


Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

Making Research Work for the Poor: New Trends in Agricultural Research

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Transformation: A radical change; a big shift

Distinguished from an incremental change.

This is what is required to move African agriculture from where it is (e.g. using hand hoes which are museum pieces in other parts of the world) and a focus on primary production, to where it should be—e.g. precision farming, biotechnology, nanotechnology)

Transformation in agriculture is not an end, it is a means to economic and social transformation.

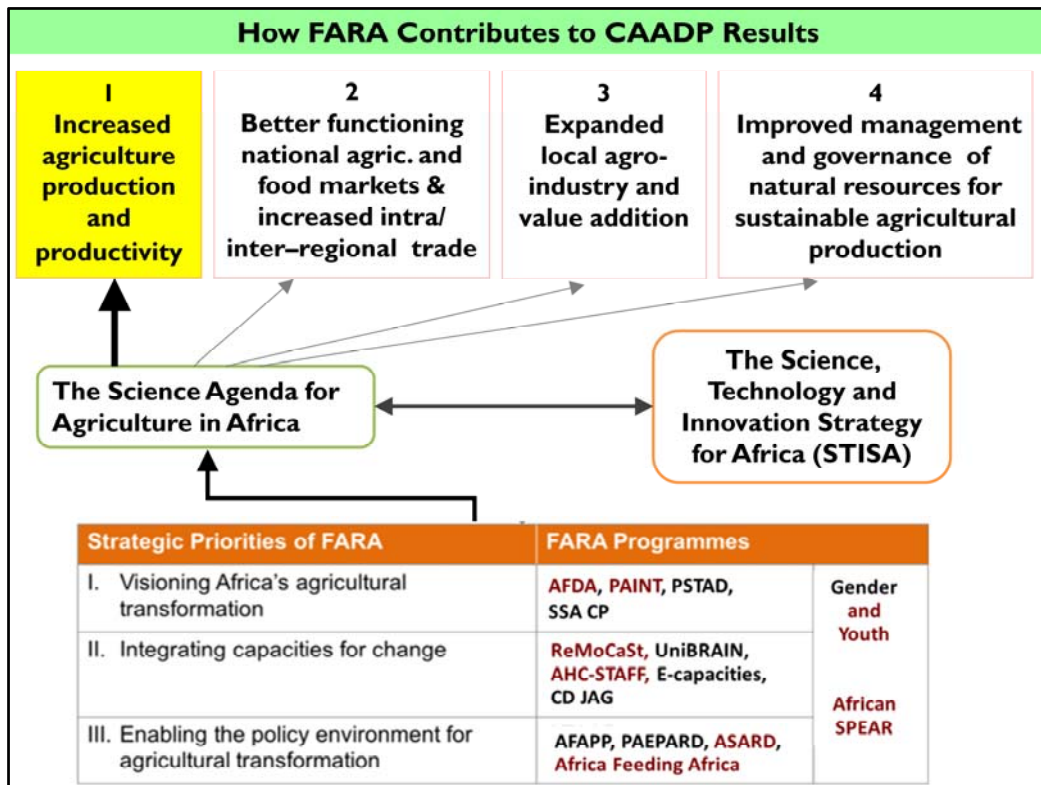
Africa's economic growth challenges

- 1. Sustaining a high growth rate over the long term**
- 2. Ensuring that high growth translates into high poverty reduction (inclusive growth)**
 - Current drivers of growth are not sufficiently inclusive (widening inequality)
- 3. Ensuring that high growth is environmentally sustainable**

1. High growth with little volatility
2. Inclusive (of the poor, youth, women)
3. Avoid scenario in China where growth has been associated with pollution and natural resource degradation

One of the main drivers of growth for the fastest growing countries is natural resources especially mining e.g. in Sierra Leone, Angola, Mozambique.

The growth in these countries is benefitting a few and has bypassed most of those living in poverty. This point may be important to an Australian audience because a significant proportion of their engagement on the continent is in ventures like mining which are contributing to growth but benefitting a small segment of the population



Our Common Ground

- **Agriculture is the mainstay for African Economic transformation**
- **Without agriculture, economic transformation in Africa will be in jeopardy;**
- **Without STI, advancement in agriculture will be substantially compromised**

1. Improving production and productivity ...1/3

- **Harnessing science , technology and innovation – implementing the Science Agenda**
- **Improved Land & Water management**
- **Improved access to inputs & financial services**

• **TARGET: double agriculture total factor productivity (TFP) by 2025**



Animated slide

Experience from other regions indicates that there is scope for tripling productivity

This first result is the main entry point for Science, Technology and Innovation in the transformation agenda. i.e. implementing the Science Agenda.

S3A Key messages

- **Africa should commit to strengthening its role as a player in global science for agriculture to drive economic transformation**
- **Science for agriculture in Africa is too important to be outsourced. We must take our own destiny in our own hands.**
- **Science is critical for the preservation and use of Africa's rich biological heritage and indigenous and local knowledge.**
- **Agricultural transformation in Africa will not happen without realizing the potential of women and young people.**
- **Now is the time to increase investments in science for agriculture in Africa, when countries have the means and opportunities to invest, and gain returns.**
- **African Solidarity in Science is an important dimension of the strategy for harnessing the power of science**



1. Improving production and productivity ...2/3

- Africa has ceded control of its STI agenda for agriculture to external partners—strategically untenable
- This is now being addressed by ensuring full ownership and leadership of the Science Agenda
- Test of African ownership and leadership lies in African financing of the agenda's implementation
- Doubling TFP will entail devoting special attention to:
 - labour productivity, non-land physical capital & biotechnology

In 2012 Africa imported about 78b worth of food. Why should we expect the beneficiaries of Africa as a food export market to help us build capacity to reduce and subsequently eliminate that market. Africa needs to seize the destiny of science for its agriculture.

1. Improving production and productivity ...3/3

- **Taking advantage of the possibilities offered by Biotechnology**
 - A rational debate is needed that considers the problem, all possible solutions including biotech in all forms, and their associated benefits and risks

Tail Piece

- 1. Africa's agriculture transformation agenda is guided by an analysis of the kind of agriculture Africa wants to have in the next 10, 20, 30 years**
- 2. STI is necessary but not sufficient to realise the desired transformation. Need to link with other drivers, especially policy**



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Thank you

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