IDEV
Independent Development Evaluation
African Development Bank

Project Cluster Evaluation of the Technology for African Agriculture Transformation (TAAT) Program

Concept Note

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

1.0 Introduction

The evaluation of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program is part of the Independent Development Evaluation's (IDEV's) 2022-2024 work program approved by the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Board of Directors. This Concept Note summarizes the evaluation objectives, questions, scope, approach, and methodology to lay a foundation for the preparation of an Approach Paper and the recruitment of consultancy support.

2.0 Background and Context

Africa is home to 60% of the world's arable land, yet it remains a net importer of food and unable to reap the benefits of its large labour force. Millions of Africans are involved in agricultural sector activities and yet Africa remains the most food insecure continent in the world. About 220 million Africans suffer from chronic undernourishment – about a fifth of the continent's population and a quarter of the global total experiencing this burden. The African Development Bank has embarked on a mission to address these challenges holistically, including through the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program.

The program, launched in 2018, is an integral part of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy 2016–2025 and aligns with three (3) of the High-5s priority areas of the Bank namely: Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa and Improve the quality of lives of Africans. At the corporate strategy level, TAAT contributes to the twin objectives of the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (TYS), inclusive growth and transition to green growth, with agriculture as one of the areas of special emphasis. The implementation of the TAAT program is also strongly anchored on continental programs for advancement of agriculture in Africa such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

TAAT's overall objective is to harness proven technologies to raise agricultural productivity in Africa, mitigate risks and to promote diversification and processing in 18 agricultural value chains within eight priority intervention areas. In sum, it aims to increase food output by 120 million tons and lift 40 million people out of poverty by 2025. The first phase of the TAAT program has deployed technologies at scale along nine (9) priority agricultural commodity value chains based on agro-ecological zones that straddle across national boundaries, namely: maize, rice, wheat, high-iron bean, cassava, orange-fleshed sweet potato, sorghum/millet, livestock, and aquaculture. In addition, six (6) enabler compacts have been implemented to address cross-cutting issues such as soil fertility management, water management, capacity development, policy support, attracting African youth in agribusiness and fall armyworm response.

The first phase of TAAT was expected to create an enabling environment for the development and adoption of agricultural technologies, establishment of Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure (RTDI), and deployment of appropriate technologies in at least 25 African countries, especially Low-Income Countries (LICs) and Fragile states, and interested Middle Income Countries (MICs), across all the five regions of the Bank. The program deliberately targets women, working through the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) among other partners, given that the agricultural sector in Africa is the largest employer of women with 62% of economically active women working in the sector. Similarly, TAAT prioritizes the involvement of youths in its activities. Finally, it supports building resilience in the agricultural sector through the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. Put together, the program focuses on addressing low agricultural productivity and increasing value addition to reduce malnutrition and increase employment and incomes of households whose livelihoods depend on agriculture and related activities.

The first phase of TAAT was approved in 2017 and was implemented as a stand-alone program from June 2018 to 31 December 2021. The program was designed as a multi-partner framework with a total resource envelope for the first year amounting to UA 40 million (US$ 55.17 million). This comprised of UA 29.0 million (72.5%) from the AfDB through an ADF grant, UA 7.25 million (7.25%) from the Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), UA 0.85 million (2.1%) from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), and UA 2.9 million (7.3%) from Governments of RMCs. According to the design of the TAAT program, the Bank is expected to provide similar amounts through three successive phases spanning an overlapping period of 5 years.

3.0 Evaluation Rationale, Objectives and Questions

As part of IDEV's 2022-2024 work program, a cluster evaluation of the first phase of the TAAT program is planned to be undertaken in 2022. **The evaluation will examine the strategic orientation, design, and implementation of purposively selected clusters of TAAT activities and their results to generate useful lessons for the Bank Group's Management, the Board, RMCs and other stakeholders to inform and strengthen the implementation of the Feed Africa Strategy (2016-2025) and any other related initiatives under consideration such as an African Food Crisis Response Facility and Mission 1 for 200**[1]. The key evaluation questions[2] following the review of the initial questions through consultations with relevant complexes and departments are outlined below. More specific sub-evaluation questions will be developed during the preparation of the Approach Paper and will guide the development of the evaluation matrix.

EQ1: Effectiveness: How well have the selected TAAT interventions achieved or are likely to achieve their expected results and contributed to improved food security and increased incomes of targeted communities and individuals in the selected value chains and intervention sites?

EQ2: Efficiency: How efficient has the TAAT program been in utilising its resources and implementation arrangements, including the TAAT Ecosystem (Project Management Unit, Clearing House, and Commodity Compacts), to achieve planned results?

EQ3: Coherence: To what extent have TAAT interventions in the selected value chains and intervention sites been coherent with other Bank interventions focusing on agricultural development and increasing productivity, as well as those of other development partners and RMCs?

EQ4: Sustainability and Partnerships: To what extent has the TAAT I program been able to leverage resources, promote innovation and is likely to sustain its interventions and results through partnerships in the selected value chains and intervention sites?

EQ5: What key lessons can be drawn about what works and does not work, where and under what circumstances in the selected value chains and sites, and how effectively have good practices been shared during the implementation of program?

4.0 Evaluation Scope, Approach and Methodology

The evaluation will cover a cluster of selected value chains and project sites funded by the TAAT I program over the period 2018 - 2021. The evaluation will use a theory-based approach which allows for testing and exploring pathways by which results are achieved and assessing the Bank's support for the TAAT program in relation to the Bank's Feed Africa strategy (2016-2025) while building on currently available knowledge and evidence. Nonetheless, it is also important for the evaluation to go beyond the theory towards a pragmatic identification of successes and constraints to TAAT. The evaluation, therefore, will also draw on the realist evaluation approach, which acknowledges that the same theories do not necessarily generate the same results in different locations, in unique contexts, with varied stakeholders and in different timeframes.

The focus of the evaluation will be on the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and sustainability of the TAAT I program. However, it will include a descriptive assessment of the relevance and strategic fit of the program as well as inclusivity (women and youth) and enabling green growth initiatives in selected value chains and intervention sites. Furthermore, it will assess the catalytic role of AfDB TAAT-supported interventions to other related interventions implemented by the Bank and by other development partners and RMCs.

A robust methodological approach utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analytical methods will be applied to build on existing evidence to meet the objectives of the evaluation and answer the evaluation questions. These methods will include:

[1] The "Mission 1 for 200" is a financing facility for food and nutrition in Africa and is expected to give African farmers support to adapt to climate change. It aims to mobilise USD 1 billion to benefit 200 million people in Africa.

[2] The preliminary evaluation questions which will be elaborated with sub-research questions in the approach paper are aligned with the revised evaluation criteria in the updated IDEV evaluation manual.

- **Structured document review**: the evaluation will review strategic documents of the TAAT program and the Feed Africa Strategy; specific documents related to TAAT commodity compacts and value chains; status reports as well monitoring, evaluation and supervision documents, etc.
- **Key informant interviews**: Bank Senior Management, Board of Directors, relevant Bank Staff in Agriculture and relevant complexes, Bank Project Task Managers, Staff in the Project Implementation Unit and other TAAT ecosystem organs, TAAT program implementing and collaborating partners, and other RMCs' Government and private stakeholders as well as key NGOs.
- **Focus group discussions and sites/field visits**: This will focus more on impacted or targeted beneficiaries within the selected value chains and intervention sites.

The TAAT program focusses on agriculture as a business and covers up to nine (9)[3] priority value chains within regional and inter-country agro-ecological zones. The evaluation may cover all or a subset of these value chains depending on the progress made in terms of implementing planned activities, achievement of output and outcome results, contribution to localised impacts, and their evaluability. The selection of the value chains and intervention sites for case studies will be done in consultation with relevant complexes and departments in the Bank and will be informed by an extensive review of program documents. It will also be aimed at ensuring a balanced assessment between areas where the program has performed well and where it has not performed well to enable the identification of both enabling and inhibiting factors, and positive and negatives lessons. The evaluation will also explore the use of methods for capturing localized community and household level impacts without generalization to ascertain the effectiveness of the program.

The evaluation will include a thorough stakeholder analysis which will be undertaken with the support of IDEV.3 as part of the process of integrating Knowledge Management activities in the evaluation and to ensuring utility of evaluation findings. This will be done through the development of tailor-made knowledge products for diverse stakeholders. Some notable knowledge management activities and products will include organising a Knowledge Capitalization Workshop to disseminate the findings of the evaluation and sharing of key lessons among RMCs and other stakeholders, as well as the development of knowledge products such as a lessons document and a compendium of good practices. The evaluation will also integrate a systematic communication plan to keep all stakeholders informed and enable effective dissemination of evaluation activities.

5.0 Evaluation Audiences

The priority audience for the project cluster evaluation of the TAAT I program includes Bank Management and the Board of Directors of the Bank, as they oversee, implement, and make decisions on this program, as well as Bank Staff in relevant complexes, as they implement any follow up programs and related interventions. Within the RMCs, the findings of the evaluation will be of interest to Governments, Ministries of Agriculture and their National Agriculture Research and Extension Systems (NARES), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and private sector actors. The findings of the evaluation will also be of interest to many organizations that were directly or indirectly involved in the development and implementation of the TAAT I program and related programs in RMCs. These include the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), AGRA, World Bank, BMGF, IFAD, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Government of the UK – Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), among others.

[3] The nine (9) priority commodity value chains have been summarized in Annex 1 which also shows the geographical spread and the six (6) enablers for achievement of desired results.

6.0 Evaluation Quality Assurance

The evaluation will integrate effective quality assurance processes and measures through the establishment of an Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) comprising staff representing relevant complexes and departments. The evaluation will also be peer reviewed by other IDEV staff with expertise and experience of undertaking similar evaluations. IDEV will also recruit an External Peer Reviewer to provide quality assurance support during the evaluation and peer review the background documents and evaluation reports. Given the limited scope and portfolio of the program, the evaluation will be undertaken using inhouse expertise in IDEV with the option of recruiting a limited number of external evaluators to support the evaluation based on the agreed focus and scope after consultations with the relevant complexes and departments in the Bank. The Team will work under the leadership of the Division Manager - IDEV 1 and the overall guidance of the Evaluator General, with the support of the Knowledge Management and Communication Team from IDEV 3.

7.0 Timeline

The estimated timeline for the major evaluation processes and milestones are as follows:

Milestones	Timeline
Inception Phase	
Concept Note, Preparation of ToRs and Recruitment of Consultants	May 2022
Submission of Draft Approach Paper	May 2022
Review, Quality Assurance and Approval of Approach Paper	June 2022
Data Collection Phase	
Document Review, Interviews, Focus Group Discussions, Case Studies and Country/Site Visits	July -September, 2022
Preparation of Case Study Reports	August – September, 2022
Preparation, review and submission of Preliminary Findings and Lessons Report (To inform the implementation of the African Food Crisis Response Facility – if approved by the Board - and any ongoing discussions on other initiatives such as the Mission 1 for 200 Program)	August- September, 2022
Preparation, Review and Approval of Technical and/or Summary Report(s)[4]	
Preparation of Technical and/or Summary Report(s)	October 2022
Review and finalisation of Technical and/or Summary Report(s)	November 2022
Submission for Management response (if applicable[5]), translation and submission to CODE	December 2022

[4] Once the data collection has been completed, we will decide whether the preparation of a Technical Report is necessary in addition to the Case Study Reports and the Preliminary Findings and Lessons Report. If it is not necessary, we will skip the Technical Report in order to deliver the Summary Report more quickly.

[5] The evaluation will only need to be submitted for Management Response if it makes recommendations. In general, IDEV project cluster evaluations are intended as learning products and mostly do not contain recommendations, but if over the course of the evaluation it appears that it would be useful to make recommendations, this can be considered.

Annex 1: Geographical Spread of TAAT Interventions by Priority Agricultural Commodity and Enablers

N°	PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES/COMPACTS	COUNTRIES	Enablers
1	**Water efficient maize** *Target and objectives*: 7.5 million farmers with elite and drought resistant maize. The objective is to increase Maize yields to ensure more food and more revenues from the sales of the surplus of production, through eight elements including: elite and climate smart maize varieties, optimal maize planting density, efficient weed management, management of fall army worm, etc.	**East Africa**: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda **West Africa**: Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, **Central Africa**: Cameroun **Southern Africa**: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe	**1. Capacity Development Compact** Target and objectives: 2.5 million beneficiaries targeted across 12 countries. This compact aims to strengthens the capacity of regional and NARES actors to facilitate outreach and scaling of proven technologies and GAPs promoted by commodity compacts**.** **2. Enable TAAT Compact** *Target and objectives*: implemented in 19 countries, it aims to include young people in TAAT by opening agribusiness opportunities to a target of 850 000 youth across TAAT value chains. **3. TAAT Policy Compact** *Target and Objectives*: it is a four-pronged approach organized around the following work streams: seeds policies that deliver certified accreditation of agro-inputs suppliers, harmonization of regional variety release and registration, and policy reforms to facilitate performing value chains. **4. Water Management Compact** *Target and objectives*: implemented in seven countries with a target of 650,000. The objective is to scale out proven water management and
2	**Rice** *Target and objectives*: the rice compact targets 3.75 million farmers. It aims to provide improved technologies such as high yielding existing or new rice varieties, improved post-harvest technologies, and android based application for e-registration for rice value chain actors.	**West Africa**: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali **East Africa**: Uganda, Madagascar **Central Africa**: Cameroun	
3	**Wheat** *Target and objectives*: this compact aims to reach 8.33 million farmers across the seven countries. The objective is to scale up proven wheat technologies such as high yielding, heat tolerant and disease resistant varieties.	**West Africa**: Nigeria, Mali **East Africa**: Sudan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, **Southern Africa**: Zimbabwe	
4	**Sorghum/Millet** *Target and objectives*: 7.5 million farmers are targeted in seven countries. Technologies being scaled out include: high yielding market preferred Striga parasitic weed and disease resistant sorghum and pearl millet yield-increasing technologies.	**West Africa**: Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal **East Africa**: Sudan **Central Africa**: Chad	
5	**Cassava** *Target and objectives*: expected beneficiaries estimated at 3.38 million in 15 countries. The objectives are to deliver technology package (including rapid propagation of high	**West Africa**: Nigeria, Togo, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Liberia, Benin **Central Africa**: DR Congo, Cameroon	

N°	PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES/COMPACTS	COUNTRIES	Enablers
	yielding, disease resistant and nutrient dense varieties, innovative good agricultural practices) to boost cassava productivity.	**East Africa**: Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi **Southern Africa**: Zambia, Mozambique	irrigation technologies to increase productivity, build capacity of trainers, etc. **5. TAAT Fall Armyworm Compact (FAW)** *Target and objectives*: Implemented in over 20 countries, it targets about 3.3 ha. The objective is to identify in partnership with bio pesticide producers, effective products that can be used in an integrated pest management approach to manage the FAW in endemic areas and countries. **6. Soil Fertility Management Compact** *Target and objectives:* Implemented in six countries, with a target of 24,000 beneficiaries. It aims to support the commodity compacts with the development and dissemination of crop and site-specific fertilizer recommendations, etc.
6	**Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato** *Target and Objectives:* Targets 1.25 million beneficiaries across the 12 countries. The objective is to propose technology package comprising: elite and climate smart varieties, appropriate agronomic management practices, appropriate fertilizer blend, etc.	**West Africa**: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, **East Africa**: Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi **Central Africa**: DR Congo, Cameroon, **Southern Africa**: Mozambique, Madagascar	
7	**High Iron Beans (HIB)** *Target and objectives*: 2 million beneficiaries targeted in eight countries. It aims to facilitate access to quality high iron bens seeds, complementary inputs, as well as HIB-based value-added products.	**East Africa**: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi **Central Africa**: DR Congo, **Southern Africa**: Zimbabwe	
8	**Small livestock** Target and objectives: 1.65 million beneficiaries expected in 6 countries. It aims to improve productivity and profitability of small animal value chains through upscaling innovations in livestock genetics, feed, health, production systems, policy and marketing.	**West Africa**: Nigeria, Mali, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin **East Africa**: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi **Central Africa**: DR Congo, Cameroon **Southern Africa**: Zambia	
9	**Aquaculture** **Target and Objectives**: Implemented in 10 countries, with a targeted 1.5 million beneficiaries. This compact aims to increase production, and self-sufficiency through sustainable intensification of existing aquaculture enterprises.	**West Africa:** Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, **East Africa:** Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi **Central Africa:** DRC, Cameroon **Southern Africa:** Zambia	