

Partnerships to enhance multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary research

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“a prosperous Africa based
on inclusive growth and
sustainable development...
where poverty is eradicated
in one generation.”

Agenda 2063

Expectations of Science on Agricultural Transformation

- **Increasing expectations from agriculture in a more challenging environment**
 - Produce more food on less land, water, chemicals, waste, GHGs
 - Produce safer, healthier more nutritious foods
- **Science can and should drive transformation of agriculture and society in Africa**
 - Productive, Competitive, Sustainable, and Inclusive
- **Recommitment to CAADP—sustaining the CAADP momentum**
- **Stage set for increased investment in agriculture, agro-industry**
 - Trajectory of economic growth → more resources available
 - External investments including CGIAR reforms
 - ACIAR leading role in SSA

More than any other sector, agriculture is the common thread which holds the 17 SDGs together.

Investing in the agricultural sector can address not only hunger and malnutrition but also other challenges.

Agriculture is linked to eleven of the seventeen goals.



The agri-food value chain
is therefore a pivotal
entry point for impact on
sustainability in Africa

PARTNERSHIPS
ARE CRITICAL

Key roles: governments

1

Keep the ship steady,
ensure predictable, stable policy and funding in line with commitments.

2

Foster enabling environments for the business sector to support responsible, inclusive and sustainable business.

3

Leverage tax revenues & incentives, including considering tax benefits for businesses investing in higher education.

4

Facilitate mobility on the continent between business and academics.

5

Support and participate in structured dialogue.

Key roles: universities

1

Redefine the role of the university
as a critical pillar of the development agenda and acknowledge the potential of partnerships in realising this vision.

2

Establish advisory boards
which include executives from relevant industries to position for relevance, and to create a space for dialogue.

3

Pilot innovative models
that stimulate partnerships with the private sector and international partners to drive cutting edge curriculum.

4

Focus on strong leadership
Employ staff who understand business, and incentivise academics to bridge the gap between the private sector and higher education.

5

Strategic partnerships
Innovative partnerships with international universities to enhance research excellence.

Key roles: private sector and development partners

1

Invest financially
in high potential
research and
infrastructure
projects.

2

Support and engage
in dialogue
platforms that
explore the benefits
of collaboration.

3

Invest time and expertise
by serving on
advisory boards or
science business
innovation councils.

4

Collaborate
to create
opportunities that
promote real world
engagement and
impact.

5

Invest in loans & bursaries
through financial
contributions and
offering mentoring
opportunities.

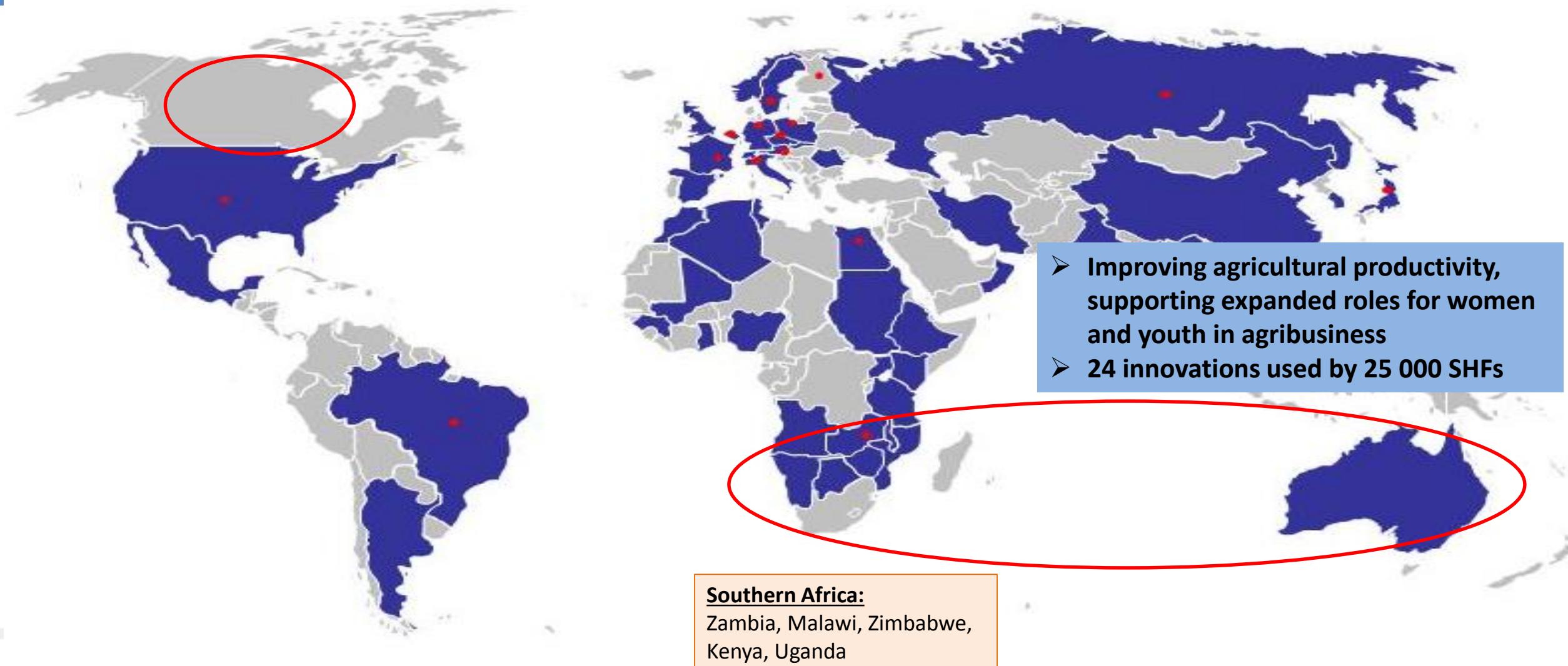
Networking to enhance....

- *Generating economies of scale* among research universities that are small and cannot cover core and specialized courses in most postgraduate fields;
- *Building of credibility and legitimacy* for African governments and donors in demonstrating solid academic programmes that engage with other stakeholders in the agriculture sector and produce employable graduates;
- Promoting *quality assurance* through interaction, information sharing, and peer review;
- *Strengthening links* between academic research centers, Academies and the private sector;
- Building a *critical mass of female scientists* in the face of the narrow pipeline of female students surfacing from undergraduate studies at individual universities; and
- Harnessing movements toward *regional integration* that present opportunities for reducing costs of research and training and avoiding duplication.

Example 1: Multi-country funding (LEAP-Agri)



Example 2: ACIAR-IDRC (Cultivate Africa's Future Fund)



Example 3: Science Granting Councils Initiative



Strengthen the ability of African science granting councils to:

Manage research

Design and monitor research programmes based on the use of robust STI indicators

Support the transfer of knowledge to the private sector

Establish partnerships with other science system actors

Catalysts for Impact

There is still a shortage of spaces that encourage and enable collaboration of scientists from different disciplines.

AAUN and other networks address this need by creating an enabling environment for global research partnerships.

Partnerships, strategic alliances and networks that harness collective strengths and facilitate resource sharing

Diversified funding sources that enable critical connections to policy and practice towards impact

Cutting-edge communication and engagement strategies that inspire, educate and transform

Reduced risk that promotes sustainable and efficient investment impact

Boundary-spanning leadership that bridges divides and disconnects between stakeholders



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Thank you