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CONTINENTAL FEED AND FODDER MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FORMATION GUIDELINES



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Background

The feed and fodder sector in Africa is a critical yet under-coordinated pillar of livestock development. As climate variability intensifies and livestock demand rises across urban and export markets, the pressure on forage systems is escalating. Most countries have recognized the centrality of feed security to livestock productivity, resilience, and food systems transformation. However, responses have remained fragmented, limited in scope, siloed across institutions, and poorly scaled.

The recent formation of national-level Feed and Fodder Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) in several African countries, supported by AU-IBAR and development partners, has demonstrated the value of coordinated planning, policy alignment, private sector engagement, and investment mobilization. These MSPs are emerging as key instruments for aligning actors around fodder production, trade facilitation, seed system strengthening, and mechanization.

Despite this progress, a continental coordination gap remains. Without a structured mechanism for intercountry peer learning, regional investment planning, and standard-setting, the transformative potential of national MSPs risks being capped. Transboundary feed trade, regional seed certification, harmonized emergency response mechanisms, and private sector scale-up all require a regional support body and continental oversight.

The proposed **Continental Feed and Fodder Multi-Stakeholder Platform (CF&F-MSP)** is designed to provide a formal apex structure to unify, amplify, and steer national MSP efforts. Drawing membership from all African national platforms, the CF&F-MSP will provide a space for strategic convergence, policy harmonization, regional planning, and joint investment facilitation. It will also ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in global forums advocating for strengthening feed and fodder subsector within the sustainable livestock systems.

The formation of this platform is aligned with AU frameworks such as the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), CAADP/Kampala Commitments, and Agenda 2063. It is envisioned as a lean, inclusive, and dynamic structure that is private-sector responsive while retaining strong public policy alignment. Through this platform, Africa's feed and fodder ecosystem can transition from fragmentation to coordination, and from isolated projects to systemic transformation and enhance networking and partnerships.

Justification

Despite the emergence of national-level Feed and Fodder Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) across Africa, the absence of a structured continental coordination mechanism has left a critical gap in harmonization, coherence, investment alignment, and regional collaboration. Challenges such as cross-border fodder trade barriers, seed system fragmentation, scattered innovations, and under-leveraged private sector investments persist. While national MSPs are instrumental in coordinating actors and interventions within African Union member states (AUMS), there is growing recognition

that these country-level efforts must be integrated into a broader ecosystem that promotes regional learning, standardized quality frameworks, and shared advocacy for policy reforms at the AU and REC levels.

The Continental Feed and Fodder MSP (CF&F-MSP) responds to this gap by providing an apex coordination and support structure that links national MSPs into a continental system. It will amplify Africa's collective voice in continental and global forums, facilitate the design and execution of regional MSP and fodder corridors, support emergency response frameworks, and attract cross-border investments. In addition, it will institutionalize learning, ensure performance accountability across platforms, and provide a dedicated technical backstopping function to strengthen national MSP capacities. Its establishment is therefore essential to unlocking the systemic transformation of Africa's feed and fodder sector.

Objectives

The CF&F-MSP will aim to:

i) **Provide Oversight and Support**: Offer technical backstopping, advisory services, and capacity strengthening to national MSPs.
ii) **Harmonize Standards**: Align fodder quality, seed certification, trade regulations, and market protocols across borders.
iii) **Coordinate Regional Interventions**: Facilitate transboundary investments such as forage corridors, shared emergency reserves, and cross-border fodder trade.
iv) **Drive Continental Advocacy**: Represent feed and fodder priorities at AU, RECs, and donor forums.
v) **Foster Peer Learning**: Enable structured exchanges and peer reviews among national MSPs.
vi) **Mobilize Continental Investment**: Create and manage a continental Feed and Fodder Development Facility.

Membership and Structure

Membership Composition

Membership is composed of:

- National MSPs (each represented by Chairperson + Technical Lead)
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Continental livestock bodies (e.g., AU-IBAR, ALive Platform)
- Global Technical partners (FAO, ILRI, ICARDA)
- Private sector actors with cross-country footprint (e.g., regional seed companies, processors)

Institutional Design

- **General Assembly**: Comprised of all national MSP representatives; meets annually.
- **Executive Committee**: 7–9 elected members (rotational among stakeholder groups) to guide strategy and review plans.
- **Secretariat**: A lean coordination unit hosted within a reputable African livestock institution (e.g., AU-IBAR)

Formation Process

Phase 1: Inception

i) Convene an **Africa Feed & Fodder Leaders Forum**, inviting all national MSPs and key continental actors.
ii) Develop and adopt a **Continental MSP Terms of Reference** (based on national TOR template in Annex B).
iii) Draft and endorse a **Continental Charter** outlining mandates, governance, and engagement with RECs/AU.

Phase 2: Strategic Planning

Develop a 5-year Strategic Plan, focusing on:

i) Regional Feed & Fodder corridors
ii) Harmonized trade and safety standards
iii) Regional fodder investment compendium
iv) Digital platforms for market and climate early warning integration

Mobilize funding from:

i) AU Member States
ii) African Development Bank (AfDB)
iii) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Gates Foundation(GF), Green Climate Fund (GCF)
iv) Private sector levies and CSR contributions
v) Other potential donors

Phase 3: Implementation

The implementation phase marks the transition from design to action, where the Continental Feed and Fodder Multi-Stakeholder Platform (CF&F-MSP) activates regional structures and delivers technical and financial support programs across the continent. The goal is to demonstrate value through decentralized coordination, tangible outcomes, and scalable innovations.

1. Pilot Three Regional Hubs

The CF&F-MSP will establish three regional hubs to coordinate activities, deepen cross-border collaboration, and catalyze investment in the feed and fodder sector:

- **Horn of Africa Hub (e.g., Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti)**
  This hub will focus on transboundary fodder corridors, resilience-building, and trade facilitation. It will coordinate regional emergency fodder reserves, border harmonization of feed quality standards, and investment matchmaking forums. Financing initiatives may include cross-border feed trade guarantee schemes, collaboration with regional development banks, and piloting of climate-linked fodder insurance products to attract private investment into dry-season forage reserves.
- **Sahel Hub (e.g., Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad)**
  The Sahel will prioritize regenerative fodder systems in drylands, with strong integration of natural resource management and traditional livestock routes. Regional investment programs will support communal pasture rehabilitation, establishment of dry-season fodder banks, and scaling of decentralized forage seed production by women and youth cooperatives. Financing mechanisms may include concessional capital from IFAD and the Sahel Alliance, and the development of a regional Fodder Investment Facility to co-finance micro-infrastructure.
- **Southern Africa Hub (e.g., Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa)**
  This hub will drive commercialization and market-led fodder aggregation, targeting surplus-producing zones and value chain actors such as feedlots and dairy processors. Pilot programs may support the establishment of fodder contracting schemes, development of regional digital fodder marketplaces, and aggregation centers with bundled services. Financial products will include matching grants, equipment leasing schemes, and partnerships with agricultural banks for working capital loans to farmer associations and fodder SMEs.

Each hub will be embedded in a regional economic body or specialized regional? livestock institution and supported by a technical coordination team to align national MSPs and mobilize regional partnerships.

Roll Out Continental Capacity-Building Programs

The CF&F-MSP will coordinate flagship programs aimed at equipping MSP actors with tools, skills, and technologies to accelerate their national and regional impact:

- **Continental Forage Seed Harmonization Program**: Facilitate development of a pan-African seed variety catalogue, regional testing protocols, and cross-border seed certification to ease trade and boost access to climate-resilient fodder varieties.

- **Mechanization & Aggregation Support Program**: Promote technology exchanges across countries for baling, chopping, storage, and transport through leasing consortia and regional training centers.
- **Fodder Finance Readiness Clinics**: Build the investment preparedness of cooperatives, aggregators, and local MSP actors through business planning support, risk profiling, and investor pitch coaching.
- **Digital MSP Knowledge Platform**: Host regional data dashboards, resource libraries, and interactive learning modules for continuous capacity strengthening.

Phase 4: Institutionalization

- Secure formal recognition as a continental body.
- Continental Forage Monitoring and Data Facility (tracking trends, gaps, and innovations).
- Ensure annual performance reporting and MSP Peer Exchange Forum rotation among host countries.

Performance Monitoring

Develop Continental KPIs for MSP Performance Monitoring

To ensure accountability, learning, and strategic oversight, the CF&F-MSP will coordinate the development and use of a standardized suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These indicators will track performance across countries and regions, and guide collective improvement. The KPIs will serve as the backbone for reporting, peer comparison, and strategic reviews at the continental level. Illustrative KPIs include:

i) **Number of national MSPs operational and active**
Measures coverage and functionality. It reflects the platform's penetration across African Union member states and includes assessment of active secretariats, engagement frequency, and participation diversity (e.g., government, private sector, cooperatives, women and youth actors).

ii) **Volume of cross-border fodder trade facilitated**
Captures the extent to which the MSP ecosystem is reducing trade barriers and enabling regional fodder flow. This can include tonnage of baled hay, silage, or feed inputs moved across borders through formal or facilitated channels.

iii) **Regional investment mobilized annually**
Tracks the amount and sources of public and private investment attracted as a result of MSP activities. This may include infrastructure financing (e.g., feed centers), seed system investments, mechanization grants, or working capital loans for fodder enterprises.

iv) **Peer-reviewed learning products generated**
Counts the number and quality of knowledge outputs generated by national and regional MSPs and consolidated by the continental platform. These may include case studies,

investment models, seed system profiles, or policy briefs validated through peer review mechanisms.

These KPIs will be reviewed periodically and updated to reflect emerging priorities and learning needs.

Continental Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning System

To ensure timely reporting and synthesis of performance across all levels, a **continental Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system** will be established. This system will:

i) Provide a standardized reporting template and guidance for national MSPs to capture progress, lessons, and challenges across KPI areas.
ii) Aggregate data from national platforms quarterly and consolidate them into regional dashboards and an annual continental report.
iii) Enable real-time tracking and visualizations of national MSP maturity, trade flows, and investment pipelines through a digital platform.
iv) Facilitate structured learning loops by generating synthesis reports, feeding insights back into strategy reviews, and informing policy advocacy.
v) Be overseen by the CF&F-MSP Secretariat in close collaboration with national MSP leads and regional hub coordinators, ensuring consistency and credibility in the data pipeline.

Annex A: Sample Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Continental Feed and Fodder Multi-Stakeholder Platform (CF&F-MSP)

1. Background

Across Africa, feed and fodder systems are experiencing a rise in demand due to expanding urban markets, livestock intensification, and climate-related disruptions. However, fragmented policies, isolated investments, and lack of cross-border coordination continue to hinder progress. While national Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) offer a valuable mechanism to align domestic efforts, there is a growing need for a continental body to harmonize, guide, and support these efforts. The CF&F-MSP will serve as an apex platform, fostering collaboration among national MSPs, regional economic blocs, technical agencies, and the private sector to accelerate feed and fodder system transformation across the continent.

2. Objectives

The CF&F-MSP is established to:

- Serve as a continental coordination and oversight mechanism for national feed and fodder MSPs.
- Promote harmonization of fodder/feed standards, certification processes, and regional trade protocols.
- Support regional and cross-border investment planning and implementation.
- Foster structured learning and knowledge exchange across countries and regions.
- Represent Africa's feed and fodder priorities at continental and global forums.
- Mobilize resources and advocate for sustainable financing mechanisms for the feed and fodder sector.

3. Core Functions

- Convene annual general assemblies and thematic conferences.
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning among country MSPs.
- Track and consolidate national MSP performance data for continental review.
- Serve as technical advisor to AU bodies and RECs on feed and fodder issues.
- Coordinate development of continental guidelines, technical briefs, and investment compendia.
- Engage regional and international partners to mobilize funding and technical assistance.

4. Membership Composition

The CF&F-MSP shall comprise representatives from:

- All officially recognized national Feed and Fodder MSPs (minimum two per country: Chairperson and Technical Lead).
- Regional Economic Communities (e.g., IGAD, ECOWAS, SADC).
- AU-IBAR, ALive Platform, and relevant AU organs.

- Pan-African and regional private sector representatives (e.g., seed companies, feed processors, aggregators).
- Technical institutions (e.g., FAO, ILRI, ICARDA, universities).
- Civil society and women/youth agribusiness networks.

5. Governance Structure

- **General Assembly**: The supreme decision-making body composed of all members; meets annually to review progress, approve workplans, and elect the Executive Committee.
- **Executive Committee**: A 9-member body elected by the General Assembly with rotational representation from public, private, and regional entities. Responsible for strategic oversight and review of implementation.
- **Secretariat**: A lean coordination unit hosted by an agreed continental institution (e.g., AU-IBAR, ALive). It supports day-to-day operations, communication, documentation, and logistics.

6. Operating Principles

- **Inclusivity**: Ensure fair representation of women, youth, pastoralists, and producer groups.
- **Transparency**: Publish annual workplans, budgets, and performance reports.
- **Rotation and Accountability**: Term limits for office bearers (e.g., two-year renewable terms); rotational hosting of meetings and forums.
- **Alignment**: Work in synergy with AU frameworks (e.g., CAADP, Malabo Declaration, Livestock Development Strategy for Africa).

7. Reporting and Accountability

- Each national MSP submits an annual report to the CF&F-MSP Secretariat.
- The CF&F-MSP publishes an Annual Continental Feed and Fodder Report consolidating national data and regional trends.
- An external performance audit of the platform is conducted every three years.

8. Resource Mobilization and Financing

- The platform will be financed through a combination of:
    - Member contributions from national MSPs (in-kind or financial).
    - AU and REC budget allocations.
    - Development partner support (grants, TA, joint programs).
    - Private sector sponsorships and CSR initiatives.
- A dedicated "Continental Feed and Fodder Facility" may be established to support core operations and innovation grants.

9. Review and Amendment

This TOR may be reviewed every three years or upon proposal by at least one-third of the General Assembly membership. Amendments shall be approved by two-thirds majority.