



Kigali, Rwanda, 13-16 June 2016

## RWANDAN PM, ANASTASE MUREKEZI OPENS 7TH AFRICA AGRICULTURE SCIENCE WEEK (AASW) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FARA



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda, His Excellency Anastase Murekezi, has opened the 7th Africa Agriculture Science Week (AASW) and the General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural

Research in Africa (FARA) at Camp Kigali, Rwanda.

The four day Forum and Exhibition attracted over 1,500 participants, including Ministers of State and Policy makers, experts in Agriculture and stakeholders engaged in African agricultural research and development to discuss how research can be used to improve agriculture on the continent.

The theme for the event is: “Apply Science, Impact Livelihoods.” It will focus on the operationalisation of the Science Agenda

for Agriculture in Africa at country level.

The triennial event will take stock of achievements in Africa’s agricultural research and reflect on how to enhance this sub-sector’s contribution to the continent’s agenda for accelerated economic and social transformation.

Plenary sessions will be held to highlight the Science Agenda and the evolving policy and institutional changes in the STI-for-agriculture landscape in Africa and their implications for the implementation of the Science Agenda.

There will be side meetings to deliberate on the five sub-themes of the conference namely; Institutional systems and policies for making science work for African agriculture Sustainable productivity growth, value chains and profitable agribusinesses, Human capital development and the Youth, Sustainable financing of STI for African agriculture and Megatrends in African Agriculture



Dr. Yemi Akinbami, Executive Director of FARA (right) showing some dignitaries round the exhibition center

The General Assembly will be held on the fourth and final day. All through the four days, the market place / exhibition of innovations (products and services) will be open.

A special feature of the conference and exhibition is a day dedicated to showcasing Rwanda and its advancements in agriculture and research.

Expected output and outcomes of the Forum include an enhanced understanding of the agenda for scaling up the assimilation of science and harnessing the potential of STI to drive agricultural transformation in Africa, buy-in for the action plan to operationalize the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A) at country level and the policy and institutional changes required for the plan to be successfully implemented.

## Human Capacity Development Necessary For Achieving CAADP, African Science Agenda

Africa must re-plan our human capacity development as this is very critical towards advancing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the science agenda which will lead us to attaining the continent's development goals, Dr. Imelidha Kashaija, Deputy Director General, Agricultural Technology Transfer, Ugandan Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, has said, "Changes have taken place since CAADP was put in place. The factors which influenced CAADP initiation have also changed. At that time, the levels of climate change and unemployment were not as high as it is now and African countries need to take measures through human capacity development to address these and other challenges yet to come before Africa suffers more shocks", she said.

Madam Kanzoma made these statements when she opened the session on "Action Planning for demand-led capacity development for country implementation of the CAADP and Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa" as part of activities planned for the 7th Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly currently underway in Kigali, Rwanda.

CAADP is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic

growth and prosperity for all. In Maputo, Mozambique in 2003, the African Union (AU) Summit made the first declaration on CAADP as an integral part of NEPAD. CAADP is implemented at country-level, while the NEPAD Agency provides implementation support to AU Member States working closely with the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and development partners. She asked African states to refine their synergies to address human capacity needs to enable the continent to feed its people and animals.

According to her, one of the goals of CAADP is to enhance the productivity of Africa agriculture which requires organizational changes and this need to be led by well qualified staff especially scientists. "However, research undertaken pointed to significant human capacity deficits in Agriculture and if Africa is to purposefully build capacity in terms of quality and quantity, this has to be purposefully addressed" she noted.

This session on human capacity development will provide the opportunity for participants to hear about key capacity requirement issues in the agricultural sector and the proposed frameworks that will drive the achievement of CAADP and the science agenda for Africa.



# Opening Ceremony In Pictures





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Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina with his award

## FARA leadership prize for AfDB President

FARA on Monday bestowed 1st FARA honours laureate on Dr Akiwumi Adesina , President of the African Development Bank in recognition of his visionary leadership in driving exemplary success in African agriculture and unlocking its potential to create wealth.



# Rwanda's "Not Business As Usual" Approach To Capacity Building - A Story From The Heart

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Participants at the 7th AASW and GA of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) being held in Kigali, Rwanda, were ready for a usual presentation on Developing Human and Institutional Capacity but the first words of the Presenter was enough to generate high interest in the presentation.

"I will tell you a story and it is from my heart", said Peter Malinga, National Capacity Building Secretariat, Rwanda, as he began his presentation. "My presentation is not a scientific presentation; it is more of a testimony" he went on. At this time he had the full attention of participants as he proceeded to share the unique story of how Rwanda was building local capacity and the approach adopted by the government.



## The Story

It all began right after the 1994 situation when the effort of the government was directed towards rebuilding the society and country which had become a failed state. This was an era when the country was trying to reconstitute each and every sector of the society including agriculture. It started to address issues of the heart and mind – Unity and reconciliation.

When the world started implementing MDGs, Rwanda also came up with Vision 2020 to implement alongside the country's own programme. It was a case of tackling rehabilitation, development of national plans, the first being poverty reduction programmes, reforming the public sector and rebuilding the state. "We started setting up institutions that can run the country and building a common vision" he said.

## The Journey

He said the journey over the past 20 years has not been simple and cannot be wished away. With the foundation that have been laid to address development issues, we see government ministries and district offices all talking about priorities and strategic forecasting which are critical in addressing development issues.

## Challenge

Achieving the MDGs and Vision 2020 for Rwanda was impacted by capacity challenges." Our initial attempts to address the capacity problem was stand alone, scattered and overlapping and this produced mixed results which called for a second look at the approach. In 2005, Rwanda came up with a capacity improvement programme and mobilized funds from the world bank and African Capacity Reformation to finance the project. Rwanda adopted a non sectoral - private and public sector /civil service partnership. An institution was set up to coordinate and implement the programme. Currently, Rwanda has a government agency - the National Capacity Building Secretariat (NCBS) that is cross cutting in membership, managing capacity building in Rwanda. Data to factor into plans to facilitate the project continues to be a challenge. In addition to that, they were also confronted with the kind of tools to apply in capacity building. There were also synergies that have to be harnessed

## Not business as usual

In the midst of all of this, Rwanda decided to adopt what Peter referred to as a "not business as usual" approach. "Rwanda did not think capacity building should be driven by donors. It must be driven by government and key actors." The country's approach to addressing capacity building was first and foremost to determine the gaps and the sectors needing capacity support. Funding is sourced and human capacity building programmes and projects are developed. After all this is done support for the programme is mobilized.



In 2014, the country put in place a national Capacity Development Coordination plan among others, driven by the capacity building agenda. As a result of the importance of this to Rwanda, Capacity Building had its own budget and was placed under the Ministry of Finance. The Co- Chair of the capacity building set-up was drawn from the Private sector.

Again, Rwanda looks at good practices in other countries and adopts some of the approaches. The country has also ensured that its citizens benefit from the skills of consultants through knowledge transfer

## Lessons

He encouraged African governments seeking to build capacity to among others, use experiences and success stories available globally to inform their capacity building agendas. Peter cautioned against “Copy and paste” approaches. It is best to customize he concluded.

# Fara's Role In Helping Africa Feed Its People Lauded

According to a UN report, more than half of the global population growth between now and 2050 is expected to occur in Africa. Of the additional 2.4 billion people projected to be added to the global population between 2015 and 2050, 1.3 billion will be added in Africa. This means that Africa will house 39% of the global population in 2100. Agriculture is therefore critical for human welfare and economic growth for the people of Africa. For this reason, Africa must prepare to be able to feed its growing population.

Dr. Martial de Paul Ikounga, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology at the African Union disclosed this when he delivered a speech at the 7th Africa Agriculture Science Week (AASW) and FARA General Assembly (GA) which is currently underway in Kigali, Rwanda. “Our challenge is how to make our Agrifood systems competitive and scale the big hurdle of a sustainable financing mechanism for our institutions and wean them from haphazard and unpredictable financing modalities” he emphasized.

Dr. Ikounga said In order to address the issue, the African union stands committed to strengthen Africa's capacity to mainstream research and increase productivity towards knowledge – base economy. “Strategies aimed at linking experts to the most effective tool that is Science Technology and Innovation to foster social transformation and economic competitiveness needs to be developed”, he said.

According to Dr. Ikounga the establishment of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and other agricultural research institutes play a key role in the coordination, mobilization of resources and research support for the smooth development of the agriculture sector to meet this challenge.

He therefore commended FARA for creating the platform for stakeholders, including policy makers, to come together and discuss how Africa can increase productivity in its main socio-economic sectors, improve on its technological capacity to achieve “the Africa Feed Africa” agenda.

Website: [www.faraafrica.org](http://www.faraafrica.org)

Blog: <http://faraafrica.wordpress.com>

Facebook Page: Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. <https://www.facebook.com/FARAAfrica/>

FARA Social Media Team (Facebook Page): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aasw6smt/>

Twitter: @FARAinfo. <https://twitter.com/FARAinfo>

Youtube: FARA Africa. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEJQGxNwCCFuEHCTD0Ijeqg>

Instagram: fara.africa. <https://www.instagram.com/fara.africa/>

Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/a/cgxchange.org/forum/#!forum/fara-smt-group>