RESOLUTION OF NARS ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN ASARECA AND ONE CGIAR

Background

The ASARECA Committee of Directors General (CDGs) held a physical consultative meeting with representatives of One CGIAR on February 24-25th 2022 in Entebbe Uganda. The overall objective of the 4th meeting of the CDG and One CGIAR was to identify and discuss critical areas and mechanisms of collaboration between ASARECA and the One CGIAR. The specific objectives of the meeting were: (i) The One CGIAR to provide the CDG and ASARECA with the latest updates on arrangements towards the roll-out of the One CGIAR; (ii) Discuss and harmonize a common position of ASARECA and One CGIAR for engagement; (iii) Discuss modalities of working within the two Africa regions (ESA and CWA); (iv) Discuss and agree on specific roles of ASARECA as a convener and coordinator within the restructured One CGIAR arrangement. The overall expected output of the meeting was a joint position on the collaborative modalities between the two institutions.

The Committee of the Directors General noted that:

Whereas the CGIARs before transformation into the One CGIAR, had a long and successful partnership with ASARECA and the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) since the 1970s, whose collaborative efforts have contributed immensely to enhancing food and nutrition security in the Eastern and Central Africa region.

Noting that the reformed CGIAR system—the One CGIAR, presents an enviable opportunity to maximize added value through a single organizational and research delivery structure.

Cognizant that ASARECA as a sub-regional organization has mastered the experience and developed structures to coordinate AR4D initiatives in member countries.

Conscious of the fact that ASARECA has strategically repositioned to perform a higher level convening, coordination, facilitative, advocacy, partnership brokerage, communicative and catalytic role to maximize economies of scale, reduce duplication and misalignment of resources in the sub-region’s AR4D, and thus improving effectiveness and efficiency.

Mindful that today’s world faces more systemic and complex challenges than ever before with unprecedented pace, scale, and interconnectedness such as climate change and its effects including higher temperatures, drought, floods and erratic rainfall.

Noting that the One CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy as well as the ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework (2019-2028) emphasize multi-stakeholder partnerships to respond to today’s complex and interlinked challenges.
Thus, the CDGs representing ASARECA NARS gathered in Entebbe, Uganda on this 25th day of February 2022, have deliberated on the benefits of working together and agree to expand and deepen partnership with One CGIAR to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Therefore, propose the following actions towards establishment of a joint engagement framework for successful partnership and collaboration with the One CGIAR:

1. Establish a Select Committee to firm up areas of collaboration and roles

ASARECA and One CGIAR need to form a Select Committee to discuss actual areas of collaboration, clarify roles and responsibilities.

2. Develop an engagement framework

Develop an engagement framework with practical and mutually agreeable working arrangements between ASARECA and One CGIAR based on the principles of:

2.1 Subsidiarity: Give responsibility and control over resourcing for agricultural research, extension and training activities at the lowest appropriate level of aggregation (local, national and regional).

2.2 Collaboration: Establish a clear mandate and clear objectives for collaboration and advocacy in the Eastern and Central Africa region.

2.3 Resources: Readiness to pool and retool resources including capacity building, mobilization and utilization of financial, human (including ASARECA NFPs) and physical resources, and add value on existing capacities.

2.4 Co-design: Re-align and develop an integrated Research and Innovation agenda in consultation with stakeholders to define a cross national collaborative operating model in support of national strategies and frameworks.

2.5 Joint planning, monitoring and evaluation: ASARECA and One CGIAR should establish a platform for joint planning, review, knowledge sharing and identifying priorities for research in-country.

2.6 Scaling: Foster multi-dimensional engagement in support of agendas and plans for research, delivery, and engagement at regional scale.

2.7 Attribution: Acknowledge each collaborator’s contribution in promoting scalable solutions toward creating transformative change within the food system, agro-industrialization and commercialization.

2.8 Communication & visibility: Harmonize mechanisms for communication and promoting visibility and advocacy for jointly implemented initiatives.

2.9 Transparency: ASARECA and One CGIAR should be equal partners in their formal engagements. For instance, in co-identification of funding mechanisms (development of concept notes and proposals), appropriation, equitable distribution and accountability of resources jointly mobilized.