Maximizing the food security and poverty reducing impact of interventions in the agriculture sector by supporting the clearly expressed demand for human and institutional capacity strengthening is a \textit{sine qua non} in achieving CAADP’s objective of an annual 6% growth rate in African agricultural productivity.

The need for increased and sustained food production and for significantly reducing poverty in Africa calls for an urgent revitalization of agricultural research for development on the continent. Accomplishing a broad-based inclusive growth, specifically in the countries of West and Central Africa region, requires addressing demand-led approaches, building of a critical mass for research, sustainable financing and significant research and innovations capacity strengthening. These are even more important now than ever as the new integrated agricultural research for development (IAR4D) paradigm takes its root in the region’s agricultural research.

The SCARDA-SCAIN project contributed to empowering institutions and stakeholders involved in agricultural research for development to leverage the full potential of agriculture in sustainable wealth creation. SCARDA-SCAIN focused on improving research management by equipping personnel involved in stewardship and research at all levels with the requisite skills via training, mentoring and attachments. It also contributed to enhancing the depth and breath of skills required by NARS to conduct quality research that could impact end-users in West and Central Africa. The focal institutions for this project in West and Central Africa were DGRST/CRAL, Congo; IER, Mali; NARI, Gambia; and CSIR-CRI, Ghana.

**Main Beneficiaries**

This projected contributed to improved institutional and human capacities resulting in better application of science and an enhanced uptake of its products. It also contributed to enabling end-users to become better engaged in innovation process that offer prospects for better livelihoods. The project also improved the capacity of African capacity strengthening institutions to build capacity.

**Main Regional Benefits**

This project contributed to strengthening the much needed regional critical mass to conduct research on regional priorities.

**Partners**

This CAADP-aligned project was funded by DFID, and coordinated continentally by FARA. It was implemented by CORAF/WECARD in partnership with the following: NRI of the UK; Aghymet of Niger; Kwame Nkrumah University, Ghana; University of Dschang, Cameroon; University of Ghana; Université d’Abomey-Calavi, Benin; University of Greenwich, UK; and Afrique Communication, Senegal.
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| **1** Agricultural Research Management | • Institutional Capacity strengthening needs for effective research management identified in 22 West & Central Africa countries.  
• Capacity of research managers to effectively management research for development strengthened.  
• Key disciplines needed for effective agricultural research for development identified.  
• Marketing plan for products and services offered by participating research institutions developed.  
• Advocacy plan for research capacity change management process developed.  
• Gender action plans for research capacity strengthening developed. | Outcome 1 Positive attitudinal change in the management of national agricultural research institutes of Congo, Mali, Gambia and Ghana.  
Outcome 2 Enhanced research advocacy skills of research managers.  
Outcome 3 Increased gender equity in research for development. | Improved quality of agricultural research for development in Congo, Mali, Gambia and Ghana |
| **2** Scientists & Extension Staff Development | • Research and extension staff capacity strengthening needs for effective research identified in the 22 countries.  
• Capacity of research scientists to effectively deliver quality research for development strengthened.  
• Capacity of extension and advisory services to effectively assist users of research results in technology uptake strengthened. | Outcome 4 Enhanced capacity of research scientists in Congo, Mali, Gambia and Ghana to conceptualize and conduct agricultural research for development.  
Outcome 5 Increased participation of extension and advisory services in integrated research for development. | |