From the CEO’s Desk

Welcome to the 8th edition of the FANRPAN Quarterly Newsletter.

I am pleased to introduce the 8th edition of the FANRPAN quarterly newsletter. We have had a busy and productive quarter at the Secretariat. As stated in our last newsletter, plans for the new FANRPAN Strategic Plan are underway as we begin to map the way for its development. We continue to work hard on our partnerships and networks. In this reporting quarter, we participated in several high level fora that give us the space, leverage and voice to continue to advocate for a conducive food, agriculture and natural resources policy environment for a food secure Africa.

Two key events I would like to highlight - the launch of the Agriculture to Nutrition (ATONU): Improving Nutrition Outcomes through Optimized Agricultural Investments Project that took place on 28 October 2015 in Kampala, Uganda. This flagship project seeks to address the disconnect between agriculture and nutrition by answering the question what can agriculture do to deliver positive nutrition outcomes for smallholder farm families?

The second is the forthcoming Conference of Parties - COP21 - also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, on 30 November - 11 December 2015, Paris, France. COP 21 will, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, aim to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. As you are aware, COP is the international political response to climate change that began at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, where the ‘Rio Convention’ included the adoption of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This convention set out a framework for action aimed at stabilising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to avoid “dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” We, as FANRPAN, are going with one agenda “No Agriculture, No Deal”. We are campaigning for evidence-based dialogue to ensure African negotiators push for a binding and responsible deal that recognises the impacts of climate change on agriculture.

African Heads of State have agreed to an African position on climate change for the Paris talks, giving the continent a common voice for the first time in the history of the negotiations. As I keep reiterating, it is important to build strong partnerships that leverage our voice as a group but also give strength to individual institutions and, ultimately, our key stakeholders – the smallholder farmers. “No Agriculture, No Deal” is not a campaign that is removed from our everyday realities. We are living it each day. Join us at COP 21.

We hope you enjoy this edition and encourage you to send in your stories and ideas to dialogue@fanrpan.org for us to continue to make “The FANRPAN Quarterly” a platform for sharing experiences and innovative ideas.

Thank you
On 28 October 2015, at the 6th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) in Kampala, Uganda, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and the ATONU Consortium Members, in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), NEPAD and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, launched its Agriculture to Nutrition (ATONU): Improving Nutrition Outcomes through Optimized Agricultural Investments project. Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ATONU will answer the question of what agriculture programmes can do to incorporate nutrition. The launch panel included, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, the CEO of FANRPAN, Dr Simbarashe Sibanda, the ATONU Managing Director, FANRPAN, Shelly Sundberg, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Hon. Catherine Bertini, Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Hon. Argent Chuula, Chair, FANRPAN Board. The African Champion for Nutrition, His Majesty King Letsie III, Kingdom of Lesotho, delivered an endorsement speech for ATONU via video.

Redressing the high burden of undernutrition and stunting in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is critical. Undernutrition is an underlying cause of nearly half of the deaths in children under five years of age in Africa and Asia. The largely irreversible damage of infant and early childhood undernutrition on growth and cognitive functions impairs human productivity, and could lead to a reduction of at least 8% in a nation’s economic advancement.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs presented its new report, Healthy Food for a Healthy World: Leveraging Agriculture and Food to Improve Global Nutrition. This publication defines pathways between the food system and health and explores opportunities to incentivize collaboration between the actors involved in agriculture, food, health and nutrition. It also considers the nexus between food, nutrition, and sustainability and discusses frameworks for optimizing livelihood, environmental and health goals.

A major emphasis of the ATONU project will be women’s empowerment. Some 80% of food produced in Africa passes through the hands of women, yet they often have limited decision-making authority about what to grow, what to sell, and how to spend household income. Research has shown that when women are empowered to make such decisions, children’s education, health and nutrition improve. Therefore, women’s empowerment will be a central concern across the project.

The ATONU project will provide technical assistance to integrate tailored nutrition interventions into planned and ongoing agricultural investments through (i) generating tools and frameworks for diagnosing the opportunities to incorporate tailored nutrition interventions into agricultural investments; (ii) offering technical assistance for designing, testing, and rigorously monitoring and evaluating results of the tailored nutrition interventions (proof of concept); (iii) documenting and disseminating best practices and evidence and adding to the agriculture for nutrition knowledge base; (iv) advocating for evidence-based decision making at all levels; and (v) strengthening African capacity and building a community of practice in agriculture for improved nutrition. The impact will be that smallholder farm families and poor households will have access, not only to more food, but also to a wide variety of safe and nutritious foods.

The ATONU project consortium members include the Africa Innovations Institute in Uganda, Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, Agribusiness Systems International, an affiliate of ACDI/VOCA in the USA, Farm Africa in the UK, the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich in the UK, the Leverhulme Center for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK. The ATONU project will be implemented over a six-year period, ending in December 2020. The project is starting with a focus on three countries: Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania.
Institutional Arrangements

The Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) is an annual event, which serves as a rallying point to intensify political and financial commitments at all levels to address contemporary challenges of food and nutrition insecurity in Africa. Organized by NEPAD and the AUC, the event provides a platform to share experiences, knowledge and mutual learning as well as measure progress in assuring food and nutrition security. The 2015 AU theme is the "Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063", and therefore was the special focus in Kampala.

For further information: http://atonu.fanrpan.org/

FANRPAN holds the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kampala, Uganda

On 28 October 2015, FANRPAN held its 2015 Annual General Meeting, alongside the launch of the ATONU Project

The Harmonised Seed Security Project (HaSSP) receives a grant extension of NZ$58 600 and renames project to the Swaziland Seed Security Project.

Following the successful implementation of the first and second phase of the HaSSP project in Swaziland, the Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO), the Swaziland FANRPAN Node hosting institution, submitted a new proposal for a project extension of two years. With the technical support from Seed Quality Control Services and FANRPAN, CANGO developed a proposal and submitted to the New Zealand High Commission.

The New Zealand High Commission granted NZ$58 600 to extend the project for another two years, with the end of project report expected in January 2018. The project is now titled the Swaziland Seed Security Project (SSSP). SSSP currently has five operational schemes that are producing seed and it is hoped that the project will extend to ten schemes. Other activities to be undertaken are the revision of the Seed Variety Release Amendment Act of 2000, Plant Health Protection Regulations and continuing in advocating for their enactment in Parliament.
In Mozambique, the agriculture sector engages the majority (over 80%) of rural labour. However, there are many challenges being faced within this sector, in particular low productivity of smallholder agriculture. Additionally, irrigated agriculture is seen as a way to address challenges related to the rainfall scarcity and changing seasonal patterns, especially in the southern part of Mozambique.

The project “Increasing irrigation water productivity in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe through on-farm monitoring, adaptive management and Agricultural Innovation Platforms” (FSC-2013-006) aims to find a way of meeting African governments’ plans for greater food security, while using limited water resources more sustainably. The project is funded with $3.3 million from the Australian Government via the Australian International Food Security Research Centre of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, with additional contributions from participating organisations.

Through the project, the partner agency, the Instituto Nacional de Irrigação (National Institute of Irrigation), selected the 25 de Setembro irrigation scheme. The 40 hectare irrigated scheme, located in Boane District, Maputo Province, is being managed by a smallholder farmers’ association which focuses on growing mostly vegetables and fresh maize. The association was founded in 1975 and restructured in 1984 after devastating floods. Since then, the association has received a variety of support from government and non-governmental organisations, including: a diesel water pump, partial lining of irrigation canals, and a poultry unit. Despite this, the scheme’s performance has proven unsustainable in terms of infrastructure maintenance, effective utilisation of all the irrigated land, crop yields and profitability. Through the project, this poor performance has been further analysed and key drivers identified. These relate to access to finance and market chain issues.

The Government of Mozambique’s Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, through the National Irrigation Institute (INIR), has developed a water users’ association (WUA) legal framework. This is based on lessons and experiences gathered from the 25 de Setembro irrigation scheme amongst others, as the scheme is typical of many farmer-led irrigation schemes across the country. The framework is designed to address sustainability options of farmer-led irrigation schemes, by empowering the WUA in several ways. This will include providing support for building the association’s governance capacity such as the development of scheme business and marketing plans. It will also enable the WUA to allocate unutilised irrigation plots. In addition, the regulation enables the Government to transfer the operation, maintenance and management of the schemes to the farmer associations.

On 19 June 2015, the Parliament of Mozambique approved the WUA legal framework through Law number 04/2015. INIR will pilot this framework at the 25 de Setembro scheme by the end of November 2015.
FANRPAN facilitates a communication and advocacy training workshop, Lusaka, Zambia

On 24-25 August 2015, FANRPAN facilitated a Communication and Advocacy training in Zambia, Lusaka. The training was conducted on the side-lines of the 2015 FANRPAN Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Regional Policy Dialogue and was attended by thirteen (13) Node representatives.

Within its Climate Change portfolio, FANRPAN implements a number of projects, including aspects pertaining to Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). CSA is understood as agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes greenhouse gases (mitigation), and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals. The overall objective of the FANRPAN CSA policy programme is to increase agricultural productivity and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable smallholder farmers to the impact of climate change. The FANRPAN CSA programme currently covers the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

http://dialogue2015.fanrpan.org/home

FANRPAN participates at the 2015 African Green Revolution Forum in Lusaka, Zambia


The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)-led study finds a direct connection between two of Africa's most pressing problems: (i) the low crop yields and poorly developed agriculture businesses that have caused food production to fall behind population growth; and (ii) the dim employment prospects for a growing population of under-25-year-olds that by mid-century will exceed the entire population of the United States.

In launching the report, Dr Sibanda shared her own experience of how she became involved in agriculture. She emphasized the need for mentorship of young people and for more professionals in the agriculture sector to share their stories and experiences with the youth. FANRPAN contributed to the 2015 AASR as co-author of CHAPTER 7: Establishing a Conducive Policy Environment for Youth Engagement in Agriculture.

More than 600 people attended the 2015 AGRF, which was officially opened by Zambia’s Vice President, Her Excellency Inonge Wina. Over the course of 36 separate but related events, the participants deliberated on the 2015 AGRF theme as aligned to the Malabo Commitments and as affecting three key constituencies: youth, women and the domestic private sector. The new AGRF Framework, which responds to the call by the African Union and in respect to the agreed systems and structures, commits to support implementation at country level, measure, track and report progress being made against set goals, was launched. Participants at the 2015 AGRF committed to advocate for, facilitate and support youth and women with regard to the afore-mentioned ten (10) thematic focus areas and adopted the new AGRF Results Framework as an implementation and monitoring tool to achieve the goals outlined in the Malabo Declaration. The next AGRF will take place in Nairobi, Kenya in early September 2016.

For more information about the AGRF visit http://www.agrforum.com/

On 11-12 October 2015, at Cornell University, New York, FANRPAN CEO, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, attended the 2nd International Conference on Global Food Security as a keynote speaker. The conference was aimed at delivering the state-of-the-art analysis, inspiring visions and innovative methods arising from research in a wide range of disciplines, in order to achieve global food security. This arose from the rapidly expanding volume of scientific research that is being prompted by the need for a better understanding of the burden of malnutrition, undernutrition, obesity and micronutrient deficiencies.

Achieving global food security, whilst reconciling demands on the environment, is the greatest challenge faced by mankind. By 2050, at least 9 billion people will need food, and increasing incomes and urbanization will inevitably lead to dietary change. The aim of this conference was, therefore, to better understand behavioural, biophysical, economic, institutional, political, social and technological drivers of current and future global food security. The conference addressed the food system activities of processing, distributing and consuming food, as well as food production from crop, livestock, tree, freshwater and marine sources; the availability, access, utilization and stability dimensions of food security; and the synergies and trade-offs between economic, environmental, health and social objectives and outcomes.

Dr Sibanda’s keynote address was under the conference theme ‘Policies to improve local and global food security’. Her address was entitled ‘Can Agriculture and Food Security Policies Deliver More Yield, More Income and Better Nutrition for Smallholder Farm Families?’ Her address was emphatic on the importance of the inclusion of nutrition in agriculture and food security policies. It mainly focused on the question of “what evidence is required for agriculture investments to achieve positive nutrition outcomes?” Her opening statement, “Nutrition is an orphan, whilst health and agriculture have a mother and father!” captured both the essence of her address and the attention and imagination of the audience. The entire presentation can be summarised in Dr Sibanda’s words: “For agriculture to fulfil its potential for reducing poverty and hunger, food security policies must be informed by evidence emanating from nutrition-sensitive approaches. The policies must ensure that production and consumption of essential nutrients such as proteins, minerals and micronutrients increase, along with adequate intake of calories.”

Read more: http://www.globalfoodsecurityconference.com/
On 15 October 2015, the CFS Special Event on Youth for Food Security and Nutrition, and Resilience took place in Rome. Sithembile Mwamakamba, FANRPAN Natural Resources and Environment Programme Coordinator, moderated a discussion on case studies from different regions that set out challenges, successes and lessons learnt relating to the development of knowledge, skills and capacity for youth in agriculture. Panellists included: Mr Jaime Albarillo Manalo IV from the Philippine Rice Research Institute; Ms Hlamalani Ngwenya from GFRAS AgriSETA Initiative; and Ms Luz Mery Benavides Orrillo from International Movement of the Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth. The case studies presented areas of peer-to-peer knowledge transfer, vocational training and skills development, education systems and research. Specific issues concerned with how to integrate traditional or intergenerational knowledge and the use of new technologies were interwoven throughout the various case studies. The conclusion offered interesting insights into how learning from these initiatives can inform the broader policy environment as well as the design of youth targeted policies, projects and programmes - with the overarching objective of providing attractive, remunerative and sustainable livelihoods for youth in agriculture to further food security and nutrition.


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**FANRPAN AgriDeal**

The FANRPAN AgriDeal Volume 3, which is focusing on CSA related topics, is due for publication in November 2015. The magazine showcases the CSA policy scoping studies, partnerships formed and the CSA policy platforms where FANRPAN’s work has been presented.

**FANRPAN website**

The FANRPAN website has seen an increased visitation. FANRPAN’s website has been a knowledge hub for research work and related FANRPAN knowledge. The website has seen an average of 41,547 visits per month as compared to 41,096 visits reported in the previous quarter; and 656,240 hits per month.

FANRPAN has been visible and aggressive on social media platforms. The FANRPAN Twitter account followers has gone up from 7,928 followers in the previous quarter to 8,795 followers to date

**Global FANRPAN Conversation Cloud:**

(the larger the word the more prominent the theme)
**Vacancies**

"Improving Nutrition Outcomes through Optimized Agricultural Interventions (ATONU)", to be implemented over a six-year period, ending in December 2020.

- Work Package Manager: Nutrition Specialist in behaviour change/family health/agriculture—


Please note that applications will remain open until the posts are filled.

**Global forum for innovations in agriculture**
Durban Exhibition Centre, South Africa
1 December 2015 - 2 December 2015
For more information visit: [www.gfiaafrica.com](http://www.gfiaafrica.com)

**Climate Protection Fellowship with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany**
The closing date for applications is 1 March 2016 and the fellowship will begin on 1 March 2017.
Please contact us directly via [info@avh.de](mailto:info@avh.de)

**Call for Applications: IMMANA Fellowships**
Concept notes should be submitted as soon as possible, and will be accepted on a rolling basis until 1 February 2016.
For more information visit: [http://immanafellowships.submittable.com](http://immanafellowships.submittable.com)

**Australia Awards applications now open**