



**IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION OF
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
(ICART)
IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY (SADC) REGION**

**REPORT ON THE 1ST SADC-ICART
ASSEMBLY OF STAKEHOLDERS**



*Sofitel Imperial Hotel
Flic en Flac, Mauritius*

13 – 15 September 2006

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CFS	Competitive Fund System
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CRARF	Competitive Regional Agricultural Research Fund
ECCAS	Economic Community Of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EU	European Union
FANR	Food Agriculture and Natural Resources
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICART	Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NARS	National Agricultural Research Stations
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RIP-EDF	Regional Indicative Programme - European Development Fund
RTP	Regional Training Programme
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SC	Steering Committee
WTO	World Trade Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The First SADC ICART Stakeholder Assembly was held in Mauritius, 13 – 15 September 2006. The Assembly was attended by 65 participants of which 50 were representatives from all 14 SADC Member States, each representing sub-sectors of the Agriculture from research, extension, trade, agribusiness and farmer organizations/civil society. As part of the Assembly, a Workshop was held with the aim of sensitising stakeholders about the project and to collect preparatory information for a Situation Analysis to be carried out on the SADC Agricultural Research and Training institutions. The Workshop was also intended to identify important networks in the region.


Funded by the EU RIP-EDF, the SADC ICART Project runs for 5 years focusing on Institutional support to the SADC Secretariat; providing support to Research Networks development; implementing mechanisms of “Competitive Grant Funds” to finance Regional Research & Training Projects, and specific activities of Information, Communication and Training. The Stakeholder Assembly included information dissemination on the provisions, benefits and Project structure and progress to date.

Participants raised questions about transparency of the processes and Member States participation in the project activities, which they felt had not been addressed appropriately. SADC Secretariat explained the engagement of Member States from the start of the Project. They also explained that due to manpower constraints and the absence of an ICART team, which was only recruited in early 2006, a number of activities, in particular the Assembly of Stakeholders, could not be organised at the beginning of the project while other activities had to be launched in order to meet the deadline set within the financing agreement of the project. The Assembly accepted the explanations from the SADC Secretariat.

As part of the Assembly, a Steering Committee for the Project was formed and held its first meeting with the ICART Team. The Steering Committee will, among other roles, broaden the participation of Member States in the Project whilst ensuring transparency, speedy implementation and effective information dissemination.

This gathering of stakeholders also provided the opportunity for a Workshop to be held as part of the activities over the three days whereby participants identified challenges and opportunities in five (5) Thematic Groups covering Research, Extension, Trade, Agribusiness and Farmers’ organizations. The key challenges emerging from the discussions included:

- Lack of co-ordination between and within NARS;
- The need for Information and networking on agri-business;
- Inadequate skills and expertise in agricultural trade;
- Insufficient financial support to research and extension;
- The need to improve the functioning of farmers’ organizations;
- Weak linkages and the need for networking among the thematic groups;
- Need for relevant Research which addresses the priorities of SADC such as food security, increased productivity, and the needs of growers.



The five groups also identified the following cross-cutting issues, namely: Impact of HIV & AIDS; Legal and regulatory bottlenecks; Inadequate access to information & ICT; Increasing cost of energy and transport, and, High staff turn-over at the level of the NARS.

However participants also identified the following opportunities:- Political will & stable political environment; Agriculture as the mainstay of the economy of all SADC countries; Abundance of information in the region; Advances in technology; Adequate infrastructure for training, and; Availability of donor support.

One of the workshop's outputs, following group discussions, was a list of key Research Networks that could be developed or supported by the ICART project. These include:

- SADC Post Harvest technology network
- Strengthening of AGRI-MART co-operative network in SADC
- SADC Committee of research directors
- SADC plant protection network
- SADC Agricultural Extension and Research Information Network
- Farmers Union network SASCFU / SACAU
- SADC aquaculture network
- SADC trade (agri-business, trade policy, farmers unions)
- SADC small-scale mechanisation network.

The meeting concluded with a plan to support the work of the Project staff and the newly formed Steering Committee who would promote this project in the region and represent the stakeholders. The project will also work closely with the stakeholders through the ICART Steering Committee and its communication tools. In line with the ICART implementation plan the project will now focus on capacity building, Network support and ICT development. Meanwhile the ICART Project unit will accelerate the implementation of the programme and ensure the good use of the available funding.

1. Introduction

1.1. The SADC Strategic Plan for Agricultural Research and Training

The approved Strategic plan for Agricultural Research and Training in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a result of wide consultations with regional experts and stakeholders. The Strategy is a basis for collaboration among institutions involved in agricultural research and training for the benefit of the SADC Region especially the small-scale farmers who have been kept out of mainstream agricultural development efforts. The objective of the strategy is to develop the necessary structures, resources, products, procedures and operations to contribute to regional economic growth and poverty eradication.

The SADC Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training (ICART) project drawn from this Strategy is intended to address common regional researchable constraints and take advantage of opportunities in agriculture. As part of the SADC Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate, it is also intended to improve the capacities of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) to manage regional initiatives, thereby making a major contribution to the long-term sustainability of regional research as well as making important inputs to rural development in SADC.

1.2. Components of the ICART project

The ICART project has the following four components:

- 1) **Institutional support to the SADC Secretariat (€ 3.64 million)** to increase its capacity to promote regional integration of agricultural research activities and coordinate the agricultural research and training;
- 2) **Support to Research Networks development (€ 2.95 million)** for researchers or professionals who have a common scientific interest and share interest for networking activities such as exchange of information, dissemination of results and promotion of training programmes.
- 3) **Regional Research Projects to be implemented through mechanisms of “Competitive Grant Funds” (€ 5.60 million).** The objectives of this component include the reduction of the high levels of rural poverty by making agriculture more competitive, offsetting of the high rate of natural resource degradation and the development of effective rural policy options, institutional and farmers organizations to support the agricultural production systems and to link farmers to markets;

The Technologies proposed will take into account the negative impact of the HIV and AIDS on agricultural production and productivity as well as the role of women farmers; and
- 4) **Specific activities of Information, Communication and Training (€ 2.31 million)** that cannot be funded through competitive funds such as the establishment of a sub-regional interactive information system, establishment of a regional scholarship fund, and development and improvement of teaching materials.

1.3. Project Duration

The duration of the project is 5 years with a budget of € 15 million funded by the EU RIP-EDF.

1.4. Overall objective and purpose of the ICART project

The overall objective of Agricultural Research and Training in the SADC region is to contribute to regional economic growth and poverty eradication by organizing innovative research and training activities aimed at overcoming the constraints to achieving sustainable use of natural resources through improved technologies and policies that will enable resource-poor smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods.

The ICART project is expected to enable NARS in the SADC countries to enhance their national efforts to improve incomes of small-scale farmers, processors, traders and other beneficiaries while maintaining the natural resource base. By addressing common regional researchable constraints and opportunities in agriculture, the project will also improve the capacity of NARS to manage regional initiatives, thereby making a major contribution to the long-term sustainability of regional research as well as making important inputs to the SADC rural development sector.

1.5. Expected results of the ICART project

It is expected that through the ICART project SADC will achieve the following results:

- Result 1:** SADC has the regional capacity to coordinate agricultural research and training;
- Result 2:** Research Networks are established in accordance with the research priorities for the SADC region;
- Result 3:** The Competitive Fund System (CFS) has improved performance of the regional agricultural research and training programme;
- Result 4:** Competitively funded research projects provide results and outputs to meet rural development needs;
- Result 5:** A regional information system is operating;
- Result 6:** The scholarship fund has strengthened the regional training capacity.

1.6. Core Activities

The core activities required to achieve the results described above are the following:

- a. Strengthen SADC management capacity;
- b. Establish Research Networks (RN);
- c. Improve the performance of the regional research through the establishment and organization of the Competitive Fund System (CFS);
- d. Implement Competitive Funded Research Projects to address rural development priorities;
- e. Establish the Regional Information and Communication Programme;
- f. Establish the Regional Training Programme.

1.7. Project Management and implementation procedures

The project will be managed by a Project Coordinating Unit, housed at the SADC FANR Directorate. A Steering Committee will be set up to supervise the implementation and management of the different components of the project. Every two years of the project, an Assembly of stakeholders of the project will be held, whereby the programme of activities and results will be presented and the project advised accordingly by its stakeholders.

The detailed background to the project, its implementation plan, a Costs and Financing Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements are available in the financing agreement of the project, entitled “*Financing Agreement N° 9053/Reg: Annex II – Technical And Administrative Provisions For Implementation:- Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Region, Accounting N°: 9 ACP SAD 001, Identification N°: REG/7438/000*” which is available from the ICART Project Coordinating Unit.

2. The Assembly of Stakeholders of the ICART project:

2.1. Background

One of the activities that have been planned in the project is to hold two general meetings of the Stakeholders of the ICART project, in the form of its Assembly of Stakeholders, one towards the start of the project and another towards the middle of the implementation phase. To this effect the first SADC ICART Stakeholder Assembly was held in Mauritius 13 – 15 September 2006 together with a Workshop for the participants. The Workshop was linked to the event in order to engage the national experts in various relevant areas of this project on the developments to-date and on proposals for future activities.

The Programme proposed to start with the Official opening session, with keynote addresses and presentation of the ICART project, followed by working sessions that would constitute the workshop among stakeholders, while one of these sessions would be used for the selection of the Steering Committee of the project (Appendix A)

The workshop part of the programme had to be modified as some of the discussions at the initial plenary sessions, pertinent to a good understanding of the development of the project since its start, had to take place. Nevertheless, the Workshop provided a meaningful platform to kick-start SADC-wide networking among the participants and provided the ICART Project Management Team with useful insight of the kinds of interventions that would need to be considered at regional level.

2.2. Opening Session of the Assembly

The Stakeholders Assembly was attended by 65 participants of which 50 were representatives from all 14 SADC Member States, each representing sub-sectors of the Agriculture from research, extension, trade, agribusiness and farmer organizations/civil society. The list of Participants and their contact details are provided in Appendix B).

The meeting was chaired by Mr Mopeli Makoanyane, representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho, who also delivered the welcoming address. The Master of Ceremonies, Dr René Ng Kee Kwong, of the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, invited Dr Sloans Chimatiro of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) Secretariat to deliver the Keynote Address entitled *'The NEPAD Agriculture vision: The role of Science in fighting hunger and stimulate Economic growth'* (Appendix C).

The meeting was opened by the Honourable Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries of Mauritius, Dr Arvin Boolell, who in his speech, highlighted the importance of research in agriculture and the linking of this to poverty eradication in SADC (Appendix D)

Ms Boipelo Freude, of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), presented the next scene-setting paper for the Assembly, entitled "Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA): Inter Regional Initiatives" (Appendix E)

Dr Simon Mwale, of the SADC Secretariat followed with a presentation from the sub-regional perspective, entitled "Agricultural Research and Training coordination in Southern Africa: A synopsis" (Appendix F)

Dr Paul Jessen, Coordinator of the ICART project, presented the goals, objectives and results of the project, which also included the progress made to date as well as the forthcoming activities in the short-term. (Appendix G)

The introductory presentations for the Stakeholders Assembly concluded with a presentation, by Dr Mwale, on the expected role of the ICART Steering Committee and its composition as defined in the Financing Agreement of the project (Appendix H). The participants were requested to propose possible methods of selection of members of the Steering Committee, which would be carried out on the second day of the Assembly, after participants had the opportunity of interacting among themselves.

2.3. Plenary discussion session on the development of the ICART project to date:

Following the presentation by Dr Mwale on the Steering Committee selection, participants went into a lengthy debate on the purpose of the meeting and the decision-making process in the project. Participants raised a series of questions during the plenary discussion sessions, both on the first and second days of the Assembly. The SADC Secretariat, as the institution responsible for the implementation of the ICART Project, was required to respond following consultation with the ICART Project management team. These discussions altered the planned programme of the meeting but were nevertheless considered important issues that needed to be addressed by all parties present. The questions raised included:

1. Why the delay in the implementation of the ICART project
2. Why the lack of communication on the development of the project with Member States
3. Why the delayed involvement of the stakeholders especially when various decisions have already been taken concerning the ICART Project
4. Whether the ICART project could share with the stakeholders, details of the projects that had been selected, and the basis for selection
5. The purpose and details of the process of organising the Stakeholder's Assembly.
6. Whether the mandate and composition of the Steering Committee could be modified and how accountability would be addressed

The SADC Secretariat's response to each of the the above issues is summarised below:

1. The delay in the implementation of the ICART project has been brought about by changes in the European Development Fund (EDF) from the 8th EDF to the 9th EDF [obtaining derogations regarding the recruitment of individuals directly rather than through consultancy firms for project staff], coupled with the re-structuring process that started at the SADC Secretariat at the time of launching the ICART project.

Thus, in the absence of project staff, and given the urgency of the need to start some activities of the project at the risk of the SADC Secretariat losing the funds allocated for the ICART project, the Technical Advisor on Research had to play a caretaker role for the ICART project and initiated the process of recruiting interim consultants who prepared and launched the Call for proposals for the Competitive Regional Agricultural Research Fund (CRARF) and the Regional Training Programme (RTP).

2. There were deadlines to beat if the project was to be launched successfully; therefore the development of the project took place through urgent interventions at critical stages of the funding agreement milestones, and with little human resources available to manage the project before the arrival of the project staff. The latter could only be recruited in early 2006, after the lengthy procedures described above. This situation was not conducive for all protocol to be observed.
3. The meeting of the stakeholders has been among the first activities initiated by the Project Management Team, as early as mid-March 2006. However, while the team needed to set up the office, it also had to take on the responsibility of the processes that had already been launched, in particular, the evaluation and processing of both the

CRARF and RTP calls for proposals. These activities were time consuming, resulting in the stakeholder meeting being deferred to a later date.

4. The process of preparing the call for proposals under the 9th EDF rules, its launching, associated with awareness workshop, as well as the provision of a helpdesk to assist proposal writers submit complete proposals was explained to the audience (also available from the SADC website). The project selection process was also explained to the participants. This required adherence to a standard set of the criteria addressing administrative, technical and financial assessments of the projects, and was carried out by a panel of 4 assessors in the scientific domain.

It was also explained that due to a clause of confidentiality, the names of those whose projects had been recommended for funding could not yet be disclosed until the contract agreements were signed. However, those applicants who had not been successful had already been informed and the information about those projects eventually funded will be widely communicated by the ICART project.

5. The hitherto slow pace at which the project has operated was due to the absence of a full-time ICART Team which has recently been recruited. The Project Management Unit Team was, through this assembly, taking the earliest possible opportunity to ensure that key stakeholders were well informed on progress to-date of the project, and could from now on be more involved with its implementation, while achieving the objectives spelt out in its financing agreement. The forming of the ICART Steering Committee is part of the process which would ensure transparency, speedy & effective information dissemination, and the full participation of the SADC Member States through the stakeholders.

Furthermore, the opportunity of this gathering has prompted the project to combine the workshop activities, for greater sharing of information among stakeholders, as well as jointly identifying important networks that should be set up in the region.

6. The constitution of the ICART Steering Committee and its responsibilities have been described in the Financing Agreement of the project and would not normally be subject to change. However, given the request from the Stakeholders for greater representation, not in terms of member-state representation, but rather for better representation of the categories of stakeholders, the SADC Secretariat would be willing to give up one of its (two) positions on the committee for the benefit of a representative from Farmer Organisations from the region.

As a result of this debate, which lasted beyond the time allocated for discussions and which required modifications to the proposed programme for the meeting, there was an improved understanding by the participants, of the ICART Project and the context in which it has evolved so far. Thus, the programme proceeded after the participants' questions and concerns were dealt with to their satisfaction.

3. Selection of the SADC ICART Steering Committee (SC):

The presentation by Dr Mwale on the role and composition of the Steering Committee provided the background to the selection of the Steering Committee. Furthermore, the Assembly approved of the proposal that the SADC Secretariat give up one of its positions on the Steering Committee in favour of a representative of farmer organisations in the region and proceeded to make nominations for the various representatives on the SC after consultations within the group discussion sessions of the workshop.

The Assembly also proposed to carry out the selection of the Steering Committee at the start of the second day of the Assembly. Thus, after some deliberations among the various categories of stakeholders, it was agreed that the composition of the Steering Committee would be as follows:

CATEGORY	REPRESENTATIVE
NARS	Dr Watson Mwale
	Mr Xavier Rakotonjahay
	Ms Angel Khumalo
	Mr Jairaj Ramkissoo
Extension	Mr Kanyenda
	Mr Akayombokwa
Trade	Prof. M Mboe
Agribusiness	Mr Tebogo Mokau
Farmers' organisations	Mr Raradza
SADC Secretariat	Dr Simon Mwale

The Steering Committee would hold its first meeting on the third day of the Assembly, in a parallel session to the final session of the workshop and report back on its deliberations to the Assembly.

4. The Workshop

4.1. Introduction to the workshop

The workshop built on the presentations of the opening session of the Stakeholders' Assembly, especially the objectives of the ICART project and the overview of the Research and Training initiatives in the SADC region.

The workshop adopted a participative approach in which participants came to the meeting having prepared short country reports on the sub-sectors in Agriculture they were representing namely, Research, Extension, Trade, Agribusiness and Farmer Organisations. These country reports are being compiled separately and will be made available by the SADC ICART project.

A facilitator for the workshop provided guidance on the process to be followed. Similarly, a group of colleagues from the NARS in Mauritius were asked to assist in moderating and reporting on the group discussions. Thus, discussions of the participants at break-away sessions were moderated by non participants, while the rapporteurs were also non

participants. However each Group was required to elect a Chair from among the participants who had the overall responsibility for the process and reporting back to the plenary. This allowed for greater participation by all participants. Participative consolidation was done in plenary after presentation by the group representative

At the end of the Assembly participants carried out a brief evaluation of the Assembly and Workshop. An independent assessment for the whole event was also carried out by a member of the NARS in Mauritius. The results of both evaluations are presented in Appendix J.

Among the activities carried out during the workshop [some planned workshop activities had to be modified] were the identification of regional challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sector, and the identification of cross-cutting issues among the agricultural sub-sectors represented. A session of the workshop was also used for the identification of regional research networks that would be required in the region. These are described later in the report.

4.2. Participants' expectations of the Assembly/workshop

Participants were given an opportunity in Thematic Groups to introduce themselves and to state their expectations as far as the Workshop was concerned. Participants Workshop expectations however, tended to focus on the project rather than the Workshop/Assembly. These included the following:

- Proper briefing on the objectives and results of ICART Project and learn how ICART will be implemented
- All Member States will have a clearer and similar understanding of the ICART project objectives and proposed activities.
- Come up with a representative steering committee, that will have clear terms of reference and a clear way of disseminating information to all relevant stakeholders
- How concerns of Member States (MS) will be taken on board and how MS will be involved in the Project implementation
- How to ensure that all member-states are on board and participate in support to research, networking and other regional initiatives
- Through interaction, participants will reach common agreement on researchable issues for the benefit of the SADC region
- Be able to identify regional competencies and share areas of science and technology & comparative advantages through ICART
- Clear Implementation Strategies for ICART from regional to national level
- Clear strategy and action plan on some well-defined priorities for research and training in the region
- Clear priorities and strategies on communication and networking in SADC Research Institutions
- Clear guidelines on how challenges in Agricultural Research and coordination can be addressed at the regional level to enable NARS to function with updated information
- How to improve research funding and strengthen agricultural research

- To draw strategies for improving regional access to technologies
- Expected impact on trade policy/ trade facilitation and development of SADC
- Increased impact on trade policy/facilitation of SADC, access to markets in Africa and producing marketable products
- Increased Networking among NARS

4.3. Group discussions on the Categorization of Challenges and opportunities

The Workshop involved grouping the participants into five (5) Thematic Groups namely, Research, Extension, Trade, Agribusiness and Farmer Organisations.. Using their own country experiences participants discussed and consolidated regional challenges and opportunities in the five thematic areas. Each Group was required to prioritize their output and indicate whether these were Regional, National and/or Cross-cutting issues.

The results of the group discussions are presented below, together with the consolidated list of cross-cutting regional challenges and opportunities within the themes.

The detailed lists of issues raised in the working groups, including their classification into regional and national issues are provided in Appendix I (a)- (e)

4.3.1. Presentation of regional challenges and opportunities in Research:

Regional Challenges

- Weak linkages between research and extension
- High staff turn-over in Research, ageing scientists/labour force in agriculture which may lead to lack of critical mass of researchers
- Need for Research which addresses:
 - Food Security
 - Ways of increasing productivity
 - Ways of increasing farmer's income
 - The needs of growers; and
 - The whole agricultural chain
- Lack of sustained research, and funding for research
- Lack of coordination between and within NARS
- Need for clearly defined and harmonized agricultural policies at national and regional level (with clear objectives)
- Need to address the gap between decision-makers and researchers (in terms of communication, credibility, over-expectation, frustration)
- How to answer challenges of growers given that time-frame for research is long

Regional Opportunities

- Political-will to support agriculture includes giving opportunity for agricultural research and innovation
- Stable political situation
- Opportunity of exchange between countries which work on same commodities
- Export potential within the region, enables market-driven research

- Availability of skilled persons in the region
- Existing ICT facilities and upcoming regional initiatives make it easier to communicate
- The demand for food in the region justifies investment in agriculture and agribusiness
- ICART, if unfolded, can increase opportunity for Training, Research and Communication for all Member States
- Agriculture as the mainstay of the economy of all SADC countries
- Regional environmental issues can be addressed by regional research consortia
- Training institutions can develop and address regional training programme

The discussions in plenary that followed group presentations are summarized in point form below:

Discussion:

- Funding for research is inadequate, even from the governments themselves. Are they really providing the expected % of GDP to research? Need to convince governments to provide funds
- Research done but results not appropriately translated/packaged for farmers
- Poor research-extension linkage. Participants raised concern over the most effective way to disseminate information to farmers. Participatory approach advocated. Research to be driven by farmers' needs
- Issue of how to implement training, especially in connection with the writing up of proposals to have access to competitive funds: SADC to take the lead in connection with such training
- Challenge of taking best advantage of technology/ biotechnology through training
- Issue of competitiveness of agricultural products together with the need to have access to appropriate technology to help increase productivity and quality while maintaining costs at reasonable levels – issue of value addition
- Agricultural sector under threat with rising cost of energy and its unavoidable and far reaching effects on the cost of irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, etc
- NARS are not effectively operating as such. Furthermore all research entities should be connected/networked (private, public, NGOs, farmers, etc.) whilst a policy should be developed on partnerships between the private and public sector
- Competitive funding not in line with SADC objectives of cooperation. Competitive grants may have a negative impact on the smaller, weaker and less well funded institutions. These could become marginalized. There is therefore a need for SADC countries to have necessary support from expert team for project proposal writing

4.3.2. Presentation of regional challenges and opportunities in Extension Systems and Services:

Regional Challenges

- Coordination of agencies/departments involved in extension
- Impact of HIV & AIDS on the Extension process
- Weak farmer-extension-research linkages
- High Extension Agent: Farmer ratio
- Quality of information reaching the field extension officers
- Limited access of farmers to inputs and markets

Regional Opportunities

- Extension systems in the region have a common structure
- Extension systems in the region are extensive in nature, having representation at all government administrative levels
- Adequate infrastructure for training
- Elaborate extension networks
- Trained professional personnel
- Abundance of information in the region

Discussion:

- Extension-farmer ratio – too high. Few extension agents, meaning that one extension agent has to reach/work with too many farmers. Ratios as high as 1: 800 and even 1:1000 were mentioned
- Abundance of information was considered both a challenge and an opportunity
- The existence of an extension system does not necessarily mean that the best is being made out of it. Are its effectiveness and efficiency being maximized? How well are we making the system perform?
- Is investment in extension enough to make it efficient and sustainable? Furthermore, how to obtain funds and funding mechanisms are still important issues
- Information cannot be taken up by farmers if they are not properly educated
- Research-extension linkages are critical. There is a need for a participatory/ problem solving approach to be adopted by research and extension
- Involvement of the private sector in extension on a contractual basis, and partnership between private and public sector extension should be promoted
- A lot of technologies have been developed, even new approaches to dissemination developed but, in some cases, extension is still not aware of these and still using old approach
- ICT a means / an opportunity for promoting access to new technologies
- Training is a challenge for enhancing use of technology

- Should look at the issue in a holistic manner, not just extension and research to be considered but the whole environment within which all actors operate
- Integrating farmers in research programme a challenge. Very few farmers are reached. Partnerships should be considered in order to better understand farmers' needs / problems / realities and how these can be dealt with
- Promoting ownership is a challenge - important to promote farmers' trust, strengthen the feeling that their opinions and needs drive the whole process
- The example of 'Farmer School' was provided whereby researcher and farmer learn through collaborative experimentation. Trained farmers then in turn share with other farmers
- Extension should not only be a delivery mechanism; it should also provide information, support and other services. This requires serious training
- The concept of platform of innovations is important in providing a means to promote partnership / sharing in connection with innovations

4.3.3. Presentation of regional challenges and opportunities in Agricultural Trade:

Regional Challenges

- Quality of products: need for Accreditation & Standards
- Growing health consciousness
- Impact of Non-Tariff Barriers e.g. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures
- Supply-side constraints: need for value addition & diversification of export products
- Inadequate access to information & ICT
- Vulnerability to climatic conditions
- Vulnerability to erosion of trade preferences: need for protection of sensitive products at the level of WTO
- Increasing cost of energy and transport
- Legal and regulatory bottlenecks e.g. by weak support institutions, such as laboratories for testing products for quality aspects
- Lack of skills and expertise in agricultural trade: need for capacity on agricultural trade support and negotiations
- Impact of HIV and AIDS

Regional Opportunities

- Abundant "cheap labour" or "lower-cost labour"
- Intra SADC Market of over 200 million consumers
- Growing global incomes
- Advances in technology
- Export opportunities from SADC / AGOA / COMESA / EU / WTO
- Special and preferential treatment for developing countries at WTO level
- Diversity of products and climate
- Use of ICT as a tool in trade negotiations

Discussion:

- SADC governed by a legal and regulatory framework. However, many Member States are not implementing international conventions and trade protocols that have been agreed upon/signed. Will SADC be able to achieve its objectives? Are the challenges realistic ones?
- The impact of trade and tariff barriers should be studied
- Should obtain trade data, tariff reduction agreements and subsidies before embarking in negotiations
- Skills and expertise needed. More training on trade negotiating techniques and need to understand trade / market dynamics
- Should address issue of overlapping memberships. Some countries are in several groups and are not participating fully in any one of these. This will impact on the trade environment .
- Need for assistance in capacity building concerning trade rules / and to be better equipped with respect to anti-dumping measures
- Need to address issue of subsidies in agriculture
- Need for appropriate infrastructure to be able to get produce to market
- The term “Cheap labour”, taken literally, should not be considered as an opportunity as sustainability is questionable, especially given that agriculture should become more competitive. “Lower-cost labour” may be more appropriate, although it should not be equated to dumping cheap labour or exploiting poor people.
- Diversity of climatic conditions both an opportunity and an important challenge
- Issue of SPS? There may be market opportunities / access but no real market entry due to standards set by EU
- Since it is already known that by 2008 some trade agreements will end, should there not be a serious move to intensify research on areas where SADC will still have a real competitive advantage? However, there should be no feeling of insecurity since there will still be some protected markets according to the specificities of countries
- Need to have intelligence on future markets needs. Holistic approach needed which includes research support to trade
- Need to set regional standards in order to improve intra SADC trade.

4.3.4. Presentation of regional challenges and opportunities in Agribusiness

Regional Challenges

- Natural disasters and capacity to cope with them
- Information dissemination and networking on agri-business in SADC
- Information on market access
- Currency instability
- Low adoption rate of new technology by farmers
- Markets with rigid standards e.g. maximum pesticide residue levels
- High cost of inputs and freight
- Low commodity prices
- Insufficient financial support to research, extension & micro-financing
- Need for harmonization of stand on genetically modified organisms (GMO)

Regional Opportunities

- Removal of trade barriers at both international and SADC levels
- Harmonization of seed trade and promotion of trade within SADC
- Exploiting variation in micro climate
- Availability of Donor support

Discussion:

- Donor support as an opportunity can also be a big challenge because of the dependency syndrome
- Need for information on market access. Study to be done on the impact of the removal of barriers on trade and information. Findings to be disseminated to traders so that they may be better informed on market opportunities. There are some proposals on how tariff issues can be tackled in the SADC Trade Protocol Mid-term Review.
- Availability of water in some regions to be judiciously exploited to develop skills / production systems / opportunities. Water means potential for generation of electricity / energy and possibility to irrigate
- There is need to look into the legal aspects associated with the provision of extension services by non-public sector
- The development of contractual farming should be promoted
- The adverse effects of fluctuating / insufficient yields or production on agribusiness

4.3.5. Presentation of regional challenges and opportunities for Farmer Organisations

Regional Challenges

Technology/knowledge issues

- Better use of indigenous technical knowledge / local resources
- Development of local technical knowledge
- Appropriate technology development for small scale farmers
- Ensure that small scale growers benefit from improved technologies

Capacity building/empowerment

- Capacity building and human resource development
- Empowerment of women in research and farmers' organizations

Access to donor funds

- R&D on farmers' organizations on ways to improve their functioning
- Better organised/structured farmers' organizations
- R&D on financing small scale farmers / organizations
- Improving farmers organizations' access to donors' funds

Information & Communication management & Networking

- Improving dissemination of information to ensure that local planters benefit from regional experiences
- Improving communication among stakeholders and farmers
- Set framework to enhance networking among all 5 groups (research, extension, NGOs, agribusinesses and farmers' organizations)

Climatic and Environmental issues

- Coping with Climatic change and weather variability

Regional Opportunities

Innovations in organisation

- Emergence of farmers organizations
- Development of contractual farming
- Development of regional research cooperation
- Availability of information and communication technologies

Willingness to move forward

- Political will of governments to support agriculture
- Donors' support to NGOs and farmer' organizations
- Willingness of all stakeholders to accept change

New trade avenues

- New regulations on trade (organic farming, certificate of origin, etc.)
- Opportunity for regional trade

Discussion:

- Low literacy is an important challenge to technology uptake by farmers
- Tendency for farmer organisations to be drawn into political activities once they are well organized

- Need to enhance awareness of farmers / producers of regional and international markets and their requirements
- Women farmers are underrepresented. There is need to promote participation of women at all levels in the agricultural system
- Most farmers strive for high yields and quality products. However they may lack information on value addition of their produce.

4.4. Regional Cross-Cutting Challenges & Opportunities

From the discussions on the thematic group works, the plenary session identified the following cross-cutting challenges and opportunities:

Cross-cutting Challenges

- Weak linkages between and within organizations & thematic areas
- High staff turn-over coupled with an ageing but experienced labour force
- HIV & AIDS
- Legal and regulatory bottlenecks
- Inadequate access to information & ICT
- Increasing cost of energy and transport

Cross-cutting Opportunities

- Political will & Stable political situation
- Existing ICT facilities for communication
- Agriculture as the mainstay of the economy of all SADC countries
- Abundance of information in the region
- Advances in technology
- Availability of Donor support
- Adequate infrastructure for training

4.5. Stakeholder Analysis

The Workshop programme intended to ensure that, in particular, there was a deeper understanding of the role and value of various players in the ICART Project. It was however felt that a listing and discussion of the various stakeholders in plenary was sufficient at this stage [other general discussions on the ICART project took precedence].

The discussion brought out some important points about the identified stakeholders in the Project, including:

- The importance of forming linkages between research and extension;
- The partnership needed between the farmers and researchers/extension services;
- The importance attached to project ownership by farmers
- The progressive collaboration that must be fostered between the public and private sector in extension service, as an example.

4.6. Priorities & Action Plan for Research Network Development

One of the objectives of the ICART project is to support Regional Research Networks (RN). The project is expected to intervene on Regional Research Network development to address regional issues related to agricultural science, with the help of institutions in the member countries. Participants were informed that the Assembly was also to create awareness of this component of the ICART project, which remained to be implemented, as well as the Information & Communication Technology & Management component. One of the proposed approaches to the implementation of support to networks being considered is to organize a Call for Proposals, as has been done for the Research and Training competitive funds. However, the process would still be a competitive one, given that funds are limited. The preparation for a Call for proposals under the EDF system is a lengthy process that may take around a year before the contracts are awarded, and therefore support would not take place until 2008. Furthermore, support would also only be for a limited duration of less than 3 years.

Since the aspect of support to networks in the project has not yet been implemented, the stakeholders would be able to make suggestions as to what kinds of networks would be desirable in the region, in order to formulate the call for proposals.

Participants queried the lack of a coordinating body for networking within SADC. However, it was explained that although a body is required to supervise and co-ordinate all the networks, many networks have failed because of too much dependence on donor funding, and some aspects of sustainability need to be built-in such support, for example, network institution member involvement and commitment.

Participants also questioned whether lessons have been learnt from existing networks and whether they have developed capacity in the specific fields. The comment was made that priority should be given to capacity building instead.

The participants split into five groups to reflect on the priority networks for the region. The Groups first agreed on the purpose of networking, generally defined as for sharing ideas, resources, training, enhancing the value of their work, and accelerating the speed with which they can obtain results in their work.

An environmental scan was carried out to list existing networks and Centres of Excellence in core areas where research in agriculture is conducted such as in livestock and crops. Each group then agreed on those areas where they felt they needed support in Network development and support.

Out of the group discussions, several general observations were noted, that would have to guide the process of developing the support strategy to regional networks, as follows:

- Need to make an inventory of existing networks to identify their strengths and weaknesses and to propose improvement.
- Need to access and review these networks to see how member countries are benefiting.
- Need to establish best practices on how to use and sustain networks
- Strengthen exchange between farmers and extension workers

- In order to develop these Networks “The strong to lead”
- For new networks, there is need to concentrate on subject matters of concern to Member States and to concentrate on the country that has the comparative advantage to create the network (e.g. issue of rice import within SADC).
- Farmers Associations within and between Member States are fragmented which makes it difficult to disseminate information, therefore there is a need for a central point/mechanism through which information can be processed and disseminated to all members.

4.6.1. List of Networks recommended for support and/or development

Following presentations from each group, the Plenary agreed on the networks they considered need development and support; these would be recommended for consideration by the ICART project.

List of proposed networks for Support/development:

1. SADC Post Harvest technology network
2. Strengthening of AGRI-MART co-operative network in SADC
3. SADC Committee of research directors
4. SADC plant protection network
5. SADC Agricultural Extension and Research Information Network
6. Farmers Union network SASCFU / SACAU
7. SADC aquaculture network
8. SADC trade (agri-business, trade policy, farmers unions)
9. SADC small-scale mechanisation network.

4.7. Issues for Consideration for network support

As a conclusion the SADC Technical Advisor present raised the following issues for consideration:

- Importance of already existing networks. Most of them are research based and are led by external institutions outside the scope of the ICART funding.
- Organising connections among stakeholders is still a long way to go
- Big need for SADC-based Centres of Excellence for networking
- Subject matters that need to be considered:
 - Need of farmers for applied technologies
 - Trade and agribusiness matters

It was generally noted that the Project was at the very beginning of its activities addressing regional networking and that there was a need to have further consultations to consolidate all these findings.

5. Final Session – The way forward

The Steering Committee (SC) held its first meeting in parallel with the final session of the workshop discussions on proposed regional networks. The members of the SC were able to join the plenary for the presentation of the list of networks proposed for support and participated in the discussion.

Participants were informed of the selection, by the SC, of Mr Edward Raradza, the representative of Farmers Organisations, as Chairperson, while Ms Angel Khumalo, representing the NARS, was nominated Deputy Chairperson.

The Chairperson of the Steering Committee reported on some elements of the meeting at the plenary session of the Assembly, as follows

- The SC has been fully briefed on the history and development of the ICART project, as well as proposed plans
- The SC requires more time to study all the documents submitted, and will ask for additional details if necessary
- The SC has meanwhile requested the Project Coordinating Unit to submit budget proposals and proposed action plan prepared for consideration by the donors by the set deadlines
- The SC will ask for additional meetings other than those already programmed to deal with all matters on the project, and a meeting is already planned towards the end of the year
- The SC has agreed that the ICART should have national contact points so that all Member States participate fully in this project

This was followed by deliberations on the way forward, following the issues raised and discussed during the Assembly. The SADC Secretariat was requested to sum up the deliberations and Dr Mwale made the following remarks:

- SADC Secretariat assured the stakeholders that their input had been noted and will be taken on board in the implementation of the ICART project;
- The Secretariat emphasised that the focus of the ICART Project should now be on Training, Network support and ICT development for Information dissemination in Research;
- Working closely with the stakeholders through the ICART Steering Committee, the ICART Project unit would accelerate the implementation of the activities and ensure the good use of the available funding;
- The ICART Project unit would ensure transparency in the implementation of this Project and ensure that stakeholders are well informed on progress. Information dissemination will include the use of the SADC Web Site.

The vote of thanks was given by Mr Ramkissoon, from Mauritius. The Chairperson, Mr Makoanyane thanked all attendees of the ICART Assembly of Stakeholders for their input in the discussions over the three days and wished the ICART project plenty of success in its tasks that lie ahead. He declared the Meeting closed at 1.30pm.

APPENDIX A

PROGRAMME OF THE SADC-ICART STAKEHOLDER ASSEMBLY SOFITEL IMPERIAL HOTEL, FLIC EN FLAC, MAURITIUS, 13-15 SEPT 2006

Wednesday, 13 September 2006

08:30 – Registration

Opening Session

Chair of the Assembly: Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho (Chair of SADC)

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Rene Ng Kee Kwong, Ag. Director MSIRI

09:00 - **Welcome Address:** *Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho*

09:10 - **Keynote address:** Dr. Sloans K. Chimatiro: Senior Fisheries Advisor to NEPAD:
NEPAD Secretariat: NEPAD and the CAADP

09:40 - **Opening Address:** Honourable Dr Arvin Boolell, Minister of Agro Industry and
Fisheries: Republic of Mauritius

10:10 - Tea / Coffee break

10:40 - Ms Boipelo Freude: FARA: The role of sub-regional organisations for agricultural
research and training on the African continent

11:10 - Dr. Simon Mwale: SADC FANR: Agricultural Research coordination in Southern
Africa: A synopsis

Session 1:

11:40 - Dr. Paul Jessen: ICART Coordinator: The goals, objectives and results of the
ICART project

12:10 - Dr. Simon Mwale: SADC FANR: Presentation on the procedures for the setting up
of the ICART Steering Committee

12:35 - Introduction to the workshop process and creation of work groups

13:00 - Lunch

14:30 – Group discussion on thematic areas work sessions -Introductions, analysis of
challenges and opportunities within thematic areas (Research, Extension, Trade,
Agribusiness, Farmers Associations).

16:00 - Tea/Coffee

16.30 – Group discussions - Categorising of challenges and opportunities

17:00 - End of Day 1



Thursday, 14 September 2006

Session 2: (Plenary)

08:30 – Recap of the workshop process

08:45 – Presentation by working groups and identification of regional crosscutting issues; prioritization by assembly

10:00 - Tea/Coffee

10:30 – Plenary discussions; stakeholder analysis

12:00 - Selection of the ICART Steering Committee

13:00 – Lunch

Session 3:

14.:00 – Group-work on preparation of action plan on regional priorities and cross-cutting issues

15:30 - Tea/Coffee

16:00 - Group discussions continued

17:00 - End of Day 2

Friday, 15 September 2006

Session 4:

08:30 – Recap of the workshop process

08:45 - Presentation of action plans from groups and discussions

10:00 - Tea/Coffee

10:30 – Discussion on synergies, networks and collaborative tasks on actions for regional approach

12:00 – The Way Forward

12:30 - Vote of thanks

12:40 - Closing of assembly

13:00 - Lunch

14:00 - Meeting of ICART Steering Committee

APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX C: Keynote Address

***The NEPAD Agriculture Vision: The Role of Science in Fighting
Hunger and Stimulate Economic Growth***

**Presented by Dr Sloans Chimatiro
Mauritius 13 September 2006**

**By The Agriculture Sector, NEPAD Secretariat
Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa**

<http://www.nepad.org>

The Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry and Fisheries

The Chairperson

The Director of SADC FANR, Mrs. M. Nyirenda

The Executive Secretary of FARA, Dr. Monty Jones

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I want to convey apologies from Professor Richard Mkandawire (NEPAD Agriculture Advisor) who is not with us due to circumstances beyond his control. Nevertheless, NEPAD is delighted to be a part of the First Assembly of the Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training (ICART). NEPAD is also encouraged by the role the people and Government of Mauritius have played by hosting this Assembly; and we look forward to new ideas that will influence the development of the agriculture sector in the SADC Region.

Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, Agriculture is the most important sector in the economies of most African countries in that it accounts for about 60% of the labour force, 20% of total merchandise exports, 17% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, the performance of the sector is still below expectations and many people continue to face high levels of poverty (70%), chronic hunger (200 million people or 28%), malnutrition (20%), food emergencies (28 million people), food aid (50% of WFP budget), and food imports (\$18 billion per year). In other words, the agriculture sector is not yet delivering what is needed to provide the growing population of Africa with food and economic opportunities.


Against this background, African Heads of State and Government have adopted an overall vision of Africa's development, which states that, and I quote ***“We agree on the overall vision of Africa's development: a prosperous continent free of conflict in which all our people can fulfil their potential, that participates effectively in the global economy on an equal footing”***, end of quote. To achieve this vision and attain the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs), African Heads of State and Government have set a target of 7 percent annual growth rate in GDP over the next 20 years to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and build the foundations of sustainable economic development on the continent.

In the agriculture sector, the African Heads of State and Government, farmers, agribusiness, senior government officers, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and international development partners adopted the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) as a framework for the restoration of agricultural growth, food security, and rural development in Africa. The vision for agriculture is that the continent should, by 2015:

- ❖ Attain food security (in terms of both availability and affordability and ensuring access of the poor to adequate food and nutrition);
- ❖ Improve the productivity of agriculture to attain an average annual growth rate of 7 percent, with particular attention to small scale farmers, especially focusing on women;
- ❖ Have dynamic agriculture markets between nations and regions;
- ❖ Integrate farmers into the market economy, including better access to markets, and get Africa to become a net exporter of agricultural products;
- ❖ Achieve the more equitable distribution of wealth;
- ❖ Be a strategic player in agricultural science and technology development (hence the focus of this Assembly); and
- ❖ Practice environmentally sound production methods and have a culture of sustainable management of the natural resources base (including biological resources for food and agriculture) to avoid their degradation.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, CAADP consists of four pillars:

- (i) extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems;***
- (ii) improving rural infrastructure and trade related capacities for market access;***
- (iii) increasing food supply and reducing hunger;*** and
- (iv) agricultural research, technology dissemination, and adoption.***




These pillars are supported by cross-cutting areas in academic and professional training in the agricultural sector and information and knowledge systems to support strategy formulation. In order to accelerate implementation of these objectives, early actions have been agreed on, and they including revitalization of Agricultural Research and Technology Systems in the SADC Region by:

- (i) accelerating diffusion and scaling up of "best bet" crops, animal, and natural resource management technologies;
- (ii) improving seed and input systems through multiple partners, including private sector; with special attention on the needs of women and vulnerable groups, such as households affected by HIV/AIDS;
- (iii) creating a functional Sub regional Research Organization (SRO); and
- (iv) launching the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) project for Southern Africa.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, NEPAD recognizes the critical role of agricultural science and technology (S&T) in achieving the CAADP vision. On one hand, science and technology are essential to support the natural productivity of agricultural systems, including fisheries, forestry and livestock, within the context of changing ecosystems and a dynamic human-made environment. On the other, science and technology are creating innovations that increase the overall value of the sector by increasing and sustaining production, developing and delivering improved products, and reducing environmental costs. Such innovations will attract increased investments in the sector and will improve the quality of these investments to generate sustained growth of the sector. It is a fact that a country's economic development depends on continued investments in science and technology targeted at strategic areas where growth and progress can be expected or where fundamental needs are at stake. This also applies to Africa, and agriculture is the key sector where investments in S&T can propel economic growth while also directly strengthening the health and food security of millions of Africans at risk due to malnutrition and hunger. Yet we see that sub-Saharan Africa is lagging far behind the rest of the world in the volume of investment in S&T. Quoting a report by Research Africa "In 2002, Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 0.4 per cent of the world's gross expenditure on research and development; and it was home to 1.1 per cent of the world's researchers"; clearly indicating that we start from a weak position.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is pleasing, however, to note that we do have bright and ambitious African scientists ready to take on the challenges of developing their continent, and we are putting in place mechanisms and strategies for supporting and coordinating their efforts. As you might be aware, NEPAD has identified the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) as the technical agency to drive implementation of agricultural research and science




capacity strengthening under the CAADP Pillar IV. We are very pleased with the growth of this partnership and with the leadership shown by FARA in mobilising and coordinating the science constituency in Africa behind the NEPAD objectives. Just last month, for instance, I had the chance to participate in a joint meeting between FARA, AU and NEPAD that agreed to accelerate the implementation of the AU/NEPAD Fisheries and Aquaculture Program through joint research and capacity strengthening programs under the FARA umbrella.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to report that NEPAD has held regional CAADP implementation planning meetings with regional economic communities (COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, and UMA) to identify the priority investments and early actions at national, regional (RECs), and continental institutions (NEPAD/AU). Each implementation level has defined how the activities will be undertaken and realigning these activities with CAADP. While it is clear that most of the CAADP interventions in science, technology and training will be implemented and achieve impact at the country level; there are actions which will only be cost-effectively implemented at regional level, such as SADC. Therefore, the relevance of ICART lies in its capacity to enable SADC to coordinate agricultural and natural resources research and capacity building in order for the region to expedite the achievements of the MDGs. The role of NEPAD under the political leadership of African Union Commission, in this regard, is to give policy oversight, assisting with mobilization of additional resources to up and out scale innovations in the sector, and establish an efficient tool to allow sharing of knowledge and capacity.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, there is no doubt that implementation of CAADP Pillar IV requires significant and sustained investments. However, NEPAD believes that concerted efforts at national, regional and global levels will help us achieve the required level of support. The first step is to realign the regional programmes and activities with CAADP Pillar IV; followed by the alignment of the CAADP with the national medium term investment frameworks; and then use these instruments to jointly mobilise investments from the public sources as well as cooperating partners at national and global levels. It is pleasing that such realignment is already paying dividends; the ICART is as a result of the European Commission's heed to the appeal by the Heads of State and Government in the SADC region, for the need to invest in the region's capacity to lead and generate innovations in the agriculture sector.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, today, ICART is standing out as a good example of the goodwill the European Commission is showing to assist Africa come up with its own solutions for its problems. Furthermore, it is pleasing to see that the Stakeholders' Assembly has brought together the key players in food production in the region; particularly farmer organisation,



non-state organisations, producers and traders. The role of these organisations is at the centre of NEPAD's principles of participatory and accountability, because this meeting will allow SADC to understand the context and conditions within which the farmers and fishers operate and enable researchers and trainers to design relevant tools with which to generate knowledge and technologies suitable for those conditions. Therefore, NEPAD is keen to draw lessons which will be of use to other parts of Africa.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, the other major contribution of the ICART programmes is capacity-building. The capacity-gap must be addressed if the advances made thus far in agricultural-led poverty reduction are to continue and if the regions currently experiencing serious declines in food security, are to reverse this situation. It is important to note that EC through ICART has recognised that strengthening SADC's research and farmer's organisations is an integral part of public-goods funded research and offers pay-offs for poverty reduction and economic growth into the future, well beyond 2015. We have recently noticed that although Africa has done a lot to strength its capacity, little has been achieved because we have not been able to sustainable our human capacity due to, among other reasons, brain-drain and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Therefore, NEPAD wishes to urge ICART to come up with strategies which will not only help SADC build its capacity, but also to retain its trained women and men, in order to sustain agricultural development.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me conclude by referring to the 2005 international summit on progress in delivery of the Millenium Development Goals that was held in New York. At the Summit, whilst it was acknowledged that many of the targets were unlikely to be met by 2015, the international community recognised the importance of refocusing attention on agriculture in order to achieve these goals. Major agencies are now redirecting their support towards the agricultural sector, aligning it within the CAADP framework. The EC's support to SADC is such a good example. Therefore, NEPAD is delighted that agriculture is now firmly back on the international cooperating partners' agenda and this is in part due to efforts of collaborative programmes such as those to be showcased here over the next two days.

The Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of NEPAD Secretariat and Professor Richard Mkandawire, the NEPAD Agriculture Advisor, I wish you successful deliberation during the First Assmbley of ICART.

Thank you for your attention.

APPENDIX D: Opening Address by Hon. Minister of AgroIndustry & Fisheries

SPEECH BY DR. THE HON. ARVIN BOOLELL

MINISTER OF AGRO INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (MAURITIUS)

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SADC-ICART STAKEHOLDERS ASSEMBLY

13 – 15 SEPTEMBER, 2006


SOFITEL IMPERIAL HOTEL, WOLMAR, FLIC EN FLAC

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a great sense of honour and pride that I am called upon to address you, for the opening of this very first assembly of SADC stakeholders in the field of agricultural research. The Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training (ICART) project's financing agreement was signed in November 2003, and it is time for us, stakeholders of the SADC region, to assess what has been achieved and what is the way forward. Agriculture is a key component of the SADC regional economy, with a 35% contribution to the GDP. Over 70% of the population of the SADC countries depend on it for food, income and employment. Moreover, with regards to Food Security policy, the strategies adopted have been able to address important issues, such as effective disaster preparedness.

Dear friends, regional co-operation and integration in Southern Africa owes its origin to historical, economic, political, social and cultural factors that have created strong bonds of solidarity and unity among our people. Our common agenda means that, through proper interlocking and harmonization of our policies, we have the potential to promote sustainable and equitable socio-economic growth. As you are aware, one of the Millennium Development Goals is to eradicate poverty and hunger through Rural Diversification Programme (under IFAD) set up in year 2000 to support poverty alleviation and stimulate diversified and sustainable economic development for low-income households. Agricultural Research and Training being an approved programme with the Food Agriculture and Natural Resource (FANR), the ICART was effectively designed to strengthen the SADC FANR capacity to undertake this mandate, considering that support to agricultural research has great potential for poverty alleviation and enhancing food security in the region.




The ICART team was instrumental in organizing the Regional Training Programme workshop in Johannesburg during March 2006. It is also busy drawing Terms of Reference for an extensive analysis of the situation of agricultural research and training as well as information dissemination and training the SADC member countries. The Inception Report of the ICART project covers the period from the 1st February 2006 to 31st March 2006. The main objective of the ICART project is therefore to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable growth in the region through innovative research and training in the field of agricultural and natural resources. It is essential that each SADC country is able to enhance its integrated national efforts towards improving incomes of small-scale farmers, processors, traders and other beneficiaries, while maintaining the natural resource base.

By addressing common regional researchable constraints and opportunities in agriculture, the programme will also improve the capacity of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) to manage regional initiatives. This in itself will make a major contribution to the long-term sustainability of regional cooperation in agricultural research, which in turn will have positive results and outcomes in the rural development sector in the SADC region.

Already, there are several challenges in the current policies and strategies, which compels us to move swiftly and with renewed political will. There is a lack of market-oriented smallholder production system where research is market-led, demand-driven and follows the commodity chain approach. There is definitely a need for the improvement of transfer and adoption of technology, and a need for policies and strategies to offset the high rate of natural resource degradation. Technology development and adaptation are required on a much larger scale than ever before, if we are to attain the objectives of equipping our agro-industry to modernize and grow, to improve productivity in an increasingly competitive world. We must be able to improve soil fertility, strengthen the capacities of our institutions and we must also be able to integrate a gender perspective in agricultural research and training. Such technological improvement should be based on the principle of deriving more and better output from the same amount of inputs rather than from more inputs. These are but a few challenges, but they are not too daunting to undertake. When there is a will, there is a way.

Dear friends, the price of our main crop – sugar -, has depreciated by 5% on the European Market since the 1st July, 2006, and in 2009, it will have decreased by 35%. Obviously, we have to move fast, and we will need to counter the effects of this drastic cut. One of the solution - besides the issues of clustering and constant diversification -, that we have identified is that we need and we can produce more sugar. For this to come true, not only do we need new varieties of sugarcane, but we



must improve the day-to-day management of fertilization and irrigation. Research is ongoing, and our teams from AREU, MSIRI, and FARC, are constantly thriving to improve our methods and practices in the agricultural sector and to enhance production and quality alike. We hope that one day we will be able in Mauritius to produce what we eat and eat what we produce, thus relieving our National Budget from costly food imports. I believe that this motto/concept can be applied to the whole SADC region, and why not, enable cross-border productions which will benefit each SADC country.

The ICART project will no doubt raise the profile of agricultural research and training, in order to enhance knowledge and influence attitudes of policy/decision makers, so that they increase investments and generate political will to improve management of agriculture and of natural resources, and ultimately to achieve food security, poverty eradication and ecosystem sustainability. We will thus be able to respond to the needs of farmers, and agricultural production will inevitably increase. However, we must always take stock of the advice dispensed to us by our counterparts in other regions, and we must always aim to deliver the bus in terms of quality. Agriculture is not just about production, but it is also about sanitary and phytosanitary norms that we must respect, in order to gain market access, and thus to become successful.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure this project, which has to be coordinated and integrated, will benefit all of us, and that through proper dissemination of information, the farming community in all SADC countries will take advantage of that. This is also where I have to make an appeal for all our researchers to reach the mass, and to go on the fields to dispense the right advice and information to farmers. Too often, seminars are organized, documents are produced, impressive speeches are delivered, but nothing concrete is implemented, no project is started. The farmers feel they are isolated from researchers and the latter somewhat isolate themselves in their ivory towers of knowledge and technical jargon and expertise. Thus, as we all know, time is of essence, and even if no one owes us a living, we must make sure, that whatever researchers achieve, reach the farming community as fast as possible. It is also primordial that we interlock our resources and that concrete and tangible results are presented.

Finally, allow me to place on record my appreciation of the effort put in by staff of my Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Food and Agricultural Research Council, in helping to organize this Assembly in close collaboration with SADC representative in Mauritius, as well as all of our close collaborators. I am now declaring the seminar open, and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your kind attention.

APPENDIX E

“Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA): Inter Regional Initiatives” presentation by Ms Boipelo Freude



Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA): Inter Regional Initiatives

Monty P. Jones
Executive Secretary

SADC ICART Stakeholder Assembly
13-15 September 2006
Mauritius




What is Africa doing,

To fight extreme poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals?

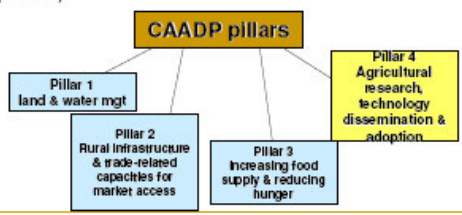
The African vision

- Attain 6% annual agricultural growth;
 - Creating dynamic agricultural markets among nations and between regions
 - Making African countries net exporter of agricultural products
 - Making food available and affordable
 - Being a strategic player in agricultural S&T development
 - Having a culture of sustainable use of natural resource base



African leadership

New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) :
Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP)



Pillar 4: agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption

Purpose:
to overcome the constraints to sustainable use of Africa's natural resources with improved technologies and policies


Themes

- Integrated natural resource management
- Adoptive management of appropriate germplasm
- Development of sustainable market chains
- Policies for sustainable agriculture

Linkage of pillar 4 to other pillars

CAADP pillars


- Pillar 1
Land & water mgt
- Pillar 2
Rural Infrastructure & trade-related capacities for market access
- Pillar 3
Increasing food supply & reducing hunger




FARA

- a creation of the SROs
- recognized technical arm of the African Union and NEPAD

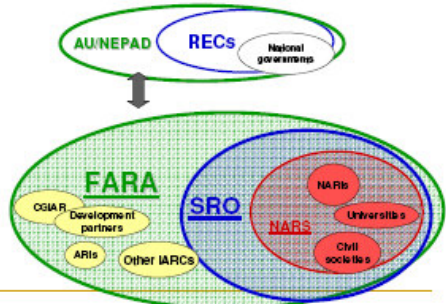
AARINENA: North African countries



- **three functions**
 - Advocacy for agricultural research
 - Promoting partnerships
 - Sharing and dissemination of information & learning



In the emergence of FARA ... The evolving institutional ARD environment in Africa

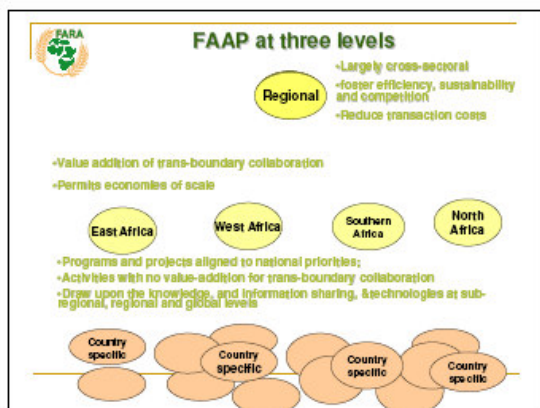
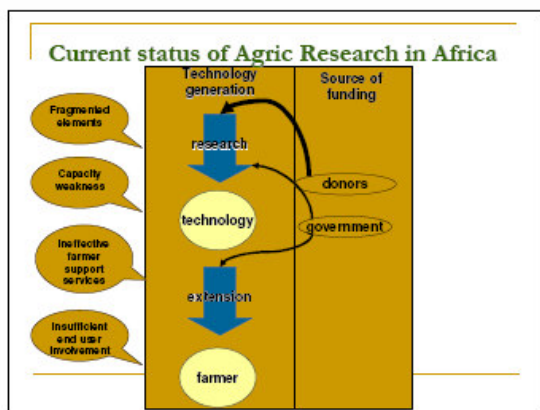


FARA-led Regional Initiatives

- Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP)
- SSA Challenge Programme (SSA CP)
- Dissemination of New Technologies in Africa (DONATA)
- Building Africa's Scientific and Institutional Capacity (BASIC)
- Regional Agricultural Information and Learning (RAILS)

Why an agricultural framework?


- To guide and assist the stakeholders in African agricultural research and development to;
 - Meet the objectives of CAADP Pillar 4
 - Develop Africa's innovation systems.
 - Promote harmonisation of internal and external actions and actors.
 - Generate increased investment in African Agric R&D



An agricultural framework to carry out required reforms and investments
Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP)

Updates


- Donors' consultation in London
 - Endorsement of FAAP
 - Recognition of FAAP process
- Submission to AU for African Heads of State endorsement in July 2006, Banjul Gambia

FARA-led regional initiatives 

The SSA CP

Innovation systems approaches to agric research for development

4 principal themes	Sustainable natural resource management	4 supporting pillars	Organizational & institutional change
	Intensifying smallholder farming systems		Capacity building
	Developing efficient market		Knowledge mgt & info sharing
	Developing supporting policies		M&E, Impact assessment

FARA-led regional initiatives 

The 12 SSA CP projects

<p>Southern Africa</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of horticulture value chains in irrigated and rainfed systems. Integration of sustainable soil fertility management innovations into staple food value chains in high and low potential systems Integration of efficient water and nutrient use innovations in high and low potential cereal grains systems 	<p>East and Central Africa</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> More food products and better nutrition at reduced cost and minimal degradation of the natural resource base Beneficial conservation and sustainable use of natural resources Wealth creation through agro enterprise diversification and improved market access 	<p>West Africa</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation platforms to improve livelihoods in the Northern Guinea Savannah Sustainable agricultural intensification in the Sudan Savannah zone Improving rural livelihoods in the Sahel of Niger
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Cross cutting Projects

- Institutional Learning and Change for Effective Innovation.
- IA&D processes which lead to policy formulation and implementation
- Improved coordination in planning, implementation and learning at landscape


FARA-led regional initiatives


A new innovation systems approach

Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program (SSA CP)

Inception phase updates

- Governance and management structure established
- Validation of entry points
- Early review by the European Union
- Development of PLS logframe
- MTP for SSA CP



FARA-led regional initiatives 

DONATA Program: Rapid and wide scale dissemination and adoption of proven and new agricultural technologies

DONATA Objectives:

- Improve livelihoods by promoting wide-scale uptake of proven agricultural innovations.
- Raise confidence in agricultural research for development.

DONATA portfolio

- NERICA Rice
- Cassava
- IR Maize
- TC Banana
- INRM tools i.e. ICM, IPM

FARA-led regional initiatives

BASIC Programme:


Human Capacity for development and wide-scale application of sustainable agricultural innovations

Responds to:

- Under investments in tertiary education
- Missing generation of agricultural scientists and technologists

Proposes to:

- Raise quality and relevance of agricultural education at tertiary level.
- Develop new cadres of professionals for science, extension and business and policy forums
- Create awareness of challenges and negotiates for actions
- Provide means to identify and express common priorities for African colleges & universities
- Increase competitiveness of African colleges and universities

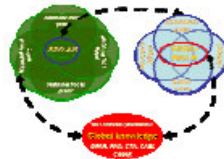
FARA-led regional initiatives 

RAILS Programme

Global information systems for African Scientists

Responds to:

- Inability to access appropriate information when required by African scientists, extensionists, farmers
- Islands of successes in African agriculture



Proposes to:

- Advocate for increased investment in agricultural information systems
- Improve access and contribution by African scientists and change agents to global agricultural knowledge
- Facilitate synergies and value-addition
- Create African continental platform
- Take advantage of modern distance learning tools

Strengthening civil society organizations

- Strategy
 - Vision: An inclusive ARD system, generating appropriate innovations that result in sustainable livelihoods.
 - Mission: NGOs involved in ARD in Sub-Saharan African region collectively influencing agricultural research, policy and priority setting, and promoting innovative partnership approaches.
 - Activities
 - Regional NGO database
 - Documentation of lessons learnt and experiences
 - Public awareness and broaden membership
 - Creation of communication strategy
- NGO sub-regional consultations

Future partnerships with SADC-FANR



- Involvement in all FARA regional initiatives
- Facilitate the implementation of SADC/MAPP-FAAP
- Some specific activities
 - Improving governance and management within the NARS
 - Improving financial status and management of the NARS
 - Strengthen scientific capacity
 - Strengthen Collaboration

Conclusion



- Emphasis to be given to cross country collaboration through the SRO mechanism
- Process of interaction and learning are crucial for ARD sustainability and effectiveness
- Mutual confidence, sharing and accountability of all partners is crucial for ensuring sustainable partnerships
- Ownership and accountability by stakeholders of regional and subregional organization is principal to its success

Thank You



APPENDIX F


“Agricultural Research and Training coordination in Southern Africa: A synopsis” presentation by Dr Simon Mwale



The SADC Secretariat: Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate

Agricultural Research and Training coordination in Southern Africa: A synopsis
by
Dr S. Mwale
Senior Programme Manager: Crop Development
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate
SADC Secretariat


1



Strategic Objective of FANR

The strategic objective of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate is to develop, promote, coordinate and harmonise policies and programmes in agricultural and natural resources on a sustainable basis.


2



Specific functions of the Directorate

- Development, promotion and harmonisation of agricultural policies taking into account gender equity in development strategies and programmes;
- Ensuring sustainable food security policies and programmes
- Development, promotion and harmonisation of biodiversity, sanitary and phytosanitary, crop and livestock development policies;


3



Specific functions (continued)

- Development of measures to increase agricultural output & the development of agro-based industries and the strengthening of regional capacity for agricultural research;
- Development, promotion and harmonisation of policies and programmes aimed at effective and sustainable utilisation of natural resources such as wildlife, fisheries and forestry;
- Development and harmonisation of sound environmental management policies; and
- Promotion of trade in agricultural products.


4



FANR's focus

- Ensuring food availability;
- Ensuring food access;
- Improving safety and nutritional value of food;
- Ensuring disaster preparedness for food security;
- Ensuring equitable and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources; and
- Strengthening institutional framework and capacity building.

5



Main issues

- The **RISDP** and the Action Plans from the **SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit on Agriculture and Food Security** provide a sound framework for achieving strong and sustained growth in agriculture and the overall rural economy. The plans stress that the **farmers' lack of access to agricultural inputs and markets are the major barriers to their development**. Improving production systems, access to inputs and markets are therefore important missions of the FANR Directorate

6

Implementation of the Summit Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security

- Establishment of the Regional Food Reserve Facility aimed at mitigating the effects of future food crisis;
- Development of Irrigation Development and Water Management Programme to increase agricultural production through increased intensity, area under cultivation and reduce the region's dependence on rain-fed cultivation;
- Initiated the implementation of Promotion of Regional Integration in Livestock (PRINT) to increase productivity and trade flows in livestock;
- Initiated the Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training (ICART) to building capacity in research for development

7

Implementation of Summit

(Continued)

- Mobilised resources for a Regional Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign to stop spread of the disease and other Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs);
- Development of a new programme on Early Warning and Vulnerability Analysis aimed at assessing food security and other vulnerabilities so that planners and policy-makers can take corrective action;
- Mobilised resources for the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs); and
- The development of a tracking system in the form of a questionnaire with an accompanying manual intended to monitor progress towards achievement of the targets in the Plans of Action on a six monthly basis as directed by Summit.

8

Agricultural Research and Development

Agricultural production in the region faces the challenges of recurring natural disasters including persistent drought, poor soil fertility and recurrence of diseases affecting crops and livestock. This requires pre-emptive and adaptable research to make technology appropriate for smallholder farmers. In addition, advances in technology development, such as biotechnology, demand that the region prepares to deal with such developments through timely and accurate research that informs decision-making

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The development of new and appropriate technologies is necessary for the region to compete in the global economy as well as to meet market demands and contribute to food security. Agricultural research has to provide agricultural innovations that will increase crop and livestock production

10

Regional research and development (R&D) challenges

- Developing new technologies to empower the region to compete in the global economy, meet market demand and increase crop and livestock production for food security and poverty alleviation;
- Promoting economic growth in the agriculture and natural resources sector in an integrated approach to improve livelihoods through improved management of natural resources, greater access to markets and appropriate policies;

11

R & D challenges

- **Changing the focus of research to move beyond the traditional function of technology development to meet the emerging need for research that directly addresses poverty and the negative impacts of globalisation and GMOs.**

12

Addressing challenges of R & D

Many of these challenges will be addressed through a competitive fund system to support research projects through a European Union-funded project, 'Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research & Training (ICART)', the French-funded Competitive Fund (FIRCOP) and the Multi Country Agricultural Productivity Programme (MAPP) as well as programmes supported by the African Development Bank

- These support projects are coordinated by the Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Development Unit of the FANR directorate

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Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Development Unit of FANR

is tasked with the promotion of economic growth in the agricultural sector through an integrated approach for improvement of livelihoods, which includes management of natural resources for greater sustainability, promotion of market access, policies, capacity building and institutional change at all levels

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Functions of the R&D Unit

- Promoting and coordinating cooperation among SADC's national agricultural research systems and facilitating the exchange of information and technology among them;
- Promoting partnership between public and private organisations in research and training;
- Promoting the development of the human resources in research and technology transfer to respond to the needs and demands of the agricultural sector in accordance with gender dynamics; and
- Helping to mobilise human, financial, technological and information resources to implement demand-driven activities.

15

The Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training (ICART) in the Southern African Region project

16

Overall Objectives of ICART

Contribute to regional **economy growth** and **poverty alleviation** by **promoting innovative research and training** activities to overcome the constraints to **sustainable use of natural resources** with **improved technologies** and **policies** that will enable **resource-poor smallholders** to **achieve improvements** in their livelihoods.

17

ICART Project Purpose

Improve National Agricultural Research System's **capacity** to manage research networks, implement common research and develop regional opportunities **addressing regional constraints** for **improving incomes of small-scale farmers** and **other end-users** in the SADC region

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Main components of ICART

- The ICART project is composed of **four** components
- **Component A: Institutional support to the SADC Secretariat**
- **Component B: Support to Research Networks (RN) development**
- **Component C: Regional Research Projects to be implemented through mechanisms of competitive grant funds**
- **Component D: Specific activities of Information, Communication and Training**

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Commitments by member states

- The Dar Es Salaam declaration has stipulated that 10% of member state's budgets should be committed towards agriculture
- Within this 10% is Agricultural Research and Training getting its fair share?
- What can member states and you do to improve on this scenario?

20

Way forward

- You have been nominated by your respective countries to represent your specific thematic area at this the 1st SADC ICART Stakeholder assembly
- The SADC secretariat is very committed in supporting agricultural research and training coordination in the Southern African sub-region and therefore your inputs as stakeholders in this assembly are very important in assisting us reaching the targets as defined in the RISDP and Millennium Development Goals
- The SADC ICART project coordinator will go into more detail concerning the results and activities of the ICART project

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APPENDIX G

“The Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training (ICART) in Southern Africa” presentation by Dr Paul T. Jessen

The Implementation and Coordination of
Agricultural Research and Training
(ICART) in Southern Africa

1st Stakeholder Assembly
Sofitel Imperial Hotel
Flic en Flac
Republic of Mauritius
13 to 15 September 2006


Dr. Paul Jessen



Introduction


- Project is housed within the Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) within the SADC Secretariat
- EU supported to the tune of € 15 million
- 5 year project (2006 – 2010)
- Project Coordination Unit (PCU) is partly operational

ICART STAKEH




Overall Objectives

Contribute to regional economy growth and poverty alleviation by promoting innovative research and training activities to overcome the constraints to sustainable use of natural resources with improved technologies and policies that will enable resource-poor smallholders to achieve improvements in their livelihoods.




Project Purpose

Improve NARSs **capacity** to manage research networks, implement common research and develop regional opportunities **addressing regional constraints for improving incomes of small-scale farmers and other end-users** in the SADC region




Main components

- The ICART project is composed of four components with six main result areas
- **Component A:** Institutional support to the SADC Secretariat (€ 3.60 million)
- **Component B:** Support to Research Networks (RN) development (€ 2.95 million)
- **Component C:** Regional Research Projects to be implemented through mechanisms of competitive grant funds (€ 5.60 million)
- **Component D:** Specific activities of Information, Communication and Training (€ 2.35 million)



Component A: Institutional support to the SADC Secretariat

- Result Area 1: SADC has the regional capacity to coordinate agricultural research and training



Component B: Support to Research Networks (RN) development

- **Result Area 2:** Research networks are established in accordance with the research priorities for the SADC region



Component C: Regional Research Projects implemented through competitive grant funds (CRARF)

- **Result Area 3:** The competitive grant system has improved regional performance of the agricultural research and training. The competitively funded regional projects have been demand driven with a priority given to small-scale farmers development



Component C: (contd.)

- **Result Area 4:** Competitively funded research projects are providing results to address rural development priorities and technologies for:
- Efficient use of natural resources and improvement of sustainable market-oriented smallholders' production systems.
- Natural resource conservation, with focus on soil, water and biodiversity.
- Research-farmer-extension linkages and developed farmers' organizations are improving transfer and adoption of technology to support the agricultural production systems.



Component D: Specific activities of Information, Communication and Training

- **Result Area 5:** A regional research information and communication system based on regional Research & Development outputs is providing products to disseminate the programme results and support rural development
- **Result Area 6:** The sub-regional Scholarships fund has strengthened the sub-regional MSc programme and the technical training capacity in agricultural and veterinary sectors (Regional Training Programme, RTP)



Progress so far

(September 2006)



Component A: Support to SADC

- Administrative issues planned and executed (office space, computers, vehicles, funding)
- Technical advice and support to Research and Development unit within SADC/FANR
- Discussions about Sub-regional Organisation (SRO) with other parties
- Planning employment of staff for ICART
- Planning of stakeholder assembly and workshop and accompanying steering committee meeting 13-15th September 2006.



Component B: Support to Research Networks (RN) development

- Desk study on Agricultural Research & Training Institutions and Research Networks in the region under way
- Frame work contract for a situation analysis study on Agricultural Research & Training and Regional Networks awarded. Consultants to visit member states during Jan/Feb 2007.
- Discussions with other partners concerning networks' support



Component C Regional Research Projects to be implemented (CRARF)

- Call for proposals launched in Nov 2005, followed by awareness workshop, in Pretoria RSA, to explain Call for proposals
- Independent Help Desk activated to assist prospective bidders. Closing date 31 March 2006
- 49 proposals received. Contracted team of 4 assessors to assess projects on technical and financial eligibility
- Grant contracts for funding 7 projects prepared, awaiting final approval by SADC and DEC



Component D: Information, Communication and Training

- Initiated call for Expression of Interest to regional ICT companies to carry out baseline study of ICT in Agriculture in the SADC region
- ICART linked to SADC FANR-Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS)
- 1st ICART Newsletter ready for release
- E-mail contacts established with CRARF and RTP attendees, to be supplemented by CRARF and RTP applicants and partners, and contacts derived from study on Situation Analysis



Component D: Information, Communication and Training

- Regional Training Programme (RTP) Call for proposals launched January 2006
- Awareness Workshop held in JoBurg, R.S.A. during March 2006 to explain Call for proposals
- Independent Help Desk activated to assist bidders
- Deadline for receiving proposals was 26 May 2006
- 17 proposals received. Assessment carried out. Recommendations made to the EU Delegation Grant contracts to be signed before Nov 2006



Upcoming activities

- Project staff appointments
- In country workshops on Situation Analysis in member states. (March to August 2007)
- Support to networks accelerated
- Meetings with Directors of Research, Deans and Information managers
- CRARF grants signed and projects implemented
- RTP grants signed and implemented



APPENDIX H

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SADC ICART STEERING COMMITTEE

- 1) Act as an advisory board to steer the ICART Programme within the framework of the Financing Agreement with the EC, and in line with the provisions made for the management of the Programme;
- 2) Improve the synergy between FANR Directorate and the ICART Programme, and link the work plan of the Programme with RISDP's strategies;
- 3) Guide the implementation of ICART, solving identified key problems and building on key strengths;
- 4) Review and recommend for approval the third Programme Estimate prior to its endorsement by the Delegation of the European Commission to Botswana;
- 5) Review and make appropriate recommendations on interim and annual progress reports;
- 6) Review and recommend for approval Programme monitoring and evaluation Reports;
- 7) Identification of, and liaison with, major international stakeholders whose participation is considered imperative;
- 8) Be proactive in the preparation of strategy/vision papers, and general networking, to promote integration and cooperation in agricultural research and training across the region, in accordance with ICART Programme programme estimates.

APPENDIX I: Challenges and Opportunities listed by thematic groups

(a) Research

Challenges

- Weak linkages between research and extension (R)
- Lack of sustained funding for research (R)
- High staff turn-over (N/R)
- Special training in research (N)
- Lack of critical amount of researchers (R)
- Research does not apply to the needs of growers (R)
- Lack of sustained research (R)
- Lack of infrastructure (N)
- Lack of coordination between and within NARS (R)
- Lack of national vision for research to proceed (N)
- Poor implementation of research outcome. Research limited to Research station and do not go to growers (N)
- Ageing scientist/labour force in agriculture (N/R)
- Research outcome to reflect at farmer's level to push productivity (N)
- Lack of clearly defined policies (N)
- Limited number of persons you can recruit (N)
- Research should cover all the agricultural chain (N/R)
- There is need for clearly defined agricultural policies at national and regional level (with clear objectives)
- Research to address:
 - Food Security
 - Increased productivity
 - Increase of farmer's revenue
- Revisiting the agricultural policies (Mid-term review) (N)
- Harmonization of agricultural policies at national and eventually regional levels (R)
- Time-frame for research is long and how do they answer challenges of growers (R)
- Outcome of research as beneficial to growers (N/R)
- Gap (Communication, credibility, over-expectation, frustration) between decision-makers and researchers (N/R)
- Lack of appreciation of leadership for research (N)
- Orient research to the need of small-holder farmers (N)

Opportunities

- Opportunity of exchange between countries which work on same commodities (R)
- Political will to support agriculture: give opportunity for agricultural research (N/R)
- Well-focused and organized research in order to tap fund. Harmonization of different institutions (N/R)
- Training institutions at region should set a clearly-defined plan for training (R)
- Export within the region (R)
- Availability of skilled persons in the region that have to be tapped (R)
- Create a database of researchers region-wise which can be tapped (R)
- Existing ICT facilities make it easier to communicate (N/R)

- Diversification of (production phase, germplasm) resource base (R)
- All J3 countries in region be included in FARA ICT links by next year (R/INFO)
- ICART if unfolded can make other opportunity available for all member state (Training, Research etc) (R)
- Research can come up with projects that in the long run can sustain the environment (climate change, drought conditions) (N/R)
- It is a good approach to link scientist of region and enabling to all to interact. Also for tapping of fond (R)
- The huge demand for food in the region give a good opportunity for investment (R)
- Promotion of research publication of SADC members (R)
- Stable political situation
- Opportunities for more women to join in agriculture (N/R)
- Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of all SADC countries and this by itself is a big opportunity (R)
- Marketing research. Availability of Market. Do research which is market driven (R)
- Opportunities for agri-business (N/R)
- Policy makers wait for new idea for research (N/R)

(b) Extension

Challenges

- Coordination of agencies/departments involved in extension
- Qualification of field extension agents
- Type and amount of information received by field extension agents
- HIV/AIDS
- Weak Farmer-Extension –Research linkages
- High Extension to Farmer ratio
- Limited access of farmers to inputs and markets

Opportunities

- Extension systems in the region have a common structure.
- The extension systems are extensive in nature, having representation at all government administrative levels
- Elaborate extension networks
- Trained professional personnel
- Abundance of information in the region
- Adequate infrastructure for training

(c) Trade

Challenges

- Quality of products
 - Accreditation
 - Standards
- Growing Health Consciousness
- SPS
 - Impact of Non Tariff Barriers
- Supply Side Constraints
 - Diversification of export products
 - Value addition
- Poor access to information & ICT
 - Information dissemination
- Vulnerability to climatic conditions
- Vulnerability to erosion of trade preferences
 - Protection of sensitive products at the level of WTO
- Increasing cost of energy and transport
- Legal and regulatory bottlenecks
 - Weak support institutions (labs for testing)
- Lack of skills and expertise in agricultural trade
 - Capacity building (support & negotiations)
- HIV / AIDS

Opportunities

- Abundant cheap labour
- Intra SADC Market of +200m consumers
- Growing global incomes
- Advances in technology
- Export Opportunities from SADC / AGOA / COMESA / EU / WTO
- Comparative advantage
- Diversity of products
- Diversity of climate
- Special and preferential treatment for developing countries at WTO level
- Availability of ICT as a tool in trade negotiations

(d) Agribusiness

Challenges

- Natural disasters: (Pest and Disease, Drought, Cyclone/Flood), Climate forecasting (long range), Information on Pest and Disease occurrence and capacity to cope with outbreaks
- Information on market access
- Currency instability
- Info and networking on agri-business in SADC
- Undeveloped irrigation authority
- Low adoption rate of new technology by farmers
- Insufficient financial support research and extension, Micro financing? (collateral and high interest)
- Piracy in trade (Poor Enforcement), Trade liberation (WTO- Import cheaper)
- Market rigid standards, maximum pesticide residue levels
- High inputs and freight costs, harmonization of stand on GMO's
- Low commodity prices

Opportunities

- Removal of trade barriers (International level and SADC)
- New technologies (transfer and adoptions)
- Promotion of market access and innovative market research
- Strengthening of capacities for agricultural research and extension (shift from traditional to demand driven research)
- Harmonization of seed trade sharing and promotion of trade within SADC
- Agribusiness networking eg. SADC, CIMMYT
- Exploiting variation in micro climate
- Availability of Donor support

(e) Farmer Organisation

Challenges

Note: All challenges seen as both Regional and National issues

- **TECHNOLOGY / KNOWLEDGE ISSUES**
 - Better use of indigenous technical knowledge / local resources (N + R)
 - Development of local technical knowledge (N + R)
 - Appropriate technology development for small scale farmers (N + R)
 - Ensure that small scale growers benefit from improved technologies (N + R)
- **CAPACITY BUILDING / EMPOWERMENT**
 - Capacity building and human resource development (N + R)
 - Empowerment of women in research and farmers' organizations (gender specifics) (N + R)
 - R&D on farmers' organizations (improving their functioning) (N + R)
 - More organized / structured farmers' organizations (N + R)
- **FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS' ACCESS TO FUNDS**
 - R&D on financing small scale farmers / organizations (N + R)
 - Improving farmers organizations' access to donors' funds (N + R)
- **COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION AND NETWORKING**
 - Improve dissemination of information / make sure that local planters may benefit from regional experiences (N + R)
 - Improving communication among stakeholders and farmers (N + R)
 - Set framework to enhance networking among all 5 groups (research, extension, NGOs, agribusinesses and farmers' organizations) (N + R)
- **CLIMATIC / (&ENVIRONMENTAL) ISSUES**
 - Climate change (Regional only)

Opportunities

- **FARMERS INNOVATIONS**
 - Emergence of farmers' organizations
 - Development of contractual farming
- **WILLINGNESS TO MOVE FORWARD**
 - Political will of governments
 - Donors' support to NGOs and farmer' organizations
 - Willingness of all stakeholders to accept change
- **NEW TRADE AVENUES**
 - New regulations on trade (organic farming, certificate of origin, etc.)
 - Opportunity for regional trade
- **OTHERS**
 - Development of regional research cooperation
 - Emergence of information and communication technologies

APPENDIX J: WORKSHOP EVALUATION

The Evaluation Tool:

Participants were requested to evaluate the Workshop in terms of three factors:

- The value they derived from the Workshop
- How well their expectations had been met
- Proposals for Workshop improvement.

Participants were therefore requested to answer three questions as follows:

1. STATE THE VALUE YOU HAVE DERIVED FROM WORKSHOP
2. HOW WELL WERE YOUR EXPECTATIONS MET:
 - a) VERY WELL
 - b) GOOD
 - c) TO SOME EXTENT
 - d) NOT AT ALL

Comment.....

3. STATE PROPOSALS FOR WORKSHOP IMPROVEMENT.

The results of the evaluation:

	Value derived from Assembly/workshop	Expectations met? Very well/ good/ to some extent/Not at all (Comment)	Proposals for improvement
1	I expected to learn and to share more experiences with my colleagues and then draft and create one spirit only in this workshop. In the first day I thought that my intention and proposition to come it would be fulfilled but after the first day I was confused because they have so many changes	Not at all as it was explained in No. 1	Keep going with the aim participants were invited to. And don't take do changes without consensus But I have to recognize the effort very quickly you do to make every to do more and more
2	We are conversant with the SADC Project	b) (Good)	You must work in coordination
3	The value: more knowledge about ICART	Good Most of the expectations were met	Proposals for workshop improvement – it needs more coordination
4	How easy it is to find solutions to problems through group brainstorming and knowledge about the importance of networking	Good Group work seemed to be the most important in developing ideas. But the secretariat must be a little more organized	Project to allow for time to visit important projects or organizations that are example why in intra SADC business and networking

5	<p>This could have been a very important workshop if it was well-planned in terms of background of the Programme provided on time</p> <p>Yes after wastage of time on long discussions which could have been avoided I partly learned what ICART is and how it can benefit my country though the suggested work</p>	To some extent as most of the time was spent on lengthy discussions	Resource materials to be sent to the participants well in advance as well as the programme
6	In depth understanding to what ICART Programme is	Good In future organizers to introduce the status better so that members can comfortably go into discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better sitting space • Provide copies of key note papers as soon as they produced • Required member country participants to prepare one comprehensive report
7	Good, however more time should have been spent by the secretariat in planning and execution of the workshop	Good	Seek suggestion from the stakeholders, especially when choosing the venue. Flight connection to and from Mauritius is not very good.
8	Meeting new people and creating new contacts	To some extent Still need to fully understand ICART Programme	More preparations by the secretariat
9	We shared some knowledge/experience on the agricultural sector Hope we benefit from the network that will be established	To some extent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be better organized for the next meeting • Need to have a roadmap of what we are doing • Prepare the topics to be discussed
10	For me I understood what network should be and for what	The workshop was good and useful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate tentative programmes in advance • Allow more group discussion on specific issues • Allow flexibility on dinner meals
11	Networking changing of ideas	Very well	Information should be sent to members in time
12	Very valuable	To some extent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant briefing • Implementable targets
13	The workshop was of vital importance in ensuring a value on stake	To some extent	-
14	The assembly was not well organized and subsequently this workshop did not add any value	To some extent The chairman was not every informed and therefore failed to provide the necessary leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good coordination is needed • Information should be shared prior to the meeting

15	Exchange of experiences between countries and proposals given for cooperation for mutual benefit	Good. We had initially misunderstandings between the secretariat and the delegates but this was overcome	Open communication
16	Learn better and more about the challenges and opportunities at regional and national level	Could have been better if the whole process and difficulties met by the secretariat in starting off the Programme were explained at the very start	Transparency and better effort at organizational level
17	Need to pack up information dissemination before the workshop The meeting increased our understanding of the Programme	Good but there is room for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure information is disseminated i.e. background information next time • It will help to have people buy their dinner instead of dinner, which is prepared. This has denied us the chance to have dinner elsewhere
18	Planning was very poor hence it caused a lot of confusion and wasted our time in terms of achieving the objectives. Nevertheless this provided us an opportunity to relax.	Very little other than it has provided time for me to be away from my busy office business	Planning and good communication to stakeholders so that we come with some ideas and a vision
19	Good Value Networking started!	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More transparency • Resort too expensive • Otherwise ok
20	-	To some extent	-
21	Build contacts	Information flow leaving workshop improved	In future please distribute all documents in advance
22			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of improved workshop packages in time • Improved flow of workshop proceedings
23	Important information about ICART Programme and developed good relations and network	To some extent	Better organization Provide information in advance Proper logistic arrangements Proper and well-informed organisers
24	Learn a lot about agriculture extension and the ICART Programme	To some extent Lack of information on the whole Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information dissemination • Sticking to the programme
25	Good	Very well especially issues of strengthening networks	Provide more information prior future meetings

26	Networking	To some extent	Give more information in advance
27	A bit of enlightenment of what ICART is all about	To some extent	Comprehensive information should be provided from the onset
28	The opening and plenary presentation were very valuable and useful in disseminating information over the relevant issues The discussions provided a good forum to clarify many points that would have otherwise created mistrust	Good	For group sessions a background paper on issues and possible options would have focused discussions and produce more relevant contributions
29	A sense of what ICART is all about and what the Programme can contribute to development efforts in SADC	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better communication from SADC Secretariat • Workshop bag
30	Knowing better the Programme Knowing people working from the other countries	Good Explanations should be done at the beginning of the meeting	Proposals for workshop improvement Well prepared by the secretariat
31	I have received a lot of information but some which were insufficiently detailed for taking necessary decisions	To some extent	Good dissemination of information
32	Valuable information and facilitation for ICART to go forward	Good	The future one be held inland to bring costs down
33	The conference has provided us with valuable information on existing problems in SADC and the various solutions available in the different countries	Good Good working environment and active participations of members though there was a lack of communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the communication and circulation of information between SADC secretariat and country members • should use all the different languages of the SADC countries
34	Al Guno beneficios forum oportudos em relacio aes proximus		
35	Foi nazoavel – aprendi coisas novas	To some extent Os apresentadones na foram claros no incicio dos trasalhos	Prepanan melhor os



**IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND TRAINING (ICART) IN THE SADC REGION**

ICART First Stakeholders Assembly

13-15 September 2006

**Sofitel Imperial Hotel
Flic en Flac, Mauritius**

EVALUATOR REPORT

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15 October 2006



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Terms of reference: to participate as Evaluator with the responsibility of attending the various sessions as an observer, making a personal assessment of the organization, the process and the outcomes of the discussions.

Introduction

The ICART (Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training) First Stakeholders Assembly was conducted from 13-15 September 2006 at the Sofitel Imperial Hotel in Mauritius. The consultative forum attracted some 50 participants from the 14 SADC countries.

The Assembly had as major objectives to (i) bring delegates from the public and private sectors, and civil society involved in the agricultural sector and its research component from each SADC country in order to identify regional research and training activities for support and (ii) to elect the ICART Steering Committee.

Day 1

Opening session:

The opening session was well planned with a keynote address from the advisor to NEPAD, an opening address by the Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Mauritius followed by two presentations on the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (SADC FANR). These various speeches gave a broad picture of the actual agricultural situation in the SADC countries and the constraints and R & D challenges facing them.

Dr S Mwale, SADC Secretariat gave an introduction of the overall ICART project. It was stressed that the ICART project was lagging behind by two years and that the main activities were initiated only last year after recruiting staff members. The purpose of the project is to 'Improve National Agricultural Research System's **capacity** to manage research networks, implement common research and develop regional opportunities **addressing regional constraints for improving incomes of small-scale farmers and other end-users** in the SADC region'. It consists of four components as follows:

- Component A: Institutional support to the SADC secretariat – € 3.6 Million
- Component B: Support to research networks development - € 2.95 Million
- Component C: Regional research projects to be implemented through a mechanism of competitive grant funds - € 5.6 Million
- Component D: Specific activities of information, communication and training - € 2.35 Million.

In the opening session, the Master of ceremonies was brief and to the point in his introductions and the time was well managed.

Session 1

Dr Paul Jessen, Coordinator of the ICART project explained the goals, objectives and results of the ICART project.

Information presented included:

- ICART project is housed within the Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) within the SADC Secretariat
- It is an EC supported project to the tune of € 15 million
- An awareness workshop was held in Pretoria, South Africa in November 2005 at which call for Agricultural Research proposals were discussed for funding through the Competitive Regional Agricultural Research Fund (CRARF). Forty-nine proposals were received by March 2006 deadline and seven are awaiting final approval.
- In March 2006, another awareness workshop was held in Johannesburg, South Africa at which a call for Agricultural Training proposals was discussed. Seventeen proposals were received by May 2006 deadline and recommendations have been made to the EU.

The details presented were very informative and provided an overview of the ICART project, its various components and status. Participants thus had a good picture of the current status of the project and hence prepared them for discussion in the sessions that followed.

In a second talk, Dr Simon Mwale informed participants on the procedures for setting up of the ICART Steering Committee and its composition (ten members, namely 4 from NARS, 2 from Extension Services, 2 from Civil Society, and 2 from the SADC Secretariat).

This presentation provoked long discussions focused on the composition of the Steering Committee. The debate went much beyond the time allocated for this session and also continued after lunch, which was not forecast. This delayed the afternoon's programme, which was meant for group discussions to analyse challenges and opportunities within different thematic areas. Participants expressed their views openly on the composition of the Steering Committee. Some participants felt disappointed that not all SADC country members would be represented on the Steering Committee.

The ICART organizing Committee was practical and listened to all the views expressed by participants. It explained clearly the reasons to appoint 10 members (4 from NARS, 2 from extension services, 2 from civil society and 2 from SADC Secretariat) of the Steering committee based on thematic areas and not on country-based representation. Participants felt that 2 members from the SADC secretariat were too many and requested a revision of the composition of the Committee. The SADC Secretariat took note of the various proposals.

It was felt that the long discussion over the composition of the Steering Committee was due to insufficient information disseminated to participants before the meeting.

Group Discussion

The group discussion programmed in the afternoon for analysing the challenges and opportunities within the thematic areas (Research, Extension, Trade, Agribusiness, Farmers Associations) was delayed. The discussion process was well presented by Dr Gideon Phiri, and he assigned specific tasks to the various actors in each thematic area, i.e the chairman, the moderator, the rapporteur and participants. It is important to note that the ICART team had a preliminary discussion with all moderators so that they were aware and well prepared to carry out their tasks during the discussion sessions.


Day 2

Session 2

Discussion on the composition of the Steering Committee continued on Day 2 and the composition of the committee was finalized. The SADC secretariat had allowed some changes and participants were satisfied of this decision. The Committee would be composed of 10 members: NARS (4), Extension services (1), Agribusiness (1), Farmer's association (1), Trade (1) and SADC Secretariat (1).

The chairman of each working group 'for analysing the challenges and opportunities' presented the results of the teamwork. Some of the presentations were not well focused, being too general, not specifying the specific problems/ challenges in each thematic area.

The afternoon group work, where an action plan on identification of regional priorities should have been prepared, was not carried out. Participants were confused and not sure why they were being requested to prioritise on regional issues for research projects as the ICART Team had already identified projects under component C of the project to be funded. The project management unit of ICART was criticised for not having provided members with information on the progress of the project indicating that there has been a lack of communication between the ICART team and SADC member country participants.



Participants disagreed to prepare the action plan and insisted on being briefed on the status of the ICART project. The ICART organizers responded well to the situation and did not allow it to deteriorate. In the end participants were satisfied of the explanations provided.

Session 3

No action plan on regional priorities and cross-cutting issues was prepared. Instead, it was agreed to carry out a brainstorming session to identify projects under CRARF related to networking.

In general the programme of Day 2 was somewhat disturbed and did not follow the established schedule. However the preparedness of the ICART organizers to adjust to the requirements of the participants show their maturity and will to promote the ICART project for the benefit of all SADC country members.

Day 3

Session 4

Participants were divided into teams to devise ideas for networking projects. A list of possible networking ideas was prepared at the end of the meeting.

Meanwhile members of the ICART Steering Committee met and after having elected a chairman and vice chairperson, deliberated until lunch time.

General comments

The discussions at the ICART First Stakeholders Assembly were very animated. A lack of information compelled participants to enquire for details. The main reasons behind the insufficient dissemination of information is attributed to time constraint as the project was delayed and the ICART Project Programme Committee had no choice but to initiate actions.

It is important to note that The ICART Steering Committee has taken note of the views expressed by participants and these will be addressed in the future.

Other comments

- The moderators somewhat complained because instead of contributing in the Session 1 only, as initially planned, they were requested to participate throughout the three days. However, most of them enjoyed the meeting and provided good help and assistance whenever requested.
- Some participants requested that Handouts given during the meeting should have been translated in French.

Conclusion

Overall, the SADC secretariat as well as the ICART Project Committee should be congratulated for their maturity and understanding. The excellent participation and interaction of participants should also be appreciated as this allowed awareness to be created on the project. At the end of the meeting, participants and organizers alike expressed satisfaction and indicated that they were looking forward to the progress and implementation of the ICART project.