



19th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Unpacking of Implementation of The Abidjan II Communique Action Plan: Practical Arrangements Towards the Roadmap for Implementation

Concept Note

Date and Time: 1st November 2023 (9:30 – 13:00 GMT+1)

Venue: Inaugural Hall, Palais Des Congres, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Zoom registration link: [Click Here](#)

Background

The African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Commission (AUC), One CGIAR, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa and the Sub-Regional Research Organisations (SROs)¹, African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and other African Agricultural Research and Innovation Institutions (AARIIs) participated in a series of high-level consultations between March and May 2022 which culminated in the commitments outlined in Abidjan II communique. The consultations were organized under “High-Level Consultative Forum on Strengthening Africa’s Agricultural Research and Innovation in the Context of the One CGIAR Reforms”. It aimed to embed clear mechanisms for ensuring mutual benefit for African institutions and their people into the programming, functioning, and governance of the One CGIAR.

The Action Plan resulting from the Abidjan II Communique contains Eight Action Areas listed in Table 1 and specifies the tasks involved, the responsible partners, expected outcomes, and timelines for the implementation.

The activities of the Action Plan are scheduled to start at the end of 2023 and early 2024 and are expected to be implemented over three years. The first planning meeting with implementing partners will be held on 1st November 2023 as a side event during the RUFORUM’s 19th Annual General Meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The planning meeting is organized to engage the proposed implementing partners to co-develop the initial practical arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan. It is organized as a co-creation event as enshrined in the guiding principles of the Action Plan for the Abidjan II communique. The planning event rightly fits within the theme of RUFORUM’s AGM of **“Transforming Higher Education to Sustainably Feed and Create Prosperity for Africa.”**

¹Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA); West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD); Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)

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Table 1: The Eight Action Areas, responsible and Accountable Institutions

No.	Action Area	Lead institution
1.	Establish and initiate the implementation of an institutional and governance framework that guides the partnership between One CGIAR and FARA-led AARIIs.	AUC
2.	Establish and initiate the implementation of a partnership engagement framework, delivery models, and supporting policy document.	One CGIAR
3.	Establish a framework to accelerate the implementation of the Science Agenda for African Agriculture/CAADP Science and Innovation Agenda	FARA
4.	Establish and initiate the implementation of a resource mobilization policy for the sustainable and sustained operations of the partnership between One CGIAR and FARA-led AARIIs	FARA
5.	Establish and initiate the implementation of a framework for strengthening mechanisms to scale out technologies and innovations to millions of farmers	AFAAS
6.	Provide continued support to institutional capacity sharing/development across AARIIs and One CGIAR	RUFORUM and One CGIAR
7.	Establish a foresight approach for establishing longer-term partnership modalities between One CGIAR and FARA-led AARIIs	FARA
8.	Develop a framework for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL)	One CGIAR

Source: Extracted with modifications from Table 1 of the Action Plan for the Operationalisation of the Abidjan II Communique

Objectives of the Planning Meeting

The main objective of the event is to popularise the Action Plan and agree on practical arrangements for the implementation roadmap.

The specific objectives are:

- a) Familiarise stakeholders with the background to, objectives of, action areas, and expected outcomes of the Abidjan II Communique and the Action Plan to operationalize it, and
- b) Develop a preliminary document describing the practical arrangements among the convening institutions with a clear segregation of roles and responsibilities for implementing the different activities outlined in the Action Plan with key milestones and institutions required.

Side event approach

The rationale and events that precede the signing of the Abidjan II Communique will be presented by the One CGIAR. The key actors/convenors will also briefly present their initial thoughts on partners, roles, and relevant ongoing, pipeline, and new initiatives expected to contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan. In response to the information and issues raised in these presentations, a panel discussion will be held by representatives from the African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Commission (AUC), One CGIAR, FARA, ASARECA, CORAF, CCARDESA, African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), and RUFORUM will be held. The purpose of the panel is to

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provide a refreshed perspective on what these organizations see as their role as key actors in the implementation of the Action Plan and expected outcomes. Thereafter, a guided discussion with the audience will be held to review the Action Plan, the proposed areas, and responsible organizations to develop a road map for implementing the action areas and the tasks. The key activity here is to explain the expected outcomes, action areas, and elaborate in detail, the tasks to be undertaken. All these will be used to develop the institutional Practical Arrangements document to lead to the preparation of the Roadmap for the implementation of the Action Plan to operationalize the Abidjan II Communique.

Participants

Heads or representations of AUC, AfDB, One CGIAR, FARA, ASARECA, CORAF, CCARDESA, AFAAS, and RUFORUM as key implementing partners of the Action Plan will be present. Senior government experts, development partners, research organizations, and university leaders at the level of Vice Chancellors, Principals, and Deans will be present. Approximately 100 participants are expected to attend this side event.

Expected outputs and outcomes of the side event

The following outcomes are anticipated to be achieved.

- a) All partners become well acquainted with the background to, objectives of, action areas, expected outcomes, and their role in operationalizing the Abidjan II Communique, and
- b) A preliminary document describing the practical arrangements among the convening institutions with a clear segregation of roles and responsibilities for implementing the different activities outlined in the Action Plan.

Organizers contacts

The side event will be organized by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) as the lead organization in the implementation of the Action Plan for the operationalization of the Abidjan II Communique in collaboration with the One CGIAR and the RUFORUM Secretariat.

The contact persons are;

- (i) Irene Annor Frempong, Lead, AU-EU International Research Consortium on FNSSA at FARA ifrempong@faraafrica.org
- (ii) Emmanuel Okalany, Technical Specialist for Development and Partnerships at RUFORUM e.okalany@ruforum.org
- (iii) Sokona Dagnoko, Head of Partnerships at RUFORUM: s.dagnoko@ruforum.org;





Draft Programme

Master of Ceremonies: **Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong, FARA**

Session Rapporteurs: **Mr. Emmanuel Okalany (RUFORUM) and Koffi Acquaye (FARA)**

Time	Agenda item	Responsible party
9:30-9:35	Opening Remarks	AUC/FARA
9:35 – 10:00	Keynote Address on Outcomes of the Abidjan II Communique and Action Plan	Dr Roy-Macauley One CGIAR Managing Director Regions and Partnership
10:00 – 10:30	Question and Answer session on the Abidjan Communique and the Action Plan	FARA/RUFORUM
10:20 – 10:50	Coffee/Health Break	RUFORUM
10:50 – 11:50	Brief presentations and Panel Discussions on the expected actions, partnerships, roles, and relevant activities for the implementation of the Action Plan (i) African Development Bank (AfDB), (ii) African Union Commission (AUC) (iii) One CGIAR (iv) Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) on behalf of SROs (v) African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) (vi) Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)	FARA/RUFORUM
11:50 – 12:50	Practical Arrangements inputs to the Roadmap for implementation of the Action Plan (i) Elaboration of the action areas and associated tasks (ii) Roles and responsibilities of partners (iii) Approach /Coordination mechanism (iv) Financing of activities (v) Concrete next steps for the finalization of the roadmap	FARA/RUFORUM
12:50 – 13:00	Concluding remarks	AUC and One CGIAR

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