

SA_FANRPAN digest

Issue No.: 6

In this issue we cover the following topics:

1. Resolutions taken at the Policy Dialogue on Transforming Africa's Agriculture.
2. Climate change is a reality: Investing in the adaptation and mitigation strategies



National Agricultural
Marketing Council
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FANPAN 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). This issue focuses on the following topics: (i) Resolutions taken at the 2018 Policy Dialogue on Transforming Africa's Agriculture and (ii) Investing in the climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. 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:

Ms Nomantande Yeki
Mr Ndumiso Mazibuko
Mr Matsobane (BM) Mpyana

1. RESOLUTIONS TAKEN AT THE 2018 POLICY DIALOGUE ON TRANSFORMING AFRICA'S AGRICULTURE

By
Nomantande Yeki

1.1. Introduction

Annually the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) convenes a high-level dialogue. The objective of these policy dialogues is to provide a multi-actor policy dialogue platform capable of deliberating on the thematic areas intending to generating recommendations aimed at policymakers to transform African agriculture. The 2018 Regional Policy Dialogue was anchored on the four sub-themes. Under each sub-themes the delegates at the 2018 Regional Policy Dialogue resolved as follows:

II. Nutrition and food systems

Africa is a net importer of food because agricultural production and productivity are low. There is a need to enhance innovative access to inputs, technologies and finance; to diversify offerings of the government input supply programmes beyond maize to promote dietary diversity; to institute tracking mechanisms to promote increased use of fertiliser; and to improve the provision of extension and advisory services to smallholder farmers.

Furthermore, Africa continues to have high levels of post-harvest losses and food waste. One of the corrective measures is holistic crop management throughout the value chain to minimise pre- and post-harvest losses. Improved investment in appropriate storage facilities initiates community-level food processing and value-addition interventions. It was recommended that there is a need to refocus production on traditional nutrient-dense foods. There is a need to use behaviour change communication to enhance the consumption of diverse and nutritious diets; to increase the budget allocated to nutrition at national and sub-national levels; to enhance women's agency in pro-nutrition household decision-

making and budgeting; and to institute a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to address malnutrition. Lastly, there is a need to pursue multi-pronged investment in wheat production and marketing to offset the local import bill.

III. Climate-resilient agriculture

Climate change is happening now and will continue to be a challenge in the future. There is a pressing need to make decisions that are robust and that can help us deal with the uncertain future that climate change presents. The recommendations are to enhance smallholder farmers' adaptive capacity; support farmers to adopt climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies; enhance investment in irrigation to include water harvesting technologies and tapping into the continent's water resources; and streamline and support access to climate financing facilities for state and non-state actors.

IV. Policies to transform African agriculture

Transformation of Africa's agriculture begins with us, and all relevant stakeholder groups need to change. Donor agencies and development partners need to change their investment priorities and strategies. Governments should institutionalise an efficient and effective policy implementation culture, characterised by a review of existing policies to ensure that they are pro-smallholder farmers, women, children and youth.

Participatory research processes should be adopted to ensure that the voice of the smallholder farmers, women and youth is heard, to facilitate the co-creation of solutions. The private sector should collaborate with civil society and government to develop innovative financing mechanisms to support the agriculture value chains. Farmers should accelerate the adoption of new climate-smart technologies and practices which are gender and nutrition sensitive.

Agriculture markets are not working for the smallholder farmer. There is a need to create a level playing field by supporting equitable participation and

benefits by all value chain actors (i.e., marketing of products have taken over by middle man). Generate evidence to advocate for a policy environment conducive for smallholder farmers (e.g. (i) impact of export ban on agricultural commodities by government, (ii) increasing taxes, levies and production costs, and (iii) low intra-regional trade).

In addition, agricultural research and development (R&D) should be revamped, which can be achieved through increased financing of agricultural research and development to support the implementation of national agriculture investment plans. Adopting participatory approaches to agricultural research and development to amplify the voices of smallholder farmers, including women and youth, is important.

Lastly, with regard to poor policy implementation at national and regional level, there is a need to capacitate women and youth to broaden the base of researchers supporting agriculture. Recommendations are to institute tracking mechanisms to monitor policies and their implementation; institute advocacy initiatives to support accelerated implementation of policies; and capacitate women and youth to promote engagement with policy processes.

V. Youth communities of practice

There is low participation of women and youth in agriculture value chains. There is a great need for the restructuring of agriculture to make it profitable and appealing to the youth. Recommendations are to promote the use of appropriate technologies and mechanisation to reduce drudgery; and institute innovative interventions (financing, inclusive business models, access to land and inputs/output markets) to promote the growth and visibility of women in the agricultural value chain

Conclusion

Transforming Africa's agriculture will require the participation of all the relevant stakeholders. It is time

for Africa to feed itself by tapping into the agricultural potential to boost Africa's economy.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE IS A REALITY: INVESTING IN ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

By

Ndumiso Mazibuko and Matsobane (BM) Mpyana

Climate change is a global issue and is becoming a reality to the world. It has become a significant concern to society due to its potentially adverse impacts worldwide. There are already increasing concerns globally regarding changes in climate that are threatening to transform the livelihoods of the vulnerable population segments. The earth's climate has warmed on average by about 0.7°C over the past 100 years with decades of the 1990s and 2000s being the warmest in the instrumental record (Watson, 2010; Mandleni 2011).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (2007) forecasted that by 2100, the increase in average surface temperature would be between 1.8°C and 4.0°C globally. The panel predicted a more pronounced increase in temperatures in the African continent, to be 1.5 times greater than at the global level. Climate change is more pronounced in certain agroecological zones of the continents especially the interior. Developing climate-smart agri-food systems (CSAS) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is a precondition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The agricultural sector is at risk of collapse due to rising temperatures, should the nations fail to deal with the impacts of climate change by investing in adaptation and mitigation strategies. The World Bank has committed over 200 billion USD towards climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies which are inclusive of smart agricultural practices.

According to Trujillo *et al.* the costs of adaptation to climate change in developing countries are substantial. Developed countries have commitments to scale up support for adaptation in developing countries particularly in LDCs and SIDS that have little historic responsibility and will bear large relative costs of climate change. CFU data suggests that developed countries have pledged 3.3 billion USD cumulatively to multilateral adaptation funds. The largest sources of approved funding for adaptation projects are currently the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) of the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) administered by the Global Environmental Facility. However, developed countries' contributions to these funds remain low. Directing adaptation funding to countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as well as to the most vulnerable people and population groups within recipient countries remains an imperative with grant financing continuing to play a major role.

"Many governments are trying to support community efforts to build resilience and transform adaptation commitments into action. Officials are integrating adaptation activities across their budgets to ensure that all public resources, from investments in agricultural development to infrastructure, improve resilience, while also seeking out private sector finance. But scaling effective adaptation actions can only happen if funding can be made available from national government accounts to local coffers and if it is responsive to local vulnerabilities and priorities."

Climate change is now a reality, and nations need innovative ways to deal with it. There is no doubt that the agricultural sector is directly affected by the rising temperatures and more investment is required to save this sector.

For more information, please visit www.namc.co.za or contact Mr B. Nyhodo - Senior Manager: Agricultural Industry Trusts Division email: bonani@namc.co.za

Tel: 012 341 1115
Fax: 012 341 1811

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