

## SACAU attends the 2016 African Green Revolution Forum

SACAU participated in the sixth African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) which was held from 5th to 9th September 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. SACAU is a co-organiser of the AGRF; a multi-stakeholder forum that brings together a diverse range of influential leaders and change agents from across the African agricultural landscape and around the world. An encouraging consideration at the forum was the emphasis on scaling up successes in order to transform African agriculture. This resonated well with the 2016 theme “Seize the Moment: Securing Africa’s Rise through Agricultural Transformation”.

One of the highlights for SACAU was the participation of the CEO, Mr Ishmael Sunga, at the Ministerial Roundtable where he shared some of the organisation’s commitments and how it is positioning itself in the agricultural transformation agenda.



SACAU CEO Mr Ishmael Sunga

Commitments delivered by Mr Sunga were signing up half a million farmers per year on a digital platform to enable them to access value-added services and for them to aggregate and have the “muscle” to do business with others as well as signing up one million young business farmers on a virtual digital platform. This was over and above the establishment of a Development Fund which will make up to 20,000 agribusiness opportunities available for young farmers.

SACAU also co-hosted a side event titled “Data Revolution: Enabling Smallholder Farmers through ICT Innovations” which

sought to understand when and how digital platforms can be relevant to smallholder farmers as well as to identify “do’s and don’ts” when establishing platforms for smallholder farmers. SACAU was also a speaker at this side-event and shared some of the experiences from work done in this area. Mr Sunga remarked that ICT is going to leapfrog Africa and pointed out the need to harness innovations to increase scale as one of the answers to the “double squeeze” of high inputs costs and low output prices that farmers, particularly smallholders, face. Some of the interesting points in

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## SACAU attends the 2016 African Green Revolution Forum

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the session were from Ms Sara Menker, Founder and CEO of Gro Intelligence; wherein she explained that Africa is now where the United States was in the 1930s, however with technology, Africa does not have to follow this trajectory. Mr Uziel Zontag, Co-founder/ Director of AgriLift Rwanda emphasised the importance of knowing the sizes of

farmers' plots and he noted that in Africa, more than 70% of farmers do not know the size of their plots. "We need to know what is grown in the plots. Agriculture is a spatial issue", he said.

The 2016 AGRF which brought together more than 1500 delegates including global business leaders; African Heads of State; ministers; farmers organisations; private

agribusiness firms, and financial institutions provided great networking opportunities. Through this, SACAU made good contacts, particularly around the application of ICT in agriculture, some of which have already translated into collaboration arrangements.

For decisions and commitments from the event, please refer to the AGRF communique on page 10.



by Ishmael Sunga

September has been a busy month for the secretariat and for just about everyone else I'd imagine! We co-hosted events with three of our partners on home ground, in Nairobi and in the heart of Mozambique; Maputo. The first was the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in which we are a knowledge partner, followed by the launch of the new southern Africa flagship project on climate resilient solutions with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). This coincided with the annual convening of the Southern African Cotton Producers Association (SACPA), our regional cotton platform which was co-hosted by Forum Nacional dos Produtores de Algodao (FONPA) and We Effect. We rounded off the month with a regional training workshop for women

entrepreneurs, which was well attended by women farmers from our members. A common thread in these events was 'collaboration' and 'scaling-up success'.

Going into the new month, after such an eventful September, we find ourselves rather energised-with a renewed sense of optimism to carry us through the next few months. Having engaged with a number of partners in the collaborative efforts we've been working on, this has given us a sound opportunity to reflect on what we can achieve through leveraging on each other's strengths to unlock the power of working together. Partnerships are good engines for innovation- we know that two heads are better than one, but it's worthwhile to look at just some of key lessons which; as you read through the newsletter, underpin some of the positive efforts we are able to share with you. Start by setting the right goal- this can be a

powerful unifying tool and having the right people working with you will see expectations being met and consequently, the goal being achieved. While each party's motivation may vary, the shared goal creates a valuable opportunity to innovate- and this is where things get interesting! Having clear expectations is also crucial- people don't read minds! Consistently communicating and expressing your expectations will save you a lot of frustration and ensure that the interests of those who are accountable to you are guarded. Lastly, remember that success tastes best when it's shared, so pay homage!

With that, I would like to thank all of our partners, who are essentially our friends; who have worked painstakingly with us over these past few weeks to formulate, strategise and put in place plans for the very exciting future we see with you all!



Delegates attending the CTA/SACAU inception meeting and working session.

## Climate-smart agriculture is the solution to climate resilience

Climate change still remains a critical challenge to livestock and cereal farmers in southern Africa. Stress-tolerant germplasms, ICT-enabled climate information services, diversified livestock-based livelihoods and weather-based insurance were identified as solutions which cereal and livestock farmers can adopt to make the transition to climate-resilient agriculture.

These solutions were discussed at a regional meeting held on 13th - 16th September, 2016 at the Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

This meeting was organised by the ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), in partnership with the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Union (SACAU) and other stakeholders to launch a project that seeks to promote climate-resilient cereal and livestock farming in southern Africa.

The purpose of this regional meeting was to build partnerships and synergies with stakeholders in the implementation of the flagship project and for technical validation of the proposed scaling up-strategy.

SACAU Chairman Dr Theo de Jager spoke about the negative impact of climate change on farmers' productivity in southern Africa. "Farmers are more vulnerable to climate change and they suffer first, so it is extremely important for farmers to take the lead in the debate of climate smart agriculture," said Dr de Jager.

"There is a need for fundamental rapid change and a revolution in terms of how we do agriculture in Africa," he said. "If we don't do it ourselves, nature will do it for us."

This was a highly interactive meeting attended by various organisations which are active in the area of climate change management and climate – smart agriculture.

The meeting explored the four

areas which CTA's flagship project for southern Africa has identified as strategic areas of focus, i.e. ICT-enabled climate information services, stress-tolerant germplasms, diversified livestock-based livelihoods and weather-based insurance.

### ICT-enabled climate information services

ICT plays a critical role in driving key actions to create awareness surrounding the area of climate change management in addition to assisting with mitigation, monitoring and adaptation to climate change in Southern Africa. ICT-enabled climate information services are designed to provide real time information to farmers which empowers them and improves their decision making capacity.

The participants highlighted key gaps in ICT and what measures can be taken by farmers in order to utilise ICT platforms. These gaps include limited infrastructure

to capture data; misalignment of information coming from different existing sources; interpretation of available information and practical application thereof by farmers; limited documentation of past experiences and success stories to inform future actions; monopolisation of data by 'powerful' persons; and lack of support services provided to farmers in this field.

ICT systems or platforms are costly to establish and maintain. The key priorities raised by the participants were that farmers need to be educated on the use of ICT platforms and that stakeholders need to invest in ICT infrastructure in order to address the effects of climate change.

**Stress-tolerant germplasms**

Stress-tolerant germplasms refer to genetically improved varieties that have been developed to withstand heat, moisture and disease. These varieties enable farmers to produce food crops in hostile environmental conditions.

The need for upscaling the production and availability of stress-tolerant seed varieties was noted and this was discussed alongside the opportunity which exists in the liberalisation of seed movement from country to country, another gap which was cited.

Developing partnerships with the private sector can be a great opportunity for the dissemination of new seed varieties. Creating awareness amongst farmers' can give them the knowledge and capacity to adapt to climate change, i.e. involving farmers in the process of developing new seed varieties creates familiarity and promotes improved understanding and possibly, uptake.

**Diversified livestock-based livelihoods**

The objective of diversification is to reduce farmers' reliance on a single commodity and to help them to spread their production risk, i.e. diversifying to a second commodity which can either be livestock or another crop. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)



The EU's Mr Bart van Uythem

has implemented programmes with both a diversification and an intensification focus in the southern Africa region. ILRI's work in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector is already informing research, policy and education in the region.

The ongoing drought has caused a lot of challenges in the 2015/16 season such as food insecurity, low incomes, inadequate and poor quality grazing for livestock. Considerable livestock losses have been reported across the region, with an estimate of 630 000 cattle deaths recorded in the 2015/16 El Niño induced drought.

Engaging the private sector can be a great opportunity to create partnerships that will promote education and distribution of research on livestock. Diversification of livestock can provide access to information on crop and livestock production and market participation.

**Innovative**

**weather-based insurance**

Weather based insurance is designed to protect farmers against shocks emanating from adverse weather patterns and conditions in any one season.

Low levels of awareness on the knowledge and understanding of

weather-based insurance products were identified.

In expanding the availability of weather-based insurance, service providers need to use innovative approaches to sell the insurance as part of a product offering for farmers.

**Engaging the private sector in scaling up climate smart agricultural solutions**

Engaging the private sector was another topic that was discussed by participants at the workshop. The private sector plays a critical role in agricultural value chains and it has the ability to provide a strong link to the market place. Engaging the private sector in agriculture can be a major source of income in the form of grant funds coming possibly from corporate social responsibility funds. Partnerships with the private sector have potential benefits as well as risks, so they should only be entered when these are clear on all sides. The emerging opportunities to engage the private sector were identified as weather insurance (as part of a bundle of services for farmers), ICT-based information services like weather linked to mobile service providers, in livestock research as well as for dissemination of new seed varieties.



SACAU visits cooperative, TAMBATRA in Madagascar.

# Madagascan farmers reap rewards of cooperatives

SACAU, through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) funded Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Program (SFOAP), is providing assistance to farmers in the Bungolava region of Madagascar to get organised into cooperatives. The program which is in its third year is being implemented in collaboration with the Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM). SACAU's Capacity Development Officer, Mr Benito Eliasi visited Madagascar and interacted with some members of the newly established cooperatives in September.

Progress is impressive considering the increased levels of understanding on how cooperatives operate by farmers in the region. "One can observe that farmers have increased their understanding on the basic principles of cooperatives as to where it was three years ago when the project was initiated" said Mr Eliasi. It is pleasing to note that; farmers in the region have now bought the idea of working in cooperatives and are able to appreciate the changes

cooperatives have made in their productivity and profitability as farmers. One farmer mentioned that he was able to produce three tons of maize in one hectare through the support and services he has received from his local cooperative.

Prior to 2014, farmers in this region worked individually and were experiencing difficulties in accessing inputs for maize production as well as better markets for their produce. Now through working in cooperatives, these services are relatively easily accessible. Farmers are now able to aggregate produce and negotiate for better prices. In addition, farmers are able to participate in the setting of minimum maize prices through the "Regional Maize Producers Platform" of which they are members. The platform is also responsible for allocating markets for different maize buyers. Ms Vonimanitra Maxima, CPM Projects Officer, indicated that for this year; farmers are expected to supply maize to a Mauritian animal feed manufacturing company. This is the first time

farmers will be selling their produce to such a big buyer.

One of the female farmers who is the treasurer of TAMBATRA Cooperative told Mr Eliasi that she is now able to comfortably pay school fees for her children as well as buy basics for her household which was difficult before the project.

Through cooperatives, farmers are also learning modern practices of cultivating maize and they are using improved seed varieties. Through collaboration with a number of stakeholders in the region farmers are able to get advice on the production of maize and the project has also linked them to input suppliers.

For a country like Madagascar where the majority of farmers are subsistence, the support to facilitate organising farmers into structures such as cooperatives has the potential of increasing productivity and profitability of farming. It is anticipated that the experiences gained under this project will be scaled-up in other areas in the country.

# Cotton Producers Hope to Cash in on Cotton

Following a difficult start to the year, households engaging in agricultural production across the region have struggled to grow sufficient yields in staple as well as cash crops at the same levels seen last season. A hostile climate, the limited reach of extension services and inadequate availability and supply of inputs were some of the key challenges cited by cotton producer associations at the 2016 annual Southern African Cotton Producers Association (SACPA) meeting.

SACPA convened in Maputo, Mozambique from 12th to 14th September 2016 for their annual meeting which was co-hosted by Forum Nacional dos Produtores de Algodao (FONPA) along with SACA, supported by SACA's development partner, We Effect. The multi-stakeholder platform has eight members across the region, namely the Cotton Farmers Association of Malawi (COFAM), ODER Sofia of Madagascar, Sembulelo Sakotini Farmers Association of Swaziland, Zimbabwe Cotton Producers Association (ZCPA), Cotton Association of Zambia (CAZ), Cotton SA and the Tanzania Cotton Growers Association (TACOGA).

In addition to receiving country updates from members and learning about the development of the cotton sector in Mozambique, the meeting explored the formulation of pricing models and elements which are applied. In understanding what is working well in member countries, cotton producers could collectively work towards overcoming some of the perennial challenges the cotton sector in southern Africa is experiencing through peer-learning and experience sharing.

The meeting was officially opened by the Mozambique Cotton Institute (IAM), in the Ministry of Agriculture



Members of SACPA at their annual meeting in Maputo.

and Food Security; an institution which oversees the cotton sub-sector in the country. Cotton is a strategic cash crop which is a source of income for about 160,000 farming families in Mozambique and while the meeting was held in the capital city, the major cotton producing areas where the crop is primarily grown are in the central and northern region. FONPA President, Mr Jose Domingos, celebrated the work that the Ministry is doing to support his organisation and encouraged better cooperation and communication between the government and themselves.

A field trip was organised to Umbeluzi Agrarian Station, a branch of the Mozambique Agrarian Research Institute and to Beluluane Industrial Park. Delegates were taken through various fields of crops planted using improved varieties, which were selected to breed higher yields of better quality crops in terms of nutrition as well as resistance to pests and adverse climatic conditions. The use of conservation agriculture (CA) by the local farmers at the Institute was also hailed in the context of climate change management, with horticultural fields mulched appropriately. Delegates were especially interested in how horticultural research was being carried out and expressed interest in exploring other types of farming activities in the down time from

growing cotton.

A partnership between the government of Mozambique and the private sector partner Chiefton Mozambique has seen this Free Zone being developed, which is set to become the premier location of southern Africa for export-orientated and general industrial and manufacturing businesses, including the textile industry.

The impact of climate variability, persistently high temperatures and delayed rains were common characteristics of the country presentations which were shared. The associations shared tools and actions which they adopted over the past season to build capacities of farmers and increase their impact in their respective environments. Some of these tools and actions entailed business training for women farmers, exposing farmers to handloom technology to promote weaving and participation in crop marketing through cotton cooperatives.

Innovation was underscored as a key factor for a sustainable membership drive, with members demanding more tangible benefits from associations, forcing them to think bigger and more creatively to attract and retain their members. SACPA members left Maputo with a renewed sense of positivity, which will create the drive needed to carry the platform through its planned activities for the next few months.



Delegates at the 2nd (COMSHIP) Seed Mutual Accountability Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya.

# Seed Industry Public and Private Sector Stakeholders Advance COMSHIP Agenda

The lack of quality and improved seeds in eastern and southern Africa has for a long time been highlighted as a key contributor to food insecurity and poverty, with calls from various stakeholders in the agricultural industry for access to quality seed for small-scale farmers as a means to increase productivity. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), through its specialised agency, the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA), has put in place the COMESA Seed Harmonisation Implementation Plan (COMSHIP). The COMSHIP is a strategy which will implement COMESA's Seed Trade Harmonisation Regulations in member states in order to achieve increased seed production, reliability, trade and competitiveness of the seed industry.

According to COMESA, only one in every four smallholder farmers has access to quality or improved seed, a damning statistic for the COMESA region, but one which also demonstrates the huge potential which exists for the seed industry therein. The second COMSHIP Implementation Progress review

meeting, which took place from 5th – 6th September, in Nairobi, Kenya broadly aimed to assess progress of implementation of the COMESA Seed Trade Harmonisation Regulations in member states. In addition, the meeting reviewed and agreed on the evolving mutual accountability framework and agreed on steps which would need to be taken towards improving implementation of regulations in member countries.

High production costs, low productivity and low product quality were highlighted as some of the challenges faced by farmers across the region. Awareness creation, capacity building in terms of human as well as physical resources and the involvement of the private sector in seed production and distribution were noted as some of the key actions necessary to move forward.

Delegates were encouraged to work together in taking stock of the different levels of progress reported in member countries and identifying best practices, thus enabling mutual learning and critically measuring progress towards the harmonisation of seed laws. Countries were clustered based

on their progression and some of the forerunners, including Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe; were reported as being active in seed certification, variety release, as well as phytosanitary/ quarantine measures for imports and exports. Although nuanced, these countries were reported as having the relevant legislation in place, with institutions active in the enforcement thereof. The role of government was clear in all of the respective countries' status reports, with bureaucratic processes noted to be creating bottlenecks in a handful of countries where the legislative groundwork has been laid. Recognising the importance of awareness creation and the limited human resource capacity across the region, training has been carried out in the seed certification, variety release and phytosanitary/ quarantine measure areas in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, to name a few.

Requests were made for an update of the existing COMESA quarantine pest list, also stressing the importance of accelerating the work targeting phytosanitary issues which add to problems associated with

delays experienced in moving seed. With inspectors having to check for too many pests, some of which are not of economic importance or seed borne; valuable time is lost and seed does not move as efficiently as it ought to.

This was the second review meeting, held just seven months after the first meeting took place in February 2016. While the status of the various countries was not established in the initial review meeting, the current status of implementation was reported in the September meeting and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to deliberate upon the actions necessary to address the prevailing challenges. This would then serve

as a baseline to better target and fast-track implementation. ACTESA has worked closely with individual countries in compiling comprehensive status reports which were shared at the meeting and following the synergies which formed part of the proceedings. Implementation plans for the next 12 months were developed, with indicators against which progress will be tracked.

The increased availability of a wide range of new and improved seed varieties at affordable prices has a broad benefit for smallholder farmers and the industry at large. Through the use of consistently good quality seed and the trade thereof in the COMESA region, the demand for improved seed will surely increase,

ceteris paribus; as the productivity of smallholder farmers increases. Given the level of domestication which COMSHIP aims to achieve, this will encourage innovation by seed companies through research & development, which will reduce the cost of doing business in the region and lead to an increase in the number of local seed producers due to the increased demand for quality seed. It is therefore crucial to establish partnerships with seed companies and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors – cooperation and commitment are proving to be the cornerstones of the COMSHIP and countries have pledged theirs so onwards and upwards from here.



Women farmers at the SACAU Agro-preneurship training.

## Transforming smallholder farms into profitable businesses

Building an enterprise takes many different tasks, from stepping into the shoes of potential customers to designing products or services, to running a marketing campaign. This was one of the key messages for women farmers at SACAU's Agro-preneurship training in Johannesburg this month.

The three-day training from 27th – 29th September at the Birchwood Hotel was attended by women farmers from SACAU member countries such as Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Seychelles, South Africa and Namibia. The purpose of the training was to equip women farmers with business and entrepreneurship skills.

The women shared their experiences on how they manage their various businesses and the unique products they produce in their small farms.

"This training is very crucial for women, especially small-scale farmers, because we have the skills of farming but we don't have

knowledge about turning our farms into businesses," said Bridget Masikati, District Coordinator at Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU).

In 2013 SACAU conducted a study to identify the challenges women face in advancing their businesses. One of the priority areas identified was to assist women in developing their entrepreneurial skills. As a result, for the past three years, SACAU has organised a number of fora for women in the region. This is the first training ever organised for women at regional level.

The training was conducted to show potential entrepreneurs where to start to turn their agriculture related ideas into reality. It explored topics of customer analysis, visual prototyping, target market analysis, branding and finance start up.

"This will help us to know the right channels of how to grow our farms into profitable businesses," said Ms. Feddy Teshu, dairy farmer and member of the Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT).

The participants were encouraged to work in groups based on the

commodities they specialise in such as horticulture, agro-processing, livestock and maize. Maize, potatoes, pumpkins, onions, soya seeds are some of the products produced by the women farmers on their farms.

The exercises conducted in the training varied from identifying potential customers for businesses, visualising products that will be sold to customers, developing a business plan and a mock pitch businesses ideas to potential investors.

Women farmers produce 70% of food for household consumption yet they are faced with challenges of climate change, lack of access to the productive resources such as land, income, credit, appropriate technologies and information.

"In the region, small holder farmers are mostly women but there is lack of women empowerment and capacity building," said Mrs. Jane Ngulube SACAU Vice Chairman.

"The training will certainly equip women farmers to turn their operations into successful farming businesses"



Mr Michael Hailu, CTA Director; Dr Theo de Jager, President of PAFO; Mr Ignace Coussement, Managing Director of AgriCord.

## Leveraging opportunities for farmers' organisations to enhance their impact

Leaders of farmers' organisations gathered to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Strategic partnership supporting capacity development of African farmers' organisations through improved policies, technologies and capabilities. It took place on 21st September 2016, at a ceremony at the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), in Brussels.

Dr Theo de Jager, President of the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), Ignace Coussement, Managing Director of AgriCord, and Michael Hailu, Director of CTA.

Under the MoU, CTA and AgriCord will support PAFO, its five regional members and their national members in collecting and using data on precision agriculture so-called 'smart farming.' This will help these

farmers' organisations to support the development of inclusive value chains, with special attention to the needs of youth. The MoU provides a framework for developing a strategic technical and financial partnership that will leverage opportunities for farmers' organisations to enhance their impact.

Visit the CTA website for more information: <http://bit.ly/2doTrWb>

# Decisions and Commitments from the 2016 African Green Revolution Forum

1. The Sixth African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5th to 9th September, 2016. It attracted more than 1500 delegates from 40 countries. The AGRF once again proved to be a multi-stakeholder forum bringing together a diverse range of influential change agents from across the African agriculture landscape and around the world. They included African Heads of State, global business leaders, ministers, farmers and farmer organizations, private agribusiness firms, financial institutions, civil society groups and scientists, as well as international development and technical partners.

2. The theme of this year's AGRF was "Seize the Moment: Securing Africa's Rise through Agricultural Transformation." The forum built on a campaign to "Seize the Moment" that was launched at the 12th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform meeting in Accra, Ghana in April 2016. The campaign is backed by the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), along with key civil-society groups, farmer groups, companies and development partners.

3. "Seize the Moment" recognizes the significant progress African countries have made over the last decade to build a foundation for a renaissance



in the agriculture sector both on and off the farm across the entire value chain. But it also recognizes that much more needs to be done. Countries still have a long way to go to achieve food security and ensure equal access to economic opportunity for all Africans. Africa today is facing strong headwinds. The challenges include rapid urbanization, climate change that is generating more stressful growing conditions, significant unemployment in which one in three Africans from 15 to 35 years old are jobless and chronic malnutrition that has left 58 million children stunted. AGRF partners understand that addressing these issues requires firm political, policy and financial commitments, guided by a clear agenda and strong mechanisms for measuring progress.

4. The ambition of the forum is to accelerate the progress on agriculture's contribution to economic growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for all, in line with delivering on the Malabo Goals and targets. Over the course of the five-day forum, delegates put forward and began to coalesce around a set of important commitments that the AGRF platform can pursue in the medium-term to realize the ambitious goals laid out in the 2014 Malabo Declaration and the United Nations' Sustainable



Development Goals (SDGs). During the next 16 months before the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit and CAADP biennial review in January 2018, the AGRF partners pledged to: pursue a political, policy and business agenda intended to accelerate smallholder-inclusive agricultural transformation in at least 20 countries; unlock at least US \$200 billion in investment in African agriculture; and develop a concise scorecard for accountability and action under the leadership of African Union institutions. They are captured in the following nine action points:

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## Decisions and Commitments from the 2016 African Green Revolution Forum

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- i. Refresh investment plans to unlock 10% of public expenditure on agriculture that can be clearly leveraged to attract significant additional resources from private sector and other partners.
- ii. Actualize commitments made by the private sector through platforms such as Grow Africa or others to bring at least US \$20 billion of private investment into African agriculture and galvanize broader investment.
- iii. Develop and launch innovative financing mechanisms, including Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) agricultural financing mechanisms such as incentive-based risk-sharing facilities for agricultural lending, social impact bonds, catalytic financing facilities and agriculture-relevant e-wallet and digital financing mechanisms.
- iv. Support at least 20 countries to develop their agriculture transformation agenda, including identification and significant scaling up of five priority value chains per country with strong links to smallholder agriculture, strong focus on youth employment and a commitment to building resilience to shocks to the agriculture system.
- v. Identify and unlock five main policy and regulatory bottlenecks per country that are inhibiting agriculture sector growth.
- vi. Establish and support agriculture transformation delivery mechanisms appropriately tailored to the national context and needs in at least 10 countries.
- vii. Support countries to strengthen capacities, including the cultivation of a new wave of public and private sector agriculture transformation leaders.
- viii. Produce and use an agriculture transformation scorecard at the heart of the CAADP biennial review process, including a one-page snapshot for Heads of State.
- ix. Hold at least two Ministerial peer review roundtables prior to the 2018 African Union Heads of

**Support at least 20 countries to develop their agriculture transformation agenda**

State and Government Summit to challenge and validate emerging biennial review reports and actions.

5. At AGRF 2016, many of Africa's steadfast champions of agriculture stepped forward with significant and concrete commitments that have already begun to put this nine-point plan into action. They pledged more than US \$30 billion in investments to increase production, income and employment for smallholder farmers and local African agriculture businesses over the next 10 years. The collective pledges are believed to represent the largest package of financial commitments to the African agricultural sector to date, and they are backed by the broadest coalition ever assembled in support of the entire agribusiness value chain.

6. African governments represented by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Cabinet Ministers and senior government officials from more than 20 countries across the continent laid out a bold vision for how agriculture transformation will drive economic transformation.

- i. H.E. President Kenyatta put forth concrete proposals that included a call for governments to refresh multi-year plans for agriculture development; a push to mobilize a combination of US \$400 billion in public and private sector resources; and an effort to put in place the continental agricultural transformation scorecard that would measure and track all commitments to ensure they trigger action. H.E. President Kenyatta stepped forward as one of the first champions of the “Seize the Moment” campaign, committing himself to deliver this agenda. He announced his government’s commitment to invest US \$200 million so at least 150,000 young farmers and young agriculture entrepreneurs can gain access to markets, finance and insurance.
- ii. H.E. President Kagame stepped forward as the other initial champion of the “Seize the Moment” campaign. Building on his long-standing leadership in putting agricultural transformation at the center of Rwanda’s economic transformation and improvements in human well-being, President Kagame challenged the continent and other leaders around the world. He noted that,

“We should not only seize the moment but continue momentum for transformation of agriculture and economies of our continent. Agriculture is not just one sector of the economy amongst others – it’s the backbone of the economy. We need to strengthen the involvement of other parts of the value chain, especially the private sector. Let’s have more action and less talk.”

7. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a global report entitled “A Food-Secure 2030” and set the tone for supporting Africa’s agricultural transformation agenda with its political and financial commitment through the Global Food Security Act, which is the largest development authorization the US Congress has made in a decade.

8. Other development partners including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the MasterCard Foundation, and the World Food Programme (WFP) recommitted and intensified their long-standing support for African agriculture.

9. A representative set of private sector partners including AGCO Corporation, Kenya Commercial Bank Group (KCB), Equity Bank, OCP Africa, UPL and Yara

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**“We should not only seize the moment but continue momentum for transformation of agriculture and economies of our continent.”**

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International ASA (Yara) committed to significant new investments to boost production for smallholder farmers and link them to lucrative agriculture value chains. Their work is expected to deliver, among other things, a major increase in financing for smallholder farmers and SME agribusinesses; an increase in use of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs; an increase in manufacturing capacity oriented around smallholder farmers; and the development of efficient and sustainable value chains, such as potatoes and pulses in East Africa.

10. Regional institutions led by the African Union Commission and NEPAD Agency committed to driving the CAADP biennial review process and implementing the scorecard on agricultural transformation for tracking progress in the “Seize the Moment” campaign and beyond.

11. The actions taken over the next 16 months until the January 2018 AU Summit will be critical to delivering on this agenda and contributing to achievement of the goals laid out in the Malabo Declaration. The AGRF partners intend to build on the momentum established at AGRF 2016 by developing a work plan that will tie together the most important moments and forums of the African agriculture community to secure further commitments to the “Seize the Moment” campaign and ensure progress.

12. The AGRF Partners Group concluded AGRF 2016 with an agreement that the 2017 AGRF will be co-hosted by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire, AfDB and AGRA in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

— AGRF



**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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