FANRPAN Partners’ Meeting
2013

REPORT

Thursday 30 May 2013

St George Hotel and Conference Centre
Pretoria, South Africa
Report Details

This report is not an exhaustive account of the 2013 FANRPAN Partners’ Meeting, but rather a summary and ready reference. All proceedings of the meeting were professionally recorded on video, serving as the ultimate record of this event.

The meeting was convened by the Chairman of the FANRPAN Board of Governors, Hon. Sindiso Ngwenya, and facilitated by the FANRPAN Chief Executive, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda. This report was compiled by Paul Roos and video recording and production was conducted by No-Line Communications.
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACBF</td>
<td>Africa Capacity Building Foundation</td>
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<td>AHBFI</td>
<td>Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International</td>
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<td>ARC</td>
<td>Agricultural Research Council</td>
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<td>AIF</td>
<td>Agricultural Innovation Facilitator</td>
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<td>AWASA</td>
<td>Agricultural Writers’ Association of South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAADP</td>
<td>Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme</td>
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<td>CA</td>
<td>Conservation Agriculture</td>
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<td>CD</td>
<td>Capacity Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CELI</td>
<td>Communication, Evidence, Learning and Impact</td>
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<td>CGIAR</td>
<td>Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research</td>
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<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<td>COMRAP</td>
<td>COMESA Regional Agro-inputs Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>COP</td>
<td>Conference of Parties</td>
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<td>CSA</td>
<td>Climate Smart Agriculture</td>
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<td>CSIR</td>
<td>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department For International Development (UK)</td>
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<td>FANRPAN</td>
<td>Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
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<td>FNS</td>
<td>FANRPAN Node Secretariat</td>
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<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</td>
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<td>HaASSP</td>
<td>Harmonised Seed Security Project</td>
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<td>HVI</td>
<td>Household Vulnerability Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICRAF</td>
<td>International Center for Research in Agroforestry</td>
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<td>IPPC</td>
<td>International Plant Protection Convention</td>
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<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>MTR</td>
<td>Mid-Term Review</td>
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<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>PAEPARD</td>
<td>Platform for African-European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development</td>
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<td>PBR</td>
<td>Plant Breeders Rights</td>
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<td>PC</td>
<td>Phytosanitary Certificate</td>
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<td>PIVA</td>
<td>Partner Institutional Viability Assessments</td>
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<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Development Community</td>
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<td>SDC</td>
<td>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</td>
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<td>SECCAP</td>
<td>Strengthening Evidence-Based Climate Change Adaptation Policies,</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSSN</td>
<td>SADC Seed Security Network</td>
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<td>TPA</td>
<td>Theatre for Policy Advocacy</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>WARM</td>
<td>Women Accessing Realigned Markets</td>
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<td>WTO</td>
<td>World Trade Organization</td>
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Executive Summary

1. FANRPAN hosted its fifth annual Partner’s meeting on 30 May 2013 at the Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre in Pretoria, South Africa.

2. The Meeting was convened by FANRPAN Board of Governors Chairman Hon. Sindiso Ngwenya and was facilitated by Chief Executive Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda.

3. Board member Mme Lynette Chen officially welcomed participants on behalf of the chairman and noted that the Meeting was a celebration of the fiftieth commemoration of Africa Day as well as FANRPAN’s Africa-wide mandate.

4. Mme Chen gave a brief summary of the flagship events hosted by the Network over the past year and congratulated the Chief Executive and her team on FANRPAN’s fine showing in an independent global survey of Policy Think Tanks.

5. All dignitaries and diplomats were duly recognised and introduced to the international audience. Donor agencies who supported FANRPAN projects and initiatives were formally thanked for their faithful support. All the delegates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and the facilitator emphasised that networking was one of the main aims of the Meeting.

6. The second session, entitled “The FANRPAN Approach – Evidence Based Policies for a Food Secure Africa”, took the form of an interactive conversation about partnerships, policy analysis, policy advocacy and capacity building. FANRPAN project leaders took turns to explain that FANRPAN functions primarily by building effective partnerships; bringing people together who share the vision of alleviating poverty and promoting a food secure Africa. They provided details and practical examples of FANRPAN’s objectives, projects, programmes, challenges and successes.

7. The third session saw those FANRPAN staff members involved in the Network’s many projects and programmes join up with their respective development partners, in order to honour these partners and to afford them the opportunity to respond. Representatives were introduced to the meeting and invited to give their impressions of working with FANRPAN.

8. In the following session some representatives of FANRPAN’s many partners were given the opportunity to make short statement. These included organisations with strategies and programmes for empowering smallholder farmers, research and development bodies, organisations that promote youth and gender issues and also partners from the private sector. A lady farmer from Swaziland was also invited to speak.

9. In her closing remarks Mme Chen thanked all the delegates for their positive contributions and reminded them that they are all change agents this continent
needs to make a difference to our future. She called on all Africans to define their own goals and to work closely together to eradicate poverty and hunger.

10. A quick survey of delegates’ opinions and impressions of the 2013 Partners’ Meeting elicited a very favourable response. Time management, event organisation and facilitation was deemed excellent. FANRPAN’s fresh approach and innovative presentation mode – devoid of the stereotypical overhead-projected presentations – was also welcomed.
Session One: It’s Time for Africa to be Food Secure

1.1 Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

FANRPAN Chief Executive Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda warmly welcomed all participants to the Meeting, making particular mention of the Africa Day celebrations on 25 May. She extended her heartfelt gratitude to development partners and the 16 governments of African countries where FANRPAN has Node offices.

*Africa Day* is the annual commemoration on 25 May of the 1963 founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). On this day, leaders of 30 of the 32 independent African states signed a founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 1991, the OAU established the African Economic Community, and in 2002 the OAU established its own successor, the African Union. However, the name and date of Africa Day has been retained as a celebration of African unity.

Dr Sibanda invited all participants to introduce themselves to the Meeting and encouraged them to use the day to establish closer ties with each other – the Partners’ Meeting is primarily a networking event, she explained. She invited Mme Lynette Chen, a FANRPAN Board Member, to address the Meeting.

On behalf of FANRPAN Chairman Hon. Sindiso Ngwenya, Mme Chen recognised and welcomed dignitaries and government officials, the AU, NEPAD, donors, representatives of research bodies, educational institutions, NGOs, the private sector, the media and especially farmers and their organisations. She introduced FANRPAN Board members to the Meeting.

Mme Chen emphasised the celebratory nature of the Meeting; the fiftieth commemoration of the signing of the founding charter of the AU and also FANRPAN’s remarkable growth and progress to date. This Network now hosts Node offices in 16 African countries, with the 17th office soon to be established in Benin. It has demonstrated singular vision in promoting leadership, development and innovation in its quest to alleviate poverty and promote food security in the continent.

FANRPAN now has an Africa-wide mandate. Significantly, the new office in Benin heralds the establishment of several other Nodes in West Africa in the foreseeable future.

Permanent agricultural recovery for Africa is everyone’s responsibility, she said. We are all strategic partners and we should make it our business to be cognisant of the challenges facing our continent.
Since the last Partners’ Meeting in 2012, FANRPAN can boast many highlights. These include a highly successful Regional Dialogue in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as well as a joint venture with other consortium partnersto host an international event in Doha, during the UNFCCC COP18 with the theme “Living Landscapes” – Dr Sibanda was the event moderator.

FANRPAN also held a comprehensive Staff Planning Workshop in Pretoria and a Node Visioning Workshop in Maseru, Lesotho, which was attended by Node representatives from 14 countries. Planning and preparations for the 2013 Regional Dialogue to be held in Maseru in the first week of September is well under way.

The Network fared exceptionally well in an independent global survey of Policy Think Tanks, showing that FANRPAN is not only a leading Policy Think Tank in Africa, but also very highly rated on a global scale. Mme Chen noted that this is a huge achievement and she congratulated the Chief Executive and her staff.

She concluded by wishing everyone a happy Africa Day and a happy Partners’ Day.

1.2 Statements by Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Republic of South Africa

Members from diplomatic missions were invited to introduce themselves. The invitation was accepted by representatives from Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, the DRC, the EU, USAID and the FAO.

A representative from the Mauritius High Commission thanked FANRPAN for their admirable efforts to promote agriculture and food security. He also alluded to the anniversary of the signing of the AU charter and said that political liberation of Africa had now been achieved; our next goal is lasting peace and prosperity for all Africans.

He expressed his gratitude for FANRPAN’s projects and efforts to promote food security and agriculture especially among the youth of Mauritius. His government has introduced a series of programmes and incentives to encourage sustainable agriculture and boost productivity in this sector.

Dr Sibanda thanked the diplomats and added that the increasing average age of farmers on the continent was disconcerting. She thanked donors like USAID and CTA for supporting programmes to encourage greater youth participation and urged partners to invest in training and empowering the youth.

She also afforded special recognition to the women attending the Meeting. She invited all the women at the meeting to introduce themselves. She pointed out that it was encouraging to note that without any form of manipulation there were more women than men at the Partners’ Meeting.

Dr Sibanda invited anyone else who would like to make a short statement regarding food security to do so. The invitation was accepted by Prof Godwell Nhamo, Chief Researcher and Exxaro Chair in Business and Climate Change at UNISA.
Prof Nhamo posed various questions of which the main question was: why is attainment of food security in Africa so elusive? He lauded organisations like FANRPAN who set achievable goals and garnered the help of relevant partners to pursue these goals. He encouraged partners to promote the awareness of these challenges through the media and urged them to concentrate on improving value-addition and beneficiation of resources in Africa.

1.3 Video presentation: Reflections on the FANRPAN 2012 Partners’ Meeting
A video presentation reviewed the 2012 Partners’ Meeting before the delegates adjourned for a photo session and a tea break.
Session Two: The FANRPAN Approach – Evidence Based Policies for a Food Secure Africa

This session was facilitated by Dr Amy Sullivan.

2.1 The FANRPAN Partnership, Policy Analysis and Advocacy Model
(Mr Ian Mashingaidze, Dr Sepo Hachigonta and Mrs Sithembile Mwamakamba).

In an interactive conversation about partnerships, policy analysis and policy advocacy, these three FANRPAN project leaders took turns to explain that FANRPAN functions primarily by building effective partnerships; bringing people together who share the vision of alleviating poverty and promoting a food secure Africa.

These include representatives of governments, the private sector, donor agencies, farmers’ organisations, research bodies, NGOs and members of the media. By networking and deliberating together on policy issues they can work together to realise mutual goals.

FANRPAN is literally a network of networks. Structurally it establishes nodes at country level. National nodes are represented by a chosen local organisation which acts as the node hosting institution in that country. In turn, these Nodes spread their own tentacles by creating their own national and regional networks.

This richly diverse and influential multi-stakeholder platform is the launching pad of FANRPAN’s activities. This dynamic network draws on the world’s foremost leadership prowess, intellectual resources, research and technological advances to address the continent’s worrying dilemmas.

By actively facilitating linkages and partnerships between governments and civil society, building the capacity for policy analysis and policy dialogue in Africa, as well as supporting demand-driven policy research and analysis, FANRPAN influences and affects change.

Policy analysis
Policy analysis is guided and shaped by verifiable research findings generated through a host of relevant scientific projects and programmes. Naturally, many challenges need to be overcome in this regard. Policy formulation is invariably a complex process.

In many instances national governments simply use ad hoc policies, not necessarily backed by justifiable evidence.

FANRPAN’s approach is to generate evidence through close collaboration with bodies like universities and other leading researchers. Throughout the process relevant information needs to be communicated effectively to policy makers.
Another challenge lies in the very nature of the evidence: complex multi-disciplinary and multi-sectorial research findings can often be hard to interpret and it needs to be correctly and succinctly packaged so that policy makers can readily understand it.

More specifically, FANRPAN coordinates numerous projects and programmes aimed at generating relevant evidence. By way of example it coordinates eight Climate Change related projects in Southern African countries, in collaboration with four different universities.

These projects are designed to find and identify the real problems faced by farmers in the field and communities living in rural areas. Through collaboration with a variety of scientists and researchers, using diverse research methods, proactive plans are developed and models are created to be able to adapt to varying climatic scenarios.

All this information is extremely valuable and often holds life-saving consequences for those involved. More often than not, this information needs to influence local policy making for it to be truly effective.

**Policy advocacy**
The function of policy advocacy is to bridge the gap between evidence and policy processes. Good policy advocacy ensures that robust evidence reaches the right ears.

The FANRPAN approach is to create and facilitate platforms to engage with all stakeholders that can and should influence the policy making process. Farmers, women, elders and journalists, for example, should all be able to interact with policy makers.

To this end FANRPAN has found that policy champions can be very effective. Elders are prime examples of policy messengers, as they can use their experience, status and good standing in a community to give credence to a message. Messenger advocates can also be very useful in delivering messages that champion our cause. They come from all walks of life including farmers, government officials and journalists.

Policy advocacy platforms can be at national, regional and global level. FANRPAN has been ably represented at forums ranging from field days in rural communities to forums at the highest level, including international platforms like the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.

Moreover, FANRPAN utilises all the traditional modes of communicating its messages through press releases, a variety of publications, a comprehensive website as well as blogs and various social media platforms.
In short, policy advocacy is about identifying the correct message generated by research and then delivering that message in a palatable form through competent advocates and communication methodology.

**Capacity building**
In order to uphold standards and to maintain integrity and growth, FANRPAN is constantly involved in building capacity at various levels. Competence and relevant capacity is essential for the Network to succeed in achieving its goals.

In terms of human relations, FANRPAN’s policy advocates are trained and equipped to deliver their messages more effectively. Similarly, a large number of university students are mentored and actively engaged in FANRPAN’s research projects.

FANRPAN also coordinates a programme to train African journalists to become better advocates in the fields of agriculture and the promotion of better food security policies. In the same way youth programmes identify suitable young people who are trained, involved in projects and empowered to engage in the policy process.

The Network’s institutional partners at Node level are regularly assessed to ascertain their level of competence. It uses the Partner Institutional Viability Assessment (PIVA) tool to assess their capacity with respect to six competency areas, namely (i) Governance and leadership; (ii) Operations and management systems; (iii) Human resource development; (iv) Financial management systems; (v) Programmes and service delivery; and (vi) External relations and advocacy. According to this assessment they are further trained and equipped where necessary.

Naturally, capacity building also entails the provision of funds for expenses like travelling and for the procurement of items like vehicles, computers and laboratory equipment. FANRPAN is most grateful to and appreciative of its funding partners; they provide essential support in this regard and without them many of the Network’s initiatives would grind to a halt.

**Partnership is vital**
Dr Sullivan emphasised that partnerships and projects cannot be successful if operated in isolation. To illustrate this she called on various delegates to provide their views:

**Ms Sharon Alfred**, FANRPAN’s project coordinator of PAEPARD (Platform for African-European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development), confirmed the necessity of actively building and promoting trans-national partnerships.

**Dr Bellah Mpofu**, project leader of HaSSP (Harmonised Seed Security Project) briefly explained that the project’s greatest challenge to date has been to make a significant impression on some national policy makers. Policy documents often just sit on shelf, gathering dust, she said. FANRPAN works to implement policy as well as bringing together all stakeholders to stimulate dialogue and appropriate action.
Mr Walter Middleton, Vice President, Food Security & Livelihoods of World Vision, confirmed the necessity of harmonising trans-national seed policies. Often seed needs to be moved in emergency situations and then it’s extremely difficult to get clearance to import and certify seeds. He lauded FANRPAN’s efforts to harmonise seed policies.

Ms Aliness Mumba, a youth project coordinator at FANRPAN explained the necessity of empowering the youth to participate in matters and policy processes pertaining to food security and agriculture. FANRPAN creates opportunities for young people to attend and participate at various levels. She encouraged partners to follow suit.

Mrs Sithembile Mwamakamba added that FANRPAN works to empower women to advocate for better policies. Through multi-national and multi-stakeholder initiatives like WARM and CAADP, educational messages are conveyed through community theatre productions and policy champions among women are being developed and empowered.
**Session Three: Development Partners’ Panel**

This session commenced with Dr Sibanda inviting a lady farmer, Mrs Thabile Goody, to the podium. “Mamma Goody”, as she is affectionately known, is a seed farmer in Swaziland. She explained how the HaSSP initiative has improved the seed growing business in her country since 2010. Small communities can now supply each other because of the seed growing programmes, she said. Good quality bean seed, as well as maize, is now being grown by smallholder farmers.

Dr Sibanda asked the project managers of the FANRPAN staff to join up with their respective development partners, in order to honour these partners and to afford them the opportunity to respond.

**USAID**

Mrs Sithembile Mwamakamba introduced Mr Bill Benjamin, from USAID, a development partner that has been involved with FANRPAN since 2005. He has a shared passion for food security, youth empowerment, gender issues and the CAADP initiative. Mr Benjamin lauded FANRPAN’s innovative approach and sincerely enjoyed working with the organisation, he said.

**European Commission**

Ms Sharon Alfred introduced Christiaan de Lange, who has only recently joined the EU delegation in South Africa. This development partner has done much to support FANRPAN initiatives, notably with PAEPARD as well as research into biofuels and the African climate.

**IDRC**

Dr Sepo Hachigonta introduced Michele Leone from Canada’s International Development Research Centre, who generously supports FANRPAN with various climate change research projects. This development partner likes working with FANRPAN and admires the Network’s innovative and professional approach. In addition, the IDRC considers FANRPAN’s established links with policy makers a real bonus.

**SDC**

Dr Bellah Mpofu introduced Bulisani Ncube and Thor Maeder from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. They have provided superb support to the seed sector in this region. The SDC also supports the SADC Seed Centre. They consider seed to be the key to sustainable food security and have a passion for smallholder farmers.

**FAO**

Dr Amy Sullivan introduced Lot Mlati and Dr Tobias Takavarasha from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The FAO generously supports policy analysis research for conservation agriculture and disaster risk reduction planning.
Dr Takavarasha has had a close association with FANRPAN since the 1990’s. He said that the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, had instructed him to attend the Meeting in recognition of the good work that FANRPAN is doing. He thanked Dr Sibanda for her hard work and sterling achievements on behalf of all Africans. He expected the productive partnership between FANRPAN and the FAO would continue in the future.

FFC
The Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC) was represented by Bongani Khumalo and Dr Mkhululi Ncube. The FFC is signing a grant with IDRC to conduct household vulnerability in South Africa and FANRPAN is an implementing partner.

CGIAR
Mr Sandile Ngcamphalala introduced Dr James Kinyangi. This development partner has provided valuable support for FANRPAN’s participation in UNFCCC. He is proud of being involved with a well managed effort to provide policy makers with important knowledge.
Session Four: Plenary Session – FANRPAN R&D Partners’ Platform

4.1 Interactive Panel Session
In this session representatives of FANRPAN’s many partners were given the opportunity to make a short statement. The facilitator emphasised that networking was one of the main aims of the Meeting and she encouraged delegates to interact with each other.

4.2 Strategies and Programmes for Empowering Smallholder Farmers

ILRI
The International Livestock Research Institute’s Saskia Hendricks explained that ILRI’s local office is one of 15 international centres focussed on researching methods to improve food security. Their strategy involves influencing policy and building capacity. In Southern Africa their work centres mostly around the farming of cattle and goats. ILRI works to link farmers to markets and to address constraints in the value chain.

PELUM Association
This association represents a network of 130 organisations working in African countries. Faustin Vuningoma, the Secretary General of PELUM, explained that the association promotes environmental agriculture, value addition and market access for farmers. They are very partial to smallholder farmers and encourage all farmers to share their knowledge and best practices with each other.

Africa Portal
Renette Collins of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) explained that the Africa Portal is an open access knowledge resource for policy-related issues on Africa. The portal is a joint venture with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and contributes to the deepening of knowledge in critical areas of African policy development. It can be accessed at: www.africaportal.org

SEI
Dr Manuel Mogombeyi of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) said his organisation develops tools to advance socio-economic environments. It considers FANRPAN a critical partner in Africa and has collaborated with the Network on the SECCAP initiative.

World Vision
Walter Middleton explained that World Vision is an international Christian relief movement working to overcome poverty and injustice. His own portfolio concentrates on protecting livelihoods and bolstering the resilience of agricultural practices. World Vision sees the strengthening of household incomes as vital to
overcome the spectre of hunger and poverty and it provides food assistance and disaster relief in critical cases. It sees FANRPAN as a very valuable partner in its work in Africa.

**CCAFS**
The CGIAR research programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) seeks to overcome the threats to agriculture and food security in a changing climate, exploring new ways of helping vulnerable rural communities adjust to global changes in climate. Dr James Kinyangi explained that CCAFS convenes dialogues on a national and regional level in East Africa and works closely with regional networks like COMESA and FANRPAN.

### 4.3 Research and Development at National Level

**IFPRI**
Klaus Droppelmann of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Malawi said the Institute concentrates on generating economic growth and promoting food security. Agriculture is the main source of income for most of the population. The sector employs more than 80 percent of the total labour force, contributes over 80 percent to export earnings, and accounts for more than a third of the GDP. Thus, growth in agriculture, particularly in smallholder-based agriculture, is critical to meeting the country’s food security and poverty reduction goals.

**DRC’s Office of the Prime Minister**
David Bugeme, representing the office of the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, said that although the DRC is still experiencing political problems, the Prime Minister is working towards reviving the agricultural sector to alleviate widespread poverty in the country. The government supports and encourages programmes to improve the plight of smallholder farmers and it is eager to cooperate with FANRPAN and its initiatives. It is noted that FANRPAN commended the Prime Minister for his personal involvement in seeking to promote food security.

**Heifer International**
Marissa Geraci of Heifer International South Africa said they shared the vision to end hunger and poverty in Africa. Heifer has assisted thousands of African households in communities where there was little hope, with high levels of unemployment and malnutrition, and a degraded environment. They develop plans and implement strategies to train farmers about all aspects of animal husbandry, including nutrition and animal health. The organisation also teaches trained farmers to “pass on the gift” of knowledge. It runs a variety of projects throughout Africa.

**ARC South Africa**
Sikhalazo Dube from the Agricultural Research Council explained that the ARC is one of the principal agricultural research institutions in South Africa. The primary mandate of the ARC is to promote agriculture and industry, to contribute to a better quality of life, to facilitate and ensure resource conservation and to alleviate poverty.
ARC Institute for Soil, Climate and Water
Obed Phahlane of the Agro Meteorology Division of this Institute briefly summarised their mandate, which is concerned with the sustainable and integrated use and management of natural resources namely soil, climate and water. Its strength lies in its multi-disciplinary approach, breadth and depth of scientific and technological skills, and in its capacity to draw on a wide range of key disciplines required to provide holistic, innovative solutions for sustainable land use, the conservation of the natural resources and environmental quality.

AATF
Nancy Muchiri of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation in Kenya explained the AATF facilitates and promotes public/private partnerships for the access and delivery of appropriate agricultural technologies for sustainable use by smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. It encourages innovative partnerships and effective stewardship along the entire value chain. The Foundation is a one-stop-shop that provides expertise and know-how that facilitates the identification, access, development, delivery and utilisation of agricultural technologies. The AATF works towards food security and poverty reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa and its structure and operations draw upon the best practices and resources of both the public and private sectors.

4.3 Youth and Gender

CAYC
Obert Mathivha of the Commercial Agricultural Youth Chamber (CAYC) expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to share the CAYC’s vision. He said the Chamber, founded in 2006, was primarily concerned with food security in Africa and encouraged young people to take their place on the centre stage of farming and especially smallholder farming. It runs various programmes to promote youth owned agricultural enterprises.

UNISWA’s CTC
The Consultancy and Training Centre of the University of Swaziland was represented by Zanele Dlamini. She said the CTC is geared toward consultancy, training and development across a wide variety of disciplines including natural resource management and agriculture. CTC is willing to be a partner in programmes to empower student research and also in the field of researching agricultural productivity.

AWARD
Inequality cuts across all sectors, says [please advise] of African Women in Research and Development (AWARD), an organisation set to promote the cause of women and cultivate a new generation of African leaders in agriculture. AWARD is a professional development program that strengthens the research and leadership skills of African women in agricultural science, with funding by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development. AWARD’s two-year fellowships include a series of career development resources to establish a
mentorship for each fellow with a senior scientist; build science skills; and develop leadership capacity.

4.4 Private Sector

JIMAT
Tinashe Sande of JIMAT described this company as a development consultancy firm providing specialised technical advice and support services to governments, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donor agencies, the United Nations and NGOs who are involved in development programmes to uplift economies and improve livelihoods. JIMAT has offices in Zimbabwe and Malawi and has worked in 26 countries in Africa.

DAI
Cleopatra Ngulube represented Development Alternatives, Inc, a development consultancy specialising in agribusiness and rural development. DAI partners with government, private sector, non-governmental and local community stakeholders to create solutions that promote livelihoods, protect freshwater supplies, conserve natural environments and biodiversity, reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to climate change. It has offices in Africa, Asia and the United Kingdom and has worked in 150 countries around the world.

NEDBANK
Grace Mzolo gave a short presentation on the financial products offered by this bank for non-residents.

BOURSE AFRICA/GBOT
Dr Chiragra Chakrabarty explained that this company is an international multi-asset exchange offering trading in commodities, currencies and equities from Mauritius. It provides a unique opportunity to bridge the investment interest between global investors and emerging African businesses by offering an electronic platform for buyers and sellers. It is regulated by the Financial Services Commission and gives a guarantee on every transaction.
Session Five: It’s Time for FANRPAN

5.1 Evaluation and Feedback
Delegates each received an evaluation questionnaire and were also asked to give their impressions of the 2013 Partners’ Meeting by discussing them in groups and reporting back via a chosen spokesperson. These were the headline remarks per group:

**Group 1**
Discussions were very useful. Meeting arrangements very efficient. Approach was good.

**Group 2**
Meeting was well arranged. Food security a salient topic. Moderation was excellent. Needed more time for discussion.

**Group 3**
Excellent cross-section of stakeholders. Networking is good. Wonderful energy and passion.

**Group 4**
Positive energy in the room. New and good information. Really interesting style of presentation.

**Group 5**
Fruitful meeting. Good diversity of topics. Would have liked more time.

**Group 6**

**Group 7**
Meeting was superbly facilitated. Learnt a lot. Partnerships are very valuable.

**Group 8**
Well organised. FANRPAN has a deep knowledge of food and agricultural issues.

**Group 9**
Useful. Very refreshing presentation style. Inspirational.

**Group 10**
FANRPAN does very important work. Great networking opportunity.

**Group 11**
This meeting has redefined networking. Important food security issues were covered. Different approach with no boring PowerPoint presentations - much appreciated.
5.2 Closing Remarks

FANRPAN Board member Mme Lynette Chen applauded each and every participant and thanked them for their positive attitude. All of us are the change agents that this continent needs to make a difference, she said.

Right now Africa is at a critical juncture in history. Our land is very important – we cannot allow our land to go the same route as our mineral resources. She emphasised that Africans must define their own goals. Poverty and hunger remain a stark reality and all the African countries need to work together and to contribute to the solutions. We are already seeing more cohesion, which is very encouraging, she added.

Mme Chen also called for more innovation and for Africans to free up their thinking processes. Now is the time for Africa!

She congratulated FANRPAN on hosting another successful and inspiring Partners’ Meeting and personally thanked the Chief Executive and her team.
**Social Media Activity**

The official “TweetReach Report” analysing activity on the social medium Twitter regarding messages relating to the 2013 Partners’ Meeting from 28 May to 31 May showed the following results:

Accounts reached: 31,024

Impressions: 488,601

The three most “retweeted” tweets (messages) were:

**FANRPAN:** For a food & nutrition secure Africa without hunger & poverty to be realised, human resources with relevant skills are required #partners13

**HeartlandGlobal:** @FANRPAN #Partners13 We need to inspire #youth to get back into #ag and natural sciences bit.ly/17HhqFl

**FANRPAN:** Key to have CSA Scoping Studies to analyze the interface of Climate Smart Agriculture policies and gender issues #partners13

**FANRPAN’s Twitter address is:** @FANRPAN
List of Participants