



## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

Day 1 - Monday, September 5  
14:30pm- 17:30pm  
Human and Institutional Capacity Development

### BRIEF

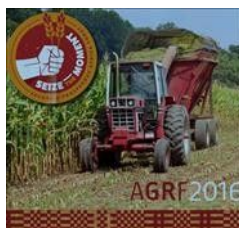
**Context:** Agricultural transformation in Africa can be achieved through concerted efforts of filling capacity gaps along the agriculture value chain. There are many institutions in Africa and abroad conducting capacity-building initiatives at various levels accomplishing various levels of success and impact. The impacts of these capacity-building initiatives have been shared with stakeholders to influence funding by national governments and donors as well as to identify gaps where resources are needed.

**Session objectives:** The purpose of this side event was to demonstrate the impact of agricultural capacity building initiatives on the continent derived from various partnerships, and also to identify gaps for future interventions. The session sought to influence governments and the private sector to fund capacity-building initiatives for sustainability. The outcome of this meeting was a commitment to champion the development of a community of practice where lessons learnt will help shape capacity building initiatives across the continent. The event was organized in partnership with FARA, RUFORUM, AWARD, BeCA ILRI Hub, and Michigan State University among others.

#### During the session, the presenters:

1. Shared the impacts of the capacity building initiatives conducted in Africa;
2. Sought to influence governments and the private sector to fund and support capacity-building initiatives for Sustainability;
3. Identified the challenges and gaps not covered by any institutions and proposed how to address them (especially for small holder farmers through formal vocational training; and
4. The session committed to explore developing a community of practice to leverage different strengths across the continent and from eminent volunteers.

**Session organizer:** Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa





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**Human and Institutional Capacity Development - AGRA**

Name	Picture	Discussion
<p>Dr. Rufaro Madakadze, Program Officer, Education and Training, AGRA</p> <p>Role: Welcome and Introduction</p>		<p>The welcome and introduction by Dr. Rufaro Madakadze put in perspective the aim of this session which was to deliberate on capacity building efforts in African agriculture.</p>
<p>Dr. Joe DeVries, Chief of Agricultural Transformation, AGRA</p> <p>Role: Co-Lead Presenter</p>		<p>Dr. Joe DeVries opened this session by noting that there is a need to build true revolutionaries in African capacity building of agriculture in order to achieve a Green Revolution in the continent.</p> <p>He further noted that there is a need to put in practice what has been learned, to determine priorities, and to identify the capacity building opportunities that can be seized. Therefore, it is important to be out in the field to understand what is working and what is not to be able to develop capacity to either scale up what is working or build capacity to address what is not working.</p> <p>Human capacity building has an implicit role in the key effort to feed Africa, and build continental food security, and therefore it is in support of this effort that the Rockefeller Foundation realised early on that training is important as that is the only approach that can be felt. This realisation has highlighted the need for local people to be capacitated to build community capacities across the African continent.</p> <p>Dr. Devries further stated that AGRA’s capacity building initiatives intend to reach tipping points in 11 countries. To date about 456 MSc and PhD have been supported in plant breeding and seed system. Of these, 321 have finished training and returned to their organisations or countries. Among the trained scientists, some have researched and released 136 crop varieties, with 89 of the crop varieties being produced and purchased commercially.</p>



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		<p>In addition, he noted that some of the scientists trained have founded their own institutions.</p> <p>He concluded that the capacity-building clarion call should be louder, since the students have demonstrated the impact of training. Let us influence Africa!</p>
<p>Prof. Joachim von Braun, AGRA Board Member &amp; Director, Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn</p> <p>Role: Co-Lead Presenter</p>		<p>Prof. Joachim von Braun delivered a lead presentation for this Session entitled “The Critical Role of Capacity Building in Transforming Agriculture Development”.</p> <p>He started his presentation by noting that the AGRA Board has spent a lot of time and resources in strengthening capacity building in agriculture in Africa.</p> <p>He argued that capacity building is an evolving field that is influencing and will continue to influence Africa’s agriculture. This is demonstrated in part by the many institutions that collaborated to organise the session on human and institutional capacity building.</p> <p>He noted that he has supervised over 40 doctoral students. Many of whom have returned to their countries to innovate and continue training.</p> <p>His presentation focused on three critical issues;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On transformation of African agriculture and capacity:</li> </ol> <p>Here he highlighted two major transformations in agriculture in Africa that will shape thinking about capacity building:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The first transformation is happening as farms change in terms of farm size structures, market access, crop and livestock technology, labor and mechanization and information technology; and</li> <li>b) The second transformation is due to agriculture becoming a multi-dimensional “sector” (connecting farming, industrial value chains, services, bio-economy).</li> </ol>



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		<p>He defined capacity as the ability of individuals, groups, institutions and organisations to identify and solve problems over time (UNDP, Morgan, 1993)</p> <p>He further argued that capacity building costs money therefore capacity investment in agriculture should be seen as an investment. This would allow more players especially private sector to support capacity building initiatives.</p> <p>The lead presenter further submitted that for capacity building to be successful there should be demand-pull and supply push. This would allow for not only a push for supply of capacity (for example services and funds), but facilitate a demand-pull (through people’s participation and voice). To achieve this, there is therefore a need for sound governance in capacity building as the political context in capacity building also matters a lot.</p> <p>Prof. von Braun further emphasised that investment in capacity building and development must pay off considering the importance of agriculture, but should be looked at with a long- term view and in the context of prevailing budgetary constraints.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2. Some high return capacity investment opportunities – individual to policy:</p> <p>The second critical issue he noted was that there should be an aspiration to change agriculture if capacity building is to succeed. This is important specifically because people with higher aspirations are more likely to adopt agricultural innovations. On this end, capacity building can be accelerated by providing resources or technologies but are not sufficient without higher aspirations.</p> <p>On capacity development regarding youth, he said we should attract more youth in agriculture to rural areas. Capacity building is not just about training, but also attracting youth to work in agriculture, hence creating jobs.</p> <p>In his speech, the keynote speaker stressed the need to reduce the gender gap in capacity building in agriculture. This can only be</p>
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		<p>achieved by facilitating equal capacity for women on farms and in rural economy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3. Capacities, partnerships and policy:</p> <p>The third critical issue addressed in von Braun’s speech suggested that African farmers lacks the capacity to deal with weather extremes (in Ghana and in Africa in general). This is complicated further by climate change. Hence, this presents a critical area that need to be considered in capacity building.</p> <p>With a well-capacitated Africa, it is possible to segment according to different options in agriculture and to close the gap in production through new approaches to crop intensification, diversification, and to progress toward income diversification and the integration of agriculture and non-agriculture activities.</p> <p>He further noted the need to refocus capacity building by looking at people’s potential and interest. Therefore, the focus should not just be on higher education but also on certified vocational training for African farmers, which goes beyond extension, but is below formal education and will affect smallholder farmers. He cautioned that the approach is expensive but will be beneficial in the end.</p> <p>In conclusion, he said that there has been a lot of progress through, CAADP / AU, RESAKSS, ACBF, AGRA, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation among others.</p> <p>However, government capacity for agricultural implementation should be strengthened. This will only be achieved through research and policy learning from each other.</p> <p>There should be more emphasis on agricultural capacity and more investment in building capacity; People level capacity, organisational capacities and policy capacities. This would be reinforced by results oriented actions for capacity with partnerships and rigorous evaluations.</p>
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<b>Panelists:</b>		
<p>Dr. Amy Jamison, Michigan State University (MSU)</p>		<p>Dr. Jamison introduced and talked briefly about MSU’s role in building agricultural capacity in Africa through various initiatives, the latest being the Alliance for Africa Partnership (AAP). She noted that AAP seeks to promote innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions to address emerging challenges.</p> <p>She informed the session that AAP seeks to transform Africa through building bridges by sharing knowledge and skills between people and organisations and thus building their capacities. Secondly, AAP seeks to transform institutions through sustainable partnerships.</p> <p>Lastly, AAP aims to transform lives by using research to help solve Africa’s agricultural challenges. She welcomed everyone to get involved in AAP through different activities in countries like Kenya, Tanzania, and Malawi among others where AAP has active capacity building initiatives underway.</p>
<p>Prof. Agnes Mwang’ombe, Seed Enterprise Management Institute, University of Nairobi</p>		<p>Professor Mwang’ombe presented on the subject of “Building the Capacity of Seed Enterprises for Increased Efficiency and Quality”. Her organization, the Seed Enterprise Management Institute (SEMI) is funded by AGRA and work with several partners. These include; CIMMYT, KEPHIS, KALRO, Iowa State University, Kenya Seed Company and University of Nairobi.</p> <p>She stated that the overall goal of SEMI is eradication of food and nutrition insecurity through the capacity building of seed actors to develop quality seed and affordable seed. Through SEMI 836 personnel from 214 companies in 21 countries in sub-Saharan Africa have received training at SEMI at the University of Nairobi. The trainees are recruited through AGRA and these are from small and Medium seed enterprises.</p> <p>SEMI has several short courses and an MSc in Seed Technology and Business Management with more than 15 students currently enrolled.</p>




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		<p>Professor Mwang'ombe further noted that through this project, SEMIs has developed a seed-processing factory, comprising of air-screen cleaner, gravity separator, seed coating machine and packaging machine. This factory has a processing capacity of 5 tons per hour.</p> <p>She further noted that there is a need for long-term training and strengthening and this is offered through the MSc programme in Seed Technology and Agribusiness. She also argued that SEMIs is unique since it focuses on experiential learning with the trainings being short and highly interactive.</p> <p>A major challenge that she noted is the need of maintaining seed varieties once the seed is released. A high turnover rate has been witnessed once the trainees receive certification.</p>
<p>Prof. Eric Danquah, West Africa Center of Crop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana</p>		<p>Professor Eric Danquah made a presentation on “The Impact of PhD Training in Plant Breeding in Africa by African Centres of Crop Improvement”.</p> <p>He started his presentation by stating the need to meet the SDG’s especially on hunger and poverty, which can only be achieved through capacity development. He further stated there is evidence that plant breeding can influence development and reduce hunger by coming up with new plant varieties that are suited to local conditions. It is against this that WACCI was established in 2001 and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and AGRA in 2007.</p> <p>He noted that there is a need to take a cue from Brazil’s agricultural development success so Africa can avoid ending up in poverty, and to ensure food and nutrition security and to promote sustainable agriculture as required of us by Agenda 2063, and the Malabo commitments.</p> <p>To help achieve the Africa’s commitments to end poverty and be food secure, he added that the African Centre for Crop Improvement, (ACCI) located at University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, was established in 2001 with phase one funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and phase two funded by AGRA received in 2007. The vision of the Centre was to become the leading training institute of a new generation of plant breeders in Africa.</p>




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		<p>He noted that overall, 119 PhDs have graduated from ACCI and WACCI. Of these, ACCI had 84 PhD students who have graduated between 2007 – 2016. While at WACCI, 35 PhD students have graduated between 2013 – 2016. There have been over 296 publications from PhD thesis. The graduates have developed over 149 crops varieties.</p> <p>He further gave examples of graduates from ACCI and WACCI such as Dr. John Derera who graduated in 2006 and has received grants totalling US \$6.5 million to conduct research on plant breeding. John has developed maize germ plasm for breeders in South Africa and West Africa. In addition, he has supervised 42 PhD and 14 MSc students. John has 72 peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals. He noted that it is a good example of the impact of capacity building.</p> <p>Professor Danquah concluded by saying that there is need for mass training in plant breeding since many countries still need training in plant breeding, the training will sustain the revolution in agriculture.</p>
<p>Prof. Richard Mkandawire, Deputy Director, AFAP</p>		<p>Professor Mkandawire led a brief discussion on the “Creation of a Community of Practice (CoP)” in capacity building/ development.</p> <p>He started this discussion by reiterating that there is need to establish a CoP on capacity building in Africa. A CoP will help in capacity building in agriculture; if this is done then we will solve many issues and close the capacity gap.</p> <p>He further noted that the voice at continental level is lacking e.g. at AUC and other continental bodies hence the need to develop a CoP. The reason for this, he continued, is that if we are to talk of Africa rising we need to reconsider the future, the changing food preferences, food processing by training and we need to address the capacity needs by sector in agriculture. Developing a CoP would afford Africa a platform for continuous engagement on issues of capacity development.</p> <p>Professor Mkandawire urged that the importance of CoP is reinforced by the fact that some countries do not have the</p>







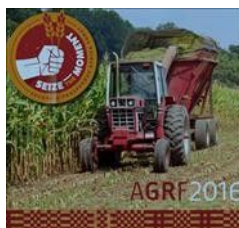
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		<p>capacity e.g. Malawi probably has only two soil scientists. The CoP should be evidence based and demonstrate impact and thus stimulate interest among potential members.</p> <p>It is important that capacity building should be coordinated to align continental efforts in financing and toward setting up the training opportunities for work force learning and smallholder farmers' education.</p> <p>In conclusion, he said that there is need to take on the global expertise of the retirees in the North and Asia to support capacity building as volunteers, a model that AFAP is using.</p>
<p>Prof. Margaret Karembu, International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA)</p>		<p>Professor Karembu of ISAAA presented on “Communicating Science for Policy Change”. She began her presentation by saying that there is need to bring solutions developed by scientist to local smallholder farmers and not just to publish in journals. Best practices should be brought to the farmers to encourage them to learn.</p> <p>She also noted that there is a science-research-policy weakness in that scientists and policy makers work at different paces. While scientists tackle a problem over many years, policy makers must make decisions every day. To avert this disconnect there is need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing, which is giving out, and</li> <li>• Communication, which is getting through.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, effective communication must be planned according to different stakeholders. Scientists should take the messages to policy makers and farmers. To achieve effective communication, there is a need to get feedback from the users.</p> <p>However, to achieve effective communication of science, the parties should build trust and credibility which leads to a need to simplify the scientific jargon. Communication should be terms plainly understood by as many stakeholders as possible to reduce existing communication gaps and reduce the use of technical jargon.</p>






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Dr. Rebbie Harawa		<p>Dr Rebbie introduced the panelists and set the stage for the discussion. Dr. Harawa is the Interim Head of the Farmer Solutions program.</p>
Role: Moderator		
<b>Panelist:</b>		
<p>Dr. Moses Osiru, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM</p>		<p>Doctor Osiru informed the delegates that RUFORUM is a member based entity comprised of various universities in Africa. RUFORUM was established out of a perceived necessity to improve and foster increased training on agriculture in African Universities.</p> <p>The goal of RUFORUM is to train and produce MSc and PhD candidates. The training focuses on what exists and how universities can work together through exchange of lecturers and students who are trained at local fees.</p> <p>He informed the session that over 1433 Masters students and 350 PhD students have enrolled.</p> <p>He also noted that the forum seeks to engage with communities and engage African governments for example through higher education on the continent. Because of engaging with governments, 10 heads of state have committed to champion higher education.</p> <p>He concluded by saying that capacity builders need to also consider training entrepreneurs and looking at what has worked and what can be done differently.</p> <p>How do you get governments engaged?</p> <p>Most initiatives need government engagement – particularly the Ministries of Agriculture and Ministry of Education. RUFORUM works jointly with government to develop proposals because of the extensive contacts and high standing governments have among donors.</p>






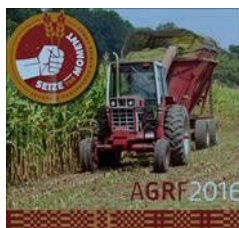
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<p>Prof. Nelson Ojjo, FARA</p>		<p>Prof. Ojjo noted that FARA was formed in 2002 and has worked with CAADP and NEPAD to strengthen capacity building in Africa.</p> <p>FARA seeks to strengthen continental institutions on agricultural research and capacity development. Despite the collaboration with continental bodies, there is a need to strengthen National Agricultural Research Institutions. To achieve high impact then we should take a systems approach to agricultural capacity development.</p>
<p>Ms. Dorothy Mkhebi, Deputy Director, AWARD</p>		<p>Ms. Mkhebi introduce the AWARD program to delegates and explained that organization offers career development fellowships with a focus on women scientists. Since inception, over 460 women have benefited from the fellowship and it is estimated that 1150 women have been reached. AWARD has 25 trainers specialised in different areas in agriculture. In addition, AWARD, is working with other institutions.</p> <p>AWARD in its new strategy intends to work with agricultural institutions and create enabling environments for women scientist’s capacity building. This is particularly because gender responsive agriculture should now be strengthened.</p> <p>In conclusion, she noted that a needs assessment to understand what is lacking and what is important should be conducted. Moreover, the monitoring and evaluation capacity of institutions should be strengthened to learn from capacity building interventions.</p>
<p>Dr. Appolinaire Djikeng, Director, BeCA ILRI Hub</p>		<p>In his remarks, Mr. Djikeng declared to the delegates that while capacity building works, it requires a long-term commitment.</p> <p>Biosciences East and Southern Africa (BeCA) is a joint programme between the International Livestock Research Institute and the African Union. The aim of BeCA is capacity building through research. It has an interest in creating a centre of excellence in Africa by establishing strategic partnerships.</p> <p>He noted that the approach to capacity building should be holistic from livestock to crops. The program has trained participants on reducing post-harvest losses and partnered with the private sector through the Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund Program (ABCF).</p>



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		<p>In addition, it has helped regional governments such as Rwanda to establish policies that address challenges they face in developing their agriculture sectors. Institutions should encourage innovations in agriculture e.g. through ABCF.</p>
<p>Dr. Abdoulaye Saley Moussa, FAO</p>		<p>Dr. Moussa noted that capacity development is a key component of FAO’s 2010-2019 strategy. He said FAO focuses on a common framework on capacity development for agricultural innovation systems, which will change the scene in agricultural innovation.</p> <p>How do we ensure demand driven capacity development?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This should be based on country needs, demands and priorities;</li> <li>2. Secondly, we must involve other partners</li> <li>3. Needs assessments are important</li> </ol>
<p>Dr. Rufaro Madakadze, Senior Program Officer, AGRA</p>		<p>Dr. Rufaro’s key question was: how do we scale up the initiatives?</p> <p>The response was that to scale capacity-building initiatives we need to work with National Agriculture Research Institutions, the private sector and CGIAR centres.</p> <p>There is a need to involve funding from the private sector and government for capacity building. This can only be done by making them understand the need and importance of capacity building and the return on investment.</p>
<p>Dr. Namanga Ngongi, Former AGRA President &amp; Founding Chairman, AFAP Board of Trustees</p>		<p>In his remarks, Dr. Ngongi noted that this is a good forum for promoting capacity building in Africa. The farmer should be part of training and capacity building.</p> <p>AFAP was created by AGRA to liberalise the fertilizer value chain to the private sector. AGRA has trained many agro-dealers in the effective distribution and financing of fertilizer - a role AFAP is taking a step further by building capacity of about 200 agro-dealers.</p> <p>AFAP aims to support capacity building of farmers to help them better understand the value of matching fertilizer with the varying soils found in the different agro ecological zones on the continent.</p>



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		<p>To achieve this volunteers are important and play a critical role in capacity building. Extension services need to be strengthened to achieve the green revolution.</p> <p>Credit guarantee schemes are important and as such farmers need to be trained on how to access and build their credit rating.</p>
<p><b>Questions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the impact of training at ACCI and WACCI?</li> <li>2. What is the contribution to food security beside the numbers?</li> <li>3. Has there been change in mind set on African agriculture?</li> <li>4. How do we link research and farmers</li> <li>5. Do we have capacity to handle post-harvest losses</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Responses</b></p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A student in Mali trained by WACCI went ahead and started a seed company. Attracting more students is a question of time and this will grow further once they know that there are opportunities in seed production and plant breeding.</li> <li>2. New crop varieties that are resilient will ensure and contribute to food security.</li> <li>3. There has been mindset change as can be seen in the number of people who are now pursuing agriculture as a business.</li> <li>4. Research findings should be communicated in a simple non- technical way to be able to reach the farmer.</li> <li>5. The capacity to handle post-harvest losses is still growing and needs more training to have more professionals. In addition, it is important to build the capacity of farmers for post-harvest handling and available technologies that can reduce post-harvest losses. There is need to reconsider the varieties resilience of the current crops. Inbuilt resilience of crops could be part of the solution to post-harvest losses.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Conclusion and Summary</b></p> <p>AGRA will start the ball rolling by pulling together resources through FARA and RUFORUM to create a community of practice. There is also an identified need to involve the government and, specifically, parliament to ensure that there is access to those who craft legislation. The side event had no parliamentarians and only one policy maker. This is a clear demonstration of the missing link - especially the absence of a link between policy and practice. Civil society and research institutions have failed to engage African governments. It is important to interact with each other as decisions are made by people not by institutions hence the need for a Community of Practice to keep capacity building in agriculture moving ahead.</p> <p>There are some successful stories in capacity building from farmers through to those in academia and this should be accelerated so that the gains are not reversed. There is need to demonstrate how the private sector stands to profit if they invest in the capacity of agribusiness professionals and farmers. This will accelerate capacity building on the continent and within the private sector involvement.</p>		



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