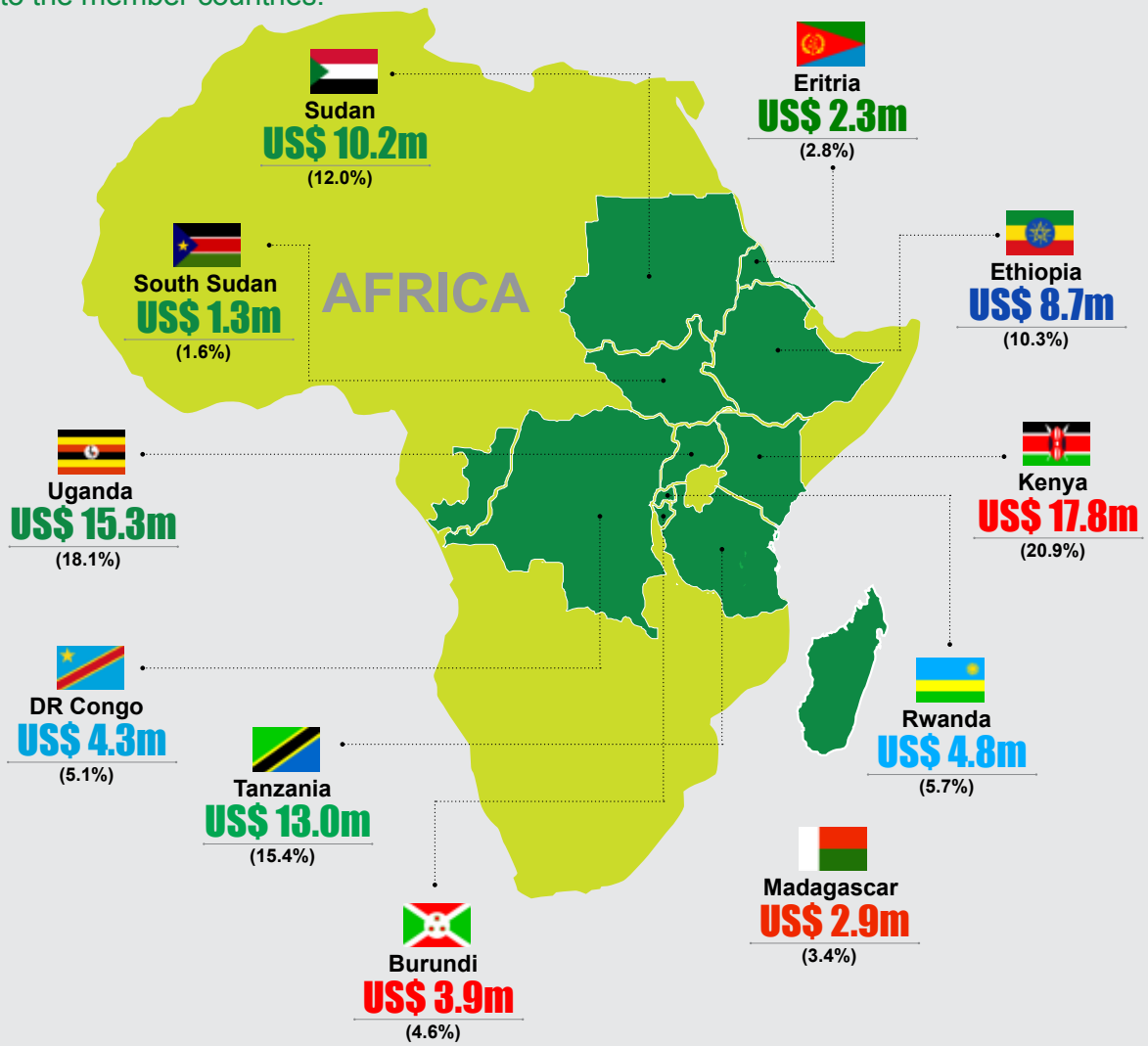
Contribution to Member Countries

Since inception in 1994, ASARECA has worked with National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of its twelve member countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Between 1994 and 2018, ASARECA mobilized **US$ 131 million** to implement Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives in the countries. In addition, ASARECA coordinated the EAAPP programme in five member countries. Below are snapshots of ASARECA contribution to the member countries.



South Sudan

South Sudan was enjoined to the ASARECA family in 2011 by the First ASARECA General Assembly. Since then, ASARECA has worked mainly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development to jointly address AR4D challenges in the country. Between 2011 and 2018, ASARECA invested US$ 1.3 million to catalyze agricultural transformation in South Sudan through key beneficiary projects highlighted below:

Up scaling adoption of NERICA rice: ASARECA supported researchers from South Sudan and Uganda to enhance productivity, value addition, and competitiveness of smallholder NERICA rice production systems in the post conflict areas of Northern Uganda and South Sudan. In South Sudan, it was promoted in Morobo and Yei counties. The project established innovation platforms for upscaling NERICA innovations through participation.

NERICA rice was promoted in Northern Uganda and South Sudan in Morobo and Yei counties.

The multi-stakeholder platforms comprised members from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development; Agricultural extension Department; Millers; NGOs; Farmers; Traders; Community leaders; Commissioners for Agriculture; Seed companies and Japan International Corporation Agency among others. The project established commercial supply and distribution systems in which farmers were contracted to produce the seeds. An analysis of both seed and grain production and supply chains was conducted and priority constraints identified and addressed.

A total of 1,200 value chain actors were trained on production, processing and marketing of the new technologies. Demonstration sites were established in Yei and Morobo for training potential seed growers and rice farmers on best agronomic practices.

On-station upland rice trials of twenty (20) varieties including NERICA 1, 4 and 10 alongside preferred local varieties showed that NERICA flowers much earlier and yields higher than the local varieties. By the end of the project, NERICA varieties were due to be released into the national seed system.

Farmers in Morobo produced a total of 7.6 MT of Quality Declared Seed (QDS); while those in Yei produced 3 MT. As a result of the interventions, the farmers reported increased incomes with which they paid school fees for their children; bought livestock (cows and goats), motor cycles, cars, quality seed and rice threshers among others.

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Confronting maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLN): Following the outbreak of the Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN) disease in the region, ASARECA supported South Sudan researchers to control the spread of the disease in the country. As part of this support, surveys were conducted in the major maize-growing areas of Magwi and Torit Counties in the Eastern Equatoria State; and Ikotos and Juba Counties in the Central Equatoria State, which confirmed the presence of the disease. The surveys also established disease distribution, and information on indigenous knowledge and other coping strategies that farmers were using to manage the disease. As a result, South Sudan research teams assembled and sent 12 types of maize germplasm for screening at the CIMMYT MLN facility in Naivasha, Kenya. The teams are in the process of increasing seed of selected hybrids and of open pollinated varieties with tolerance to MLN.