About FANRPAN

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) is a pan-African network that provides independent evidence to inform policy processes at national and regional levels. FANRPAN’s membership includes food, agriculture and natural resources (FANR) related government departments, parliamentarians, research and farmer organizations, private sector, civil society organizations and the media.

FANRPAN's mandate is derived from the call by Ministers of Agriculture from Eastern and Southern Africa for the establishment of an autonomous sub-regional institution to reduce dependence on “external supply” of policy advice. FANRPAN addresses the challenge of policy development, which is usually seen as a preserve of governments, by providing platforms for non-state actors to participate in evidence-based policy processes. To achieve this, FANRPAN’s delivery mechanism comprises three mutually supportive thrusts, namely capacity strengthening, policy research and policy advocacy (voice).

FANRPAN is a multi-tiered network consisting of a regional secretariat and established national nodes in 17 African countries. The Network derives its strength from the convening power of Regional Secretariat and Country Nodes, inclusive platforms that bring governments and non-state actors to collaborate on policy processes. The Regional Secretariat synthesizes research-based evidence and shares lessons from policy processes at national levels and coordinates dissemination at regional and global levels.

FANRPAN is a leading voice for food and nutrition security policies in Africa. This is demonstrated through its (i) reach that spans from regional level to local communities, (ii) extensive experience in managing and implementing multi-faceted FANR initiatives, and (iii) working with different technical and funding partners across the globe.

To deliver on its vision of “resilient African agriculture and food systems, securing prosperity and health for all”, FANRPAN focuses on three strategic goals to: (i) transform agriculture and food systems through the development and implementation of evidence-based policy; (ii) ensure adequate, safe and nutritious food; and (iii) promote climate change resilient and resource sustainable food systems. These strategic goals are achieved through two themes, Climatic Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA), supported by institutional capacity strengthening. The themes address issues of adaptation, mitigation, resilience, production and income, behaviour change, women and youth empowerment, financing, and communities of practice. CSA and NSA address “nexus issues” that are not necessarily purely agricultural and will, therefore require inter-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approaches.
Ending hunger and malnutrition are at the centre of African Union (AU) AGENDA 2063 aspirations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Whilst most efforts have centred on improving production efficiencies as a way of guaranteeing food and nutrition security, there is a realisation that the avoidance of food loss is a viable strategy. Reducing post-harvest losses (PHL) is one of the key targets of the AU the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) Malabo commitments and the SDGs (i.e., target 12.3). According to a 2015 Rockefeller Foundation report prepared by Deloitte & Touch, SSA has been noted to have the highest PHL when compared to other regions in the world. Common causes of PHL are inadequate handling and storage practices at the household level. Food losses in SSA are estimated to be worth $4 billion per year, an amount which can feed 48 million people (FAO, 2013). Losses on grains are estimated to be high and account for about 25% of the total crop harvested. PHL in grains and pulses are constraining food and nutrition security in SSA. By significantly lowering the quality and volume of food available for consumption and sale, PHL reduces household nutrient availability and income.

With food loss occurring along the entire value chain, there is need to deepen understanding of the potential benefits of investing in PHM innovations. Over the last 10 years, state and non-state actors have developed and promoted various PHM technologies in the region, albeit, with no broad adoption by the intended beneficiaries as a result of various factors. Africa as a continent has made efforts to promote adoption of PHM in its members. Pursuant to the goal, the AU developed and launched a continental Post-harvest Loss Management Strategy in 2018. The overall objective of the strategy to effectively guide and coordinate PHL initiatives at the regional and national levels towards achieving reduced losses in line with the Malabo Declaration and SDG targets. A number of NGOs and funders that include FANRPAN, CARE, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), HELVETAS, etc. have been supporting AU Member States to implement PHM and/or PHL initiatives at national and regional levels.
The PHM Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

This PHM Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue will be convened over a series of two episodes webinars mainly focusing on the status of PHL and opportunities to improve PHM performance in the SSA region. Perspectives from farmers, researchers, extension and advisory services, CSOs and the government will be explored, and case studies presented and discussed. Specific objectives are as follows:

• To share findings from FANRPAN PHM studies conducted in targeted project countries in Sub-Saharan Africa;

• To discuss PHM challenges and opportunities in the African continent; and

• To come up with policy recommendations on how to improve the performance of PHM in the continent.

Expected Outcomes

• Increased understanding of the status of PHM in the SSA region

• Key messages and recommendations on the transformation of PHM in the SSA region