



Integrating Value Chain for Development Approaches into Agricultural Higher Education in Africa

Date: 1st November 2023

Time: 14:00 – 16:00 CAT

Venue: Palais Des Congres, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Registration: [Click here](#)

Introduction

Africa's agricultural value chains suffer from endemic dysfunctionality characterized by low segment efficiencies from farm-to-market and from market-to-fork. Due to this, agriculture, a sector that supports livelihoods of more than 60% of the continent's population is not able to contribute effectively to development. In fact, many of Africa's value chain segments are more efficient from market-to-fork because of private sector intervention and less so in the earlier production stages. This is especially true given that the earlier segments of the continent's value chains are dominated by smallholder farmers who face high transaction costs, information asymmetries associated with relational contracting, and market power complexities, market efficiency and risks impact also on other actors (collector, traders) that expose them to price exploitation¹. However, in order to increase the competitiveness of agriculture sector and its associated value chains, creating shared value—win-win solutions and incentives for each actor at the respective value chain node, is important². This approach of shared value has been critically missing in Africa's agricultural value chains despite numerous development interventions.

The Value Chain Analysis for Development (VCA4D) conceived by experts commissioned by EU- DG INTAP is an integrated approach, that addresses weaknesses in development programming of investments in value chain improvement. The method is used to respond to EU Delegation and their partners' requests for decision making. The VCA4D approach entails a comprehensive methodology that combines economic, social, and environmental indicators to assess a value chain's economic performance, inclusiveness, and social and environmental sustainability. During the current phase the

¹ Wati Malhotra, Alan de Brauw, Erwin Bulte, and Evgeniya Anisimova, 2021. Improving African Agricultural Value Chains. IFPRI.

<https://pim.cgiar.org/2021/12/20/improving-african-agricultural-value-chains/>

² Brethenoux, Julia & Olafsen Ellen, 2012. Is Africa ready to climb the value chain in agriculture? <https://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/we-are-just-part-of-the-value-chain-in-the-room>

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methodology has been applied in thirteen countries of Africa³, the limited availability of expertise affected implementation. Beyond implementation bottleneck created by limited capacity, it also affected the transitions and ownership of lessons to guide policy and decision making limiting the uptake of best practices in the overall. During a workshop held early in 2023, the need to scaling out this innovative approach in training and learning, was clearly identified in order to increase awareness and skill personnel for undertaking VCA4D in Africa.

AGRINATURA is the lead network of European research institutions in the field of agricultural research that implemented the VCA4D approach, RUFORUM is now requesting AGRINATURA to hold a side event and keynote presentation during its 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) that will be held from October 28th and November 3rd 2023 at the Palais des Congrès, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The side event will target Africa’s Higher Agricultural and Tertiary Educations institutions that implement both agricultural and applied economics as well as agri-business training programmes. During the side event AGRINATURA may mount an exhibition of VCA4D tools and information generated to the audience.

Approach

Prior to the event, background papers based on VCA4D experience will be developed by AGRINATURA and RUFORUM. These paper will be presented to guide discussions on VCA4D approach and map a way forward for its future institutionalization in teaching, learning and research. Discussions may be organized in groups based on the main papers.

Participants

The side event will involve AGRINATURA partners and consultants as well as researchers, Principals, Deans, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and early career researchers from the RUFORUM Network in Africa.

Expected outcomes of the side event

1. A Roadmap and action plan for development of an implementation plan for taking up and institutionalizing VCA4D in teaching, learning and research in African University,
2. Increased awareness of VCA4D methodology among participants especially,

³ Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, eSwatini, Cameroon, Sao Tome & Principe, Cameroon, Angola, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Burundi

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3. Once up taken the approach will among others; i) provide lessons from VC4DA within African; (ii) Strengthen the African higher education programs offering to students and other stakeholders; (iii) Create a sustained pipeline of qualified personnel emerging out of the African higher education institutions.

Date and venue: The side event will be held at Palais des Congrès, in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 1st November 2023.

Event Organizers and Contacts:

1. AGRINATURA contact: Dr. Olimpia Orlandoni, Project Director VCA4D Project (olimpia.orlandoni@agrinatura-eu.eu)
2. RUFORUM: Prof. Anthony Egeru, Manager for Training and Community Development (a.egeru@ruforum.org).

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