

FANRPAN

Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

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• Dialogue

MEETING THE DEMAND FOR EFFECTIVE FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY ANALYSIS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

FANRPAN convened a 3-day stakeholders' planning meeting to review its operational strategy and its constitution (<http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00267/index.php>).

FANRPAN Regional Stakeholders Meeting Delegates, Johannesburg, May 2007

FANRPAN reviewed and endorsed its 8-year (2007-2015) operational strategy ahead of the upcoming annual general meeting (AGM) in September 2007, which will give final approval. In conjunction with the strategy, the stakeholders reviewed the current FANRPAN constitution and advised on the necessary constitutional amendments that must accompany the implementation of the new strategic



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direction. Stakeholder endorsement was deemed critical at this stage because the strategy is based on multi-stakeholder involvement, not only in its roll out, but also in the mobilization of the accompanying human and financial resources. The main outcome of the meeting was thus strong stakeholder commitment to advancing the Strategic Plan, as well as participating actively in resource mobilization.

STAKEHOLDERS

The meeting brought together 80 FANRPAN stakeholders representing member country farmer organizations, donors, partner organizations and consultants. The representatives were made up as follows: member countries – Angola (1), Botswana (4), Lesotho (4), Malawi (4), Mauritius (3), Mozambique (2), Namibia (4), South Africa (3), Swaziland (3), Tanzania (3), Zambia (4) and Zimbabwe (4); CGIAR centers – CIAT, IITA, ILRI and IWMI; farmer organizations – Namibia FO; Zambia FO, South Africa-NAFU and SACAU; donors – USAID and Southern Africa Trust; NEPAD (1); SADC (2); AU (1); COMESA (1); partner organizations – Trade Hub, Caribbean Policy Network, FARA, HSRC and ODI; and four consultants.

The Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho and Mauritius delegations were led by the Permanent Secretaries of the Minis-

tries of Agriculture, and the Malawi and Swaziland delegations included honorable members of parliament from their legislative assemblies. All country delegations included researchers, farmers and policy analysts from the national universities.

CONTEXT

This meeting was held in the context of an already on-going FANRPAN capacity-strengthening and strategic planning process that began over the 2005-2006 period. A stakeholders' meeting held in September 2006 provided inputs for the first draft of the strategic plan. The meeting was therefore cognizant of the changing operational context and new realities that FANRPAN finds itself facing - five years after inception. The meeting recognized the need for FANRPAN to re-position itself amidst new players and new national, regional and international commitments, such as the SADC-RISDP, SADC-MAPP, COMESA Agricultural Plan, NEPAD-CAADP, AU Agriculture and Food Security Programme, FARA-FAAP, UN-MDGs, and new national agricultural and poverty reduction strategies. The stakeholders acknowledged that FANRPAN needs a refined strategy that will ensure that it remains relevant in this new context.

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RESEARCH

Regional integration

Enhanced global competitiveness

Reduced vulnerability

Innovation and adaptation

VOICE

Multi-stakeholder dialogues

Advisory notes and policy briefs

Communication and outreach

CAPACITY BUILDING

Building partnerships

Mentorships

Training programs

THREE STRATEGIC PILLARS

Delegates endorsed a new three-pronged strategic direction based on three linked pillars: (1) Research – to generate evidence and options; (2) Voice – to communicate the findings and options to decision-makers; and (3) Capacity building – to ensure quality research and quality communication products.

The endorsement of these three strategic pillars was based on what the stakeholders identified as FANRPAN's core competencies and the competitive advantage it has gained over the years. Activities based on the three pillars will ensure that FANRPAN fills the information gap so that the various actors can make strategic policy choices for expediting agricultural growth and poverty reduction in the region.

The research pillar

To address the information gap, the FANRPAN research agenda will cut across four dimensions: (1) Regional integration – research geared towards harmonizing the regional policies that are aimed at enhancing the regional integration agenda; (2) Enhanced global competitiveness – research geared towards improved access by the region to the benefits of international trade; (3) Reduced vulnerability – research geared towards a better understanding of the nature, extent and magnitude of vulnerability and deprivation in the region – especially at household level – and how these can

be addressed through improved social protection programming (social assistance and social insurance); and (4) Innovation and adaptation – research geared towards ensuring a policy environment conducive to adaptability to global environmental change and the promotion of effective innovation systems.

The voice pillar

For the research outputs to provide meaningful evidence and options to the various actors and regional processes, FANRPAN must enhance its voice. To this end, the stakeholders resolved that the enhanced “voice pillar” should cover: (1) Multi-stakeholder dialogues – using FANRPAN's convening power to organize more national and regional dialogue fora as platforms for interface between policymakers, farmer organizations, researchers, agribusiness and civil society organizations; (2) Advisory notes and policy briefs – enhancing the production and dissemination of notes and briefs articulating the policy implications and recommendations arising from FANRPAN research studies; and (3) Communication and outreach – enhancing multi-media information products designed to reach and inform the various FANRPAN publics.

The stakeholders observed that FANRPAN needs to mount a more “intentional” awareness campaign – aimed especially at increased recognition at the REC (regional economic community) and national government

levels – through identifying “champions” at the various levels to lead the awareness campaign. The stakeholders affirmed that this would open up opportunities for the RECs and national governments to use and fund FANRPAN as a “subsidiary” organization able to undertake work on their behalf. Permanent Secretaries, Members of Parliament and other senior policymakers present pledged to lead this campaign. They called upon the FANRPAN Secretariat to expedite the signing of key MoUs – especially with SADC – so as to tap into funds available through the RECs.

The capacity-building pillar

In order to ensure quality research and communication products, the stakeholders endorsed a three-pronged capacity building program to accompany the FANRPAN research and voice pillars: (1) Building partnerships – based on the already established niche of building synergistic partnerships – FANRPAN should continue to build strong collaborative research partnerships to ensure the highest quality research outputs; (2) Mentorships – identifying champions in the region to lead the building of a “community of practice” for high quality policy analysis in the region; and (3) Demand-driven and tailor-made training programs – for various stakeholders to enhance their use and absorption of FANRPAN outputs.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

The constitutional review assumed a minimalist approach. The stakeholders therefore endorsed a minimal set of amendments, based on the changing realities and new, enhanced implementation requirements, without altering the main frame of the constitution. The proposed amendments will be presented to the next FANRPAN AGM for approval. In order to meet this September 2007 approval date, the stakeholders proposed several milestones: (1) legal experts should insert the amendments and the amended constitution should be circulated to all stakeholders; (2) a formal notice of the AGM should be sent out to all members by June 30, to meet the 60-day notice period required by the constitution; (3) all the various stakeholder groupings should start sending nominations for the new Board of Governors; (4) FANRPAN's 8-year strategic plan should be finalized and sent out to all stakeholders; (5) FANRPAN should finalize

a proposal for the detailed program of work for the strategic plan; (6) FANRPAN should immediately embark on a resource mobilization exercise based on the endorsed strategic framework; and (7) FANRPAN should mobilize and invite a consortium of donors to attend the AGM in September 2007.

FANRPAN SECRETARIAT

In recognition of the renewed vibrancy and energy, the FANRPAN Secretariat committed to follow up all the stakeholder commitments, and promised to try to ensure that the MoU with SADC is finalized by September 2007. The Secretariat will immediately organize an "eminent persons" delegation to visit the SADC Executive Director and revitalize its links with SADC. The Secretariat will request SADC to nominate a representative to the FANRPAN board of governors.

The Secretariat also committed to revitalizing the remaining seven country nodes by September 2007, to match

the current vitality of the nodes in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. The Secretariat will ensure that all node hosting institutions sign new MoUs in line with the new expectations and requirements.

Based on the resolutions of the stakeholders meeting, the Secretariat will embark on mobilizing a consortium of donors to support the new FANRPAN strategy and to participate in the AGM in September 2007. Later in the year, the Secretariat will visit European donors, with the support of CTA.

The Secretariat will also embark on an enhanced awareness campaign by widely distributing the 2006 Annual Report and resolutions of the stakeholders planning meeting.

4th WORLD CONGRESS OF RURAL WOMEN

Durban, South Africa, 23 – 26 April 2007 | Report by Lindiwe Majele Sibanda

The South African Ministry of Agriculture and Land Affairs, under the leadership of Minister Lulu Xingwana, hosted the fourth World Congress of Rural Women. The Congress was preceded by an African Consultation of Rural Women at the same venue from 19–21 April 2007.

The World Congress of Rural Women is an international gathering of rural women, which occurs at four-year intervals. The aim of the fourth Congress was to discuss universal and wide-ranging issues confronting rural women today and to share concrete experiences of successes in addressing these worldwide. Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, FANRPAN CEO, gave a keynote address on Poverty, HIV/AIDS and Orphan Care: The Triple Tragedy of the African Matriarchs.

Arguably, the most critical challenge facing Africa today is how to arrest

(1) poverty and food insecurity; (2) diseases, particularly AIDS, malaria and TB; and (3) the looming problem of orphans. Poverty has led to the depletion of productive assets. Food insecurity as a result of poverty has led to desperate means of income generation such as the sex trade, which in turn has significantly contributed to the spread of the HIV virus and eventually AIDS, the cause of over 2 million deaths in Africa. The epidemic has significantly affected the health status of the region's population. Any successful agricultural growth and diversification programs will need to adopt comprehensive and holistic approaches that recognize the impact of the HIV and AIDS. For interventions to be successful, it will be necessary to quantify the nature, extent and magnitude of the impact of the epidemic on agriculture and food security systems in the region.



Dr L. M. Sibanda - FANRPAN CEO

Africa needs massive investments to reverse the situation. It is also critical to intensify funding for research, so as to support evidence-based, and appropriately targeted interventions. (<http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00283/index.php>)



FANRPAN LAUNCHES NEW BOOK

Silent Hunger: Policy Options For Effective Responses to the Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region - Johannesburg, South Africa, 2 May 2007

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On May 2, FANRPAN launched a landmark product of its collaborative action research with the SADC Secretariat and the European Union – the book *Silent Hunger*.

This book is the outcome of a two-year multi-country study (2004-2005), commissioned by FANRPAN and funded by the EU through the SADC Secretariat, to assess the impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic on agriculture and food security in the seven most affected countries in the region: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The core message of the book, enshrined in the title *Silent Hunger*, is that, though invisible in comparison to the impact of traditional Southern African catastrophes, droughts and famines, the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security is leading to a potential new catastrophe in the region – of the same, if not greater, magnitude as the famines and droughts. Hunger, HIV and AIDS, and

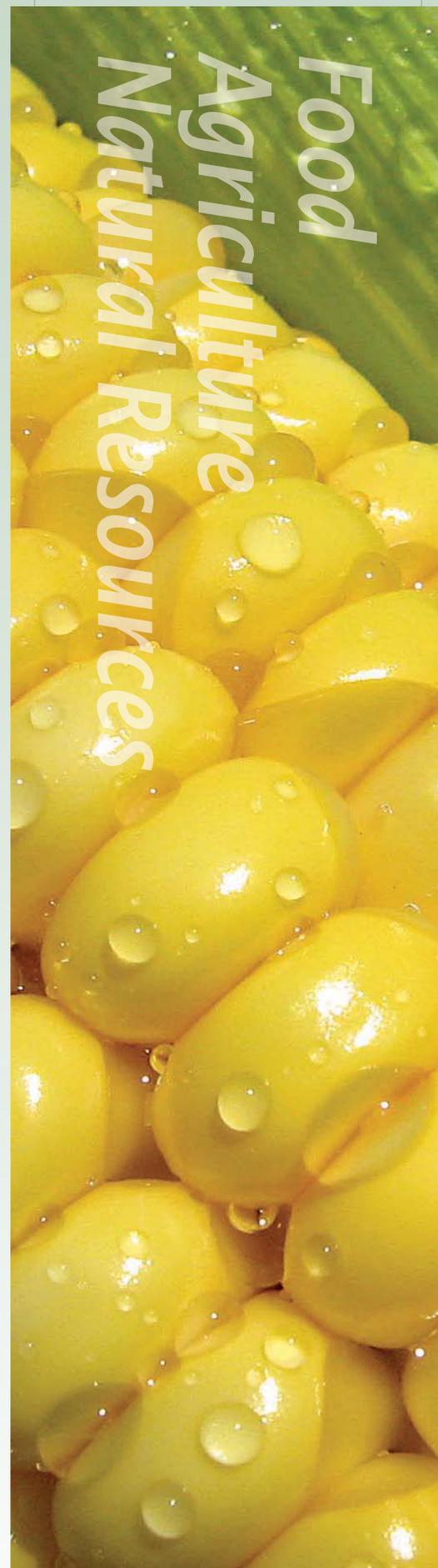
declining agricultural productivity, are reinforcing each other into a potential new famine – one that is radically different from the traditional famines: While the traditional drought-related famines kill dependents first (children and the elderly), the HIV and AIDS-induced famine or “silent hunger” affects the most productive family members first – thus greatly raising the household dependency ratios.

Traditional coping mechanisms have been designed around the principle of low dependency ratios (i.e., have been based on existing productive members). The famine induced by HIV and AIDS has reversed this – and household coping capacity (or resilience) has been greatly eroded. The book *Silent Hunger* highlights the fact that, whilst governments have reacted with traditional emergency-type responses to the visible impacts of the drought-related famines, their responses to this “invisible famine” have been slow and inadequate.

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) is an autonomous, regional, stakeholder-driven policy research, analysis and implementation network that was formally established in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in 1997. The organization was born in response to a need expressed by SADC governments, who felt that comprehensive policies and strategies were required to resuscitate agriculture. FANRPAN is mandated to work in all SADC countries and currently has activities in 12 of them, namely Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Vision FANRPAN’s vision is of productive agriculture as a basis for widely shared food security and prosperity using natural resources sustainable in Southern Africa.

Mission FANRPAN’s mission is to promote, influence and facilitate quality agricultural and natural resources policy research, analysis and dialogue at the national, regional and global levels.



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