

FANRPAN Regional Secretariat Meets High-level Government Officials Ahead of the FANRPAN 2010 Annual High-level Regional Food Security Policy Dialogue 14-16 June 2010 Windhoek, Namibia

A FANRPAN mission led by the CEO & Head of Mission, Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, met with Hon. Nahas Angula the Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and high-level government officials in preparation of the FANRPAN Annual High Level Regional Food Security Policy Dialogue 2010

The 2010 FANRPAN Annual Regional Food Security Policy Dialogue will speak to the theme: *“Livestock & Fisheries Policies for Food Security and Trade in a Changing Climate”*

Sub-themes: Livestock; Fisheries; Climate change & Trade

Date and Venue: 31 August to 3 September 2009 in Windhoek, Namibia

After years of neglect, livestock and fisheries issues are making a positive return on Africa’s development agenda. Livestock and fisheries are being recognized as essential assets for livelihoods; as key to moving out of poverty; as a way into lucrative markets; as a source of foreign exchange; as well as important cultural resources, social safety nets and means of saving. **Livestock** contribute 40 percent of the global value of agricultural output and support the livelihoods and food security of almost a billion people. Whilst in Africa, the **fish sector** makes a vital contribution to meeting the food and nutrition security needs of 200 million Africans and provides income for over 10 million people engaged in the production, processing and trade in this industry. Moreover, fish has become a leading export commodity, with an annual export value of US\$ 2.7bn. The NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture is a strategic response to address the challenges facing the fish sector as the over-exploitation of natural fish stocks is reaching unsustainable limits. Aquaculture production has not yet fulfilled its potential. The Plan calls for urgent strategic investments to safeguard the future contribution of Africa’s fish sector to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and regional economic development.

Agricultural systems are undergoing dramatic economic and social transformations — global environmental change is altering the climate, land and water resources, and affecting. These effects are transforming production, consumption and trade. Small-scale rain-fed farming systems, pastoralist systems, inland and coastal fishing and aquaculture communities, and forest-based systems are particularly vulnerable to climate change - coastal cities and floodplain settlements face increasing risks. Namibia presents an ideal venue for learning.