



Scientific and Institutional Capacity Building to Improve Agricultural Production and Food Security in Partner Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

*Stakeholder Consultation & Project Inception Workshop
(January 9-12, 2012)*

At the

*FARA Secretariat Conference Hall
12th Anmeda Street, Roman Ridge, Accra-Ghana*

Executive Summary

Food security needs and escalating food prices have prompted global attention. The growing world population, including sub-Saharan Africa, more than ever will need more food, water, energy for everyday use, and a healthy life for everyone. Meeting these critical needs requires good education for current and future African agricultural scientists and producers.

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Ghana-Legon, are jointly pioneering a capacity building project to strengthen agricultural education and training including research and extension in African countries.

This project will focus on two major components: 1) scientific capacity building for universities, research and extension personnel and 2) institutional capacity building for knowledge sharing (eXtension). Three main areas in scientific capacity building will focus on Plant Protection (IPM), Crop Improvement (Plant Breeding/Genetics) and Integrated Water Resource Management with associated agronomic practices to improve crop yields. Areas on institutional capacity building for knowledge sharing will cover training on extension and extension delivery mechanisms.

Goals: Enhanced scientific and institutional capacity building in agricultural sciences leading to increase food production and food security

Expected Outcomes:

- 1) A plan for scientific capacity building for Universities, research and extension personnel for each country in target areas

- 2) A plan for institutional capacity building for knowledge sharing and extension delivery (eXtension) for each country

Objectives:

The overall objective of the workshop is to mobilize and discuss with partners, fine tune key project areas, identify country specific short, medium and long term activities for scientific and institutional capacity building in agricultural research and technology sharing to achieve food security. The workshop will result in the development of country specific plans to be implemented to achieve impact.

Specific objectives of the stakeholders' planning workshop based on the targeted outcomes:

Outcome 1: A country-specific plan for scientific capacity building for universities and extension personnel for each country

- a) Identify and compile country specific needs in scientific capacity building related to Plant Protection (IPM), Crop Improvement (Plant Breeding/Genetics) and Integrated Water Resource Management with associated agronomic practices.
- b) Determine the level (Bsc/MSc/PhD or exchange programs) and number of trainees needed in respective areas for each country. These can include short term or long term exchange students, visiting scientists, internships, and professional development of junior faculty in respective institutions and countries. This specific objective should identify the number of trainees, discipline areas, time table to training, and resources needed to implement the training. Where appropriate, include needs for support and training for pedagogic teaching tools and approaches (both in class and online).
- c) Identify areas where new training courses are needed for curriculum development in respective academic partner institutions and available resources and needs

Outcome 2: A country-specific plan for institutional capacity building for knowledge sharing and extension delivery (eXtension) for each country

- a) Identify needs for training practitioners and extensions personnel including the number of trainees (short terms and professional enhancement), areas of training, time frame for training, resources needed to implement the training. Include exchange visits and practical training and exchange between countries
- b) Identify areas for extension content and delivery mechanisms which need to be enhanced, including institutions when capacity building is needed
- c) Identify conventional and eXtension modules on knowledge sharing targeting specific country needs (including specific socio-economic and farmer settings)
- d) Identify content and delivery mechanisms by which country specific institutional capacity building will link up with the planned eXtension hub.

At the end of the workshop there will be twelve individual plans: one for the university and extension personnel and one for the knowledge sharing and extension delivery systems of each the participating countries: Botswana, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, and Zambia.

The overall workshop processes will include:

1. Development of country specific plans and implementation mechanisms for an initial pilot phase of five years.
 2. Developing a time line for implementing the content and identified agenda.
 3. Developing a complete set of clear and achievable project deliverables;
 4. Developing a clear and implementable set of activities with well defined roles and responsibilities, with project budgets and resource needed.
 5. Identifying strengths, gaps, comparative advantages and existing complementary programs and projects for each partner and institution.
 6. Identifying existing and emerging infrastructure to support the project for each partner and country.
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TENTATIVE WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Time	Activity	Responsible
Day 1: Monday, 9 th January 2012		
8.00 – 9.00	Arrival & registration	All/FARA Receptionists
9.00 – 9.30	Welcoming remarks	Prof. Monty Jones, ED, FARA Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana, Legon Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Welcome, opening by Ministries, MOFA and Education)
9.30 – 9.45	Self-introduction/Joint photo session	Facilitator
	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	

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10.00 – 10.30	The status of AET in Africa: challenges & prospects	FARA
10.30 – 13.00	Institutional/country reports: Status of scientific and extension capacity and expectations from the project	University of Ghana University of Zambia Wollo University, Haramaya University
LUNCH BREAK		
14.00 – 15.00	Institutional/country reports: Status of scientific and extension capacity and expectations from the project	University Cheikh Anta Diop Botswana College of Agriculture, African Virtual University
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		
15.30 – 16.00	Project overview and scope	University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)
16.00 – 16.30	FARA's experiences with coordination of continental capacity strengthening projects	FARA
16.30 – 17.00	Discussion/recap	Facilitator
Day 2: Tuesday, 10 th January 2012		
8.00 – 9.30	Past experience and current strengths of UNL in scientific and institutional capacity building, research and extension	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
9.30 – 10.00	Discussion/recap	All Groups/Facilitator
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		
10.30 – 13.00	Development of country specific plans and implementation mechanisms for an initial pilot phase of five years	All Groups/Facilitator
LUNCH BREAK		
14.00 – 15.30	Developing a time line for implementing the content and identified agenda Developing a complete set of clear and achievable project deliverables	All Groups/Facilitator
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		
16.00 – 17.00	Developing a time line for implementing the content and identified agenda Developing a complete set of clear and achievable project deliverables	All Groups/Facilitator

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Day 3: Wednesday, 11 th January 2012		
8.00 – 10.00	Developing a clear and implementable set of activities with well-defined roles and responsibilities, with project budgets and resources needed	Groups/All/Facilitator
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		
10.30 – 13.00	Developing a clear and implementable set of activities with well-defined roles and responsibilities, with project budgets and resources needed	Groups/All/Facilitator
LUNCH BREAK		
14.00 – 16.00	Identifying strengths, gaps, comparative advantages and existing complementary programs and projects for each partner and institution	Groups/All/Facilitator
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		
16.30- 17.00	Identifying existing and emerging infrastructure to support the project for each partner and country	Groups/All/Facilitator
Day 4: Thursday, 12 th January 2012		
8.00 – 10.00	Plenary Presentation of Implementation Plans	Groups/All/Facilitator
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		
10.30 – 11.00	Plenary Presentation of Implementation Plans	Groups/All/Facilitator
11.00 - 12.00	Cross-cutting issues: Coordination, M&E, Communication	Groups/All/Facilitator
LUNCH BREAK		
13.00- 15.00	Donor perspectives and next steps	Donors/All/Facilitator
15.00- 15.30	Closing	Executive Director, FARA

Institutions and partners

UNL, and the eXtension Consortium, the University of Ghana-Legon, FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa), University Cheikh Anta Diop (Senegal), Botswana College of Project and Workshop Planning Contact: O. Youm, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Email oyoum2@unl.edu or I. Annor-Frempong, FARA, Email: ifrempong@fara-africa.org

Agriculture, Wollo University and Haramaya University (Ethiopia), African Virtual University in Kenya, and University of Zambia.