



Ministry of Agriculture



ASARECA Contribution to Member States

FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

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.

Ethiopia is a founding member and one of the 14 Member States of ASARECA. Since inception, ASARECA has been working mainly with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and the Ministry of Agriculture to jointly address AR4D challenges in the country. Over the last 25 years, ASARECA has invested **US\$ 10.4 million** to catalyze Agricultural transformation in Ethiopia through key beneficiary projects highlighted below:

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ASARECA work in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Fighting the Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN) Virus

ASARECA coordinated the fight against MLN in seven countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda). In collaboration with CIMMYT, ASARECA supported these countries to adopt integrated and multi-pronged control strategies, including development and use of appropriate management practices, breeding and germplasm development. The practices included the use of clean and certified seed as well as crop rotation and control of different vectors using different chemical products. Key activities undertaken in Ethiopia included: Generation of information on population dynamics, incidence, survival and migration characteristics; conducting efficacy trials on new and locally available insecticides; studies on insecticide resistance to Fall Army Worm (FAW); and development and popularization of guidelines on insecticide resistance management. Out of the 71 commercial seed samples sent for screening at CIMMYT in Naivasha, Kenya, MLN was detected in 4 out of 26,400 seeds, thus setting the stage for management of MLN in Ethiopia.

High yielding maize varieties

ASARECA supported Ethiopian scientists to introduce high yielding highland maize varieties with grain yields of 9 t/ha (compared to 2.3 t/ha of predominant lowland varieties). Three hybrids (AMH800, AMH850 and AMH851) were released, including one open-pollinated variety (Hora) for the highland zones. Some of the new varieties, including the four hybrids, have a potential yield of 12 t/ha, which is at par with global standards.

Ethiopia seed policy harmonization

ASARECA worked with the national partners in Ethiopia to review national seed laws and regulations and to align them to the COMESA seed regulations. ASARECA also provided technical support in the review of national seed acts, aligning them with COMESA seed regulations under the Seeds Regulations Implementation Plan (COMSHIP), as well as in implementation of the COMESA Biosafety Policy Implementation Plan (COMBIP).

Assessing human capacity needs for AR4D

ASARECA has just completed studies in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia to derive credible evidence for human capital and institutional investments to deliver national strategic plans for agricultural transformation. In Ethiopia, three studies were undertaken including: Assessing and forecasting qualitative



ASARECA supported Ethiopia to adopt integrated and multi-pronged control strategies to fight MLN.

human capital requirements for agriculture in Ethiopia; interpreting the existing global yield gap atlas data to determine capacity gaps in Ethiopia; and review of National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (NaFSIPs) and implementation gaps in Ethiopia. ASARECA intends to use these findings to mobilize resources for capacity strengthening efforts in Ethiopia.

Mitigating effects of climate change

Working with researchers from Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burundi, Uganda, South Sudan, Madagascar and Rwanda, ASARECA implemented projects to increase the availability and productivity of water in rain-fed and irrigated farms. The projects built capacity to harness water resources from the rain, runoff, surface, and ground water at farm, and at the watershed level. In Ethiopia, ASARECA worked with EIAR to rehabilitate hills in Adulala and Kechema watersheds, which had long been degraded by human activities leading to accelerated soil erosion and consequently decline in the yields of crops such as teff, wheat, barley, field pea, field bean, haricot bean and maize. The communities were mobilized and sensitized on the benefits of reclaiming the hills through re-vegetation. Over 1,000 farmers benefited from integrated natural resources management techniques, including digging benches to curb runoff and planting 120,000 seedlings of different tree species along fragile hillsides. Three varieties including the fast maturing



and high yielding CR-37 with a capacity of 25kg per hectare were promoted. As a result, over 500 households adopted the water-efficient technologies, leading to the rehabilitation of 1,000 hectares of severely degraded land.

Over 500 households have adopted various crop technologies ranging from improved wheat varieties (danfi, kursht-drought resistant variety), malt barley and high value crops (apples) leading to increase in wheat yields by over 80% (from less than 5 quintal/ha before the intervention to 20 to 30 quintal/ha after the intervention). More than 1,200 households previously dependent on relief food are now food secure.

Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Project (EAAPP)

ASARECA coordinated this regional initiative of the Governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In as much as Ethiopia provided leadership as the Centre of Excellence for Wheat, it still sold over 63,500 doses of livestock semen within the collaborating countries. On the other hand, it received four rice varieties (TXD306, Tai, Komboka and Ziada) from Tanzania (with TXD306 being released); 159 Cassava accessions and botanical seed sprouting technique from Uganda; and elite wheat variety (Kingbird) from Kenya for multiplication and wider dissemination.

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 **Ethiopia**, 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 Ethiopia**; 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.

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 **Ethiopia** 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.

Building capacity for international negotiations

ASARECA organised a workshop for key climate scientists and country United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

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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.

Capacity for climate foresight

ASARECA organized a training course on application of climate foresight data to enhance agricultural policy implementation and decision making in Member States. This training brought together 39 representatives of the farmers; policy makers from Ministries of Agriculture and NARIs; climate scientists from National Meteorological Institutes and IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda. The training enhanced the capacity of key stakeholders in implementation of climate foresight data in agricultural decision-making and policy implementation; interpretation and analysis of climate foresight data; and provided a platform for farmers to link up with sources of climate foresight data such as ICPAC and the National Meteorology Institutes.

The training also provided an opportunity for sharing lessons, experiences and challenges on access to and use of climate foresight data in agricultural policy implementation and decision making.

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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