

FANRPAN

Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

The FANRPAN Regional Secretariat

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FANRPAN e-Bulletin from the Chief Executive Officer's Desk

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INTRODUCTION

The FANRPAN Secretariat is glad to share with you its June 2007 e-bulletin. This report covers events from April to June 2007. A lot of interesting activities happened during this past quarter. First, three new research contracts were signed. FANRPAN also achieved many "firsts". For the first time in the history of the network, (i) FANRPAN received financial support from DFID, (ii) three Parliamentarians attended the regional policy dialogues, (iii) the Board Chairperson set up an eminent persons team to help mobilize resources for the implementation of FANRPAN's business plan for 2007-2012, and (iv) Thirty Development and Technical partners attended a special briefing meeting on FANRPAN's new strategic plan. I hope you will find the news useful. As always, your feedback and comments are most welcome. We thank you for the support you are providing to FANRPAN.

Lindiwe Majele Sibanda

1. PROMOTING REGIONAL HARMONIZATION OF FANR POLICIES

The following are the major activities for this quarter:

- A. In preparation for the Regional Stakeholders' Meeting, FANRPAN finalized a discussion draft of the new Strategic Plan, as well as a discussion draft showing proposed revisions to the FANRPAN Constitution.
- B. FANRPAN organized a very successful and well-attended Regional Stakeholders' Meeting on 2-4 May, 2007, in South Africa. The theme was "Meeting the Demand for Effective Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis in Southern Africa." The **80 FANRPAN stakeholders** represented 12 SADC member countries: Angola (1); Botswana (4); Lesotho (4); Malawi (4); Mauritius (3); Mozambique (2); Namibia (4); Tanzania (3); South Africa (3); Swaziland (3); Zambia (4); Zimbabwe (4); CGIAR centres (CIAT, IITA, ILRI, IWMI), Farmer Organisations (Namibia FO; Zambia FO, SA-NAFU, SACAU); Donors (USAID; Southern Africa Trust); NEPAD (2); SADC (2); AU (1); COMESA (1); partner organisations (Trade Hub; Caribbean Policy Network; FARA, HSRC, ODI) and consultants (4). Among the many outcomes, the stakeholders endorsed the new Strategic and Operational Plan and endorsed proceeding with finalizing the proposed amendments to the Constitution; and they adopted a resolution that expressed very strong commitments by all the stakeholders to building FANRPAN into an effective policy research, analysis and dialogue network. The meeting details are provided at: <http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00267/index.php>. This meeting was definitely a major success.
- C. The FANRPAN book "**Silent Hunger**": Policy Options for Effective Response to the Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region was also launched at the Regional Stakeholders' Conference. See: http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00267/presentations.php#silent_hunger.

D. **Interim FANRPAN Committee:** Prof H. K. R. Amani, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Board in line with FANRPAN's constitution (clause 15.2.9), has nominated an Interim Committee to help mobilize resources for the implementation of FANRPAN's Strategic Plan for 2007-2015. The Interim Committee comprises of:

1. Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, Assistant Secretary General, COMESA
2. Dr. Sam Mundia, Permanent Secretary-Ministry of Agriculture, Zambia
3. Mr. Ajay Vashee, President, SACAU
4. Prof. Mandi Rukuni, Director Africa, Kellogg Foundation
5. SADC--TBD.

The terms of reference for the Interim committee are as follows:

1. Mobilize resources for FANRPAN's Strategic Plan, to be implemented from October 2007-2015.
2. Provide oversight on major strategic decisions;
3. Provide advice and guidance on how to strengthen FANRPAN as a network and make it more effective in supporting regional initiatives and institutions (for example, SADC and COMESA, CAADP early actions, etc.).

E. FANRPAN is organizing a formal General Meeting of the membership for 5-7 September 2007. At this meeting, the revised Constitution and finalized Strategic and Operational Plan will be formally adopted, and a new Board elected in terms of the revised Constitution.

F. In late May 2007, DFID formally agreed to support FANRPAN over the next six months. This support will enable FANRPAN to: a) complete the development of its strategic plan and a medium term business plan; b) complete an on-going reform process; and c) work with its 12 national nodes to identify their strengths and weaknesses, carry out a skills audit and prepare a regional data base of professionals, benchmark institutional capacity using a specific methodology already tested in two nodes and the Secretariat, and prepare plans to further strengthen them. Following endorsement of the new Strategy and Operational Plan and revised Constitution, with assistance from DFID, FANRPAN anticipates setting up a consortium of development partners to provide long-term support to its program.

G. **Lunch meeting at FARA General Assembly to update development partners on progress towards revitalizing FANRPAN:** On 14 June, 30 partners joined FANRPAN for a lunch meeting where Dr. Sibanda and the Board Chair Professor Amani had the opportunity to inform our current and potential future partners on progress towards creating a revitalized FANRPAN. Several participants, including the Assistant Secretary General of COMESA and Prof Mandi Rukuni, expressed their strong support. At this meeting, FANRPAN also signed an MoU with the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF). See: <http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00345/index.php>.

H. **FANRPAN Policy engagements during the quarter:**

- FANRPAN HIV and AIDS research recommendations were presented by the CEO, Dr. Lindiwe M Sibanda, at 4th World Congress for Rural Women attended by over 2000 delegates. The presentation is available at: <http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00283/index.php>.
- Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda was an invited keynote speaker at the FARA General Assembly in June 2007. Her topic was, "Policy options for effective response to the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security in the SADC region." It was very well received by the 600 or so participants listening (<http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00346/>).
- Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda and Mr. Tendayi Kureya made a special presentation to the World Vision Vice President of Food Programming Management Group, Walter Middleton, and Programme Design and Strategic Operations Team. The topic was: "Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) for Quantifying the Impact of HIV and AIDS on Rural Livelihoods." See: <http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00266/index.php>. World Vision is now a partner with FANRPAN to test the usefulness of the HVI in the field.
- Dr. Douglas Merrey, Director for Research, made an invited presentation at a recent IWMI seminar. The title was: "Reforming Institutional and Policy Reform: The Art of the Possible." It was based on a chapter Dr. Merrey co-authored with three others in a recently published book. *Water for Food, Water for Life*,

Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, edited by David Molden. For the full chapter, see: <http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00295/index.php>.

- Mr. Balraj Rajkomar, Coordinator of FANRPAN's Mauritius national node, made a presentation on FANRPAN to an international workshop on bioenergy held in Mauritius in June 2007.

2. PROGRESS ON RESEARCH PROPOSALS:

- The joint proposal, "Institutionalizing Agroforestry for Accelerated Impact and Improved Livelihoods by Smallholder Farmers in South Africa," has been nearly completed and will be submitted to CIDA in July 2007. This is a joint proposal with ICRAF but led by FANRPAN. Dr. Douglas Merrey, Director of Research, also met the representative of CIDA to discuss progress on this project.
- FANRPAN had submitted a proposal to USAID/OFDA to assess and learn lessons from its programs supporting drip irrigation kits in Zimbabwe and treadle pumps in Zambia. The proposal has been accepted and work will begin in July 2007.
- Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF): We submitted a final proposal for a project on water rights and water quality in the Limpopo Basin and expect to hear the results in July 2007. We have been invited to submit a new proposal for the Limpopo Basin Focal Project, to be done in July 2007.
- Southern Africa Trust: FANRPAN submitted a proposal on "Regional Dialogue on Policy Implications and Responses to HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC region". The proposal has been accepted, and work began in April 2007.
- Southern Africa Trust: FANRPAN submitted a 3 year proposal on "Updating the SADC Regional Database on Impacts of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security". The proposal has been approved and work will begin in July 2007.

3. STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR POLICY RESEARCH

This activity focuses on assessing the potential to use input vouchers as a mechanism to integrate the non-commercial and commercial market channels for agricultural inputs, while targeting assistance to resource-poor farmers. The work was planned for three countries, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

1. The synthesis report of first phase of the study was completed by Dr. Julius Mangisoni, leader of the project, and is posted on the FANRPAN web site (<http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00304/index.php>).
2. The Malawi and Zambia country teams submitted their final revised Phase 1 reports (literature review, updating of previous work, and plan for phase 2). These have been edited and will be loaded on the FANRPAN web site during July 2007. The two country teams have also completed field work, the core of phase 2, and are busy analyzing the data and drafting reports. The country nodes (CISANET, ACF) are planning national workshops to be held in July or August.
3. Dr. Emilio Tostão has initiated work on the Mozambique report, which largely involves working with TIAA original data sets (2002, 2003, and 2005). He has discovered problems in the 2005 data set and is trying to rectify these to enable proper analysis. A report back on this and other work in Mozambique to a national workshop is planned for August.
4. FANRPAN will organize a regional workshop on the conclusions and recommendations emerging from this study, as part of the General Meeting planned for 5-7 September 2007. This will be hosted by the Zambia national hosting node, ACF.
5. As the quarter was ending, ICRISAT initiated discussions on how we can collaborate during July-August to determine the impact of relief seed programs on the commercial sector. This is likely to lead to modest value-adding work by the country teams.
6. Discussions are under way on an idea of preparing a proposal for support to an international workshop on experiences with input vouchers, and publication of results in refereed international journals or as an edited book.

7. On-going projects:

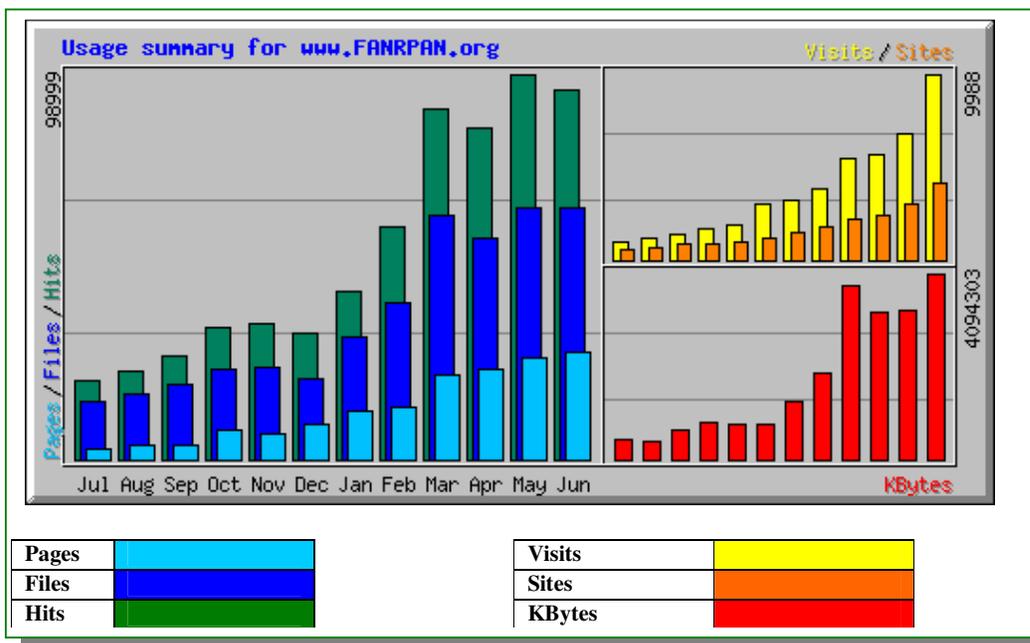
- a. COMPETE (Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems – Africa) is a project supported by the European Commission and led by WIR, Germany (<http://www.compete-bioafrica.net/>). COMPETE is being implemented by a Consortium of 48 partners from countries around the world. FANRPAN is the leader of the Work Package on policies toward energy crops and biofuels. Dr Charles Jumbe of the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD), Bunda College, Malawi, is the project leader. The contract was finalized and work began on this project during the present quarter.
- b. Developing a Statistical Index (HVI) for Quantifying the Impact of HIV and AIDS is a project supported by the Southern Africa Trust, South Africa. The HVI is a statistical index developed by FANRPAN, for quantifying household vulnerability resulting from the impact of HIV and AIDS pandemic on agriculture and food security as a means for improving the targeting of responses. The study has been completed and discussions are underway to test the index in partnership with development agencies..
- c. Towards a Regional Approach to Biotechnology and Biosafety for Southern African Countries (RABSAC). This is a project FANRPAN implements under a subcontract with IFPRI, with funding provided by USAID. Led by the South Africa node of FANRPAN, it is assessing bio-safety and GM policies in Malawi, Mauritius, and South Africa. The project is on track.

4. STRENGTHENING FANRPAN Communication CAPACITY

FANRPAN carried out the following activities.

- 1. The regional secretariat has had a part-time communications specialist since the first Quarter. This has substantially improved the capacity to manage the FANRPAN website.. We had had an accounting firm managing our finances but are now in the process of recruiting a more permanent solution.
- 2. The secretariat finalised the 2005-6 annual reports and this has been printed and distributed. Also produced and distributed were one policy brief “The Role of Relief Seed and Voucher Programme in Inputs Market Development” (<http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00355/index.php>); one newsletter “Implementing the CAADP Round Table Process: The Malawi Experience” (<http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d00354/index.php>); and regional stakeholders directory.
- 3. As can be seen from the website hits below, FANRPAN has continued to make excellent progress in improving, updating and expanding the FANRPAN web site (www.fanrpan.org). The number of “hits” has been steadily increasing. The table below shows the trend in usage. We are currently considering structural changes to improve its effectiveness as a FANRPAN communication tool.

Usage Statistics for www.FANRPAN.org



4. At the end of June, the **Zambia node** of FANRPAN (ACF) hosted a steering committee for the “Global Environmental Change and Food Security in Southern Africa” (GECAFS). FANRPAN has partnered with GECAFS and is seeking financial support to launch this program. It is planned as an integrated research endeavour *to determine strategies to cope with the impacts of global environmental change on southern African food systems and to assess the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of adaptive responses aimed at improving long-term food security*. The participation of the CEO, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, in the Steering Committee meeting enabled FANRPAN to build a stronger relationship and understand more clearly how this program will fit into the overall research program. Dr. Sibanda also used the opportunity to work with ACF to plan the September General Meeting and regional Dialogue, and to discuss activities for further strengthening the node.
5. **Malawi Node:** The Member of Parliament who chairs the Malawi Parliament’s Agriculture Committee, after participating in the FANRPAN Regional Stakeholder meeting in May 2007, is working with FANRPAN to develop a proposal for creating a network among MPs to enable them to learn from lessons learned in other regional countries.
6. FANRPAN regional secretariat will be visiting all of the nodes to prepare them for the September General Meeting.
7. **South Africa Node:** In South Africa, the proposal on policies to support smallholders has not received funding. FANRPAN will be working with the node (NAMC) to identify the next steps.

5. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

1. Finalize the strategic and operational plan and revised constitution.
2. Hold a formal General Meeting of members and regional dialogue on 5-7 September 2007, hosted by the Zambia hosting node in Lusaka (ACF). The theme of the Dialogue is: “Policy ‘Triggers’ for Agricultural Growth in Southern Africa.”
3. Elect the members of a new Governing Board.
4. Continue preparation of country and regional proposals and negotiating partnerships for strengthening node activities.
5. Complete the second phase research in two countries and prepare reports, publications (refereed journal articles) and policy briefs.
6. Complete the analytical Seed Voucher work in Mozambique and prepare a report and a refereed journal article.
7. Hold 3 national and one regional policy dialogue workshops.
8. Continue to follow up on the pending MoU with the SADC Secretariat, using the new Interim Board Committee.
9. Continue updating Node membership database and member country web pages.
10. Secretariat will continue to work with Nodes to prepare national strategies and work plans as well as preparing a database of professional working on agricultural and natural resources management policy research.
11. Finalize and submit several pending proposals for long-term research.
 - Institutionalizing Agroforestry for Accelerated Impact and Improved Livelihoods by Smallholder Farmers in Southern Africa, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

- The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region: Updating the SADC Regional Database on Impacts of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security and Testing the HVI Tool.
- Launching a new FANRPAN/GECAFS research initiative for southern Africa ,GECAFS
- Limpopo Basin Water Rights Interventions, Challenge Programme for Water and Food (CPWF)
- Regional Approach to Biosafety for Southern African Countries” (RABSAC): Addressing Agricultural Biotechnology and Bio-safety Policy issues to Improve Food Security in the SADC, US Grains Council and IFPRI- PBS
- Input Voucher Study: Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, USAID