www.asareca.org

ASARECA AR4D investments (1994 - 2018) Vs Total R&D spending in member countries

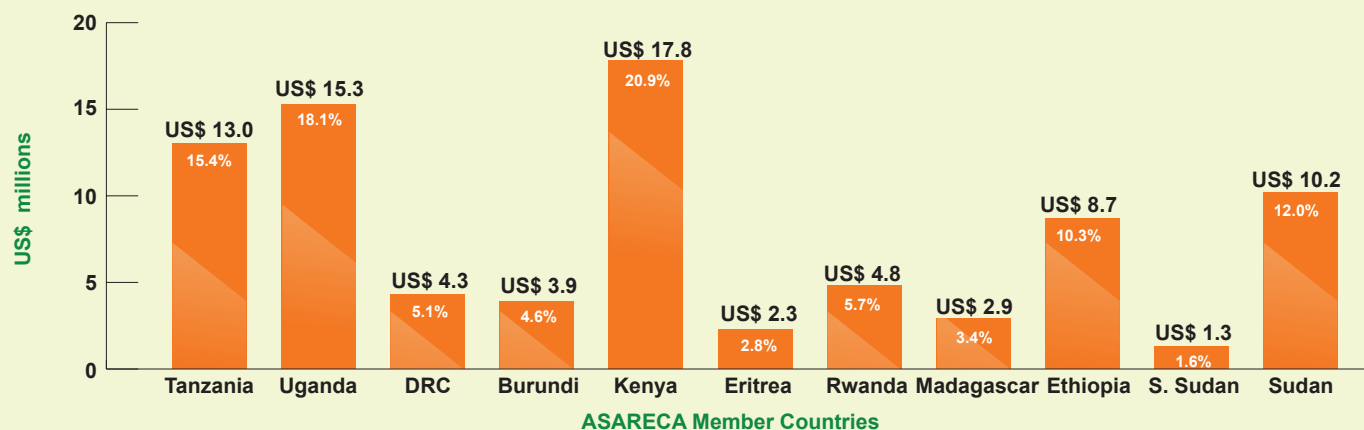


■ US\$ 10 million per year to support regional research

Country	Total agricultural Research Spending as a share of GDP (%)	Total agricultural R&D spending, excluding private-for-profit sector (US\$ Million)
Burundi	0.39	10.9
DRC	0.24	27.7
Eritrea	0.30	2.9
Ethiopia	0.29	162.1
Kenya	0.48	222.4
Madagascar	0.14	10.4
RoC	0.26	6.3
Rwanda	0.44	27.3
South Sudan	-	-
Sudan	0.14	57.3
Tanzania	0.17	68.5
Uganda	0.62	99.04

■ None of ASARECA countries met the target to allocate 1% Ag-GDP to research spending [www.asti.cgiar.org (2016 data)]

ASARECA investment in member countries from 1994 to 2018 (US\$ millions)



ASARECA Refreshed Mandate





Find out more on;

www.asareca.org

ASARECA's Thematic Areas and Outcomes

ASARECA has four self reinforcing thematic investment areas. These are:

01

Transformative capacity strengthening and integration

This thematic area focuses on strengthening and integration of various types of AR4D capacities and competencies at systemic, organizational and individual levels to support and contribute significantly to the attainment of inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation in Member States.

02

Agricultural transformation technologies and innovations

This thematic area focuses on supporting the development and adoption of technologies and innovations to address priority regional agricultural transformation challenges; development of approaches, methods, tools and pathways for enhancing uptake and utilization of technologies, innovations and management practices; enhancing scaling up of priority integrated regional agricultural value chains; and supporting development of private sector-driven agribusinesses and entrepreneurship.

03

Enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions

The focus for this thematic area is to support and advocate for creation of enabling policy environment, establishment of functional and structured regional markets and strengthening of regional institutions.

04

Knowledge and information Management

This thematic area focuses on improving management and access to reliable and up-to date data, information and knowledge to inform agricultural transformation decision making processes and action in the Eastern and Central Africa sub region.



Statement by the Chairman Board of Directors

Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo

Allow me to state from the onset that the year 2020 was particularly a challenging year, not only to the ASARECA countries, but to the entire world. The unprecedented poor health, death, and interruptions to livelihoods caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic constituted a major challenge to the implementation of activities by our global partners, the Board, member countries and the Secretariat.



The 29th Board of Directors meeting in December 2020 approved the admission of the Republic of Cameroon and the Central African Republic to join the Association.



Nevertheless, the Secretariat, with support and oversight of the Board of Directors, Governments and Development Partners, was able to work within the circumstances to keep the institution afloat. Some of the key achievements during the year are highlighted below:

All the Patron Ministers from 12 ASARECA member countries have ratified the ASARECA Constitution following the in-

auguration of the new governance framework in May 2019. This excludes Cameroon and the Central African Republic who recently joined the Association.

The 29th Board of Directors meeting in December 2020 approved the admission of the Republic of Cameroon and the Central African Republic (CAR) to join the Association.





Based on this approval, the Secretariat formally notified the Directors General of the apex AR4D institutions of Cameroon (IRAD) and CAR (ICRA) to start participating in ASARECA activities, including the Board of Directors meetings. Subsequently, the two institutions participated in a consultative meeting with Permanent Secretaries for Agriculture ministries held on 22nd October 2020.

The enjoining of the two countries brings the total number of ASARECA member states to 14. In all, the members now are: Burundi, Cameroon and Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

As a means of sound corporate governance, ASARECA Governance instruments require for annual evaluation of the Board of Directors to enhance the effectiveness and functions of the organs of the Association. To facilitate this exercise, the Secretariat developed a self-assessment tool, which

provides an opportunity for the Board to reflect on the quality of their discussions, the level of preparedness for the meetings, participation of its members in enabling the Board make recommendations for improvement and decision making. This exercise was conducted during the 29th Board of Director's meeting in December 2020 and we are happy to report that the Board of Directors performed very well.

The Secretariat with the oversight of the Board of Directors on October 22, 2020 convened a virtual consultative meeting of the patron Permanent Secretaries in charge of Agriculture line ministries and Directors General (DGs) of the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) of the 14 member countries of the Association.

The meeting was meant to deliberate on how to finance ASARECA's regionally coordinated Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives. The delegates noted that the Secretariat had scored stellar achievements over the 25 years of its existence. They, however,


The Secretariat with the oversight of the Board of Directors on October 22, 2020 convened a virtual consultative meeting of the patron Permanent Secretaries in charge of Agriculture line ministries and Directors General of the National Agricultural Research Institutes of the 14 member countries of the Association.


observed that despite the good work, the Secretariat needed sustainable mechanisms for mobilizing financial, human and infrastructural resources to undertake joint AR4D initiatives.

Guided by the commitments and resolutions of the Ministers in charge of AR4D in the sub-region to support ASARECA financially and politically during their May 2019 Council of Patron

Ministers Summit in Kampala, Uganda, the meeting agreed on a raft of resolutions towards sustainable financing of the Secretariat. The Resolutions include:



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Resolutions of the Permanent Secretaries

- 1** Clear all outstanding arrears in membership fees and other agreed-to re-capitalization contributions through mechanisms that will be from time-to-time be approved by the ASARECA Board of Directors.
- 2** Adopt the example of the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO-Uganda) by mainstreaming membership contributions to ASARECA into the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) budgets.
- 3** Work with the Directors General of the NARIS, who form the ASARECA Committee of the Directors General to ensure sustainable disbursements of fees owed to the Association.
- 4** Continue to demonstrate political patronage and institutional ownership of ASARECA as their AR4D coordination and convening services institution.
- 6** Commit to share infrastructure, including laboratory facilities and human resources in initiatives that are jointly coordinated.

Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilon
Director General- Tanzania Agricultural
Research Institute (TARI)



Statement by the Interim Executive Director

Dr. Enock Warinda

The year 2020 marked the second year of implementation of the ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework (A-SRF: 2019-2028) and the first Medium-Term Operational Plan (MTOP-1: 2019-2023).

At the beginning of 2020, the Secretariat kicked off a process of updating ASARECA's membership registry and create an opportunity to register new members for the Association.

This Annual Corporate Report 2020 summarizes the progress made in implementing the Medium-Term Operational Plan 1 (MTOP-1: 2019-2023), and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP-XP4 Programme). Below are some of the key highlights:

Capacity gap assessment: The Secretariat facilitated capacity gap assessment for the Secretariat and among its partner's institutions and identified critical gaps in the areas of: Knowledge Management, communica-

tions, policy analysis, financial management, human resources management, monitoring, evaluation and learning. Subsequently, the Secretariat developed a detailed Implementation Plan to address the gaps. Implementation of this is expected to kick off in 2021.

Policy analysis: The Secretariat enhanced the capacity of policy makers and policy experts in the member states on policy analysis through a virtual training on climate-relevant policy analysis using the

Policy Practice Index. The policy makers were also engaged in virtual dialogues on inclusion of climate-relevant STI indicators in National Agricultural investment Plans (NAIPs) and also on promoting cross-border trade in agricultural commodities.

Identification of CSA priorities: The Secretariat facilitated consultative dialogues with the Directors General (DGs) of the member National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) and private sector from the region to identify priorities for climate smart agriculture. The priorities have been incorporated in on-going activities and in proposals for funding.

CAADP-XP4 implementation: The Secretariat continued to ensure effective CAADP-XP4 project planning, coordination, partnership, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting through:

- i. Holding periodic reviews and planning meetings within the Secretariat and with national and regional partners;
- ii. Participating in continental joint programme review and planning sessions through the project's Technical Committee (TC) meetings;
- iii. Coordinating joint CAADP-XP4 baseline study; and

iv. Participating in a training on development and adoption of ISO standards for information sharing and knowledge management with CAADP-XP4 consortium members.

Knowledge Management: As a knowledge institution, the Secretariat has completed the first phase of development of key knowledge management systems. These include:

- i. The Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system;
- ii. The interoperable Knowledge and Information Management Hub (KI-Hub);
- iii. TIMPs database; and
- iv. the electronic record register. The development of these systems is planned to be completed in 2021 and will be officially launched. The systems are meant to position ASARECA as a go-to service provider of AR4D knowledge and information.

Resource mobilisation: The Secretariat completed the development of its new Resource Mobilisation and Sustainability Strategy (RMSS), and started its implementation through crucial resource mobilization initiatives, including:

- i. convening joint virtual meeting with the Director Generals of NARIs, the ASARECA

Board of Directors, and Permanent Secretaries from the member countries to explore available funding modalities for ASARECA's core functions;

- i. development of concept notes and proposals;
- ii. participation in consortia for resource funding especially the African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) and EU-Horizon 2020; and
- iii. direct discussions with prospective resource partners.

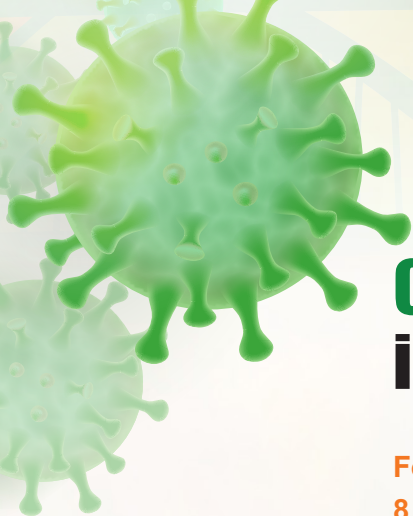
At the beginning of 2020, the Secretariat kicked off a process of updating ASARECA's membership registry and create an opportunity to register new members of the Association. This is anticipated to create an inventory of institutional partners to facilitate implementation of joint actions planned in the ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework.

This process was endorsed by the Board of Directors and was initially scheduled to last two months (2 months) starting from June 23 and ending on August 24, 2020. However, the exercise was extended to 2021, to give room for more partners to register. Through the exercise, the Secretariat intends to reinforce a sense of belonging from ASARECA's partners and members.

01

**IMPLEMENTATION
OF ASARECA
STRATEGY,
MEDIUM TERM
OPERATIONAL
PLAN 1 (MTOP-1)
AND CAADP-XP4
PROGRAMME**





COVID 19: Sustaining AR4D momentum in the face of a global pandemic

Following the rapid spread of the COVID -19 pandemic, ASARECA officially closed its offices for 8 weeks (27th March – 26th May, 2020). Prior to the closure, Management assessed the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on the implementation of the scheduled work for the Financial Year 2020 Work Plan in order to refocus efforts in areas that could easily be delivered while working remotely. Subsequently, arrangement were made to enable staff work from home.



The Secretariat prioritized activities to be undertaken remotely with its partners.

These included virtual meetings, training, and data collection.



When the offices were re-opened following reduction of COVID-19 infections rates, management did further analysis of the consequences of travel-hour restrictions, curfew guidelines put in place by the Government of Uganda and other SoPs and took the following additional measures:

1. Travels


Throughout the FY2020, the Secretariat continued to suspend all activities whose delivery required travels and physical meetings with the stakeholders both locally and regionally. Some of the suspended activities were rescheduled for implementation in FY2021.

2. Office gathering

Besides suspending travels and physical meetings in the region as well as in the office, ASARECA operated on partial physical presence in the office; and thus the staff partially worked from home. This led to urgent isolation of activities that could still be delivered within the year.

3. Remote workplace

The lockdown and the work-from-home mode necessitated ASARECA staff and its partners to explore the use of ICT platforms. The Secretariat identified, and currently uses interactive platforms such as: Zoom; WebEx, Skype, Microsoft Office 365, and its associated Microsoft Teams and Share-Point. The Secretariat strengthened staff



Internet access through provision of data access units as well as increased their allocations for internal and external calls in coordinating virtual meetings. The use of Microsoft 365 has led to enhanced access to: (i) files and documents from fileservers or workstations; (ii) formal approval workflow processes; (iii) applications and programmes; and (iv) IT helpdesk support.

4. Annual milestones and target

Given that most of the milestones on activities involving physical meetings could not be achieved, the Secretariat reviewed its 2020 Work Plan and Budget and re-scheduled activities as appropriate. The shifted activities comprised development of concept notes and proposals, and ToRs for assorted consultancies. Implementation of workshops, and physical meetings were rescheduled to 2021.

5. Virtual meetings

The Secretariat further prioritized activities to be undertaken remotely with its partners. These included meetings, training, and data collection.

6. Deskwork tasks

A reduction in expenditure was further achieved through identification of deskwork-related activities. These include (i) initiation of procurement processes for various goods and services; (ii) contracting of consultants; (iii) development of concept notes and assorted virtual meeting documents, including meeting briefs and facilitation modalities and protocols; (iv) mapping of stakeholders and relevant actors for different approved activities; and (v) development of strategies and tools where required. Some of these activities will be implemented the same way in 2021 in case the COVID-19 situation does not improve.



02

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AMID THE PANDEMIC



Focus on Implementation of ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework; and the CAADP-XP4 Programme

ASARECA signed a grant agreement with IFAD to kick start the (CAADP-XP4) Programme starting from 15th November 2019. The total grant amount from the European Union is Euros 5,370,000 for a period of four years upto 31st December 2023.

Despite the significant reduction of planned physical engagements due to the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat continued to implement its Strategy, MTOP-1 and CAADP-

XP4. The later is currently ASARECA's flagship Programme. This was achieved by adjusting the approach through convening and attending strategic dialogues, webinars, meetings, and workshops as well as

prioritizing consultancy services. As a result, the overall implementation of the approved Work Plan and the accompanying 2020 milestones was rated at 82% against the annual targets.

The overall objective of the CAADP-XP4 Programme is to enable agricultural research and innovation, including extension services, to contribute effectively to food and nutrition security, economic development and climate mitigation in Africa. At the Continental level, the Programme is co-implemented with CAADP-XP4 pillar institutions namely; FARA, AFAAS, CORAF and CCARDESA to ensure technical and operational coherence, complementarity and delivery of the five programme outputs, while at sub-regional level, it is im-

plemented with ASARECA National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs).

The CAADP-XP4 Programme has 4 major components, which mirror the four thematic areas of the ASARECA. They are:

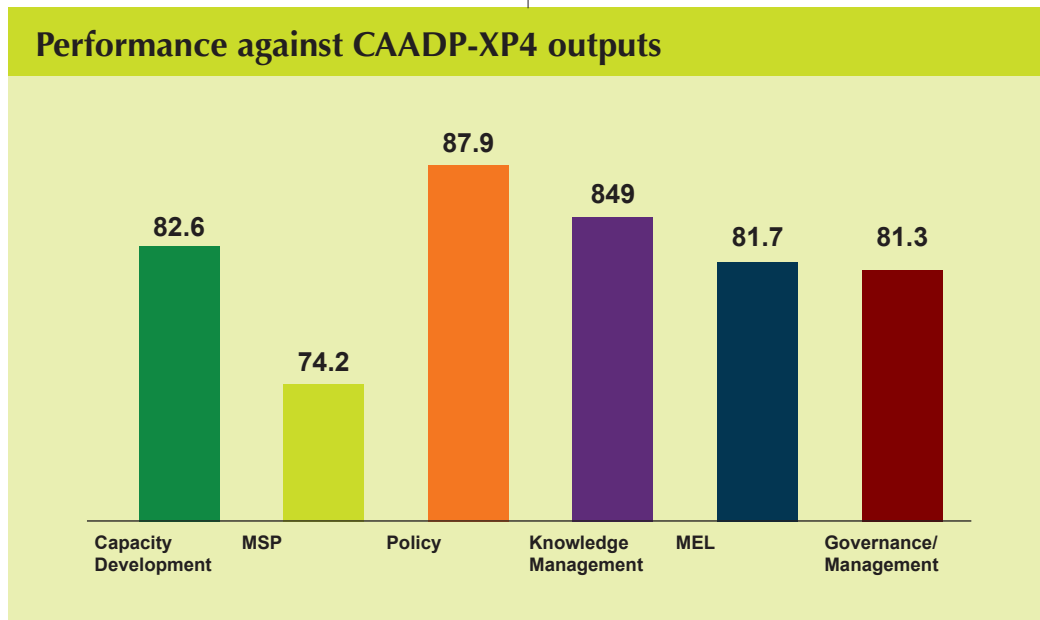
1. Strengthened capacities of ASARECA and partner organizations in competencies required for successful implementation of the CAADP-XP4 project. Such capacities include: technical and organizational capacities in co-

ordination, multi-stakeholder project management, resource mobilization, fiduciary processes, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL).

2. Multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation established and in operation.
3. Policies in support of climate-relevant agriculture and food systems transformation formulated, investments increased, advocacy and market linkages strengthened
4. Knowledge management and communication systems for decision-making and sharing of innovation and for advocacy related to climate-relevant agriculture transformation established; and
5. Enhanced planning, coordination, MEL and reporting.

Agricultural Transformation Technologies and Innovations: It must be noted that this ASARECA thematic area is implied in all the CAADP-XP4 five outputs and is as well elaborated in this report.

The subsequent section provides further highlights of programme implementation by thematic area



03

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS BY THEMATIC AREA





Capacity Strengthening

The Secretariat initiated capacity strengthening activities for selected sub-regional and national AR4D organizations to perform their individual mandates and to better work together.

In this regard, ASARECA:

1. Commissioned two consultancies to undertake capacity gap assessment of ASARECA and its country-level partners.
2. Engaged a consultant who developed an implementation framework for strengthening partnership and collaborative capacities of the organizations and their engagement at the national, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African Union (AU), and the European Union (EU) levels. This activity aims to promote climate relevant science, technology and innovation within ASARECA member countries;
3. Convened a virtual meeting with CAADP country Focal Persons and identified a roadmap for addressing country-based climate-relevant science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators.
4. Initiated processes towards development of an accountability framework based on the East African Community's regional agriculture joint sector review (JSR) action plan;
5. Initiated upgrading of selected operational systems, especially the filing system for archiving of project documents and knowledge products as well as upgrading of the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system; and
6. Convened a dialogue on Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) priorities with the Committee of the NARI Directors General.

During the meeting, the participants identified common AR4D climate relevant activities for joint implementation under CAADP-XP4 Programme and nominated Programme

subject matter specialist/technical contact person for each NARI.

Areas of Support Requested from ASARECA

The following table provides the summary of the areas of support that the countries and RECs need from the Secretariat

	Kenya	Eritrea	S. Sudan	Uganda	Rwanda	Sudan	RoC	Mad	DRC
Development of M&E System and Results Framework to address:									
Data Gaps									
Experts to support reporting									
Handling new/additional indicators									
Analytical work during reviews									
Baseline data									
Development of Tracking Tool for:									
Agricultural Spending									
Interpretation/Calculation of BR datasets									
Support development of studies, including protocols									
Capacity Building:									
Human resource/Technical team on BR processes (data management)									
Understanding of indicators									
Generation of data									
Data Analysis									
Research/Surveys techniques and methodologies									
Data Quality issues									
Advocacy (awareness creation, sensitization & dissemination)									
Convening national level trainings and workshops									
Experience Sharing:									
Exchange of information, knowledge and best practices /experiences									
Financial & Material Support									
Data collection and analysis									
Convening of regional stakeholder meetings									



Agricultural Transformation Technologies and Innovations

The Secretariat held a Round-table discussion with the private sector, NARI Directors General (DGs) and other actors on Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) priority setting for climate smart agriculture in ECA. The objective of the dialogue was to provide a platform for the private sector, the DGs and other actors to discuss and agree on AR4D priorities for Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) in ECA.

A major output from this meeting was a profile of climate related AR4D priorities for CSA in ECA. The dialogue brought together 32 participants from ASARECA member countries comprising representatives from NARIs; farmer organisations; the private

sector; and youth and women groups. The discussions provided a quick understanding and documentation of the available climate relevant CSA TIMPs, opportunities and challenges within the countries.

The following table provides a summary of the respective country-level AR4D Priorities. These shall be further reviewed and adjustments appropriately made.

Summary of country-level climate-smart AR4D interventions

Country	AR4D Priorities for Climate-relevant agricultural interventions
Uganda	<p>Development and promotion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improved crop varieties (early maturing, drought tolerant (water efficient), pest and disease resistant and high yielding crop varieties; ii. Soil and land use management technological packages (conservative agriculture, integrated nutrient management, soil and water conservation); iii. Appropriate and efficient small scale and large scale irrigation systems; iv. Appropriate processing and storage facilities; and v. TIMPs that reduce the labour load/ drudgery.
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Soil and water conservation via ridging, water retaining/harvesting pits, terraces and stone terraces as well as soil fertility management such as use of manure (farm yard and compost manure), efficient use of fertilizer (micro dosing), integrated soil fertility management; ii. Agroforestry comprising trees in crop land, rotational woodlot, improved fallow, fodder bank, tree planting/ afforestation; iii. Conservation agriculture, mainly cover cropping, mulching, crop rotation, intercropping, minimum/zero tillage, crop residue management, and rainwater harvesting and storage through relevant and cost-effective infrastructure; and iv. Crop management through: adapted crops and crop varieties such as improved seeds, high yielding, fast maturing, drought tolerant, salinity tolerant, and flood tolerant varieties, as well as integrated pest and diseases management.
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Livestock priorities, especially better breeds in terms of growth rates, high yielding, disease tolerant, matching genetics to production systems and conservation of indigenous breeds; ii. Improved nutrition through improved forages, crop residues and by-products, high density nutrient blocks and alternative protein sources; iii. Improved animal health using vaccines development, thermos-stability, pest and diseases control regimes; and iv. Partnerships with institutions such as national governments, universities, international organizations, development partners and livestock value chain actors.
Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. National platform that brings stakeholders together to interact and engage; ii. Build and strengthen scientific and institutional capacity; iii. Improve understanding of underpinning drivers and dynamics of climate variability; iv. Improving forecast and climate prediction skills; v. Developing robust climate change projections at multiple scale, leading to better prediction and attribution of extremes of climate and impacts; vi. Mainstream climate change into national policies, strategies and plans; and vii. Effective knowledge generation and sharing.



Country	AR4D Priorities for Climate-relevant agricultural interventions
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Climate vulnerability analyses and mapping that helps to determine impact on identified key commodity (crops and livestock) in both mixed crop-livestock and agro-pastoral systems; ii. Agro-climatic risk and impact modelling research; iii. Agro-climatic advisory/solutions extension (outreach, integration); and iv. Agro-climate centered digital agriculture practices (a vehicle towards precision farming).
Democratic Republic of Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improved access roads thereby enhancing access to areas vulnerable to climate change; ii. Planting techniques including ridging on sweet potato; and iii. Varietal selection for climatic resilience to drought periods during the rainy season and agroforestry.
Republic of Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Capacity strengthening of crop and livestock producers; ii. Mitigation of climate change impact and capitalizing knowledge on climate change on farming systems; iii. Agroforestry, integrated soil fertility management, and water and land management; iv. Support to seed sector, especially in the production of certified seed; v. Technologies for enhancing animal feed, integrating crop-livestock production and intensifying fish farming; vi. Value addition for crop and livestock, post-harvest management, sanitary systems, genetic resources improvement, and value chain on cassava, yam banana rice beans and horticulture; and vii. Information management.

Country	AR4D Priorities for Climate-relevant agricultural interventions
Eritrea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Promoting communication on CSA innovations and technology; ii. Developing database for genetic resources; iii. Improving bananas, sweet potatoes and strawberries using tissue culture; iv. Enhancing technologies for improved livestock varieties through cross and selected breeding as well as improved animal production techniques for sheep, dairy cows and poultry; v. Developing feed formula, minimizing prevalence of diseases and parasites as well as equipping livestock research division with modern equipment; and vi. Developing agro-engineering technologies adaptable to farmers, reducing post-harvest loss, and improving soil and water conservation.
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Enhancing crop-livestock intensification programme (e.g. vaccination) and developing master plan for fish and aquaculture; ii. Promoting post-harvest handling and storage program; iii. Promoting small-scale irrigation technologies, working on drought tolerant rice, potatoes and wheat varieties, and supporting mechanization strategy from land preparation, to planting, to postharvest; iv. Integrating research and extension in their strategies to ensure technologies reach farmers; and v. Supporting climate related agriculture in research, extension and development.
Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Supporting conservation agriculture (minimum tillage, crop rotation and permanent cover crops) and integrated soil fertility management (organic fertilizers, bio chars, composting, mulching, crop rotations and crop associations); i. Promoting integrated water irrigation management (rain harvesting, terracing, drip irrigation, irrigation of nitrogen fixing crops and cropping systems); ii. Coordinating integrated pattern of resilient rice cultivation (developing short cycle varieties); iii. Supporting integrated pest management; and iv. Knowledge management for example, inventorying and understanding farmers' technologies.
South Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Supporting assembly and conservation of local/indigenous crop resources as well as undertaking surveys of emerging new disease and pest incidences; ii. Developing and adopting improved and climate-resilient crop varieties; iii. Strengthening conservation agriculture and agroforestry for climate change mitigation, enhanced yield and integrated soil fertility management; iv. Supporting human capacity in research infrastructure and research policy as well as of local seed companies and agro dealers; v. Consolidating and strengthening working relations with regional and international partners; and vi. Disseminating improved technologies among stakeholders.



Strengthening of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

The Secretariat continued to strengthen partnerships among targeted multi-stakeholders across sectors, geographies and agricultural value chains to act collectively on climate relevant innovations in agriculture and food systems. Key achievements included:

1. Establishing a virtual platform and convening face-to-face meetings for dialogue and information sharing, especially for the DGs of the NARIs.
2. Completion of the exercise to map out existing climate relevant initiatives.
3. Establishment of a web map for CSA initiatives in the ASARECA sub region.
4. Discussions with climate smart alliances and platforms on mechanisms for impact.
5. Organizing round-table discussion with the private sector, Directors General (DGs) and other actors on AR4D priority setting for CSA in ECA.
6. Promotion of existing climate-relevant thematic working groups and national multi-stakeholder innovation platforms, linking them with external platforms.
7. Convening of partners to answer climate relevant calls and develop joint proposals.

8. Brokerage of targeted partnerships on climate-relevant satellite data with European partners.
9. With regards to implementation of already advanced MoUs with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Secretariat continued to collaborate with COMESA, especially in the development of Joint Action Plan on priority activities as well as joint drafting of the proposal on Response Plan for COVID-19 that was

presented to the Ministerial Assembly and approved.

The following table below the key partnerships (memoranda of understanding) the Secretariat has either concluded or initiated:

The Secretariat plans to pursue memoranda of understanding with following institutions in 2021: Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN); Africa Union's Department of Rural

Economy and Agriculture (AUC-DREA); Inter-governmental Agency for Development (IGAD); East African Community (EAC); Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS); Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU); AGRINATURA; AKADEMIYA 2063; World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF); Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGCA); French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development, and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Institution	Major areas of Collaboration
CAB International (CABI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate in improving people's livelihoods through transformative agricultural practices, knowledge sharing and improving access to information in the region for increased competitiveness, value added production and trade while protecting the environment.
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate in agricultural research and extension for the mutual benefit members, especially through enhancing policy analysis, formulation and advocacy in the ECA sub-region.
International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate effective coordination of the implementation of regional programmes in agricultural biotechnology. Form strategic partnerships in mobilizing resources and implementing AR4D priority areas on agricultural biotechnology.
Global Crop Breeding Support Service (GCBSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a framework to support deployment of breeding support services technologies. Jointly mobilize resources to digitize and implement effective crop value chains (exchange of information, knowledge and products) to improve livelihood of smallholder farmers. Jointly implement AR4D priority areas within the ECA sub-region.
Seed Systems Group (SSG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate effective coordination of the implementation of regional programmes in seed systems. Form strategic partnerships in mobilizing resources and implementing AR4D priority areas on seed systems.
Common Market For Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate in agricultural research and extension for the mutual benefit of members. ASARECA to serve as technical arm of RECs in ECA, mainly COMESA.



Strengthened national policies, regional institutional arrangements and market access

The Secretariat embarked on identifying mechanism for strengthening national policies, regional institutional arrangements and market access. Among the key strategies to achieve this include:

Transformative enabling policy and regulatory environment

As a means of enhancing transformative enabling policy and regulatory environment among member states and within the ECA, ASARECA facilitated the following:

a. Discussion on guidelines for inclusion of climate-relevant Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) indicators in the National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs)

This virtual dialogue included Country Presentations on the status of: (i) imple-

mentation of their NAIPs; (ii) implementation of guidelines for inclusion of relevant climate STI indicators in NAIPs (iii) main gaps and challenges faced in adopting guidelines for inclusion of climate relevant STIs in NAIPs; and (iv) strategies/sug-

gestions for addressing the identified gaps and challenges in adopting guidelines for inclusion of climate relevant STIs in NAIPs. Some of the challenges that were identified as similar in the country presentations include: (i) complications in the nature of the STIs; (ii) the lack of quality data to support the STIs; (iii) the unsynchronized systems for data tools, and instruments; (iv) capacity in research, innovation and the STIs at individual and institutional levels; (v) financial resources for the implementation of the plans as well as the strategies; and (vi) methodologies for collecting data and calculating the indicators.

Functional and structured regional input and output markets

ASARECA in collaboration with IFPRI organized a regional policy dialogue on enhancing cross border trade and food security through data and information sharing.

The discussions focused on: (i) domestic market disruption and the role of trans-border trade; (ii) data and information sharing in COVID-19 times; (iii) the role of data and information sharing in cross border trade and food security; and (iv) government actions in support of cross-border

trade in agricultural commodities during COVID-19. Plans have been made to draw a roadmap for implementation of jointly agreed actions.

Transformative regional institutions and institutional arrangements

During the year, the Secretariat, in collaboration with selected member countries focused on facilitating transformative regional institutions and institutional arrangements by coordinating the following activities:

a. Convening consultative dialogue on the engagement of member states on the regional-level accountability mechanisms for biennial reviews

The presentations and discussions focused on the status of involvement of national and regional level stakeholders in the African Union Commission (AUC) CAADP Biennial Review processes, including challenges faced.

As part of enhancing benchmarking among the countries, Rwanda presented a Case Study on what has made them maintain a satisfactory Biennial Review Score, including what processes they have undertaken, their key success factors, the main challenges they have

faced, and what other country can learn from them.

b. Identification of critical challenges in compliance with Malabo Targets

Based on the aforementioned dialogues, the following major challenges encountered by the countries with regards to the Biennial Review Process were documented: (i) lack of adequate data for many indicators; (ii) non-centralized data systems; (iii) incomplete data / Data Gaps; (iv) non-public datasets – some data are not for public view; (v) complexity of some indicators; (vi) capacity gaps in some institutions [technical support]; (vii) fragmented data and datasets; (viii) limited financial support; (ix) introduction of new indicators, thus more tasks and datasets; (x) lack of M&E Framework and Results Framework; (xi) lack of feedback (e.g. from ECCAS and African Union); (xii) some data are beyond the agriculture sector (health, trade, etc. thus hard to coordinate); (xiii) harmonization of metadata (e.g. fertilizers per value chain); (xiv) reporting timeframe (calendar year vs. fiscal year); (xv) lots of studies required; (xvi) changing indicators even after Budget Process is complete; and (xvii) lack of coordination of policies among various ministries and institutions



Knowledge management for advocacy and decision support and communication

ASARECA moved to enhance knowledge management and communication for advocacy and decision support within the Secretariat and at the national level through development of coordinated framework and infrastructure. These tools provide climate-relevant STI that support National Agricultural Knowledge and Information System (NAKIS) in learning and sharing opportunities as well as development of project results framework to track performance. The following key achievements were recorded:

1. Development of interoperable knowledge management platform (KI-Hub) comprising TIMPs database, digital filing system, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system and resource mobilization portal. This is expected to continue in 2021, with ASARECA hosting a one-stop Agricultural Research for Development Knowledge hub for Eastern and Central Africa.
2. Development of the Communication and Visibility Strategy for the CAADP-XP4 Programme to enhance the visibility of ASARECA, its development partners (EU and IFAD), and the national and continental partners. This is anticipated to showcase the outputs of the project and crowd in more partnerships and resources for sustainability.
3. Development and dissemination of relevant knowledge products with stakeholders via existing knowledge platforms.
4. Production of flagship publications on Africa status report on research and innovation. At least 77 knowledge products were produced and shared. Some of the products include: (i) ASARECA@25: Celebrating Decades of Coordinating

Collaborative Agricultural Research for Development; (ii) 2019 Annual Corporate Report; (iii) Workshop Proceedings; the Elevator Statement; (ii) Case for Support of ASARECA; (iii) updated list of ASARECA Brand Ambassadors; (iv) updates of Country briefs with details of investments made by ASARECA in the members' states; and (v) policy briefs on selected themes; (vi) visibility collaterals. The products were disseminated via websites, electronic newsletter and direct email communication.

5. Development of generic roadmap for CAADP-XP4 consortium members towards uniform application of ISO standards for sharing information and knowledge management. This assignment was undertaken jointly by FARA, ASARECA, CORAF, and CARDESSA under the coordination by AFAAS.
6. Engagement of key knowledge management stakeholders from NARS in all member countries through the *virtual meeting on the role of national partners in the development and dissemination of AR4D knowledge and information products*. A total of 39 participants, comprising mainly the National Focal Persons (NFPs) and

Knowledge Management officers from the NARIs and agriculture ministries attended the meeting. The main objective of the workshop was to share views on how various national actors can contribute to the improvement of the generation, processing and sharing of knowledge. This is anticipated to enhance operationalization of an interoperable knowledge management platform being established at the Secretariat. ASARECA constituted the participants into a Community of Practice for Knowledge Management.

Following the individual country presentations and ensuing plenary discussions, the major knowledge and information management channels and platforms that were identified included: (i) technology compendiums detailing assorted existing technologies with potential of transforming societies; (ii) success stories; (iii) assorted videos, especially on How-to-do; (iv) regular policy briefs, newsletter, blogs, scientific peer reviewed papers published in National and Regional journals; (v) vibrant Knowledge/information hubs; (vi) institutional e-repositories; (vii) on line portals with multimedia function; (viii) technology parks; (ix) technology expos for targeted/ selected audiences; and (x) communities of practice.

Areas of support requested from ASARECA

The following table provides the summary of the areas of support that the countries need from the Secretariat:

	Kenya	Eritrea	S. Sudan	Uganda	Rwanda	Sudan	Tanzania	Burundi	RoC	Mad	DRC
Development of Knowledge Management System;											
Access to datasets											
Availability of personnel to manage Knowledge Management System											
Access to other systems and databases											
Strengthening of Internet Connectivity for enhanced speed											
Supporting development of KM Policies, Strategies and Procedures											
Capacity Building;											
Human resource on Knowledge, Information & Data management											
Technological changes											
Complex approaches for generating assorted datasets											
Data Analysis											
Research/Surveys techniques and methodologies for KM											
KM data-related quality issues											
Revitalization of National Information System											
Review of agricultural policies											
Proposal development (joint)											
Experience Sharing;											
Exchange of information, knowledge and best practices/experiences											
Strengthening linkage with sub-regional, regional and international partners											
Exchange programmes & mentorship											
Exchange / sharing of technical expertise											
Financial & Material Support;											
KM, Data collection and analysis											
Convening of Regional Stakeholder Meetings											
Resource mobilization to support development of KM Systems											
Resource mobilization to acquire requisite knowledge management infrastructure											

Re-branding

Having completed the development of its Rebranding Strategy and Implementation Plan, as well as the Visual Identity Guidelines, the Secretariat rolled out activities aimed at rebuilding its image and credibility as coordinator and convener of AR4D in ECA.

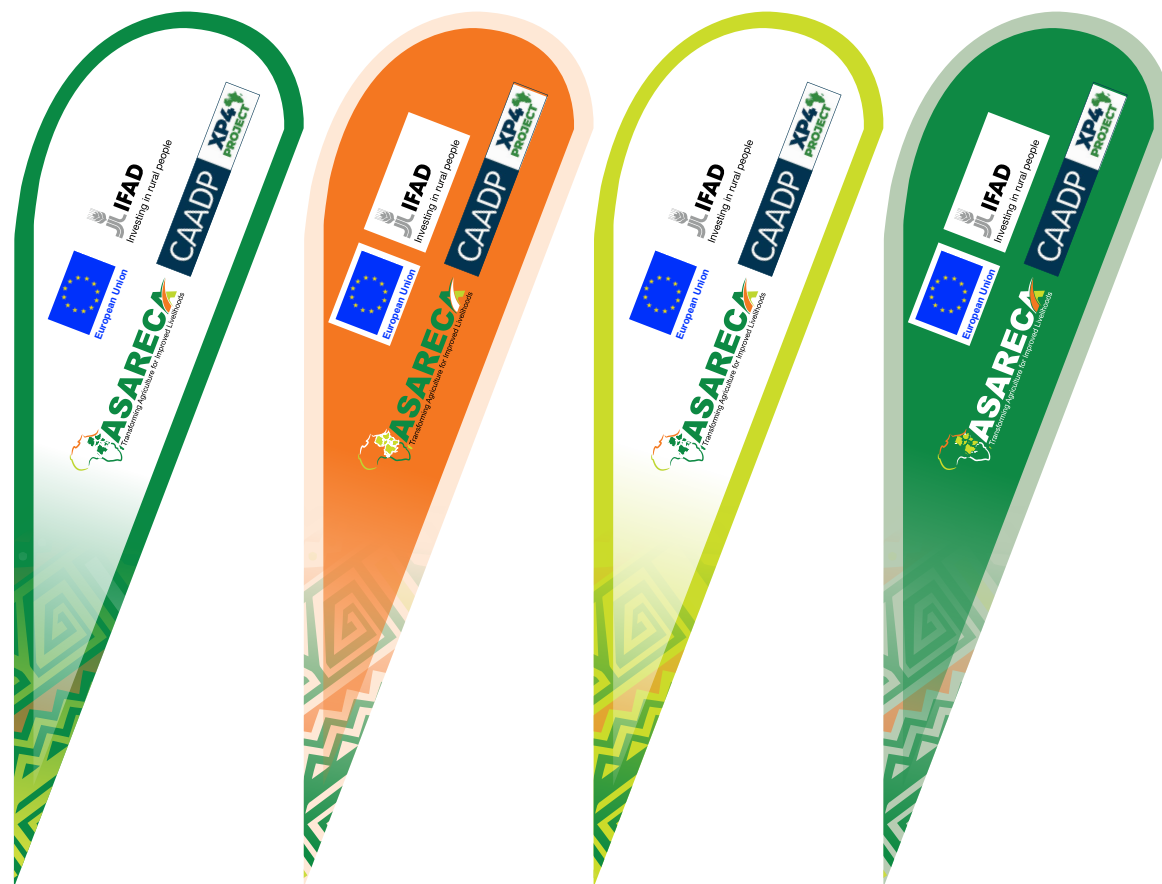
The Secretariat embarked on popularizing its refreshed Brand Value Proposition and display through among other things display of a new logo.

The Secretariat used clout and good will gained from the Council of Patron Ministers Summit in May 2019 to further showcase its sharpened niche as the regional “Go to Service Provider of Choice” for AR4D coordination, convening, partnership brokerage, process facilitation, advocacy, and communication.

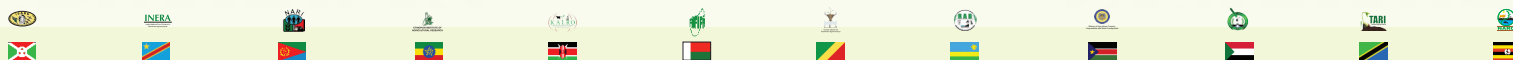
Key initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat include: (i) continued regular update of the new website that was launched in 2019; (ii) regular email communication to key client segments; (iii) development, launch, and operationalization of the on-line monthly newsletter with a mailing facility of 2,000 recipients; (iv) presentations of the new A-SRF and MTOP-1 to

partners; (v) development and regular display of branded visibly materials including teardrops, pull-up banners, branded presentations, car stickers, badges, dairies, notebooks, pens, business cards, and calendars; (vi) development of knowledge and visibility materials including the ASARECA@25 book, and updated pages showing ASARECA's investment in mem-

ber countries; (vii) flying of ASARECA and member country flags at the Secretariat; (viii) proactive engagement with stakeholders through social media platforms like twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. To-date, 36 news articles, besides regular updates of events, announcements, and publications have been uploaded on the website.



Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Ex-Pillar 4 Programme



Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)

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Component 5: CAADP-XP4 Management

The Secretariat continued to ensure effective planning, coordination, partnership, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting through:

Program Reviews

During the reporting period, ASARECA participated in the CAADP-XP4 Technical Committee (TC) Meeting. This Committee comprises Directors of Research/Heads of Programmes from each of the five CAADP ex-pillar IV institutions (AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF and FARA). The TC adequately executed its overall

responsibility of providing technical and professional guidance in the implementation of the CAADP-XP4 project. So far, the TC has:

1. Coordinated, consolidated and approved Annual Work Plans and Budgets for FY 2020, including harmonizing them to ensure no overlaps.
2. Fostered collaboration among constituent organizations and maintained team spirit among the technical and non-technical staff engaged in CAADP-XP4 programme.
3. Reflected and coordinated subsidiarity in planning and implementation of institutional programmes, besides resolving emerging conflicts.

4. Convened at least four virtual meetings to address operational and urgent issues (including other impromptu catch-up sessions as and when necessary).
5. Supported project coordinators within all the implementing ex-pillar institutions in implementing individual and collective activities.
6. Continued to ensure that there are functional operational documents (such as Project Implementation Manual – PIM and Performance Monitoring Plan – PMP).
7. Coordinated the preparation of consolidated technical reports for submission to IFAD.
8. Continued to assess project progress (including facilitating support missions) as well as coordinate linkages within the consortium with key stakeholders.
9. Organized strategic meetings and reported to the Advisory Committee for strategic guidance in managing the CAADP-XP4 programme.

Technical Committee (TC) Meetings

During the reporting period, the Secretariat participated in at least four virtual TC meetings. Key highlights from these meetings include:

Review of CAADP-XP4 Performance: The TC members jointly reviewed individual institution's performance of CAADP-XP4 activities against the approved Annual Work Plan and Budget.

Implementation of joint activities: The TC reviewed the effectiveness of collaboration among constituent organizations with the aim of maintaining team spirit. The members developed a joint paper on Contribution of Agricultural Research and Innovation in mitigating the effects of COVID-19 in Africa, which was eventually discussed during the FARA-led webinar.

CAADP-XP4 Manuals

1. **Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP):** The Secretariat has advanced the development of the PMP. This shall further be shared with other ex-pillar 4 institutions, and with FARA for consolidation into a continental document.
2. **Programme Implementation Manual (PIM):** The Secretariat has developed, and begun implementing its Regional CAADP-XP4 PIM.
3. **Results Framework:** The CAADP-XP4 Results Framework was revised, the key performance indicators refined, and annual and end-of-project targets reviewed.

Joint Planning and Review Meetings

During the reporting period, the Secretariat collaborated with other ex-pillar 4 institutions in overseeing the implementation of the following:

1. **Finalization of Concept Note and ToR for the engagement of a joint Resource Mobilization Expert:** This Consultant was recruited, and was coordinated by FARA. The cost of the consultancy was agreed upon, and shall be borne by each of the ex-pillar 4 institutions.
2. **Technical Working Groups:** The Secretariat participated in continental-based meetings of the technical groups, especially the MEL and Communications Working Groups.
3. **Baseline Study:** The Secretariat continued to collaborate with other ex-pillar 4 institutions in undertaking the joint baseline study. This study (currently led by FARA) was expected to be finalized by end of 2020.
4. **ISO Certification:** The Secretariat participated in the co-development of a joint Letter of Agreement intended to guide the ISO Certification processes. This task, jointly funded by all ex-pillar 4 institutions was led by AFAAS, and was aimed at ensuring the implementation of ISO standards in the production of assorted CAADP-XP4 knowledge products.



Cross-cutting issues

Gender Mainstreaming

During implementation of MTOP-1, the Secretariat:

1. Continued to support the development of gender responsive and climate smart TIMPs as well as scaling
2. Collaborated with CORAF in the development of a proposal focusing on youth, gender and agribusiness

up of successful gender responsive and youth focused regional value chains and agribusiness.

that was submitted to IFAD. ASARECA also exercised its Gender Mainstreaming policy in the selection of the new gender responsive Board.

CSA Mapping

1. The Secretariat engaged a consultant

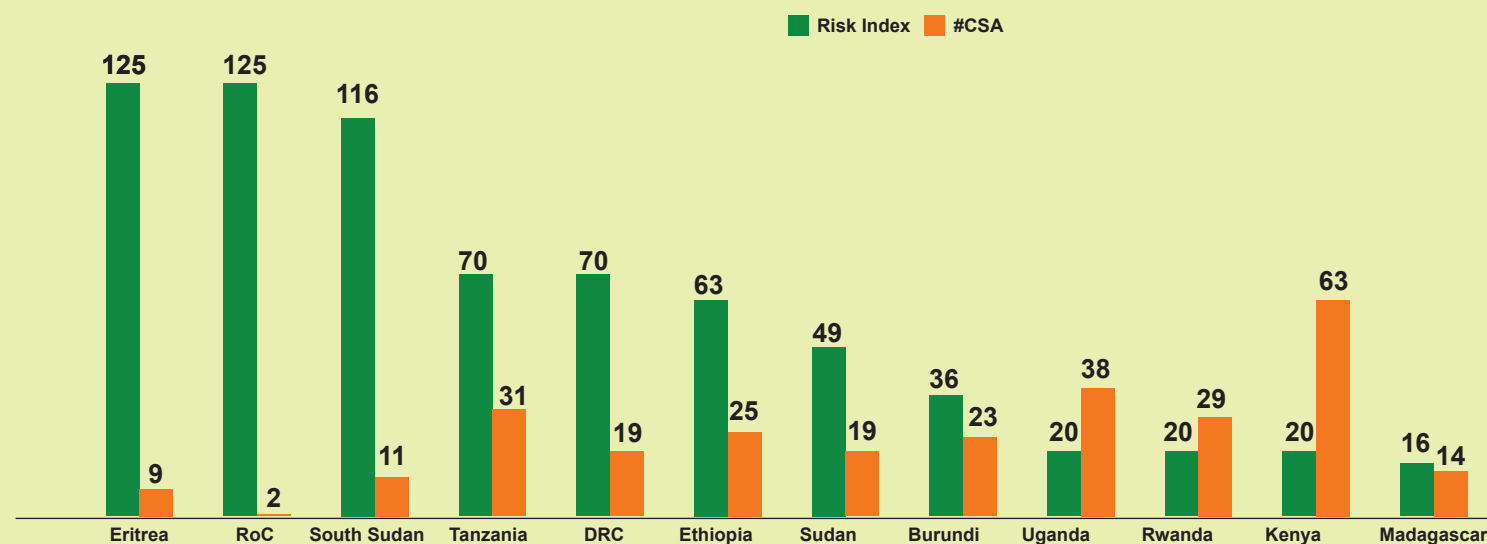
to map out the current initiatives on CSA, including donors and documented impacts using co-developed mapping tools with FARA. The mapping was finalized, and an interactive map developed showing the documented distribution of CSA interventions in target member countries.

2. The mapping indicated that there are over 489 CSA initiatives in ECA. These in-

clude: CSA projects (50%), programmes (15.5%), networks/partnerships (13.1%), strategies/plans (11.9%), Communities of Practice (4.9%), hubs/platforms (2.2%) and policies (1.6%). Notwithstanding this high number of initiatives, the Climate Risk Index (CRI) is moderately low in ECA (see figure below). Countries like Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda that have more CSA initiatives also recorded low CRI, thus need follow up in FY2021.

The index measures the extent to which countries have been affected by impacts of weather-related events (e.g. flooding and drought). The lower the CRI index, the highly vulnerable a country is to the direct consequences of extreme weather events. It is notable that Madagascar (CRI = 15.83) has the highest level of vulnerability to climate change with an estimated 72 deaths (0.27 per 100,000 inhabitants) and about US\$ 568 million in economic losses.

Climate Risk Index (CRI) for ASARECA member countries





04

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS 2020

The impact of COVID-19 restrictions necessitates a change in the mode of operation. As a result, ASARECa interacted with its partners mainly through virtual meetings. Some of the key interactions are highlighted in the table in the subsequent pages.

Description of meeting	Date (2020)	Objectives	Other partners
Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA – ECABREN & SABRN) joint Annual Steering Committee Meeting	27-29 Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and share the achievements and lessons learned in various research and development themes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PABRA/ECABREN CIAT TARI
Data transportability for COMESA Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy Implementation Plan (COMBIP)	12-13 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate data transportability and use in regional risk assessments within COMESA member countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COMESA ISAAA ILSI Research Foundation AATF PBS
1st Sub-regional dissemination meeting towards decision makers and R&I funders, LEAP4FNSSA Project	18 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To disseminate to decision makers and Research and Innovation funders in Eastern Africa of: (i) Project strategies; (ii) Background of the AU-EU research and innovation dialogue on FNSSA; and (iii) Prospects of regional cooperation on FNSSA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEST- Kenya, CIHEAM-Bari MHESR-Egypt LEAP4FNSSA Project
Co-creation workshop on the research initiative on sustainable agriculture and natural resources in sub-Saharan Africa	11-13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review various expression of interest to identify potential cross-sectoral partnerships and develop concept notes on solutions to help meet challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USAID, Bureau for Africa
CAADP-XP4 Organizations' Webinar on "Contribution of Agricultural Research and innovation in Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 in Africa"	20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Secure the buy-in of stakeholders in the continent's agriculture STI on: (i) COVID-19 impacts whose solutions are principally rooted in Research and Innovation; (ii) Identification of the priority interventions to be undertaken by Africa's R&I system; and, (iii) Next steps in advancing from concept to action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FARA, ASARECA, CORAF, CCARDESA & AFAAS
Virtual dialogue with DGs, private sector and other actors on R&D priorities for CSA in EAC	11 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify country AR4D priorities for upscaling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan

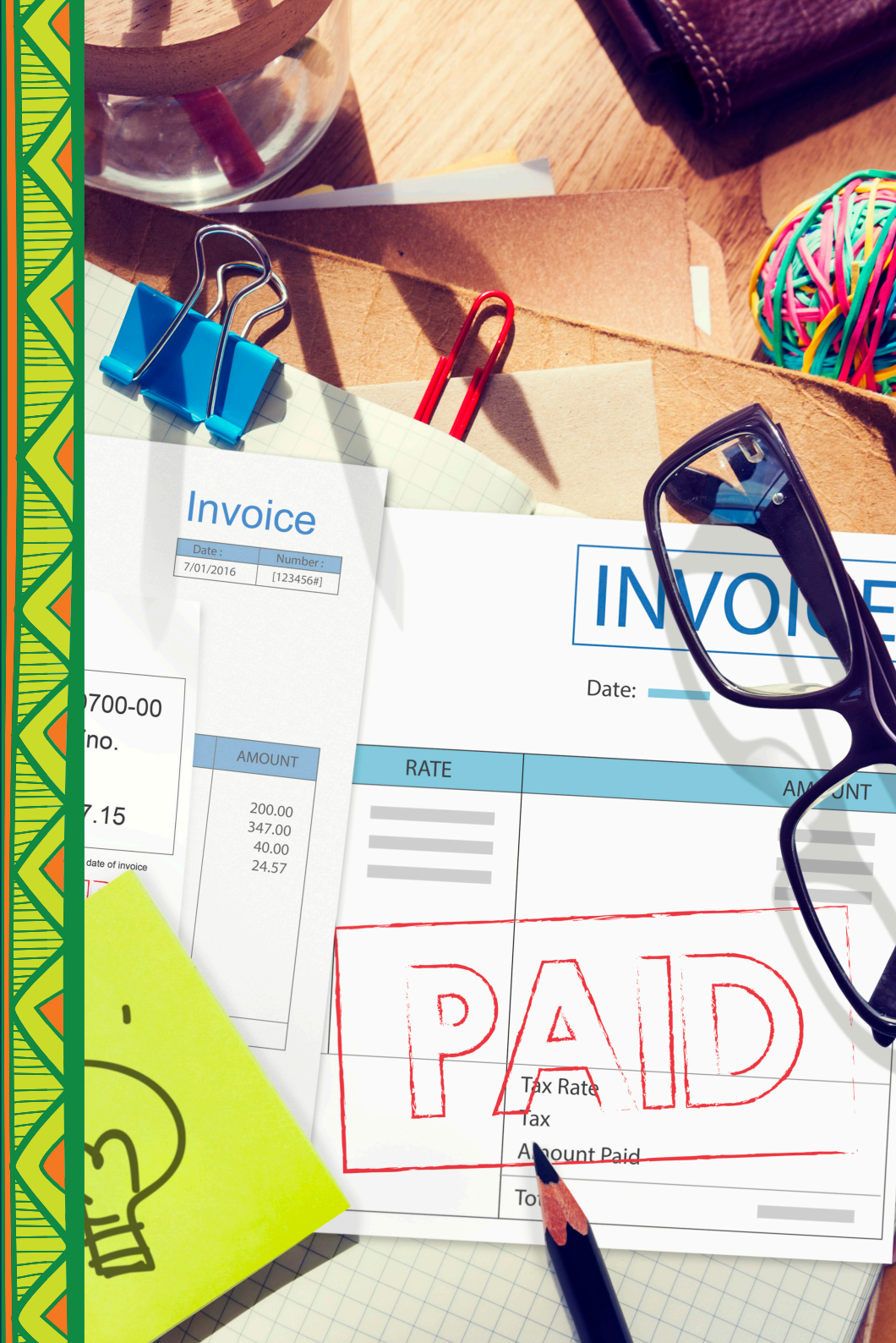
Description of meeting	Date (2020)	Objectives	Other partners
26th FARA Board of Directors meeting	15-18 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and approval of various FARA reports and policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FARA Secretariat
Virtual Dialogue on Inclusion of Climate-Relevant Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators in National Agriculture Investment Plans	16 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the status of implementation of the National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs); implementation of guidelines for inclusion of relevant climate STI indicators in NAIPs. Identify main gaps and challenges faced in adopting guidelines for inclusion of climate relevant STIs in NAIPs. Suggest strategies for addressing the identified gaps and challenges in adopting guidelines for inclusion of climate relevant STIs in NAIPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Madagascar, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan
Virtual dialogue on engagement of countries in ECA on regional level accountability mechanisms for CAADP Biennial Review	02 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the status of involvement of national and regional level stakeholders in the African Union Commission (AUC) CAADP Biennial Review processes. Identify challenges faced in the preparation for the African Union Commission (AUC) CAADP Biennial Review processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Madagascar, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Sudan, Tanzania and Burundi
Virtual meeting on the role of national partners in development and dissemination of AR4D Knowledge and information products	7 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share views on how various national actors can contribute to the improvement of the generation, processing and sharing of knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan.
Regional Webinar on “How beans are beating hunger in Burundi”	20 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the highlights of the Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA); Share approach and impact of Flagship Initiative on the food security, nutrition and incomes of smallholder farmers in Burundi and lessons learned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PABRA/ECABREN CIAT ISABU ASARECA

Description of meeting	Date (2020)	Objectives	Other partners
COMESA Seventh Joint Technical Committee and Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources	28-30 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and adoption of the COMESA COVID-19 Food Security Response Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COMESA Secretariat
Building a regional collective response to invasive pests and trans-boundary crop-livestock diseases	29 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify threats from invasive pests and diseases in Africa region. Identify regional policy interventions and institutional support mechanisms; Build collective financing for regional level response; and Strengthen capacity to confront invasive pests and diseases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RUFORUM
Webinar on the Launch of the DeSIRA initiative: Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture	8 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss the role of AR4D in addressing food systems transition and the contribution of the DeSIRA initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Union, DEVCO/ DeSIRA team
ASARECA and IFPRI regional multi-sector policy dialogue on enhancing cross-border trade and food security through data and information sharing	7 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss domestic market disruption and the role of trans-border trade; data and information sharing in COVID-19 times; and the role of data and information sharing in cross border trade and food security. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFPRI, NARIs
World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue and Event, 2020 on: "Building Resilience Today for Improved Global Food Systems Tomorrow"	12-16 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss on Scalingup of Soils Restoration by developing a roadmap for Action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRS Chicago Council on Global Affairs ASARECA Colorado State University
Consultative meeting of DGs of NARIs, ASARECA BoD and Permanent Secretaries of line ministries of ASARECA member countries	22 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the funding modalities of ASARECA and to find solutions for financial sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DGs BoD Permanent Secretaries HLAP

Description of meeting	Date (2020)	Objectives	Other partners
Workshop on updating the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) Strategic Plan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake stakeholders consultations on the new RAB's strategic areas of focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB)
AKADEMIYA 2063 Launch Event	24 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To official launch the Institution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AKADEMIYA 2063 Secretariat
Webinar on Enhancing Leadership for Food System Transformation in Eastern Africa	10 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss the role of leadership in food systems development in Eastern Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wageningen University
27th FARA Board of Directors meeting	10-13 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and approval of various FARA reports and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FARA Secretariat
"Towards an inclusive FNSSA partnership: crises as opportunities to rethink an unsustainable model and empower engagement in R&I in Africa"	30 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To foster dialogue among stakeholders on the benefits of improved collaboration in STI in food, nutrition and sustainable agriculture To facilitate engagement of stakeholders outside the project consortium to become part of the FNSSA alliances and platform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt LEAP4FNSSA partners
Webinar on Inclusive Beans Trade for Incomes and Nutrition in Africa: Focus on Zambia	23-24 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sharing experiences and lessons on beans research initiatives in the SABREN members countries, particularly in Zambia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PABRA/SABREN CIAT ZARI
The 8th FARA General Assembly	24-25 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and approve FARA's new strategic plan; review of FARA's constitution; receive Board and Secretariat reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FARA Secretariat and SROs
The 16th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting on: "Malabo Commitments Five Years on: Translating Lessons Learnt into Accelerated Action towards 2025"	24-27 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To cast light on the progress of implementation of the Malabo Commitments, and what it takes to increase momentum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUC-DREA AUDA-NEPAD
Virtual training on climate-relevant policy analysis using the Policy Practice Index	26-27 Nov		

05

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DEC. 2020



Statement of Directors' responsibilities for the year ended 31 December 2020

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa ("the Organisation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, and the statement of income and expenditure, statement of changes in fund reserves and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes in accordance with the accounting policies.

The Directors' responsibility includes: determining that the basis of accounting and accounting policies is an acceptable basis for preparing and presenting the financial statements, and for such internal control as the Directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation.

The Directors are also required to prepare financial statements for each year which present in all material respects, the state of affairs of the organisation as at the end of the reporting period. The directors are also required to ensure the maintenance of proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial affairs of the organisation.


The Directors accept responsibility for the financial statements which have been prepared using appropriate accounting policies supported

by reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates, in conformity with accounting policies. The Directors are of the opinion that the financial statements present in all material respects, the state of the financial affairs and of its operating results. The Directors further accept responsibility for the maintenance of accounting records that may be relied upon in the preparation of financial statements, as well as adequate systems of internal financial control.

The Directors have made an assessment of the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern and have no reason to believe that the organisation will not be a going concern for at least the next twelve months from the date of this statement.

Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements of ASARECA were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on11..... May 2021.



.....
Executive Director



.....
Head of Finance

Date:11..... May 2021

Statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2020


	2020	2019
	US\$	US\$
Income		
Income from donations	811,662	273,202
Membership contribution	210,000	265,000
Other earned income	9,727	54,424
Total income	1,031,389	592,626
Expenditure		
Governance & secretariat management	1,279,364	1,030,666
Programme management support	348,107	306,030
Technical programmes	185,797	150,314
Total expenditure	1,813,268	1,487,010
Deficit for the year	(781,879)	(894,384)

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	US\$	US\$
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property and equipment	18,973	15,027
Leasehold land	237,916	248,260
	256,889	263,287
Current assets		
Cash at bank	1,946,572	3,328,881
Accounts receivable – NARI membership	740,081	545,081
Accounts receivable – partners	30,456	-
Accounts receivable project sub-grantees	-	30,000
Accounts receivable – others	300,301	49,336
	3,017,410	3,953,298
Total assets	3,274,299	4,216,585
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		
Reserves		
Investment in fixed assets	256,889	263,287
Capital reserve fund	1,219,114	1,196,505
Accumulated operating surplus	455,319	1,259,807
	1,931,322	2,719,599

	2020	2019
	US\$	US\$
LIABILITIES		
Deferred income	656,567	1,357,161
Accounts payable – others	124,969	94,718
Accruals and provisions	561,441	45,107
	1,342,977	1,496,986
Total reserves and liabilities	3,274,299	4,216,585

The financial statements of ASARECA were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on¹¹May 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Executive Director



.....
Head of Finance

Date:¹¹May 2021

Independent auditor's report

To the members of the Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA).

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) ("the Organisation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, and the statement of income and expenditure, statement of changes in fund reserves and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa are prepared in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 3 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Organisation in accordance with the *International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Interna-*

tional Independence Standards) (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use and distribution

We draw attention to note 3 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist the organisation to comply with the organisation's financial reporting provisions. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Organisation and should not be used by or distributed to parties other than the Organisation. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The Other Information comprises the Secretariat information, List of abbreviations /acronyms, Report of the Directors and Statement of Directors' responsibilities but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 3 to the financial statements, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also;

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are

appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report



KPMG

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PO Box 3509
Kampala, Uganda

Date: 18 May 2021

to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is CPA Stephen Ineget P0401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Ineget', written over a horizontal line.

CPA Stephen Ineget



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Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)

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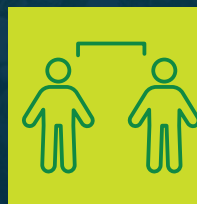
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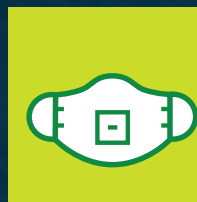
#STAY SAFE



KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE



SANITIZE



WEAR A MASK



WASH YOUR HANDS