



Engaging the Youth in the Implementation Phase of CAADP  
Transformation Agenda – Knowledge Information and Skills

FARA Regional Workshop Report





# Engaging the Youth in the Implementation Phase of CAADP Transformation Agenda – Knowledge Information and Skills

## FARA Regional Workshop Report

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## Executive summary

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The Regional Youth Workshop on “Engaging the Youth in the Implementation Phase of the CAADP Transformation Agenda – KIS” was organized by FARA to develop a strategy for engaging the youth along the strategic stages of the CAADP Agenda as CAADP evolved from the planning phase to the implementation phase. The workshop drew participants from several African countries, including Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The workshop enabled participants to engage in the following processes:

- i. Identification of key issues that a strategy for engaging the youth in the CAADP Agenda ought to address
- ii. Review of the extent to which FARA’s MTOP communicated a responsiveness to these issues
- iii. Development of strategies to address the identified issues at the country level, at the level of FARA, and at the level of YPARD

The following recommendations were generated through the workshop proceedings:

1. Issues that a youth strategy should address:
  - Poor implementation of agriculture and youth policies
  - Fragmentation of inter-related policies, namely agriculture, youth and gender policies
  - Agriculture policies not tailored to address youth capacities and perceptions in relation to the agriculture value chain
  - Poor enabling environment in relation to:
    - i. Youth access to agricultural inputs, in particular, credit and land
    - ii. The structure of educational systems in most African countries
  - Poor branding of agriculture, creating a perception of agriculture as an unattractive career option for the youth
  - Poor self-mobilisation by the youth for participation in policy development

2. Goal and objectives proposed for adoption by CAADP in relation to the youth

CAADP's goal vis-a-vis youth in agriculture: To facilitate and support dialogue among the youth, and between the youth and state/non-state actors, on African agriculture development.

Objectives proposed for adoption by CAADP regarding the youth included the following:

- **Incorporation of youth voices in CAADP processes:** To recognise the youth as major stakeholders in the CAADP process and create a platform where their voices can be heard on issues that directly concern them. Additionally, to involve the youth in the examination and review of existing policies as well as in determining and evaluating potential policy alternatives
- **Facilitating communication, advocacy and networking:** To guide the youth in communicating their challenges, ideas, and experiences and to establish a platform to bridge the gap between policy makers and the youth
- **Revitalising agriculture at the primary, secondary and higher education levels:** To incorporate agriculture development and a value chain approach in the education system from the primary level in order to promote and help develop an interest in agriculture in the youth from a young age
- **Coordination of existing agricultural programmes:** To ensure proper coordination of existing agricultural and youth programmes run by different stakeholders
- **Mentorship:** To introduce mentorship programmes to guide the youth on ways of making a living from agriculture

3. Strategies to promote youth engagement in agriculture:

- **Country-level strategies:** These are captured in a communiqué developed by participants at the end of the workshop<sup>1</sup>
- **Strategy at the level of FARA:** The workshop discussions pointed to the possibility of a FARA Youth Strategy possibly built along the following broad lines:
  - Overall Goal for FARA Youth Strategy: To enable the youth to play a key role in the KIS phase of CAADP
  - Specific objectives:
    - To catalyse country level commitment and action towards youth representation and participation in agriculture policy development
    - To strengthen capacity of the youth to self-mobilise for representation and participation in agriculture policy development process
    - To lead the re-branding of agriculture in African countries
    - To support country level efforts at developing an enabling environment for youth participation at all levels of the agriculture value chain

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1. Communiqué is attached as Annex to this report



- Strategic interventions/activities:
  - Youth-related research
  - Evidence-based policy advocacy
  - Strengthening the capacity of youth networks to engage in country and regional level agriculture policy development
- Justification of the strategy: The contextual issues and issues of the policy environment in most African countries could be developed into a Contextual Analysis, Problem Analysis and Problems Statement that would justify such a strategy

## 1.0 Background

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FARA is an umbrella organization of stakeholders in agricultural research and development in Africa. It is the apex organization for agricultural research for development in Africa. FARA has for several years been the lead institution for the implementation of the fourth pillar of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

CAADP is, at present, evolving from a ten-year planning phase into an implementation phase, themed the Knowledge, Information and Skills (KIS) phase. While the planning phase focused at the regional level, the implementation phase focuses on the country level, seeking to strengthen African countries' capacities to be proactive and forward-thinking in confronting opportunities and threats to agricultural development. CAADP implicitly included the youth as stakeholders in the framework it offered for increasing Africa's agricultural productivity, but was not explicit on the specific issues characteristic of youth in agriculture.



The specific issues which are related to youth in agriculture have however attracted increasing attention as Africa enters the implementation phase of CAADP. African countries are entering this phase against the backdrop of persistently low agricultural productivity on the one hand, and persistently high youth un-employment levels on the other. There have therefore been calls across CAADP dialogue platforms for a heightened focus on the youth within country-level processes in CAADP's implementation phase. The KIS phase of CAADP is therefore expected to give a stronger attention to the youth as actors in agricultural development in Africa.

FARA's role in agricultural development has shifted with the new phase of CAADP. While maintaining its mandate of leading agricultural research in Africa, FARA will now seek to determine the agricultural trajectory that Africa wants and how to achieve it; ensure that Africa has the human and institutional capacity to implement its agricultural ambitions; and ensure that policy-makers have access to the evidence-based information they need to create enabling policy environments, and that their constituents are well informed and support the changes. FARA has developed a new strategic plan and Medium Term Operational Plan (MTO) to reflect this focus.

In keeping with the heightened recognition on the role of youth in agriculture, FARA is also approaching its new strategic plan and MTO with a heightened emphasis on the youth, and a drive to seize the opportunity the KIS phase offers for strengthening the capacity of the youth to engage in agriculture in Africa. FARA's strategic plan and MTO already signal this emphasis, but again in broad, implicit terms.

In order to make more explicit, its focus on the youth in agriculture, and to devise specific strategies for engaging the youth in agriculture, FARA organised a workshop from May 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 on the theme, 'Regional Workshop on Engaging Youth in the Implementation Phase of the CAADP Transformation Agenda – KIS'. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a strategy for engaging the youth along the strategic stages of the CAADP Agenda.

FARA's specific objectives for the workshop were as follows:

- Identify issues of strategic importance in involving youth in CAADP policy reform and processes, as well as organisational and institutional structures and processes
- Discuss the constraints that African policymakers face in the process of engaging youth in regional agricultural development frameworks like CAADP
- Raise awareness among youth and youth organisations on the need to advocate for increased investments in agricultural research and development in Africa
- Articulate processes for up- and out-scaling successful best practice youth-in-agriculture initiatives in alignment with the emerging KIS Framework
- Discuss ways of strengthening the partnerships between youth-in-agriculture initiatives and the members of the CAADP partnership platform, and CAADP non state actors
- Identify strategies for effectively engaging youth in ongoing FARA's activities

## 2.0 Design of the workshop

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In designing the workshop, the facilitator proposed that the workshop process would be helped by first making more explicit, CAADP's implicit interest in the youth. This could be achieved by enabling participants to incorporate a few well-considered sentences or phrases within one of CAADP's implementation documents. This suggestion was agreed to by FARA. In view of the close alignment of FARA's MTOP with CAADP-KIS, it was agreed that the MTOP would be the appropriate document for this purpose.

The workshop was therefore designed to enable participants to:

- i. Identify key issues that a strategy for engaging the youth in the CAADP Agenda ought to address
- ii. Review the extent to which FARA's MTOP communicated a responsiveness to these issues
- iii. Suggest strategies for addressing the identified issues at the country level, at the level of FARA, and at the level of YPARD

In this regard, the first day of the workshop was designed to enable participants to brainstorm and achieve consensus on key issues that a strategy for engaging the youth in agriculture ought to address. The first day's process was further designed to engage participants in identifying entry points for incorporating these issues into FARA's MTOP if they were not already incorporated within it, or to heighten their emphasis if they already were.

The second day was designed to craft the above issues into specific strategies (individual actions and steps) that policy-makers needed to adopt to engage the youth in agriculture. It was further designed to define the building blocks for a strategy (a broad plan of action) that FARA could adopt to promote youth participation in agriculture, as well as the role of YPARD in this regard.

The facilitator re-framed the specific objectives defined by FARA into two broad objectives, which were intended to enable the objectives specified by FARA to be achieved. The two objectives were as follows:

- i. To define the best-fit role for the youth in the achievement of the goal of CAADP;
- ii. To propose a strategy for the consideration of African policy-makers, for preparing, equipping, and enabling the youth to play this role.

## 3.0 Day one process

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### Session 1

#### **Establishing the relevance of the regional youth workshop to Africa's present context**

The first session of the workshop comprised a welcome statement from FARA, self-introductions by participants, presentation of the workshop objectives, brief sharing of participants' expectations of the workshop, and inputs on the concept and implications of strategy development.

These introductory processes achieved two critical results. They confirmed the relevance and timeliness of the theme of the workshop vis-à-vis disturbing contextual developments in many African countries.

The introductory processes also pointed to a strong resonance between the objectives of the workshop and participants' expectations of its outcomes.

#### *a) FARA Welcome Statement presented by Dr E Tambi, Director, Advocacy & Policy*

FARA's welcome statement, presented by Dr Emmanuel Tambi, drew attention to the poor state of agricultural development in African countries, despite their huge dependence upon agriculture for economic development. Dr Tambi highlighted the small scale and rudimentary production methods still practiced in Africa, and drew attention to a huge difference in levels of rice production per hectare in Asia and in Africa.

Dr Tambi pointed to disturbing features of the agricultural industry and population trends in Africa, namely an increasingly aging farming population, a steadily decreasing number of youth engaged in farming, a large youth population, and a rising number of un-employed youth (more than 60%). He indicated that the youth constituted a large proportion of Africa's population and yet were the most unemployed within African countries.

Dr Tambi attributed this situation to weaknesses in policy and institutional frameworks in many African countries. Thus, although several youth programmes had been introduced across African countries, the majority of them had not been successful in attracting the youth to agriculture. He made special mention of the educational systems in African countries as in-conducive to youth engagement in agriculture. He invited participants to help answer the

question of how the youth can be involved in agriculture-related activities to result in greater agricultural productivity; what the key elements of a strategy to engage the youth in CAADP should be; and how to align such a strategy to FARA's MTOP.

### *b) Self-introductions and participants' expectations*

Participants' self-introductions portrayed a strong representation of YPARD as well as a number of youth-focused NGOs. Participants then discussed, in groups of three, questions they had regarding the youth in agriculture, and agreed on one burning question to share in plenary. They likewise discussed and presented the outcomes they were expecting from the workshop.

#### **Burning questions by the participants**

1. Is there a follow-up framework to monitor the commitments of government on CAADP signing in all the countries?
2. How far have countries gone in addressing the issues specifically of implementing CAADP IV in all the countries?
3. There is a need to further train youth on agribusiness programmes because most youth lack the adequate knowledge of how agribusinesses work. Also is the need to make agriculture attractive, and endeavour to engage youth's interest since most of them are in different disciplines.
4. Why do we not see agriculture as a business?
5. How can we develop collaboration of issues on agriculture and land?
6. Information sharing is a challenge because of language barriers which make it difficult for young people.
7. How do we ensure that the youth are not seen as a menace by government and that they are not used by political parties as campaign tools?
8. How to harmonise the process to ensure the implementation of existing, current and emerging youth and agricultural policies at national level?
9. What framework will FARA put in place to ensure sustainability of the country programme?
10. Using CAADP to be a multi-sectoral development tool, how could youth be effectively engaged as national CAADP Teams?

#### **Participants' expectations**

- Expect a plan to allow youth to be used to bridge the gap as communicators between research and farmers while allowing space for innovative agricultural entrepreneurs
- To share experiences from different countries
- Promote youth agriculture entrepreneurship
- Strategies to help solve the mismatch with questioning and collaborating with governments

### *c) Presentation of workshop objectives*

The facilitator presented the two workshop objectives. Participants agreed that they were an adequate reflection of their own expectations of the workshop.

## Session 2

### FARA's strategic priorities in the CAADP-KIS phase

This session comprised presentations on FARA's new strategy and MTOP, and the CAADP Country Process.

#### *a) Presentation of FARA's New Strategy and MTOP by Dr Emmanuel Tambi*

Dr Tambi, Director for Policy and Advocacy in FARA, informed participants that FARA had in recent months embarked on a process of developing a new Strategic Plan and MTOP. The new Strategic Plan and MTOP would cover the period 2014 to 2018.

Dr Tambi indicated that with the new Strategic Plan and MTOP, FARA had taken a new orientation intended to bring on board key players to transform agriculture in Africa. A critical question for FARA at this time, therefore, was how the youth could be brought on board to contribute to agriculture in Africa.

He pointed to the new phase of CAADP as well as changes in Africa's context, which made this a critical issue. In this regard, he cited the huge masses of unemployed African youth, and the large-scale entry of Chinese investors into Africa in search of markets for their products. FARA, he said, had recognised a need to re-position in order to respond to these and other developments in the context. He outlined FARA's three, new strategic priority areas as follows:

- **Determining outcomes:** With foresight, strategic analysis and partnerships to enable African agricultural stakeholders to determine how the industry should develop and plan how to get there, based on evidence and the combined strength of all stakeholders.
- **Creating capacity:** By making the different actors aware of each other's capacities and contributions, and helping them to exploit their relative collaborative advantages to mutual benefit while also strengthening their own human and institutional capacities.
- **Enabling implementation:** Through advocacy and communication to generate enabling policies and ensure that they get the stakeholder support required for their implementation.

Dr Tambi linked each of the priority areas to the youth, and indicated that FARA was seeking participants' support in defining strategies to engage the youth in envisioning the kind of agriculture that Africa wants; to develop the capacities of the youth in relation to agriculture, and to involve the youth in developing the policy environment needed to engage them in agriculture.

#### *b) Presentation of CAADP Transformation Agenda – KIS, by Dr Gbade Odularu*

Dr Gbade Odularu presented the CAADP Country Process. He established that CAADP was not a programme, but a framework; a set of principles and targets collectively defined at the Africa regional level primarily to guide country-level strategies and investment in agriculture.

A key element of the vision of CAADP was improved productivity of agriculture in Africa, to a 6% annual production growth rate. The CAADP Country Process was intended, among others,

to integrate CAADP principles and values into national systems of development planning, and to improve the quality and effectiveness of agricultural sector programmes in Africa.

FARA was positioning itself to support CAADP KIS by ensuring that country-level KIS processes benefited from the human and institutional capacities needed at country levels, advocacy and communication to provide policy makers with evidence-based information for policy-formulation and partnerships that would provide constituents with the knowledge, information and skills they needed to plan and implement CAADP interventions.

### *c) Emerging issues*

The above presentations established FARA's recognition of the youth as critical actors in agricultural production in Africa, and as stakeholders in CAADP's progress. They pointed to a need for FARA's focus on the youth to be made more visible in its strategic and operational documents.

The presentations further sparked an intense discussion on issues of concern to participants regarding engagement of the youth in agriculture. These issues became the focus of discussions and exercises that were subsequently carried out in the course of the workshop. They are captured below:

#### **CAADP accountability and enforcement mechanisms**

- With some countries still not having met their CAADP commitments, can they realistically be expected to meet additional commitments; i.e. policy-level commitments to engage the youth in agriculture?
- What is being done in respect of countries that have not moved beyond the first phase of CAADP?

#### **Poor access to information on CAADP processes**

- Youth generally have poor access to information on CAADP processes and particularly on progress on youth-related issues. What mechanism exists to provide the youth and all interested parties with information on CAADP processes?

#### **Youth perception of agriculture**

- The youth have a very poor perception of agriculture. This is understandable, in the light of the low status and poor livelihoods of many farmers. Nonetheless, the youth are interested in agriculture and would venture into the industry if an enabling environment were created.

#### **Policy issues at country levels**

- A strong need for policy-makers in the youth sector and those in the agricultural sector to harmonise their policies and interventions



- A need for policy-makers' tendency to approach the youth as a homogeneous group to be addressed as indicated below:
  - Policy-makers have tended to approach the youth as a non-homogeneous group
  - There is a need for policy-makers to disaggregate the youth along relevant categories and differentiate the strategies for engaging them
  - Policy-makers have tended to approach the youth at best as a social responsibility to be catered for, and at worst as a social menace to be curbed; rather than approaching the youth as an economic resource to be harnessed. Political groups on the other hand tend to exploit the youth, using them as tools for partisan political campaigns

### **Weak self-mobilisation by the youth**

- How well aware are leaders of African youth groups of the CAADP framework?
- Does non-clarity on the youth group currently speak for the youth in CAADP processes?
- Do African youth groups/associations have the legitimacy, credibility and mandate to represent the voice of the youth in CAADP?
- How can African youth groups, and the linkages across them, be strengthened to enable effective representation of the youth in CAADP policy dialogue processes?

## **Session 3**

### **Sharing of youth-in-agriculture country-level experiences by the participants**

Session 3 sought to enable participants to share, in sub-regional groups, their country-level experiences on youth in agriculture activities, partnerships and fund-mobilisation strategies.

In preparation for the sub-regional group sharing, participants were invited to carry out the following tasks in two mixed groups.

#### **a) *Mixed group exercise***

##### ***Group one***

*Build the agriculture value chain to show all the levels within it*

##### ***Group two***

*Discuss and present the characteristic features of the youth, i.e. youth attitudes, interests, potential and needs in relation to agriculture*

#### **b) *Plenary discussion***

In a plenary session following the above exercise, participants related the characteristics of the youth to the various elements of the agriculture value chain, and were invited to identify the

best fit role for the youth along the value chain. The presentations generated a lively discussion. Key issues raised and discussed are summarised below:

**Features of Agriculture value chain:** Participants presented the agriculture value chain as follows:

- Research and technology development
- Education and training
- Land acquisition
- Production
- Processing
- Storage and packaging
- Marketing
- Transportation
- Distribution
- Consumption
- Business valuation
- Waste management

The discussion that followed this presentation raised the following issues:

**Characteristic features of the youth:** The youth were characterised as follows:

- Passionate, energetic, visionary, innovative, creative and full of ideas
- Having a strong need for information, training, guidance, finance, markets, role models and access to land
- Having different perceptions of agriculture based on their levels of formal education; but all having a general suspicion of the benefits of agriculture
- Perceive farming as “not cool”, not profitable, for the low class
- Have little patience for long-term investment in agriculture. Want to earn high incomes in the short term

Participants noted that although the youth were generally innovative, they were not applying their innovativeness to agriculture production. They were of the opinion that the enabling environment did not exist in most African countries for the youth to apply their innovativeness to the agriculture industry.

Participants also noted that since the greater population of Africa (adult and youth) was female, issues of gender also needed to be factored into discussions on the youth and agriculture.

**Defining a best-fit role for the youth in agriculture:** In a discussion raised by the facilitator on the possibility of defining a unique role for the youth in agriculture, participants acknowledged that the youth, with their general characteristic of innovativeness and creativity, and with their natural inclination towards Social Networking through Information Technology, could have the

unique role of championing innovation, creativity and networking at each level of the value chain.

Nonetheless, since not all the youth were necessarily innovative and creative, it would not be advisable to characterise them as such and to position them as leaders of innovation and creativity in agriculture. Participants were of the view that there was not one best-fit role for the youth in agriculture.

**Youth perceptions of agriculture:** Participants pointed to different attitudes to agriculture across different categories of the youth. They nonetheless indicated that overall, there was scepticism regarding the economic viability of agriculture.

A strong case was made for role models in agriculture to be identified and given visibility. Participants indicated that the youth had few successful agriculturalists to look up to as role models. On the other hand, there were large numbers of role models within white collar professions. As such most youths aspired to white collar jobs, and not to agriculture, which was largely perceived as a blue collar job, or a job for people who had no other options. Again, the high risk and uncertainties associated with African agricultural practices had formed a disheartening picture of the industry in the eyes of the youth.

This sparked a discussion on the question of whether agricultural practices should be changed to attract the innovative, creative and modern inclinations of the youth, or whether the youth should change their perceptions of African agricultural methods to value and propagate them. Participants agreed at the end of this discussion that there was a need for the youth to value indigenous agricultural methods, but to find ways of strengthening these with modern agricultural methods. They pointed to a need for research in this area.

**Interest of youth in the various levels of the agriculture value-chain:** Participants agreed that the youth were interested in engaging at all levels of the agriculture value chain. They were of the opinion that enabling policies and infrastructure were needed at all levels of the value chain to present agriculture as an attractive, lucrative economic option for the youth.

They, however, noted that the unattractive image of the African farmer and the drudgery associated with indigenous farming methods made the production level the least attractive to the youth. Special attention was needed, therefore, to attract the youth to the production level of the value chain.

They highlighted a need for attention to be paid to the individual levels of the value chain, but more importantly, to the linkages across them, if the youth were to be attracted to agriculture.

**Policy environment required to promote engagement of youth in agriculture:** Participants discussions pointed to the need for policy reform to make provision for the following:

- Youth access to land for agriculture
- Linkage between youth issues, issues of agriculture and issues of gender

- Representation of the youth in agriculture policy-development
- Re-branding of agriculture as an attractive career option

### c) *Small group sharing of sub-regional experiences*

Participants were formed into sub-regional groups, where they shared country-level experiences on the extent to which their countries' policy-makers recognised the above issues, and their efforts, successes and challenges in addressing them. The following questions guided participants' sharing:

*What has been your country's policy response to the fundamental issue of non-attractiveness of agriculture to the youth?*

*Where are the gaps and opportunities in government policies and provision for attracting the youth to the various levels of the value-chain?*

*What are common themes and differences in your country experiences?*

### **Plenary sharing: Common features regarding policy & institutional environment in Africa**

- **Poor agriculture and youth policy-implementation:** Good agriculture policies, but poor implementation in many countries. Some progress in other countries in implementing these policies, but largely inadequate in outreach and depth
- **Fragmentation of inter-related policies,** namely agriculture, youth and gender policies
- **Agriculture policies not tailored to address youth capacities and perceptions** in relation to the agriculture value chain
- **A poor enabling environment** particularly as regards youth access to agricultural inputs and the structure and content of educational systems in most African countries
- **Poor branding of agriculture,** presenting it as an unattractive career option for the youth
- **Poor self-mobilisation by the youth** for participation in policy development

Participants were of the opinion that the fundamental factor underlying the above issues was that the youth were not adequately represented in policy-formulation processes in African countries.

The above issues constituted the essential elements that a strategy for engaging the youth in agriculture ought to address.

## **Session 4**

### **Review of FARA MTOP through youth lens**

Having established the issues that a strategy for engaging the youth in agriculture ought to address, the fourth session comprised a review of FARA's MTOP to establish the extent to which FARA's new strategic priorities addressed the issues identified.

Dr Irene Annor-Frempong, FARA’s Director of Capacity Strengthening, joined this session to provide FARA’s perspectives on these issues, and to hear participants’ view points and suggestions.

In discussing how best the MTOP could incorporate and/or give visibility to FARA’s strategic response to the above issues, the following questions emerged:

1. Should youth be situated as a cross-cutting issue in the MTOP, in much the same way as gender has been?
2. Would positioning youth as a cross-cutting issue risk a loss of a specific focus on the youth?
3. Should youth issues be situated only in a selection of FARA’s Strategic Priorities, or should they be considered an inherent component of all three strategic priority areas?
4. Since Recommendation 54 of CAADP already defines the youth as strategic stakeholders should FARA not simply focus on implementing Recommendation 54?

Participants did not arrive at a consensus on these issues. They agreed to present them as options that FARA could consider.

## Closing

The first day’s session closed with a quick gauge of participants’ experience of Day One. Participants were asked to describe, in one word, their experience of the day’s process. Their responses are summarised as engaging, enlightening, interesting, educative, exciting, and so-so.



## 4.0 Day two process

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Day two began with a quick re-cap of the first day's work.

### Session 5

#### Development of recommended strategies

Participants formed groups to carry out the above tasks, based on their interest in the topics presented in the three group tasks.

##### **Group One**

*Re-cap the challenges constraining youth participation at the various levels of the agricultural value chain*

*Cluster these challenges under FARA's five service areas*

*Suggest specific statements to incorporate under/within FARA's strategic priority areas, which will articulate FARA's responsiveness to these challenges*

##### **Group Two**

*Couch a broad goal for the youth in CAADP*

*Suggest specific objectives that CAADP should seek to achieve in relation to youth engagement in agriculture in the KIS phase*

*How should the youth themselves support the CAADP Initiative?*

##### **Group Three**

*Re-cap the challenges constraining youth participation at the various levels of the agricultural value chain*

*Suggest country-level strategies to attract and enable the youth to participate at all levels of the value chain*

#### **Key outputs from group exercise**

*a) Participants recommended that the following phrases be incorporated into the text on FARA's Strategic Priority areas:*

- **Strategic Priority 3: “Continuous research on innovative ways and means to encourage youth participation across the value chain...”**

*“Bursary and scholarships on critical agricultural careers path (biosciences and biotechnology) which further Africa’s transformation and development...”*

- **Strategy Priority 2: “Identify and incubate agri-preneurs in all aspects of agricultural value chain so as to render business development...”**

*“Providing incentives, motivation (image rebranding and awards), and youth capacity building (representation, market oriented education and reward system) to encourage collaboration amongst youth in agriculture...”*

*“Mainstreaming of youth within FARA’s procurement services e.g. 15% of budget to youth empowerment programs...”*

### *b) Participants recommendations for CAADP’s broad goal and specific objectives regarding the youth*

Participants recommended that CAADP’s broad goal regarding the youth should be to *facilitate and support dialogue among the youth and between the youth and state/non-state actors on African agriculture development.*

They further suggested that CAADP’s specific objectives regarding the youth in the KIS phase should be framed along the following lines:

**Gender sensitive capacity development of youth:** To avail training and skill-building opportunities for young people that can prepare them for active and meaningful participation in CAADP decision-making processes in the KIS phase

**Incorporation of youth voices in CAADP processes:** To recognise youth as major stakeholders in the CAADP process and create a platform where their voices can be heard on issues that directly concern them

**Linking the youth to planning and policy efforts:** To involve youth in the examination/review of existing policies as well as determining and evaluating potential policy alternatives

**Facilitating communication, advocacy and networking:** To guide youth in terms of how to communicate their challenges, ideas, and experiences and to establish a platform to bridge the gap on CAADP and agriculture information between the policy makers and the youth

**Revitalising agriculture at the primary, secondary and higher education levels:** To incorporate agriculture development and value chain approach in the education system from primary level to promote and help develop an interest in agriculture in youth from a young age

**Coordination of existing agricultural programmes:** To ensure proper coordination of existing agricultural programmes for youth run by different stakeholders (banks, training centres,

ministries, etc.) including proper communication on procedures and benefits for each scheme/initiative

**Use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs):** To encourage use of ICTs in agriculture along the value chain e.g. agricultural marketing using Social Media in order to attract more youth

**Mentorship:** To introduce mentorship programmes to guide youths on ways of making a living from agriculture. Enlist the help of successful young people involved in agriculture to work as role models

### *c) Recommended self-help initiatives by the youth*

#### **Advocacy and awareness-raising**

Make use of all available platforms and/or opportunities to advocate for the engagement of young people in agriculture – print fliers, t-shirts, wristbands, and any other promotional materials

#### **Collective action and organization**

Organised youth have a better chance of having their voices heard and accessing agriculture funds to implement projects.

Ensure that young people get involved at national and international events where they can get their voices heard.

#### **Access to market**

Youth can start transportation services using bicycles in remote areas where farmers cannot transport their products to the market

A discussion of the above recommended initiatives pointed to a strong need for the YPARD platform to be strengthened to enable the youth to self-organise towards stronger engagement in agriculture.

## **Session 6**

### **Presentations by two participants**

Space was created for two participants to make presentations on innovative agricultural and youth-related programmes.

The first presentation was made by Arthur Emile Clayton, a participant from Namibia. It was a portrayal of a highly innovative, professional and profitable agricultural programme, which he had designed. This presentation was an inspiring portrayal of the potential for agriculture to be carried out as a professional and lucrative business. The second presentation was made by



Divine Ntiokam from Cameroon, in which he invited participants to sign up to a global youth campaign.

### *Development of a communiqué*

At the end of the proceedings, participants developed a communiqué reflecting the concerns and recommendations of YPARD regarding the youth in agriculture. This is attached as an appendix.

### *Closing remarks*

Dr Irene Annor-Frempong offered closing remarks at the end of the workshop. She expressed FARA's appreciation of the rich discussions and useful recommendations. She assured participants that she would carry their communiqué to the management to ensure it would be given serious consideration in finalising FARA's Strategic Plan and MTOP.

Dr Annor-Frempong indicated a need to concretise, institutionalise and strengthen YPARD, particularly at country levels. She reiterated FARA's support to YPARD's processes, signalling FARA's intention of developing a structure that would position YPARD members as FARA fellows and professionals. She urged YPARD members to make use of the YPARD platform for mobilising the voice of the youth in agriculture policy development.

The workshop drew to a close with participants indicating that it had been an exceptionally lively and useful process.



# Annex I

## **Communiqué of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Workshop of Youth-in-Agriculture Country Representatives in Africa - Engaging Youth in the Implementation Phase of the CAADP Transformation Agenda – Knowledge, Information and Skills**

FARA Secretariat, Accra

10 May 2013

### **Introduction**

1. The 1st Annual Regional Workshop of Youth-in-Agriculture Country Representatives was held on 9–10 May, 2013 under the auspices of the Secretariat of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The Workshop included representatives from Youth-in-Agriculture organizations from various African countries.
2. The Annual Workshop is a Forum of Youth-in-Agriculture organizations and other agriculture-related initiatives to share ideas and agree on collective actions towards engaging youth in the implementation phase of the CAADP transformation agenda – Knowledge Information and Skills (KIS). This Workshop was recommended by the 2012 FARA Second Annual Dialogue of Ministers of Agriculture, Science and Technology, which emphasized the inclusion of youth in the mechanisms of integrating research, extension and education in the CAADP country process for increased agricultural productivity in Africa. Further, the 8<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform Meeting, which was held in Nairobi Kenya on 3–4 May 2012, recognised that mobilising the potentials of young Africans remains the dominant driver for achieving the CAADP objectives.
3. This Regional Workshop focused on the development of a strategy to engage youth along the implementation stages of the CAADP Agenda. Specific objectives were to:
  - Identify issues of strategic importance in involving youth in CAADP policy reform and processes, as well as organisational and institutional structures and processes
  - Discuss the constraints that African policymakers face in the process of engaging youth in regional agricultural development frameworks like CAADP
  - Raise awareness among youth and youth organizations on the need to advocate for increased investments in agricultural research and development in Africa
  - Articulate processes for up- and out-scaling successful best practice youth-in-agriculture initiatives in alignment with the emerging CAADP-KIS framework
  - Discuss ways of strengthening the partnership between youth-in-agriculture initiatives and the members of the CAADP Partnership Platform, as well as other CAADP non state actors
  - Identify strategies for effectively engaging youth in ongoing FARA activities
4. Participants at this first Annual Regional Dialogue included representatives of the Governments of Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea,

Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also in attendance were the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), the Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research and Development (YPARD) - Africa, National Federation of Young Farmers, Mali; Commercial Agricultural Youth Chamber (CAYC) - South Africa; Agropreneur – Nigeria; Haramaya University – Ethiopia; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); Crops Research Institute – Ghana; Youth for Life – Uganda; Rural Voices of Youths; Nigerian Association Of Small And Medium Enterprises (NASME); Uganda Youth Network; Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN); Forestry Research Institute Of Nigeria (FRIN); Young Farmers Development Group (YOFADG); The Earth Charter Initiative; Global Youth Coalition on HIV and AIDS; Help AIDS Orphans; Advocacy Initiative For Development; Association of Youth Council for Agricultural Development (YAAD.G)-Guinea; Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA); Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT); and FARA.

**Communiqué issued by Youth-in-Agriculture representatives at the Regional Workshop on Engaging Youth in the Implementation Phase of the CAADP Transformation Agenda – Knowledge, Information and Skills**

We, the participants attending the above workshop,

1. Reconfirm our full support for empowering and engaging youth at different levels in the implementation phase of the CAADP transformation agenda - KIS
2. Express our concerns about
  - a. The challenges faced by youth in agriculture in Africa, namely:
    - Limited information/opportunities in the agriculture value chain
    - Lack of business role models/mentors
    - Lack of specific policies on youth and agriculture
    - Under-utilisation of ICTs to address agricultural challenges
    - Limited investment in technology
    - Limited access to training and education – market orientation education
    - Lack of career guidance that exposes youth to Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)
    - Lack of funding opportunities: grants, loans, conducive financial services
    - Access to land, technical advice, selection of varieties, good agricultural practices
    - Lack of innovation at storage level: poor shelf life; losses and spoilage of agricultural produce
    - Lack of expertise, equipment, quality raw materials for agro-processing and value-addition
    - Lack of access to markets; competition from international markets; access to good roads; mode of transportation; high costs; bargaining

- Lack of market and client linkages; losses and spoilage of agricultural produce
  - Lack of business evaluation: financial models
  - Waste management issue: recycling
- b. The challenge of meaningful youth involvement in policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes
  - c. The gap between policy commitment and policy implementation when it comes to the involvement of youth in agriculture
  - d. Sustaining progress in advocating for the active engagement of youth along all the strategic nodes of agricultural value chains through FARA, YPARD Africa and other agriculture-related youth networks
3. Acknowledge
    - a. Youth are vibrant, energetic, innovative, creative and have the potential to play a significant role in the agricultural value chain that is vital to facilitate the food and nutrition security
    - b. The progress made in mainstreaming agri-youth within CAADP processes at continent level, regional and national level (CAADP recommendation 54)
    - c. The mandate of FARA as a catalyst to implement the CAADP recommendation 54 on youth development from the 8<sup>th</sup> CAADP Partnership Meeting
  4. Recognise
    - a. The potential role of YPARD in assisting the governments at national level in the development and implementation of youth and agriculture policies
    - b. The importance of education in rebranding agriculture as a competitive professional career choice
    - c. The potential role that youth can play in visioning Africa agricultural transformation through modern technologies (e.g ICTs, mechanisation, R&D)
  5. Take cognisance of the need
    - a. To involve youth in agriculture at all levels
    - b. To change the negative perception of agriculture
    - c. To make full use of ICTs and other technologies in agriculture
    - d. To introduce and/or intensify agriculture in the school curriculum from primary level
    - e. To have a cross-sectoral approach to finance agriculture in education
    - f. To raise awareness of agriculture among youth
    - g. To provide incentives to youth engaged in agriculture
    - h. To provide training and capacity development opportunities
    - i. To improve access to resources such as land, water, capital, infrastructure, etc.
    - j. For government to have a good information system, relevant practices and market-based presence in community and surrounding areas

- l. To facilitate networking among youth in agriculture through YPARD Africa and other agriculture-related youth organizations
  - m. To institutionalise youth engagement with CAADP-KIS by supporting the creation of regional and national youth coalitions in agriculture
  - n. To rebrand agriculture through traditional and new media (e.g. social media)
  - o. To re-design agricultural curricula by agricultural schools/colleges/institutions
6. Endorse:
- a. The need for youth to meet annually at a regional forum to review progresses and also share best practices

*Signed on 10 May 2013 in Accra, Ghana*

## **Annex II**

### **Broad lines of a possible FARA youth strategy**

The Regional Youth Workshop on the theme, “Engaging the Youth in the Implementation Phase of CAADP Transformation Agenda- Knowledge Information and Skills” held from 9-10 May 2013, pointed to strategies for engaging the youth in agriculture and in the CAADP agenda at individual country levels, at the level of FARA, and at the level of YPARD.

The strategies that were recommended at these three levels, though differing slightly, are all very closely related.

At the level of FARA, the workshop discussions and the recommendations that participants proposed pointed to the possibility of a FARA Youth Strategy built along the following broad lines:

#### *Overall goal*

To enable the youth play a key role in the KIS phase of CAADP

#### *Specific objectives*

- i. To catalyse country level commitment and action towards youth representation and participation in agriculture policy development
- ii. To strengthen capacity of the youth to self-mobilise for representation and participation in agriculture policy development process
- iii. To lead the re-branding of agriculture in African countries
- iv. To support country level efforts at developing an enabling environment for youth participation at all levels of the agriculture value chain

#### *Strategic interventions/activities*

- Youth-related research
- Evidence-based policy advocacy
- Strengthening the capacity of youth networks to engage in country and regional level agriculture policy development

#### *Justification of the strategy*

The presentations that were made during the workshop, specifically those on FARA and the CAADP Agenda presented data on agricultural productivity, the youth and general development in Africa. Participants’ sharing on the policy environment in their countries also raised key contextual issues.

These could be developed into a Contextual Analysis, Problem Analysis and Problems Statement to deepen, develop and refine the above suggestions into a Youth Strategy that properly harmonises with FARA's new Strategic Plan and MTOP. It would be important that the justification for a FARA Youth Strategy as proposed reflects FARA's strategic intent and on-going support to youth engagement in agriculture.

Participants, in addition, proposed certain phrases that could be incorporated into FARA's current MTOP to more strongly communicate FARA's responsiveness to the challenge of engaging the youth in agriculture in Africa. These are captured below. Here again, these suggestions would need to be further refined to harmonise with FARA's strategic intent and on-going activities in support of youth engagement in agriculture.

### **Strategy Priority 2:**

*"Identify and incubate agri-preneurs in all aspects of the agricultural value chain so as to render business development..."*

*"Providing incentives, motivation (image rebranding and awards), and youth capacity building (representation, market oriented education and reward system) to encourage collaboration amongst youth in agriculture..."*

*"Mainstreaming of youth within FARA's procurement services e.g. 15% of budget to youth empowerment programs..."*

### **Strategic Priority 3:**

*"Continuous research on innovative ways and means to encourage youth participation across the value chain..."*

*"Bursary and scholarships on critical agricultural careers path (biosciences and biotechnology) which further Africa's transformation and development..."*

## Annex III

### List of Participants

LOP - Regional Workshop on Engaging Youth in the Implementation Phase of the CAADP Transformation Agenda - KIS FARA Secretariat, Accra, Ghana 9–10 May, 2013			
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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AR&D	Agricultural Research and Development
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development
ARCN	Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria
AUC	African Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAYC	Commercial Agricultural Youth Chamber
CRI	Crop Research Institute
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DOT	Digital Opportunity Trust
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FRIN	Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plans
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NASME	Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprise
NASRO	North African Sub Regional Organisation
NFYF	National Federation of Young Farmers
SP	Strategic Plan
SRO	Sub-Regional Organization
UYN	Uganda Youth Network
YAAD.G	Association of Youth Council for Agricultural Development – Guinea
YOFADEG	Young Farmers Development Group
YPARD	Young Professionals’ Platform for Agricultural Research and Development



## About FARA

FARA is the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, the apex organization bringing together and forming coalitions of major stakeholders in agricultural research and development in Africa.

FARA is the technical arm of the African Union Commission (AUC) on rural economy and agricultural development and the lead agency of the AU's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to implement the fourth pillar of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), involving agricultural research, technology dissemination and uptake.

**FARA's vision:** reduced poverty in Africa as a result of sustainable broad-based agricultural growth and improved livelihoods, particularly of smallholder and pastoral enterprises.

**FARA's mission:** creation of broad-based improvements in agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets by supporting Africa's sub-regional organizations (SROs) in strengthening capacity for agricultural innovation.

**FARA's Value Proposition:** to provide a strategic platform to foster continental and global networking that reinforces the capacities of Africa's national agricultural research systems and sub-regional organizations.

FARA will make this contribution by achieving its *Specific Objective* of sustainable improvements to broad-based agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets.

Key to this is the delivery of five *Results*, which respond to the priorities expressed by FARA's clients. These are:

1. Establishment of appropriate institutional and organizational arrangements for regional agricultural research and development.
2. Broad-based stakeholders provided access to the knowledge and technology necessary for innovation.
3. Development of strategic decision-making options for policy, institutions and markets.
4. Development of human and institutional capacity for innovation.
5. Support provided for platforms for agricultural innovation.

FARA will deliver these results by supporting the SROs through these Networking Support Functions (NSFs):

NSF1/3. Advocacy and policy

NSF2. Access to knowledge and technologies

NSF4. Capacity strengthening

NSF5. Partnerships and strategic alliances

FARA's donors are the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Commission (EC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Syngenta Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the World Bank and the Governments of Italy and the Netherlands.



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