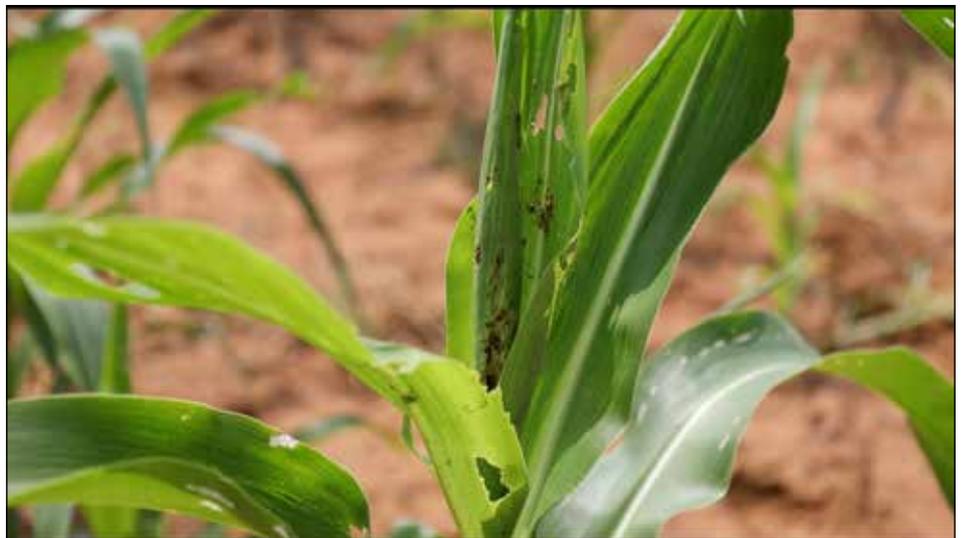


SADC can use cohesion to control Fall Armyworms

Farmers are calling for urgent regional action to help control the infestation of the Fall Armyworm in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

FAO, SADC and the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) met in Harare, Zimbabwe, from February 14th-16th to discuss the ongoing infestation.

Media reports indicate the worm has been identified in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and possibly more countries in the region.



Example of the devastation caused by the Fall Armyworm

“Staple crops such as maize, sorghum, wheat, soya beans, groundnuts and potatoes have been attacked.”

“The Armyworm is known to have a negative impact on agriculture, food security and trade, making Sub-Saharan Africa more vulnerable due to its high dependence on agriculture,” said the president of SACAU, Dr Theo

de Jager.

Staple crops such as maize, sorghum, wheat, soya beans, groundnuts and potatoes have been attacked. Farmers are encouraged to regularly inspect their crops for eggs and spray pesticides straight after detection.

SACAU further encourages farmers to constantly communicate with one another during this season and share information on how to better handle the outbreak.

“After identification, correct steps towards measuring the extent of damage on crops as well as control measures need to be taken,” he said.

Pyrethroid class insecticides and carbaryl material can be used as control regulators, however, it is better to control the worm in its early stage due to its ability to build resilience against pesticides.

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CEO's Letter



By Ishmael Sunga

One of the key highlights of February is the good rains that fell in most of the southern African region.

All indications are that this season will not be a drought year. Apart from adequate food supplies, good rains always bring with them a feeling of optimism in overall economic performance, given the intricate connection that farming has, directly or indirectly, with the economies of most countries in the region.

However, the optimism of a good season was almost wiped out by the invasion of the Fall Armyworm which affected some countries in the region to a lesser or greater extent.

Current indications however

suggests that the Armyworm menace did not cause as much damage as originally feared.

The region does not have to worry much about feeding its people, and there will be enough throughput to keep the wheels of industry turning, and all the commerce that goes with it!

“Unlike in the last season in which the region had a “dry” problem, the rains that fell in February were so incessant that some parts of the region are now experiencing a wet problem”

However, unlike in the last season in which the region had a “dry” problem, the rains that fell in February were so incessant that some parts of the region are now experiencing a wet problem, so to speak.

In some cases, the rains left a trail of destruction, including waterlogging and washing away of

crops, and livestock, roads, bridges and dam walls.

Other critical infrastructure such as schools and clinics were not spared.

The two calamities in the form of incessant rains and the army worm go a long way to show how risky the business of farming can be.

Even with all the advancement in science, technology and other capabilities for prediction, many were caught unaware, and there may be many more in this regard. The point is, farmers, being at the frontline of production, always bear the brunt of such misfortunes. Unfortunately, when farmers are not able to produce, whole nations suffer.

Yet quite often farmers have to shoulder the risk or burden alone. We argue that such problems should not be for farmers alone to face.

Everyone in the value chain should take some responsibility. Increased public sector investment in climate infrastructure including early warning systems targeted specifically on farming and weather based insurance would be a good starting point.

Agriterra completes assessment of SACAU

Agriterra concluded the organisational assessment of SACAU on the 10th February 2017 paving a way for the business for an agri agency. The assessment that spanned over a period of one week was conducted by Mr Rutger Lommerse, team manager Environment and Society at the Dutch farmers' organisation ZLTO and Mr Tjeerd Rijpma,



Agriterra assessment team with SACAU secretariat staff

the Business Advisor at Agriterra based in Nairobi, Kenya. Apart from meeting with the SACAU secretariat staff and the chairman, the team also consulted with SACAU members in South Africa; AgriSA and the African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA) as well as SACAU's stakeholders, including NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) and AGIS Investments. The consultation with these organisations

was aimed at assessing the SACAU reputation as well as potential services that could be offered by the agri agency.

The assessment was comprehensive and it looked at aspects of human resources; cultural aspects as well as the structure of the organisation. The assessment team identified some critical conditions that need to be considered for the success of an agri agency which include the readiness

of SACAU and its stakeholders to accept the changes that will be brought about by the reorganisation. What was emphasized was that the development and growth at the initial stages of the agri agency could be made through collaboration with other partners.

The final stage is the formulation of the business plan of which implementation is expected to commence once it has gone through all due processes.

SADC can use cohesion to control Fall Armyworms

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“We believe that remedial methods should be integrated and informed by expert advice from farmers based in the worm's native countries because unlike us, they have dealt with the pest for many years,” said Dr de Jager.

The regional workshop recommended the following:

- There is urgent need for strengthening information and surveillance systems through sharing of information at national and regional levels and effective functioning of regional databases

- There is need to improve on the quality of information and reporting protocols for plant and animal pests

- Improvement of early warning systems through addressing fragmentation of national and regional information systems

- Strengthening inter sectoral collaboration at country level

- Establishing the necessary structures for rapid response to emerging pests and diseases

- Revise SADC structures for coordination of technical and sub technical committees on

transboundary pests and diseases

- Need for research to fill information and knowledge gaps

- Address lack of awareness and communication of risks caused by transboundary pests and diseases

- Improve laboratory diagnostics and capacities

SACAU urges farmers to be on the lookout for unusual sightings and alert their nearest farmers' organisation and relevant authorities accordingly.

Farmers must harness their strategic role in PPPs

Farmers should ensure they are well positioned to play a pivotal role in Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) which will drive the agro-based Fourth Industrial Revolution, said SACAU CEO Ishmael Sunga.

Mr Sunga was addressing the 47th Brussels Briefing in February on the issue of "Involvement of farmers in PPPs: a practical example and perspectives."

He noted that the sector needed to develop a strategy which would maximise the "great potential for PPPs, including the involvement of local companies. We need practical mechanisms to ensure fairness and equity in the sharing of risk and return in PPPs."

Mr Sunga said farmers needed to be supported to initiate PPPs on their own terms while farmer organisations (FOs), in turn, needed support to develop commercially and trade-related capabilities.

"We should establish a development facility for farmers' engagement in PPPs, including investment in the higher value low risk segments of the value chain," said Mr Sunga. "We must use PPPs to drive the development of a younger generation of farmers," he said.

The multi-dimensional nature of agricultural development positioned it for PPPs.

"Commercialisation is a key driver of agricultural transformation. However, fragmentation and broken value chains are key impediments to the commercialisation of smallholder farmers," said Mr Sunga. He added that "PPP might offer a solution to smallholder commercialisation."

SACAU has been involved in both the concept, design and implementation of PPP configurations. One example is the Value Chain Initiative (VCI).

The VCI, a value chain-based cooperation to unlock value for all actors with financing based on the strength of the chain, was hosted and



facilitated by SACAU. The guiding principle was that risk was shared by all and profit was to be taken by everyone after marketing.

"No one should walk away and leave farmers on their own," said Mr Sunga.

Detailed implementation arrangements were important in the VCI programme. The roles and responsibilities of each partner were agreed in advance and an MOU was signed.

About 67 farmers participated in the programme which secured a US\$1.4m production loan with pre-financing of US\$423,000 for inputs and services prior to the loan approval.

The programme saw productivity over the estimated 2000 hectares increase by more than 200% and gave the participating farmers enhanced access to finance.

Other results included increased access to expert technical advice, services and extension as well as

access to structured markets. The gross value created was in excess of US\$3million.

Mr Sunga said PPPs could be an effective vehicle for smallholder development which were currently underutilised.

"PPP are effective in de-risking production, marketing and of financing smallholder agriculture," said Mr Sunga. "The current narrative of such programmes are currently focused on global companies and the involvement of local agribusiness is overlooked. Because of this, farmers are missing out on the value they can derive from such partnerships," he said.

Mr Sunga said trade benefits were not flowing back to farmers due to the imbalances in the governance of value chains. "Farmers are rarely the initiators of PPP arrangements. The lack of commercial development capabilities is hampering the participation of farmers' organisations in PPPs," he said.

PAFO elects a new President



Delegates to PAFO General Assembly

The Pan African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO) at its General Assembly (GA) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18th February 2017, elected Mr. Abdelmajid Ezzar, the President of Union Maghrebine et Nord Africaine des Agriculteurs (UMNAGRI) as its President.

Mr. Ezzar, who will serve for a two-year period, took over from Dr. Theo de Jager of SACAU who has served as the President for the past two years.

PAFO presidency is on rotational basis and there were only two candidates eligible for election this year.

The General Assembly comprises representatives from the five regional farmers' networks namely; Eastern African Farmers' Federation (EAFF), the Plateforme Sous-Regionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC), Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), SACAU and UMNAGRI.

The SACAU delegation to the GA comprised Dr Theo de Jager, Mrs Jane Ngulube, Dr Sinare Sinare,

Mr Alfred Kapichira Banda, Mrs Mamolise Lawrence, Mrs Brenda Tlabane, Mr Jose Mateus, Mr Hajasoanirina Rakotomandimby and Mr Benito Eliasi.

Among other things, delegates reiterated the challenges that are faced by most farmers on the African continent.

"They highlighted challenges with financing, accessing better markets, drought, unpredictable weather variation, poor infrastructure for improved production and managing logistics in the sector."

They highlighted challenges with financing, accessing better markets, drought, unpredictable weather variation, poor infrastructure for improved production and managing logistics in the sector.

Delegates also applauded the support received from the European

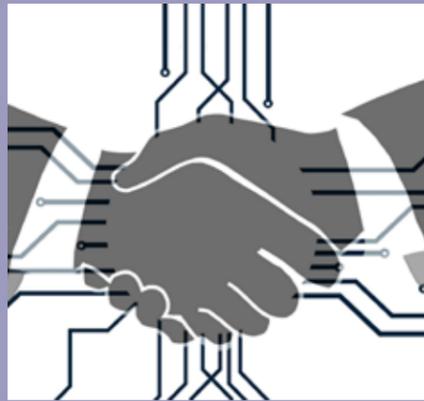
Union (EU), Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), French Development Agency (AFD) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for supporting PAFO over the past three years.

It was agreed that PAFO should focus on advocacy especially with the African Union (AU) and other continental bodies to ensure that a favorable environment is created for farmers in the continent to produce and market their products with minimum hindrances.

Some of the policies and issues PAFO should look at are land and tenure security, trade and linkages to markets, especially on intra Africa trade; infrastructure such as connectivity, road, rail, electricity and water; modernisation, mechanisation and commercialisation of agriculture and application of Big Data in agriculture and its ownership.

Lastly, PAFO members were called to unite in combating threats which do not recognise international boundaries like pests, diseases, disasters and climate change and to mainstream women and youth in all PAFO events.

SACAU and We Effect Annual Review meeting – greater collaboration in 2017



SACAU hosted Mr Goran Forssén and Ms Jennipher Sakala from We Effect on 9th February for an annual review of progress made in 2016 in the implementation of its operational plan. The meeting discussed the annual report which highlighted the main activities undertaken and associated results, lessons learnt and risks and their mitigation amongst others. We Effect expressed satisfaction with SACAU's progress.

The organisations also updated each other on developments within their respective organisations. SACAU learnt of We Effect's new global strategy for 2017 to 2021 which is said to have a strong focus on gender and the use of a rights-based approach. An external evaluation of We Effect's Farmers' Organisations Fighting Poverty and Injustice (FOFPI), in which SACAU will also take part, will be undertaken in the first quarter of this year.

Arrangements to host a consultation forum, which follows a land tenure study which was carried out late in 2016 were deliberated and will be shared with members and stakeholders soon. The study looked at the impact of land tenure systems on agricultural transformation in selected countries in the region.

SACAU's progress in making climate resilience a reality for farmers



The ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in partnership with SACAU hosted a meeting in September 2016 in Johannesburg to launch a flagship project that seeks to promote climate-resilient cereal and livestock farming in southern Africa

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

The project will provide support towards the adoption of four solutions by cereal and livestock farmers in order to build climate-resilient systems in selected countries in the region.

These solutions are around stress-tolerant germplasm, ICT-enabled climate information services, diversified livestock-based livelihoods and weather-based

insurance.

In line with the outcomes of the meeting, SACAU has since prepared a project proposal which is currently under consideration by CTA.

The project focuses on ICT-enabled climate information services and weather based-insurance, and implementation is expected to start in the first half of 2017.

It will be implemented in three countries, namely Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe in partnership with members and an insurance company.

The project's specific objectives are to increase the uptake of weather based insurance by farmers, to support a regional approach for the development of whether based insurance and to improve access to weather information by farmers through ICTs.

SACAU

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEN:

22nd - 26th May 2017

WHERE:

South Africa

Nominations Open for the Africa Food Prize 2017



Nairobi, 6 March 2017: The search is on for the winner of the 2017 Africa Food Prize – the preeminent award that recognises outstanding individuals or institutions that are leading the effort to change the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives.

Now in its second year, the US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa's agriculture agenda. It puts a bright spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

In 2016, the inaugural Prize was awarded to Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, the outgoing president of the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), for his outstanding leadership and passionate advocacy in putting Africa's smallholder farmers at the centre of the global agricultural agenda.

As one example, Dr. Nwanze was credited with reorienting IFAD's work to focus more on making small-scale farming a viable business throughout a country-led approach to rural development, moving from one office on the continent just a decade ago to 40 country offices today.

The prize also acknowledged Nwanze's courage in reminding African leaders to go beyond promising development and change to delivering it.

The 2017 winner will be chosen by the Africa Food Prize Committee,

and independent body of preeminent leaders that is chaired by the former Nigerian President, H.E Olusegun Obasanjo. The other committee members are Prof. Calestous Juma, Dr. Eleni Z.G abre-Madhin, Prof. Joachim von Braun and Amb. Sheila Sisulu.

With the acknowledgement that no region of the world has developed a diverse, modern economy without first establishing a successful agriculture sector, the Africa Food Prize exists to reward individuals and institutions that are pioneering efforts to create prosperity in Africa. It is hoped that this will encourage others to follow their lead.

The Africa Food Prize began as the Yara Prize and was established in 2005 by Yara International ASA in Norway to honor achievements in African agriculture.

The Yara Prize recognize individuals from Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique for their success in making African farms more productive, profitable and resilient.

Past winners include Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the former Nigerian Agriculture Minister who now heads the African Development Bank (AfDB); Dr. Agnes Kalibata, the former Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resource in Rwanda who now serves as AGRA's President; and Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Africa Director for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Moving the Yara Prize to Africa

in 2016 and rechristening it the Africa Food Prize gave the award a distinctive African Home, African identity and African ownership.

The deadline for nominations is 05 June 2017 and the winner will be unveiled at a high-profile gala dinner at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), 4-8 September in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

More information on how to nominate is available on the Africa Food Prize website.

The Africa Food Prize – funded by AGRA, the EcoNet Foundation, and Yara International ASA (Yara) – is the preeminent award for recognizing outstanding individuals or institutions that are leading efforts to change the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives.

The US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa's agricultural. It puts a bright spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

The winners are selected by an independent panel of distinguished experts in African agriculture, chaired by former Nigerian president, Olusegun Obasanjo.

The African Food Prize began as the Yara Prize, established by Yara in 2005. It was moved to Africa and rechristened the Africa Food Prize in 2016.

More at africafoodprize.org.

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PRIORITIZING AGRICULTURE SECTORS IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Changing climatic conditions and more frequent extreme weather events will negatively affect the livelihoods of rural people and food and nutrition security.



Natural hazards and disasters in developing countries



Countries have made agriculture sectors a priority for climate action

Out of 130 countries that included adaptation in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions...

95% refer to crop and livestock production



83% refer to forests



46% refer to fisheries and aquaculture



Adaptation requires an enabling environment and support for agricultural producers



Adaptation should be a **country-driven, evidence-based, gender-sensitive and flexible process**



All key stakeholders dealing with natural resources must work together



To meet all adaptation needs, **climate finance should be 6 to 13 times greater by 2030** from both domestic and international sources

FAO supports capacity building for transformational change in agriculture and natural resources management through...

Knowledge and data on impact and vulnerability

Sustainable approaches, practices and use of natural resources

Policy harmonization, coordination and intersectoral cooperation

Leveraging climate finance

Gender mainstreaming

Conservation of biodiversity including genetic resources

Disaster risk reduction

Monitoring and evaluation framework

www.fao.org/climate-change



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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00128/17/06.16

Source: FAO



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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Newsletter

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