



Positions on Food Aid

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)ⁱ acknowledges the necessity for and benefits of Food Aid to augment the productive activities of southern African farmers in providing human relief in times when circumstances outside of their control lead to a shortage of food in the region to the extent that some people do not have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. However, it wishes to guard against the introduction of ill-timed and poorly targeted market-disrupting food aid. It also considers that Food Aid cannot be a replacement for the benefits that a long term food security strategy and related systems will provide.

The following are SACAU's policy positions on Food Aid:

SACAU,

1. Is of the view that food aid is simply a subset of food security and as such considers increased food production efficiently combined with food imports, reserves, and international trade as appropriate tools to strengthen the food security position of a country or the region.
2. Supports the reform of the Food Aid Convention (FAC) under the auspices of the International Grains Agreement. In particular, SACAU would like to see the emergence of a mechanism for food aid recipient countries to make their voices heard at Food Aid Committee meetings under the FAC.
3. In supporting its policy on reform of the FAC, SACAU encourages southern African governments to accede to the International Grains Agreement under the auspices of the International Grains Council. Kenya and South Africa are seen as examples of best practice in this regard.
4. Endorses the presence and inputs of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers to the FAO's Consultative Committee on Surplus Disposal (CSSD).
5. Concurs with the views expressed in the WTO by the LDC Group and the Africa Group that disciplines on food aid should not hinder the delivery of food aid to needy populations. However, it wishes at the same time that, by means of greater transparency in the objectives and management of food aid, food aid does not, advertently or inadvertently, abet dumping of food or encourage commercial displacement in recipient countries.

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6. Supports the concept of enforcement of existing rights under international food aid agencies, if necessary through the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO to which these bodies are linked.
7. While seeking the elimination of trade distorting agricultural export subsidies, promotes the view that countries providing trade distorting subsidies should be making a concomitantly greater contribution to food aid funding.
8. Seeks to constructively participate in ongoing food aid policy formulation processes within SADC and COMESA.
9. Endorses the practice of affording priority to regional stocks in sourcing of food aid.
10. Encourages the development of national policies and regulations to handle GMO grain.
11. Aims to act as a forum where farmers' contributions into national and multinational structures can be synchronised and dovetailed in the interests of harmonisation for national, regional and international efficiency in food aid provision.
12. Is convinced that appropriate application of development funding and aid for trade initiatives to bolster inputs supply and market access, including infrastructure development, will reduce the need for food aid as local farmers will be better placed to provide sufficient food.

ⁱ 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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