



Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security



ASARECA Contribution to Member States

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Since inception in 1994, ASARECA has worked with the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of its 14 member countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Between 1994 and 2023, ASARECA has mobilised over US\$ 258 million to implement Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives in member countries. Out of these, US\$ 138 million was received directly by the Secretariat, which disbursed US\$ 101 million (73.5%) to member countries retaining US\$ 37 million (26.5%) for operational costs. The rest of the money (US\$ 120 million) was disbursed directly to select countries by Development Partners under the East Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (EAAP), an initiative that was closely coordinated by ASARECA.

South Sudan was enjoined to the ASARECA family in 2011 by the First ASARECA General Assembly. Since then, ASARECA has been working mainly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development to jointly address AR4D challenges in the country. Between 2011 and 2018, ASARECA invested US\$ 2.5 million to catalyze agricultural transformation in South Sudan through key beneficiary projects highlighted below:

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ASARECA work in the Republic of South Sudan

Up scaling adoption of NERICA rice

ASARECA supported researchers from South Sudan and Uganda to enhance productivity, value addition, and competitiveness of smallholder NERICA rice production systems in the post conflict areas of Northern Uganda and South Sudan. In South Sudan, it was promoted in Morobo and Yei counties. The project established innovation platforms for upscaling NERICA innovations through a participatory approach. The multi-stakeholder platforms comprised members from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development; Agricultural extension Department; Millers; NGOs; Farmers; Traders; Community leaders; Commissioners for Agriculture; Seed companies and Japan International Corporation Agency among others.

The project established commercial supply and distribution systems in which farmers were contracted to produce the seeds. An analysis of both seed and grain production and supply chains was conducted and priority constraints identified and addressed. A total of 1,200 value chain actors were trained on production, processing and marketing of the new technologies. Demonstration sites were established in Yei and Morobo for training potential seed growers and rice farmers on best agronomic practices. On-station upland rice trials of twenty (20) varieties including NERICA 1, 4 and 10 alongside preferred local varieties showed that NERICA flowers much earlier and yields higher than the local varieties. By the end of the project, NERICA varieties were due to be released into the national seed system.

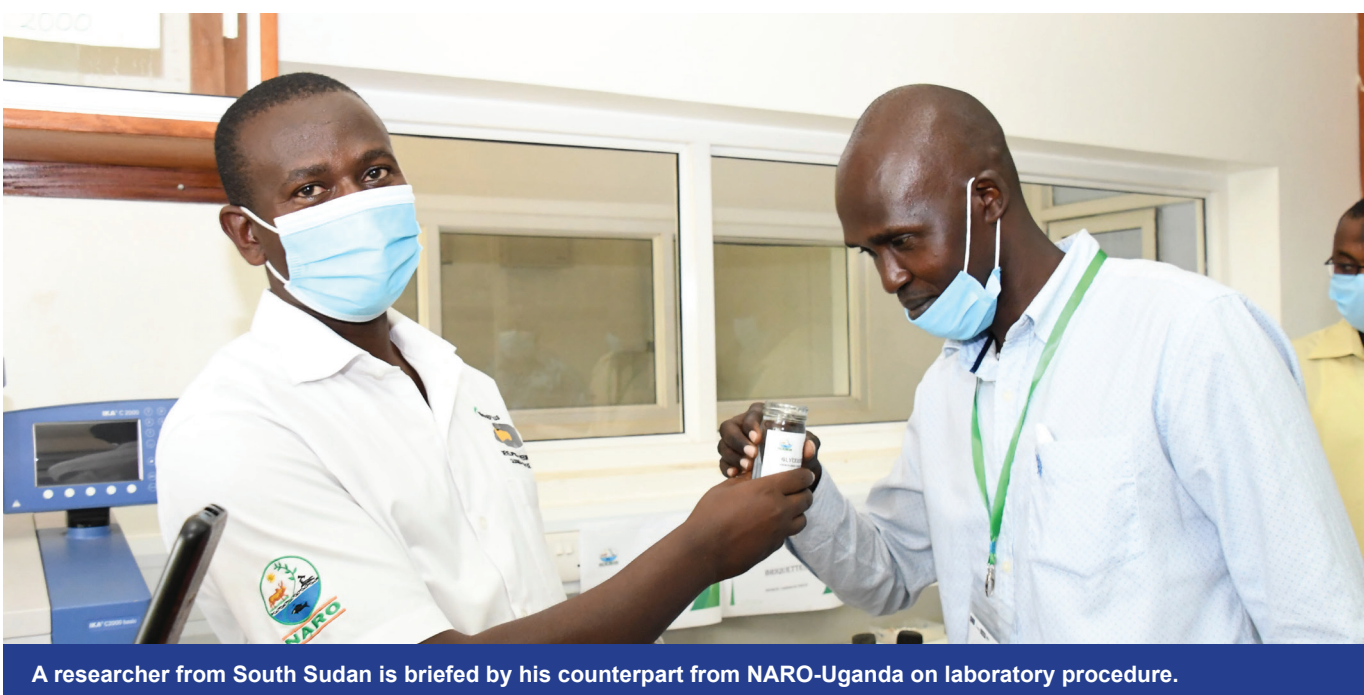
Subsequently, they were released. Farmers in Morobo produced a total of 7.6 MT of Quality Declared Seed (QDS); while those in Yei produced 3 MT. As a result of the interventions, the farmers reported increased incomes with which they paid school fees for their children; bought livestock (cows and goats), motor cycles, cars, quality seed and rice threshers among others.

Confronting Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN) Disease

Following the outbreak of the Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN) disease in the region, ASARECA supported South Sudan researchers to join their counterparts in the region to control the spread of the disease in the country. As part of this support, surveys were conducted in the major maize-growing areas of Magwi and Torit Counties in the Eastern Equatoria State; and Ikotos and Juba Counties in the Central Equatoria State, which confirmed the presence of the disease. The surveys also established disease distribution, and information on indigenous knowledge and other coping strategies that farmers were using to manage the disease. As a result, South Sudan research teams assembled and sent 12 types of maize germplasm for screening at the CIMMYT MLN facility in Naivasha, Kenya. The teams then embarked on increasing seed of selected hybrids and of open pollinated varieties with tolerance to MLN for dissemination.

Facilitating learning through benchmarking

ASARECA organized two benchmarking exercises for eight (8)



ASARECA member countries including **South Sudan**, one in October, 2021 hosted by the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Uganda; and the other in July, 2012 hosted by Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI). During the two exercises ASARECA facilitated a total of 88 researchers from the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs), farmers and selected private sector actors (43 in 2021, and 45 in 2022) to enhance their capacities in implementing climate relevant AR4D initiatives. The beneficiary countries were: Cameroon, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Sudan. They were supported to visit sister NARIs in Uganda and Tanzania to enhance their skills through peer-to-peer learning and mentorship.

These excursions facilitated collaboration and sharing of technologies and entailed a series of activities such as in-class training and visits to selected private sector and model farmers' fields on application of CSA technologies. The researchers interacted in key areas such as: (i) laboratory diagnostic tools; (ii) bio-policy and bio-safety; (iii) aflatoxin management; (iv) tissue culture, biotechnology and hydroponics; (v) bio-fortification of banana; (vi) livestock nutrition and embryo transfer; (vii) integrated pest management; (viii) marketing and private sector involvement; (ix) soil analysis; (x) crop production using CSA practices; (xi) strategies for livestock management to mitigate impacts of climate change; (xii) new approaches to farming; (xiii) application of commercialization concepts and marketing; (xiv) and choice of crop varieties for diversified agro-ecological zones.

Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (ACSAA)

ASARECA mobilised the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) of member countries to form a united front to mitigate the effects of climate change. Through this initiative, which was adopted by the Directors General of all the 14 member countries including **South Sudan**, the ASARECA Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (ACSAA) was established in August 2021 with the overall objective of bringing together all climate relevant multi-stakeholder platforms, partnerships and networks within the region to scale up CSA. All researchers from the 14 member countries are members of this alliance which has already embarked on an ambitious collaborative effort to: (i) Define a framework for institutionalizing CSA among partner institutions; (ii) act as a clearing house for exchange of CSA TIMPs; (iii) facilitate exchange of knowledge among the partners; and (iv) provide a platform for CSA partners to engage with governments and global partners on climate relevant priorities. ASARECA

secretariat has since organized five training and consultative workshops for the Alliance on application and uptake of CSA technologies and constituted them into a Community of Practice (CoP) for regular interaction.

Commercialization of CSA Technologies

ASARECA convened researchers from its 14-member NARIs; other actors from the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) including **South Sudan**; and the private sector for a dialogue to chat out sustainable pathways for commercialization and scaling up of gender responsive and climate smart agricultural technologies. During the Dialogue held in Nairobi, Kenya, in March 2022, the participants showcased the best bet climate-smart TIMPs of regional importance for commercialization and scaling. They: (i) identified over 100 technologies and innovations that are ready for commercialization; (ii) established a platform comprising private sector actors, researchers, and civil society organizations to advance the initiative; (iii) identified barriers and pathways for commercializing and scaling identified TIMPs; (iv) and identified and documented digital climate advisory capacity gaps in ECA.

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Agricultural Trade Policy Reforms

ASARECA convened the Regional Policy Dialogue on Agricultural and Trade Policy Reforms in Eastern and Central Africa for all the 14 member countries, including **South Sudan** to enhance the capacity of member states to comply with quality standards for cross border trade in agricultural inputs and commodities. The Dialogue was attended by 50 participants drawn from NARIs; Ministries of Agriculture; Ministries of Trade; National Revenue Authorities; National Bureaus of Standards; farmers' organizations; youth groups; the private sector; the African Union Commission; and the Regional Economic Communities. The participants discussed recent agriculture related policy and trade policy reforms in ECA; and mechanisms to address barriers to cross border trade. Overall, it was noted that challenges such as political instability; overlapping membership to Regional Economic blocs; uncoordinated macro-economic policies; and poor compliance to international standards cut across member states. The meeting agreed to resolve these through review and harmonization of regional trade policies and standards; adoption of harmonized certification and regulations for seed by all member states; strengthening customs administration procedures; and establishing measures to eliminate trade barriers.

Enhancing market information for cross border trade in agricultural commodities

ASARECA organized a policy dialogue with the objective to enhance market information for cross border trade in agricultural commodities in Eastern and Central Africa. The Dialogue sought to provide a platform for farmers, private sector, and other key stakeholders to engage with the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat on strategies for improving availability and access to market information to improve the resilience of farmers to climate shocks and boost cross border trade. The dialogue brought together 39 representatives of farmers; private sector; youth groups; policy makers from the Ministries of Agriculture and Trade; NARIs; regulators from the National Bureaus of Standards and National Revenue Authorities; and the East African Community. The participants were drawn from Burundi, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. They agreed to establish a Regional Market Information System in ASARECA to act as a one-stop agricultural data hub for information for cross-border traders as well as act as an agro advisory.

Building capacity for international negotiations

ASARECA organised a workshop for key climate scientists and country United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) focal points to enhance their negotiation ability in international climate change meetings. The workshop sought to: (i) consider ASARECA member states views on the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change negotiations; (ii) improve analytical skills of climate scientists, agriculture experts and UNFCCC Focal Points from ASARECA Member States on international climate decision making processes; and (iii) to provide a platform for climate scientists, agriculture experts and UNFCCC Focal Points from ASARECA member states to share their experiences and lessons learned on engagements in the UNFCCC processes. The discussions focused on: (i) the history of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The workshop was attended by 41 participants from the 12 ASARECA member countries of Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo; Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Financial Commitments by Member States

To facilitate operations at the Secretariat, fund jointly conceived priority Research for Development Projects, and indeed as a badge of ownership, the Member States earlier committed to make a one-off capitalisation payment of US\$ 100,000 and an annual membership fee of US\$ 50,000. The Business Committee of the General Assembly on February 7, 2023 approved the revision of annual fees to 100,000 to match-up the demand for the Secretariat to catalyse the creation of impact in Member States. The Business Committee also made a passionate appeal to the Member States to clear outstanding arrears currently standing at US\$ 1,819,206 as of December 2022. The Secretariat anticipates that fulfilment of these obligations is the beginning of a journey towards self-sustenance in the financing of ASARECA.

Council of Patron Ministers

The ASARECA Constitution has placed the ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers for Agriculture at the helm of the Governance of the Association to ensure close oversight, guidance and value for money for the Member States. Similarly, ASARECA is currently affiliated to COMESA, IGAD, and the EAC, through mutually agreed arrangements to serve as their technical arm. The main purpose of such an affiliation is to reinforce full ownership from Member States and mainstream their issues and priorities through the joint Meeting of Council of Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources at the COMESA level.



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