

**CAADP-XP4/AFAAS: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme - CAADP ex-Pillar IV/ African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services. African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation Support Project.**

### **Objectives of the project**

The objective of the project is to enhance the collaborative and operational capabilities the AFAAS network to deliver on its mandate of enabling agricultural innovation and extension services to contribute effectively and sustainably to food and nutrition security, economic development and climate mitigation in Africa.

### **Background**

Agriculture, providing two-thirds of jobs and about one-fourth of GDP, is the backbone of Africa's economy and a key driver of sustainable and inclusive growth. Realising the importance of agriculture in Africa's economy, African leaders adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in 2003 in Maputo, which was renewed in Malabo in 2014. It outlines a broader agenda with targets to be achieved by 2025. AFAAS subscribes to this noble aspiration.



*Representatives from CAADP-XP4 Organizations meet at the fifth Africa-wide Agricultural Extension Week in November 2021. Photo credit: AFAAS*

Agriculture in Africa is, however, plagued by several challenges, among which the threat of climate change and variability is highest. Some of the effects of climate change are the recurring droughts, pest and disease outbreaks including human epidemics and market shocks. The need for climate-smart agriculture for millions of smallholders - many of them women and youth - cannot be overlooked: they provide over 80 % of food in Sub-Saharan Africa and make up the largest share of undernourished. As the most vulnerable and marginalized, they are more exposed to climate change. The current global attention on climate change, food security, and market-driven smallholder production makes pluralistic Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) pivotal in the development agenda. AEAS is a fundamental part of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) and shall support people to innovate in order to deal with existing and new challenges, to improve the livelihoods of rural people in Africa.

AFAAS, as a continent-wide body that is actively present in over 28 countries in Africa, is well positioned to facilitate collective actions, knowledge and innovation sharing, capacity strengthening, and advocacy to support innovation among AEAS and farmers. The CAADP-XP4 project (African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation Support Project) aims to address the above challenges by supporting a science-led and climate-relevant agricultural transformation in Africa with the support of strong and well-adapted advisory services. The project supports the five consortium organisations, including AFAAS and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) at the continental level and the following Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs): Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) and West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF).



**The theory of change to achieve the objectives**

The theory of change that guides the design of the change pathway resulting in the expected results of the CAADP-XP4 programme, entails that: IF, the collaborative capacities of AFAAS are improved and strengthened to coordinate science led agriculture innovation and sustainable climate relevant initiatives, THEN, its collaboration with the CAADP-XP4 organizations will be improved, and this will lead to improved mainstreaming of Science Technology and Innovation (STI) in the CAADP process thus: advancing a common vision and agenda; enhancing coherence of actions; and strengthening African voices in global platforms on research and innovation. IF, the collaborative capacities of AFAAS are improved and strengthened, THEN, it will be better positioned to support countries in their planning and implementation of actions aimed at ensuring their agricultural transformation (science and innovation-led, sustainable and climate relevant) by: prioritizing research and innovation; developing and use Climate-relevant Technologies and Innovations; advocating and mobilizing investments in agricultural research & innovation; and formulating and implementing agricultural policies. IF, the capacities of the country partner organizations are strengthened in planning and implementation of actions aimed at ensuring their agricultural transformation (science and innovation-led, sustainable and climate relevant), THEN, the countries will be better positioned to contribute to CAADP-Malabo and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Targets [Wealth Creation, Food and Nutrition Security, Poverty Alleviation & Resilience].

The logic in the change pathway presented in Figure 1 (next page), is based on key assumptions that include: Relevant continental, regional and national policies favourable to agricultural transformation and growth will prevail; Adequate and appropriate policies and plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector will be strengthened and developed; Political support for agriculture as a major driver of sustainable national economic development will be upheld; All the coordinating and implementing partners will continue to work together adopting practice that foster effective collaboration; Multi-stakeholder partners will be motivated to create, share and exchange climate relevant knowledge and information.

Figure: CAADP XP4 Project Impact pathway



**Main activities**

Although the action is jointly implemented through a consortium arrangement, AFAAS’ specific activities under the CAADP-XP4 project as derived from the overall sub-activities include:



- ✓ Strengthen the internal capacities of AFAAS, mobilize and build the institutional and organizational capacities of AEAS actors to deliver innovative services - linked to all actors in the agricultural innovation system and to smallholder farmers;
- ✓ Develop the AFAAS implementation framework to strengthen partnerships and extension systems at national and regional levels;
- ✓ Strengthen the enabling environment for effective implementation of innovation AEAS;
- ✓ Promote and operationalize multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate change innovations at the national level through CF members and create platforms for continental and global learning;
- ✓ Support demand-led climate-relevant innovation through South-South, North-South, and North-South-South brokerage and linkages;
- ✓ Review institutional frameworks - policies, strategies, structures, and processes - to support AEAS programmes based on system-wide synergies that leverage and complement the services of diverse actors through collaboration;
- ✓ Strengthen capacities of Country Fora (CF) and Regional Fora (RF) for climate-relevant policy analysis, formulation, and advocacy;
- ✓ Convene policy dialogues and strategic communication sensitive to climate change for AEAS, focusing CF and Directors of extension;
- ✓ Convene biannual Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Weeks for learning, dialogue, and knowledge sharing;
- ✓ AFAAS will be responsible for the coordination of the development of climate-relevant knowledge products and tools for dissemination to the last mile;
- ✓ Undertake program planning and coordination;
- ✓ Strengthen program monitoring, evaluation, and learning system; and
- ✓ Undertake communication and visibility actions and provide leadership in developing Standards for the dissemination of information.

### **Results achieved to date (December 2022)**

As of December 2022, AFAAS's organisational capacity has improved through the creation of the governance, financial and human resources management systems, as well as through the recruitment of high-calibre staff. This enhanced capacity has improved partners confidence in collaborating with AFAAS on a number of interventions.

AFAAS has enhanced the capacity of AEAS stakeholders by organising trainings on the use of tools such as the Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS), the Technology Agriculture Platform (TAP) Common Frameworks and the Objective, Reflective, Interpretive, and Decisional (ORID) framework. As a result of these capacity-building initiatives, AEAS stakeholders in countries including Cameroon, Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia are now using these skills in planning and applying Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Technologies, Innovations and Management practices (TIMPS). In addition, there is renewed demand and use of data systems and AEAS observatories among the country level stakeholders.

Nine (9) multi-stakeholder partnerships have been improved upon, including the East African Field Schools Hub; the AFAAS-CIRAD (Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement) partnership; AFAAS-GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) project on Agroecology; the AFAAS-AGRINATURA partnership on Extension and Training. In addition, AFAAS has strengthened 11 country fora as strategic innovation platforms to promote innovative and climate-smart agricultural practices. The partnerships are now collectively supporting the promotion of climate relevant TIMPs.

AFAAS developed and is now guided by a policy advocacy framework, the Ecosystems services framework and a map of climate initiatives in Africa. It organised four (4) regional policy dialogues and

nine (9) national policy dialogues on various themes such as markets, trade and climate relevant agriculture in light of AEAS. Resultant of these policy dialogues are policy issues that are being addressed in different countries to various degrees such as promoting linkages and access to wider regional and global markets of agricultural produce; mainstreaming of climate relevant TIMPs in the Extension and Advisory Services; promotion of Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) change for youths and adults towards viewing agriculture as a holistic value-chain system that facilitates development.

The Knowledge Management system has been strengthened through trainings, establishing necessary Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) platforms for knowledge dissemination, and development of last mile knowledge and communication products. Notably, AFAAS organized an ICT hackathon with the participation of 20 ICT innovators from six (6) countries, out of which three (3) innovative ICT solutions were selected for scaling. Following the acquired capacities, the value chain actors can now access relevant knowledge on climate relevant practices.

### Implementing organization

The African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) is the implementing organisation for AEAS activities in the Project for Africa. AFAAS shall implement its activities through the Regional Fora (Southern Africa Regional Forum for Agricultural Advisory Service (SARFAAS) and Réseau des Services de Conseil Agricole et Rural de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre (RESCAR-AOC)) and Country Fora shall be the key players.



### Administered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)



### Partners of the project

- ✓ Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- ✓ Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)
- ✓ West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD/CORAF)
- ✓ Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)



### Other main stakeholders

Public extension service providers (ministries of agriculture and research and relevant policy and regulatory bodies), private service providers (consultancy firms, private extension agents, input suppliers, producers' buyers, apex farmer organizations, transporters, etc.), and semi-private (socio-entrepreneurs, NGOs like Sasakwa Africa Association, etc.) who offer agricultural-related services. Engagement with authorizing institutions, like African Union, Regional Economic Communities. Other key stakeholders include Farmer Organisations at the National, Regional, and Continental levels, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Forum for Rural Advisory



Services (GFRAS), the European Forum for Rural Advisory Services (EUFRAS), Agrinatura, Natural Research Institute, and Access Agriculture, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, among others.

**Location**

The AFAAS is the lead implementing organization for AEAS activities in the project, working with the following countries: Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Malawi, Madagascar, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, Cameroon, Ethiopia and South Africa.

**Funding and co-funding**

European Union (EU)	€ 5,110,000
Total budget	€ 5,110,000

**Duration**

5 years (1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)

**Website**

<https://www.afaas-africa.org/>

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