



**Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) - Innovation Platform  
Regional Sensitization Workshop(s)**

**Scaling up Available Root & Tuber Technologies in Ghana**



2013

**Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) - Innovation Platform (IP)  
Scaling up Available Root and Tuber Technologies in Ghana  
Regional Sensitization Workshop - Report**

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CSIR-Crops Research Institute (CSIR - CRI)  
CSIR – Savannah Agric. Research Institute (CSIR- SARI)  
The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)  
West and Central African Council for Agric. Research & Development (CORAF/WECARD)

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## **I. Introduction**

Many good agricultural technologies remain unused by farmers to improve crop yield and income due to ignorance and perception to change.

The rate of technology transfer or/and adoption has not been as intense as expected.

The unsatisfactory rate of adoption has led to various forms of technology transfer approaches over the years. The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) proposes a shift **from the linear research-extension-farmer** technology transfer approach, to the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) paradigm for accelerated technology dissemination and adoption.

The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) has proposed scaling up available root and tuber technologies on the IAR4D – IP concept.

## **II. Objectives of WAAPP Innovation Platform**

The aim of the WAAPP - IP is to support dissemination of released technologies in root tuber crops. The specific objective of the programme is to:

- i) Create awareness among WAAPP key stakeholders/decision making bodies  
(about IAR4D - IPs)
- ii) Establish Innovation Platforms in programme operational areas
- iii) Train facilitators and key Commodity Value Chain Actors on the Innovation Platform(s)
- iv) Mentor and coach facilitators and actors on the platform and
- v) Develop Extension/Technology Transfer Material to facilitate the scaling up processes.

## **III. Methodology/Approache**

WAAPP – IP awareness creation is being handled at three (3) levels: National, Regional and District.

The national awareness covered National Directors and Head Office staff of MoFA and CSIR. Regional awareness creation workshops were organized for RELC Coordinators, MoFA Regional & District Directors, Development Officers and AEAs, EPA regional officers, Media persons, District assembly representatives and other Value Chain Actors. The district awareness creation will be organized for local IP facilitators, key actors along commodity value chain and service providers on an IP (in a locality).

The two regional awareness creation workshops focused on WAAPP selected six (6) regions and four (4) commodities for technology up - scaling. The regions were clustered into two with three regions in one cluster. Selected commodities for the regions in each cluster are shown in tables I and 2

**Table 1: Cluster 1 – Southern Sector  
Proposed WAAPP Commodities / Districts for piloting the Innovation Platform**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Proposed Commodity</b>	<b>Proposed District</b>
Volta	Sweetpotato	Akatsi
Central	Cassava	Mfantsiman
Eastern	Cocoyam	Fantiakwa

**Table 2: Cluster 2 – Middle/Northern Sector**

**Proposed WAAPP Commodities / Districts for the Innovation Platform**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Proposed Commodity</b>	<b>Proposed District</b>
North	Yam	Karaga
B/A	Cassava	Sunyani West
Ashanti	Yam	Ejura

#### **IV. Regional Sensitization Workshops:**

A two - day Regional workshop was organized for RELC Coordinators, MoFA Regional & District Directors, Regional and District Development Officers, AEAs and other Value Chain Actors on the platform in each cluster (2 different centres)

The southern sector workshop was organized in Koforidua at Oyinka Hotel in August 2013 while the northern sector workshop was organized in Sunyani at South Ridge Hotel in September 2013.

#### **Number of Stakeholders present at the regional sensitization workshops**

A total of ninety one (91) stakeholders from six (6) regions attended the two workshops. Average of forty six (46) attended each workshop. About seventy three percent (73% -66) were male and twenty seven percent (27% - 25) were female. (See the details in Table 3)

Table 3:  
WAAPP - IAR4D INNOVATION PLATFORM REGIONAL SENSITIZATION  
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

NO.	Regions/ Districts	MoFA/ CSIR Staff	REL C Coor dinat ors	Other Value Chain Actors	Media	District Assembl y Reps.	EPA Staff	Total	Gender	
									M	F/M
1.	Volta	7	-	1	-	1	-	9	7	2
2.	Central	7	1	1	1	-	-	10	7	3
3.	Eastern	9	1	2	1	1	1	15	10	5
4	MoFA/CSIR Head Office Staff Resource Persons	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	8	2
	<b>Sub Total (Southern Sector)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>
4.	North	7	1	2	1	1	1	13	10	3
5.	Brong Ahafo	9	1	2	1	1	1	15	8	7
6.	Ashanti	7	1	2	-	1	-	11	10	1
7	MoFA/CSIR Head Office Staff & Resource Persons	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	6	2
	<b>Sub Total (Northern Sector)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>25</b> <b>(73%) (27%)</b>

**Resource persons for the Regional/District Sensitization Workshops:**

Seven (7) resource persons/facilitators (from MoFA and CSIR institutions) who had experience in the IAR4D – IP concept were engaged in the regional sensitization workshops.

AusAID (CSIR – SARI -1, CRI – 2)	3
DONATA (CSIR – CRI)	2
MoFA/DES	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

## **Workshop Evaluation**

Facilitators shared IAR4D – IP success stories with workshop participants. The principles of IAR4D and the importance of information, Communication and Gender issues on innovation platforms were also emphasized. How one could start IP was discussed. These presentations were ranked high (above ninety percent (90%) See appendix 1

Participants ranked the adoption and integration of IAR4D concept in technology dissemination (Agricultural Extension activities) so high. However, they suggested they will need the support of experts through capacity building before they can establish an IP.

Workshop duration was ranked lower than seventy percent (70%) by southern sector participants. It was suggested that the duration be extended to allow more time for interaction after presentations.

Comments from Koforidua workshop helped organizers to improve upon the Sunyani workshop.

Open comments from participants are recorded in appendix two (2)

See appendix 1, 2 & 3 for regional sensitization workshop evaluation, Participants' comments and photographs of workshop activities respectively.

## **V. The Way Forward (What Next – After the Workshop) 2014**

### **i). Training of Trainers for IP Facilitators**

National IP facilitators and selected district facilitators will be trained with the support from FARA and CORAF. The trainers will help train more facilitators to manage district IPs.

### **ii). District sensitization Workshops/Trainings**

A 2 -day training workshop will be organized for at least four (4) districts in each quarter. The workshop/training aims at building the capacity of key stakeholders on the platform (facilitators, Media Persons, service providers, local focal persons and potential actors along the value chain).

Proposed List of Participants for each district workshops/training sessions:

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Number</b>
District Director of Agric.	1
AEAs	2
District Assembly rep.	1
EPA (District Rep.)	1
District Dev Officers (MoFA)	2
Value Chain Actors/ Other Service Providers	16
Media Persons	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

### **iii). Establishing Platforms**

At least 6 new platforms will be established in 2014.

WAAPP – Ghana will adopt and support at least 3 IPs, form DONATA, AusAid Seed & Aus Aid Crops and Small Ruminants. These are CORAF supervised projects which are facing out.

### **iv). Mentoring and coaching of Key actors on the platforms**

Each of the National facilitators will be assigned to mentor and coach key actors on one or two IPs. They will be assisted by regional RELC coordinators and their assistants.

### **v. Development of Detailed Work plan (at district level)**

Detailed work plans will be developed at district levels after district sensitization/ training workshops.

### **vi. Extension/Technology Transfer Material Production**

a) Production Guides, Farmer handbook

b) Educational Videos

c) Factsheets/flyers

d) Media/mass communication packages \*\*\*\*\*

- Radio Broadcasting Messages for community radios

- Training selected radio broadcasters to adopt and use the radio messages developed

- Formation of Video Viewing Clubs to use the Educational videos

- Training of Selected staff from MoFA to use the educational videos (with the regional video vans)



**vii. Resource Persons:**

WAAPP will seek the assistance of FARA and CORAF to strengthen the capacity of both the national and district facilitators. The proposed resource persons for mentoring & Coaching on the IPs for 2014 are as follows:

FARA / CORAF	2
AusAID (CSIR – SARI -1, CRI – 2)	3
DONATA	2
MoFA	2
Commodity Heads/Subject Matter Specialist/ RELC Coordinators	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

**VI. Conclusion**

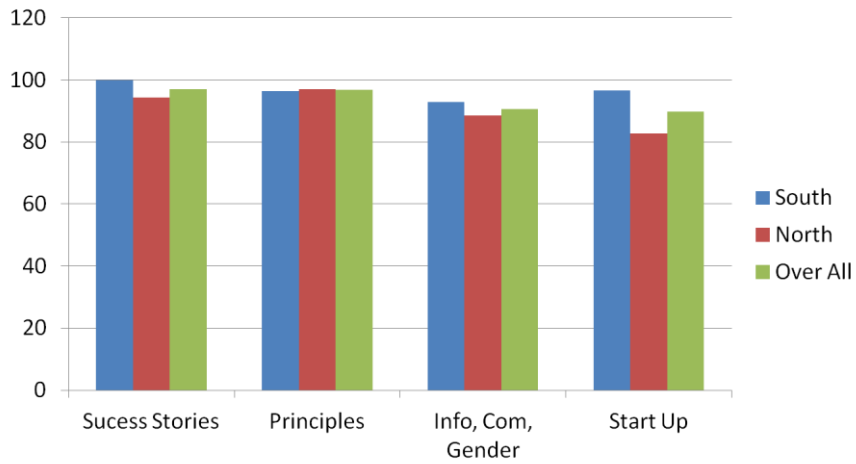
The regional sensitization workshops have laid a solid foundation for the next phase (district sensitization workshops, commodity stakeholder identification, needs assessment and establishment of Innovation Platforms).

It is expected that the Innovation Platforms will be established in the proposed districts, to enable stakeholders of commodity Value Chain: work closely together, link with information and technology for production, input markets and output markets.

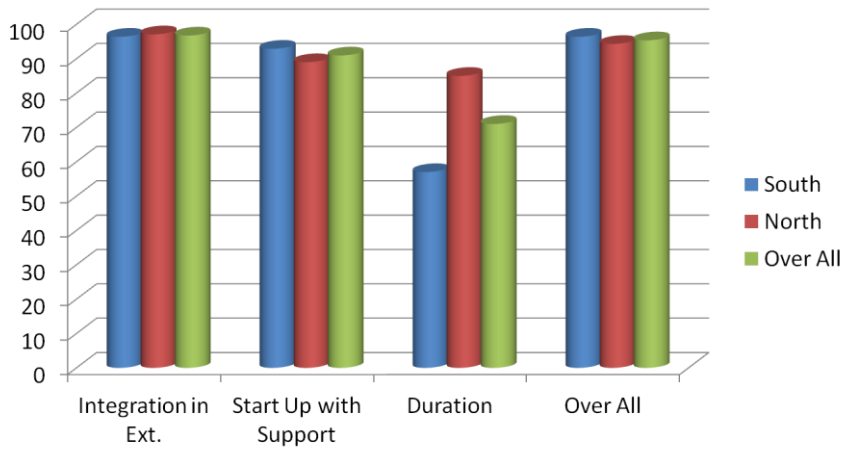
## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Regional Sensitization Workshop Evaluation

#### Evaluation on Presentations

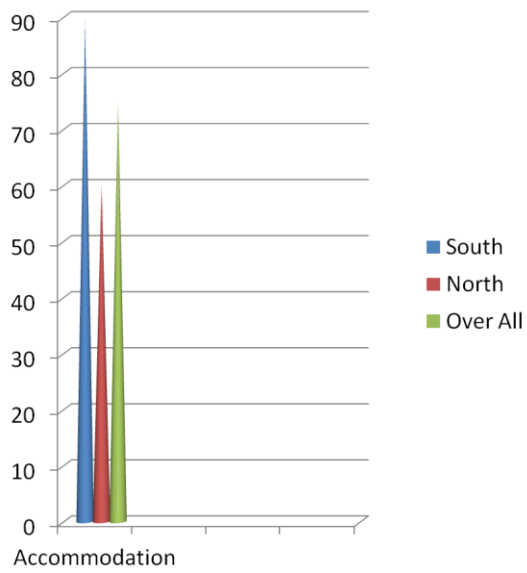


#### Evaluation - Others



## Evaluation – Logistics & General Comments

- Too much rice  
(Need local dishes)
- Accommodation to be on individual bases
- Participants to arrive a day earlier
- Participants were informed too late by RAOs
- Sensitize the assembly (benefits & principles)
- Involve assembly in planning & implementation at the district level
- Report IP activities to the assembly on regular bases



## Appendix 2: Participants' Closing Comments

CSIR RELC Desk	<p>The Sunyani workshop was an improvement over the Koforidua one.</p> <p>RELC goals are seen to be championed in Innovation Platform Concept. Synergy is expected to be excellent in the IAR4D - IP.</p> <p>I commend the organizers on behalf of CSIR.</p>
MoFA Regional Director	<p>IP is another approach to Extension Service Delivery and a Participatory Approach that will enhance transfer of technology.</p>
Resource Person	<p>I am impressed about participants' responds to the workshop.</p> <p>Efficiency in extension delivery (Technology Dissemination) should be improved upon as the concept of IAR4D – IP has been understood. Stakeholders should commit themselves to the activities in the pilot districts.</p>
Value Chain Actors (Farmer)	<p>I am highly impressed. I have been the best yam farmer (on two occasions) and have been invited to agric. Programs but this is the first time I am experiencing such a workshop.</p> <p>I will help spread the gospel of IAR4D - IP.</p>
District Planning Officer	<p>The workshop has been helpful. I have been convinced about the need for stakeholders to come together and develop the agric. sector. I will facilitate the sourcing of funds and provision of inputs for MoFA and other stakeholders at the district assembly.</p>
Media Person	<p>I will impact knowledge acquired from this workshop to others on both radio and TV when he gets back to work.</p>
EPA	<p>A lot has been learnt and I will help promote the concept of IAR4D – IP for sustainable development. I believed this will be achieved through collaboration.</p>
WIAD	<p>I will promote stakeholder participation in technology dissemination.</p>

Appendix 3: Photograph of Activities (Regional Sensitization Workshops) Attached to the mail

3a Photographs of Activities – Southern Sector

3b Photographs of Activities – Northern Sector