



# The African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)

Presentation to NI Annual Meeting

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&

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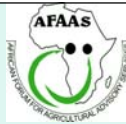


## Background

African countries face similar challenges and constraints to agricultural productivity, production - commercialisation – Market orientation

Quality of AAS provision in most African countries is unsatisfactory due to:

- technical, professional capacity and lack of networking
- inadequate knowledge and skills in participatory and practical extension approaches
- weak farmer organizations especially at grass root level
- poor application of knowledge and skills acquired
- management of programs at a decentralised and at farmer level



## African Framework for Development

- Africa's leaders provided a framework for development through the New Partnership for Development (NEPAD), under the AU
  - **NEPAD** aimed to increase agricultural output by 6% per year by 2015; increased investment in agriculture by 14%
- The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) is the NEPAD programme for agriculture
  - **CAADP** set out 4 pillars to respond to challenges of African agriculture



## CAADP Pillar IV

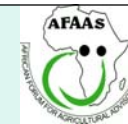
- Focuses on agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption
- Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) was developed to guide the design of interventions
- The implementation of the FAAP is led by FARA

# AFAAS Conceptualisation



- Continental strategy, important in: **professionalisation, harmonisation, reduction in duplication** and provides an opportunity for **sharing of information, resources** and **networking**
- In 2004, a networking symposium on innovations in agricultural advisory services in sub-Saharan Africa was held in Kampala Uganda
- Symposium agreed to form the **African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)**, initially named the Sub-Saharan Africa Network on Agricultural Advisory Services (SSANAAS)
- A second symposium held in September 2006 brought together more African countries

# -Contn -



- AFAAS is a not-for-profit continental body for the **promotion of efficient and effective Agricultural Advisory Services (AAS) in Africa**
- **Current membership; Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia**

# Strategic Orientation



- **Vision:** Agricultural advisory services that efficiently and effectively contribute to sustained growth and transformation of agriculture.
- **Mission:** promote lesson learning and add value to initiatives in AAS through sharing of information and increased professional interaction.
- **Goal:** Enhancement of rural livelihoods through improved provision of Agricultural Advisory Services

# AFAAS objectives



- Creation of an efficient and effective AAS network in Africa
- Facilitation of an enabling environment for commercialisation of small-holder farmers through improved policy, institutional and incentive systems
- Improving capacity of AAS practitioners and stakeholders
- Documenting and disseminating findings, best bet/ fit practices and lessons learned



## EC support



### *Next steps*

Signing sub grant agreement ,AFAAS- FARA

Establishment of the AFAAS autonomous Secretariat

Recruitment of Secretariat staff

Development of key strategies

Designing a **comprehensive** Programme- *On going , Ian to highlight*

## Main thrust for start up phase



- **Institutional capability developed**
- **Relevant agricultural advisory services strategies developed**
- **Agricultural knowledge management systems developed and operational**

## MOAAS Proposal



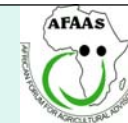
❑ **Key actors ;NI-AFAAS-FARA-RFOs:**

❑ **Instead of MOAAS, a more comprehensive strategy document encompassing all ideas in the MOAAS project and the original start up phase is being developed.**

❑ **Priority areas for MOAAS:**

- **Facilitating joint evidence-based advocacy.**
- **Pooling of competencies**
- **Platform** for facilitating information exchange and promoting coordination and alignment of actions
- **Increasing the legitimacy and hence acceptance** of findings established.
- **Improving effective collaboration**

## Key challenges



- **Delay in finalisation of EC support to AFAAS**
- **Additional support conditional to start up support**
- **Support to MOAAS conditional to development of comprehensive programme**
- **Most countries have not established the country chapters**
- **Due to financial constraints the bi annual symposium on AAS innovations was not held as agreed by members and ICC ( for 2007 & 2009)**



*Thank you*