Building international cooperation with key global partners – the example of the EU-AU Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)

Yemi Akinbamijo PhD

Executive Director

FARA
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

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Context

1. Previously EU-AU cooperation was largely one-way with AU on receiving end, and limited consultation on priorities, modalities etc

2. Dynamics are changing. In new cooperation, increasingly Africa is on the table and contributing to formulation and execution of actions

3. However, issues of duplication, fragmentation and lack of coherence, which compromise efficiency/effectiveness and return on investment, remain

4. Platforms that overcome these challenges and achieve impact at the last mile are needed---FNSSA is an example.

FNSSA was adopted by senior officials of EU and AU in April 2016 with 4 common R&I priority areas

Funding directed to all 4 pillars ca. 57M€ (H2020 and Africa Union Grants)

Sustainable intensification (incl. natural resource management)

Funding ca 70M€ – upcoming H2020 calls on soil/water/land mngt and soil datasets (closing date January 2019)

Agriculture and food systems for nutrition

Funding ca 21M€ – AUG call closing date 22 of May

Expansion and improvement of agricultural markets and trade

Cross cutting issues

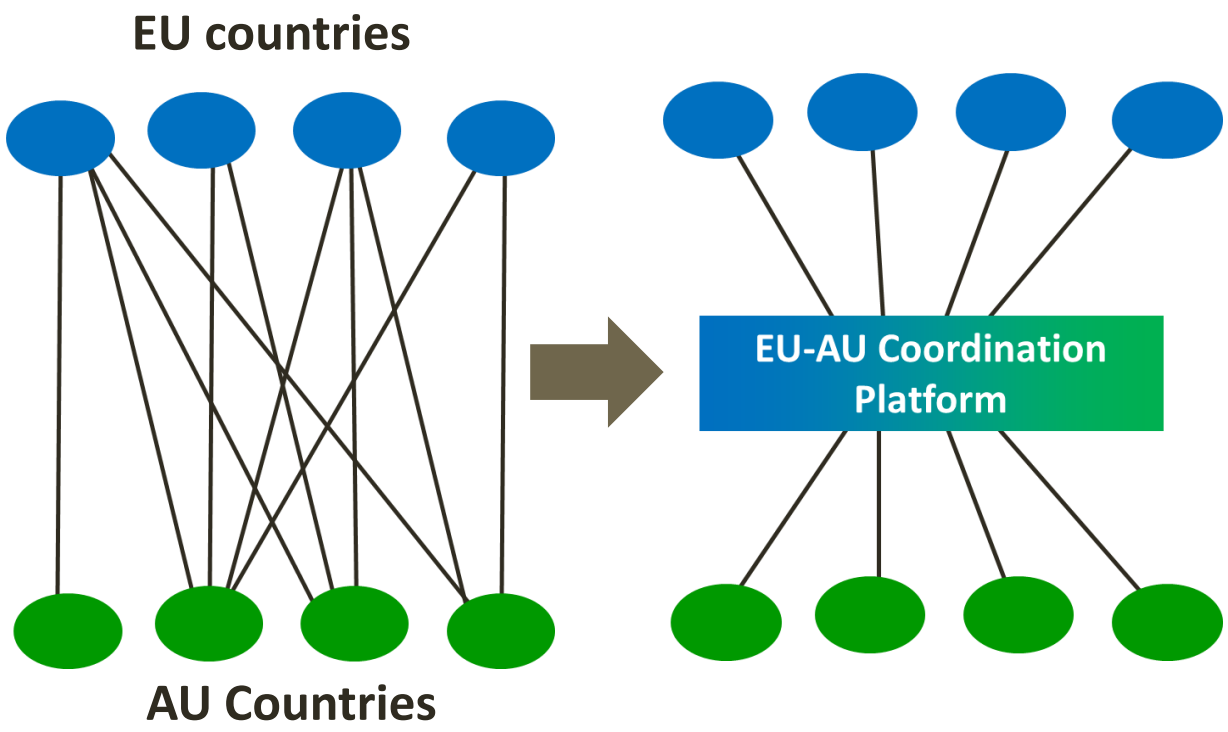
Why FNSSA?

- **Sustainable Development Goals**
  - SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
  - Research and Innovation are pivotal to achieving SDG 2 (spills over to many other goals)

- **Basis for a common research agenda**
  - FNSSA underpins CAP & CAADP – key instruments for EU & AU agriculture objectives.
  - Research contributes to solutions and evidence for policy change for positive outcomes on food security, nutrition and natural resource management.
  - Capacity for joint research in both African and European scientific communities.
  - Scalability of research and innovation impact at national or regional scales.
  - Complementarity to existing bilateral and multilateral collaboration.

Advantages

- Institutionalized approach to international cooperation with High Level Policy buy-in (EU-AU summit & college meetings).
- Potential for efficient resource use, coherence and minimal duplication.
- Realization of potential depends on scope of the roles of coordination platform and associated institutions (EC, AUC, FARA etc).



- Co-funding: This is conditional on alignment to key policy frameworks e.g. CAADP and NAIPs → sustainability of interventions

Challenges

- There is an important element of the coordination:
  - notably where EU countries engage directly with AU countries,
- Long-lag time from conceptualization of the initiative to implementation of initial actions (10 years i.e. 2006 – 2016);

- Continuation of dialogue to identify gaps in funded research including monitoring and evaluation of funded projects to establish their impact on research community and farming communities;

- Bringing on board additional funding sources but clearly aligned to the FNSSA objectives e.g. Belmont Forum calls, co-funding calls.

Recommendations

Regional policy frameworks and institutions need to converge on specified public goods (CAP, CAADP) using relevant coordination platforms and mechanisms. This is crucial for institutionalization of the platforms

This will enhance visibility, facilitate spillovers across the continent, enhance coherence, offer mechanisms for addressing trans boundary issues, and ultimately increase the last mile impact of the interventions

Explore modalities for hastening the processes

Building an International Research Consortium for FNSSA might help align research programmes, coordinating all efforts and bring in additional funding.

Explore merits and demerits of the full range of funding modalities e.g. calls, trust fund, twinning, mobility of competence, etc