



## Africa Agriculture Science Week & FARA General Assembly

10-16 June 2007  
Johannesburg, South Africa



### FARA General Assembly Reporting format for Side-Events June 10-11, 2007

<b>Name of side event:</b>	SADC DIALOGUE
<b>Sponsoring organization(s):</b>	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RSA
<b>Name(s) &amp; email(s) of contact persons:</b>	Mr R J Sebola ( <a href="mailto:DRTD@nda.agric.za">DRTD@nda.agric.za</a> ) Prog R Barnard ( <a href="mailto:Robin@arc.agric.za">Robin@arc.agric.za</a> ) Dr K. Molapong, ( <a href="mailto:kmolapong@sadc.int">kmolapong@sadc.int</a> ) Ms M. Nyirenda ( <a href="mailto:mnyirenda@sadc.int">mnyirenda@sadc.int</a> )

#### Background/rationale of the side event (*maximum one paragraph*)

The FARA LOC, in celebration of the Africa Agriculture Science Week and the 4<sup>th</sup> FARA General Assembly, sought to engage the SADC researchers, and experts in debating the GA theme by inviting synthesis papers under the different sub-themes. The contributed papers were evaluated by the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and winning authors were invited to present their papers at the SADC Dialogue.

#### Key Issues identified for addressing by SRO, Governments and NARS

- Governments should provide an enabling environment for:
  - the private sector to function under market forces
  - science to be practiced for agricultural R&D
  - effective land reform to take place (ensure that productive land is allocated to farmers)
  - provide basic infrastructure for production, and value adding
- Possibilities for alternate crops, products and uses such as aquaculture systems, biofuel production and agroforestry
- Integrated multidisciplinary agro-ecosystem approaches to ensure sustainable production
- Positive approaches to re-integration of disjointed research, technology transfer (including extension) and training activities
- Adaptation to climate variability and climate change within the agricultural sector including energy and carbon sequestration
- Effective dissemination of knowledge generated
- Increasing water use efficiency (rainfed and irrigation) and crop adaptation)
- Identifying categories of farmers (potential, opportunities, aptitude, small-scale, emerging, subsistence, commercial, multiple livelihoods)
- Investing in value adding and agro-processing infrastructure in rural areas to promote trade and enterprise development.

#### Other issues

Other issues of concern include the following:

- Regional integration
- Biofuel versus food production
- Urban/peri-urban farming and aquaculture
- Upscaling of successful models
- Incentives for research
- Dichotomy of commercial versus developing farmers
- Inclusion of ARD philosophy in R&D
- Funding priorities: realism and not histories approach
- New paradigm – incorporating capacity, people orientation, innovative thinking and institutional change

- Addressing problems – not mandates
- Co-operation between research institutes and civil society
- Multiple uses of land
- Optimization of IKS in NR management
- Harmonized systems
- Harmonization of NARS within and between member countries
- Regional fund for agricultural research and development
- Budgets for research often not issue based, thus compromising capacity to do research.
- Unify research and extension to form one unit
- Institute policy reviews to align institutions with similar mandates and avoid duplication

**Side event linked to which FARA networking support function? (check one)**

- Advocacy and resource mobilization**
- Access to knowledge and technologies**
- Regional policies and markets**
- Capacity strengthening**
- Partnerships and strategic alliances**