



ACTION PLAN

FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE ABIDJAN II COMMUNIQUE

**STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN CGIAR AND AFRICAN
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STAKEHOLDERS TO
ATTAIN ZERO HUNGER IN AFRICA BY 2030**

6th AFRICA WIDE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK
6th -11th NOVEMBER 2023, ABUJA, NIGERIA

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT: AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

- **Recognises major challenges in African Agriculture that needs coordinated approach to addressing them at all levels:**
 - ❖ Climate Change effect
 - ❖ Degraded soils
 - ❖ Low productivity
 - ❖ Increasing population particularly Youth population
 - ❖ Nutrition etc

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT 2: CONCERNS ON ONE CGIAR

- Lays out **key principles and core values to** address concerns by African agricultural research and innovation stakeholders on transition to One CGIAR
- **High-level consultations (Abidjan I and Abidjan II)**, AUC, FARA+, and CGIAR, to address the concerns and propose solutions
 - ❖ To ensure CGIAR reforms meet best interests of millions of Africa's farmers, for advancing agriculture and providing unified and integrated systems responses to the evolving interconnected global challenges in the agri-food system

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT 3:

- Consultations also demonstrated the **need of key research and innovation stakeholders in Africa to engage in a coordinated way with One CGIAR** in a new and more productive partnership, for the benefit of African agriculture and millions of farmers
- **Outputs of consultations were articulated in a communique** that proposed to ensure clarity on shared commitments between CGIAR, AUC, AfDB, and FARA-led AARIIs;
- Communique called on FARA led AARIIs and CGIAR **to lead development of an Action Plan** for operationalizing principles and core values in the communique.

KEY PRINCIPLES AND CORE VALUES:

- CGIAR Centers will remain as **essential building blocks** of One CGIAR;
- CGIAR **Center Boards** to be maintained as set out in the governing documents;
- CGIAR focus in Africa should include **getting technologies out** to millions of farmers;
- CGIAR should respect the position of **one united and integrated Africa** and eschew the concept of a 'sub-Saharan Africa';
- Create an a **coordinated institutional framework that supports and strengthens** national and supra-national agriculture research organizations;
- Formalize a coordinated engagement with **CAADP**, such as through engaging with the **CAADP-XP4+ organizations (FARA, AFAAS, RUFORUM, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF)**;

AMBITIONS UPHELD BY AFRICAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STAKEHOLDERS

- Strategies of CGIAR and AARIIs must be premised on the aspirations of the SDGs, STISA, and Agenda 2063.
- The fundamental necessity of partnership and collaborative engagement in AR4D must be upheld by both CGIAR and AARIIs.
- The CGIAR reform process, must gravitate towards stronger representation of African regional institutions in the governance mechanisms.
- CGIAR should prioritize capacity development and work towards strengthening Africa's research and innovation infrastructure, organized at continental, regional, and national levels.
- Sound strategic and innovative partnership models for addressing emerging, complex, and systemic agricultural and food systems challenges in Africa.

AMBITIONS UPHELD BY AFRICAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STAKEHOLDERS 2

- For success of partnerships between CGIAR and AARIIs, needs for co-creation and joint definition of priorities; research questions must be mutually engaging, with consultation of AARIIs at national and regional levels.
- The partnership must consider a governance mechanism for coordination, priority setting, resource mobilization, project management, and performance monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), and annual review meetings.
- Delivery of products and / or services from key players should contribute to reaching the objectives of zero hunger in Africa.

THE ACTION PLAN



- The Action Plan builds significant achievements from CGIAR's engagement and partnership with FARA-led AARIIs, over CGIAR's 55+ years.
- It is built on a logical model approach that clearly outlines the relationships between the action areas and activities, and resources needed to deliver on them.
- The implementation of the Action Plan will be coordinated by FARA, and this will occur during a time of significant changes within CGIAR and FARA -AARIIs.
- It is important to utilize adaptive management approach across these institutions as their integrated operating structure continues to evolve.

THE ACTION PLAN



Objective:

Establish a strengthened and synergistic working mode between One CGIAR and FARA-led AARIIs that will contribute to achieving sustainable and sustained zero hunger by 2030.

SOME EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Increased role and involvement of African national governments**
- **Strong synergies, engagement and partnership among AARIIs**
- **Reduced dependency of African agricultural research and innovation institutions on donor funding**
- **Increased access to and adoption of climate smart agricultural technologies and innovations**
- **Regenerative and sustainable agricultural**
- **development Industrialized and market-driven**

agriculture

KEY ACTION AREAS AND ACTIVITIES

- Establish and initiate the implementation of an institutional and governance framework that guides the partnership between CGIAR and FARA-led AARIIs;
- Establish and initiate the implementation of a partnership engagement framework among AARIIs and Between FARA-led AARIIs and One CGIAR, delivery models, and supporting policy document;
- Establish a framework to accelerate the implementation of the science agenda for agriculture in Africa/ CAADP Science and Innovation agenda;
- Establish and initiate the implementation of a resource mobilization policy for the sustainable and sustained operations of the partnership between CGIAR and FARA-led AARIIs;



KEY ACTION AREAS AND ACTIVITIES

- Establish and initiate the implementation of a framework for strengthening mechanisms to scale out technologies and innovations to millions of farmers;
- Provide continued support to institutional capacity sharing/ development across AARIIs and CGIAR;
- Establish a foresight approach for establishing longer-term partnership modalities between CGIAR and FARA-led AARIIs; and
- Develop a framework for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL).



CONCLUSION: WAY FORWARD

- FARA –led AARIIs and CGIAR should establish a Joint Program Development Task Team for the implementation of this work plan
- The CGIAR engagement must be coordinated through the Directorate for Continental Africa, in collaboration with the three sub-Regional Directorates.
- AARIIs engagement must be coordinated through FARA, through the framework of the CAADP XP4+
- A workshop should be convened for the prioritisation of areas of work and development of proposals for projects and resource mobilisation.