



REGIONAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS FORUM

BIRCHWOOD HOTEL, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

16th JULY 2009

ANNOTATED AGENDA

- 1.0 The SADC VAA Forum is invited to consider and adopt the Meeting Agenda as presented by the National and Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committees.
- 2.0 The SADC Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) Forum is invited to note that, during the past one day, National Food Security and Vulnerability Experts deliberated on national assessments and their implication on regional food security and vulnerability for the 2009/2010 marketing year.
- 3.0 The SADC VAA Forum is also invited to note that the VAA Experts agreed on a general definition of Food Security as a state in which “all people, at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit, 1996).
- 4.0 The SADC VAA Forum is further invited to note that, based on the discussions; the VAA Experts proposed a number of policy implications and recommendations aimed at mitigating both acute and chronic food insecurity and vulnerability. The proposals are based on the following observations:
 - (i) the region’s populations rely on food that is either own production or purchases. Food availability (production plus stocks) in the 2009/2010 consumption year is generally satisfactory as a result of good rainfall and use of improved inputs. The provision of subsidized inputs to targeted vulnerable groups has contributed to the reduced regional cereal deficit from 1.779 million tonnes in 2008/09 marketing year to 0.764 million tonnes in 2009/2010.

Malawi, South Africa and Zambia have reported surpluses while the rest of the Member States indicated deficits ranging from 90,000 tonnes in Namibia to 869,000 tonnes in Zimbabwe.

- (ii) in spite of the expected improvement in cereal production, food insecurity and malnutrition among the vulnerable groups remains high. The number of people requiring food and non-food assistance is estimated at 3.3 million, which is high but down on last year's estimate of 7.6 million people.

5.0 The SADC VAA Forum is invited to discuss and adopt the following recommendations aimed at address the observed food insecurity and vulnerability challenges in the Region:

(i) Short-Term measures:

(a) Provision of safety nets or social protection measures to support vulnerable communities

- Targeted food aid,
- Targeted cash/food vouchers.

(b) Subsidize some commodities to cushion the effects of escalating food commodity prices on the poor

- Food export restrictions should be limited and temporary and these should be communicated to SADC Secretariat;

(c) Promote targeted input subsidies (other countries to draw lessons from Malawi)

(ii) Medium and Long-Term measures:

(a) Improve market access for crop and livestock and livestock products to improve household income;

(b) Increase productivity through promotion of access to inputs, technology, agricultural research, extension services, promote and intensify irrigation activities;

(c) Increase investment in agriculture (minimum 10% of national budgets to Agric Sector as stated by the Maputo Declaration which was reaffirmed in Dar-es-Salaam);

(d) Increase investment in rural infrastructural development

- Food storage facilities
- Road networks

- Markets
- Water harvesting and utilization.

(e) Promote dietary diversity through increased advocacy and education for the low income population through subsidizing fortified foods, blending and provision of vegetable seeds.