



## 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly

**'Africa Feeding Africa through Agricultural Science and Innovation'**

**15–20 July 2013**

**Accra International Conference Centre, Ghana**

**Second announcement**



AFRICAN UNION

**NASRO**



## Background

Every three years, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) convenes a continental gathering of all stakeholders involved in African agricultural development. This has come to be known as the Africa Agriculture Science Week. The Government of Ghana has graciously agreed to host the 6<sup>th</sup> FARA Africa Agriculture Science Week and General Assembly. This will bring together representatives of FARA's constituents from all African and non-African institutions involved in African agricultural research and development, such as the sub-regional organizations (ASARECA, CORAF/ WECARD, CCARDESA and NASRO)<sup>1</sup>, farmer and pastoralists' organizations, and agricultural research and educational institutions and universities.

Other participants will include non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in agriculture, national agricultural research systems (NARS), non-African advanced research institutions (ARIs), the international agricultural research centres (IARCs), international NGOs, policy makers, the private sector, government ministries, parliamentary sub-committees on agriculture, and Africa's development partners.

## Objectives

- To hold the 6th Africa Agriculture Science Week.
- To enable FARA's constituents to review progress and lessons learnt since the 5th Africa Agriculture Science Week.
- To determine the African regional agenda for the next three years.
- To showcase the Ghana Agricultural Science day as a highlight of the Africa Agriculture Science Week.
- To celebrate the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
- To ratify issues related to FARA's programme, governance, leadership and secretariat.

## Expected outputs

- Increased knowledge of problems, opportunities and successes in African agricultural research and development.
- Greater awareness of the roles and contributions of stakeholders.
- Networking and interaction.
- Appreciation of the important contributions of agricultural research for development in Africa, especially in Ghana.
- Awareness of the CAADP.
- Mobilising government support for the CAADP country-based process and budgetary allocation to agriculture.
- Review and endorsement of FARA's programme for the next three years.
- Approval of the appointment of FARA's board of directors.
- Elect the FARA chairperson and vice-chairperson, nominated by the board.
- Ratify the selection and appointment of the new Executive Director of FARA.

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1. Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa; West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development; Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa; North Africa Sub-Regional Organisation.

## Theme and sub-themes

As the target date draws nearer for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), food and nutritional insecurity remain cardinal problems in Africa. Together with environmental degradation, they lead to increased poverty and hunger. Africa has the potential to feed itself, given that 60% of its arable land remains unused and the remaining 40% bears crops with low yields. Of all the topics that could have been considered this time, the issue of home-grown food security is at the top of the list. As usual, it emerged from reflections on themes of past Africa Agriculture Science Weeks and FARA General Assemblies, current trends in African agriculture, and continuing consultations with stakeholders and partners.

There is no better host for this kind of meeting than Ghana – one of the few African countries that met the MDG 1 of halving hunger before 2015.

## Theme

‘Africa Feeding Africa through Agricultural Science and Innovation’.

## Sub-themes

### a. Education and human-resource development to enable Africa to feed Africa:

- i. Producing quality students from African universities.
- ii. Trends in and opportunities for the development of capacity in African agriculture.
- iii. Foresight and competitiveness of African agriculture.

### b. Innovations to improve productivity and resilience:

- i. Transforming African agriculture by doubling productivity – examples from Ethiopia.
- ii. Balancing commercial and environmental sustainability in agricultural development – examples from the Kenyan flower industry.
- iii. Promoting food security through the use of small machinery – examples from Senegal.

### c. Moving beyond competition and towards collaboration:

- i. The challenge of food security and the evolution of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).
- ii. Engaging and involving partners for increased productivity and environmental conservation, examples from the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP).
- iii. The CAADP and its evolution within Africa’s dynamic environment.

### d. Innovative financing and investment in agriculture:

- i. Partnering with farmers for food and nutrition security through micro-financing for agriculture.
- ii. Mobilising donors towards a common platform for food security (G8 new alliance for food security).
- iii. Nigeria’s experience in risk-sharing based on incentives in agricultural lending.

These sub-themes are intended to address major challenges, including emerging issues that are of utmost importance to Africa and, which will produce concrete suggestions for actions by FARA constituents. The pre-plenary meetings, exhibits and poster sessions will be organized to make optimal use of the participants’ time.

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## **The programme**

The programme is divided into three parts: a pre-plenary meeting for each sub-theme of the Africa Agriculture Science Week, the plenary meetings of the FARA General Assembly, and the business meeting.

### **Pre-plenary meetings**

The pre-plenary meetings (side events) present opportunities for in-depth discussions on sub-themes and priority topics. A call for applications for pre-plenary meetings will be issued by the FARA Secretariat in February 2013. The applications will be reviewed by a technical committee composed of distinguished experts in agricultural research and development in Africa, to select those events that will make best use of limited time. Interested institutions are encouraged to invite other institutions or organizations to join them in convening pre-plenary meetings.

Each session will elect a chairperson who, with the help of the facilitator, will be expected to summarise the recommendations of the session for the final report, and present the key recommendations of the session to the plenary for consideration by the General Assembly.

### **Africa Agriculture Science Week**

The 'Marketplace' (exhibition) runs for the whole week, featuring various exhibits on agricultural science. All stakeholders and actors in African agriculture – such as national agricultural research institutes (NARIs), farmers organizations, development agencies, small and medium-sized enterprises – are invited to participate as exhibitors. This will be an opportunity to raise awareness of their roles, programmes, success stories and products. In addition to the exhibition booths, there will also be poster displays at which participants will be able to set out their contributions to the theme of the week.

A day will be dedicated to the host country to showcase its achievements in the area of agricultural research through exhibits and field visits. This 'Ghana Day' will enable the Government of Ghana to raise awareness of the processes leading to its achievement of MDG 1 – halving hunger and the reduction of poverty. The Government of Ghana will also take the opportunity to portray priority areas for investment in agriculture. Ghana Day will be held in the middle of the week, between the pre-plenary and plenary sessions.

There will also be a special 'CAADP Day' to review individual country processes. Discussions will focus on the implications of the country implementation strategy. CAADP Day will serve as a roundtable for all attending ministers of agriculture, education, science and technology to represent their respective countries.

### **General Assembly**

#### **Plenary meeting:**

The first two days of the plenary meeting (open session) will be devoted to presentations on the outcomes and recommendations of the pre-plenary meetings. There will also be special presentations by invited speakers on various sub-themes and selected components. The General Assembly will review the recommendations coming from all the presentations and determine the way forward for the members of the Forum or the FARA Secretariat.

### **Business meeting:**

The third day will be devoted to the business meeting – a closed session attended by registered members only, to:

- Review and confirm FARA's proposed programme for the next three years.
- Elect a FARA Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson for the next three years.
- Ratify the appointment of the new Executive Director of FARA and approve the Executive Board of Directors for the next three years.

The FARA secretariat will publish all information concerning the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Agriculture Science Week and General Assembly on its website ([www.fara-africa.org](http://www.fara-africa.org)). If there is sufficient demand, the FARA Secretariat may arrange for pre-conference electronic meetings or working groups to be hosted on its website.

### **Participation**

FARA invites participants from all organizations, government ministries, specialised agencies and development partners engaged in agricultural research and development in Africa.

Invitations to the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Agriculture Science Week and General Assembly will be jointly issued by the FARA Secretariat and the Government of Ghana.

Interested participants and delegates should contact:

#### **The Executive Director**

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa  
PMB CT 173, 12 Anmeda Street, Roman Ridge  
Accra, Ghana

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Fax: +233 302773676

Email: [mjones@fara-africa.org](mailto:mjones@fara-africa.org)

Web: [www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/](http://www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/)

Kindly quote 'Science Week' in the subject line of your emails.

### **Registration**

There are two options for registration by participants.

*Option A:* Online through the FARA website for:

- Individual participants
- Pre-plenary meetings (side events)
- Exhibition space

*Option B:* Participants may register at the International Conference Centre at the beginning of the week.

#### **Registration fee categories:**

- Individuals from national agricultural research systems, USD 100.
- Other individuals (regional and international organizations), USD 300.

### **Membership fees (for attendance at the business meetings):**

- Individuals from national agricultural research systems, USD 150.
- Other individuals (regional and international organizations), USD 250.

Individuals and organizations are advised to register ahead of time at [www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/registration](http://www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/registration) in order to secure their places.

Note: membership allows attendance at and participation in the business meetings.

### **Registration for pre-plenary meetings (side events):**

Those interested in organizing side events are advised to register ahead of time on [www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/registration/](http://www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/registration/). The cost of meeting rooms is dependent on the number of participants and size of the room. For further information on registration and fees, contact [mjones@fara-africa.org](mailto:mjones@fara-africa.org) or [registration@fara-africa.org](mailto:registration@fara-africa.org)

Note: Organizers of side events will need to arrange their own tea or coffee and lunch on all days.

### **Registration for exhibition space:**

Those interested in exhibiting their work and posters are advised to register for booths and exhibition stands at the innovation Marketplace ahead of time on [www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/registration/](http://www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/registration/).

Last date: Registration for the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Agriculture Science Week closes on 28 June 2013.

## **Visas**

Ghanaian visas are easy to obtain. Participants should note the following:

- All visitors to Ghana are advised to visit the nearest consulate, embassy or High Commission to obtain a visa prior to departure.
  - Participants travelling from countries where Ghana has no diplomatic representation are requested to send a scanned copy of the bio-data page of their passports to FARA for assistance with obtaining their visas on arrival. These will be obtained from the appropriate authorities and a scanned copy will be sent by email prior to travel. A fee of USD 150 will be charged at the point of entry.

Countries whose nationals do not require a visa to Ghana are listed at the following link:

[www.ghanaimmigration.org/countries\\_not%20\\_visa.html](http://www.ghanaimmigration.org/countries_not%20_visa.html)

## **Hotel accommodation**

FARA has negotiated special rates with specific hotels in Accra, the Ghanaian capital. You can find details on [www.fara-frica.org/scienceweek/hotels/](http://www.fara-frica.org/scienceweek/hotels/). Changes in hotel rates will be conveyed though the same website.

## **Transportation**

Transportation between the hotels and the airport will be provided by the hotels. Shuttle services are also being arranged for movement between the conference venue and hotels, and details are available at [www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/](http://www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/). For participants who want to sightsee, the ideal form of transportation are the red and yellow 'Ghana taxis'.



## Venue

The 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly will be held from 15 to 20 July, 2013, at the Accra International Conference Centre. An ultra-modern centre located in the Christiansborg area of Accra, it is close to a number of important landmarks such as the Parliament, the Accra sports stadium, Independence Arch and the Black Star Square.

For more information on the venue see [www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/about-venue/](http://www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/about-venue/)

## About Ghana



Ghana is located on the west coast of Africa, about 750 kilometres north of the equator with a population estimated at 18.9 million in 2011. It is bordered on the north by Burkina Faso, on the west by Cote d'Ivoire, the east by Togo, and on the south by the Gulf of Guinea. Out of a total land area of 23 million hectares, 13 million hectares (57%) are suitable for agricultural production, and 5.3 million hectares of this are under cultivation.

Accra is the capital city but there are other important cities like Tema, Kumasi, Takoradi, and Tamale. The official language is English.

The climate is tropical, with the temperature generally between 21°C and 32°C (70–90 °F). There are two rainy seasons, from March to July and September to October, separated by a cool dry season in August, and a relatively

long dry season in the south, from mid-October to March.

The people of Ghana are friendly and there is a thriving international community.

For further information about Ghana, see [www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/about-venue/](http://www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/about-venue/).

For further information about the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Agriculture Science Week participation, FARA membership, side events, presentations and exhibitions, please contact: [mjones@fara-africa.org](mailto:mjones@fara-africa.org) and [scienceweek@fara-africa.org](mailto:scienceweek@fara-africa.org).



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