

 <p>Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate SADC Secretariat</p>	<p>Implementation and Coordination of Agricultural Research and Training in the SADC Region (ICART)</p>	 <p>European Commission 9th EDF</p>
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**Proceedings of the ICART Workshop on Situation
Analysis of Agricultural Research & Training in
the Region**

Boipuso Hall, Gaborone, 28 February 2008

Present

ICART National Focal Points

Mr. Mateus Manuel (Angola)
Dr. Matla Ranthamane (Lesotho)
Dr Rakotonjanahary Xavier (Madagascar)
Dr. Alfred Mtukuso (Malawi)
Mr. Jairaj Ramkissoon (Mauritius)
Mr Tomas Andriano Siteo (Mozambique)
Mr Sheehamandje Ipinge (Namibia)
Mr Paul Dumisani Mkhathshwa (Swaziland)
Mr. Thabani Dube (Zimbabwe)

SADC Secretariat

Dr. Keoagile Molapong (Senior Programme Manager –Agricultural Research & Development)
Mr. Krishan Bheenick (ICART Acting Coordinator)
Dr. Monica Murata (Technical Assistance, ICART M&E)
Dr. Patrick Tawonezvi (SADC MAPP Coordinator)
Dr. Alfred Mapiki (Technical Assistance, Land & Mater Management Project)
Dr. Paul Thangata (SADC MAPP Core Member)
Mrs Tshegofatso Gower (ICART Secretary)

Mr. Thomas Farrington (Advisor, EDF Programme Management)

Delegation of the European Commission to Botswana and SADC

Ms Maria Lisa Santonocito – Task Manager

Consultants

Prof Derrick Thomas (EPRD)
Dr. Allan Low (EPRD)

BACKGROUND

As part of the activities of the ICART project, a Situation Analysis study is being conducted, in a phased approach, to identify and appraise constraints, and recommend support strategies for existing National Agricultural Research Systems research networks servicing agricultural production and rural development in the SADC region. Phase 1 of the Situation analysis consisted of a desk study of information available at the SADC Secretariat and on the Internet. Phase 2 was done through a consultancy whereby four consultants conducted country visits to establish a rapid appraisal of the institutional set up within SADC Member states and establish an analysis of the 14 member states. Phase 3 consisted of information gathering through national consultants and production of country reports to supplement the Phase 2 information gathering process. Phase 4 consists of reviewing the country reports and other material gathered on networking initiatives in the region to produce a regional synthesis of Agricultural Research and Training in the region, as well as a draft strategy document for the support of SADC regional networks.

The SADC Secretariat and the EU Delegation decided that towards the end of the consultancy, the consultants should present a preliminary report of the situation analysis to the SADC/FANR and the ICART National Focal Points for discussion, hence the meeting of February 28. Discussions at the meeting enabled the consultants to receive additional elements towards preparation of the final consolidated reports containing:

- (i) the situation analysis on NARS, and Research and Training, both country-wise and region-wise
- (ii) a comprehensive description and analysis of existing regional research networks, and potential ones that could be established, and,
- (iii) a strategy for support to the NARS and Research Networks in the region

OPENING SESSION

The FANR Senior Programme Manager for Research & Development (Dr Molapong) welcomed the participants on behalf of SADC Secretariat, FANR Directorate. The welcoming remarks touched on the following:

- FANR appreciation of the response by ICART National Focal Points to attend the workshop at such short notice
- Explanation of situation analysis four-phased approach
- Explanation of the purpose of the situation analysis ⇒ to eventually come up with a strategy for FANR/ICART to support Research Networks in the region
- Purpose of the workshop ⇒ to review the report on the situation analysis results and provide feedback to the consultants
- Dr Molapong urged participants not to get bogged down with the definition of 'network' but rather to concentrate discussions of activities pertinent to networking initiatives.

The Agenda for the meeting is provided in Annex 1.

KEY DISCUSSIONS, ISSUES AND CONCLUSIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP

PRESENTATION OF THE SITUATION ANALYSIS PROCESS & PHASED APPROACH - K.J. Bheenick

Following this presentation (Annex 2) by the Acting ICART Project Coordinator Mr K. Bheenick, the following comments were made:

Questions/Comments

Comment: The National Focal Points observed that the presentation reported on variation in level and quality of information on websites of different institutions, and pointed out that this is an opportunity for the ICART Project to improve the quality of these websites

Response: Yes, this will be addressed as a capacity building exercise

Comment: The National Focal Points suggest that in future, questionnaires should be discussed with Member States, and should be agreed upon by all parties concerned before being administered

Response: Point taken

Comment: The National Focal Points felt that from the Member States' perspective the various Situation Analyses of MAPP, SCARDA and ICART are a duplication of activities! Stakeholders now have "Sit Analysis fatigue"!

Response: The various projects try as much as possible to coordinate their activities. However, each project has its different Terms of Reference; therefore sometimes it becomes difficult to include some issues into specific project activities. The ICART project has tried to make use of the findings of previous studies and asked national consultants to supplement the information gathered.

Comment: There should be better communication between SADC Secretariat and MS to agree on timeframes because National Governments also have their priorities to consider

Response: Point taken

The approach to the synthesis of the Regional Situation Analysis - Assessment of the NARS, clustering & discussion - Prof Derrick Thomas

Professor Derrick Thomas briefly explained the approach taken to synthesise the information from the country reports to come up with a regional synthesis. Information gleaned from the country reports included:

- policies and research/training priorities
- research and training institutions, their mandates, infrastructure, capacities
- national coordination or research and linkages between institutions

- processes for planning research agenda and for monitoring and evaluating results (with the emphasis on participation of relevant stakeholders, especially small scale farmers)
- processes for planning and delivering higher level training curricula with emphasis on use of research results and participation of stakeholders
- operational funding levels and sources
- human resource endowments in terms of numbers and qualifications/experience
- existing national, regional and international networks and alliances.

He presented a series of questions that the consultants were trying to answer, related to the organisation of agricultural research and training in the region, after having gone through all the documents made available through the ICART project.

An exercise was also carried out by the Focal Points to attempt to answer the same questions, prior to the consultants presenting their assessment. The workshop then proceeded to a discussion on the similarities and differences in perception by the Focal Points, on one hand, and the consultants on the other.

The resulting overall assessment of the NARS, based on the various criteria, and with additional input from the National Focal Points, is shown below:

C1: What is the match between agricultural research/training priorities on the one hand, versus the mandates of existing institutions and their capacity to deliver on those mandates?

<i>Clear policy Mandates match policy Institutions in place</i>	<i>Clear policy mandates Gaps exist between policy and mandates Weak institutions</i>	<i>Policy being developed, Unclear mandates rebuilding capacity</i>
Mauritius South Africa Tanzania Botswana	Malawi** Mozambique** Lesotho** Madagascar** Mozambique**	Namibia Zimbabwe Swaziland Angola DR Congo

**these countries fell in between the categories

C2: Is there a functioning body in place which coordinates research and training and are there strong links between institutions in the country

<i>Some coordination Links weak</i>	<i>Coordination not effective Links moderate</i>	<i>Little (or no) coordination Links weak</i>
Namibia Malawi Mauritius	South Africa Zimbabwe Tanzania Angola	Angola Botswana DR Congo Swaziland Lesotho Madagascar

		Mozambique
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C3: How are research agendas (RA) planned and does this planning involve all stakeholders, especially small scale farmers or their representatives

<i>Research Agenda matches farmers' needs well</i>	<i>Research Agenda matches farmers' needs moderately</i>	<i>Research Agenda matches farmers' needs poorly</i>
Tanzania	Angola Botswana Lesotho Madagascar Malawi Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Swaziland Zambia	DR Congo South Africa Zimbabwe

C4: Are operational funds adequate

<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Scarce</i>	<i>Very Scarce</i>
Botswana Namibia South Africa	Lesotho Madagascar Malawi Mauritius Mozambique Swaziland Tanzania Zambia	Angola DR Congo Zimbabwe

C5: Are numbers of scientists adequate

<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Scarce</i>	<i>Very Scarce</i>
South Africa	Mozambique Tanzania Zambia Mauritius**	Botswana Madagascar Malawi Namibia	Angola DR Congo Lesotho Swaziland Zimbabwe

**this country fell in between 'moderate' and 'scarce' categories

C6: Are there adequate numbers of experienced and/or PhD level scientists?

<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Scarce</i>	<i>Very Scarce</i>
South Africa	Mozambique Tanzania Zambia	Madagascar Malawi Mauritius Swaziland	Angola Botswana DR Congo Lesotho Namibia Zimbabwe

Participants commented that those countries which were seen not to be well endowed in the above assessment should be assisted by the SADC Secretariat. The consultants added that the assessment was in fact, the basis of some of the recommendations for capacity building through networking that would be included in their report.

SYNTHESIS OF THE SITUATION ANALYSIS RESULTS AND NETWORKING OPTIONS FOR SUPPORT

Network options derived from the regional situation analysis were presented to the group by Dr Allan Low .. The networking strategy proposes two networking options, viz;:

(a) *Process type Network*

- Objective is to build capacity of scientists or institutions to function more effectively

(b) *Topic based Technical Network*

- Objective is to improve quality, relevance and cost effectiveness of technical research through regional integration

Possible Network Objectives

A network could have one or several of the following objectives:

- reducing duplication and increasing efficiency of regional resource availability
- sharing work and facilities under joint programmes of research
- strengthening of ongoing work through synergies
- improving the quality of work through exchange of best practices
- spreading limited experience and expertise across more programmes
- formulating new regional programmes of collaborative work, and development of proposals for funding by donors or through competitive bidding.

OPTIONS FOR PROCESS NETWORKS

❶ Network on coordination including competitive funding mechanisms

- Network countries with experience of developing competitive funding arrangements (e.g. Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi) with those who could benefit from a competitive fund to better coordinate research activity and direct the agenda to priority needs.

② **Civil Society Agriculture Network**

- Build on the model of the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) in Malawi, for example, to perform networking and coordination function across many actors including NGOs and public sector. Such networking could be applicable throughout the region and a network to share the experiences and approaches may be considered.

③ **Network on reducing gaps between farmer needs and technology development**

- NGOs, donors, farmers associations and private seed companies are all devoting more attention to the issue of how to bridge the gap between farmers' needs and the application of technology to meet those needs. Linking the researchers as part of a network with these stakeholders may improve the process of reducing the gaps.

④ **Network on managing collaborative programmes to enhance local capacity**

- Link research managers through workshops and others means to discuss how to manage externally funded and controlled collaborative programmes to make more effective use of the existing funding going into network activity.
- The network could bring together national research managers and network coordinators to discuss more reciprocal action from donors in recognition of the opportunity cost to the NARS in terms of staff time and overhead costs

⑤ **Network on Facilitating interaction with existing regional and international networks**

- convene awareness workshop to expose regional researchers to existing work of ongoing regional and international networks
- bring groups of regional researchers investigating related topics to meetings with relevant network coordinator and active members
- Organise and fund basic skills training on:
 - management of networks
 - proposal writing

Comments on the Process Network Options

Option 2: Civil Society Agriculture Network

- A network such as CISANET cannot take the overall responsibility of coordinating Agricultural Research & Training in the country, that is a Government responsibility

Option 3: Network on reducing gaps between farmer needs and technology development

- 'technology development' should include technology generation as well as dissemination

- The network should definitely include Researchers

Option 4: Network on managing collaborative programmes to enhance local capacity

- This kind of network is very necessary, given that more often than not, there is conflict of interest and competition between National Programmes and CGIAR Centres programmes. (also relevant to Option 5)

OPTIONS FOR TECHNICAL NETWORKS

The consultants described the process whereby the documentation provided was scrutinised to identify research topics that were important to each country, based on a mixture of policy documents, the country reports from the ICART and MAPP studies, and suggestions that came from participants at national workshops and the first Stakeholder's Assembly of the ICART project.

Out of 108 topics identified (Annex 3) for all the SADC Member States, those which could be better addressed by already existing networks were separated. Those issues which were only mentioned by one or two countries were also separated out. Finally, the remaining topics were clustered under technical themes which were presented to the workshop participants:

- ① Network on Economic use of Indigenous Plants
- ② Network on Soil and water Management
- ③ Network on Labour Saving Technology
- ④ Network on Marketing
- ⑤ Network on Organic Farming
- ⑥ Network on Range management
- ⑦ Network on Specific Farming Systems Study

Questions/Comments on Technical Network Options

- Q. How are you going to have inputs from missing countries?
R. Minutes of this workshop will be sent to them, and they will be asked to provide feedback to ICART PCU
- Q. Are you going to hold further workshops to validate the information that we are discussing and generating here?
R. Yes, a validation workshop is necessary
- Q. In deriving the technical network options, there is need to consider the themes under the Competitive Regional Agricultural Research Funds (CRARF) competitive grants proposals.
R. There will be a validation process once the overall strategy has been formulated, most probably at the next Stakeholders Assembly.
- Comment: The role of the National Focal Points in supporting these networks needs to be clarified. As already mentioned in previous meetings, the National Focal Points should be capacitated to facilitate this process
- Comment: The criteria for determining the suitability of an institution to coordinate a network should be clarified

Comment: Whatever network support strategies being planned must be in line with SADC principles, otherwise we end up creating elitist clubs!

Comment: There is need to analyse the advantages and disadvantages of each network option, and clarify the support mechanisms

Ranking of Network Options

Participants were then presented with all the 12 network options and each was given five votes to choose those they considered most important. A similar exercise had been carried out with technical staff of the FANR, for comparison. The results are shown below. The three top ranked options were used as topics for group work in the afternoon session.

Network Option	Rating by		Overall Ranking
	FANR	NFPs	
Economic use of indigenous plants	6	5	4
Marketing	1	4	7
Organic farming	4	0	8
Range Management	7	5	3
Civil Society Agriculture	1	1	10
Gaps between farmers' needs & technology development	8	7	1
Specific Farming Systems Study	0	0	12
Coordination including Competitive Funding	6	5	4
Managing collaborative programmes	1	3	8
Facilitating interaction with existing networks	2	0	10
Land & water management	6	6	2
Labour-saving technology	8	3	4

Other Networks

Participants were asked to suggest any other potential network options

- None suggested

The Operational Framework for Network Support

Funding is available from ICART for a period of two years only, and three funding mechanism options may be considered:

- Option 1: Single contract for overall network support
- Option 2: Multiple contracts for coordination and support of specified networks
- Option 3: Network coordinators access support services through ICART

*Option 3 is the preferred option because of flexibility: network activities could be funded relatively fast once the objectives were agreed upon and a network coordinator identified. However, the coordinator would not necessarily be remunerated depending on the financing regulations of the donor.

Comments

- Consider the issue of sustainability of these networks beyond 2010.
 - creation of endowment funds for these networks could be an option
 - There could be funds from MAPP to sustain the networks after 2010, therefore the issue of phasing in the ICART networks support together with the MAPP should be further explored.
- Flexibility to allowing diversification of network activities should be considered.
- ICART & FANR should come up with ideas of how to motivate the network coordinators

Group discussions

Participants were divided into three groups to discuss in detail the three top-ranked network options, deliberating on (a) the objective of the network (b) potential leadership of the network and (c) main network activities. The outcomes of the group discussions are given below:

Network option 1: Gaps between farmers' needs and technology development

Main objective

- Minimise the gap between farmer's needs and technology development
 - Get better understanding of the barriers to technology adoption
 - Disseminate information of successful experiences

Leadership of the network

A leader is somebody to take lead in identifying the network activities

Leadership can be drawn from any of the proposed below:

- Farmers' unions with close links to farmers
- Extension organizations (private or public)
- NGOs operating in the Agriculture field
- Recommendation: Centre for Technical Cooperation (CTA) in Agriculture, based in Netherlands is very strong in farmer mentoring issues, therefore proposing that it be asked to support/mentor the leadership for this network.
**It would be ideal to have a Regional organization involved

Network Activities

- Develop database of diff methods of engaging farmers
- Conduct analysis in order to understand the farmers' difficulties
- To collect & document successful practices and experiences
- Disseminate successful practices and experiences through publications, workshops etc
- Establish a website
- Organise study tours so that people can learn from others

****Regional workshop would be important to define the terms of reference of the Network**

Network Option 2: Land & Water Management

Main objective:

- Strengthen ongoing work on soil and water management through synergies
- Formulate regional programmes and research topics of collaboration, and development of proposals for funding by donors

Leadership

- No specific recommendation on who to lead, but presume that the leadership should be assumed by an Institution having experience in this area e.g. Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART) or Sokoine University of Agriculture
- The handover institution for L&W programme currently being run in FANR will be identified from (ACTN; ARI Muringano; University of Zambia, Dept of Soil Science) and it would be ideal to give it the leadership role in this network..

Initial Activities

- Through a workshop, determine current status of soil and water mgt in the region
- Facilitate sharing of info e.g. creating a database on ongoing programmes, available expertise etc
- Facilitate in sourcing of funding to support the identified activities
- Broaden what the L&WMP programme has been doing in 10 countries so that it encompasses all the 14 MS.
- There is already an existing network on L&W. Nine MS have been supported with hardware already. It would be better to strengthen that network.
- A database already exists, and we are trying to broaden it.

Network Option 3: Range Management

Main objective:

- Facilitate the development and management systems of rangelands (veld, natural plants: Livestock will include cattle, small ruminants & wildlife.
- Evaluation of indigenous plants in semi-arid zones
- Evaluate sustainable utilization of rangelands

Leadership

- Botswana

Initial Activities

- ICART & NFP to identify stakeholders and organize workshop to
 - Appoint Network Leader
 - Form Coordinating Unit to run the Network
 - Form a Steering Committee for the Network
 - Identify what is needed for the functioning of the network and how it is going to function
 - Come up with a budget for running the network which should be submitted to ICART

- Prepare projects for funding, approved by coordinating unit
 - Review what is in the region, identify gaps etc

RECOMMENDATION

- Network support strategy workshops for each of the selected network should be held separate from the General Stakeholder Assembly in order to get better participation; otherwise the discussions will be too general.
- The success of the workshops depends on the participants invited; therefore ICART PCU should strive to identify participants who will make meaningful contributions to the process.

WAY FORWARD

- ICART PCU will engage National Focal Points more in the process of defining the network strategy to assist in identifying the stakeholders to invite for the networking workshops

**ANNEX 1: Proposed agenda for the ICART workshop on the Situation Analysis of
Agricultural Research and Training in the SADC Region
Boipuso Hall, Gaborone, Botswana
28th February 2008**

(Wednesday 27th February – Arrival of participants; Receipt of information packs in evening)

Thursday 28th February

Session 1: Welcome and Introduction

- 08:00** Registration
08:30 Welcome remarks – SADC Chair and SADC Secretariat
08:45 Introductions; Adoption of the agenda

Session 2: Review of the Situation Analysis process

- 09:00** Presentation of the ICART Situation Analysis Process and phased approach;
some concepts derived from the ICART approach (Krishan J Bheenick)
09:30 Presentation of the approach to the synthesis of the regional Situation Analysis
(Consultants)
09:45 Participants' assessment
10:00 TEA BREAK

Session 3: 'Deriving the regional perspective'

- 10:20** Presentation of the results of the synthesis of the Situation Analysis and
networking options (Consultants)
12:00 General Discussion
12:50 Marketplace prioritisation of networking options
13:00 LUNCH

Session 4: 'Networking Options for support'

- 14:00** ICART operational scope for support to networks
14:20 Group work on networking options (objectives, Coordinator's role,
responsibilities, activities)
15.45 TEA BREAK

Session 5: 'Conclusion and recommendations on the way forward'

- 16:00** Plenary discussion on group work and general discussions
Recommendations following discussions and way forward
17:00 Closing remarks (SADC Secretariat)

(Friday 29th February - Departure of participants)

ANNEX 2: Presentation on the process of carrying out the Situation Analysis

Situation Analysis of Agricultural Research & Training in the SADC Region

An overview of the process


Workshop with Focal Points
Gaborone
28 February 2008

Krishan J Bheenick




Background

- The FANR R&D Unit relies on information about activities in the agricultural sector & the active participation of all major stakeholders in agriculture (agricultural research, extension, agricultural education, farmer organisations, agricultural NGOs and the private sector).
- Problem:** availability of information has weakened at the level of the Unit over the past few years, due to its limited human resources and its capacity to engage in a dialogue with its stakeholders in the region.




Background

- This lack of information is being remedied through the intervention of projects & their activities to strengthen the capacity of the SADC Secretariat and to improve information and communication management.
- The FANR has started, through the ICART project, the process of a situation analysis of Agricultural Research & Training in the region
- An initial stage in the process was undertaken in all 14 SADC MS between Jan and Feb 2007, with the assistance of consultants visiting MS to meet with stakeholders




Purpose of the Situation Analysis

- To build up knowledge base at SADC Secretariat on Agricultural Research in the region
- Establish an electronic information system on Agricultural research and training in the region for use by SADC and member states (to be continuously consolidated thereafter)
- Start the process of analysis of RDT interventions in the region to facilitate dialogue on these issues
- Provide background material for the development of a strategy to support networking in Agricultural research and training in the region




The Process- Phase 1

- Desk research and web search for information on Agricultural Research and Training Institutions in the SADC region
- Carried out by the Botswana College of Agriculture, with the help of university graduates (August 2006)
- Country reports vary in quality and extent of coverage, depending mostly on how much information is already available and referenced on the web
- Reports would feed into the Phase 2 of the Situation Analysis
- (Phase 1 reports included in electronic format on CD)




The Process- Phase 2

- The mission was undertaken by 4 consultants, who visited all 14 SADC member states over the period January 24 to February 13, 2007.
- The schedule of visits in each country was arranged by national scientists in each country, who had been nominated as focal points for the ICART project
- The consultants were tasked to collect information from each country in the form of:
 - lists of institutions conducting research and in-service training
 - lists of research managers and scientists, with their contact details




The Process- Phase 2

- Information collected (contd.):
 - lists of research publications and reviews of research systems
 - lists of institutions involved with alliances and the numbers of researchers concerned.
- In addition, the consultants were required to **assess**:
 - coordination mechanisms in place to share activities among research stakeholders
 - mechanisms for planning and managing research agendas.
- Time provided in each country was limited**



Phase 2 - Data Collection Methods

- The information was collected in two ways:
 - By visiting with policy makers, research managers, scientists and users of research outputs to discuss research activity, modes of operation and funding sources.
 - By distributing a formal questionnaire to as many research scientists as possible (through institution heads)
 - Questionnaire asked for information on each researcher about:
 - their qualification and status
 - their current research projects
 - any alliances/networks they were involved with
 - recent publications



Phase 2 – Reporting & follow up

- Draft report received in April, followed by lengthy comments made from SADC
- Revised report at end of May
- Realised that limited time in country could not produce the required level of analysis
- Consultants suggest that ICART project should supplement information
- Meanwhile, Directors of Research, Focal Points and Steering Committee strongly suggested that ICART should use (have used) national consultants
- Other projects within SADC and elsewhere also carrying out studies in some countries in the region e.g. SCARDA, SADC-MAPP, CTA-Information Needs Assessment
- Briefing note, based on comments on report, circulated to Deans of Faculties in August, to identify potential consultants



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Phase 3 – Administrative context

- Window left to carry out Phase 3 until end of Jan 2008
- EDF procedures allow the ICART project to contract consultants without a formal tendering process for amounts less than Euro 5000. Funds identified to carry out Phase 3
- Each national study requires a contract vetted and signed by consultant and two within SADC – work does not start until signed!
- Payment only made at the end – when report accepted
- Workshops would require a contract each (with 3 quotations for each item of expenditure) – no time



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Phase 3 – Getting started

- National consultants identified
- Briefing workshop for National Consultants and Focal Points (and ICART) to :
 - Define information requirements (we are all doing it for ourselves – in the region)
- Determine and agree scope of work
- Agree on responsibilities of each
- Draft a work plan and timeframe
- Finalise contents of the contract
- Leave the workshop enthusiastic about the task ahead!



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Phase 3 – Timeframe

- Consultant and Focal Point have a plan of work by end of workshop
- Consultants signed contracts ASAP and SADC signed before 15th Nov
- Consultants start work anytime (officially 15th Nov)
- Periodic feedback to Focal Point and ICART (visits?)
- Data collection to be completed before mid December
- Draft report submitted to FP by 10th January 2008 (cc. ICART?)
- 'Reading Panel' reviews Draft report (feedback at meeting with consultant)
- Draft Final Report submitted to Focal Point at latest 18th Jan 2008
- ICART receives reports by 25th January with approval of NFP
- ICART PCU prepares material for synthesis (last week Jan 08)

Phase 4 consultants arrive 3rd February to prepare regional synthesis report and draft Networks Support Strategy



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Phase 3 – Strategy to develop contents

- Agree that what ICART wants is not irrational
- Understand (with ICART) what information is essential for Phase 4 (internalise objectives)
- Review information already gathered/available, information gaps, sources of information, options to gather additional information (NC/NFP)
- Agree on the scope of work possible in each country
- Harmonise the format of the report (and other aspects that will enable a regional perspective to emerge more easily)
- Agree on general implementation approaches and specific activities in each country, esp. validation procedures
- Present agreed country strategy to others in the regional team



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Phase 3 – Information Packs

- Final Report of Phase 2 (Hard and soft copy)
- Comments on Draft Phase 2 report (soft); Phase 1 report (soft)
- Copy of SCARDA and/or MAPP report (hard and soft)
- Photocopies of covers of policy or other documents available in country
- CD: background documents such as reports from stakeholders at ICART Assembly, policy reports downloaded
- Email providing location of upcoming reports on Agric Information Needs Assessment by the CTA in 8 SADC MS (www.anancy.net)
- Excel spreadsheet containing contact details of policy, research and training institutions in MS (to be updated by consultants and annexed)
- Word document presenting profiles of policy, research and training institutions in MS (to be updated and annexed)
- ASTI Indicators Briefs not included (www.asti.cgiar.org)



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Phase 3 – Preliminary discussion

- Objective of presentation was to provide an overview of where we are with the process and why
- Trying not to focus on past mistakes but to learn from them to better inform future action
- Next steps:
 - Issues on the Information requirement to be addressed in a separate session
 - Country-wise analysis of complementary action
 - Develop harmonised format for the report
 - Help each other achieve the regional objective



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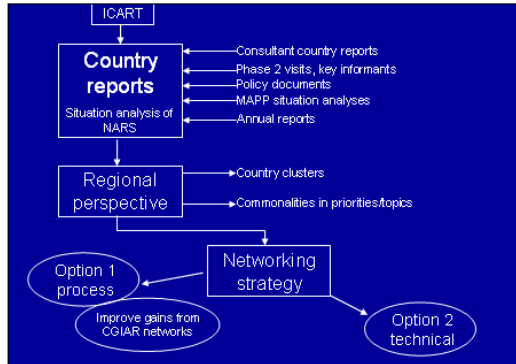
Thank You



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ANNEX 3: Presentation of approach to development of network support strategy

Approach to developing a network strategy from the situation analysis



Regional assessment of NARS

- #### Information in country reports
- policies and research/training priorities
 - research and training institutions, their mandates, infrastructure, capacities
 - national coordination or research and linkages between institutions
 - processes for planning research agenda and for monitoring and evaluating results (with the emphasis on participation of relevant stakeholders, especially small scale farmers)
 - processes for planning and delivering higher level training curricula with emphasis on use of research results and participation of stakeholders
 - operational funding levels and sources
 - human resource endowments in terms of numbers and qualifications/experience
 - existing national, regional and international networks and alliances.

Q1: What is the match between agricultural research/training priorities on the one hand, versus the mandates of existing institutions and their capacity to deliver on those mandates

Clear policy Mandates match policy Institutions in place	Clear policy Gaps exist between policy & mandates Weak institutions	Policy being developed Unclear mandates Rebuilding capacity
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Q2: Is there a functioning body in place which coordinates research and training and are there strong links between institutions in the country

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Q3: How are research agendas (RA) planned and does this planning involve all stakeholders, especially small scale farmers or their representatives

Research agenda match farmer needs well	RA match farmer needs moderately	RA match farmer needs poorly
Lesotho Tanzania	Malawi Madagascar Zambia Botswana Swaziland Mozambique Mauritius Zimbabwe	South Africa Namibia Angola DRC

Q4: Are operational funds adequate

Adequate	Scarce	Very scarce
South Africa Namibia Botswana Mauritius	Malawi Madagascar Zambia Tanzania Swaziland Mozambique Lesotho	Zimbabwe Angola DRC

Q5: Are numbers of scientists adequate

Adequate	Scarce	Very scarce
South Africa Mauritius	Malawi Madagascar Lesotho Botswana Swaziland Mauritius Zambia	Mozambique Zimbabwe Namibia Angola DRC

Q6: Are there adequate numbers of experienced and PhD level scientists

Adequate	Scarce	Very scarce
South Africa Tanzania Zambia Malawi	Madagascar Lesotho Botswana Swaziland Mauritius Namibia Zimbabwe	Mozambique Angola DRC

Deriving network options from the regional situation analysis

Q2: Is there a functioning body in place which coordinates research and training and are there strong links between institutions in the country

Finding	Suggested network
<p>Botswana There is no body with the responsibility of coordinating agricultural research.</p> <p>Namibia Cooperation between institutions in agricultural research and training is minimal and, where it exists, it is of an ad-hoc nature.</p>	<p>Network on coordination including competitive funding mechanisms Network countries with experience of developing competitive funding arrangements (Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi) with those who could benefit from a competitive fund to better coordinate research activity and direct the agenda to priority needs.</p>

Q2: Is there a functioning body in place which coordinates research and training and are there strong links between institutions in the country

Finding	Suggested network
<p>Malawi Lack of coordination between a diverse set of stakeholders in agricultural research and training</p> <p>Tanzania Given the diversity of the actors involved in agricultural research, the coordination capacity of COSTECH needs to be strengthened</p>	<p>Civil Society Agriculture Network Build on Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) in Malawi to perform networking and coordination function across many actors including NGOs and public sector.</p>

Q3: How are research agendas (RA) planned and does this planning involve all stakeholders, especially small scale farmers or their representatives

Finding	Suggested network
<p>Malawi Gaps between the work on research stations and the production problems of resource poor farmers</p> <p>Lesotho, Swaziland clear need to develop effective links with NGOs and others to better prioritise their research efforts.</p> <p>Zambia The research planning process does not effectively make use of NGOs</p> <p>Botswana research agendas set without a good knowledge of what farmers need</p>	<p>Network on reducing gaps between farmer needs and technology development NGOs, donors, farmers associations and private seed companies are all devoting more attention to the issue of how to bridge the gap between farmers' needs and the application of technology to meet those needs.</p>

Despite more than 30 years of highly successful research by regional commodity based networks led by CGIAR centres and donors, who devise, plan and analyse the programmes, there is little evidence of horizontal transfer of skills gained by network members to other scientists or to their institutes.

Network on managing collaborative programmes to enhance local capacity
Link research managers through workshops and others means to discuss how to manage externally funded and controlled collaborative programmes to make more effective use of the existing funding going into network activity.
The network could bring together national research managers and network coordinators to discuss more reciprocal action from donors in recognition of the opportunity cost to the NARS in terms of staff time and overhead costs.

41 out of 108 identified researchable topics or research proposals could link to existing networks or collaborative research programmes.

Network on improving interaction with existing regional and international networks

- convene awareness workshop to expose regional researchers to existing work of ongoing regional and international networks
- bring groups of regional researchers investigating related topics to meetings with relevant network coordinator and active members
- Organise and fund basic skills training on:
 - management of networks
 - proposal writing

Issues related to the formulation of regional networks

Different types of network

- **Process type network**
 - Objective to build capacity of scientists or institutions to function more effectively
- **Topic based technical network**
 - Objective of improve quality, relevance and cost effectiveness of technical research through regional integration

Possible objectives

- reducing duplication and increasing efficiency of regional resource availability
- sharing work and facilities under joint programmes of research
- strengthening of ongoing work through synergies
- improving the quality of work through exchange of best practices
- spreading limited experience and expertise across more programmes
- formulating new regional programmes of collaborative work, and development of proposals for funding by donors or through competitive bidding.

Participation

- **member states in the region have very different levels of agricultural research and training capacity**
- **? Participation of scientists from weaker member states**
- **Depend on the agreed objectives of the network**
- **Political versus efficiency balance**
- **Policy direction needed**

Coordination, leadership, incentives

- **effectiveness of the coordination unit will be critical to the success of the network.**
- **few member states have institutions suitable for accommodating the coordination unit of a regional network**
- **e.g. South Africa, Mauritius, Tanzania and Zambia**
- **? incentive for SA, Mauritian scientists to join regional networks**

Context of ICART funding

- **Regional networks rely on donor funds**
- **Demise of regional networks in SADC when donors cease their funding support**
- **Expected role of FANR to obtain donor support for regional networking – some in pipeline**
- **Immediate support available from ICART is for a period of two years only**

ANNEX 4: Presentation on the Operational framework for Network Support

Situation Analysis of Agricultural Research & Training in the SADC Region

The Operational Framework for Network Support


Regional Workshop with Focal Points
Gaborone
28 February 2008

Krishan J Bheerick




Rules and Regulations!!!

- **Option1: Provide funds to Network Coordination Units to implement networking activities**
- Service contract: Requires precise description of services to be offered and how much is budgeted for these. Have to go for a shortlist tender if > Euro 5000. Can a governmental or parastatal institution be beneficiary?
- Grant: Requires description of activities proposed to be included in the 'Call for Proposals' – has to be competitive; evaluation process, contract award (5 months?)




Rules and Regulations!!!

- **Option2: Provide funds to one Service provider to implement all networking activities**
- Huge Service contract: Requires precise description of services to be offered in the context of all networks proposed and how much is budgeted for these. Have to go for a short list tender as >> Euro 5000 and longer international tender if > 200,000. May have to be an open international tender. Can a governmental or parastatal institution be beneficiary?
- Long lead time before implementation starts




Rules and Regulations!!!

- **Option3: Fund activities (logistics) from ICART through the NSO in collaboration with Network Coordination Units/Coordinators**
- Expenses come out of ICART Programme Estimate, following broad strategy and budgeting.
- Multiple Service contracts: Requires precise description of services to be offered and how much is budgeted for these. More flexible if < Euro 5000. Can a governmental or parastatal institution or individual be beneficiary?
- What is the motivation/remuneration of the Network Coordination Unit/Coordinator?



Option 4?

- Can we collectively come up with a win-win model?



SADC FANR ICART SITUATION ANALYSIS WORKSHOP- FOCAL POINTS
FEBRUARY 28, 2008

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REJECTED/SELECTED THEME	TOPIC	INSTITUTIONS	COUNTRY	Count of TOPIC
A. EXISTING				41
AVRDC				4
	<i>Development of post-harvest and processing technologies for vegetables in small-scale agriculture</i>	UOM, MOA, AREU		1
			MAURITIUS	1
	<i>Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and HACCP for horticultural products for export</i>	CHC		1
			MADAGASCAR	1
	<i>Study of agronomic and physiological factors affecting seed production in vegetables</i>	AREU		1
			MAURITIUS	1
	<i>Study of sustainable vegetable production in small-scale systems</i>	UFS		1
			SOUTH AFRICA	1
				9
CGIAR	<i>Crop storage and processing that address on farm losses and add value</i>	ZARI, NISIR		1
			ZAMBIA	1
	<i>Development and testing of integrated pest management (IPM) technologies.</i>	IAR		1
			ANGOLA	1
	<i>Development of strategies for biological control of fruitflies</i>	MOA, AREU		1
			MAURITIUS	1
	<i>Integrated pest management in coconuts, bananas, plantains</i>	DRT		1
			TANZANIA	1
	<i>Optimisation of integrated pest management (IPM) to control insect pests and invasive plants.</i>	ARC-PPRI, UKZN, UST		1
			SOUTH AFRICA	1
	<i>post harvest processing, storage and preservation of root and tuber and vegetables</i>	AREX		1
			ZIMBABWE	1
	<i>produce varieties suitable for varying environmental conditions</i>	DAR		1
		TANZANIA	1	
<i>reduce processing and storage losses</i>	DRT		1	
		TANZANIA	1	
<i>Small scale dairy farming (value added chain)</i>	Land O'Lakes, NASFAM		1	
		MALAWI	1	
FANR-PAN				2

A. EXISTING	FANR-PA	Contractual agriculture (large buyer/small farmer groups)		1
			(blank)	1
			MADAGASCAR	1
		Study of smallholder access to credit and implications for policy interventions.		1
			UNISWA	1
			SWAZILAND	1
GLOBAL				2
		Study of the effects of climate change on agricultural production.		1
			NUL	1
			LESOTHO	1
		Study of the effects of climate change on agriculture		1
			NUL	1
			SOUTH AFRICA	1
ILRI				11
		Characterisation and evaluation of indigenous livestock breeds.		1
			NUL	1
			LESOTHO	1
		Characterisation, evaluation, and improvement of small ruminants in small-scale farming systems.		1
			GADI	1
			SOUTH AFRICA	1
		Evaluation of improved management techniques for dairy goats.		1
			DAR	1
			LESOTHO	1
		Evaluation of local goats for meat production		1
			AREU, MOA, UOM	1
			MAURITIUS	1
		Evaluation of potential of agro-industrial by-products for ruminant feed		1
			AREU	1
			MAURITIUS	1
		feeding and management of dairy cattle		1
			DRTE	1
			TANZANIA	1
		Improved production of small stock in mixed farming systems		1
			DART	1
			NAMIBIA	1
		major production constraints in smallholder goat and sheep production		1
			AREX	1
			ZIMBABWE	1
		strategies for improving dry season feed supply, crop residues, fodder conservation, horticultural by products		1
			AREX	1
			ZIMBABWE	1
		Study of meat and milk quality in small-scale livestock systems.		1
			UP	1
			SOUTH AFRICA	1
		Supplementary feeding of cattle in the dry season		1
			DART	1

A. EXISTING	ILRI	<i>Supplementary feeding of cattle in the dry season</i>	DART	NAMIBIA	1
	IPMNET	<i>Development of weed management strategies to reduce herbicide use and production costs</i>	MSIRI, AREU	MAURITIUS	1
					1
	SARNET	<i>Cassava utilisation and marketing (storage, silage, varieties for different uses)</i>	DARS	MALAWI	1
					2
	SOFESCO	<i>Evaluation of fertilisers, organic, inorganic, liming, rock phosphate</i>	Agron Inst	ZIMBABWE	1
					1
		<i>Evaluation of new types of fertilisers, including organic and inorganic micro- and macro- fertilisers.</i>	IAR	ANGOLA	1
	CIFOR	<i>Community forest and wildlife management and utilisation</i>	UEM	MOZAMBIQUE	1
					1
		<i>Evaluation and promotion of community forestry.</i>	NUL	LESOTHO	1
					1
		<i>Forest Ecosystems management</i>	INERA, UNIKIN	DRC	1
					1
		<i>Study and preservation/management of Forest Ecosystems</i>	(blank)	MADAGASCAR	1
					1
		<i>Utilisation of wood resources, wood technology</i>	Div For Res	ZAMBIA	1
	WORLD FISH-CGIAR	<i>Fish farming and aquaculture in small farm sector</i>	CFRI, NARDC	ZAMBIA	1
					1
		<i>inland water fisheries</i>	Min of Env	ZIMBABWE	1
	IITA/CIAT/CIMMYT	<i>Post harvest technology for cassava and maize</i>	IIAM	MOZAMBIQUE	1
					1
	WARDA	<i>Soil fertility management in crops (rice)</i>	FOFIFA		1

A. EXISTING	WARDA	<i>Soil fertility management in crops (rice)</i>	FOFIFA	MADAGASCAR	1
B. FEW COUNTRIES					8
	AN				1
		<i>Effects of mineral deficiencies on cattle productivity.</i>			1
			UNISWA		1
				SWAZILAND	1
	BF				1
		<i>Research on biofuel production from crops such as sugarcane, Jatropha, Soy, Maize</i>			1
			FOFIFA		1
				MADAGASCAR	1
	CS				1
		<i>Increased crop productivity through fertiliser, high-yield seeds, intensive cropping systems</i>			1
			FOFIFA		1
				MADAGASCAR	1
	DIV				2
		<i>Evaluation of diversification in livestock production, with the introduction of goats, pigs and poultry.</i>			1
			IVR		1
		<i>Study of options for farm diversification, to create sustainable livelihoods for resource-poor farmers.</i>		ANGOLA	1
			NUL		1
				LESOTHO	1
	LWM				1
		<i>Development of technologies for livestock waste management (especially through biogas)</i>			1
			UOM, AREU, MOA		1
				MAURITIUS	1
	MC				1
		<i>Improvement of non-CGIAR mandate crops.</i>			1
			UKZN		1
				SOUTH AFRICA	1
	PB				1
		<i>Breeding of cultivars of cotton, suitable for the different farming systems.</i>			1
			ARD		1
				SWAZILAND	1

C. SHORTLIST

			59
economic use of indigenous plants network			8
<i>Biodiversity preservation</i>			1
	CNRE		1
		MADAGASCAR	1
<i>Conservation and use of indigenous plant genetic resources in crop improvement, and animal/human medicine programmes.</i>			5
	ARD		1
		SWAZILAND	1
	UOM, AREU,		1
		MAURITIUS	1
	UST		1
		SOUTH AFRICA	1
	(blank)		2
		ANGOLA	1
		LESOTHO	1
<i>Veld products cultivation/management for income generation</i>			1
	DART, BRI		1
		NAMIBIA	1
<i>Veld products cultivation/management for income generation;</i>			1
	VPR&D, NFTRC		1
		BOTSWANA	1
soil and water management network			18
<i>Conservation farming technologies</i>			1
	Total Land Care		1
		MALAWI	1
<i>Conservation farming technologies to optimize water use</i>			1
	GART		1
		ZAMBIA	1
<i>Conservation tillage techniques</i>			1
	Inst Ag Eng		1
		ZIMBABWE	1
<i>developing appropriate technologies enhancing recovery of degraded soils</i>			1
	DRT		1
		TANZANIA	1
<i>Development and testing of irrigation techniques, especially those that are fed by gravity.</i>			1
	IAR		1
		ANGOLA	1
<i>Development of soil conservation techniques, especially the use of zero tillage.</i>			1
	IAR		1
		ANGOLA	1
<i>Development of soil conservation technologies, such as mulching, to improve soil fertility and crop yields.</i>			1
	UNISWA		1
		SWAZILAND	1
<i>Development of water conservation and harvesting techniques</i>			1
	IAR		1
		ANGOLA	1

C. SHORTLIST soil and water	<i>Effects of soil conservation techniques on soil fertility.</i>	DAR,NUL		1
			LESOTHO	1
	<i>efficient utilisation of water at micro catchment level</i>	AREX		1
			ZIMBABWE	1
	<i>Evaluation of multiple cropping systems that maximise soil moisture retention.</i>	ARD,UNISWA		1
			SWAZILAND	1
	<i>Evaluation of water use efficiency in crops.</i>	UNISWA		1
			SWAZILAND	1
	<i>Small scale irrigation development</i>	AREX		2
		ZARI	ZIMBABWE	1
			ZAMBIA	1
	<i>Small scale irrigation technologies</i>	MAIFS, OXFAM, Plan International		1
			MALAWI	1
	<i>Small scale irrigation technology, systems, crops</i>	IIAM		1
			MOZAMBIQUE	1
	<i>Study of plant-soil water relations to improve water use efficiency.</i>	UP, UFS, UST		1
			SOUTH AFRICA	1
	<i>Sustainable utilisation of wetlands</i>	DEA, BIDPA		1
			BOTSWANA	1
labour saving technology network				12
	<i>assessment of draught power capacity of the donkey</i>	AREX		1
			ZIMBABWE	1
	<i>Development and testing of labour-saving crop storage and processing technologies.</i>	IAR		1
			ANGOLA	1
	<i>Development of labour-saving crop storage and processing technologies.</i>	DAR		1
			LESOTHO	1
	<i>Development of post-harvest and processing technologies for vegetables & fruits in small-scale agriculture</i>	CHC		1
			MADAGASCAR	1
	<i>Impacts of HIV/AIDS on agriculture and food security.</i>	UNISWA		1
			SWAZILAND	1
	<i>Impacts of HIV/AIDS on labour employment and production in agriculture.</i>			1

C. SHORTLIST	labour sav	<i>Impacts of HIV/AIDS on labour employment and production in agriculture.</i>	UKZN		1
				SOUTH AFRICA	1
		<i>improve labour productivity in crops/livestock production with labour saving technologies</i>			1
			DRT		1
				TANZANIA	1
		<i>Labour saving technologies to increase work efficiency at farm level</i>			1
			AREX		1
				ZIMBABWE	1
		<i>labour saving technologies to increase work efficiency at farm level and mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS</i>			1
			DARS, BCA		1
				MALAWI	1
		<i>Land preparation and animal traction</i>			1
			IIAM		1
				MOZAMBIQUE	1
		<i>Post harvest processing and storage of small grains</i>			1
			RIPCO		1
				BOTSWANA	1
		<i>Small-scale agricultural mechanisation</i>			1
			FOFIFA, FIFAMANOR		1
				MADAGASCAR	1
	marketing network				5
		<i>Best practices in structuring and empowering agricultural cooperatives/producer organisation/rural community associations</i>			1
			ESSA		1
				MADAGASCAR	1
		<i>market information for small scale farmers</i>			1
			Agr Econ & Mkting		1
				ZIMBABWE	1
		<i>Market participation by smallholder farmers</i>			1
			BCA-Econ		1
				BOTSWANA	1
		<i>Market studies and analysis for marketing information generation for farmer groups</i>			1
			ESSA,		1
				MADAGASCAR	1
		<i>Study of value-added/supply chain for export products (to the EU)</i>			1
			(blank)		1
				MADAGASCAR	1
	organic farming network				7
		<i>Crop rotation and crop diversification</i>			1
			FOFIFA, FIFAMANOR		1
				MADAGASCAR	1
		<i>Development and testing of multiple cropping systems and crop rotations, with a focus on the organic-based "machobane" system.</i>			1
			DAR,NUL,WORLD VISION		1
				LESOTHO	1
		<i>Evaluation of green manure and legumes in crop rotations with sugarcane</i>			1
			MSIRI, AREU, FSC		1
				MAURITIUS	1

C. SHORTLIST	organic fa	<i>Integrated soil fertility management</i>		1
			IIAM	1
				MOZAMBIQUE
		<i>Introduction and testing of multiple cropping systems and crop rotations.</i>		1
			IAR	1
				ANGOLA
		<i>Organic farming/ Low input Agriculture</i>		1
			INERA, UNIKIN	1
				DRC
		<i>Research on and development of an organic farming strategy</i>		1
			FOFIFA	1
				MADAGASCAR
	range management network			5
		<i>Development of sustainable management systems for livestock on rangeland.</i>		1
			UP, UFS	1
				SOUTH AFRICA
		<i>Evaluation of indigenous plants as feed for livestock in semi arid areas</i>		1
			AREX	1
				ZIMBABWE
		<i>Evaluation of sustainable methods of rangeland management.</i>		1
			ARD,UNISWA	1
				SWAZILAND
		<i>Fodder production in rangelands</i>		1
			DAR - AP, DEA, BCA-AS	1
				BOTSWANA
		<i>utilisation of local trees and shrubs for improved livestock production</i>		1
			DRTE	1
				TANZANIA
	specific farming systems studies network			4
		<i>study constraints in cashewnut farming systems and develop integrated cashew management solutions</i>		1
			DRT	1
				TANZANIA
		<i>Study/classification of farming systems in different agro-ecological zones.</i>		3
			ARD , NGOs	1
				SWAZILAND
			DAR,NUL	1
				LESOTHO
			IAR	1
				ANGOLA
				1
Grand Total				108