

Raising the voice of farmers at COP23



Mr Ishmael Sunga of SACAU.

SOURCE: CCAFS's Flickr

The diverse needs of farmers must be taken into account when dealing with climate change.

This was one of the messages SACAU took to COP23 in Bonn, Germany, in November during their participation in side events. SACAU spoke at two events on Agriculture Advantage which was an initiative and collaborative effort between different organisations with the same mission: to transform agricultural development in the face of climate change.

SACAU was also part of these

organisations which were led by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

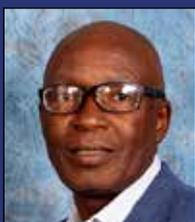
Mr Ishmael Sunga, CEO of SACAU, spoke about the farmer-based approach to climate action in agriculture at a closing session of this side event which called on countries, international organisations and businesses to take cognisance of the advantage offered by climate investments in agriculture, and urged stakeholders



to come together for the transformation required within the sector. This event was based on previous sessions which articulated the different dimensions of climate actions in agriculture.

In his remarks, Mr Sunga stressed the importance of understanding farmers and their needs.

Continue to page 3



CEO's Letter

2



Centre Spread:
2017 in Review

8

Conference dates and
Season's Greeting



16



CEO's Letter



By Ishmael Sunga

This has, once again, been a hectic year, but it has also been satisfying in many respects. It has been a good year for agriculture for southern Africa, bringing better fortunes for farmers. This good fortune should be seen against the background of a devastating drought that ravaged the region in 2016. The threat of the fall armyworm was also not as devastating as we had initially feared.

The SACAU Secretariat was kept busy on all fronts. On the organisational front, we continued to comply with the corporate

governance requirements, including four board meetings which were held during the year and our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which we held in May. The AGM was preceded by our traditional Annual Conference. This year our conference was a two-in-one with the first part themed tenure security and agricultural transformation in the smallholder sector and the second half focusing on skilling for the future of agriculture.

We also made significant progress towards the creation of an agri-agency unit which is expected to be operational by mid-2018.

On the operational front, we strengthened implementation of ongoing projects, started new ones and concluded two projects. The management of climate risk, including weather based insurance, the development of a new generation of farmers and farmers organisations as well as digital technology are some of the work areas that we are involved in. Our initiatives include the

formulation of a comprehensive young agripreneurs development programme and the conceptualisation of a competency development programme for the 21st century farmer.

We continued to fly the SACAU flag high, and our presence was felt at fora such as the World Economic Forum in Davos, the African Green Revolution Forum in Abidjan and COP 23 in Bonn. In addition, we were able to attend key meetings and events hosted by the AUC, NEPAD, SADC, COMESA, CTA, EU and others.

Finally, on behalf of the SACAU Board, the Secretariat and, indeed, on my own behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to thank our members and all stakeholders for their support and cooperation.

We look forward to being of service to our members, and to valued partnerships and collaboration with other stakeholders in the coming year. Wishing you all a joyous festive season and prosperous New Year and agricultural season.

SACAU welcomes new board member

Mrs Doreen Hlatshwayo was recently appointed to the SACAU Board as an Ordinary Director.

Her appointment is in light of the results of the elections at the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May that saw no woman representative elected to the Board.

Mrs Hlatshwayo is the 1st Vice President of Swaziland National Agricultural Union where she is also in charge of the women's wing. She has served in various capacities in several farmers' structures in Swaziland at local and regional levels.

She has a long association with development work and agriculture. Before farming, she worked for the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) where she served as Chief Finance Officer and Project Coordinator, respectively.

Mrs Hlatshwayo also worked for the World Food Programme (WFP) as Secretary responsible for food distribution to vulnerable children in local schools as well as for the government of Swaziland as Personal Assistant to the Minister of Local Affairs.

Mrs Hlatshwayo is a full-time farmer, specialising in grain (white dry maize and dry beans), livestock (pigs and indigenous chickens) and horticulture (fruit trees and vegetables). She holds two diplomas, one in Secretarial Studies and the other in Financial Management.



Mrs Doreen Hlatshwayo, new SACAU Board member.

Raising the voice of farmers at COP23

From page 1

"It's wrong to think farmers are all the same. If projects are designed for farmers as a homogeneous group and they fail, don't blame the farmer, blame yourself", said Mr Sunga. "If we don't invest time and money and resources in studying the basic things, we might not get anywhere. It's not exciting but it might re-define what is exciting," he added.

He highlighted the need to look at the farmer in his totality in the design of services and products for farmers. One such example is the bundling of agricultural insurance with other products that are essential for a farmer, which one of SACAU members is already implementing.

Mr Sunga concluded by calling on stakeholders to get farmers' inputs in designs of products and programmes. "Let it come from farmers themselves, and let us have the basic infrastructure to enable things to happen," he said.

Another side event in which

SACAU participated was around scaling up private sector climate actions in agriculture. This event sought to understand the role which the private sector can play to achieve goals set out within Intended Nationally Determined Contributions submitted by countries and private sector fora, building on the experience from private sector businesses, industry bodies and international financial institutions. At this event, SACAU's Project Officer, Ms Fhumulani Mashau, said there is a need for joining hands by the public and private sectors for investments in the agricultural sector's response to climate change.

Ms Mashau said there is a need for resources to absorb the shocks that climate change inflicts on small-scale farmers. She also said that farmers have important responsibilities too. "Farmers themselves also have the responsibility to proactively assert themselves to get involved

in the design and implementation where they have an interest in climate action. Again, we'd also like to see the private sector to be obliged to consult with the farming community also in the design and implementation of climate action. We can't do that without talking to each other," she said.

Recognising the importance of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) models which can empower farmers in their decision making, while also increasing their resilience to climate shocks, she stressed the importance public private partnerships in infrastructural investments. "Massive expansion of ICT network/connectivity infrastructure to cover all farming areas where the majority of farmers located are required," she said.

Reducing the cost of data and insurance premiums could also result in increased uptake of ICT and other solutions to help farmers better respond to climate shocks.

COP23 commitment for Agriculture

The UN Climate Change Conference of Parties held its twenty-third instalment in Germany from 6th to 17th November where the parties adopted the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture.

This agreement requests two United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) technical bodies to work jointly in addressing issues related to agriculture. The agreement marks progress for UNFCCC agricultural agreements which have dragged on for more than six years since the 2011 resolution to exchange views. It adds implementation as an important aspect of the work of the convention. A review of the work done by the subsidiary bodies will be done at the next summit in 2020.

The two bodies, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, will now work with bodies constituted under the convention and will pay specific



COP23 | FIJI
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
BONN 2017

consideration to the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security.

Parties now have an opportunity to make inputs on implementation modalities, devising methods for adaptation and resilience, improving nutrient and soil use, livestock management and the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in preparation for the next session of subsidiary bodies to be held in April-May 2018.

COP23 also committed itself to giving development capital amounting to USD 10 billion by 2025 for farmers in the developing world through the Sustainable Finance Facilities

programme, a collaboration between various stakeholders including companies, investors, development sector partners, and civil society organisations.

The climate smart agriculture programme adopted as part of the summit's outcomes is aimed at assisting women farmers to enhance food security and nutrition and to lessen the impact of adverse climate activity events on their businesses. The initiative targets the use of Information Communications Technology to leverage women's access to assets in the agricultural sector in the Sahel region - Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.



Fhumulani Mashau, SACAUs project officer, at a session themed Agriculture Advantage: Scaling up private sector climate actions in agriculture.

M&E system to track impact of SADC-EU EPA

An independent consultant company has been contracted to produce a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system following the signing of an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between six SADC Member States and the European Union (EU).

Six SADC Member States (Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland) signed the EPA with the EU in June 2016.

This agreement, commonly referred to as the SADC-EU EPA, entered into force on October 10, 2016. Another SADC Member State, Angola, is an observer and has an option to join the Agreement in future.

Under the SADC EPA, the EU grants its SADC counterparts free access to its market. However, the SADC EPA states do not have to respond with the same level of market opening as they can keep tariffs on products that are sensitive to international competition.

The EPA also contains a large number of "safeguards", which SADC EPA countries can use in case imports from the EU increase to a level where they threaten to disrupt domestic production. The agreement covers trade mainly in agriculture and fisheries, including wine, sugar, fisheries' products, flowers and canned fruits. Among a number of provisions, the agreement also contains a chapter on sustainable development, and promotes regional integration and cooperation among SADC EPA states, notably by enabling regional value chains through flexible Rules of Origin.

With the support of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) under its programme titled, "Supporting the sustainability aspects in the implementation of the EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)", consulting company Imani Development has been engaged to assist in the design of an M&E system of the agreement. This is a



requirement stipulated under Article 4.

The design process began with a one-day consultative meeting, on December 11, 2017, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The objective of the meeting was to solicit inputs from stakeholders to guide the design of an M&E facility that would assist in tracking the operationalisation and impact of the agreement.

Participants included representatives of the EU, GIZ, SADC Secretariat, private sector, civil society and non-state actors (including SACAUs), and SADC EPA member states.

The meeting commended the participation and contribution of civil society in the design process and noted that CSOs play a vital role in monitoring the impact of trade initiatives on socio-economic development and advocating for delivery of benefits across all stakeholders, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

However, it also noted the need to harmonise inputs from EU and SADC based civil society and non-state actors. This is one of the roles the consultant is expected to play as part of the M&E design process.

To better understand the M&E development process, participants discussed possible indicators to track developments under a number of areas of cooperation, including; trade and sustainable development, trade and development cooperation, trade in goods, and trade defence. From these discussions, it was agreed that M&E activities under the agreement should not be restricted at the regional level as the impact is expected at national level.

SADC EPA member states, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, are expected to identify and agree on appropriate context-specific indicators that can reveal whether commitments under the agreement are being adhered to. It was also agreed that selected indicators should be aligned with current global, regional and national initiatives. From this meeting, the consultant is expected to produce an inception report by January 12, 2018, consult with relevant regional and national stakeholders, design an M&E system and present an interim report by the beginning of March 2018. A final report, which should incorporate inputs from all stakeholders is expected by March 30, 2018.

Swaziland's agricultural stakeholders consulted on farmer data requirements

The Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU) recently hosted a stakeholders' consultation workshop in Ezulwini, Swaziland. The event was held on December 14, 2017, and attracted various stakeholders in the agricultural sector from government, non-governmental organisations, traders and others, including farmers themselves. Given the importance of reliable and updated data for planning and decision making, the workshop sought to understand the kind of data/information requirements that stakeholders expect from farmers' organisations (including SNAU).

The workshop was held as part of a project whose focus is installing and operationalising an electronic membership data system for the union. This project is implemented in collaboration with SACAU and is funded by AgriCord and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

Participants appreciated SNAU's efforts in collecting farmers' data and highlighted that the current information vacuum is indeed a source of great concern. Some of the areas in which information was considered pertinent included the number of smallholder and commercial farmers, location of farms, types of activities they are engaged in, productivity levels, access to inputs, services that farmers require and service providers accessible to farmers.

By having this data/information, SNAU will, amongst others, be able to know and verify their membership which is critical for advocacy, and in differentiation and targeting of services to members. The electronic system will also enable instant communication between SNAU and its members. Building this system will help advance SNAU's ambition of being a repository of farmers data/information in the country.



Mr Lwazi Mamba from SANU.



Workshop participants.



Mr Ishmael Sunga of SACAU addressing stakeholders.



Workshop in session.

2017 in Review

2017 in Review

January

SACAU CEO, Ishmael Sunga, at the 2017 AGCO summit.



March

The Dairy Steering Committee met to review progress of the dairy platform, finalise terms of reference for the platform and look at the longer-term focus of the collaboration.



May

SACAU elected a new Board at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Cape Town, South Africa.

Ishmael Sunga, Dr Sinare Sinare, Dr Theo de Jager, Berean Mukwende and Alfred Kapichira Banda.



We bid farewell to Ms Dorita Swart who had been the face and voice of SACAU for 8 years. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

Dr Theo de Jager, Dorita Swart and Ishmael Sunga.

Mr Gugile Nkwinti, the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform of the Republic of South Africa, addressed delegates at the consultative meeting for Farmers' Organisations (FOs) on land tenure security and agricultural transformation in the smallholder sector in southern Africa. The meeting was co-hosted by SACU and We Effect.



February

Agriterra concluded the organisational assessment of SACAU.



April

Dr Theo de Jager and CEO Mr Ishmael Sunga presented on "A contextual overview of smallholder farming in sub-Saharan Africa: Constraints, Needs and Opportunities for digital innovation" at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Smart Farming convening.



From left: Dr Theo de Jager, SACAU president, Mr Bill Gates, philanthropist, and Mr Ishmael Sunga, SACAU CEO, at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Smart Farming meeting.

June

We joined a global call to make agriculture insurance available as one of the tools to help farmers in general to adapt to the challenges of climate change.



SACAU's Dr Theo de Jager was elected as President of the World Farmers Organisation.

July

SACAU Young Agripreneurs' Ambassadors elected their new leadership. Mr Innocent Jumbe from Malawi was elected as chairperson and Ms Ruramiso Mashumba from Zimbabwe as deputy chairperson.



SACAU led the Youth Thematic Working Group discussions on how youth can accelerate agriculture transformation at this year's African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Our Young Agripreneurs' Ambassadors visited the AGCO future farm in Lusaka, Zambia, where they were taken through a programme to look at farm mechanisation and the business of agriculture.



October

IFAD successfully completed the supervision mission.



IFAD Mission team and representatives of NFOs in Swaziland.

We participated in the Access to Seeds Index Expert Review Committee for Eastern and Southern Africa.



August



Thirty-nine women farmer leaders from 17 members of SACAU were trained in leadership and negotiation skills in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The training addressed challenges women farmers face in exercising their leadership roles in various structures in their organisations, amongst others.

September

SACAU Capacity Development Advisor, Mr Benito Eliasi, visited the Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM) and discussed the importance and benefits accrued through working together in cooperatives.



Benito Eliasi, with farmers from Madagascar.

Facilitating the uptake of WBI insurance in southern Africa

Climate change has become one of the biggest risks that farmers are facing and it is threatening agricultural transformation - particularly in the smallholder sector.

SACAU considers weather-based index insurance (WBI) as one of the key instruments that has the potential to help farmers manage climate-related risks. However, the uptake of WBI is currently limited due to a number of factors including its limited availability and high cost. The pooling of risk beyond national boundaries can significantly reduce the costs of WBI, thereby enhancing access by large numbers of farmers

to this product. One of the major challenges to the cross-border risk pooling is the absence of a regional policy/regulatory framework needed to facilitate this.

SACAU commissioned an actuarial firm to assist it in developing such a regional policy/regulatory framework for WBI.

This work will, amongst others, highlight the merits for a regional approach to WBI and an associated policy/regulatory framework, identify potential impediments to the development and implementation of this framework, and highlighted issues, concerns and challenges that

are faced by insurance companies and other stakeholders in the region.

A comparative analysis of national policy and regulatory frameworks for WBI, including the extent to which they facilitate or hinder the business of agricultural insurance and its wider uptake particularly by smallholder farmers, will also be undertaken.

The framework will be presented at a stakeholders' consultation workshop early in 2018 before it is finalised. The outcome of this process will inform SACAU's engagements with relevant authorities in the region.



4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture

The "Climate-Agriculture nexus" continues to draw attention of various practitioners. This connection is explicitly highlighted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Climate Agreement as one of the key success factors in advancing sustainable economic growth and development. The 4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), held in Johannesburg from November 28-30, 2017, brought together key stakeholders to share, learn, network and build alliances with the aim of connecting scientific research and

research experts from CGIAR centres, universities, senior level policymakers from government institutions, representatives from the private sector, civil society, farmers' organisations, and development partners. Specifically, the conference sought to: highlight emerging science and innovations on the Climate-Agriculture nexus, focusing on agricultural landscapes and food systems; showcase experiences and lessons in science-policy interactions fostering accelerated uptake of CSA; examine circumstance-specific conditions for success of CSA within the SDGs and Paris Climate

The following key messages were drawn from policy discussions:

- CSA is multi-sectoral in nature; therefore, effective implementation and scaling up of CSA practices require close interaction of the agricultural sector with other fields, including policy, financing, marketing, technology (e.g. ICT), and social capital.
- Given the level of progress made in CSA implementation in the past 7 years, current research should focus on issues that affect development and implementation of innovative CSA management.
- Research indicators used to measure CSA progress should be aligned with global, regional and national processes.
- As with other innovations, CSA adoption requires farmers as practitioners to participate in both input and output markets. Unfortunately, current policies and most investments are mainly focused on the supply side; hence, limiting efforts to improve the food value chain.
- Through private and public partnerships, efforts should be made to offer policy incentives to stimulate CSA related investments. This can be complemented by building a business case for investing in CSA, such that CSA is acceptable to farmers and they experience the benefits within the shortest possible period.
- For countries that do not have clear-cut CSA policies, new initiatives should leverage on existing programmes and priorities and should be linked to global, continental and regional processes.
- Concerted efforts are still required to address barriers to CSA adoption through resolving gender inequality, eliminating financial stress of small farmers, and by promoting sharing of relevant information and technology transfer.

The next conference will be in Asia in two years' time.



innovations with policy, institutional and technological efforts in building climate-smart agricultural and food systems. This event was a continuation of previous engagements from conferences held at The Hague in 2011, California in 2013, and Montpellier in 2015, all focusing on practical advances in scaling up CSA.

Held under the theme, "Catalysing local innovations and action to accelerate scaling up of CSA", the event brought together 240 delegates from 46 countries to meet for the first time in Africa. Delegates included

Agreement; networking and opening or consolidating opportunities for collaboration and alliances on CSA; and stimulate dialogue between scientists and practitioners.

Discussions on the use of policy to advance CSA uptake, an area of particular interest to SACAU, featured prominently throughout the conference. Topical issues included a review of the policy landscape for accelerated CSA development and uptake, creating an enabling policy environment to achieve CSA, and enhancing the policy relevance of CSA research agenda.

CTA launches book on indigenous knowledge and climate change management

The impact of climate change on smallholder farming continues to feature prominently in policy debates, particularly in Africa where farming is mainly rain-fed. Over several generations, farmers have developed some indigenous knowledge (IK) in response to climatic uncertainties. In the face of global climate change and its emerging challenges, it is essential that decision makers base policies on the best available knowledge.

A newly released book by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), titled, "Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Climate Change Management in Africa", which attempts to address this gap in literature was launched during the last plenary session of the 4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture, and received positive reviews from panellists and the audience. Co-authored by Mafongoya and Ajayi, and published under the auspices of the Southern African Flagship Project of CTA, the book provides answers to a number of questions:

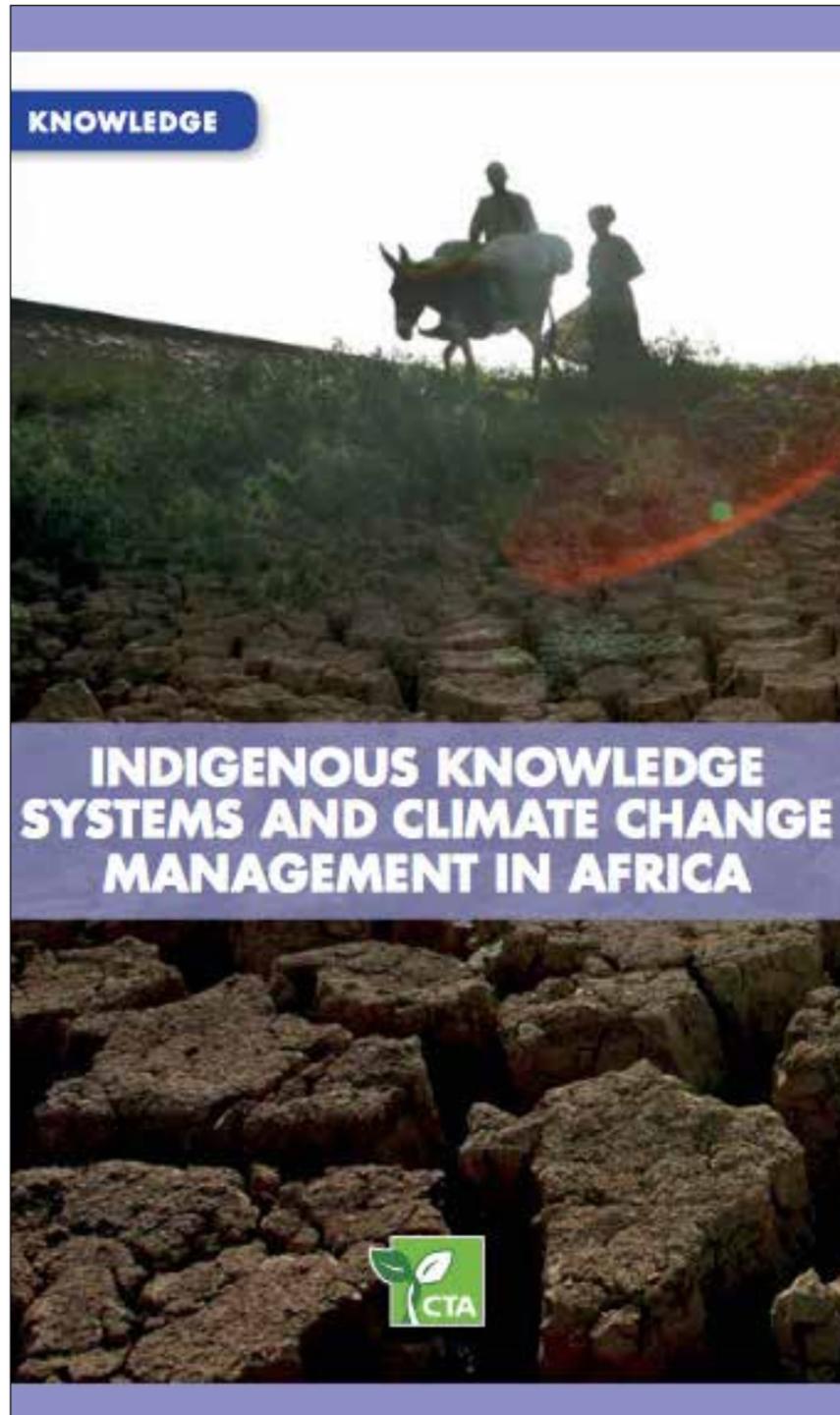
(i) What different IK practices are still used by smallholder farmers in Africa to manage climate change;

(ii) To what extent are IK actions still relevant in contemporary situations, taking into account population growth and climate change;

(iii) What are the threats to IK and what policies and actions are required to conserve it; and

(iv) What are the prospects for IK to be adapted into current efforts to manage climate challenges facing smallholder farmers.

The publication should appeal to stakeholders interested in climate smart solutions developed with the involvement of farmers as practitioners.



The book can be accessed from:
https://publications.cta.int/media/publications/downloads/2009_PDF.pdf

SNAU members share progress and challenges facing farmers

Leaders of the Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU), drawn from seven member organisations, met in Mbabane, Swaziland, from the November 28-29, 2017 to share experiences in the implementation of specific programmes in their organisations.

This was part of the Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP). They also reviewed the status of implementation of their five-year strategy which is coming to an end in 2018, and conducted self-assessments of their respective organisations.

Outlining progress made, SNAU Executive Director, Mr Lwazi Mamba, indicated that they registered success in the implementation of some strategic areas and that they have succeeded in strengthening the structures of the organisation.

Mr Mamba highlighted that more work is needed in mobilising resources for implementation of activities and sustainability of the organisation.

SNAU, which was established in 2007, now has 8,500 individual members. It was suggested that the union could leverage these numbers for resource mobilisation.

Delegates heard from some regional structures of SNAU that membership mobilisation, which is key for increasing the number of members, was hampered by the approach that some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) deploy in supporting farmers. It was reported that farmers are usually provided with handouts, and they expect the same from SNAU, which is outside SNAU's mandate. The work of some NGOs such as World Vision and Techno Serve, with whom SNAU collaborate in most cases, was commended.

Concerns were raised regarding the detrimental effects of some taxation policies on the growth of the agricultural sector as well as delays in coming up with legislation



on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). The SNAU leadership will continue to engage with relevant government ministries to address these issues. Lastly, delegates discussed the challenges they are facing in marketing their products,

which they said was greatly affecting their returns. Some have not been able to get fair markets while others have not made substantive profits. Members were advised to conduct thorough market research before engaging in any business ventures.

SADC Member States ready for the fall armyworm in the 2017/2018 season

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organised a meeting for Member States (MS) and stakeholders to discuss the state of preparedness to combat the fall armyworm (FAW) in the coming agricultural season.

Thirteen (13) MSs and other stakeholders such as CABI, CARDESA, ICIPE, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, IITA, University of Zimbabwe, World Vision and SACAU were represented.

It was clear from the discussion that the FAW caught most of the stakeholders unprepared in the last season. Considering that the FAW attacks mostly maize which is an "emotive crop" in the region, some countries panicked in the face of the outbreak. Farmers also resorted to massive and unprecedented use of different types of pesticides, some of which were not safe for humans and the environment.

The region now has an early warning system that will enable MSs to effectively identify, monitor and assess the risks associated with FAW and deliver a regional based integrated and timely early warning. Capacity development support is being provided by various stakeholders to national governments and institutions as well as at regional level to plan for data collection and analyse the impact of FAW at household, national and regional levels. Government plant protection and extension staff from the entire region have been trained on FAW response and its management.

The FAO Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa noted that the capacities of Southern African countries, communities and key stakeholders to implement prevention and mitigation and good agricultural practices through Integrated Production and Pest Management to reduce impact of FAW and guide



the use of pesticides have generally improved. Most farmers and other stakeholders are becoming more aware on the FAW threat.

Action and contingency plans have been developed, and communication products about the threat disseminated through various channels. FAO and other stakeholders will continue to support training of trainers and farmers and awareness raising in order not to lose the momentum already gained.

Some countries such as Namibia,

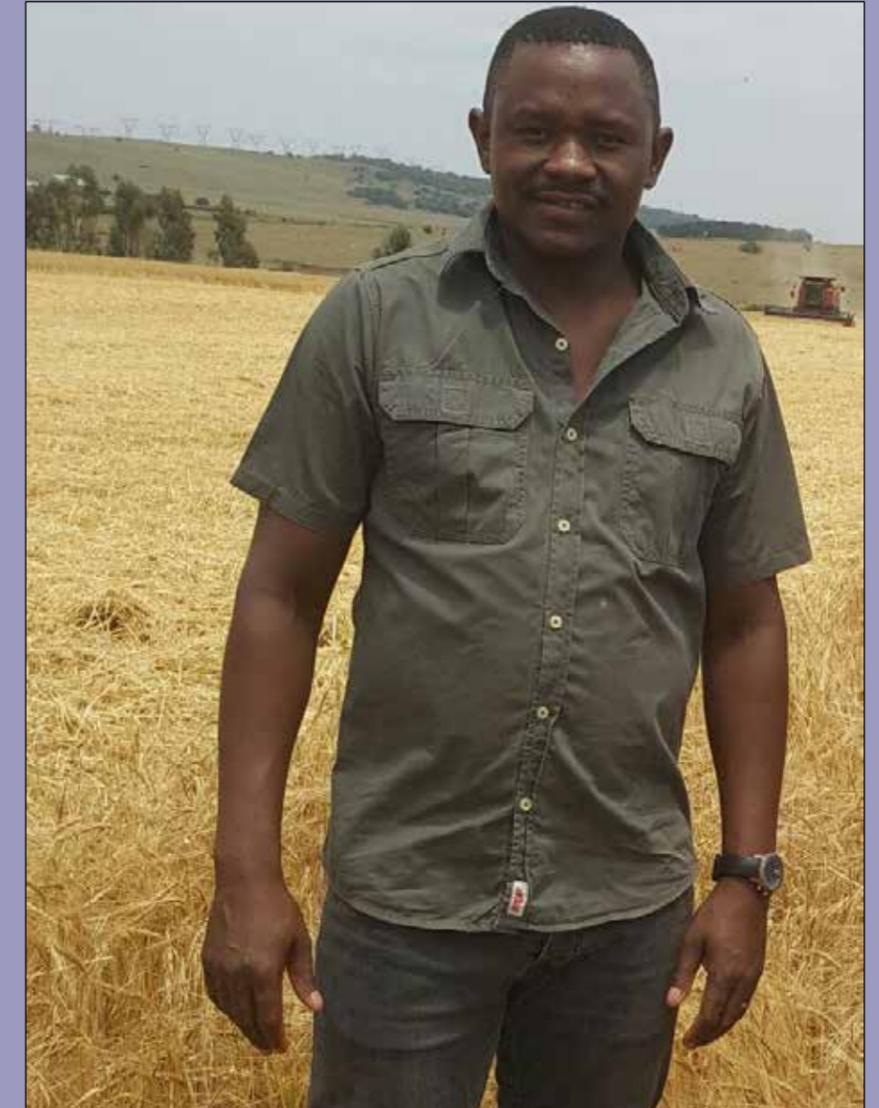
Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe have finalised assessing the impact of the FAW. However, quantified data on affected hectareage and production losses was limited due to inadequate appropriate assessment tools, coupled with other factors. To this end, FAO provided countries with a standardised methodology for impact assessment, and facilitated the development of a common framework for the region to address the impact as a block since the FAW does not respect regional boundaries.

Meet November/December's Young Agripreneur Ambassador Gift Mafuleka

Gift Mafuleka is a commercial farmer with 15 years' experience in commercial grain production and contract farming. Born and bred in the sugarcane producing area on the north-eastern coast of South Africa (SA), Gift is now farming on 800 ha in Gauteng Province. He started farming in 2009 to pursue his childhood dream of becoming a commercial farmer. Prior to farming, he worked as a Crop Manager for one of the leading multi-national frozen vegetable processing companies for 4 years. Before that, he worked for the Agricultural Research Council - Grain Crop Institute (ARC-GCI) as a Research Technician on a grain sorghum program. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture (Crop Production) from Tshwane University of Technology, SA.

In 2012, Gift registered Mphiwe Agriculture Group (Pty) Ltd which focuses on contract farming, agricultural development projects and agricultural services. The company has grown from being a small farming enterprise to becoming a recognised player in areas in which it operates.

He continuously upgrades his knowledge by studying and attending various events on agriculture. He obtained two certificates on management and leadership development from the University of South Africa (Unisa) School of Business Leadership and University of Free State Business College. He also participates in various agricultural forums and groups in the African continent to contribute and share experiences, expand his networks, broaden his knowledge and gain exposure to many things that an entrepreneur needs to be re-energised, more inspired and wholly developed. This is not only for his own gain but for



passing on to every young person that he mentors and inspires.

The success that Gift has achieved has not gone unnoticed as attested by the recognition he has received from various stakeholders in the agricultural industry in his country. Some of the awards he received were the National New Harvest (Emerging Farmer) of the Year in 2011 organised by Toyota SA; Young Farmer of the Year from the Gauteng Provincial

Department of Agriculture in 2013, and the National Young Agricultural Entrepreneur of the Year from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 2014.

Gift has also served in two of the biggest agricultural commodity associations in SA. He has been elected by fellow emerging commercial farmers to serve in the Board of Directors of Potatoes South Africa (PSA) and in the Executive Management of Grain SA.

SACAU

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: May 14-18, 2018

WHERE: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



Season's Greetings

SACAU Board and staff wish you a Merry Christmas
and a prosperous New Year full of good harvests

The office will be closed from
December 15, 2017 to January 5, 2018



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

Contact information

Tel: +27 12 644 0808
Fax: +27 12 667 1335
E-mail: info@sacau.org

Newsletter

Designed by [frayintermedia](http://frayintermedia.com)