Keynote Statement:
The Continental AR4D Knowledge Management Agenda

Dr Yemi Akinbamijo

Executive Director, FARA

Presentation at the CCARDESA Regional KM and Data Capture Guidelines Training Workshop– Nov 22 2021 @ Johannesburg

Outline

1. **Introduction**

2. **FARA's KM Agenda for the Continent –**

   a) **Enhancing productivity through KM**

   b) **Strengthening AR4D KM & data Capture**

   c) **Strengthening the Knowledge ecosystem (Knowledgization)**

3. **Implications and concluding thoughts**

Introduction

➢ Knowledge is at the heart of Sustainable Development.

➢ Today's societies are characterised by a predominant and still growing share of knowledge work at all levels of institutions.

➢ Data, information & Knowledge are essential because they supports evidence-based decision making, planning and increases institutional credibility.

➢ Knowledge is critical for research organisations because research is an essential component in generating knowledge.

➢ Unfortunately, existing agricultural knowledge and statistics are spotty and unreliable in Africa – this despite the existence of official statistics agencies in most, if not all, African countries *(FARA 2019, CCARDESA 2021)*

➢ The case poses a substantial challenge to CAADP-Malabo Indicators and monitoring progress through Biennial review

Introduction

Several significant institutional developments in recent years by FARA and partners provide a valuable foundation for an attempt to improve Africa's agricultural knowledge, information and data capture and dissemination. Examples:

1. In 2017, FARA and partners, through the S3A consultations, took feedback from over 40 NARIs, analysed and assessed ways to improve the "Forum's" KM and collaborative efforts with our partners, resulting in the **FARADataInformS** *(an online observatory of AR4D in Africa).*

2. In 2020, the CAADP-XP4 institutions established a collective agenda christened the **"Akosombo Integration Agenda"** out of which a **Continental Data Capture Strategy (CDCS)** was published. The agenda outlined seven key areas of integration (details in slide 11)

3. In September 2021, FARA & the CAADP-XP4 kicked-start the implementation of the Akosombo agenda through the **Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD) Challenge** *(an integrated, strategic, educational and transformational approach)*

Enhancing productivity through KM

- FARA's KM seek to enhance knowledge and decision support on *capacities*, *policies*, *practices*, *technologies* and *innovative funding instruments* to stakeholders to aid AR4D and S3A.

- Relevant continental tools have been deployed to harness data necessary for advancing Agricultural Research and Innovation to enhance productivity.

- *Needed knowledge have been collected (pulled), shared (pushed) and* people *connected* to that knowledge.

- Data Portals – ***Experts Directory***, IP Portal, Blog & Biomassnet as well as a ***Library, Analytics*** & ***eMarketSpace*** offer varied services.

- All hosted on ***FARADataInformS*** which integrates them and offers analytical functions

FARA's KM Agenda

Through it's Knowledge Management, Learning and Communication, agenda, (KMLC), and working with SROs and AFAAS – FARA seeks to Strengthen the Knowledge ecosystem ("Knowledgization") through **Strategic objective 2**

Create A4AD knowledge society that Promotes access to knowledge products, services and technological options to support evidenced-based decision making

Strengthening AR4D KM & data Capture

Scan to join
the AR4D Directory
of Experts and Practitioners

We encourage you to register and get your
experts to also register and be part of this
community

Strengthening AR4D KM & data Capture

The Akosombo Integration Agenda identified 7 areas of integration for CAADP-XP4

1. **Knowledge Management Approaches**

2. **KM Tools**

3. **Knowledge Resource**

4. **KM Processes**

5. **Communities**

6. **KM Capacity Development**

7. **Knowledge Ecosystems for AR4D**

Akosombo Integration Agenda

Continental Data Capture Strategy (CDCS)

A Practical Guide for Knowledge Managers In Africa AR4D
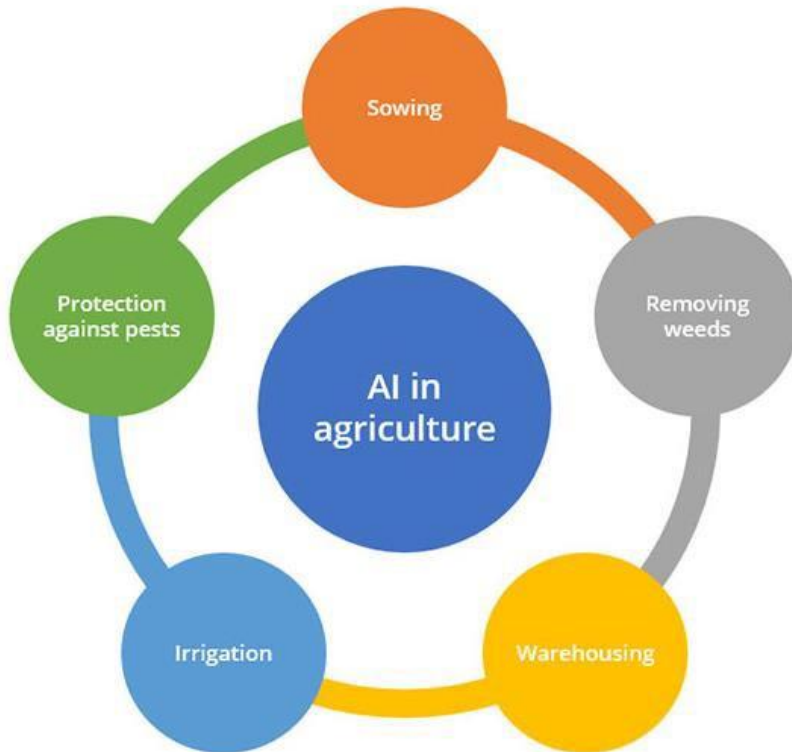
Strengthening the Knowledge ecosystem (KM4AgD Challenge)

- A lighthouse annual *joint programme* of FARA, its Continental Partners CCARDESA, CORAF, ASARECA & AFAAS. YPARD & GFAR have joined – *CCARDESA is represented by Zambia, Botswana, Eswatini, Tanzania & Mozambique*

- Participants *(28 from 21 countries)* learn about *Knowledge Management (techniques, tools & services)* and *Knowledge Society (people & culture)* in training sessions - integrated KM approach

- *Together with sector partners*, they identify and *master KM Challenges together*

- Successful participants awarded "*Certified Knowledge Managers for Sustainable Development*" *Certificates*

- Solutions and findings will be presented at a final *high-level KM Conference (Dec 6-10)*

FARA
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

- Global spending on smart agricultural technologies, including KM & AI, is projected to triple in revenue by 2025, reaching $15.3 billion

- Spending on KM & AI technologies and solutions alone in Agriculture is predicted to grow from $1 billion in 2020 to $4 billion in 2026

- KM & AI for Agriculture is one of the fastest-growing technology segments projected to reach $4.5 billion by 2025, according to PwC.

Columbus, 2021
& Prof Dalkir

AI in agriculture
- Sowing
- Removing weeds
- Warehousing
- Irrigation
- Protection against pests

❑ United Nations predicts world's population will increase by 2 billion people by 2050, requiring a 60% increase in food productivity to feed them.

❑ KM and AI are already showing the potential to help close the gap in anticipated food needs for an additional 2 billion people worldwide by 2050.

❑ They provide real-time data for algorithms increase agricultural efficiencies, improve crop yields and reduce food production costs.

❑ FARA, AFAAS & SROs must lead the continent's agenda in preparing for "Disruptions" in the digital space

Finally:

AI + KM +

We need hybrid systems: effective AI + KM + knowledgeable people to survive and to succeed in the Post-Truth World

FARA, AFAAS & SROs must work together to lead the continent's agenda in preparing for "Disruptions" in the digital agricultural space

ERCI

OBRIGADA

THA

ASANTE