



MEDIA RELEASE

30 May 2011

SACAU REVAMPS ITS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The Southern African Confederation of Agriculture Unions (SACAU) recently adopted a new set of good corporate governance instruments which have been developed in line with King III and the requirements of the Companies Act (Section 21) under which it is registered in South Africa. The instruments include revised Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct and Ethics as well as the Good Corporate Standards for SACAU and its members. These were adopted at SACAU's AGM which was recently held on 18 May in Vereeniging, South Africa.

Apart from the national general interest farmers' organisations who are its core members, the new Articles of Association now introduce a category of "associate" members who are: regional commodity organisations, agro-business organisations with a regional outreach; agricultural cooperative organisations with a regional outreach, and any organisation with a regional outreach participating in the agricultural value chains. In addition, honorary membership can also be bestowed to deserving organisations and/or individuals.

The Code of Conduct and Ethics commits SACAU, its members, office bearers and its employees to the highest standards of ethical conduct, and covers a number of aspects, including values and principles, management, employment practices, occupational health safety and environment, relations with governments and political activities. Good corporate governance standards for SACAU members provide guidelines as to the minimum governance standards that will be expected from member organisations. They cover a number of areas, such as structure and constitution, leadership, management and administration and monitoring and compliance.

The adoption and application of the good corporate governance framework will see SACAU strengthening its leadership as a well governed regional farmers' organisation in Africa.

Editors' note

SACAU was originally established in 1992, and its Secretariat is based in Centurion, South Africa. Its membership is open to national farmers' unions in Southern Africa. In addition, it has now created associate membership from regional commodity organisations, agro-business organisations with a regional outreach; agricultural cooperative organisations with a regional outreach, and any organisation with a regional outreach participating in the agricultural value chains. In addition, honorary membership can also be bestowed to deserving organisations and/or individuals.

The organisation is involved in agricultural development in the region through advocacy on regional, continental and global matters impacting on agriculture in the region, by strengthening the capacities of farmers' organisations, and by providing agricultural related information to its members and other stakeholders.

Membership

SACAU now has 16 members in 12 countries in southern Africa, namely:

Botswana	Botswana Agricultural Union (BAU)
Lesotho	Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU)
Madagascar	Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM) Confédération des Agriculteurs Malagasy (FEKRITAMA)
Malawi	Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM) National Smallholders Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)
Mozambique	União Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC)
Namibia	Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU)
Seychelles	Seychelles Farmers Association (SEYFA)
South Africa	Agri South Africa (AgriSA)
Swaziland	Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU)
Tanzania	Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT)
Zambia	Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)
Zimbabwe	Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU)

For further information, contact:

Mr Ishmael D Sunga, CEO. Tel +27 (0)12 644 0808, e-mail ceo@sacau.org

Mr Bernard Likalimba, Tel +27 (0)12 644 0808, e-mail likalimba@sacau.org

Issued by the Secretariat

30 May 2011

End