



African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services

CONCEPT NOTE

Event

AFAAS Agricultural Extension Week, 2013

Period

05th – 10th August 2013

**Location/
Venue**

Grand Palm Hotel, Gaborone Botswana (<http://www.grandpalm.co.za>)

Theme

Value Chain Approach in Agricultural Development: Coping with new demands for Agricultural Advisory Services.

Sub themes

- i Market orientation, Entrepreneurship and Farmer institutional development;
- ii Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Extension and Advisory Services;
- iii Emerging issues: Gender, Climate change adaption and mitigation;
- iv Extension policy and Global rural advisory services perspectives.

Background

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is a framework endorsed by African Heads of State and Government for the restoration of agricultural growth, food security, and rural development in Africa. CAADP's goal is the attainment of an average annual growth rate of 6 percent in agriculture. CAADP directs investment to four mutually reinforcing pillars¹ through research and development reforms at national level.

African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) operates mainly under CAADP Pillar IV, which is led by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). AFAAS envisions "Agricultural Advisory Services (AAS) that effectively and efficiently contribute to sustained productivity, profitability and growth of African agriculture for poverty reduction". Its goal is enhanced utilization of improved knowledge and technologies by agricultural value chain actors for improving productivity oriented towards their individual and national development objectives. The overall objective recognises that different countries may have different approaches to agricultural transformation and development. It is however assumed that, these objectives would variously embrace the improvements of the livelihoods of rural people and sustainable natural resource management. AFAAS desires to ensure enhanced competency of agricultural extension and advisory service providers to enable them better address the

¹ Pillar I - Extending the area under sustainable land management;
Pillar II - Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access;
Pillar III - Increasing food supply and reducing hunger;
Pillar IV - Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption



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increasing needs and demands of various value chain actors.

Right from the AFAAS inception, the desire by the stakeholders was to have a forum that would enable them to network, exchange information and share experiences. One of the mechanisms for doing this is through a continental symposium that brings together AAS stakeholders biennially. So far three symposia have been held and AFAAS has had success in identifying, documenting and sharing key lessons in AAS particularly in the areas of: climate change, gender, market oriented agricultural advisory services, diversifying delivery of agricultural advisory services and funding approaches, institutional and organisational capacity for extension, policy and advocacy and enhancing farmer participation and empowerment.

In line with its vision and mission, AFAAS is organizing an Africa wide Agricultural Extension Week to take place from 05th -10th August 2013, in Gaborone, Botswana as endorsed by the General Assembly in 2011. This event is expected to bring together, agricultural extension and advisory services practitioners across and outside Africa. It will build on lessons and innovative AAS approaches and tools identified and /or documented since the previous symposia and lessons generated during the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services annual events, with focus to African Agricultural Development.

During the Agricultural Extension Week, AFAAS will also hold its Fourth General Assembly (for members, by invitation only) as a way to strengthening its governance and institutional structures across the continent.

Purpose and objectives

The objectives of the Agricultural Extension Week are:

- i Raising the profile of agricultural extension at the national, regional and continental level and make a mark in Botswana;
- ii Coming together / networking/ sharing / building consortia and capacitating extension participants;
- iii Taking stock and highlighting AFAAS achievements since 2011 General Assembly and identification of future actions;
- iv Reflection and development of strategies on how to take forward extension differently;
- v Integration of different aspect of extension and identification of emerging/ new issues.

Outputs

- Lessons and experienced shared among different stakeholders and concrete evidence with a wide array of AAS actors and policy makers.
- Emerging issues and innovation approaches in identified thematic areas and their implications to AAS analysed and future action agreed.
- Strategies on how to respond to continental demands and emerging issues in AAS identified, defined and agreed
- Declaration formulated for circulation to various stakeholders in Agricultural Development



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Approach and activities

Methodology

- i Field visits to places in Botswana where success has taken place due to innovative extension and advisory services. The field visits shall be organized with a clear learning objectives for which appropriate tools shall be developed;
- ii Farmer/ Front-line extension worker stories. This method is introduced to accommodate presentations by farmers and field workers in a way that suits them more than presentation of researched papers. The stories shall be presented/ narrated during parallel sessions;
- iii Videos from the field. This will be done during the exhibition or during the side sessions;
- iv The methodologies for structured networking and knowledge exchange shall include: the World Cafe, Round Tables, Food for Thought and Open Spaces;
- v Reflection and synthesis of outputs from the Week. The reflection shall be undertaken through a process of group work and plenary discussion.

Announcements

Prior to the Agricultural Extension Week, there will be a call for on-line registration, inputs, e-consultation and commissioning of studies, success stories in the AFAAS website (www.afaas-africa.org). The selected reports, case studies will be presented during the Agricultural Extension Week in plenary or as session papers.

Organisation and coordination

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has been constituted by Ministry of Agriculture and College of Agriculture Botswana and South Africa Country Fora focal persons. The LOC will take leadership at the national level in organizing the event. At the continental level, a committee has been put in place with the main role of backstopping the LOC and resource mobilisation including sourcing of resource persons/firms.

Planning meetings and field visits shall be conducted jointly by the LOC and the Continental committee in Botswana. The committees shall elaborate on the selected themes and share them widely through GFRAS, FARA and AFAAS websites (www.g-fras.org, www.fara-africa.org and www.afaas-africa.org).

Lead international consultants/ facilitators/ firm with profound experience in research and development with focus to Extension and Advisory Services shall be hired to facilitate the process.

Participants

Participants are expected from within and outside Africa. The event will target primarily extension practitioners from public, private and civil society organizations, farmers and representatives of farmers' organizations and commodity associations, Country Fora representatives, policy makers, the research and development community, Development Partners, academia and the media among others.



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Organisers /Partners

The AFAAS Agricultural Extension Week 2013 shall be led by Ministry of Agriculture Botswana and College of Agriculture Botswana, Country Fora, RESCAR-AOC, and AFAAS Secretariat, Other key partners include: Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services –GFRAS, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa-FARA, Sub Regional Research Organisations – SROs.

Duration

This event shall be for six days (5th -10th August 2013); including side meetings and AFAAS Fourth General Assembly on 10th August 2013.

Sponsorship

There will be limited sponsorship for participants from especially Country Fora and Key note speakers. Gender considerations shall be empathised in sponsorship and representation as enshrined in AFAAS constitution.

Budget

The estimated budget for Africa wide Agricultural Extension Week is USD 522,617. Itemized budget can be accessed on request from the coordination team.

Contact Person

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