



# ACCRA Declaration

First Continental Conference on  
Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD)

6th–10th December 2021

Accra, Ghana

# Preamble

In July 2017, the CAADP-XP4 organizations (FARA, AFAAS, CORAF, CCARDESA, CCARDESA, NAASRO) and other continental, regional and national agricultural stakeholders, rolled out the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A) as an African-owned instrument for achieving the CAADP target of doubling agricultural productivity by 2025. Doubling agricultural productivity target is fundamental to the achievement CAADP's goals of eliminating hunger, substantial reduction on poverty, creation of wealth and jobs and improved management of the continent's natural resources. Knowledge Management was highlighted as one of the key drivers to facilitating the achievement of the Malabo targets. This led to the development of a continental knowledge management strategy including the [FARADataInformS](#) as an observatory for Africa Agriculture.

Fortunately, in October 2019, CAADP-XP4 organizations secured resources from the European Union (EU) under the Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) initiative to implement a 4-year project in Africa, titled 'Supporting Implementation of a Science-led and Climate-Relevant Agricultural Transformation in Africa' (SISTA). This funding is administered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The goal of this programme is to enable agricultural research and innovation, including extension services, to contribute effectively to food and nutrition security, economic development and climate mitigation in Africa. The specific objective is to improve the individual and collective capacities of the critical supra-national agricultural research and innovation institutions in their support to countries, through: strengthening the technical and organizational capacities of individual CAADP XP4 organizations; establishing and strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate-relevant innovation; enhancing knowledge management and communication for advocacy, decision support and sharing innovation related to climate-relevant agricultural transformation; among others.

Consequently, to achieve the objective on knowledge management and communication, FARA and the CAADP-XP4 partners jointly initiated the Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD) Challenge in July 2021. The Challenge builds appropriate capacities, establish communities of practice for Knowledge Management (Artificial Intelligence) and strengthens knowledge ecosystem to accelerate the achievement of the CAADP Malabo goals by 2025 and the SDGs by 2030. The Challenge is implemented through an integrated, strategic, educational and transformational approach; and it is expected to take place annually in selected countries. The implementation of the Challenge is part of the seven recommendations from the "Akosombo Integration Agenda" for agricultural development, developed with experts and published by [FARA as the Continental Data Capture Strategy](#).



The 2021 Continental Conference on Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD) was the climax of the first year Challenge. The Conference was hybrid in nature and had about 377 representatives from 44 organisations in over 28 countries in Africa and 3 countries in Europe met in Accra, Ghana from 6th to 10th December 2021. The welcome address was given by the Executive Director of FARA, Dr Yemi Akinbamijo; while goodwill messages were received from representatives of IFAD, CCARDESA, AFAAS, ASARECA, GFAR. The Keynote Statements, titled 'A Sixth Generation of Knowledge Management for Development? Implication for agriculture in Africa' and "Advancing the S3A, CAADP Malabo targets, and the SDGs agenda in Africa through KM for improved production and productivity in Africa", were delivered by Dr Sarah Cummings of K4DP/ KM4Dev and Dr Irene Annor-Frempong, former Director of Research and Innovation at FARA.

This Declaration is the Outcome of the deliberations and resolutions at this maiden Conference. The Declaration comprises a remarkable set of actionable agricultural knowledge management goals that have been agreed upon by all participants. These goals show a more targeted approach to achieving sustainable agricultural prosperity for the continent both in the short and long-term.

**W**<sup>E</sup>, the more than 58 physical and 319 virtual representatives of 44 African organisations (national, regional and international agricultural research institutions, extension and advisory, ministries of agriculture; academia; bilateral and multilateral development partner organizations, both in the public and private sectors, as well as the media) from over 28 countries met in Accra, Ghana from 6th to 10th December 2021 to deliberate at the First Africa Conference on Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD), which focused on the development of KM strategies, national KM policies and thematic policy briefs for participating countries;

**A**<sup>P</sup>**PPRECIATIVE** of FARA, AFAAS, CCARDESA, ASARECA, CORAF and K4DP for graciously organizing and hosting the Conference, in partnership with GFAR and YPARD Africa, and funded by the European Commission administered by IFAD;

**A**<sup>C</sup>**KNOWLEDGING** the key principles and values of the CAADP Process, which include the pursuit of agriculture-led growth as a main strategy to achieving the targets on food and nutrition security and shared prosperity, as well as exploitation of regional complementarities and cooperation to boost growth;



**COGNIZANT** of the Malabo Declaration on CAADP and the AUC agenda 2063, reaffirming the commitment to work with continental institutions (FARA, AFAAS, CCARDESA, ASARECA, CORAF) in providing leadership in agricultural development on the continent; and to, among others:

- End hunger in Africa by 2025 through accelerated agricultural growth using, among others, the supply of appropriate knowledge, information, and skills to users (Art. 3a).
- Halve poverty by 2025, through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation by creating job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains (Art. 4c);
- Harness markets and trade opportunities locally, regionally and internationally by promoting and strengthening platforms for multi-actors interactions (Art. 5b);
- Strengthen national and regional institutional capacities for knowledge and data generation and management that support evidence-based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (Art. 7c).

**UNDERSTANDING** the importance of strong global partnerships and cooperation for sustainable development, as stressed by SDG 17, as well as the role of indigenous knowledge in agricultural development;

**AWARE** of the low level of technology, innovation and knowledge dissemination to the last-mile in the continent, and the need to leverage on modern ICTs and artificial intelligence (AI) for knowledge management for agricultural development;

**AWARE** ALSO of Africa's weak capacity to manage the knowledge and information generated to facilitate evidence-based agricultural developm

**NOTING WITH CONCERN** that poor knowledge management has continued to limit agricultural growth and development in the continent;

With this in mind, we hereby call upon all actors and stakeholders (FARA, AFAAS, CCARDESA, ASARECA, CORAF, K4DP, GFAR, GFRAS and YPARD, as well as all national and regional agricultural institutions, both in the public and private sectors, working in the CAADP participating countries) to implement the following



# Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development Agenda for Africa



# Key actions to be taken

Ten (10) work packages are proposed with a total of 30 recommended actions. It is an ambitious package, but considering that the lives of our people, the wealth of our nation, and the sustainability of Africa and the planet are rooted in the ability to make the best use of knowledge for our future, no effort must be spared to advance Knowledge Management.

The 10 work packages are briefly outlined in this policy brief. For each package a dedicated policy brief is available. A Continental KM4AgD Center of Excellence shall be established and hosted at FARA, with similar centers at regional and national levels as a vehicle connected to a pool of experts to support the realization of this collective agenda.

## Overview of 10 packages

### 01 Knowledge Partnership and Knowledge Agenda

- Forming a Knowledge Partnership for Agricultural Development
- Co-creating a Knowledge Agenda with actionable measures
- Foster Communities of Practice and Innovation Labs in key thematic areas

### 02 Knowledge Inclusion Programme

- Develop a Knowledge Inclusion Framework; focal points in public bodies and CoP
- Identify and promote technologies helping disadvantaged people to access knowledge
- Trainings for public and private bodies to become knowledge inclusive

### 03 Knowledge Awareness Programme

- Knowledge Talks of Leaders
- National K4D Conference
- KM4D Award Programme

### 04 Knowledge Management Excellence Programme

- National Knowledge Management Policy and Strategy for the public admin
- KM positions established in all public bodies
- Professional Society for Knowledge Management



## 05 **National Knowledge Hub and Digitalization**

- Establish a National Knowledge Hub
- Develop a Knowledge Graph for AgD for AI-Applications in cooperation with FARA and partners
- Digitalize agricultural knowledge processes on the Hub

## 06 **Advanced Knowledge Processes**

- Setup mechanisms for capturing traditional knowledge
- Define knowledge transfer plans and indicators for knowledge dissemination
- Define a strategic process for technology adoption in agriculture
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## 07 **Academic Centres for Knowledge Sciences**

- Establish a Centre for Knowledge Sciences
- Develop a UNESCO Chair Research Programme for Knowledge Ecosystems
- Integrate KM Education in existing educational programmes
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## 08 **Business Models and Resource Mobilisation**

- Strengthen dynamic business models and identify new business opportunities
- Establish T-Know Ltd. as a PPP company driving innovation
- Create a Knowledge for Development Fund

## 09 **Fake News and Quality information standards**

- Define standards for quality information and fake news
- Focal points for quality information and fake news
- Awareness and Capacity Building Programme to fight fake news and misinformation

## 10 **Knowledge infrastructures and centres**

- Establish/Upgrade Agric Centers to Knowledge Villages
- Upgrade village libraries to Knowledge Spaces
- Develop and promote an affordable smart farm equipment



This Declaration is presented to the participants who attended the First Continental Conference on Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD), 6th to 10th December 2021 for validation.

**Dated 9th December 2021 at Africa Regent Hotel, Accra, Ghana**

## Endorsed:

1. Dr Yemi Akinbamijo (Executive Director, FARA)
2. Dr. Silim Nahdy (Executive Director, AFAAS)
3. Dr Dr Cliff Sibusiso Dlamini (Executive Director, CCARDESA)
4. Dr Abdou Tenkouano (Executive Director, CORAF)
5. Dr Enock Warinda (Intérim Executive Director, ASARECA)
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