An Overview of the: Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

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Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

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Presentation Outline

1. **Why FARA ? (Background and Rationale)**

2. **What FARA does (Mandate and broad activities)**

3. **How FARA implements its mandate**

4. **The FARA-led regional programmes**

5. **Conclusion**

Why FARA ?

- The need for a strategic platform that fosters <u>continental and global networking</u> to reinforce the capacities of Africa's NARS and SROs

- Need for a <u>continental voice</u> to advance Africa's agricultural research and development

  - Advocacy

  - Facilitating interaction among ARD stakeholders [e.g. General Assembly & Strategic Alliances of civil society groups]

  - Facilitate exchange of information and synchronisation of methodologies e.g. for capacity strengthening

Genesis of FARA

1997 Decision to create FARA taken by ASARECA, CORAF, INSAH, SACCAR, and SPAAR.

FARA envisioned as a facilitating & information exchange forum among SROs and as an apex body to represent Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

2000 Decision to transform SPAAR into FARA with a permanent secretariat located in Africa

2002 Secretariat established in Accra, Ghana with Dr. Monty Jones as Founding Executive Secretary

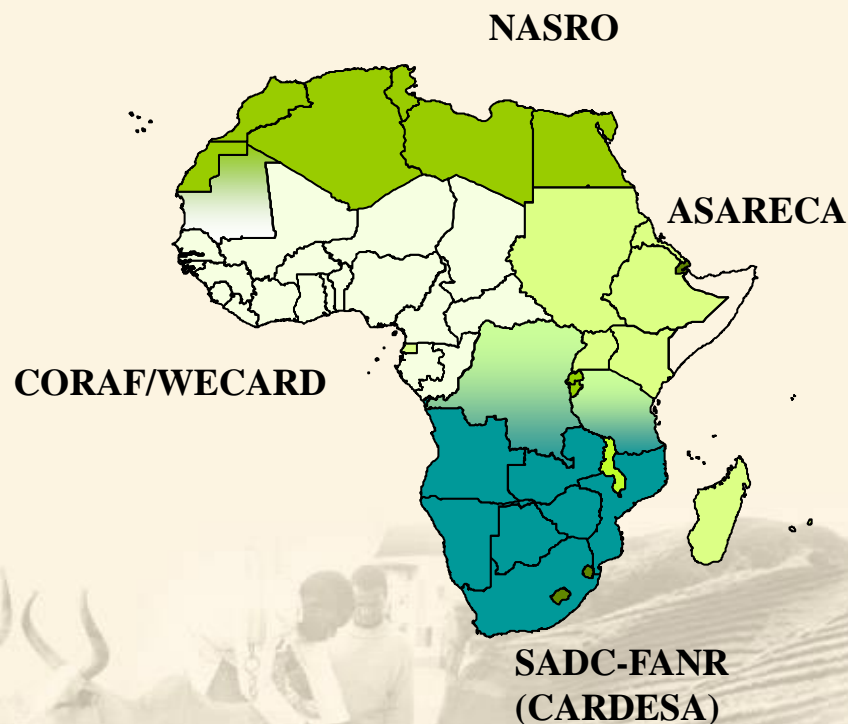2004 Forum expanded to include North African countries

2007 Strategic plan for 2007-2016 approved by General Assembly in Joburg

Currently, FARA…

- holds mandate for facilitating & coordinating the advancement of ARD in Africa at continental level.

- has entered into agreements with:

  - Commission of the African Union

  - AU/NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

- Is the Lead Institution for coordinating the implementation of CAADP Pillar 4

African SROs: Building blocks of FARA

NASRO

ASARECA

CORAF/WECARD

SADC-FANR (CARDESA)

FARA

Objective and Main Results of FARA

Objective: To sustainably establish high broad-based agricultural growth in Africa through delivery of five results, namely:

1. Establishing appropriate **institutional and organisational arrangements** for regional ARD

2. Facilitating broad-based stakeholders access to knowledge and technology necessary for agricultural innovation

3. Developing strategic decision making options for policy, institutions and markets

4. Developing human and institutional capacity for innovation
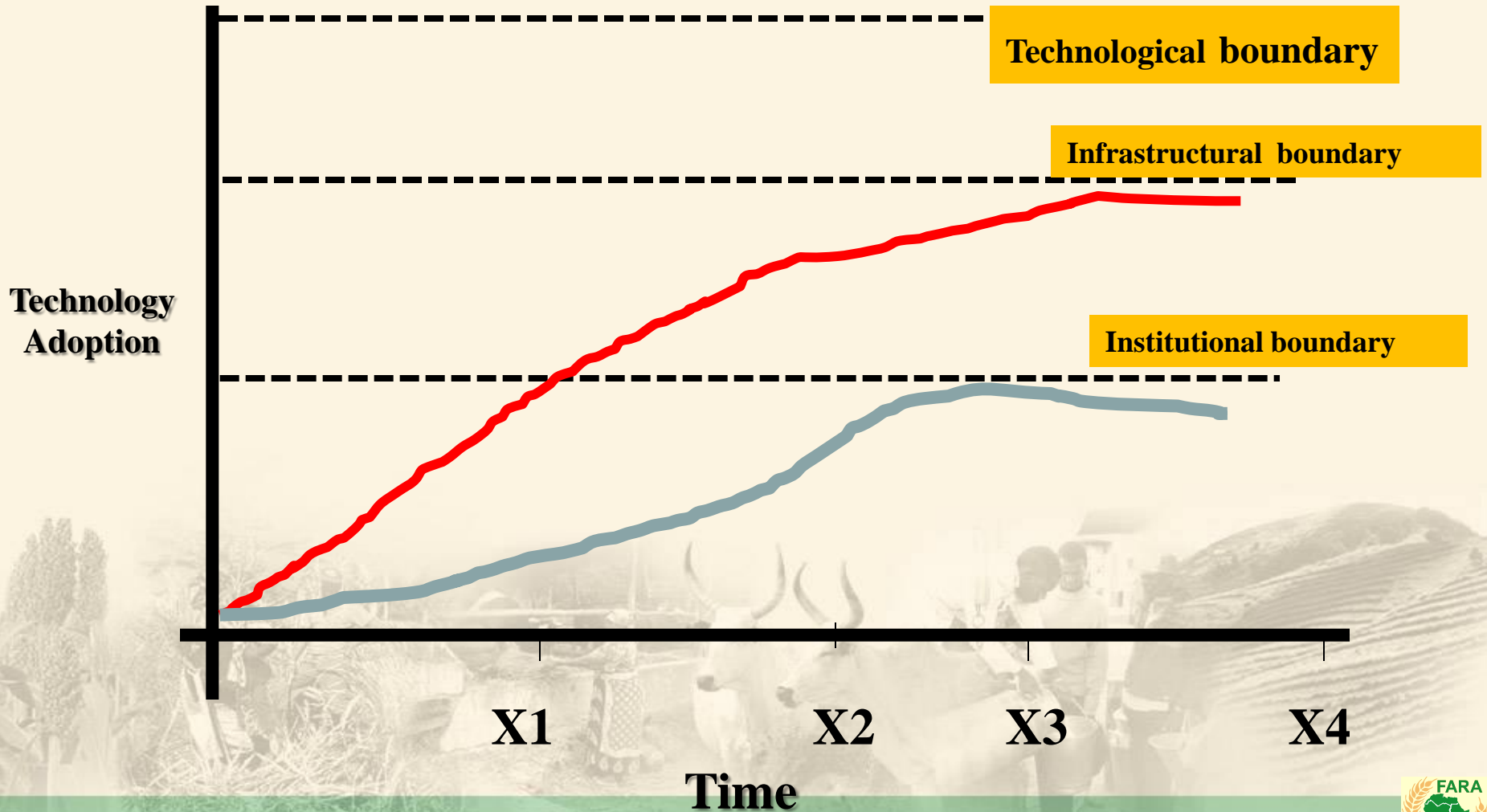
5. Supporting platforms for agricultural innovation

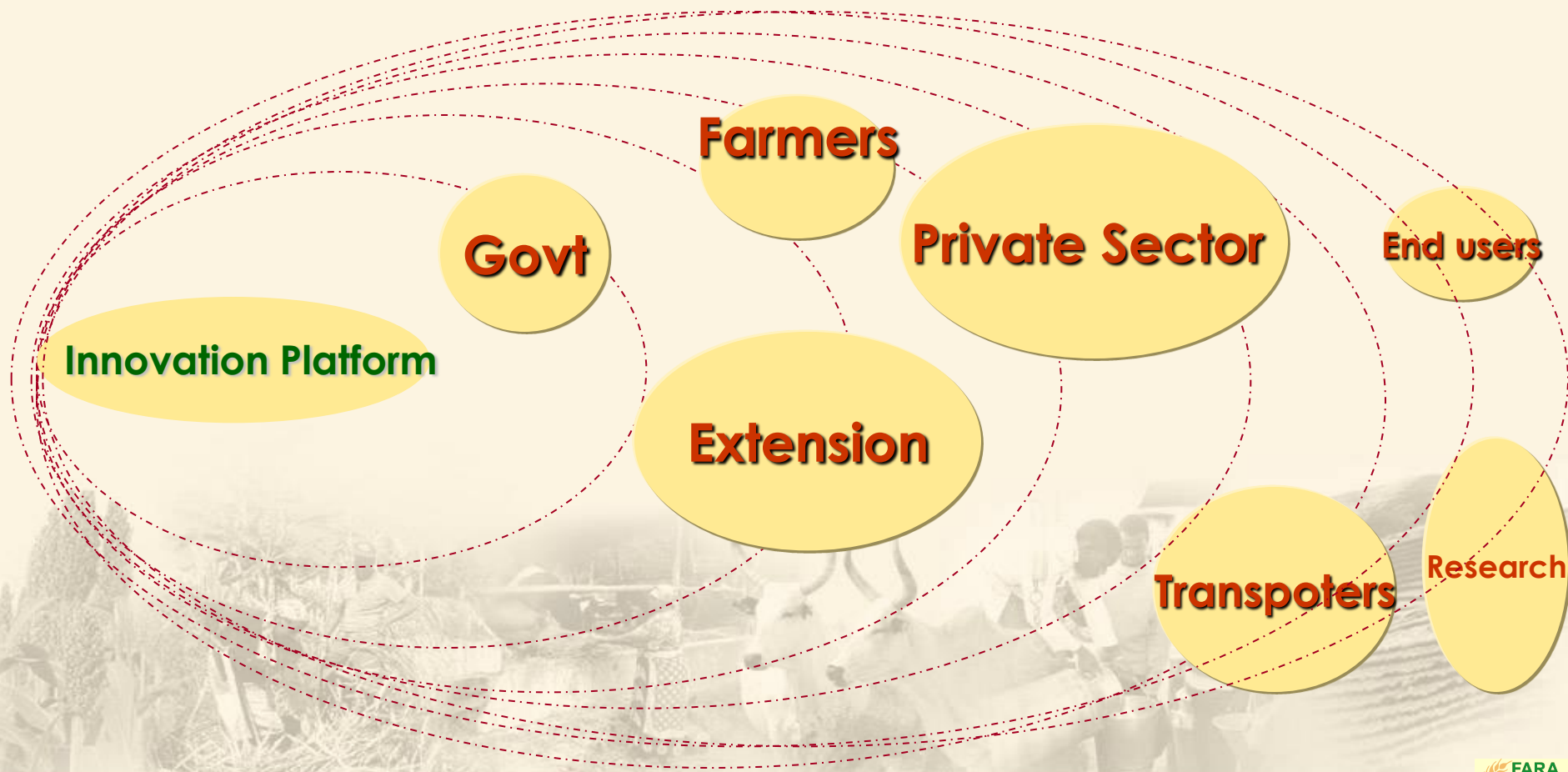# FARA organises delivery of results through five networking support functions + regional initiatives

Networking support function	Initiative	Programmatic Thrust
1. Advocacy and resource mobilisation	FAAP	Framework to guide agricultural productivity interventions
2. Access to knowledge and technologies	RAILS	Facilitating access to information and learning
	DONATA	Enhancing the dissemination of technologies
3. Regional policies and markets	ABBPP	Policies on emerging technologies e.g. biotechnology
4. Capacity strengthening	SCARDA	Institutional capacity development for agricultural research and development
	BASIC	Building Africa's capacity to build it's own capacity
	UNIBRAIN	Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovations
5. Partnerships and strategic alliances	SSA-CP	Promoting innovation systems approach to agricultural Research
	PAEPARD	Inter-regional collaboration between Europe and Africa
	Africa-Brazil	Africa-Brazil Agricultural Innovation Marketplace
	Africa- China	Africa- China- UK Collaboration on ARD

FARA

Typologies of Constraints to Scaling up and Scaling out

Mechanism to enhance   sustainable scaling

Farmers

Private Sector

End users

Govt

Innovation Platform

Extension

Transpoters

Research

FARA

IAR4D, Technology Generation dissemination and adoption

Innovation Platform

- **Research Themes**
  - Productivity
  - Natural Resource management
  - Market
  - Policy
  - Product Development
  - Nutrition
  - Gender

Technological Innovation

Institutional Innovation

Infrastructural Innovation

Socio-economic Benefits

CAADP and FARA's role

- CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme) captures the vision of Africa's leaders (AU) for agricultural development

- Targets 6% annual growth in agricultural production by 2015.

- Has emerged as the framework and reference for agricultural development in Africa

- CAADP comprises 4 Pillars:

  1. Land & water Management
  2. Rural infrastructure & trade-related capacities for market access
  3. Increasing food supply & reducing hunger
  4. Agricultural research, technology dissemination & adoption

- **FARA is the Lead Institution for Pillar 4**

CAADP Pillar 4 and FAAP

CAADP Pillar 4 Themes

- Integrated natural resource management

- Adoptive management of appropriate germplasm

- Development of sustainable market chains

- Policies for sustainable agriculture

As LI for Pillar 4 FARA developed a framework (FAAP) that lays out guidelines & principles for operationalising this pillar …

…The Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP)
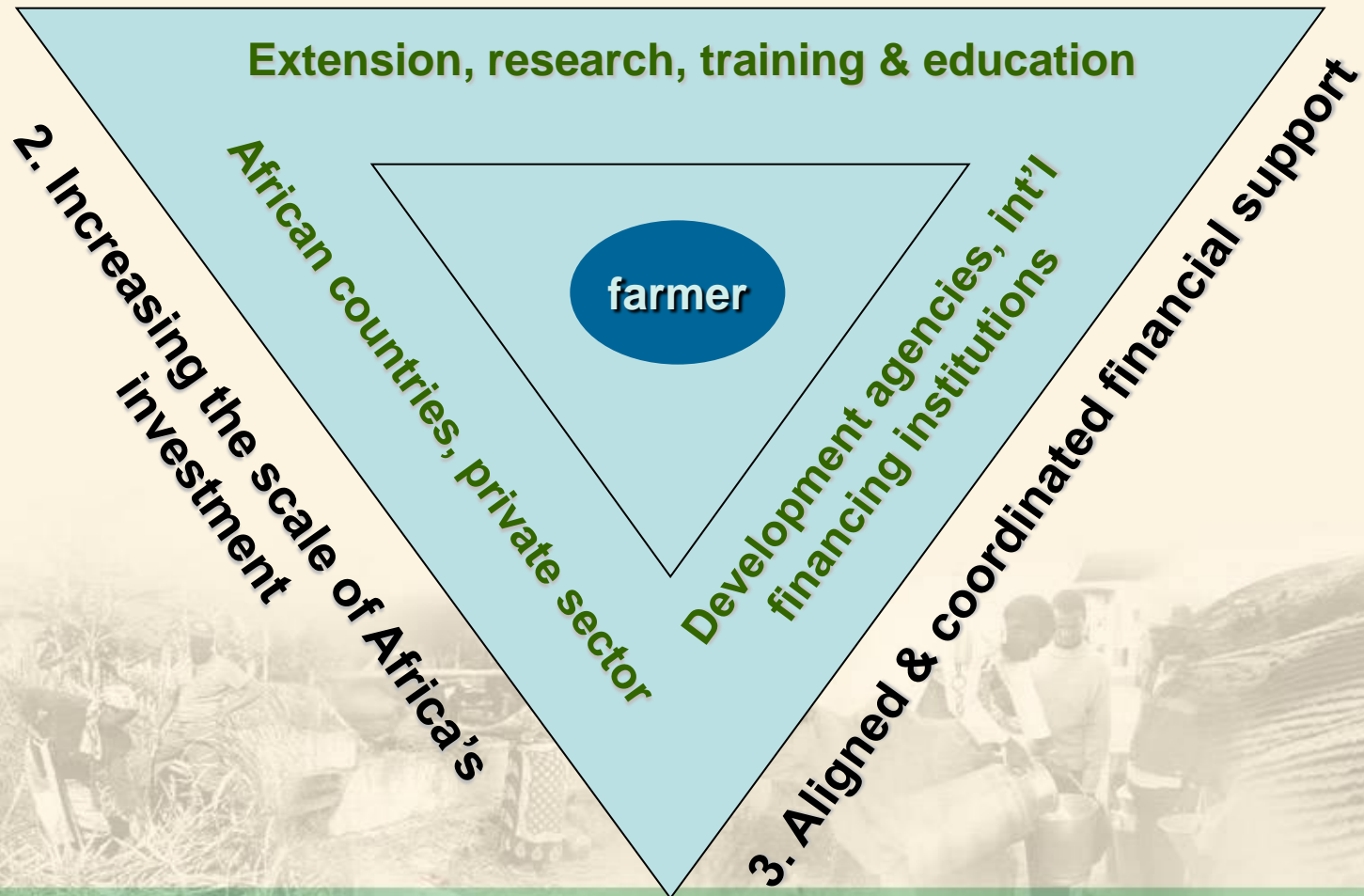
- was endorsed by African Heads of States in 2006

It calls for:

1. evolution and reform of agricultural institutions and services

2. increasing the scale of Africa's agricultural productivity investments

3. aligned and co-ordinated financial support

Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP):

1. Evolution & reform of agricultural institutions & services

Extension, research, training & education

2. Increasing the scale of Africa's investment

African countries, private sector

farmer

Development agencies, int'l financing institutions

3. Aligned & coordinated financial support

FARA

Linkages between FARA and the AU/NEPAD, CAADP, FAAP & SROs

AU-NEPAD

CAADP

Pillar i: Land management

Pillar II: Rural infrastructure

Pillar III: Food supply

Pillar IV: Agricultural research & technology dissemination

FARA

FAAP

➤ Evolution and reform of agricultural institutions and services

➤ Increasing the scale of Africa's agricultural productivity investments
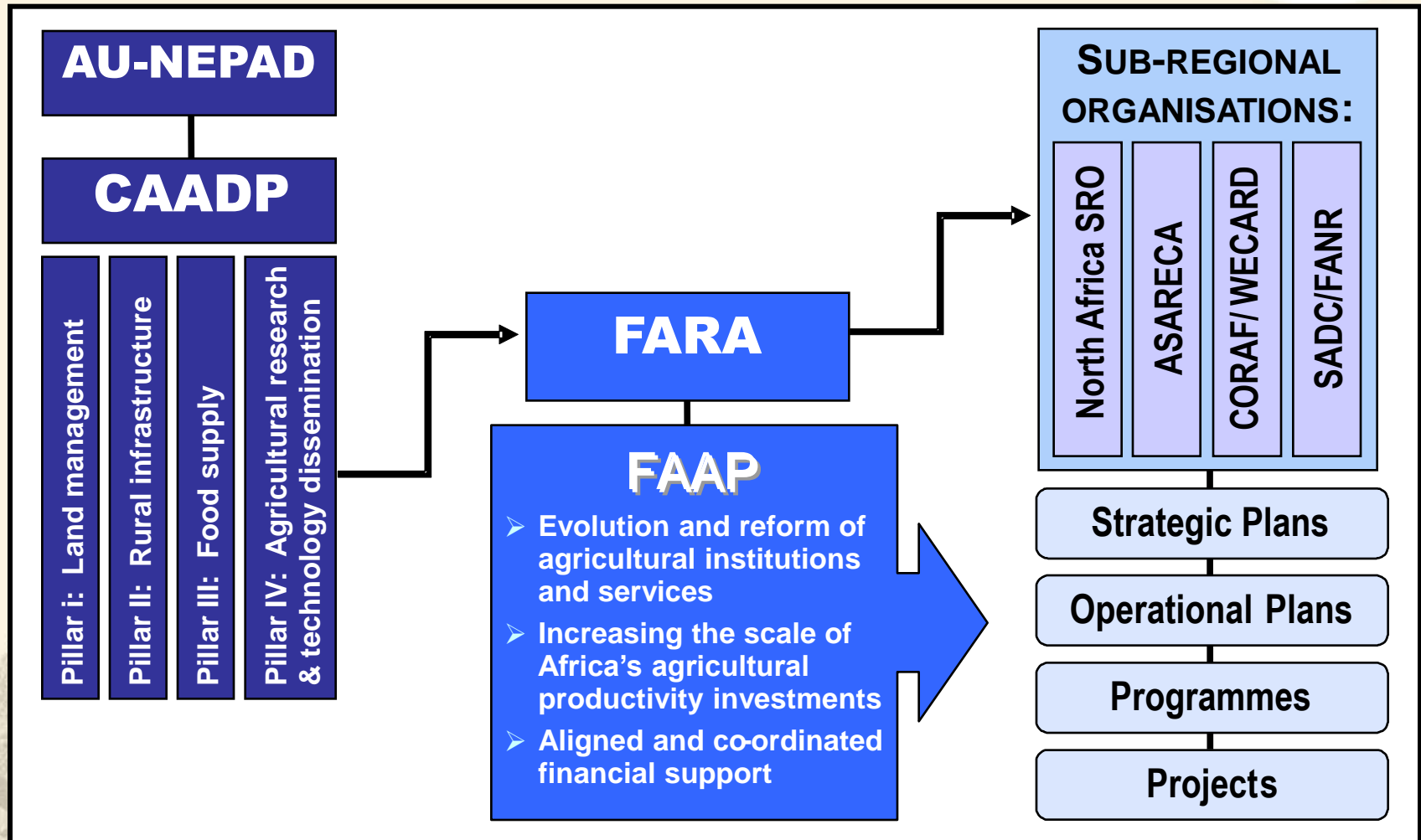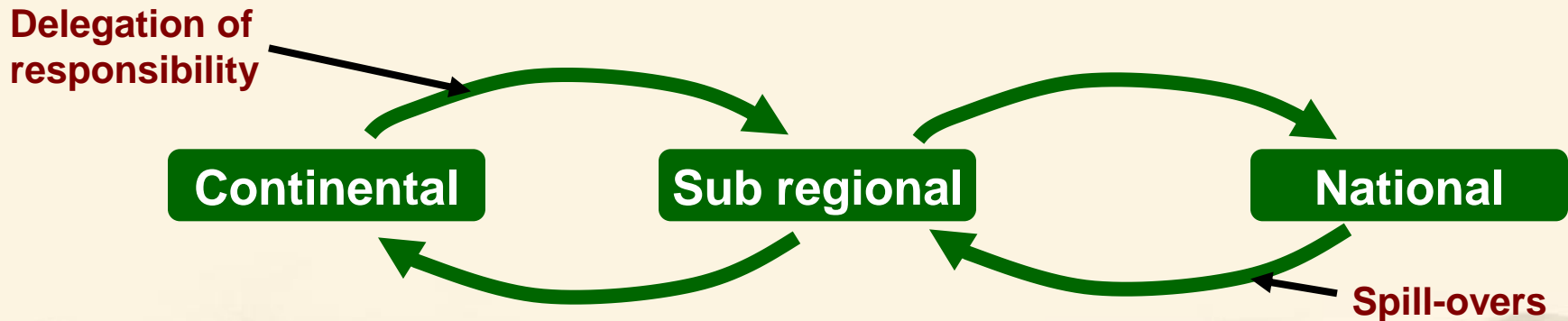
➤ Aligned and co-ordinated financial support

SUB-REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS:

North Africa SRO

ASARECA

CORAF/WECARD

SADC/FANR

Strategic Plans

Operational Plans

Programmes

Projects

FARA

The Principle of Subsidiarity

- **Operational responsibility and decision-making** are located at the lowest appropriate level consistent with the operational competencies required and efficient use of funds.

Delegation of responsibility

| Continental | Sub regional | National |

Spill-overs

- **Resources and budgetary allocations** are assigned to each level in a manner consistent with the allocation of responsibilities

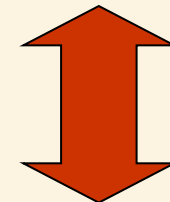# CAADP Pillar IV guided by the FAAP
The application of subsidiarity

National (e.g. Agric. Productivity Programs (APPs)
- Response to market conditions and economic fluctuations
- Knowledge sharing, synergies & feedback mechanisms
- Stakeholder participation in decision making

Subregional
(e.g. WAAPP of West Africa & MAPP of Southern Africa)
-use of pluralistic model
- use principles of subsidiarity
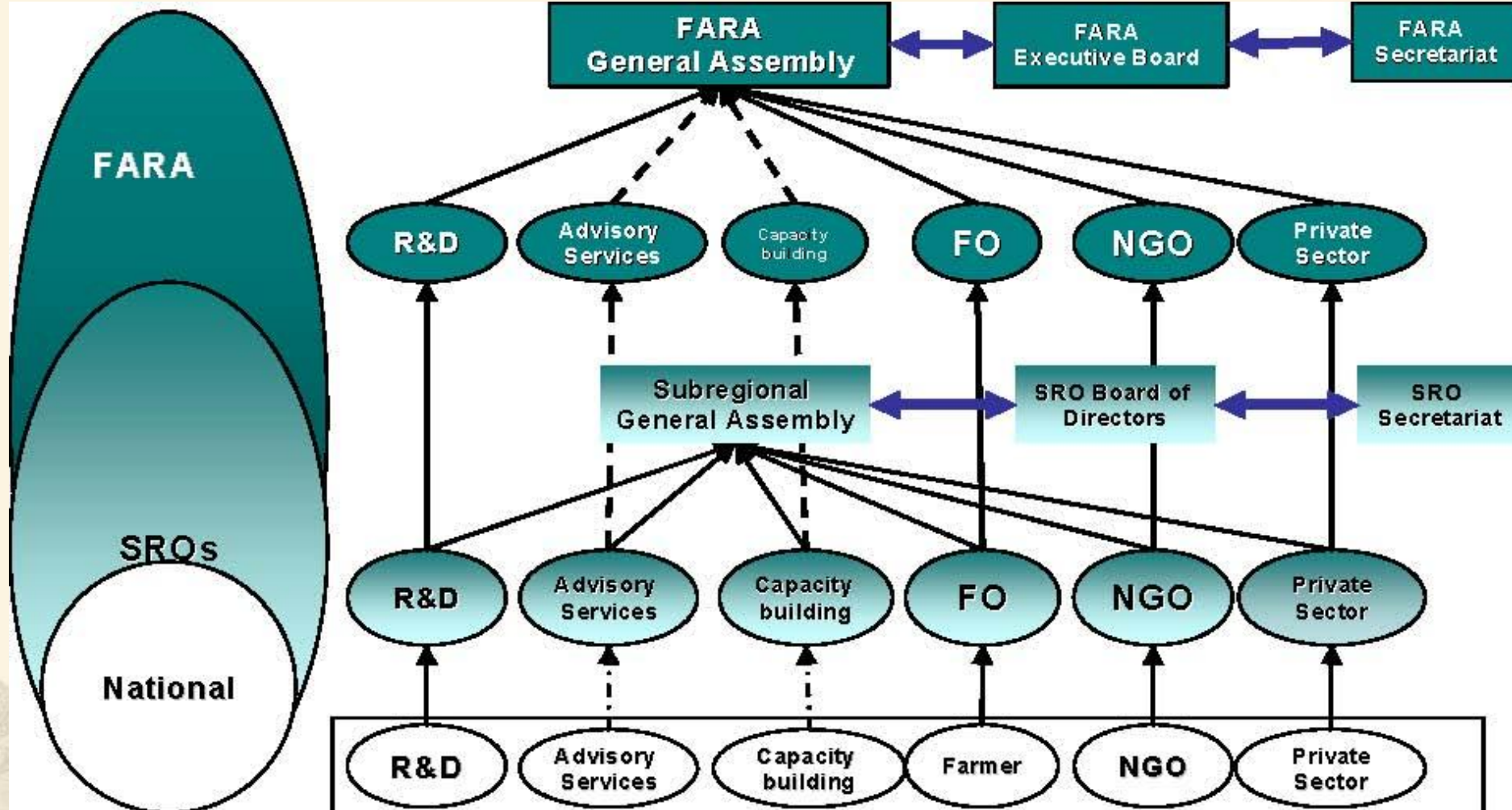- cost sharing to achieve economies of scale
- coordinated advocacy

Regional (e.g. FARA regional initiatives)
-Advocacy for investments
-Partnership building
-Exchange of info & learning

10/11/2005

African Union
Ministerial meeting

Composition and interrelationships in SROs' and FARA's governance

FARA-facilitated civil society organisations (CSOs) in African ARD

FARA supports the alliance of sub regional civil society organisations into regional alliances

1. Africa Alliance of Sub-regional Farmer Organizations **(AAFO)** ie EAFF, ROPPA, PROPAC, SACAU

2. Pan-African Agribusiness Consortium **(PanAAC)** ie women entrepreneurs, processors, traders, etc.

3. Sub-Saharan Africa NGO Consortium **(SSA NGOC)** ie focus on local NGOs in agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa (Sub-Saharan Africa NGO Consortium = SSA NGOC), linkage with international NGOs

Conclusion

- FARA plays an important complementary role at the continental level to the roles played by SROs and NARS in advancing ARD in Africa

- The success & long-term sustainability of FARA depends on the buy-in and ownership of its African stakeholders and smart partnerships with international institutions (research institutes and forums, funders, advocacy, information dissemination, education)