

Meeting the Challenges of Policy Research, Analysis and Dialogue in Southern Africa: Revitalizing FANRPAN

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FANRPAN
Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network



Overview

- What is FANRPAN?
- Towards a new strategic plan
- Proposed roles & thematic areas
- Policy cycle: research to action
- Examples of current initiatives

FANRPAN's Corporate Identity

- A multi-country policy research and advocacy network
- A multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform
- A multi-partner network of agricultural research institutions
- A multi-country pool of researchers and policy analysts
- An autonomous regional FANR policy outfit
- A knowledge management and information exchange network
- Recognized by governments, universities, private sector and civil society as a source of expert FANR policy research and analysis



Structure of FANRPAN

- **Network of country nodes—12**
 - Policy researchers, policy makers, agribusiness, farmer organizations, other civil society organizations
 - Foundation for Network—must strengthen
- **Lean Secretariat**
 - CEO, admin/finance officers, Director for Research; may propose 'voice' director
- **Board of Governors**
 - Needs to be revitalized
- **Annual General Meeting**
 - Needs to be revitalized—next one 2-4 May 2007



Mozambique node

***Eduardo Mondlane University,
Faculty of Agronomy and Forest
Engineering***

Mr. Bruno Araújo as co-ordinator

We value the capacity of national nodes to manage multi-stakeholder national dialogues on policy, to draw on wide range of researchers to provide evidence for informing these dialogues, and to contribute to regional initiatives



Towards a New Strategic Plan

- Work in progress—first draft soon
- 27-29 Sept 2006 workshop—35 participants
- Generated many suggestions and ideas—provided elements for writing a new strategic plan
- No radical departures from past, but important refinements and clarifications



Proposed Vision

**Productive agriculture as a basis
for widely shared food security
and prosperity using natural
resources sustainably in
Southern Africa**



Proposed Mission

FANRPAN's mission is to promote, influence and facilitate quality agricultural and natural resources policy research, analysis and dialogue at the national, regional and global levels.



Proposed Key Roles of FANRPAN

- 1. Research as a basis for policy reform or adjustment**
- 2. Advisory services to policy makers**
- 3. Broadening informed engagement in policy**
- 4. Disseminating useful research information**
- 5. Strengthening analytical and 'influencing' skills and capacity (getting from research to policy support)**



Proposed Themes

- **Explicit support for national, sub-regional (SADC, COMESA) and larger (CAADP, MDGs) priorities**
- **Proposing 4 broad themes but no formal prioritization**
 - **Criteria: numbers of potential beneficiaries, economic importance, capacity of FANRPAN members, potential for affecting policies on regionally important issues; alignment with CAADP, RISDP, COMESA Ag. Plan, national priorities**



Proposed Themes

- 1. Southern Africa in a changing international trade environment**
 - Includes WTO negotiations, standards such as bio-safety, impact of grain price rises, food aid, bio-fuels, livestock, competitiveness
- 2. Regional economic integration and uneven economic development**
 - Markets, public and private investment, infrastructure [including transboundary water], trade and regulation policies



Proposed Themes

3. **Agriculture's role in reducing poverty and vulnerability and the appropriate policy responses**
 - **Such as HIV work; safety nets; innovations in agricultural water management; agro-forestry policies**

4. **Innovation in technology, institutions, communications**
 - **E.g., input service delivery models, research networks, transboundary river basin institutions, application of research results, adaptation to climate change and environmental stress**

Policy Cycle: Research to Action-1

Policy cycle:

**Collection, generation of data and information ("what is"), →
policy analysis ("what could be"), →
dialogue, advice ("what should be, what can be"), →
implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of outcomes**

- **Just doing research limits impact and uptake**
- **Inadequate resources combined with capacity limitations have limited FANRPAN engagement in the full cycle**
- **Requires new skills and capacities, long-term support**

Policy Cycle: Research to Action-2

- **Implication: FANRPAN has multiple roles: research, analysis, advice, facilitate dialogue, strengthening “voice”, knowledge management, capacity building**
 - Important to design thematic programs to address full “cycle”
 - Important to strengthen capacity to turn research into usable policy advice
- **Question: Is “advocacy” part of FANRPAN’s role? (or provision of research-based analysis to advocates)**



Examples of Projects

- **USAID, CTA, FARA for institutional support (DfID anticipated)**
- **USAID for study on input vouchers to unite commercial and non-commercial input markets (Zambia, Malawi)**
- **Projects with Southern Africa Trust on 'Household Vulnerability index' (HVI)—related to HIV-AIDS**
- **COMPETE—Competence Platform on Energy Crops, with 41 partners; FANRPAN leads policy work package—bio-fuels issues**
- **Support to COMESA on regional CAADP Compact**

Examples of Proposed Projects

- **Making Markets Work for the Poor with COMESA, MSU, ECAPAPA, submitted to World Bank (DFID Trust funds, under discussion)**
- **Improving Micro-Agric. Water Management Projects (Zambia, Zimbabwe—USAID, under discussion)**
- **Limpopo Basin Focal Project—CPWF (preparing to re-submit—UEM, IIAM)**
- **Limpopo Basin Water Rights Interventions—CPWF (on hold—UEM, IIAM)**
- **Scaling agroforestry innovations out (with ICRAF; invited by CIDA to submit full proposal—IIAM, UEM)**
- **Southern African Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Network (SAARTN, submitted)**
- **Hosting of Global Environmental Change and Food Security in Southern Africa (proposal submitted to donors)**

Need to encourage national nodes to initiate new regional activities, and better link on-going national activities to regional level; lack of resources to pursue all the potential opportunities



FANRPAN is your network

www.fanrpan.org