



# TAAT Capacity Development and Technology Outreach (CDTO) Enabler Compact

## Highlights

- **Through a Training of Trainers and step down training approach, 443 Innovation Platform (IP) Facilitators from 17 countries have been trained and are already establishing more innovation platforms**
- **The Innovation Platform Agribusiness portal (IPAbP.org) has registered 202 innovation platforms seeking support under TAAT. 58 of these IPs in 10 countries will be participating in a Capacity Audit Exercise to formulate their capacity development and business plans.**
- **Development of 12 sets of outreach materials by technology experts from TAAT commodity compacts, extensionists and instruction design specialists**
- **A growing community of practice (COP) on the scaling of technologies established through the collaboration of networks of Research, Extension, Youth and Women entrepreneurs covering most of the countries implementing TAAT – the COP currently of 1300 members and continues to expand through #TAAT\_CDTO Webinar series**

The Capacity Development and Technology Outreach (CDTO) Enabler compact plays the role of a process facilitator in supporting the delivery and scaling of technologies to the last mile. CDTO has developed a strong network of partners. It has also mainstreamed the innovation systems thinking into the activities of TAAT commodity Compacts and extension networks by facilitating the establishment of Innovation Platforms among the commodity value chains. The Platforms serve as entry points for the adaptation and use of outreach materials developed jointly with the Commodity Compacts.

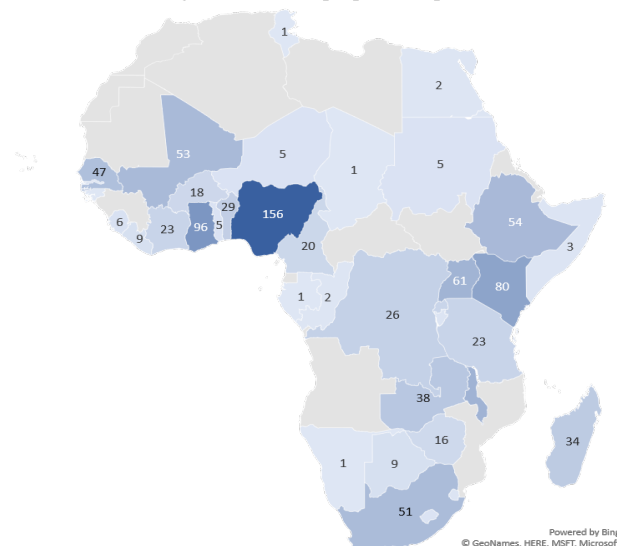
## What is the problem?

The challenge has been to find the right frameworks and pathways for scaling proven agricultural technologies. Also African producers are not able to add value to their produce to improve their livelihoods. Collective action towards value chain actors working together has also been a problem. Hence, it is difficult to give training and capacity building services to commodities value chain effectively. Organizing communities into multi-stakeholder groups, called Innovation Platforms is one way to address this bottleneck. TAAT aims to make this approach broadly available to value chain actors within the commodity compacts.

## What are the TAAT CDTO Objectives?

- To support value chain actors, carry out capacity audits to determine their capacity strengths and requirements around the adoption and scaling of proven technologies

Nov 2019: Consolidated TAAT\_CDTO Community of Practice of Country-level #Packaging4Scaling Enablers





Researchers and Extensionists developing a standard template for outreach materials for use within TAAT

- To strengthen capacity of value chain commodities to establish and manage their own Innovation Platforms around specific commodities and target markets
- To support the design and development of outreach materials on specific proven technologies for scaling at national level
- To strengthen the marketing and entrepreneurial capacity of women and youth within the Innovation Platforms that create new jobs

## What have we achieved?

The TAAT Capacity Development and Technology Outreach (CDTO) Enabler Compact is engaging national policy makers and decision makers from 10 target countries. CDTO has conducted Capacity Audits at national level, involving 58 Innovation Platforms, grouped into commodity clusters, representing a membership of 5,000 people and reaching a population of 114,000 farmers. These audits assist in the assessments of capacity of the innovation systems and platforms on specific TAAT technologies and on their capacity to go to scale.

Through Training of Trainers (ToT), 365 trainers from 17 countries have been able to extend knowledge and skills through establishment and management of innovation platforms. The trainers in return have conducted step-down-trainings to a total of 443 trainers by end of 2019. The resource persons trained locally support the establishment and management of additional Innovation Platforms in the Eastern, Western, Central and Southern sub-regions of Africa.

The TAAT CDTO Enabler compact has successfully facilitated the dialogue between researchers within the TAAT Commodity compacts and the Agricultural extension network in Africa to adopt a common template for the design and packaging of outreach materials. These are being field tested and made widely available to extensionists and IP facilitators for scaling of proven technologies.

During the COVID19 pandemic period, CDTO is managing a series of technical webinars to feature the process of commercialization of a proven technologies from each commodity compact, especially among women-led and youth-led agri-enterprises. Discussions are facilitated, on the CDTO electronic discussion forum and community of practice. The CDTO online community has now reached over 1300 members who have been directly involved in TAAT activities (TAAT\_CDTO on Dgroups)



Representatives of TAAT compacts lining up to present their modular designs of Outreach Materials during CDTO workshop on #Packaging4Scaling

## Were there key challenges or lessons learned?

- The concept of Agricultural Innovation Systems provides a framework that can be applied at continental level all the way down to the level of Innovation Platforms
- Challenges faced by members of the platforms are best addressed collectively through the platform
- Researchers and extension staff are jointly required in the design and packaging of outreach materials to be largely accessible to facilitators of innovation platforms
- Knowledge management and sharing of experiences amongst peers are effective means to advocate for adoption of proven technologies and collective innovation

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