

SA_FANRPAN digest

Issue No.: 4

In this issue we cover the following topics:

1. Snapshots of the seminar presentation by FANRPAN to the NAMC on the ATONU project
2. The progress on the Special Agricultural Zones (SAZs) - in preparation of the AFRICAP workshop scheduled for the 12 November 2018



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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). This issue focuses on the following topics: (i) Snapshots of the seminar presentation by FANRPAN to the NAMC on ATONU project and (II) The progress on the Special Agricultural Zones (SAZs), in preparation of the AFRICAP workshop scheduled for 12 November 2018. 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.

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1. SNAPSHOTS OF THE SEMINAR PRESENTATION BY FANRPAN TO THE NAMC ON ATONU PROJECT

By

Nomantande Yeki and Ndumiso Mazibuko

1.1. Background

The ATONU project comes at a critical time of need to address the global challenges as directed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Within the SDGs, goal number two targets zero hunger by 2030. The United Nation further states that the time to rethink growth strategies, to share and consume our food, has come.

Given the appreciated opportunity, agriculture, forestry and fisheries can provide nutritious food for all and generate a decent income, while supporting people-centered rural development and protecting the environment. In Africa, the investment and productivity of food staples have increased, but the number of stunted children has risen from 50.8 million in 2000 to 58.6 million in 2012.

Malnutrition undermines the health and limits the opportunities of almost one of four people in Africa. It is estimated that high rates of malnutrition could reduce a country's gross domestic product (GDP) by as much as 12 %. The disconnect between agriculture and nutrition must end.

1.2. What is the ATONU project?

Agriculture to Nutrition (ATONU) is a six-year African initiative focusing on how agriculture can deliver positive nutrition outcomes to smallholder farm families through the implementation of robust, evidence-based nutrition-sensitive interventions. The objectives of the initiative are to create a link between agriculture and nutrition. ATONU provides technical assistance to integrate tailored nutrition-sensitive interventions into agricultural development programmes/projects such as:

- Generating tools and frameworks for diagnosing the opportunities to incorporate

tailored nutrition-sensitive interventions into agricultural projects;

- Provision of technical assistance for designing, testing and rigorously monitoring and evaluating results of the tailored nutrition-sensitive intervention;
- Documenting best practices and evidence, and adding to the agriculture for nutrition knowledge base; and
- Advocating for evidence-based decision making at all levels; and
- Strengthening the capacity of participating individuals and institutions to mainstream NSIs effectively.

Capacity building will help to institutionalise the integration of agriculture and nutrition, and to up-scale successful interventions. ATONU is framed to incorporate two-cutting themes of Gender Responsiveness and Sustainable Natural Resources and Environmental Management.

Gender: ATONU mainstreams gender in all activities so that the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NSIs are gender-responsive and culturally-sensitive. ATONU will propose approaches and lessons on how gender and socio-cultural issues can be dealt with to effect positive behaviour change and empower women with the capacity to influence behaviour change and institutional outcomes.

Natural Resources and Environment (NRE): The NRE theme promotes climate-smart agriculture (CSA), which addresses the interlinked challenges of food insecurity and climate change. CSA in agriculture-nutrition nexus aims to tackle three main objectives:

- sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and income;
- adapting and building resilience to climate change;
- reducing and removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible, or both.

1.3. How will the project achieve its objectives?

The approach for the ATONU works with existing agricultural development projects through the provision of technical assistance, to identify, design and support implementation of nutrition-sensitive interventions (NSIs) to deliver positive nutrition outcomes. Additional support may be provided to collect data and evaluate the impact of NSIs. ATONU will explore and work with five pathways to strengthen the contribution of agriculture to positive nutrition outcomes:

- Food production for household consumption
- Income-oriented production for the purchase of food, health and other non-food items.
- Empowerment of women as instrumental agents to household food security and health outcomes
- Reduction in real food prices associated with increased agricultural production.
- Nutrition-sensitive agricultural growth. The indirect relationship between increasing agricultural productivity and nutrition outcomes through agricultural sectors contribution to national income and macroeconomic growth.

Furthermore, the project has been implemented in Ethiopia and Tanzania and has worked with the African Chicken Genetics Gain (ACGG) to integrate and assess the impact of the selected nutrition-sensitive interventions (NSIs) to provide evidence for agriculture's potential to deliver nutrition outcomes. When the impact evaluation results are complete, a report will be available through the FANRPAN communication channels.

1.4. Conclusion

ATONU is a project that aims to bridge the gap between nutrition and agriculture. ATONU has been implemented in two countries but with a bigger goal of leaving a blueprint across Africa.

References

FARNPAN. *FARNPAN Strategy for Integrating Nutrition and Agriculture.*

FARNPAN presentation

United Nations. *17 Goals to Transform Our World*

2. THE PROGRESS ON THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL ZONES - IN PREPARATION OF THE AFRICAP WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR THE 12 NOVEMBER 2018

by

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On 9th October 2018, the NAMC AFRICAP team convened a meeting in Bloemfontein, with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) Free State team, working on Agri-parks. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress on the Agri-parks in the Free state province, supported by the DRDLR. The Agri-parks covered included Xhariep, Thabo Mofutsanyane and Lejweleputswa. The progress was highlighted as follows:

- **Xhariep Agri-park** – The core commodities are red meat, game and aquaculture. This Agri-park is a priority for the department, and the master plan has been completed. The high-level business plan has been approved and proven to be viable, and the Agri-park is currently developing commodity specific business cases. The sites were, therefore, green fields regarding infrastructure development and the department had to start from nothing. For the Springfontein Agri-hub, the department has applied for an EIA and a fence has been erected around the site area.
- **Thabo Mofutsanyane Agri-park** – The core commodities are vegetables and fruits, dry beans and dairy. The high-level master plan has

been completed and the high-level business case is currently in progress. The site for the Agri-hub has been identified and plans are currently underway for the site.

- **Lejweleputswa Agri-park** – The essential commodities are maize, poultry and red meat. The high-level master plan has been completed and the high-level business case is currently in progress. The site has been identified for the Agri-hub and production activities are now underway, forming part of the Agri-hub.

In conclusion, the DRDLR team will form part of the scenarios workshop and participate in AFRICAP activities. Furthermore, the AFRICAP project is beneficial in ensuring that the Agri-parks become fully operational.

NOTICES:

A) FANRPAN UPCOMING SCENARIOS WORKSHOP

South Africa will be hosting the AFRICAP Scenarios workshop in Pretoria at the Burgers Park Hotel on 12 November 2018. The event will be graced by the

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attendance of a delegation from the United Kingdom (University of Leeds, UK Met and Chatham House).

There are over 50 confirmations of attendance from a vast array of delegates ranging from:

- Academics,
- Researchers,
- Government,
- Civil society, and
- Parastatals.

The leadership of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will be led by the Honourable Minister S. Zokwana. Minister Zokwana is expected to make welcoming remarks at the workshop.

B) UPCOMING REGIONAL DIALOGUE

The Regional Dialogue of FANRPAN will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 20 to 23 November 2018. The South African Node has been invited to attend the Regional Dialogue.