



SACAU

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIONS



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POTENTIAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN ReSAKSS & SACAU

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Regional ReSAKSS Africawide Conference on
“ Exploring New Opportunities and Strategic Alternatives to Inform
Agricultural Development, Planning and Policy”

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SACAU's Vision and Mission

- **Vision:**

A vibrant, prosperous and sustainable farming sector that ensures food security and contributes to economic growth in southern Africa.

- **Mission:**

To be the main voice of farmers on regional, continental and global matters, and to promote and ensure strong and effective farmers' organisations in all countries in southern Africa.

SACAU's Strategic Pillars

- *policy advocacy* on regional, continental and global continental matters
- *strengthening of capacities* of farmers' organisations
- *provision of* agriculture-related *information*

Membership

= **15** SACAU Members
in **11** Countries in Southern Africa

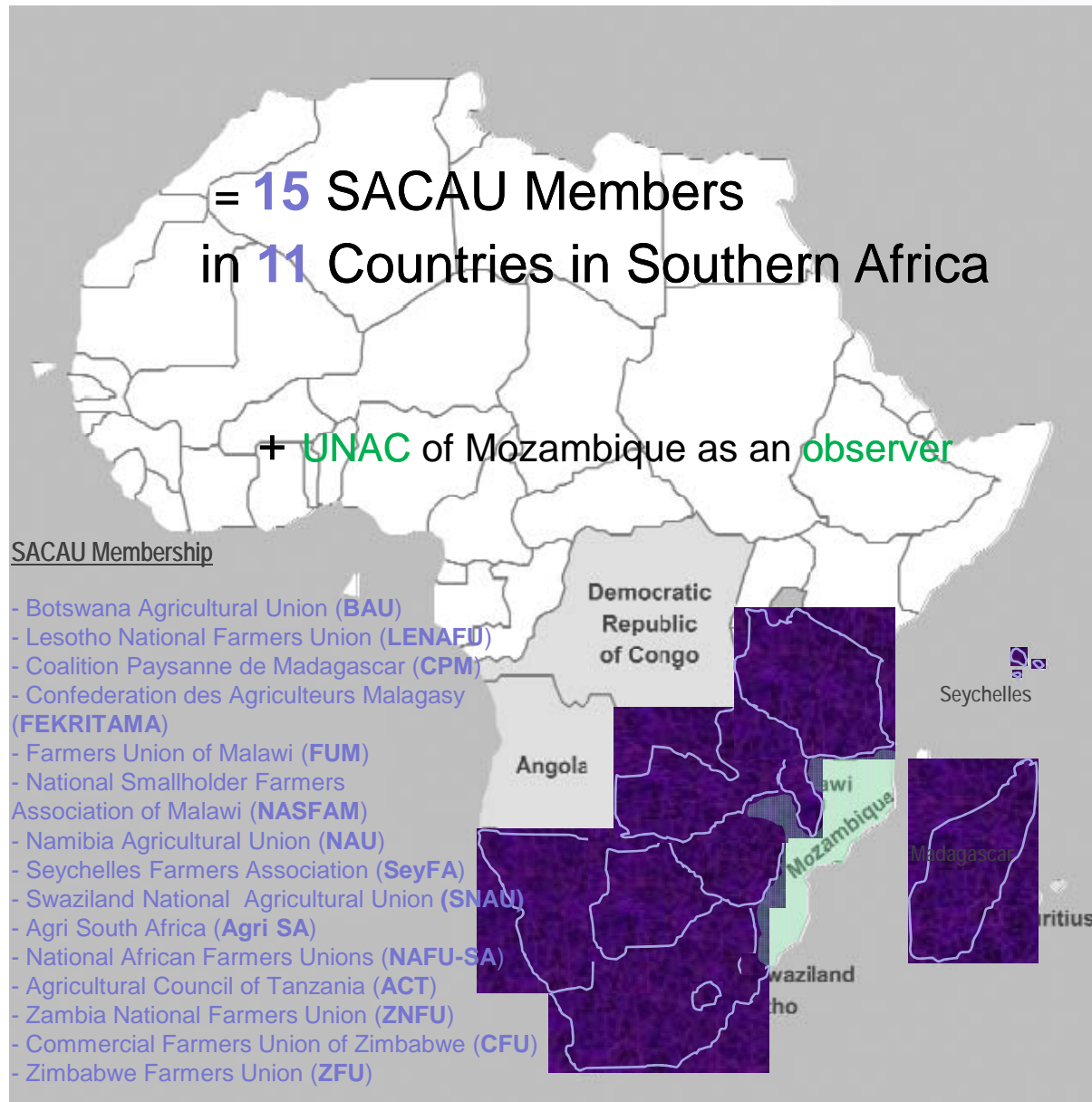
+ **UNAC** of Mozambique as an **observer**

SACAU Membership

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

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Current experience with ReSAKSS-SA (1/2)

- SACAU is a member of ReSAKSS-SA steering committee
- SACAU sits, together with ReSAKSS, in the steering committee of SADC's Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP)
- ReSAKSS made a presentation on trends in agricultural development at SACAU's Policy Conference

Current experience with ReSAKSS-SA (2/2)

- ReSAKSS provided strategic information to a farmers' workshop on the RAP process
- ReSAKSS participated in a stakeholder workshop discussing the draft Strategic Framework of SACAU
- SACAU made use of ReSAKSS statistical information and analysis in the formulation of its Strategic Framework and Multi-Annual Action Plan
- SACAU uses info generated by ReSAKSS in its various presentations

Challenges in development policy, planning and management in the agric. sector (1/2)

- The negative image of the sector & its failure to attract new blood
- Inability of farmers to leverage their political capital for effective policy change, and their limited participation in the governance of the sector
- The dominance of the public sector & academics/researchers in development policy planning and management
- Many studies & workshops/seminars. Main weakness is translating strategy into practical actions

Challenges in development policy, planning and management in the agric. sector (2/2)

- Where are the tangible benefits for farmers from all these frameworks, policies and programmes? Too much planning and less implementation
- Unfulfilled development commitments, including recycling of same commitments- Are farmers being taken for a ride?
- Limited availability of reliable & up-to-date statistics- tantamount to policy making in the dark!
- Data fragmentation- too many sources often not in harmony
- Conflicting objectives/agendas of consumers, producers, politicians and others
- Tendency to romanticize smallness- every enterprise wants to grow and prosper

Critical requirements for production

- Need to understand what motivates farmers to produce - national food security the main concern of producers?
- Farming is a long-term occupation, long-term investment commitment
- A stable and predictable operational environment is a prerequisite for farm level investments to take place, as well as security of investments
- Viable prices/markets are critical for increased investments in productivity, production & fixed capital formation at the farm level
- Need to invest in appropriate public economic infrastructure (incl. ICTs) and technology
- Invest in vocational skills development and technology dissemination
- Increased availability and access to affordable finance
- Transparency in the governance of value chains is key

Relevance of ReSAKSS to SACAU

- Accounting for development assistance- monitoring political and development commitments and their implementation - where are the resources going?
- Monitoring the impact of policies and programmes (including SADC/RISDP & CAADP) at the farm-level, including life after the CAADP Compacts
- Articulating farmers' investment priorities and policy perspectives
- Engaging key policy makers on strategies for unlocking farm-level potential of farmers in agric development

Conclusions / Recommendations (1/2)

- SACAU/FOs have the potential to leverage their political capital for policy change
- The strategic political positioning of SACAU & FOs is undermined by lack of credible content/evidence
- ReSAKSS's information, knowledge and capacity building outputs provide critical support for the three strategic pillars of SACAU and for its vision and mission

Conclusions / Recommendations (2/2)

- Potential areas for collaboration between SACAU and ReSAKSS-SA:
 - Joint production and publications on the state of agriculture in the region
 - Monitoring global developments and trends in input and output markets
 - Production and publication of investment perception surveys
 - Development of farmers' responses to key issues such as subsidies, trade, market access, climate change and others
 - Joint high level policy conferences/seminars
 - Farm level impact assessments of policies and programmes
 - Supporting FOs in policy making processes and in the governance of value chains
 - Brushing up the image of the sector as an attractive occupation for the young and educated



Thank You

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