



REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PART 1: REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS AGM
PART 2: ANNUAL REPORT

Riverside Hotel & Conference Centre, Durban, South Africa, 17 April, 2009

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PART 1: REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

This report is a record of the proceedings of the AGM which was held in Windhoek, Namibia, on 8 April 2008.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES

a) SACAU Board members

Mr. Ajay Vashee – President
Mr. Doug Taylor Freeme – Vice President
Mrs. Fanny Makina – Vice President
Mr. Lourie Bosman – Board member
Mr. Silas Hungwe – Board member

b) Member organization representatives

i. Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM)

Mr. Abiel Banda
Mr. Prince Kapondamgaga

ii. National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)

Ms. Betty Chinyamunyamu
Mr. Themba Phiri

iii. Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)

Mr. Songowayo Zyambo
Mr. Jarvis Zimba

iv. Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU)

Mr. Silas Hungwe
Mr. Jabulani Gwaringa
Mr. Elimon Maponde
Mr. B. Mukwende
v. Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) (Zimbabwe)

Mr. Deon Theron
Mr. Hendrik Oliver

vi. Agri SA

Mr. Lourie Bosman
Mr. Hans van de Merwe
Mr. Johannes Möller

vii. National African Farmers Union (NAFU)

Mr. Motsepe Matlala
Mr. Molefe Mokoene

viii. Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU)

Mr. Raimar von Hase
Mr. Sakkie Coetzee

c) Apologies:

FEKRITAMA and CPM both from Madagascar

SACAU SECRETARIAT

Ishmael Sunga – Chief Executive Officer
Göran Forssen – Programme Officer Farmers
Organization Development
Benito Eliasi – Capacity Building Officer

OBSERVERS

Botswana Agricultural Union (BAU)

Phillip Fischer
Phillip Makgalemele

Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT)

Ms. Janet F Bitegeko

Apologies

Seychelles Farmers Association (SEYFA)

AGENDA

1. Welcome address
2. Opening remarks
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Report of previous AGM
5. Annual report
6. Financial report
7. Appointment of auditors
8. Membership fees
9. Membership applications
10. Election of office bearers
11. Country reports
12. Resolutions
13. Venue for next AGM
14. AOB

1. Welcome address

The NAU President, Mr. Raimar von Hase, welcomed the participants to Namibia. He observed that this was a special day and a privilege for NAU to host SACAU's AGM. He invited all participants to dinner of special traditional Namibian food, as well as to a study tour of Windhoek breweries. He wished everyone a happy and comfortable stay in Namibia.

2. Opening remarks

The President of SACAU, Mr. Ajay Vashee, called the meeting to order at 0930hrs and welcomed all the participants to the AGM. Apologies from FEKRITAMA and CPM of Madagascar who failed to get their travel visas for Namibia in time, as well as from the Seychelles Farmers Union who could not travel due to logistical problems, were recorded. The President explained that three Farmers Unions had applied for membership in SACAU and if endorsed by the AGM, SACAU will expand its representation to nine countries in the region. He also explained that SACAU is actively involved in the establishment of a national farmers' union in Lesotho and Swaziland, and hoped that these

new organizations would apply for membership in 2009 which will further increase SACAUs geographical coverage. He extended special welcome to the representatives of Botswana Agricultural Union and Tanzania Agricultural Council whose membership applications were before the AGM.

The President pointed out that SACAUs visibility and recognition further increased during 2007. The organization is now acknowledged by key-institutions such as World Bank, IFAD, and the EU and officially recognized by COMESA, SADC and NEPAD as their main policy dialogue partner on agricultural matters. Furthermore, SACAUs is working in close liaison with the other Regional Farmers Organizations in Western, Eastern and Central Africa on continental matters.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda outlined above was adopted by the AGM.

4. Report of previous AGM

Mr Sunga presented the report from the AGM held in April 2007. The 2007 AGM report was adopted with the following correction: Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU) did not attend the AGM and should not be included in the list of organizations that were present in the meeting.

On matters arising, Mr. Matlala (NAFU) asked if any follow-up had been made with NNFU regarding their cessation of membership in SACAUs. Mr. Vashee explained that informal discussions had been held but that NNFU has not expressed any formal request for re-joining SACAUs.

5. Annual report

Mr. Sunga presented the Annual Report for 2007 which was approved by the AGM. The following resolutions arising from the presentation were adopted:

a. SACAUs needs to continue strengthening strategic alliances and partnerships with other organizations, and to assist member organizations to get assistance from such organizations especially in the development of their policy recommendations and positions

- b. SACAUs needs to establish task force/working groups comprising of expertise from member organizations in its policy development work.
- c. Communication between the Secretariat and member organizations needs to improve in order to keep members informed about activities being carried out by SACAUs.
- d. SACAUs should increase the utilization of expertise in member organizations in carrying out some of its activities (e.g a review of taxation on agriculture in member countries).
- e. The Annual report should also reflect on progress made in addressing resolutions in the previous AGM.
- f. The Secretariat should give adequate notice period for meetings, workshops and other activities so that member organizations are able to attend.

The AGM noted that SACAUs was growing from strength to strength and congratulated the Secretariat for the good work.

6. Financial report (2007)

The AGM approved the financial report following its presentation by Mr. Sunga.

Considering the high dependency on donor funding, it was resolved that SACAUs should explore other possibilities/ opportunities for alternative funding mechanisms/ arrangements.

7. Appointment of auditors

Ashton CA (SA) Group was retained as auditors of SACAUs for 2008.

8. Membership fees for 2008

The AGM resolved that the membership fee for 2008 shall remain at US\$1,000.00.

9. Membership applications

The AGM endorsed applications by Tanzania Agriculture Union, Botswana Agriculture Union (BAU) and Seychelles Farmers Union (SYFA) and they became full members of SACAUs. The President welcomed the new members of SACAUs.

It was noted that Lesotho National Farmers' Union had been established with the support of SACAUs and that they would most likely apply for

membership in 2008. It was also acknowledged that SACAU was supporting the process of establishing a national farmers' union in Swaziland. Furthermore, it noted that an MOU had been signed with UNAC of Mozambique in which the organization will have observer status for one year.

10. Election of office bearers

The election was supervised by Mr. Sunga. After explaining the eligibility criteria and process, he conducted the elections. The following persons were elected to the SACAU Board by the AGM: Mr. Ajay Vashee (Zambia) – President
Mr. Doug Taylor-Freeme (Zimbabwe) – Vice President
Mrs. Fanny Makina (Malawi) – Vice President
Mr. Lourie Bosman (South Africa) – Board member
Mr. Mr. Raimar von Hase (Namibia) – Board member

In view of the low representation of smallholder farmers' organisations on the board, it was resolved that:

- a. The Board should co-opt an additional member from an organization representing smallholder farmers in 2008
- b. The board should review the constitution with the view to arriving at a more equal representation between small and large scale farmers on the board
- c. Clarity needs to be provided on when new membership effectively starts
- d. Need to clarify how many terms has the President served continuously in this capacity

11. Country reports

Country reports were presented by representatives from the different member countries. In countries with more than one member, joint reports were presented. Reports were presented by the following countries: Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

The following resolutions were adopted following the presentations of country reports:

- a. SACAU should develop common positions on the following issues:
 - Increased food prices

- Security of land tenure
 - Government spending in agriculture
 - HIV and AIDS as related to agriculture
- b. SACAU should assess different methods for building capacity of new entrants into agriculture and identify best practice.
 - c. SACAU should explore opportunities for creating a critical mass of farmers for marketing in Southern Africa.
 - d. SACAU should assess different loan/ input schemes and opportunities for farmers to get access to agriculture finance.
 - e. SACAU should embark on a programme of educating consumers about the reason to increased food prices.
 - f. The SACAU Secretariat should develop a generic format that can be used for the presentation of country reports.

12. Resolutions

The AGM participants were provided with proposals for resolutions emanating from previous workshops on EPA's, Bio-fuel, statutory levies and CAADP. The AGM resolved that these still needed to be repackaging before adoption and tasked the Secretariat to address this issue.

13. Venue for next AGM

The meeting resolved that next AGM would be jointly hosted by FEKRITAMA and CPM in Madagascar

14. Any other business

The AGM recorded its appreciation to the outgoing Board member, Mr. Silas Hungwe, and thanked him for his dedicated and long service to SACAU. The AGM mandated the Board to organize an appropriate present for him in recognition of his contribution to SACAU.

The AGM gratefully acknowledged funding support from the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC), the French Embassy, ComMark Trust/DFID and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 17:45hrs

PART 2: ANNUAL REPORT (2008)

1. Introduction

This report highlights some of the main activities of SACAU for the year 2008. These activities were undertaken within the framework of SACAU's strategic goals and in fulfillment of AGM resolutions.

2. Governance

As indicated in the section above, the AGM for the year 2007 was held in Namibia in April 2008. Among other business, the AGM approved the audited financial statements, and elected a new board.

Four Board meetings were held in 2008. Among key decisions/approvals made by the Board were the following:

- a. an external evaluation of SACAU which was undertaken in the last quarter of 2008
- b. the co-option of a representative of FEKRITAMA on the SACAU Board in accordance with the AGM resolution
- c. the establishment of a development wing/ special purpose vehicle as a funding mechanism for SACAU in pursuance of the AGM resolution
- d. recruitments, contract extensions and other staff-related matters
- e. the recruitment of a more qualified and experienced accounts and administration officer
- f. involvement in the establishment of a pan-African farmers platform
- g. the opening of separate bank accounts for large projects
- h. projects proposals and related contracts
- i. financial and activity reports

An interim financial audit was undertaken by external auditors. Finally, an external financial audit for the year 2008 was undertaken, and the audited financial statements are presented separately.

3. Membership

Three new members, namely Botswana Agricultural Union (BAU), Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) and Seychelles Farmers Association (SEYFA), were officially admitted into

SACAU in April 2008. This brought SACAU's membership to 13 national farmers' organisations in 10 countries. In addition, SACAU has an MOU with UNAC of Mozambique. Finally, membership application from Lesotho National Farmers' Union (LENAFU) was provisionally accepted by the Board. All these developments demonstrate the credibility with which SACAU is viewed.

4. Capacity building support

Capacity building support was mainly directed towards the following areas:

- a. The development of the Rice Association (Madagascar), the Livestock Association (Malawi) and Cotton Associations (Malawi and Zambia)
- b. The establishment of the Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU) and the Swaziland Farmers Association
- c. The participation of FOs in Malawi and Zambia to participate in standards setting processes
- d. Workshop on "strengthening the capacity of farmer organisations to respond to trends in agriculture markets"
- e. SACAU evaluation workshop

5. Policy development initiatives

Policy development activities focused on the following areas:

- a. Bio-fuels
- b. Economic Partnership Agreements
- c. Aid-for-Trade

In each case a discussion paper was commissioned, followed by a workshop to discuss the paper and to develop SACAU's draft policy position/key messages for consideration by the AGM.

6. Engagement at regional & international levels

SACAU continued its involvement with SADC, COMESA and NEPAD/CAADP on regional policies and programmes. Examples of such engagement include:

- a. Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) meetings, including Pillar II Expert Reference Group.
- b. Involvement in the following SADC committees: Promotion of livestock integration (PRINT), agricultural research grants (FIRCOP), plant protection, livestock and

working group on the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP).

- c. Steering committee of ReSAKSS (regional strategic analysis and knowledge support system)

In addition, SACAU participated on a number of important high level discussions, including the World Bank panel discussion on the rising food prices, the official launch of World Bank's World Development Report, and the EU/CTA development briefings on Climate Change and other issues.

Finally, the organization continued to support the participation of Southern Africa in international standards setting bodies (Codex, IPPC and OIE) and the WTO SPS Committee. In total, 53 delegates from 11 countries attended 9 meetings during the year

7. Cooperation with other farmers' organisations

SACAU actively consolidated its partnerships with the three regional farmers' organisations in Africa (ROPPA, PROPAC & EAFF). This mainly focused on the development of a funding proposal for FOs in Africa which was approved by the EU.

The organization is part of the steering committee of representatives from the regional farmers organization that is working on the establishment of a pan-African platform of farmers' organisations. Other areas of collaboration include ensuring the prominence of agriculture on the political and development agenda at continental and international levels.

Finally, SACAU developed a draft MOU with IFAP which is aimed at formalizing existing cooperation on general global issues affecting agriculture.

8. Resource mobilisation

The organization managed to record significant success in resource mobilization as follows:

- a. SCC funding for the external review/evaluation
- b. Approval of a one-year (2009) extension of SCC funding.

- c. Agricornord funding for a project titled "Fair deal in cotton contract farming".

- d. Approval of French Embassy funding for SACAU's Policy Conference and the development of policy positions on Food Aid and Climate Change

- e. FAO funding for Workshop on "strengthening the capacity of farmer organisations to respond to trends in agriculture markets"

- f. Approval of EC/IFAD funding for FOs in Africa. Funding will be divided between ROPPA, PROPAC, EAFF and SACAU

- g. Negotiations with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a four year project nearing conclusion.

9. 2007 resolutions

The resolutions adopted by the last AGM are indicated under items 5, 6, 10, 11 & 12 of the AGM report above (PART 1). Some of the resolutions were implemented as follows: a) it was clarified that Mr Vashee was currently serving his sixth and last consecutive term as President of SACAU, b) FEKRITAMA was coopted onto the Board of SACAU, and c) a Board decision to establish a special purpose vehicle as a funding mechanism for SACAU was being pursued through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funding proposal. The rest of the resolutions were not implemented due to resource constraints and have been carried forward into next year's work programme.

10. External review/evaluation

An external evaluation of SACAU which was jointly commissioned by SCC and SACAU was undertaken during the last quarter of 2008. The evaluation focused on a review of the lessons learned and the future organizational development of SACAU. The evaluation concluded that SACAU was now established as a recognized regional organization representing national farmers unions in Southern Africa, and that it had contributed substantially to strengthening the voice of large and small scale farmers vis-à-vis governments and other stakeholders to promote the well-being of farmers and the development of agriculture in the region. The organization provides a platform through which appropriate information can be channeled to farmer-leaders in the region,

experiences can be shared and capacity building can be facilitated.

The evaluation put forward a number of recommendations, including the following areas:

- a. SACAU should focus on three strategic areas, namely:
 - provision of information to members and stakeholders
 - strengthening organisational capacity of farmer organisations
 - influencing public policy (lobbying and advocacy).
- b. The current strategic framework needs to be updated to reflect the above orientations
- c. A comprehensive 5-year programme to support the new strategic framework needs to be developed, together with an appropriate performance management and measurement framework encompassing both regional and national elements.
- d. The need to shift from project funding to a programme-based approach which is associated with core funding.
- e. Strengthening SACAU's organizational sustainability, including the strengthening of national FOs and their outreach to farmers.
- f. The need to support FOs to mobilize more membership.
- g. Strengthening linkages between the regional and national involvement on lobbying and advocacy
- h. The need for capacity development approaches that focuses on transformation, change of mindsets and long term investments, and the need for a comprehensive approach to capacity development and organizational strengthening
- i. Supporting national FOs to mainstream debates on key issues in their organisations in lower level structures
- j. The need to form strategic alliances with specialized agencies in gearing gender, environment and HIV/AIDS to the realities of FOs
- k. Strengthening the entire secretariat and reducing dependency on the CEO

The Board's response to these recommendations will be presented and discussed at the AGM.

11. Conclusion

The external evaluation of SACAU confirmed that SACAU has managed to position itself as a credible organization representing farmers in South Africa. The on three areas recommended by the evaluation (i.e information, FO capacity development and influencing public policy) will sharpen the focus of SACAU and increase its impact. In deed, the revision of the current strategy to reflect this sharper focus, as well as the formulation of a comprehensive programme, will take the organization to the next phase of its life cycle.

Key elements of a growth strategy will include retaining existing membership and attracting additional members, as well as the development of more secure and predictable funding through the development of programme funding arrangements and the establishment of a special funding vehicle. Furthermore, strengthening the consultation processes on key issues, good governance, as well as meeting the expectations of our key stakeholders and partners will be critical in this next development phase. Last but not least, the capacity of the Secretariat will need to be re-aligned to the new and more challenging demands.

12. Acknowledgements

SACAU wishes to acknowledge financial support from the following:

- Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC)
- DFID/ComMark Trust
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- French Embassy/Government
- Agricord
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- European Commission (EC)