



We Did Well Because of You. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Dear AR4D colleagues,

It is again the time of the year to thank you for the support rendered to the Association. Allow me to assure you that your contribution is highly valued. As we wind up the year, I would like to acknowledge your various roles and efforts in enabling us achieve our targets for the year. Permit me therefore, to highlight a few milestones, which we wouldn't have attained without your support:

Holding of the AAMC: We successfully held the ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference (AAMC-2023) under the theme, "Building Resilient Food Systems to Feed Africa for Generations". The AAMC provided a platform for the Ministers and the General Assembly to exercise their oversight functions, including reviewing the Associations performance and propose the desired growth trajectory. Key outputs of the AAMC included important amendments to ASARECA Constitution; signing of a Joint Communique of the Council of Patron Ministers notably committing Member States to clear membership fees arrears and approving new fees; and Recommendations of the Scientific Conference aimed at improving the conduct of AR4D in the sub-region.





One-on-one meeting with Ministers: ASARECA Board Vice Chairman, Dr. Kipyego Cheluget and I held discussions with Agriculture Ministers including Kenya's Cabinet Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Hon. Mithika Linturi (Nov. 23, 2023); Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Wycliffe Musalia Mudavadi (Nov. 8, 2023); Burundi's Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Minister, H.E Ir. Prosper Dodiko (Nov. 7, 202); Rwandan Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Hon. Dr. Ildephonse Musafiri (Oct. 11, 2023); and Eritrea's Minister of Agriculture Hon. Arefaine Berhe (Sept. 21, 2023). Discussions centred around the role of ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) in facilitating ASARECA's engagement of various global actors with the National Agricultural Research Systems; the role of the CPM in facilitating ASARECA's engagement with Development Partners; the role of CPM in promoting implementation of regional priority projects; and the role of Member States in sustainable financing of ASARECA.



Development of MTOP 2: The ASARECA first Medium Term Operational Plan One (MTOP1) covering the period 2019-2023 ends this December. In this regard, therefore, we started and completed the process of developing the 2nd Medium Term Operational Plan (MTOP2) covering the period 2024-2028 by undertaking extensive consultations with key stakeholders. We believe that MTOP 2 takes into account the major changes in the agricultural transformation agenda and landscape, the achievements, challenges and lessons learnt during the implementation of MTOP1. MTOP2 articulates AR4D regional strategies, priorities and research programs as well as impact pathways for agriculture and food systems transformation; forms the basis for resource mobilization; facilitates implementation of thematic activities; and sets measurable outcomes clearly linked to ASARECA's Vision and Mission.



Refreshing ASARECA's Gender Policy: The Secretariat undertook to refresh its Gender Policy (2014-2018) to enhance integration of gender and social inclusion in its AR4D programming in the Secretariat and member NARIs. The content of the gender policy was updated with respect to emerging issues such as climate change, food systems and pandemics. The new Gender Policy 2023 will guide gender mainstreaming within the Secretariat and the NARIs.

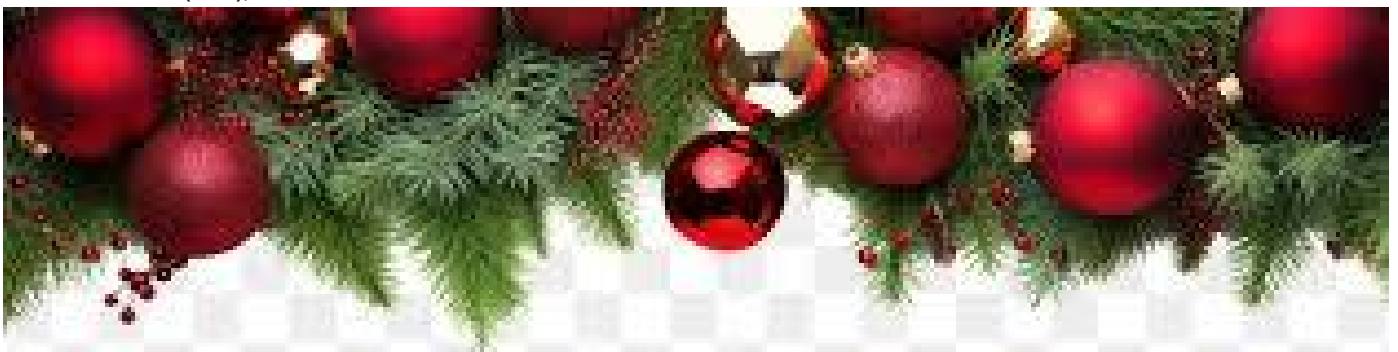
Sustainable Agriculture Dialogue in ECA: ASARECA co-organized the regional dialogue on mainstreaming sustainable agriculture practices into farming systems through promoting use of Nature Based Solutions. The Dialogue brought together a total of **71** participants including scientists, policy makers; academia, civil society, private sector, media; and farmer organizations from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Malawi, South Sudan, Switzerland and DRC. The major outputs of the dialogue included the endorsement of the agenda for Sustainable Agriculture and bio-diversity conservation by high-level policy makers; development of position paper on sustainable agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa; commitment by stakeholders to integrate sustainable agriculture into farming systems; and signing of a joint communique by ASARECA, IUCN, and MAAIF

Workshop on Aflatoxin Control: ASARECA participated in a strategic workshop on Aflatoxin prevention and control that was held in Kampala, Uganda in October 2023. The workshop, which was organized by the EAC Secretariat, sought to review progress made in aflatoxin prevention and control and design the way forward. Going forward, ASARECA will work with the EAC to track implementation of key actions aimed at reversing aflatoxin contamination including embedding capacity building for farmers and inspectors; development and dissemination of guidelines for grains including transportation and storage; and prioritizing and harmonizing guidelines and standards that are lacking.

Lastly, I wish to call upon all the ASARECA member States, development partners and stakeholders to support and collaborate with us in the implementation of this MTOP2 to deliver transformative research outcomes and contribute significantly to the accelerated inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation.

Merry Christmas

Enock Warinda (PhD), Executive Director



[The Eighth Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum](#)

February 12, 2024 - February 13, 2024

Key information: The Farmers' Forum is a bottom-up dialogue on rural development and poverty reduction between farmers' organizations, IFAD and governments. The 2024 global meeting brings together more than 80 farmers' leaders from around the world, representing millions of smallholders and rural producers who work with IFAD and partner institutions. [Read More](#)

[The 11th International Conference on Agriculture 2024](#)

Date: 19-20 September 2024

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Key Information: The 11th International Conference on Agriculture 2024, will explore the latest research, ideas, and solutions related to Agriculture. This conference is a unique opportunity to connect with leading educators, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders from around the world. [Read More](#)

AR4D Events

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