

Session Brief: 17th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting

Side Event Title: High-Level Dialogue on the Imperative for Soil Information Systems to Achieve the CAADP Productivity Goals

Time : Wednesday 24th @ 1200 – 1400 hours EAT

Background: Tackling the issues of hunger and malnutrition in Africa will require concerted efforts to build a resilient, and sustainable food system in the face of several constraints confronting the agricultural system. Central to the resilience of Africa agriculture is the sustenance of the Africa soils which is the central production asset. Available data indicated that 60% of the available arable soil for agricultural production in the world is in Africa, in principle, Africa is holding this vital resource in trust for the worlds with strong implication on production of food, fiber, and economic prosperity. This great asset is threatened by the fast spate of land degradation in Africa, and this calls for quick interventions in terms of policies, technologies, and institutional arrangements. The first point of call for holistic intervention is a robust soil data; a few soil information packages exist at small scales, using different methodologies for sampling and analysis as well as data presentation. Harmonization of the different soil information packages into a coherent whole for multiple uses is not feasible; this stands as the core problem.

The Soils4Africa project, was developed to resolve this problem and provide a veritable soil information system (SIS) for Africa. The SIS will contain data underpinned by rigorously selected soil quality indicators and a sound methodology. The data sets will be updateable and interoperable with other relevant databases. It will have a user-friendly presentation to respond to the soil data needs of the broad stakeholders' group including researchers, farmers, other land users, fertilizer manufacturers, extension and advisory service providers, and policymakers. The SIS will become an essential part of the knowledge and information system of the [EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture](#), thus, contributing to the evolving design of agricultural development in Africa. This laudable initiative needs the endorsement of high-level policy makers in Africa for its entrenchment within the CAADP system and promotion among stakeholders, as a vital continental resource for further development. The event will provide key information on the SIS and give opportunity for vital discussion on the subject matter. It will also seek high-level AU endorsement and continuous support.

Objectives: The main objective of the webinar is to engage the African high-level stakeholders' group in discussion on the importance of the SIS as a vital contribution to the achievement of the CAAP productivity goals for African agriculture.

Agenda and speakers:

- A 90-minute webinar will be organized as a side event of the CAADP partnership platform.
- The S4A webinar will be held on Monday 22nd November using the Zoom platform provided by AU or FARA.
- The webinar will comprise of three segments: To be facilitated by **Dr. Akinbamijo** *Executive Director, FARA*

Section One: Opening

- a. Opening remarks by the Chair of FARA Board [**Dr. Alioune Fall**] **TBC**
- b. EU Senior program officer for H2020 projects [**Marta Iglesias**] **TBC**
- c. Minister of Agriculture, Burkina-Faso [**Mr. Salifou OUÉDRAOGO**] **TBC**
- c. Keynote statements by the AU Commissioner of DARBE [**H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko**] **TBC**

Section Two: Technical Discussion

- a. Presentation of a working paper on the SIS and the Soils4Africa approach [**Ir Rik van Den Bosch**] **TBC**
- b. Questions, comments, and discussion

Section Three: HighLevel Partners Endorsement Remarks

- a. AGRA [**Prof. Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda**, *Regional manager for East Africa, AGRA*] **TBC**
- b. NEPAD [**Dr. Augustine Wambo Yamdjue** , *Principal Program Officer: Ag. Policy and Investment at NEPAD*] **TBC**
- c. AFDB [**Dr. Bouchaib Boulanouar**, *[Partnership Coordinator Agriculture and Agro-industry]*] **TBC**
- d. FARNAPAN [**Dr. Tshilidzi Madzivhandila**, *[Chief Executive Officer, FARNAPAN]*] **TBC**
- e. RECs [**Dr. Earnest Aubee**, *[Head of Agriculture ECOWAS]*] **TBC**