

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



ALLIANCE FOR
AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP

Town Hall • April 12, 2017

Alliance for African Partnership Convening

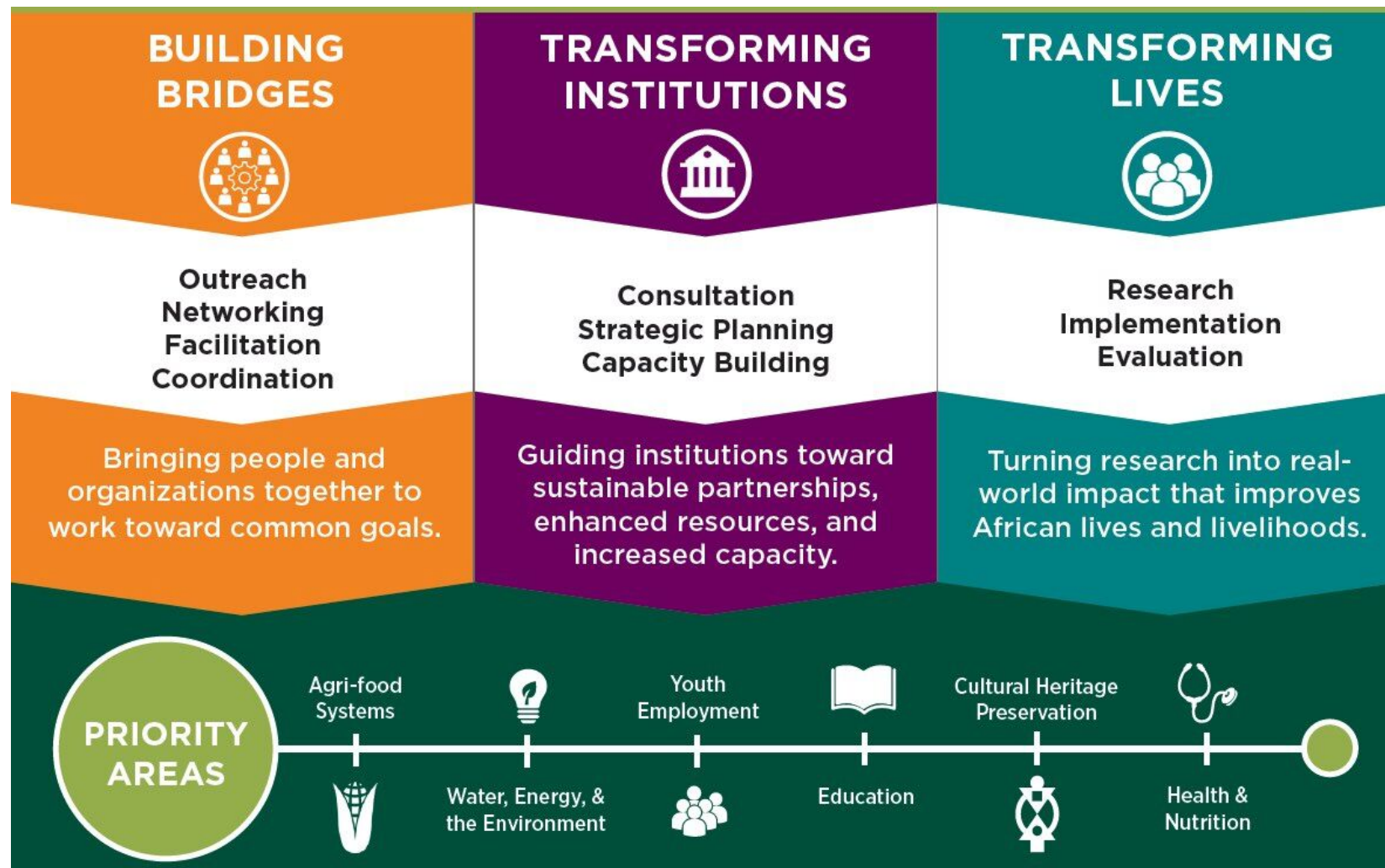
(May 2016)

Shared vision that emerged:

1. Encourage **cross-disciplinary platforms** for addressing today's **global challenges**
2. Innovate new models of engagement
3. **Enhance the resources and capacities** of African universities, institutions, and scholars, as well as MSU
4. The agenda of the AAP and partners needs to be **Africa-focused and Africa-led**



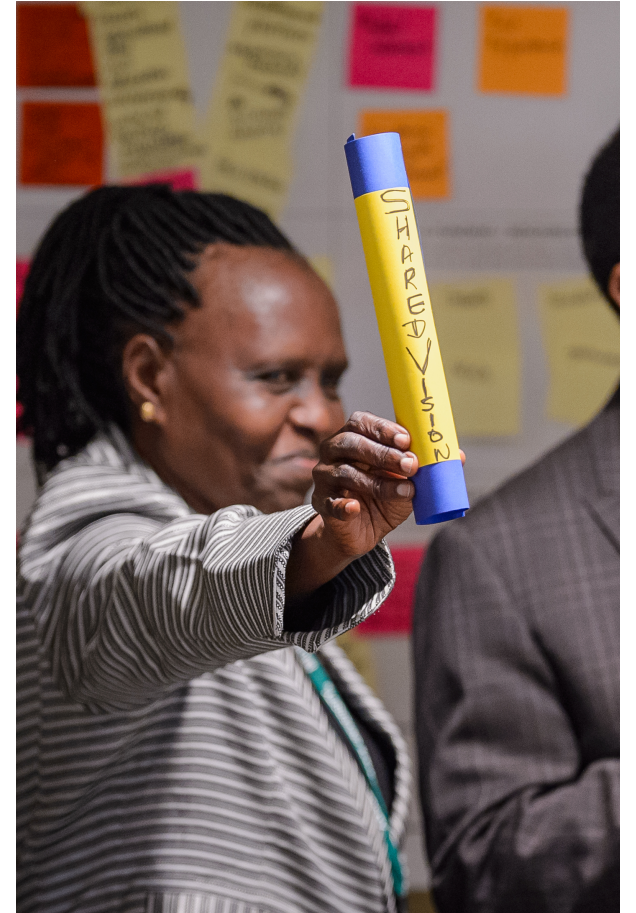
AAP Framework and Priority Areas



Partnership Principles

(AAP Convening, 2016)

1. A mutually beneficial relationship with a shared vision
2. Based on trust, mutual respect, transparency, empathy and accountability.
3. Collaboration must be sustainable beyond an initial grant cycle, with a view toward long-term collaboration
4. Founded on clarity of purpose; clear contribution to society.
5. Based on engagement of partners at the beginning, in which objectives, activities, resource allocation plans are developed jointly.
6. A governance structure that reinforces accountability, a structured work plan and metrics



Illustrative achievements in 2016

1. Formation of AAP management team
2. Advisory Board (5 from Africa, 2 from MSU)
3. Formation of a AAP Secretariat in Africa
(Dr. Richard Mkandawire, Director)
4. Communications:
(monthly AAP newsletter, website, digital portal)
5. Co-sponsoring events
(e.g., session at 2016 World Food Prize, African Green Revolution Forum, Mali delegation visit to MSU, Desmond Tutu event)
6. 2016/17 Call for Proposals
 - 69 proposals received, 11 accepted so far
 - Awardees to be showcased at upcoming AAP Launch, July 2017



Award Distribution

11

funded
projects

GENDER

6 projects have women lead MSU PIs

7 projects have women African partner PIs

PRIORITY AREAS

2 Education and Youth Empowerment

3 Health and Nutrition

1 Cultural Heritage Preservation

3 Agri-Food Systems

2 Water, Energy, and Environment

REGIONS

5 Southern Africa

2 West Africa

3 East Africa

1 Multi-regional

AAP Launch:

*Putting Vision into
Action Together*

July 19-22

Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania

- Builds on mission statement of AAP to **bring about positive change in Africa through meaningful, equitable partnerships**
- Demonstrates AAP commitment to **develop best practices in research and apply them** in collaboration with African institutions
- **Africa-centered program featuring prominent African leaders** from higher education institutes, research bodies, NGOs, donors and the private sector.
- **Participatory sessions that will:** define landscape and vision; share experience and practice; propose new ideas for collaborative implementation; and identify resources to bring vision into action.

AAP Portal: Virtual Partnership

- **Networking tool:** Searchable database of AAP and partner network memberships
- **Resource hub:** for dissemination of publications and research-in-progress; grant and fellowship opportunities; innovative approaches to exchange of knowledge and practice
- **Workspace Commons:** research groups can collaborate virtually and engage with policy makers and practitioners around AAP priority areas



Year Two: AAP Fellows Program

- **Fellowship Clusters:** 12-month program to bring scholars together to develop and disseminate research
- **Four broad thematic areas:** sustainability, policy, South-South, health
- **Short-term residencies** twice during fellowship: once at MSU and once in Africa
- Outcomes would include **joint dissemination of results** and **proposals for future collaboration and funding**
- Program allows for **additional fellowship programs:** practitioners; post-docs; think-tank model
- Fellows would **collaborate virtually** through the AAP portal