



With the completion of six decades of AARDO's interventions in rural reconstruction, rural development and rural transformation, since its foundation on 5th of March, 1962, I have the immense pleasure, as Secretary General, of solemnly expressing sincere thanks and ceremoniously congratulating all founder and present members, former and present Presidents, previous and actual members of governing bodies, partners, staff and other stakeholders, for accomplishments and achievements made so far in the realization of AARDO's mission and vision.

With six decades of experience, AARDO remains an innovative and effective platform operating on the principle of South– South and triangular to pool experiences, best practices, and appropriate technologies for rural transformation in member countries.

While treasuring AARDO's success, we have to also, unfortunately, recognize that, barring a few exceptions, the rural development challenge is expected to persist for long and the situation is regrettably projected to remain quite critical in many African and Asian countries where, in some cases, 70% of the population is rural and intricately depends on agriculture for food security and livelihoods.

Capitalizing on its 60 years of experience and its recently approved Strategic Framework 2021 -2030, the rural centric AARDO would be an ardent advocate in mainstreaming rural development issues and an indispensable facilitator of sustainable agricultural and rural transformation. In this vein, AARDO has already corroborated its programmes with SDGs and will leverage on strategic partnerships to address urgent contemporary and impending rural challenges such as poverty, health, hunger, food security, gender equality, climate change, and youth empowerment.

Furthermore, cognizant that technology transfer and innovation will perpetually remain key determinants of rural development, AARDO has, saddled itself with the mission of more science to the society and has been fully reengineered and geared up to answer to the clarion call of stepping-up, speeding-up and scaling-up the transfer of innovations and affordable technologies in AARDO member countries.

To commemorate and highlight AARDO's 60 years of existence, it was initially contemplated to have a series of activities and a memorable grandiose event on 05 March 2022. We were equally rejoicing that, following the massive blow of long-tailed COVID-19, the AARDO's diamond jubilee year would be perceived as a year of hope and economic rebound, particularly for many rural communities in Africa and Asia. However, as insecurity and precariousness seem to be still menacingly lingering around and may be magnified with the recently broken out war, all celebration programmes had to be halted.

Alternatively, to symbolically mark the diamond jubilee celebrations, all AARDO's programmes and activities in 2022 have been tailor made to support the uphill task of economic revival and rebounding back of rural communities and are respectfully dedicated to members, partners and staff of AARDO.

Beyond sixty years, we will together successfully herald AARDO into the direly required knowledge and technology hub to tackle many miseries and the series of conundrums faced by rural dwellers thus achieving impactful and sustainable Rural Transformation in Africa and Asia.

Long live AARDO and African – Asian solidarity!

Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh  
Secretary General, AARDO