Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue on Enhancing Competitiveness through Increased Investments in Agricultural Value Chains in Africa
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Report of the 2011 Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue

NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja Nigeria

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The development of African agriculture holds the key to the development of the African economies in general. This is based on the strong links of the sector with other sectors of the economies and the abundant but underutilized agricultural resources of the continent. The sector has strong potential for poverty alleviation, rural development, youth employment, and income generation. It also serves as an important source of raw material for the fledging manufacturing sector. These and other considerations—especially those aimed to alleviate poverty—have informed the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). It is strongly believed that the effective implementation of CAADP will lead to the development of the sector. The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), an implementing agency for CAADP Pillar IV, has, in its efforts, embarked on series of activities. These included hosting the first Annual Ministerial Dialogue in April 2011. The 2011 Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue was informed by many factors including the implementation of recommendations of the first Annual Ministerial Dialogue and the realization that meaningful policy interventions in the agriculture sector require the support and understanding of the Parliamentarians.

The Dialogue aimed at increased understanding among parliamentarians on the issues confronting agricultural development in Africa, raising awareness among Parliamentarians of the need to advocate for increased investments in agricultural value chains, and promoting linkages between the CAADP country and regional processes and the Parliamentary process in order to increase government support of the CAADP process.

The Parliamentarian Dialogue was attended by 26 national parliamentarians from 13 national assemblies\(^1\), 5 regional parliamentarians from the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the ECOWAS Parliament. Six officers from various national parliaments in the continent were also in attendance. Other participants include different stakeholders in the sector (see the list of participants Annex VIII).

The Dialogue’s theme was “Enhancing Competitiveness through Increased Investments in Agricultural Value Chains in Africa”. Apart from the opening sessions which recorded four remarks and two addresses, eight
presentations were made under the various sub-themes of the Dialogue. Three presentations were made under the first sub-theme on enabling policies for increased investments in African agricultural value chains. The second sub theme-Parliamentary engagement in the CAADP process- recorded two presentations. Three presentations were made on the third and final sub-theme: strategies for leveraging country investments in agricultural value chains. In addition to the various presentations, series of panel discussions were held on regional experiences in parliamentary engagement in the CAADP process, and on various countries’ experiences in investment in agricultural value chains. The latter discussions were organized on the basis of the selected regions and thus we have three groups of country experiences from the East, West and Central, and Southern Africa.

Pertinent issues were discussed during the presentations and panel discussions. In summary, the following recommendations were made at the end of the Dialogue:

1. Realising the importance of agriculture, the current low level of investment and the resultant declining level of performance of the sector, the Parliamentarians pledged their support for the devotion of a minimum 10% of the national budget to the development of the agricultural sector.

2. The Parliamentarians commended FARA’s efforts in bringing them together on this important issue but also requested the support of FARA in ensuring that they be involved in the decision process ab initio. The current situation- where they only get to know once the decision has been taken -should be corrected. This is to ensure maximum support and minimise delays in the decision making process.

3. Noting that various African countries are at different levels of CAADP implementation process, the MPs recommended that the regional parliamentarian dialogue should be held annually so as to inform them on recent agricultural development issues, share country and region-wide experiences on the progress made as well as the challenges faced by African countries.

4. Taking into consideration the policy making processes in African countries, the participants recommended that the dialogue should have a wider scope of participants. Thus, future dialogue should invite Ministers of Finance to consider the budgeting implications of investing in agriculture. In addition, technical advisers/assistants to Ministers and Presidents should be invited because of their important roles in policy making and implementation processes.

5. Based on the current level of implementation and the benefit derived from the dialogue, participants urged FARA to continue their efforts to encourage national governments and parliaments to allocate 10% of their national budget to agriculture, with specific reference to increased investment in agricultural research.

6. Considering the fact that budgetary allocations may not be sufficient for the development of the sector, participants encouraged members of Parliament (MPs) to consider facilitating the development of a bill on a National Agricultural Development Fund.
7. Based on the quality of the presentations and the discussions at the Dialogue, participants recommended that the regional parliamentary dialogue report be widely circulated not only to participants but also to other stakeholders.

8. Various MPs requested that FARA favourably consider their invitations for a similar advocacy programme in their respective domains. This will not only have wider audience within their domain but will also facilitate easy implementation of CAADP.
Introduction

The recent marginal improvement in the performance of African agriculture notwithstanding, abundant agricultural resources in the continent remains under-utilised. Thus, the sector’s great potential for increased supply of food, generation of employment, supply of inputs to the fledging manufacturing sector, generation of foreign exchange and provision of livelihood (income) are yet to be harvested.

The need to effect significant improvement in performance and realize the potential of the sector has been recognized at various levels including national, sub-regional and continental. At the continental level the adoption of the CAADP by African leaders is a watershed in the history of the development of the sector. An important kernel of CAADP is the African governments’ commitment to allocating a minimum of 10% of the national budgets to the development of the sector. The sector’s high multiplier effect through the backward and forward linkages implies that agricultural investment can generate high economic and social returns and enhance economic diversification and social development, especially in lifting people out of poverty.

FARA, a technical arm of the African Union Commission (AUC) on rural economy and agricultural developments and the lead agency of the African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) to implement the fourth pillar of CAADP (agricultural research, technology dissemination and uptake) organized the first Annual dialogue of Ministers of Agriculture, Science and Technology in Accra, Ghana between 28 and 29 April 2011.

The 2011 Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue on the theme “Enhancing Competitiveness through Increased Investments in Agricultural Value Chains in Africa” was a follow-up to the first Annual Ministerial Dialogue. It is the first of its kind in many regards: a platform for researchers to engage in dialogue with parliamentarians and the first to emphasise the role of parliamentarians in the effort to promote increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa. The Dialogue aimed at increasing understanding among parliamentarians on the issues confronting agricultural development in Africa, raising awareness among parliamentarians of the need to advocate for increased investment in agricultural value chains; and promoting linkages between the CAADP
country and regional processes and the parliamentary process in order to increase government support of the former.

The Dialogue was attended by parliamentarians from across the continent. In particular, participants included parliamentarians from Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda. Other participants included various stakeholders in the sector (see the list of participants).

This report presents the proceedings and recommendations of the 2011 Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue. Consequently, the Report is organized into eight sections, covering the opening and closing sessions and six technical sessions.
In welcoming the participants to the dialogue, the Chairman of the Board of FARA, Dr Tiemoko Yo (ably represented by Professor Monty Jones, Executive Director of FARA) highlighted the issues facing African agriculture and the role of parliamentarians in addressing the same. Uniqueness and timeliness of the Dialogue were highlighted. The speaker drew attention to the fact that it was the first time the role parliamentarians and legislators in enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in value chain was recognized and emphasized. With the world currently focussed on the sector, the dialogue could not have come at a better time. This is coupled with the emerging economies-Brazil, India, China- BRIC- forging strategic alliances with Africa.

The dialogue, he stated, was further justified on account of Africa’s investment in agriculture still being very low. Parliamentarians are in vantage position to promote the development of the sector not only through increased public sector investment but also through oversight functions to ensure that approved and released funds are appropriately utilised. Parliamentarians also have the responsibility of enacting laws that promote an environment conducive to the attraction of private sector investment in the agricultural sector.

Honourable Hadizatou Moussa Gros of the Economic Community of West African States Parliament (ECOWAS Parliament) in her opening remarks took participants through ECOWAS efforts at implementing the CAADP through the adoption of the Economic Community of West African States Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) in 2005. The latter was designed to address challenges facing the agricultural sector in the sub-region with a view to adequately feed the West African population, promote sustainable social and environmental development, reduce poverty among farmers, fight against major pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, river-blindness which impede production, promote environmental management of natural resources, and develop strong regional and international markets for West African agriculture. The coverage of ECOWAP includes cash and staple crops, livestock, fishing, forestry and natural resources management.

Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) and National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIPs) have been developed in ECOWAS and its member states. Both the RAIP and the NAIPs are
based on six broad pillars of ECOWAP which include: improved water management, improved management of other natural resources, sustainable agricultural development at farm level, development of agricultural supply chains and promoting markets, preventing and managing food crises and other natural disasters and institution building through gender sensitive approaches.

The speaker said that between 2008 and 2009, ECOWAS commissions have assisted Member States in the preparation of their NAIPs and this effort has paid off as all of them have received financial assistance of about $400,000 to prepare these plans. Finally, the Dialogue was informed that the Authority of Head of States has recommended that the ECOWAS Parliament be effectively involved in the implementation of the Regional Programme (See Annex II).

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha Chairman, Nigeria’s Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, traced the background of neglect of the sector up until the oil boom. He also itemised the current efforts at revamping the sector under the activities aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the seven-point agenda and the Economic Transformation Plan of the Federal Government of Nigeria. These efforts are informed by the importance of the sector in addressing the food security concerns and coupled with the fact that Nigeria has abundant agricultural resources (75% of the country land mass is arable). He carved out an important role for the private sector in job creation, investment in the agricultural sector and food production to meet the demand of the teeming population.

In his opinion, the way forward should include improvement in the statistical system with a view to generating data that will assist the policy makers. He also advocated the need to
strengthen public-private-partnership (PPP) in the sector. Finally, he stressed the need to be more transparent with interventions by international/development partners with a view to assisting parliamentarians in their duty of monitoring and evaluation.

**Professor Yusuf Abubakar** (representing **Dr Akinwunmi Adesina**, the Honourable Minster for Agriculture and Rural Development), in his official opening address emphasised the importance of involving parliamentarians from the early stage of a policy building process. This strategy is important for appropriate and timely cooperation and attention of the parliamentarians. He noted that Nigeria has strong and committed members of Senate Committee and indeed the Committee and other parliamentarians have been involved in the process of developing Nigeria’s Agricultural Transformation Programme. He urged the participants to come with strategy for strengthening the involvement of parliamentarians in the development of the agricultural sector. He challenged the dialogue to come up with implementable strategy for enhancing the development of the sector.

**Mrs Sarah Pane**, Special Adviser to the President on Social Development, emphasised the relevance and timeliness of the dialogue, especially with respect to the transformation agenda of the government of Nigeria. She noted the important role of the sector in addressing the socio-economic challenges facing the country. She stated that agricultural growth is more potent in reducing poverty and in empowering women than the effects of development in other sectors of the economy. She stressed the role of parliamentarians in the agricultural development policy building process.

The keynote address by **Professor Monty Jones**, the Executive Director of FARA, centred around overcoming underinvestment in agricultural value chains in Africa. He emphasized the importance of agriculture in Africa’s development, noting that the agricultural sector employs about 60 percent of the continent’s labour and contributes about one-third of its overall GDP, going up to about 35 to 40 percent in individual countries. He also stressed the fact that
agricultural-GDP growth can move more people out of poverty than non-agricultural GDP growth since a larger percentage of the labour engaged in agriculture belongs to low economic categories. He further noted that there is a strong positive correlation between agricultural and GDP growth. However, this relationship is characterised by divergent volatilities in most African countries and hence the need to strengthen the role of agriculture towards growth through agricultural research and development.

As case studies, he highlighted the agricultural prioritisation experiences of three countries: Rwanda, Malawi and Ghana. While most countries in Africa practice extensification and expansion of the area under cultivation, Rwanda practiced intensification in their agricultural system due to scarcity of land. This has paid off for the country, as it has been able to attain food security, raising its production from an average of 1800Kcal/day to 2300Kcal/day. He thus stressed the need for countries to move toward intensification and the importance of committing resources to infrastructure and institutions that can help build the requisite capacity necessary for development.

In the case of Malawi, the government subsidised the cost of fertilisers, pure seeds, and pesticides for the farmers. Through these measures, they were able to double their agricultural production, attain self-sufficiency in food production and provide food aid to some other countries. Jones however raised a pertinent question: can Malawi sustain the growth it has achieved in the last five years?

Ghana allocated 30 percent of its national annual budget to agriculture and agriculture research and development. This investment led to a steady increase in agricultural productivity and household income. This was reinforced by the private sector incentives embarked upon by the government. He noted that Ghana may be the only African country that is likely to attain Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number 1 - eradicate extreme poverty and hunger- by 2015. He expressed disappointment with the fact that most African countries miss a number of opportunities due to underinvestment in agriculture.

While noting the importance of investment in agriculture, he emphasised political will as an irreplaceable factor in the increase of the same. He also pointed out the need to bridge the widening gap between farmers and scientists (researchers) on one hand, and policy makers on the other. He then highlighted the role of CAADP as a framework for eliminating hunger, reducing poverty and ensuring food security through sustainable agriculturally-led development. In addition to this, he stressed the importance of ownership and leadership of the initiative by adequately supporting agriculture not only through the public but also the private sector participation. To his dismay, he noted that private sector support in agriculture is very low in Africa when compared to the developed world.

He concluded that Africa’s development depends on its agricultural sector and that its performance is currently being undermined by underinvestment. Thus, the need for parliament to support the ten percent annual budgetary allocation to agriculture in line with the 2003 Maputo Agreement cannot be overstated (the power point of Professor Monty Jones’ presentation is available on FARA’s website: www.fara-africa.org)
Session 2

Enabling policies for increased investment in African agricultural value chains

The first presentation in this session was made by Ms. Idowu Ejere, CAADP Technical Assistant. She took the participants through the rationale for the 2011 Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue, stressing the important role that parliamentarians have to play in creating enabling policies and environments that allow for the flourishing of trade and agriculture. She noted that the dialogue approach will be a combination of presentations and experience-sharing by country and regional teams.

She then outlined the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop.

The objectives were:

• To increase understanding among parliamentarians on the issues confronting agricultural development and trade in Africa.
• Raise awareness among parliamentarians of the need to advocate for increased investments in agricultural value chains.
• Promote linkages between the CAADP country and regional processes and the parliamentary process in order to increase government support of the same.

The expected outcomes were:

• Greater awareness and understanding of the policy issues confronting agricultural development and trade.
• Greater involvement of parliamentarians in agricultural development policy issues,
• Increased advocacy by parliamentarians for greater investments in agricultural value chains.
• Enhanced linkages between the CAADP country and regional processes and the parliamentary process.

By way of conclusion she said that key recommendations from the dialogue will inform ongoing debates on enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa (see FARA’s website: www.fara-africa.org for the powerpoint presentation).

Dr Gbadebo Odularu made a presentation on the challenges in increasing investments in agricultural value chains in Africa. After providing a
definition of value chain — as the set of activities that bring a product from its conception to its end use in a particular industry—he noted that the processes within a value chain require an understanding of a market system in its totality. He emphasized that major constraints to agricultural value chain development in Africa include but are not limited to fragmented markets, poor infrastructure, weak institutional and policy frameworks, poor integration between regional and international markets, and a lack of political will.

He noted that failure to recognize and consider the implications of the full range of constraints to investment in agricultural value chains has had, and will continue to have, far reaching implications. He suggested a multi-stakeholder collaboration approach involving governments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor organisations among others in order to overcome the constraints. He also pointed out that increased funding for agricultural research along the value chain components with special attention to biotechnology should not be neglected.

Taking off from where Dr Odularu stopped, Dr Emmanuel Tambi made a presentation titled “Enabling Policies for Increased Investment in African Agricultural Value Chains”. He explained that investment in agricultural value chain is vital as its activities provide employment opportunities, poverty alleviation, and income or wealth creation for the poor.

Thus, there is a need for renewed commitment to investment in agriculture which must focus on elements of the agricultural value chain. However, this can only be possible if a good investment climate for public, private and external investments in agriculture thrives. This would include: macroeconomic stability, good governance, financial sector reforms geared towards investment attraction, sound investment laws, and public-private partnerships among others. He stressed that an evidence-based agricultural investment policy should not only promote food security but also reduce poverty. It should also take into account all sub-sectors as well as consider the various stages and levels of the value chain and interventions.

The enabling policies include:

- the empowerment of women and youths in agriculture value chains through training and re-training, facilitating their access to finance, and building their agri-business skills;
- conducive production and market environment; and increased scientific capacity for research along the agricultural value chain.

He noted that an enabling policy environment could lead to sustainable intensification and diversification of farming systems, product development, improved accessibility and efficiency of agricultural markets through strengthened human and institutional capacities, new knowledge, technologies and evidence-based policies. In his conclusion, he made it clear that parliamentarians have a key role to play in creating an enabling environment for increased investments in agricultural value chains.

The discussions that followed these presentations focus on some issues such as flexibility of the value-chain approach to agricultural development in particular. There is no one-cap-fits-all as each country needs to diagnose the constraints to the sector along the chain and identify
the critical areas. The need for strong monitoring and evaluation in order for the investment in the various nodes and links in the chain to deliver effectively was another issue that came out clearly. On Dr Odularu’s suggestion that value chain starts from conception to end-use, one of the participants was of the view that it should include issues at the pre-conception stage.

Another participant advocated a review of the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) concept, pointing out its ineffectiveness and the difficulties faced in the monitoring and evaluation. Instead, he argued for a Community-Public-Partnership which will not only promote greater roles for parliamentarians (as they all have to report to their respective constituencies) but would also provide an effective means of performing and delivering on Parliamentarian’s oversight function.

One of the participants raised issues about the process that leads to the adoption of CAADP. He asked if the Programme’s adoption was based on emotion or informed by rigorous analysis of the situation. Professor Jones informed the participants that the adoption of CAADP, as a strategic continental framework for agricultural development, was based on rigorous analysis.

Finally, one of the participants raised issues about gender in the agricultural sector and the need for greater involvement of women in finding solutions to its problems. Again, Professor Jones concurred that more women than men are involved in agricultural value chains in Africa.
Session 3
Parliamentary engagement in the CAADP process

Dr Emmanuel Tambi started this session with a presentation on how Parliamentarians can support the CAADP country process. He first described the workings of the country process, pointing out that CAADP is not a programme but a pan-African framework with a set of principles and targets defined to guide national strategies and investment programmes, allow regional peer learning and review and improve the quality and effectiveness of agricultural sector programmes among others. He clearly stated that this process does not replace or duplicate existing planning processes but builds upon existing national systems after subjecting them to rigorous analysis and reform. He further noted that the process allows investment programmes to be designed, implemented, reviewed and adapted in a continuous manner.

The four main stages of the process (as highlighted by Dr. Tambi) include engagement with stakeholders, evidence-based analysis and stocktaking, development of investment programmes, partnerships and alliances, and finally, assessment and learning from process and practice through monitoring and evaluation. He also highlighted the role of institutional arrangements necessary for country implementation, such as the role of CAADP country teams, CAADP resource groups, and pillar institutions. He emphasized the fact that parliamentarians can support the CAADP country process by supporting and facilitating government and stakeholder buy-ins, endorsing the CAADP compact, identifying priority areas of investment, advocating for resource commitment, and lobbying the government for the ten percent annual budgetary allocation to agriculture as well as fostering alignment of investments to national priorities.

Issues in phytosanitary measures (as related to agricultural development) were the focus of the presentation made by Dr Jean Mezui M’Ella Gerard, the Director, Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), an organ of the African Union. The Director stated that IAPSC, which is based in Yaounde, Cameroon, is responsible for plant protection, while its counterpart organization – AU-IBAR, which is based in Nairobi, Kenya- is responsible for animal protection.

He stated that the need to ensure that agricultural products are of high quality has informed the establishment of the Council. This is due to the
fact that high quality agricultural products are in high demand and always attract reasonable prices in the international market. He said that an integrated approach to ensure that African countries conform to international standards has been adopted. IAPSC, an intergovernmental organization covering 53 countries, coordinates plant protection procedures in Africa, promotes the exchange and synthesis of information and facilitates collaboration among member countries. This is done through the National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs). He cited the example of the need to meet obligations of members to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. He concluded that there is a need to meet standards at every stage of the process, for example in the protection of agricultural products from harmful organisms.

This session was concluded with a panel discussion on regional experiences in parliamentary engagement in the CAADP process. Presentations were made by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) (see Annex IV) and the ECOWAS Parliament. The presentation by Honourable Otieno Karan of EALA highlighted the structure of the East African Community (EAC) and thus showed that EALA is just one of the three principal organs operating there. He also emphasized that the decision making is by consensus. On the role of parliamentarians in the CAADP process, Hon. Karan presented 18 recommendations and resolutions of the Regional Assembly appealing to Partner States to comply with the CAADP country process. The Regional Assembly Committee on Agriculture also engages in regular consultations with their counterparts from Partner States’ National Assemblies to promote the implementation of those recommendations and resolutions.

The presentation by the ECOWAS Parliament mainly reiterated issues presented in the welcome address during the opening session. Various efforts that have led to RAIP and NAIPs were highlighted specifically.

The discussions that followed these presentations raised issues of the distrust between the executive arm of the government and the parliamentarians. A participant was of the opinion that the Executive deliberately hides information from the parliamentarians. Some of the participants are of the opinion that FARA initiatives (such as this Dialogue) should be sustained in order to provide adequate and appropriate information to the parliamentarians. A participant observed that the presentations and discussions had, so far, not dwelt on climate change issues. The participants were made to understand that climate change is indeed one of the concerns of CAADP where issues such as environmental observatory and chemical-induced climate change are focussed on, but FARA’s mandate is research and hence its intervention in such spheres is limited.

A number of issues, mainly in the area of implementation of recommendations and resolutions of the EALA, were raised. Hon. Karan reminded the participants of the history of integration in the region and thus the need to exercise caution so that history will not repeat itself. He also mentioned that, notwithstanding weak enforcement, some of the recommendations and resolutions have indeed been implemented.

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2. EAC was defunct in 1977.
One of the participants suggested to FARA the need to involve Ministers of Finance and officials of different Budget offices in the Dialogue. The need to thoroughly and comprehensively think through the value chain approach was emphasized in the discussion on trade-related infrastructure. Hon. Karan said that the elaborate and efficient rail system that was in place before the defunct EAC (in 1977) is currently receiving the Community’s attention. The Community is working assiduously to replace the current inefficient haulage system with an efficient rail system.
Session 4

Strategies for leveraging country investments in agricultural value chains

This session began with a review of Day One’s activities by the facilitator, Professor Ogunkola. Thereafter, Professor Jones, made a presentation on the topic “Leveraging Investments in Africa’s Agricultural Research and Development” under which he looked at the need and ways to scale up agricultural investments in Africa in order to boost productivity in the sector. He stressed on the fact that improvement in agricultural productivity can account for half of the 6 percent CAADP target of output growth per annum. Whilst noting that productivity growth depends heavily on research and development as well as innovations, he highlighted three interrelated critical factors that make up the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP). These are reforms of agricultural institutions and services, increasing the scale of Africa’s agricultural investments and aligned and coordinated policy support. He pointed out that increased agricultural productivity is vital to sustainable poverty reduction but noted the low level of investment in agricultural research and development. Using Nigeria and Ghana as case studies, he showed that the bulk of agricultural research funds is committed to staff wages and operating cost with little left for actual agricultural research and development activities. He emphasised the need to devote more funds to operations and capital expenditure and thus reverse the current situation where salary and wages dominate.

Professor Jones highlighted the negative implication of fragmentation on the efficiency of agricultural research and development. He noted that more than 60 percent of SSA research systems have less than 200 scientists; 30 percent spend less than $10 million per annum on research and development. Also, at the country level, capacity development and improved efficiency in research and development are important to scaling up research and development investment while efforts at the regional and sub regional level need to be strengthened and linked to the national level. He pointed out the need for countries to take advantage of the opportunities presented by CAADP, especially those geared towards regional agricultural research and development. He gave an example of the 20 countries that have produced their investment plans as well as the possibility of alternative funding that best promote research and development at regional and sub regional levels.
Professor Jones concluded by buttressing the need for more investment in agricultural research and development given the compelling evidence available. He also welcomed suggestions from political leaders on how to further strengthen cooperation on agricultural investments in line with their government’s priorities.

Dr Gbadebo Odularu in his presentation took the participants through the strategy for agriculture and rural finance. He pointed out the low supply of finance in Africa in general and rural areas in particular despite high demand across actors in the agricultural value chains. He identified innovative financing mechanisms to include warehouse receipts, contract farming or out-grower systems, repurchase agreement (REPO), leasing and factoring. He highlighted the need for detailed research on rural financing, especially with respect to financial agents and value chain agent linkages, capacity building, innovative financing mechanisms and technologies such as warehouse receipts, contract farming and out-grower schemes, repurchase agreements, leasing, factoring, use of information and communication technology (ICT) for bundling development services with agriculture finance and similar factors.

He noted the critical role of the public sector towards the formation of appropriate legal frameworks for agricultural investments to promote rural infrastructural development, business development service, capacity development, etc. He also highlighted the critical role of banks and other financial agents with respect to credit access, promoting buyer-supplier-farmer linkages, and collaboration with small-holder farmers associations.

The presenter also pointed out the importance of private non-financial actors and donors in the area of partnering with community based financial institutions, assisting farmers to be fully integrated in a commodity value chain as well as providing technical assistance and supporting capacity development of lenders. Dr. Odularu concluded his presentation by pointing out the need to strategically integrate non-financial services in agricultural value chain development in which small and medium scale farmers/processors/traders have crucial roles to play.

Mr. Musa Salah in his presentation on options for private sector’s engagement in agriculture value chains noted the need to enhance value-chain through complementary market and trade harmonization for: Market Access Efficiency, Market Supply Consistency and Market Return Improvement. He pointed out the decaying infrastructure and poor governance which negate agriculture and agro allied sector investments. Additionally, he mentioned low trade volume and effective demand and supply as major constraints to agriculture sector investments.

He mentioned that in addition to specific infrastructure, attention and investment needed around other cross-cutting issues include:

- Managing weather risk and resilience: invest in rain harvesting against climate change induced drought.
- Organised associations of farmers and small processors will boost confidence, empowerment, collective responsibilities, reduce default risk, and enhance marketing opportunities
• Awareness and absorptive capacity at the national, regional and agribusiness community levels
• Banks’ systemic delay of services (e.g. fertilizer and equipment financing)

The presenter highlighted Ecobank’s response to agricultural investment, which is as follows:

**Aim**
• contributing to the higher productivity and profitability of stakeholders through efficient agricultural value-chains financing
• improving effectiveness in the supply chains by matching supply with market demand

**Interventions**
• downstream activities: agro inputs, logistics, warehousing, processing and trading
• structured primary and secondary financing of supply-chains stakeholders

**Strategy**
• Partnership and collaboration with FARA and other stakeholders in the agricultural value chains and supply chains in order to create an impact on farmers’ income, productivity development and returns to investment.

The presenter highlighted financial products for increased agriculture investment, some of which include (among others) micro finance for the rural and unbanked community, SME for supporting cottage industry, well structured value-chain along the agribusiness activities and hybrid financing through equity

Worthy of mention is the critical role that parliamentarians can play in scaling up private sector participation, and promoting investment in the African agricultural sector through facilitating knowledge management and capacity building on sustainable trade harmonization and financial management, reliable access to financing and equitable guarantee market for small, medium and large scale farmers, and fiscal incentives to stimulate investment.

In the discussions that followed the presentations, the participants wanted FARA to invite technocrats\(^3\) to future Dialogues. Thus, various adviser and technical assistants to policy makers also need to be educated on the CAADP process in order for it to be fully reflected in government’s decisions.

A participant requested FARA’s Executive Director to honour the invitation of his Parliament for the purpose of educating the MPs on the CAADP process and its relevance for the development of the agricultural sector. Another participant shared his experience as a Minister and also as a Member of Parliament on problems of allocation of fund. He submitted that most of the cabinets recognized and always accord appropriate priority to the sector but when it comes

\(^3\) Technocrats refer to those who work behind the scene and generates document for policy makers.
to allocation of resources, the government is usually constrained. He added that corruption further complicates the constrained optimization problems.

Three other issues that were raised and discussed are:

- the need to develop strong links between research institutes in Africa and the private sector in order to enjoy a symbiotic relationship between them: private sector to commercialise the research outcome and research institutes to have clearer understanding of issues that need to be addressed;
- The need to distinguish between short-run and long-run investment needs of various chains and nodes within agricultural value chains. This is necessary in order to match the various foci of the different financial institutions operating in the sector;
- The possibility of organizing stakeholders in the agricultural value chains into cooperatives for the purpose of increasing their access to loans and advances.
Session 5

Sharing country experiences on investments in agricultural value chains in West and Central Africa

This was the first in the series of panel discussions that focus on sharing country experiences on investments in agricultural value chains. In this session parliamentarians from selected West African countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo) presented their country experiences on investments in agricultural value chains.

**Burkina Faso**

The government has embarked on extensive irrigation schemes and implemented an ambitious development programme intended to promote economic growth, improve the life of its citizens, and ensure agricultural and sustainable development.

The representative noted that 9.6% of the country’s annual budget has been allocated to rural development in terms of mass credit provision, subsidies, agricultural input supply, capacity building, small village irrigation programmes, provision of fertilizer, agricultural mechanisation, land reforms, sectoral diversification, processing of products such as tomatoes, development of the dairy and poultry sub sectors through organising workshops and capacity building seminars especially for rural actors in the agricultural sector. These programmes have led to an increase in agricultural productivity and food supply. The parliament has played a vital role in creating the requisite legal backing for the implementation of these programmes.

**Chad**

The representative noted that the desert terrain was a constraint on agricultural development in the country. However, the high priority the government placed on agricultural development led to intensified agricultural financing in the area of mass irrigation programme for rice production, provision of tractors and other equipments that aid agricultural production. Furthermore, the speaker noted that over 50000 ha of rice farms have been cultivated. He also pointed out the role agricultural banks have played in making credit readily available and accessible to rural farmers as well as direct government and private
support in cash and kind to further improve living conditions. He also acknowledged the funding support from international donor agencies. He pointed out the ongoing negotiations towards extending domestic railway lines internationally to facilitate movement of agricultural produce. These programmes have made the country self sufficient in food production and have boosted the country’s export capacity. Lastly, he noted the efforts being made towards collaborative agricultural policies between the government and domestic and international research institutions.

**Cote d’Ivoire**

The presenter noted that the country relies heavily on agriculture for growth and development and hence the persistent commitment to government financing of the sector. The country’s agricultural sector is diverse with cash and food crop products such as coffee, banana, oil palm, and rubber. Agriculture constitutes 30% of the country’s total GDP, 60% of total export revenue and the sector employs about 80% of the total workforce. However, he noted that the sector is dominated by small scale farmers whose production processes are characterised by the use of manual farm inputs which invariably make output yield low. Furthermore, the sector is plagued by problems related to access to land, inadequate irrigation facilities and inaccessibility to credit amongst others.

The government has tried to reverse this trend by increasing investment in the agricultural sector. The speaker pointed out the government’s effort towards financing agricultural research with respect to the use of modern equipment and techniques, especially in the rural areas. This is done to aid the productivity of small and medium scale farmers and improve general rural living conditions.

He highlighted the government’s awareness of high potential crops such as rubber and cashew nuts, which will take over from coffee and cocoa production and exports. The government provides high yield seedlings and requisite technology in a bid to maximise the revenue generation potential of these items. The representative noted the key role of research and competitiveness in agriculture as pertinent to the country’s future economic growth and development as well as poverty alleviation and welfare improvement schemes.

**Ghana**

The government set up an export promotion council that will help farmers sell their output as part of its agricultural development strategy. In addition to this the government has intervened in the agricultural sector by offering free pest and insect infestation control, ongoing insurance schemes for farmers, provision of incentives in the form of competitions in which the best farmer (on a national level) is honoured and rewarded. Consequently, staple crops grew by 70% between 2000 and 2011 while cocoa production rose to about 1 million metric tonnes. The government also buys up surplus agricultural output and stores it. He also noted that efforts are being made by the government towards ensuring that 40% of the cocoa produced is processed in Ghana. Tax holidays are given to firms who come into the country to process
staples. In addition to supporting rural farmers with fertilizer and other agric inputs, the government is also providing incentives for cassava and tuber processing firms.

**Nigeria**

Senate Chairman of the Agricultural Committee presented a paper on the role of the Senate in the promotion of investment in agricultural value chain in Nigeria. He noted that the power of the Senate is derived from the Constitution. He itemized the agricultural sector related bills passed by the 6th Senate to include:

- The National Food Reserve Agency Bill,
- The Nigerian Quarantine Services Bill,
- The National Seeds Council Bill, and
- National Bio-Safety Bill.

He noted that budget allocation to the sector in Nigeria is still below the 10% goal that was agreed upon in Maputo in 2003. He said that Senate supports the Central Bank of Nigeria’s (CBN) new incentive-based risk sharing agricultural lending scheme. He identified outstanding issues to include how to ensure policy stability, direct investments in the sector in the critical areas and the need to develop the rural areas not only to check rural-urban drifts but also in order to minimize significant post-harvest losses. He concluded by noting that the effective development of the sector requires cooperation of all stakeholders including parliamentarians and the executives at the different levels of government.

**Sierra Leone**

The speaker noted that agriculture constitutes 45% of the country’s GDP and employs about 60% of the country’s total population. However, the performance of the agricultural sector has been poor. This is mainly due to the 11 years of civil conflict. He also highlighted the fact that all value chain areas and agents are underfunded in addition to the scarce market opportunities, weak financial support, inefficient custom service delivery and inadequate infrastructure. The government has tried to implement agricultural sector intervention policies through private public sector partnerships by providing the needed equipments for mechanised farming. The government has also tried to ease farmer’s access to credit and invest heavily in agriculture related activities. He also pointed out that incentives are given to women and youth to improve their participation in agricultural activities.

**Togo**

Togo is interested in selected agricultural products such as cotton, maize, rice and vegetables. Efforts of the agricultural research institutes in Togo are complemented by the University-based institutes located in Lome and Kara. The speaker stated that there is the need for all hands to be on deck in order to ensure increased investment in agricultural value chains in Africa. He promised to report the deliberations of the Dialogue to the Speaker of the Togolese Assembly and implored that FARA establish contact with the aforementioned Assembly.
Session 6

Sharing country experiences on investments in agricultural value chains in East Africa

Rwanda

The representative noted that about 14,000 square km of land is used for agricultural purposes and that Rwanda’s agricultural output is capable of feeding its population. The attainment of Vision 2020 and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals have made agriculture a high priority. However, the 1994 genocide hampered socio economic progress and this has led to the collapse of the agricultural sector. Rwanda strives to increase agricultural productivity both quantitatively and qualitatively in order to boost manufactured exports. New factories to strengthen processing activities of commodities like cassava and banana as well as bring about high yield quality seeds. The government has invested heavily in hydro agricultural development in order to maximise the benefits from unused land as well as provide and improve post harvest activities such as storage facilities. The fight continues against problems affecting the soil and its fertility, use of pesticides and insecticides, soil conservation, right of women to land, extensive agric mechanisation, and training of high and middle level officials and farmers. He pointed out that government has allocated about eight percent of its budget to agriculture even as it has shown strong political will to increase this percentage.

Uganda

The presenter highlighted the fact that 80% of the population is engaged in agriculture of which 70% practice subsistence agriculture. The Northeast part of the country which experiences famine due to low level of rainfall is predominantly nomadic. However food is supplied to the Northeast from other parts of the country. There is a need for re-organisation of the food system. Funding in agricultural research has been fair and is currently at a far from desirable level.

He noted the collaborative research efforts between Uganda and other research institutes as well as the 50% agricultural research sponsored by development partners which negates research as the donors determine the direction of research.
Lesotho

The representative highlighted a few peculiar features of the country chief of which is that the lowest point of the country is about 1400 metres above sea level. This has great implications for its agriculture. For instance, the available arable land has been drastically reduced by erosion. He noted that the country engages in two types of farming: crop and animal farming. In discussing the role of the government in the improvement of agriculture in the country, he mentioned that government subsidizes the cost of agricultural inputs and also ensure that every male adult is given a piece of land to cultivate and produce food for the family. This has also been extended to the women. He said that Japan and India support agricultural production in the country through the provision of irrigation equipment and tractors for the farmers at reduced prices. While food is sold locally through cooperatives he noted that farmers from Lesotho and the neighbouring South Africa cooperate to sell their products in the international market. He finally noted that local farmers are benefiting from the high land water project as they are able to sell fresh water fish to local restaurants and the South African markets.

Malawi

After a brief narration on the geographical peculiarity of the country the presenter mentioned that the majority of the population (about 14 million) live in rural areas and that they are mostly subsistence farmers. He stated that the directive to develop an Agricultural Development Programme was forwarded by the Cabinet in 2004. This informed the consultations of the Ministry of Agriculture with relevant stakeholders in the sector and resulted in the development of Sector Wide Programs (SWAPs). The Program was to be based upon eleven priority areas as reflected in their National Agriculture Policy Framework developed in 2006 which he noted already had about 45 policies, strategies, and acts. By way of harnessing ideas from stakeholders the Ministry organized an Agriculture symposium. One of the major recommendations received was to streamline the eleven priority areas and focus on a few key priority areas. He finally highlighted three principal presidential initiatives which are geared towards the development of agriculture in the country. They...
are: input subsidy program targeted at 1.6 million farmers (that is, about 40% of farming households), the aquaculture initiative and the Green belt initiative.

South Africa

The representative started by noting the “property clause” which still holds sway in the country – a situation where those who own parcels of land are still not the ones in possession of the land. He also mentioned that only 13% of the country’s land mass is arable. The significant proportion of the land is being used for livestock production. He also mentioned that South Africa faces acute problems with water scarcity. He expressed displeasure that agriculture accounts for 0.4% of total budget, 3% of GDP, and 10% of employment. He thus emphasized the need for more research and development in agriculture as agricultural products in South Africa is also far from competitive.

While stressing the important role parliament could play in facilitating the implementation of core agricultural needs, he noted that issues involving the decisions of parliament are usually belated. He emphasized that accessibility and affordability of finance are still challenges facing the farmers as well as the issue of indirect subsidy.
Session 8

Closing session

At the closing session, Professor Ogunkola delivered a summary of the second day’s presentations and panel discussions. He highlighted the main points of each presenter as well as the summary of the panel discussion and stressed key issues that were raised in each discourse.

Thereafter, representatives of MPs expressed their satisfaction and gratitude that the FARA Board deemed it necessary to organize a forum that was not only well targeted but also well executed. They also made comments and suggestions based on the innovations from the dialogue. Key among these are: that besides political will, collective ownership of the roadmap for increasing investment in agriculture in Africa is highly relevant, that there is the need to review existing laws so that they are in tandem with CAADP objectives if the converse is the case, and that parliamentarians should evolve the spirit that would lead to the development of Africa for Africans.

The Ghana representative commented on one vital lesson among others he had learned in the course of the dialogue. That “nothing is won without sacrifice... and we cannot continue to depend on national budgets to fund agriculture in Africa”. Thus, he emphasized the need for countries to set up the National Agricultural Development Fund, not minding the initial cost. It was also generally agreed that FARA should enlarge the scope of the forthcoming dialogue to include “super ministers” like the Ministers of Finance since they are also key actors in the disbursement of funds in any particular country. While regrets were expressed on the lack of collaboration among African countries, they concluded by emphasizing the need to strengthen ties and collaboration within the continent as this would foster the much desired development. This suggestion was strongly corroborated by the South African representative who quoted the new slogan for their present administration:“together we can do more”.

The final cry of all the MPs represented was that all parliamentarians and country representatives should ensure that the proceedings from this dialogue get to their authorities and that they be prevailed upon to treat the need to scale-up investment in agriculture and agriculture research and development as a matter of urgency.
The Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue was closed with a vote of thanks by Professor Jones, the Executive Director of FARA. He graciously thanked all persons who were involved (one way or another) in the success of the conference and remarked that the meeting was productive not only in terms of technical content, logistics and protocols but more importantly as the expected outcomes of the dialogue was achieved.

**Summary of recommendations**

- Realising the importance of the sector, and the current low level of investment and thus the low level of performance of the sector, the Parliamentarians pledge their support for the minimum 10% of national budget to the development of the agricultural sector.

- The Parliamentarians commend FARA’s efforts in bringing them together on this important issue but also request the support of FARA in ensuring that they are involved in the decision process *ab initio*. The current situation where they only get to know when the deed has been concluded should be corrected. This is to ensure maximum support and minimise delays in decision making processes.

- Noting that various African countries are at different levels of CAADP implementation, the MPs recommended that the Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue should be held annually so as to educate them on recent developments and share experiences by taking stock of progress made by participating countries with particular focus on the progress that has been recorded as well as outstanding challenges faced.

- Taking into consideration the policy making processes in their various countries, the participants recommended that the Dialogue should have a wider audience scope. Some of the participants to be included in addition to the MPs are finance ministers of member countries (mainly because of budget implications) and technical advisers/assistants to ministers, presidents and parliamentarians because of their important role in policy making and implementation processes.

- Based on the current level of implementation and the benefit derived from the Dialogue participants urged FARA to continue their commitment to advocating for parliaments and sensitizing national governments not only on the need to fulfil their commitments to allocate 10% of their national budget to agriculture but also to increase investment in agricultural research.

- Considering the fact that budgetary allocations may not be sufficient for the development of the sector, participants encourage MPs to consider facilitating and/or enhancing the development of a bill on National Agricultural Development Fund.

- Based on the quality of presentations and the discussions at the Dialogue, participants recommended that report of the regional parliamentary dialogue should be widely circulated not only to participants but also to other stakeholders.
Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue on Enhancing Competitiveness through Increased Investments in Agricultural Value Chain in Africa

Background

Promoting agricultural development and trade is critical for Africa’s economic development. Parliaments have an important constitutional role to play in promoting this process. To be effective in promoting agricultural development and trade however, Parliamentarians must be knowledgeable of and conversant with the key issues confronting agriculture. They must be able to advocate for appropriate solutions to address the issues. Parliaments are the pivotal institutions for communicating agricultural development issues to people while influencing the direction and outcomes of debates. At national levels, Parliamentary Committees are established as instruments of parliament to scrutinize agricultural-related government actions and legislations in order to interact with the public.

When a consultation, initiated by a relevant line Ministry takes place, parliament should invite NGOs and other interest groups to comment on the implications of proposed agricultural development policy (reforms). Thus, agricultural development deliberations among Parliamentarians should be based on a full understanding of agricultural issues and the numerous opportunities available to Parliamentarians to influence the policies of their governments in dealing with agricultural value chain challenges in Africa. They should therefore take an active interest in agricultural development debates and also help to shape agricultural competitiveness-related policies. Moreover, Parliaments are called upon to ratify regional and international investment agreements, implement their provisions through the adoption of appropriate legislation and budget allocations and oversee the implementation process as a whole.

Parliamentarians’ oversight of agricultural investment and value chain issues is of key importance in ensuring Africa’s commitment to the 2003 Maputo Declaration of 10 per cent annual allocation of national budget to agriculture in order to attain an annual 6 per cent growth in agricultural productivity. Over the past recent years, Africa has experienced an intensification of its commitment to the Maputo Declaration, and there is, certainly an overall sense of greater engagement and focus, with no single Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Pillar being left behind. However, the pace of commitment and budget allocation is not only slow, but also short of the kind of substantive progress

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1. Four priority areas of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) are known as Pillars: Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems (Pillar I); Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access (Pillar II); Increasing food supply and reducing hunger (Pillar III); and Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption (Pillar IV).
needed to reach the landing zone of possible 6 per cent growth in agricultural productivity (and competitiveness) in Africa by 2015. Thus, a major acceleration of commitment is required at all levels.

In view of this, as legally elected representatives of Africans, and considering the vital role that legislators hold in bringing key agricultural concerns of citizens to governments, Africa needs all the commitment of parliamentarians because the continent believes that parliamentarians could play a determining role in enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa.

Regional agricultural policy issues of parliamentarian interests include, *inter alia*: re-engineering agriculture as an effective fulcrum of economic growth in Africa; improved infrastructure and market access (preference erosion, sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Aid for Trade (AfT) and related market access capacity building initiatives, opportunities and barriers for regional bio-energy trade, etc); sustainable land and water management (environment/climate change), and enhanced agricultural research and technology dissemination, education and training.2

As a continuation to the First FARA Annual Ministerial Dialogue3 and the four different Regional Policy Dialogue Series4, it has been of policy and institutional interest to FARA to organize a regional dialogue among parliamentarians on enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa. In fact, ensuring the conditions for an informed dialogue with Members of Parliament (MPs) on complex and diversified agricultural investment and value chain issues is indispensable for a well-functioning CAADP Pillar IV Strategy. Due to their constitutional role, parliamentarians have in most cases to ratify all the agreements that result from national, sub-regional and regional agricultural development debates.

Against this background, FARA will be organizing a ‘Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue on enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa’ from the 5th – 7th of October, 2011. The Dialogue is intended to improve the ability of national, sub-regional and regional legislators to engage in agricultural investments and value chain issues. This dialogue is also aimed at marking an important milestone for FARA in forging ahead with building stronger relations with the Parliamentarian Fora in Africa.

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Governments are accountable to Parliaments which ratify the results of agricultural deliberations. There should be, therefore, a very close collaboration between the workings of Parliaments and governments. In an increasingly global context, one cannot function without the other and the nature of this interaction is dynamic and ever-changing.

A better understanding of agricultural competitiveness and value chain issues by Parliamentarians is essential if they are to contribute to broad-based agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets. It is therefore necessary to better familiarize Parliamentarians with these issues and their outcomes. There is a need to provide advice and recommend steps to assist Parliamentarians so that they can influence key areas of agricultural productivity discussion and debate and fulfill their obligations as legislators.

Consistent interaction/dialogue with Parliamentarians is at the heart of FARA’s Advocacy and Policy Strategy. This relation entails seeking closer ties with legislators around Africa and enhanced dialogue on agricultural policy issues, thereby, acknowledging the pivotal role of Parliamentarians within the CAADP Agenda.

Understanding the effects of technical barriers to market access for agricultural commodities is a matter of vast importance to all Parliamentarians in Africa. Within this context, Parliamentarians have to balance the potentially competing claims of national self-interests, their domestic constituencies, and the concerns of civil society, while seeking to maximize the benefits of a more transparent market access for farm produce. Thus, there is a need for an increased parliamentary involvement in national and sub-regional government decision-making on agricultural competitiveness and value chain issues.

The yawning gap between agricultural policy research and the activities of legislative arms of governments in Africa largely explains the major inadequacies in the development and implementation of agricultural investment policies, institutions and frameworks. Thus, there is a need to meet regularly to exchange views and information on the benefits of keeping agricultural systems competitive and creating greater opportunities through greater market access for agricultural commodities along the value chain in Africa. The Parliamentarian Dialogue will take forward the key recommendations generated from previous dialogues held in Nairobi, Accra, and Addis Ababa.

In a broader sense, the dialogue will be part of FARA’s activities to provide a parliamentary dimension to agricultural investment-related CAADP issues. The parliamentary dialogue will provide linkages in order to strengthen FARA’s outreach and enhance FARA’s ability to assist national and sub-regional parliamentarians to keep abreast of and therefore influence crucial agricultural development policy issues. The key recommendations from the Dialogue will inform

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5 FARA’s objective is to create broad-based improvements in agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets by supporting Africa’s SROs in strengthening capacities for agricultural innovation.
many of the current national, sub-regional and regional/continental debates on enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa.

**Purpose and objectives**

The purpose of the Dialogue is to enhance agricultural competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa. The specific objectives are to:

- Increase understanding among Parliamentarians of the national and regional issues confronting agricultural development and trade in Africa and to identify strategic policy options for promoting competitiveness of agricultural value chains in Africa.
- Raise awareness among Parliamentarians of the need to advocate for increased investments in agricultural value chains in order to enhance productivity, competitiveness and market access.
- Promote linkages between the CAADP country and regional processes and the Parliamentary process in order to increase government support to the CAADP process.

**Approach and activities**

Participants will be invited from within and outside of Africa, including parliamentarians, policymakers, development partners, representatives of the AUC, AU-NPCA, CAADP lead Pillar Institutions, SROs and RECs, CSOs and FOs, academics, and representatives from multilateral organizations and the private sector (smallholder producers and agri-business). Specific challenges that characterize African agricultural trade policy sphere will be highlighted, taking into account the existing differences between and within these five sub-regions: North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa.

A combination of round-table facilitated discussions and plenary sessions will be used and participants will constitute working groups to address in details the relevant topics and the specific approaches for the five sub-regions. Outcomes of working groups will be discussed in plenary round-table discussions. Key messages and recommendations will be developed and shared among the relevant stakeholders, so that the results of the workshop will feed ongoing policy-making processes.

The first day of the dialogue will be more introductory and informative to bring all participants to a common denominator. The second day will be dedicated to structured, more interactive, discussions, through both working groups specific to the five sub-regions. On the third day, the key messages developed as conclusion to the workshop will be articulated. These recommendations will inform the specific responsibilities for improvements that must take place within and outside the regions in order to improve competitiveness through sound agricultural trade policies in Africa.

In order to ensure that the outcomes of the Dialogue feed into national and regional policy-making and CAADP processes, the key messages and recommendations will be mainstreamed in the CAADP Pillar IV country support guide.
Expected outcomes of workshop

- Better awareness and understanding of the policy issues confronting agricultural development and trade for increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa.
- Greater involvement of Parliamentarians in agricultural development policy issues as an essential part of their parliamentary roles.
- Increased advocacy by Parliamentarians for greater investments in agricultural value chains.
- Enhanced linkages between the CAADP country and regional processes and the parliamentary process.

Workshop location and timing

The workshop will be held in Abuja, Nigeria on the 5th – 7th October, 2011

Beneficiaries

African Governments, farmers’ organizations, agribusinesses, private sector, civil society groups.

Organisers of the workshop

The ‘Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue on enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chain in Africa will be organized by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) in collaboration with African Union, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), Pan African Parliament (PAP), the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (CMA/WCA); the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA); the Conseil Ouest et Centre African pour la Recherche et le Developpement Agricoles / West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD); COMESA, ECOWAS, the European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM); and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) (EC-ACP).
Welcome Remarks to the Regional Parliamentary Dialogue on Enhancing Competitiveness of African agriculture through increased investments in the sector Abuja, 5-7 October 2011

- Protocols
- Any special acknowledgements to special guests.
- Welcome the distinguished guests to Abuja and to the dialogue.
- Introduce FARA, highlighting its vision of reduced poverty in Africa as an outcome of sustained improvement in agricultural growth and productivity. This dialogue is a typical example of FARA’s facilitating function.
- Recognize that the mission of Parliamentarians is to improve the welfare of their constituents and citizens.
- Acknowledge that FARA and the Parliamentarians have common goals. We complement each other.
- Point out that research and development actors recognize the decisive role that policy makers play in their impact pathway. Our work cannot have impact unless the policy environment is favourable.
- In spite of the strong complementarities between R&D and policy makers, our engagement with each other has not been satisfactory.
- Therefore pleased that this dialogue is taking place to deepen this engagement.
- Also pleased about the timing. It is taking place at a time when agriculture is commanding unprecedented attention: CAADP (national to continental level), G20, G8 (global); CGIAR reforms.
- A time when the so-called fast growing economies (China, India, Brazil etc) and others are approaching Africa for cooperation and strategic alliances in agriculture
- It is however also a time when the global economy is facing severe challenges which will affect the support we get in form of development assistance.
- Crucially, it is time when Africa has the opportunity to reasserts, its ownership of its development agenda – which is driven by agriculture – by making the necessary investments in this sector. Investments to increase the competitiveness of the sector, thereby attracting further investment.
- This forum is designed to be a dialogue. So it is designed to facilitate interaction (both talking and listening, not only one of these). We are keen to get your perspectives and advice on several issues as much as we are keen to share our perspectives with you.
- Our expectation is that at the end of this dialogue we shall have a better understanding of where and how we can better complement each other towards our common goal. I also expect us to work out how we shall build on the platform we are creating this week.
- I wish you very fruitful deliberations.
Regional and national agricultural investment programmes in ECOWAS

The Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) in 2005 in Accra, Ghana which it mandated the ECOWAS Commission to develop a funding mechanism for the Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP). As a result of this decision, the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) and National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIPs) were developed.

The RAIP and NAIPs were both premised on the six broad pillars of the ECOWAP, which are designed to help reduce poverty and food insecurity, and contribute to regional integration. They include:

- Improved water management; by promoting irrigation and integrated water resource management;
- Improved management of other natural resources; through organized transhumance and rangeland development; sustainable forest resources management; and sustainable fishery resources management;
- Sustainable agricultural development at the farm level; through integrated soil fertility management; better support services for producers; and dissemination of improved technologies;
- Developing agricultural supply chains and promoting markets; by developing the different supply chains (food crops, peri-urban agriculture, export crops, short-cycle livestock rearing, agro-forestry food products, artisanal fishing and fish farming); developing processing operations; strengthening support services for operators; and promoting national, international and regional trade;
- Preventing and managing food crises and other natural disasters; by promoting early warning systems; developing crisis management systems; assisting the recovery of crisis-hit areas; and formulating mechanisms for disaster-related insurance and compensation;
- Institution building through; gender-sensitive approaches; support for capacity building in the formulation of agricultural and rural policies and strategies; long-term funding for agriculture; communication; capacity building in steering and coordination; and capacity building in monitoring and evaluation.

The NAIPs are the priority programmes of the Member states and were developed through a participatory approach. It reflects opportunities for the transformation of West African Agriculture over the short to medium term period. Member States also took cognizance of the decisions of the Heads of States and Government of the African Union in 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique to allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to the agricultural sector to create a 6% growth in the agricultural sector, in the preparation of their NAIPs.
During the period 2008 to 2009, the ECOWAS Commission on Agriculture, Environment, Water Resources and Rural Development has been assisting Member States to prepare their NAIP. All ECOWAS Member States have received financial assistance amounting to US $400,000.00 to prepare their NAIPs.

All the Member States have completed the process of preparation of their NAIP. The Agriculture, Environment, Water Resources and Rural Development Commission has also finalized the RAIP, and has started the process of mobilizing funds to support the implementation of these programmes. To this end an orientation meeting for the implementation of the conclusions of the International Conference on the financing of the ECOWAP/CAADP was held in Lome, Togo in early February 2010. This meeting brought together the ECOWAS Commission, Member States, Development Partners and Donor Agencies, to review the progress made since the international conference and to chart a way forward.

The Authority of Heads of States has recommended that the ECOWAS Parliament should be effectively involved in the implementation of policies and regulations and the adopted action plan. Also the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Environment, Water Resources and Rural Development should take necessary measures to disseminate policies on the environment, water resources and agriculture. It is therefore imperative for the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, environment, Water Resources and Rural Development to convene a meeting and discuss the progress of the RAIP and NAIPs and formulate strategies to encourage the three outstanding Member States to complete the developments of their NAIPs, and participate in the general mobilization of funds for the implementation of the RAIP and NAIPs.
Annex 4

Opening Remarks

Presented by Distinguished Senator Emmanuel Bwacha, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Distinguished Senators of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.
The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina.
The Honourable Minister of Finance, Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala.
The Honourable Minister of Trade and Investment, Mr. Segun Aganga.
The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi.
The Special Adviser to the President on Social Development, Mrs. Sarah Pane.
The Organizers of this Dialogue (Dr. Tiemoko Yo, Prof. Monty Jones and their team)
All Dignitaries and Participants here present.
Gentlemen of the press
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

I feel humbled to present this opening statement today and wish to thank the organizers of this Dialogue, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) in collaboration with other organizations for giving me this rare opportunity.

Let me start by drawing our attention to the urgent need to jointly move agriculture to its rightful position bearing in mind that the agricultural sector has been neglected in the African Region.

The reason for this neglect in Nigeria as you aware traces back to the period of the oil boom. But as society develops, we have come to realize that a nation cannot do without agriculture. That is why the call for the sector to be revamped has persisted. In line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) objectives, this administration’s 7-point agenda clearly recognizes Food Security and Agriculture as key areas of focus.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Food security in many households in the African Region is currently constrained. This can be attributed to multiple reasons which may be man-made or natural. By man-made, I mean hoarding by speculative traders whereas natural could be attributed to climatic changes and global warming.

What we need is to join efforts collectively to ensure that food insecurity in the African region is addressed. Using Nigeria as an example, research shows that Agriculture is the dominant economic activity, and roughly 75% of the land is arable of which about 40% is cultivated.
With such available land, it means that if used effectively it can be an avenue for creating job opportunities thereby curbing poverty.

Let me add by saying that since agriculture will bring about job creation, this should involve the active involvement of the private sector. Government should liaise with the private sector with a view to identifying emerging opportunities that would promote the agricultural sector. Government should therefore invest in agriculture in order to generate a return. Once we get agriculture in its rightful place, there will be increased investment bringing about additional value to the economy. Engaging women and youths in agriculture will reduce poverty but government has to ensure that there is access to land, good roads, credit facilities for small scale farmers and of course improved variety seeds. Food production must reach its optimal level in the Region in order to eradicate hunger and poverty.

A major issue of great concern is that agricultural statistical systems and data are inadequate in many African countries. The present situation needs to be readdressed to encourage statistical initiatives that will aid policy makers in channeling policies to directly address issues at stake.

Ladies and Gentlemen, some proposals for the way forward for the African Region will include:-

- Developing sustainable statistical systems that will produce accurate and reliable data on agriculture and rural development across countries which will aid law makers to make adequate laws that will enable decision makers to design and monitor effective policies on pressing issues in their political agenda.
- Data and information on food security and sustainable agriculture and rural development issues should be accurate as it will aid in developing relevant and effective policies at the national, regional and global levels.
- Partnership of government with the private sector will contribute towards job creation and sustainable economic development of our rural communities. The Region has also benefitted from assistance from international organizations but the legislature should monitor such funding so that they are not misdirected or mismanaged.

Finally, let me echo the 2008 World Development Report by concluding that Agriculture is crucial to achieving the principal Millennium Development Goal (MDG1) of halving the number of people suffering from poverty and hunger by 2015. This should be our collective goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Agriculture plays a central role in the development of the continent. It is said to be the key to economic growth, poverty eradication, increased food security, increased incomes and improved standard of living. Therefore, let us join hands to increase investments in agriculture in the African Region.

Thank you.
Keynote Address by Professor Monty Jones, Executive Director, FARA
Overcoming underinvestment in Africa’s agriculture: the role of political leaders

The importance of agriculture to Africa’s development cannot be overstressed. The largest economic sector for most of the continent’s countries, agriculture employs two thirds of the labour force, accounts for one third of GDP and has the highest poverty-reducing impact. Agricultural growth is 2–4 times more effective in reducing poverty than growth in other sectors (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Performance of agriculture is associated with overall economic performance**

Countries that have formally adopted policies that prioritise agriculture have been rewarded with impressive results. Following are specific examples from three countries: Rwanda, Malawi and Ghana.

**Rwanda**

Rwanda, the first country to sign CAADP\(^1\) compact, tripled public investment in agriculture from 2007 to 2010. The result? Food security quickly improved from an average of 1,800 kcal/day to 2,300 kcal/day. Thus a foundation was laid for sustained growth of the sector.

**Malawi**

Within a single year, Malawi, a chronically hungry country, became self-sufficient in food production by transforming its agriculture sector (Figure 2).

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\(^1\) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
Ghana

Ghana is set to become the first sub-Saharan African (SSA) country to achieve the Millennium Development Goal targets of poverty and hunger reduction. It will achieve this laudable goal through sustained agricultural growth brought about through incentives for private investment in agriculture, research and good leadership (Figure 3). It is no accident that the former President was presented with the World Food Prize in 2011.

Figure 2: Maize production in Malawi, 1982/83 to 2006/07.

Ghana

Ghana is set to become the first sub-Saharan African (SSA) country to achieve the Millennium Development Goal targets of poverty and hunger reduction. It will achieve this laudable goal through sustained agricultural growth brought about through incentives for private investment in agriculture, research and good leadership (Figure 3). It is no accident that the former President was presented with the World Food Prize in 2011.

Figure 3: Ghana’s pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, 1992–2003.
Missed opportunities

Despite the important successes described above, the overall picture is not good. Many African governments continue to relegate agriculture to the back burner as seen in Figure 4.

This reluctance to recognize the prominence of agriculture is unfortunately replicated in donor countries as well. In 2006, for example, one G8 country spent USD 1.2 billion on food aid to Africa but only 5 percent of that amount, USD 60 million, on agricultural development. The huge amount of cash thrown at the problem was a kneejerk reaction to a dire problem. Had the same amount of money been invested in research, the hunger problem might well have been averted! Figure 5 shows the appalling lack of commitment to Africa’s most important sector by overseas development assistance (ODA) by donor countries.

Figure 4: Public spending by 12 SSA countries.

Figure 5: Public spending by donor countries, 1995–2007.
Underinvestment in agriculture – political will is the key

Why is it that agriculture struggles to attract the needed public investment despite its high returns and its strategic importance in assuring food security?

Is it the electorate? This is unlikely – agriculture is the source of livelihood for majority of the population. Is it because leadership in agriculture has not made the case for investment sufficiently compelling? Very likely. Is it because policy makers are focusing on quick wins / low hanging fruits? Also, very likely.

Says Jacques Diouf, former Secretary General of the FAO, ‘We have the programmes, we have the projects, we have the knowledge, though it has to keep being adapted and developed to deal with new problems. We have everything we need but the political will.’

Echoing this sentiment is James Moseley, US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. ‘In the past decade, there has been a narrowing of the gap between scientists and farmers, but a widening gap between scientists and policy makers.’

Clearly, we need to revitalise engagement between policy makers and those organisations involved in agricultural and environmental research.

CAADP’s role

CAADP is a policy framework for eliminating hunger and reducing poverty and food insecurity in Africa through sustainable, agriculturally led development. The role of CAADP is critical. It calls for renewed focus on the importance of agriculture; improved strategies, plans, programmes and policies; more investment in agriculture; and African ownership.

Summing up

There is simply no way around the certainty that Africa’s development depends on the performance of its agriculture. This performance has been undermined by underinvestment in the sector by political leaders of both African and donor countries. It is therefore urgent that agricultural leaders on the continent dialogue with political leaders to address this constraint. FARA joins with all sincere stakeholders in Africa’s development in appealing to parliamentarians to support implementation of the 10 percent allocation to agriculture agreed by African leaders at Maputo in 2003.
Annex 6

Presentation by Hon. Clarkson Otieno Karan of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources:
Sub-committee on Agriculture and Food Security

Presentation by Hon. Otieno Karan during the Regional parliamentary dialogue on enhancing competitiveness through increased investment in agriculture value chain in Africa

Topic: Engaging Parliamentarians in the CAADP Process

5th October, 2011

INTRODUCTION

East African Community is composed of Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The structures are three organs namely

a. The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)
b. The East African Court of Justice (EACJA)
c. The East African Community Secretariat.

The decision making is by consensuses which is normally taken by

a. Summit of Heads of States which is the highest decision making organ
b. The Council of Ministers composed of Ministers from East African Community Partner States and
c. The sectoral Council which is made by permanent Secretaries of East African Community Ministries.

In our region, Partner States have undergone institutional changes that have necessitated the implementation of macroeconomic reforms and structural adjustment programs.

Efforts to attain a food security situation in the East African Region must focus on taking decisive action on the politics of food security, addressing affordability and distance, enhancing
strategic food reserves, provision of incentives of inputs and credit to farmers and increasing the budgetary allocation for the agricultural sector to 10 percent as the Maputo Declaration. Others are ensuring markets and market information, promotion of value addition, research and development, strengthening of agricultural institutions, embracing modern agricultural technologies and entering into effective and mutually benefiting Bilateral Trade Agreements. It was noted that governments also need to promote the transformation of agriculture from subsistence to commercial orientation. This, it was argued, could be achieved through provision of high quality fertilizers and seeds at affordable and sustainable rates, and reforming the co-operative movement. Other interventions are establishing of warehouses and storage facilities at the farm level to mitigate post harvest losses.

**Resolutions and recommendations of the East African Legislative Assembly**

The East African Legislative Assembly has made the underlisted recommendations and resolutions urging Partner States to comply with CAADP country process.

1. The Strategy and the Action Plan for Food Security should take into account the relationship among land ownership, access to capital and increased agricultural production and that necessary agrarian reform should be undertaken;
2. In the implementation of the East African Common Market Protocol, Trade and Food Commodities should be given priority;
3. EAC countries should implement the 10 percent budget allocation for agriculture according to the Maputo declaration to which they are signatories;
4. The East African Community enacts regional legislation which provides a legal framework to ensure coordinated regional approach to issues of Food Security and Climate Change.
5. Processed food commodities should meet safety standards for the protection of consumers, in their connection, the certification branding and labeling of food products should be harmonized.
6. Food exports from the region should be as far as possible processed products. In this regards, investors should in agro process industries should be encouraged.
7. The private sector be facilitated to undertake commercial production, processing and marketing of food commodities;
8. Partner States should be discouraged from singing agreements that are disadvantageous to food production and food security in the region;
9. Emergency food aid should always be linked to long term development of food supply systems by emphasizing that such food should be procured from within EAC, and the process of supply should include investments in the affected area;
10. There are regional technical assistance programs, pooling regional resources and expertise to ensure the supply of agricultural technologies, inputs and services in food production;
11. Non tariff barriers which hinder the transfer of food from surplus food production zones to areas with deficits be eliminated;
12. There should not be export bans of food Commodities intended for consumption within the Region;

13. The improvement of transportation, infrastructure, should give adequate attention to a balance development between major infrastructure (such as highways and railways) on one hand, and the development of rural feeder roads, on the other, to ensure that major infrastructure is optimally utilized;

14. Market support infrastructure (such as wholesale markets, consolidation centres, warehouses, primary processing) should be established to reduce food marketing costs;

15. The East African Community should enact legislation to provide legal framework for regionally coordinated weather – indexed issuance for Agriculture and Rural livelihoods;

16. The fertilizer program that has been initiated by the EAC with the support of African Development Bank towards regionally coordinated procurement and/or manufacture of fertilizer, should be accelerated to ensure adequate and cost effectiveness supply of fertilizers in the EAC region;

17. The establishment of fertilizer manufacturing funds to provide affordable fertilizers to farmers in the region;

18. Funding for Research and Development for food production should be made a priority.

In addition to the above, as a Committee of Agriculture at the regional level, we keep regular consultations with our counterparts from Partner States National Parliaments to ensure the implementation of the above.
La production agricole du Burkina a connu deux tendances contrastées depuis la dévaluation : d’une part la stagnation des cultures céréalières, de l’autre la forte expansion des cultures d’exportation, notamment le coton ainsi que les fruits et légumes. Ceci indique qu’avec le regain de compétitivité, le secteur des exportables a connu un dynamisme particulier et devrait continuer de croître rapidement au fur et à mesure que l’économie continue d’améliorer ses atouts compétitifs.

L’analyse de la compétitivité du secteur agricole montre un certain nombre de contraintes qui entravent la compétitivité du secteur : (i) le faible niveau de mécanisation et d’intensification des pratiques culturales (l’agriculture burkinabè consomme 7,6% du niveau moyen d’engrais utilisé dans l’ensemble des PVD par hectare de terre arable) ; (ii) la faible productivité des facteurs due aux méthodes archaïques de culture et au faible niveau du capital humain (78% de taux d’analphabétisme) ; (iii) un cadre naturel difficile (terres arides, faible maîtrise de l’eau).

Tout aussi importants sont les problèmes d’ordre institutionnel (financement, monopole, absence d’un cadastre rural), de logistique (transport et conservation) et plus généralement de politiques commerciales interventionnistes qui nuisent fortement à la compétitivité du secteur.

Dans le même temps, des potentialités non encore exploitées existent et peuvent constituer les piliers de la croissance future de l’économie. C’est le cas (i) du coton où les gains de productivité...
sont encore possibles, (ii) des fruits et légumes qui ont des atouts compétitifs certains, (iii) des cultures oléagineuse (anacardier, karité et sésame) qui connaissent une forte croissance de la demande internationale et pour lesquels le Burkina a des avantages compétitifs par rapport aux concurrents africains. Quant à la production du riz, seul le modèle pluvial amélioré semble être rentable, les autres (bas-fonds améliorés et irrigation) nécessitent encore d’importantes améliorations techniques.

C’est pour cela que le gouvernement a élaboré une politique vigoureuse de restructuration et d’investissement capable de lever progressivement l’ensemble de ces contraintes, dénommée: **STRATEGIE DE CROISSANCE ACCELEREE ET DE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (SCADD)**

**I. Fondements Et Orientations Strategiques La Scadd**

Le Burkina Faso s’engage sur une nouvelle stratégie de développement qui vise l’accélération de la croissance et la promotion du développement durable afin de mettre le pays sur la voie de l’émergence. La SCADD tire ses fondements de la Vision « Burkina 2025 », qui ambitionne de faire du Burkina Faso, «une nation solidaire, de progrès et de justice qui consolide son respect sur la scène internationale». Sa vision à l’horizon 2015, intitulée «*le Burkina Faso, une économie productive qui accélère la croissance, augmente le niveau de vie, améliore et préserve le cadre et le milieu de vie au moyen d’une gouvernance avisée et performante*», se focalise sur les priorités de croissance économique et les aspirations à une meilleure qualité de vie de la population.

**1. Objectifs de la SCADD**

L’objectif global de la SCADD est de réaliser une croissance économique forte, soutenue et de qualité, génératrice d’effets multiplicateurs sur le niveau d’amélioration des revenus, la qualité de vie de la population et soucieuse du respect du principe de développement durable.

Ces objectifs spécifiques, liés aux OMD, sont assortis de cibles à atteindre d’ici à 2015 qui sont :
- de réaliser un taux de croissance moyen du PIB réel de 10%
- d’atténuer l’extrême pauvreté et la faim dans le pays
- d’assurer l’éducation primaire pour tous
- de promouvoir l’égalité des sexes et l’autonomisation des femmes
- de réduire la mortalité des enfants de moins de 5 ans ;
- d’améliorer la santé maternelle ;
- de combattre le VIH, le SIDA, le paludisme et les autres maladies, et de poursuivre l’inversion de la tendance
- d’assurer un environnement durable.

**II. Principes directeurs de la SCADD**

La Stratégie de croissance accélérée et de développement durable est sous-tendue par six (06) principes directeurs : (i) l’anticipation, (ii) l’appropriation nationale, (iii) la responsabilisation,
(iv) le développement durable, (v) la priorisation et la cohérence des actions, (vi) la gestion axée sur les résultats (GAR).

II. LES AXES STRATEGIQUES

AXE 1 : développement des piliers de la croissance accélérée

Le modèle retenu fait du secteur privé, le moteur de la croissance. Il repose sur une approche novatrice qui met l’accent sur (i) la promotion des pôles de croissance, (ii) le développement des filières porteuses, la promotion des niches et des grappes d’entreprises, ainsi que (iii) la promotion d’une croissance pro-pauvres pour lutter efficacement contre la pauvreté.

- Développement des secteurs prioritaires
  
  Le nouveau modèle de croissance implique l’adoption d’une nouvelle vision des politiques sectorielles afin de tenir compte des différents défis et de favoriser une transformation de la structure de l’économie à long terme. Pour ce faire, les secteurs prioritaires retenus sont :
  
  - Secteur agricole : agriculture, élevage, pêche et forsterie
  - Secteur des mines
  - Artisanat, industries culturelles et touristiques
  - Petites et moyennes entreprises, Petites et moyennes industries (PME/PMI)
  - Notamment l’agro-industrie (Transformation, Commercialisation)

- Développement des infrastructures de soutien
  
  - Infrastructures hydro agricoles et pastorales
  - Transports et logistique
  - Technologies de l’information et de la communication (TIC)
  - Energie
  - Urbanisation
  - Institutions de soutien (micro-finance)

- Promotion de l’intégration économique et du commerce extérieur
  
  Dans cette perspective, le Burkina Faso se doit de promouvoir activement l’intégration économique et le commerce extérieur, de sorte à exploiter les opportunités qu’ils offrent.

AXE 2 : Consolidation du capital humain et promotion de la protection sociale

- *Emploi et accroissement des revenus* : la mise en œuvre de la politique nationale de l’emploi et celle de la jeunesse vise la création d’emplois pour accroître les revenus, afin d’améliorer les conditions de vie des populations.

- *Education, enseignement et formation techniques et professionnels* : l’éducation et la formation contribuent à l’amélioration de la qualité des ressources humaines, condition indispensable à l’édification d’une économie émergente.
• **Santé et nutrition** : il s’agira de renforcer le système de santé pour lui permettre de tirer les meilleurs résultats possibles des investissements dans la santé.

• **Eau potable et assainissement** : la mise en œuvre des réformes définies par le programme national d’approvisionnement en eau potable et d’assainissement (PN-AEPA), devra s’intensifier, en vue d’améliorer l’accès des populations à l’eau potable et à l’assainissement.

• **Promotion de la protection sociale** : le Gouvernement entend élaborer et mettre en œuvre une Politique nationale de protection sociale fondée sur la consolidation du tissu de solidarité communautaire.

• **Accès aux services énergétiques modernes** : une attention particulière sera portée au monde rural, où les taux d’accès à l’énergie sont généralement, très bas, inférieurs à 1%.

AXE 3 : Renforcement de la gouvernance

• **Renforcement de la gouvernance économique**
  Il s’agit de renforcer les capacités de pilotage et de gestion de l’économie, assurer le contrôle des finances publiques, lutter contre la corruption, la fraude et le faux. En outre, il s’agit de renforcer la coordination et l’efficacité de l’Aide publique au Développement.

• **Renforcement de la gouvernance politique**
  Il s’agira de renforcer certaines valeurs sur lesquelles plusieurs autres réformes et actions doivent être engagées, notamment :
  - en rendant plus effective la séparation des trois pouvoirs (exécutif, législatif et judiciaire) ;
  - construire un système de responsabilité et d’imputabilité dans tous les actes de la gestion des affaires publiques ;
  - promouvoir un climat de confiance en la justice et assurer l’effectivité des droits humains.

• **Renforcement de la gouvernance administrative**
  Il s’agit de construire une administration républicaine de développement par la réforme de l’Administration, à travers une stratégie décennale de modernisation de l’Etat et du système de gestion de l’administration.

• **Consolidation de la gouvernance locale**
  Le développement local et régional est une volonté politique qui s’affirme de plus en plus, à travers l’élaboration de documents d’orientation, de politiques et de stratégies pour soutenir la décentralisation et la vision pour promouvoir le développement régional.

AXE 4 : Prise en compte des priorités transversales dans les politiques et programmes de développement

La prise en compte des questions transversales, telles que le genre, la population, l’environnement et l’aménagement du territoire, est une condition de réussite de la mise en œuvre de la SCADD. Ces questions sont constamment présentes à tous les niveaux de dialogue, de politiques et lors des processus de formulation des politiques et programmes sectoriels.

• **Renforcement des programmes de réduction des inégalités de genre**
  Le Gouvernement s’attache à (i) améliorer l’accès et le contrôle, de manière égale et équitable, de tous les Burkinabè, hommes et femmes, aux services sociaux de base, (ii)
promouvoir les droits et opportunités égaux aux femmes et aux hommes en matière d’accès aux ressources, (iii) améliorer l’accès égal des hommes et des femmes aux sphères de décision, (iv) promouvoir la prise en compte du genre dans les systèmes de planification et de mise en œuvre des politiques à tous les niveaux, (v) promouvoir le respect des droits et l’élimination des violences, (vi) promouvoir le genre pour un changement de comportement en faveur de l’égalité entre les hommes et les femmes dans toutes les sphères de la vie socioéconomique et, (vii) développer un partenariat actif en faveur du genre au Burkina Faso.

- **Renforcement des programmes de maîtrise de la croissance démographique**
  La liaison entre les questions de population et les objectifs de développement contribueront à accélérer la croissance pour un développement durable.

- **Gestion de l’environnement et utilisation optimale des ressources naturelles**
  Le développement durable nécessite d’articuler les éléments liés au niveau de vie, au cadre de vie et au milieu de vie. Cette exigence doit amener tous les acteurs à réviser leur mode d’action, en s’alignant sur le principe de la durabilité.

- **Mise en œuvre de la politique d’aménagement du territoire**
  Elle vise à organiser l’utilisation de l’espace national et à assurer la cohérence dans l’implantation des grands projets d’infrastructures, d’équipements et des agglomérations. Elle vise, en outre, à fournir aux collectivités territoriales un cadre de référence pour l’élaboration de leurs politiques, stratégies et plans de développement.

- **Renforcement des capacités**
  Il s’agit de renforcer les capacités des administrations et institutions publiques dans la formulation, la mise en œuvre et le suivi-évaluation des politiques publiques, ainsi que l’amélioration du dialogue et de la concertation.

- **Intelligence économique**
  L’Etat promeut l’intelligence économique en vue de disposer d’informations pertinentes permettant de comprendre et d’anticiper l’environnement économique national et international, afin d’identifier les opportunités d’accès à de nouveaux marchés, grâce à l’innovation et à la créativité.

### III. La stratégie de suivi et d’évaluation

Le dispositif institutionnel de suivi et d’évaluation de la SCADD met en avant d’une part, la décentralisation en tant que vecteur porteur en matière de développement participatif à partir de la communalisation effective qui confère aux collectivités territoriales un rôle-clé dans la mise en œuvre de la SCADD et des politiques sectorielles y afférentes, et, d’autre part, le souci d’implantation du budget-programme.

Il comprend d’une part, des organes chargés de l’animation des cadres de dialogue entre les divers acteurs de développement et d’autre part, des instances qui constituent les cadres de dialogue. Outre ces organes et instances, des dialogues politiques de haut niveau, sont prévus.
1. Les organes

a. **Le Conseil des ministres** est l’organe d’orientation des politiques de développement économique et social. Il fixe les priorités de développement, décide de l’allocation des ressources et adopte le rapport annuel de performances.

b. **Le Comité national de pilotage** de la SCADD a pour mission de superviser la mise en œuvre de la SCADD, de donner les directives nécessaires pour la conduite des actions, de valider le programme de travail annuel. Le Comité national de pilotage de la SCADD est composé de l’État, les Organisations de la société civile (OSC), le secteur privé et les PTF.

c. **Le Secrétariat technique national** de la SCADD (STN/SCADD) est l’organe administratif et technique d’animation du dispositif institutionnel de suivi et d’évaluation de la SCADD. Il assiste le Comité national de pilotage et les autres Cadres nationaux de dialogue, dans leurs missions.

d. **Les Cadres sectoriels de dialogue** (CSD) sont constitués des dispositifs de pilotage des politiques et stratégies sectorielles. Ils assurent la supervision de la mise en œuvre des politiques et stratégies sectorielles.

e. Les attributions des **Cadres régionaux de dialogue** (CRD) sont assumées par les Cadres de concertation régionaux (CCR). Ils apprécient la pertinence des actions programmées par les acteurs locaux, leur cohérence avec les objectifs de la SCADD et évaluent leurs performances.

2. Les instances

a. **La revue annuelle de la SCADD** tient lieu de session ordinaire du CNP/SCADD.

b. Les **Revues sectorielles** : tiennent lieu de sessions des CSD. Elles ont lieu deux fois dans l’année et leurs rapports alimentent la revue annuelle de la SCADD.

c. Les **Revues régionales** : Les sessions des CCR tiennent lieu de revues régionales. Elles servent à valider les actions des plans régionaux de développement cohérentes avec les priorités de la SCADD et à faire le bilan de leur mise en œuvre.

d. **Les dialogues politiques de haut niveau** : sont des cadres de concertation annuels entre le Gouvernement et les autres partenaires au développement. Ils ont un caractère consultatif et comprennent notamment, les rencontres (i) Gouvernement-secteur privé, (ii) Gouvernement organisations de la société civile, (iii) Gouvernement-collectivités territoriales et (iv) Gouvernement-PTF.

## IV. LES INVESTISSEMENTS PRIORITAIRES DANS L’AGRICULTURE AU BURKINA FASO

Au Burkina Faso, le secteur du développement rural bénéficie globalement de 9,60% de la masse de crédits budgétaires (hors dette, exonérations, contreparties et surcoûts de projets, subventions, transfert en capital et projets sur financements extérieurs) au regard des ressources budgétaires limitées et dans le souci de maximiser les efforts de l’intervention publique.

Les allocations accordées à l’agriculture sont focalisées sur des priorités bien déterminées dans la Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et de Développement Durable (SCADD) adoptée au mois
de décembre 2010. Cela permettra d’assurer aux populations une alimentation en quantité et en qualité suffisante et des revenus aux producteurs par une agriculture moderne, diversifiée et pourvoyeuses d’emplois.

Ainsi les inscriptions budgétaires sont orientées vers la consolidation des actions de relance de la production agricole à savoir :

- La promotion de la petite irrigation villageoise.
- La réalisation de barrages et périmètres aménagés ainsi que la réhabilitation de barrages dégradés et sinistrés.
- La subvention des intrants agricoles (semences améliorées, engrais, etc...) aux producteurs.
- La poursuite de la mise en œuvre du plan d’actions de la mécanisation agricole (charrues, motoculteurs, motopompes, tracteurs).
- La sécurisation foncière à travers l’application effective de la politique de sécurisation foncière.
- Le développement et la diversification des filières porteuses notamment le coton, les fruits et légumes et le sésame.
- La transformation sur place des produits.
- Le développement de la filière lait à travers des coopératives.
- La dynamisation de la filière bétail viande par la multiplication des ateliers d’embouche de bovins et d’ovins ainsi que la filière volaille.
- Le renforcement de l’organisation et de la capacité des acteurs.

Le gouvernement a associé l’Assemblée Nationale aux principales étapes de d’élaboration de la SCADD.

Des lors la SCADD est devenue le cadre référentiel du Développement et a partir duquel l’Assemblée Nationale adopte les ressources financières à allouer aux différents secteurs ministériels.

**Merci de votre attention.**
Introduction

As the saying goes ‘a country that is able to feed itself has overcome poverty’. Agriculture should aim to boost food security but policy has a major role to play in this regard. This paper aims at discussing the role played by the Nigerian Senate in ensuring that there is increased investment in agricultural value chain in Nigeria.

Enabling Law

In carrying out its legislative mandate, the Nigerian Senate is guided by the country’s Constitution and its Standing Rules. Therefore, particular reference will be made to these two documents.

Most of the Committee on Agriculture’s jurisdiction can be found in the Exclusive Legislative List of the Constitution which empowers the National Assembly exclusively to make laws concerning such items. Section 62 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2011 as amended) which particularly deals with matters on Trade and Commerce is relevant in our discourse today because the National Assembly’s power to make laws on trade and investment is derived from the Section. It provides:

Trade and Commerce, and in particular
a. Trade and commerce between Nigeria and other countries including import of commodities into and export of commodities from Nigeria, and trade and commerce between the States;
b. Establishment of a purchasing authority with power to acquire for export or sale in world markets such agricultural produce as may be designated by the National Assembly;

c. Inspection of produce to be exported from Nigeria and the enforcement of grades and standards of quality in respect of produce so inspected;

d. Establishment of a body to prescribe and enforce standards of goods and commodities offered for sale;

e. Control of the prices of goods and commodities designated by the National Assembly as goods or commodities; ....

On the other hand, Section 17 (c) and (d) of the Concurrent Legislative List of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria authorizes the National Assembly to make laws for the federation with respect to – the establishment of research centres for agricultural studies; and the establishment of institutions and bodies to promote and finance industrial, commercial and agricultural projects.

Also, both Houses of the National Assembly are guided by their separate Standing Rules. In the Senate, Rule 98 of the Standing Rules authorizes the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to oversee matters on agriculture and rural development.

Based on the above, the Senate should therefore be an excellent partner in enhancing investments in agriculture in Nigeria. The question is WHAT ROLE HAS THE SENATE PLAYED AND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE SENATE?

First, it may interest you to know that the 6th Senate passed several Bills on Agriculture which are still before the Executive. These are:

a. The National Food Reserve Agency Bill
b. The Nigerian Quarantine Services Bill
c. The National Seeds Council Bill
d. National Bio-Safety Bill

These agencies were empowered in the Bill to perform the above functions stipulated in Section 62 above. The agencies are already in existence, but they need an enabling law to perform optimally. Our role is to make laws but the execution of the laws lie with the Executive.

Budget allocation to the agricultural sector has been historically low. About 4% of total federal expenditure of N2.83 trillion in 2009 was allocated to agriculture and water resources. Of the N796.7 billion allocated for capital expenditure 11.52 percent was for agriculture and water resources. This highly contrasts with the contributions of the sector to the national output. This spending falls well below the 10% goal set by African Leaders in the MAPUTO Agreement in 2003.

Similarly, we in the Senate shall support the CBN’s New Incentive based Risk Sharing Agricultural Lending Scheme especially where the rural farmers will have access to the scheme, and I believe the CBN under the leadership of Governor Sanusi Lamido will not allow it to be hijacked by absentee farmers.
In performing our oversight functions, we try to ensure that budgetary allocations are agriculture focused. But there are some restraints when both arms of government do not dialogue from time to time to focus on the needs of the stakeholders. It is hoped that going forward, we will get our budgets right this time around to address the inadequacies of the past.

What we need to do henceforth will include:-

1. **Stability in Policy**: There must be stability in policy. Programmes and policies on agriculture should be positive and continuous. They must therefore be geared towards promoting the agricultural sector and developing our rural areas.

2. **Incentives** should focus on encouraging the farmers. Remuneration should also be adequate. Government should therefore take adequate steps to encourage our local farming.

3. A participatory approach will enable farmers including small scale farmers the opportunity to benefit from interest-free loans from Banks.

4. **Government** should encourage good storage machines (infrastructural facilities) as well as production facilities. This will drastically reduce what we import and at the same time provide employment for our youths. Consumers also need to be encouraged to patronize our locally made products.

5. Rural areas should be conducive to live in so that the trend of rural-urban drift will be reduced considerably. Some services centres or stations should be located in the rural areas to dissuade rural-urban drift.

As parliamentarians, we note the relevance of counterpart funding in our budgets and annually appropriate for that purpose. In the 2010 Appropriation Act for instance, the total sum of about five billion, five hundred and twenty two million, four hundred and twenty thousand and twenty one naira (N5,522,420,021.00) was allocated as contribution to foreign bodies.

We need to now return to agriculture and look at our policies and laws in order to place agriculture in its rightful position. Nigeria has vast arable land, but the soil needs to be fertile. We need to encourage variety seeds, tree crops and livestock and provide adequate mechanization with excellent storage facilities so that we can have food all through the seasons. There is therefore the need to include value addition to our harvest technology so that food will be available throughout the year to feed everybody in Nigeria with enough for export in order to boost and add value to our economy.

That is why we advocate for collective efforts of all tiers of governments both the national, regional and global levels, public and private sector, stakeholders and farmers to work together to move agriculture to its rightful place. Government both at the federal and state levels should come together as a synergy to place agriculture in a visible position.
Presentation by Hon. Moinina Conteh (MP, Sierra Leone House of Parliament)

I will like to express my appreciation to the organizers of this dialogue forum and the leadership of the forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) for extending invitation to Members of the Agriculture Committee of the Sierra Leone Parliament to discuss this very important issue of “Enhancing Competitiveness through Increased Investments in Agricultural Value Chain in Africa”.

Like in most other African countries, agriculture is a dominant sector in the Sierra Leone economy. The agriculture sector provides employment opportunities for a significant proportion of the working population and generates large domestic revenue and foreign exchange earnings and contributes an average of 45.4% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) plus 60% employment of the country. However, I may unfortunately note that this sector has failed to produce at its full potential due to multiple problems including limited public support, low investment and value addition and poor infrastructure. All of these negative contributors have been further worsened by the ten year civil conflict and while the country is recovering, there are still huge constraints on productivity and competitiveness of every value chain with some exceptions for cocoa and palm oil. It needs no further emphasis therefore that Sierra Leone requires increased investments to promote competitiveness of our agricultural products within and outside the country.

There are full range of activities which are required to bring an agricultural product from cultivation through the different phases of production and delivery to the final consumer; this value chain involves different actors: which includes researchers, producers or farmers, input providers, processors, transporters, wholesalers and retailers before it gets to the final consumer. All of these areas are under-financed and if you ask me which of these areas require priority for investment to enhance competitiveness in Sierra Leone; my answer is – all. Despite efforts from government to lure investments (e.g. through the Sierra Leone Investment Forum held in London in 2010 or duty concessions etc), there is relatively to the mining sector for instance, few investments and intermediaries between producers and consumers, few market opportunities due to poor standards and transformation, poor road network, weak support services (banks, customs etc) and destroyed agricultural infrastructure. Travelling out of Sierra Leone and to the rural parts of the country is still difficult.

Government has endeavoured to improve on the enabling environment for business promotion through regulations and policies and the setting up of the Sierra Leone Investment Promotion Agency (SLIPA) but these are not sufficient conditions for enhancing competitiveness and increased productivity in agricultural value chain. We need increased commitment in terms of budgetary support to better execute the required support services, investment policies and regulations instead of just conceptions. Good policy promotion will better improve private-
public partnership and confidence which are very important for investment promotion in agriculture. In Sierra Leone for instance: government imported tractors for mechanized rice production, but this was given on hire purchase mainly to political cronies under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture; in my view, this would have been better if a private investor would have done such in partnership with the government.

It must be noted that Sierra Leone, may be like some other countries in Africa, lacks agriculture oriented financial strategy. Despite the efforts from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to establish community banks, there are still limited credit opportunities for producers and the apparent financial shortage is detrimental to value chain promotion. Whereas investors could easily acquire bank loans to invest into other sectors like mining, it is not the case for agriculture. It is my opinion that whereas these problems might appear worse in the case of Sierra Leone they cannot be strange to other African countries. African governments must therefore address strategic issues to improve on investment in agricultural value chain as a means of increasing competitiveness, having stated earlier that this sector contributes greatly to employment promotion and the GDP:

There should first be increased governments’ own investment to improve on agriculture related infrastructure: storage, roads, electricity, communication etc and these must be concentrated in the rural-urban areas where agro-based activities are likely to happen. This also implies that budgetary support to agriculture must be increasing according to the Maputo declaration of 10% of the National – 9% taking into consideration opportunities of enhancing private-public partnership and market promotion and enhancing the enabling business environment for investment in agriculture. Empowering women and youths to improve their various activities. The National Farmers Association is working hard to improve living standard of her members.

We must encourage investments into areas with the view of creating better interaction between the various actors in the agricultural value chain; for instance upgrading farm level production must be backed by improved storage, transportation, communication and market provision. I will conclude by stating that Africa has a very huge opportunity in agriculture and these potentials will be better harnessed if governments and donor partners will encourage investments into this sector especially in the area of value addition. Sierra Leone has therefore placed agriculture as the government’s number one agenda for development in the area of Research SLARI is doing well.

Thank you for listening.
Sharing Lesotho’s experiences on investment in agricultural value chains by Hon. S. Motampane MP

Introduction

Lesotho is a mountainous country with a population of about two million. Its lowest point is 1400m above sea level. This high attitude makes it very vulnerable to soil erosion. The temperatures drop very drastically at night. It has only one planting seasons with winters coming very early in April.

There are two farming activities in the country namely: crop and animal farming.

Crop farming

Besides vegetable, the people plant wheat in winter and maize in summer which is a staple food for Basotho people.

The government gives farmers subsidies in the form of discounted inputs, namely: fertilizer and seeds.

The government of Japan also donates fertilizers and irrigation equipment which is sold to farmers on credit and at very discounted prices to enable most of the farmers to afford to buy. Also the government of India donates tractors which are also sold to farmers to improve their capacity to produce.

Most of the farmers are engaged in co-operatives and collective farming. The produce is sold to large milling companies to turn into maize and wheat meal which is then resold to the people. There was canning of beans and asparagus which has since died down.

The problem with the crop farming is the soil-erosion which has destroyed the top soil, which was once very rich, leaving the country ravaged by this scourge.

The second problem is lack of investments to turn the produce into other agro-products that adds value chain to farming.

Wool and Morhairs

Wool and morchair still remains Lesotho’s biggest and longest foreign-earners. The farmers have organized themselves into wool and morhair growers associations who target the overseas markets.
The government helps the farmers with the extension services to provide expertise in classification of wool and morhair and also help in the control of diseases. Such as sheep-scab etc.

The government has decided to establish wool-scouring in the country to add value to the produce and also to create employment.

The challenge in this activity is communal grazing. The ministry of agriculture and local government battle to control grazing and as such the country is fast loosing its once sweet grasses to overgrazing.

**Dams**

The completion of phase one A and B of the Lesotho Highland Water project has also provided Lesotho with plenty and variety of fresh water fish. This project will have a series of dams on completion which will contribute immensely to fishing industry that will be exported to other countries. This will contribute to economy of the country. Already along the dam site people are organized into co-operatives and are allowed to use small boats for their fishing activities.
Regional Parliamentarian Dialogue on Enhancing Competitiveness through Increased Investments in Agricultural Value Chains in Africa
ABUJA - NIGERIA, 5–7 OCTOBER, 2011

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**FACILITATOR & INTERPRETERS**

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**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

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**THE PRESS**

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Regional parliamentarian dialogue on enhancing competitiveness through increased investments in agricultural value chains in Africa
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## Acronyms and abbreviations

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUC</td>
<td>African Union Commission</td>
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<td>CAADP</td>
<td>Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme</td>
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<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<td>EACJA</td>
<td>East African Court of Justice</td>
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<td>EALA</td>
<td>East Africa Legislative Assembly</td>
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<td>ECOWAP</td>
<td>ECOWAS Agricultural Policy</td>
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<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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<td>Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>IAPSC</td>
<td>Inter-African Phytosanitary Council</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>MDGs</td>
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<td>Members of Parliament</td>
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<td>NAIP</td>
<td>National Agricultural Investment Programme</td>
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<td>Regional Agricultural Investment Programme</td>
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<td>SLIPA</td>
<td>Sierra Leone Investment Promotion Agency</td>
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<td>SME</td>
<td>Small and Medium Scale Enterprises</td>
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<td>SPS</td>
<td>Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures</td>
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<td>SWAPs</td>
<td>Sector-wide Programmes</td>
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About FARA

FARA is the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, the apex organization bringing together and forming coalitions of major stakeholders in agricultural research and development in Africa.

FARA is the technical arm of the African Union Commission (AUC) on rural economy and agricultural development and the lead agency of the AU’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) to implement the fourth pillar of Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), involving agricultural research, technology dissemination and uptake.

FARA’s Vision: reduced poverty in Africa as a result of sustainable broad-based agricultural growth and improved livelihoods, particularly of smallholder and pastoral enterprises.

FARA’s Mission: creation of broad-based improvements in agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets by supporting Africa’s sub-regional organizations in strengthening capacity for agricultural innovation.

FARA’s Value Proposition: to provide a strategic platform to foster continental and global networking that reinforces the capacities of Africa’s national agricultural research systems and sub-regional organizations.

FARA will make this contribution by achieving its Specific Objective of sustainable improvements to broad-based agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets.

Key to this is the delivery of five Results, which respond to the priorities expressed by FARA’s clients. These are:

1. Establishment of appropriate institutional and organizational arrangements for regional agricultural research and development.
2. Broad-based stakeholders provided access to the knowledge and technology necessary for innovation.
3. Development of strategic decision-making options for policy, institutions and markets.
4. Development of human and institutional capacity for innovation.
5. Support provided for platforms for agricultural innovation.

FARA will deliver these results through the provision of networking support to the SROs, i.e.

1. Advocacy and resource mobilization
2. Access to knowledge and technologies
3. Regional policies and markets
4. Capacity strengthening
5. Partnerships and strategic alliances

FARA’s major donors are The African Development Bank, The Canadian International Development Agency, European Commission, the Governments of the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Italy, Ireland, Germany, France, Norway and Denmark, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the Rockefeller Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Bank, and the United States of America Agency for International Development.