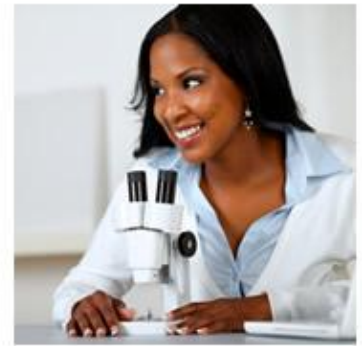# NEPAD Science, Technology and Innovation Hub (NSTIH)

Presentation Outline

- The African Union/ NEPAD Agency
- S&T and Innovation in the AU
  - Where are we coming from?
  - Where are we?
    - The AU/NEPAD Programmes on S&T and Innovation
  - Where are we going?
    - The NEW AU Science & Technology and Innovation Strategy

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AU/NEPAD Agency

- To **coordinate** and **facilitate** implementation of programmes in collaboration with RECs

- To **monitor** and **evaluate** the **implementation** of **programmes** in the AU

- To **conduct** and **coordinate research** and **knowledge management**

- To **advocate** on the **AU** and **NEPAD vision**, **mission** and **core values**

- To **mobilise resources** and **partners** in support of programmes.

NEPAD Science Technology & Innovation Hub (NSTIH)

- Coordinating and consolidating NEPAD ST&I programmes and projects

- Facilitating effective delivery of ST&I programmes across Africa based on the NEPAD Agency mandate

- Mainstreaming ST&I into NEPAD programmes and projects

- Support the planning and implementation of Impact oriented NEPAD Agency ST&I programmes

Current Programmes of NSTIH
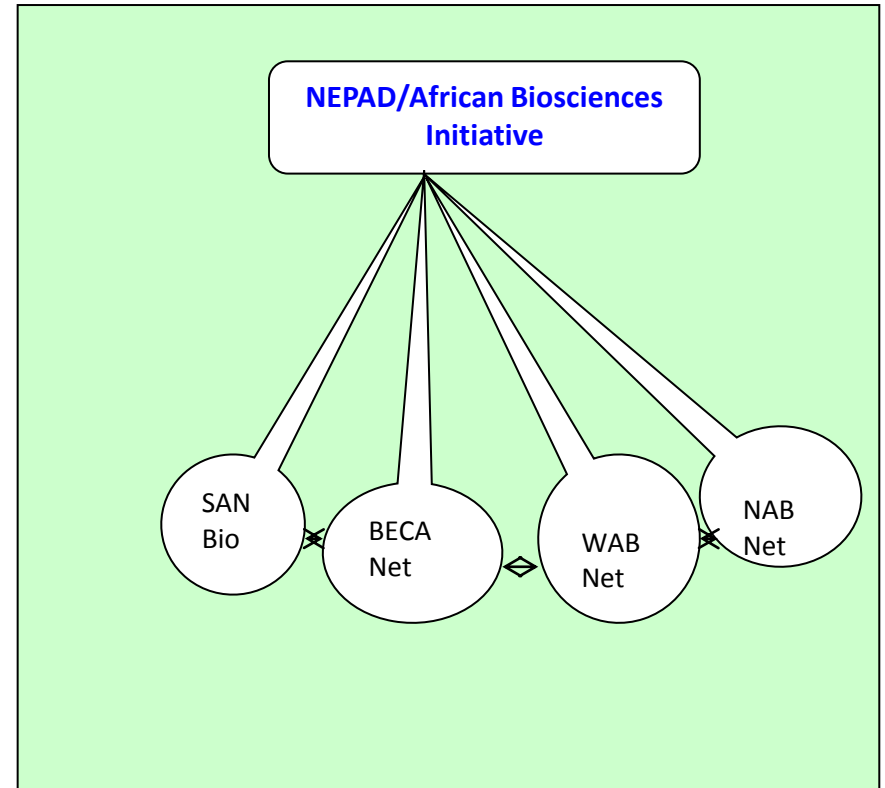
Implementation of the CPA

What is the CPA?

- Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) developed in 2005

- Policy framework to enable the continent secure its competitive advantage and build science and technology capacities

- Consolidated S&T programmes of the AUC and NEPAD Agency

- The CPA guided the implementation of AU ST&I programmes since then to 2013
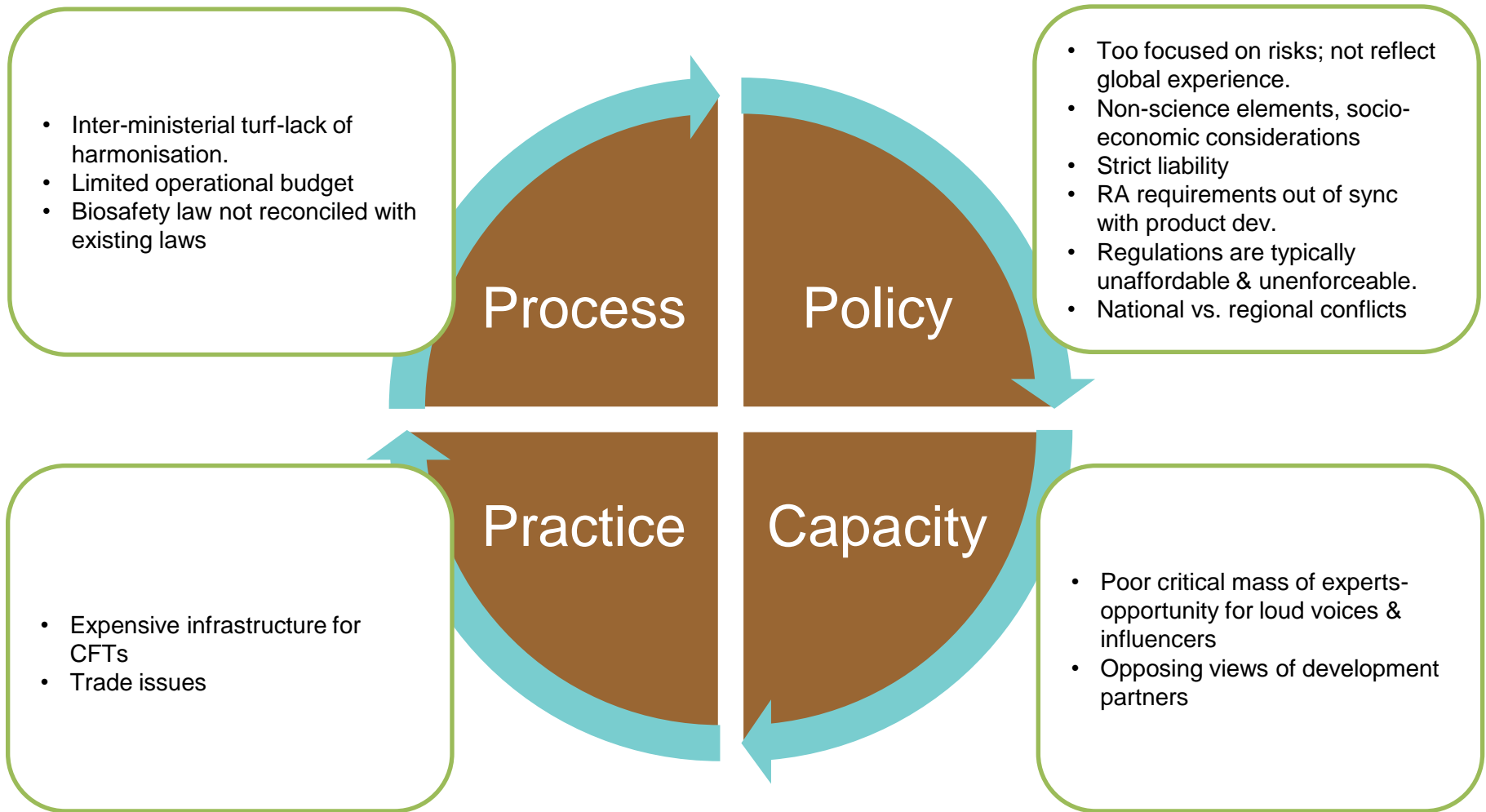
ABI - Networked laboratories

- **Southern African Network for Biosciences**
  - **CSIR hosting the hub**
  - **6 nodes**

- **Biosciences east and central Africa Network (BECA)**
  - **ILRI hosting the hub**
  - **5 nodes**

- West Africa Biosciences Network
  - **ISRA hosting the hub**
  - **3 nodes**

- North Africa Biosciences Network
  - **NRC in Egypt hosting hub**
  - **4 nodes**

ABNE

Process

- Inter-ministerial turf-lack of harmonisation.
- Limited operational budget
- Biosafety law not reconciled with existing laws

Policy

- Too focused on risks; not reflect global experience.
- Non-science elements, socio-economic considerations
- Strict liability
- RA requirements out of sync with product dev.
- Regulations are typically unaffordable & unenforceable.
- National vs. regional conflicts

Practice

- Expensive infrastructure for CFTs
- Trade issues

Capacity

- Poor critical mass of experts-opportunity for loud voices & influencers
- Opposing views of development partners

Internships, Study Tours, Short Courses and Country Case Studies

Objectives
- Best practices for the safe conduct, inspection & monitoring of CFTs; experiential learning.

- Support Uganda MPs for a study tour to small scale Bt cotton & maize farms in RSA March 25-28, 2013

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Policy Programmes of the STIH

Programmes generating evidence for Informing Policy

- **ASTII**
  - Joint NEPAD & AUC (AOSTI) capacity building mechanism in monitoring performance in R&D and Innovation in African Countries and RECs.
  - 33 countries so far participating
  - Production of the African Innovation Outlook

- **AVAL Health**
  - Impact assessment of Health Research Programmes

Other Programmes of the NSTIH (2)

Health

- AMRH
  - Supports policy and regulatory reforms at continental, regional and country levels in medicines regulation

- Health Research Programme
  - PMPA – Local production of medicines

Water - Networks of water centers of excellence

Laser – African Laser Centre (ALC)

Mathematical sciences - African Mathematical Sciences Network (AMINet)

AU Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024)

Basis for STISA-2024

- 5 year review requirement of the CPA

- AU developing an African Union 2063 Agenda

- STISA-2024 - the first of the ten-year incremental phasing strategies to respond to the demand for science, technology and innovation from various impact sectors of
  - agriculture, health, infrastructure development, mining, security, water, energy, and environment etc.

AU Vision

"An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, an Africa driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena"

- Establishing a robust STI and ICT foundation - best assurance of success in achieving an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa vision
- S&T and Innovation as a tool - driving force that ensures the safest conditions and the quickest success within the context of the vision of the African Union.

Mission of STISA-2024

To accelerate Africa's transition to an innovation-led, Knowledge-based Economy

- This will be achieved by:
  - Improving the state of STI readiness in Africa in term of infrastructure, technical and professional competence and entrepreneurship development

  - Implementing specific policies and programs in science, technology and innovation to address societal needs

Priorities

STISA-2024 anchored on six distinct continental priorities of:

1. Eradicate Hunger and Achieve Food and Nutrition Security

2. Prevent and Control Diseases and ensure welfare

3. Develop physical and intellectual communication

4. Protect our space

5. Live Together- Build the community

6. Create Wealth

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Conditions Success

- Four mutually reinforcing prerequisite conditions for its success
    1. Enhancing technical and professional competencies
    2. Upgrading and/or building research infrastructure
    3. Technology acquisition, valorising research results and stimulating collaborative innovation and entrepreneurship
    4. Providing an enabling environment for STI.

Implementation of the Strategy

- Imbedding STI into other development sectors
  - Agriculture (CAADP)
  - Health (Africa Health Strategy and PMPA)
  - Infrastructure (PIDA)
  - Environment (Environmental Strategy)
  - Industrial development (AIDA)
  - Education (second decade of education)

- Network approach still to be utilized

Implementation of the Strategy (3)

❖ 3 levels

- ## National:
  - Member states use the strategy as a guide for formulating national programmes/policies and collaborating at the regional and continental level

- ## Regional:
  - RECs, regional research **institutions and networks** use strategy to design initiatives
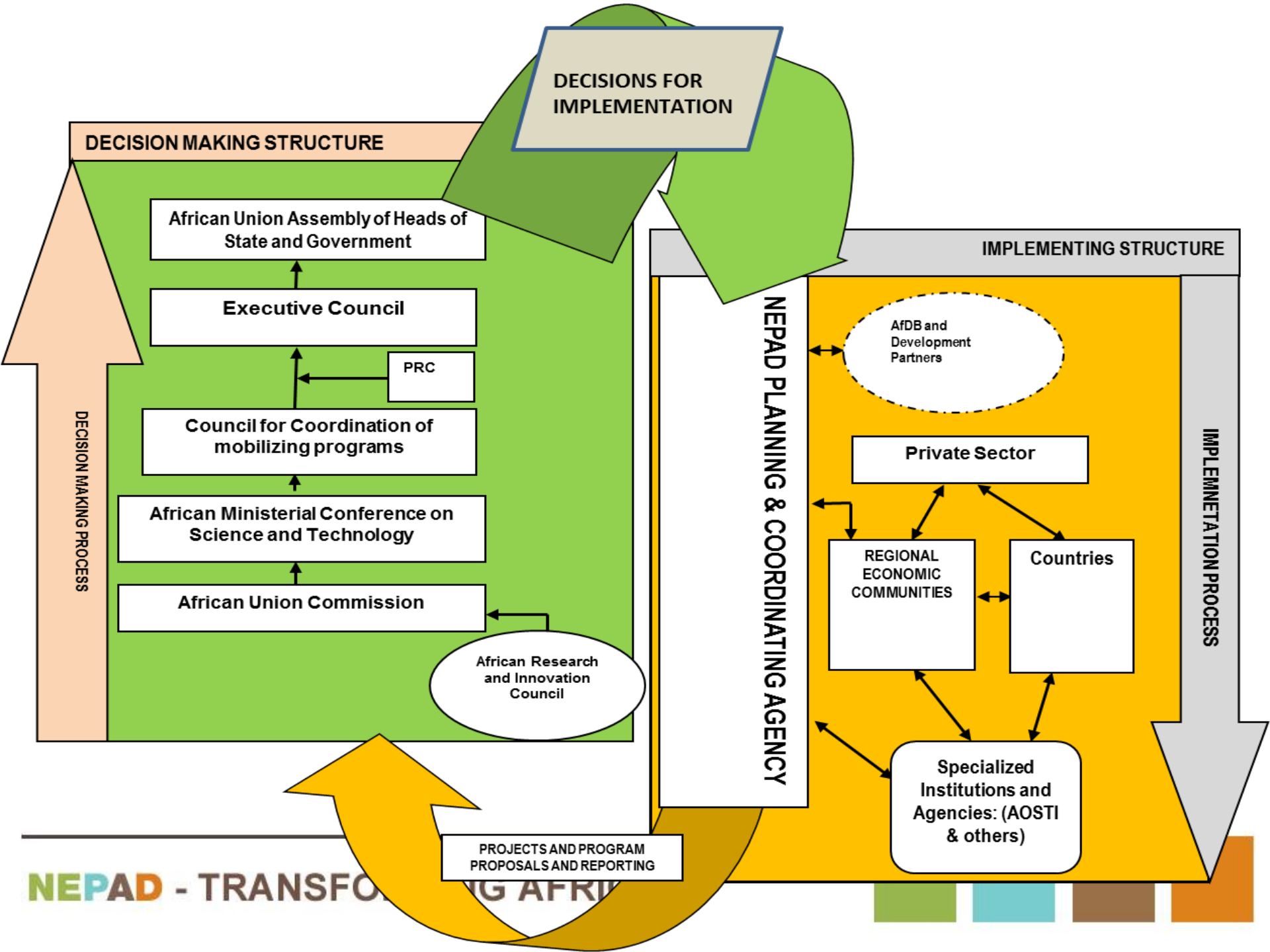
Implementation of this Strategy (4)

– **Continental:**

- AUC, NEPAD Agency & Partners will
  - Facilitate and coordinate implementation of continental programmes
  - Monitor, evaluate and report on achievements
  - advocate for priority programmes

DECISIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE

IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURE

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government

Executive Council

PRC

Council for Coordination of mobilizing programs

African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology

African Union Commission

African Research and Innovation Council

NEPAD PLANNING & COORDINATING AGENCY

IMPLEMNETATION PROCESS

AfDB and Development Partners

Private Sector

REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

Countries

Specialized Institutions and Agencies: (AOSTI & others)

PROJECTS AND PROGRAM PROPOSALS AND REPORTING

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ACCOUNTABILITY

❖ Performance to be measures at national, regional & continental levels

  ✓ Targets and indicators will be set for the Strategic framework

❖ **Monitoring & Evaluation**

✓ Country and regional programmes

  ✓ Data to be collected and reported by member states, RECs, AUC & NEPAD Agency

Next Step in the development of the Strategy

- Based on the recommendations of the bureau work towards finalisation of the strategy for submission to the AU structures

- Submit to January 2014 AU Summit for approval

- Implementation to commence in 2014

Looking Ahead!
Embedding ST&I (STISA-2024) into other sectoral development frameworks

- First areas of focus for NSTIH are:
  - Agriculture (CAADP)
  - Health (African Health Strategy, PMPA)

Focus of NSTIH in Agriculture

- Achieving coherence: Bringing together key actors within the STI and Agriculture arena - Support member states and RECs to develop integrated and solid systems approach:
  - Anchoring agricultural research and innovation within

    - AU Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024)

    - Policy priorities in the Agriculture sectors (CAADP).
      - Existing CAADP compacts and investment plans

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Advocacy for Pro-STI investment policies

Aim:

- Support RECs and MS create the context, legal frameworks and supportive infrastructure to incentivize investment in research and entrepreneurship
- Support RECs and MS to develop Regional and National Agricultural Research and Innovation Investment Plans

Activities

1. Convene multi-stakeholder/ inter-ministerial platforms at regional level aimed at aligning agricultural research and STI policy priorities.
2. Supporting member states and RECs to articulate development plans for agricultural research within the CAADP framework
3. Developing and monitoring indicators for measuring progress in the implementation of the national and regional Agricultural R&D investment plans

Promotion of policy harmonization and regulation

AIM

- Supporting member states and RECs to build functional regulatory systems for sustainable and safe application of agricultural biotechnology through the ABNE

Activities

1. Empowering African regulators with science-based biosafety information
2. Training and education
3. Technical assistance
4. Provide other relevant biosafety capacity building programs

Stimulating entrepreneurship

AIM

- Facilitate the engagement of the private sector in African Agricultural research and innovation systems

- Facilitate the movement of agricultural research products to the market

Activities

1. Within the CAADP and CPA frameworks, convene Public and Private Sector Platforms on Agricultural Science, Technology and Innovation

2. Support creation and expansion of agricultural research clusters by linking private sector to the existing regional networks of centers of excellence.

3. Support the establishment of technology transfer and commercialization programmes at agricultural research institutions and universities in partnership with existing initiatives such as RUFORUM

Supporting regional agricultural research networks

AIM

- Enabling African countries to harness biological applications in agriculture for food and nutrition security through the coordination of African Biosciences Initiative (ABI)

Activities

1. Coordination and supervision of the networks while ensuring independent network management structures at hub hosting institutions for sustainability

2. Create a platform for inter-network information sharing on lesson learnt and best practices

3. Provide policy guidelines and facilitate the alignment of the network programmes to the CPA and CAADP priorities

4. Monitor and evaluate the activities of the networks and their contribution to the achievement of continental targets in Agriculture and food security

Expected results

1. National and regional agricultural science, technology and innovation priorities clearly articulated within the CAADP investment plans

2. Agricultural research actions at national and regional level properly coordinated and anchored within priorities set in the investment plans

3. A monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment system for the shared impact of agricultural research on 6% productivity growth implemented

4. Functional regulatory systems at national and regional levels

5. Strengthened linkages between public research and the private sector

6. Increase in the number of agricultural research products reaching the market

Thank you