



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY  
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT  
DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

# *Commissioned Papers*

## *Themes, Call, Selection and Implementation*

**Presented at 2012 ACIR Validation Workshop**  
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**By**

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# Introduction to ACIR 2012

- 2<sup>nd</sup> ACIR, following inaugural Report launched in Kigali (February 2011)
- Theme: ***Capacity Devt for Ag. Transformation & Food Security***
- Objectives:
  - ***Examine key issues/challenges facing countries and cross-border capacity development and cooperation in Africa.***
  - ***Interrogate the issues/challenges impacting agricultural transformation & food security in Africa with their capacity development ramifications.***
  - ***Give enhanced theoretical underpinnings to the capacity development interventions being undertaken on the continent.***
  - ***Examine the issues/challenges facing not only in-country but also cross-border developments in capacity in Africa with ongoing efforts to support regional cooperation, and serve as a definitive knowledge product primarily for policymakers in the region***
  - ***Serve as a major diagnostic tool and guide the development of priority actions by providing practical recommendations where necessary.***



# Approach for ACIR

- Original data collection by country experts—build capacity for assessment and data collection
- Regional Focal Points — oversight, fact-checks and field supervision
- Background papers call sourcing globally—get the best ideas on a competitive basis
- External Reference Group—validation and independent verification
- ACBF pulls it all together—knowledge function, unique skills, relevance to operations



# Call for Papers: Key Steps

- March 2011, ACI Team identifies key thematic areas, consults ERG for feedback/guidance, and where necessary modifies RFP
- May 2011, ACBF puts out an RFP – with focus on eleven (11) thematic areas
- RFP results in +64 proposals
  - Africa, India, Europe, North America
- An internal team reviews, selects and contracts nine (09) consultants to draft 10 background papers
  - No winning proposal identified for Call # 9.
    - **African Managerial Capacity for Ag. Transformation:** Key issues & policy options?
- Drafting of papers, including peer review, revision & final
  - 40 Working Days (July 1<sup>st</sup> thru mid-September 2011)



# Call for Papers: Key Steps (Cont)

- May 2011, ACBF puts out RFP – focus on eleven (11) thematic areas:
  1. *The Status of Agriculture in Africa - CD Challenges and Opportunities.*
  2. *African State Policies and Agricultural Transformation*
  3. *Role of Technology and Research for Sustainable Agricultural Transformation*
  4. *Food Sovereignty and Food Security in Africa*
  5. *Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and their Impact on Africa's Agriculture*
  6. *Infrastructure, Markets and Regional Integration in Africa – What capacities are required to address Agricultural and Food Security Issues?*
  7. *Poverty, Sustainable Livelihoods and Agricultural Transformation in Africa*
  8. *Role of Urban Agriculture in Africa's quest for Food Security*
  9. ***African Managerial Capacity for Agricultural Transformation:** Key issues and policy options?*
  10. *Financing of Agricultural transformation and Food Security in Africa*
  11. *Capacity for Agricultural Education and Training in Africa:*



# Call for Papers: Outcome

- Of the 10 papers contracted, two (02) are rejected due to poor quality and/or plagiarism; and one (01) consultant opts not to revise and resubmit – too busy!
- Rejected/opt-out themes:
  - Call # 1: *The Status of Agriculture in Africa*
  - Call # 11: *Capacity for Agricultural Education and Training in Africa*
  - Call # 6: *Infrastructure, Markets and Regional Integration in Africa*



# Call for Papers: Progress to-date

- Contracted papers drafted, reviewed, revised and FINAL papers submitted on time
  - Review: 3-4 anonymous reviewers/paper
    - Rigor, quality control, docs premised on current literature/data, etc.
    - Papers only accepted after positive reviews!
- In response to rejected/undelivered papers,
  - Author of Call# 2 expanded focus to address key issues in Call #1
  - Overlaps in other papers filled in gaps
  - ACIR team response:
    - interrogates extant literature to capture salient issues now “missing” – infrastructure and training
    - consults ERG Members, and experts in field (including some who drafted background papers)
    - series of internal brain-storm sessions



# 2012 ACIR Dissemination: Purpose

- ACIR is intended to serve as a key reference point for capacity development support in Africa.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> edition focused on **CD in Fragile States in Africa**; launched in Kigali, February 2011; stimulated a lot of interest
- This notwithstanding, there is the need to sustain and expand the interest, distribution and coverage of ACIR
  - **How?**
    - Clearly, launch of 2011 ACIR generated a lot of interest and created optimism about how to track and focus CD efforts in Africa. Evidence from print and electronic media, user feedback, etc., support the fact that the Report is reshaping capacity development discourse, rejuvenating interest in CD; and raising the expectation of key stakeholders of the strategic and the unique role ACBF can play in promoting and sustaining capacity and capacity development on the African continent.



# 2012 ACIR Dissemination: Strategy

- **Consolidate 2011 ACIR gains/expand coverage & ownership of ACIR**
  - **Organize two centralized workshops** – Anglophone and Francophone, targeting the ERG, policy institutes, member governments, CSOs and the donor community to disseminate the report, secure feedback and strategize for the next edition of the report – ACIR2013
  - **Co-organize a workshop of key knowledge networks** to disseminate 2012 ACIR as well as identify how networks can serve as a distribution channel. Also, use workshop as a feedback mechanism to secure the perspectives on Report as well as input into the devt of future Reports
  - **Organize a web based (blog) /online discussion series**
  - **Co-organize mini country launches** (e.g. as advised for Lesotho & Botswana)
    - Workshops/mini-launches intended to deepen the buy-in, ownership, commitment & uptake of stakeholders



# 2012 ACIR Dissemination: Expected Outcome

- **(1) Embed ACIR as a key programmatic tool for CD**
  - Compile key programmatic (design, implementation, and M&E) issues from Report into a handy/user friendly version convenient to ACBF Operations Dept and other organizations involved in CD
  - Organize seminars/brown bags to disseminate key issues and findings at corporate level
- **(2) Strengthen partnerships and collaboration with other organisations**
  - Validation workshops with key partners through 2-3 day workshops with AfDB, ECA, AU-NEPAD, UNDP Africa Regional Office
  - Joint launches with key partners internationally including WB, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, and bilateral donors to consolidate partnerships for the future development and dissemination of the ACIR



***Thank you for listening!***



***Merci de m'avoir écouté***

