**CONCEPT NOTE - AIRTEA SIDE EVENT DURING THE 2022 FAO SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM**

**Title**
Strengthening Science, Innovation, and Agribusiness Linkage: Leveraging Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) for Resilient and Sustainable Food System

**Co-organizers**
FARA, ASARECA, EAFF,

**The problem**

**Background**
Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) have proven to be efficient to aligning research, extension, business, policy, agricultural production, and other stakeholders’ activities in dealing with complex sustainability challenges in the agri-food sector. Significant interdependencies and uncertainties in the food system, coupled with multiple perspectives and goals of various actors call for strengthening the capacities and relationships of these actors to address some of the challenges. More specifically, is a need to strengthen the linkages among research, extension, policy, and the private sector to improve the business climate in Africa’s ARD. Additionally, the world bank notes that income from nonfarm wage employment averages 8% in African countries, compared with 21% elsewhere. Therefore, attention should be given to providing more concerted support for enterprises with high growth potential. Given that Africa has the most youthful population with a high rate of young job seekers, support in this area is of utmost importance.

As such, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), and the East Africa Farmer Federation (EAFF), are implementing the project, Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation & Livelihoods in Eastern Africa (AIRTEA), funded by the OACPS Research and Innovation Programme that is implemented by the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS) with financial contribution from the European Union (EU). AIRTEA contributes to achieving sustainable agrarian livelihoods and rural transformation by fostering an inclusive innovation environment with three main outcomes.

1. Increased involvement of women and youth in East Africa in linking multi-stakeholder innovation platforms to practical solutions within national, regional and global food systems.
2. Technologies, knowledge and innovations taken up by the stakeholders involved in the national and regional Agricultural Business Learning Alliance platforms (ABLA).
3. Improved profitability and employment opportunities along agricultural commodity value chains.

In this regard, the AIRTEA consortium will convene a side-event during the FAO Science, Technology, and Innovation Forum for 2022 which will take place in October 2022. This concept note outlines the objectives and expected outcome of the side-event. The topic for discussion will be: *Strengthening Science, Innovation and Agribusiness Linkage: Leveraging Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) for Resilient and Sustainable Food System.*
Objectives

- To provide a platform to stakeholders in the agri-food system to discuss strategies to promote and Strengthen Science, Innovation, and Agribusiness Linkage for a Resilient and Sustainable Food System.
- To deepen understanding on the roles and responsibilities of major stakeholders and multistakeholder partnerships in harnessing Science, Innovation, and Agribusiness for a Resilient and Sustainable Food System.
- To create awareness of the AIRTEA project among relevant Stakeholders in the agrifood system
- To develop a Policy brief to advocate for the need to harness Science, Innovation, and Agribusiness for a Resilient and Sustainable Food System.

Outputs

The following outputs are expected from the conference activities and its follow-up activities;
- Improved understanding of the roles and responsibilities of major stakeholders (academia, policy makers, private sector, development partners) and multistakeholder partnerships in harnessing Science, Innovation, and Agribusiness for a Resilient and Sustainable Food System.
- Increased awareness level about the AIRTEA Project among relevant stakeholders as a prerequisite for future collaboration and partnership between the project and stakeholders.
- Policy brief on ‘Science, Innovation, and Agribusiness Linkages for a Resilient and Sustainable Food System’ developed and disseminated.

Date and Time

The Event will be held on Thursday 13th October 2022 at 10.00am – 12.00pm GMT.

Approach & activities

Implementation narrative

- The side event will be held virtually using the zoom platform on 13th October 2022.
- The side event will be held in English and French.

The zoom link for the Event I highlighted below:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://faraafrica.zoom.us/j/81577833809?pwd=YThtQUlHalJrR3NvTnFrRTFyTClJZz09
## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Time [GMT]</th>
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</table>
| Opening   | Opening courtesies /Welcome address  
Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director-FARA  
Mr. Steven Muchiri, CEO-EAFF  
Dr. Gerard Denouden, Technical Expert-OACPS  
Strengthening Science, Innovation and Agribusiness Nexus through the AIRTEA Project.  
Dr. Kwaku Antwi - AIRTEA Project Lead | Mrs. Karen Munoko - Agribusiness and Gender Expert - FARA | 10:00 - 10:20  
10:20 - 10:30 |
| Session 2 | Panel Discussion  
Panelist 1: Prof. Nelson Ojijo  
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) (AIRTEA Third Party Project Lead)  
Panelist 2: Mr. Anthony Kanyoko  
E-Granary CEO  
Panelist 3: Mr. Pera, Massimo  
FAO-RAF Agribusiness Specialist  
Panelist 4: Prof. Liz Kizito  
Uganda Christian University (AIRTEA Third Party Project Lead)  
Panelist 5: Dr. Monica M. Waiganjo  
Kenya Agriculture Livestock Research Organization  
Panelist 6: Dr. Buruchara, Robin  
Alliance Bioversity-CIAT | Mrs. Karen Munoko - Agribusiness and Gender Expert - FARA | 10:30 – 10:40  
10:40 – 10:50  
10:50 – 11:00  
11:00 – 11:10  
11:10 – 11:20 |
| Session 3 | Closing  
Plenary Session (Questions, Contributions, etc) | | 11:20 - 11:50 |
| Rapporteurs | | | |
| Mr. Robert Kubai – EAFF  
Mr. Joshua Okonya - ASARECA | Mrs. Karen Munoko - Agribusiness and Gender Expert - FARA | 11:50 – 12:00 |

### The Impact & beneficiaries

The AIRTEA side event will provide a discussion platform for all key actors in Africa agriculture to interrogate the role of MSPs toward a resilient and sustainable food system. The overall impact of the action will provide technical information and analysis to jointly define the next actions and policy development. The side event will introduce the much-needed coordination effort and linkages for researchers, extension, and private sector partners at the continental level.

The following are the expected outcome of the conference.

- Meaningful engagement with private sector partners, researchers, and extensionists.
- Enhanced awareness of the role of MSPs toward a resilient and sustainable food system.
- Development of new partnerships for technical and financial support for strengthening science, innovation, and agribusiness linkages in agricultural research and development.

### Beneficiaries

- The different actors in the agri-food sector (farmers, researchers, extensionists, private sector, consumers, etc.)
- The SROs, AFAAS, FAR, and its stakeholders
- The national agricultural research, extension, and advisory systems
- Development Agencies and organizations.
- The policy makers in Africa’s agriculture.

### Activity location

Virtual