



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

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AFAAS STRATEGIC SUMMARY UPDATES

MAY 2022

PREPARED BY AFAAS SECRETARIAT

BRIEF NO. FOUR



A. Introduction

This summary report provides an update to on Strategic engagements and Country Fora (CF) activities for the month of May 2022. We are pleased that the CFs are performing generally well, and we shall Endeavor to capture and present their activities as much as is possible continuously. The areas articulated in the brief include the following;

1. Key AFAAS Secretariat level activities
 - a. CAADP-XP4 Mid-Term Review that was held in Johannesburg South Africa.
 - b. The meeting held between AFAAS and Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (MALR&RD) South Africa
 - c. SASAKAWA and AFAASS Meeting on Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)
 - d. AFAAS-Farm Radio International partnership meeting
2. Country fora updates and engagements.
 - a. CAMFAAS
 - b. MaFAAS
 - c. SAFAEAS
 - d. UFAAS

B. Summary of key activities carried out in May, 2022.

1. AFAAS Secretariat

a. CAADP-XP4 Mid-Term Review, BirtchWood Hotel, Johannesburg-South Africa



Consortium partners AFAAS, FARA, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF, under the CAADP-XP4 project held the Mid Term Review (MTR) organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at Birchwood Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 16th to 22nd May 2022.

The purpose of the MTR, was to provide an objective assessment of outputs, achievements and implementation progress toward the intended Programme objectives and goal. The MTR identified requirements for adjustment of the Programme to optimize performance and impact and make recommendations to guide implementation until

closure. The Aid Memoire was developed which provided a clear road map and guidance on CAADP XP4 Programme, highlighting achievements, lessons learnt and key recommendations, including the need for project extension period of one year. Thus, possible amendment of the current closing date along with a preliminary budget for project expenditure during the external implementation period was proposed.

b. Meeting between AFAAS and Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, South Africa



AFAAS led by the Executive Director, paid a working visit to the MALR&RD on 23rd May 2022. The team was cordially received by Mrs. Phindiwe Dingile – Chief Director of International Relations of the Ministry. She guided on the roles, functioning and prospects for collaborations. The objectives of the visit were; i) to again thank the Ministry / Department's management organising and holding a very successful Extension Week 2017 in Durban; ii) to discuss mechanisms of resuscitating and support to South African Forum for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

(SAFAEAS) and Southern Africa Regional Forum for Advisory Services (SARFAAS); ii) discuss the need for participation in extension studies, tools and development of position papers with focus to Climate change and AEAS in Africa. Action points were agreed upon and AFAAS is waiting for feedback from the Ministry.

c. AFAAS pays a working visit to SAFAEAS



SAFAEAS hosted AFAAS Secretariat, including the Executive Director, Dr Silim Nahdy, Director of Programmes, Mr Max Olupot and Capacity and Institutional Development Specialist (CIDS), Dr Samson Eshetu on 20th and 23rd May respectively. The visit aimed at appraising the CF of the mid-term review of the CAADPXP4 programme, assist with planning some continuity of SAFAEAS, help resolve institutional challenges and kick-start programming of the CF activities.

d. AFAAS-SASAKAWA Meeting on TICAD



In preparation for the TICAD meeting scheduled on 26th August 2022 in Tunisia, AFAAS, IFPRI and SAA held a meeting to discuss organisation of the SAA-IFPRI-AFAAS Side Event on Multidimensional digitally-enabled agricultural extension in Africa: Accelerating agricultural transformation in the face of global crisis. AFAAS participation was fully affirmed as one of the collaboration areas.

e. AFAAS-Farm Radio International partnership meeting.



AFAAS in partnership with Farm Radio International held a follow-up meeting on the MoU signed during the Extension Week 2021. Discussions were centred around operationalisation of the MoU, including how AFAAS can support Farm Radio International in the evaluation framework in the fourth coming study for the development of extension knowledge products. AFAAS also extended an invitation to FRI for 2023 Extension Week

which will take place in Abuja, Nigeria.



2. Country fora updates and engagements.

a. CAMFAAS brief

Reinvigorating and strengthening its Technical Working Groups.



Following the AFAAS review workshop in Nairobi in mid-April 2022, CamFAAS organized a workshop at its headquarters in Yaoundé Cameroon on May 14th 2022. The session was chaired by Dr Kakdeu Louis-Marie and the Country focal person Mr Nestor Ngouambé and facilitated by the CIKM officer Mr Bebel Nguépi. The objectives of the meeting were to; reinvigorate the technical working groups; Make follow-up on the Nairobi meeting and welcome new members to the CF. The participants were

purposely representing technical working groups as revitalizing those TWGs is crucial for the planning, implementation and monitoring of the country forum activities.

b. MaFAAS briefs

Executive Meeting and activities



MaFAAS conducted an executive meeting on 6th April to enable the CFP, CIKM and the Gender expert, who attended AFAAS review and capacity building workshop in Kenya, to present the outcomes of the Review process. The team also shared several issues and resolutions that were made during the review that required the attention of the executive committee and the board. The meeting also discussed the organisation of the 2022 MaFAAS farming and extension conference. It was discussed and agreed that it should be held from 19th to 22nd July 2022, in Lilongwe, at a venue to be decided by the Organizing

Committee.

The Executive Committee of MaFAAS commenced the pre-planning activities & formation of Organizing the Committee for the 2022 MaFAAS Farming & Extension Conference Platform. The Conference will be held in Lilongwe from 19th to 22nd July 2022 at a venue to be decided by the organizing committee depending on their resource mobilization efforts. The general invitation letter to attend the 2022 MaFAAS Farming & Extension Conference, signed by the MaFAAS board chair, was circulated to all stakeholders for update for planning and blocking the days of the conference and their itineraries.

Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources

The Extension Department of Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR) has been following up on implementation of Extension student's action research project across the country. The results show good insights on innovations in agriculture & Extension

c. SAFAEAS Brief

SAFAEAS is pleased to announce a new representative of the South African Forum for Agricultural Extension (SASAE) on the interim committee of SAFAES. The bringing on board of Mr Phumzile Garane is underway. His presence in KwaZulu Natal is strategic as its one of the three Provinces affected by April Floods resulting to loss in agricultural infrastructure. Notably, SAFAEAS is currently reaching the last mile as well as securing much-needed funds for the affected rural households, in partnership with the Provincial and Local Government Municipality.

The CF also welcomed Dr Loquitur Maka, SAFAEAS Intern, who has successfully completed her PhD studies and is now at the Cape University of Technology (CPUT). She will continue supporting the thematic areas that SAFAEAS committed to Quarter 1, especially Foresight.

Additionally, the Chairperson, Prof Simon Letsoalo represented SAFAEAS at the national Public Sector Forum for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (PSF) meeting held on 11th -12th May 2022. Prof Simon, presented on the ROMEL, as methodology that SAFAEAS learnt about while in Kenya and considered helpful to meaningfully track project progress. He made an undertaking to have SAFAEAS train PSF members on ROMEL.

d. UFAAS briefs

Implementation the SAA-AFAAS partnership at national level



The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU 2021) between SAA and AFAAS recognizes that there are common interests that justify collaboration of the two parties to address the challenges, seize opportunities and devise solutions to revamp AEAS in Africa. At national level, this is implemented by SAA country programmes and CFs, and in this case, UFAAS in Uganda. In this respect, UFAAS and SAA organized a training and a field trip to build capacity as well as dialogue on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), targeting the agricultural technical personnel and farmers within Bugiri district. The aim was to deliberate on regional CSA issues

and the current capacities of extension to deliver effective interventions, so as to inform both policy and practice with regard to CSA.

UFAAS trains Youths in Sembabule on Climate Smart Agriculture

In an effort to reach the last mile, Members of the UFAAS Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Technical Working Group (TWG), trained youth Under Vibrant Youth in Sembabule District. This was under the CAADP XP4 project that is being implemented under AFAAS, by UFAAS in Uganda



Participating in the review and drafting of the National Agricultural Extension Strategy

UFAAS is a member of the National Technical Working Group (TWG) that is reviewing the National Agricultural Extension Strategy (NAES)2016/17-2020/21) and drafting a new one. UFAAS is represented by the Chief Executive Officer, Beatrice Luzobe. The (NAES)2016/17-2020/21 was commissioned in 2016 to run for 5 years, and the mandatory 5 years came to an end in June 2021. The strategy was therefore reviewed in line with the current National Development Plan 3 (NDP III) which focuses on the agro-industrialization program with support of USAID's Feed, the Future Program. With participants from DPs, public sector and other non-state actors, the Ministry organized a one-day National Stakeholders' Dialogue to review the new Draft NAES 2021/22- 2025/26.



Dialogue to review the new Draft NAES 2021/22- 2025/26.

UFAAS-ACTED Assignment approved

On 30th May 2022, UFAAS signed a contract with ACTED, to provide consultancy services to assess the training needs on climate change adaptation in Nakasongola and Mbarara cattle corridor districts of Uganda



The activities involve; Assess training needs on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the community level and at local Authority level; Identifying existing and previous projects, knowledge and skills relating to Climate Change Activities; Developing a database of projects and actors with similar interventions in the project area; Adapt existing materials for the training program and customize the training; Work with ACTED and partners to conduct training to 120 youth, women and LG officials

UFAAS and ACTED Officials after the inception meeting



Other Meetings

The Uganda Cuniculture Association meeting with Research

The UFAAS CEO attended a meeting of Rabbit farmers with the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and



data Bank (NAGRIC& DB). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss partnership of the two bodies along the whole rabbitry value chain. UFAAS is expected to bring out the extension interests and issues within this partnership, while NAGRIC will be more committed to breeding.

Urban Agriculture meeting

UFAAS participated in the virtual consultative meeting on Urban agriculture research project organised by Makerere University. The issue of the absence of legal framework for most of the urban centres was key to the discussions. During the National Extension Symposium 2020, it was pointed out that “Much as there are rising opportunities for more people to engage in urban agriculture, apart from the Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) Ordinances of 2006, there is no substantive legal framework to guide the activity, outside Kampala. Worse still, all the relevant policy documents in agriculturere are silent on the practice. The Research is expected to come up with recommendations to address such issues, among other issues.

