

FANRPAN 2009 HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

Maputo Mozambique, 31 August 2009 - 4 September 2009

BACKGROUND NOTE – 30 July 2009

The FANRPAN Annual Multi Stakeholder Dialogues

The FANRPAN Annual Multi stakeholder Dialogue is a flagship event that is held annually during the first week of September. The 2009 dialogue will be held in Maputo where over 200 delegates comprising of representatives from Government Ministries responsible for food; agricultural and natural resources sector (FANR); Policy research institutions such as relevant university departments and agricultural research institutes; Private sector national umbrella organizations which deal with FANR; Farmers' organizations; Civil Society organizations involved in the FANR sector and Consumer groups will gather and dialogue on policy issues facing the FANR sector in Southern Africa. Delegates at the September 2007 FANRPAN Stakeholders Conference stressed the importance and urgency of a vigorous advocacy work aiming to a radical increase of public support to agriculture. The unclear and undervalued perception of agriculture is in contrast with the high political importance attached to the sector in the developed countries. In these countries, policymakers have a better understanding of the various economic and non-economic roles which a strong agricultural sector can play.

2009 Theme

The theme for the 2009 annual dialogue is *"True Contribution of Agriculture to Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Southern African countries"*. The 2009 stakeholders' conference will be a direct follow up to the 2008 conference on "Regional Strategies for Addressing the Global Food Crisis". The 2009 conference will bring together researched case studies from different countries on the "true contribution of agriculture to economic growth and poverty in southern Africa" – based on the various forward and backward linkages discussed in the 2008 conference.

The current agriculture statistics in the SADC countries focus on the primary production of crops and livestock only. They do not capture the backward and forward linkages of agriculture with other sectors such as domestic and external trade, industry, transport, tourism, infrastructure, energy, banking and various services. If those linkages were accounted for, the figures regarding agriculture would be much higher than those currently provided by the official statistics. This would make it clear that a strong agricultural sector is a powerful leverage for the whole economic and social development. Conversely, the underdevelopment of the agricultural sector in most SADC countries constrains the development of other sectors of the economy. Similarly, it does not allow for the implementation of any meaningful poverty reduction policies either in the rural or in the urban areas.

Media

A special feature to the 2009 dialogue will be the active engagement with the media community, FANRPAN in partnership with the Inter Press Service (IPS) will be training 20 journalists from member countries who will be expected to prepare daily despatches to their own countries and also accompany the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) led Africa - Wide Agenda for a post- Kyoto deal that includes Agriculture Forestry and Sustainable Land Use (AFOLU). The Africa Media houses are being joined by Glasshouse Partnership, an international media house that is promoting Farming First, an initiative sponsored by FANRPAN's partners, International Council for Science (ICSU), International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) and the co-sponsors of the FANRPAN AWARD CroLife International (CLI). Media briefings will be held on a daily basis at the designated press room.

Structure and Content of the Annual Regional Dialogue

A number of agricultural programmes impacting and influencing the economy have been identified to come and dialogue and define responses and strategies towards their contribution to the economy. These mainly include programmes that are coordinated by FANRPAN with specialist inputs from invited guests. These projects include: (i) Agricultural Inputs and Outputs Markets; (ii) Biosafety and Biotechnology; (iii) Biofuels; (iv) CAADP; (v) Climate Change; (vi) Social Protection; (vii) Water, Agriculture and Poverty. For details on the FANRPAN projects and outputs please visit FANRPAN projects webpage www.fanrpan.org.

Regional Dialogue Sub Themes

The four day (Tuesday - Friday) policy engagements are subdivided into four themes as follows (i) "Sharing the Research Evidence and Policy Options" (ii) Focus on Mozambique: The Bigger the Multiplier, the Greater the Impact on the Economy (iii) Policy Advocacy, Tools and Processes, (iv) Defining the Way Forward From 2009 -2010. The policy dialogues will be in three distinctive formats:

- (1) Plenary Presentation of FANRPAN's Research and Advocacy Outputs for 2009
- (2) Panel Discussions where experts on the specific themes will engage in multi stakeholder discussions- Panellists will include government ministers, private sector, farmers, donors
- (3) Facilitated plenary discussions

Day One: "Arrivals, Side Meetings and Official Dinner"

Delegates are expected to arrive in Maputo on Monday the 31st of August. Delegates will be met at the airport by a representative of the FANRPAN Mozambique Node and transported to the VIP Grand Maputo Hotel. The Conference Secretariat will be located at the Hotel foyer and all delegates will be registered and allocated rooms upon arrival. Delegates are encouraged to be proactive in setting up their side meetings for their projects and country nodes. The official opening dinner sponsored by the Eduardo Mondlane University (EUM) will be at the VIP Grand Maputo Hotel at 19:30hrs. A detailed logistics note is available separate from this document.

Day Two: "Sharing the Research Evidence and Crafting Policy Options"

Delegates will be welcomed by the Mozambique node. The FANRPAN Board Chairman who is also the Secretary General of COMESA will articulate relevant policy issues of Continental and Regional significance during the 2008/2009 year. The FANRPAN CEO will share FANRPAN's Business Strategy and FANRPAN's highlights for 2008/2009. There are three thematic discussions scheduled for the day. There will be two sessions on the economic contribution from natural resources, one on the role of climate change in agriculture and another on biofuels. The third session is on the economic contribution from food systems with a specific focus on Biosafety and biotechnology.

Day Three: “Focus on Mozambique: The Bigger the Multiplier, the Greater the impact on the Economy”

Part of FANRPAN’s mandate is to promote the sharing of experiences and scaling up of best practices. At the 2007 Annual Dialogue held in Zambia delegates recommended that one day during the Annual Policy Dialogue is dedicated to learning about the host country’s agriculture policy processes. For 2009, delegates will spend the whole morning engaging with Farmers in the Boane farming district. During the afternoon, delegates will return to the VIP Grand Maputo Hotel and engage in plenary discussions on the “True Contribution of Agriculture to the Economic Development of Mozambique”.

The highlight of the day will be the presentation of the **FANRPAN Food Security Policy Leadership Award**. FANRPAN is currently receiving nominations for individuals or organizations that have made effective contributions in food security in Mozambique through focused policies with the ultimate goal of reducing hunger in the region. The AWARD will be awarded to a Mozambican in their capacity as the host country for this year’s dialogue. In 2008, Annual FANRPAN Award went to H. E. President Bingu wa Mutharika for his agricultural policy interventions which have transformed Malawi from a food deficit nation to a net maize exporter. There will be an evening session where Ministers from the four Limpopo River Basin Countries will respond to policy recommendations from the two year FANRPAN/Agriculture Research Council (ARC) South Africa study on the relationship between water, agriculture and poverty. The session will also be an opportunity to hear a key note address delivered by a senior representative of the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) who will also bring in experiences from 10 river basins worldwide.

Day Four: “Policy Advocacy, Tools and Processes”

As part of FANRPAN’s mandate to develop tools and use them to develop appropriate policy messages, day four is dedicated to policy advocacy. The FANRPAN Communications and Advocacy Director will share the FANRPAN tools, this will be followed by presentations of FANRPAN Programmes that have ably combined policy research and advocacy, these are; (i) the Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) which has been undertaken in partnership with the Southern Africa Trust (SAT), World Vision International (WVI), University of Venda (UNIVEN) and rural communities in Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe; (ii) the input voucher programme undertaken in partnership with the governments and farming communities of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. FANRPAN and its partners acknowledge that 70% of the smallholder farmers are women and yet this is not reflected in agricultural policies. Delegates will dialogue, craft messages and do role plays to demonstrate how policies and services can be aligned to meet farmer needs. During the dialogues, academics will capture the delegates’ voices and work with a regional theatre group on a theatre piece that will be presented as the climax of the day during the launch of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (B&MGF)funded Women Accessing Realigned Markets (WARM) project. During the afternoon session, delegates from the FANRPAN member countries will share their understanding on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) national and regional processes. Coupled with CAADP will be presentations and discussions on the Farming First principles which FANRPAN together with its international partners (CropLife, ICSU, and IFAP) have been promoting.

Day Five: Friday 4 September “Defining the Way Forward From 2009 to 2010”

Policy dialogues will commence at 09:00hrs to allow for hotel check out for delegates departing in the afternoon. The morning session will receive feedback from Thursday’s working sessions on CAADP and Farming First. The conference declaration will be prepared and the dialogue will officially close by 12:30hrs. In the afternoon FANRPAN members will hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The 13 voting members of the FANRPAN network, who are the official signatories to the FANRPAN constitution, will receive the Chairman’s statement, audited accounts, new membership and partners to the network. Non voting delegates are welcome to attend as observers.

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