

SACAU News

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIONS

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IFAD successfully completes the supervision mission in SACAU



IFAD Mission team and representatives of NFOs in Swaziland

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), together with four other regional farmers' organisations (RFOs), on the continent has been implementing a Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP) which is funded by the European Union (EU), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

(SDC), French Development Agency (Afd) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) since 2013. Every year IFAD organises supervision missions to RFOs to review progress of the programme and provide technical support where necessary. The 2017 mission for SACAU took place from 18th to 26th October and was

conducted at regional level (SACAU secretariat) and in Swaziland where five implementing national farmers' organisations (NFOs) namely Agricultural Council of Tanzania, Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar, Lesotho National Farmers Union, Seychelles Farmers Association and host Swaziland National Agricultural Union joined the team.

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The mission this year was extremely critical considering that the programme is coming to an end in December 2018.

Consequently, much of the time was dedicated towards planning activities for the final year of the programme. To this effect, all parties agreed that with 16 months of implementation left, there is an urgent need to expedite the implementation of project activities. The preparedness of NFOs to sustain activities after the SFOAP funding was also discussed.

Regarding the contribution of SFOAP to the capacity of participating NFOs, the mission noted that the programme has contributed to making farmers' organisations central players

in the development of agricultural policies in their respective countries and in the region amongst others.

This was confirmed by the doubling of the number of invitations NFOs received to participate in policy consultation meetings over the period of one year. In addition, participating NFOs are much more present in specific working groups, taskforces and committees discussing agricultural development in their respective countries. In 2013, NFOs were present in only 41 of these structures, but as of August 2017, they were participating in 78 of these. This increase is a proxy evidence that other stakeholders in the sector have confidence in the NFOs and that the

credibility of NFOs is being enhanced by the project.

The overall conclusion of the mission was that activities implemented at regional and national levels are relevant and are responding to the needs of the NFOs and farmers. In addition, the IFAD mission appreciated the business-oriented approach by SACAU and NFOs in their operations. This will ensure financial sustainability and reduce dependency on external financing in the long run considering that globally the funding landscape for farmers' organisations is changing. The mission also commended SACAU for its focus on youth and ICT.

CSA partners collaborate on promoting practices and technologies



The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) current projections suggest that in the next 30 years, food production will have to increase by at least 70% to meet the demands of the world's growing population. However, this may not be easy to accomplish, given the extensive impact of climate change and weather variability on the sector, and on smallholder farmers in particular. It is necessary, therefore, to build resilience and help farmers to adapt to the changing climate in a way that ensures that a growing population can be fed sustainably without further depleting natural resources.

With Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) showing the potential to achieve the above, efforts are under way to develop, organise and scale up CSA practices. In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), where the adoption of CSA practices is currently low, the literature points to the necessity to make significant investments in agricultural research and development, institutional support and infrastructural development. Worth

noting, however, is the need for a platform where agencies responsible for the various interventions can engage and learn from one another such that future interventions are planned and coordinated from a better informed position. One such attempt was made by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), which convened a meeting of CSA partners in Lusaka, Zambia, from 12th to 14th October 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to draw inputs from the various organisations with the aim of developing collaborative CSA promotion interventions in East and Southern Africa.

Amongst others, the meeting agreed on the establishment of Conservation Agriculture Centres of Excellence (CA CoE) in countries where they are currently not in existence. This initiative is meant to improve knowledge generation on CA practices through research and training. In addition, the need to provide empirical evidence on the relative profitability of CA under different locations and to link farmers to

markets in order to reduce transaction costs, as well as the establishment of incentive arrangements for farmers practising CA/CSA was highlighted.

Represented in the meeting were several organisations, including the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI), African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT), Conservation Farming Unit (CFU), FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and SACAU. The event was a success such that participants proposed to have such consultative meetings on an annual basis. It was also suggested that in future meetings, the public sector should be invited given their strategic role in the agricultural sector. As Norad project implementing partners ACT, CFU and SACAU were expected after this meeting to identify possible areas for collaboration as provided for in their respective agreements with Norad.

CEO's Letter



By Ishmael Sunga

During the last couple of months, we have been busy with external reviews and reporting. We also underwent a comprehensive audit of our internal organisation, including strategy, structure, systems, policies, procedures, competencies and related

matters with one of our development partners as part of their assessment of our eligibility for further support. All these are crucial for our performance management and measurement, and required that we invest adequate time and attention. We were pleased that the outcomes of the audit as well as the reviews were positive and highlighted areas that need attention to help us in our continuous efforts to improve our organisation.

On a related matter, preparations for a baseline study for a new initiative that seeks to promote wider scale adoption of climate smart agriculture in the region started. This will provide the foundation for performance management and measurement.

In addition to our representation work, advocacy and support to

members, we continued with the development of a youth agripreneur programme which we intend to co-create with other agencies in order to have a more comprehensive approach in harnessing the opportunities that are in the agriculture sector. We also started work towards the development of a proposal for regional policy/regulatory framework for weather-based index insurance.

We continued to invest in strengthening our finance and administration department and welcomed the fourth member of the team.

Further investments are planned in order to streamline the documentation and workflow in the department.

Please enjoy the read and we welcome your feedback.

See you!

National farmers' organisations share SFOAP implementation progress



Visiting team of representatives of NFOs at the piggery cooperative in Shiselweni, Swaziland

Five national farmers' organisations (NFOs) namely Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT); Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM), Lesotho National Farmers' Union (LENAFU), Seychelles Farmers' Association (SEYFA) and Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU) met with the IFAD supervision mission from 21st to 25th October 2017 in Swaziland. The meeting, which was held at Lugogo Sun in Ezulwini, provided an opportunity for the NFOs to share achievements made under Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP) over the period of one year. In addition, NFOs shared cases and experiences arising from implementation of the project. A visit to one of the cooperatives supported by the project was also made. From the reports received from NFOs, it was clear that the project is making positive contributions to the development of the agriculture sector in the countries where it is implemented.

In Swaziland, among others, the project has enabled SNAU to facilitate the establishment and registration of a multi-purpose cooperative that will benefit farmers regarding a number of aspects, including provision of farm inputs at a relatively low

price. The cooperative will be able to aggregate inputs demand from farmers and negotiate for better prices with suppliers. The savings that will be made per unit cost through bulk purchasing will trickle down to individual farmers. The arrangement will also reduce transportation cost of the inputs to various parts of the country. This will also contribute towards reduction of production costs as transportation is one of contributors to high input cost.

In Lesotho, LENAFAU is in the process of reviewing their constitution which will better guide the operations of the union, and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lesotho Post Bank for the provision of financial products to farmers. Currently, the bank has no products offered to farmers and it is expected that through the MoU it will be able to come up with special products that will benefit farmers.

The Agriculture Council of Tanzania is in the process of organising a business-to-business conference for farmers and stakeholders in the livestock industry. The intention is to enable the stakeholders to meet with farmers and share the type of services they offer and provide farmers with an opportunity to engage with captains

in the livestock industry. It is expected that farmers will get business deals for their products as well as information regarding livestock in the country. Government representatives will also be invited for them to understand some of the policy and technical bottlenecks farmers and other players in the livestock industry are facing.

CPM on the other hand reported that they embarked on a process of restructuring their organisation to effectively respond to the needs of farmers. They engaged a consultant who conducted an organisational audit that recommended that the organisation be restructured from the local level by forming commodity-based structures at the base. These local structures will form communal farmers' organisations, which will subsequently form regional organisations, who in turn will affiliate to CPM at national level. The thinking behind this restructuring is to reinforce the localised institutions to work more effectively.

On their part, the IFAD supervision team commended the NFOs for the achievements made and urged them to increase their effort in the implementation of activities so that they complete the project in time.

Meeting Malabo Declaration Goals through Climate-Smart Agriculture

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in partnership with several international and regional organisations, convened the 2017 Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) Annual Conference from 25th to 27th October 2017 in Maputo, Mozambique. Held under the theme, "A Thriving Agricultural Sector in A Changing Climate: Meeting Malabo Declaration Goals through Climate-Smart Agriculture", the conference brought together stakeholders from within and outside Africa, including policymakers, development partners, researchers, advocacy groups, farmers' organisations and the private sector to, among others, discuss the contribution of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) towards meeting the Malabo Declaration goals by taking stock of the current knowledge of the effects of climate change, reviewing existing evidence of the effectiveness of various CSA

strategies, and sharing examples of CSA-based practices and tools for developing and implementing evidence-based policies and programmes.

One of the fundamental subjects under discussion was the contentious issue of factors affecting the adoption of CSA practices in Africa. Some of the highlighted factors include: lack of commitment from the public sector to mainstream CSA practices in national policies and programmes, lack of appropriate policies to incentivise farmers to adopt CSA practices and lack of data to conduct location specific simulations on the effects of climate change leading to researchers and policy makers making reference to global models. In addition, the lack of capacity development was said to be another factor; hence, the need to train a new generation of scientists to develop new models adaptable to local conditions was

seen as key in this regard. Finally, it was emphasised that the promotion of CSA practices and technologies as a means of improving food and nutrition security under changing climate conditions should not only focus on the production aspect, but should give equal attention, if not more, to post-harvest management as well as the demand side of the chain.

From the various discussions, it seems a lot of research is still required on factors influencing/inhibiting the adoption of CSA practices in Africa. As one presenter noted, "There are no silver bullets in fighting climate change and improving farmers' resilience. Climate smartness in the mixed systems depends on local context. Therefore, broad-brush targeting of CSA interventions is not appropriate from a technical standpoint, given that the impacts are often context-specific."



Africa Solidarity Trust Fund Sub-regional Project

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Southern Africa sub-regional office hosted an end of project workshop from 08th to 12th October 2017 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The project, titled "Strengthening controls of food safety threats, plant and animal pests and diseases for agricultural productivity and trade in Southern Africa", sought to put in place effective control mechanisms in order to improve food and nutrition security and enhance regional trade in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region. Covering eight countries in Southern Africa as well as regional activities, the project was funded by the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, an initiative of African governments who contribute funds to support Africa-led/owned interventions in the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Launched at the end of 2014, the project was implemented over three years and comes to an end in December 2017. The workshop reviewed the implementation of the project, and highlighted the achievements made as well as challenges and opportunities emerging from implementation in the different countries.

The workshop noted the gains made by the project in the different countries and the region. Notably, it was reported that it contributed to the improvement of the implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) obligations as pronounced in the SADC SPS Annex to the Trade Protocol. Regional activities were also said to have encouraged networking among participants from the countries, increased communication, and enhanced information sharing among staff of various institutions in the respective countries.

The project also played a role in creating awareness on transboundary pests in the region which was



instrumental in enabling the region to successfully organise and implement an immediate response to the fall armyworm (FAW) invasion. Lessons and strategies adopted from this response are reportedly now being used as reference for the continental response to the pest. The FAW experience showed that there is a serious gap on appreciating the dangers of pesticide use. The message on FAW control is that pesticides should be the last resort in

its control. While alternative control measures such as crashing eggs and use of sand may be feasible on a small scale, the registration of bio-pesticides for use in large scale farms is critical.

Finally, it was considered key that all countries should put an effort in the control of FAW and highlight the implications of not controlling pests and diseases to policymakers or politicians.

Meet October's Young Agripreneur Ambassador, Christoph Knye



Christoph Knye and his wife, Judith Isele

Christoph Knye from Namibia's Gobabis District in Omaheke Region has been farming since January 2010 immediately after completing his BSc (Agric): Agricultural Economics specialising in Agri-Business Management at the University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa. Prior to his studies at UP, he spent almost two years at a grain seed breeding company, Südwestdeutsche Saatwucht GmbH & Co. KG, in Germany, where he received practical training in crop production and seed breeding as well as marketing.

Christoph started farming with his father and gathered extensive experience in beef cattle and crop production and basic farm management practices before he went on his own in June 2015. His love and passion for nature and farming as well as the privilege of being able to take over the family farm led him to venture into farming. This, together with the multifaceted challenges a farmer faces daily and his vision of a sustainable food production, motivate him to continue farming.

Since August 2016, he has been

farming with his wife and their enterprise is on beef cattle and crops (maize, sunflower, beans and sorghum). He sells his produce in both the local and export market. Christoph is now an accomplished farmer and he was named Meat Cooperation of Namibia (MeatCo) Beef Producer of the Month in August 2017 in recognition of an outstanding carcass composition of his oxen.

In addition to farming, Christoph is a consultant for "Price forecasting for weaners and carcass beef prices for MeatCo" under the Bureau of Food and Agricultural Policies (BFAP). His involvement in this process, and participation in conferences and short courses help him update his knowledge and skills that benefit his enterprise.

His involvement with organised agriculture dates back to his early years of farming. He was a board member and treasurer of the Summerdown Farmers Association where he, amongst other things, represented the association at annual conferences of the Agricultural Employers Association and Namibia Agricultural Union

(NAU).

Christoph's message to young people who want to go into farming is that they need to find and live their passion. He also states that "Hard and diligent work leads towards your farming success. Learn from the experience of the older generation, combine this with new technology and knowledge and you will be successful."

His message as well as his love and interest in maintaining, servicing and solving easy technical problems on tractors and farm implements is a clear demonstration of the positive relationship between technology and young farmers. Christoph does not see himself outside farming and believes that there is a bright future for agriculture.

He, however, stresses the need for sustainable farming practices to maintain the land for future generations and the use of green technology for more intensive production.

He also considers collaboration with fellow farmers for higher efficiency and intensity, leading to better profit margins for each party as key.

SACAU participates in Access to Seeds Index Expert Review Committee for Eastern and Southern Africa



SACAU participated in the Access to Seeds Index Expert Review Committee for Eastern and Southern Africa which met in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 12th October 2017. The Index, which is published by the Access to Seeds Foundation, evaluates and compares seed companies according to their efforts to improve access to quality seeds of improved varieties for smallholder farmers. The Committee evaluated the first Index which was published in February 2016 and reviewed the draft methodology for the second Index which will be published at the end of 2018 or early 2019.

Amongst others, the Committee considered the companies list which was updated through a landscaping study for Eastern and Southern Africa whose outcomes will inform the methodology and the scope,

type of information needed from companies, indicators and other regional issues and challenges to address. Data collection for the index itself will be done through questionnaires answered by companies themselves. On this, it was observed that companies were initially very sceptical to the Index but are now open to participating. This is a positive development since the amount of information available on companies affects their ranking.

Other matters raised/proposed for inclusion in questionnaires were around the need to establish membership of companies to seed associations, more information on varieties offered, quality aspects of the seed varieties, promotion activities and affordability.

Expert Review Committees play a key role in validating the

Announcements



HERE IS WHAT'S NEW AT SACAU:

SACAU welcomes to the team, Mr Jean-Bosco Rurangangabo who joined the organisation as Finance and Administration Manager on 16th October. Jean-Bosco is an experienced manager and consultant for projects, private companies and public institutions. He has over 10 years' experience in financial management of projects funded by international financial institutions such as IFAD, DFID, the Belgium government and the Netherlands; supervision and mid-term review of development projects, and human resource management. He holds a Master's Degree in Finance and Investment from the Wits Business School and worked as an independent consultant before joining SACAU.

methodology and inputs from regional committees that are taken to the global Committee. Thus, these are extremely useful for providing advisory input to the development of the Index. Outcomes of this meeting will thus also be integrated into the methodology together with inputs from the other regions.



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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