Imagine, Innovate, & Transform Challenges into Opportunities

Dear Colleagues,

A Happy New Year to you all! I hope you celebrated the end of 2013 and the start of 2014 in good spirits with family, friends and colleagues.

2013 was an eventful year for FANRPAN. The Network has stood as a testament to genuine transformation. With an energetic management team and node coordinators, a dedicated board, loyal contributors, and friends, we are accomplishing great things!

Some strides have been made over the past decade to enhance agricultural development across Africa. However, we cannot escape the reality that the continent continues to face serious challenges of hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty. This reality has prompted the African Union (AU) Assembly of African Heads of State and Governments to declare 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa.

FANRPAN has to be in the forefront in championing this theme which speaks to our vision of a food secure Africa free from hunger and poverty.

Achieving this goal is both necessary and possible. It requires us to continue working in partnership and as a collective.

I would like to thank those that completed the Global Think Tanks survey. We look forward to the results.

Allow me to further take this opportunity to inform you of the following staff members that have left the FANRPAN Regional Secretariat: (1) Mr Ian Mashingaidze, Programme Manager: Institutional Capacity Building & CAADP; (2) Ms Ayanda Mafu, Finance Manager; (3) Ms Sifiso Ndlovu, Senior Administrator; (4) Ms Siphokazi Philip, Communications Consultant and (5) Mr. Sandile Ngcamphalala, Project Assistant: Natural Resources.

Very best wishes to everyone for good health and prosperity in 2014!

Lindiwe Majele Sibanda (PhD)
Chief Executive Officer & Head of Mission
Madagascar became the 35th African country to sign the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact on the 21st of October 2013.

The Madagascar national CAADP Compact was signed in the capital city, Antananarivo, during an event attended by government, farmer organisations, private sector, development partners and NGOs. The Compact was signed by representatives of all these stakeholders.

The national Compact envisions a Madagascar that has a competitive, sustainable and integrated agriculture sector that ensures food security by 2025. The overall objectives will be to improve food security and incomes of producers, growth of the rural economy and sustainable utilization of natural resources.

The 2013 institutional capacity assessment covered four FANRPAN node hosting institutions: the Agricultural Consultative Forum (Zambia Node Hosting Institution), Agricultural Research Council (Zimbabwe Node Hosting Institution), the Unit of Rural Development Policies in the Ministry of Agriculture (Madagascar Node Hosting Institution), and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Mauritius (Mauritius Node Hosting Institution).

Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe node hosting institutions were last assessed in 2007 whilst this was the first assessment for Unité de Politique de Développement Rural (UPDR), the Madagascar node hosting institution located within the Ministry of Agriculture.

The three nodes previously assessed in 2007, showed significant improvement in their institutional capacity. Out of the possible PIVA score of 464, the total scores achieved were: Zambia 374 (previously 362); Mauritius 399 (previously 355); and Zimbabwe 352 (previously 274). The most significant progress was in the area of program and service delivery, reflecting an over 50% improvement across the three nodes. The Madagascar baseline PIVA found that UPDR is extremely well networked with relevant stakeholders, and linked to policy processes. Their constituency is well established and they have both convening power and legitimacy. However UPDR has no claim to independence or separation from government and government processes; which may affect their approach to advocacy.
Uganda, an agricultural based country is highly dependent on its land resource for plant and animal productivity. Uganda is one of the many countries in the Sub Saharan African region that are already experiencing the adverse effects of climate change. Several parts of the country have already experienced prolonged droughts and heat waves, for example, in the Karamoja region, floods in Iteso region, landslides in Mt. Elgon area of Bududda, increased disease and pest attacks on crops and livestock and irregular rainfall patterns throughout the country.

In response to the weak institutional capacity to handle climate change adaptation and mitigation in the region, the faculty of Agriculture Makerere University, in September of 2009, sought funding for an innovative project entitled, “Strengthening East African Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Capacity through Training, Research and Policy Interventions”, from Rockefeller Foundation that was approved for funding.

This initiative was to develop capacity to address critical issues of climate change adaptation, research, policy development and implementation in East Africa. This was to be done by opening up a climate change centre and forming an advisory climate change panel, focusing on climate change adaptation activities related to agriculture.

The project handled the following obligations:
- Ensuring interdisciplinary research and participation across the university
- Reviewing curricular to include climate sciences and climate change adaptation issues;
- Undertaking critical research on climate change within the framework of a competitive grant scheme to generate knowledge and technologies on adaptation
- Creating a regional community of practice on climate change adaptation in agriculture
- Increasing knowledge sharing and collaboration on capacity development, research and policy engagement
- Engaging collaboratively on policy issues related to climate change adaptation.

Unveiling of the Makerere University Climate Change Research and Innovations Centre (MUCCRI) was done on July 30th 2013 at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) by Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa who is also lead investigator. The MUCRRI office in the college is excellently equipped with state of the art furniture, computers, a heavy duty photocopier and a database developed in partnership with FANRPAN. USAID has also already pledged to support the centre financially and through knowledge.

The centre will be positioned to:
- Promote awareness on climate change
- Conduct research on climate change science, climate change mitigation and adaptation in all sectors
- Disseminate the generated information
- It will also generate and disseminate innovations for climate change mitigation and adaptation in agricultural sciences and natural resources sectors

Through research and dissemination of findings, the centre will also advocate and influence climate change and development policy to enable Uganda address climate change challenges.

The launch of MUCCRI was graced with the presence of the Coordinator of the Climate Change Unit and also Commissioner, Ministry of Water and Environment, Mr. Paul Isabirye. In his key note address, Mr. Isabirye commended the college for the centre as a milestone in the mission of the University and particularly for being sensitive and responsive to the needs and challenges of the society.
Project Title: Household Vulnerability to Disasters: An Application of the Household Vulnerability Index (HVI)

- **Duration:** June 2013 to June 2014
- **Thematic Thrust:** Natural Resources and Environment
- **Donor:** International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

FANRPAN and the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC) of South Africa in partnership with the Venda, Cape Town and Fort Hare Universities is implementing a joint research project titled “Household Vulnerability to Disasters: An Application of the Household Vulnerability”. The project is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and is implemented in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape provinces.

The project is implemented against the backdrop that adverse impact of climate change disasters on agriculture and household food security is a reality. More so for rural households that are generally poor and lacking resources to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change associated disasters.

The purpose of this study, therefore, is to evaluate household vulnerability to climate change disasters, food and water security using the HVI diagnostic tool, so as to provide a basis for strategic interventions to targeted beneficiaries. This assessment of vulnerability will identify the households that are vulnerable, to what, in what way, and where. The gender dimensions of vulnerability are a key dimension of the study.

Specific objectives of the project are:
- To use the HVI tool to evaluate the vulnerability of rural households to natural disasters, food and water insecurities,
- To build capacity of local institutions to carry out HVI assessments and analysis, and
- To provide recommendations on the financial and fiscal policy measures and instruments that can be used to improve the resilience of households to disasters, food and water insecurities.

In both provinces a total of 84 people were trained on the Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) tool and how to conduct assessments. And another 28 on Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). Both trainings included a wide range of stakeholders such as students, unemployed graduates, university staff, civil servants, private sector, NGO and Ward Councillors. Household vulnerability data has been collected in a total of 4155 households (2655 in Limpopo province and 1500 in the Eastern Cape). The data analysis processes are underway.
FANRPAN Policy Advocacy Engagement Highlights

**AfriCAN Climate Knowledge Sharing Workshop and Award Ceremony - Second Edition**

On 28 November 2013 FANRPAN participated in the second edition of the AfriCAN Climate Knowledge Sharing Workshop and Award Ceremony hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), together with the AfriCAN Climate consortium. This was a one day event to showcase and share integrated approaches of climate change adaptation and mitigation practiced in Africa.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders in research, policy and development sectors to share their knowledge and best practices on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as their experiences on opportunities and challenges of using/disseminating knowledge.

The event provided a forum to discuss how knowledge platforms can help African farmers and residents to better adopt climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies. A major output was to chart a way forward on how best to use knowledge platforms and how to develop synergies among different platforms, with the aim of scaling up and out best practices and technologies.

Visit this link for more details [http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d01651/](http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d01651/)

**HaSSP National Pest Risk Training Workshops**

FANRPAN under the Harmonized Seed Security Project engaged Center of Phytosanitary Excellence (COPE) to conduct National Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Training Workshops in Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe during the months of November and December 2013. The objectives of the training workshops were:

- To create awareness on the importance of pest risk analysis in phytosanitary systems
- To sensitize participants on the sources of PRA information
- To understand the various steps in PRA process
- To enhance skills in the use of PRA tools

The first training workshop was conducted in Zambia from 26 - 28 November 2013 with seventeen officers from Zambia Agricultural Research Organization participated in the three day training workshop.

The second training workshop was conducted in Malawi from 03 - 05 December 2013. Sixteen officers from the Department of Agricultural Research Services and Plant Protection Division participated in the three day training workshop.

The third training workshop was conducted in Swaziland from 10 - 12 December 2013.

The fourth training workshop was conducted in Zimbabwe from the 10th to the 12th of December 2013.
After ten years, the Challenge Program on Water and Food is completing its second and final phase at the end of 2013. Reflection on progress made, milestones reached and lessons learned is beginning in earnest. One of the issues open for reflection and discussion at this point is how Phase II of the CPWF treated gender and any lessons to be derived.

Phase II of the CPWF was designed as a multi-disciplinary Research for Development program, working at a basin scale to address one central challenge in each of the six focal basins selected. Each Basin Development Challenge (BDC) was addressed by a number of linked research projects, under coordination of a Basin Leader and consortium lead institution. The BDCs focused on generating research outputs that could contribute to development outcomes and impact—via an articulated theory of change along outcome pathways.

As part of the CGIAR reform process, Consortium Research Programs (CRPs) are being established by centers. IWMI’s CRP is known as Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) and is well positioned to take up lessons learned from the CPWF experience. WLE convened a gender workshop in Sri Lanka in November 2013, which brought together researchers from various CG centres and related partners.

Dr Amy Sullivan from FANRPAN attended the workshop and presented lessons learned from the programme level; CPWF efforts at making sure that gender was present in Phase II. The main purpose of participating in the workshop was to share experiences gained through CPWF work on gender—and contribute to discussions on how best to take gender forward in the evolving CRP.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) convened a Postharvest Management (PHM) Advisory and Coordination Group meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 27th October to the 1st of November 2013. The workshop was convened prior to the PHM workshop to:

- exchange on status of the projects and on planned activities for 2014; and
- define joint activities and priorities for 2014.

The workshop objectives were to:

- Review good practices are identified and documented, based on thematic deepening and knowledge sharing between experts and implementing practitioners regarding PHM in SSA
- Review the recently improved policy environment for PHM
- Take stock of experiences and results of the pioneering EGSP-II and the recently initiated projects in Tanzania and Ethiopia
- Benefit from the insights of recent PHM experience from Latin America
- Intensify networking between SDC Cooperation Offices involved in PHM Discuss challenges of PHM implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (both regional and global programmes) and set good practices

FANRPAN was represented by Programme Manager, Dr Bellah Mpofu.
Shaping the Climate and Development Agenda for Forests and Agriculture was the theme of the Global Landscapes Forum in Warsaw, Poland. The event gathered nearly two thousand people – ministers, experts, policy makers, business leaders and ecologists.

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is one of the most important events in the area of sustainable development. Its participants searched for an answer to the questions of how to invest in sustainable landscape? What are the benefits of “green” investments? How can we use the potential of forests and agriculture to mitigate climate change? Can agriculture be developed without deforestation? And finally – are we capable of producing food for 9 billion people without destroying forests and accelerating climate change?

The Global Landscapes Forum was held from 16 to 17 November 2013 alongside the 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP19) held in Warsaw.

HRH Prince Seeiso Bereng Seeiso, Kingdom of Lesotho delivering remarks during the closing plenary session.

FANRPAN Feature Prominently on the GLF Programme
www.landscapes.org/program/agenda/

- FANRPAN facilitated the participation of His Royal Highness Prince Seeiso Bereng Seeiso, from the Kingdom of Lesotho to deliver closing remarks.
- FANRPAN CEO, Dr Sibanda, moderated the GLF opening plenary as well as a high level Parallel subplenary on the 16th of November organized by the World Bank.
- On the 16th of November, FANRPAN staff Aliness Mumba presented at the youth session and Sithembile Mwamakamba moderated the youth session and delivered recommendations from the youth session during the COP19 GLF Closing plenary.
- Dr Sepo Hachigonta, FANRPAN Climate Change Coordinator presented at a parallel event IFPRI hosted on the 17th of November.
- FANRPAN partnered with CIFOR and contributed to the planning and hosting of a gender event at the GLF at COP19 which focused on linking gender knowledge with gender action.

Two journalists and a filming crew were mobilized and equipped to report on climate change and agriculture related issues (http://www.africaclimatesolution.org/news.php).

In addition to the journalist coverage, FANRPAN engaged stakeholders using other forms of mass media such as YouTube, Twitter and Facebook to spread climate smart agriculture (CSA) messages emerging from negotiations.

During the COP19 meeting, the FANRPAN Team (Sharon Alfred, Aliness Mumba and Lufingo Mwamakamba) participated in the Social media bootcamp training provided by CCAFS and was part of the social media reporting team for the UNFCCC and GLF side events.

- Between Aug 15 and Nov 30: 14,558 tweets were sent by 1,936 contributors, delivered to 3.49 million different people.
- During the GLF itself, 5,463 tweets were sent by 828 contributors, delivered to 1,860,000 different people.
- 49% of the broadcasted tweets were retweets.

During the COP19 in Warsaw, the FANRPAN booth showcased FANRPAN climate change and food security knowledge products under the “No Agriculture No Deal” campaign and CSA.

Exhibition materials bearing the campaign were produced for the FANRPAN COP19 engagement which included: Mouse Pads, T-Shirts, Badges, Water Bottles, Tote Bags, Wrist Bands, scarves, Winter Hats, and Gloves and Badges Branded “No Agriculture No Deal”.
FANRPAN CEO, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda gave opening remarks during the opening plenary session at the 3rd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change. The conference was held from 3 to 5 December 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa and included high-level discussions on a Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance.

Joining Dr Sibanda during the Opening Plenary Session were:
- Minister for Agriculture, The Netherlands
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome Dr Xiangjun Yao (Director of FAO Division Climate, Energy and Tenure Division)
- World Bank, Dr Rachel Kyte, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank, Washington DC

The Conference was organized by the governments of the Republic of South Africa, the Netherlands, and in collaboration with other partners, including FAO and the World Bank. The 3rd Global Conference provided the platform for global leaders; practitioners; scientists; farmers; organized agriculture; civil society; the private sector; and NGOs to discuss and share experiences on successes, and to deliberate the challenges and threats to food and nutrition security under the impact of climate change.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Samuel Muchena

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Samuel Muchena. Dr. Muchena was one of Zimbabwe’s renowned researchers, who was at the forefront of promoting the study and advancement of science in the country.

He was FANRPAN’s very dedicated Seed Elder who would always rise to the occasion when called upon to play his part, be it in national or regional fora.

Dr. Muchena will be remembered for his sterling work as a researcher, particularly his contribution in the development of the dwarf maize varieties; Research Manager and Board Member of the FANRPAN Zimbabwe Node Hosting Institution, the Agricultural Research Council (ARC).

Dr Muchena did his undergraduate studies at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ), after which he proceeded to study at Makerere University in Uganda. He proceeded to work for CIMMYT for 6 months, then went to Cornell University in the USA where he was placed in an interdisciplinary team that was sent to Mexico to evaluate maize population improvement at CIMMYT. When he joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Zimbabwe in 1977, he initiated a pearl millet breeding programme and on the side he started to breed dwarf maize. In search of academic freedom, he joined the University of Zimbabwe. In 1980 he joined the Ministry of Agriculture, where he was Deputy Permanent Secretary. He became involved in the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) and was tasked to set up the African Centre for Fertilizer Development (ACFD) by the African Union. Although their focus was resource development, marketing and management, Dr Muchena brought the maize programme to the Centre. During his career, he released three dwarf maize varieties which have proved to be popular with farming communities.

We pray that his soul rests in peace.
### FANRPAN Node Coordinators

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### Upcoming Engagements

#### National CSA Dialogues
- Venue: Zimbabwe: 29 January 2014
- Venue: Lesotho: 14 February 2014
- Venue: Mozambique: 18 March 2014
- Venue: Swaziland: 19 February 2014
- Venue: Malawi: 26 February 2014
- Venue: Zambia: 8 April 2014

#### National CSA Theatre for Policy Advocacy (TPA) Performances
- Venue: Zimbabwe: 18 February 2014
- Venue: Swaziland: 12 March 2014
- Venue: Mozambique: 2 April 2014
- Venue: Zambia: 23 April 2014

#### HaSSP Monitoring Visit and SAMP Advisory Committee Meeting
- Venue: Swaziland: 29-30 January 2014

#### HaSSP Monitoring Visit
- Venue: Zambia: 24-26 February 2014

#### PHLM Study Validation Workshop and Day Meeting
- Venue: Benin: 4-5 February 2014
- Venue: Mozambique: 18-19 February 2014

#### CPWF Eternal Review

#### Innovation Platform Training for Project Teams: ACIAR Funded Project on Increasing Efficiency in Small Scale Irrigation
- Venue: Zimbabwe: 17-21 February 2014