

# Southern African Development Community (SADC) Update



by

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# REGIONAL COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SADC REGION



# The FANR Directorate

The SADC Directorate for Food Agriculture and Natural Resources, through its Agricultural Research and Development Unit is currently coordinating regional research and development activities with support from International Cooperating Partners and in collaboration with FARA.



# Priority Setting and Strategic Plan

The regional research priorities and consequently the development of regional programs are guided by the **SADC 15 year Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)** which takes into account the NEPAD-CAADP agenda and FAAP.



# Current priorities

- Information Exchange on Best Practices
- Facilitating the Generation and Dissemination of Technologies
- Promoting Value Addition to Agricultural Products
- Input market development and
- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building



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# Progress on Programmes Implemented by the SADC FANR

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# Progress

- 4 Programmes / Projects under implementation by SADC FANR
- 1 network (SPGRC) directly coordinated by FANR
- Other SADC research networks coordinated by International Agricultural Research Centres (IARC) or regional institutions (e.g. Root & Tubers Research Network, Bean Research Network, Legume Network)

# Progress on SADC Competitive Grant projects: 1. ICART



## *Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training Programme in the SADC Region (ICART)*

- 15 m Euro program supported by the European Commission for implementation over a five year (2006 – 2010) period



# ICART Competitive Grant

- Launched in **November 2005**
- **Seven (7) grants** with a total value of €5.3 M
- Awarded projects led by International Research Institutions with regional partners covering **10 SADC Member States**



# ICART Funded Research projects

- Agricultural Research and Capacity Building Programme (ARCB) for post-conflict regions
- Linking production and marketing chain of sesame in smallholder agriculture
- Environmental and human health impact assessment of quelea bird control
- Ecologically-Based Rodent Management (ECORAT)
- Optimising the indigenous use of pesticidal plants
- Improving market participation by small-scale livestock producers
- Community Based Armyworm Forecasting (CBAF)



# ICART Regional Training Competitive grant

- Launched in March 2006 to support training through regional universities.
- Competitive grants totaling € 1.45 Million were awarded to four regional universities
  - Free State University
  - Sokoine University
  - University of Zambia
  - University of Zimbabwe

# ICART 2

To complete activities not funded under phase 1 the next phase of ICART will focus on:

- completing a situation analysis of the SADC NARS
- reviewing regional priority setting,
- identifying and supporting priority regional research networks

## 2. Competitive Fund for Innovative and Collaborative Projects in Support of Small Scale Farmers Development



- The (FIRCOP) € 1.04 million Regional Competitive Grant Fund for agricultural research
- supported by the Government of France

# Awarded projects under FIRCOOP...1/2



- 8 projects were funded under these themes:
  - Empowering farmers for enhanced adoption
  - Domestication research for indigenous species
  - Cassava processing
  - Comparative analysis of trade patterns for small farmers' development
  - Management of weather and climate forecasts to optimize inputs and reduce drought risks

# Lessons Learnt from implementation of competitive grants



- Human and financial resources are a major constraint
- Management of competitive grants is demanding & additional resources required at SRO level.
- Need for capacity building in proposal writing
- Need to assist regional institutions to form research consortia
- Proper monitoring and evaluation required



# 3. SADC LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

- € 4.85 million EU funded project
- Overall objective is to contribute to increase the availability of improved and appropriate L&WM technologies to R&D institutions in the SADC region for subsequent dissemination to farmers

# SADC LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



- **Eight regional short courses** were hosted between November 2005 and June 2006 attracting 121 participants from all 10 SADC participating Member States
- **A Needs Assessment Survey**, conducted in May/June 2006, on relevance and priorities of regional short courses
- **Appraisal Study on Formal Courses** conducted in October 2005



# SADC LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

- Hosted **two scientific symposia** in Malawi in February 2006 and in Botswana in February 2007
- A **Regional Directory** of Land and Water Management Activities and Stakeholders was developed and circulated to stakeholders in July/August 2005
- July 2006, **a database of journals** available in the SADC region to encourage regional R&D practitioners to publish their findings in regional journals.



# 4. SADC Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme SADC MAPP

i-Project currently under preparation

li- Gone beyond concept stage to full development.

Programme will comprise six technical components:

- Farmer empowerment and market access;
- Research and technology generation
- Farmer led advisory services and innovation systems;
- Education, training and learning systems;
- Knowledge, information and communication; and
- Institutional development and capacity building

# 5. SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre



- Seed Bank established in Zambia
- Operates through a network of National Plant Genetic Resource Centres
- Mission is to conserve and promote sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

- 37,132 seed accessions of plants conserved as active collections
- Of these, 13,738 deposited at SPGRC as base collections
- Vegetatively propagated plant species (roots, tubers & medicinal plants ) maintained as living collections

## Capacity Building:

- Each year participants from SADC NARS receive short course training in plant genetic resources management in Sweden
- The program annually provides MSc scholarships in Genetic resources.
- Documentation system operational

# Collaboration with FARA



- Development of a SADC MAPP
- Regional Agricultural Information and Learning System (RAILS)
- Sub Saharan Africa Challenge Program (SSA-CP)
- Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa (SCARDA)
- Dissemination of Agricultural Technologies in Africa (DONATA)
- Promotion of Science and Technology for Agricultural Development in Africa (P-STADA)
- Various MOUs signed to facilitate the above



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THANK YOU

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