



SA FANRPAN digest

Issue No.: 8

In this issue we cover the following topics:

1. AFRICAP workshop for the node co-ordinators: Focus on South Africa
2. Global topic for discussion: AFRICAP household survey on climate change
3. A minute with FANRPAN interim CEO, Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila

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FANRPAN Digest is a bi-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) Brief report on the AFRICAP in-country stakeholders' workshop; (ii) AFRICAP household survey in SOUTH AFRICA; and (iii) A minute with FANRPAN interim CEO, Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila. The division has three digests which cover FANRPAN, agricultural transformation, and agricultural industry trusts. FANRPAN Digest reports on the key developments coming from the operations of FANRPAN as co-ordinated by the NAMC.

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1. AFRICAP WORKSHOP FOR THE NODE CO-ORDINATORS: FOCUS ON SOUTH AFRICA

By Nomantande Yeki and Bonani Nyhodo

1.1. Introduction

Capacity-building provides a convincing and enticing initiation into an area of development knowledge and practice. Theme B of the Agricultural and Food-Systems Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) project aims to build capacity in all four node countries. Between 13 and 17 May 2019, the country node co-ordinators (Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia) attended an AFRICAP workshop at the University of Leeds in London.

The purpose of this visit was to build capacity in GCRF-AFRICAP’s partner organisations, so as to simplify the implementation of GCRF-AFRICAP in all countries. During the visit, the delegation attended three days of workshops: one day on policy priorities and monitoring and evaluation, and two days on special agricultural zones (SAZs), as well as various side meetings with the researchers and project management team involved in GCRF-AFRICAP.

1.2. Policy priorities, and monitoring and evaluation

One of the key objectives of the AFRICAP project is to influence policies. On day one the four countries identified policy priorities which are of target for the project, as well as the research priorities. In all countries, the targeted policies are focused on climate resilience, food and nutrition, and agricultural development at large. In the context of South Africa, the following policies were identified:

- *Climate Change Bill* owned by the Department of Environmental Affairs, which came into effect in June 2018. The aim of this policy is to address climate change needs through the building of climate change response and long-term resilience, and the minimisation of carbon emissions.

- *Climate-Smart Agriculture Framework* owned by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), which came into effect in August 2018. The key objectives of this policy are to strengthen the mitigation of and adaptation to climate-smart agricultural pathways.
- *Food and Nutrition Policy*, which came into effect in 2013 and which is owned by the DAFF and the Department of Social Development (DSD). The policy is aimed at establishing the need for a common definition of, and measures on, food and nutrition security, and seeks to provide an overarching guiding framework to maximise synergy among the different strategies and programmes of government and civil society.

In all policies mentioned above, the AFRICAP team plans to influence those policies as highlighted in **Table 1** under Theme C. Furthermore, in Table 1, Theme B represents research priorities to be undertaken by the researchers focusing on the AFRICAP project in South Africa.

Themes	Priority interventions	Timelines
Theme B: Climate-Smart Development Research	Impact assessment of climate shocks on agricultural production	2019-2020
	Exploring the relationship between farm size and production	2020
	What is the impact of the Farmer Production Support Unit on smallholder farmer development?	2021
Theme C: Policy Advocacy	Targeting agri-parks' structural committees and gaining access to participate in those committees	June-August
	Actively participating in policy briefs	Ongoing

Table 1: Priority interventions and timelines

It is important to note that research will be done throughout the four-year existence of the project. To ensure that information is disseminated in a way that reaches all target audiences, the research outputs are planned to be shared with the Minister of the DAFF through a ministerial submission and to be published in the farmer publications.

1.3. Special agricultural zones (SAZs)

The South African AFRICAP team delivered a presentation on SAZs and agri-parks in South

African terms. The agri-parks initiative is a national drive from the government to assist in developing the 44 district municipalities across South Africa. This is done for the development of rural economies by initiating catalytic projects that will stimulate economic growth. This is primarily focused within the agricultural industry, with specific emphasis on the agro-processing of local agricultural resources. The initiative is driven by the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), with the support of all other sector departments. The objectives of the agri-parks are to:

- Provide agricultural input;
- Provide extension support and training;
- Provide mechanisation support (such as tractor-driving, ploughing, spraying and harvesting);
- Provide machinery servicing workshop facilities;
- Provide local logistics support, which could entail the delivery of farming inputs, transportation, and post-harvest transportation to local markets;
- Undertake primary produce collection;
- Carry out processing for local markets (such as small-scale mills); and
- Provide auction facilities for local markets.

The DRDLR plans to develop 12 (three main and nine regular) farmer production support units (FPSUs) and one agri-hub located in Tshiame. Currently, the FPSU in the Thabo Mofutsanyana district in the Harrismith area is operational. The catchment area of each FPSU is 30 km.

To fulfil the main purpose of this project, a decision on the location was made, taking into consideration all the requirements (farming systems), such as an area where commercial farms are in close proximity to smallholder farmers, and an area containing most – if not all – the identified products. Importantly, the decision was made that two district municipalities of the Free State Province, namely Thabo Mofutsanyane and Lejweleputswa, will be used as

the South African project location, with the commodities of focus being maize, soybeans, livestock and potatoes.

1.4. Concluding remarks

Tanzania and Malawi delivered their respective presentations on SAZs. For all four African countries in question, maize is the conventional farming system chosen for the project. After robust discussions, it was highlighted that Africa is popular for its good policies, but lacks policy implementation. As a result, the AFRICAP project has identified the lack of policy implementation as an opportunity to influence policy to improve on implementation. This will be done by collecting evidence-based policy pathways to advance climate resilience, particularly.

2. AFRICAP HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Elekanyani Nekhavhambe, Ndumiso Mazibuko and Brian Makhele

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) project, Agricultural and Food-System Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (GCRF-AFRICAP), aims to identify and implement evidence-based policy pathways to facilitate the development of sustainable, productive and climate-smart agricultural systems to meet food and nutrition security and economic development needs. To do this, it is working in partnership to build research capacities across the UK and African organisations – that is, the project is building on existing partnerships with national meteorological services, agricultural research centres and universities in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.

The AFRICAP project is undertaking detailed work in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia, but will strive to take the learning beyond these four countries with the help of Pan-African organisations. Using the food systems approach, the project is exploring the agriculture-climate change-nutrition

nexus with fieldwork to identify today's best practices. The in-country work involves interdisciplinary research on farming systems, from soil, plant and livestock sciences to ecology and political and social sciences.

The purpose of this research is to understand what the future requires, how the weather will change, and what characteristics – biophysical, socio-economic and environmental – will be needed for resilient agriculture. Against this backdrop, data will be collected at different time points as per the data collection tool. In each country, facilitated by FANRPAN's country nodes, the FANRPAN Regional Secretariat will be collaborating with a range of delivery partners, working in the field to collect data and to design and implement policy recommendations.

There is a need to understand the social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to the vulnerability of rural farming households to additional stresses from climate variability and change. These factors consequently compromise smallholder farmers' agricultural production systems and food and nutrition security status in the short, medium and long term. Therefore, the AFRICAP project will, at various data collection points, map enrolled households in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia in order to understand the causes of vulnerability, why some people are more vulnerable than others, the coping strategies related to production systems, and how to address the vulnerability (i.e., adaptation). To achieve this, the project will use a specifically designed data collection tool, which briefly describes the tool's modules. The results from this research component of the project and the policy briefs generated from the findings will be shared with policymakers through different platforms that will include local, national and regional policy dialogues, meetings of parliamentary portfolio committees on agriculture and the FANRPAN annual regional multi-stakeholder policy dialogue.

The NAMC, together with FANRPAN and the Free State Department of Agriculture, have embarked on an important phase of the AFRICAP project on the issues pertaining to climate change. In May 2019, the above-mentioned stakeholders started to engage with farmers (subsistence, smallholder and commercial) within the Thabo Mofutsanyana and Lejweleputswa districts in the Free State. The data is being collected from 400 farmers, mainly producing maize, soybeans, potatoes and livestock. The survey is in progress and is expected to contribute to policy recommendations around climate change and resilience. The NAMC, together with FANRPAN, will share the results of the survey with the relevant stakeholders.

3. A MINUTE WITH FANRPAN INTERIM CEO, DR TSHILIDZI MADZIVHANDILA

By

Nomantande Yeki and Ndumiso Mazibuko

The Board of Governors of the Food, Agriculture, and Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) announced the appointment of Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila as the Chief Executive Officer *ad interim*, as from March 2019. Dr Madzivhandila is well-positioned to enact and manage efficient and effective interventions, having joined FANRPAN in February 2011 as Director for Policy and Research. We spent a minute with him discussing his career with FANRPAN to date.



3.1. Describe your work philosophy statement

I am driven by a strong commitment to principles and teamwork towards the delivery of goals. Teamwork is at the core of my work philosophy, but for that to happen, each and every one of the team members have to subscribe to a certain fundamental truth or belief that is constant.

3.2. Please provide a brief background (about you, education, career, role at FANRPAN)

From the onset, I planned for a career in agriculture, as reflected by my education. I obtained the Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Management from the University of Limpopo in 1995, after which I successfully completed the Master's Degree in Development Studies from the University of the Free State in 2007. I hold a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in Economics – specialising in public policies and programmes evaluation – from the University of New England, Australia. I also completed the Advanced Programme in Marketing Management with the University of South Africa, and the Diploma in Higher Education from the University of Limpopo.

I joined FANRPAN in February 2011 as the network's Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and thereafter

Director for Policy and Research. I contributed directly to the crafting of the network's 2016-2023 strategic plan and became a key member of the team spearheading its unpacking and implementation. Key to that process was the establishment of an institutional monitoring and evaluation system – a role that I successfully led – in the process building institutional capacity for continuity. I assumed the position of Head of Mission/Chief Executive Officer in March 2019, after being approached by the Board of Governors to steward the network in its period of transition. My current focus is to guide FANRPAN through its transition and ensure that the network is well-positioned to deliver on its mandate on the continent.

I have over 20 years' experience in research, policy analysis, and monitoring and evaluation, largely served within the food, agriculture and natural resources sector.

3.3. Please give a brief background behind your career moves and goals

As indicated, I set my goals on a career in agriculture at an early age, as my path to my current position will attest. With a desire to ensure a holistic appreciation of the broad agricultural sector, I have served in senior positions in national research institutions, government and international development organisations. I started my career as a high-school teacher (from February 1996 to July 1998). From August 1998, I joined the Agricultural Research Council through their Professional Development Programme and graduated through the ranks to the level of Researcher by the end of 2010. Also, I worked at the National Treasury (Co-operative Banks Development Agency – CBDA) as a Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. After completing my PhD, I then joined FANRPAN as a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. In March 2016, I was appointed the Director for Policy Research and Analysis – a position in which I benefited immensely from the exposure I had gained while working in the public and civil society sectors. Further, I am an Associate Researcher with the universities of Venda

and Fort Hare, where I co-supervise and examine Masters and PhD work.

3.4. How have the past years at FANRPAN been for you – lessons learnt?

My time at FANRPAN has taught me the importance of policies as the bedrock of sustainable development and transformation. I have grown to realise that the successful transformation of Africa's agriculture, and through it, the fortunes of the continent, will depend on evidence-based policies being underpinning the sector's development agenda. FANRPAN exposed me to the reality that African countries are at different stages of policy development, thus the need to ensure a structured approach of handholding and capacity development to ensure continent-wide success. Within the different countries, there is a need for all-inclusive multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participatory processes for policy processes, thus the need for interventions that break barriers between state and non-state actors.

The elevation from Director of Research and Policy Analysis to CEO has enabled me an opportunity to engage at the highest level of providing evidence to support policy processes at national, regional and continental levels.

3.4. What have you learnt in the past few months that will inform your strategic thinking about the organisation's strategy implementation?

A number of issues have emerged, which if properly addressed, will deliver the much-needed institutional transformation for FANRPAN. Foremost, a stable and skilled staff establishment at the regional secretariat is key to the delivery of the network's strategic plan, and this is complemented by diverse skills and capacity resident in the vibrant country nodes that form the network. Secondly, a programmatic approach with a medium- to long-term focus will guarantee the alignment of activities to the strategic plan, as well as stabilising the funding situation. Collaborative approaches and objective-

driven partnerships will deliver the transformation of Africa's agriculture, and to that end, I am forging ahead with joint programming with FANRPAN's key partners. Finally, beyond the South and Eastern African region where the network originated, my objective is to drive network growth to the rest of the continent, especially in the North and West African regions.

3.5. What does success look like for FANRPAN?

In the absence of evidence-based policies, the agricultural sector in its current state is a "poverty trap" for smallholder farmers, who constitute a large majority of the continent's population. The deteriorating conditions, mainly as a result of climate change, are also worsening the livelihoods of farming communities. For FANRPAN, success is when agriculture is fully transformed and resilient, enabling it to contribute to the security and prosperity of all. To build resilient food systems across Africa, there is a need to create and implement food, agricultural and natural resources policies that are both evidence-based and developed in partnership with non-state actors.

3.6. Please provide concluding remarks

I thank FANRPAN's Board for entrusting me with the responsibility to assist the network's overall objective of promoting appropriate food, agricultural and natural resources policies in order to reduce poverty, increase food and nutrition security, and enhance sustainable agricultural development in Africa. This will be through the following specific objectives:

- i) improve policy decision-making, and exchange and use policy-related information by enhancing research, policy analysis and synthesis on FANRPAN priority themes;
- ii) develop human and institutional capacity for co-ordinated policy dialogue among all stakeholders; and,
- iii) assist the development and implementation of mechanisms to promote advocacy, coalition-building, information exchange and effective

utilisation of research analysis results and information.

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