

# The importance of AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership in FNSSA to the African Research Community

**Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong**

Directorate Research and Innovation, FARA

RUFORUM AGM / LEAP4FNAAS side event  
18<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

# Outline

- **Context**
- **Challenges facing African research community**
- **Implementation of FNSSA in the context of Global, continental and regional frameworks and strategies**
- **Existing R and D capacities, institutions and partnerships in Africa**
- **Key issues & Conclusions**

# Context

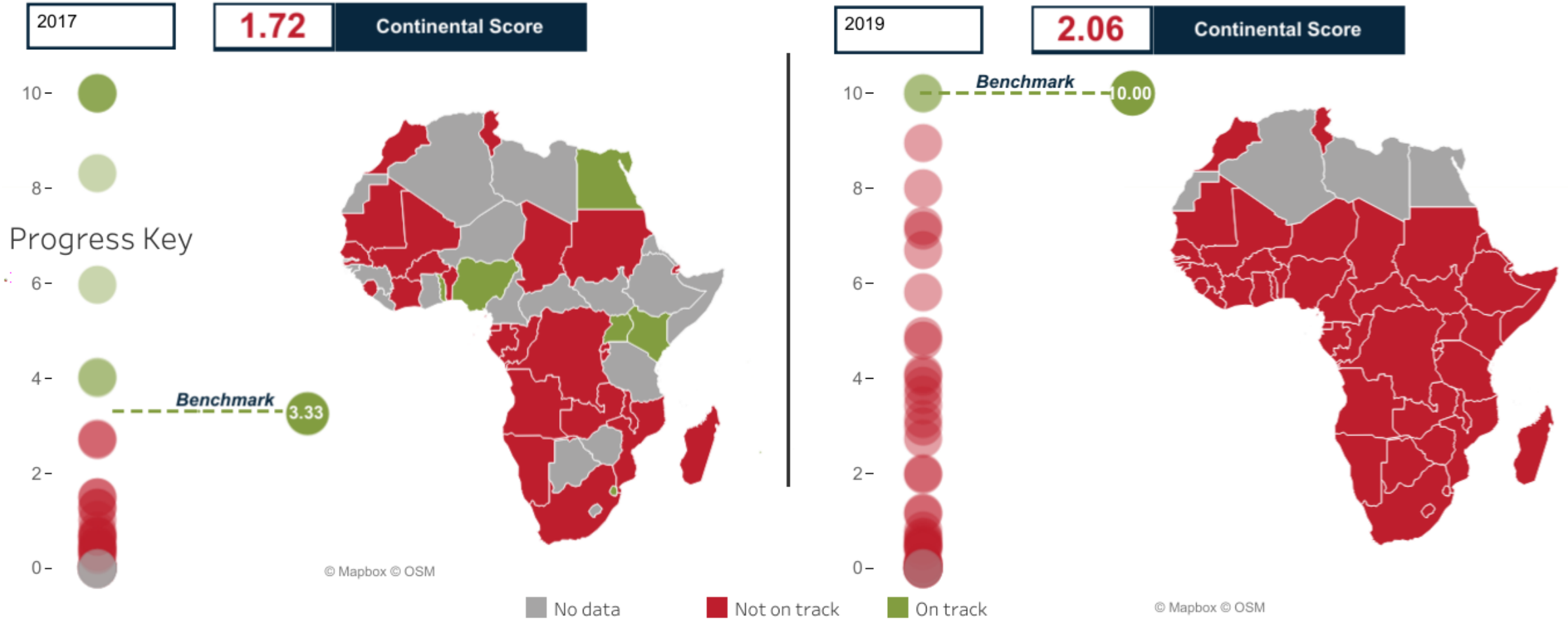
1. **New EU-AU cooperation**, increasingly seeking common priorities between EU and AU. Africa is contributing to formulation and execution of actions
2. However, issues of **duplication, fragmentation and lack of coherence**, remain which compromise **efficiency and return on investment**
3. Platforms that overcome these challenges and achieve impact at the last mile are needed. This presentation looks at the EU-AU **FNSSA** partnership as an example of such platforms
4. Capacities and R & D institutions and frameworks exist and should provide basis for strengthening the role of the African research community to this partnership

# Challenges facing African research community

- Fragmentation and African small NARS problem
- Research Capacities (individual, institutional, system)
- Partnerships and research groups – individual efforts
- Duplication of efforts
- Data sharing, exchange and management
- Prioritisation processes
- Poor coherence and alignments to priorities at different levels
- Sustainable Funding in the long term

compromising **efficiency** and **returns on investment**

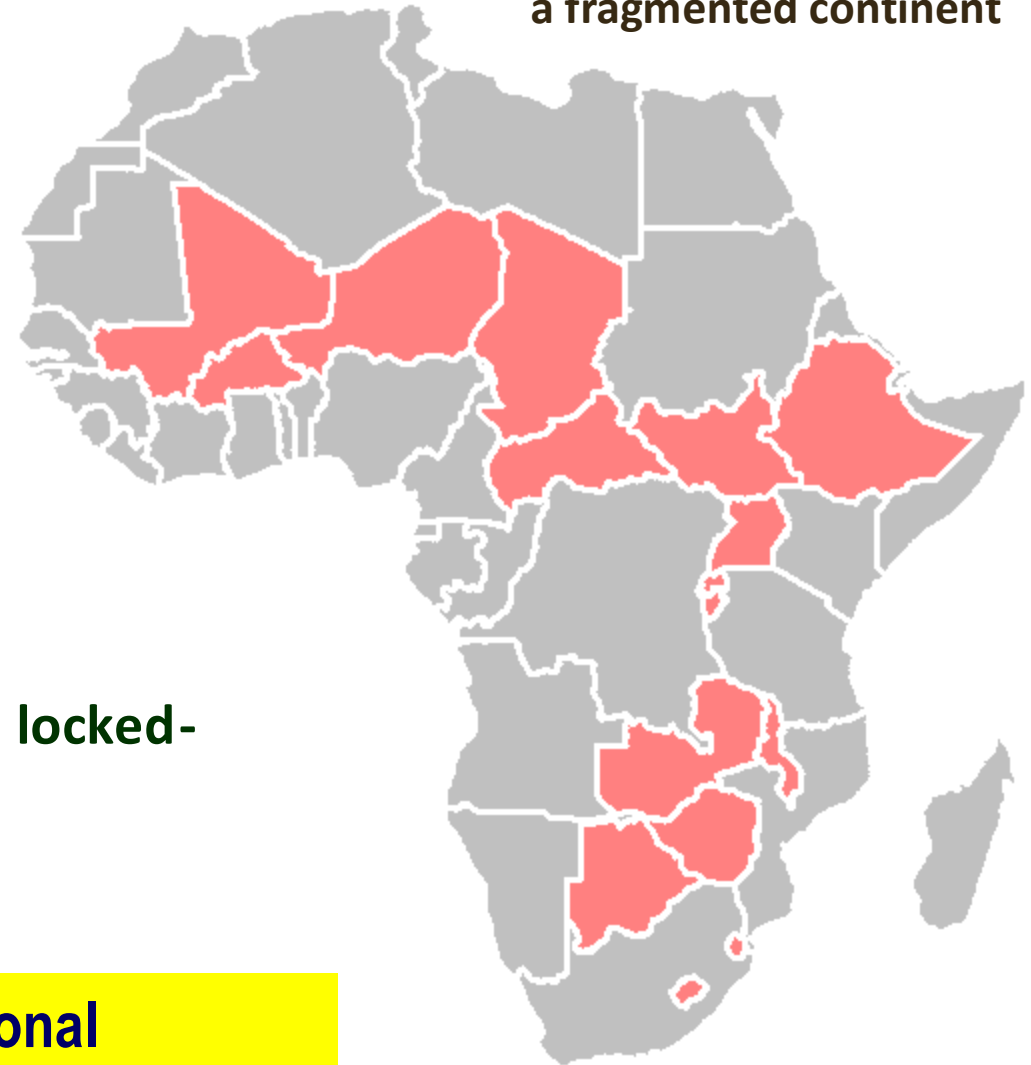
# Tracking Domestic investments in Agriculture



# The need for regional integration and coordination of research for Africa's rapid agricultural transformation

- 55 sovereign states
- 31 have population of less than 12m (small markets)
- 32 countries have per capita incomes below \$500 (10% of world average)
- More than 70% with small NARS
- 16 countries (home to 25% of population) are land locked-area(< 40,000Km<sup>2</sup>)
- Heterogeneous agro-ecologies

a fragmented continent



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

# **FNSSA was adopted by senior officials of EU and AU in April 2016 with 4 common R&I priority areas**

**Funding directed to all 4 pillars ca. 57M€ (H2020 and Africa Union Grants)**

**Sustainable  
intensification** (incl.  
natural resource management)

Funding ca 70M€ – upcoming  
H2020 calls on soil/water/land  
mngt and soil datasets (closing  
date January 2019)

**Agriculture and  
food systems for  
nutrition**

Funding ca 21M€ – AUG call  
closing date 22 of May

**Expansion and  
improvement of  
agricultural  
markets and  
trade**

**Cross cutting issues**

# Why FNSSA?

- **Sustainable Development Goals**

- **SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture**
- **Research and Innovation are pivotal to achieving SDG 2**



- **Basis for a common research agenda**

- **Relevance of research to AU and EU priorities for FNSSA (CAP & CAADP objectives).**
- **Research contributes to solutions and evidence for policy change for positive outcomes on food security, nutrition and natural resource management.**
- **Capacity for joint research in both African and European scientific communities.**
- **Scalability of research and innovation impact at national or regional scales.**
- **Complementarity to existing bilateral and multilateral collaboration.**



# Contribution of Africa in framing regional continental & global agendas

## CAADP

1. Transformed agriculture and sustained inclusive growth
2. Strengthened systemic capacities to implement and deliver results

**R1: Increased agriculture production and productivity**

**R2: Better functioning national /regional markets and trade**

R3: Entrepreneurship & increased publ. / private investment

R4: Increased access to food, nutrition and productive safety nets

**R5: Improved management of natural resources for sustainable agric.**

## S3A Priority Themes

### •Categories

1. Sustainable productivity in major farming systems
2. Food systems and value chains
3. Agricultural biodiversity and natural resource management
4. Mega trends and challenges for agriculture in Africa

### Cross cutting themes

1. Sustainable intensification,
2. Modern genetics and genomics
3. Foresight capabilities,

## STISA

### Priority areas

1. **Eradication of Hunger and achieving Food security**
2. Prevention and control of Diseases
3. Communication (Physical & intellectual mobility)
4. Protection of our space
5. Live-together-build the society
6. Wealth creation

## EU-Africa R & I Partnership on FNESSA

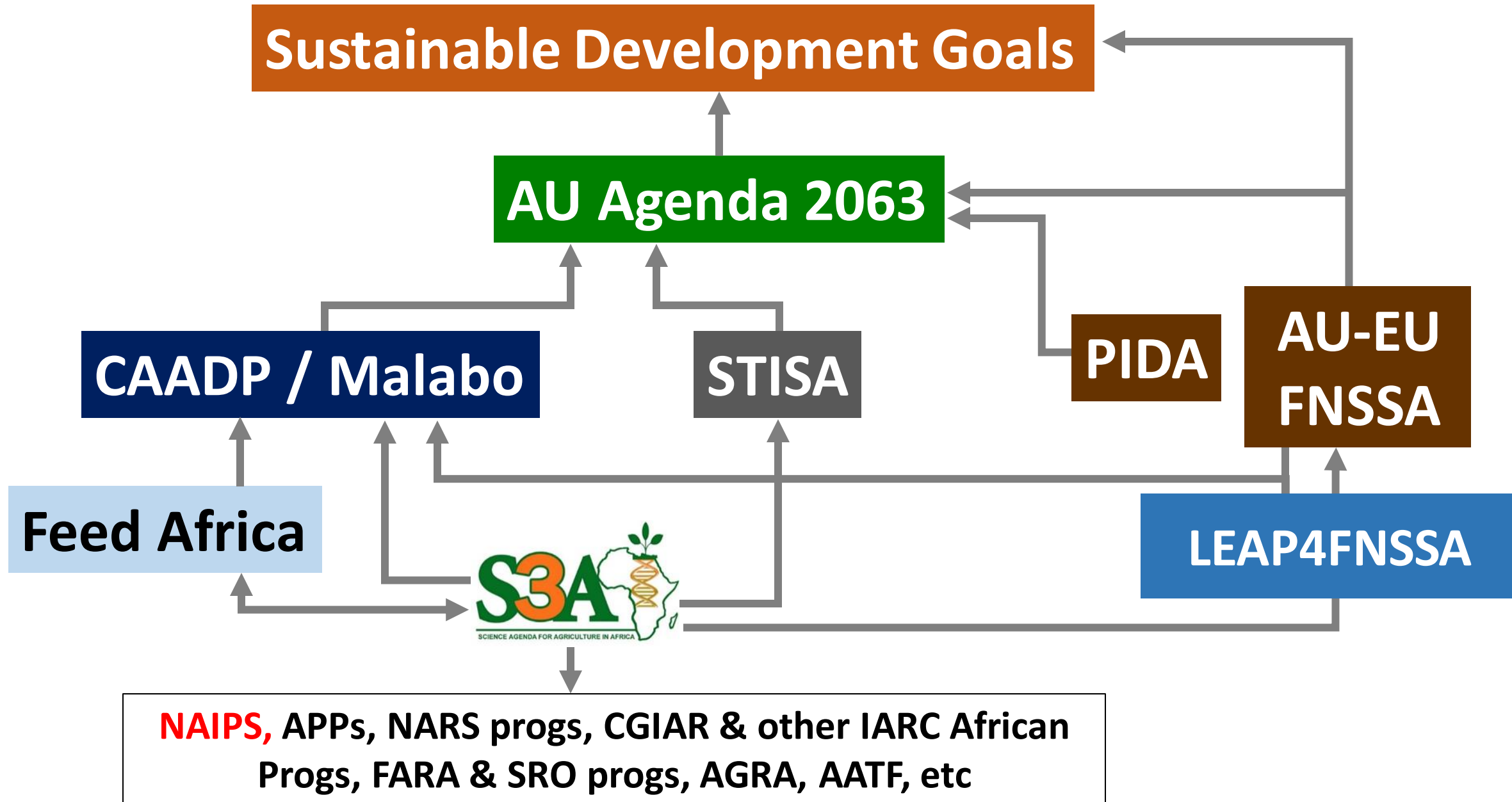
### Priority themes

1. Sustainable Intensification
2. Agriculture and Food systems for nutrition
3. Expansion and improvement of agricultural markets and trade

### Cross cutting themes

1. Framework for improved coordination
2. Supporting Innovation processes
3. Strengthening Capacities for collaboration
4. Understanding social and cultural contexts

# ALIGNMENT OF FRAMEWORKS AT CONTINENTAL LEVEL

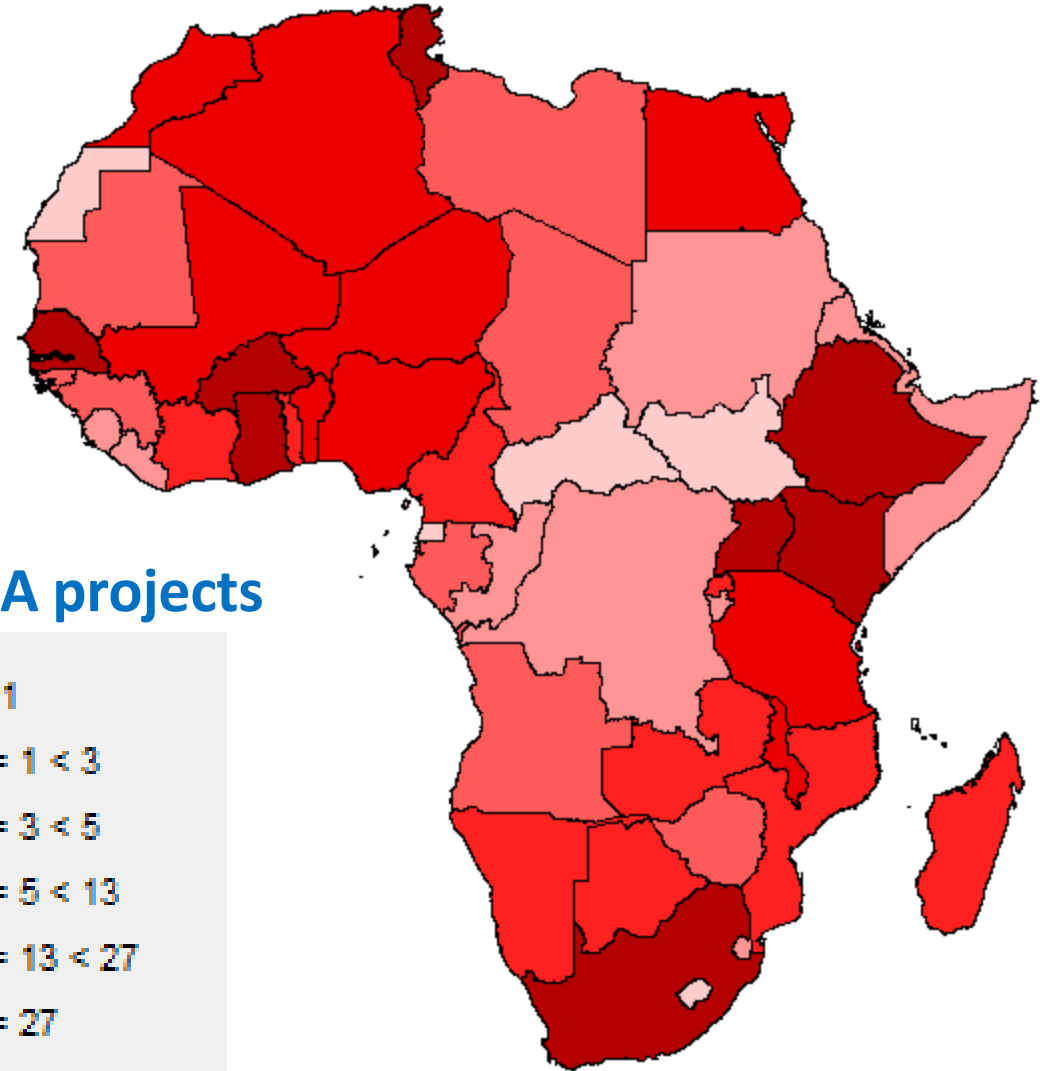
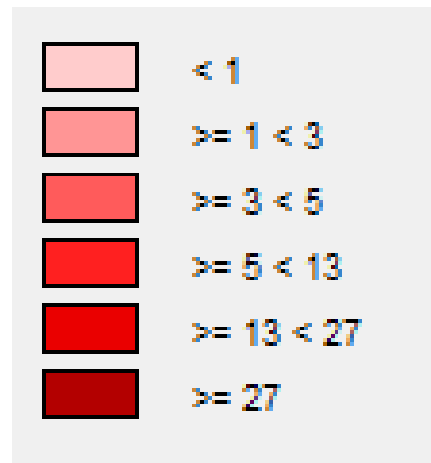


# Implementation of projects under the FNSSA partnership

## Key issues

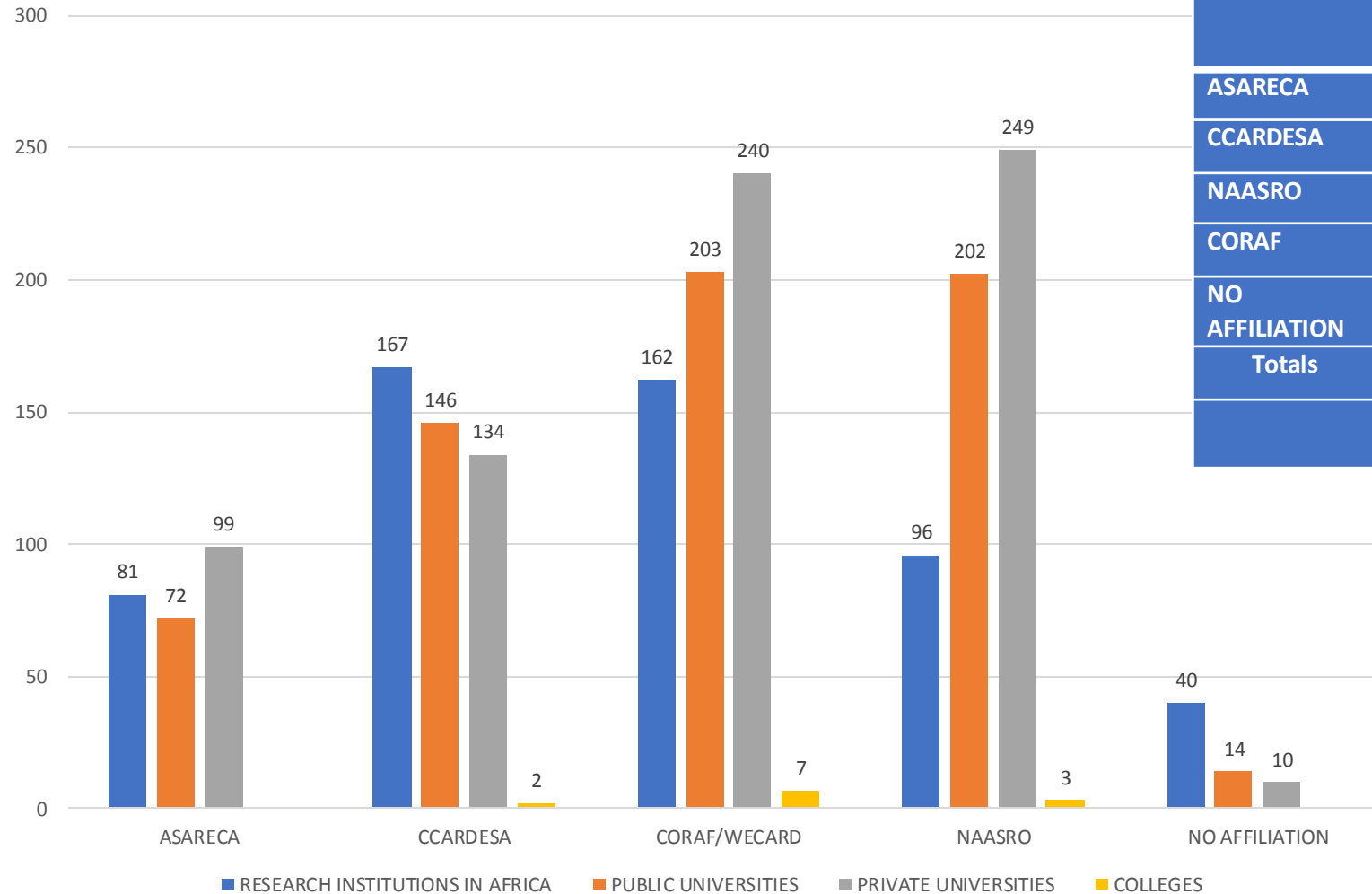
- **Projects (205, ongoing are 129)**
- **Implementation**
- **Alignment , coherence, synergies at national level**
- **Coordination**
- **Leadership**

# of FNSSA projects



# Institutions for implementation exist

DISTRIBUTION OF NARIS, UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

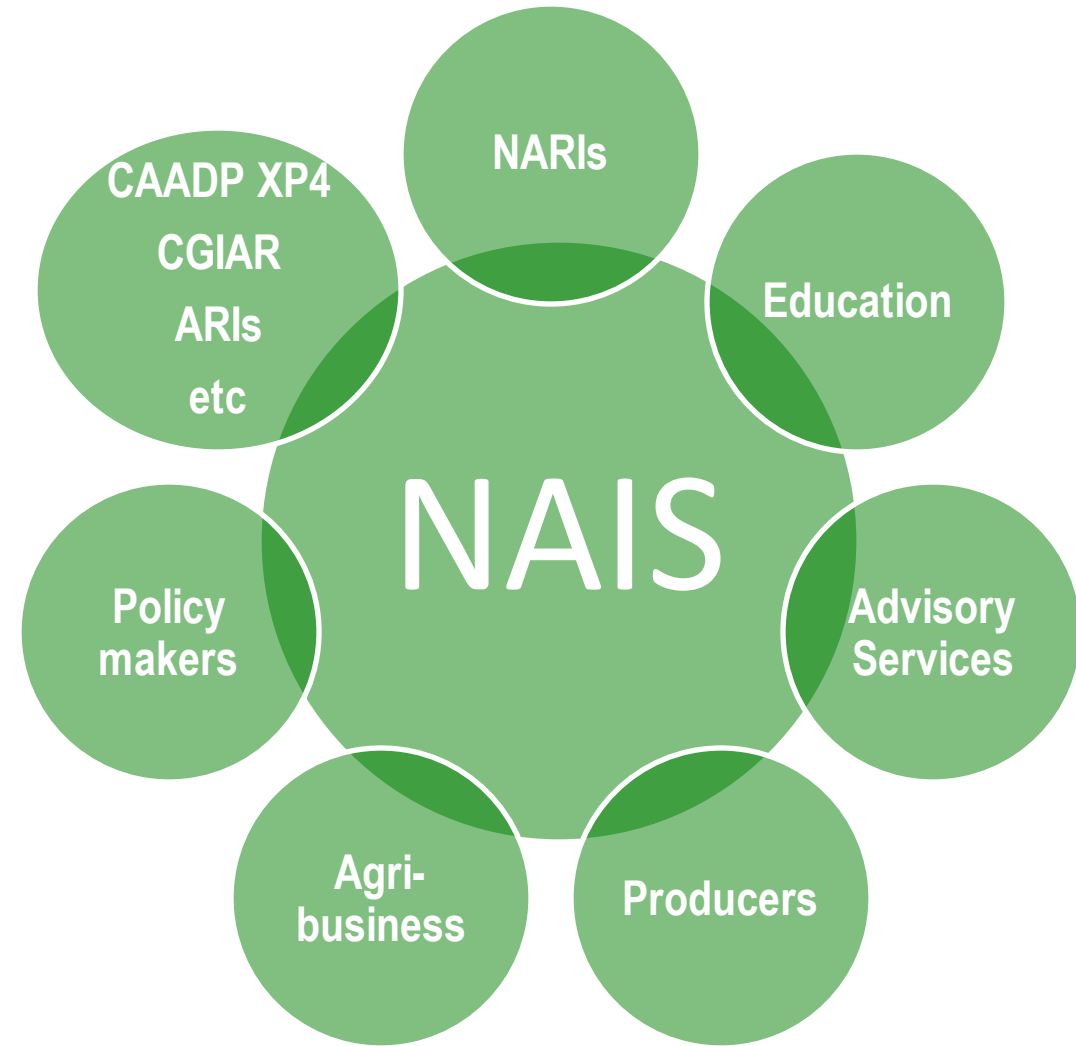
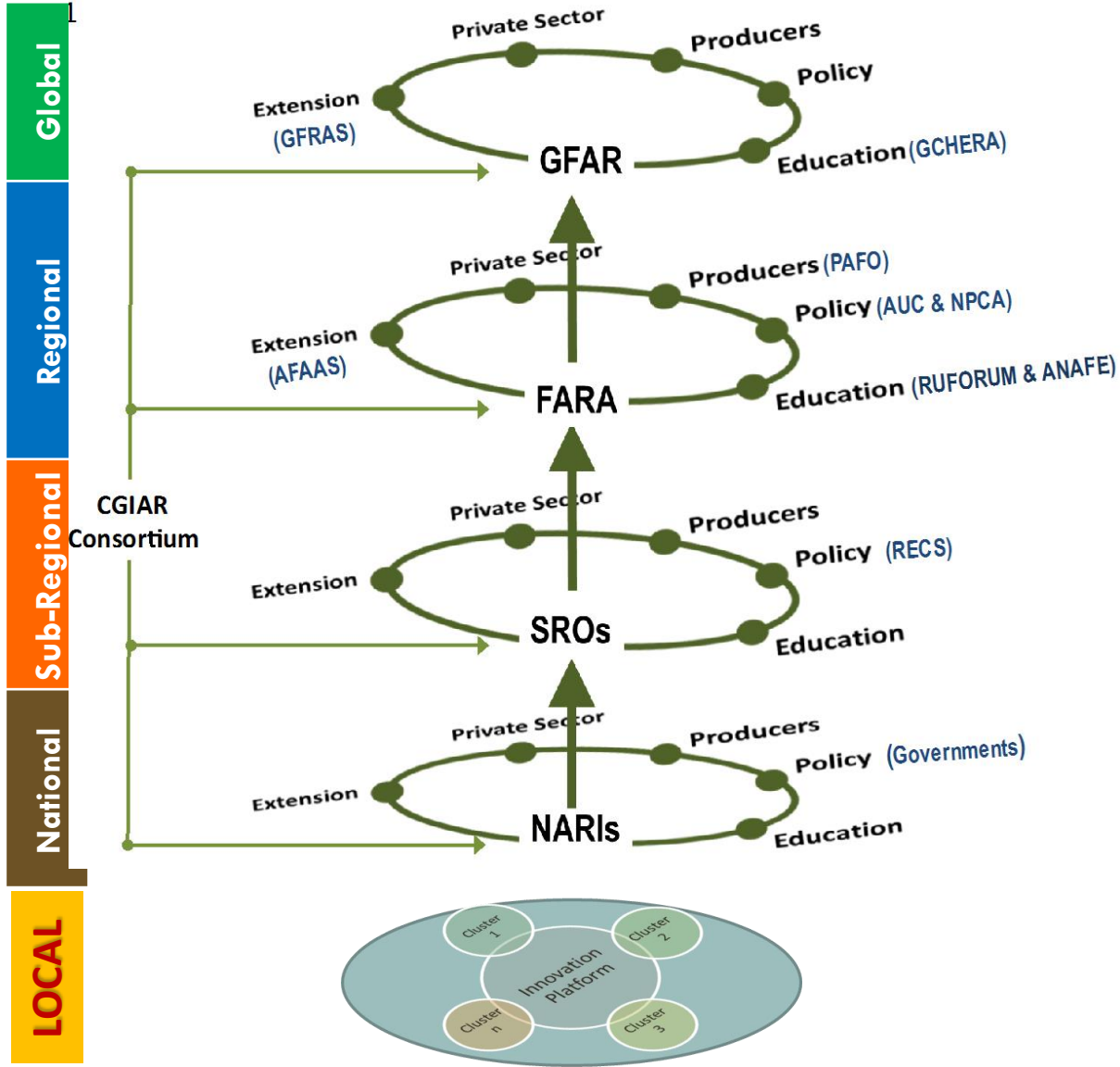


SUB REGIONS	RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA (NARES & Affiliates)	PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES	PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES	COLLEGES OF AGRICULTURE
ASARECA	81	72	99	0
CCARDESA	167	146	134	2
NAASRO	96	202	249	3
CORAF	162	203	240	14
NO AFFILIATION	40	14	10	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>19</b>

1934

Compiled from: FARADATAInforms

# The Architecture for implementation exist



# PATHWAYS FOR ADDED VALUE OF STI FRAMEWORKS: The case of the Science Agenda (S3A) implementation at national level

**CAADP  
entry points**

**1. Planning,  
Prioritization,  
Implementation**

- **Processes & methodologies**
- **Identification of flagships**

**2. Strengthening  
Coherence**

**Processes for  
Mainstreaming S3A  
framework & FAAP  
principles into NAIPS**

- **Implementation of CAADP/  
MALABO**
- **Tracking through BR process**

**3. Advocacy**  
• Strategies  
• Instruments

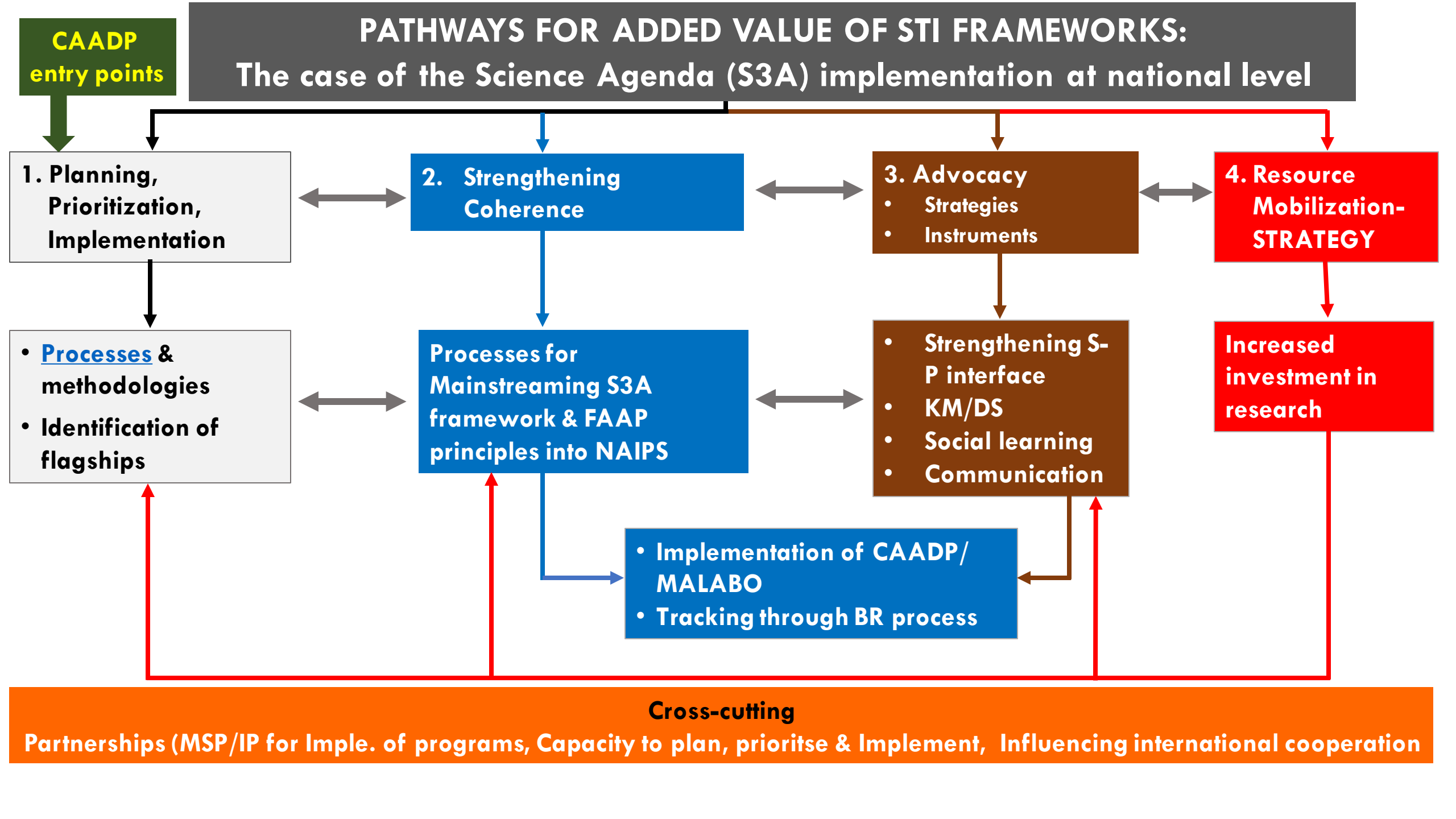
- **Strengthening S-  
P interface**
- **KM/DS**
- **Social learning**
- **Communication**

**4. Resource  
Mobilization-  
STRATEGY**

**Increased  
investment in  
research**

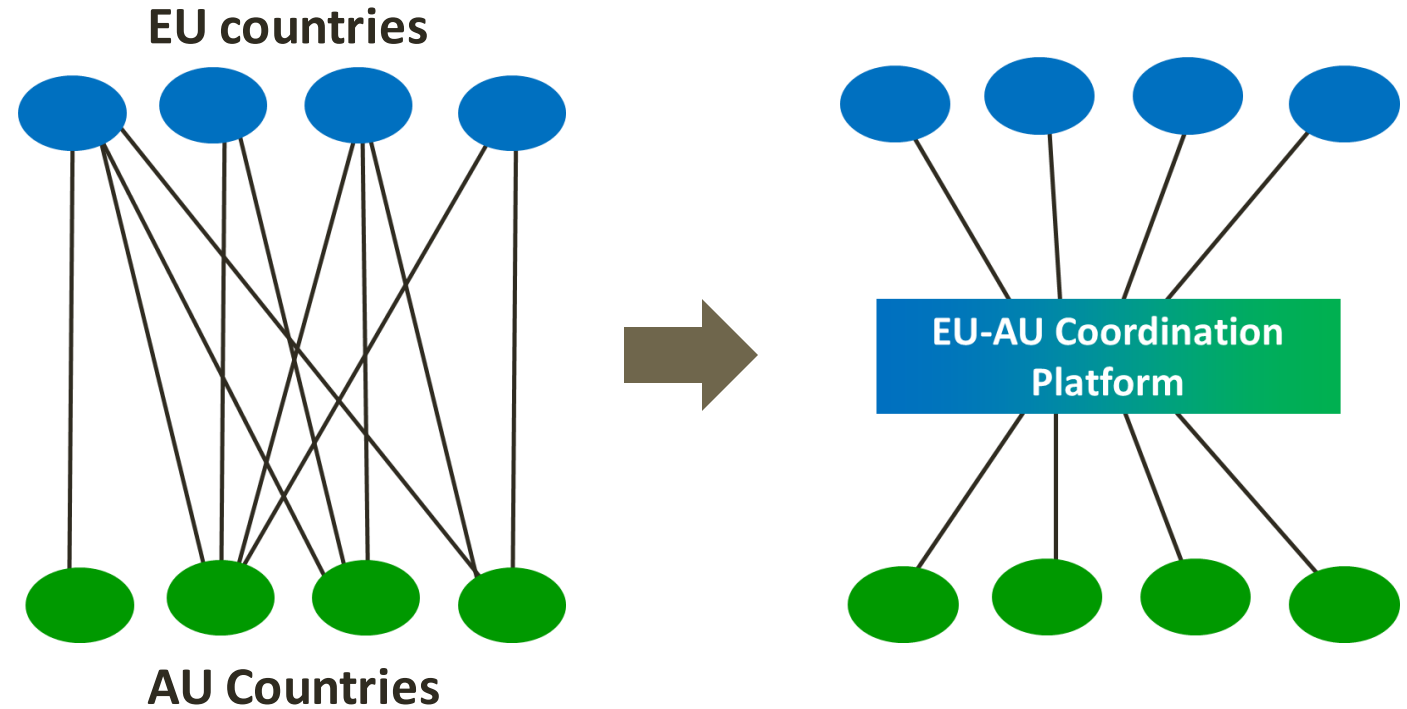
**Cross-cutting**

**Partnerships (MSP/IP for Imple. of programs, Capacity to plan, prioritise & Implement, Influencing international cooperation)**



# Advantages

- **High Level Policy buy-in (EU-AU summit & college meetings)**
- **Potential for improved coherence and minimization of duplication.**
- **Realization of potential depends on scope of the roles of coordination platform and associated institutions (EC, AUC, FARA, AFAAS, RUFORUM, etc).**
- **Co-funding: This is conditional on alignment to key policy frameworks e.g. STISA, CAADP and NAIPs → sustainability of interventions**



# Challenges

- **There is an important element of the coordination:**
  - notably where EU countries engage directly with AU countries,
- **Long-lag time from conceptualization of the initiative to implementation of initial actions (10 years i.e. 2006 – 2016);**

- Continuation of dialogue to identify gaps in funded research including monitoring and evaluation of funded projects to establish their impact on research community and farming communities;
- Lack of financing strategies for African frameworks
- Bringing on board additional funding sources but clearly aligned to the FNSSA objectives e.g. Belmont Forum calls, co-funding calls



# Key Issues – shifts to be made

## **Roles to be played at different levels; research community, government, regional and continental bodies**

- Align programmes and projects to African national and regional priorities
- Strengthen capacities for planning, prioritisation and / for long term implementation
- Facilitate equitable participation of African research community and African institution and members in leadership roles
- Strengthen coordination at all levels, especially at national level
- Develop African financing strategies and mechanisms to implement all African frameworks and plans to facilitate implementation of African priorities

# Conclusions

- **Institutions and frameworks to implement the FNSSA exist**
- **Strengthen coordination of research and innovation at national level to improve coherence**
- **Strengthen evidence-based advocacy (science-policy interface) to change domestic budget architecture to favour agricultural research and innovation**

## **HOLDS THE KEY TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICAN PRIORITIES**

- **A future Bicontinental platform must have a strong programme implementation and coordination mechanism to support equitable participation of the African Research community**

**Thank you for the attention**

