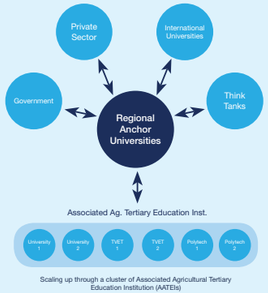
In particular, the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will be used to identify key priorities for the RAUs to pursue their regional agenda and to support the development of regional products that will contribute to the transformation of the regional agri-food sector. The priorities will ensure alignment of the RAUs to meeting regional objectives of CAADP, the Malabo Declaration and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024. The RAUs will also link to the research agenda of the sub-regional organizations such as West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Center for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) both directly in each country through the national agricultural research systems, sub-regionally and through the umbrella Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

SHAEA Priority Areas

SHEAE is addressing the following six regional key gap areas;

- Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship, training experts in engineering for food processing, to design and build the food processing plants, food packaging, supply chain logistics to create supply chains that can be sustainable while moving food long distances to market. The technical skills need to be complemented with soft skills with integrative thinking to solve real production, processing, distribution or other problems. Enhancing the entrepreneurship spirit and mindset of graduates to create employment opportunities.
- Agri-food Systems and Nutrition, training food science, technology, nutrition, and public health professionals who can contribute to product development to generate tasty, inexpensive nutrient-dense products by building on local palates.
- Rural Innovations and Agricultural Extension, training professionals focused on increasing the productivity gains by supporting provision of agricultural advisory services to smallholder farmers and leveraging extension networks and technology tailored for smallholder farmers. Experts devising disruptive technology catered to primarily rural crop and livestock value chains.
- Agricultural Risk Management and Climate Change Proofing, training professionals across disciplines adept and addressing climate change risk and promoting climate smart technologies and farming practices,
- Agricultural Policy Analysis, training experts who can provide evidence-based policy recommendation to drive agricultural strategy/policy formulation and implementation such as expenditure reviews, strategy development and prioritization for the future,
- Statistical Analysis, Foresight and Data Management, training experts in spatial analysis and econometrics who can understand and forecast consumption patterns, conduct policy analysis and meet the private sector needs.

SHAEA Project Actors and Linkages



How are the Regional Anchor Universities Selected?

The SHAEA RAU's are selected through a process of rigorous independent evaluation facilitated by RUFORUM. An an objective, well balanced, academically- and private sector recognized composition of the Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC) is of the utmost importance to quality, potentials, and impact of the RAU's selected and funded under SHAEA. Therefore, the members of the IEC are independent of the proposal-submitting institutions and of the SHAEA participating countries in order to maintain the integrity of the project (i.e., objectivity, avoiding conflict of interest).

Implementation

The implementation arrangement for SHAEA follows a tiered structure with clear roles and responsibilities for each of the directly involved parties. The selected RAUs will be the main implementing agencies of SHAEA, with support from the project's Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and RUFORUM as well as their respective governments and partners from both the public, private sectors and Regional Economic Committees(RECs). The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) provides overall guidance and oversight for the project. It is the decision-making body of the project and comprises two representatives from each participating government (one from agriculture and one from education) as well as representatives from regional bodies, academics, and the private sector.

A National Steering (or Advisory) Committee (NSC) is expected to be formed by each participating government and be facilitated by the lead ministry designated by the government for SHAEA, to provide guidance and oversight to SHAEA implementation in its respective country. In implementation the project, SHAEA will work closely with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in each of the participating sub-regions of Africa.

A Win – Win Situation

The SHAEA project will benefit Individuals (Faculty, students and administrators in selected RAUs and partner institutions, Agricultural advisory service personnel, Agricultural policymakers and researchers, and Farmers and other producers. Institutions (Agricultural education institutions, Agricultural research institutes and think-tanks, Agricultural advisory service organizations, Agribusiness firms, Government agencies, development partners and NGOs working in agriculture).

RUFORUM Capacity Building in Agriculture

WORLD BANK GROUP

SHAEA

Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa

Challenges facing Agri-Food Systems in Africa

Agriculture accounts for one-third of GDP and over 65 percent of employment throughout Africa. By 2025, more than half of the job growth in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia will still be in the agri-food sector (Figures 1,2). Production is increasing but not as fast as population growth, and productivity is stagnating. More than three-quarters of the poor live in rural areas, so improving farmers' incomes will significantly reduce poverty and increase equity. Agricultural growth provides opportunities for rural entrepreneurs to establish small businesses that grow value chains and take advantage of modern communications to link town and country markets. Evidence from the agricultural transformation in Asia suggests that a 1% acceleration in agrarian growth can generate up to 1.5% in non-agricultural growth. The agricultural sector is vital for creating robust, equitable, and diversified economic growth.

Fig. 1: Growth in total food consumption by 2030, relative to 2015

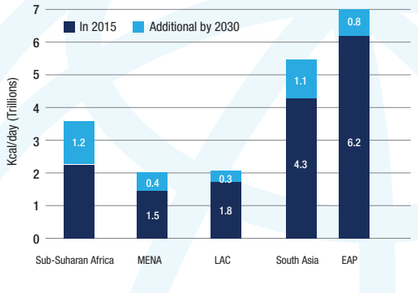
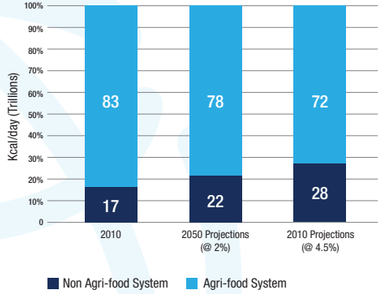


Fig. 2: Agriculture is a major provider of jobs in SSA



Cereal yields have accelerated in Sub-Saharan Africa since the 1990s (doubling the cereal yield growth rate), but they are not rising fast enough to meet growing food demand. If projected food demand to 2030 in Sub-Saharan Africa is to be met by productivity gains alone, cereal yields will need to increase at 3 percent a year, about a third higher than the 2.2 percent rate achieved during 2000-14, notwithstanding climate change's negative impacts and potential development tradeoffs, i.e., with the environment.

The situation in the livestock sector in Sub-Saharan Africa is similar. Overall food import bills on the continent are rising, reflecting a growing demand for higher-value processed foods that are not being met domestically. The enabling policy and business environment are not adequately responding to the mega-trends that are reshaping the food system and the broader economies on the continent. The skills needed to catalyze agricultural transformation in today's context are in short supply. They span a different set of skills across the agriculture and the broader food system value chains and include (besides the traditional agricultural sectors) food processing, manufacturing, and distribution.

Opportunities

- The opportunities for Sub-Saharan Africa's food system to generate jobs, create sustainable economic growth, and promote food security are immense
- Yet, Africa's food system is failing to keep pace with food demand
- Structural shifts in the food system mean different skill needs for the increasingly youthful workforce.
- A different set of skills is needed in support of an African food system
- The recent increase in investment in agricultural innovation holds the promise of making agricultural education and employment attractive for youth.
- Africa's higher education institutions fall short of meeting the needs of the modern food system.
- Given the myriad of challenges, a paradigm shift needs to occur among Africa's academia leaders to set agricultural education on a different path.
- Agriculture training institutes such as universities and agricultural colleges can effectively contribute to meeting the need for high-skilled workers in the food and agriculture sector.

Getting the education system to respond to agriculture sector needs

The project of Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA) was initiated by the African leadership and is facilitated by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), supported by development partners and financed by the World Bank Group. The participating countries are Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique.

This innovative initiative will support the concept of the establishment of Regional Anchor Universities (RAUs) by promoting transformation of selected universities with strong comparative advantage in becoming regional agricultural knowledge hubs. It will promote the creation of world-class agricultural faculties with transdisciplinary focus and leadership in Key Gap Areas (KGAs) in which participating universities will have a comparative advantage and have potential to attract faculty, students and partnerships from the respective regions and sub-regions. The project intends to promote innovative partnerships and stimulate close linkages between the agriculture sector and universities.

SHAEA Design

The SHAEA Project Development Objective is "to strengthen linkages between selected African universities and regional agricultural sector needs for developing required human resources to accelerate agri-food systems transformation in Africa. SHAEA will be implemented in 3 components namely;

Component 1: Strengthening Regional Anchor Universities (RAUs) for Agri-Food Systems Transformation	**Component 2:** Scaling up Impact	**Component 3:** Project Facilitation, Coordination and Management
Strengthening RAUs in Regional Key Gaps Areas through Transdisciplinary Programs	Strengthening Knowledge Exchange and Partnerships at National and Regional Level	Enhancing Regional Project Facilitation, M&E and Management
Subcomponent 1.1: Developing Sustainable Institutional Leadership and Management Capacity	**Subcomponent 2.1:** Strengthening Knowledge Exchange and Faculty/ Student Mobility Platforms	**Component 3:** Regional level project coordination and technical assistance to RAUs
Subcomponent 1.2: Delivering Research-based Relevant Training to Produce a New Generation of Transdisciplinary Problem Solvers	**Subcomponent 2.2:** Supporting associated tertiary agricultural education institutions through RAU-led partnerships	
Subcomponent 1.3: Fostering University's Practical and Field-based Research and Outreach to Agriculture Sector Stakeholders		

Regional Anchor Universities (RAUs) are selected based on a competitive call. The selected universities will play a catalytic role to: (a) provide national and regional leadership in developing skilled professionals for agri-food systems transformation; (b) be a recognized academic leader; (c) support internationalization of higher agricultural education.

RAUs will be at the center of agri-food eco-system with strong linkages with private sectors, farmers, policy think-tanks, government agencies, and regional and international universities.