

An Overview of the AARIEIs

African **A**gricultural **R**esearch, **I**nnovation and **E**ducation **I**nstitutions



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Outline

1. Historical Context and Justification
2. Roles of Partners within AARIEIs
3. Status of AARIEIs development
4. Emerging continental initiatives (Opportunities)
5. Next Steps



Context

- **Fragmentation**

- Geographical
- Thematic

- 50+ national research systems most of which are small, with limited capacity and a mandate covering diverse agricultural ecologies.
- Research, extension, education, private sector, producers, policy working in silos

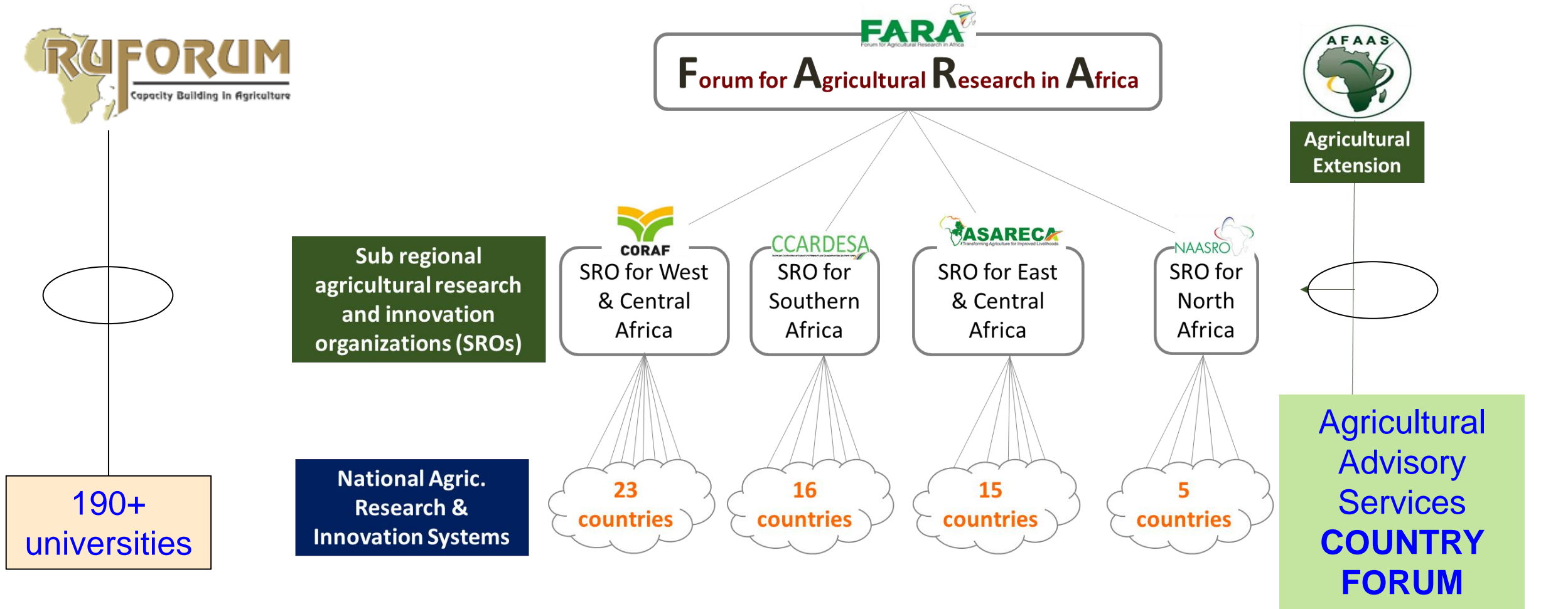


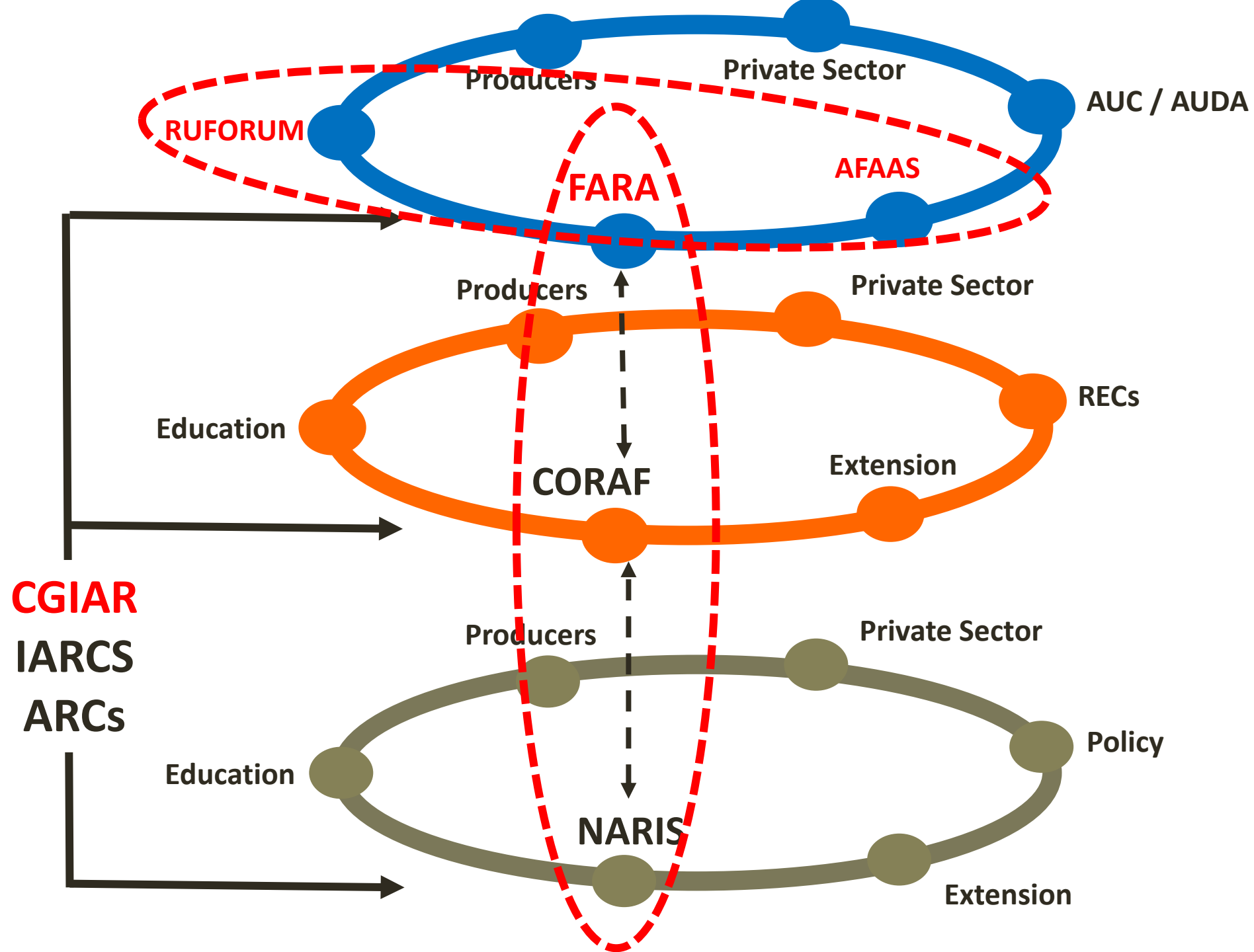
Contributed to limited impact of research



Evolution of AARIEIs

Roles: Subsidiarity, Competition





Context

- Developing **stronger synergies** and organic relationships within AARIEIs:

Synergies and Relationships

01

Affirmed development of stronger synergies and organic relationships within AARIEIS

Partnership Development

02

Partnership among AARIEIs to ride on, borrow from existing arrangements
Constructed based on lessons and experiences from existing consortia and partnership.

Proof of Concept

03

There is already a proof of concept demonstrating the potential for successful collaboration and impactful outcomes.



The Processes – Abidjan Consultation I

01

Strengthening AARIEs partnerships and Coordination within AARIEs at all levels

02

Harmonise governance system of AARIEs

03

Alignment of One CGIAR's 2023 RI Strategy with AARIEs and the continent's Agricultural Agenda and improve representation of African stakeholders in the governance mechanisms in One CGIAR,

04

Ensuring that CGIAR reforms do not diminish the capacities and relevance of Africa-based CGIAR centers.



The Processes – Abidjan Consultation II (Communique)

The consultations resulted in The Abidjan II Communique Principles and core values acknowledging:



1

African R, I&E institutions, including CGIAR have sufficient commitment, to achieving a resilient and food-secure Africa

2

The potential for AARIEs harmonization and CGIAR reforms to strengthen Africa's agriculture research and innovation systems

3

The importance of continuous engagement and adaptive management to ensure that both AARIES and CGIR reforms meet the needs of the Continent



THE THREE-YEAR ACTION PLAN (2023-2025)

The objective

- Establishing a strengthened and synergistic working mode among AARIEs and **between One CGIAR and AARIEs** to contribute to achieving sustainable and **sustained** zero hunger in Africa.
- It specifically seeks to **revitalize the capacity of African Agricultural Innovation Systems to generate and deliver - at an appropriate scale and scope - scientific solutions that catalyze development and research-to-innovation and development delivery**



The Intervention logic of the Action Plan



- 1 Comprehensive engagement of actors.
- 2 Joint planning, development, and implementation
- 3 Joint resource mobilization.
- 4 Strengthening linkages with policy systems and authorizing reporting progress and political support.
- 5 FARA leading the implementation of the Action Plan.



The Expected outcome of the Action Plan

Increased role and involvement of African national governments in enabling the institutional, policy, and political environment

Strong engagement and partnerships among AARIIs for zero hunger

Increased access to and adoption of climate-smart agricultural technologies and innovations

Regenerative, sustainable, and inclusive agricultural development that contributes to job creation and improved farmers' welfare.

Reduced dependency of AARIEIs on donor funding

Industrialized and market-driven agriculture directly influenced by evidence-based scientific decisions.



PARTNERS ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

- **FARA:** Systematic interventions aimed at:
 - Enhancing the organizational and institutional performance of the other AARIEIs.
 - Facilitating the mobilization of resources for the AARIEI partnership.
 - Facilitating continental and global partnerships, engagements, and advocacy for technology generation.
 - Strengthening the science-policy interface within the AARIEI partnership and beyond.
 - Establishing a continental observatory for collecting and analyzing information and data on the performance and gaps of African agriculture.



▪ **AFAAS:**

- Stimulating the demand side for taking technologies to scale. This includes being the common gateway for available information on improved technologies and innovations;
- Organizational, institutional, and individual enabler capacity strengthening for scaling out technologies and innovations (demand-side capacity development);
- Facilitating mobilization of resources for scaling out technologies and innovations by the partnership;
- Engagements, lobbying, and advocacy for agricultural advisory services at national regional, continental, and global levels;
- Collecting and aggregating information and data on the needs and performance of agricultural advisory services and farmers for the continental observatory under FARA



■ RUFORUM:

- Human capacity development for agriculture at all levels along agricultural value chains;
- Organisational and institutional strengthening for human capacity development for agriculture at all levels (schools, vocational, agribusiness, agricultural colleges, universities);
- Collecting and aggregating information and data on the needs and performance of agricultural education, for the continental observatory under FARA;
- Regional, continental, and global lobbying and advocacy for human capacity development;
- Facilitating emergence of agri-businesses (Note: This is based on the **track record** that RUFORUM has (**though it is in the domain of AFAAS**) and could be undertaken in partnership with AFAAS)



- **ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF :**

- Enhancing the organizational and institutional performance of national agricultural research and development systems (This is their traditional domain);
- Packaging information on technologies available for taking to scale (supply-side of scaling out the technologies and innovations)
- Facilitate regional and national engagements and advocacy for technology generation (this should bring them closer to the university research processes under RUFORUM);
- Facilitating mobilization of resources for regional research and development programmes;
- Collecting and aggregating information and data on the needs and performance of national agricultural research systems (NARS) for the continental observatory under FARA.



INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The suggested institutional and organizational arrangements for the AARIEI partnership could include:

The Governance of AARIEIs

- The consensus among AARIEI leaders is to establish an interim governance mechanism for:
 - Policy direction,
 - Oversight and guidance,
 - **[Additional responsibilities]**
 - The composition would preferably include members from existing structures such as:
 1. Current Board member of AARIEs (Board Chairs),
 2. AUC,
 3. One CGIAR,
 4. Donor representatives, including AfDB,
 5. **[Additional members]**

The AARIEIs Donors and Investors Group. Ideally, this group would be embedded as a closed group within the AARIEI and One CGIAR networking system.



Action Plan

for the Operationalization of the
Abidjan II Communique

Strengthening Partnerships between CGIAR and African
Agricultural Research and Innovation Stakeholders to attain
Zero Hunger in Africa by 2030

June 2023



Outcome of cooperation among African institutions

CGIAR partnership framework: targets

Status of AARIEs development

Elaborate a **Partnership Framework** that will clarify how the 7 institutions will work together while asserting their autonomy.

Framework will set out

- Value add
- Common Agenda /strategy
- Roles and modalities of performing the roles
- Institutional arrangements (Management and Governance)
- Resource Mobilisation, Visibility, M&E

To be launched this year (2024); validation at all levels



Emerging Continental Initiatives (Opportunities)

1. Soil Health Initiative (Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit, 7-9 May 2024, Nairobi).
2. Common Africa Agro-Industrial Parks (Agenda 2063 flagship programme)
3. Partnership for Sustainable Seed Systems in Africa (PISSA)
4. Mainstreaming Food Systems approaches
5. The Pan-African Network for the Economic Analysis of Policies (PANAP)



Continental Implementation Approach

- Priorities identified through consultations
- Endorsement at AUC level
- Content / framework defined through consultations focusing on country level inputs
- Launched at continental level —Mobilising Policy attention, resources, technical expertise
- Domestication at sub-regional and national level



Challenge

Concern: There is a need for enhanced **transparency, trust, ownership and mutual accountability** thus **need for robust intra-communication, engagement and joint action.**



Next Steps

1. Elaborate and launch the Partnership framework
2. Common Research, Innovation and Education Strategy
3. Operationalise continental and other initiatives
4. Resource Mobilisation—long term sustainable models
 - AFRICA (African Fund for Research, Innovation and Capacity Building in Agriculture), Country and DP supported endowment fund.



Thank you