



2023: A year that marks the mid-term of our Strategic focus

New Years Message by the Chairman ASARECA Board of Directors

Dear esteemed Stakeholders,

It is an opportune time to thank the Almighty God for sailing us through to the year—2023. I would like to salute the Secretariat for adopting a proactive approach by harnessing mutual partnerships with relevant players to contribute to the agricultural transformation agenda as a means of improving livelihoods in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA). In this regard, the Secretariat during the year brought to the attention of the Board the need to harmonize activities of multiple actors including the CGIAR in the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), especially the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs).



Subsequently, the Secretariat and the Board, working closely with the Committee of Directors General (CDG) of the NARIs held a series of consultative meetings, some of them with the CGIAR leadership, to define clear modalities of engagement and coordination of the AR4D initiatives. The key outcome of these meetings was a Joint Communique, which was signed by the CDGs in ECA. The Communique will be presented to the ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) during the ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference (AAMC) in May 2023 for further action.

All Patron Ministers from the 12 ASARECA member countries ratified the ASARECA Constitution, following the inauguration of the new governance framework in May 2019. This excludes the Republic of Cameroon and the Central African Republic who joined the Association only in December and Somalia, which has expressed interest to join.

As I conclude, I would like to recognize the contribution of our key Development Partner, the European Union, for funding the CAADP-XP4 Programme and associated initiatives. In the same vein, the Board salutes IFAD for managing the Programme. In the same breath, we sincerely appreciate the complementary support from Development Partners who have financed various initiatives under MTOP-I. These include the Australian Centre for International Agricultural

Research (ACIAR), the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the World Bank, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the World Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC).

Looking forward to a healthy partnership with you all in 2023.

Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo,

New Years Message from ASARECA Executive Director

The fiscal year 2023 marks the fifth year of implementation of the ASARECA Strategy and Results Framework (A-SRF: 2019-2028) and the first Medium-Term Operational Plan (MTOPI: 2019-2023). The Secretariat undertook priority activities on resource mobilization, governance, and programme management following the implementation of seven bilateral projects.

The projects include: The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) ex-Pillar IV; Climate Smart WATER Management and Sustainable DEVELOPMENT for Food and Agriculture in East Africa (WATDEV); Information for Food and Water Security (IAWFS), Land, Soil and Crop Information Services to support Climate Smart Agriculture (LSC-IS for CSA); Virtual Irrigation Academy; Long-term Europe- Africa Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (LEAP4FNSSA); and Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge and the Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation and Livelihoods in Eastern Africa (AIRTEA).



Through these initiatives, the Secretariat was able to achieve 80% of its annual targets through initiatives that increased knowledge and skills in CSA practices among stakeholders in application of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies; facilitated sharing of CSA best practices, methodologies and practices in member countries; and enhanced the functional capacities of scientists leading increased farm productivity.

The Secretariat also implemented various activities aimed at enhancing development and adaptation of gender-responsive and CSA TIMPs that led to the transfer of TIMPs across national borders, and convening researchers and private sector players who identified 100 best-bet CSA TIMPs for scaling.

During 2023, our focus is on convening the ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference (AAMC) from May 17 to 19, 2023. The event will take place at Speke Resort, Munyonyo in Uganda. The AAMC will feature the 4th General Assembly (May 17), the 2nd Council of Patron Ministers' (CPM) Meeting (May 18), and Science Conference (May 19).

We welcome you to this important function.

AR4D Events

CGIAR is hosting a virtual event to celebrate the publication of the [Agriculture Chapter](#) of the [Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023](#). The event will showcase the recommendations of the 2023 report, present a deeper dive into the seven high-potential technologies it covers, and make the case for strengthening international collaborative action in accelerating sustainable progress in agriculture. This will also help set the context for the Breakthrough Agenda Priority Action plan to be launched by governments at COP28, which will respond to the Report's recommendations. Details: <https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/event/cgiars-agriculture-breakthrough-2023/>

Africa Agribusiness and Science Week: FARA is co-organizing the event with the CAADP XP4 partners i.e., CCARDESA, ASARECA, CORAF, AFAAS, the Government of the Republic of South Africa and in collaboration with numerous other partners including AUC, AUDA, GFAR, YPARD, PAFO, One CGIAR, FAO, AFDB, UNIDO, AFBC, Sappi, AGRA, AWARD, ICRISAT, DESIRA LIFT, PANAP, RUFORUM, Standard bank. Development Partners collaborating in this event include EC, IFAD, AfDB, AfreximBank etc. Theme: Linking Science, Innovation, and Agri-Business for Resilient Food Systems. Details: <https://aasw.faraafrica.org/>

Science and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation: Follow up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. Following the [UN Food Systems Summit](#) held in September 2021, the [UN Food Systems Coordination Hub](#), was established in early 2022 to coordinate follow-up to the summit, including facilitation of food systems transformation pathways at the country level. The 2023 follow up conference brings together members of the UNFSS Scientific Group, the Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, and the Managing Director of the CGIAR Science Group on Systems Transformation to explore scientific findings that inform food systems transformation. Date: 11th April, 2023. Eye Street, Washington DC. Details: <https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/event/science-and-innovation-for-food-systems-transformation-follow-up-to-the-2021-un-food-systems-summit/>

3rd International Scientific Conference dubbed NARO-MAK 2023: The [National Agricultural Research Organisation](#) & [Makerere University College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#) (NARO-MAK) are organizing the 3rd International Scientific Conference dubbed NARO-MAK 2023 to be held at the [Speke Resort Hotel, Munyonyo](#) in Kampala, Uganda. Date: between 14 – 16 March, 2023. Theme: Innovations for Enhancing Productivity, and Agro-Industrialization. Details: <https://naromakconference.org/>



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