



**African Forum
for Agricultural
Advisory Services**

Knowledge & Novelty
for Africa's Livelihoods

AFAAS Secretariat
House No. 26, Kigobe Road,
Minister's Village - Ntinda
P.O. BOX: 34624, Kampala, Uganda
Email : secretariat@afaas-africa.org
Tel: +256 312 313400
Fax: +256 312 202085

Workshop on Scaling Nature-Based Solutions

WORKING CONCEPT NOTE





CONCEPT NOTE- WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP THEME	Scaling Nature-Based Solutions: Energizing Growth through Targeted Approaches
Proposed dates	9 th – 13 th July 2024 (<i>Meeting dates 10th, 11th and 12th</i>)
Time	8:00 – 17:00 hrs Daily
Venue	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Budget Sources	<p>The CAADPXP4 budget lines:</p> <p>2.1.1 (iii) AFAAS Sec review continental reports on AEAS and tease out AEAS relevant elements and develop a synthesis, promote use of the CSA mapping data and information and fill the gaps of missing CSA mapping information</p> <p>2.1.2 (i) Participate in national, regional and continental workshops and conference on CSA and participate in 2024 biennial conferences and meetings of regional CSA Alliances</p> <p>3.1.3 i) Identify opportunities for taking technologies and innovations to scale with national actors in line with their NAIPS</p>
Contact persons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lilian Lihasi (PhD): llihasi@afaas-africa.org Egessa Jerry Tingle: jegessa@afaas-africa.org
Background	<p>The African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) is a Continental body that brings National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) under one umbrella. The AFAAS' goal is to enhance utilization of improved knowledge, technologies and innovations by agricultural value chain actors for improving productivity oriented towards their individual and national development objectives. AFAAS Operational Plan (OP, 2018-2022) sets three major measurable objectives that are clearly linked and support its Strategy 2018-2027. A number of projects including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme EX Pillar 4 (CAADP-XP4) have been implemented to contribute to the achievement of the AFAAS Strategy and MTOP.</p> <p>The CAADP-XP4 Project under the DeSIRA program is financed by the European Union and managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The direct beneficiaries of this action are the National Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (NAKIS) in African countries-the Country Fora (CFs) and their members. The ultimate beneficiaries are the rural poor comprising smallholder farmers, including women and youth Agripreneurship and pastoralists, as well as marginalized communities.</p> <p>Leveraging the CAADPXP4 project, several national level initiatives were mapped and partnership projects initiated on CSA and agroecology. In addition, a number of activities aimed at promoting institutionalization of policies and practices of Agroecology among national level partners have been supported, including research studies. As the project, comes to an end, sustaining this momentum among the partners, while benchmarking and capturing lessons on what has been achieved is critical. In this regard, AFAAS proposes to hold a continental multistakeholder engagement and learning event to foster a collective stakeholder response in sustaining the scaling of agroecology and CSA practices in Africa.</p>



Workshop Objectives	<p>The main objective is to develop actionable strategies and frameworks that empower AFAAS networks and partners to effectively scale up the implementation of nature-based solutions to the last mile through targeted extension approaches.</p> <p>The specific objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the theory and practice of resilient and sustainable agricultural practices in supporting agrifood systems in Africa 2. Discuss continental initiatives on CSA and Soil Health within Context of the AARIEIs (evolution from CAADP-XPIV to AARIEIs) 3. Share existing TIMPs on agroecology/CSA that are promoted by the countries- the impactful case stories, studies and lessons in institutionalising policy and practice 4. Identify opportunities and draw a collective roadmap for sustaining scaling of nature-based solutions in line with the NAIPs 5. Discuss the financial and administrative issues; and roadmap for the smooth completion of projects; including the CAADP XP4 project,
Expected Participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AFAAS Secretariat, and Select Board Members 2. Representatives from the CAADPXP4 Consortium 3. Representatives of partners from regional and national level and similar projects 4. CF Focal Persons and CIKMs in the countries
Methodology	<p>This will be a facilitated process, including both virtual and physical presence. and will use different facilitation methods, such as presentation, hands on sessions, group exercises and parallel sessions. Through collaborative discussions and practical exercises, participants will work towards creating a roadmap for ongoing support and engagement, ensuring that nature-based solutions scale to reach their full potential and have a significant positive impact.</p>
Meeting Logistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting rooms, 2. Coffee and lunch, 3. Video projector and zoom link for online participation, 4. Flipcharts, manila cards, markers and pens, 5. Training materials finalized and printed, 6. Guideline for developing case stories, 7. Reports and case studies from the various countries, 8. Facilitator and/or rapporteur
Facilitation of the meeting	<p>The overall facilitation of the meeting will be by an expert facilitator. Other co-facilitators will be co-opted to facilitate specific sessions</p>
Rapporteur	<p>Rapporteur and report writing will be coordinated by two (2) AFAAS Secretariat staff</p>
WORKSHOP SESSIONS	<p>SESSION 1: OPENING SESSION</p> <p>The session will entail welcome and opening remarks, presentation of. the workshop objectives, the agenda and key outputs of the workshop. The Chairperson of the AFAAS Board of Directors will give opening remarks while the ED will give welcome remarks. A keynote speaker will be selected to present a paper that sets the scene of the workshop.</p>

SESSION 2: PRESENTATIONS ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF AGROECOLOGY/CSA AND ITS CRITICAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

A panel of different experts and partners shall discuss their experiences on promoting Agroecology and the existing scalable innovations/practices. This will be also be based on studies that have been conducted on and the subsequent recommendations and scalable AEAS approaches

SESSION 3: THE EVOLUTION OF THE CAADP-XPIV to AARIEIs: CONSOLIDATING THE ROLE OF AFAAS IN SCALING OUT TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS

During the FARA Science and Agribusiness week in June 2023 in Durban South Africa, the three-year (2023 – 2025) Action Plan was launched. This Action Plan set out an ambitious and robust action steps for stronger synergies among Africa's Agricultural Research and Innovation Stakeholders (AARIEIS) with the One CGIAR, aimed at: (i) Providing unified and integrated systems responses to the evolving interconnected challenges facing the agri-food system in Africa, and (ii) ensuring that the CGIAR reforms are in the best interest of millions of Africa's farmers requiring new and improved climate smart agricultural; technologies and innovations, systems, institutions, and policies for advancing their agriculture. The session will aim at highlighting the opportunities and challenges in institutionalizing the AARIEIs and progress that has so far been made. A presentation will be made by the Executive Director of AFAAS and facilitated discussion will be conducted in that regard.

SESSION 4: PEER LEARNING ON EXISTING SOLUTIONS ON AGROECOLOGY/CSA PROMOTED IN THE COUNTRIES, THE IMPACTFUL CASE STORIES, STUDIES AND LESSONS IN INSTITUTIONALISING POLICY AND PRACTICE

Research studies, projects and activities have been undertaken by different stakeholders in the network to promote institutionalization of policies and practices of Agroecology/CSA within national systems. During this session, country fora and other partners shall present documented and impactful case stories from their country experiences, and lessons learned from the various projects that have been implemented. A presentation template shall be developed and shared, to enable presenters capture and present the key points

SESSION 5: MAPPING OUT OPPORTUNITIES AND A ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINING SCALING OF TIMPS ON AGROECOLOGY/CSA TO SCALE IN LINE WITH THE NAIPS

The AFAAS networks, including the country fora and its partners present a viable opportunity for scaling nature-based solutions among value chain actors. CSA mapping exercise was undertaken at the inception of the CAADPXP4 project in which many partnership initiatives promoting CSA in Africa were documented and mapped. During this session, the continental CSA map will be presented, and it is expected that the mapped initiatives will guide the identification of partners to engage in the scaling solutions on Agroecology/CSA.

SESSION 6: TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNTRY FORA AND PARTNERS FOR SEAMLESS CLOSURE PROJECTS; INCLUDING THE CAADP XP4 PROJECT

	<p>The sessions will focus on technical, financial and audit issues of the various projects. Financial discussions will focus on matters of accountability, procurement and record keeping; while the technical discussions shall focus on key pending activities and outputs that should be implemented prior to smooth closure of the project(s), based on the project lifecycle. Also to be discussed are the roles of each of the stakeholders in the project closure activities.</p> <p>SESSION 7: CLOSING SESSION</p> <p>During this session, the AFAAS team will present the key programmatic activities that should be implemented by the various stakeholders for a smooth closure of the project, based on the project lifecycle theory. This will catalyze discussions on the roles of each of the stakeholders in the project closure activities.</p>
--	--

