

***Place of Agronomic Research in the
Process of Innovation in Africa:
Looking through the lenses of the CAADP***

***Session 4 of the ESA
International science Week on Agronomy***

Innovation and Decision Support in Agriculture:
Which Roles and Partnership for Research?

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**Dr Harold ROY-MACAULEY
Director of Programmes
CORAF/WECARD
www.coraf.org**

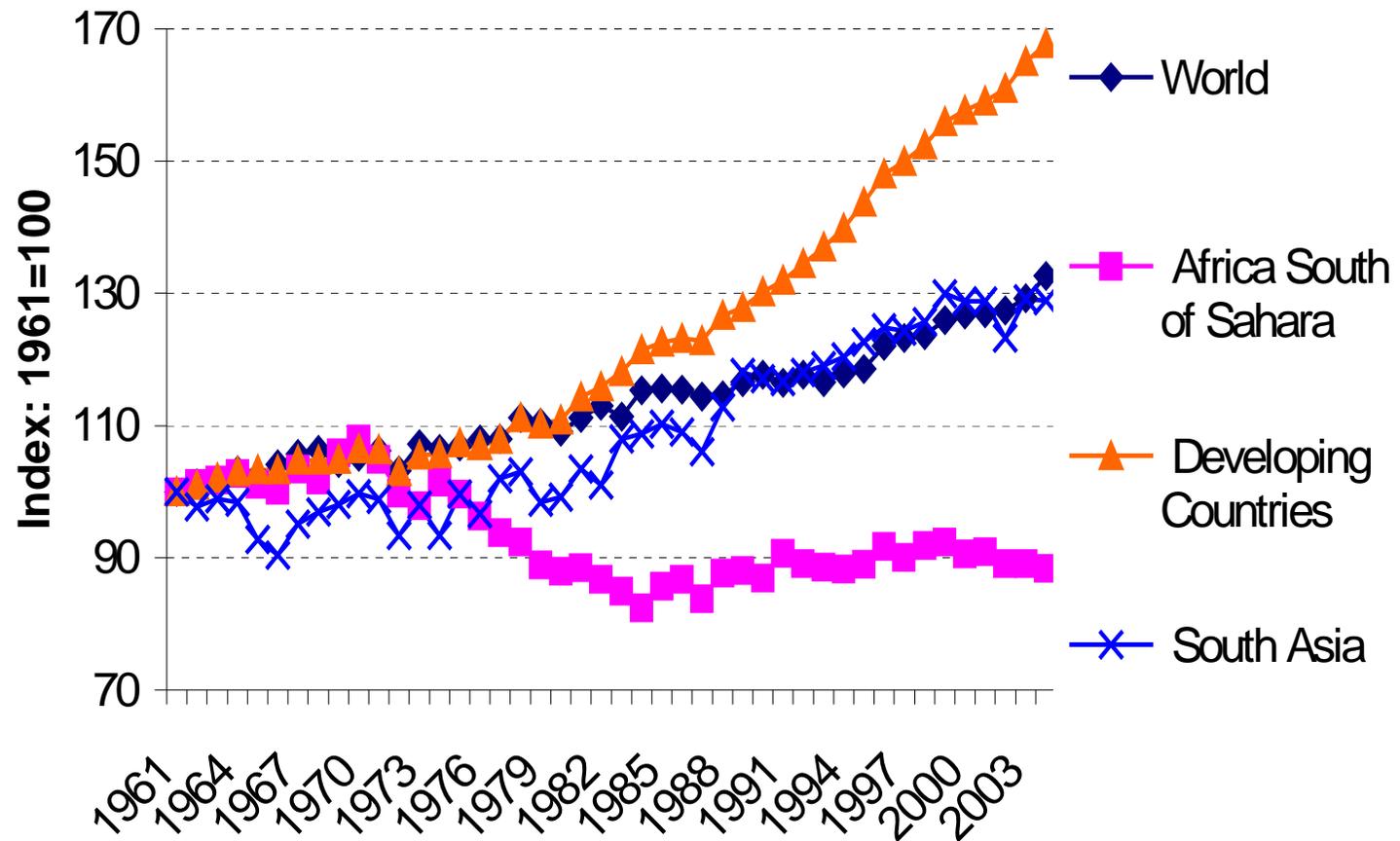
Outline of Presentation

- Importance of agronomic research in Africa
- CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research in Africa
- Making agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets
- Conclusion

Importance of agronomic research¹

- Main challenges in Africa: reduction of poverty and food insecurity
- Poor performance of agricultural sector explains slow progress towards overcoming these challenges
- Agricultural growth has hardly kept up with population growth rate

Importance of agronomic research₂



Source: FAOSTAT, 2006

Figure 1 Growth trends in per capita value added output of agriculture

Importance of agronomic research₃

- Agricultural resources are main contributors to overcoming these challenges
- Agronomic research produces technologies potentially important for agricultural growth
- Effectiveness of agronomic research depends on relevance and response to farmers' needs
- Adoption rate of products of agronomic research is relatively low
- Link agronomic research and its products with dynamic innovation processes to increase adoption rate and achieve impact

Importance of agronomic research⁴

Table 1: Agricultural technology and productivity by developing region

	Share of area planted to modern varieties (a) (%)				Contribution of genetic improvement to yield growth (b)
	1970	1980	1990	1998	
Asia	13	43	63	82	0.88
Latin America	8	23	39	52	0.66
Middle East & North Africa	4	13	29	58	0.69
SSA	1	4	13	27	0.28

(a) From Evenson & Gollin, 2003; (b) Measured as a share of increase in productivity

CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research¹

- African governments are committed to raising agricultural productivity by at least 6% through CAADP
- CAADP Pillar IV addresses:
 - improving agricultural research and systems to disseminate new technologies
 - increasing support to help small-scale farmers adopt them
- CAADP Pillar IV, - a legitimate African framework for linking agronomic research to innovation processes

CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research₂

- Innovation requires coordinated efforts of many actors
- Linkage and coordination is addressed **using innovation narratives** which translate:
 - ideas so that they are comprehensible and legitimate
 - **emerging solutions that promote real time problem solving**
- Identification of clear innovation narratives around which agronomic research can be

Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP target₁

- Consultation with African stakeholders and partners revealed 10 principles for implementing CAADP Pillar IV referred to as FAAP
- The first nine (9) of them are linked to :
 - institutional arrangements
 - capacity strengthening
 - end-users empowerment
 - strengthening farmers support services
- The tenth is linked to:
 - increasing investments and promoting

Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets₂

- Ten principles proposed as innovation narratives:
 - End-user participation
 - Application of principle of subsidiarity
 - Evidence-based intervention
 - Integrated approach to agricultural research for development
 - Sustainable innovation
 - Improved management of information and communication systems
 - Cost sharing amongst all stakeholders
 - Integrated gender approach
 - Coordinated and aligned financial investment

Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets₃

- Diverse and overlapping
- Each has implicit hypothesis and specific questions
- Different institutional arrangement required to achieve the CAADP target
- As innovation trajectory unfolds research needs to be embedded in the innovation process in different ways
- This is to reflect roles played by different elements and stakeholders

Conclusion

- The proposed 10 innovation narratives will strengthen role of agronomic research
- They will help stakeholders address problems and strengthen Africa's capacity for innovation
- They will enable agriculture to be an engine for development in Africa
- Understanding when and under what circumstances narratives are relevant will make a major contribution to agricultural development

THANK YOU



Secrétariat exécutif
7, Avenue Bourguiba
BP 48 Dakar-RP
Tel (221) 33 869 96 18
Fax (221)33 869 96 31
E-mail: secoraf@coraf.org
Web: www.coraf.org