ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
A WAY THROUGH

World Farmers Organization Rome
7th June 2012

Martin Eweg African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)
• Introduction and Background
• What are the core Problems?
• African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
• Status quo
• Opportunities
• Where to in the future? Todays farmers tomorrow?
• Where is change required?
• Conclusion
• 2012 = 7 billion people on the globe
• Where is the point of saturation?
• Wars over land, water and food

• How is it possible to sustain populations?
• Farmers hold the key.
• Farm smarter not more.

• Global events are unprecedented
For example, the Salt Sahel over Africa, drought, floods, and Sahel droughts.
Background

So Just how do we find a way through?

- Global sufferance from food insecurity
- Farming patterns have been affected
- Sustainable use of resources
- Transformation into modern economies requires agricultural development
- Engaging research, Extension and Agricultural Advisory services (AAS) of Private and Public sector is critical
- Renew the client service provider relationship
- Land reform – How do farmers who have been disenfranchised
So What are the challenges?

- Unsupportive Policies and inappropriate institutional arrangements
- Inappropriate AAS delivery approaches
- Low organisational & Institutional Capacities
- Inability to target poverty gender/youth
- Inappropriate funding approaches
- Ineffective demand for AAS
- Farmers who are not empowered
- Environmental degradation and climate change
- Poor Market Orientation
- Widening scope of AAS
- Supporting pluralism in delivery
What are the core Problems?

- No continent-wide framework for supporting institutional development
- Lack of mechanisms to develop synergies between countries, regions
- Poor mechanisms for Information exchange and experience sharing
- Low capacity of AAS to address current challenges
- Ad hoc mechanism in networking and partnership building
- Reactionary rather than planned advisory programmes
- Lack of capacity to contribute to overall agricultural development agenda
- Political interference and little value chain participation
African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services

- Support sharing of experience, “best fit” practice, information and knowledge on AAS at Continental level
- Mobilize experts from within Africa to respond to the specific demands and challenges of AAS at country, regional and continental level
- Support for country AAS to ensure that FAAP principles are applied within the CAADP process
- Backstop country-level AAS to focus on AAS issues with pragmatism
- Support and facilitate partnership development, regional, continental and global levels for rural and agricultural development
- Represent AAS at continental and international forums and
Strategic partners in AAS

- Farmers and Farmer Organisations
- Financial Services
- Agricultural Training Institutions
- Private sector and Agri-business
- Social Services
- Public sector at all levels
- Research Systems and Institutions
Why is there food insecurity in the region with respect to AAS?

- Inadequate adaptation and capacities of AAS to address the changing and complex role of AAS

- Inappropriate supportive policies, institutional and funding mechanisms that recognize complexities

- Inadequate support to demand driven and pluralistic AAS to address diverse demands
Status quo continued

• In adequate attention to farmer empowerment and accountability

• Paying attention to cross cutting issues (climate change, gender etc.)

• Inadequate support to AAS network and platforms - (information and knowledge management, capacity, synergies between countries, innovative approaches and tools etc.)

• Weak linkages and inadequate mechanisms in networking
Opportunities

• Greater recognition of extension as a driving arm for agricultural development in the region.....

• Emergence of Agricultural Innovation Systems and participation of AAS actors

• Increasing scope for Pluralistic delivery of extension and advisory services

• Emergence of decentralization, recognition for services

• Development of national level platforms for setting and driving national AAS agendas
Opportunities

• Integration of strategic monitoring, self evaluation and knowledge management by most institutions
• Beginning of a strong private sector to drive technology delivery while creating market linkages
• Emergence of supportive Global Platforms and networks (GFRAS etc)
• The changing global political environment and Institutional mechanisms – CAADP, FAAP, SROs etc.
So where to in the future?

- Developing supportive policies and institutional systems
- Promoting Pluralism in service delivery, requisite capacity strengthening and appropriate funding mechanisms
- Promote “best fit” practice, approaches, tools and lesson learning across countries and regions
- Strengthen AAS networking platforms at various levels
- Develop and strengthen partnerships at various levels for synergies and greater outcomes and impacts
- Support emergence of strong farmer institutions and Private sector participation.
Conclusion

• AAS Plays an important facilitative and catalytic role in agricultural and rural development

• Appropriate policy development by all governments

• Strengthening platforms for the formation of affiliated AAS in all countries

• Provides a channel through which farmers’ needs can be identified and addressed in a holistic manner

• Appropriate policies and institutional mechanisms needed to address the current challenges
Thank you all for your kind attention

http://www.afaas-africa.org