

Press Release

AATF and FARA to establish a continental research platform to accelerate commercialization of research products.



[Accra, Ghana: July 2023]: AATF and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) have agreed to collaborate on the establishment of a platform for the convergence of all African-based agricultural research institutions to fast-track the transformation of agriculture on the continent.

The decision was one of the outcomes of the meeting between Dr Canisius Kanangire, AATF Executive Director and Dr Aggrey Agumya, FARA Executive Director in Accra in July 2023.

Both institutions agreed that the establishment of such a platform would encourage African research-based organizations to harness their potentials and channel their efforts to addressing continental challenges.

“A common front for Africa will encourage our leaders to take issues of agricultural research and development seriously by allocating critical resources that will support African scientists to devote their energy to solving problems confronting the continent,” said Dr. Kanangire.

He added that the platform will provide an opportunity for Africans who are funding projects outside the continent to begin to look inward and fund research that addresses African needs.

Dr Kanangire also presented AATF's strategic focus for the next five years noting that at the center of the strategy is the desire for African farmers to be equipped to compete favorably with their counterparts from other parts of the world.

He urged FARA to collaborate with AATF to bring African political leadership to appreciate the importance of science, technology and innovation as a propeller of agricultural improvement.

"There is an urgent need to articulate a technology transfer strategy that would benefit African smallholder farmers and ensure that those countless research on the shelves of most universities and research institutions move to where they are best needed. AATF is ready to play a leading role in identification of research results that will be beneficial," he said.

He also stressed the need for the creation of a conducive enabling environment on the continent to integrate and place technology high on country specific agendas as one of the solutions to solving the mirage of challenges facing the continent.

Dr Agumya commended the idea of an African-led platform for all agricultural research-based organizations and urged AATF to take the lead in the creation of such platform that can deliver quality services to the continent.

About AATF (www.aatf-africa.org)

AATF is an international not-for-profit organization that is empowering smallholder farmers across Sub-Saharan Africa with a wide choice of agricultural innovations that contribute to food and nutrition security to generate health and wealth for their families and communities. Established in 2003 as an African-led entity, AATF works with public and private partners across the full food value chain to access, develop, deliver and commercialize innovative technologies that bring meaningful change to Africa's agriculture. AATF is driven by a vision of a prosperous and food secure Africa, one where millions of smallholder farmers can transform African agriculture with the same innovations that are transforming food production around the world. AATF believes the farmers in Africa will become globally competitive through use of the best technology, optimal agricultural practices, strategic product value addition and boosted access to efficient markets within and outside Africa.

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