

The CAAST-Net Bulletin

a **Research** publication



CAAST-Net and CAAST-Net Plus

By Dr Andrew Cherry

Over five years ago, at the end of 2007, in response to geopolitical changes, globalisation and the processes of regional integration, African and European heads of state and governments redefined the Africa-Europe relationship with a new political framework for a shared vision of a partnership based on common interests and mutual respect. Firmly embedded in this joint Africa-EU strategy and its action plans is the contribution of scientific and technological research, development, and innovation to global societal challenges, and to economic and social growth and poverty alleviation.

It's also just over five years since CAAST-Net first appeared in January 2008 with its aligned ambition of reinforcing the renewed S&T partnership between Africa and Europe. Over the period CAAST-Net's consortium of partners has been working hard to advance the cause of bi-regional co-operation through fostering dialogue between the regions. Bringing together policy- and decision-makers, academics and researchers, representatives of civil-society organisations and of the private sector, and members of the media, CAAST-Net has sought to raise awareness of co-operation opportunities; to identify researchable topics of mutual interest; to encourage partnerships and participation in the framework programme;

to encourage more and better policy and programme coherence; to understand co-operation barriers better and offer solutions to problems; and to stimulate and enrich formal and informal dialogue around bi-regional STI policy issues. It's through these diverse and cross-cutting activities that CAAST-Net gathers and shares news and information about co-operation, builds mutual awareness and understanding, enriches bi-regional exchange, and so fosters trust, the very foundation of sustainable and equitable partnerships.

In that same period the S&T co-operation partnership between our continents has grown and much concrete progress towards our joint objectives has been achieved that will make differences to the lives of the citizens of Africa and Europe. At the same time the social, political, and economic environment in which the partnership operates has changed substantially, bringing new challenges and opportunities, and shifting the imperatives. In this changing landscape the arguments in favour of continued partnership support remain as valid today as they were five years ago.

Last December CAAST-Net came to an end. CAAST-Net Plus, the successor project to CAAST-Net, started in January 2013 to carry forward the legacy and continue reinforcing

our partnership. 'CN+', as it has become known, starts from a solid base. Nearly all the 'cast' of the CAAST-Net consortium have moved on to CN+. The old cohort brings with it an accumulated knowledge that is complemented by a group of new partners bringing specialist knowledge of the global challenges of health, food security, and climate change. These are the thematic areas of CN+, giving strong focus to our future activities, which, at the same time, extend support from research partnerships alone to support across the much broader research-to-innovation continuum, and for bridging the public-private sector divide for the uptake of research outputs.

For the many stakeholders who have worked with us in CAAST-Net over the years we extend our very special gratitude. Without you the work we do would be impossible. We sincerely hope you'll continue to work with us on CN+ and we look forward to seeing you at our events.

Dr Andrew Cherry is Senior Scientific Officer at the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and is the CAAST-Net & CAAST-Net Plus project coordinator. To contact him, please email Andy.Cherry@acu.ac.uk.

Final CAAST-Net bulletin

Across 15 issues, this bulletin has showcased the activities of CAAST-Net to readers across Africa and Europe. Where possible we've also connected these activities to a broader community of projects and organisations. This issue is the final CAAST-Net bulletin. Our sincere thanks are due to all who have contributed the articles, photographs, and notices that have populated each issue.

Lots in store

It's not quite the end of the road, though. In 2013 our successor project, CAAST-Net Plus (CN+), will launch a new publication that will play a similar role to the CAAST-Net bulletin. With a fresh look and feel but, more important, new and relevant content, the **CN+ Magazine** will continue to chronicle the advancement of EU-Africa research and innovation co-operation. In particular it will pay special attention to co-operation within the three global challenge areas – health, climate change, and food security – that are priority for CN+.

CN+ has already launched a new web site in 2013 (www.caast-net-plus.org). Designers, developers, and social media gurus are hard at work to ensure that it will be an informative and interactive hub – importantly, one that we hope you'll come back to often. The new site will also contain a CAAST-Net archive where you'll be able to access CAAST-Net reports and presentations.

Any questions? Please email CAAST-Net Plus at info@caast-net-plus.org.



www.caast-net-plus.org

CN+ would like to use your contact details

Over the past five years CAAST-Net has built up a mailing list that has been used to keep you, our readers, informed about our project.

Our successor project, CN+, would like to continue contacting you by using this mailing list. The communications team of Research Africa in Cape Town and the Centre for Social Innovation in Vienna will keep you updated with information about Europe-Africa research and innovation co-operation within food security, health, and climate change.

To register any objections with us about this plan, or to have your details removed from the mailing list, please email info@caast-net-plus.org.

National impacts of CAAST-Net

The CAAST-Net project has provided a number of opportunities for researchers from African countries to network with European counterparts. Emeka Orji of Nigeria's National Office for Technology

Acquisition and Promotion and Dr Eric Mwangi of the Kenyan Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology reflect on the benefits that have accrued to their countries from participation in the network.



CAAST-Net boosts international cooperation in Nigeria

By Emeka C. Orji, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion, Nigeria

Nigeria, through the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), has benefited immensely from the CAAST-Net project, especially in terms of creating awareness and establishing processes for networking on international co-operation partnerships.

Nigerian scientists and researchers who participated in the CAAST-Net information day activities found the project had already yielded results as they were able to network with colleagues on some project calls.

Consequently, Nigeria has recognised CAAST-Net as a vital tool in facilitating functional linkages with other EU-Africa science, technology, and innovation initiatives within its own borders.

Through Nigeria's involvement in CAAST-Net, the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), as one of the regional economic communities, was mainstreamed into an active partnership with the project. Within the life cycle of CAAST-Net, Nigeria also launched its reviewed National Policy on Science and Technology.

Additionally, the capacity of NOTAP staff and colleagues for international co-operation has been enhanced through participation in CAAST-Net and it is envisaged that these will be consolidated further in the new project, CAAST-Net Plus.

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Enhanced EU-AU S&T cooperation: Kenya benefits from the CAAST-Net project

By Dr Eric Mwangi, Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology, Kenya

Kenyan scientists have participated in the Framework Programme since at least FP6. However, this was largely in a fragmented manner as there was no internal co-ordination. Since 2008, a highly dynamic process of Kenyan scientists' participation and involvement in the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) emerged through opportunities and avenues created by MoHEST engagement as a partner in the CAAST-Net project. Some of these initiatives include:

- Through an FP7 training awareness-raising workshop, funded through CAAST-Net, that was held in 2009 in Mombasa, Kenya, following the launch of the FP7 Africa Call in September 2009, Kenya scientists had among the highest number of Africa project-proposal applications in the environment and health themes.
- MoHEST became a partner in six FP7 projects in a variety of FP7 themes, including ICT, space science, and research infrastructures.
- Kenya was one of the proactive Africa partners in the formulation of the ERA-Net for Africa, ERAfrica (www.erafrica.eu). To

demonstrate its commitment, the Kenya government offered €1.2 million, the highest among the African partners, towards the ERAfrica joint funding scheme.

- MoHEST-Kenya became a partner in the formulation of the recently funded CAAST-Net Plus project.
- CAAST-Net has opened up an avenue for Kenyan scientists to access the EU's science and technology funding and infrastructures. As a recent example, MoHEST and a number of Kenyan organisations participated in the formulation of several project proposals under the recent ACP-EU S&T Call II launched in June 2012.
- In terms of regional impact, MoHEST has mobilised participation of other East African Community (EAC) member states' scientific communities and policymakers through, for example, the recent FP7-KBBE call launched in July 2012. Over 30 EAC scientists and experts were educated about the call through a training workshop in Arusha, Tanzania, supported by CAAST-Net funds and organised jointly with the EAC science desk.

To conclude, based on experience in the CAAST-Net project, MoHEST is upbeat about mobilising Kenyan and EAC scientists' participation in the EU's upcoming Horizon 2020 programme on research and innovation.

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Africa Call project networking

By Melissa Plath, Finnish University Partnership for International Development, Finland

The Coordinated Call For Africa, launched by the European Commission, funded 26 projects in the areas of water and food security and better health for Africa. The call represents a direct response to supporting the science and technology objectives of the eighth partnership (P8) of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and Africa's Consolidated Plan of Action. CAAST-Net undertook a series of activities to support the implementation and sustainability of these projects, and ultimately the goals they address.

The first task, a report on the Africa Call projects, examines the projects themselves and their alignment with the call topics and P8 priorities, their geographic focus areas, research themes, and the partners involved. The report also includes a networking plan, which identifies the possibilities for co-operation and synergies between the projects and with other related initiatives. CAAST-Net held a workshop for co-ordinators of the Africa-call projects in tandem with the Steps to Innovation: Africa Europe Partnerships for Global Challenges conference in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2012. A draft of the report and networking plan were presented for input, comment, and discussion. The final report, *Africa Call FP7 Report*, reflects the inputs from the conference. The report is available on CAAST-Net's web site (<http://bit.ly/16gySkU>).

Collaboration and clustering between the projects is not enough for optimal impact on the objectives of the Call. For most of the projects,

FP7 funding under the Africa Call will end after three to four years, thus the sustainability of their research, utilisation of their outputs, and continuation of their partnership is uncertain. CAAST-Net's second task examines potential paths for sustainability for the projects. The report is a starting point for pursuing long-term collaboration and for exploiting synergies with agencies, institutions, and programmes related to the projects and clusters. The report, *Africa Call Projects And Clusters: Analysis Of Potential Funding And Implementing Programmes*, is also available on CAAST-Net's web site (<http://bit.ly/XKEMGq>).

A dedicated networking event, the CAAST-Net/MIRA Workshop on Innovation, was held in Egypt in November 2012 to support the networking and collaboration between the Africa Call projects as well as with relevant projects outside the Africa Call (see page 10). The event, held in collaboration with the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Action (MIRA) project, focused on innovation and research policy context for Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean region. The workshop facilitated discussion and mutual learning between the attendees and served to enhance synergies beyond just the Africa Call.

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Planning for Horizon 2020



The main source of European Union funding for research, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development (FP7), will end in 2013. Taking its place is Horizon 2020, which will unite all research and innovation funding under a single instrument. The programme starts in 2014 and will run for seven years.

Many of Horizon 2020's specific details, such as its budget, are still being negotiated at the European level. However, some key points for Africa-EU research co-operation are already clear (see the sidebar for more information). More concrete details on the participation requirements, legal and financial aspects, and the programme for 2014 are expected later this year. Keep checking in with CAAST-Net Plus for all the details!

Key points for Africa-EU research partnerships

- Horizon 2020 will be fully open to African participation.
- The financial and legal rules will be simplified, to make participation easier.
- The project is built on three principles: excellent science, competitive industries, and better society.
- The National Contact Point structure will remain intact for Horizon 2020, providing in-country assistance on Horizon 2020 programming, rules, and partnerships.

Last CAAST-Net events of 2012

We've invested our resources in networking and awareness-raising activities for African and European researchers and officials to learn about new opportunities for bi-regional STI collaboration. We've also engaged with Africa's Regional Economic Communities to explore

shared priorities, laying a strong foundation for our successor project, CAAST-Net Plus, to advance bi-regional cooperation. Here are some sound bites and photographs from the last of the CAAST-Net events of 2012.

CAAST-Net/PAERIP stakeholder conference on research infrastructures



Conclusions from the conference highlight why research infrastructure partnerships between Africa and Europe should be prioritised in bi-regional co-operation. They also recommend how bi-regional research infrastructure partnerships could be enhanced for greater impact in Africa and Europe.

Going forward, CAAST-Net and PAERIP (Promoting African-European Research Infrastructure Partnerships) will present the conclusions to the main bodies overseeing the 8th partnership of the Joint Africa-Europe Strategy, a high level political agreement. CAAST-Net and PAERIP hope these conclusions will be duly considered and that, as a result, initiatives to support bi-regional research infrastructure partnerships will be encouraged.

More than 100 officials from African and European government agencies and research institutions attended this event. To read an edited version of the conference background paper, see pages 6-7.

Where/When	Accra, Ghana; 3-4 December 2012
Hosts	Hosts Science and Technology Policy Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana
Co-organisers	CAAST-Net and PAERIP (Promoting African-European Research Infrastructure Partnerships)
More information	To access presentations and conclusions of the conference visit http://bit.ly/YcVQ5g



Dr Andy Cherry, CAAST-Net's project co-ordinator



The conference was a good opportunity for networking and exchange



Delegates of the CAAST-Net/PAERIP joint stakeholder conference on research infrastructures pose for a group photograph



The European Commission scientific officer for CAAST-Net, Dr Gerasimos Apostolatos

The case for research infrastructures *

This article was prepared as a background paper for the CAAST-Net/PAERIP stakeholder conference on research infrastructures. It outlines the role that research infrastructures can and must play in international research and innovation cooperation.

Introduction

Policymakers are giving increased attention to how to exploit the important role played by research infrastructures as platforms to enrich science and technology output optimally, also within the context of international co-operation. Not only do research infrastructures constitute essential mechanisms to support international research co-operation but they also often represent critical investments as part of global efforts to address key sustainable development challenges. Research infrastructures were therefore also recognised in the Second Action Plan of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy as a priority focus for Africa-EU science and technology co-operation. The Accra stakeholder conference is convened to examine how Africa-EU research infrastructure partnerships could be enhanced as part of the overall Africa-EU science and technology partnership to advance sustainable development.

For participants' background this paper will briefly set out a few key considerations with regard to the important direct and indirect impact of research-infrastructure partnerships as instruments to support international co-operation, advance sustainable development and boost human capital development. Before proceeding it would, however, be useful to clarify the definition of research infrastructure as being those facilities, resources, and related services that are used by the scientific community to conduct top-level research in their respective fields. Research infrastructure, thus, covers major scientific equipment or sets of instruments, such as telescopes or accelerators; knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives, or structures for scientific information; enabling information and communications-technology-based infrastructures such as grid and high-performance computing, software, and high-speed communication networks (known as e-infrastructure); or any other entity of a unique nature essential to achieve excellence in research. Research infrastructures could be single sited or distributed as part of a network of resources.

Research infrastructure partnerships to support international cooperation

Research infrastructures, whether they are single large-scale facilities or instruments, networks distributed infrastructures, or e-infrastructure capacities, are essential resources for all knowledge and innovation enterprises. In order to advance international science and technology endeavour, concerted co-ordination and co-operation is required in

order to ensure the optimal availability of such resources to the global research community. In this context, if appropriately leveraged, research infrastructure also has the potential to act as catalysts to advance international science and technology co-operation in its own right.

Global economic crises impact on the availability of resources for science and technology investment. This will accentuate the need for global partnerships with regard to research infrastructure, including joint financing, reciprocal access and networking, and other co-operation and co-ordination initiatives. Concomitantly such partnerships will also boost international science and technology co-operation enabling an enhanced policy dialogue between partners and more efficient utilisation and investment of resources. A key principle would be for

partner countries' respective comparative advantages, such as geographic, to inform, for example, decisions pertaining to the location of infrastructure. These are important dynamics for potential Africa-EU partnerships.

Research-infrastructure partnerships to advance sustainable development

Global sustainable development challenges, including mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change, protecting biodiversity, fighting poverty-related communicable diseases, and ensuring food security, all require a collective

and committed international science and technology response. Other than providing critical resources for discipline-specific work (such as bioinformatics bio imaging, genotyping, or bio-bank infrastructure for the life sciences), research infrastructure also contributes to enabling a vital multi-disciplinary approach. An example of the latter is the bettering of our understanding of Earth system dynamics through co-ordinated Earth observation capacities coupled with modelling and simulation exercises. Research infrastructure in this manner also plays an important role in providing science-based advice to inform policy making and decision making. The success of programmes such as the Global Earth Observation System Of Systems (GEOSS) of the Group On Earth Observations is an excellent example of what can be achieved through targeted partnerships. GEOSS not only enables improved co-ordination and integration of national and regional capacities, as part of an international programme, but also identifies and enables new investments, which are required to enhance global-observation capacities. It is a multi-disciplinary science-driven partnership, focused on harnessing Earth observation to address challenges in different societal benefit areas, including food, health, and the environment. The GEOSS example is also mirrored by new infrastructure such as the LifeWatch biodiversity data observatory, which integrates through a holistic approach, research capacities related to ecosystems, species information, time/evolution, questions of scale, DNA/proteins/genes, and so forth.

It is significant that the revised version of the European Strategy Forum On Research Infrastructures' (ESFRI) "roadmap" of priority research infrastructure projects includes a greater focus on infrastructure to support health, food, and energy research. Investments in projects such as laboratory infrastructure for carbon-dioxide capture and storage should indeed be at the heart of the sustainable development agenda. It should also be borne in mind that the development of new research

"Research infrastructure constitutes essential mechanisms to support international research co-operation but it also often represents critical investment as part of global efforts to address key sustainable development challenges"

infrastructure can not only serve to boost innovation but can also serve as a procurement instrument for investment in environmentally friendly technologies. Effectively fighting poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring sustainable growth is dependent on markedly increased and more efficient knowledge and innovation investment.

Research infrastructures should form a central part of these strategies, especially so as they can also serve to strengthen multilateralism, global partnership, and stability, as demonstrated by “peace projects” as the SESAME synchrotron-light-source partnership of the Middle East.

Research-infrastructure partnerships can also boost socio-economic development. This is important since funding options for major global research infrastructure development also involve a careful cost-benefit analysis, with the return on investment not only measured in terms of exclusive science and technology orientated criteria but also with regard to socio-economic development. Research-infrastructure development often also includes major services infrastructure development and frequently is a significant boost for employment creation in the areas where the infrastructure is created. The interface of research infrastructure funding with, for example, public procurement, regional development, social cohesion, or overseas development assistance is therefore an important policy consideration for Africa-EU co-operation. In appropriate circumstances this interface could even serve a driver for new-research infrastructure partnership-funding instruments.

Research-infrastructure partnerships to advance global science and technology capacities and human-capital development

Research infrastructure could help to leverage contributions from a broader global community for scientific enterprise. This is valuable since increased international co-operation is essential for global scientific advancement. While most major global-research infrastructure involves comprehensive international networks of researchers, these networks could be expanded and significantly enriched by actively promoting the participation of research communities from regions such as Africa, often excluded from these enterprises, due to historical non-participation or constraints such as limited communications connectivity.

Research communities in developing countries often have unique and rich contributions to offer in dealing with global environmental challenges (such as climate change and biodiversity protection). While global-research infrastructure will always primarily be advanced by a core group of voluntary partners, concerted efforts to broaden the range of international participants, especially from developing countries, will add significant value to such projects. In this context ensuring an internationally balanced distribution with regard to the location of major facilities will also play significant role, and not only symbolically, to promote globally inclusive projects.

Research-infrastructure partnerships contribute to human-capital development by serving as flagship projects to raise the interest of the youth and public in science and by promoting more equitable global brain circulation. Research-infrastructure projects play an invaluable

role in focusing the attention of not only policymakers and decision makers but also of the broader public on science and technology. They can therefore also be an excellent vehicle for encouraging the youth’s interest in science and technology careers. There is most promising potential to develop exciting science and technology education programmes concurrently with infrastructure projects.

Another important contribution such projects can render is to support raising public awareness and understanding of science and technology and its contribution to society. Global-research-infrastructure projects enjoy “flagship” status, largely as a result of their scope (for example, focused on global challenges or frontier research such as astronomy projects) and their large scale, and concurrently also command high levels of public interest.

While international scientific mobility is fundamental to the development and evolution of a global science system and enterprise – and indeed of science itself – negative impacts of increased mobility will be more strongly felt by developing nations than developed ones

in the form of a long-term net outflow of human resources. This will further deepen the existing asymmetry in science between developed and developing countries, eroding progress toward a global science enterprise and undermining the growth of science, which would surely be enhanced through full participation of human resources in developing countries, especially over the long term.

This is the reason why the asymmetry needs to be managed actively through important means, such as the location of international science resources and infrastructure in developing countries. These considerations should play an important part in the global-research-infrastructure discourse, including measures to facilitate access to international facilities for researchers from developing countries, where such facilities do not exist in their own countries.

Concluding remarks

The analysis above demonstrates that research infrastructure partnerships can significantly enrich Africa-EU science and technology co-operation, notably by enhancing the bi-regional collaborative efforts to harness research and innovation for sustainable development and to boost human-capital development. The Accra conference should interrogate and formulate recommendations on how this potential can best be realised, whether in terms of (i) Africa-EU partnerships to develop new research infrastructures, (ii) transnational access programmes for researchers to African and EU Infrastructures, or (iii) collaboration networks between African and EU infrastructures. The conference outcomes will be presented to policymakers designing the next generation of Africa-EU co-operation instruments, with the objective to ensure a greater focus on and support for research infrastructure partnerships.

** This is an edited version of the conference background paper. To comment on the issues discussed in this paper, please email Dr Andy Cherry (Andy.Cherry@acu.ac.uk).*

“Research-infrastructure partnerships can significantly enrich Africa-EU science and technology co-operation”

People of the CAAST-Net/PAERIP stakeholder conference



Dr George Owusu Essegbey, director of CSIR-STEPRI



Takalani Nemaungani, the PAERIP project co-ordinator



Dr Eric Mwangi, the CAAST-Net Africa regional co-ordinator



Dr George Owusu Essegbey, director of CSIR-STEPRI, and Stefan A. Haffner (PT-DLR) with some of the conference organisers

More pictures like these...

Photographs from CAAST-Net events are available in 27 online albums. Go to <http://bit.ly/12IT0xd> to access these collections.

African NCPs visit German research centres

National Contact Points, otherwise known as NCPs, share information and advice with researchers in their home countries. In doing so, they play a vital role in supporting researchers' participation in collaborative projects that are funded by the programme.

Members of a growing cohort of African NCPs, representing Kenya, Morocco, Uganda, South Africa, Lesotho, and Nigeria, among other African states, participated in three networking visits in 2012, all of which were supported by CAAST-Net. The purpose of the visits to Europe was to strengthen the networks and capacities of African NCPs to perform their role more effectively still through fostering their links to European NCP networks.

The third of these visits, which took place in Germany last November, incorporated presentations and field excursions at research sites at the German Aerospace Center and Jülich Research Institute. African NCPs were exposed to a plethora of new expert contacts at these centres, such as in the field of photovoltaics and brain imaging. Relevant information on the role of African NCPs, such as in the anticipated activities of Horizon 2020, was also shared. The first two visits took NCPs to Turkey (26-27 July 2012) and Sweden (17-19 October 2012).

CAAST-Net has taken an active interest in the evolution of NCPs in Africa. In doing so it has analysed the relationship between NCP accreditation and FP7 participation in Africa, finding some evidence of a correlation. For more information, visit the CAAST-Net web site (www.caast-net.org).

Where/When	Bonn, Germany; 19-21 November 2012
Hosts	International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the Project Management Agency of the German Aerospace Centre
Organisers	CAAST-Net
More information	To access presentations given at this event visit http://bit.ly/UbmXK1



Delegates stand in front of the Institute Of Energy And Climate Research at the Jülich Research Institute in Bonn, Germany. Prof Uwe Rau, director, Photovoltaics (IEK-5) is in the centre of photo. The visit was co-ordinated by Piotr Swiatek, NCP Energy (fourth from the right).

CAAST-Net and ECCAS meet



A discussion between CAAST-Net and the Economic Community of Central African States resulted in a roadmap for fostering co-operation between ECCAS and EU STI stakeholders. One route to addressing this is by extending an invitation to ECCAS to participate in CAAST-Net and CN+ events. So far ECCAS has been represented at the CAAST-Net/PAERIP stakeholder conference (see pages 5-8).

Where/When	Yaoundé, Cameroon; 15-16 November 2012
Hosts	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, Cameroon
Co-organisers	CAAST-Net and the Economic Community Of Central African States
More information	Please contact the CAAST-Net co-ordinator (Andy.Cherry@acu.ac.uk)



CAAST-Net and ECCAS meeting participants in Cameroon

EAC-Europe food security symposium



This conference enhanced participants' understanding of the relationship between research and food security in the East Africa region. It also identified areas in which the EAC, as a regional bloc, can co-operate with institutions and organisations of the EU on research topics that could result in increased crop, livestock, and fisheries production. The symposium was attended by 64 researchers and officials, mostly from EAC member states.

Where/When	Arusha, Tanzania; 25-26 October 2012
Hosts	East Africa Community
Organisers	CAAST-Net
More information	To access presentations given at this event visit http://bit.ly/T00GwA



EAC-Europe Food Security Symposium in Arusha

CAAST-Net/INCONTACT FP7 information session



Participants at the CAAST-Net FP7 information day, Dakar, Senegal

This event raised awareness about a range of open FP7 funding opportunities. Major themes covered included: health and environment, agriculture and biotechnology, and social sciences and humanities. Related co-operation instruments for bi-regional research and networking were also profiled to participants. Forty-eight participants from nine African countries attended.

Where/When	Dakar, Senegal; 8-10 October 2012
Hosts	Ministry of Scientific Research, Senegal
Organisers	CAAST-Net
More information	To access presentations given at this event visit http://bit.ly/YgOK4p

FP7 information day for food security experts



Participants at the CAAST-Net FP7 KBBE information day, Arusha, Tanzania

Designed for a cohort of East Africa Community food-security experts, this event raised awareness about open FP7 funding opportunities in the food, agriculture, and environment thematic area. Thirty-three participants from Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Nigeria attended.

Where/When	Arusha, Tanzania; 9-10 August 2012
Hosts	East Africa Community
Organisers	CAAST-Net
More information	To access presentations given at this event visit http://bit.ly/PWbAGZZ

CAAST-Net and MIRA discuss innovation

Innovation, innovation strategy, and innovation systems are vital to translating research output into novel goods, services, processes, and technologies. However, in the context of bi-regional Africa-EU research co-operation around joint priorities, the subject and role of innovation is relatively under explored.

Nevertheless, CAAST-Net's sister project MIRA, which operated in the Mediterranean region, including north Africa, made considerable strides in advancing the discussion, creating the so-called Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS) for "the mobilisation of innovation stakeholders in a common framework and mutually beneficial partnership to develop a more intelligent and competitive Euro-Med space".

A central approach taken in EMIS is the fostering of research-driven clusters of key actors around specific thematic topics in areas such as water and waste-water management.

The key is in the composition of the clusters – including researchers and representatives from the industrial sector, finance, and governments – and the detailed nature of their discussions.

It is here in particular that CAAST-Net took lessons from EMIS, incorporating the cluster concept into CAAST-Net Plus, where partners will be looking at the scope for enhancing bi-regional co-operation across the research-to-innovation continuum in food security, health, and climate change. This will be achieved through building platforms and borrowing on the EMIS cluster concept, as well as sharing and learning from one another.



CAAST-Net invited the representatives of some of the water-related projects supported under the FP7 Coordinated Call For Africa in a move to encourage their networking with the MIRA water cluster and stimulate discussion on how the output of these co-ordinated call projects will be taken forward.

Where/When	Cairo, Egypt, 22-23; November 2012
Hosts	Ministry Of Higher Education And Scientific Research, Egypt
Organisers	CAAST-Net and MIRA
More information	To access presentations given at the workshop visit http://bit.ly/ULkWub



Participants at the CAAST-Net-MIRA meeting hosted by MHESR in Cairo, Egypt



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