

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and its Regional Capacity strengthening Initiative

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FARA- Background

- FARA was established in 2002 by the three sub Saharan Africa sub Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research (SROs).
- These SROs are :
 - **CORAF/WECARD**: West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
 - **ASARECA**: Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa.
 - **SADC/FANR**: Southern African Development Council- food and Natural Resources.
 - In 2005, **AARINENA** joined FARA

FARA- Background

- FARA is the only institution with continental mandate recognized by AU and NEPAD to coordinate African research and development.
- FARA's mission is to enhance and add value to the effectiveness and efficiency of African agricultural research systems.
- FARA also plays a major advocacy role for Africa's agricultural research and development.
- FARA is NEPAD's technical arm for advancing the objectives of pillar IV of CAADP which embraces agricultural research and technology development, dissemination and adoption.

Current FARA initiatives

| Function | Initiative |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Advocacy and resource mobilisation | ABBI |
| 2. Access to knowledge and technologies | RAILS DONATA |
| 3. Regional policies and markets | None as yet |
| 4. Capacity strengthening | SCARDA BASAIC |
| 5. Partnerships and strategic alliances | SSA-CP PAEPARD |

Capacity strengthening-FARA Approach

- Validation of constraints and needs for regional capacity strengthening
- Development of a strategy for creating adequate human and institutional capacity for innovation
- Development of a regional mechanism for information exchange and sharing of teaching and learning experiences
- Development of capacity to enable optimal use of ICT as a teaching and training aid

FARA SCARDA Programme

- SCARDA is a DFID funded programme and an Action response to recommendations made during a NARS Assessment commissioned in 2005 by FARA

The NARS ASSESSMENT

The assessment recommended a combination of strategic options for:

1. improving the impact of African agricultural research, including adoption of holistic and inclusive innovation systems concepts
2. supporting African NARS to make institutional changes and strengthen their systems skills
3. creating new directions and mechanisms to strengthen capacities of NARS in agricultural science and research management.

SCARDA PURPOSE

- To strengthen the institutional and human capacity of African agricultural research systems to identify, generate and deliver research outputs that meet the needs of poor people.

The SCARDA PRINCIPLES

SCARDA will:

- Generate measurable and sustainable outcomes which can impact significantly on economic growth, wealth creation and poverty reduction.
- Strengthen capacities in countries emerging from civil conflict.
- Increase the numbers of African women in African agricultural research and development.

The SCARDA PRINCIPLES (cont.)

SCARDA will:

- Be in full alignment with NEPAD's concept of African ownership.
- Emphasize organizations that have embraced reforms recommended by CAADP.
- Be compliant with the FAAP guidelines and principles.
- Facilitate and empower on-going related initiatives.
- Add value and minimize duplications

SCARDA Programme Components

6 month Inception Phase

**Needs analysis;
development of programme
activities; M&E and
communication strategies.**

**Output 1:
Detailed capacity
strengthening
programme.**

Three year Implementation Phase

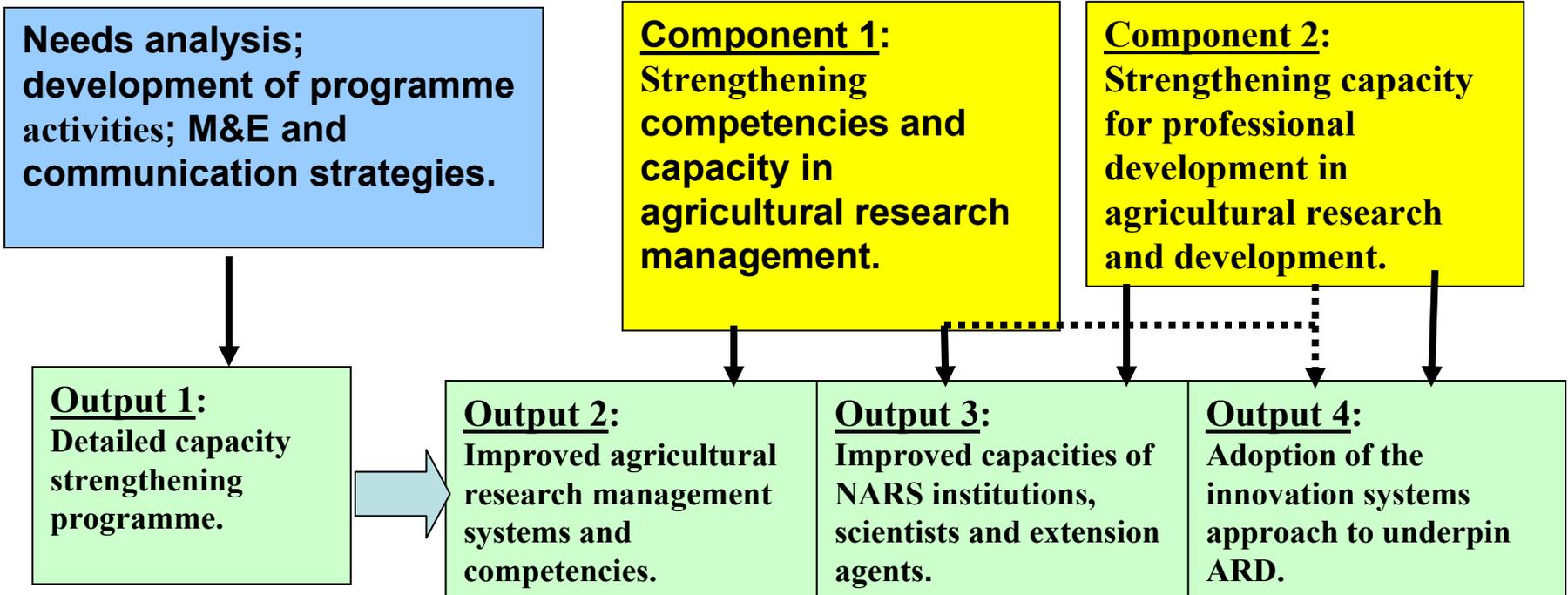
**Component 1:
Strengthening
competencies and
capacity in
agricultural research
management.**

**Component 2:
Strengthening capacity
for professional
development in
agricultural research
and development.**

**Output 2:
Improved agricultural
research management
systems and
competencies.**

**Output 3:
Improved capacities of
NARS institutions,
scientists and extension
agents.**

**Output 4:
Adoption of the
innovation systems
approach to underpin
ARD.**



Component 1. Strengthening competencies and capacity in agricultural research management

- This will be done through:
- Sub regional group training on priority subjects
- Post-training support for up to one year after delivery of the training
- Fellowships to support serving African NARS scientists
- Professional mentoring schemes

Component 2. Strengthening capacity for professional development in agricultural research and development.

- By providing funding to support:
- MSc training to address the highest priorities weaknesses and gaps as determined by the SROs and their stakeholders.
- The training will be at African universities and also in Northern universities for courses that are not available in African universities.
- BASIC, FARA Building Agricultural Scientific and Institutional Capacity Programme, will be part of the professional development component of SCARDA.

SCARDA is about STRENGTHENING
INSTITUTIONS rather than INDIVIDUALS

Thank you for your attention