Dear Sir/Madam,

INVITATION TO SPONSORS MATCHMAKING WORKSHOPS HOSTED IN THE SPONSORS MATCHING PRESENTATION AREA – 5-7 JUNE 2023

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) and the Government of South Africa (through the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development--DALRRD), working in collaboration with several co-organisers have the pleasure and honour to invite you to participate in the 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week (AASW) that will be held in Durban, South Africa from 5th to 8th June 2023. The theme of the 8th AASW is ‘Linking Agribusiness with Science and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems’.

The AASW is a continental platform for all stakeholders engaged in agriculture and agribusiness research and innovation including scientists, extension service providers, education, agribusinesses and policy makers. Its objectives are to bring together these stakeholders to showcase and take stock of the progress made in advancing agribusiness and agriculture on the continent, to network and establish partnerships, and to set collective targets for the next three years, capitalizing on emerging opportunities and responding to ongoing and anticipated challenges. The purpose is to improve the performance of African agriculture and agribusiness in terms of productivity, profitability, job creation, nutrition, sustainability and resilience.

The 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week, will feature the 9th FARA General Assembly to be held on 8th June and the 3rd CCARDESA General Assembly scheduled for 5th June 2023. The organisation of the event involves numerous organisations, including but not limited to: CAADP XP4 Partners (AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF), NAASRO, Government of South Africa (DALRRD), African Development Bank (AfDB), Afreximbank, African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Secretariat of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Ministries of Agriculture in Liberia, Eswatini and Zambia, Ministry of Trade in Zimbabwe, Pan African Farmers’ Organisation, European Commission (EC), World Trade Organisation (WTO), UNIDO, AGRA, AFAP, One CGIAR centres, ICRISAT, IFAD, Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), RUFORUM, AWARD, YPARD, RENAPRI, FANRPAN, leadership of the African AR4D organizations, Africa Business Council, Sappi, Agribiz-South Africa, Agribusiness alliances and entities and many more. With this diversity of partners, the event promises to be a fulcrum of high significance in the African Science-Agribusiness nexus.

Convergent Events (Pty) has been contracted to facilitate the logistics for this event. One of the main themes of the AASW8 is the collaboration between business, science and investment. The business matchmaking hub offers six opportunities for researchers, businesses and investors to explore areas of common interest. Depending on your interest, you are therefore invited to join one or more of the following matchmaking hubs.
1. eThekwini peri-urban incubator farming projects. Hosted by Unilever
Workshop on developing reliable and viable farming peri urban operations Monday 5th June 1400 - 1600

This session will mentor 25 small farmers from eThekwini on the logistics of converting their farming operations into viable businesses.

This will also include presentations from Lucy Mimano, a project manager from one of the most successful Peri urban farming projects in Kenya and Sithembile Ngobese, Director of Sustainability and nutrition Unilever Southern Africa. Specifically, they will advise local farmers on how to create, and sustain offtake agreements with reliable supply chain practices

Presenters
a. Sithembile Ngobese - Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainable Business – Unilever Southern Africa
b. Lucy Mimano - Peri Urban small farmer consultant - Kenya Capacity in the matchmaking hub

Supplementing the workshop will be a field trip to the eThekwini’s Agri hub at Ottawa near the airport on Wednesday 7th June 1400 - 1700.

2. eThekwini Agriculture Workshop 2 – Developing small farmer opportunities through innovation – Tuesday 6th June – 1400 -1600

Zandile Khumalo operates a successful hydroponics operation called the Urban Roots hydroponic program. She operates at Morningside shopping center and uses the whole roof where she has a zero-carbon emission operation and supplies all 21 restaurants in the shopping center. This is a session for all small farmers who operate in small spaces so that they can see what is possible with inexpensive innovation

Presenter – Zandile Khumalo – Urban Roots
Capacity in the matchmaking hub – 30

3. Bio Energy Resources – Biogas as a green solution to Africa’s energy deficit – A call for partnership with researchers - Wednesday - 7th June 0900 -1100

This workshop will discuss Africa’s current Energy deficits which pose a serious threat to the industrialization of Agriculture in Africa, as envisaged by the CAAP program.

This workshop is being planned by BER Energy, who wish to focus on green energy production via biogas technology to address Africa’s energy deficit.

BER are establishing operations in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. They are looking for offtake partners in these regions.

They are also calling for researchers who specialise in creating value add bio fertilizers and other by bio products from plant waste.

They have an R&D fund exceeding USD5 million for partnering with such R&D researchers.

Presenter - CEO of RCB (USA) Otto Hager
Capacity in the matchmaking hub – 30
4. **Sappi workshop 1** on the bio by products of Forestry - adding value to forestry value chain
   . - Monday 5th June 1100 -1300

In this workshop Sappi who are looking at collaborating with farmers, researchers and agribusinesses to
investigate initiatives to maintain the biodiversity of the continent. They would like to share their successful
project initiatives that have been effective in implementing farming and or agri processing practices that
protect the biodiversity of sensitive areas of conflict between farmers and forestry.
**Presenter – Mark Barnardo - GM Forestry KZN, SAPPI Southern Africa**
Capacity in the matchmaking Hub – 30

5. **Sappi Workshop 2** -Tuesday 6th June 1100 -1300 – Sappi workshop and Matchmaking
   session on protecting the biodiversity of sensitive areas

A call for interested businesses and researchers who specialise in the commercial production of bio products
from the processing of forestry by-products( wood chip)
**Presenter - Giovanni Sale - GM Research, Planning and Nurseries - SAPPI Southern Africa**
Capacity in the matchmaking hub – 30

6. **Trade and Investment Kwa Zulu Natal (TIKZN) would like to host a match making session showcasing
   agri investment opportunities in KZN province. Wednesday 7th June 1100 - 1300**

A presentation to showcase areas where partnership opportunities in KZN province exist for researchers and
investors in investment.
The workshop is specifically targeted at agri processing investment opportunities in KZN province and at the
Dube Trade Port area
**Presenter – Mr Menzi Dlamini, TIKZ Knowledge & Investment Specialist**
**Mr Sihle Ngcamu, TIKZ Knowledge & Investment Specialist**
Capacity in the matchmaking Hub – 30

To show case investment opportunities in KZN s a field trip will take place to Dube Trade port Agri
Zone on Tuesday 7th June from 1400 to 1700

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration. For further enquiries, please contact Mr Ed Hill
ed@innovational.co.za or via cellphone number +27 82 577 6965.

Sincerely,

Signed
Alioune Fall PhD
Chairperson of FARA

Signed
Lala RAZAFINJARA PhD
Chairperson of CCARDESA

CC: Ed Hill ed@innovational.co.za