

AFRICAN UNION

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**Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical
Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Water and Environment (ARDWE)
13th – 17th December 2021
ADDIS ABABA,
ETHIOPIA**

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT ON BOOSTING INVESTMENT IN
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH IN AFRICA: BUILDING A CASE FOR INCREASED
INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA**

I. PREAMBLE (LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND)

Concerns about the key role of agriculture as an engine for poverty reduction and overall economic development in Africa and the unique role of research and development in increasing the yield productivity and achieving the CAADP and Malabo commitments;

Recognizes that well-developed national agricultural research systems and adequate levels of investment and human resource capacities are prerequisites in the attainment of agricultural development, food security, and poverty reduction;

Realizes that the Africa's agricultural research is much more dependent on donor and development bank funding compared with other developing regions around the world;

Recalls the commitment that African Leaders have made on a number of occasions to enhance agricultural productivity, eradicate poverty and improve rural livelihoods among others CAADP 2003, Agenda 2063 and Malabo Declaration 2014;

Recalls the Decision of the African Leaders to promote Africa's Research and Development (R&D) and develop innovation strategies for wealth creation and economic development by allocating at least 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of national economies by 2010. Addis Ababa, 2007 (Assembly/AU/Dec.161 (VIII));

Recalls the AU Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024) and the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A);

II. BODY

Endorses the report on: Boosting investment in agriculture research in Africa "Building a case for increased investment in agricultural research in Africa";

Appreciates the initiative taken by the AU-SAFGRAD and its partner in developing the above mentioned report;

Recommends AUC to take this report into consideration in preparing the biennial review reports on the implementation of Malabo Declaration on accelerated agriculture growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved rural livelihoods;

Requests AU Member States to:

- Give priority to and raise its level of agricultural R&D investment to address its sustainable agricultural intensification-economic ,environmental and social challenges more effectively and to achieve the CAADP and Malabo commitments;

- Provide a more enabling policy environment to attract private sector to invest in agricultural research and development as well as exploring innovative R&D funding mechanisms,
- Develop systematic human resource strategies, incorporating existing; anticipated skills gaps and training needs.
- Expand their investments in agricultural higher education to allow universities/institutions to increase the size and improve the quality of their MSc and PhD programs ;
- Encourage the Adoption of the outcome of the approved agricultural research at farmer level through appropriate extension and dissemination systems;

Urges Global, Continental, Regional and Sub regional R&D players to work in collaboration with AUC, RECs & MS to:

- a- Ensure that scarce resources are optimized, duplications minimized, better coordination and synergies and complementarities enhanced;
- b- Support and promote cross country collaborative R&D to encourage integration and
build capacity of national agriculture research systems;
- c- More focus on the small farmers need and building their resilience.

Urges development partners to work in collaboration with AU-SAFGRAD to support member states R&D programmes;

Urges development partners and funding agencies to synergistically complement the national needs based on its priorities;

Encourage Private sector to increase their investment in agricultural R&D as well as to encourage Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Africa.

Requests the Executive Council to consider and ADOPT the report and the above mentioned recommendations.