

**FANRPAN 2009 REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE  
CONFERENCE OUTCOMES**

**04 September 2009**

**Preamble**

1. From 31 August to 4 September 2009, 226 participants from 4 continents and 28 countries assembled in Maputo, Mozambique for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) policy dialogue, which addressed the theme of “Agriculture’s True Contribution to the Economic Development of Southern Africa”. Participants included representatives of government ministries of agriculture and natural resources, research institutes, farmers’ organisations, the private sector, development partners, international technical partners and NGOs.
2. The dialogue was organized with the cooperation of Eduardo Mondlane University which hosts the FANRPAN national node for Mozambique. The dialogue was officially opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique Her Excellency Luisa Diego and the chairperson of FANRPAN and Secretary General of COMESA, Honorable Sindiso Ngwenya.
3. The week-long series of panel discussions enumerated key issues underlying the broad themes of the dialogue. Participants also had an opportunity to interact with farmers from Boane district outside Maputo.

**FANRPAN Policy Leadership Award**

4. The 2009 FANRPAN Food security policy leadership Award was given to His Excellency ARMANDO EMILIO GUEBUZA. Under the leadership of His Excellency, the Government of Mozambique has put in practice the “Rome Declaration on the World Food Summit” by “reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food”. This is consistent with the universal right of access to adequate food and the fundamental human right of everyone to be free from hunger.
5. Mozambique has made huge progress on ensuring the political, social and economical environment to eliminating poverty and hunger. In the last five years the level of poverty

decreased by 15%, thanks to the visionary leadership of His Excellency, and his effort to addressing hunger and malnutrition.

6. In 2007 the Government of Mozambique approved the Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (ESAN II), which includes food security as a human right. In addition, the president spearheaded the Green Revolution Strategy, a crucial document which contains the following pillars:
  - Access and rational use of natural resources;
  - Access to improved technologies; Access to markets and information;
  - More access to credit;
  - Capacity building of Human and Social Capital.

### **FANRPAN Civil Society Policy Movers and Shakers Award**

7. The inaugural Award for civil society was presented to Celina Cossa the founder and President of the General Union of Cooperatives of Maputo. The General Union has a current membership of over 10,000 farmers most of whom are women. Madame Cossa mobilized women to become food producers which became the foundation for the personal empowerment. The farming venture has expanded into other commercial enterprises including poultry production and marketing, credit, insurance and construction. Madame Cossa has become an inspiration for food security and a proponent of African Green Revolution in Mozambique.

### **Recommendations**

Participants made recommendations in the following areas:

### **Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP)**

8. Participants were encouraged by the steps taken by governments and other stakeholders in the domestication and implementation of CAADP. In particular they commended those countries that have achieved the target of allocating 10% of their budgets to Agriculture and urged those countries which have not yet met this target to take all necessary measures to do so. To date, Malawi and Zimbabwe are the only FANRPAN member countries that have achieved the target. FANRPAN nodes were urged to follow up discussions with national governments in order to hold the national CAADP roundtables which are an important step in the development of a national compact.
9. For example, in accepting the FANRPAN Food Security Policy Leadership Award, the government of Mozambique accepted the following benchmarks for monitoring progress.

- Increase investment in agriculture from the current 8% to 10%
- Increase the area under irrigation from the current 50 000ha (3.3 million hectares potential)
- Increase use of fertilizer per hectare
- Increase productivity and overall production across all commodities, including livestock
- Increase income of women farmers

10. In response FANRPAN committed to:

- Supporting Mozambique to domesticating the seed policy to ensure improved seed availability and access by smallholder farmers
- Implementing the Women Accessing Re-aligned Markets (WARM) project as a way to increase women's access to markets
- Use the FANRPAN Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) to accompany the national census to identify suitable interventions for the vulnerable households and welfare cases
- Support the government of Mozambique to assess the true contribution of agriculture using the Social Accounting Matrix Methodology
- Provide training and Capacity on the use of the Social Accounting Method in the region in collaboration with CTA and CARDI.

### **True Contribution of Agriculture to the Economy**

11. Participants endorsed the important role of agriculture, agreeing that there would be no development in Africa without agriculture being at the centre. Agriculture is the most important source of livelihood throughout Africa, accounting for more than 70% of total employment of which 65% are women farmers.
12. Governments' national accounts seldom reflect the true contribution of agriculture and often ignore the backward and forward linkages which agriculture forges with the rest of the economy. These linkages create employment and surpluses, which protect against rural vulnerability and feed further economic diversification. In addition, the system of national accounts seldom reflects the contribution of livestock to agriculture or the economy.
13. Participants recommended that national budget allocations should reflect agriculture's true contribution. Participants urged FANRPAN to develop measurement tools to enable governments to support agriculture in budget allocations. In particular participants appreciated the Social Accounting Matrix methodology used in the Caribbean. This methodology showed that when backward and forward linkages are taken into account, the true contribution of agriculture to GDP increases about sevenfold.

## **Smallholder Farmers**

14. Participants heard the specific problems faced by smallholder farmers. These included limited access to inputs, technology, and credit and market information, as well as insecure rights to land and water. Government initiatives from the region have empowered smallholder farmers by helping them access inputs and outputs from the private sector. Smallholder farmers lack opportunities to share experiences and articulate their needs to policy makers and researchers. The meeting recommended that FANRPAN create opportunities for peer learning between farmers in the region.

## **Women and Agriculture**

15. Participants acknowledged the role which women farmers play in African agricultural production. Involving women in the development of agricultural policies which impact them is vital, as well as helping them access these realigned markets. A three-year FANRPAN pilot project, called “Women Accessing Realigned Markets” (WARM), has been launched to engage women in dialogue and capture their voices and influence policy through the use of theatre performance.

## **Farming First**

16. Participants welcomed the development of Farming First as a tool for informing a global agricultural model which is also sustainable at the local level. FANRPAN welcomes the integration of the six principles of Farming First in the CAADP framework. The framework consists of six principles which give policymakers the ability to benchmark outcomes and track progress over time and across regions. It also helps actors throughout the agricultural value chain – such as farmers, scientists, agribusiness, government, and civil society – to coordinate their efforts and amplify the benefits of their programs they undertake.

## **Research and Development**

17. Through coordinated policies and partnerships with other sectors and institutions, FANRPAN should adopt the Integrated Agriculture for Development (IAR4D) paradigm to enable farmers to gain access to research and extension services, functional and transparent markets for actions on the continent’s most pressing issues such as food security, nutrition security and climate change.
18. By acknowledging agriculture as the key to Africa’s development and providing the sector with the necessary enabling policies and resources, governments position themselves to address priorities for action on the continent’s most pressing issues, such as food insecurity and climate change.

## **Communication and Advocacy**

19. Participants acknowledged the important role of the media in education, awareness raising and agenda setting. They also realized the important role of the media in communicating African messages and positions to the community as well as contextualizing global concerns for Africa. Participants however acknowledged the need for capacity building for the media including access to subject experts on scientific issues surrounding food and natural resources in particular climate change. Participants also recommended that FANRPAN ensures the dissemination of its research products through media that is accessible for small farmers in remote areas, e.g. radio and other innovative tools such as theatre.

## **Biotechnology and Biosafety**

20. Modern biotechnology can be part of the global solution in human and animal health, industrial and food processing, environmental remediation and genetically modified crops. Participants noted the potential benefits which biotechnology offers in terms of increased yields and reduced labor for farmers. Communication, based on scientific evidence, remains a key prerequisite to improve public awareness and understanding of new technologies and to enable information-based decision making by consumers and governments.

21. Farmers are entitled to factual information to enable them to make informed choices between conventional, organic and Genetically Modified (GM) farming systems, and to manage the co-existence of these systems.

22. Further research into effects of GM crops on human and animal health, the environment and socio-economic factors is needed. African countries can learn from experience in biotechnology policies, regulatory systems and adoption of GM crops in other developing countries. More biotech research and development is needed on African food crops, also in the light of climate change. There is need to harmonize regional biotechnology policies and biosafety frameworks.

## **Input Markets**

23. Participants noted that farm input subsidy programs had contributed to the achievement of household and national food security. It has contributed to economic and social development and poverty eradication. Participants urged the governments to continue investments in agricultural subsidies to smallholder farmers.

## **Targeting**

24. Participants welcomed the development of data-driven measurements of household vulnerability. The FANRPAN Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) collects information based on five livelihood parameters and provides a tool for more comprehensive assessment of needs. Through these vulnerability assessments, development interventions can be

targeted more effectively, accountability can be improved and future policies can be more accurately shaped.

### **Water Resources Management**

25. Participants noted the fact that 94% of agriculture in East and Southern Africa is still rainfed. It is estimated that 596.7 million hectares are suitable for irrigation, yet only 12.6 million hectares, or 2% of the potential total, are currently irrigated. Planning processes do not take proper cognizance of the risks of water shortage or droughts. Participants noted that in the Limpopo basin study smallholder farmers were more vulnerable to water shortages than their highly commercialized counterparts.
26. The efficient management of water resources requires substantial investment in infrastructure and relevant technologies which helps farmers to better cope with seasonal variations in rainfall and improve the water productivity across the region. Participants were encouraged to hear about the NEPAD Africa Infrastructure Consortium which seeks to address these concerns.

### **Climate Change**

27. Participants acknowledged the scientific community's pronouncement of climate change as the most significant global threat of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Available data indicates that Africa's economy, environment, livelihoods and agriculture are already under threat. About two-thirds of Africa's rural poor live in ecologically vulnerable areas. Of this group, a high proportion lives on dryland with 250 million already being directly affected by desertification and drought.
28. Climate change adaptation requires immediate and accelerated investment in climate-friendly technologies and conservation farming. Africa's vast forests and agricultural lands offer potential opportunities for carbon sequestration. Global mitigation efforts should recognize Africa's unexploited potential and incorporate Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and Agriculture, Forestry, and Other sustainable Land Use (AFOLU) in global protocols. Participants were encouraged by the adoption of the Africa Climate Change Solutions by the Africa Union. They commended the governments for having a united voice in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of Parties (UNFCCC-CoP 15) in Copenhagen, in December 2009.

### **Strengthening Dialogue at National Level**

29. Participants urged the national nodes to ensure that there was increased and regular participation of government technical staff from ministries of agriculture and natural resources in future dialogues. Noting that a lot of progress had been made in the regional dialogue, participants expressed the need for the dialogue to cascade to the national level. FANRPAN is best placed to host the CAADP roundtables and therefore, Nodes should meet

the target of having 12 dialogues per year. FANRPAN should support the nodes in building capacity for dialogue. In addition, FANRPAN should encourage exchanges among and between the nodes as a capacity development strategy.

### **Partnerships**

30. Participants emphasized the principles guiding the implementation of the above should be multidisciplinary and multi-institutional to address the diversity of issues and capture their interconnectedness. Therefore partnerships are key and FANRPAN was commended for the 47 partnership agreements it has entered into with international organisations and formalized by way of MoU.

### **Identification of Existing Knowledge Gaps**

31. Participants acknowledged the existence of gaps which required further research and dialogue. These include:

- Contribution of livestock to agriculture
- Contribution of women to agriculture
- Water for agriculture
- Conservation farming in light of climate change
- Youth involvement in agriculture
- Further dialogue by all FANRPAN nodes within the next 12 months on undisputed benefits as well as potential of biotechnology

### **FANRPAN 2010 Regional Policy Dialogue**

32. The 2010 FANRPAN regional policy dialogue will be hosted by FANRPAN Namibia- NEPRU from 30 August to 3 September.