



**Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) Project  
Regional Community of Practice Convening with the Network for Agricultural and Rural  
Advisory Services for West and Central Africa (RESCAR-AOC)  
and  
African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) Regional Workshop of the Last-Mile  
Programme**

**24-26 June 2019  
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**

**Theme:** The Future of Agricultural Advisory Services in Africa: Evidence and New Directions

**Background**

Agricultural extension and advisory services play a crucial role in knowledge brokering and facilitation of interactions between actors and stakeholders of agricultural innovation systems. Advisory services are meant to provide adequate and customised support (access to innovation and technologies, capacity building, facilitation, support to decision-making processes) to value chain actors. They facilitate not only the identification and expression of demands for agricultural knowledge, innovations and technologies, but also the participatory development and efficient use of solutions. In Africa, efficient agricultural advisory services are essential for the achievement of increasing and unprecedented efforts undertaken at country and regional levels to make agriculture more productive, profitable and sustainable. This requires that various stakeholders involved have a good knowledge and consideration of recent and ongoing evolution, but also emerging challenges and opportunities that shape the agenda for extension and advisory services

In view of the above, The Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) project and a consortium of French institutions have undertaken studies in a number of countries in Africa. The project has generated results and outcomes in different domains of advisory services. Similarly, GFRAS and its regional networks have designed a programme named “Delivering Extension Services to the Last-Mile: Improving smallholders’ access to innovation and pluralistic, demand-driven extension services.” Its overall objective is to enhance the capacity of RAS providers to effectively facilitate knowledge and technology flows within agricultural innovation systems in ways that foster equitable, resilient and sustainable market-oriented smallholder agriculture. Further information on the projects/programmes follows.

The DLEC project measurably improves extension programs, policies, and services by creating locally-tailored, partnership-based solutions and by mobilising active communities of practice to advocate for scaling proven approaches. DLEC conducts diagnostics in Feed the Future countries to evaluate the



advisory services ecosystem, providing insight into the strengths and challenges faced by the national extension systems. The diagnostics also review the extent to which the system is market-oriented, how the system engages different communities, including youth and women, and how it supports overall livelihood strategies of farmers. During 2016-2018, diagnostics were conducted in five West African countries: Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. These were shared at the 2018 GFRAS Annual Meeting at a side event convened with RESCAR-AOC and CIRAD.

Concurrently, a consortium involving CIRAD, Inter-reseaux, IRAM, and CER-France and funded by AFD conducted a study to generate elements for the new AFD agricultural advisory services strategy. Furthermore, raising the responsiveness of agricultural advisory services is one of the key focus of the West and Central Africa Network of Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (RESCAR-AOC). In line with its vision *“Effective agricultural and rural advisory services mobilised in line with demand to facilitate sustainable development in West and Central Africa,”* RESCAR-AOC has partnered with DLEC to take action on the findings of recent diagnostics on advisory services in the region. The aim is to build multi-actor regional initiatives for capacity development and reshaping of advisory services, leading to a sustainable improvement of their essential contribution in facilitating positive changes and innovations required for agricultural value chains with higher technical, economic and environmental performances in West and Central Africa.

Similarly, under the AFAAS umbrella, the global programme “Delivering extension services to the last-mile:” is beginning its inception phase in Africa with a kick-off workshop. The programme’s overall objective is to enhance the capacity of rural advisory service providers to effectively facilitate knowledge and technology flows within agricultural innovation systems in ways that foster equitable, resilient and sustainable market-oriented smallholder agriculture. Its final goal is improved incomes, sustained market linkages and reduction of climate vulnerability for smallholder farmers. The last-mile programme is focused on strengthening the institutional and organisational capacities of the country fora, comprising stakeholders active in agricultural advisory services, as well as supporting their initiatives for improved service delivery to farmers. The programme will be implemented by the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) comprising of a cascade of networks running from country to global level. AFAAS Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the LMP in Africa.

### **Joint Event**

The joint event is organised in partnership with AFAAS, DLEC, RESCAR-AOC, l’Agence Nationale d’Appui au Développement Rural (ANADER) and GFRAS.

**Objective:** The overall objective of the event is to share lessons learned from evidence on advisory services in Africa and to discuss ways to implement them through existing and new projects using AFAAS country forums as the basis for multi-stakeholder platforms. This will be done through:

- Sharing results and recommendations of various evidence on advisory services in the region
- Agreeing on priority areas to take up at national and regional levels and link to ongoing initiatives
- Showcasing the model of public-private partnerships within AFAAS country forums

- Getting understanding and buy-in to the GFRAS global project “Last-mile Programme”
- Updating on status of AFAAS country fora and prepare countries for the Last-mile Programme
- Leverage on different partners to review and plan for the Agricultural Extension Week 2019

### **Structure**

This will be a three- day event. Day one will focus on the status of extension and advisory services in Africa, particularly in West and Central Africa, and will discuss priority recommendations for strengthening country fora and sub-regional extension networks. Day two and three will focus on LMP and will discuss partnerships and implementation arrangements to strengthen advisory services, using multistakeholder country forums.

**Participants** will include funding and implementing partners of agricultural advisory services, directors of extension, country forum focal persons, and resource persons on advisory services and related institutions from the region and beyond.

**Venue** will be Hotel Ivotel Plateau in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

### **About the Conveners**

**ANADER.** ANADER was created in 1993 to support implementation of the National Programme for Support for Agricultural Services. Since 1998 ANADER has been a mixed company of comprised of the State, family farmers, and the private sector. The social purpose of ANADER is to provide agricultural advice and extension in Côte d’Ivoire. ANADER’s mission is to “contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the rural world through the professionalisation of farmers and agricultural professional organisations by designing and implementing appropriate tools and approaches, programmes to ensure sustainable and controlled development.” Its vision is an efficient ANADER, effectively assuring public service missions granted by the State and services tailored to the needs of the customers. ANADER services are deployed nationally through 7 regional directorates, 57 zones and 1,100 extension centres. <http://www.anader.ci/#>

**AFAAS.** AFAAS is a continental platform for mutual learning and innovation among agricultural extension and advisory services providers across Africa. The AFAAS goal is to enhance utilisation of improved knowledge and innovations for improving productivity oriented towards individual and national development objectives. AFAAS operates through multi-stakeholder country fora that embrace public and private actors in the national agricultural innovation systems. AFAAS is aligned with Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and therefore contributes to African Union’s goal of delivering average growth rate of 6% GDP. Within the current AU thrust for enhancing CAADP momentum based on the Malabo declaration of June 2014, the specific focus of AFAAS is on knowledge management and knowledge support for enhancing the utilisation and adoption of productivity-enhancing technologies, value-adding processes and loss-reducing practices in the value chains within which smallholder producers are embedded. <https://www.afaas-africa.org>

**DLEC.** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded DLEC to target Feed the Future countries to measurably improve extension programs, policies and services by creating locally-tailored, partnership-based solutions and by mobilising active communities of practice to advocate for scaling proven approaches. The five-year (2016-2021) project is designed to diagnose, test and share best-fit solutions for agricultural extension systems and services across the Feed the Future countries. Led by Digital Green in partnership with Care International, the International Food Policy Research Institute and GFRAS, DLEC is an action-oriented, evidence-based learning project that generates evidence through diagnostic studies and engagement activities, which in turn are used as a catalyst for mobilising global and country-level communities of practice to advocate for improved EAS. <http://www.digitalgreen.org/usaid-dlec>

**GFRAS.** The network enhances performance of advisory services so that they can better serve farm families and rural producers, thus contributing to improved livelihoods in rural areas and the sustainable reduction of hunger and poverty. The GFRAS vision is for rural advisory services to effectively contribute to agricultural innovation systems for sustainable development, and the mission is to provide advocacy and leadership on pluralistic and demand-driven rural advisory services for sustainable development. The GFRAS structure reaches smallholder farmers via the regional rural advisory services networks, which are made up of national-level platforms. The national platforms include actors from all sectors working in rural advisory services, and work directly with smallholders. National platforms help prioritise national-level issues and formulate demands to be taken to the regional and global levels. <http://www.g-fras.org>

**RESCAR-AOC.** The network aims to bring together all actors of the agricultural advisory services. RESCAR-AOC provides a unique framework to agricultural and rural advisory services actors to strengthen their capacities, share and learn from their experiences, harness synergies to address challenges and opportunities for higher and efficient harnessing of the potential of agricultural and rural advisory services in the elaboration and implementation of agricultural development policies. For investors and development agencies, RESCAR-AOC is an interface to interact more efficiently with professionals of agricultural advisory services and improve development initiatives. RESCAR-AOC places its activities in the context of coordinated efforts for an accelerated and inclusive transformation of African agriculture. RESCAR-AOC is a member of AFAAS and GFRAS and adheres to principles of subsidiarity for activities conducted at global, continental or national levels. [www.rescar-aoc.org](http://www.rescar-aoc.org).

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**Please RSVP to Esther Michaala at [emichaala@afaas-africa.org](mailto:emichaala@afaas-africa.org). A draft agenda and logistics note will be shared.**

**For more information on the event please contact:**

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