



The Contribution of the **Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)** in Africa's Agricultural Transformation

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Outline

1. Introduction
2. About FARA (*rationale, functioning and the new dispensation*)
3. Examples of achievements
4. Flagship continental programmes
5. Concluding Remarks

Starting Point

Everything can wait but
agriculture cannot wait!

Jawaharlal Nehru

Indian Statesman and First Prime Minister

Africa Rising !

- Recent spell of sustained economic growth (10+ years); some of highest growth rates posted in Africa.
- **Optimism about the future.** But can this growth be raised & sustained over the long term in the face of emerging mega-trends?

Some of the Mega Trends

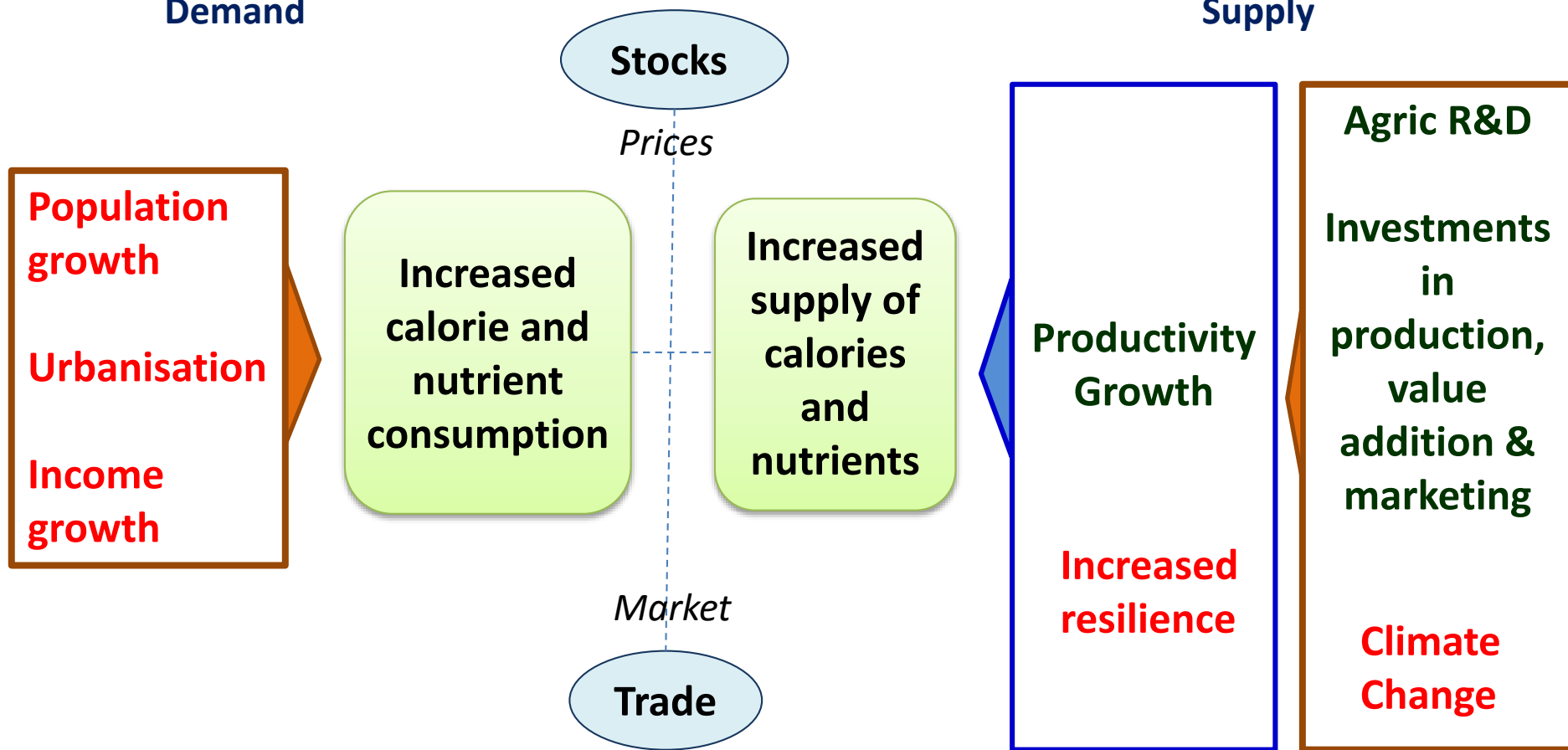
- Population growth & urbanisation
 - Climate change & variability
 - Globalisation, increase in energy and agricultural input prices
- Agricultural transformation is essential to sustaining this growth, making it inclusive & bringing about an economic transformation



Push and Pull theory of how the mega-trends impact on food and nutritional security

Demand

Supply



Adapted from Msangi, 2012

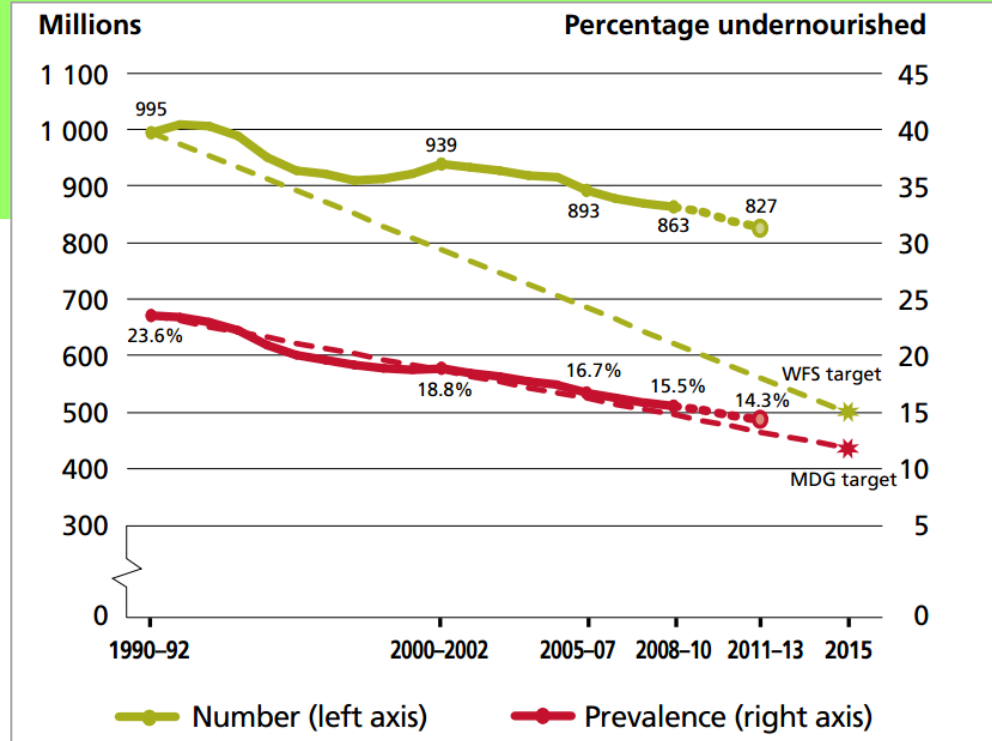
The Food & Nutritional Security Challenge

Top: Global

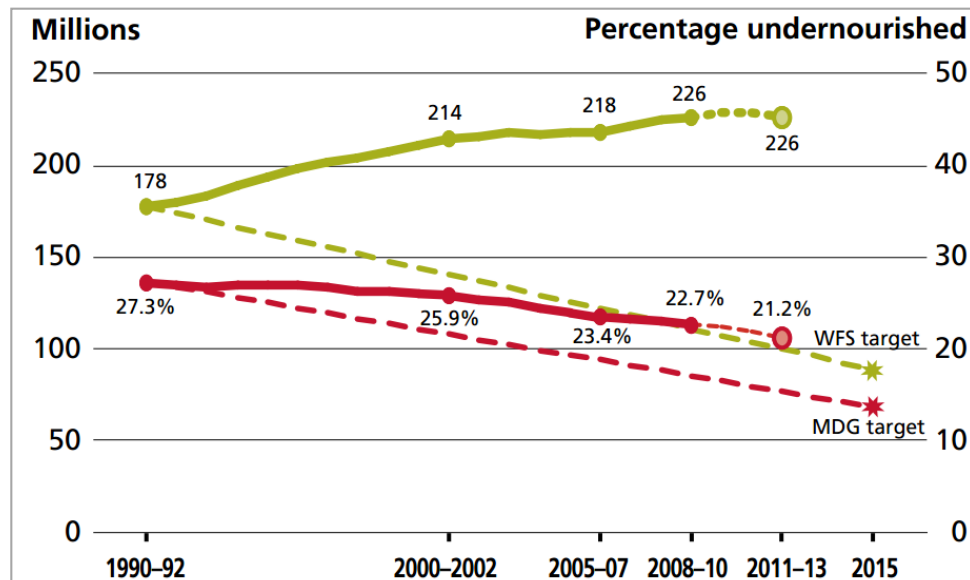
- Globally we are largely on track to achieve MDG1 target
- But off track from the 1996 WFS target
- 842 million people undernourished

Bottom: Africa

- Africa is off track for both targets
- 226 m (21.2%) people undernourished



Source: FAO, IFAD & WFP (2013) SOFI, Rome, FAO



The Unpalatable Oxymoron

"የአባይን፡ልጅ፡ወሃ፡ጠጣ
ው፡፡"

The child of the Nile
(Abay) is thirsty

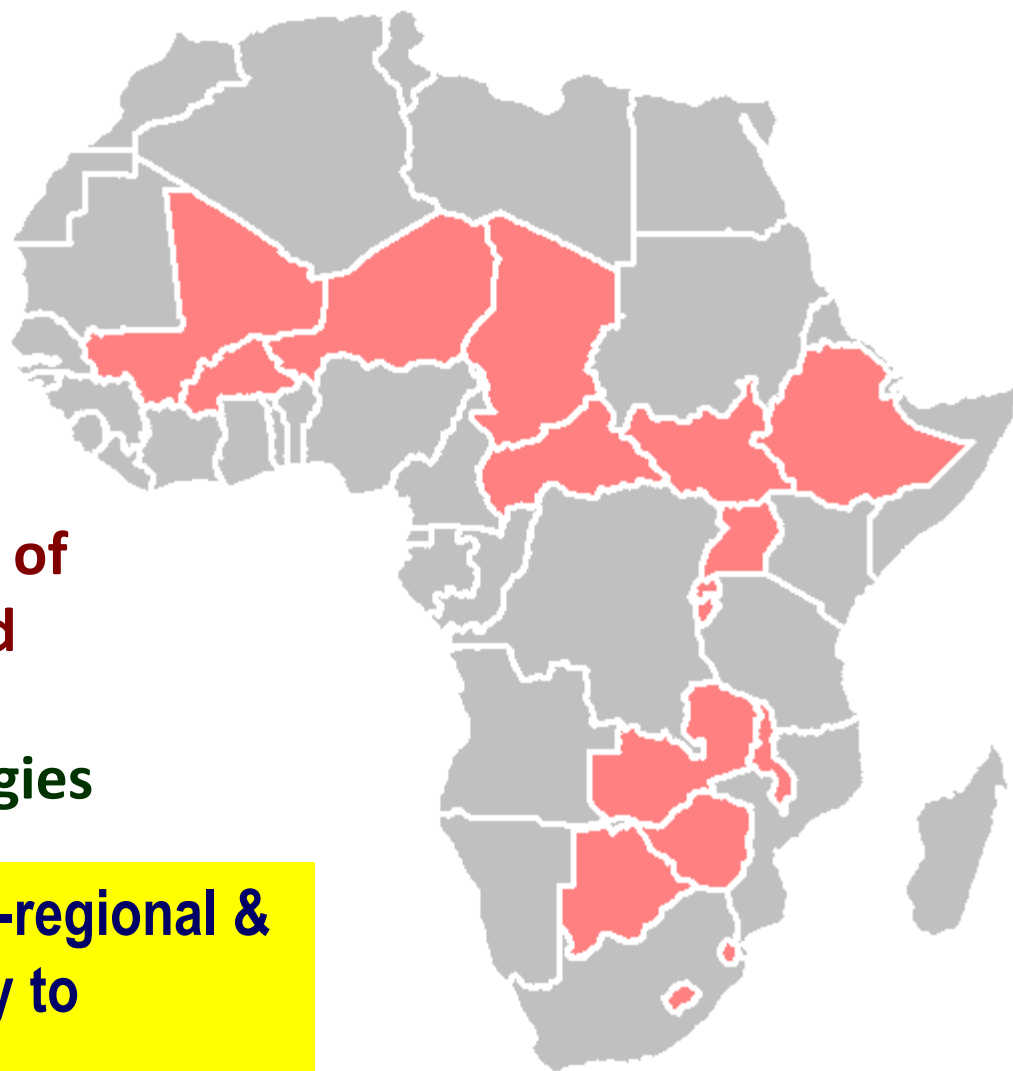
- Ethiopian proverb

To Overcome its Food & Nutritional Security Challenge, Africa must Transform its Agriculture to:

- **Produce significantly more food ..**
 - on less land,
 - with less water,
 - using less energy, fertilizer and pesticide
 - whilst not increasing GHG emissions or damaging the environment
- **Withstand climatic stresses and shocks**
- **Reduce the amount of waste and losses**
- **Produce nutritious and safe food**

Africa: a fragmented continent

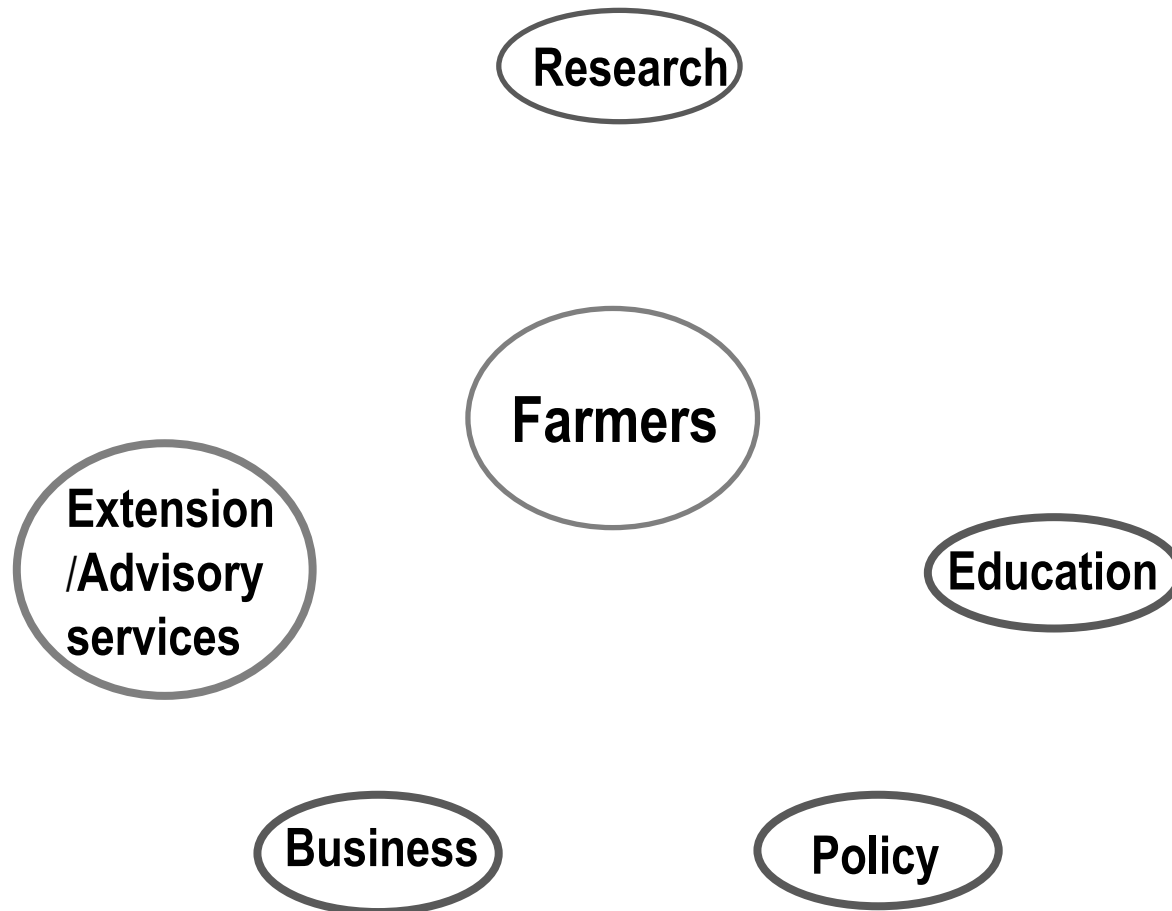
- **Africa is very fragmented (55 sovereign states)**
- **31 countries have a population of less than 12m (small markets)**
- **16 countries (home to 25% of population) are land locked**
- **Heterogeneous agro-ecologies**



Collective actions through sub-regional & regional approaches necessary to capture economies of scale

The tyranny of fragmentation!

Fragmentation extends to the way stakeholders in the agricultural knowledge system and value chain function



The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

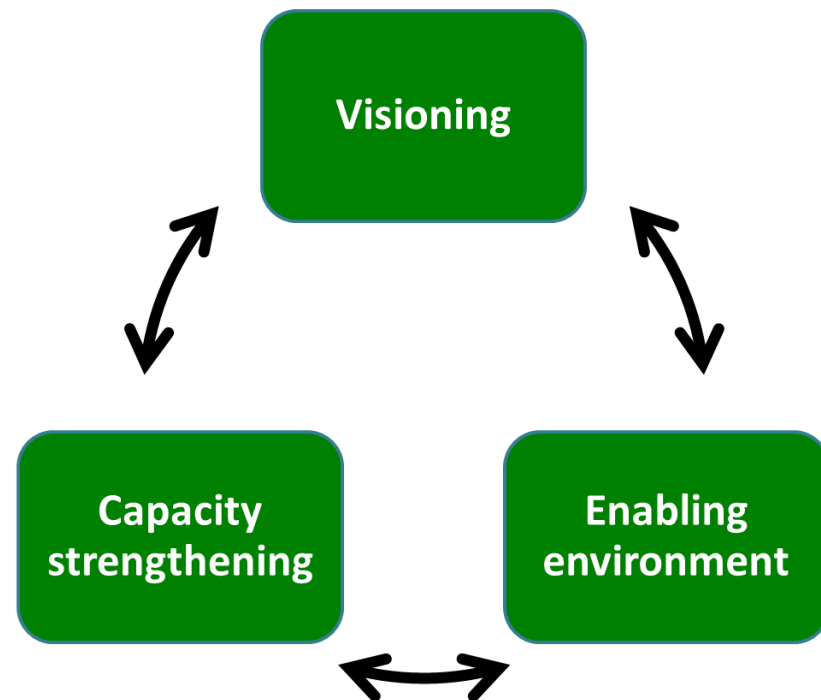
- Created to meet the demand for collective action in agriculture science, technology & innovation at continental level
 - Continental platform for advocacy & information sharing; strategic alliances with other regions & countries (e.g. Europe, Brazil, China, India etc), facilitating knowledge and technology spillovers
- Facilitate operationalization of pan-African frameworks e.g. CAADP, Land Policy Framework
- Champion initiatives to address challenges and opportunities that cut across the continent
 - Formulation of continental frameworks, programmes, concepts / approaches, e.g. FAAP, IAR4D, UniBRAIN, SCARDA, Science Agenda
 - Facilitate their testing, implementation and scaling up



The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

- Apex organisation responsible for coordinating agricultural research for development AR&D
- AR&D Architecture comprises sub regional organisations (ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, CCARDESA, NASRO), education, extension, farmers, agribusiness & civil society organisations
- Technical arm of the African Union Commission on AR&D
- Based in Accra, Ghana since 2002

Strategic Priorities (2014-18)



The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

Continent-wide Partnership Programmes

1. **AFDA (Adaptation for Future Demands in Agriculture)**
2. **SPEAR (Special Programme on Environment and Agricultural Research)**
3. **PAINT (Programme for Agriculture INTensification in Africa)**
4. **ReMoCaSt (Regional Mobility for Capacity Strengthening in Agriculture)**
5. **AfriCAN (Africa feeding Africa— *a regional programme on increasing food and nutritional security*)**

FARA's Goal and Purpose

Goal:

To contribute to the sustainable reduction of food insecurity and poverty in Africa while enhancing the environment.

Purpose:

To contribute to generating high broad-based and sustainable agricultural growth in Africa

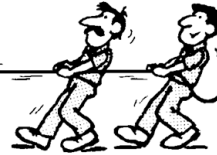
Value Proposition:

Strengthening Africa's capacity for innovation and transformation, *by visioning its strategic directions, integrating capacities for change and creating the enabling policy environment for implementation.*

Breaking the walls among stakeholders

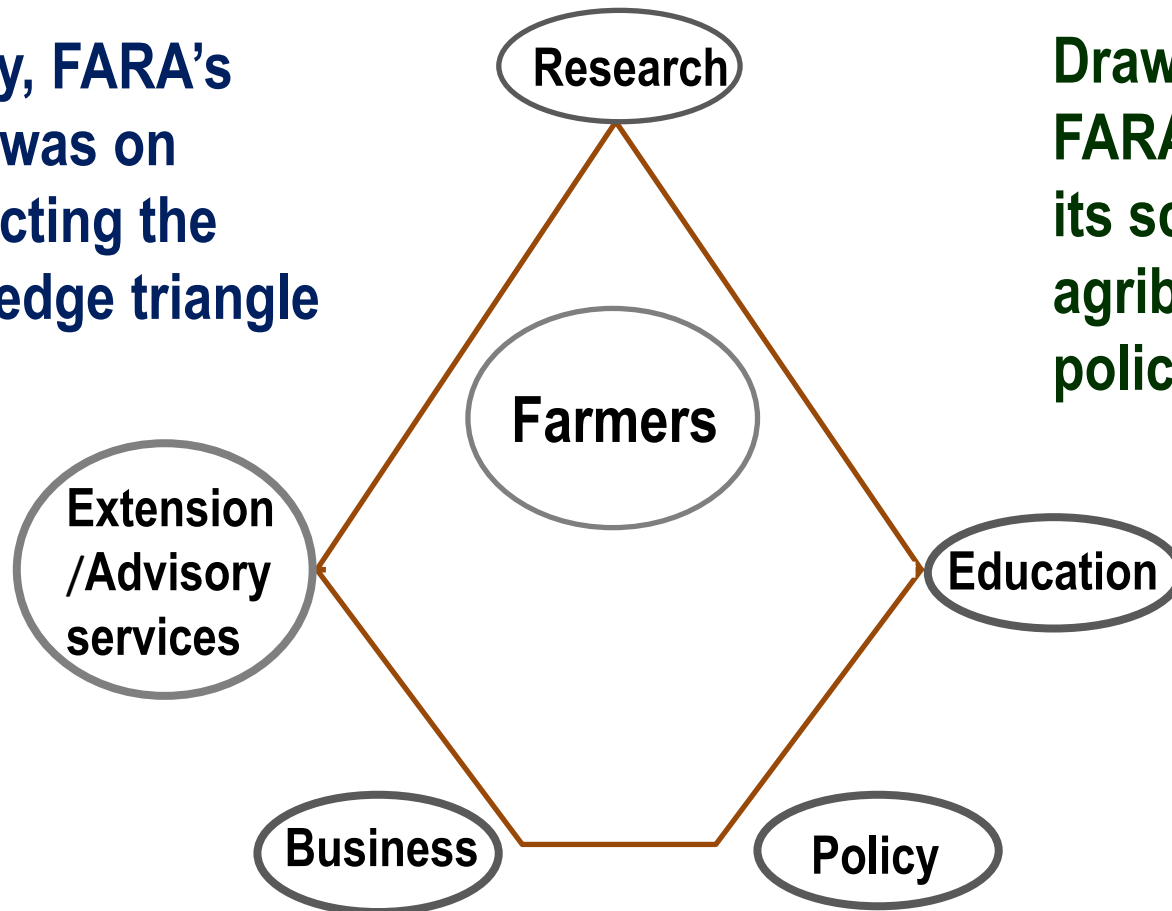
*Working
Together,*

***PULLING
TOGETHER***



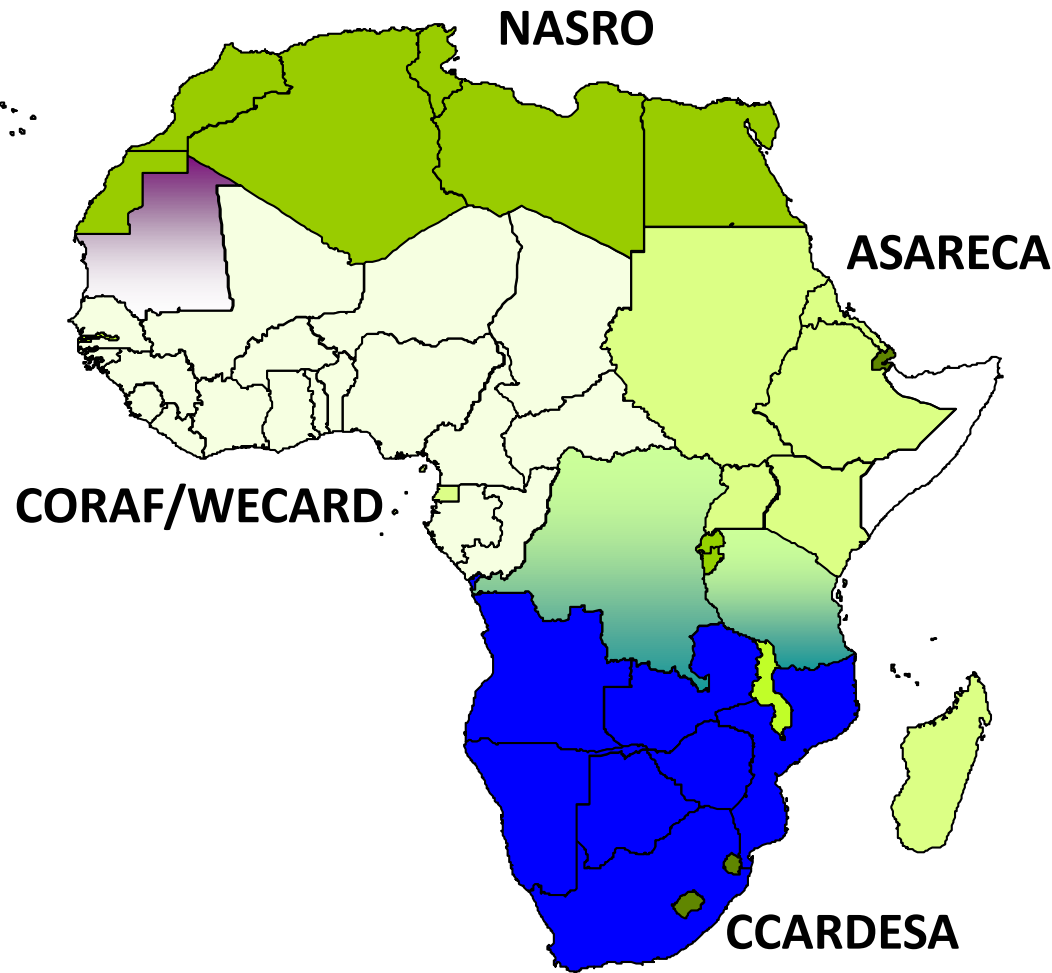
*Delivering
Together*

Initially, FARA's
focus was on
connecting the
knowledge triangle



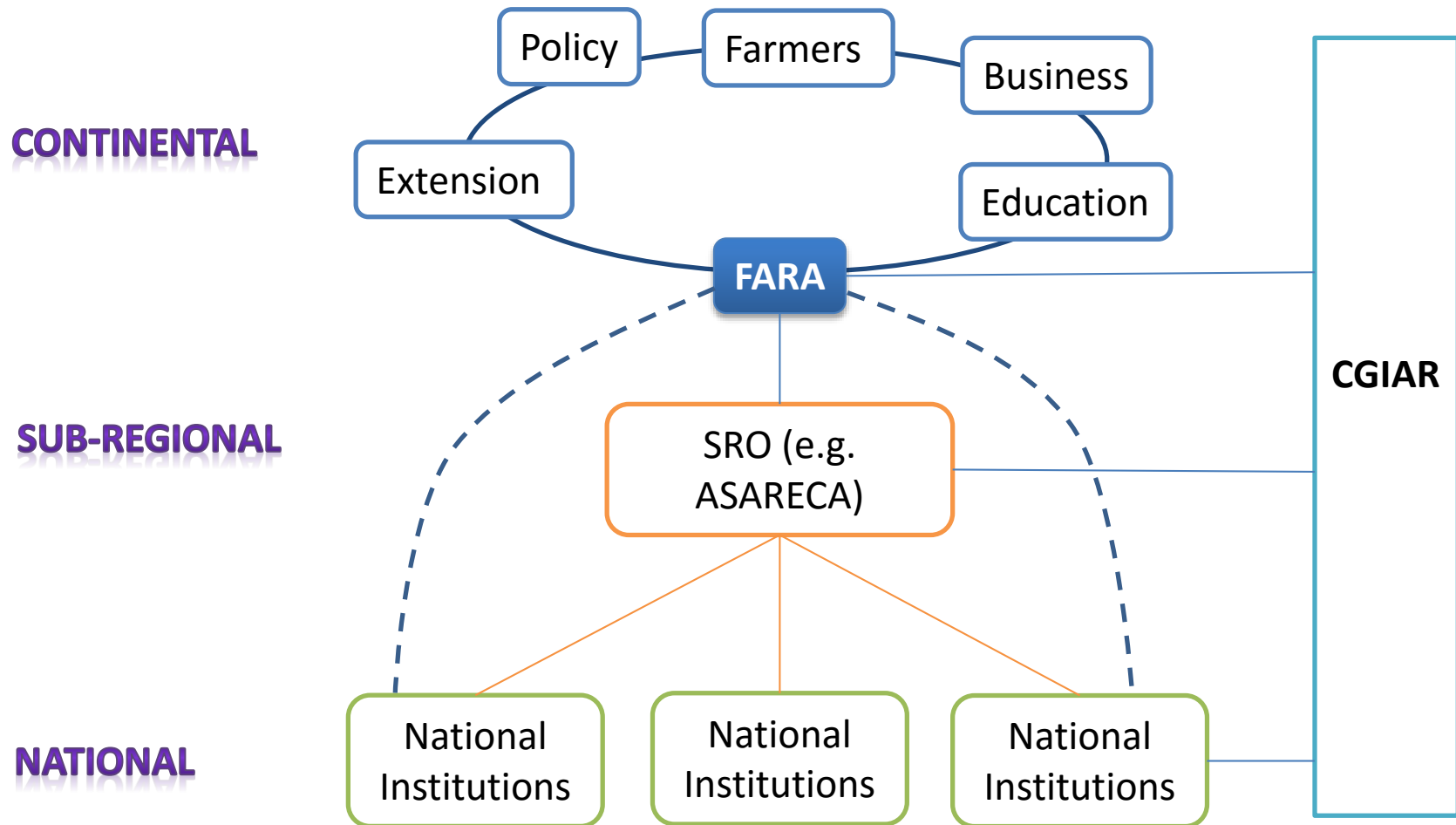
Drawing on lessons
FARA has expanded
its scope to integrate
agribusiness and
policy

SROs are the building blocks of FARA



FARA works with partners

through subsidiarity



A New dispensation at FARA

- **New leadership at FARA**
 - **New Leadership at the SROs**
 - **New strategies for FARA and SROs**
- **A New Dawn for AR&D in Africa**
 - **Renewed commitment to Work together, Pull together and Deliver together**
 - **Need to seize the goodwill and opportunity by deepening collaboration with partners**

The new dispensation

- **More collaboration; less competition**
- **New initiatives**
 - E-platform for continent-wide Data Management
 - African Society for ARD (ASARD)
 - Agraria – Agricultural Research in Africa (Quarterly Bulletin)
 - Phytos Africana
 - Regional mobility on capacity strengthening
- **Stronger linkages with Policy institutions**

Examples of Achievements

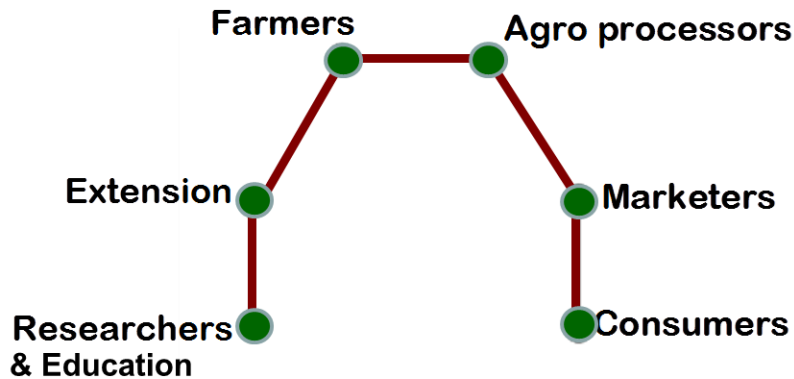
- 1. Proof-of the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) concept**
- 2. Reform of national agricultural research systems by facilitating mainstreaming of the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) principles in CAADP-inspired agriculture strategies and plans**

1. IAR4D proof of concept (2005-2013)

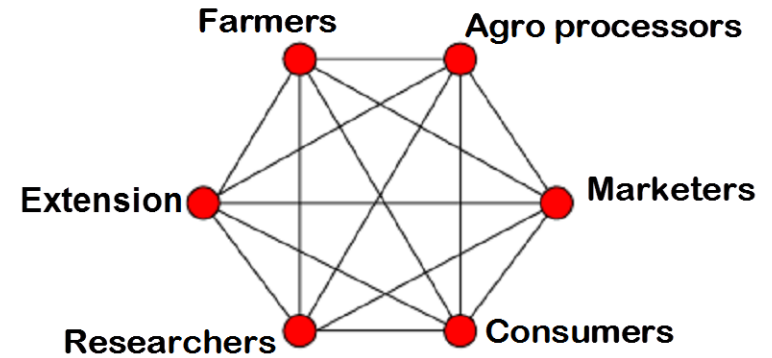
- **Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme of the CGIAR**
- **Problem: Low adoption of technologies, low return on investments in research**
- **Diagnosis: Linear approach to technology generation, extension and use → technologies not fit-for-purpose, poor linkages to markets, no value addition**
- **Proposed solution: innovation systems / platforms**



IAR4D



Linear R&D model



Innovation system



Impact of IAR4D...1/3

SSA CP Pilot site in Nigeria

- 120% ↑ in yield of soyabeans (0.9 – 2.0t/ha)
- Additional US\$500/ha/season
- 150K farmer beneficiaries

In Gambia

- Rice yields increased from 1.6t/ha to 6t/ha across 10% of the country

In East Africa

- Increased yield necessitated value addition leading to development of new products, increased incomes

Overall

- Increased incomes for farmers & service providers
- Rural jobs created
- ~2m people impacted



Impact of IAR4D ...2/3



**I have a car and
ten jobs have
been created I am
building a modern
washing bay**



Impact of IAR4D ...3/3



Increase in yield coupled with better market access
Win-win partnerships

2. Integration of FAAP principles in CAADP-aligned national agriculture investment plans

FAAP Principles:

- Putting Farmers at the Center of Agricultural Innovation Systems
 - Integration of agricultural research with extension services, and education to respond needs and opportunities for innovation in a holistic manner
 - Evidence-based approaches in policy development, priority setting and strategic planning
 - Planned subsidiarity
 - Integration of gender
 - Harmonisation and alignment external investments with domestic ones.
-
- **Key reference for institutional reform in AR&D. Adopted by all countries developing investment strategies and plans**

Concluding Remarks

- **A New Dawn for AR&D in Africa!**
- **What comes out of this unique opportunity depends on whether we work together, pull together and deliver together**
- **FARA stands ready to play its part alongside partners notably SROs, other CGIAR centres, extension, education, policy, farmers and private sector actors**



**Thank
you for
the attention**