



**African Forum  
for Agricultural  
Advisory Services**  
Knowledge & Novelty  
for Africa's Livelihoods



**DURBAN DECLARATION  
AFRICA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK 2017**

**“SCALING UP CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE: INTEGRATING YOUTH, WOMEN AND THE  
DIGITAL REVOLUTION”**

**DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA  
30 OCTOBER – 03 NOVEMBER, 2017**

**WE**, the more than 700 representatives from African ministries of agriculture; agricultural extension and advisory systems (including public, private and civil society organizations); farmers and their organizations; academia; national, regional and international agricultural research institutions; the private sector; bilateral and multilateral development partner organizations; financial institutions and the media from over 40 countries; met in Durban, South Africa from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017 to deliberate in the Third AFAAS Africa Agricultural Extension Week 2017 (AAEW 2017) on the theme “**Scaling Up Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA): Integrating Youth, Women and the Digital Revolution**”;

**APPRECIATIVE** of the Government and People of the Republic of South Africa for graciously hosting the AAEW 2017 which was jointly organised by African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and South African Society for Agricultural Extension (SASAE), a forum that afforded us the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the development of Africa’s Agricultural Extension to effectively and efficiently play its roles in scaling up climate smart agriculture by integrating women, youth and the digital revolution;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the critical role of agricultural extension and advisory services to effectively respond to farmers and other value chain actors demands to increase agricultural productivity for food and nutrition security and livelihoods improvements especially among smallholders, women and youth;

**SEEKING** to address the threat posed by climate change and variability to sustainable agricultural growth and rural transformation, and the serious implications it has for food and nutrition security and livelihoods improvement and wealth creation;

**RECOGNISING** the centrality of women and youth in Africa’s agricultural and rural transformation and the barriers that hinder their optimum participation and access to AEAS;

**COGNISANT** of the African governments commitment to UNFCCC/COP21 and the Paris agreements on climate change through ensuring and tracking their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to mitigate and adapt to climate change ;

**ENCOURAGED** by the increasing contributions of the agricultural sector to the economies of African countries and its rapid ascent towards becoming a trillion US dollar market to create jobs and decent employment for over 100 million African youth;

**NOTING** that the average age of the African farmer and the extension worker or advisor or service provider is more than 50 years, we realize the importance of attracting youth into agriculture and related fields as well as into Agricultural Extension as a profession;

**AWARE** of the African Union’s translation of the Malabo Declaration into an agenda for sustaining the momentum of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) through three thrusts namely: (i) Institutions, policies and leadership, (ii) Knowledge and knowledge support; and (iii) Financing Agricultural Investment;

**NOTING** the low Agricultural Extension worker to farmers ratios in Africa and limited resources for provision of extension services and the opportunity provided by information communication technologies (ICTs) in

promoting wider coverage, efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery;

**RECALLING** our commitment in 2015 during AAEW II to value the learning and innovation of Africa's farmers as we pursue the greater adoption of climate smart agriculture; we emphasise the need to further recognize the African's farmers indigenous knowledge as 'good practices';

**WITH THIS IN MIND, WE HEREBY CALL UPON ALL ACTORS IN AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES (AEAS) TO TAKE ACTIONS THAT WILL SCALE UP CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE, SPECIFICALLY:**

### ***INTEGRATING YOUTH AND WOMEN IN CSA***

1. **Public and Private Institutions** to provide an enabling environment for women and youth to develop and fully utilize their capacities and innovativeness to enhance climate smart agriculture for equitable development outcomes;
2. **AFAAS/DAFF/SASAE** to mainstream women and youth into their institutions and programmes;
3. **AFAAS** to advocate for AEAS and to attract financial institutions to the Forum and to encourage them to fund women and youth entrepreneurial initiatives;

### ***SCALING UP ICTs IN CSA***

1. **AEAS Community Members**<sup>1</sup> to promote the development and up-scaling the use of ICTs to enhance innovative response and actions in climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience;
2. **AEAS Community Members** to facilitate accelerated engagement of tech-savvy youth in the development and use of ICTs for the benefit of and rejuvenating the aging farmers in our communities.
3. **AEAS Community Members** to invest in ICTs infrastructure, including products created in indigenous languages, and human capacity development.

### ***SCALING CSA TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION***

1. **AEAS Community Members** to promote the scaling of CSA technologies and innovations with a view toward developing a robust system of support for their adoption to effectively mitigate challenges of climate change across Africa.
2. **National AEAS Actors** to forge relationships with the economics and business faculty of national academic institutions to undertake research and analysis on the business viability of new technologies, to develop marketing strategies for these technologies, and to create commercialization plans for useful, but technical, breakthroughs in the CSA research.

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<sup>1</sup> These are all actors in the agricultural extension and advisory system at all levels.

## **SCALING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR CSA**

1. **AEAS Community Members** support capacity development of public and non-state extension and advisory service providers to effectively deploy, support, and implement CSA innovations for Africa's agricultural and rural development.
2. **National AEAS Actors** engage with farmers and farming communities early and often to ensure that CSA innovations are developed with relevant inputs from agricultural innovation system stakeholders toward full adoption and use of new knowledge and technologies when these are later released on the market.
3. **African Governments, and their Development Partners** to work diligently to strengthen the capacity of our national agricultural extension and advisory services and infrastructure to formulate and deliver inclusive climate smart agricultural information, knowledge and practices for sustainable increase in agricultural productivity on the continent.
4. **African Governments and AFAAS** to work towards professionalizing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services, as exemplified by the South African Extension Recovery Plan (ERP), to strengthen service provision, catalyze agricultural productivity, and attract young professionals into agriculture as a decent means of livelihood.

## **SCALING KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR CSA**

1. **AEAS Community Members** to promote public-private partnerships that focus on the development, capture and maintenance of CSA knowledge within the public sector and among the agriculture and agribusiness communities, and that leverages modern technologies for the storage and dissemination of knowledge and information.
2. **AEAS Community Members** encourage the continuous evolution of our public-sector institutions toward adoption of best practices, policies and regulations, with proactive administrative rules and programs to accelerate Africa's adoption (and creation) of CSA knowledge and technologies.
3. **National AEAS Actors** put in place knowledge management systems that ensure the timely generation of quality CSA content tailored to the diverse needs and demands of the diverse actors in agriculture and rural development;
4. **AEAS Community Members** put in place appropriate tools and platforms for enabling all stakeholders to engage in knowledge management for CSA;

## **SCALING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH CSA**

1. **AEAS Community Members** encourage African youth and women to seek exposure to the wider continent to identify intra-African trade and resource sharing opportunities, in particular, to help create markets and demand for local innovation and local entrepreneurial aspirations for without markets it is difficult to be innovative or entrepreneurial.

2. **National AEAS Actors** expand our thinking about how and where it is best to farm, to allow us not to be mentally confined to older ways of thinking and to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances on the continent in terms of land availability, and the need for accelerated production of food to keep up with our rapid population growth.
3. **African Governments and their Development Partners** promote systems of market development to enhance national and inter-regional trade to facilitate agribusiness and entrepreneurial development on the African continent.

*This Declaration was adopted by the participants who attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Agricultural Extension Week, 30 October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017 and endorsed at the AFAAS General Assembly in Durban on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017.*

## Organisers



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