

Monday, 18 September 2017

INVITATION TO THE CAAST-NET PLUS WORKSHOP ON THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (KMCS) INITIATIVE FOR THE EU-AFRICA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

On behalf of the CAAST-Net Plus project, South Africa's Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with the Project Management Agency at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR-PT), would like to cordially invite you to a consultation workshop and working session on *The Africa-EU Knowledge Management and Communication System (KMCS) Initiative on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)*. The workshop aims to bring together representatives from research centres, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, farmer organisations, universities, decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders, and will be held from **26-27 September 2017** in Lleida, Spain at the occasion of the Plant Inter Cluster meeting. The workshop is part of a series of consultations on the KMCS Initiative with a range of stakeholders. The most recent workshop, held in Windhoek, Namibia focused on the role of technology transfer officers in developing the KMCS.

Acknowledging that there are existing portals and initiatives involved in communicating and disseminating research outputs and innovations within the FNSSA thematic area, it is vital to investigate and explore good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the establishment, management and funding of existing portals. These findings will be consolidated into a blueprint outlining the key components of a KMCS. This blueprint will be presented to African and European senior officials, as well as the African Union Commission and European Commission, at the upcoming Africa-EU High Level Policy Dialogue meeting in October 2017, in Belgium.

Attached for your ease of reference is the concept paper and draft programme for the workshop.

CAAST-Net Plus is a network of 25 partners from Africa and Europe working together to support bi-regional cooperation in R&I by encouraging more science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation for developing solutions in relation to the global societal challenges of health, climate change and food security.

This event is an open workshop, however, interested participants should **RSVP by 22 September 2017** to Ms Refilwe Mashigo refilwe.mashigo@dst.gov.za. Please note that CAAST-Net Plus partners are in no position to cover participation costs, including accommodation and travel arrangements.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ms Mmampei Chaba".

Ms Mmampei Chaba

Chief Director: Multilateral Cooperation and Africa
Department of Science and Technology, South Africa