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Press Release

AKADEMIYA2063 and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) Sign MOU to Support Agricultural Growth, Transformation, and Climate Resilience in Africa

Kigali, August 26, 2022 – AKADEMIYA2063 and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides a framework for the provision of technical support to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as climate resilience building efforts in Africa. The collaboration between the two organizations will support continental and global climate action initiatives, including the UN Conference of Parties (COPs), the African Union Climate Change Strategy, the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan, and the African Climate Smart Agriculture Framework, among others.

"AKADEMIYA2063 is pleased to partner with FARA to contribute to efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change across the globe and in Africa, in particular," said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063's Executive Chairperson. "Both AKADEMIYA2063 and FARA have a rich pool of scientific expertise which will be crucial in leveraging opportunities to enhance agricultural research and development through joint research, capacity building, and strategic outreach activities," he added.

Through this partnership, AKADEMIYA2063 and FARA will explore collaborative research opportunities that promote open access and maximize impact.

"As a network of networks, within the context of their mandates and the shared authorizing environments that nurture the Africa we want, FARA and AKADEMIYA2063 share the collective responsibility of stimulating Africa's socio-economic transformation," said Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director for FARA. "The FARA-AKADEMIYA2063 partnership will facilitate the added spin from the policy analysis dimension," he stated.

Key components of the partnership framework include organizing and participating in joint events at the country, regional, and continental levels, advocating for agricultural growth and transformation and climate resilience in Africa, and conducting joint fundraising for research, capacity building, and outreach activities.

About AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa-based non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. Inspired by the ambitions of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of solid knowledge and evidence-based systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth, and improving livelihoods.

AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost economic growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support, and data management, digital products, and technology—as well as innovative partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiya2063.org.

About FARA

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is the apex continental organization responsible for facilitating and coordinating the advancement of agricultural research and innovation on the continent. It is also the technical arm of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA)-NEPAD on mobilization of science, technology, and innovation (STI) for the achievement of the continent's food and agriculture development goals as set in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and further elaborated in the 2014 African Union Malabo Declaration on accelerating agriculture growth and transformation. FARA's business is performed by a Secretariat based in Accra, Ghana, which has been in existence for 20 years.

FARA performs its research and coordination mandate in collaboration with four sub-regional agricultural research organizations, namely the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA), the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), CORAF in West and Central Africa, and the North Africa Agriculture Subregional Organisation (NAASRO); along with the Africa Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)—the continental apex body for extension. Together, these organizations support national agriculture research and innovation systems to become more effective, efficient, and impactful in delivering their mandates, namely improved food and nutrition security, incomes, jobs, resilience, and natural resource management.

FARA is mandated to lead the operationalization of CAADP's framework for enhancing the deployment of science and innovation towards achievement of CAADP goals and targets—the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa. Among others, this role entails the inclusive identification

and design of flagship continental initiatives aimed at addressing priorities for transforming the continent's food and agriculture system. Some of the flagships previously coordinated by FARA include continental initiatives aimed at establishing proofs of concept and scaling up approaches for deployment of innovation systems in agriculture, strengthening institutional capacities, accelerating the adoption of innovations and agribusiness incubation. FARA has also been commissioned by the AUC and/or AUDA-NEPAD to lead the design and implementation of thematic programmes on climate-smart agriculture, agro-industrialization, and mainstreaming food system approaches. In addition to agricultural research and innovation organizations and political bodies, FARA works in partnership with higher education networks, development organizations, farmers' organizations, development partners, agribusiness organizations and media associations. For more information, visit www.faraafrica.org.

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