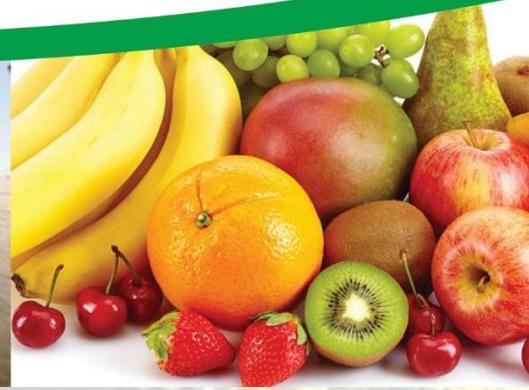# SA FANRPAN digest

Issue No.: 11

In this issue we cover the following topics:

1. Node hosting institutions implementing AFRICAP conduct Partner Institutional Viability Assessment; and

2. Highlights of the outcomes of the AFRICAP household survey

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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 two topics: (i) Node hosting institutions implementing AFRICAP conduct Partner Institutional Viability Assessment; and (ii) Highlights of the outcomes of the AFRICAP household survey.

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1. NODE HOSTING INSTITUTIONS IMPLEMENTING AFRICAP CONDUCT PARTNER INSTITUTIONAL VIABILITY ASSESSMENT

By

Ndumiso Mazibuko and Elekanyani Nekhavhambe

1.1. Node Hosting Institutions

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Network (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 seventeen (17) countries spread across the SADC and COMESA regions and more recently to ECOWAS.

FANRPAN operates as a network using national node platforms hosted by suitably qualified institutions among member states. Criteria used to appoint node hosting institutions include the ability to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including:
- Proximity to policymaking – government,
- Capacity to convene high-level policy dialogue,
- Presence of staff and facilities that permit effective communication with stakeholders, and
- Capacity to manage grants and contracts on behalf of FANRPAN.

Currently, FANRPAN is working in four countries, namely Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia, to implement the GCRF-AFRICAP project. GCRF-AFRICAP is a four-year project funded by the UK Government's Global Challenges Research Fund. GCRF-AFRICAP aims to translate research evidence into policy and policy into practice, undertaking capacity building at each stage through an innovative model of policy learning and experimentation based around the development of Special Agricultural Zones.

The aim of this is to improve agricultural productivity and resilience to shocks emanating from climate change. The four-node hosting institutions in the four countries, working on AFRICAP, are the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET), Malawi; National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC), South Africa; Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania; and Agriculture Consultative Forum

(ACF), Zambia. As part of the implementation of GCRF-AFRICAP project activities, the four-country nodes conducted the Partner Institutional Viability Assessment as part of capacity development for the nodes, and the process was done in the form of exchange visits to the nodes.

1.2. Partner Institutional Viability Assessment (PIVA)[1]

PIVA is a user-friendly management tool, with a numerical scale and matrix-method design used to precisely and comprehensively identify changes and progress in the organisational development capacity of regional African partner organisations in East and Southern Africa. PIVA provides a framework for analysing detailed information, data and evidence about the management and technical capacity of strategies and systems.

PIVA examines the organisational track records in order to identify areas for strengthening and improvement indicators for organisational viability. With this analysis, regional organisations can formally and thoroughly identify long-term and leadership-oriented strategies, action plans, and measurable monitoring and evaluation approaches.

The six areas of competency are divided into sub-categories, which are further divided into main elements. For example, under "Governance," the sub-category of "Mission" has three main elements within it: 1) statement of purpose, 2) staff understanding of mission, and 3) links between mission and programmes. Each of these elements is described (and scored) according to its stage: start-up (1), developing (2), consolidating (3), or mature (4). Scores are determined based on how thoroughly a system or infrastructure operates to ensure continuous, effective management of a particular sub-category and main element.

The rating is both quantitative and qualitative, providing a multi-dimensional snapshot of the institutional positioning of a regional partner organisation in six organisational development areas. Table 1 presents the six institutional competency areas.

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[1] From Jefferson (2001)

Table 1: Six Institutional Competency Areas[2]

Competency	Elaboration
Governance and Leadership	Covers the governing body; mission; legal status; and constituency and leadership.
Operations and Management Systems	Deals with administration; information communication technology; facilities, property and equipment management; planning; internal communications; and programme development and implementation.
Human Resources Development	Sub-categories include staff roles; task management; performance management and staff development; salary administration; and team development and conflict resolution.
Financial Management Systems	Focus is on accounting; budgeting; financial controls; audit/external financial review; and resource base.
Programmes and Service Delivery	Competency sub-categories are sectoral expertise; constituency ownership; and impact assessment.
External Relations and Advocacy	Sub-categories considered include public relations; regional, government, private sector and NGO collaboration; advocacy; and mobilisation of resources.

1.3. Importance of PIVA for the Nodes' Work

In order for FANRPAN to achieve its strategic goals throughout its country nodes on a timely basis, FARNPAN performs the PIVA exercise on its node institutions. PIVA helps identify changes and progress in the organisation's development capacity. The results are used to inform initiatives aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the node hosting institutions. Following the PIVA assessments and all necessary analysis and verification of results with the organisation under assessment, it becomes necessary to arrange for consultations with the organisation so that it is able to actively contribute towards its own institutional development and the FANRPAN mission and vision. The South African node (NAMC) PIVA was conducted by CISANET, and the outcomes of the PIVA will be shared with FANRPAN. PIVA will also assist in identifying areas of capacity building required for the institutions, to be able to implement AFRICAP activities.

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[2] FANRPAN PIVA Manual

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE AFRICAP HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

By

Nomantande Yeki and Matsobane (BM) Mpyana

2.1. Introduction

In collaboration with farmers, local organisations and governments in South Africa, the Agricultural and Food-Systems Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) programme is creating an evidence base to underpin new country-specific policies in agriculture and food production. In South Africa, the programme is implemented in two district municipalities, namely Thabo Mofutsanyane and Letjweleputswa in the Free State Province. This section highlights the outcomes of the AFRICAP household survey that was conducted in 2019.

2.2. Highlights of the survey results

The survey covered 398 farmers from both district municipalities. The selection criteria were based on the commodities produced (mainly soybeans, maize, potatoes, cattle and chickens) which were in line with those selected for the study, as well as the random sampling technique. During the survey, information about farming systems, including crop cultivation and livestock systems and information, was gathered in respect of how farmers respond to unexpected weather events.

The survey revealed that most farmers (80 %) experienced challenges in terms of access to different land types; however, in the case of those that had land, it was pasture land (55 %), active cultivation land (48 %) and other (11 %). In 2018/19 the results showed that an average of 61 ha was under farm cultivation while 68 % of the land supposedly used for cultivation was left uncultivated over the reference period. Maize (25 %), potatoes (8.3 %), sunflowers (4.5 %), soybeans (3 %) and dry beans (3 %) respectively were the main crops. The farmers' top five crops that were harvested included maize (29.1 %), potatoes (11.3 %), dry beans (11 %), sunflowers (10.6 %) and soybeans (8.3 %).

The survey discovered that 6 % of farmers sold their produce in the nearest town, followed by selling within their community (5 %) and selling at fresh produce markets (2.5 %). In the case of farmers growing dry beans, soybeans, sunflowers and potatoes, their land areas ranged from 0.15-300 ha, 1-600 ha, 100 ha and 0.10-454 ha respectively.

The survey shows that only 60 out of 398 farmers applied irrigation. During 2018/19 farmers in Thabo Mofutsanyane used manure (10.3 %) and NPK application (6.6 %), whereas 7.8 % of farmers in Lejweleputswa applied NPK only in their farming practices. Interestingly, about 81 % kept livestock in their households – either cattle, sheep, goats or chickens, or a combination thereof. Of the two district municipalities, it was found that more households in Thabo Mofutsanyane (190) than in Lejweleputswa (131) were involved in livestock farming. Of the 223 farmers in Thabo Mofutsanyane, 33 (14.79 %) did not keep any kind of livestock in their households, meaning that about 85.20 % had some kind of livestock in their households. Lastly, the survey revealed that farmers did change their farming practices as a result of climate shocks such as drought and floods and therefore, they were willing to change their traditional ways to adapt to the change.

2.3. Conclusion

The survey mainly focused on understating the farming systems and the effects of climate change. In both districts, farming systems are skewed towards livestock production. Over the past few years, there have been some changes in the climate which adversely influence farm production.

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