



SA FANRPAN digest

Issue No.: 10

In this issue we cover the following topics:

1. Importance of fieldwork within the Africap Programme
2. Strengthening Media Engagement with Africap Research to influence policy
3. FANRPAN 2019 High-Level Regional Policy Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, 5 – 7 November 2019, Kigali, Rwanda

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FANRPAN DIGEST

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 the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). This issue focuses on the following topics: (i) Importance of fieldwork within the AFRICAP programme; (ii) Strengthening media engagement with AFRICAP research to influence policy; and (iii) FANRPAN 2019 High-Level Regional Policy Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, 5 – 7 November 2019, Kigali, Rwanda.

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1. IMPORTANCE OF FIELDWORK WITHIN THE AFRICAP PROGRAMME

By Hemant Tripathi (University of Leeds)

1.1. Introduction

The GCRF-AFRICAP project links multiple themes such as generating evidence, modelling and predicting patterns, informing policy, and building capacity in sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture in Africa. An in-depth understanding of what climate-resilient agriculture entails in the context of different agricultural production models underpins the accurate prediction of agricultural patterns and appropriate policy-making and capacity-building. This understanding depends on how much we know about in-field “on-the-ground” realities.

1.2. Why fieldwork?



Figure 1: A subsistence farmer practising conservation agriculture with low tilling, polycultures and cover crops.

The in-field realities in the context of agriculture under climate change may be about how farmers are adapting to drought or excess rainfall. Farmers may be innovating certain practices to cope with climate change, or may be practising conventional farming and experiencing losses. Fieldwork, in such cases, can gather data about changing local practices and conditions and can identify potential solutions and innovations. The evidence generated from fieldwork will help upscale

effective adaptation practices or introduce new farming practices or technologies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. Furthermore, field data can also help evaluate and identify trade-offs associated with the implementation or adoption of new technologies (or practices). For example, the use of conventional agricultural pest-management practices can alter the food web structure and result in pest outbreaks. In contrast, organic farming methods may promote the diversity of natural enemies, thus offering biological pest control. However, the impact of new technologies may vary based on local conditions, making fieldwork an essential tool for the monitoring and evaluation of impacts in different agro-ecosystems at different times.

In the AFRICAP in South Africa, Theme A is collecting evidence about climate adaptations and evaluating their socio-ecological impacts and trade-offs in different – and often contrasting – agricultural production systems. In response to the last three years of drought, farmers have adopted farming practices that reduce climate risks and increase resilience. For example, a subsistence farmer in Phuthaditjhaba stopped conventional deep tilling and maize monocultures and started conservation agriculture (no-tilling, crop cover, and intercropping), which seemingly improved climate adaptability. Furthermore, farmers may be communicating their success and failure through interactions, thus aiding the uptake of good practices and the deterrence of bad practices.

1.3. Conclusion

AFRICAP's ecology fieldwork is designed to understand the effects of farming practices on the biophysical and ecological aspects of agro-ecosystems, while the social science fieldwork aims at understanding how farmers interact and learn. The evidence generated from ecological and social science fieldwork will help reduce the negative effects and highlight the positive

practices that may further feed into modelling and predicting changes in agriculture, policy-making and capacity-building.

2. STRENGTHENING MEDIA ENGAGEMENT WITH AFRICAP RESEARCH TO INFLUENCE POLICY

By Nomantande Yeki and Matsobane (BM) Mpyana

2.1. Background

Climate change is a reality and its effects are evident, calling for mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with the climate change effects. On the mitigation side, the vicious cycle remains that climate change affects agriculture and agriculture contributes to climate change. The challenge is how to produce more food and reduce GHG emissions. Among the solutions to this may be the efficient use of resources, the use of renewable energy and the promotion of soil regeneration.

On the adaptation side, it is evident that climate change negatively affects agricultural production and this poses a serious threat to food security. Key solutions to adaptation may be innovation, introducing sustainable agricultural practices and supporting smallholder farmers to access and adopt new technology. Two years into its four-year term, the Agricultural and Food-system Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) programme is identifying and implementing evidence-based pathways for sustainable, productive, climate-smart agricultural systems.

2.2. Influencing policy through media

One of the four themes of the AFRICAP programme is the provision of training and capacity-building. FANRPAN, along with its node hosting institution, the NAMC, is set to implement a supplementary media support intervention titled “*Strengthening Media Engagement with AFRICAP Research to Influence Policy*”. The logic behind this intervention is that, if AFRICAP-related information is shared and debated publicly, there is a greater chance that policymakers

and practitioners may adopt it, and even reach ordinary South Africans. The following activities guide this media support intervention:

- Identifying and enrolling appropriate journalists across different media;
- Equipping media practitioners with proper knowledge of the AFRICAP project and research objectives and outcomes in the AFRICAP focus countries; and
- Continuous engagement of media personnel through targeted media threads to maintain the momentum of coverage of the AFRICAP programme and its activities at country and regional levels.

2.3. Conclusion

We cannot deny the power of multimedia in disseminating information and reaching the wider audience. The AFRICAP programme, through its partnerships, hopes to maximise this platform.

3. FANRPAN 2019 HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL POLICY MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE, 5 – 7 NOVEMBER 2019, KIGALI, RWANDA

By Ndumiso Mazibuko

3.1. Overview of FANRPAN Dialogues

FANRPAN is a regional multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary and multi-national autonomous policy analysis network established in 1997 to provide independent evidence to inform policy harmonisation at regional level. FANRPAN has membership in 17 countries spread across the SADC and COMESA regions. The FANRPAN High-Level Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy Dialogues are hosted on a rotational basis among the FANRPAN member countries. The policy dialogues provide an opportunity for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources stakeholders, including governments, policy research institutions, universities, farmers' organisations, the private sector, media and civil society, to share best practices, lessons and

experiences on a particular theme and come up with tangible solutions.

3.2. Background to the 2019 dialogue theme¹

Addressing the challenges of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all their forms is a prominent feature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. SDG targets 2.1 and 2.2 focus on ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all, and eliminating all forms of malnutrition, respectively. However, current evidence is showing a rise in world hunger, where the number of people suffering from hunger has been growing over the past three years, returning to levels from a decade ago. Today, there are 821 million undernourished people in the world, an increase of 36.4 million from 2015. Of these, 257 million are in Africa, of whom 237 million are in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the regional level, although the prevalence of stunting in children under five is falling, only a few countries are on track to meet the global nutrition target for stunting. In Northern and Southern Africa, the incidence of overweight in children under the age of five continues to rise. Given this background, Africa is not on track to meeting the SDG 2 targets, and without increased efforts, the continent risks failing to eradicate hunger by 2030.

Climate change and variability threaten to erode and reverse the gains made in ending hunger and malnutrition. Climate change is a present and growing threat to food and nutrition security in Africa, and more so to the economies of countries that are heavily reliant on agriculture. Currently, while there is some spatial diversity, reduced precipitation and higher temperatures are already impacting negatively on the yields of staple food crops. It is estimated that by 2050, an additional 71 million people globally will become food insecure as a result of the impacts of climate change, with over half of them being in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

The deterioration of the food and nutrition security situation in Africa, and the lack of progress towards World Health Assembly (WHA) global nutrition targets make it imperative for countries to step up their efforts. If countries are to achieve a world without hunger and malnutrition by 2030, there is a need for greater and combined efforts from all governments and their development partners. The need for a heightened sense of urgency and renewed commitment can also be seen from the findings of the inaugural biennial review of countries' progress towards implementation of the Malabo Declaration commitments. The inaugural results illustrated a positive correlation between a country's performance and its commitment to the values and principles of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Those countries that are dedicated and committed to the implementation of their National Agriculture Investment Plans performed better, and it is, therefore, imperative to strengthen country commitments to the CAADP and to accelerate efforts towards formulating and implementing national and regional agricultural investment plans.

3.3. FANRPAN 2019 Dialogue

From 5 to 7 November 2019, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) held the 2019 High-Level Regional Policy Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme "Enhancing Climate Resilience and Food and Nutrition Security". The Policy Dialogue was convened by FANRPAN in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* GmbH Adaptation to Climate Change in Rural Areas in Southern Africa (ACCRA) programme, the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), Southern Africa Trust (SAT), CARE International, the International

¹ Concept Note: FANRPAN, Regional Multi-Stakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Policy Dialogue

Development Research Centre (IDRC), Helvetas, OXFAM, the GCRF-AFRICAP – Agricultural and Food-System Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the SUN Alliance of Rwanda. The dialogue was hosted under the following sub-themes:

- Agriculture delivering on nutrition.
- Fostering investment in CSA through innovative engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Enhancing climate resilience of food systems and agriculture value chains.
- Post-harvest management for improved food safety and quality.
- High-protein commodities for improved resilience to climate change and household nutrition.

The policy dialogue was attended by over 100 delegates from 19 countries, consisting of delegates from civil society, government, research institutions, the private sector and farmer organisations.

3.4. Dialogue resolutions

Some of the resolutions of the dialogue were as follows:

- All non-state actors should actively pursue partnership with the state, as this provides a clear means of ensuring the achievement of the SDG targets on food security and nutrition.
- The need to move from 'talk shows' to 'action' and meet the call and expectation of the state actor was highlighted – the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources indicated that they were looking forward to the implementation of the recommendations of the policy dialogue.

- It was highlighted that there is a need to follow a structured approach towards achieving desirable scaling of innovations in food systems. There is a need to standardise approaches to align with the eight guiding principles, as follows:

- Innovations scale as part of packages
- Scaling strategies need to be context specific (no one-size-fits-all)
- Innovation with lowest readiness constraints scaling
- Successful scaling is defined
- Numbers are only part of the story
- Evidence-based assessment of proven innovations
- Resource use efficiency should guide scaling strategy development
- Partnerships should be fit-for-purpose

- The need to invest in capacitating policymakers and advisors on scenario planning to enable cohesive and integrated policy planning and implementation was highlighted.
- It was highlighted that Africa should not be apologetic when it comes to tapping into funding streams that have been established as part of global climate action.
- Africa must continue exploring the use of innovative African communication approaches to amplify the voices of smallholder farmers; however, not to project an image of an Africa that is constantly begging.

- As Africa moves to promote irrigation as a result of erratic rains, we need to invest in climate-smart technologies that promote efficient water use.

It was also highlighted that while attending to the above resolutions, youth, women and children are still the most vulnerable groups.



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