

# SA\_FANRPAN digest

Issue No.: 1

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## FANRPAN DIGEST

*FANRPAN Digest is a monthly report that is produced by the National Agricultural Marketing Council through the Agricultural Industry Trusts Division. The publication aims to communicate developments as they happen within Food Agriculture Natural Resource Policy Analysis Networks (FANRPAN). The focus of this issue is on two new projects: (i) “Cultivating African Champions for the Biennial Review Report, African Agriculture Transformation Scorecard and Heads of State Dashboard” and (ii) AFRICAP. The division has three digests which cover FANRPAN, Agricultural Transformation and Agricultural Industry Trusts. FANRPAN Digest reports on the monthly key developments coming from the operations of FANRPAN as co-ordinated by the NAMC.*

### **Contributors to this Issue:**

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## **1. WHO OR WHAT IS FANRPAN**

**by**

**Bonani Nyhodo and Precious Nomantande Yeki**

### **1.1. Background information**

FANRPAN is an acronym for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network. FANRPAN is a regional multi-stakeholder network<sup>1</sup> formed in response to a call by agriculture ministers in the Eastern and Southern Africa region for a network that could provide independent evidence to inform policy harmonisation at regional level ([www.fanrpan.org](http://www.fanrpan.org)). It is important to note that FANRPAN was registered in Zimbabwe as an organisation and its Secretariat is based in Pretoria making the two governments to have seats of the FANRPAN Board of Directors.

The FANRPAN network is representative of key stakeholders in the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANRPAN), which include governments, farmer organisations, researchers, the private sector, parliamentarians and the media. FANRPAN currently works in 17 countries: Angola, Botswana, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In each of the countries FANRPAN is hosted through an organisation called the Node Hosting Institution that will have a dedicated colleague who will serve as FANRPAN Node Coordinator.

### **1.2. FANRPAN in South Africa**

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) is the node hosting institution of FANRPAN in South Africa. As node hosting institution the NAMC coordinates in-country FANRPAN policy dialogues, play an active role in monitoring of commissioned studies, following of national policy research & discourse, tracking national policy agenda and

maintaining a database of ongoing policy research and policy processes in the country.

Within each of the FANRPAN nodes, there is a steering committee that plays an important role as representatives of different stakeholder groups. The steering committee provides strategic support, guidance and oversight of in-country work. The South Africa Node Steering Committee is composed of the following persons:

- Dr Aart Jan Verschoor (Research: Agricultural Research Council of South Africa)
- Dr Andre Jooste (Producer Organisation: Potatoes South Africa)
- Ms Angel Khumalo (Government: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
- Mr Happy Mohane (Smallholder Farmer: Emerging Producer)
- Dr Simphiwe Ngqangweni (Parastatal: National Agricultural Marketing Council)
- Vacant (Agribusiness: Agribusiness Chamber of South Africa)

The Node Hosting institution has dedicated the following persons to actively coordinate the work of FANRPAN in South Africa.

- Mr Bonani Nyhodo (Node Co-ordinator)
- Mr Ndumiso Mazibuko (Secretariat support)
- Ms Precious Nomantande Yeki (Secretariat support).

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<sup>1</sup> FANRPAN Secretariat often refer to FANRPAN as a network of networks.

**2. WELCOME MR. MUNHAMO CHISVO: THE NEW CEO OF FANRPAN**  
by

**Bonani Nyhodo**

*There is a New Sheriff in Town!*



The South African node, the NAMC, is proud to announce that **Mr Munhamo Chisvo** has accepted the responsibility to lead the FANRPAN team following the departure of Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda. Mr M Chisvo is not new to the FANRPAN family having done a couple of studies for FANRPAN before the appointment.

A resume of Mr Munhamo Chisvo can be found on the **FANRPAN** website (<https://www.fanrpan.org/about/team?block=who>). It is important to note that the CEO of the NAMC, Mr Zama Xalisa, has introduced him to the Minister of the Department Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Honourable Minister Senzeni Zokwana.



During the introduction there were many matters that the Minister highlighted as areas of urgent attention that synchronise well with the FANRPAN scope of work. There was an agreement that there has to be frequent engagements between FANRPAN and the DAFF through the NAMC coordination.

**3. FANRPAN LAUNCHES A NEW PROJECT FUNDED BY ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA (AGRA)**

by

**Nomantande Yeki**

**3.1. About the new project**

On 12 – 13 June 2018, the SA node host institution, the NAMC, along with five other African countries (Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi, Swaziland and Mauritius) held a two-day inception meeting on the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) project at the FANRPAN offices, Pretoria. The purpose of the meeting was for FANRPAN in collaboration with AGRA to launch a regional project to support the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme (CAADP) process. The project is titled “Cultivating African Champions for the Biennial Review Report, African Agriculture Transformation Scorecard and Heads of State Dashboard”.

During January 2018, the Inaugural Biennial Review Report was released and generated an unprecedented momentum and an opportunity for agricultural development in Africa. The report revealed that only 20 of the 40-member states

concurred with the 2017 targets and are on track towards achieving the commitments derived from the Malabo Declaration, with eight states failing to report. As a result, the AGRA project is seeking to assist member states of the African Union to devise specific interventions aimed at enhancing the implementation of commitments made through the ‘Malabo Declaration on Accelerating Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods’.

The AGRA project will run for a period of four months from June to September 2018 and is aimed at improving the Biennial Review Results (BRR) for the 20 African countries. However, this grant will only focus on 10 AGRA countries, including South Africa.

### **3.1. Expected outcomes**

- Written commitments by government to implement the actions and recommendations stated in the 2017 Biennial Review Report.
- Secured attendance and engagement of ministers, permanent secretaries and directors from the agriculture and other related ministries to the 2018 African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF)
- Public announcement of the commitments by high-level government representatives at the AGRF and other high-level platforms.

### **3.2. Actions towards achieving outcomes**

- **Briefing of the country leaderships and champions:** The NAMC and FANRPAN to engage with the Ministry of Agriculture to announce the project and mobilise support to form an in-country AGRF Task Team.
- **Development of country action plan to implement the recommendations of 2017 BR Report:** Using an in-depth review of the Biennial Review Report and other reports, the country-level AGRF Task Team will develop a draft country action plan featuring the interventions that have the greatest potential to impact the next BR review.

- **National validation dialogue:** To ensure buy-in and alignment with non-state stakeholders as well as enforcing a multi-sectoral position with all related ministries, a national dialogue will be convened to enrich and validate the country action plan.
- **Ministerial commitments:** The Ministry of Agriculture to formally endorse the country’s action plan from the multi-stakeholder national dialogue.
- **Attendance at the 2018 AGRF:** High-level delegation that is led by the Ministry of Agriculture or related Ministry to attend the AGRF on 3-7 September 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda. Furthermore, the delegation will present their action plan to donors and technical partners who will be present at the AGRF.
- **Post-AGRF Report:** Feedback from the AGRF will enable country delegations to further consolidate their action plans towards implementation.

In conclusion, the NAMC and FANRPAN look forward to working with various stakeholders in achieving the key outcomes of this project – together in enhancing transformation within the African agricultural sector.

### **4. THE NAMC PARTICIPATES IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD-SYSTEMS RESILIENCE: INCREASING CAPACITY AND ADVISING POLICY PROGRAMME**

by

**Ndumiso Mazibuko**

The Agricultural and Food-Systems Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) programme is a new four-year project that is funded by the United Kingdom (UK) government’s Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) and championed by the University of Leeds in collaboration with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

The programme’s aim is: To identify and implement evidence-based policy pathways to facilitate the development of sustainable, productive, climate-smart agricultural systems to meet food security and

economic development needs. To do this we will work in partnership to build capacities across UK and African organisations. The project team includes the University of Leeds, University of Aberdeen, the UK Met Office, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and Chatham House.

They will assist and work locally with the NAMC in the research areas of climate, ecology, soils, water, post-harvest losses, land use, nutrition and health, rural livelihoods, and policy and institutional analysis. AFRICAP will advise on the development of climate-smart agri-food system pathways and create special agricultural zones, where research can be turned into evidence, leading to policy that is capable of influencing practices.

The overall vision of the AFRICAP project is to contribute towards sustainable pathways of agriculture and food system transformation for meeting the SDGs (such as no poverty, zero hunger, gender equality, climate action, reduced inequality, good health and wellbeing, responsible consumption and production, etc), and agriculture as a priority target sector through building research into policy capacity.

The project will undertake detailed work in four African countries, namely Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia, governed by the four main themes, namely: farming systems, climate-smart development pathways, policy design and implementation, and training and capacity building. The project will strive to take learning beyond these

four countries with the help of pan-African organisations.

In March 2018, a workshop was hosted by the project partners at the Farm Inn, Pretoria. The workshop (launch) brought together key programme partners from the UK and Africa to examine the programme's aims and embark on the research and information-gathering process. On 12 July 2018, the South African team of AFRICAP convened the in-country kick-off workshop in Bloemfontein (Free State) as planned.

The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the four-year project to the local stakeholders (who are the ultimate local partners). This was also to open research access with local industry stakeholders and work with the partners in South Africa. The workshop presentations were in three sessions: (i) Session 1 dealt with the introduction (provincial government) followed by the project background (FANRPAN); (ii) Session 2 addressed the policy environment (DAFF) followed by scenarios and SAZ talk (Chatham House), project location (NAMC) and household/farm profiling (FANRPAN); and (iii) Session 3 dealt with three parallel or break-away sessions covering grains, livestock and horticulture, followed by report-back from the sessions and closing.

The workshop closed positively and all present expressed the wish that they will be actively involved in the project. This project commenced retroactively from 1 October 2017 and is anticipated to be completed by 31 December 2021.

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