



# **Report of the SADC Dialogue Side Event**

**FARA General Assembly  
June 11, 2007**

# **Structure of the SADC dialogue side event**

- **Day-long symposium addressing all ten sub-themes of FARA General Assembly**
- **Process was to encourage young scientists and post-graduate students as well as agricultural experts to contribute to the discussion of the sub-themes through thematic papers selected through a competitive process.**
- **Ten winning papers were presented during the side event and have been compiled and published in a side-event proceedings (document available here at the GA)**



# **SADC Dialogue discussions ...**

**Related to all five of the networking support functions of the new FARA strategy**

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



# **Key Issues identified for addressing by FARA, SADC, Governments and NARS (1)**

- **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**

# **Key Issues identified for addressing by FARA, SADC, Governments and NARS (2)**

- **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**



# **Key Issues identified for addressing by FARA, SADC, Governments and NARS (3)**

- **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 (1)

**Other issues of concern include the following:**

- **Regional integration**
- **Biofuel versus food production**
- **Urban/peri-urban farming and aquaculture**
- **Multiple uses of land**
- **Upscaling of successful models**

# Other issues (2)

- **Incentives for research**
- **Dichotomy of commercial versus developing farmers**
- **Inclusion of ARD philosophy in R&D**
- **Funding priorities: realism and not histories approach**

# Other issues (3)

- **New paradigm – incorporating capacity, people orientation, innovative thinking and institutional change**
- **Addressing problems – not mandates**
- **Co-operation between research institutes and civil society**
- **Optimization of IKS in NR management**
- **Harmonized systems**
- **Harmonization of NARS within and between member countries**



# Other issues (4)

- **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**

# SRO issue

- **Need a dedicated SRO in SADC region to drive the agenda**
- **Institutional arrangement being prepared through the SADC MAPP project**

***Thank you for your attention.***

