



PROGRAMME

LAUNCH OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Date: 1st November 2023

Time: 8:30-9:30

Venue: Inaugural Hall, Palais Des Congres

Introduction

In June 2023, an Action Plan for strengthening partnerships between African Agricultural Research, Innovation and Education Institutions (AARIEI's). The Action Plan, which is the result of high-level discussions involving the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, One CGIAR, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, and other African Agricultural Research and Innovation Actors, seeks to revitalize the capacity of African Agricultural Innovation Systems to generate and deliver at an appropriate scale and scope, scientific solutions that catalyze development and research-to-innovation and development delivery. The implementation of the action plan and other initiatives requires that Planning to Investments and Action processes, be well coordinated for better coherence and cost-leverage for delivery of impacts across Africa's diverse agri-food systems. Four key issues stand out, that is, the need for coordinated:

1. Agricultural research for development policy formulation, investment planning and execution in a manner that delivers research public goods across and within geographies and agrifood systems;
2. Knowledge, innovations/technologies and advisory systems and models that improve last mile delivery of science solutions to Africa's farming populations and other agrifood system actors;
3. Development of requisite capacities to enable/ improve operations across agricultural value chains, unlocking opportunity for Africa to development its science solutions, while engaging with other knowledge centers in the process, and;
4. Strategic policy actions that leverage sub-regional to continental and global markets to support the integration of African agri-food systems into the growing input and output markets, thereby enhancing the transformation of Africa's farming systems into rewarding enterprises.

Achieving these aspirations requires coordination at different levels, starting at the apex and then to, sub-regional and national levels. It is recognized that Africa's apex bodies for agricultural research, innovation and policy at continental (regional) and sub-continental/ regional levels are; the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa ([FARA](#)), and at subregional levels are [ASARECA](#), [CORAF](#), [CCARDESA](#), while the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) manage last mile research-to-delivery. At continental level, the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services ([AFAAS](#)) coordinates implementation of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services and last mile delivery of agricultural science knowledge products. The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture ([RUFORUM](#)) at continental level, coordinates human capital development and science technology and

1

Co-organized by:





innovation activities. These institutions in partnership with the [One-CGIAR](#), the African Development Bank ([AfDB](#)) and African Union Commission ([AUC](#)) work collectively to generate solutions for underpinning the growth and impacts of Africa's agriculture sector.

The RUFORUM Annual General Meeting and related convenings of the Network are the premier meetings for Africa's Higher Agricultural Education and the international agricultural research for development community. It brings together academics, researchers and experts, policy makers, students private sector agencies and diver's stakeholders of the agricultural education ecosystem. The theme for this year's AGM is ***Transforming Higher Education to Sustainably Feed and Create Prosperity for Africa***. One of the sessions during the AGM is to unpack and socialize the Abidjan II Communique and the Action Plan. The precursor to this session will be a short-plenary involving Africa's apex AARIEI's that will among others; lay the groundwork for a strategic partnership for engagement in strengthening the design-to-generation and delivery of agri-science products and services for sustainable growth and impact of agriculture. The plenary session will among others clarify the intent to enhance:

1. Development-to-delivery of agri-science solutions by leveraging and or strengthening access to and efficient use of human, capital and intellectual resources to grow the agri-food systems ;
2. Assessment and adoption of agri-science knowledge products and services to generate value for users and grow the agricultural economy, i.e., a greater return on investment by use and the economy;
3. Demand articulation and planning for science innovations including foresight planning (medium to longer term) and analytics of macro and micro trends (short term planning); and,
4. Clarity on the investment environment for research and innovation, delivery, financing and accountability.

Collectively, this will provide a foundation for discussions on how evidence will be generated to influence agricultural investments, learning for improvement design and enhancement of operational environment enhancement. The guided discussions will last for one hour and will involve the principals of all the apex organizations, culminating in the signing of a Declaration of Commitment to engage and co-create solutions for delivery of the Abidjan II Communique and the Action Plan.

