



**African Forum
for Agricultural
Advisory Services**
Knowledge & Novelty
for Africa's Livelihoods

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AFAAS STRATEGIC SUMMARY UPDATES

FEBRUARY 2022

PREPARED BY AFAAS SECRETARIAT

BRIEF NO. ONE



 **IFAD**
Investing in rural people

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Introduction

This summary report provides a summary update for the month of February 2022. It mainly outlines key strategic activities of the period with focus to;

- i. AFAAS-AGRA follow-up partnership meeting
- ii. AFAAS-GIZ strategic partnership and potential collaboration
- iii. LEAP4FNSSA, East Africa Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement
- iv. AFAAS-SAA partnership meeting

i. Follow-up Meeting on collaboration between the AAAS and the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

The Executive Director AFAAS and his team, on 4th February 2022, paid a working visit to the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The objectives of the visit were twofold: i) follow-up on the action points of the partnership meeting that was held in December 9, 2021 at AGRA offices in Nairobi Kenya; ii) Provide updates and discuss areas of potential engagement between AGRA and AFAAS.



R-L, Mr. Max Olupot PPLS at AFAAS, Professor Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, AGRA Regional Head East Africa, Dr. Silim Nahdy, Executive Director at AFAAS, Dr. Rufaro Madakadze-SPO, Qureish Noordin – PP and Ms. Sharon Ibenu Communications and Engagement Junior Expert.

Key agreements and highlights from the meeting were;

- i. AFAAS and AGRA to develop a framework for effective extension system
- ii. AFAAS and AGRA to work together in Institutionalising and scaling out the Village Based Advisor (VBA) approach and digitalization of extension

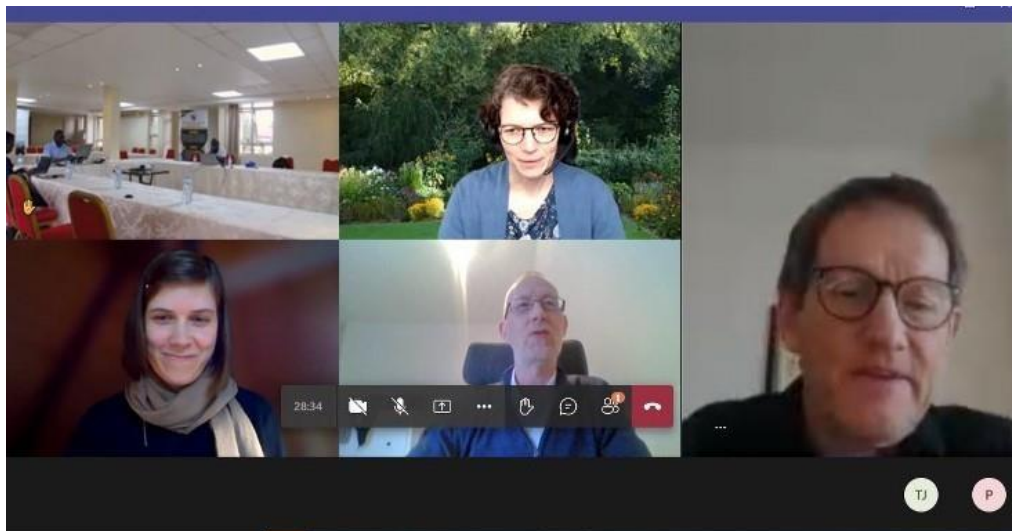


- iii. AFAAS to participate in AGRF which will be launched on 2nd of March 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. Both AFAAS and AGRA shall hold a side event on (VBA) and conduct studies on the framework for effective extension approaches.
- iv. Furthermore, AFAAS and AGRA will explore a broad collaborative framework in championing scaling up and out of technologies in Africa.

ii. **DEVELOPING AFAAS-GIZ COLLABORATION.**

Initial dialogue between AFAAS and GIZ

GIZ has designed a Global Programme on Soil Protection and rehabilitation for food security “(ProSoil). The Global programme ProSoil of EU-BMZ Co-financing Prosilience is part of the DeSIRA initiative of the EU Commission (Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture). The project “Prosilience - Enhancing soils and agroecology for resilient agri-food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa” will focus on four country packages; namely: Ethiopia/Highland, Benin, Kenya, Madagascar. It is in this context that AFAAS and GIZ are working to develop a collaborative framework. Exchanges and discussions have taken place, initially on Extension approaches on February 25, 2022. This programme, once concluded, will be complementary to the CAADPXP4 Programme.



AFAAS: Max Olupot (PPLS), Sharon Ibenu, Morris Egesa, Peter Mwangi Gitika; GFRAS: Carl Larsen, Joep Slaats; GIZ: Levke Sörensen, Andrea Bender, Tina Marie Jahn

The objective of the project is to ensure that agroecological transition process towards sustainable agri-food systems in selected partner countries is enhanced”

During the meeting, AFAAS presented the strategic overview and current projects implemented by AFAAS. The presentation was received with appreciation by GIZ team. It was then agreed that;

- i. AFAAS is the strongest network and largest Secretariat under GFRAS; 25 out of 40 Country Fora (CF) are very active at AFAAS; CF focal persons are mostly working for the government; CF as



- most important entities including universities, farming organizations etc.
- ii. AFAAS' Strategic pillar 2 “developing capacities for scaling out technologies and innovations” fits well to the foreseen Prosilience core activities.
- iii. The potential cooperation could be done complementary to other projects coordinated by AFAAS; it does not necessarily need to fit into existing programmes such as LMP but draw in synergies
- iv. AFAAS is championing pluralistic extension, the extension approaches that are subject of the potential grant are well-known by AFAAS
- v. Agricultural Extension Week 2023 in Abuja/Nigeria could be used as a platform as well
- vi. Studies are often conducted by sub-contractors depending on the required expertise (sub-grants and service contracts) and supervised at the AFAAS Secretariat
- vii. Potential Grant Agreement of up to 240.000€ be provided to AFAAS with focus on CFs in Kenya, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Benin for a period from June 2022 to the end of 2023 or June 2024

Next steps

- i. GIZ will develop a Grant Agreement directly with AFAAS Secretariat, therefore, GIZ shall start the process for a fiduciary and legal eligibility check for AFAAS. Noted was that, in case this check does not go through, then the grant for AFAAS will be managed by GFRAS;
- ii. GIZ will provide an overview per country on the extension services plus an overview on ProSoil/Prosilience partners per country;
- iii. AFAAS sent overview of the Country Fora esp., Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya and Madagascar including, the host institutions and CF Focal Points. There will be a possibility of collaborating with other organizations on ProSoil initiatives at country level;
- iv. AFAAS shall prepare documents for the fiduciary and legal eligibility check
- v. In preparation of the Grant Agreement for AFAAS, GIZ will need a concept note and budget for the following content related to: Comparative analysis of extension approaches in Benin, Ethiopia (highland), Kenya, Madagascar; and further integration of agroecological principles into extension approaches and closing the nexus between researchers, extensionists and farmers through activities
- vi. In case of options 2&3, GFRAS will send costs to administer a Grant (if fall back option needs to be drawn)
- vii. Proposal: GFRAS exchanges with AFAAS regarding grant agreements with GIZ experiences, guidelines etc.

1. Long-term EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (LEAP4FNSSA)

The Executive Director (Dr. Silim Nahdy) on the 25th February participated and represented AFAAS in the LEAP4FNSSA East Africa workshop on stakeholder engagement as a panellist. LEAP4FNSSA is an EU-funded Coordination and Support Action (CSA) under H2020. The overall aim of LEAP4FNSSA is to create a support platform for the implementation of the EU-Africa Research and Innovation partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). The aim of the Stakeholder engagement was to Identify areas for potential future work and regional cooperation on FNSSA and discuss the Future Long-term FNSSA Platform



To reach this objective, the project intends to increase the synergies and coherence among involved actors, including end-users, decision makers, R&I funders, innovators, researchers and other stakeholders. LEAP4FNSSA supports common research and innovation initiatives and programmes in FNSSA through the development of institutional alliances, enhancing joint programming, dialogue, awareness and dissemination events, brokerage and innovation workshops. Alliances are complemented by the creation of clusters of projects that support the EU-Africa research and innovation partnership in its endeavours to optimise FNSSA.

The workshop provided a platform to raise awareness of the proposed bi-continental long-term FNSSA Platform, the International Research Consortium (IRC) to researchers, decision makers, research and innovation funders and networks that focus on food and agriculture.

2. SASAKAWA AFRICA COLLABORATION: SAA PRESIDENT DR. MAKOTO PAYS A WORKING VISIT TO AFAAS SECRETARIAT

AFAAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SAA in November 2021 during the Extension week event with the intention of collaborating in a number of areas. To actualise the MoU, on 2nd March 2022, AFAAS hosted the SASAKAWA Africa (SAA) President Dr. Makoto Kitanaka and his team. AFAAS and SAA each made a presentation which formed the basis for discussions. The President thanked AFAAS for the continuous collaborations and above all successfully holding the 5th Africa Wide Agricultural Extension week 2021



As a first step, SAA President invited AFAAS to hold a side event during the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development that will be held in Tunisia in August 2022. Additionally, the two organizations also agreed to; i) Jointly conduct research and document the approaches, tools and modules implemented by SAA for potential scaling up and out, ii) AFAAS and SAA to develop and tease out a framework with strategic areas for immediate collaboration in the context of the MoU that was signed during the Agricultural Extension Week 2021 held in Kampala. The two organizations also agreed to explore working with universities in terms of approaches and capacity development including curricula reforms.