

## Positions on Climate Change

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Union (SACAU)<sup>1</sup> is aware that Climate Change is already affecting agriculture in the region and acknowledges that it will continue to do so in the future. Despite being marginally responsible for the causes of Climate Change in comparison with industrialised countries, southern Africa is expected to be seriously hit by its impacts, and agriculture is likely to be the most affected sector in the region. SACAU is concerned that adverse impacts of Climate Change on agriculture in southern Africa will put in jeopardy national and regional food security, as well as the livelihoods of the many poor people relying on agriculture, particularly women. Therefore, it considers addressing Climate Change as a matter of urgency. In line with the principle of a common but differentiated responsibility, it stresses the importance of adopting strategies for both Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in the agricultural sector in southern Africa, using both market-based and development approaches. In this regard, the role of international agreements and frameworks in addressing Climate Change is well-acknowledged. However any measures adopted at international, regional or national levels should be fair and not impede the development of southern African countries given the role that agriculture plays.

The following are SACAU's policy positions on Climate Change:

SACAU,

1. Acknowledges the role of greenhouse gas emissions generated by human activities in Climate Change and the contribution of agricultural activities to Climate Change.
2. Acknowledges the serious threats that Climate Change poses to agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Africa, and the need to take immediate action to minimise and manage associated risks.
3. Acknowledges the key role that agriculture could play in Climate Change mitigation and supports the adoption of these mitigating practices, including the production of bio-energy crops in certain conditions, as well as sustainable agricultural practices that emit less greenhouse gases and/or result in carbon sequestration, such as agro-forestry and conservation farming.
4. Calls for an increased in-depth knowledge through research to address the challenges posed by Climate Change to agriculture in Africa, as well as improved dissemination and sharing of information to enhance responses to Climate Change in the agricultural sector in the region.
5. Calls for national and regional governments to have comprehensive, inclusive and coordinated institutional responses to Climate Change that build adaptation and mitigation measures into wider development planning processes.
6. Supports the mainstreaming of Climate Change into agricultural programmes, policies and plans.
7. Supports the concept of putting agriculture as a specific item on the agenda of the global Climate Change negotiations that will lead to a post-Kyoto framework, and the inclusion of farmers in Climate Change talks.
8. Calls for the broadening of international Climate Change agreements and frameworks to take into account agricultural activities in their own right - including smallholder agriculture in developing regions.
9. Advocates in particular for the Climate Change international incentive and reward mechanisms to recognise the agricultural production practices that contribute to Climate Change mitigation, and facilitate their inclusion by simplifying requirements and conditions and lowering transaction costs, which currently prevent farmers and their organisations in Africa from participating in existing ones, such as the UNFCCC<sup>1</sup> Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM).
10. Supports African and other initiatives promoting the acceptance of agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) projects in world carbon markets, such as the ACCID initiative<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

<sup>2</sup> Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative for Policy Dialogue, supported by SADC and COMESA.

11. Urges the developed countries to rapidly fulfil the commitment they made under the UNFCCC to provide new and additional financial resources to meet the costs of adaptation in developing countries, and the international community to set up systematic adaptation funding mechanisms that will rapidly increase predictable funds to support Climate Change adaptation efforts of African farmers who are set to suffer the most from Climate Change through no fault of their own, while some interventions, such as appropriate irrigation development, have long gestation lags.
12. Advocates for the generalised promotion of adaptation practices in agriculture in southern Africa, including early warning systems, water harvesting and conservation techniques, agro-forestry, crop diversification and value addition, as well as for transparent and accountable governance on the use of natural resources.
13. Encourages the engagement of southern African farmers and their organisations with the institutions and initiatives that are involved in the different aspects of addressing Climate Change, so that farmers get as much information and support as possible to fight and adapt to Climate Change.
14. Supports the sensitisation of southern African farmers, through education, information and other incentives, towards behavioural changes in favor of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation practices.
15. Seeks technical assistance and capacity building aimed at empowering southern African farmers to address all aspects of Climate Change, including participation in global carbon markets, while encouraging to build on appropriate existing knowledge (including indigenous/ local knowledge) and practices.
16. Aims to act as a forum to facilitate southern African farmers' collective work to address challenges posed to them by Climate Change.
17. Advocates for enhanced technology transfers in the agricultural sector in southern Africa by fostering technological absorptive capacities of the sector and by promoting the innovations and transfer of technologies addressing the peculiarities of the region through public-private partnerships, including efficient global emission trading schemes, research and development cooperation as well as enabling international trade frameworks.
18. Advocates for a mix of public and private investments to address the challenges posed by Climate Change in the agricultural sector in the region.
19. Calls for complementarity between climate-related financing and other financing mechanisms, such as aid for trade, in order to build synergies and reinforce their positive impacts on the agricultural sector in the region, particularly on the supply side.

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<sup>i</sup> The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) is an organisation that represents the interest of farmers in southern Africa. Its membership is open to national farmers unions and regional commodity associations based in the region. It currently has 14 members from 10 countries in southern Africa :

- Botswana Agricultural Union (BAU)
- Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU)
- Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM)
- Confédération des Agriculteurs Malagasy (FEKRITAMA)
- Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM)
- National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)
- Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU)
- Seychelles Farmers Association (SEYFA)
- Agri-South Africa (AgriSA)
- National African Farmers Union-SA (NAFU-SA)
- Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT)
- Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)
- Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe (CFU)
- Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU).

The organisation is recognised as the main dialogue partner on agricultural matters by the two regional economic communities in southern Africa, namely the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and collaborates with other regional and international institutions and agencies dealing with agriculture and rural development.

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