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NEWS

12-18 August: 26th International Association for Agricultural Economists (IAAE) Conference, will be held in Brisbane Queensland, Australia

THE FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY (FAAP) –PART II

The 7th Ordinary Session of African Heads of State and Government sitting in Banjul, Gambia early this month endorsed a Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) as a vision for the restoration of agricultural growth, food security, and rural development in Africa. The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) has led the development of a Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) to respond to this challenge. Agriculture must attain a growth rate of 6 percent if it is to meaningfully contribute to the eradication of poverty in Africa. This second and last part of FAAP outlines strategies needed for strengthening Africa's agriculture as an engine for development.

Increasing the scale of Africa's agricultural productivity investments

It is estimated that, in aggregate some US \$ 2.5 billion is spent annually on Africa's agricultural productivity programs (including public and private expenditures at local, national, sub-regional, and global levels). Most of this spending is concentrated in national programs—about half of which is financed by governments and the other half from external sources. A very small proportion of the total (roughly US \$ 25 million) is administered at the sub-regional level by the Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs). On average, African agricultural research and development intensity is around 0.75 percent of agricultural gross domestic product (GDP), which is less than a third of developed countries. Agricultural intensity is measured as the total public spending in agricultural research and development, as a percentage of agricultural gross domestic product. Although there is a wide variation among African countries, with some investing at similar levels to developed countries, the majority only spend between 0.2 and 0.5 percent.

The Inter-Academy Council recommends that, African countries engage in a dramatic and sustained increase in agricultural research and development expenditure to reach at least 1.5 percent intensity by 2015. Therefore, a substantial increase in investment for boosting Africa's agricultural productivity is being suggested which would raise annual aggregate spending to at least US \$ 4 billion by 2010. This would require African countries to increase their spending by one third over current levels to \$ 3.25 billion. At the sub-regional and continental level, current investment levels of about US \$ 25 million a year would need to increase to US \$ 500 million. Global investments should be maintained at roughly \$ 250 million.

In order to reach and sustain these levels of investment, African countries must increase their own contributions to investing in agricultural productivity while developed countries, associated development agencies and international financing institutions will need to honour their commitment to substantially increase their support to these programs. African governments have committed to spending 10 percent of their national budgetary resources on agriculture. While increasing the level of investment in agriculture and on agricultural productivity programs is important, the effectiveness of current as well as future investments must be ensured. The application of FAAP at all levels will entail re-examining current programs and institutions to align them with FAAP objectives and principles. The first step is a data-intensive analysis of the current situation and an evaluation of the investments most likely to contribute to the CAADP goal of 6 percent agricultural growth. Programs supported by both existing and new resources need to align with FAAP to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

Aligned and coordinated financial support

National support for agricultural productivity and growth programs has been inadequate and often poorly and ineffectively distributed. Donor support to Africa has stepped in to fill the gap, but it has generally been fragmented and inadequately coordinated, mostly through financing of discrete projects. This has often resulted in creating parallel systems with separate management, procurement, staff recruitment and remuneration packages, as well as accounting and reporting. This generally reduces efficiency and effectiveness, as well as sustainability. Fragmentation in support for Africa's agricultural productivity interventions and institutions can be reduced through the adoption of common mechanisms and procedures to align and coordinate development partners' support with national resources. Alignment and coordination will require that all partners work towards a common, agreed-upon agenda. They must also agree to mutual accountability that can be coordinated through common systems for monitoring and evaluation.

As the agricultural growth agenda takes hold and as countries move towards their commitments of funding their own agricultural programs, the role of donors will decrease over time. The FAAP vision is one where agricultural growth reduces hunger and poverty but also contributes to national growth in GDP and thus increases in national resources, both public and private, available to fund agricultural growth programs. Sustained investment in agricultural innovation is as crucial to a country as sustained investment in health services.

This shift towards alignment and coordination, sometimes called harmonization, which is also supported by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was formalised by donors and partner countries in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness which advocates that: developing countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies, strategies, and to coordinate development actions; donor countries base their overall support on receiving countries' national development strategies, institutions, and procedures; donor countries work so that their actions are more harmonized, transparent, and collectively effective; all countries manage resources and improve decision-making for results; and donor and developing countries pledge that they are mutually accountable for development results. Regarding agricultural and rural development, harmonization is also encouraged by the Global Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD). GDPRD is an initiative of development agencies and international financial institutions to improve donor collaboration and coordinated dialogue with partner countries. The GDPRD has three pillars: advocacy, shared learning and aid harmonization.

FAAP supports the agenda for harmonisation and alignment not only at country level, but also at sub-regional and continental level, as it will enhance the overall impact of government funding and development assistance to agricultural productivity activities by committing to joint objectives, as well as

reducing transaction costs in planning, reporting and procurement. This should also contribute toward more comprehensive and sustained funding for activities based on national and sub-regional priorities. In order to move towards harmonization, the following gradual changes are expected at national, sub-regional and continental levels:

- ✚ Moving from “project” mode (under which donors support specific activities) to programmatic support (possibly with notional earmarking) for most of the budget of recipient institutions (including recurrent costs);
- ✚ Adoption of common processes for strategic dialogue and for planning of the activities to be supported by donors—these to be made consistent with the institutional schedules and time horizons of the recipient institutions;
- ✚ Common financial management procedures, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and review systems—consistent with those of the recipient institutions;
- ✚ Where feasible, adaptation of the procedures used in on-going and already committed operations to the above-described harmonized procedures; and
- ✚ Establishment of multi-donor trust funds (basket funds) or pooling of funds in the accounts of recipient institutions, including unrestricted core funding (budget support).

Several donors are committed to implementing the Paris Declaration. However, achieving improved harmonisation and alignment should be approached in a flexible way. At the country level, advocacy for improved harmonisation and alignment will generally not be specific to agricultural productivity interventions; rather it will take place at sectoral or national levels. This would be reflected in country strategy, policy statements, institutional evolution, and programs and, as such, would be discussed and reviewed at NEPAD country roundtable meetings. Similar commitments and review procedures would be expected at sub-regional and continental levels, receiving support under FAAP. It would however be highly desirable that a critical mass of harmonised support be reached at country and sub-regional levels.

National level

Africa’s community of practice stressed the importance of addressing shortcomings in three areas in order to facilitate innovation—capacity building; farmer empowerment; and improving the effectiveness of agricultural research and extension services. They identified a number of specific interventions typically needed at the national level and also identified guiding principles which, if embodied in the agricultural productivity programs, would make them more effective. Most agricultural productivity programs are appropriately situated at the national level. These include adaptive and applied research, extension (advisory) services, as well as primary and secondary education and related training programs, and some of the post-secondary education programs. While all of these programs draw upon knowledge and information, networking, technologies, science and technical cooperation provided from sub-regional, continental, or global programs, the primary interface between these programs and farmers and agribusiness is the responsibility of national institutions and activities. Countries would not need to develop their own, separate agricultural productivity program to access “FAAP-compliant” incremental resources. Rather, FAAP principles should be applied to ongoing and future interventions. They should also stimulate and influence institutional reforms, where appropriate. In order that national programs might successfully evolve in the FAAP directions, they should aspire to the following features:

- Identify specific technical, sociological and economic limitations to agricultural productivity at national level;
- Emphasize responsiveness to market conditions and economic justification as key factors for determining technology generation, dissemination and adoption investments—ensuring that productivity is not pursued as an end in itself, but as a tool for improving profits and incomes;
- Promote knowledge sharing and development of synergies and feedback mechanisms to ensure there is sufficient linkage between extension, research and education, and the private sector, and greater collaboration in the overall technology generation, dissemination and adoption systems;
- Participation by all stakeholders in priority setting, program planning and implementation

National agricultural productivity institutions that are committed to developing their own policies, institutions and related strategies and plans in the directions suggested by FAAP will be able to attract political support, technical cooperation and financial support from their governments, Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs), FARA, NEPAD and the donors. Such commitment on the part of each country would be expected to be signalled in the context of government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and sectoral strategies concerned with agricultural productivity. Donors would be expected to align and coordinate their support for these national interventions in the manner suggested above. This could be signalled through a memorandum of understanding between the government and agricultural donor groups, pledging joint support for the strategy, related institutional strengthening (including reform where appropriate), and activities.

Sub-regional level

Although many technology development activities are best managed at national level, some are better managed at a higher level of aggregation. Where agro-climatic, social, and economic conditions are similar across borders, cooperation at a sub-regional level for some aspects of agricultural productivity activities can improve efficiency and effectiveness by: allowing for costs and benefits that spill across borders to be internalized in planning and priority setting; permitting economies of scale; making it possible to establish programs with a minimum critical mass of staff and facilities; and avoid duplications. Within the realm of agricultural productivity programs, it is not only with regard to research that there is a role best played at the sub-regional level. There is a need for sub-regional institutions and programs to offer and provide systematic support to national agricultural research, extension, and training/education, and farmer empowerment, public and private institutions and their operations. This type of support consists of offering capacity building support and services, networking platforms and services, and facilitation of coordination between national programs themselves, and coordination between national and international programs.

The programs of the SROs, namely; the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (ARRINENA) the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) and the Southern African Development Community's Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (SADC-FANR) are examples of initiatives and institutions working at this level. The current mandates of the SROs are to: coordinate the research and development programmes of common interest to the NARSs in their sub-region; organize knowledge sharing and human resource development; and strengthen partnerships with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centres and other advanced research institutions. The African member states bear some of the SROs' operating costs and provide substantial in-kind contributions in the form of facilities

and human resources. In order that programs such as these at the sub-regional level might successfully evolve in the FAAP directions, they will need to aspire to the following features (in addition to other features already listed for the national level):

- Identify specific technical, sociological and economic limitations to agricultural productivity at sub-regional level;
- Emphasize responsiveness to market conditions and economic justification as key factors for determining technology generation, dissemination and adoption investments—ensuring that productivity is not pursued as an end in itself, but as a tool for improving profits and incomes;
- Focus on activity areas for which the sub-region has a comparative advantage over national actions. Accordingly, and as dictated by subsidiarity, sub-regional programs would not include activities more effectively supported at the national level or below;
- Employ a pluralistic model in regional program implementation modalities to take advantage of the skills found within public and private institutions in the region, to retain flexibility, and to benefit from the accountability which comes from competition;
- Activities should be undertaken, to the extent possible, on a cost-sharing basis with national programs and/or end users so that countries and stakeholders might exercise ownership over sub-regional programs;
- Play an advocacy and support role to member countries to increase resource allocation for agricultural productivity operations, and for improving the performance of concerned institutions (including reforms where appropriate);
- Aiming for sustainability, the costs of sub-regional programs should be increasingly shared by the countries of the sub-region, and in some cases by agri-business or other stakeholders and partners.

At sub-regional level, SROs will be able to seek support from member countries, FARA, NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and donors for political, technical, methodological, and financial support to programs that are developed along the lines advocated by the FAAP and its principles. Each SRO would be expected to prepare and adopt a long term strategy and a medium-term operational plan for enhancing its agricultural productivity program. Donors would be expected to align and coordinate their support. This would be signalled through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between SROs and donors, pledging joint support for the strategy and related programs.

Continental level

A role clearly exists at the continental level for an institution to advocate for investment in agricultural research and development, to provide networking services to national, sub-regional, and global institutions as regards to agricultural productivity issues in Africa. This includes the need to enhance the exchange of agricultural information and learning, to promote value-adding partnerships, where appropriate to facilitate and administrate capacity building services and programs for the national and sub-regional institutions, to lead and facilitate discussions of strategy and priority setting at the continental level, and to implement activities designed to support specific elements of agricultural productivity programs, related to the issues constraints and needs highlighted above, for which

economies of scale, need for specialization, or the existence of spill-over effects dictates that administration be placed at the continental level.

In order for FARA to be successful in playing its role and to evolve in the directions suggested above, it will need to adopt the FAAP guiding principles—that is to say, FARA activities should display the following characteristics:

- ❖ Subsidiarity in locating decision making to encourage participation and ownership
- ❖ Intervention will add value to SRO programs
- ❖ There are economies of scale that can be derived at the continental level
- ❖ The programmes will be planned and implemented in innovation systems contexts that involve actors across the whole value chain through multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder approaches, ensuring that research and support services are appropriately contextualised and will have outcomes with high levels of ownership
- ❖ Equitable access and contribution to information generation, sharing and dissemination.

At continental level, through commitment to developing itself in the directions advocated by FAAP, FARA will be able to seek political, technical, and financial support from member countries, SROs, NEPAD, African Union (AU), RECs, and donors. FARA would demonstrate its commitment to the directions outlined in FAAP through a strategic plan. Donors would prepare a joint program of financial support for FARA's portfolio of programs and would commit to this harmonized support through an MoU for this purpose.

International contributions

The CGIAR, non-CGIAR international agricultural research centres, regional agricultural research and development institutions including international non governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organisations, the specialised offices of the AU, non-African advanced research institutions and other international programs are making substantial contributions to African agricultural development through research and capacity-building. This will be further encouraged under FAAP, which will provide the additional benefit of greater consistency with African priorities and modes of operation. Adherence to FAAP guiding principles will also facilitate the determination of where and how the capacities of the international institutions can make the greatest contribution to African agricultural research and development in the context of national and regional strategies and the contributions of alternative service providers. The contributions will be, amongst others, in the following principle areas:

- Bringing best practices, data, knowledge and expertise from other regions of the world to bear on African issues;
- Providing research-based, relevant information and data for training, and curricula and course development;
- Providing specialized expertise in cutting-edge sciences including biosciences, social sciences and policy analysis;
- Creating critical mass and building capacity through collaborative research;

- Enabling cross-country and cross-continent replications and comparisons to inform African research and development.

FAAP and CAADP review processes

FAAP is a tool to assist in the implementation of the vision of CAADP, in particular, Pillar IV (increasing agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption). The AU-NEPAD is in the process of developing a review process for CAADP. National institutions adhering to FAAP would participate in CAADP review processes that emerge at the national, sub-regional, and continental level. Programs at the sub-regional level would fully participate in the CAADP review processes. FARA would participate in a CAADP-related review process for its initiatives at the continental level—in addition to assisting NEPAD in the overall review of Pillar IV of CAADP.

It is expected that reviews will be undertaken in 2010 and again in 2015 to determine the progress. This timing corresponds to the objective of evaluating the contribution of agriculture toward meeting Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The reviews will establish the status of agricultural innovation across the continent and recommend further improvements on the basis of experience of its utility and changing circumstances.

Monitoring and evaluation

There are two parts to FAAP monitoring. The first step is monitoring FAAP implementation while the second step is monitoring and evaluating FAAP outcomes and impacts after implementation has begun. Monitoring FAAP implementation will involve following the progress of national, sub-regional, and continental programs as they move towards FAAP compliance. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for FAAP will track the progress of FAAP-compliant African agricultural productivity related operations in contributing to the goals and objectives of the CAADP Pillar IV. Milestones will be set to track progress in institutional reforms and development (poverty focus, gender equity, governance and responsiveness, efficiency and financial sustainability) and with specific triggers for action by appropriate parties at the different levels.

Improving focus and efficiency in the generation and dissemination of agricultural technologies is a long-term undertaking which requires monitoring of a broad range of measures including investment inputs, production, trade, and impact on productivity and incomes. FAAP encourages, within the context of NEPAD/CAADP activities, the establishment of substantially strengthened and harmonized M&E capacities at country, sub-regional and continental levels. The SROs will take the lead at the sub-regional level in tracking the progress made by FAAP in contributing to the African agricultural growth agenda. NEPAD/CAADP is organizing with the RECs and their member countries to set up systems for peer review, M&E, and knowledge management. FARA will coordinate with these systems, and ensure that M&E of the issues specific to CAADP Pillar IV and FAAP are covered at the appropriate levels.

Some indicative indicators that should be part of expanded M&E systems for agricultural innovation at national and sub-regional levels could include: investment in agricultural research and dissemination systems by national governments, donors, the private sector, and NGOs; trends in the value of agricultural production and productivity; trends in the value of agricultural trade; trends in farmer income and poverty measures; indicators of institutional capacity and reform, including measurements for improvement in financial systems, audit, personnel management, procurement; the number of new technologies made available for transfer and the number of farmers, processors, and others who have adopted new technologies.

Others include; the area under new technologies/number of improved animals/volume of produce processed; policy progress milestones; policy, strategies and programs in place to develop/disseminate technologies with farmer participation and the number of donors coordinating and harmonizing their support under FAAP.

This list of indicators is not exhaustive, and details for each type of indicator and how it will be collected needs to be fleshed out as part of the FAAP at the national, sub-regional, and continental levels. NEPAD, FARA, RECs, NARS, and SROs will collaborate in developing indicators that are consistent and comparable.

Conclusion and follow-up

FAAP will be an advocacy tool available to all stakeholders in African agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption for achieving the goals and objectives of CAADP Pillar IV. It provides the principles and guidelines that will, through their application, improve the complementarity of diverse contributions to national and sub-regional priorities and the collective output of all actors. FAAP will strengthen Africa's capacity for agricultural innovation that will enable agriculture to be an engine for development by providing a framework for improved institutional arrangements, especially in respect of capacity building, empowering farmers and strengthening farmers' support services; as well as by promoting resource alignment and increased funding.

ECAPAPA received this information from Guy Rogers Evers, FAO/World Bank. He is gratefully acknowledged.

COMMUNICATION

Call for papers

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts on good practice in studying and enhancing innovation in agricultural research, development, and education, as part of the activities for the forthcoming **International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa**, to be held in Kampala, Uganda, November 2006. Papers need not be directly linked to agriculture and natural resource management. Contributions are also sought for an interactive marketplace in the form of posters, videos, slides, photographs, websites, maps, group interactions, participatory theatre, and other lively ways of showing how work on innovation systems is being conducted in Africa and elsewhere. The deadline for submissions is **August 15, 2006**. For details, contact: Contacts: innovationafrica@cgiar.org, p.sanginga@cgiar.org and ann.waters-bayer@etcnl.nl or visit: www.ciat.cgiar.org/africa/eri_symposium06

Fellowship

The Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS), Italy, invites female students from sub-Saharan Africa and least developed countries (LDCs), who wish to pursue postgraduate training leading to a PhD, at centres of excellence abroad to apply for the **TWOWS Postgraduate Training Fellowships**. The minimum qualification of applicants is an MSc degree (or equivalent), or an outstanding BSc honors degree, in the following fields of natural sciences: agriculture, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, medicine, earth and environmental resources, or engineering and technological sciences. The host institute where the applicant wishes to pursue her doctorate degree must be in a developing country other than her own. The deadline for receipt of applications is **31 July 2006**. **For details, contact:** TWOWS Postgraduate Fellowships Office, Enrico Fermi Building, Via Beirut, 6, 34100 Trieste, Italy, Tel: +39-040-2240-321; Fax: +39-040-2240689, e-mail: info@twows.org or visit: www.twows.org

New guide on gender research

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has launched a new guide on using gender research in development. The kit shows how taking gender issues into account can improve development projects and policies. For details, visit: www.ifpri.org/pubs/fspractice/sp2.asp

ECAPAPA received these communications from Dr. Luis Navarro, IDRC. He is gratefully acknowledged.

Conference announcement

The African Crop Science Society (ACSS) and the Faculty of Agriculture, Minia University are organizing the 8th African Crop Science Society Conference to be held from 27- 31 October 2007. The conference theme is: **Crop research, technology dissemination and adoption to increase food supply, reducing hunger and poverty in Africa.** For details on participation, contact: The Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Minia University, El-Minia, Egypt, ET-61517, Tel: + 20(86)-2-362333, Fax: ++20(86)-2-362182, e-mail: acss8@yahoo.com or visit: www.minia.eun.eg

ECAPAPA received this information from Mr. David Gumisiriza, Makerere University. He is gratefully acknowledged.

Free online journals

The International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD-L) has, under the "Open Africa" initiative waived all participation fees for its journal storage (JSTOR) online archive to any higher education, research, or not-for-profit institution in Africa. The JSTOR archive contains 13 collections, 620 journals, and more than 20 million pages of content. The participation fees have been waived for three years. The Open Africa initiative is open to both new participants as well as to the 40 institutions in 16 African nations that are currently participating in JSTOR. For details, contact: iaald-l@cals.arizona.edu

ECAPAPA received this information from Dr. Adiel Mbabu, IFPRI-ISNAR-Ethiopia. He is gratefully acknowledged.

This newsletter is an attempt to use e-communications to provide to a broad audience within and outside Eastern and Central Africa a mechanism for distribution and exchange of information relevant to agricultural policy issues. This newsletter is being sent to identified stakeholders of ECAPAPA. We want to respect your privacy and desire not to have your e-mail inbox filled with unwanted correspondence. If you do not want to receive this newsletter please send us a note at <ecapapa@asareca.org>, and we will remove your name from the distribution list. For back issues of this newsletter, go to 'View Archive' at www.asareca.org/ecapapa

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