



SA FANRPAN digest

Issue No.: 13

In this issue we cover the following topics:

1. FANRPAN 2020 Regional Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue: “Building Better and Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems”
2. Overview of the Theory of Change (ToC) for the AFRICAP programme

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FANRPAN DIGEST

FANRPAN Digest is a bi-monthly report that is produced by the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) 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) FANRPAN 2020 Regional Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue: “Building Better and Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems” and; (ii) Overview of the Theory of Change (ToC) for the AFRICAP programme.

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1. FANRPAN 2020 REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE: “Building Better and Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems”

By

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1.1. Background to the 2020 dialogue theme¹

Addressing the challenges of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms is a prominent feature of the Agenda 2030’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 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. However, current evidence is showing a rise in all forms of malnutrition, i.e. undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for over 90 % (237 million persons) of the world’s undernourished people, while obesity has become a growing challenge, especially among women in urban areas. At the regional level, only a few African countries are on track to meet the global nutrition target for stunting, and Africa is unlikely to eradicate hunger by 2030. COVID-19 and climate change-related shocks threaten to erode and reverse the gains made towards ending hunger and malnutrition.

In addition to climate change as a current and growing threat to food and nutrition security in Africa, and more so to the economies of countries that are heavily reliant on agriculture, COVID-19 has brought about an unexpected and unimaginable challenge to the food system, disrupting the smooth flow of agricultural value chains and the actions of many food system players.

This unexpected turn of events has led to the unpredictability of the performance of the already unstable food systems. It is estimated that by 2050, an additional 71 million people globally will become food insecure as a result of the impact of climate change, with over half of them being in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). With the additional impact of COVID-19, the performance of the current food system has to be reorganised to respond to these and any future challenges.

1.2. FANRPAN 2020 Dialogue

¹ Concept Note: FANRPAN Virtual Regional Dialogue 2020: Building better and resilient agriculture and food systems.

The FANRPAN High-Level Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy Dialogues are hosted on a rotational basis amongst 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 and lessons and experiences on a particular theme, and to come up with tangible resolutions.

This year’s dialogue was held under the prevailing conditions, with the COVID 19 pandemic regulations still in force, and the dialogue was held virtually, under the theme “Building Better and Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems”. The Policy Dialogue was convened in collaboration with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); the Southern African Development Community (SADC), CARE International, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), GRA, OXFAM, the GCRF-AFRICAP - Agricultural and Food-system Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy Programme, and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The dialogue was attended by delegates from the government, farmers, researchers, civil society and the private sector.

In his opening remarks, the FANRPAN CEO, Dr Tshilidzi, indicated that the state of nutrition is a continental challenge in which the targets are proving to be unachievable at the current rate of intervention. Furthermore, according to the “From the 2nd Malabo Biennial Review Report”, Africa’s national scorecards are not flattering. There is a need to develop and entrench approaches, to ensure that agriculture delivers positive nutrition outcomes. Dr Tshilidzi indicated that we need solutions and strategies along the entire agricultural value chain, and nutrition needs to be treated as a key outcome of the agriculture endeavour.

FANRPAN chairperson, Prof. Osho, emphasised the fact that the theme of the dialogue, “Building Better and Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems”, is aligned to the aim of transforming the continent’s agricultural sector. She highlighted the challenges of COVID-19 and the fact that it presents us with opportunities to do things better. The dialogue included several speakers from around the continent and globally, who presented on climate-smart agriculture, the nutrition nexus, food systems and capacity strengthening, and presented case studies on work done on the ground.

1.3. Key dialogue resolutions

The Policy Dialogue provided a platform for stakeholders to engage and share experiences from policy, strategy and programme implementation, as well as new ideas on how to build better and more resilient agricultural and food systems going into the future. Some of the key dialogue resolutions, based on the discussions, were as follows:

- Given that more than 90 % of Sub-Saharan Africa's agriculture depends on natural rainfall, there is a need to promote climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and conservation agriculture (CA) to combat the effects of climate change.
- The need to promote the use of ICTs and mobile connectivity to avail critical information on the weather and markets; to provide extension services to farmers (including pest and disease surveillance); and to enable the low-cost collection, submission and accessing of information on the nutritional and health status of children and households.
- The need for supportive government policies for food systems transformation in view of Africa's growing population: The government must open and facilitate cross-border supply and distribution channels for agricultural inputs and produce to facilitate effective linkages between domestic and regional agricultural markets.
- African governments should use mechanisms at their disposal, including fiscal instruments, to cushion vulnerable population groups from the negative impacts of COVID-19 and future shocks on economies, agricultural and food systems, and household food and nutrition security.
- To transform the agricultural and food systems, it is necessary to involve all agriculture value chain actors, i.e. farmers, civil society, government, private sector and development partners.
- Stakeholders need to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) to improve trade as a way of strengthening food systems.
- Agriculture and food systems need to be integrated into educational curricula (primary to tertiary) to create a cadre of citizens focused on sustenance.
- Stakeholders are to use the COVID-19 pandemic experiences and lessons learnt to build capacity and readiness to respond to other future shocks.
- Governments, private sector, development agencies and financial institutions should develop/design investment programmes targeting young professionals

2. OVERVIEW OF THE THEORY OF CHANGE (ToC) FOR THE AFRICAP PROGRAMME

By

Nomantande Yeki

2.1. Introduction

To advance the monitoring and evaluation system for Agricultural and Food-system Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) programme, the programme has developed an in-country theory of change derived from the original programme's theory of change. A theory of change (ToC) is a tool used to describe the problem that needs to be addressed, the changes that will be achieved (outcomes), and the planned pathways (activities). This framework (ToC) is important in communicating interventions to all key stakeholders and also providing a consistent point of reference for those involved in implementing and managing this.

2.2. The problem to be addressed

Climate change is a major threat to agricultural development in South Africa. During the 2016/17 financial year, the country experienced severe drought and increased unpredictability, which led to reduced agricultural production. There is a gap in the policies and practices that improve climate resilience. Climate resilience is currently not fully integrated into policy pathways to economic growth, and where it is integrated, it is not being implemented adequately and in a co-ordinated way.

Another key challenge is that financial investment in climate change is not sufficient for the necessary action that needs to be taken. Additionally, climate change modellers with local expertise are few and far between, and they do not work in a co-ordinated manner, either nationally or globally, to share different modelling frameworks and contexts, which suggests much-needed skills development. This is why making agriculture and food production in Sub-Saharan Africa more productive, sustainable and resilient to climate change is at the core of the GCRF-AFRICAP programme.

2.3. Programme's pathway

At the onset, this programme is guided by four themes to achieve its objectives: Theme A, "Food Systems Research", is about cross-disciplinary research involving academic, policy and industry partners in the UK and Africa, building a comprehensive picture of present-day agriculture

and food systems in South Africa and the other three African countries involved. Theme B focuses on Climate-Smart Development Pathways, modelling and evaluating the pathways to be followed to achieve economic growth and food and nutrition security, through agriculture development that is climate-smart and resilient. Theme C, “Policy Design and Implementation”, aims to use the evidence developed in research and modelling to design new policies that will enable climate-smart and sustainable agricultural development. Lastly, theme D is about training and capacity building.

2.4. Conclusion

It is important to be clear about the intended impact of any programme or project. As for the AFRICAP programme, the intended impact is the creation of resilient, sustainable, productive, climate-smart agricultural systems through increased investment in and uptake of climate-smart agricultural techniques. Furthermore, the goal is help meet the targets outlined in chapter 6 of the National Development Plan (NDP), and the targets of the Agriculture, Agro-processing Master Plan and commitments under the Malabo Declaration and ultimately the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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