



Second Announcement

THE 4th AFRICA-WIDE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK, 2019

Theme: “Private Sector and Agricultural Advisory Services: Synergies for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Africa”

Host: Ministry of Agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire

Date: 25th to 29th November 2019

Location : Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Venue :

The Agriculture and Animal Resources Fair site,
near the Félix Houphouët-Boigny International Airport.



1. Background:

The 4th AFAAS Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week (AAEW) will be held in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) with a focus on building synergies between Public and Private Sector Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Africa. The event will be embedded in the Agricultural and Animal Resources Fair (SARA).

The conference is contextualised within the backdrop of the growing transformative efforts at national, regional, continental and international levels to make agriculture in Africa more productive, profitable and sustainable. This transformation is expected to lead to an environmentally sustainable increase in technical and economic performance of agricultural value chains and this necessitates a paradigm and operational shift from farming for subsistence to farming as a business i.e. sustainable wealth creation and development. Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) and Private sector, amongst other actors, have key roles to play for the achievement of this transformation.

The potential added-value and mutual benefits of enhanced synergies between Private sector and AEAS are huge, and necessary for achieving sustainable agricultural development. However, in most countries in Africa, the collaboration between AEAS and private sector is still weak, erratic and more often informal, and where there is collaboration, this happens within a frameworks of projects. The 4th AAEW intends to contribute to filling this gap and explore efficient strategies and modalities for fostering and harnessing synergies between AEAS and private sector in the framework of agricultural transformation.

2. Conference Theme:

Private Sector and Agricultural Advisory Services: What Synergies for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Africa

Sub-Themes

i. Private sector-farmers synergies for post-harvest management (PHM) and value addition of agricultural products

This sub theme is aimed at deepening understanding of the roles of AEAS in creating synergies between the private sector and small-scale farmers. Focus shall be on PHM and value addition of agricultural products and business models. Participants shall show case, share experiences, lessons and build knowledge base to raise the profile of PHM and to provide good practices and practical recommendations for scaling up and out management options. It will highlight critical factors that determine technology/innovation uptake and sustainable use, with a focus on gender dimensions of technology/innovation adoption and adaptation for PHM across the continent. Additionally, participants shall create and/ or strengthen existing Community(ies) of Practice (CoPs) to facilitate evaluation of innovations, mainstreaming management practices, sharing of country/ regional lessons and scaling up of practical lessons and good practices.

ii. Professionalizing AEAS for successful rural youth and women agripreneurship

Under this sub theme, papers/posters/videos and other inputs will be shared, including practical experiences from projects/programs at the grassroots and other levels on how AEAS professionalization helps rural women and youth to be more innovative, creative and agri-business oriented. Participants shall show case, share experiences and lessons and build knowledge base on methods, approaches and tools used for successful rural youth and women agri-



preneurship and how these can be scalable, this will include; different models of youth and women agri-preneurship; comparative analysis of public private partnership cases from different countries/regions; different models of AEAS professionalization processes; challenges and opportunities in AEAS professionalization; role of public and private sectors for successful rural youth and women agri-preneurship; role of extensionist in rural youth and women agri-preneurship; enabling environment for successful rural youth and women agri-preneurship.

iii. Private sector and AEAS collaborations for Smart farming and building resilience

This sub-theme will deliberate on advances, feasibility, and necessary investments for AEAS in Africa to tap into and build capacity for emerging technologies in precision agriculture, big data, and use of auto-piloted devices and machinery and ICT in agriculture.

iv. Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services and social investments in the rural sector

This sub-theme will focus on experience sharing on social investments in agriculture and the best ways to mobilize the AEAS to improve their impacts. Expected presentations may cover one or several of the following aspects: (i) diversity, challenges, success factors and impacts of social investments in agriculture; (ii) renewal of AEAS (methods, tools, extensionist competences, etc.) to better support social investments; (iii) social investments as an opportunity to finance the AEAS; (iv) role of AEAS in capitalizing and scaling up the effects of social investments; (v) from social investments to the emergence of rural social entrepreneurs and agri-preneurs and profitable agricultural value chains that support sustainable rural employment opportunities.

v. Building efficient and sustainable partnerships between private sector and public AEAS

Fostering entrepreneurship in agriculture is now widely recognized across Africa as a lever to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development. This development is leading to stronger linkages between private sector (inputs suppliers, processors, traders/marketers of agricultural commodities, banking and micro-finance, insurance, private extension service providers etc.) and smallholders. Given their bridging role, AEAS are essential for facilitating and making these relationships more fruitful. Various countries have experimented with public AEAS approaches that involve partnerships with the private sector. In addition, there are empirical studies that document and assess the effectiveness of public-private partnerships in various contexts. This sub-theme will deliberate on experiences, lessons, and empirical evidence on building efficient and sustainable partnerships between private sector and public AEAS.

3. Organisational Information

Participants.

The key participants in the AAEW include: AEAS providers from Public and Private Sectors, Farmer Based Organisations, Farmers, fishermen/folks, Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), agricultural research and training, decision makers, development partners as well as institutions and programmes actively involved in Agricultural and Rural Development. Private sectors¹ (e.g. Telecommunications companies, agro-processors etc.) will also attend and be given space to exhibit their innovations, staff of the Ministries of Agriculture who form part of AFAAS General Assembly, and are critical for policy influence in their respective countries, while equally central for the growth of AFAAS network. Other related ministries will also be in attendance.

¹ Targeted invitations shall be sent to private actor especially in agricultural value chains. AFAAS will also liaise with Africa Agribusiness incubation Network to mobilise private sector participation.



Language: French and English will be the two languages of the event, with comprehensive translation in plenary, and also some key parallel sessions.

Input by Participants: The closing date for the call for input is on **30th September 2019**. Details can be found on the conference website: <http://afaas-aew.org/en/home-page/>. Interested professionals in Agricultural development are encouraged to send inputs (Papers, stories, videos, posters etc.). All contributions shall be channelled to : info@afaas-africa.org.

Side Events: Partners and participants are invited to organise pre and post side events. Outcomes of various pre-side events shall feed into the Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week. Organisers of the side events will be fully responsible for the organisation of their event, including registration of participants, content, equipment, and finance, but they shall benefit from synergies with AAEW activities. Detailed program will include all planned and approved side events. Please, share your side event theme/Topic with the organizers by **30th September 2019** at : info@afaas-africa.org.

Registration: Partners and participants are encouraged to register online at Africa-wide Extension Week website <http://afaas-aew.org/en/participants/>. The closing date for registration is **30th September 2019**.

Participation Fees: There will be a registration fee of **\$100** (one hundred USD only) per participant which shall be paid before or during the conference.

Organisers of side events shall pay **\$600** before or during the conference. For more details visit : <http://afaas-aew.org/en/call-for-side-event2019/>.

Exhibitors will also pay a fee amount to **\$500**. Guidelines for exhibitors are available at: <http://afaas-aew.org/en/call-for-exhibition2019/>.

Organisers: AFAAS Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire, the West and Central Africa Network of Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (RESCAR-AOC) and the National Agency for Rural Development (ANADER).

Sponsorship: This event depends largely on self-sponsorship and development organisations and institutions are strongly encouraged to support the Africa-wide Extension Week by sponsoring participants, funding activities, donating items, and including in-kind support.

Contact Persons:

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