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## MEMO: Meeting for Coordinators' of projects funded by the Coordinated Call for Africa, Food Security

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Time: 10-14

Place: SDME

Square de Meeûs 8

B-1049 Brussels

Room: 9E

Present: Jochen Froebrich, EAU4Food

Linda Oud, EAU4Food

Sana Arousse, Waterbiotech

Massimo Burioni, European Commission

Gerasimos Apostolatos, European Commission

Daan du Toit, CAAST-Net

George Essegbey, CAAST-Net

Melissa Plath, CAAST-Net

### The Africa Call

The European Commission, Directorate E – Biotechnologies, Agriculture, Food and CAAST-Net, A Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science and Technology Cooperation, convened this meeting of coordinators of Africa Call projects and related projects. The meeting was organized in order to find possible areas for cooperation between the projects and to make concrete suggestions for implementing this cooperation.

The Africa Call identified the need for cooperation between the projects, creating a network of projects funded to strengthen synergies and provide mutual benefit and coordinated action. This cooperation will facilitate dissemination and information sharing, particularly to Africa. The projects in the Africa Call collectively work to bridge Africa and Europe to find mutual benefits and targets. CAAST-Net will provide support to these processes in order to ensure coordination and a multi-disciplinary approach.

### Projects

Waterbiotech seeks to map and document best practices in wastewater treatment in Africa. The project seeks to find cost effective means of treating wastewater with biotechnology for reuse. The mapping will take into account regional characteristics and other relevant considerations to find best practices. The project will disseminate the outputs of the mapping through the production of guidelines for wastewater treatment to main stakeholders in Africa. The Waterbiotech consortium is composed of 17 partners, from Africa, Europe, and beyond.

EAU4Food seeks to innovate irrigation, recognizing and supporting the innovation capacity of local farmers. A central element to this is involving and consulting local stakeholders. These include not just farmers, but also local and regional decision makers. The project will undertake activities in 4 regions: Tunisia, Mali, South Africa/Mozambique, and Ethiopia. The project has held a workshop in South Africa, attended by those in the project, to develop a methodology for the project. The EAU4Food consortium consists of 14 partners from Africa and Europe. EAU4Food is coordinating a cluster of Africa Call projects from across the themes that concentrate on irrigation and agriculture. The cluster is focusing on strengthening African researcher cooperation.

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### Recommendations

The following recommendations arose from the discussion:

- Willing projects working on similar issues should create clusters. These clusters should include Africa Call projects from different themes and those relevant projects outside the Africa Call. These clusters can foster cooperation between the projects and can link with CAAST-Net. CAAST-Net should identify possible clusters.
- The CAAST-Net Stakeholder's Conference, to be held in April, can serve as a means for linking the projects with policymakers, researchers, and other potential stakeholders.
- Those partners that are participating in multiple projects should be identified, but so should those who are participating in only one project. These partners can help ensure that projects reach a larger group of stakeholders.
- Sharing research outputs with other projects, where relevant, will help spread the knowledge gained from the projects. Other practical forms of cooperation – such as participating in each other's events, holding joint conferences, etc – will create an impact for both the projects and their stakeholders'.
- CAAST-Net should disseminate project information, results, events, etc through the CAAST-Net website.

### Conclusions

The coordinators present at the meeting expressed a willingness to cooperate, particularly through the frame of cluster activities. However, a common understanding of cooperation between the Africa Call projects (and other relevant projects) is necessary to implement activities under cooperation. This common understanding can guide the frame for cooperation and can be discussed and agreed upon at the CAAST-Net Stakeholder's Conference in Senegal.

The Africa Call projects were funded to jointly address priorities identified by the 8<sup>th</sup> Partnership of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. It's important for projects and project partners to understand this context in order to support cooperation, sharing access to information, and creating links between partners. Individual partners should be made aware of this context to aid the flow of information and creation of linkages between project partners, across projects. This requires a particular focus on activating African partners in networking and participating in cooperation events. CAAST-Net can provide inputs into questions of alignment with African and Africa-EU cooperation policies.

This memo will be shared with the participants of the Africa Call Food Security meeting and the other participants of the thematic Africa Call meetings. CAAST-Net's WP8 will provide follow-up.