



NAMC

Promoting market access for South African agriculture



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In this issue we cover the following topics:

1. Recap of AFRICAP milestones
2. Participation of the NAMC in the AFRICAP Fellowship in Chatham House's Energy, Environment and Resources 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) Recap of AFRICAP milestones; and (ii) Participation of the NAMC in the AFRICAP Fellowship in Chatham House's Energy, Environment and Resources Programme.

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1. RECAP OF AFRICAP MILESTONES

By

Nomantande Yeki

1.1. Introduction

It has been over three years of increasing capacity and advising policy in agricultural and food systems. The Agricultural and Food-system Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP) programme, which started in late 2017, is nearing its end. This article aims to highlight and reflect on some of the key project milestones.

1.2. Milestones outlined

Over the past three years, the project has held an introductory workshop with all the key stakeholders and a number of other workshops; contributed to policy development; conducted ecology fieldwork, and conducted a household survey. The introductory workshop concluded that the project should be implemented in two district municipalities, namely Thabo Mofutsanyane and Lejweleputswa in the Free State Province. The decision on the location was made taking into consideration all the requirements (farming systems), namely an area where commercial farms are in close proximity to smallholder farmers; an area with most if not all the identified commodity products (soybeans, maize, potatoes and livestock), and lastly a province that borders on almost all the other provinces of the country, meaning that the results found in the province would primarily show a broader perspective of South African agriculture and food systems.

In 2018 a scenarios workshop looked at the possible realities of climate-smart agriculture in South Africa and the future of agriculture and food systems. Six critical driving forces were identified for South Africa to address; however, these were later narrowed down to two significant forces that pose uncertainty for our agriculture and food systems, namely land reform and climate change.

Furthermore, to effectively identify adaptation practices or introduce new farming practices to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, fieldwork is ongoing in the two districts, where a number of agroecology samples such as soil samples are being collected for analysis.

A household survey was conducted in 2019 to gather information about farming systems, including crop cultivation and livestock systems, and how farmers respond to unexpected weather conditions. The household survey revealed that some farmers had changed their farming practices and other farmers were willing to change due to drought. The farmers

who had changed their farming practices employed boreholes, bought more tanks, bought feed for livestock, or delayed planting. Natural disasters such as climate change, leading to drought, have a dire effect on agricultural production. Agriculture relies on climate and water availability to thrive; thus, it is easily impacted by natural events and disasters.

1.3. Conclusion

Lastly, the project introduced a tool called the Integrated Future Estimator for Emissions and Diets (iFEED), a crop and climate modelling tool used to map pathways to desirable futures. iFEED will project the impact of climate change on a range of agricultural commodities and examine possible future land use patterns in order to explore implications for future food security and climate-smart agriculture.



2. PARTICIPATION OF THE NAMC IN THE AFRICAP FELLOWSHIP IN CHATHAM HOUSE'S ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES PROGRAMME

By

Ndumiso Mazibuko, PhD

2.1. Background

AFRICAP is co-developing and carrying out the research needed in each AFRICAP country, from soil, plant and livestock science to meteorology, ecology, and political and social sciences. The research considers current farming practices and alternative approaches and analyses the results in terms of yield, income and nutrition, both in terms of current conditions and taking into account the predicted effects of climate change in the future. The aim is to translate research into evidence, evidence into policy, and policy into practice, while building capacity in all these areas at local and national level. Chatham House and the University of Leeds are leading the policy design and implementation work. Taking the evidence developed from AFRICAP research and modelling, Chatham House is working with local organisations and governments to design new policies to facilitate climate-smart and sustainable agricultural development.

2.2. Chatham House Fellowship

Chatham House is a world-leading source of independent analysis, informed debate and influential ideas on building a prosperous, secure and sustainable world for all. The institute's convening power attracts world leaders and the best analysts in their respective fields from across the globe. Founded in 1920, Chatham House engages governments, the private sector, civil society and its members in open debate and confidential discussion of the most significant developments in international affairs. Each year, the institute runs more than 300 private and public events – conferences, workshops and roundtables – in London and internationally with partners. The institute undertakes rigorous analysis to set the agenda and shape policy by encouraging forward thinking in international affairs, structured around five areas: Area Studies and International Law; Energy, Environment and Resource Governance; International Economics; International Security; and Global Health Security.

The Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs (the Academy) offers potential and established leaders from around the world the opportunity to spend up to 10 months at Chatham House. Academy fellows are drawn from government and the broader policy community, the private sector, media and civil society. During their time at the

Academy, fellows deepen their understanding of critical issues, learn new skills, develop their networks, and propose new ideas and solutions to complex policy challenges and opportunities.

The Energy, Environment and Resources Department (EER) carries out independent, thought-leading research on critical issues of energy security, environmental protection and resource governance. In collaboration with Chatham House's Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs (the Academy), EER has offered two AFRICAP fellowship placements for 2021. The fellowships focus on policy leadership through training and capacity-building from the Academy and providing Chatham House EER and AFRICAP partner organisation staff with the opportunity to work together on policy analysis based on evidence generated by the project.

Conclusion

The NAMC is currently participating in the fellowship, which also talks to theme D of AFRICAP on building capacity in professional services and management required to implement international, interdisciplinary and impactful research and provide cross-project training.

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