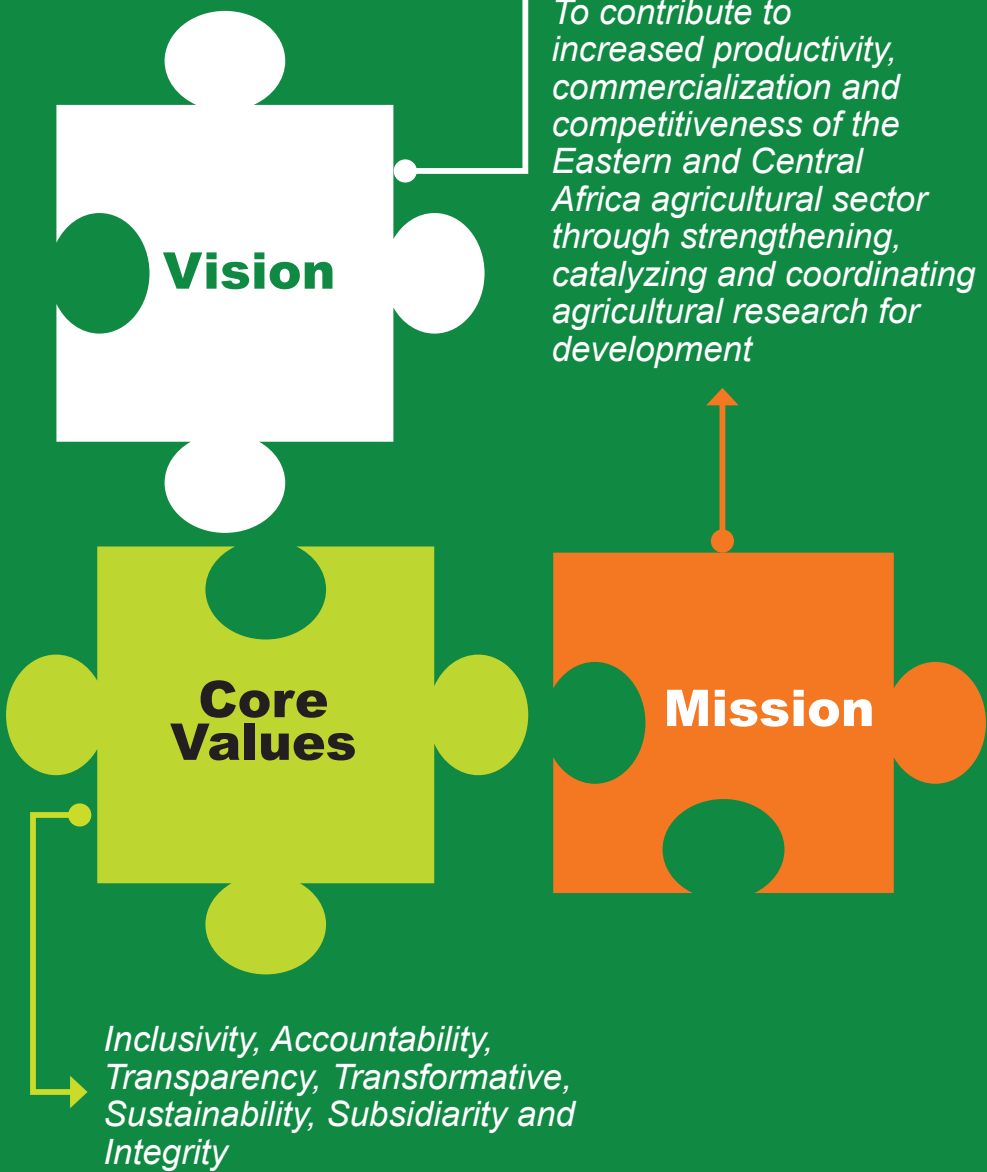




# ASARECA at a glance



*A transformed Eastern and Central Africa agricultural sector supporting improved livelihoods, sustained economic growth and inclusive development*







# About ASARECA

**The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is a not-for-profit inter-governmental sub-regional organization. ASARECA comprises 12 member countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.**

ASARECA brings together researchers from the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of the 12 member countries to generate, share and promote knowledge and innovations to solve the common challenges facing agriculture in the member countries. The key ASARECA national constituents are:

- National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs)
- Ministries of Agriculture
- Universities participating in Agricultural Research for Development
- National Agricultural Extension Service agencies
- The Private Sector
- Associated NGOs, and other strategic partners.





# Context of ASARECA work

**Smallholder farmers in Eastern and Central Africa face similar challenges. Many use poor quality inputs with farms often under the threat of attack by menacing pests and diseases, and weeds. This is aggravated by variable climate and declining natural resource base, lack of access to input and output markets, limiting agriculture and trade policies.**

Owing to low returns from agricultural enterprises, the youth have abandoned farming in search of money making ventures in urban areas, leaving farming to the elderly, women and children. In totality, these factors make farming a challenging business and contribute to high levels of poverty among the farming communities in the sub-region.

These challenges can be tackled at national level, but some national systems have inadequate capacities to manage them comprehensively. Besides, some challenges require coordinated regional action.

This is the point at which ASARECA comes in to add value to national efforts by addressing challenges in a regionally coordinated manner. To do this, ASARECA works with partners including farmers; national, regional and international research bodies; extension and training organizations; public and private sector actors; NGOs; the Regional Economic Communities; and Development Agencies.

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ASARECA at a glance





# Statement of achievement

Over the last two and a half decades, projects supported by ASARECA have developed and promoted technologies, innovations and management practices (TIMPs) such as improved crop and livestock varieties, integrated soil fertility and water management, agronomic packages, storage, value addition and marketing. We have also contributed to regional agriculture and trade policy harmonization. These interventions have benefited over 228,349 rural farming households with 1,370,000 individuals directly touched.

## Highlights of interventions

- **Technologies, innovations and management practices generated:** A total of 364 different TIMPs were either generated or improved to suit farmers' demands.
- **Technologies for uptake:** A total of 435 demand-driven gender-responsive TIMPs were availed for uptake by targeted stakeholders.
- **Production of quality seed:** Over 1,000 ha of land was dedicated to production and multiplication of seed. From this, over 800 metric tons of quality seed for selected crops were produced and availed for further multiplication.
- **Reclamation of degraded lands and watersheds:** Over 5,000 ha of highly degraded lands and watersheds were reclaimed.
- **Establishment of enabling policy environments:** ASARECA has contributed to the establishment of enabling policy environment through participation in the review of existing policies. A total of 89 policies, laws, regulations and procedures were analyzed, 39 presented for dialogue and legislation, while 37 were approved by the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.
- **Infrastructure capacity strengthening:** Over 400 assorted infrastructure and facilities were provided to targeted partner institutions particularly the weaker NARIs.
- **Human resource capacity strengthening:** Over 60,000 stakeholders were trained in integrated water management, value addition, soil fertility management, value chains, monitoring and evaluation, agronomic and management practices among others. Over 150 students benefited from ASARECA long-term training through Masters and Phd. studies.






# Our Refreshed Mandate

**ASARECA has strategically repositioned to perform a higher level convening, coordination, facilitative, advocacy, partnership brokerage, communicative and catalytic role to maximize economies of scale, reduce duplication and misalignment of resources in the sub-region's Agriculture Research for Development (AR4D). This is aimed at improving effectiveness and efficiency, leading to significant improvement in the delivery of inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation and development.**

## The mandate of the repositioned ASARECA is:

- 
- Identifying regional research priorities and opportunities through credible, authentic and participatory on-going strategic visioning processes.
  - Commissioning, brokering and managing strategic research partnerships to address identified regional priorities in the most effective, efficient and synergetic ways.
  - Nurturing pathways for on-time delivery, spill-over and scaling-up of regional agricultural research results to deliver agricultural outcomes and impact.
  - Mobilizing, allocating and managing regional AR4D investments to support generation of regional agricultural research public goods and services.
  - Monitoring and evaluating returns on AR4D investment and packaging lessons and best practices to inform decision making processes and action.
  - Supporting the formulation and harmonization of policies and regulatory frameworks to create enabling environment for agricultural transformation.
  - Enhancing effective management and exchange of agricultural knowledge, information and learning to NARS and other stakeholders to inform AR4D processes and enhance efficiency and effectiveness.





# ASARECA Refreshed Mandate

**Catalyst**

**Facilitator**

**Convener**

ASARECA is strategically repositioned to perform a higher level facilitative, supportive, coordination, advocacy and catalytic role to enhance sustainable agricultural transformation, sustained economic growth and inclusive development in Eastern and Central Africa. To deliver on this role, ASARECA is now repositioned as the regional **“Go to Service Provider of Choice for AR4D coordination, convening, partnership brokerage, process facilitation and communication products and services.”** These services are designed to deliver specific and targeted high priority inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation and development outcomes and impacts.

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**Partnership broker**

**Communicator**

**Coordinator**





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## Strategic Alignment

**In implementing its new mandate, ASARECA is well aligned to the major national, regional, continental and global frameworks that include the:**

**National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans** by supporting implementation of the National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs) to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation and inclusive growth.

**CAADP 10-year Results Framework** by supporting implementation of the CAADP 10-year Results Framework and the complementary African Union Malabo Declaration on accelerated African agricultural growth and transformation (A3GT).

**Continental frameworks and programmes** by working closely with FARA and other regional and continental initiatives to support the



implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA); the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A); the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme; the African Agricultural Research Programme (AARP); and the framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (SAMA).

**Global framework and initiatives** by working with other relevant regional, continental and global initiatives such as: the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the SDG 2 that seeks to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030; the Feed the Future Strategy; the CGAIR Centres; and programmes and projects implemented by the International Agricultural Research Centres and Advanced Research Institutes.

**Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** by providing technical support to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); the East African Community (EAC); and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD); the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and in the implementation of the relevant agricultural sector strategies and policies.



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# Thematic Interventions

**ASARECA has committed to focus on four thematic areas that are well aligned to the major ongoing regional and continental initiatives. The four thematic areas are:**

**1**

## **Transformative Capacity Strengthening and Integration**

This thematic area focuses on strengthening and integration of different 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 the ECA member States.

**2**

## **Agricultural Transformation Technologies and Innovations**

This thematic area focuses on supporting and coordinating the development and adaptation of technologies and innovations to address priority regional agricultural transformation challenges; development of approaches, methods, tools and pathways for enhancing uptake and widespread 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 entrepreneurships.

**3**

## **Enabling Policy Environment, Functional Markets and Transformative Institutions**

This thematic area focuses on advocacy for creation of enabling policy environment, establishment of functional and structured regional markets, and strengthening of regional institutions.

**4**

## **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 ECA sub region. This will be done through establishing and managing a regional technology and information-clearing house; regional databases, system models and decision-support tools; and functional platforms for communicating and exchanging knowledge and information.





## Our team

Our team comprises nationally and regionally recruited professional staff who manage, coordinate and backstop regional multi-disciplinary teams of researchers, farmers, social economists, development workers, extension agents, policy analysts, decision makers, and knowledge and communication specialists from the member countries.

## Funding

Since inception in 1994, ASARECA has been funded by national governments of member countries in Eastern and Central Africa and international development partners. The development partners include: European Union; United States Agency for International Development; the UK Department for International Development; Swedish International Development Agency; Canadian International Development Agency; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; African Development Bank; and International Development Research Centre. Some of the funds were channeled through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund managed by the World Bank.





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