

## Positions on Aid for Trade

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)<sup>i</sup> acknowledges the necessity for and benefits of Aid for Trade to the productive activities of farmers in southern Africa in fostering the ability to improve their trade in agricultural products. However, it does not regard Aid for Trade as a replacement for the benefits that would accrue to southern African farmers under a suitably concluded Doha Development trade round.

The following are SACAU's policy positions on Aid for Trade:

SACAU,

1. Endorses the views expressed in the WTO by the LDC Group, the ACP Group & the Africa Group that Aid for Trade funds must constitute additional aid, not a repackaging of existing aid.
2. Supports a disciplined multilateral approach to Aid for Trade within the guidelines established under the Paris Declaration on aid delivery, and opposes the imposition of conditionalities on Aid for Trade grants.
3. Seeks the elimination of trade distorting agricultural subsidies and thus endorses the concept that countries providing trade distorting subsidies should be making a concomitantly greater contribution to Aid for Trade funds.
4. Supports the concept of enforcement of existing rights under trade agreements, if necessary through dispute settlement mechanisms.
5. Supports and encourages the establishment and operation of national Aid for Trade committees in southern African countries.
6. Will actively manoeuvre to ensure the prioritization of agricultural issues in national Aid for Trade structures within a broader framework of agricultural development that includes Aid for Trade flows directly to private sector operators.

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7. Will work to develop and promote Aid for Trade initiatives that benefit farmers and agribusinesses by establishing its own functional structures.
8. Aims to act as a forum where farmers' inputs into national structures can be synchronised and dovetailed in the interests of harmonisation for regional efficiency.
9. Will seek to engage in regional Aid for Trade initiatives where these have a bearing on agriculture, especially on projects and initiatives with a trans-border nature.
10. Advocates that Aid for Trade interventions need to be properly sequenced and coordinated so that improvements in one area are not cancelled by bottlenecks in another.
11. Encourages the engagement of farmers with all participants in the agricultural value chains with the view to identifying market opportunities and developing synergies in Aid for Trade activities.

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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 :

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

For further information :

Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)  
P.O. Box 10480, Centurion 0046, South Africa  
Tel: +27 (0) 12 644 08 08 - Fax: + 27 (0) 12 644 83 86 - Email: [info@sacau.org](mailto:info@sacau.org)  
<http://www.sacau.org>