What is FANRPN?

The origins of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPN) can be traced to the first Conference of Ministers in Agriculture of Eastern and Southern Africa which was held in Harare in April, 1994. At the meeting, the Ministers agreed to support the establishment of a regional agricultural policy network to "enhance the capacity for policy formulation and analysis in the region." This historic meeting resulted from their concern for the desperate state of the food, agriculture and natural resources sector of the region.

The Ministers considered the low levels of public sector investment in the food, agriculture and natural resources sector and resolved to arrest the apparent lack of political commitment to the farming sector. They resolved that comprehensive policies and strategies were required to resuscitate agriculture. This resolution was fully endorsed by high level policy makers and heads of states participating in the Global Coalition for Africa Advisory Committee meeting that was held in June, 1994. It became more practical to establish separate networks for Eastern and Southern Africa.

For the SADC (Southern Africa Development Community) region, a consultative meeting was convened by the Food Technical and Administrative Unit (FSTAU), Southern Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Training (SACCAR) and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension at the University of Zimbabwe. This department then launched a regional food, agriculture and natural resource consortium and network for Southern Africa in 1997. The participants to this network were drawn from ministries of agriculture, farmers’ organizations, research organizations and departments of agricultural economics at universities in the SADC region. The Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension within the University of Zimbabwe is currently serving as the Interim Secretariat for FANRPN.

The objectives of the network is to:

- Promote appropriate agricultural policy in order to reduce poverty, increase food security and enhance sustainable agricultural development in the SADC region
- Improve policy analysis, research and formulation of priority SADC themes
- Develop human and institutional capacity for co-ordinated dialogue among all stakeholders
- Improve policy decision making through the generation, exchange and use of policy related information

FANRPN hopes to achieve these objectives through:

- Policy research and stakeholder dialogue
- Policy training and information exchange

FANRPN activities are currently in eight SADC countries namely Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Message from Interim Coordinator...

Dr. Chris Sakuwa

We welcome the inaugural issue of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPN) Newsletter. The objective of this bi-monthly newsletter will be to provide news, views, and information relevant to agricultural policies in Southern Africa.

FANRPN has been in operation since 1999 when the operational phase was launched in Harare. A Regional Planning and Training Meeting for the network coordinators was held in December, 1999. This meeting provided a common vision for the network and understanding on participatory policy analysis, formulation, implementation,

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Fanrpan Introduces Nodes In Sadc Countries

The FANRPAN network operates its program of action through in-country nodes. This is based on a "hub-and-spoke" model (illustrated below). The country nodes implement in-country stakeholders consultation meetings to define agenda, policy research and analysis, advocacy and training. Specifically, the functions of the nodes are to:

- Coordinate the regional network agenda at national level through organizing national stakeholder dialogue forums
- Manage action-oriented research activities in the country
- Coordinate advocacy activities
- Manage training, information exchange and communication at national level.

The nodes have initially been established in eight SADC countries. The nodal organizations and coordinators in the focus countries are:

- **Botswana**: Professor I.N. Mazonde, Directorate of Research and Development, University of Botswana
- **Malawi**: Mr Charles Jumbe, Agriculture Policy Research Unit, University of Malawi
- **Mozambique**: Professor Firmino Mucavele, Department of Agricultural Economics, Eduardo Mondlane University
- **Namibia**: Ms Hopolang Phororo, Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit
- **Tanzania**: Dr Haji Hatib Haji Semboja, Economic and Social Research Foundation
- **South Africa**: Professor Johann Kirsten, Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development, University of Pretoria
- **Zambia**: Dr E Musaba, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Zambia
- **Zimbabwe**: Mr F Simango, Southern African Regional Institute for Policy Studies

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Message from Interim Coordinator (cont.)

monitoring and impact assessment. The meeting agreed to focus on regional trade related issues facing the SADC countries. Last year, the FANRPAN Network held national stakeholder dialogues. Details of these consultative workshops are featured in this issue. This issue also shares some research results on the implication of the EU - South Africa trade protocol on the rest of the SADC countries.

In January last year, the network launched the FANRPAN website www.fanpan.org. We intend to ensure that this website forms the backbone of the network’s communication and database management system. Training of the secretariat and nodal staff on updating and intensive use of the site within the network will be undertaken in July, 2001.

It is unfortunate that due to the limited availability of the interim secretariat, the operationalization of the network has taken longer than anticipated. In June, 2001, the structure will have a full time Secretariat. These developments have been aided by the support we have received from USAID, CTA and IDRC.

This is your newsletter. We therefore welcome any suggestions, comments and information you may have in order to enrich the exchange of information.

Best wishes,

Chris Sukume (Dr)
Policy dialogues in node countries

Most country nodes held national consultative meetings last year. The following are highlights from the proceedings:

Malawi...
C.B.L. Jumbe, Node Coordinator for Malawi informed that the consultative forum on "Promotion of Malawi's Agricultural Trade in the SADC Region" was held on 15-16 April 2000. Sixty participants attended this forum. They were drawn from various institutions such as government, farmer's organizations, donors, private sector and civil society with an interest in agricultural trade. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Malawi had in the past concentrated on increasing crop production whilst giving little attention towards marketing since the Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) solely carried out most of the marketing of produce. In Malawi, there is little private sector participation in the marketing of agricultural commodities. There was concern that Malawi had not benefited much in terms of overall trade in SADC and COMESA (Common Market for East and Southern Africa). Instead, this trade had resulted in Malawi markets being flooded with foreign agricultural products. The participants were challenged to find realistic solutions to this scenario.

Challenges addressed in the marketing of various commodities include:
- Ways to encourage farmers to add value to their commodities
- Knowledge of regional and international markets and demand of particular commodities and their standards
- Ways of producing commodities efficiently so as to compete in international markets
- Developing technical competence of farmers, traders and exporters
- Ways to improve the mode of disseminating and improving access to market information by producers, traders and exporters
- Promotion of information sharing among institutions and producers
- Removal of trade barriers.

Tanzania...
The First consultative meeting was held on 8 April, 2000. About forty participants representing key stakeholders with a common interest in agricultural policy research and analysis, formulation and evaluation in Tanzania attended the meeting. The consultative workshop named their network TAPANET (Tanzania Agricultural Policy Network). TAPANET believes in learning from other similar initiatives and aims to produce policy briefs in the languages that are easy to understand for the stakeholders. TAPANET endeavours to capacity build research and policy analysis and conduct collaborative research activities. The workshop agreed that polices and interventions should be geared towards creating conditions that encourage specialisation. The problems that hinder commercialisation and food security such as efficiency, equity, conservation and sustainability were the major stumbling block against the exploitation of comparative advantages of enterprises and commodities. Research is required in the areas of infrastructure development, size of smallholder markets and the impact of urban migration on farm labour availability.

Zambia...
The Zambian node held the workshop on agricultural sector's experiences and prospects in regional trade on 4 May, 2000. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries spoke on the urgent need for Zambia to evaluate its current status in agricultural trade as well as future prospects under the COMESA Free Trade Area (FTA). Key stakeholders from government ministries, COMESA Secretariat, Export Board of Zambia and the farmers union attended the consultative meeting. There was concern that with the implementation of the COMESA FTA, some of the infant industries in Zambia would disappear, as they were not
Policy Research
Global Trade Analysis for Southern Africa

The South Africa (SA) - European Union (EU) trade agreement signed in October, 1999 in addition to the SADC trade protocol of 1996, raises the prospect of substantial gains in equity and growth for Southern Africa. Lower tariffs and expanded market access combine to offer gains from trade, but require correspondingly large adjustments in production and consumption, and may have spillover effects on other countries.

Implementation of the SA-EU agreement began in 2000. This agreement is threatened though, by uncertainty and conflict over its possible effects. To predict these effects, it is necessary to consider the linkages across countries and sectors of the economy, as well as any agreement's interaction with other economic policies. William Masters and other trade researchers under the EAGER funded project, Global Trade Analysis for Southern Africa (GTASA) took up the challenge of predicting the effects. GTASA project came up with a number of interesting results including:

- As of 1995, SA-EU trade was already subjected to low import duties, averaging 8.2% from EU to SA and 5.5% from SA to EU, whereas SA and EU subjected the rest of Southern Africa to import duties of 17.6% and 15.4% respectively.
- SA-EU agreement including agriculture without a SADC-wide trade liberalisation agreement, would lead to national income gains of about US$338 million for South Africa and losses of about US$47 million to the rest of Southern Africa. However, a SA-EU agreement accompanied by SADC trade liberalisation would lead to a sharing of gains with the rest of Southern Africa with South Africa gaining US$164 million and US$170 million going to the rest of Southern Africa.
- SA-EU without SADC liberalisation would also have far reaching impact on poverty alleviation in the rest of Southern Africa. In South Africa, real wages of unskilled and skilled labour will go up by 2.33% and 2.42% respectively. Those in the rest of Southern Africa would decline by corresponding rates of 0.41% and 0.54%. In contrast, SA-EU with SADC liberalisation would see unskilled and skilled labour real wages going up by a modest rate of 0.79% with the rest of Southern Africa expecting real wages gains of 5.15% for unskilled labour and 5.39% for skilled labour.

The policy implications of the above results illustrate that countries in the rest of Southern Africa will be negatively affected by the SA-EU agreement but stand to gain if they implement regional trade liberalisation. In the above analyses the rest of Southern Africa was lumped into one. It would be interesting to disaggregate the above by individual country. Researchers in the GTASA have managed to build databases for most individual countries in the region to enable such analyses.

Further details on this document can be obtained from www.eagerproject.com

Consultative dialogues held

Consultative dialogues held competitive in the region. There was also a need for government to provide the necessary infrastructure to encourage investment in the agricultural sector along the rail and the outlying rural areas. The extension-research linkage needed to be strengthened, as smallholder productivity had remained low, below the potential yields achieved at commercial farms. The session concluded that Zambia should concentrate on commodities they had a comparative advantage on such as groundnut and rice production.

Zimbabwe...
The first in-country stakeholder consultation was held on 19 September, 2000. Fifty two participants from government, private, NGO's and farming organisations attended the session. The consultation stressed the need for appropriate marketing strategies and relevant policies as the driving forces in the revitalisation of the agricultural sector. Issues highlighted were:
- The lack of relevant market information
- The impact of the land reform policy
- Shortages of raw materials in the manufacture of fertilisers
- The need for a coordinated approach to marketing research
- The impact of the COMESA free trade arrangement and SADC protocol
- The need to strengthen indigenous players though policy, extension and technology transfer.

Information Point

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 6-9 May, 2001 - FANRSPAN Regional Consultation Meeting on Policy, Harare, Zimbabwe

FANRSPAN Policy News is published bi-monthly by the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network. Contributed articles should be sent to the Coordinator, FANRSPAN, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of Zimbabwe, P O Box MP 167, Mt. Pleasant, ZIMBABWE
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