

# SACAU News

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIONS



Trade issues put under the spotlight



LENAFU takes rangeland and water management policy to farmers



Farmer of the month

## Annual General Meeting & Annual Conference

This year the biggest annual gathering of farmers of southern Africa will be held from 14 to 16 May 2018 in Zimbabwe. The venue will be the Kingdom Hotel in the holiday resort town of Victoria Falls. The occasion will be SACAU's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Conference, which are the most important events in the organisation's annual calendar. The events will be co-hosted by the Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) and the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union (ZFU) who are SACAU's members from Zimbabwe.

The AGM will be held on 16 May. It is a meeting of members, and is the highest governance authority of the organisation. Delegates include the top leadership (Presidents and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)) of member organisations and their delegations, and the Board and Secretariat. This is a members-only meeting which will not be open to members of the public.

**Annual Conference**  
 "Trade as a driver for agricultural transformation in southern Africa"  
 14th -15th May 2018  
 The Kingdom hotel  
 Victoria Falls  
 Zimbabwe

The agenda of the meeting is packed. Dr Theo de Jager, the current President, will present his last Chairman's report as he will be retiring from the Board at this meeting. Apart from consideration of the minutes of the previous AGM and audited annual financial statements, the meeting is expected to confirm the new Chairman/President as well as elect a new Vice

Chairman/Vice President and an ordinary Board member. Furthermore, the meeting will appoint new auditors, confirm the membership fees for the current year, consider proposals for constitutional amendments, and resolutions pertaining to honorary membership and policy propositions.

And the Annual Conference...  
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The AGM will be preceded by the Annual Conference, which will be held on 14 and 15 May. It will be held at the same venue, the Kingdom Hotel in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The theme of the conference is “Trade as driver for agricultural transformation in southern Africa”, and as already indicated will be

co-hosted with CFU and ZFU. The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe has been invited to officially open the conference.

The conference is primarily a gathering of the top leadership

(CEOs and Presidents/ Chairmen) of 20 national farmer’s associations/unions from 14 countries in southern Africa and their delegations. In addition, it brings together policy-makers, agribusiness leaders, development partners and other stakeholders from the southern African region and beyond. Representatives of four regional farmers’ organisations in Africa, and of African Union Commission (AUC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), The New Partnership for Africa’s Development Agency

(NEPAD) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) have also been invited. All in all, more than 90 conference delegates are expected.

The conference also provides stakeholders with excellent branding opportunities, as well as a single platform on which to communicate to and interact with farmer leaders as well as key agricultural players in the region.

A sponsored gala dinner will be held on the evening of 14 May to which all conference delegates are invited.

CEO’s Letter



By Ishmael Sunga

The moment we have been waiting for has finally arrived, and all roads will be leading to the majestic Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, one of the seven wonders of the world! The occasion will of course be our Annual General Meeting and

Annual Conference, which will be held from 14 to 16 May.

This is a busy and exciting month for us, as we make sure that it is all systems go in this penultimate month. The process leading to the AGM event itself is quite involving,

comprising of several technical and procedural governance processes that need to be complied with within specific time regimes. Our company secretary plays a leading advisory role in this regard.

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These processes include preparation of annual financial statements and the external audit, Board meetings to prepare the official notice and agenda for the meeting, as well as to initiate the nomination processes, among others. At SACAU, every year is an election year as at least two Board members have to step down by rotation, and the process can be elaborate and complicated often involving several iterations.

The Annual Conference

itself is no less involving, starting with the conference concept once the theme has been confirmed, and followed by several iterations of programme versions, identification and negotiations with speakers and resource persons, and of course inviting a high-level dignitary for the official opening. This year we have invited the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe to grace this occasion and we are hopeful this will be honoured.

The logistics of bringing together close to 100 member

and stakeholder delegates for the two events, and the related arrangements with service providers and resource persons can be a daunting task. But my Secretariat is always up to the challenge and ensures that everything flows like clockwork.

We are excited and are really looking forward to hosting you at the smoke that thunders!

Trade issues put under the spotlight



With our upcoming Annual Conference in May, trade issues will be put under the spotlight. The theme of the conference is “Trade as a driver for agricultural transformation in southern Africa”.

Delegates will get an overview of trade agreements impacting on agricultural development in

southern Africa which will amongst others highlight the rules, regulations and key processes within which trade happens at the global and continental levels and between countries. A presentation based on a paper that was commissioned in 2017 will provide a background to these agreements. This will

be followed by more in-depth discussions of the different types of existing frameworks, agreements and some key elements within which are considered critical.

Furthermore, concerns with current trade practices and arrangements will be highlighted, with case studies

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in certain areas provided. More specifically, this will look at the controversies and issues around trade arrangements and practices and the extent to which they hinder prospects of agricultural transformation. Areas to be highlighted include unfair trade practices such as dumping, the

influence of standards on producers' participation in global value chains, and the effects of food and agricultural imports/export bans on producers and other value chain actors.

The conference will conclude by identifying and discussing key elements to consider in pursuing a trade-driven agricultural

transformation agenda. These elements are among others, trade related infrastructure, trade policy, competitiveness, skills, and agro-industrialisation in the region. Appropriate entry points and key role players as well as expectations of the role players will be identified.

## Many practices can be CSA somewhere, but none are likely CSA everywhere



Dr Bruce Campbell of CCAFS sharing what climate smart agriculture is at the sensitisation workshop

Climate change continues to threaten agriculture, food security and income generation, particularly for agriculture-dependant households, leading to increased calls to develop resilient food production systems. To this end, African countries have made commitments through the Malabo Declaration, Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) and Paris Climate Agreement, among others, to promote the uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). However, despite the CSA concept gaining considerable traction, the uptake of CSA innovations has not matched the ambitions of many sub-Saharan African countries. One of the major underlying causes is the divergent views

on the CSA concept itself among policy makers and other stakeholders, including farmers themselves. The major contention relates to the identification of practices and technologies that are considered 'smart'. Is it possible to draw a line between 'climate smart' and 'non-climate smart practices'?

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During a workshop hosted by SACAU to sensitise members on CSA from 5 to 6 April 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa, it emerged from discussions with a number of resource persons that 'climate smartness' is context specific. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution to the different climate change

issues anywhere around the globe. From the broad menu of different practices, programmes and policies available, it is incumbent upon each country to identify suitable CSA practices for different specific locations. This can only be achieved by involving relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process to contribute their expert knowledge

and allow the process to consider their conflicting views and interests. With the involvement of farmers, such consultative processes should consider the feasibility, environmental and adaptation benefits of all possible interventions, as well as the social and economic aspects they are likely to bring for a particular location.

## New funding agreement signed with We Effect

SACAU recently signed a five-year funding agreement with We Effect, its longest development partner. The agreement is for the period 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2022. The funding will provide support towards the implementation of SACAU's Strategic Framework and the associated Operational Plan (OP). This contribution forms part of the We Effect "Equality First: Civil Society for Sustainable Rural Development – Zimbabwe" Sida Civsam Sub-Programme. The agreement also provides for technical support during implementation.

We Effect was instrumental in the establishment of the Secretariat and has over the years continued to provide core support to the organisation, amongst others. Through this support, SACAU managed to strengthen its position as one of the key players in agricultural development in the region and beyond. The organisation also managed to build and strengthen its service delivery capabilities to members and stakeholders, and to mobilise and successfully manage much more development support from a range of partners. In addition, the organisation started

implementing initiatives that will enhance its long-term sustainability. We wish to extend our gratitude to We Effect and look forward to a fruitful collaboration over the next five years. The support will enable us to continue delivering against our strategy and be of service to our members and stakeholders.

# LENAFU takes rangeland and water management policy to farmers



In recognition of the significant contribution of rangeland and water resources to the livelihood of farmers in Lesotho, the Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU) embarked on an exercise of sensitising farmers on the importance of sustainably managing these resources. It is common knowledge that the wealth of the Basotho people is rooted in the rearing and ownership of livestock which depends entirely on rangelands. In addition, rangelands are also important regionally and globally as they are a major catchment of clean water. In Lesotho, concerns have been raised that rangelands are under severe stress and are rapidly losing productive and fertile soils, posing a threat to the majority of livestock and crop farmers. In 2014, the Government of Lesotho formulated a National Range Resources Management Policy whose goal is to attain

sustainable development and management of rangeland resources for an enhanced biodiversity, optimum productivity and improved livelihoods of the people of Lesotho. The implementation of the policy has encountered challenges, and to identify the bottlenecks, LENAFU with support from the IFAD funded program, Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa, conducted an analysis of the policy in 2017.

One of the major challenges identified was the limited involvement of the farming communities in the implementation of the policy. The analysis revealed that though the policy has good intentions to reduce degradation of range and water resources, it did not provide adequate tools for farmers to effectively get involved in its implementation. Consequently, a recommendation to promote integrated planning for

sustainable management of range resources was made. Community councils were also advised to extend their administrative powers down to village level where chiefs will remain as an administrative arm in the implementation of policy recommendations. The analysis also recommended that power to manage rangeland resources be delegated to farmers and that grazing associations should legally be empowered to make decisions in managing range and water resources.

During a SFOAP review that took place on 21 April 2018, LENAFU mentioned that through its structures they embarked on sensitising farmers on their roles and discussing with them how they can strengthen their local structures to play those roles. In addition, LENAFU has also consulted with various stakeholders in the management of rangeland and

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water resources with the aim of creating partnerships that will improve the participation of farmers in managing the

resources. It is expected that with full involvement of farmers and partnerships with other stakeholders, some of the challenges the

country is facing with regard to degradation of rangelands will be addressed.

# Agricultural transformation under climate change: Realising opportunities for action



A milestone achievement was reached at COP23, where Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reached an agreement on agriculture to address climate change and food security. From a negotiation process that has lasted more than six years, this was the first decision in the history of the UNFCCC on agriculture that led to the establishment of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA). The KJWA initiative envisions the UNFCCC's technical and implementation bodies working together to develop and implement new strategies for adaptation and mitigation that will help reduce emissions from agriculture as well as build the sector's resilience against the effects of climate change. To ensure food

security, adapt to climate change impacts, and achieve the 20°C greenhouse gas emissions target, a transformation in the agricultural sector is imperative. The KJWA can play a crucial role in supporting countries to achieve these targets. However, the initial question that arises from this initiative is: "What are the challenges for implementation, and how can they be overcome?"

In attempting to answer this question, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), in collaboration with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), will be hosting a side event at the 48th Session

of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies in Bonn, Germany on 30 April 2018 to discuss the fundamentals for realising agricultural transformation under climate change. Specifically, this side event will identify the key role players, priority actions, and best practices to overcome implementation challenges and accelerate agricultural transformation, taking cognisance of other commitments such as the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The event is expected to attract interest from national negotiators and government representatives; civil society; non-governmental organisations; private sector; international organisations, and donors.



# FARMER OF THE MONTH Ngabaghila Chatata

Mrs Ngabaghila Chatata is one of the leading horticulturist in Malawi growing high value vegetables. Operating in Likuni, about 20km outside the capital Lilongwe, Ngaba, as she is affectionately known, started farming in 2012 on a part time basis when she co-founded Thanthwe Enterprises, trading as Thanthwe Farms. This move was motivated by her desire to contribute to the Malawi food basket and inspire others to consider farming as a viable business. She is the Managing Director of the business which she owns with her husband.

Thanthwe is an innovative agribusiness venture specialising in horticulture, livestock, agritourism and business incubation (business plan/proposal development, farm business rollout, training hosting and facilitation, and research collaboration). Thanthwe also supplies greenhouses. The farm produces about 100 tons of vegetables including sweet peppers, sweet melons, tomatoes, cucumber and mushrooms per annum. The farm currently supplies the local market, targeting five-star hotels and supermarkets. Recently Thanthwe has partnered with Mothers Choice and opened an outlet for meat, fruit and vegetables under the name Daily Fresh.

Ngaba left fulltime employment in 2015 to focus entirely on the farm. Since then, the business has been registering growth and will soon be supplying export markets as it continues to expand. The farm, which produces under a greenhouse and open field, also hosts students for practical training or internships to make them employable. As part of the

agritourism business, the farm hosts learning tours for a minimum of 300 visitors annually who include aspiring farmers, students and researchers at a fee. The business also runs an outgrower scheme reaching out to 100 neighboring smallholder farmers who are supported with capacity building on farming technologies and farm inputs.

As she did not have an agricultural background when she started farming,

National Coordinator for Water and Environmental Sanitation Network for six years and as Programme Coordinator with ActionAid for four years.

Her life purpose is to inspire the youth and women to take up agriculture as a business and contribute to the transformation of communities surrounding them.

Ngaba has received recognition for her work in farming in and outside Malawi. In 2017, she received the Best Small Medium Enterprise Award from the Small Medium Enterprise Development in Malawi and the Outstanding Lead Farmer Award from the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RURORUM). She is also a recipient of the Market and Business Linkage grant from the African Development Bank.

Her involvement in agriculture is beyond her farm. She is the current President of Lilongwe Horticultural Farmers' Cooperative Ltd (HOFACOL) played an instrumental role in its establishment, Vice Secretary of Commercial Farmers Cooperative and a member of Farmers' Union of Malawi's (FUM) Committee on Agribusiness and Marketing and Council (representing the horticulture sector). She is also an Alumni of the African Women Entrepreneurship Programme (AWEP) and a member of African Agribusiness Academy as well as Women Creating Wealth of the Graca Machel Trust.

Ngaba learned about farming from other farmers and by doing research on the internet, and by actually "doing". She attributes her success to openness to learning, reaching out for knowledge and enthusiasm. Her advice to those who want to take up farming is "be focused, pursue your dream and always seek knowledge. Take ownership for failure and pursue solutions".

She holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences in Sociology, and worked as



## Mission

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

## Values

- SACAU is founded on the following values and principles:
- Consultation • Transparency
  - Accountability • Honesty and integrity
  - Objectivity • Impartiality • Professionalism
  - Non-discriminatory
  - Independence
  - Subsidiarity and complementarity
  - Political neutrality

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