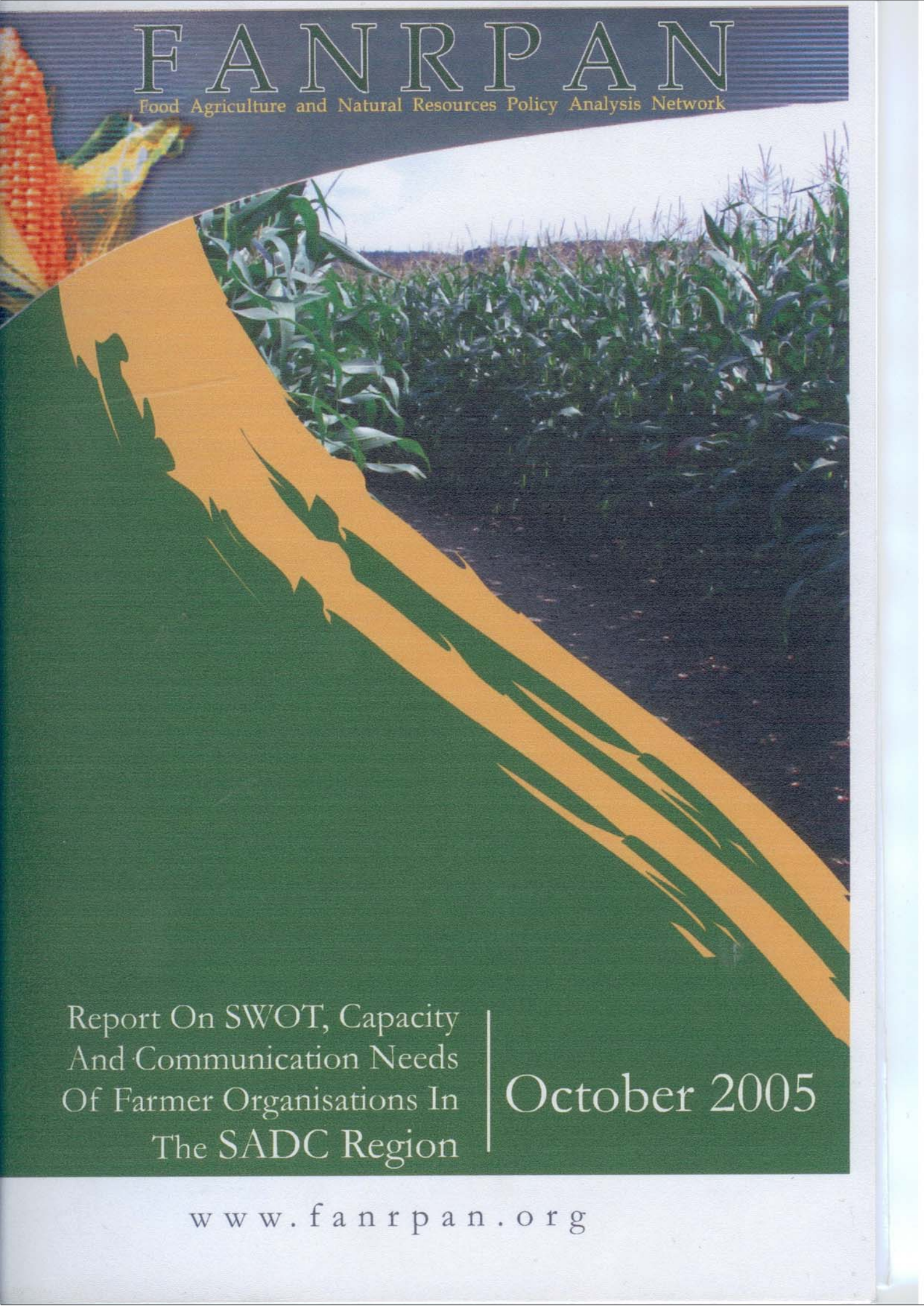


FANRPAN

Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network



Report On SWOT, Capacity
And Communication Needs
Of Farmer Organisations In
The SADC Region

October 2005

www.fanrpan.org

Executive Summary

This study was commissioned by FANRPAN and SACAU to analyze the profiles of farmer organizations (FOs) in the SADC countries. The study was commissioned because information about farmer organizations in the SADC region has mostly been incomplete and fragmented. Such a situation has made it difficult for SACAU to mobilize broad-based support on regional and international matters that affect farmers in the region. This study is an attempt to address that need by profiling and identifying capacity constraints of farmer organizations that have a national constituency in the SADC. The countries included in the study include South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia and Mauritius and Tanzania. SACAU has already been interacting with Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. It therefore intends to direct its efforts to attract membership in the countries of Lesotho, Botswana, Tanzania and Mauritius as well as strengthening policy analysis and representation capacity of the FOs in the region.

This report mainly highlights the key aspects of farmer organizations in the SADC countries in terms of typologies of FOs, operating environments, structures (membership and leadership), roles and services, linkages, opportunities and constraints, key challenges faced, capacity needs and strategies for empowering FOs.

The information about farmer organizations for each country was collected and compiled by country consultants who conducted interviews with senior officials of the identified organizations.

The study has shown that there are many farmer organizations in the different countries. These FOs are of different categories with the majority being commodity associations. The FOs are of different sizes in terms of membership, outreach, resource endowment (human, financial and assets) with the majority being small. The FOs are also of different ages with some being old and big but many being formed in recent years and still small in capacity. The FOs have been influenced positively and negatively by several external and internal factors. These factors have influenced the establishment and development of most FOs.

The profiles of various FOs in different countries highlight some strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with these national farmer organizations involved in the study. Although these are different in many aspects, there are some common elements. The table below provides a summary of the main issues for most of the FOs: