



FANRPAN MALAWI PROGRESS REPORT: July 2005 – March 2006

Civil Society Agriculture Network (*CISANET*)
Nurses & Midwives Council Building
P.O. Box 203
Lilongwe
Tel. (265) 1 775 580
Fax. (265) 1 775 540
E-mail cisanet@cisanet.org

1.0 Introduction

This report marks the beginning of CISANET's new role as the Malawi Food Agriculture Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Node coordinating unit. The report highlights the major activities that the Network has done in its formative stages in coordinating the FANRPAN activities. The report covers activities done from July 2005 up to March 2006.

FANRPAN originated from the Ministers of Agriculture for East and Southern Africa in Harare in 1994, where the idea of establishing a regional policy network to enhance capacity for policy formulation and analysis in SADC was developed. FANRPAN was established in July 1997, with its mission as to coordinate, influence and facilitate policy research, analysis and dialogue at the national, regional and global levels in order to develop the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources sector through networking, capacity building and generation of information for the benefit of all stakeholders in the SADC region.

2.Change of Node coordination unit

In July 2005, FANRPAN hosted a national workshop on promotion of the use of civil society evidence in policies for food security, at Kalikuti Hotel in Lilongwe. The outcomes of the Kalikuti meeting were:

- ✦ Setting up of a new steering committee
- ✦ Selection of CISANET as Malawi node coordination unit, from its former unit in Bunda College of Agriculture's Agricultural Policy Research Unit.

The objectives of FANRPAN are:

- ✦ Promote appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty, increase food security and enhance sustainable agricultural development in the SADC region
- ✦ Improve policy analysis, research and formulation of priority SADC agricultural research themes
- ✦ Develop human and institutional capacity for coordinated dialogue amongst stakeholders
- ✦ Improve policy decision making through the generation, exchange and use of policy related information

3. Highlights of FANRPAN activities in Malawi:

Activity	Output/outcome	Progress/Achievements
Conduct steering committee meetings	3 meetings held	<p>The steering committee meetings took place, and some of the key issues that were key outcomes of the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Election of Mr. Ian Kumwenda of MASIP as the chair of the steering committee ✦ Selection of CISANET as a node coordination unit for Malawi ✦ Agreements on recruitment of a node facilitator for Malawi ✦ Preparation for the first contract farming meeting in Malawi, in November 2005 ✦ Preparation of the Johannesburg FANRPAN annual dialogue meeting, October 2005
Attend the Johannesburg Annual FANRPAN dialogue conference	8 Malawi participants attended the conference	<p>The annual multi-stakeholder conference took place in Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa from 4th – 7th October 2005. The outcomes of the conference were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Confirmation of CISANET as Malawi node coordination unit ✦ The conference developed a communiqué to SADC secretariat
Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CISANET and FANRPAN	MoU discussed and signed	<p>Following the appointment of CISANET as the node coordination unit for FANRPAN in Malawi, FANRPAN developed an MoU which was discussed at the 11th February 2006 CISANET Board meeting, where the Board accepted to host FANRPAN Node and the MoU was signed by the CISANET Board Chairman, Mr. Austin Ngwira and Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda.</p>
Country visit by Fred Kalibwani from FANRPAN Regional Office	Meeting with key steering committee members Advert for researchers developed	<p>Mr. Kalibwani visited CISANET in 29th -31st March 2006. During his visit and meetings in Malawi, the visit achieved the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Confirmation of the need for cost-sharing on Node facilitator between CISANET and FANRPAN ✦ Recruitment of researchers for the seeds & trade and seed voucher scheme, SAKSS study ✦ Development of research peer review team with strong participation of CGIAR centres, with Dr. Siambi – ICRISAT and Dr. Chirwa – CIAT accepting to be part of the team ✦ Bunda College Economics Department lecturers and APRU joining to be in the pool for FANRPAN researchers.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Output indicator</i>	<i>Progress made/achievement</i>
Conducted the first Malawi Contract Farming workshop, Malawi Institute of Management	1 workshop report developed	<p>The workshop was coordinated by Mr. Ian Kumwenda, Node Steering Committee Chairperson and Ministry of Agriculture. The conference which drew participants from the private sector, Government and civil society, took place on 15th November 2005 at Malawi Institute of Management in Lilongwe.</p> <p>The workshop being the first of its kind in Malawi drew policy presentations from the sugar industry, cotton, smallholder farmers. At the meeting, Mr. Kumwenda presented the FANRPAN research paper on contract farming. The workshop developed the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Elements of what a good contract should be like (to be part of the contract farming framework) ✦ Capacity building for parties to understand what contract farming is all about ✦ Making associations legal entities ✦ Development of infrastructure to facilitate contract farming development ✦ Conduct follow-up meetings on contract farming to develop the framework for contract farming in Malawi
Attend NEPAD contract farming workshop	1 workshop report developed	<p>The workshop was organized by the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture and NEPAD secretariat, in Entebbe, Uganda from 21st – 25th November 2005. The goal of the conference was to understand the contributions and potential pillars of contract farming and design strategies that upscale the positive lessons to contribute to the growth of agriculture, farmer incomes and agribusiness profits. The some of the issues for consideration by regional blocks on contract farming were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Regional blocks and national governments to develop clear policies and legal frameworks to facilitate efficient and equitable contract farming in Africa ✦ Improved infrastructural services by regional blocks and country Governments ✦ Formation of multi-stakeholder task forces to kick-start contract farming harmonization processes <p>At the workshop, NEPAD & SADC were tasked to organize meetings in member countries by end March 2006. Where as CISANET presented the workshop report to the Board and FANRPAN secretariat.</p>

4. Program Challenges

The program faced some challenges in the reporting period:

- ✦ The Malawi program did not have the funding as per the agreement with FANRPAN, which delayed implementation of node activities. This delay was caused by among other things delays in development of a memorandum of understanding with CISANET in order to commit financial resources to CISANET.
- ✦ Impasse caused by lack of clear understanding on the node facilitation between APRU and CISANET, and the need for clarification by FANRPAN Regional Office.

5. Way Forward

The following are issues awaiting implementation for the Malawi node:

- ✦ Recruitment of researchers for the 4 national studies
- ✦ Development of a research peer review mechanism team
- ✦ Facilitation of contract farming framework task forces based on 2 workshops (based on agreed node funding)
- ✦ Development of the node annual programme
- ✦ Appointment/recruitment of a node facilitator

Report developed by: *Victor C. Mhoni, Acting Node Facilitator*
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