



PAEPARD



PAEPARD funding mechanisms:

Lessons from calls 1 & 2 funding
& recommendations by the MTR

EMSC, Brussels 3-4/05/2012

“The growing global demand for agricultural innovation makes it vital to assess the characteristics that separate effective from ineffective innovation fund mechanisms”

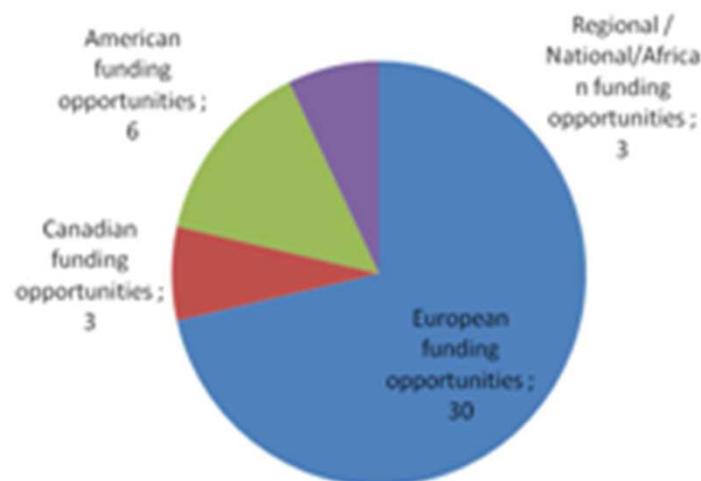


DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING
AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION FUNDS:
Lessons from Competitive Research and Matching
Grant Projects

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Targeted funding by Applicants of PAEPARD call 1

- European funding opportunities 30
- Canadian funding opportunities 3
- American funding opportunities 6
- Regional / National/African funding opportunities 3
- Not mentioned: 40



Lessons Targeted funding call 1 (a)

- most of the applications did not identify a clear funding call in the application
- identified funding calls expired before the partnership inception workshops: example the AURC call closed in April 2011 when the consortia had not yet completed the PIW
- given the schedule from emission of the PAEPARD call to the end of the programmed write shops –almost 12 months – it is difficult to see how this process could be integrated with that of responding to research calls
- even allowing for advance intelligence, responding to open calls usually requires a proposal to be developed in a few months
- consortia were created ad hoc to respond to PAEPARD call

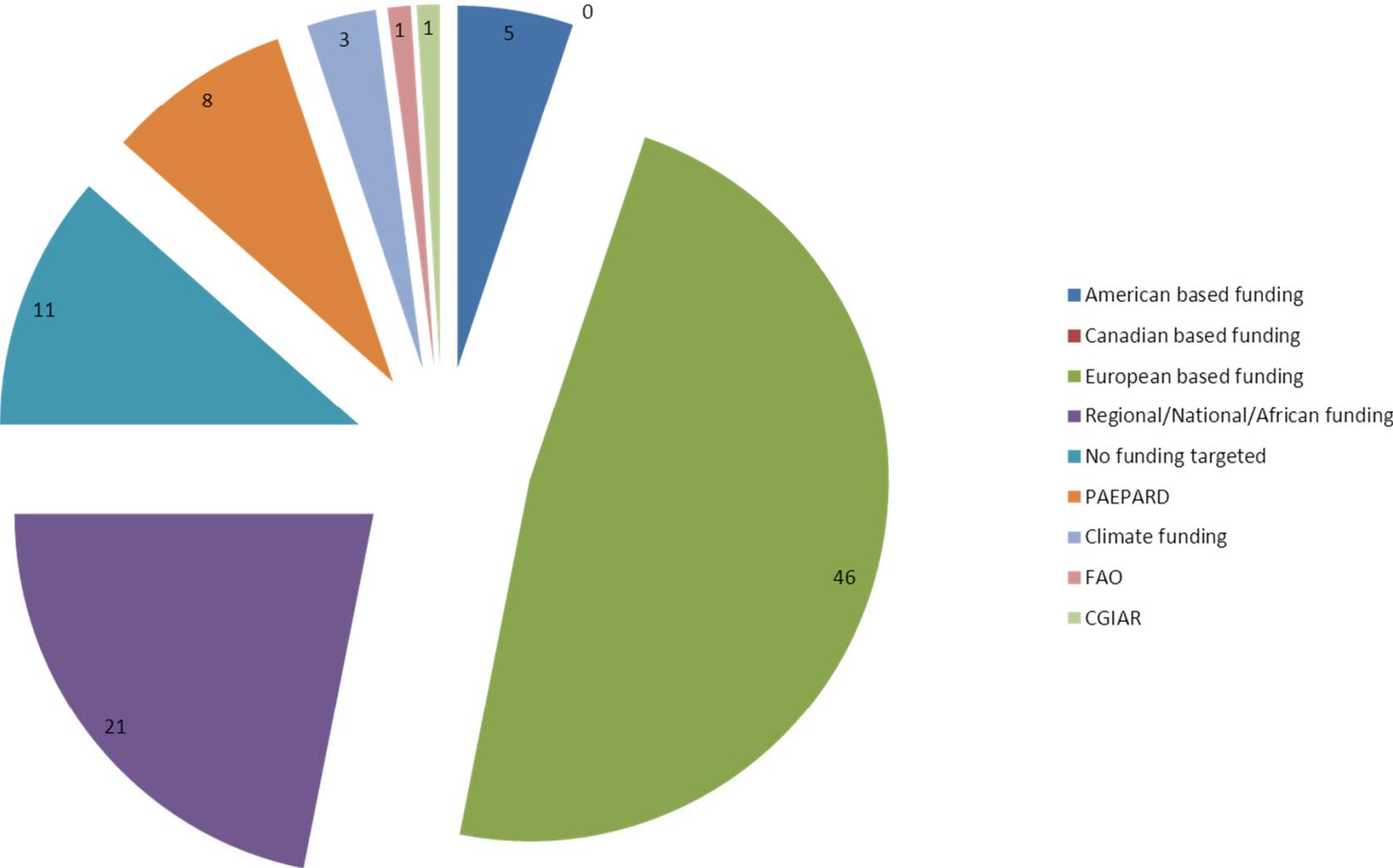
Lessons Targeted funding call 1 (b)

- multi-stakeholder, African-European PAEPARD partnerships need continued and targeted support to identify sources of finance for proposed partnership projects/activities
- project leaders and their financial administrators need together to prepare convincing proposals for the funding opportunities
- there is a “mismatch” between the country-specific PAEPARD partnerships and donor funding (which often requires regional, cross-country collaboration)

Lessons Targeted funding call 1 (c)

- It may be unrealistic to assume that proposed partnership activities can be financed through one, single, all-encompassing “research project”, financed through competitive research calls.
- An alternative model, perhaps (and one which not all PAEPARD partners see as viable), is where each partner organisation finances its own role and activities within a collaborative programme, seeking finance as and where necessary.

Targeted funding by Applicants to PAEPARD call2



Calls to which supported consortia submitted

- Call of CORAF: West African Agricultural Productivity Research and Development (WAAPRD): 13/10/2011 **3 consortia**
- First African Union Research Grants Call Proposals for 2011: 30/04/2011 **none**
- Second African Union Research Grants Call Proposals for 2012: 20/04/2012 **10 consortia**

Lessons Targeted funding call 2 (a)

- Similar lessons as call 1
- few indicated the title and/or identification of the call
- Still a confusion of PAEPARD as a donor
- Similar conclusions as the write shops: the alignment to donors' requirements and schemes:
 - *reshape* the power relation configuration (new losers and winners)
 - *prompt* transformation toward fund supplier's preferences (demand-driven vs. donor -oriented)
 - *orient* the proposal towards research activities
 - *compromise* the potential added value of a multi-stakeholders approach

Lessons Targeted funding call 2 (b)

CORAF/WECARD and AURC emphasize on the Regional research projects as a cut off selection criteria.

- This has led to a merger/fusion/expansion of some consortia to meet the criteria
- This issue was not taken into consideration by the concept note reviewers

Other attempts of consortia creation and submissions

- German call launched in 2011: the German partner of the consortium on post-harvest technologies (Ghana-Malawi) dropped because he preferred to be part of another consortium with German partners that offered more advantages than expected in partnering with an African partner
- A consortium on Insects as Novel Source of Proteins was formed between African and European partners (Gembloux) to reply to FP7 call, edition 2011. In the course of the process all European partners dropped because they found the call time consuming and the probability to be funded very low .

Conclusions of the Mid Term Review [on funding] (a)

- The MTR found that external funding for proposals has been a problem and so far no proposal has been funded and no real “Write-shops” have been held.
- PAEPARD is doing the right thing but maybe not in the right order. It is difficult to get all possible synergies between WPs in place in the best coordinated way since WP3 and WP6 have been delayed and the expected external funding opportunities have been rare.
- Another fault in the design concerns the fact that PAEPARD did not include any funds but only support to prepare proposals for external Funding sources.

Conclusions of the Mid Term Review [on funding] (b)

- The search for funding from more development-oriented funding sources (bilateral donors, international NGOs, private sponsoring) is necessary through advocacy by WP6 and all consortia leaders and AIFs.
- The information system is not good enough to stay up to date with funding opportunities, and matching proposals with funding opportunities is a big problem.
- Since the reform of research funding mechanisms is a problem in the short term and more best practices are needed as references, the MTR also recommends to start preparing for a 3rd phase, which needs to include a Fund for a limited number of pilot projects so as to gain experience for implementation of multi-stakeholder partnership projects.

Conclusions of the Mid Term Review [on funding] (c)

- The EC funding instruments that support ARD are difficult to access by African partners alone.
- The research and European domination in ARD partnership in Africa, does not correspond to the new internationally agreed policies of more involvement of non research stakeholder and user led brokerage of partnership,
- There is some hesitation or lack of commitment from some European research institutions to participate in the PAEPARD internal Calls as they were not linked to external Calls for funding.

Conclusions of the Mid Term Review [on funding] (d)

“PAEPARD will base its third call for building multi-stakeholder partnerships on the themes from the FP7 research call due to come out in July 2012”.

Only 2 themes explicitly mention an ICPC: (International Cooperation Partner country – which includes Africa).

- **Plant High Value Products** - from discovery to final product
The projects funded should be complementary and reinforce related on-going FP7 KBBE projects on the plant biotechnology.
- **Scientific forum GMO**
Minimum number of participants: 3 from different Member States or Associated countries and 3 from ICPC countries

PAEPARD's experience with FP7 brokerage (a)

FP7 launched calls in July 2010, July 2011 & July 2012

- the topics were judged not suitable to PAEPARD because “purely research call” To be able to compete, research institutions must have a minimum budget , a critical mass of staff and a research and innovation management capacity
- FP7 is more likely to strengthen the strongest agencies providing research and extension services than it is to reduce the disparities between the strong and the weak.
- Low feedback analysis and lessons learned from those African countries that have been successful to participate in FP7 proposals

PAEPARD's experience with FP7 brokerage (b)

- Lack of practical trainings with real examples of significant African active participation. Hence the important of elaborating an Africa specific training
- FP7 has not by itself led to large growth in the role of the private (for profit) sector as a provider of agricultural research and extension, *but it has contributed to the broader process of private sector development.*