Objectives of the project

CAADP-XP4/FARA: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-Pillar 4/ Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation Support Project.

The overall objective of the CAADP-XP4 programme is to enable agricultural research and innovation, including extension services, to contribute effectively to food and nutrition security, economic development and implement climate-relevant interventions in Africa. This is being achieved by improving the capacity, effectiveness, and positioning of the Regional and Sub Regional Agriculture research and extension organisations as well as National Agriculture Research Systems, and by promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing among the organizations.

The objective of the CAADP XP4 Project in FARA is to strengthen FARA in implementing its mandate and its capacity to collaborate effectively with the four other African supra-national research-for-development organisations (African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA), Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD/CORAF), in order to collectively support African countries in delivering CAADP and Sustainable Development Goals (SGD) results.

The strengthening of individual, institutional and collaborative capacity of FARA is expected, in turn, to enable FARA to support the strengthening of the capacities of SROs and countries to: (i) prioritize research and innovation, develop and use climate-relevant technologies and innovations, advocate and mobilize investments in agricultural research and innovation, and formulate and implement policies; and (ii) improve collaboration amongst partners to enhance coherence of actions, advance a common vision and agenda, and strengthen the African voice in global platforms on research and innovation.

Background

African countries face serious climate change challenges (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2016) which undermine efforts to maximize the benefits of agriculture using science, technology, and innovation as advanced under the pillar 4 of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). According to projections by the IPCC, crop yields in sub–Saharan Africa are set to drop by 22% by 2050 due to effects of climate change (IPCC, 2014). In addition, climate change has resulted in outbreaks of new pests and diseases including aggravated aflatoxins, fall armyworm, desert locusts and other challenges leading to post harvest losses which pose a threat to nutritional security and food safety in Africa.

EU, IFAD and CAADP-XP4 members.
Photo credit: FARA

In a bid to deliver on the SDGs and the African Union CAADP Malabo Declaration, African countries committed to raise agriculture growth through increasing agricultural productivity and reducing post-harvest losses. They also resolved to ensure that by 2025, at least 30% of Africa's farming, pastoralist,

and fishing households are resilient to climate and weather-related risks, and agricultural productivity is increased at least by 100%.

Key interventions to address climate change impacts entail strengthening the adaptive and mitigation capacities and facilitating the strengthening of the science-policy nexus. With regard to the science-policy nexus, FARA promotes and uses the Policy Practice Index (PPI) tool to evaluate agricultural sector policies and their implementation at country, regional and continental levels. Learning from existing approaches that demonstrated some success and building on them is a necessity.

To this end, collective action is required to support countries in their planning and implementation of programmes aimed at ensuring agricultural transformation that is inclusive, science and innovation-led, sustainable and climate relevant. FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF (collectively known as the CAADP ex Pillar IV organisations, or CAADP XP4) are the African supra-national Research-for-Development (AR4D) organisations that are positioned to facilitate collective actions, share and manage information and knowledge, strengthen implementation capacities, support regional markets and trade, advocate for enabling policies and environments and strengthen accountability systems of the National Agricultural Research and Innovation System (NARIS) in countries within respective regions. They are the supra-national institutions that facilitated the implementation of CAADP Pillar 4 in the first decade of CAADP. These organisations themselves require further strengthening to enable them to perform their mandates effectively. For instance, implementation of FARA's roles[1] is often hampered by weak internal capacities (human, infrastructure and financial resources), as well as weak institutional and systemic capacities (collaborative and accountability processes and mechanisms).

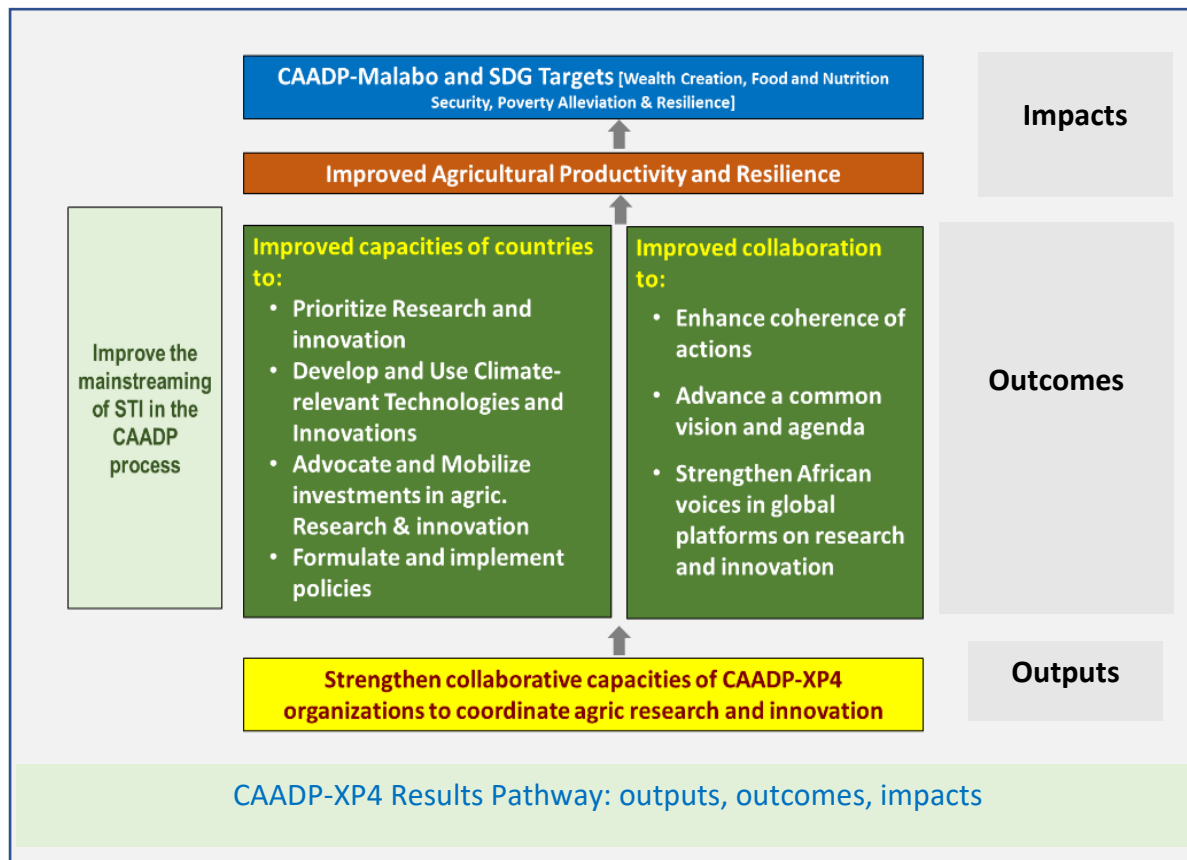### The theory of change to achieve the objectives

The objective of the CAADP XP4 Project in FARA is to strengthen FARA in implementing its mandate and its capacity to collaborate effectively with the four other African supra-national research-for-development organisations (AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF) in order to collectively support African countries in delivering CAADP and SDGs results.

To meet the objectives, FARA has to achieve five mutually reinforcing results in the CAADP XP4 programme with the following targets: (i) at least 48 functional multi-stakeholder partnerships for scaling up climate relevant innovations and technologies, innovations and management practices established; (ii) at least 45 regional organizations supported to reach country level organizations and strengthen their capacities in advocacy for climate-relevant coherent agricultural innovation policies, cross-boundary markets and trade reforms; (iii) policy reforms in at least 34 countries are triggered for generation and uptake of climate relevant agricultural innovations and their subsequent translation into development impact; (iv) at least 34 countries supported to develop their knowledge management strategies to facilitate the achievement of programme goals in relation to CAADP; (v) at least 4,000 researchers, academia, policy makers, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Farmers' Organisations (FOs), and private sector operators involved in contributing to policy/decision making knowledge, information and data.

These results are expected to contribute to the higher outcome of improved agricultural productivity and resilience in at least 30 African countries to allow them to reach the expected impacts of agriculture growth through science-led, climate-relevant and sustainable transformation of

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[1] FARA's roles include: translating global and continental agendas for implementation at sub-regional and national levels, providing mechanisms and approaches for strengthening institutional and systemic capacities and knowledge management for supporting evidence- based advocacy at policy and operational level decisions on research.

agriculture in low and middle-income countries in Africa, thereby contributing to the achievement of the relevant SDGs and the CAADP-Malabo targets on wealth creation, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and resilience.

CAADP-Malabo and SDG Targets [Wealth Creation, Food and Nutrition Security, Poverty Alleviation & Resilience]

Improved Agricultural Productivity and Resilience

Impacts

Improve the mainstreaming of STI in the CAADP process

Improved capacities of countries to:
- Prioritize Research and innovation
- Develop and Use Climate-relevant Technologies and Innovations
- Advocate and Mobilize investments in agric. Research & innovation
- Formulate and implement policies

Improved collaboration to:
- Enhance coherence of actions
- Advance a common vision and agenda
- Strengthen African voices in global platforms on research and innovation

Outcomes

Strengthen collaborative capacities of CAADP-XP4 organizations to coordinate agric research and innovation

Outputs

CAADP-XP4 Results Pathway: outputs, outcomes, impacts

Main activities
The main activities are organised under the following 5 outputs:

Output 1: Strengthened Capacity of African regional and sub-regional agricultural research organizations to perform their individual mandates and to better work together.
The specific activities towards this output are:
✓ Undertaking capacity gap assessment.
✓ Establishing a staff development programme.
✓ Upgrading operational systems, especially financial, Knowledge Management, procurement and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning systems.
✓ Developing an implementation framework that supports strengthening of the collaborative capacities of FARA.
✓ Developing and activating instruments and processes of engagement with FARA's authorizing institutions i.e. African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).
✓ Undertaking high level policy dialogue and strategic meetings and developing an accountability framework.

Output 2: Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Innovation established and in operation.
Under this output, FARA has set out to establish or strengthen 48 functional multi-stakeholder partnerships and 71 thematic working groups climate-relevant and linked to regional, continental and

global platforms. In addition, FARA is in the process of co-developing and implementing 12 programmes and involving 20 European organizations in the planning, execution, monitoring and reporting of programme activities. A pool of 40 experts is being established to supply backstopping of specialised services to food and agricultural systems initiatives and partnerships – including farmer organizations initiatives disaggregated by type and region and broker 30 South-South, North-South and North-South-South partnerships on climate change data and mitigation and adaptation mechanisms. The specific activities under this output are:

- ✓ Mapping out existing climate relevant initiatives at national, regional and continental levels.
- ✓ Convening periodic meetings for existing inclusive CSA platforms, strengthening existing climate-relevant Thematic Working Groups and national multi-stakeholder innovation platforms, and linking them with regional, continental & external global platforms.
- ✓ Developing strategies and practical mechanisms for engaging with private sector (including farmers' organisations including providing space for researchers, extension services and private sector to interact.
- ✓ Establishing portals for funding opportunities and coordinating/facilitating the process of responding to the calls with AR4D actors including convening partners and developing joint proposals.
- ✓ Training country stakeholders on resource mobilization and management in conjunction with international experts.
- ✓ Establishing a fund for equitable support in proposal development including international expertise.
- ✓ Brokering partnerships for access to climate-relevant satellite data/ information held/generated by European partners.
- ✓ Developing programme process manuals.
- ✓ Developing joint response mechanisms to emerging technical and innovation issues.
- ✓ Operationalizing linkages and brokering international cooperation.
- ✓ Commissioning regional case studies on effective partnerships for innovation and developing and implementing action plans based on the findings of the case studies.
- ✓ Creating and disseminating viable solutions for multi stakeholders at multiple levels (local, regional and global).

Output 3: Strengthened national policies, regional institutional arrangements and market access.
Under this output, FARA is joining forces with other CAADP XP4 institutions to support the capacity strengthening of 45 country level organizations in advocacy for climate relevant coherent agricultural and innovation policies, cross-boundary markets and trade reforms. FARA is organizing 5 policy dialogues on harnessing science, markets and trade to drive agricultural transformation, and formulating 14 policy recommendations, including on investments in agriculture knowledge and innovation, mobility of capacities, technology transfer and market and trade reforms for dialogue and endorsement by Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and African Union (AU) organs. 12 countries are being supported to implement policy reforms to improve the generation and uptake of climate relevant agricultural innovations and their subsequent translation into development impact. 60 African scientists and organizations are being supported to participate in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and related processes at different level. 10 foresight initiatives are being formulated and/or supported. The specific activities leading to this output are:

- ✓ Assessing capacity gaps and developing capacity development plans related to policy analysis and policy formulation at national and regional levels.
- ✓ Conducting training and organizing technical assistance in policy analysis, formulation, advocacy and resource mobilization.
- ✓ Developing and promoting guidelines for inclusion of climate relevant Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) indicators in National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs), for use by regional and continental institutions.

✓ Sensitizing stakeholders about the relevance of foresight and developing competencies in conducting foresight and in interpretation of foresight results (Africa Foresight Academy).

✓ Organizing technical assistance to enable regional and national organizations to participate in foresight initiatives and apply results from past/ongoing foresight initiatives.

✓ Gathering feedback on the use of foresight tools and using it to inform improvements in application of foresight.

✓ Convening policy dialogues at regional and continental levels (including for Agricultural Extension Services - AES) on CSA, climate relevant issues and interregional trade and market access.

✓ Providing technical support for strategic communication, policy formulation at national, sub-regional and continental levels.

✓ Strengthening quality control of agricultural inputs and products, to increase cross-border trade.

✓ Conducting regional reviews of trade in agricultural inputs and commodities to improve implementation of existing policies e.g. regional seed harmonization policies.

Output 4: Knowledge Management: Knowledge Management (KM) and Communication for decision support, sharing innovation and advocacy related to climate relevant agriculture transformation.
Under this output FARA seeks to develop and disseminate 50 knowledge products (publications) including one flagship publication, organize 20 learning and knowledge sharing events that contribute to CAADP targets, generate evidence to support advocacy to improve the implementation of existing policies on cross border trade in agricultural inputs and commodities e.g. regional seed harmonization policies, supporting 20 countries to develop KM and communication strategies to facilitate achievement of programme goals. Through the above intervention FARA expects to directly reach 4,000 stakeholders (researchers, academia, policy makers and private sector operators, including farmers) with policy/decision making knowledge, information and data. The specific activities leading to this output are:

✓ Developing and operationalizing interoperable knowledge management strategies including guidelines for data capture at national, regional and continental level.

✓ Co-convening CSA alliance Forums at regional and continental levels.

✓ Developing Knowledge products with various stakeholders for dissemination via the knowledge platforms.

✓ Developing ISO compliance standards for sharing information.

✓ Developing and disseminating relevant knowledge products at all levels including up to the last mile.

✓ Producing a flagship publication, i.e. Africa status report on research and innovation.

✓ Producing best practice guidance notes based on experiences of CAADP XP4 institutions and their constituents.

Output 5: Effective Planning, coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning (MEL) and Reporting.
This output is intended to strengthen capacities of the five partner organizations in MEL and Reporting.
The specific activities leading to this output are:

✓ Organizing joint programme review and planning meetings at different levels (national, sub-regional and continental).

✓ Developing a guide for project implementation and coordination.

✓ Convening portfolio review meetings.

✓ Undertaking mid-term reviews.

✓ Customizing existing MEL systems to ROM (Results Oriented Monitoring) in collaboration with IFAD and EC (including the development of Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) and targets).

✓ Developing data collection tools.

✓ Undertaking continuous data collection.

✓ Conducting Baseline Studies.

✓ Undertaking training on MEL.
✓ Documenting and sharing lessons among programme partners.
✓ Preparing internal project completion and review reports.
✓ Preparing external Project Completion Report (PCR).
✓ Designing and implementing a joint programme communication and visibility strategy.
✓ Preparing and disseminating communication and visibility materials.
✓ Participation in strategic events.

Results achieved to date (December 2022)

As at December 2022, the CAADP-XP4 programme has achieved significant milestones across its five main outputs, benefiting to a wide range of stakeholders in the agricultural and food systems sector, and leading to positive impacts on regional agricultural research organizations, multi-stakeholder partnerships, national policies, knowledge management, and coordination.

Output 1 focuses on strengthening the capacity of regional and sub-regional agricultural research organizations. The cumulative value of resources mobilized was 98.96% of the milestone, with achievements such as human resource strengthening, operational system upgrades, and capacity development plans for the five organizations. These efforts resulted in capacity building for nine continental organizations, contributing to more effective programme implementation. The programme also saw increased engagement with authorizing institutions, including the renewal of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the AUC and support for FARA to serve as the Secretariat of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform. These actions benefited the organizations involved, reinforcing their ability to fulfil their mandates.

Output 2 is centred around enhanced partnerships among multi-stakeholders for climate-relevant innovation in agriculture and food systems. FARA established and strengthened 21 multi-stakeholder platforms, influencing 20 partner institutions. This collaborative approach facilitated knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy advocacy. The CSA biennial conferences, the Science and Partnership for Agriculture Conference (SPAC) conference, and the Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD) challenge attracted various participants, expanding the reach of climate-smart agriculture and knowledge management initiatives. FARA also reported the establishment of 43 programme initiatives directly with regional, sub-regional, and in-country farmer organizations, impacting a wide array of agricultural value chains, such as aquaculture, cassava, rice, poultry, and more. These initiatives not only benefited the farmer organizations but also contributed to improved agricultural practices and food systems.

Output 3 aims to strengthen national policies, regional institutional arrangements, and market access. FARA trained 34 countries on using the PPI Tool to assess national policies and supported 10 continental and regional organizations in capacity strengthening for CSA-relevant policies. The development of policy reforms for 14 countries further promoted the adoption of climate-relevant agricultural innovations. These efforts fostered an enabling environment for sustainable agriculture and improved market access for various stakeholders.

Output 4 focuses on knowledge management for advocacy, decision support, and communication. FARA's interoperability efforts and online platforms saw a surge in users, reaching over 1.5 million individuals. FARA developed various knowledge products and supported several organizations in building their KM strategies and policies. The extensive engagement with stakeholders through learning and knowledge-sharing events and communities of practice strengthened the knowledge ecosystem in agricultural research and development. Moreover, FARA supported African participation in UNFCCC processes, enhancing the continent's engagement in climate discussions.

Output 5, which is centred on planning, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, learning, and reporting, reported 99% progress. This reflects: - the effective use of tools of such as the CAADP-XP4 MEL; - the PIM that guides the program's implementation; -the frequent portfolio review meetings; and the engagement with stakeholders in strategic planning.

Organization

The overall CAADP XP4 Programme is implemented as five projects, each led by one of the five ex-Pillar 4 institutions. Annual work plans and Joint activities are agreed and approved by a joint Technical Committee (TC) constituted by the Directors of Research of the five institutions. The TC is supported by an Advisory committee (AC) constituted by the Executive Directors of the five institutions.

Implementing organization
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Administered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Partners of the project
- ✓ AFAAS (African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services)
- ✓ ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa)
- ✓ CCARDESA (Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa)
- ✓ CORAF (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development - WECARD)

Other main stakeholders
Actors not included in the contract but interacting/working with the project:
- ✓ Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) with its members: Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes de l'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC), Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Produceurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU),
- ✓ European ARD stakeholders (Agrinatura),
- ✓ Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR),
- ✓ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),
- ✓ Joint Research Center of the European Commission
- ✓ Foresight4Food Initiative,
- ✓ Africa Union Commission,
- ✓ Africa Union Development Agency-NEPAD,
- ✓ Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA),
- ✓ East African Community (EAC),
- ✓ Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS),
- ✓ Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS),
- ✓ Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD),
- ✓ Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Location
The project covers the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

Funding and co-funding

EU	€ 4,835,600
Total budget	€ 4,835,600

Duration

70 months – Initially from March 2019 to December 2023, amended to March 2019 – December 2024, following COVID.

Website

https://faraafrica.org/

Updated on 01/11/2023