

# A Silver Jubilee in Coordinating AR4D



Milestones ● Events ● Strategy ● Partnerships ● Stories

Annual Corporate Report 2019



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**Writer:** Ben Moses Ilakut

**Editors:** Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, Enock Warinda, Moses Odeku

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**Cover photo:** Some of the ASARECA Patron Ministers and Board Members join H.E. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission to cut a cake at the launch of the Silver Jubilee celebrations during the ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers meeting in Kampala, Uganda in May 2019.

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

Plot 5, Mpigi Road

P. O. Box 765, Entebbe, Uganda

Tel: +256 414 320 556, +256 414 321 885

Email: [secretariat@asareca.org](mailto:secretariat@asareca.org)

Website: [www.asareca.org](http://www.asareca.org)

 [asareca@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/asareca@facebook.com)

 [@asareca](https://twitter.com/asareca)

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# 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 common challenges facing agriculture in the member countries.

# ASARECA Coverage



Find out more on:

[www.asareca.org](http://www.asareca.org)



# Vision & Mission

## ASARECA Vision

A transformed ECA agricultural sector supporting improved livelihoods, sustained economic growth and inclusive development



## ASARECA Mission

To contribute to increased productivity, commercialization and competitiveness of the ECA agricultural sector through strengthening, catalyzing and coordinating agricultural research for development in the sub region



# ASARECA Stakeholders

- Government Ministries in charge of Agricultural Research
- National Agricultural Research Institutes
- Farmer Associations
- National and Sub-Regional Associations that Coordinate Agricultural Research, Extension, Training and Education
- Associations of Processors of Agricultural Products and Service Providers
- Associations of Agricultural Businesses and Related Marketing Agents
- Consumer Associations
- Organized Women and Youth Groups Working in Agriculture
- Non-Governmental Associations Working in Agricultural Research and Development
- International Agricultural Research Centres
- Universities and Advanced Research Institutes
- Investors and Development Partners
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

# Statement by the Chairman Board of Directors

I would like to congratulate the ASARECA Board of Directors and the Secretariat upon the successful signing of a Grant Agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to implement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Ex Pillar 4 (CAADP-XP4) Project.



*Dr. Abubakr Ibrahim Mohamed Hussein, the Chairman ASARECA Board of Directors*

**A**lthough the signing happened towards the end of the year (November 15, 2019), it is a historic event and a culmination of concerted repositioning efforts carried out during ASARECA's transition period. For this reason, I would like to most heartily thank the European Union, one of the most enduring ASARECA Development Partners, for once again being the first to come to the aid of ASARECA in implementing its strategic vision.

The CAADP-XP4 Project is meant to to enable African Agricultural Research and Innovation institutions to contribute effectively to food and nutrition security, economic development and climate change



mitigation. The Project directly contributes to Pillar 2 of the EU Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) initiative aimed at spurring a Science-led and Climate-Relevant Agricultural Transformation in Africa. Thank you!

I would also like to applaud ASARECA for finalizing the implementation of reforms aimed at re-organizing the institution to enable it to operate effectively. Most remarkably, ASARECA organized its Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) Summit in May 2019, in Kampala, Uganda.

Through the Summit, reforms undertaken during 2016 through to 2018 were endorsed at the highest political levels. This was signified by the ratification of the new Governance Framework (new ASARECA Constitution, Governance Manual, and Board of Directors); acceptance the new Strategy and its Operational Plan; blessing to the Rebranding of the institution; and the adoption of evidence on Conservation based

**I would like to most heartily thank the European Union, one of the most enduring ASARECA Development Partners, for once again being the first to come to the aid of ASARECA in implementing its strategic vision.**

Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture (CASI).

On this note, I would like to thank the European Union, USAID, the World Bank, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) for their financial and technical support to ASARECA in implementing the reforms, the SIMLESA Project and for co-organising the CPM.

I also thank the Secretariat for

successfully coordinating the implementation of the Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) project and for convening the General Assembly and Steering Committee for the AnGR stakeholders.

In the same breath, I thank the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda, and the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre/ Data Bank (NAGRC/DB) for co-organizing the launch of the multi-purpose Regional Animal Genetic Resources Gene Bank in Entebbe.

Finally, I thank all our member country Governments, Development Partners, and bilateral partner institutions for being with ASARECA in good and challenging times.

**Dr. Abubakr Ibrahim Mohamed Hussein**



# Statement by the Executive Director

The future for ASARECA is bright! Over the last four years, the Association has taken unprecedented measures and efforts to rebuild, refocus, rebrand, and buttress itself to guide the sub-region in implementing a robust Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) agenda.

The year 2019 was the climax of these measures, coinciding with celebrations to mark a Silver Jubilee.

During 2019, ASARECA focused efforts on six major areas:

1. Finalizing the implementation of governance reforms that were aimed at restructuring and re-organizing the institution to enable it operate effectively. The finalization of these reforms entailed:

- Re-constituting Business Committees of the General Assembly at Country level;
- Holding the Select Committee Meeting of the Business Committee of the General Assembly to nominate new ASARECA Board Categories;
- Nominating a new Board of Directors; and
- Ratifying the new Board of Directors by the Council of Patron Ministers.

2. Finalizing and operationalizing the ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework (A-SRF: 2019-2028), and the first Medium-Term Operational Plan (MTOPI: 2019-2023).

3. Rebranding the institution to rebuild its image and credibility as the convener and coordinator of AR4D in ECA sub-region.

4. Re-engaging with ASARECA's most enduring development partner, the European Union in collaboration with IFAD leading to the development of a new flagship project,



Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, ASARECA Executive Director

CAADP-XP4.

5. Mobilizing resources to implement the new MTOPI.

6. Finally, we published our flagship book: *ASARECA @25: Celebrating Decades of Coordinating Collaborative Agricultural Research for Development (1994-2019)*. The book highlights the contribution of ASARECA to AR4D over the last 25 years and describes our future role in AR4D. This book is available of [www.asareca.org](http://www.asareca.org).

This Annual Corporate report highlights progress and achievements recorded in the six areas, which constitute the implementation

frameworks under the ASARECA Strategic Plan and Results Framework, and the first Medium-Term Operational Plan.

I would like to appreciate efforts and contributions from all our member country Governments, Development Partners, and Bilateral Partner Institutions towards bringing the institution this far.

Thank you

  
Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda



01

# NEW PROJECTS



CATALYST

CONVENER

ASARECA is strategically repositioned to perform a higher level facilitative, supportive, coordination and advocacy role to enhance sustainable agricultural transformation, sustained economic growth and inclusive development in the ECA sub region. 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 impact in the ECA sub region.

PARTNERSHIP BROKER

FACILITATOR

COMMUNICATOR

COORDINATOR



# Unveiling the CAADP XP4 Project

ASARECA started the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Ex Pillar 4 (CAADP-XP4) Project with an inception workshop that was held in October 21-25, 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The objective of the workshop was to review the Project implementation arrangements by implementing partners and ensure coherence and complementarity.



CAADP-XP4 implementing partners during a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2019

The other partners involved in implementation of CAADP-XP4 include: the Agricultural Forum for African Advisory Services (AFAAS), the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

The project is funded by the European Union (EU) and managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

ASARECA signed a grant agreement with IFAD, committing to start implementation on November 15, 2019. The total grant amount is Euros 5,370,000. The project will run for four years until December 31, 2023. Subsequently, the Technical and Advisory Committee meetings of the five participating institutions took place in Johannesburg, South Africa on December 14-17, 2019.

**ASARECA signed a grant agreement with IFAD, committing to start implementation on November 15, 2019. The total grant amount is Euros 5,370,000. The project will run for four years until December 31, 2023**

The overall objective of the Project is to promote climate-relevant, productive, and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-income countries in Africa. It directly contributes to Pillar 2 of the EU Development Smart Innovation through

Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) initiative aimed at spurring a Science-led and Climate-Relevant Agricultural Transformation in Africa.

The Project targets to deliver 5 outputs namely: **(i)** Strengthened capacity of African research and innovation organizations to successfully deliver implementation of the project; **(ii)** Multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation established and in operation; **(iii)** Policies in support of climate relevant agricultural and food systems transformation formulated, investments increased, advocacy and market linkages strengthened; **(iv)** Strengthened knowledge management and communication systems for decision support, sharing innovation and advocacy related to climate relevant agriculture transformation; and **(v)** Effective planning, coordination, partnership, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting on the programme enhanced at all levels.





European Union



## The LEAP4FNSSA Project

ASARECA is among the 35 partner organizations (15 African and 20 European) that are implementing the EU-funded Long-term EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (LEAP4FNSSA) Project. Specifically, ASARECA participates in the Work Package #3 on Information Generation and Knowledge Management.



LEAP4FNSSA meeting participants in Nairobi, Kenya, on February 18, 2020



LEAP4FNSSA is an EU-funded Coordination and Support Action (CSA) under Horizon 2020. The French International Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CIRAD) serves as the overall Coordinator of this project.

The overall aim of LEAP4FNSSA is to create a support platform for the implementation of the EU-Africa Research and Innovation partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA).

To reach this objective, the project intends to increase the synergies and coherence among involved actors, including end-users, decision makers, research and innovation (R&I) funders, innovators, researchers and other stakeholders.

LEAP4FNSSA supports common Research and Innovation initiatives and programmes in FNSSA through the development of institutional alliances, enhancing joint programming, dialogue, awareness and dissemination events, brokerage and innovation workshops. Alliances are complemented by the creation of clusters of projects that support the EU-Africa research and innovation partnership in its endeavours to optimise FNSSA.

**The overall aim of LEAP4FNSSA is to create a support platform for the implementation of the EU-Africa Research and Innovation partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA).**

During the reporting period, ASARECA participated in the 1st General Assembly of the LEAP4FNSSA Project from January 29 to February 1, 2019 in Accra, Ghana. The meeting was meant to launch the Project and hold its First General Assembly.

Subsequently, the Executive Director, Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, was invited as Resource Person (Panellist) in the 1st sub-regional meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on February 8 to 9, 2020. The meeting was aimed at disseminating to decision makers and Research and Innovation funders: (i) project strategies; (ii) background of the AU-EU research and innovation dialogue on FNSSA; (iii) prospects of regional cooperation on

FNSSA. The meeting forms part of the Work-Package #4 coordinated by the Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Agronomic Research in Bari (CIHEAM-Bari, Italy) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Egypt (MHESR).

The second meeting helped in identifying FNSSA Research and Innovation relevant topics for Eastern Africa sub-region based on the results of the Open Consultation that was carried out to gather main issues related to research and innovation in the framework of Food Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture.

The questionnaire used during the consultation ([www.leap4fnssa.org](http://www.leap4fnssa.org)) was drawn from a report on "An Africa-Europe Agenda for Rural Transformation" that was produced by the AU-EU Task Force Rural Africa, under the aegis of European Commission ([www.leap4fnssa.org](http://www.leap4fnssa.org)).

The meeting also identified relevant stakeholders that would form a regional network for the EU-AU FNSSA partnership in the sub-region. The network shall involve research and education, funding agencies, entrepreneurs, farmers' associations and other potential users of R&I products on FNSSA.



Australian Government

Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research



# Virtual Irrigation Academy Project Phase II (VIA II)

Having successfully coordinated the Virtual Irrigation Academy Project Phase I (VIA I), ASARECA was requested to continue its coordination role in the VIA II project whose implementation started in July 2019 and is expected to end in July 2023.

It is a brainchild of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) in partnership with the Australian Centre of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

In Phase 1, the project refined and tested a suite of tools that measure soil water, nitrate and salt using colours as thresholds for action. The aim was to build a people-centred learning system that could capture and document the experiential knowledge of irrigation farmers. The tools include the Chameleon sensor array and reader, the Full Stop wetting front detector, the Chameleon conductivity meter and nutrient colour test strips. The Chameleon reader is Wi-Fi enabled so that the information is both easily accessible to the farmer in the field and simultaneously uploaded to the cloud, where it is collated and the data visualized as colour patterns at <https://via.farm/>. This is the philosophy



Farmers in Malawi demonstrate the use of VIA tools

behind the Virtual Irrigation Academy (VIA).

Farmers in Tanzania and Malawi, which piloted the project, have readily adopted these tools and the demand for them continues to grow. The impact at farm level, even in the short term, has exceeded all expectations. The majority of farmers have reported large increases in yields, coupled with reduced use of water. Social learning around the tools means that impacts have been observed beyond the scale of the project itself, and scheme level conflicts over water have dramatically reduced. Short video clips on <https://via.farm/stories/> give snapshots of farmer experience.

### Approach, aim and objectives

The title of **phase II** is **“From water monitoring to learning to governance**. It will be implemented in the three countries of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In this round, the project will develop the system from its current function of monitoring water and solutes, to a water learning and governance platform that can support the needs of smallholder farmers and address the information deficits at scheme to national levels. Whereas building the capacity of farmers is essential, higher order obstacles limit the profitability of

the sector. The water sector is currently constrained by the absence of information that can connect the interests of farmers, scheme managers, researchers, investors and governments, who are the five ‘clients’ of the VIA. Moreover there is no accountability system in place that can track the productive use and governance of water for irrigation, and hence no feedback from which to learn and improve.

### Project Objectives

**Objective 1:** On-going development and refinement of the VIA tools and platform to make it more robust, cost effective and user-friendly.

**Objective 2:** Increase the capacity and reliability of the Chameleon production line in Africa, not only for this project, but also for the growing community of VIA users worldwide.

**Objective 3:** Build cost-effective ways to roll out the VIA and obtain quality-controlled field data as the VIA operates at larger scale.

**Objective 4:** Develop the data analytics that capture the value proposition for each of the five ‘clients’ of the VIA.

**Objective 5:** Create business models

and organisational structures that can deliver the VIA irrigation learning and governance platform.

### Significant activities and outputs

It is anticipated that the project will continue to expand the number of farmers participating in the VIA, and focus on deriving information analytics from the expanding database of crops that are being monitored.

The major outputs will include new ways to display information about water that connect farmers, extension workers, researchers and managers into a unified learning community.

### Key partnerships

The project seeks to develop three partnership models. The first is to nurture a group of scientists in how to combine insights from research-based and experience-based modes of learning. The second is to build strong links with government agencies responsible for the development and management of irrigation schemes and the donors who provide investment funds. The third is to establish private sector capabilities to enter into public-private partnerships that can deliver the VIA at scale after the completion of phase 2.



## Uganda's Prime Minister rallies Governments to support AR4D

The Secretariat successfully convened the inaugural ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) Summit and ASARECA General Assembly. The opening ceremony of the Summit was officiated by Uganda's Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Affairs, Rt. Hon. Alhaj Ali Kirunda Kivejinja.

In his speech, the Second Deputy Prime Minister, rallied Governments in the ECA sub-region to embrace collaboration to maximize benefits of AR4D. Some of the key take-home statements he made are captured below:

- **On the importance of working as a region:** "The African Proverb goes; If you want to go quickly, go alone, but if you really want to go far, then go together...Regional collaboration is critical in ensuring that African countries reinforce each other in tackling current and emerging challenges to Agricultural research, food and income security."
- **On benefits of regional initiatives:** "Regional agricultural research institutions such as ASARECA play a role in catalyzing collective actions and economies of scale by allowing our sovereign governments to access and share proven technologies and innovations and scarce resources such as scientists and hi-tech laboratory infrastructure."



*Rt. Hon. Alhaj Ali Kirunda Kivejinja (right) chats with Dr. Peter Horne, Global Manager, Country Programmes, ACIAR (left) and Dr. John Patrick Kaboyo IGAD (back right)*

- **On food security:** "National agricultural research systems are at the core of innovation for local and national food security. Innovations, technologies and management practices developed through publicly-funded agricultural research help producers around the world to remain competitive by increasing the productivity and sustainability of production, reducing wastage in the value chains and enabling adaptation to and mitigation of climate change."



02

# MILESTONES AND STRATEGIC EVENTS OF THE YEAR







*ASARECA key stakeholders including the Council of Patron Ministers, General Assembly, Board of Directors, and National Focal Persons join the Guest of Honour, Rt. Hon. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja, Uganda's Second Deputy Prime Minister in a group photo. The Ministers received evidence of SIMLESA work during the Summit.*

## Convening the **ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers Summit and General Assembly**

The Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) comprises the Ministers responsible for agricultural research in ASARECA member countries. It provides overall guidance to regional collaborative programmes, confers the legal authority to the institution as the signatory of the Constitution of ASARECA, and also provides political patronage to ASARECA.

The Council of Patron Ministers was convened to:

- Approve the Constitution and the Governance Manual.
- Inaugurate the ASARECA new Board of Directors.
- Receive ASARECA's new Strategy and Medium Operational Plan.
- Share evidence on Conservation Agriculture-based Sustainable Intensification (CASI) technologies.

## Important milestones from the Council of Patron Ministers Summit

- 1** The Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) elected Hon. Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries—Uganda as the Chair of the CPM for a period of 2-years.
- 2** The Republic of Uganda, joined by Governments in the 12-member countries supported the governance and management reforms undertaken by ASARECA and called more efficient support to member states to achieve agricultural transformation.
- 3** The CPM reiterated that they would at all times provide political support to ASARECA and ensure that it is representative of the aspirations of the national Governments.
- 4** The Ministers received and ratified the revised Constitution of ASARECA, inaugurated the new Board of Directors and received ASARECA's new Strategy and Results Framework.
- 5** The General Assembly approved the appointment of a new ASARECA Board of Directors.
- 6** The Board of Directors elected Dr. Hussein Abubakr, the Director General of Agriculture Research Council (ARC) Sudan as the new Chairman Board of Directors. Consequently, Dr. Ambrose Agona, who until May 2 was the Board Chairman, handed over office and instruments of power to Dr. Hussein Abubakr.
- 7** The General Assembly officially accepted the admission of the Republic of the Congo into ASARECA family, making RoC the 12th member of ASARECA.
- 8** The CPM received evidence on the impact of Conservation Agriculture-based Sustainable Intensification (CASI) and signed a joint communiqué on CASI.



**The Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) elected Hon. Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries—Uganda as the Chair of the CPM.**





**Dr. Hussein Abubakr**  
NARI Representative,  
Agriculture Research  
Council (ARC), Sudan



**Amb. Dr. Kipyego  
Cheluget**  
Representative of the  
Regional Economic  
Communities



**Dr. Robin Buruchara**  
Representative of the  
Consultative Group on  
International Agricultural  
Research (CGIAR)



**Asst. Prof. Bol Andrew  
Wieu Riak**  
Representative of Farmers  
Organisation (Dept of  
Agricultural Extension and  
Rural Dev't, Upper Nile  
University, South Sudan



**Dr. Yona Baguma**  
NARI Representative,  
National Agricultural  
Research Organisation  
(NARO), Uganda



**Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo**  
NARI Representative,  
Tanzania Agriculture  
Research Institute (TARI)

## A lean and efficient Board of Directors

The reconstitution of ASARECA's Board of Directors (BoD) was a concerted and comprehensive process, which kicked off with the constitution of a five-member High-Level Advisory Panel (HLAP). The HLAP was mandated to provide oversight in the process of revising the Constitution and Governance Manual to empower the Patron Ministers to appoint the new Board of Directors.

This process was contextualized through the Governance Reform White Paper, which was developed to provide a blueprint for the convening of an extraordinary meeting of the Select Committee to nominate the new Board categories.

Presided over by the General Assembly President, Prof. Joseph Bigirimana, delegates from the 12 ASARECA countries on February 11-12, 2019 convened in Entebbe, Uganda and nominated institutions to provide candidates to be considered for the BoD. The mandatory

organizations from which the institutions were selected from included: National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs); the Regional Economic Communities (RECs); the CGIAR; Development Partners; and multi-disciplinary sector representatives.

The Committee nominated the institutions as follows:

- Five National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) from which representative NARIs on ASARECA Board of Directors were nominated.

The selected NARIs were: National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO- Uganda); Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI- Tanzania); Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR- Ethiopia); Agricultural Research Council (ARC- Sudan); and Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU- Burundi). Each of the five NARIs subsequently nominated one candidate who was eventually appointed as a member of the ASARECA Board.





**Eng. Dieudonne Nahimana**  
NARI Representative,  
Institut des Sciences  
Agronomiques du  
Burundi (ISABU)

**Prof. Patience M. Mshenga**  
Representative Higher  
Education (Chairperson  
of the Dep't of Agricultural  
Economics & Agribusiness  
Man't at Egerton University)

**Dr. Yirga Tizale Chilot**  
NARI Representative,  
Ethiopian Institute of  
Agricultural Research  
(EIAR)

**Ms Regina Kayitesi—**  
Representative Private  
Sector (Marketing  
Manager, Chamber of  
Agriculture and Livestock/  
PSF), Rwanda

**Ms Elysée Mvumbi**  
Representative Agricultural  
Extension Services  
(Monitoring and Evaluation  
Officer at the National  
Extension Service), DRC

**Mr. Eric Hermann Raparison**  
Representative NGOs  
(National Coordinator of the  
Civil Society Platform working  
in the land sector), Madagascar

- Five institutions from which one representative for each of the five mandated sectors were nominated. The mandated sectors are: Farmers' Organizations, Extension Services, Private Sector/Agribusiness, Non-Government Organizations and High Education. The Committee selected Kenya to nominate candidates for Higher Education; Rwanda for Private Sector; South Sudan for Farmer Organizations; Madagascar for NGOs; and Democratic Republic of Congo for Extension Services.
- Nominees from each category were expected to bring to the Board diverse skills sets in entrepreneurship, development and agribusiness; capacity strengthening; monitoring and evaluation; knowledge and information management; legal and



The HLAP comprised among others, **H.E. Rhoda P. Tumusiime** (Team Leader-pictured); Dr. Ephraim A. Mukisira; Prof. Paul Mafuka; and Mr. Stephen Muchiri

- governance services; and finance management.
- One representative of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

including COMESA, EAC and IGAD. The Committee selected the Common Market for Eastern and Central Africa (COMESA) to provide a candidate to represent the RECs in the Board. Other RECs have the opportunity to provide a representative during the 2-year rotation.

- One representative of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The Committee nominated CIAT as the CGIAR representative in the Board.
- One representative for Development Partners (DPs). The DPs will vary their representative to the BoD whenever appropriate. The DP representative is expected to bring on board skills in partnerships management and resource mobilization.



*Board of Directors congratulate Dr. Armand Claude Mvila, Director General, IRA (centre in light blue) a representative of RoC, upon admission into the ASARECA family*

## Enjoining Republic of the Congo into the ASARECA family

**The Board of Directors accepted a request by Republic of the Congo (RoC) to join the ASARECA family in October 2018, making RoC ASARECA's 12th member.**

The admission of RoC was a strategic move as ASARECA seeks to expand its mandate to cover more countries in ECA that are missing out on benefits of regionally coordinated AR4D initiatives.

At the time of admission, RoC was set to participate in the Eastern and Central Africa Agriculture Development Project (ECAATP), a project, which ASARECA was slated to coordinate.

Based on the foregoing, ASARECA Management and the Board of Directors initiated the process of enlisting RoC into the Association following laid



*Mr. Jean Claude Boukono, Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Scientific Research & Technical Innovation, represented the Government of the Republic of the Congo during their admission to ASARECA.*

down Constitutional and Governance procedures. This process began in July

2018, when the Chairman of the BoD sent a formal invitation to the Minister for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in RoC, and the National Agriculture Research Institute (INRA-Congo). Subsequently, the Minister submitted a formal application to the ASARECA Board to enlist RoC as the 12th member of the Association. The 27th ASARECA Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors held from 12th – 15th December 2018 favourably received the application. Delegates endorsed the admission of RoC to ASARECA during the CPM and General Assembly in May 2019.





*ASARECA Board of Directors flanked by Secretariat staff during their second meeting in Entebbe, Uganda*

## Second meeting of ASARECA reconstituted Board

The reconstituted ASARECA Board of Directors held their second meeting from September 17 to 18, 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. The BoD among other issues,

called upon the Secretariat to prioritize: guiding the governments in the sub-region in the areas of biotechnology; coordinating regional interventions in Climate-Smart

Agriculture; mainstreaming youth and women across the value chains; and coordinating efforts to deal with invasive species such as Fall Armyworm.

## Dr. Warinda appointed ASARECA new Deputy Executive Director

The ASARECA Board of Directors meeting held from September 17 to 18, 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda unanimously recommended the appointment of Dr. Enock Warinda as the Interim Deputy Executive Director, effectively elevating him as the head of the technical programme team as well as facilitator of administrative roles.

The appointment took effect from November 1, 2019. Prior to the



*Dr. Enock Warinda*

appointment, Dr. Warinda had been serving as the Theme Leader—Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management in ASARECA, a role that he still oversees in his new capacity.

Among other roles, Dr. Warinda will provide leadership alongside the Executive Director, Prof. Jean Jacques Muhinda, in the development of strategic initiatives for resourcing ASARECA to fulfill its AR4D mandate.





*Dignitaries join H.E Paul Kagame (centre) during the Dialogue in Kigali, Rwanda on August 5-6, 2019*

## Africa Food Security Dialogue Highlights need for Coordinated Effort

**ASARECA participated in the Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue (AFSLD) in Kigali, Rwanda on August 5-6, 2019.**

The Dialogue was convened by the African Union and four multilateral agencies—the African Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Bank. The goal of the dialogue was to strengthen the coordination of

development partners and regional efforts to support countries to accelerate progress towards their collective food and nutrition security goals as envisioned in



*Geraldine Mukeshimana, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda*

the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The Guest of Honour, Rwanda's President, His Excellency Paul Kagame, urged researchers and policy makers to find comprehensive solutions to food and nutrition security rather than focus only on climate change.

The AFSLD was attended by more than 250 high-level decision makers including 28 Ministers from across the continent, Nobel laureates, leading technical specialists in Africa and high-level representatives from international organizations such as the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations' agencies, the Consultative Group for



*H.E. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission*

**The Guest of Honour, Rwanda's President, His Excellency Paul Kagame, urged researchers and policy makers to find comprehensive solutions to food and nutrition security rather than focus only on climate change.**

International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and bilateral development partners. Some of the key dignitaries in the Dialogue were: Geraldine Mukeshimana, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda; Akinwumi Adesina, President, AfDB; Gilbert Hougbo, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development; Kristalina Georgieva, CEO, World Bank; H.E. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission; Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization; Hafez Ghanem, Vice President for Africa, World Bank; and Mansur Muhtar, Vice President, Islamic Development Bank.

The meeting ended with a joint Communiqué, urging development partners to strengthen coordination efforts to better support countries to accelerate progress towards their collective food and nutrition security goals.

ASARECA was invited to attend the conference along with other African and international research organizations, such as CGIAR Centres, FARA, CORAF and CCARDESA. To date, ASARECA Secretariat is leveraging on the AFSLD Communiqué in its efforts to raise funds.





*Prof. Jean-Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda (left) and Ms. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe sign the MoU at COMESA Secretariat in Lusaka on October 7, 2019*



## ASARECA signs MoU for cooperation with COMESA

**ASARECA Secretariat, with support from the High Level Advisory Panel (HLAP), engaged with a number of continental and regional economic organizations, including COMESA.**

Subsequently, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was developed, discussed and reviewed by both parties in 2018. In October 2019, the Secretary General of COMESA invited the Executive Director of ASARECA to Lusaka to sign the MoU and discuss possible joint initiatives.

The signing ceremony took place on 7th October at the COMESA Secretariat in

Lusaka, Zambia. The Secretary General, Ms. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe signed on behalf of COMESA, while the Executive Director, Prof. Jean-Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda signed on behalf of ASARECA. The ceremony was witnessed by COMESA Assistant Secretary General, who is also the Vice-Chairman of ASARECA Board of Directors, Dr. Amb. Kipyego Cheluget. Two planning meetings have since been held to: come up with a joint action plan

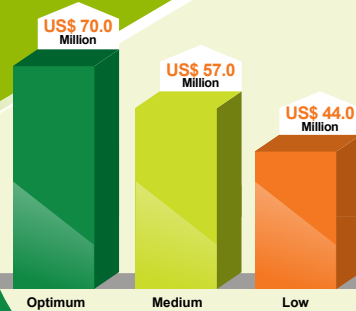
on implementation of on-going projects; and identify other joint initiatives. Broader areas of collaboration include: **i)** Seed system development; **ii)** Biotechnology and Biosafety development; **c)** Regional food balance sheet; **iii)** Regional food trade policies; and **iv)** Fertilizer policy harmonization. In the same line, ASARECA management is still pursuing formalization of collaboration with the African Union-DREA and IGAD.



3

# STRATEGY AND RESULTS FRAMEWORK (2019-2028)

ASARECA Board of Directors and Management initiated a process to develop a new ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework (A-SRF 2019-2028) to capture new and evolving institutional and policy reforms, while taking advantage of the current and emerging opportunities.



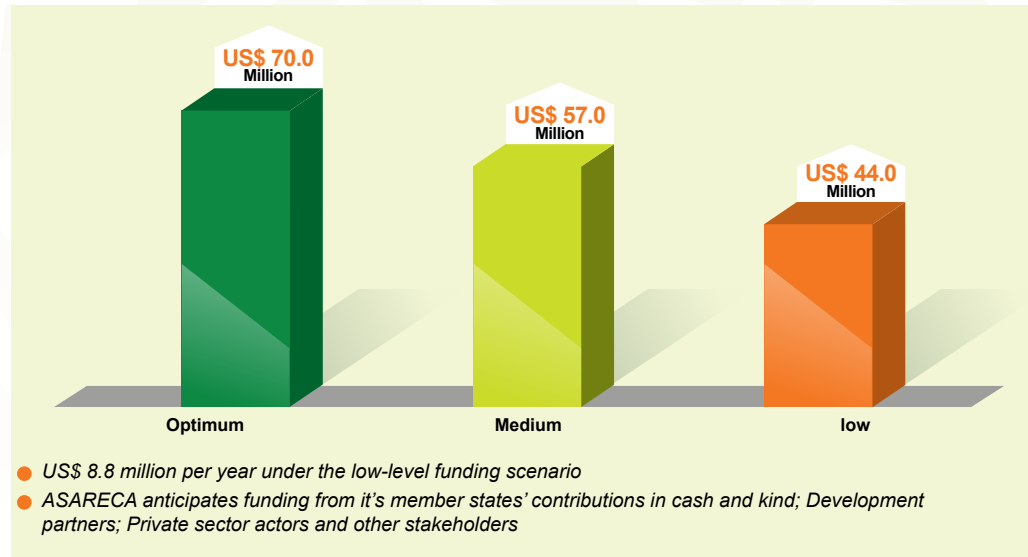
# New ASARECA Strategy for Transformative AR4D

The process involved extensive consultations with the ECA member States and partners to ensure that the new Strategy: (i) Takes into account the achievements and lessons learnt during the implementation of previous Strategic Plans; (ii) Incorporates constructive views from key stakeholders; (iii) Builds on the current gains in implementing regional initiatives; and (iv) Contributes significantly to inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation.

Through the new strategy, ASARECA has: (i) Redefined its niche and set clear priority areas of focus for it to remain relevant in the changing AR4D environment; (ii) Repositioned itself in order to continue providing support in transforming the sub regional agriculture; (iii) Re-examined its effectiveness, visibility, sustainability and impact; (iv) Identified and articulated areas of comparative advantage that it can leverage on to facilitate delivery of priority AR4D outcomes; and (v) Defined the basis for developing an organizational structure and operational modalities.

The Strategy is well aligned to the major regional, continental and global frameworks.

## Financing scenarios for ASARECA's MTOP-3 (2019-2023), in US\$ million



Similarly, ASARECA has committed itself to focus on four thematic areas that are well aligned to the major ongoing national, regional and continental initiatives. The themes are: (i) Transformative Capacity Strengthening and Integration; (ii) Agricultural Transformation Technologies and Innovations; (iii) Enabling Policy Environment, Functional Markets and Transformative Institutions; and (iv) Knowledge and Information Management.

## Medium Term Operational Plan (MTOP-1: 2019-2023)

The Secretariat finalized the development

of its MTOP-1, which operationalizes the Strategy. So far the Secretariat has: (i) initiated the identification of regional research priorities and opportunities through development of assorted concept notes and proposals; (ii) continued to broker and manage strategic research partnerships to address identified regional priorities; and (iii) continued to monitor and evaluate spill over effects of the regional agricultural productivity programs. MTOP1 budgetary requirement for the first five years has been estimated based on different categories and funding levels as reflected in the graphics above.



*ASARECA flag and flags of member countries fly at the Secretariat in Entebbe*

## Re-branding to project ASARECA as the AR4D convener

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

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

The biggest opportunity to rebrand came with the convening of the Council of Patron Ministers Summit in May 2019.

The Secretariat used the Summit to deliver a powerful message that it had: Sharpened its niche as the regional “Go to Service Provider of Choice” for AR4D coordination, convening, partnership brokerage, process facilitation, advocacy, and communication; reformed its Governance structures; strengthened its fiduciary management; and revisited its

programming to address the needs of its constituents.

The Secretariat also launched activities to celebrate ASARECA’s Silver Jubilee during the CPM. Besides, a series of branding initiatives have since been implemented. They include:



## Branding initiatives implemented

### Website

Development, launch, and operationalization of a new dynamic and interactive **website**



### Newsletter

Development, launch, and operationalization of an **online monthly newsletter**

### Social media

Proactive engagement through **social media**



### Communication

Regular **email** communication with partners



### Strategy

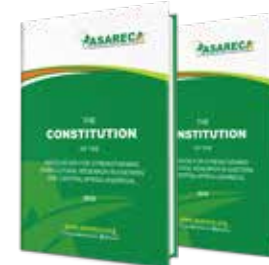
Presentations on ASARECA's new **Strategy and Operational Plan to partners**



### Branding

Development and regular display of ASARECA branded visibly materials including teardrops, pull-up banners, branded presentations, car stickers, badges, diaries, notebooks, pens, business cards, and calendar etc

### Governance



Development of **Governance books** such as the ASARECA Constitution, Governance Manual, Operational Manual, and the Governance White Paper

### Visibility materials

Development of knowledge and visibility materials including ASARECA @25, pagers showing ASARECA investment in member countries, ASARECA Strategy & Results Framework, Medium Term Operational Plan I, Annual Corporate Reports, and brochure

### Visibility

Flying of ASARECA flag and member country flags at the Secretariat



04

# PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



AGRA  
Agriculture



# Fostering partnerships for resource mobilisation

The Secretariat engaged in resource mobilization using a multi-pronged approach including: (i) development of concept notes and proposals; (ii) participation in consortia for resource funding; (iii) direct discussions with prospective development partners; (iv) brokering partnerships with AR4D organizations to leverage resources; and (v) building and maintaining relationships to guide these efforts. Some of the key partnership engagements towards resource mobilization are highlighted in the following pages:



## ASARECA ED visits Eritrea's Agriculture Minister

ASARECA Executive Director, Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, held talks with the Minister of Agriculture for Eritrea, Hon. Arefaine Berhe on February 4, 2019. The meeting was attended by the Director General of the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), Mr Tsegay Berhane. The

Minister outlined Eritrea's agriculture investment priorities for alignment with ASARECA Strategic focus.

On his part, Prof. Muhinda explained how ASARECA is strategically positioned to contribute to efforts aimed at tackling Eritrea's Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) challenges.

The Minister noted that Eritrea had over the last 25 years benefited a lot through regional projects coordinated by ASARECA. Such projects include: Sorghum-legume intercrop for food security; Promoting pearl millet innovations; Addressing effects of climate change through response farming; Characterization of production traits and establishment of genetic potential for improved indigenous sheep and goats; Strengthening regional germplasm collection and forage seed production; and Evaluation of Striga resistant and drought tolerant sorghum varieties, among others.



*Left - Right: Mr Tsegay Berhane, Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda and Hon. Arefaine Berhe during talks in Asmara on February 4, 2019*



## Visit by the Executive Director to Washington DC

The Executive Director was invited to Washington DC (July 22-26, 2019) for a series of arranged meetings with senior World Bank, USAID, and IFPRI officials. The overall theme of the meetings was “Opportunities for financing the ASARECA programme” post the MDTF grant, which expired in December 2018. The meeting at the World Bank focused on finalization of preparations for the Eastern and Central Africa Agriculture Transformation Project (ECAATP) and ways of sourcing other financing. The meeting with USAID brought on board a range of potential Development Partners including USDA and APLU (Association of Public Land-Grant Universities of USA). The meetings were chaired by Dr. Simeon Ehui, World Bank Regional Director for Africa and attended by several other Bank officials including Dr. Bremala Nathan, the former MDTF Task Team leader; Dr. Elliot W. Mghenyi, ECAATP Task Team leader, Dr. Dina Umali-Deining, Practice Manager for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa; Dr. Tekola Dejene, WB Consultant in Agriculture; Dr. David Nielsen, Former WB staff and CAADP leader, among others.



WORLD BANK GROUP



## ASARECA USAID seek to align their Strategies

ASARECA held a resource mobilization meeting with the USAID East Africa Mission in Nairobi, Kenya (February 2019). The delegation comprising the Executive Director, Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, and the Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda, met with USAID Representative, Dr. Kathryn Begeal and other Mission officials. They explained ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework (A-SRF: 2019-2028); financing scenarios under Medium Term Operational Plan (MTOP-I: 2019-2023); and potential areas of alignment with USAID-EA Office. Dr. Begeal informed the delegation that USAID was in advanced stages of developing a new Strategy. The strategy was later finalized, upon which ASARECA mapped areas of possible collaboration with USAID for alignment.



## Meeting on seed and biotechnology

Following invitation by the AUC/DREA, ASARECA attended and contributed to the workshop on Seed Sector and Biotechnology Development (SSBD) in Nairobi, Kenya on December 3-6, 2019. The aim of the meeting was to develop a ten-year Action Plan for the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP).





L-R: Dr. Leah Ndugu (ACIAR), Prof. Muhinda (ASARECA); Dr. Peter Horne (ACIAR); Mr. Moses Odeke (ASARECA); and Dr. Enock Warinda (ASARECA) during the May 2019 CPM Summit

The ASARECA team explained ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework (A-SRF: 2019-2028) and financing scenarios for Medium Term Operational Plan (MTOPI: 2019-2023).

The two parties agreed to map potential areas of collaboration once the ACIAR new Strategy was finalised. In the meantime, they agreed that ASARECA would continue to coordinate the second Phase of the Virtual Irrigation Academy (VIA-2) Project. Subsequently, an agreement was signed with the lead partner, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) to operationalize ASARECA's role. The meeting also discussed preparations and financing for ASARECA Patron Ministers Summit. CIMMYT and ACIAR committed to co-host and co-finance the Summit. The ACIAR team was led by Dr. Leah Ndugu while CIMMYT was represented by Dr. Paswel Marenja.

## Meeting with ACIAR and CIMMYT

ASARECA Executive Director, Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda and the Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda, met with officials from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Nairobi, Kenya.



## CISRO/ACIAR conference and expo on Virtual Irrigation Academy

ASARECA was invited to attend the conference and expo organized by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) in Pretoria, South Africa. The purpose of the conference was to assess the progress made and lessons learnt from the Virtual Irrigation Academy (VIA-1) Project, as well as engage with ACIAR and CISRO managers regarding VIA-2 implementation and options for scaling up VIA innovations. To date, implementation of VIA-2 Project is underway in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and ASARECA plays the role of regional coordination.

## Engagement with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) held a meeting with ASARECA in Nairobi, Kenya in April 2019. The meeting focused on strategic alignment on initiatives at BecA-ILRI Hub and other potential areas of collaboration. As a follow-up action, ASARECA submitted a position paper to BMGF on its past work on agro-biotechnology in Eastern and Central Africa. The purpose of this paper was to initiate discussion on possible funding considering that BMGF is interested in biotechnology research, among other areas. A follow-up meeting was held with BMGF team during the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) held on September 3-6, 2019 in Accra, Ghana.



## Contribution to reforms in the inputs sector

ASARECA was invited to support the government of Kenya in reforming its current input subsidy programme (ISP) through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and irrigation. Other partners involved include AGRA, FAO, World Bank, IFDC and IFAD. Several meetings took place in Nairobi in August 2019 with the aim of designing options for an efficient and effective ISP model that the Government shall consider for adoption. The reform of Kenya's ISP is in line with the recently launched 10-year Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) that provides an over-arching framework for the growth of the sector. Reform and scaling up of the ISP has been identified as one of the key flagship programs. ASARECA hopes to complement this work under a collaborative project being discussed with AGRA.



*Republic of Kenya*

## Harnessing linkages with AFAAS

ASARECA held several rounds of engagement meetings to discuss strategic alignment of interventions in Eastern and Central Africa with the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS). ASARECA and AFAAS are already collaborating through implementation of the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A), TAAT, and CAADP-XP4 programs. Additionally, the two organizations are discussing modalities for sharing resources to leverage on each other's capacity.



**African Forum for Agricultural  
Advisory Services**

Knowledge & Novelty for Africa's Livelihoods





*Dr. Agnes Kalibata (2nd left) and Prof. Muhinda (3rd right) flanked by AGRA staff at AGRA offices in Nairobi, Kenya*

## **AGRA and ASARECA follow up collaboration opportunities**

ASARECA Executive Director, Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, held a meeting with the President Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Dr. Agnes Kalibata at AGRA offices in Nairobi, Kenya in July, 2019.

This was a follow up to an earlier meeting held in 2018. During the meeting, the officials matched

the ASARECA and AGRA thematic interventions and identified potential areas of collaboration and alignment.

These include mechanisms of coordination of data and information sharing; identification of key areas of intervention on enhancing trade, advocacy, markets and competitiveness; and provision of up-to-date data and informatics. It was agreed that ASARECA and AGRA would aim at starting joint work before end of 2019. Other follow-up meetings took place in July and August 2019.

The two institutions recognize their complementary roles in helping the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the national governments to achieve the Malabo targets. They have both developed well-informed Strategic Plans that underlie current Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) challenges and opportunities.

## **Dialogue for mainstreaming biodiversity in agricultural sub-sectors**

ASARECA participated in the African Regional Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors held in Kigali, Rwanda on October 22-23, 2019. The aim of the Dialogue was to mainstream biodiversity across all agricultural sectors, in line with regional priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was organized by FAO with the support of the Government of Rwanda in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the CBD Secretariat, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Africa.



## WATDEV project in the pipeline

Following submission of a project proposal developed in collaboration with the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation (AICS), CIHEAM-Bari and other partners, ASARECA was notified about the approval of funding for a new project. The Project, referred to as WATDEV, is funded by the European Commission through the DeSIRA initiative to the tune of Euros 435,000 (US\$ 478,500). It focuses on Climate Smart Water Management and Sustainable Development for Food and Agriculture in North-East Africa. A kick-off meeting was organized in Bari, Italy on December 4-5, 2019 and ASARECA was invited to participate. The meeting reviewed the project document, prepared a work plan for the first year of implementation, defined partners' roles, and discussed outstanding technical issues. The total project amount is Euros 7.5 million. It will be implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Egypt. ASARECA's role is coordination of regional activities.



## ASARECA EC discuss more collaboration

ASARECA Executive Director paid a visit to the European Commission in Brussels and held meetings with officials from the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (EC/DEVCO). Discussions focused mainly on how ASARECA could position itself and leverage on the CAADP-XP4 project to actively participate in the DeSIRA initiative through North-South cooperation arrangements. They also discussed broader support by DEVCO to ASARECA to achieve its function of regional and country-level AR4D coordination.



European Union

## Participation during the Africa Now Summit

ASARECA was among other Uganda-based Diplomatic Organizations which were invited to attend the Africa Now Summit 2019. The conference was organized by Africa Strategic Leadership Centre and held in Kampala on March 12-13, 2019. The overall objective was to hold a High Level Policy Dialogue on the role of effective regional integration in the growth of Africa's economy.



## Partnership with the Seed Systems Group (SSG)

The Seed Systems Group (SSG) is a new regional organization based in Nairobi that supports development of the seed sector in Africa. Six ASARECA member States, namely DRC, Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Madagascar, Eritrea and South Sudan are among the target countries. To that effect, SSG and ASARECA agreed to partner in supporting national agriculture research and extension agencies in developing their seed sub-sectors. Preliminary studies are underway in some countries. Collaboration between the two organizations will be formalized soon through an MoU.





## Collaboration with Centre for Global Development on Biotechnology Research and Development

During the year, ASARECA met with a visiting Fellow from the Centre for Global Development (CGD), Dr. Gyude Moore, to discuss opportunities for biotechnology research and development in Eastern and Central Africa. The two parties discussed Biotechnology initiatives, barriers and risks associated with trans-boundary movement of biotech products, and regulatory frameworks in facilitating biotechnology research and development. ASARECA Executive Director,



*Dr. Gyude Moore (centre) with ASARECA staff in Entebbe, Uganda*

Prof. Jean Jacques Muhinda, explained the regional strategic placement of ASARECA to convene agricultural stakeholders to undertake research for development in biotechnology. He also noted that political back up from the African Union is instrumental in supporting implementation of biotechnology research and use.

## Re-engagement with IITA

ASARECA Secretariat re-engaged with the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA). As a result, ASARECA regained its role in the USAID-funded Africa RISING-ESA project (Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for Next Generations). The overall purpose of Africa RISING is to provide pathways out of hunger and poverty for smallholder families through sustainably intensified farming systems for food, nutrition, and income security. ASARECA is currently representing other SROs in the Project Steering Committee. Other implementing partners are ILRI and IFPRI. Subsequently, ASARECA was invited to the Steering Committee meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on September 10-12, 2019.



## Linking higher education to AR4D

Building on past collaborative initiatives, ASARECA and the Regional Universities Forum (RUFORUM) held discussions on possibilities of co-creating joint projects. To this effect, ASARECA was invited to attend the Arab-African Partnership for Implementation of Africa's Universities Agenda for Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI) meeting that RUFORUM hosted in October 2019.





## Contributing to discourse on economic analysis of policies

ASARECA was invited to represent other African SROs during the Pan Africa Network for economic Analysis of Policies (PANAP) launch and first meeting on November 6-8, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This network was established by the EU-AU Agricultural Ministerial Conference and regroups academic/research and institutional partners collaborating with the European Commission in developing research in agricultural economics and policy issues in Africa.



## Participation at the Knowledge Brokerage Platform

ASARECA was invited to participate in FAO–China South–South and Triangular Cooperation Programme (SSTC) conference at Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala on November 25-29, 2019. The conference was organized by FAO and the Chinese Government and hosted by the Government of Uganda. The SSTC Gateway is a platform designed to facilitate knowledge and partnership brokerage in the agriculture and rural development sector.



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## Contribution to joint Agriculture Sector Review for the EAC

The Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Enock Warinda participated in a meeting on the Assessment of the Regional Agriculture Joint Sector Review (JSR) in the EAC Region on March 28, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. Through the JSR, the EAC seeks to undertake an assessment of the existing JSR mechanisms in the region. JSR is a platform for discussing issues affecting agricultural development with the view to making recommendations for institutional and policy reforms. It is also a tool for assessing the extent of implementation of agriculture and food security policy, and for promoting mutual accountability and implementing the CAADP results framework.



## Explaining priorities for livestock investment

ASARECA was invited to present a paper on “Priority areas for investment and funding for animal agriculture in the ECA sub-region” during the All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA) in Accra, Ghana on July 29 and August 2, 2019. The Executive Director made a presentation which attempted to answer the question on where Eastern and Central Africa is on the global map as regards to genetic transformation, gene editing, and animal biotechnologies.





## CABI/ASARECA moot joint interventions on invasive species

ASARECA Secretariat resumed collaboration with the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI). The partnership with CABI had been affected by the transition period that ASARECA went through. Two meetings have already been convened in Entebbe and Nairobi. Both organizations are in the process of developing a joint project on invasive species.



## Towards collation with Global Crop Breeding Support Service

ASARECA received Dr. Jean-Marcel Ribaut, Director of the Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP) at the Secretariat in Entebbe on October 17, 2019. The two organizations agreed to develop an MoU for collaboration with the Global Crop Breeding Support Service (GCBS), which was signed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019. One of the main areas of interest is to support the deployment of the Breeding Management Systems (BMS) technologies and associated backing services to National Agricultural Research Institutes and the Regional Centres of Excellence in the ASARECA region. This is aimed at providing plant breeders access to analytical pipelines, modern breeding technologies, materials, and related information in a centralized, integrated and practical manner.



## ASARECA's role in LEAP4FNSSA

ASARECA participated in the 1st General Assembly of the Long-Term European Union-African Union Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (LEAP4FNSSA) Project from January 29 to February 1, 2019. The LEAP4FNSSA is a Coordination and Support Action aimed at establishing a Europe-Africa International Research Consortium. During discussions, ASARECA's roles were clearly spelt out, especially in Work Package 1 on Partnerships.



## Activating collaboration with CIAT

ASARECA re-activated its collaboration with CIAT through an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). As a result, ASARECA regained its seat as the regional convening organization in the Steering Committees of both PABRA (Pan African Bean Research Alliance) and ECABREN (Eastern and Central Africa Bean Research Network). ASARECA staff have since participated in the steering committee and planning meetings of ECABREN in Ethiopia (February 2019) and PABRA in Ivory Coast (March 2019). On the other hand, CIAT has been selected to represent the CGIAR group in the new ASARECA Board of Directors.

**04**

**STORIES OF  
CHANGE**







Uganda shared the cassava germplasm with Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda, DRC, Burundi and Malawi

## Tracking the Movement of EAAPP technologies across Africa

The Eastern and Central Africa Productivity Programme, which preceded the Eastern and Central Africa Agriculture Transformation Project (ECAATP), is reputed for setting off a chain spillover of technologies across the Africa Continent.

EAAPP was guided by 3 Objectives: (i) Enhance regional specialization in agricultural research; (ii) Increase regional collaboration in agricultural training and dissemination; and (iii) Facilitate increased sharing of agricultural knowledge and technologies across national boundaries.

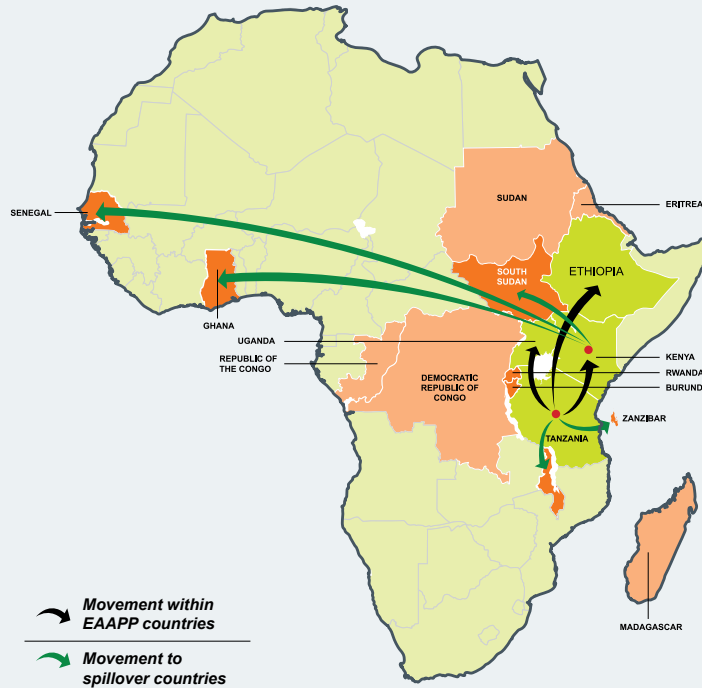
The Project focused on 4 commodities: Cassava; Dairy; Rice; and Wheat, led by Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia, respectively. During EAAPP's implementation, over 156 new TIMPs were developed by the regional centres of excellence, comprising new varieties of cassava, rice, wheat and forage crops. Out of these, 64 new TIMPs were disseminated across national boundaries.

- **Uganda** shared the cassava germplasm with Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda, DRC, Burundi and Malawi.

- **Kenya** shared: (i) 4 clones of Napier Grass that are high yielding and disease tolerant with Uganda and Rwanda; (ii) an assortment of assisted reproductive technologies including semen from bulls for dairy cattle with Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Burundi (iii) cassava germplasm with Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi; (iv) wheat varieties resistant to UG99 wheat virus with Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda, and (v) rice germplasm with South Sudan, Ghana and Senegal.
- **Tanzania** shared rice germplasm with Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia, while some materials were shared with Zanzibar and Malawi through informal channels.

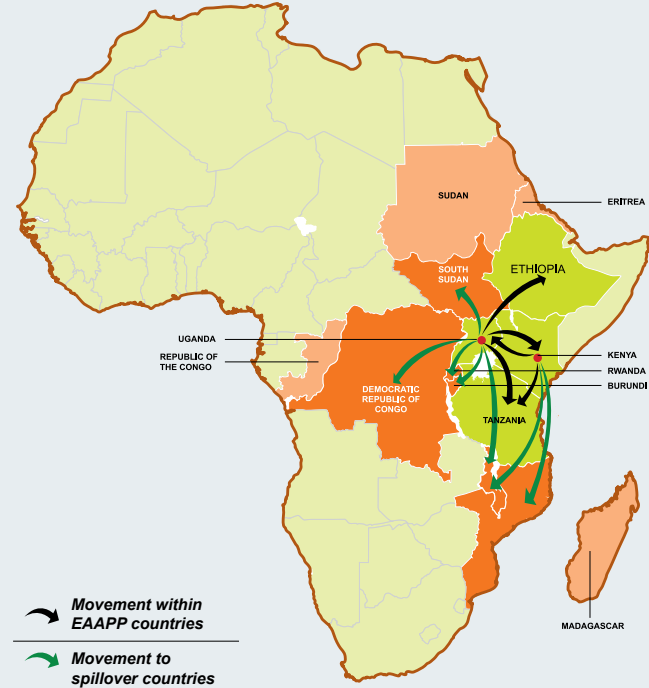
The Maps below show the movement of EAAPP technologies amongst the partner countries and beyond:

## Exchange of Rice TIMPS under EAAPP



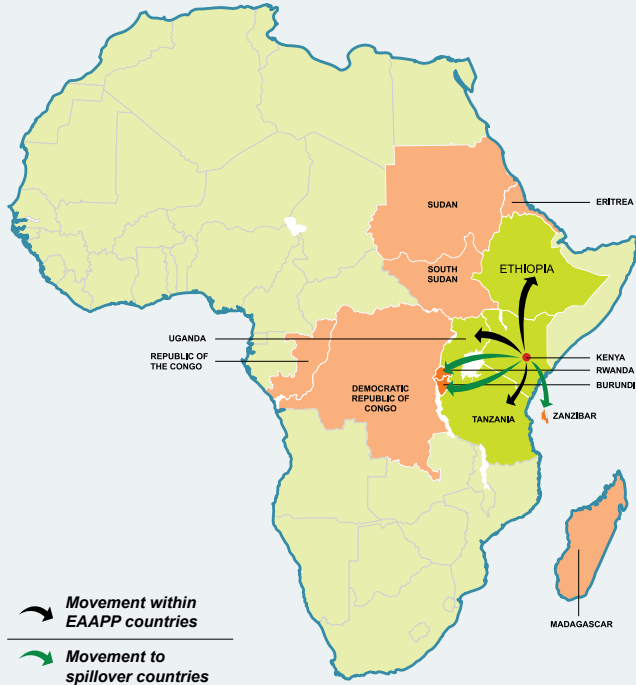
- ▲ 8 new Rice varieties from Tanzania shared with Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. Spillover countries were; Malawi and Zanzibar.
- ▲ 2 Rice varieties from Kenya shared with the following Spillover countries; South Sudan, Ghana and Senegal.

## Exchange of Cassava TIMPS under EAAPP



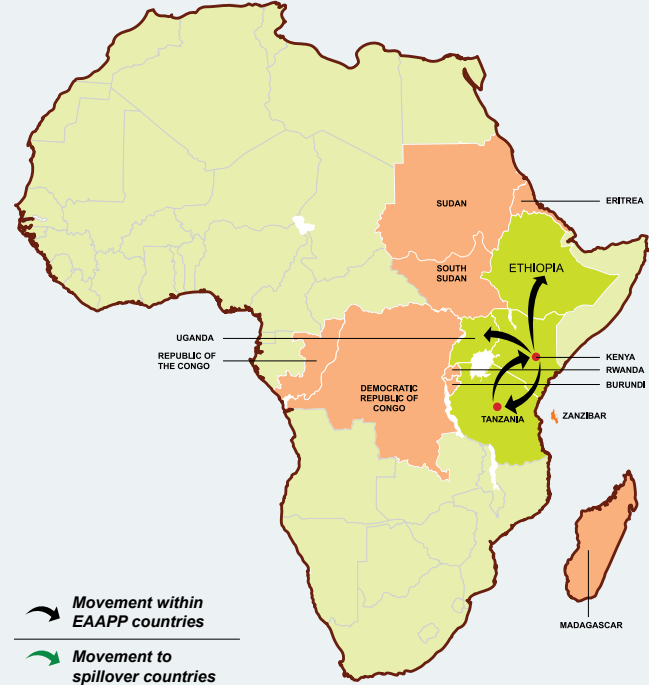
- ▲ Botanical Cassava seed with enhanced  $\beta$ -carotene and NASE 14 high yielding cassava variety from Uganda were shared with Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Spillover countries included; DRC, Rwanda, South Sudan, Burundi and Malawi.
- ▲ Cassava germplasm exchanged from Kenya exchanged with Tanzania and Uganda. Spillover countries included; Mozambique and Malawi.
- ▲ Three of the germplasm from Kenya have been evaluated.

## Exchange of Dairy TIMPs under EAAPP



- ▲ 4 clones of Napier grass from Kenya shared with Uganda. Spillover country was Rwanda.
- ▲ 1 Tube silage making technology from Kenya shared with Uganda and Tanzania.
- ▲ Bulls/semen from Kenya shared with Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Spillover countries included Burundi and Zanzibar.
- ▲ Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) from Kenya shared with Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Malawi.
- ▲ Over 470 bulls for semen production were reared in Kenya for sharing to other countries.

## Exchange of Wheat TIMPs under EAAPP



- ▲ 1 Wheat variety King Bird resistant to UG99 from Kenya shared with Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia.
- ▲ 1 Wheat variety from Tanzania shared with Kenya.



## Capacity Building Exchange Initiatives



- ▲ Cassava RCoE in Uganda provided Capacity building and training to scientists, students and staff from Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Spillover countries were Ivory Coast, Rwanda and Nigeria

## Capacity Building Exchange Initiatives



- ▲ Dairy RCoE in Kenya provided Capacity building and training to scientists and technicians from Tanzania and Uganda.
- ▲ Dairy RCoE also provided Capacity building training to technicians on fabrications and machinery to Ethiopia.
- ▲ Dairy RCoE also provided access to and use of hi-tech lab facilities to students and researches from Uganda and Tanzania.



*Uganda's Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda (centre) joined by Agriculture Minister Vincent Ssempijja (left) and other dignitaries during the launch in Entebbe, Uganda*

## Convening the General Assembly and Launch of the Regional Gene Bank for the AnGR

As the Sub-Regional Focal Point for the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), ASARECA convened the General Assembly and the Steering Committee of the Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) project. Besides this, ASARECA working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre/ Data Bank (NAGRC/DB) co-organized the launch of the multi-purpose Regional Animal Genetic Resources Gene Bank.

During the General Assembly and Launch of the Regional Gene Bank, ASARECA was mandated to coordinate the AnGR activities within Eastern Africa as well as Gene Bank activities beyond the lifespan

of the AnGR project. The occasion was graced by Uganda's Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, who represented the Head of State, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The launch was attended by H.E the Ambassadors of member countries; representatives of Agriculture Ministers from member countries; Uganda's Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry

and Fisheries and the Minister of State for Agriculture in-charge of Animal Husbandry; the representative of AU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Affairs; the Director AU-IBAR, Ugandan Members of Parliament, and Regional Economic Communities (EAC and IGAD) among others.

The twin events drew National coordinators, Directors of Animal Production from the 12 AnGR member countries namely: Uganda (host), Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Comoros.

The Gene Banks were established by the African Union Commission

**The Gene-Banks will also serve as centres of excellence for training researchers from member states on use of modern cryopreservation technologies.**

(AUC) through its technical office, African Union Inter African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). The projects were implemented in member countries through sub-regional

organizations: the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA); West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WE CARD); and Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), and supported by the Regional Economic Communities (EAC and IGAD).

The Gene-Banks will also serve as centres of excellence for training researchers from member states on the use of modern cryopreservation technologies. The initiative was funded by the European Union.



**The Regional Animal Genetic Resources Gene Bank in Entebbe**



**The long-horned Ankole cow, one of the species to be conserved**





Leafy vegetables grown through irrigation and using monitoring tools in one of the harshest months of the year in Dodoma, Tanzania.

## How VIA farmers are using data to influence policies

**October is a very dry month in Dodoma, Tanzania. The entire landscape is devoid of vegetation, except for a few resilient trees. Farmers in Buigiri Irrigation Scheme, however, are able to harvest leafy vegetables.**

The Scheme has a total of 200 farmers who are piloting efficient management of water using moisture and nutrient monitoring tools.

Since their single rainy season of four months stopped in April, these farmers have upped vigilance on efficient use of water from the only remaining water

source—Buigiri Dam.

These farmers are able to do this after receiving over 200 monitoring tools that have over the last five years provided them with information on amount of water, salts and fertilizer needed for the good health of their crops from the Virtual Irrigation Academy (VIA) project.

These include: the Chameleon readers, sensors, and Wetting Front Detectors.

Wetting Front Detectors show amount of nitrate in the soil, while Chameleon readers display the amount of soil moisture using blue, green and red lights. The lights provide visual interpretations of the moisture levels.

### Using data to influence policies

The farmers were trained to interpret the data, which in turn informs the decisions they make on water use and agronomic options.

As a result, these farmers have become a critical part and parcel of the generation and relaying of information that technical and policy leaders need to make key decisions in the agriculture and irrigation sectors.

At least twice every week, a total of eight (8) data collectors, all of them principally agricultural extension officers, descend to the eight (8) irrigation schemes in the four regions of Dodoma, Iringa and Morogoro to collect data.

### Farmers work with technical staff

Onsite, the data collectors are joined by two lead farmers who work with them to read the monitoring tools and upload data into the VIA online platform.

The platform has been advanced after the innovation of the Wi-Fi (chip) enabled readers to relay information directly to the online platforms. Towards the end of 2019, four lead farmers were being trained to take over the roles from data collectors as the project came to an end. These farmers are expected to take full custody

**The farmers were trained to interpret the data, which in turn informs the decisions they make on water use and agronomic options.**

of the Wi-Fi readers and assume all the roles of data collection and transmission.

### How the data travels

The farmers together with the data collectors connect the Wi-Fi readers to wires connected to the moisture sensors buried in the ground. Besides relaying the information, the farmers also explain to the data collectors (scheme extension worker) their latest experience with the tools. This is followed with a discussion and onsite analysis to enhance learning. The relayed data is accessed by the National Project Manager and the Research facilitator based in Arusha, the National Project Coordinator at the National Irrigation Commission, and the project facilitators at Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) based in Canberra, Australia.

“Through the tools, information is made available not only to the farmers, but also to other decision makers at a higher level, who are given access at their various levels,” says Stanley Awaki, the VIA Country Manager. “All the officials in the chain use the information analytically to make management and investment decisions”. As a result of this, the Tanzanian Government is fully aware of strategic challenges such as massive silting which has reduced the capacity of Bugiri Dam by up to 80%, and of the breakdown of the irrigation system at Chinangali Irrigation Scheme. These challenges are now prominent at the policy domain.

The Virtual Irrigation Academy for improved water productivity in Tanzania and Malawi project was launched in 2015. It is a brainchild of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) in partnership with the Australian Centre of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

In Tanzania, it is implemented by the National Irrigation Commission and Arusha Technical College. ASARECA coordinates and provides technical backstopping in the two countries.





Australian Government  
Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research



International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center



Transforming Agriculture for Improved Livelihoods

# ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers Summit 2019

Joint Communiqué on Conservation Agriculture based Sustainable Intensification (CASI) by the High Level Ministerial Panel on Sustainable Intensification of Maize-Legume Cropping Systems for Food Security in Eastern and Southern Africa.

## Joint communiqué

During the ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers Summit, the High Level Ministerial Panel on Sustainable Intensification of Maize-Legume Cropping Systems for Food Security in Eastern and Southern Africa (SIMLESA), issued a Joint communiqué on Conservation Agriculture based Sustainable Intensification (CASI).

The ministers were from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the State of Eritrea, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Republic of the Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Uganda. Below are highlights of the Joint Communiqué:

### Critical issues raised

- Conservation Agriculture-based Sustainable Intensification (CASI) practices within integrated crop livestock systems can contribute to large gains in crop productivity and farm incomes while simultaneously improving the natural resource base.
- CASI practices play complementary roles in increasing yields, contributing to soil recapitalization and saving labor and farm inputs.
- Interventions to scale and institutionalize CASI and complementary innovations are needed to bring its benefits to more farmers in the region.
- CASI practices, including optimal and complementary implementation of crop diversification practices such as cereal legume intercropping and rotations, maintaining permanent soil cover and mulches and practicing minimum tillage as tested through the SIMLESA programme can help Africa attain the target of doubling productivity by 2025.
- Agricultural extension systems are critical drivers of the adoption of CASI practices especially when integrated with the agricultural innovation platform approach.





*The Council of Patron Ministers witnessed the signing of ASARECA Constitution by their Chairman, Hon. Vincent Ssempijja, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries— Uganda. They also issued a Joint Communiqué on CASI*

- Where farmers have strong social networks, they experience better access to markets and are more likely to implement CASI methods among other improved farming practices.

## Recommendations

### Mainstream and Institutionalize CASI farming practices

**Enhanced investments in Advisory and Extension Institutions:** Ministries of Agriculture should facilitate enhanced investments in Advisory and Extension Institutions by investing in the reskilling and retooling the extension departments. This can be done through: (i) Strengthening budgetary allocations towards improving

Information and Communications (ICT) capabilities of extension personnel, (ii) Including CASI training for frontline extension staff, (iii) Reskilling extension personnel in the operations of farmer innovation platforms.

**Enhance investments in broad-based farmer education through CASI demonstration and learning sites by mobilizing public and private partnerships to fund national networks of CASI learning sites.**

**Enhance investments in regional networks of research, training and knowledge systems for CASI by building the existing evidence base beyond the project sites.** This can

be achieved by: (i) Establishing a regional network of research and knowledge management platforms, hosted by a regional institution to help formalise CASI knowledge systems, (ii) Mainstreaming CASI into the regional Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Alliances, (iii) Facilitating standardization of messages for farmers, frontline extension staff, development practitioners and agribusinesses to have access to up-to-date findings for local adaptation and innovation.

### Support the creation of innovation funds for rural agri-business innovators and business incubation

This will be achieved by supporting innovations that improve rural value chains, promote technology adoption and support the development of CASI agribusinesses.

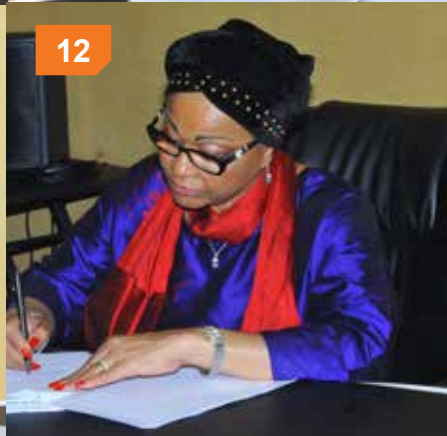
### Support the growth and development of national smallholder-appropriate agricultural machinery value chains

This will be achieved by:

- i). Pursuing collaborative efforts and resourcing of national and regional networks of smallholder-appropriate machinery development, testing and adaptation.
- ii). Promoting CASI as a regional initiative and as a major contributor to achieving the Malabo Commitment on resilience of farming systems in Africa.
- iii). Providing political and material support at national and regional levels to build strong partnerships in regional AR4D flagship programmes for scaling of CASI technologies and innovations.







**ASARECA Patron Ministers ratify the revised ASARECA Constitution (2019) and sign a joint Communiqué on Conservation Agriculture based Sustainable Intensification (CASI)**

1. **Hon. Dr. Déo-Guide Rurema** - Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Republic of Burundi
2. **Mr. Amanuel Negassi Hagos** - Advisor, Minister of Agriculture, State of Eritrea
3. **Mr. Jean Claude Boukono** - Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Scientific Research & Technical Innovation, Republic of the Congo
4. **Mr. Ndambu Mwalanga Odon** - Secretary General for Scientific Research and Technology of the Democratic Republic of Congo
5. **Hon. Dr. Babiker Osman Mohammed Ali** - Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of the Sudan
6. **Hon. Dr. Kaba Urgessa** - State Minister Natural Resources Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Republic of Ethiopia
7. **Prof. Hamadi Iddi Boga, PhD** - Principal Secretary, Agriculture Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation - Kenya
8. **Hon. Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec** - Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Republic of South Sudan
9. **Hon. Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja** - Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda and Chairman of the Council of the Patron Ministers
10. **Representative of the Agriculture Minister**, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mozambique
11. **Dr. Wilkson Makumba** - Director, Department of Agricultural Research Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Malawi
12. **H.E. Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko** - Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission





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

Plot 5, Mpigi Road | P. O. Box 765, Entebbe, Uganda

Tel: +256 414 320 556, +256 414 321 885

Email: [asareca@asareca.org](mailto:asareca@asareca.org)

Website: [www.asareca.org](http://www.asareca.org)

 [asareca@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/asareca@facebook.com)  [@asareca](https://twitter.com/asareca)

