

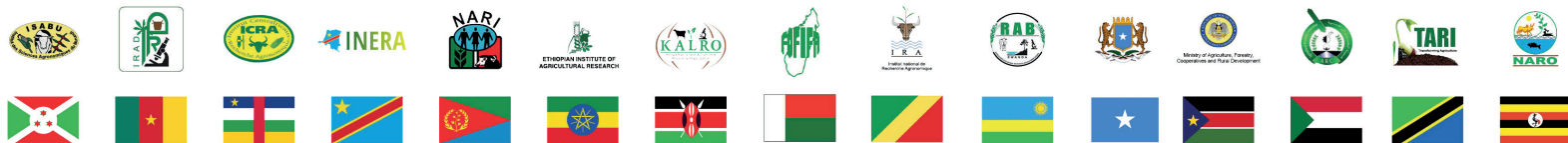


Building Resilient Food Systems Post COVID-19 Pandemic

ANNUAL CORPORATE REPORT 2022



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Contents...

- 2 | ASARECA at a Glance
- 6 | Alignment with Continental, Regional and National Institutions
- 7 | Statement by the Chairman ASARECA Board of Directors
- 9 | Statement by ASARECA Executive Director
- 11 | Implementation of A-SRF, MTOP-1 and CAADP-XP4



- 12 **Transformative Capacity Strengthening and Integration**



- 17 **Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships**



- 21 **Enabling Policy Environment, Functional Markets and Transformative Institutions**



- 25 **Agricultural Transformation Technologies and Innovations**



- 31 **Information, Communication and Knowledge Management**





ASARECA's Coverage

ASARECA at a Glance

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is a not-for-profit sub-regional organisation that brings together researchers from the National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) of the 15 member countries and other strategic development partners to generate, share and promote knowledge and innovations to solve common challenges facing agriculture in the member countries.

The member countries are: Burundi, Cameroon and Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda



ASARECA's Vision and Mission



Find out more on;

www.asareca.org

ASARECA Mandate



- ✓ The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is a not-for-profit Inter-Governmental Organisation created in 1994 and owned by the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) of 15 Member States in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA). Its overarching mandate is to **Transform Agriculture for Improved Livelihoods, Sustained Economic Growth, and Inclusive Development** in ECA in alignment with SDGs, Agenda 2063, and Malabo Targets.

ASARECA Vision



- ✓ A Transformed Eastern and Central Africa Agricultural Sector Supporting Improved Livelihoods, Sustained Economic Growth and Inclusive Development

ASARECA Mission



- ✓ To Contribute to Increased Productivity, Commercialisation and Competitiveness of the Eastern and Central Africa Agricultural Sector through Strengthening, Catalyzing and Coordination Agricultural Research for Development in the Sub-Region.

ASARECA's Thematic Areas & Outcomes

01

Transformative capacity-strengthening and integration

This thematic area focuses on strengthening and integration of various types of AR4D capacities and competencies at systemic, organisational and individual levels to support and contribute significantly to the attainment of inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation in Member States.

02

Agricultural transformation technologies and innovations

This thematic area focuses on supporting the development and adoption of technologies and innovations to address priority regional agricultural transformation challenges; development of approaches, methods, tools and pathways for enhancing uptake and utilisation of technologies, innovations and management practices; enhancing scaling up of priority integrated regional agricultural value chains; and supporting development of private sector-driven agribusinesses and entrepreneurships.

03

Enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions

The focus for this thematic area is to support and advocate for creation of enabling policy environment, establishment of functional and structured regional markets and strengthening of regional institutions.

04

Knowledge and information Management

This thematic area focuses on improving management and access to reliable and up-to date data, information and knowledge to inform agricultural transformation decision-making processes and action in the Eastern and Central Africa sub region.

Niche & Regional Priorities

Find out more on;
www.asareca.org

ASARECA is mandated by Member States to strengthen, catalyze, facilitate and coordinate regional agricultural research for development (AR4D) to improve delivery of national and regional research driven inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation and development outcomes and impact in ECA through the following initiatives: (i) enhancing sustainable livelihoods for all; (ii) supporting value addition of selected commodities; (iii) enabling smallholder farmers deal with climate change issues via climate smart agriculture; (iv) enhancing livelihoods among regional pastoral communities; (v) supporting Member States in development of Agricultural Development Plans; (vi) coordinating ASARECA Regional Agricultural Market Information System (A-RAMIS).



Alignment with Continental, Regional and National Institutions

In implementing its mandate, ASARECA is aligned to the major global, continental, regional, and national global frameworks that include the:



- ✓ **Global frameworks:** The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the SDG 2 that seeks to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030; the US Government Global Food Security Strategy (2022-2026); the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy; and programmes and projects implemented by other International Agricultural Research Centres and Advanced Research Institutes.



- ✓ **Continental frameworks:** (i) the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP); (ii) the Common Africa Agro-Parks (CAAPs) initiative; (iii) Agenda 2063 through the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (DARBE); (iv) the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme; (v) the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A); (vi) the Soil Health Initiative for Africa (SIA); and (vii) the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement.

- ✓ **Regional frameworks:** (i) Regional Agricultural Investment Plans; (ii) sanitary and phytosanitary standards; and (iii) Harmonized Regional Seed Regulations for RECs such as: The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

- ✓ **National frameworks:** (i) National Development Plans; (ii) National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans; (iii) National Agriculture Policies; (iv) National Seed policies; (v) National Adaptation Plans; and (vi) National Climate Change Policies to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation and inclusive growth.

Statement by the Chairman ASARECA Board of Directors

I would like from the onset to salute the Secretariat for recognizing the existence of several partners in the implementation of Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) interventions in the ECA sub region.

Aware of this reality, ASARECA has adopted a proactive approach by committing to harness functional and mutual partnerships with all relevant players to contribute to the agricultural transformation agenda as a means of improving livelihoods in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA).

For this reason, the Secretariat has correctly highlighted the need for coordination of activities of partners in the AR4D landscape to leverage resources and complementarities, minimize duplication and maximize economies of scale. In this regard, the Secretariat during the year brought to the attention of the Board of Directors the need to harmonise 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



Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo
Director General, Tanzania Agricultural Research
Institute (TARI)
Chairman ASARECA Board of Directors

In a very special way, the Board of Directors deeply recognizes 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.

2020, following approval by the Board. Cameroon, through Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement (IRAD) and Central African Republic through Institut Centrafricain de la Recherche Agronomique (ICRA) have since participated in ASARECA activities. They will be officially admitted to the ASARECA family by the CPM in May 2023.

The Secretariat organised four Board of Directors meetings (three Ex-Co and one full board) which approved: (i) The 2021 External Audit Report by WIA East Africa; (ii) the Executive Directors Report; (iii) the Annual Performance Report (Jan - Dec 2022); (iv) the Annual Finance Report (Jan - Dec 2021); (v) The workplan for the ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference (AAMC).

As the key oversight organ of the Association, the Board of Directors received, scrutinized and approved the Internal and External Audit reports covering human resources, financial statements, projects, and fixed assets. The audits reported a moderate risk profile, while the

Financial Year 2022 external audit by WIA East Africa gave an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of ASARECA. Management is in the process of addressing the recommendations from both internal and external audit reports.

As I conclude, I would like to re-commit that over and above having a keen eye on national programmes, ASARECA is strategically positioned to contribute to various frameworks and initiatives at continental and international levels. These include: (i) The Sustainable Development Goals—SDG #1 – end poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG #2 – zero hunger, SDG #13 – take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, and SDG #15 – sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss; (ii) the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) framework; (iii) the Common Africa Agro-Parks (CAAPs) initiative; (iv) Agenda 2063 through Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) among

others. The Board of Directors therefore continues to provide the Secretariat oversight support in pursuing partnerships associated with the commitments.

Finally, and in a very special way, the Board of Directors deeply recognizes 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).

Wishing you nice reading through our milestones.

Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo
Director General, Tanzania Agricultural
Research Institute (TARI)
Chairman ASARECA Board of Directors

Statement by ASARECA Executive Director

The fiscal year 2022 marks the fourth 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 Annual Corporate Report (2022) provides highlights of the Secretariat's performance against milestones and assorted activities articulated in the MTOPI during the year 2022.

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 in the MTOPI and bilateral projects in the following areas:

1. Transformative Capacity Strengthening and Integration: Based on jointly identified capacity gaps, the Secretariat: (i) increased knowledge and skills in CSA practices among stakeholders through training in application of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies; facilitated sharing of CSA best practices, methodologies and practices in member countries; (iii) enhanced the functional capacities of scientists through Training of Trainers (ToTs); and (iv) contributed to increased farm productivity through training of farmer groups in good agronomic practices and application of CSA technologies and practices.



Dr. Enock Warinda (PhD)
Executive Director,
ASARECA

The Secretariat received three grants worth €713,726 (WATDEV: €436,000; LSC-IS: €122,000 and IAFWS (DEAFRICA): €155,726). Other efforts included development of the EU-led Agro-ecology Program and the AUC/AU-led Soil Health Initiative Africa (SHIA) program expected to start in 2023

2. Agricultural transformation Technologies, Innovations and Management Practices (TIMPs):

The Secretariat continued to implement various activities aimed at enhancing development and adaptation of gender-responsive and CSA TIMPs. Implementation of assorted activities led to the delivery of the following results: (i) Signing of a joint communique by the NARI DGs articulating modalities of engagement between the NARS and the One CGIAR; (ii) facilitating transfer of TIMPs across national borders; and (iii) convening researchers and private sector players who identified 100 best-bet CSA TIMPs for scaling.

3. Enabling Policy Environment for Functional Markets and transformative Institutions:

The Secretariat coordinated assorted policy interventions that resulted into: (i) Analysis of barriers to cross border trade; (ii) commitment to setting up a regional market information system; (iii) development of an action plan for integration of gender in CSA activities and policies; (iv) ensuring coherence and

effectiveness of public policy through coordinated policy dialogues; and (v) identification of climate relevant policy reforms for successful delivery of National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs).

4. Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Learning:

The Secretariat together with other CAADP-XP4 consortium members facilitated the CAADP-XP4 MTR Mid-Term Review, which identified actions for improvement and subsequently implemented the actions including: (i) revising targets for selected indicators; (ii) introducing gender indicators, (iii) securing a no cost extension for the CAADP-XP4 program; and (iv) proposed budget re-allocations, which were submitted to IFAD for approval.

5. Knowledge Management:

The Secretariat promoted interventions aimed at enhancing Knowledge Management and Communication for advocacy and decision support through development of dynamic and functional digital databases,

identifying and deploying system models and support tools, creating functional platforms for knowledge sharing, deploying cutting edge digital solutions.

6. Resource Mobilization:

The Secretariat received three grants worth €713,726 (WATDEV: €436,000; LSC-IS: €122,000 and IAFWS (DE-AFRICA): €155,726). Other efforts included development of the EU-led Agro-ecology Program and the AUC/AUD-led Soil Health Initiative Africa (SHIA) program) expected to start in 2023, development of five funding proposals and two concept notes that were submitted to various development partners. The Executive Director and the Board Chairman visited and held talks with the Ministers of Agriculture of Eritrea and Madagascar on sustainable financing of the Association. They also advanced arrangements to visit with the Ministers of Agriculture of Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi.

Welcome to read from us.

Dr. Enock Warinda (PhD)
Executive Director,
ASARECA

Implementation of A-SRF, MTOP-1 and CAADP-XP4



The ASARECA General Assembly in 2019 endorsed the A-SRF and the MTOP 1, both constituted by four thematic investment areas, namely: (i) Transformative capacity-strengthening and integration; (ii) Agricultural transformation technologies and innovations; (iii) Enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions; and (iv) Knowledge and Information Management. During the year 2022, ASARECA implemented the A-SRF and MTOP-1 through core support from member countries and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development (CAADP Ex-Pillar IV) Programme, a flagship initiative funded by the European Union through IFAD. Besides, the MTOP-I also received a significant boost through a range of initiatives. These include:

- ✔ Information for Agriculture, Food and Water Security (IAFWS) Project (DE Africa), financed by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).
- ✔ Climate Smart WATER Management and Sustainable DEVELOPMENT for Food and Agriculture in East Africa (WATDEV) Project, financed by the European Union (EU) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).
- ✔ Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project, financed by the World Bank.
- ✔ Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive rural Transformation and Livelihoods in Eastern Africa (AIRTEA) project, funded by the EU.
- ✔ Boosting Climate Smart Agriculture in East Africa with FAIR Land, Soil and Crop Information Services (LSC-IS) Project, funded by the DeSIRA partnership for Innovation, the EU, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and ISRIC.
- ✔ The Virtual Irrigation Academy Project, funded by ACIAR.

During this reporting period, the overall implementation of the approved Work Plan was rated at 74% against the annual targets. The corporate Report 2022 highlights the achievements in implementing MTOP-I through the four ASARECA thematic areas and identified cross cutting out puts as elucidated in the subsequent sections.



01



Transformative Capacity Strengthening and Integration

ASARECA implemented capacity strengthening initiatives for selected sub-regional and national AR4D organisations to perform mandates based on the identified capacity gaps in the capacity-strengthening plan. The following are highlights of achievements:

Participants during the benchmarking exercise in Arusha, Tanzania.



Scientists, farmers and private sector actors at the benchmarking exercise in Arusha, Tanzania.

Benchmarking exercise

The Secretariat undertook to train 48 stakeholders in application of CSA technologies thereby increasing their knowledge and skills in CSA practices through the Benchmarking exercise for ASARECA member countries.

The exercise was held from July 4-8, 2022 and hosted by Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI). Attended by 48 scientists, farmers and private sector actors drawn from 14 member countries, the activity aimed at enhancing the skills of scientists and farmers through peer-to-peer learning. The exercise promoted knowledge sharing and exchange of innovations and technologies.

Specifically, the exercise aimed to: (i) increase visibility of CAADP-XP4 project among regional and country-level partners; (ii) strengthen the capacity of stakeholders in ASARECA member

countries in implementing climate relevant Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives; (iii) review the ASARECA Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (ACSAA) implementation progress; (iv) document success stories arising from the previous benchmarking exercise held in 2021 at the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Uganda; and (v) facilitate knowledge and information sharing among scientists in ASARECA member countries.

It entailed a series of practical activities such as: (i) In-class training of stakeholders on the basic concepts in application and scaling up of CSA technologies, (ii) field

visits to TARI and model farmer sites, and (iii) peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing. Key focus areas included: (i) soil analysis, (ii) crop production using CSA technologies and practices, and (iii) artificial insemination. It also included key theoretical aspects such as: (i) delineating what CSA is, (ii) overview of CSA approaches, (iii) new approaches needed to change the way farming is done, (iv) strategies that farmers can employ for livestock management to mitigate against impacts of climate change, (v) application of commercialisation and marketing concepts, and (vi) choice of crop varieties for diversified agro-ecological zones.



Participants at the Training of Trainers workshop on Tropical Agriculture Platform Common Framework.

Developing capacity of NARIs to implement Agricultural Innovation Systems approach

ASARECA in collaboration with FAO facilitated two Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops to support the integration of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Common Framework (CF) into ASARECA member NARIs and farmer organisations.

The training held in March and July 2021 and attended by 50 participants was funded by the European Union under the CAADP-XP4 Project. The selected cohort of trainers, who have now been constituted into a database of trainers, included researchers, directors of research, private sector actors, and farmer organisations in Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Kenya. Specifically, ToTs received knowledge on Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) concepts, identification of

innovations and challenges in implementing AIS, value addition, making fertilisers and pesticides using locally available materials, and value chain dynamics. Subsequently, the participants developed action plans for promoting functional capacity development at their workstations.

A number of beneficiaries have since reported progress in implementing their action plans back home. Through this action, ASARECA and the NARIs have built a common pool of experts in the NARS who are now enhancing the utilization of AIS

tools and approaches among researchers and farmer organisations. ASARECA is tracking progress through the Capacity Development Community of Practice, which was formed to serve as a platform for coordination. Following the training, a number of farmers have been reported to have adopted the TAP principles in running their activities. Some farmers have started producing organic fertilisers and pesticides, which they sell to fellow farmers for extra income. Others have ventured into making yoghurt locally.

SUCCESS STORY

Mrs. Kishiro speaks of the benefits of ASARECA training

Born on the slopes of Mountain Elgon in Uganda, Mrs. Olivia Kishero started growing coffee as a child in 1990. In July 2022, ASARECA, with financing from the CAADP-XP4 Project, invited Mrs. Kishero for a benchmarking exercise in Arusha, Tanzania.

During the exercise which brought together Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) researchers, farmers and the private sector from Eastern and Central Africa, Olivia alongside her peers, participated in a workshop on CSA-based farming where they were introduced to some key CSA farming elements. In order to demonstrate some of the key aspects learnt in the workshop, participants were taken for a field excursion where they interacted with Tanzanian farmers who practice CSA innovations. Some of the critical areas that they interacted in included: Suitable post-harvest handling and storage; use of trenches and water basins; good plant spacing; and best nursery management. Through this training, Mrs. Kishero was able to leverage a mix of her own experience, theory from the workshop, and acquired knowledge to improve her work back at home.

She subsequently organised training for farmer leaders in her district in conjunction with Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA). Today, she is seen as a model farmer. UCDA selected her to supply seedlings to other farmers, which has tremendously



Mrs. Olivia Kishero from Uganda put into use what she learnt from the benchmarking exercise in Arusha, Tanzania.

boosted her revenue. “UCDA is now buying coffee seedling from me at quite a good price,” she says. “One time they bought 10 tonnes of seedlings in one season and that was a huge boost.” To date, Mrs. Kishero earns up to UGX 50million (about USD 13,700) a year. “I can say I am able to meet all my key needs, especially educating my children,” she asserts. Mrs. Kishero is one of the farmers whom ASARECA has reached out to through capacity-strengthening initiatives under the CAADP-XP4 Programme financed by the European Union through IFAD.

SUCCESS STORY

Ugandan youth group takes TAP innovations to local communities

Upon returning to his home country—Uganda, Allan Ahimbisibwe, a beneficiary of the training and the Vice Chairperson of the Capacity Development Community of Practice, incorporated lessons learnt in the ToT into training modules for farmers under Spark Africa Youth Initiatives, where he is the Chief Executive Officer.

Spark Africa is a youth-led Agribusiness Company in Wakiso, near Kampala, that empowers farmers to access agricultural information and professional services. During the training, participants developed action plans for promoting functional capacity development at their workstations. A number of beneficiaries have since reported progress in implementing their action plans back home.

Some of the activities that Spark is involved in include seed processing, making organic fertilisers and insecticides, farm planning and design, soil sampling and testing, farm management and supervision, smart backyard gardening, rabbit cage set up, livestock and greenhouse set up. Mr. Ahimbisibwe conducted a ToT of 30 youth farmer leaders in urban vegetable farming, making

organic fertilisers, and pesticides in August 2022. The training focused on using materials such as animal urine, plant leaves, charcoal dust, wood ash, chili, onions, eggshells, and garlic to make organic fertilisers.

In addition, farmers were taken through a systematic process of making yoghurt. This was meant to help them take care of the nutritional needs of their children and family members. The TAP innovation is a modest contribution to the company, which has since 2017 trained over 10,000 farmers mainly youth and women in climate-smart agricultural practices in Uganda. Through these efforts, 100 urban organic gardens have been set up for farmers in their homes so far.



Some of the initiatives promoted by Spark include seed processing, smart backyard gardening and rabbit cage set up.



02 Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

ASARECA recognizes that there are several partners involved in the implementation of AR4D interventions in the ECA sub region. The emergence of other stakeholders such as the One CGIAR requires clear modalities of engagement and coordination of the AR4D initiatives. Aware of this, the Secretariat coordinated several strategic activities aimed at enhancing inclusive stakeholder engagement, and to develop partnerships and networks amongst different stakeholders. This section highlights some of the achievements in harnessing multi-stakeholder partners and associated benefits.

ASARECA Board of Directors during a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.



Discussions on leveraging partnership with the One CGIAR

ASARECA organised a meeting for the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and the One CGIAR February 24-25, 2022 in Entebbe, Uganda to identify and discuss critical areas and mechanisms of collaboration between ASARECA and One CGIAR.

Specifically, the meeting aimed to: (i) Receive updates from the One CGIAR on arrangements towards the roll-out of the One CGIAR; (ii) discuss and harmonise a common position for engagement by ASARECA, the NARS and the One CGIAR; (iii) discuss modalities of working within the CGIARs' in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and the Central and Western Africa (CWA) regions; and (iv) agree on specific roles of ASARECA as a convener and coordinator within the restructured One CGIAR arrangement. The key output from this meeting was a draft resolution by the NARs outlining a common position on the collaborative modalities between the two institutions.

Subsequently, ASARECA was invited to participate during the High Level Sub-Saharan CGIAR and National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) meeting on Genetic Innovation to in Nairobi Kenya on June 27-28, 2022. The meeting was meant to strengthen the collaboration between the CGIAR, SROs and the NARES.



Some of the members of the ASARECA Committee of Directors General in Arusha, Tanzania.

The key output of this meeting was a joint Communique among the SROs, the CGIAR and the NARES.

Thereafter, the Secretariat held a consultative and planning meeting with the Committee of the NARI Directors General (CDG) to further discuss draft resolutions on engagement with One CGIAR on October 18-19, 2022 in Arusha, Tanzania. The key outcome of this meeting was a Joint Communique, which was signed by the CDGs. The Secretariat is

expected submit the Joint Communique to the ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) during the upcoming ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference in May 2023 for further action. The meeting also explored strategies for mobilizing resources to support the Secretariat's efforts in the agricultural transformation agenda in the ECA. These included: (i) timely remittance of annual subscription fees by the countries; (ii) payment of the one-off contributions, and (iii) joint development of research projects.

Engagement with Continental, Regional Institutions

ASARECA strengthened its partnership with AUC/AUDA through signing of an MOU, and continued to work together with COMESA, as its technical arm.

ASARECA also continued to participate in the sub-regional mutual accountability processes, especially the Joint Sector Review (JSR) of the East African Community, and attended as the Continental Critical Analysis for the CAADP Biennial Review in Cameroon. The table below shows some of the key partnerships built during the year.

Key partnerships initiated at the Secretariat

Institution	Major areas of Collaboration	Status
Using Digital Information to Improve Water, Agriculture, Food Security (IAFWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Raise awareness about the DE-AFRICA EO data, and information services. ■ Undertake joint stakeholder consultations in the target countries to identify users of DE-AFRICA EO information services and tools ■ Undertake joint deep dive consultations with a few selected stakeholders to further refine priority areas and develop solutions tailored to the needs of the stakeholders. ■ Promote development and strengthening of individual and institutional capacity of both parties and partners 	On-going
Africa Union's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC-DREA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sharing technical expertise to increase agricultural productivity, food security and economic transformation in Africa. ■ Coordinating knowledge management and information sharing, establishment of innovation platforms, use of disruptive technologies, management of big data, foresight, and trend analyses. ■ Facilitate effective coordination of implementation and delivery of set goals as outlined in the African Union Malabo Business Plan on Agriculture Transformation. 	On-going
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Setting up agricultural adaptation frameworks to facilitate implementation of CSA programs. ■ Collaboration to promote direct access to Green Climate Fund (GCF) for CSA Programs/Projects. ■ Supporting NARI institutions in the Green Climate Fund accreditation process. 	On-going
African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collaborate in implementation of Gender Responsive Agricultural Research and Development (GRARD) in the ECA sub region. ■ Facilitate targeted gender capacity building initiatives among ASARECA member countries. ■ Facilitate ASARECA stakeholders to participate in the AWARD capacity building, leadership, and mentoring fellowships. 	Initiated

Institution	Major areas of Collaboration	Status
African Breeding Initiative (ABI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate effective coordination of the implementation of regional breeding programs for improved food security. Form strategic partnerships in mobilizing resources and implementing AR4D priority areas on crop and livestock breeding programs. Jointly implement AR4D priority areas within the ECA sub-region. Provide a framework to support the deployment of breeding support services and technologies. 	Initiated
One CGIAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish joint research programs and development programs on key themes of common concern and interest. Jointly implement AR4D priority areas within the ECA sub-region. Facilitate effective coordination and implementation of regional AR4D programs for improved food security. 	Initiated
Inter-governmental Agency for Development (IGAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate effective coordination of implementation and delivery of agreed set of goals outlined in the African Union Malabo Business Plan on Agriculture Transformation. Form strategic partnerships in implementation of AR4D priority areas. 	Pending
East African Community (EAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate effective coordination of implementation and delivery of agreed set of goals, outlined in the African Union Malabo business plan on agriculture transformation. Form strategic partnerships in implementation of AR4D priority areas. 	Pending
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration in scientific research and development, knowledge exchange, capacity and institutional building in agricultural research and development of ECA sub-region. 	Pending
Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horticulture, mushroom technology & technology transfer. 	Pending
AGRINATURA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft is available waiting for review and signature. 	Pending
AKADEMIYA2063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analytics and capacity strengthening for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation in the ECA. 	Pending
ICRAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agro-forestry and natural resources management. 	Pending
CIRAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-creation of joint proposals. 	Pending
Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-creation of joint proposals. 	Pending
ICRISAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reactivation of regional crop networks (Sorghum and Millet) in East Africa. 	Pending
Seed Sector Group (SSG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the seed systems in ECA for increased productivity and enhanced food security 	On-going



03

Enabling Policy Environment, Functional Markets and Transformative Institutions

The Secretariat ASARECA enhanced the capacities of national and regional stakeholders in uptake of climate information products and services, CSA gender policy formulation, analysis, and advocacy; as well as in strengthening national policies and institutional arrangements for cross border trade and market access. In this regard, the Secretariat implemented the following initiatives:

Stakeholders engage during ASARECA convened policy dialogue.

Training on application of climate foresight data in enhancing agricultural policy implementation and decision-making in Eastern and Central Africa

In a bid to ensure transformative regional institutions and institutional arrangements, the Secretariat in collaboration with selected member countries continued to facilitate transformative regional institutions and institutional arrangements. The Secretariat organised a training course on application of climate foresight data in enhancing agricultural policy implementation and decision-making in ECA in Nairobi, Kenya on June 23, 24, 2022. The objective of the training was to enhance capacity in the application of foresight data in agricultural policy implementation and decision-making. The training brought together 39 (29 male & 10 female) representatives of the farmers; policy makers from Ministries of Agriculture; NARIs; climate scientists from National Meteorological Institutes and IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC); the media; AICCRA-ESA, AICCRA-ILRI and ASARECA Secretariat. The

participants were drawn from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda.

As a result of the meeting: (i) the capacity of the key stakeholders in appreciating the relevance of climate foresight data in agricultural decision-making and policy implementation, and interpretation, was enhanced; (ii) a platform for farmers to link up with sources of climate foresight data such as ICPAC and the National Meteorology Institutes was created; and (iii) lessons, experiences and challenges on access to and use of climate foresight data in agricultural policy implementation and decision-making was shared; (iv) climate relevant reforms were identified for submission to the AUC. Subsequently, ASARECA engaged with the AUC and proposed climate science, technology, and innovation indicators for integration in the CAADP Biennial Review Process.

Development of ASARECA's Regional Intellectual Property Policy

ASARECA commissioned a consultancy to develop the Regional Intellectual Property Policy (RIPP), which is expected to provide a framework for the transfer and sharing of TIMPs across national borders within ASARECA member countries. The policy seeks to: (i) provide incentives for stimulating generation of agricultural technologies, innovations and data; (ii) promote identification and protection of IP; (iii) provide a favorable environment for transfer of agricultural technologies, innovation and data across countries; (iv) facilitate

the commercialisation of agricultural technologies, innovations and data; and (v) provide a framework for sharing of benefits accrued from the generation and commercialisation of agricultural technologies, innovations and data. Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders including NARIs, Universities, private sector, and the National Registration Services Bureaus. A draft diagnostic study report and a draft RIPP was prepared and awaits stakeholder validation.



Policy dialogue on enhancing market information for cross border trade in agricultural commodities

As means for establish functional and structured regional input and output markets, ASARECA organised a policy dialogue on enhancing market information for cross border trade in agricultural commodities in Eastern Africa. The policy dialogue sought to provide a platform for farmers, private sector, and other key stakeholders to discuss with the EAC Secretariat on strategies for improving availability and access to market information. This was aimed at improving resilience of farmers to climate shocks and boosting cross border trade in agricultural commodities in Eastern Africa. The dialogue brought together 39 (29 male & 10 female), representatives of farmers; private sector actors; youth groups;

policy makers from the Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Trade and National Agricultural Research Organisations; regulators from the National Bureaus of Standards and National Revenue Authorities; the East African Community Secretariat; AICCRA-ILRI and ASARECA Secretariat. Participants were drawn from seven countries of Burundi, South Sudan, DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. The major output of the policy dialogue was the agreement by participants to establish a Regional Market Information System hosted by ASARECA. The Regional Market Information System will be an agricultural data hub and agro-advisory for cross-border traders.

Gender-Responsive Climate Smart Agriculture Science-Policy Dialogue in ECA

ASARECA co-organised the regional dialogue on Gender-Responsive Science-Policy, which provided a forum for sharing evidence and innovations among relevant stakeholders towards influencing gender-responsive policy implementation and reforms with specific focus on CSA. The dialogue brought together a total of **87** key stakeholders including among others: scientists, policy makers; gender experts, and academia from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Madagascar, DRC, Central Africa Republic, Cameroon, and Nigeria. Major challenges undermining the mainstreaming of gender in CSA policies identified included: (i) Limited institutionalization of gender

in AR4D institutions; (ii) lack of understanding of gender aspects by scientists; (iii) limited funding for implementation of gender related aspects in agricultural policies; (iv) inadequate monitoring and evaluation of gender aspects in agricultural policies; and (v) poor engagement of gender specialists in project life. Following discussions, participants agreed to: (i) institutionalize gender within AR4D institutions; (ii) enhance the capacity of scientists in gender; (iii) lobby for funding for implementation of gender related aspects in agricultural policies; (iv) monitor and evaluate implementation of gender aspects in agricultural policies; and (v) engage gender specialists in AR4D project development processes.



Mary Samson Mueni, a smallholder farmer in Kitui County, Kenya

SUCCESS STORY

Supporting farmers to make evidence-based decisions in Kenya

Upon receiving an appropriately packaged climate forecast disseminated in October 2022 for upcoming short rains with poor distribution, Mary Samson Mueni, a smallholder farmer in Kitui County, Kenya decided to grow a dryland crop (sorghum).

She specifically sourced an early maturing variety (Kadam) from an agro-vet shop in mid-November 2022. In early February 2023, she harvested 90Kg from less than an acre garden, sold most of the sorghum and used some of the money to pay school fees for her grandchild.

Her neighbours who insisted on planting maize, the favorite staple crop usually grown in that season, harvested nothing as their crop dried before maturity. The neighbours have now appreciated the need to make rational decisions based on weather advisories.

Mary was one of the beneficiaries of the training on application of climate foresight data in enhancing agricultural policy implementation and decision-making in Eastern and Central Africa organised by ASARECA in Nairobi (Kenya), in June 2022.



04



Agricultural Transformation Technologies and Innovations

ASARECA worked towards the development, adaptation and scaling of gender responsive and climate smart TIMPs by implementing various activities. Key highlights included:

ASARECA stakeholders during variety evaluation exercise.



Dialogue for the Private Sector on Commercialisation of CSA TIMPs in Eastern and Central Africa

ASARECA organised the Dialogue for the Private Sector on Commercialisation of CSA TIMPs in Eastern and Central Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The objective of the dialogue was to bring together the private sector and researchers to discuss issues related to commercialisation of technologies. During the dialogue, a Private Sector Network was established and a total of 100 technologies ready for commercialisation and scaling were identified. Key actions were agreed on to enhance the adoption of the TIMPs. They included:

- Operationalising the private sector platform and establish associated communication channels as one of the key strategies for scaling technologies.
- Commissioning a study to inventorize and document more best bet technologies in the countries that are ready for commercialisation
- Developing harmonised a regional IPR policy to facilitate cross border movement of technologies
- Undertaking a needs assessment to identify various needs and gaps in e- extension at country level.
- Convening stakeholders to develop regional proposals based on emerging private sector priority issues.
- Developing training materials based on consolidated country digital climate advisory needs.
- Organising training for public and private sector, farmer representatives, media and other non-state actors on digital climate service delivery tools and models, and their integration into national agricultural extension systems.



Participants during the Dialogue for the Private Sector on Commercialization of CSA TIMPs in Nairobi, Kenya.

Following the dialogue, ASARECA together with the CAADP-XP4 consortium members discussed modalities for reaching the last mile stakeholders during the CAADP-XP4 MTR meeting that was held in May 2022. Some of the key agreed actions from the MTR included devoting more time and effort in reaching out the last mile stakeholders. The Secretariat started to implement strategic actions to address the recommendation on scaling of technologies and innovations to last mile stakeholders. Some of the actions implemented include: (i) organising activities that deliberately target last mile stakeholders; (ii) directly engaging with stakeholders along the research-extension continuum to identify strategies for reaching smallholder farmers; and (iii) participating in Research to Extension (R2E) discussions and meetings organised by partners.

Development and scaling up of gender-responsive regional value chains & agribusinesses

During this reporting period, the Secretariat convened a meeting with scientists from the NARIs to: (i) document lessons learnt in generation and scaling of technologies with a focus on benchmarking from the Eastern and Central Africa Agricultural

Transformation Program (ECAATP) proposal; (ii) document success factors and key achievements delivered by the four (4) Regional RCoEs (Cassava, Dairy, Rice, and Wheat) under the Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme

(EAAPP); (iii) discuss scaling of the regional value chains promoted by the RCOEs to spill over countries; and (iv) update the EAAPP Map showing the scaling of technologies to spill over countries across Africa.

ASARECA CSA Alliance

The ASARECA Climate Smart Agriculture (ACSAA) Alliance seeks to bring together all climate relevant MSPs within the region to scale up CSA. During this reporting period, the Secretariat focused on enhancing the capacity of the ACSAA members to deliver the pre-requisite services as well as strengthen its governance structures. The Secretariat organised five workshops for the ACSAA Steering Committee that was combined with the training in application of CSA technologies in preparation for scaling up. The training aimed to build requisite skills to support application and uptake of climate relevant technologies and innovations. Some of the key outputs included: (i) training of stakeholders in application of selected CSA technologies and innovations; (ii)



Participants during the training on application and uptake of climate relevant technologies and innovations in Kigali, Rwanda.

establishment of CSA country chapters; (iii) convening of steering committee meetings to plan for delivery of ACSAA activities; (iv) strengthening of CSA information and knowledge sharing; (v) coordination of transfer of best bet wheat varieties from ARC-Sudan to IRAD in Cameroon; (vi) building

of strategic partnerships with regional, continental and global partners which are now being used for resource mobilization ; and (vii) mobilization and registration of over 1,000 CSA stakeholders to join the ACSAA to promote and increased adoption of climate smart TIMPs.

Summary of stakeholders benefitting from Technologies

Various stakeholders participated in the development and adaptation of gender responsive and climate-smart TIMPs. They include the following: (i) A total of 156 IP members of Gataraga and Haguka in Rwanda; (ii) a total of 40 youth trained to promote adoption of green technologies in Kenya; 28 ACSAA steering committee members and their alternates; (iv) 41 project staff implementing AIRTEA project; (v) 60 CSA experts participated in the gender responsive CSA science-policy dialogue; and 25 farmers hosted demo plots for new potato varieties in Rwanda.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this action included: (i) 876 farmers from Gataraga and Hakuga IPs in Rwanda; (ii) 2 screen house owners producing seed potato; (iii) 49 scientists and farmer leaders who were trained in understanding the concept of CSA; (iv) 20 youth who were trained in climate smart dairy farming at demonstration centres in Uganda; (v) 100 farmers who received potato seed for use in demo plots in Rwanda; (vi) 153 farmers who were trained in good agronomic practices for potato in Rwanda; and (vii) 390 farmers of African Indigenous vegetable in Uganda.

Technologies adapted to address regional issues

The following technologies were adapted to address identified regional agricultural transformation challenges and opportunities:

- Digital technologies for crop monitoring and disease scouting in maize.
- Three (3) released disease resistant cassava varieties (NAROCAS1, NAROCAS2 & MKUMBI) in Uganda.
- Screen houses for potato seed multiplication re-activated or supported with 20,000 plantlets.
- 17 new high yielding potato varieties promote in Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya.
- 20 drought-tolerant wheat varieties evaluated for adaptability in Cameroon.
- Users Association promoted in Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia.
- Five (5) integrated soil fertility management practices including crop rotation, use of manure, application of chemical fertilisers promoted in Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia.
- 10 water management practices (including drip/furrow irrigation, dams, improved water resource administration) promoted.
- One (1) high value and climate resilient rice variety (Komboka) introduced into Hola irrigation schemes in Tana County, Kenya.
- Mass rearing of black soldier fly larvae on household waste and processing it as alternative protein feed for fish due to high cost of feed promoted in Uganda.
- Two (2) drought tolerant cowsheds promoted and constructed in Uganda.
- Use of hydroponic technology in fodder production in demonstrated in Uganda.
- M-Shamba digital marketing platform customized for use to support the silver cyprinid value chain in Kenya, where one pre-treatment technique was optimized for silver cyprinid drying.
- Handheld tractors to mechanize agriculture promoted in Rwanda.
- Hydroponics for vegetable production promoted in Rwanda.

SUCCESS STORY

Facilitating transfer of wheat varieties to Cameroon

ASARECA received a request from the Director General of Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement (IRAD) in July 2022 to support the Institute to source bread wheat genotypes from ASARECA member countries for testing in Cameroon agro-ecologies in order to identify the best performing lines.

The Cameroonian Government had just decided to boost wheat production locally to assuage consequences associated with over dependence on wheat imports. ASARECA sent out these requests to the sub-region's wheat hubs of Ethiopia, Sudan, and Kenya. Thereafter, ASARECA brokered material transfer arrangements. The lines targeted were for dry and hot irrigated environments with relatively mild winters and prone to heat stress during most of the growing season. Each set consisted of three replicates. These entries were selected based on their performance under the heat stress environment at the ICARDA-ARC Heat Research Platform, Wad Medina, Sudan. The trial plots were established and harvested in all the sites in April 2023. Subsequently, Sudan in the last quarter of 2022 transferred the germplasm to Cameroon.

These included the five best-performing varieties, especially the heat stress tolerant varieties such as Bohaine, Amel Ageeb, Imam and Milan/Pastor/Debeira from Agricultural Research Corporation. The wheat varieties demonstrated promising results in terms of earliness and agronomic performance, which were observed at various sites, especially in Meskine, Wakwa and Meskine/Mbé where the harvest was done. Following experimentation, IRAD requested for more seed for four bread wheat varieties from Kenya, which were transferred to IRAD in July 2022. Among the four varieties, Impala showed good results with regards to the desirable traits. IRAD has since requested ASARECA to broker the transfer of another 300kgs of promising varieties for wider adaptive trials with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to confirm performance under farmer-managed systems



SUCCESS STORY

How pumpkins have stabilized Nalongo's household income

Ms. Nakiwala Saniya Nalongo, 60, from Bubanzi village, Nsambya Parish, Kakindu sub-county, Mityana district, has been widowed for 13-years. She got interested in pumpkin farming as a business when she learnt that Mr. Magezi, the chairperson of an organised group, St. Joseph's farmers group, had registered some successes in pumpkin farming.

The only cash crop that Nalongo had earlier planted on her five-acre farm was coffee, which kept her income levels at bare minimum. This meant that she struggled to pay school fees for her children who were joining university. "I realized that I could intercrop coffee with pumpkin and sell through the farmers group for extra income as I waited for coffee to mature," she says. "I can now meet my basic needs.

Besides, I wanted to be an inspiration to my daughters by demonstrating to them that a woman can earn income and meet her needs." Nalongo is one of the members of St. Joseph farmers group, who received training on GAP in 2022. Uganda Christian University (UCU) provided the farmers with initial pumpkin seeds after taking them through training on best agronomic practices such as dormancy breaking by soaking seeds in milk overnight, appropriate spacing, and de-budding of vines.



Ms. Nakiwala Saniya Nalongo, from Mityana district in Uganda.

Based on this advice, Nalongo harvested 1,000 pumpkins, which she sold at UGX 3,000 (USD 0.8) each, earning her UGX 3 million (about USD 800). Nalongo subsequently bought a smart phone that she now uses to take photos and market pumpkins via social media and to send photos to experts at UCU to seek crop health advice. "The training has enabled me to find a way of paying tuition fees for my two daughters at university and their siblings in secondary schools," says Nalongo.

Contribution to Sustainable Agricultural Development in Africa

Institutionalization of Strategic Pathways and Incentives for Priority Commodity Value Chains in Uganda, Kenya & Rwanda
Workshop Report

Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is an Inter-Governmental Organization of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 14 countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, and Uganda. The member countries created ASARECA in 1994 to perform a higher level convening, facilitative, coordination, partnership brokerage, communication, catalytic and advocacy role to enhance sustainable agricultural transformation, and promote economic growth and inclusive development in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA).

Since inception, ASARECA has mobilized USD 258 million and invested it in the NARS to jointly undertake regionally coordinated projects. As a result, 200 assorted demand-driven gender-responsive technologies, innovations and Management Practices (TIMPs) such as improved crop and livestock varieties; integrated soil fertility management; integrated water management; agronomic packages; storage, processing, and value addition have been developed and made available for uptake by mainly poor rural households.

Joshua Sikhu Okonya & Moses Odeke

JUNE 2022

ASARECA Contribution to Sustainable Agricultural Transformation & Development in Africa

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is an Inter-Governmental Organization of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 14 countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, and Uganda. The member countries created ASARECA in 1994 to perform a higher level convening, facilitative, coordination, partnership brokerage, communication, catalytic and advocacy role to enhance sustainable agricultural transformation, and promote economic growth and inclusive development in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA).

Medium-Term Operational Plan I Achievements
MTOPI-1: 2019 - 2023

European Union

JIFAD Investing in rural people

CAADP

CSA and Digital Platforms in Eastern and Southern Africa

Workshop Report for the 1st Meeting of the Committee of the ASARECA CSA Alliance

05

Information, Communication and Knowledge Management

The Secretariat promoted interventions that aimed to enhance Information, Communications and Knowledge Management for advocacy and decision support. Some of the key highlights in this thematic area include:

Annual training and consultative workshop of Knowledge Management and M&E experts

ASARECA convened Information, Knowledge Management (ICKM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) specialists from NARIs for a joint consultative, training, and brainstorming workshop in Entebbe, Uganda from September 26-29, 2022.

The workshop focused on: (i) the role of ICKM and M&E in Agricultural Transformation; (ii) identification of priorities for M&E and ICKM as enablers of AR4D; (iii) sharing of knowledge resources available at the NARIs; and (iv)

training of stakeholders in the ICKM best practices and data analytics. The workshop identified a range of ICKM and M&E best practices, challenges and opportunities. It was shown that nearly 50% of the NARIs do not have ICKM basics such as ICKM strategies and associated systems flow, websites, portals, or databases, as well as qualified staff to manage the functions.

Strategic action points from the workshop were packaged into a “Joint Call to Action for NARIs and ASARECA”, which was endorsed by the Committee of Directors

General for adoption and implementation. A template for sharing and collating NARI knowledge resources with the Secretariat was also developed and is now under use.

ASARECA committed to support Burundi, South Sudan, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Eritrea, Madagascar, and Republic of the Congo to develop CKM strategies. The first workshop to support Burundi to develop its ICKM strategy was held in Bujumbura from December 14-16, 2022. The strategy is under finalization and will be validated and published in 2023.

Establishing the ASARECA Knowledge and Information Hub (KI-Hub)

The Secretariat completed implementation of the second phase of the KI-Hub, which included: (i) Conducting a rapid physical assessment to map out knowledge and information assets as well other resources in the member NARIs in preparation for integration to the KI-Hub; (ii) taking stock of the identified actual knowledge resources at the NARIs and entry points for the member NARIs; (iii) integration of institutional databases identified including

contacts, raw and refined datasets to the KI-Hub through APIs. Information obtained from the rapid assessment is to be used by the Secretariat for capacity strengthening of countries in Knowledge and Information Management.

The Secretariat also: (i) sensitized the CDG on the need for interoperability of the ASARECA Ki-Hub with the NARI KM systems; (ii) completed validation

of additional 100 TIMPs for upload into the TIMPs database; (iii) completed the development of the Resource Mobilization portal and linked it to the ASARECA Ki-Hub; (iv) initiated work on linking portals and knowledge resources at NARIs to the ASARECA Ki-Hub; and (v) finalized the process of hosting the Interactive CSA map in the Ki-Hub.

Establishing functional platforms for communicating and exchanging knowledge and information

As part of the strategy to enhance communication and exchange of relevant knowledge and information products

among its key stakeholders, the Secretariat continued to implement its Communication and Visibility Strategies leading to enhanced

visibility of ASARECA, its development partners (EU and IFAD), and the national and continental partners.



ASARECA Website- @ASARECA

The Secretariat continued to refresh ASARECA website with new sections and content through redesign, rationalization of menus and update to include new identified demand-oriented sections. These improvements include: (i) improvement of the about us section; (ii) populating of thematic areas with content; (iii) improvement of the

projects menu and profiles; (iv) linking to the Ki-Hub; (v) introduction of section on profiles dubbed “Our People” that includes profiles for Patron Ministers, General Assembly, CDGs, BoD, NFPs; (vi) enhanced use of photographs; and (vii) Development of CSA web page among others

Use of dynamic social media platforms

In delivery of ASARECA’s AR4D mandate, its communication function is supported by various digital and online platforms. Besides its revamped website (www.asareca.org), ASARECA uses other online media and communication platforms to

raise its visibility and share knowledge and information.

These include: (i) Facebook, (ii) Twitter, (iii) LinkedIn, (iv) YouTube and (v) Flickr.



YouTube - @ASARECA Africa

During this reporting, ASARECA continued to develop its YouTube content. The Secretariat posted relevant video clips that appeal to its stakeholders with a following of 1710 subscribers. A total of 20 new video clips were uploaded. These include videos from ASARECA events.

Mapping of Strategic Events

During this reporting period, the Secretariat mapped and participated in key strategic events both at regional, continental, and global level. Such events included: (i) The 12th AGRF Summit in Kigali, Rwanda (5 to 9 September 2022); (ii) Second Continental ICKM for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD) Conference, Accra, Ghana (14-16 September), (iii) the High-Level sub-Saharan Africa NARES-Genetic Innovation Meeting, Nairobi Kenya (June 27-28, 2022); CAADPxP4 Mid-Term Review, Johannesburg, South Africa (May 2-6).

This enhanced the Secretariat's involvement with other stakeholders at continental and global level. During the 12th AGRF Summit, the Secretariat held strategic meetings with the Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA), Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Clearing House, and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The Secretariat also provided media coverage for all national and regional events that were organised and published in both local and regional media.

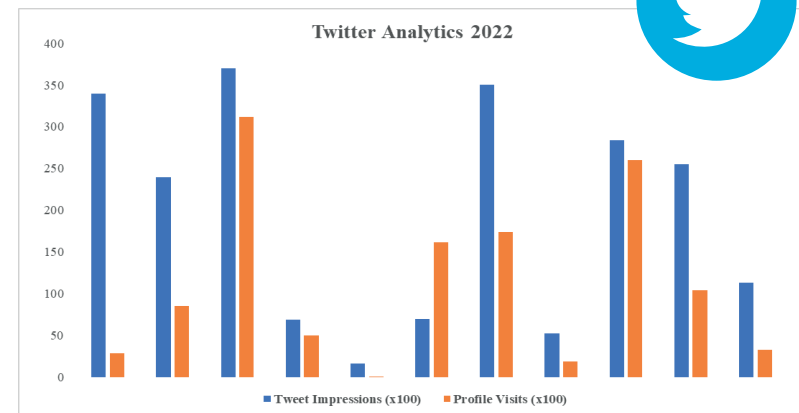
Twitter Performance

During this reporting period, ASARECA's posted an impressive twitter performance with aggregate tweets currently standing at 2,996 tweets which are in form of messages, pictures, posters, videos, or links to the website. This content reached close to a million active users (955,000 users) interacting with the ASARECA web page. The numbers currently show higher visibility for ASARECA events, with a total of 4,306 followers currently compared to 2,020 in August 2021.

The table below shows a summary for the Twitter performance.

Summary for activity on the ASARECA Twitter page in 2022

Key Performance Indicator	Number
Total posts	2996
Total audience	4306
Total engagements	955,000



Summary for activity on the ASARECA Twitter page in 2022

Developing products and messages for dissemination

During this reporting period, the following strategic products were drafted and finalized: (i) the CAADP-XP4 branded slides; (ii) corporate documents; (iii) papers; (iv) policy briefs; (v) (electronic newsletters; (vi) Back-to-Office Reports; (vii) workshop reports;

(viii) newspaper articles, (ix) video clips as well as visibility collaterals. The products were disseminated through websites, electronic newsletter, direct email communication, and mass media. ASARECA produced 89 different information materials.

Number of KM products by ASARECA in 2022

Corporate Documents	Papers	Policy briefs	Electronic Newsletters	Workshop reports	MoUs	News Articles	Aide Memoirs	Video clips	TOTAL
4	7	1	13	13	2	24	5	20	89

* Includes conference/workshop/meeting proceedings

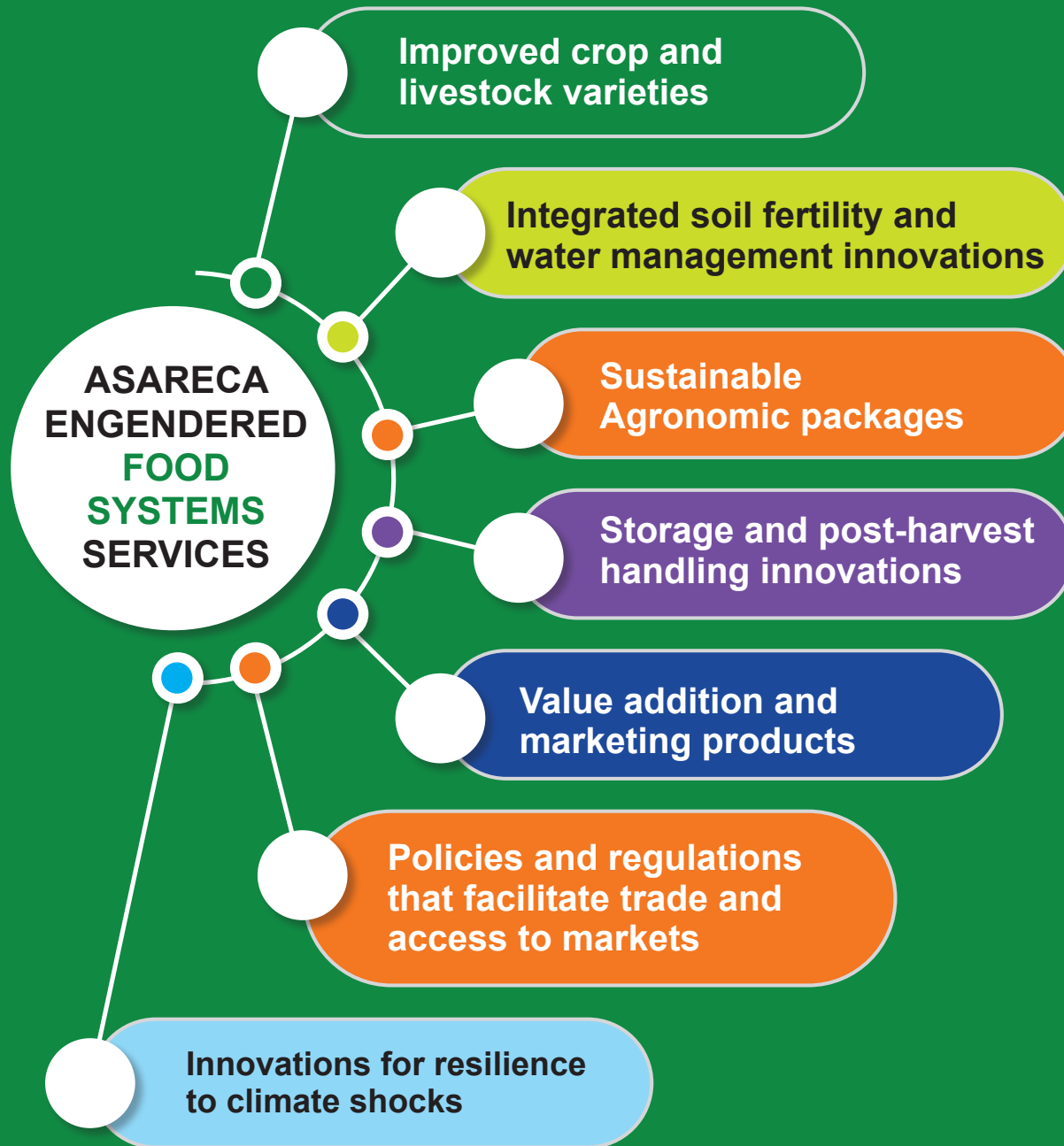
** General reports, policy briefs, brochures, strategies, manuals, leaflets, flyers, posters, success stories, press /newspaper articles, maps and factsheets

Re-branding

Using ASARECA's Rebranding Strategy and Implementation Plan, as well as the Visual Identity Guidelines, the Secretariat continued to implement activities aimed at enhancing its image and credibility as coordinator and convener for AR4D in ECA.

The Secretariat continued to show-case its sharpened niche as the regional "Go to Service Provider of Choice" for AR4D coordination, convening, partnership brokerage, process facilitation, advocacy, and communication. Key initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat include promoting ASARECA brand visibility by ensuring consistency of the brand in presentations; placement of road signage; raising of flags of member countries; development and dissemination of branding and visibility collaterals for ASARECA, EU, IFAD and other Development Partners.





Building Resilient Food Systems Post COVID-19 Pandemic

ANNUAL CORPORATE REPORT 2022



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