Preface

This booklet presents an overview of the Africa Innovations Institute with intention for the readers to know its setting and operations. It also guides potential partners and collaborators on areas of possible interest to them. Donors would find the programme areas particularly of interest.

The booklet covers the organization and management of the institute, its vision, mission and strategy; and the programmes and selected projects currently running and those partaken in before.

The booklet is intended to give a brief synopsis of the institute and in no account attempt to present or was intended to present an exhaustive account of the institute and its activities. Readers interested in the deeper functioning of the institute are advised to visit the website at www.afrii.org or contact the Chairman directly.

A blissful read.

Professor Otim-Nape, G.W.
Chairman/CEO
Africa Innovations Institute
1. Who we are

The Africa Innovations Institute (AfrII) is an indigenous, not-for-profit non governmental center of excellence, established in 2005 and based in Kampala-Uganda. AfrII undertakes research and innovations development on agriculture and food systems to ensure sustainable increase in farmers’ income, food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability in Eastern and Central Africa. The Institute brings together leading experts in agricultural and food systems innovations in Africa to adequately explore global science and the best innovations for accelerated agricultural development in Eastern Africa through participatory and consultative processes.

The Institute brings vast experience and expertise in natural resource management, agricultural sustainability; climate change analysis, mitigation and adaptation, agro processing and value addition; markets and enterprise development; nutrition, and management of crops and animal value chains development. It networks and is in partnership with many African, European and American institutions for implementation of research and development projects.

2. Where We Work

The Africa Innovations Institute has a Secretariat located in Kampala. Here, national and international level activities are conducted and field level operations are coordinated. Current operations cover Uganda, South Sudan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Nigeria and Kenya. In Uganda, the institute operates throughout the country and has field offices in Kumi town in Eastern Uganda, Luwero town in Central Uganda and Lira town in Northern Uganda.
3. Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision:
Smallholder farmers enjoying increased incomes and are sure of food and nutrition security.

Mission:
To undertake innovative agricultural research and innovations that transform the lives and incomes of smallholder farmers while ensuring food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability.

Objectives:
1. To generate and accelerate utilization of knowledge and innovations for sustainable agricultural development and advancement of science and technology in Africa.

2. To facilitate learning, and bridge information gaps through managing our knowledge base, publishing our research findings, sharing of lessons learnt and holding of conferences, seminars and camps.

3. To promote entrepreneurship and accelerate transformation of knowledge and innovations into agri-business ventures through partnerships and linkages with the private sector players in agriculture and industry.

4. To promote and participate in capacity development in agriculture, research, science, and innovations for sustainability of the agricultural sector.

5. To undertake any other actions that will enhance the achievement of our objectives, mission and vision.

Our Value and Commitment

We at AfrII are here for a purpose: “to help those who need our help in order to survive better through farming.”

We do this by unleashing our collective intellects, dedication and innovative-ness to making farming a more rewarding and fulfilling venture for those who depend on it for a living.

We believe that by doing this, God who created us for this purpose will reward us abundantly for helping his people survive better in a world full of challenges and frustration.
4. How we work

The Institute realizes that for agriculture to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and CAADP goals of accelerated agricultural growth, poverty reduction and food security in Africa, innovative approaches are needed. Such approaches would call for transforming the research results or inventions into innovations which ensure that farmers and agripreneurs and turn new knowledge and technologies into goods and services, which result into food on their plates or income into their pockets. This is the area AfrII aims to address and to bridge the gap.

To do this, AfrII undertakes innovative research and provides technical assistance to farmers and other actors along the agricultural value chain. It also works with the end users to develop markets; connects producers/processors to markets and sources of funds/services; and forms institutional arrangements that unite groups of enterprising farmers, processors and other entrepreneurs and helps link them with potential partners and other services. It also undertakes applied and adaptive research on agricultural and environment sustainability, integrating nutrition into agricultural projects and building capacity of early career scientists through training, mentorship and student thesis supervision.

In doing this, AfrII forges SMART partnerships with a wider community of actors including public, private, civil society, philanthropic and funding organizations who can help in addressing the challenges of translating research results into goods and services.
5. Key Areas of Work

5.1. Applied research and innovation development
The institute focuses on generating and transforming knowledge, practices and approaches into innovations for sustainable income, food and nutrition security of farming communities.

5.2. Facilitating access to and utilization of knowledge and innovations
This is an important strategic priority area for the institute. Our work in this area is geared towards enhancing stakeholder capacity to collectively innovate for increased efficiency and profitability of their commodities.

Innovation in this context entails putting information and knowledge into use, whether it is new, accumulated or simply used in creative ways. To this end, the Africa Innovations Institute works on two fronts by facilitating access to, as well as building capacity of smallholder farmers to utilize knowledge and innovation to boost production capacity and unblock agricultural system challenges.

5.3. Capacity and Institutional Development
The capacity building component of our work is conducted at individual, community and institution level. Our aim is to enhance the ability of national and regional stakeholders to effectively respond to their mandates; and perhaps more importantly, to enable local actors sustain the momentum of our efforts even outside the framework of our project interventions. AfrII’s role in building and strengthening capacity has included;

• Developing research capacity- AfrII engages in training and mentoring of BSC, MSc and Post-doctorate early career scientists in research approaches, and scientific communications, and research resource mobilization.
• Undertaking capacity development for organizations in the region.
• Providing technical assistance on strengthening institutional structures, systems and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

University Students, Angella Ajam (bending) and Patience Tukahirwa joined the Institute for their internship training to gain skills and advance their knowledge in science and innovations.

In this photo, the two are engaged in a field activity on the rice experimental plots in Kibimba-Bugiri district.
6. Our Programmes

6.1 Commodity Value Chains

Through this programme, AfrII works with key actors across prioritized commodities to address key constraints at both the supply and demand side of the value chain; supports value addition; and enhances participation by smallholder farmers and SMEs and commercial firms in the value chains; and in commercialization of commodities. The projects AfrII implements under this programme are:

6.1.1 Cassava Adding Value For Africa (CAVA) Phase 1

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Cassava: Adding Value for Africa (CAVA) project supports adding value and commercialization of cassava in Africa. The CAVA Project was implemented from 2008/9 to 31 March 2014. The project aimed at developing value chains for High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) in Uganda so as to improve the livelihoods and incomes of at least 8,000 smallholder farmers as direct beneficiaries including women and disadvantaged groups.

The CAVA project successfully piloted development of value chains for HQCF, by supporting farmer processors to establish HQCF processing sites and to process HQCF in Eastern and Northern and Central Uganda; facilitated processors to supply, on contract arrangements, HQCF to end-user industries such as rural bakeries, beer breweries and biscuit manufacturers who use it to make composite Flour, beer and biscuits respectively.

The project also supported a partnership with the end user industries and worked with them to develop alternative products using high quality cassava Flour (HQCF). It also supported and worked with smallholder farmers to improve production and to supply own cassava roots and process them into HQCF. The project is implemented countrywide with specific focus in the districts of Bukedi, Teso, Lango regions. Specifically the districts are Kibuku, Pallisa, Budaka, Bukedea, Kumi, Soroti, Serere, Ngora, Oyam, Kole and Lira. The CAVA phase 1 project successfully ended on 31st March 2014 and was succeeded by phase 2- CAVA II.
6.1.2 Cassava Adding Value For Africa (CAVA) Phase 2

The CAVA Phase 2 aims at commercializing cassava for industrial use and developing markets through promoting the use of High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) as a versatile raw material/intermediary product for carbohydrate-based and starch-based products for commercial application by end user industries including bakeries, biscuit manufacturers, breweries, paper-board, animal feed, food industries, composite flour millers, starch and others. AfrII through the CAVA II Project works to support smallholder farmers kick start micro-enterprises along the HQCF value chain; exploit options for industrial application of cassava and cassava products, and address challenges that limit cassava value chains reaching their full economic potential.

The overall CAVA II project objective is to create by 2019, an annual demand for 69,030 tons of fresh cassava roots (FCR) to be supplied by smallholder farmers to processors. The key focus areas are to: (1) increase fresh roots yields and productivity of smallholder farmers (SHFs) cassava production; (2) develop and continuously expand cassava processing capacity of Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs (SMEs) and Community-based Processing Groups (CPGs) using sun drying, solar drying and Flash drying technologies; (3) expand cassava products options, and market opportunities for processed high quality cassava flour and other similar products.

6.1.3 Cassava Growth Markets

The Cassava Growth Markets project (CassavaGMarkets) aims at improving the livelihoods of smallholder cassava farmers through enabling them access better growth markets for their products. It is a four-year project that conducts research to generate knowledge and technologies to support the Cassava Adding Value for Africa Project (CAVA) interventions. The project is led by the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich in UK, and is implemented in Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania and Malawi by the Africa Innovations Institute (AfrII), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), the Food Research Institute of Ghana, the Food and Nutrition Centre and Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute, and Chancellor College of the University of Malawi respectively. The target beneficiaries of the project are smallholder cassava farmers; processors; end users and employees of processing enterprises; and scientists in beneficiary countries.
6.1.4 ACET - Uganda Cassava Study

AfrII was contracted by the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) to undertake this study. The overall objective of the study was to find how to increase cassava smallholder productivity and to improve post-production value (storage, processing, and market access) in order to improve the incomes and food security of smallholders in Uganda. It also aimed to increase agriculture’s contribution to an overall economic transformation that reduces poverty in the whole country. This was done by looking at Cassava and their products in Uganda from the point of view of: (a) increasing productivity on-farm; and (b) increasing value-capture or value-addition along the product value chain (both on-farm and off-farm).

6.1.5 Agricultural Technology Transfer Cassava Value Chain Project (AgriTT)

This 3 year project funded by DFID-UK through DFID-China and implemented by AfrII, MAAIF, Makerere University and NaCRRI aims to work with 40 farmer groups in 4 districts of Kiryadongo, Masindi, Buliisa and Hoima to utilize new technologies from China to grow and process cassava in Uganda. It is guided by MAAIF Development Strategy and Investment Plan (MAAIF/DSIP). DSIP provides policy guidance, introduces programs and projects that the population should engage in to get out of poverty. It is part of the commodity Value Chain Approach which seeks to build value chains for food commodities including cassava. Commodity approach enables government to know quantities of the commodity produced, export earnings, contribution to food security and economic development.
6.1.6 Commercializing Quality Cassava Planting Material Delivery System in Uganda Project (CSS)

This project funded by the BMGF aims to improve food security, increase profits and timely access to disease-free cassava planting material by small-scale farmers’ resident in cassava brown streak disease (CBSD) and cassava mosaic disease (CMD) affected areas of Uganda.

AfrII in partnership with the National Crops Resources Research Institute, NaCRRI-Namulonge and other partners implemented the CSS Project whose aim was to establish cassava planting material multiplication fields in Lira, Soroti/Amuria, Nakasongola/Nakaseke, Arua, Kabarole and Mukono areas to improve farmers’ access to high quality certified cassava planting materials of improved cassava varieties (NASE 14, NASE 19 and NAROCASS 1), which are high yielding and disease tolerant.

The project was conducted across the Central, Eastern and Northern regions of Uganda, specifically in the three sub regions of Soroti, Nakasongola and Lira targeting Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs from these selected districts.

The CSS Project has successfully run for four years from 2014 to 2017 with specific objectives to;

- Enhance production of cassava pre-basic and basic seeds
- Operationalize quality assurance of cassava planting material production
- Commercialize production and distribution of certified cassava planting material
- Determine the economics of the cassava seed system
- Assess the rate and magnitude of degeneration of improved cassava due to virus infection

It is recognized that quality seeds can boost agricultural production by over 40%.

6.1.7 Stabilizing Sesame Yields and Production in the Lango region, Northern Uganda

Implemented under a consortium led by the Africa Innovations institute, the project aims to stabilize and improve sesame productivity in the face of climate change impacts in the Lango region of Uganda with specific objectives to:

- Understand the main challenges caused by the impact of climate change on sesame production in the Lango region
- Develop and promote climate smart sesame innovations to increase and stabilize yields in the Lango region,
- Manage and share knowledge on climate smart sesame production with wider stakeholders.
6.1.8 Enhancing Rice Markets in Uganda through Micronutrient Fertilization (ENRICH)

Funded by the Government of the Netherlands and implemented by AfrII, the project aims to increase food security and incomes of smallholder farmers producing lowland rice with the main objective to significantly increase the productivity of lowland rice in Eastern and Northern Uganda.

The project aims at developing smart fertilizer technologies and innovations that will enhance production and commercialization of rice by smallholders for achieving food security and agricultural commercialization in Uganda. This Project identifies and integrates science based innovative smartfert strategies and agronomic practices to lift rice yields through intense stakeholder involvement. The project objectives are to;

• Understand the current situation and rice fertility challenges in the region.
• Evaluate and identify the appropriate composition and mode of application of micronutrients (smartFert) for optimum yield of lowland rice.
• Integrate and out-scale smartFert into ongoing development programs and production practices, and support institutional and research capacity for rice sector development.
6.2 Climate Change Programme

Climate change is a big challenge and threat to Uganda’s agricultural development. The weather is variable and unpredictable with frequent episodes of unusual weather events such as floods, drought and hailstones. This programme seeks to develop and enhance community-based climate change adaptation initiatives and supportive policy measures that improve food security and health among rural communities in the arid and semi-arid regions of Africa. The current projects undertaken in this programme are:

6.2.1 Strengthening the capacity of institutions in Uganda to comply with the transparency requirements of the Paris agreement

AfrII is working with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MOWE) on a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of institutions in Uganda to comply with the transparency requirements of the Paris agreement. The project focuses on three specific components:

1. Establishing institutional arrangements for a robust national system for Green House Gas (GHG) emission inventories and MRV systems

2. Building capacity of key stakeholders to collect, process and feed gender disaggregated data into the GHG emissions inventory system

3. Testing and piloting an integrated system for collecting, processing, reporting, using and sharing gender disaggregated data and information generated from the system

AfrII through its Vital Signs Project will take lead implementation of the CBIT project that will run for 1 year with funding from GEF through Conservation International (CI).
6.2.2 Adaptation to the impact of climate change and variability

Funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC)-Canada, the project aims to develop and enhance community-based climate change adaptation initiatives and supportive policy measures that improve food security and health among rural communities in the cattle corridor of Uganda. The project aimed at achieving this through three objectives:

• To characterize the resilience of agriculture based livelihoods
• To determine the past and current trends of climate variability
• To strengthen community based livelihoods resilience and adaptation capacities

Graph Showing Climate and Weather in the Cattle Corridor


6.2.3 Securing Livelihoods in the cattle Corridor of Uganda

The impacts of stress factors (including climate change) on food security and livelihoods are of increasing concern especially in regions like the cattle corridor. AfrII received funding from the Rockefeller Foundation to address these challenges, especially in the districts of Nakasongola and Nakaseke districts. The Project objectives are:

• To determine the livelihood-specific strategies and priorities of the communities
• To introduce and promote functional and sustainable village level innovation platforms for promoting knowledge sharing
• To pilot specific strategies and innovations for improved livelihoods of communities
• To out-scale the promoting strategies and innovations
6.2.4 Cassava and Sweet Potato in Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change

The overall objective of the study was therefore to examine the impacts of climate change and variability on cassava and sweet potato production in Nakaseke and Nakasongola districts of the Uganda cattle corridor. This project assessed the importance and role of cassava and sweet potatoes in the farming communities of Nakaseke and Nakasongola districts; it then sought to understand how the importance and role have changed over the last decade; the underlying factors responsible for the change; the impact of climate variability and change on cassava and sweet potato production and recommended best strategies to enhance resilience and adaptation.

6.2.5 School and Community WoodLot Programme, Northern, Uganda

This project extended technical skills to primary school children, their teachers and parents in raising tree seedlings, an essential tool for agroforestry in order to tackle the challenges of lack of fuel food for cooking, poles for home construction and trees for soil conservation, since agricultural production is in earnest. in woodlot planting in Kole district, Northern Uganda.

The objectives of the project were to;

- Establish Eucalyptus hybrid woodlot and agroforestry plantation establishment in primary schools, churches and communities in the five sub-counties of Kole district.
- Establish and manage central nurseries for production of candlenut trees (Aleurites moluccana) seedlings and Eucalyptus hybrid cyclones in Kole district.
- Train the community in vegetative propagation of Eucalyptus cyclones using macro cuttings.

6.3 Agriculture for Improved Nutrition Programme

Agriculture has the potential to improve nutrition and contribute to the reduction of child mortality in SSA. However, this opportunity has not been fully exploited in the continent. Women are at the nexus of ag-nutrition-health because of their roles as farmers and caregivers. Increased agricultural productivity can improve nutrition through multiple pathways that include: increased income for food and health, consumption of own production, reduced food prices and women's time allocation.

The Programme aims to optimize nutrition outcomes from agricultural projects and interventions. The projects implemented under this programme include;

- Food production for household consumption;
- Income-oriented production for food, health and other non-food items;
- Empowerment of women as agents;
- Reduction in real food prices associated with increased agricultural production; and
- Nutrition Sensitive Agricultural Growth.
6.3.1 Improving Nutrition Outcomes through Optimized Agricultural Interventions (ATONU)

Improving Nutrition Outcomes through Optimized Agricultural Investments is a six-year project that is led by the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). Its consortium partners include Africa Innovations Institute (AFRII), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Natural Resources Institute (NRI), Leverhulme centre for integrative research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH), Farm Africa and Agribusiness Systems International (ASI). ATONU sets out to answer the question of what agricultural programs can do to achieve positive nutrition outcomes.

Project Implementation
ATONU sets out to deliver positive nutrition outcomes through five pathways. The various interventions at each segment of the agricultural value chain, can be categorized into the five pathways:

- Food production for household consumption;
- Income-oriented production for food, health and other non-food items;
- Empowerment of women as agents instrumental to household food security and health outcomes;
- Reduction in real food prices associated with increased agricultural production;
- Nutrition Sensitive Agricultural Growth - the indirect relationship between increasing agricultural productivity and nutrition outcomes through the agriculture sector's contribution to national income and macro-economic growth.

6.3.2 Use of ICTs to Understand the Relationships between Labor Saving Agricultural Innovations, Women’s Time Use and Maternal and Child Nutrition Outcomes

This newly adopted Project by AfrII is funded by the Innovative Metrics and Methods for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions project (IMMANA) led by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The project is focused on using Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to understand the relationships between labor saving agricultural innovations, women’s time use and maternal and child nutrition outcomes. The project will run for 2 years from December 2016 to December 2018 under a collaboration between AfrII, Natural Resources Institute-University of Greenwich (NRI)-UK and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The overall aim of the project is to enhance the understanding of the impact of nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions on women and young children to ensure that they have a positive rather than a negative effect on maternal and child well-being. Specifically, the project will:

- Assess the feasibility of using a computerized interactive voice response (IVR)airy and a GPS linked wearable camera to assess women’s time use and maternal and infant dietary practices
- Determine the relative validity of each of these two methods via 15-hour direct observation; and compare it with traditional recall techniques
- Develop a framework of analysis for assessing the positive and negative impacts of alternative nutrition sensitive interventions, such as recommendations to increase the production and consumption of different foods and/or labor saving technologies on women’s status and wellbeing
6.4 Agriculture and Environment Sustainability Programme

The world population is projected to increase to 8–10 billion people by 2050. This will result in doubling in global food demand. Therefore, agriculture must double its output if global food and nutrition security are to be maintained. Agriculture has the capability to meet these needs but this must happen without compromising environmental integrity and ecosystem services. These concerns have heightened the need for more sustainable agricultural practices. This programme aims at using agriculture to achieve improved human welfare, particularly food and nutrition security, household well-being and sustainability of farming and the environment. The projects implemented under this programme include:

6.4.1 Vital Signs

The Vital Signs project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, implemented by Conservation International (CI) in partnership with the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa. It is being implemented in Tanzania, Ghana, Ethiopia and Uganda.

Key activities are:

a) **Collection of better data.** Vital Signs gathers on-the-ground measurements of several different indicators of sustainability. These measurements help to create an accurate picture of the relationship among agriculture, nature and human well-being. The indicators measured include sustainable agricultural production, water availability and quality, soil health, biodiversity, carbon stocks, climate resilience, household income, nutrition and market access.

b) **Sharing of data and tools.** Vital Signs provides the key data and the analytical tools that decision-makers need to evaluate trade-offs, manage risk and inform decisions. By doing so, it influences policymakers to work toward resilient ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers.

c) **Building local and national capacity.** The project builds local and national capacity, for environmental monitoring, among scientists, civil society, government leaders and the private sector, throughout Africa and the entire world.
6.4.2 Fostering sustainability and resilience for food security in the Karamoja sub-region

The overall goal or development objective of this project is to improve food security. The Project objective is to contribute to enhancing long-term environmental sustainability and resilience of food production systems in the Karamoja Sub-Region. The project will work in four districts in the Karamoja sub-region, in order to demonstrate the potential for upscaling SLM under different conditions, agro-ecological zones and livelihoods. The project will seek to achieve its objective through three interlinked outcomes and eight outputs. The outcomes are: (1) Strengthened institutional frameworks for improving food security, (2) Scaling-up integrated approaches at national and landscape level and (3) Monitoring and Assessment.

6.5 Private Sector Innovations Partnerships Programme (PriSIP)

Market-driven new technology and innovation leads to new products and new jobs. Creating jobs in innovative companies is what this program intends to do: bringing the inventive minds and laboratory resources of the institute to bear on creating the new products that feed the growth of businesses. If this succeeds, AfrII’s PriSIP could be nationally recognized as a model program for best practices in transferring technology and could contribute significantly to job creation and high tech product development in the country.

Thorough this, private companies shall look to AfrII for help in solving critical problems in developing new products, while AfrII shall contribute to economic development and job creation. PriSIP projects shall not be basic research, but rather are translational work that leads to new or improved products. These are products of the private companies willing to create jobs, including but not in any way limited to, products based on the institute’s research outputs. Research products could also be technologies and knowledge from universities (such as Makerere, Gulu, etc), which are on the self but need further processing and adaptation to turn them into innovations in the market place.

AfrII, partners and private companies shall jointly seek funding from donors to execute specific projects that help the companies develop new products. Where possible the private companies may also be requested to provide matched funding for specific aspects. In these academic-industrial, public-private partnerships, AIP connects the resources of the institute to businesses from all parts of the country.

With PriSIP matching funds, companies can leverage the facilities, resources and expertise within AfrII to create new products and opportunities. With time, PriSIP -supported products could enable private companies to directly create new, high-paying, long-term, high-tech jobs throughout the country.

Types of Projects:
Project may be in Research and Development, Education and Training. Education and Training projects may help a company plan and develop training programs for its employees.
6.6 Capacity and Institutional Development Programme

This Programme supports national and regional organizations, programmes and institutions to develop their individual, organizational and societal capacities for implementation and sustainable management of selected development programmes, commodities, pests and disease situations. Under this programme, three projects are carried out;

a) Enhancing the Science, Technology and innovation Capacity of Root and Tuber Crops in ACP countries

To strengthen the science, technology and innovation capacity of ACP countries to use tropical root and tuber crops to contribute to a wide range of development issues within the context of local needs and resources.

b) Building Science and Innovations in Sustainable Management of Infectious Diseases in Eastern and Central Africa

This contributed to increased agricultural production and food security in East Africa through creating an enabling environment, strengthening and utilizing human and institutional capacity for sustainable management of crops and livestock diseases in Eastern and Central Africa.

c) Support to the Implementation of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP)

Through this programme AfrII staff has been able to support a number of countries and organizations in Eastern and Southern Africa such as Swaziland, South Sudan, ASARECA and NEPAD to review and strengthen their agricultural sector strategies and plans. Increased availability of fuel wood, poles and other agro forestry products in schools and homesteads in five sub countries in Kole district.
Collaboration, Partnerships and Linkages

Our research and development work is planned and implemented in close collaboration with numerous international, regional and national partners, institutions and individuals; local community based structures, farmer organizations, the media and academia.

International partnerships continue to play a key role of supporting the work of AfrII. Our work is financed through contributions from private donors, enterprises and foundations, and through general fund-raising efforts. The Institute continues to explore the possibilities of collaboration with local and international organizations. Additionally, the work of AfrII has benefitted from partnerships with sub sector associations, saving and credit cooperatives, micro finance inss, private sector actors in various industries.

Our work is continually guided towards promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. Within our framework we integrate specific key concerns of women in our sectoral response and mainstream gender as a cross-cutting issue in all our programmes. This component is manned by experienced and committed staff with an earnest passion for gender issues.

Governance and Management

AfrII is governed by a Board of Directors headed by a Chairman; a management team headed by an Executive Director supported by Heads of Programmes and Projects as determined from time to time depending on priorities and needs.

An International Advisory committee provides technical and management advice to the Board.

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<th>AfrII Governing Council</th>
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**Donors & Funding Partners**

- Austrian Development Agency, through ICRISAT
- Ashden Trust-UK through the Kole tree project.
- Chinese Government through the AgriTT Project
- Conservation International through the Vital Signs project
- Department for International Development (DFID), UK through Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK
- European Union through the Cassava GMarkets project
- EU/ACP Science and Technology Programme through the ACP Root Crops capacity building project
- Global Environment Facility through World Bank
- Michigan State University USA (MSU)
- Rockefeller Foundation, USA through the Securing Livelihoods against climate change project
- START Secretariat, The Global Change Systems for Analysis, Research and Training, USA
- The Africa Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) for cassava, sorghum and millet study
- The Alan & Babe Sainsbury Charitable Fund, UK through the Kole tree project
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA, through the CAVA, ATONU and the Vital Signs projects
- The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through EACIDS project
- The Food and Natural Resource Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) through the ATONU Project
- The Government of Uganda through various programmes.
  - The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada through Climate Change Adaptation project
  - The JJ Charitable Trust, UK through the Kole tree project
- The Foresight Programme of the Department of Universities and Innovations-UK
- The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts
- The European Union through the EU/ACP Science and Technology Programme
- United Nations Development Programme
- Government of the Netherlands through the Rice ENRICH and Sesame Projects
- United States Agency for International Development

**Collaborators & Partners**

- Africa Rice Center (Africa Rice), Tanzania
- Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
- ASI-ACDI/VOCA, London Center for Integrated Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Trinidad and Tobago (CARDI), the Caribbean
- Earth Institute-Columbia University
- Chancellor College, University of Malawi
- Conservation International
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana
- Council for Science and Industrial Research-South Africa
- Department of Agriculture, UNTITECH, the University of South Pacific
- FICA Seeds Limited - Uganda
- Food and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
- Gulu University, Uganda
- Institute of Technology, Vienna-Austria
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- International Soil Reference and Information Center (ISRIC)-World Soil Information
- International Society for Tropical Root Crops
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Makerere University-Kampala
- Michigan State University-USA
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)-Uganda
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives, Swaziland
- Agricultural Development Programme (SADP)