



# **Institutional innovations in Africa**

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# Outline

- Context of agricultural R&D
- Major challenges
- The need for institutional transformations (national and regional levels)
- Examples of relevant institutional innovations such as policies and new institutional arrangements
- Conclusion

# African agriculture

## Agriculture accounts for

- 60% of labour
- 20% of total merchandise
- 17% of GDP

## Agricultural growth rate

- 2.3% in the 1980s,
- 3.3% in the 1990s,
- 3.8% 2000-2005

*Agricultural growth exceeded growth in nonagricultural sectors*

## Rural poverty

- started to decline in 10 of 13 countries from 1990 to 2005

Agricultural growth is critical to household food security

- Increases incomes of the poor
- Increases local food production in remote areas with poorly developed infrastructure and markets

# Major Challenges in Africa



- Adverse agro-climatic conditions
- Slow diffusion of technology
- High transport costs
- Small markets
- High disease burden
- Climate change and food crisis

	Share of area planted to modern varieties (percent) <sup>a</sup>				Contribution of crop genetic improvement to yield growth <sup>b</sup>	Cereal yield (kg/ha) <sup>c</sup>	Ave annual growth in cereal yld (%) <sup>d</sup>	Ave annual growth in food prod'n per capita (%) <sup>e</sup>
	1970	1980	1990	1998	1960-98	2000	1980-2000	1980-2000
Asia	13	43	63	82	0.88	3.662	2.3	2.30
Latin America	8	23	39	52	0.66	2.09	1.9	0.90
Middle East & North Africa	4	13	29	58	0.69	2.660	1.2	1.00
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>1.112</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-0.01</b>

a. From Evenson and Gollin 2003.

b. Measured as a share of increase in productivity.

c. From World Bank 2003a.

d. From FAO 2003b.

e. Sub-Saharan Africa refers to all countries in columns 1-5 and columns 6-8 refers to 33 countries in "Tropical and Sub-Saharan Africa" as defined in Sachs and others 2004



# Why do we need to change?

1. Agricultural productivity is still low
2. Spending on agricultural research in Africa is stagnant
3. Private sector research will not fill the gap
4. Agricultural research and extension services are not playing their important roles
  - Policies impede access to global knowledge and technology
  - Linkages between research systems, extension services and farmers are weak
5. Increasing agricultural productivity will require increases in investments in agricultural research and extension``

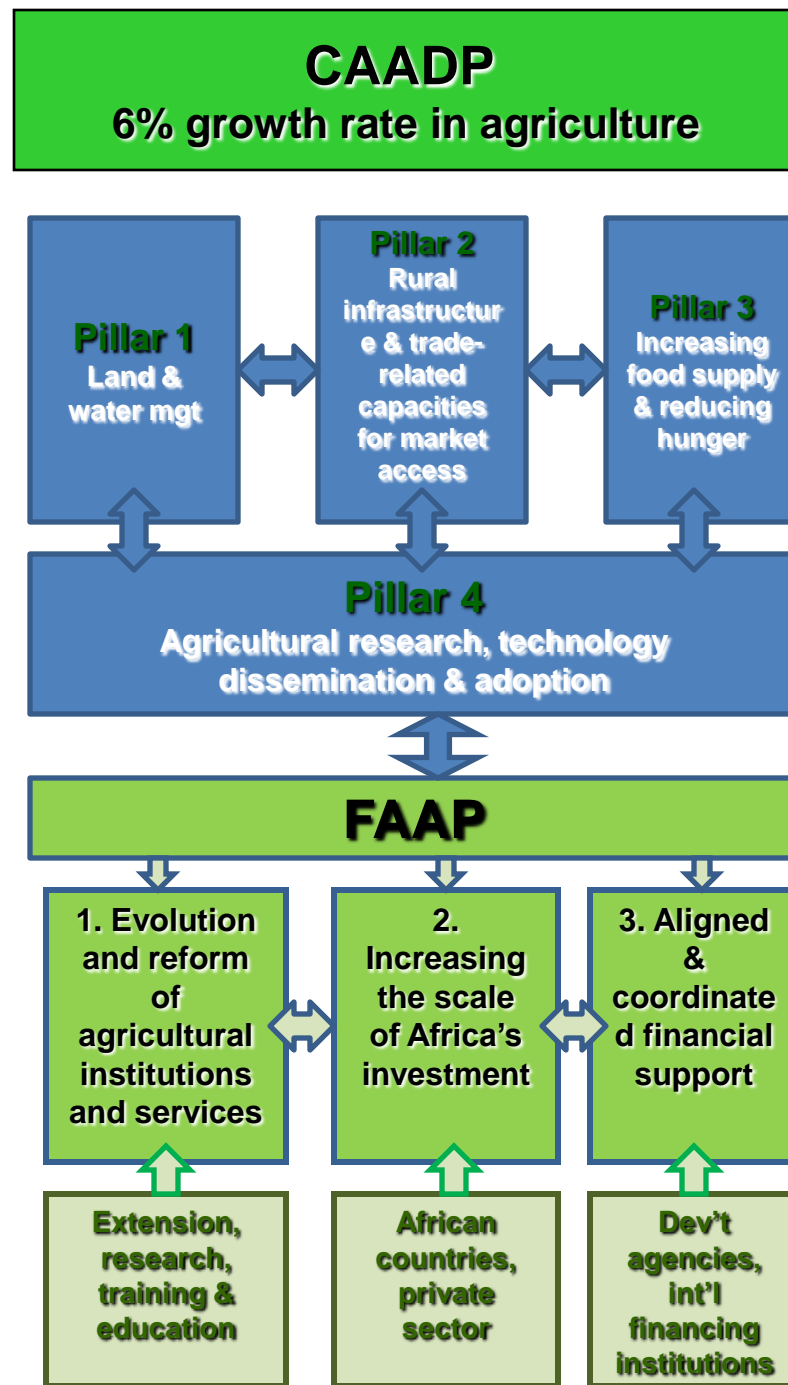
# **FARA as a visionary for African agriculture community**

- leadership in the formulation of the Vision for African Agricultural Research, later adopted by NEPAD as the vision for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

**Regional agricultural production  
to grow at an annual rate  
of 6% by 2020**

# FARA as an advocacy organization

- Recognized by the African Union and its program, NEPAD as its technical arm for ARD
- Appointed lead institution for CAADP pillar 4
- Facilitated the formulation and endorsement by African Heads of States of the Framework for African agricultural productivity (FAAP)



# FARA's program shaped by its constituents

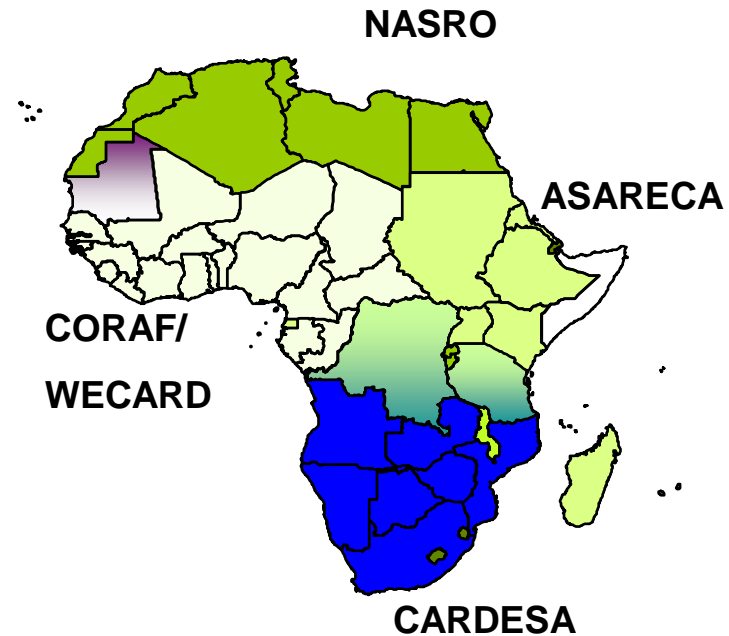
## 3 main functions

- Advocacy and constituency building
- Promote functional partnerships and strategic alliances
- Sharing and exchange of information and training



## 5 networking support functions

- Advocacy and resource mobilization
- Access to knowledge and technology
- Policies and markets
- Capacity strengthening
- Partnerships and Strategic Alliances

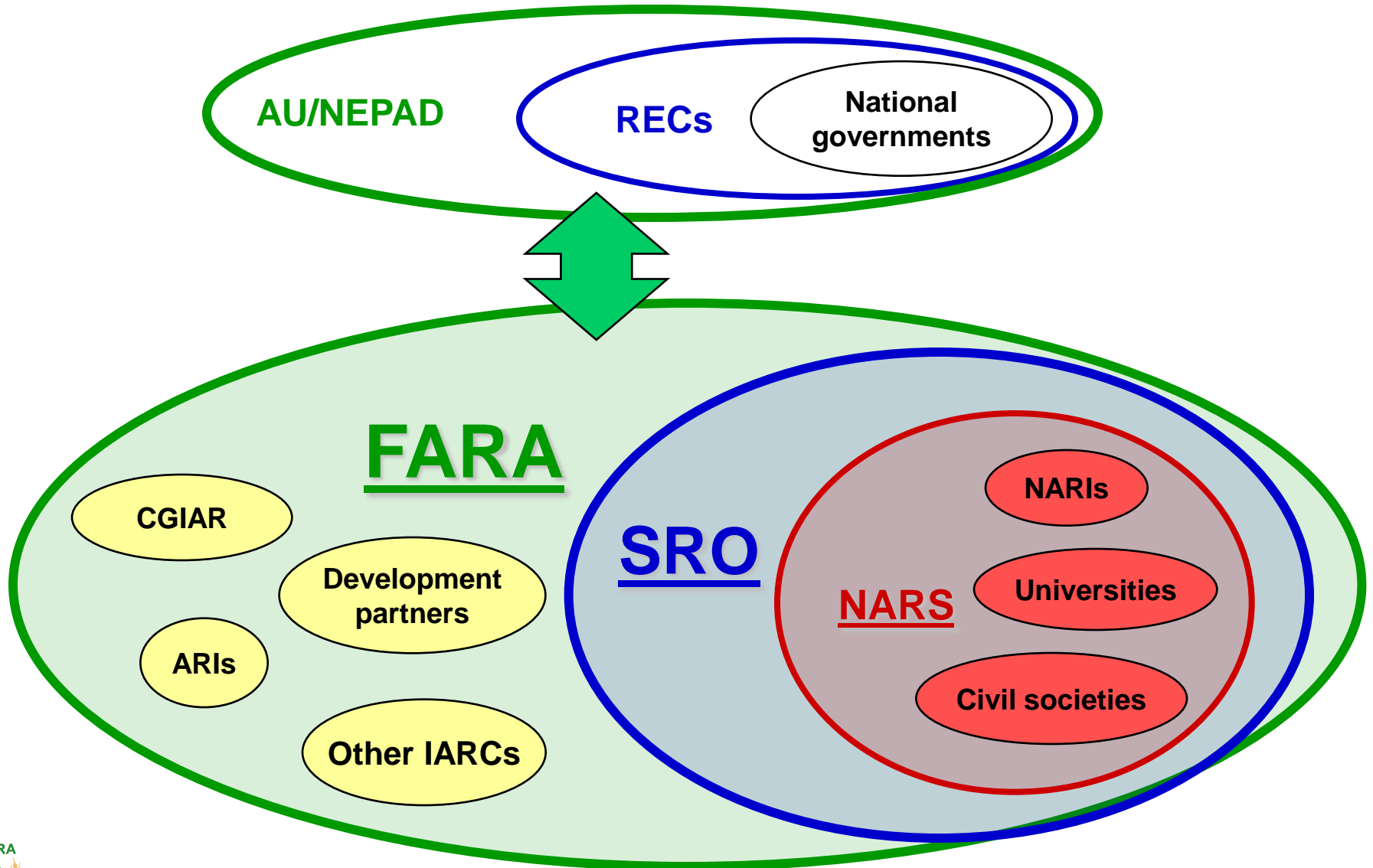


# FARA's interventions through 5 networking support functions

<b>Networking support function</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Programmatic Thrust</b>
<b>1. Advocacy and resource mobilisation</b>	<b>FAAP</b>	<b>Framework to guide agricultural productivity interventions</b>
<b>2. Access to knowledge and technologies</b>	<b>RAILS</b>	<b>Facilitating access to information and learning</b>
	<b>DONATA</b>	<b>Enhancing the dissemination of technologies</b>
<b>3. Regional policies and markets</b>	<b>ABBPP</b>	<b>Policies on emerging technologies e.g. biotechnology</b>
<b>4. Capacity strengthening</b>	<b>SCARDA</b>	<b>Institutional capacity development for agricultural research and development</b>
	<b>BASIC</b>	<b>Building Africa's capacity to build it's own capacity</b>
<b>5. Partnerships and strategic alliances</b>	<b>SSA-CP</b>	<b>Promoting innovation systems approach to agricultural Research</b>
	<b>PAEPARD</b>	<b>Inter-regional collaboration between Europe and Africa</b>



# FARA institutional relationships



# Practicing the principles of subsidiarity

Regional

- Advocacy and partnership building
- Economies of scale/critical mass

Regional issues requiring regional solutions:

shared by multiple sub-regions and require coordinated solutions **[unity of action]**

greater value added from aggregation at regional scale

Greater capacities and resources at regional level for advocacy, trans-boundary cooperation and capacity strengthening **[solidarity]**

Exchange of information and learning across subregions

- Participatory service delivery
- Local decision-making
- Accountability and ownership

Subregional /national issues requiring subregional/national solutions

Where lower level action creates greater impact than regional action (issues linked to local specificities)

National/local systems need to adapt, build, or deploy specific knowledge or capacity building.

Local information, knowledge & market integration is of primary importance

Local



# Conclusion

**FARA will continue to promote institutional innovations in Africa**

**It's success can only be measured on;**

- **How the national systems can respond to local needs and opportunities**
- **How much cross -national and -regional knowledge exchange are conducted across the region**
- **How much national governments invest in ARD to contribute to the economic development**



***In 5 years of its existence, FARA has created a stronger African voice in ARD***

# Thank you

