



CABINET MEMORANDUM

PRESENTED BY

**PROF. KWABENA FRIMPONG-BOATENG
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION**

AND

**HON. SHIRLEY AYORKOR BOTCHWEY, MP,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
REGIONAL INTERGRATION**

TITLE:

**THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA (GOG) AND THE FORUM
FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA (FARA)**

25TH APRIL, 2019

CABINET MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Cabinet Decision Requested

Cabinet is respectfully requested to approve for ratification, the Headquarters Agreement signed between the Government of Ghana (GoG) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) as part of Ghana's commitment to host FARA's Headquarters in Ghana.

2. Background Information

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) was established in 2001 by the Sub-regional agricultural Research Organizations (SROs) on behalf of their respective Member States. FARA serves as the apex continental organization responsible for advancing food and agricultural research. It is also the technical arm of the African Union Commission (AUC) on matters concerning agriculture science, technology and innovation (STI).

In performing its mandate, FARA works in conjunction with the SROs to support countries to plan and coordinate the implementation of the research and innovation necessary to achieve targets of continental agricultural development and food security policies. In this regard, FARA served as the lead institution for the AU's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)'s pillar responsible for research and extension. Currently, FARA is spearheading the implementation of the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa, a framework endorsed by the AU to deploy STI towards achievement of several CAADP targets for 2025, notably: doubling agricultural productivity sustainably; halving post-harvest losses and ensuring that 30% of farms are resilient to climate risks, using 2014 as the baseline. Ghana is among the first set of countries that have signed a commitment to implement the Science Agenda.

At its inception in 2001, FARA was hosted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s sub-regional office for Africa based in Accra, Ghana. FARA then negotiated a Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Ghana (GoG), which was signed on 14th October, 2003. The then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo signed this Agreement on behalf of the GOG.

Over the years, the Ministry in charge of Science and Technology has been the Government Institution that oversees the activities of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa.

2.1 Key provisions of the Headquarters Agreement

The Headquarters Agreement includes the following provisions;

- a) Government shall provide suitable office accommodation in Accra as the Headquarters of FARA;
- b) Government shall provide suitable residential accommodation for the Executive Secretary; the cost of the accommodation shall be borne by FARA;
- c) The extension of tax exemptions, immunities and privileges on FARA's assets, communication, transport and their officials;
- d) Provisions on the applications of the laws of Ghana to the activities of FARA and
- e) Waiver of immunities.

2.2 FARA's Accommodation Arrangements since Its Establishment

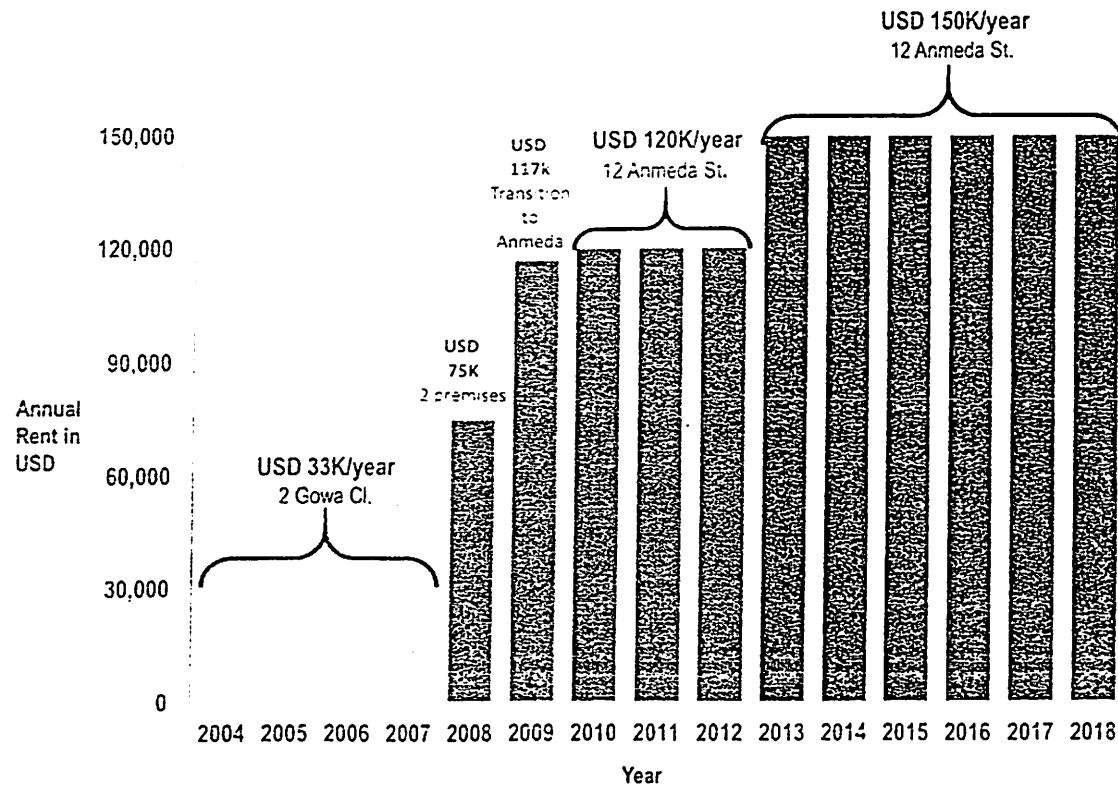
At its inception in 2002, FARA was hosted by the FAO's Regional Office for Africa in Accra. In August 2003, FARA moved into a rented premises at 2 Gowa Close in Roman Ridge, Accra. At this location FARA converted a residential house into an office, in 2004. As FARA expanded, the landlord of 2 Gowa Close provided more space by constructing a two storey block on the same plot which comprised a conference room and eight offices. FARA continued to expand thereby requiring extra office space. Consequently, in 2008 FARA rented additional space on Ridge road, about 50 meters from the main office, to consolidate all staff in the same premises and to provide for the envisaged further expansion. FARA in 2009 moved to its current premises on 12 Anmeda Street in Roman Ridge.

For over a decade since FARA rented its premises, it has continued to make rent payment on its own except for a brief period in 2016 when the government made a deposit of seventy five thousand dollars (US\$75,000) towards the payment of half of FARA's rent for that year.

FARA's total expenditure on office rent has amounted to nearly USD1.6 million, of which USD75, 000 was paid by the Government of Ghana. The rent charged per year started from USD33, 000 in 2003 to USD150, 000 per year presently. The rent paid over the period is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

FARA would have preferred to direct most of the funds it has spent on renting office accommodation towards construction of its premises on the land provided by the Government of Ghana. However, the conditions attached to FARA's funding do not allow for investing in capital works such as construction of a building.

Figure 1: Evolution of FARA's annual rent (2003-2018)



3. Justification for Government Action

Pursuant to Article 75 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, the Headquarters Agreement should be ratified by the Parliament of Ghana following its execution between the government of Ghana and FARA.

Furthermore, since its establishment in Ghana, FARA has successfully made valuable contributions in Ghana and the continent as a whole. Table 2 below outlines the contributions and achievements of FARA in Ghana.

Table 2: Contributions and Achievements of FARA in Ghana

No.	Service	Product
1.	Supporting Agricultural Research Agenda setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Medium Term Agricultural Investment Plan (METASIP) aligned with the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) and the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A). • Commitment to the implementation of S3A. • Biennial Review of Malabo Declaration. • Commitments facilitated.
2.	Monitoring institutional change & national commitments to research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional change monitored and drivers analyzed (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-Crop Research Institute (CSIR-CRI).
3.	Advocating for increased investments in AR4D.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAAP mainstreaming in METASIP • S3A Investment Proposal for Ghana (one of the 5 S3A tier 1 countries). • Success stories in agribusiness incubation, Entrepreneurship for Commercial Seed Incubation Business and Creating Competitive Livestock Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness (EcoSIB and CCLEAR)
4.	Capacity strengthening of AR&D institutions	<p>Over 10,000 Ghanaians have benefited directly from FARA's capacity development activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-graduate opportunities for 52 Ghanaians (Masters, PhD, Post-docs) in Ghana and outside. • 2,564 students undergone University Business Research Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN) internship programme. • 6,000 direct beneficiaries/participants in short courses and training workshops. • Supported competency based training for 3,200 seed producers in Ghana.

		The CSIR-Animal Research Institute (CSIR-ARI) was supported to establish Agribusiness Incubation to build capacity of youth in agribusiness for job creation (Lab, equipment, vehicle, staff).
5.	Support to agribusiness incubation	<p>ECOSIB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,200 seed producers trained • 15 Public-private partnership enhanced • 15 Managers and owners of seed Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) trained in seed business management • After project impact <p>CCLEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 365 start-up businesses established • 5,308 jobs created by start-up SMEs incubated • 3,915 businesses reached with incubation services • Sensitization conducted in 16 tertiary institutions • USD 274,000 generated by start-ups businesses • USD1.6m generated by CCLEAR
6.	Support Adoption of Good Agricultural Research and Innovation Practices: Innovation Platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported establishment of Innovation Platforms (IPs) for commodity value chains: Maize, Cassava, Plantain, Cowpea, and rice. • Formation of Consortia to develop Spray Technology to address Angular Leaf Spot Disease (ALSD) in citrus • Training Citrus value chain actors (farmers, extension agents, processors, local chiefs and assembly members, etc.) to bring Almond Leaf Scorch Disease (ALSD) under control.
7.	Continental Information sharing, lesson learning and developing publications on AR4D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT infrastructure (servers, computers, internet connectivity) provided to CSIR. • FARA, MESTI, CSIR, MoFA and Universities are developing a harmonized system of data gathering and information sharing among actors in Ghana-this model will be up-scaled across Africa.

8.	Mobilization of AR4D stakeholders for partnerships, initiatives and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana hosted the 6th African Agriculture Science Week (over 1,200 participants) • Ghana has participated in virtually the continental initiatives coordinated by FARA
	Advocacy	<p>Frameworks for Biosafety Systems and the passing of the Biosafety Act 830 in Ghana in 2011 facilitated</p> <p>Position paper to provide policy guidance on operationalizing the 'Ghana Beyond Aid policy'</p> <p>FARA interventions support the following policies and programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting for Food and Jobs Programme • National Science Technology and Innovation Policy. • One-District-One-Factory Programme • National Nutrition Policy. • National Youth Employment Policy.
	Other Benefits Ghana has accrued from the activities FARA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FARA has leveraged a total of about USD3million towards Ghana's agriculture research and development. • FARA has contributed to Ghana's private sector through procurement of goods and services amounting to approximately USD20 million. • Ghana has hosted about 12,000 international participants in meetings convened by FARA.

4. Options and Impacts Considered

- a. The Government of Ghana may ratify the Agreement in fulfillment of its obligations under the 1992 constitution and international laws.
- b. The Government of Ghana may opt not to ratify the Agreement despite signing with FARA in 2003.

5. Recommended Option

It is recommended that the Government of Ghana ratifies the Agreement considering the benefits that the country has gained from the establishment of the Headquarters of FARA

in Ghana. The country has benefited from the existence of FARA as it has provided jobs for Ghanaian citizens and reinforced Ghana's reputation and leadership in the advancement of science at the AU level.

FARA's resort to using donor funding to pay for accommodation sends bad signals to the AU and its development partners and this could result in the Headquarters of FARA being relocated to another country.

6. Inter-Ministerial Consultation Records

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation has engaged in consultations with the relevant stakeholders and in this regard held a stakeholder consultation workshop on 7th February 2019 with the following Institutions.

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
- Ministry of Justice and Office of the Attorney General
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
- Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Roads and Highways
- Ministry of Planning
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Works and Housing
- Ministry of Water and Sanitation
- Research Institutions
- Academia
- Civil Societies

7. Implementation Plan

In implementing the Headquarters Agreement, the GoG through MESTI has been and will continue to undertake the following steps identified in table 3 below:

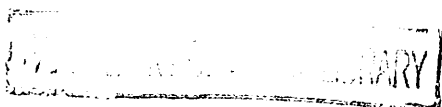


Table 3: Activities to be carried out and estimated budget

Activity	Sub-Activities	Timeline	Responsibility	Estimated Budget USDS	Comments
Provision of office building	Renting of office accommodation for FARA's Headquarters Office.	April. 2019 - Dec. 2020	GoG (MESTI)	315,000	SSNIT will provide temporary office accommodation for FARA.
	Securing a land for the construction of the building.	Jan. - Dec. 2018	MESTI/CSIR	0	Land has been secured at the precinct of CSIR.
	Design, estimation of Bill of Quantities and Supervision	June - Dec 2019	MESTI/ MoFARI	360,000	Engagement of an Architect.
	Construction of a Permanent Headquarters building for FARA	Jan - Dec. 2020	MESTI/ MoFARI	3.6million	This estimation is based on independence estimates commissioned by FARA in 2018
	Launch and hand over the building to FARA.	Dec. 2020	MESTI	20,000	Government will hand over the building to FARA
	Informing relevant agencies for implementation of ratified agreement concerning tax exemptions, immunities and privileges	June-Dec, 2019	MoFARI MESTI FARA	0	Communication will be circulated to Ghana Revenue Authority, African Union, Ghana Immigration Service, etc.
Total				4,295,000	

8. Legislative/Regulatory Plan

Upon ratification the relevant Ministries will ensure that all relevant provisions in the agreement are adhered to.

9. Financial Impact

The GoG will bear the cost of renting a temporary accommodation for the next 21 months and the cost of building a permanent accommodation as well as extension of tax exemptions and privileges to FARA.

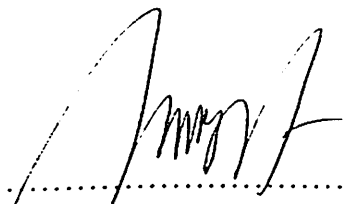
10. Communication Plan

Following Cabinet approval, the following actions would be undertaken:

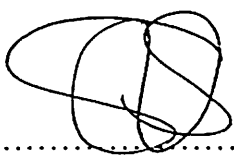
- Engagement with the Parliamentary Select Committee on Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and Food and Agriculture prior to the ratification of the Agreement by Parliament.
- Formal communication will be sent to organizations such as the African Union and the ECOWAS on the implementation plan of this Agreement.
- Press releases will be made in both print and electronic media to inform the public about the implementation of the Agreement.

11. Conclusion

The Honourable Members are kindly requested to consider and give approval for the ratification of the Headquarters Agreement signed between the Government of Ghana (GoG) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa.



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PROF. KWABENA FRIMPONG-BOATENG
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION



.....
HON. SHIRLEY AYORKOR
BOTCHWEY, MP, MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
REGIONAL INTERGRATION

APRIL 2019

*In case of reply the
number and date of this
letter should be quoted.*

My Ref. No OPCA.3/3/230719

Your Ref. No.....



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
P.O. BOX 1627
ACCRA
TEL: 0302-201000/2

CONFIDENTIAL

23rd July, 2019

**RATIFICATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA AND THE FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH IN AFRICA (FARA)**

Cabinet at its Fifty-fourth meeting held on Thursday, 23rd May, 2019 considered a report of the Cabinet Committee on Governance and Legal Matters on the above Memorandum submitted jointly by the Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

2. The Memorandum requested Cabinet to approve the ratification of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Ghana and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) as part of Ghana's commitment to host FARA's Headquarters in Ghana.

3. Cabinet approved the Memorandum for the consideration of Parliament.

4. I should be grateful if you could take requisite action on the decision by Cabinet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mercy Debrah-Karikari'.

MERCY DEBRAH-KARIKARI
SECRETARY TO THE CABINET

THE HON. MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

THE HON. MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

cc: Chief of Staff
Secretary to the President
Secretary to the Vice President

Hon. Attorney-General and
Minister for Justice

Hon. Minister for
Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. Minister for Finance

Hon. Minister for Agriculture

Chairperson, Cabinet Committee
on Governance and Legal Matters

FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH IN AFRICA (FARA)

LE FORUM POUR LA RECHERCHE
AGRICOLE EN AFRIQUE (FARA)

HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FORUM FOR
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

ACCRA, OCTOBER 2003

HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FORUM FOR
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee and General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) to establish the Headquarters of FARA in Accra.

Having regard to Article 3 of the Constitution of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) which stipulates that FARA shall be an international institution in accordance with public international law, and Article 9 which provides that FARA shall enjoy rights, privileges and immunities necessary to operate effectively and efficiently towards the attainment of its mission.

NOW THEREFORE, the Government of the Republic of Ghana duly represented by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the FARA duly represented by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Monty Patrick Jones, have agreed as follows:

SECTION A

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder:

- (1) "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa.
- (2) "General Assembly" means the General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa.
- (3) "Member State" or "Member States" means a "Member State" or "Member States" of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa.

- (4) The "Headquarters" means the buildings, premises, structures or portions thereof which at any given moment are in fact occupied or used by the FARA in Ghana.
- (5) The "Executive Secretary" means the Executive Secretary of the FARA and/or his authorised representative.
- (6) The "Officials" and other employees of the FARA means all members of the staff of FARA with the exception of those who are recruited locally on temporary basis.
- (7) The "Representatives of Member States" include resident representatives, accredited temporary representatives, leaders of delegations from FARA Member States and members thereof, including advisers, technical experts and Secretariat personnel.
- (8) The "General Convention" means the Convention on the privileges and immunities of United Nations.
- (9) The "Government" means the Government of the Republic of Ghana.
- (10) The "Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities" means the Republic and such national, state, local or other authorities in Ghana, as may be appropriate within the laws of Ghana.
- (11) The "Laws of Ghana" include the constitution, legislative acts, orders or regulations issued by or under the authority of the Government or any appropriate Ghanaian authorities.

SECTION B

ARTICLE II

PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES AND CONTROL OF THE FARA AND ITS ASSETS

1. The Headquarters shall be inviolable and shall be under the control and authority of the FARA as provided in this Agreement.
2. FARA and all its property shall enjoy immunity from every form of legal process except in so far as in any particular case FARA has expressly waived such immunity in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

3. The premises of the FARA shall be inviolable and shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation or any other form of administrative or legislative action. Consequently, Government officers or officials, whether administrative, judicial, military or police, including officers or officials or any Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities, shall not enter the Headquarters to perform any official duties therein except with the knowledge and consent and under conditions agreed to by the Executive Secretary or by the FARA official duly authorised to act on his behalf.
4. Without prejudice to the provisions of the General Convention or of this Agreement, FARA shall have the power to make rules and regulations applicable within the Headquarters and to establish means for the application and enforcement of such rules and regulations.
5. FARA shall be entitled to display the FARA flag and the flags of its member states and institutions in its Headquarters and on its vehicles, vessels and aircraft.
6. Without prejudice to the provisions of the General Convention or of this Agreement, FARA shall prevent the Headquarters from becoming a refuge for persons who are avoiding arrest under any law of Ghana or who are required by the Government for extradition to another country or who are endeavouring to avoid service of legal process.
7. The appropriate Ghanaian authorities shall exercise due diligence to ensure that the tranquility of the Headquarters is not disturbed by unauthorised entry of persons or groups of persons from outside or by disturbance in its immediate vicinity, and shall cause to be provided on the boundaries of the Headquarters such police protection as is required for these purposes.
8. If and when so requested by the Executive Secretary or by the FARA official duly authorised to act on his behalf, the Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities shall provide a sufficient number of police for the preservation of law and order in the Headquarters and for the removal therefrom of the person or persons as requested under the authority of the Executive Secretary or of the FARA official duly authorised to act on his behalf.

9. The FARA, its assets, income and other property shall enjoy tax, duty and other related exceptions and privileges in accordance with Article 4 of the General Convention.

ARTICLE III

COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT

1. For its official communications and the transfer of all its documents, the FARA shall enjoy in Ghana, the treatment granted by the Government to any other international organisation.
2. The archives and documents of the FARA shall be inviolable. The official correspondence of the FARA shall also be inviolable. Official correspondence means all correspondence relating to its functions.
3. Without limitation by reason of this enumeration, the FARA shall have the right to use codes and to dispatch and receive its official correspondence, publications, documents, still and moving pictures, films and sound recordings, either by courier or in sealed bags, having the same immunities and privileges as diplomatic couriers and bags.
4. For its official purpose, the FARA shall be entitled to use transportation operated by the Government at the same rates and treatment as may be granted to any other international organisation.

ARTICLE IV

THE LAWS OF GHANA

Subject to the provisions of the General Convention and of this Agreement, in particular, paragraph 3 of Article II:

- (a) The Laws of Ghana shall apply within the Headquarters of the FARA;
- (b) The Ghanaian Courts have jurisdiction over acts done and transactions taking place within the Headquarters as provided in applicable Laws of Ghana;
- (c) The Ghanaian Courts, when dealing with cases arising out of or relating to acts done or transactions taking place within the Headquarters, shall take into account the rules and regulations made by the FARA under Article II, sub-section 4.

ARTICLE V

ACCESS

1. The Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities shall not impede the transit to or from the Headquarters of the following persons:
 - (a) Officials of the FARA together with their families and relatives residing with and dependent on them;
 - (b) Persons, other than officials of the FARA, performing mission for the FARA together with their spouses and the members of their immediate families residing with and dependent on them;
 - (c) Other persons invited to the Headquarters on official business, whose names shall be communicated to the Government by the Executive Secretary or the FARA official duly authorised to act on his behalf.
2. Visas for persons referred to in paragraph 1 above, when required, shall be granted free of charge, provided, however, that the provisions of the said paragraph 1 shall not imply exemption from obligation to produce reasonable evidence to establish that persons claiming the rights granted under paragraph 1 of Article V are included in the categories specified in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1, nor from the application of quarantine and health regulations.
3. The authorities of the Republic of Ghana shall not take any measures that will restrain or make illegal the residence in Ghana of any of these persons when their residence in Ghana is for official purposes. However, in the event that any of the persons referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this Article, abuses the privileges granted under this Agreement, appropriate measures restraining or making illegal his further residence in Ghana may be taken by the Government of the Republic of Ghana.

SECTION C

ARTICLE VI

PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF GOVERNMENT

REPRESENTATIVES

- i. Representatives of Member States participating in the work of the FARA or in any conference which may be convened by the FARA at the Headquarters, shall be entitled in the territory of Ghana, while exercising their functions and during their travel to and from the Headquarters, to the same privileges and immunities as are accorded to diplomatic envoys of comparable rank under international law, including, but not limited to those provided in the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
2. Resident as well as temporarily accredited representatives of Member Governments to the FARA shall be entitled in the territory of Ghana to the same privileges and immunities as the Government accords to diplomatic envoys accredited to Ghana.

SECTION D

ARTICLE VII

PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF OFFICIALS AND OTHER

EMPLOYEES OF FARA

1. The Executive Secretary shall specify the categories of officials to which the provisions of this Article shall apply. He shall submit those categories to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Accra.
2. The officials of the FARA have the same privileges and immunities as applicable to International Organisations at the Headquarters of the FARA. Consequently, the Government undertakes to give the same recognition and facilities to the Executive Secretary as are given to the Heads of International Organisations.
3. In keeping with paragraph 2 of this Article, the officials of the FARA particularly have the following privileges and immunities:

- (a) The person of the FARA official is inviolable. He/she shall not be liable to any form of arrest and detention, and the Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities shall treat him with due respect and shall take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on his personal freedom or dignity. This provision shall apply in respect of a Ghanaian national only in the course of the performance of his official duties.
- (b) The private residence of the FARA official enjoys the same inviolability and protection as the premises of the Headquarters of the FARA. His papers, correspondence and except as provided in paragraph 3 (j) of this Article his property shall likewise enjoy inviolability. This provision shall apply in respect of a Ghanaian national where such premises are provided by FARA.
- (c) The FARA official shall enjoy immunity from criminal jurisdiction. He shall also enjoy immunity from Civil and Administrative jurisdiction except in the case of:
- (i) A real action relating to private immovable property situated in the territory of Ghana, unless he holds it on behalf of the FARA for the purposes of its Secretariat or any institutions of the FARA.
 - (ii) An action relating to succession in which the official is involved as executor, administrator, heir or legatee as a private person and not on behalf of the FARA or any of the institutions of FARA.
 - (iii) An action relating to any professions or commercial activity exercised by the official outside his official functions.
- (d) No measures of execution may be taken in respect of a FARA official except in the cases coming under sub-paragraphs 3 (c), (i), (ii) and (iii) of this Article and provided that the measures concerned can be taken without infringing the inviolability of his person or of his residence.
- (e) The FARA official shall not be obliged to give evidence as a witness in any legal proceedings.
- (f) He shall be exempted from taxation on the salaries and emolument paid to him by the FARA.

(g) He shall be immune together with his spouse and relatives residing with and dependent on him from immigration restrictions and all formalities of registering foreigners.

(h) The immunities and privileges under this Agreement are granted to the FARA officials in the interest of the FARA only and not for their personal benefit. The Executive Secretary shall, however, have the right and duty to waive the immunity of any official in any case where the immunity would impede the course of justice and could be waived without prejudice to the interest of the FARA.

(i) The initiation of proceedings by a FARA official shall preclude him from invoking immunity from jurisdiction in respect of any counter-claim directly connected with the principal claim.

(j) Waiver of immunity from jurisdiction in respect of Civil or Administrative proceedings shall not be held to imply waiver to immunity in respect of the execution of the judgement for which a separate waiver shall be necessary.

4. All officials of the FARA and such other persons as the Executive Secretary may designate as entitled to the privileges and immunities shall be provided with a special identity card issued by the relevant Ghanaian Authority, certifying the fact that they are FARA officials or persons so entitled to the privileges and immunities specified in this Agreement.

ARTICLE VII

WAIVER OF IMMUNITY

The privileges and immunities provided for in this Agreement are granted for the officials and other functionaries of the FARA not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves but in order to safeguard the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the FARA. Hence, the Executive Secretary shall have the right and duty to waive the immunity granted to an official or a functionary in any case where, in the opinion of the Executive Secretary, the waiver of such immunity is in the interest of justice and it is not against the interest of the FARA. In

the case of the Executive Secretary, the Executive Committee and the General Assembly of FARA shall have the right to waive his immunity.

ARTICLE IX

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE FARA AND THE GOVERNMENT

1. The FARA shall co-operate at all times, with the Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities, to facilitate the proper administration of justice, ensure the observance of police regulations and prevent any abuses in connection with the privileges, immunities and facilities specified in this Agreement.
2. If the Government considers that there has been an abuse of any privilege or immunity granted by or under this Agreement, consultations shall be held between the Government and the FARA to determine whether any such abuse has occurred and to formulate such steps as may be necessary to deal with such an occurrence.

ARTICLE X

PUBLIC SERVICE AND UTILITIES

The Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities will exercise to the extent requested by the Executive Secretary or the FARA official in charge, the powers which they possess with respect to the supplying of public services to ensure that the Headquarters shall be supplied on equitable terms with the necessary public services, including electricity, water, post, telephone, telegraph, transport, drainage, collection of refuse and fire protection.

In case of any interruption or threatened interruption of any such services, the appropriate Ghanaian authorities will consider the needs of the FARA as being the equal importance with similar needs of essential agencies of the Government, and will take steps accordingly to ensure that the work of the FARA is not prejudiced.

ARTICLE XI

BUILDING AND RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR HEADQUARTERS

- * 1. The Government shall provide suitable office accommodation in Accra as the Headquarters of FARA.
2. The Government shall provide suitable residential accommodation for the Executive Secretary. The cost of the accommodation shall be borne by FARA.

ARTICLE XII

INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

1. The Provision of the General Convention and of this Agreement shall where they relate to the same subject matter, be treated whenever possible as complementary, so that the provisions of both shall be applicable and neither shall narrow the effect of the other, but in any case of absolute conflict, the provisions of both shall be applicable and neither shall narrow the effect of the other; but in any case of absolute conflict, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
2. The Government and the FARA may enter into such supplementary agreement as may be necessary to fulfil the purposes of this Agreement.
3. Whenever this Agreement imposes obligations on the Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities, the ultimate responsibilities for the fulfilment of such obligations shall rest with the Government.
4. The provisions of this and any supplementary agreements shall be interpreted and applied in the light of its or their primary purpose to enable the FARA discharge its responsibilities and fulfil its objectives fully and efficiently.

ARTICLE XIII

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute which may arise between the Government and the FARA with respect to the interpretation and/or application of this Agreement or of any supplementary agreement, failing settlement by negotiation or any other agreed method of settlement shall be referred for arbitration to the Executive Committee for solution and as a last resort to the General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa.

ARTICLE XIV

AMENDMENT

The Government or the FARA may request in writing a consultation for the purpose of modification or amendment of this or any supplementary agreement and any such modification or amendment shall be subject to mutual consent.

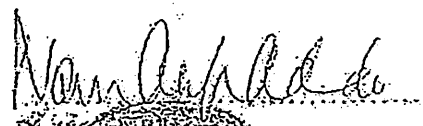
ARTICLE XV

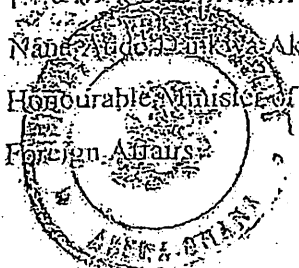
FINAL PROVISIONS

1. This Agreement and any supplementary Agreement entered into by the Government and the FARA within the scope of its terms of reference, shall cease to be in force twelve months after either of the parties shall have given notice in writing to the other of its decision to terminate the Agreement and any other supplementary Agreement, except, as regards the provisions which may apply to the normal cessation of the activities of the FARA in Ghana and the disposal of its property.
2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature by the representatives of the Government of Ghana and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa.

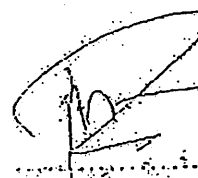
DONE and Signed in Accra on the ^{14TH} of October 2003 in single original in the English and French Languages, both texts being equally authentic.

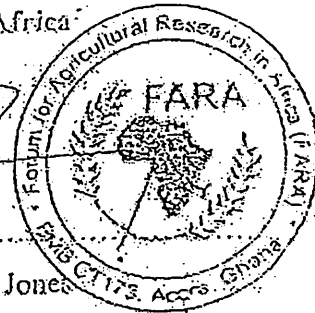
For the Government of the
Republic of Ghana


Nana Acheampong Aducci Akuffo Addo
Honourable Minister of
Foreign Affairs



For the Forum for Agricultural
Research in Africa


Monty Patrick Jones
Executive Secretary



LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYMS	DESCRIPTION
AFAAS -	AFRICAN FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES
ALSD -	ALMOND LEAF SCORCH DISEASE
ASARECA -	ASSOCIATION FOR STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
AUC -	AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
AU -	AFRICAN UNION
CCARDESA -	CENTER FOR COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
CCLEAR -	CREATING COMPETITIVE LIVESTOCK ENTREPRENEURS IN AGRIBUSINESS
CGIAR -	CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CONSORTIUM
CORAF/WECARD	CONSEIL OUEST ET CENTRE AFRICAIN POUR LA RECHERCHE ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT AGRICOLES/WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
CSIR -	COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
CSIR-CRI -	COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH - CROP RESEARCH INSTITUTE
CSIR-ARI -	COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH - ANIMAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
CSIR-STEPRI -	COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
CSIR- OPRI -	COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH - OIL PALM RESEARCH INSTITUTE
CAADP -	COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
CSIR- FORIG -	COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH- FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF GHANA

ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR COMMERCIAL SEED INCUBATION BUSINESS	-	ECOSIB
FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA	-	FARA
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION	-	FAO
FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY	-	FAAP
GOOD AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION APPROACHES	-	GARIAS
GOVERNMENT OF GHANA	-	GOG
GLOBAL CONFEDERATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES	-	GCHERA
GLOBAL FORUM FOR RURAL ADVISORY SERVICES	-	GFRAS
HUMAN RESOURCE	-	HR
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	-	ICT
MEDIUM TERM AGRICULTURAL SECTOR INVESTMENT PLAN	-	METASIP
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	-	MESTI
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION	-	MOFARI
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	-	MOFA
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY	-	MOTI
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	-	M&E
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SYSTEM	-	NARS
NORTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL SUB-REGIONAL ORGANISATION	-	NAASRO
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IMAGERY PROGRAM	-	NAIP
NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN'S DEVELOPMENT	-	NEPAD
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS	-	NGOS

PAFO	-	PAN-AFRICAN FARMERS ORGANISATION
REC	-	REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
R&D	-	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
S3A	-	SCIENCE AGENDA FOR AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA
SPAAR	-	SPECIAL PROGRAMME ON AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
SROs	-	SUB-regional AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS
SME	-	SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE
SDG	-	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
STI	-	SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
UNIBRAIN	-	UNIVERSITY BUSINES RESEARCH AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

- * 1. The Government shall provide suitable office accommodation in Accra as the Headquarters of FARA.
2. The Government shall provide suitable residential accommodation for the Executive Secretary. The cost of the accommodation shall be borne by FARA.

ARTICLE XII

INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

1. The Provision of the General Convention and of this Agreement shall where they relate to the same subject matter, be treated whenever possible as complementary, so that the provisions of both shall be applicable and neither shall narrow the effect of the other, but in any case of absolute conflict, the provisions of both shall be applicable and neither shall narrow the effect of the other; but in any case of absolute conflict, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
2. The Government and the FARA may enter into such supplementary agreement as may be necessary to fulfil the purposes of this Agreement.
3. Whenever this Agreement imposes obligations on the Appropriate Ghanaian Authorities, the ultimate responsibilities for the fulfilment of such obligations shall rest with the Government.
4. The provisions of this and any supplementary agreements shall be interpreted and applied in the light of its or their primary purpose to enable the FARA discharge its responsibilities and fulfil its objectives fully and efficiently.

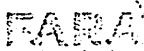
ARTICLE XIII

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute which may arise between the Government and the FARA with respect to the interpretation and/or application of this Agreement or of any supplementary agreement, failing settlement by negotiation or any other agreed method of settlement shall be referred for arbitration to the Executive Committee for solution and as a last resort to the General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa.

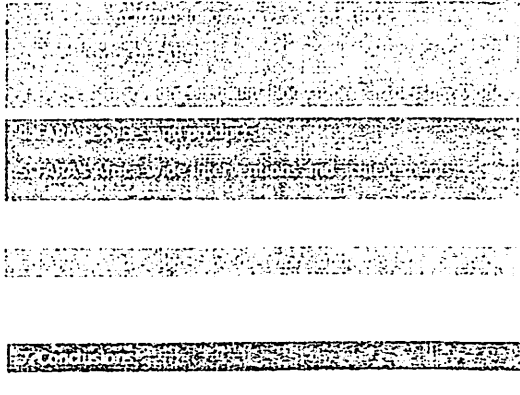
FARA:
**A Continental Partnership
 Mechanism for delivering
 National Development through
 Agricultural Research and
 Innovation**

Dr Irene Annor-Frempong
 Director, Research and Innovation



Ghana Stakeholders'
 meeting
 Accra
 7th February, 2019

FARA Outline



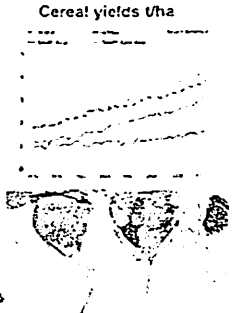
FARA


The Research and Innovation case for Africa

Lowest agricultural productivity in the world

- Yields 1/3 of average for developing world, stagnant yield growth against fastest population growth
- Lowest application of inputs
- Limited value addition
- Food imports projected to exceed 100 billion by 2025

Cereals yields t/ha

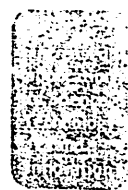


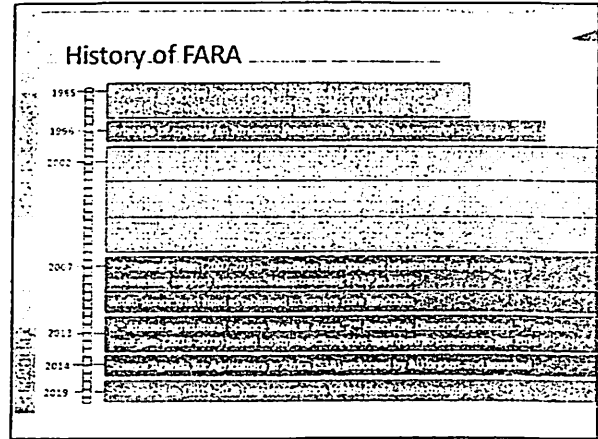
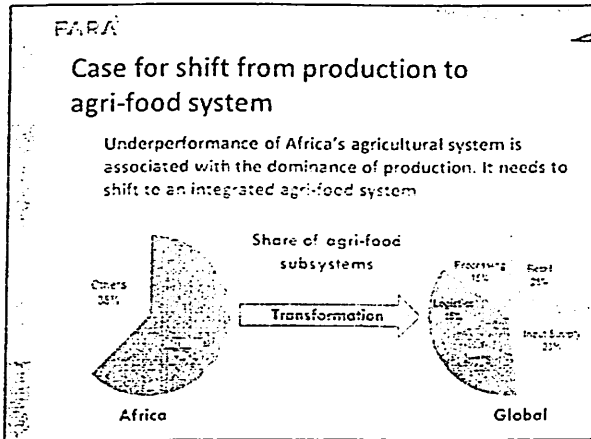


FARA

Demands on Africa's agri-food system

1. Produce significantly more food ..
 - on less land,
 - with less water
 - In conditions of increasingly unpredictable climate and markets
 - With less manual labour
2. Reduce the amount of waste and losses
3. Produce more nutritious and safe food
4. Move up the value chain (processing and marketing industry grows 2X faster than production)



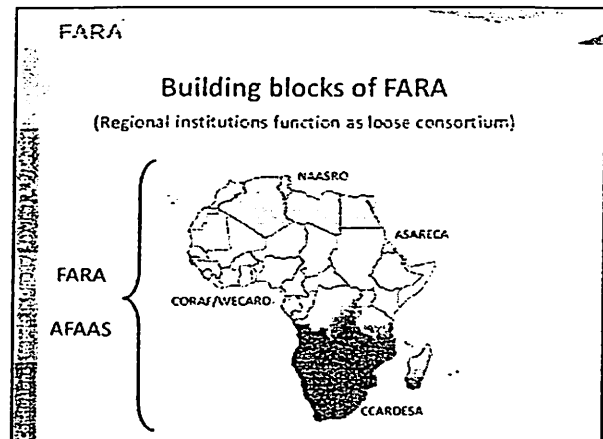


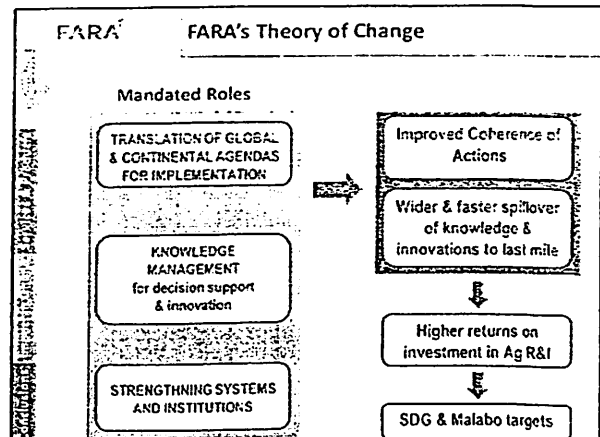
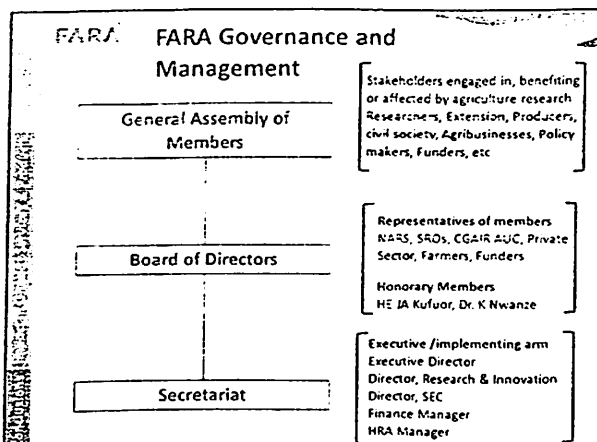
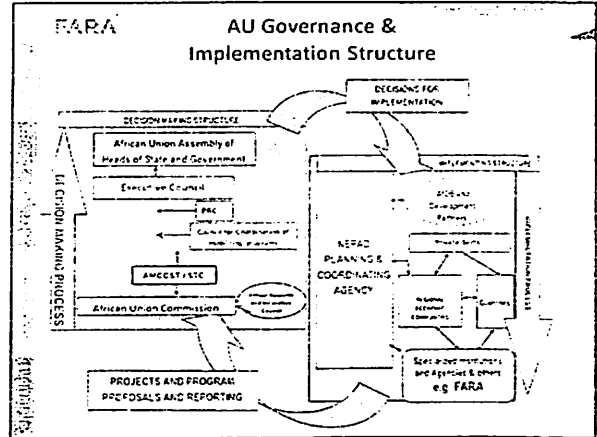
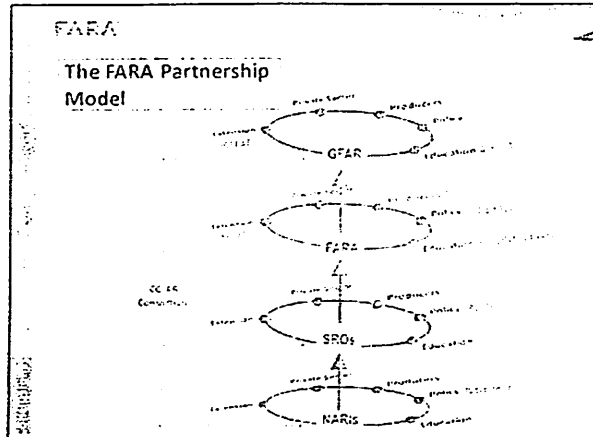
FARA

Rationale for a Pan-African agriculture Research and development organisation

- Continent is very fragmented (55 sovereign states each with its own National Research System)
- 31 countries have a population < 12m (small markets)
- Heterogeneous agro-ecologies across states

Collective actions through sub-regional & regional approaches necessary to capture economies of scale





FARA Translating Local and Global Agendas for Implementation

<p>Supporting continental and National Agricultural Research Agenda setting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAADP Pillar IV • Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) • Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (SSA) • Country commitments to SSA implementation
<p>Advocating for increased investments in AR4D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports (NARS assessment, TFP study) • Policy Practice Index and Policy briefs • High-level dialogues • Investment proposals • Funding for Agricultural R&D

FARA Strengthening Institutions & Systems for Ag Research and Innovation

<p>Capacity strengthening of AR&D institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity audits and capacity development plans • Trainers trained
<p>Testing Good Agricultural Research and Innovation Approaches (GARIAs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR4D • Holistic capacity development • Planning tools for capacity strengthening • Multi-stakeholder Partnerships • Agribusiness incubation models • Biotech and Biosafety Stewardship

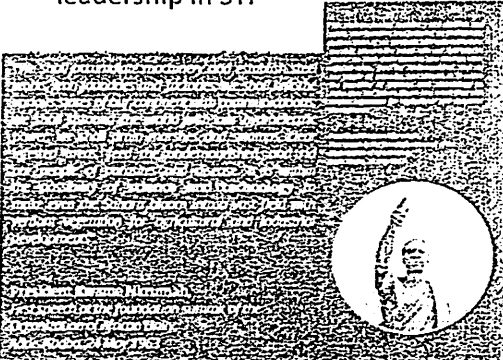
FARA Knowledge Management

<p>Continental Information sharing, lesson learning and developing publications on AR4D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DataInformS (eCAPS, eRAILS, Innovation platform Portal) • AfricAdapt (knowledge base on innovation in climate change adaptation) • PAEPARD knowledgebase • PARI database • Reports of continent-wide assessments and advocacy for good agricultural R&I practices
<p>Mobilization of AR4D stakeholders for partnerships, initiatives and events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships between Africa and other regions or countries e.g. Europe, Brazil, China, India etc (N-S, S-S, S-N-S) • <u>Conferences on agricultural research for development</u> • <u>African Agriculture Science Week</u> • Climate change conventions

FARA

FARA partnerships, interventions and achievements in Ghana

FARA Ghana has a record of leadership in STI



FARA Translating Local and Global Agendas for Implementation

- Supporting Agricultural Research Agenda setting
 - METASIP aligned with FAAP and S3A
 - Commitment to implementation of S3A
 - Biennial Review of Malabo Commitments facilitated
- Monitoring institutional change & national commitments to research
 - Institutional change monitored and drivers analysed (CSIR-CRI)
- Advocating for increased investments in AR&D
 - FAAP mainstreaming in METASIP
 - S3A Investment Proposal for Ghana (one of the 5 S3A tier 1 countries)
 - Success stories in agribusiness incubation (EcoSIB and CCLEAR)

FARA Strengthening Institutions & Systems for Ag Research and Innovation

Capacity strengthening of AR&D institutions

Over 20,000 Ghanaians have benefited directly from FARA's capacity development activities.

- Post-graduate opportunities for 52 Ghanaians (Masters, PhD, Post-docs) in Ghana and outside
- 2,564 students undergone UniBRAIN internship programme
- 6,000 direct beneficiaries/participants in short courses and training workshops
- Supported competency-based training for 3,200 seed producers in Ghana

CSIR-ARI was supported to establish Agribusiness Incubation to build capacity of youth in agribusiness for job creation (lab, equipment, vehicle, staff)

FARA Strengthening Institutions & Systems for Ag Research and Innovation

Support to agribusiness incubation

ECOSIB

- 3,200 seed producers trained
- 15 Public-private partnership enhanced
- 15 Managers and owners of seed SMEs trained in seed business management
- After project impact

CCLEAR

- 365 start-up businesses established
- 5,308 jobs created by start-up SMEs incubated
- 3,915 businesses reached with incubation services
- Sensitization conducted in 16 tertiary institutions
- USD 274,000 generated by start-ups businesses
- USD 1.6m generated by CCLEAR

FARA Strengthening Institutions & Systems for Ag Research and Innovation

Support adoption of Good agricultural research and innovation practices: Innovation Platforms

- Supported establishment of Innovation Platforms (IPs) for commodity value chains: Maize, Cassava, Plantain, Cowpea, and rice.
- Formation of Consortium to develop Spray Technology to address Angular Leaf Spot Disease (ALSD) in citrus
- Training Citrus value chain actors (farmers, extension agents, processors, local chiefs and assembly members, etc.) to bring ALSD under control

FARA Knowledge Management

Continental information sharing, lesson learning and developing publications on AR4D

- ICT infrastructure (servers, computers, internet connectivity) provided to CSIR
- FARA, MESTI, CSIR, MoFA and Universities are developing a harmonized system of data gathering and information sharing among actors in Ghana-this model will be up-scaled across Africa.

FARA Knowledge Management

Advocacy

Frameworks for Biosafety Systems and the passing of the Biosafety Act 830 in Ghana in 2011 facilitated

Position paper to provide policy guidance on operationalizing the 'Ghana Beyond Aid policy'

FARA interventions support the following policies and programmes

- Planting for Food and Jobs Programme
- National Science Technology and Innovation Policy
- One-District-One-Factory Programme
- National Nutrition Policy
- National Youth Employment Policy

FARA FARA Partners in Ghana

CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	Accra, Greater Accra region
CSIR-ARI	CSIR-Animal Research Institute	Accra, Greater Accra region
CSIR-FORIC	CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana	Kumasi, Ashanti region
CSIR-FRI	CSIR-Food Research Institute	Accra, Greater Accra region
CSIR-IFPRI	CSIR-ON Palm Research Institute	Kashe, Eastern region
CSIR-STEFFRI	CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute	Accra, Greater Accra region
DAA	Development Action Association, Farmer organization	Accra, Greater Accra region
FAGE	Federation of Association of Ghanaian Exporters	Accra, Greater Accra region
GLDS	Grains and Legumes Development Society	Kumasi, Ashanti region
NCA	Kwadaso College of Agriculture	Kumasi, Ashanti region
KNUST	Kwame Ninsinah University of S&T	Kumasi, Ashanti region
MESTI	Ministry of Environment, STI	Accra, Greater Accra region
MAFEP	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	Accra, Greater Accra region
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Various locations
MoFA-KWAD	Women in Agricultural Development Directorate	Accra, Greater Accra region
MITI	Ministry of Trade and Industries	Accra, Greater Accra region
PFA	Poastant Farmers Association	Accra, Greater Accra region
UCC	University of Cape Coast- Ag. Economics Dept	Cape Coast, Central region
UDS	University for development Studies	Tamale, Northern region
UG	University of Ghana - Ag. Econ	Accra, Greater Accra region
YPARD	Young professionals for Agricultural Development	Accra, Greater Accra region
Hofer	Hofer International Ghana	Accra, Greater Accra
Seed Cos	16 Seed companies	Various locations

FARA

Resources Mobilized and Spent in Ghana

- FARA has leveraged a total of about USD 3 million towards Ghana's agriculture research and development
- FARA has contributed to Ghana's private sector through procurement of good and services amounting to approximately USD 20 million

FARA

Visibility of Ghana's leadership in STI


- Ghana hosted about 12,000 international participants in meetings convened by FARA

FARA

Concluding Remarks

- FARA- How far we have come
- FARA- How far we have to go
- Implications of support from Ghana and other African Countries
- Ghana's support to FARA and African Research and Innovation so far
- Championing Research and Innovation for Africa's development

Thank you



Continental policy frameworks can be effective in engineering change at national level

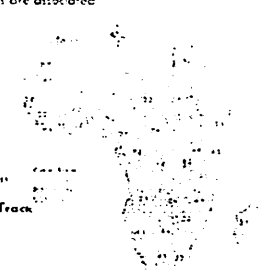
According to IFPRI analysis, CAADP compacts are associated with improvement in:

- public investments in agriculture
- labour and land productivity

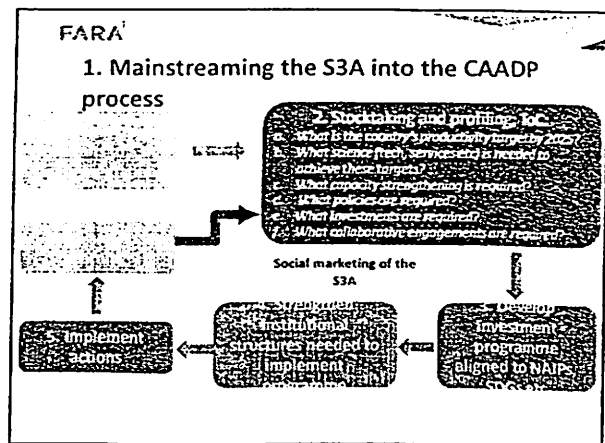
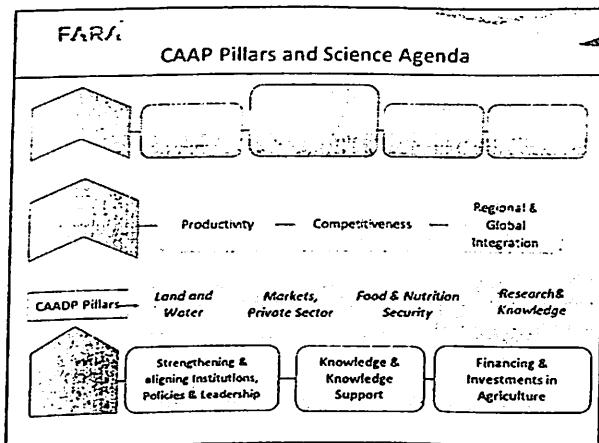
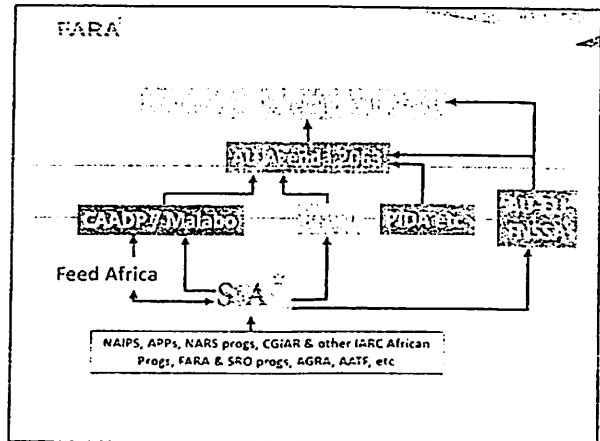
The first CAADP biennial report (2018) shows:

- 20 Member States are "On Track"
- 27 Member States are "Not On Track"


Countries have improved planning, policies, and institutional arrangements to achieve CAADP goals



Source: AUC/NPCA, 2018



FARA
Agricultural Innovation Platforms in Ghana (Citrus IPs)

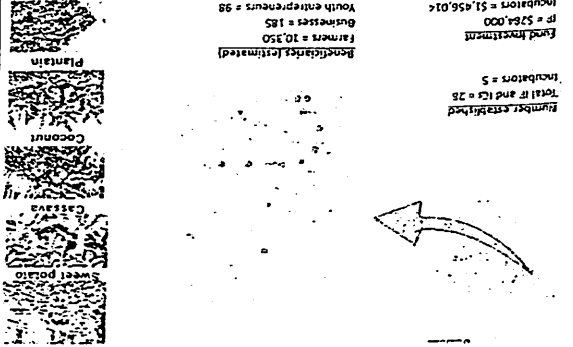


- Facilitate research action on Almond leaf' screen disease (ALSD) / fruit flies and socio-economic effects of ALSD on Ghana's citrus industry
- Strengthening of farmer based organization (OGMARD) and Train farmers and extension officers on GAPs
- Facilitate farmers linkage to market (fruit processing industry).
- Develop and extend technologies to farmers in collaboration with NGOs (GIZ).
- Facilitate policy engagement for control of citrus diseases; a statement was made on the floor of Ghana's Parliament about the ALSD of citrus by the Chairman of sub committee on Agriculture – Hon. Francis Arthur
- Formation of Farmer Service Groups as an effective way of combating controlling ALSD of citrus and other practices
- Facilitate effective stakeholders engagement leading to profit and sustainable livelihood

Success stories

Three Citrus IPs were established in Kace (500 members & 8 IC), Mantraso 450 Members and 4 IC and Assin Fosu (350 members and 8 IC).

FARA
FARA Led Agricultural Innovation Platforms in Ghana



Beneficiaries (estimated)

- Incubators = 5
- Total IP and ICs = 28
- Number established

Fund Investment

- IP = \$254,000
- Incubators = \$1,456,014

Businesses = 185

- Youth entrepreneurs = 98
- Farmers = 10,350

Plantain
Cocoyam
Cassava
Sweet potato

FARA
Strengthening competence and skills of stakeholders

1 in 3 female student for SABIMA and DONATA engaged with farmers on site at Fosu

Student female : Male ratio

Through SCARDA, 74 out of 650 selected NTA students placed at 17 Universities across Sabima

University of Greenwich - UK, UK

Business Awards Sudan

2011	12	12
2012	11	11
2013	10	10
2014	9	9
2015	8	8
2016	7	7
2017	6	6
2018	5	5
2019	4	4
2020	3	3
2021	2	2
2022	1	1

FARA Capacity Strengthening Interventions

FARA Interventions

Capacities & Actors

Generation of knowledge and technologies for market integration

SCARDA

SABIMA

RAILS

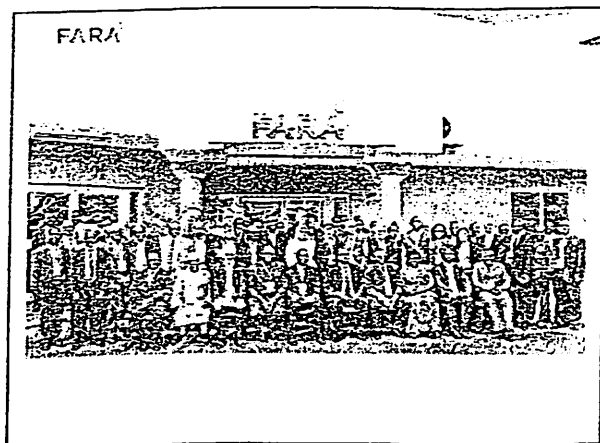
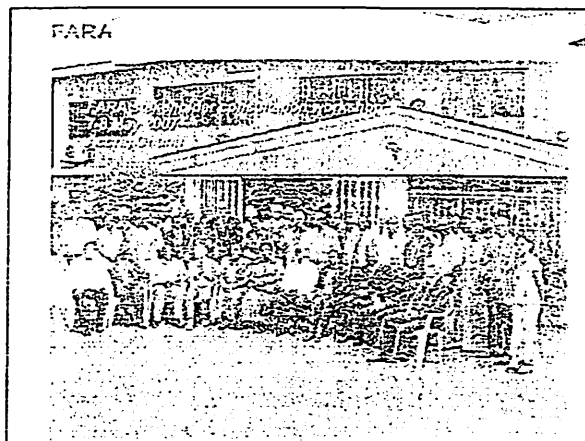
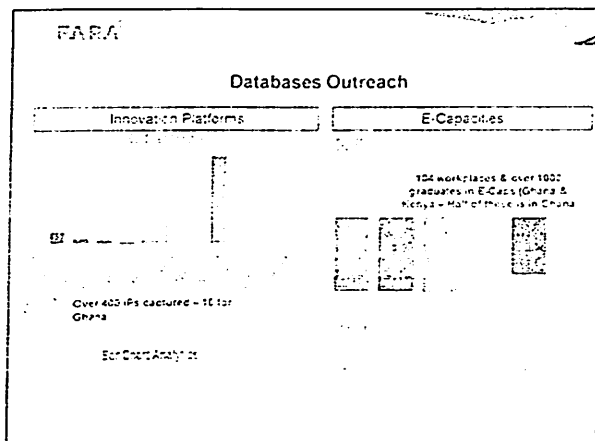
DONATA

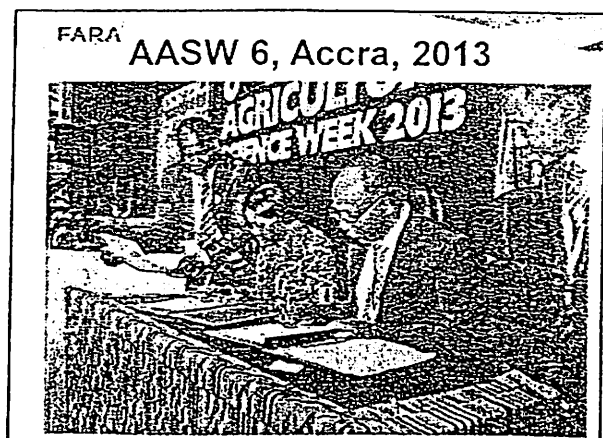
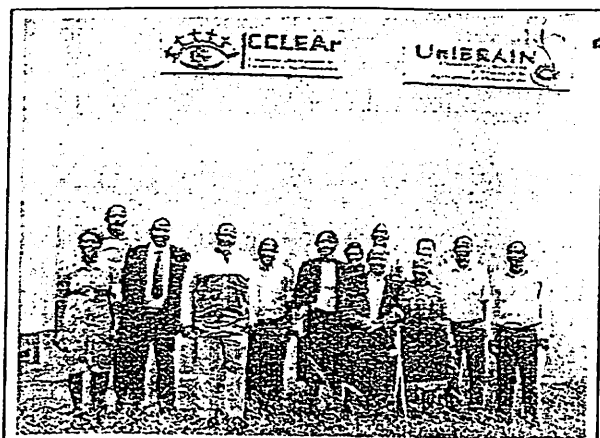
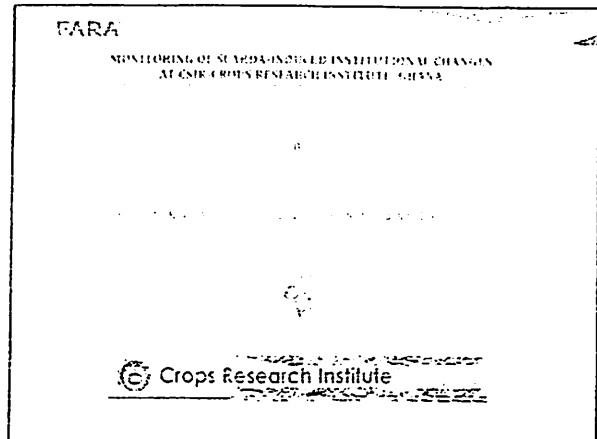
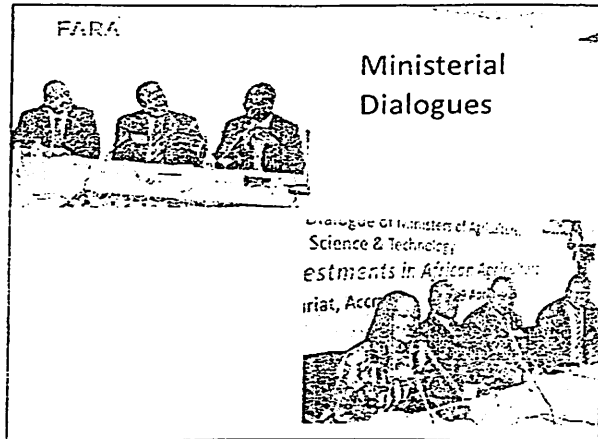
Adoption of rural technicians and farmers

Smallholder farmers

UNIVERSAL CAPACITIES


IA R 4 D





FARA

IPS help to control ALSD



ALSD controlled field **Uncontrolled field**

FARA

ECOSIB impact

After Project

- 7 of the seed companies supported by EcoSIB are now the best leading seed producing companies in Ghana
- They are the lead seed producing companies for the government flagship program Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ).
- The following seed companies produced half of the total seed requirement for 2018 PFJ
 - Ababio Farms (Cultivating 400 acres)
 - Pee farms (Cultivating 1,500 acres)
 - Bruckner Farms (Cultivating 500 acres)