



Seed Update

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The Fifth SADC Seed Security Network (SSSN) Steering Committee Approves No Cost Extension of the SADC Seed Security Network



Members of SSSN Steering Committee at Fifth SSSN Steering Committee Meeting at SDC Offices in Pretoria, South Africa on 28 July 2006

The Fifth Steering Committee Meeting of the SSSN took place at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) offices in Pretoria, South Africa on 28th July, 2006 to consider amongst other issues,

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the no cost extension of the SADC Seed Security Network.

The Committee approved a two year no cost extension of the SSSN after due consideration of the work that had been achieved thus far and importantly that which needs to be accomplished. Caught up in the restructuring of SADC at the time, the SSSN experienced a delayed start of eighteen months which has had adverse effect on some key outputs. The two year no cost extension is designed to:

- Advance to approval stages of harmonization of seed regulations regional agreements,
- Initiate implementation of the technical agreements,
- Advance to completion and approval of Regional Plant Breeders Rights Agreements,
- Initiate work on disaster preparedness strategy requiring seed intervention and
- Prepare a fully fledged phase two and exit strategy of the SSSN.

SADC Secretariat through Dr. Simon Mwale who chaired the meeting thanked the SDC for the support it continues to give to the SADC Secretariat's efforts of food security and poverty alleviation through Seed Security Network and the Water Project. He was grateful that the SDC had accepted the no cost extension which will undoubtedly provide immense opportunities for completion and implementation of most of the activities as promised in the SSSN Project Document.

Second Meeting for Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture on Harmonization of Seed Regulations to Promote Regional Seed Trade

The SADC Secretariat through the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate is convening a second meeting for SADC Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture on harmonization of seed regulations, 18-19 September, 2006 in Benoni, South Africa at Kopanong Hotel.

At their last meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, December 2005, the Senior Officials were encouraged by the progress that had been achieved in the harmonization of seed regulations to promote seed trade. They encouraged that SADC Member States should support harmonization of seed regulations as it was in line with the Dar-es-salaam Declaration on food security and that it was consistent with the SADC Trade Protocol.

The Maputo meeting requested FANR Directorate through SADC Seed Security Network (SSSN) to address issues in the following areas:-

- **Cost implication to Member States:** Permanent Secretaries wanted to have a sense of cost implication to Member States as brought about by the system. They were not keen to see incremental costs other than what they were already supporting their National Seed authorities;
- **Institutional arrangements for implementation:** The meeting requested that there was need to elucidate the institutional structure under which the process of harmonization of seed regulations will be implemented;

- **Capacity building issues:** The meeting observed that Implementation of technical proposals will require enhanced technical capacity and facilities in some SADC Member States both physical and human and
- **Some technical issues:** on variety release in which they wanted to see most decisions made at national level. There were concerns regarding the pest list in which Member States wondered whether they provided adequate protection.

FANR through the SSSN and in consultation with Seed Specialists in Member states has addressed the above concerns.

Objectives of the Benoni, south Africa meeting are to:-

- Respond to the concerns of Permanent Secretaries regarding issues of implementation strategies, capacity building, institutional arrangements and cost implications;
- Resubmit the refined technical documents for consideration by the Permanent Secretaries;
- Prepare Protocol on harmonization of seed regulations for presentation to SADC Ministers of Agriculture for approval,
- Advise on the way forward for implementation of technical agreements and
- Seek endorsement by Permanent Secretaries.

Seed Situation in the SADC Region

After years of just enough maize seed, the SADC region is in surplus for the just ended season. This suggests that the season right a head of us is poised to start on a good note. There are excellent opportunities for seed exports beyond the SADC region. Malawi, Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe have registered surplus maize seed. Although the rest of the countries in the region are in deficit for maize seed, the surpluses in the countries of surplus will be more than enough to meet their requirements.

Given this bright situation for maize seed, it is imperative that Member States lift export ban on seed and consider whether current seed quotas in some countries are relevant. Member States in deficit can only be expected to benefit in the spirit of regional integration if these controls and others are minimized

or removed altogether. The region should take advantage of the good seed year to stimulate seed industry growth and development so that it continues to deliver to farmers.

Surpluses in rice seed have only been realized in Malawi and Zambia, while groundnuts are in excess only in South Africa. As for bean seeds, surpluses have been recorded in South Africa and Zambia. Sunflower seed surpluses have been reported in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Member States recording surpluses in sorghum and soybeans include South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Cowpea seeds surpluses have only been recorded in Zambia while Millet surpluses in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Although there are seed surpluses in these crops, the quantities are not enough to supply the whole region. An indication that most farmers are planting seed from informal seed sources and that they continue to face the challenges of seed shortages in those crops. There is very little organized seed production of most of these crops and as such there are very few seed outlets making offerings in this type of seed. Most farmers rely for these crops on recycled on farm or off-farm seed from networks of neighbours, relatives and open grain markets. The problem is that as much as farmers prefer their varieties and seed, the yields realized are very low and cannot meet their food needs.

Other than maize the national demand for most crops does not reflect the true seed requirements considering the area planted for most of these crops. The current picture suggests that there is a lot of seed being sourced from the local sources for which information is difficult to capture.

Further, the current climatic changes render some of the farmer varieties not adaptable. Most of the farmer (old) varieties are long season duration and in circumstances of poor rain, they fail to produce a crop. It is necessary that new varieties be developed along with an effective seed system to meet location specific seed needs.

Faced with a situation where most commercial seed companies find no incentives for business in these crops, the future for SADC seed industry development seems to lie in the promotion of small seed enterprises located in communities where farmers live. Such enterprises have advantages of producing seed at low cost and at prices farmers can afford. On their part the governments will need to supply at cost such emerging seed enterprises with foundation seed because such businesses will not have capacity to develop their own varieties. This will call for formulation and management of appropriate Plant Breeders Legislation that ensures equitable access of foundation seed to all seed enterprises.

Further, SADC governments will need to devote to the creation of an enabling seed regulatory frame which takes into account the social, economic and technological needs of such enterprises and farmers. Current efforts in harmonization of seed regulations in the SADC region are one of the effective ways of ensuring that wider seed trade is promoted.

Summarized details of the seed situation in the SADC region is contained in Table 1 on Page 4.

Table 1: Summary of Seed Situation in the SADC Region as at November 2005 (Certified/Quality Declared Seed)

Crop (Tons)		COUNTRY													
		Ang	Bot	DRC	Les	Mal	Mau	Moz	Nam	RSA	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	Grand Total
Maize	Production	N/A	1,011	383	N/A	20,603	1	6,485	N/A	34,000	210	N/A	36,586	111,494	210,773
	Demand	N/A	2,000	1,316	N/A	18,000	1	26,410	N/A	20,800	1,498	N/A	20,500	70,000	160,525
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	-989	-933	N/A	2,603	0	-19,925	N/A	13,200	-1,288	N/A	16,086	41,494	50,248
Groundnuts	Production	N/A	100	190	N/A	510	1	334	N/A	5,400	10	N/A	1,133	5,649	13,327
	Demand	N/A	40	1,525	N/A	5,000	44	472	N/A	3,000	N/A	N/A	2,414	28,000	40,495
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	60	-1,335	N/A	-4,490	-43	-138	N/A	2,400	N/A	N/A	-1,281	-22,351	-27,168
Beans	Production	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	287	9	358	N/A	3,000	30	N/A	586	1,053	5,338
	Demand	N/A	N/A	625	N/A	2,000	53	1,200	N/A	2,575	N/A	N/A	486	6,000	12,939
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-610	N/A	-1,713	-44	-842	N/A	425	N/A	N/A	100	-4,947	-7,601
Sorghum	Production	N/A	7,759	N/A	N/A	46	N/A	23	N/A	1,900	N/A	N/A	1,299	2,754	13,781
	Demand	N/A	2,000	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	152	N/A	560	N/A	N/A	126	4,000	6,888
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	5,759	N/A	N/A	-4	N/A	-129	N/A	1,340	N/A	N/A	1,173	-1,246	6,893
Millet	Production	N/A	31	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	104	3,500	3,675
	Demand	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	1,400	1,468
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	-19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	101	2,100	2,207
Cowpea	Production	N/A	52	238	N/A	7	1	69	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	268	1,301	1,936
	Demand	N/A	100	350	N/A	N/A	N/A	12,376	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	154	9,000	21,980
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	-48	-112	N/A	N/A	N/A	-12,307	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	114	-7,699	-20,044
Rice	Production	N/A	N/A	1,129	N/A	42	N/A	2,357	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	98	N/A	3,626
	Demand	N/A	N/A	1,304	N/A	20	N/A	13,894	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	15,220
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-175	N/A	22	N/A	-11,537	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	96	N/A	-11,594
Soyabean	Production	N/A	33	190	N/A	854	0	29	N/A	12,500	N/A	N/A	3,425	13,616	30,647
	Demand	N/A	N/A	300	N/A	1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,350	N/A	N/A	2,218	32,000	39,868
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-110	N/A	-146	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,150	N/A	N/A	1,207	-18,384	-9,221
Cassava	Production	N/A	N/A	8,370	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,370
	Demand	N/A	N/A	53,900	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	53,900
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-45,530	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-45,530

N/A: Information is Not Available

MALAWI

Surplus seed has only been reported for maize and rice and all crops are in deficit. Although deficits are to be met through seed imports and seed from

informal seed sources, the long term solution is to promote sustainable local level seed enterprises.

Table 2: Seed status in Malawi

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2006		National seed Demand (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectareage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	5,806	20,603	18,000	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Groundnuts	80	510	5,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	55	287	2,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	230	854	1,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	1	46	50	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Rice	4	42	20	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Seed Technology Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

MOZAMBIQUE

All seed crops are in deficit and local production will cover only up to 41% of the national needs. The deficit will be met through seed imports and the informal local seed sources are the most important. Like most SADC Member States, the formal seed systems is weak and experienced 28% reduction in production and has not taken interest in most of the

farmers' seed crops. Problems of infrastructure and limited commodity markets in rural areas have impacted negatively on seed uptake. There are current efforts to restructure the seed industry to make it more responsive to the needs of the country and farmers.

Table 3: Seed status in Mozambique

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2006		National seed Demand (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	2,299	6,485	26,410	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Groundnuts	334	334	8,792	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	131	358	1,200	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	41	29	N/A	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	23	23	152	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Rice	786	2,357	13,894	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Cowpea	69	69	12,376	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Seed Department – National Directorate of Agrarian Services

SOUTH AFRICA

Substantial amounts of surplus seed has been registered in South Africa. There is great opportunity

for exports to other countries in the region.

Table 4: Seed status in South Africa

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2006		National seed Demand (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	N/A	34,000	20,800	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Groundnuts	N/A	5,400	3,000	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Beans	N/A	3,000	2,575	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Soyabean	N/A	12,500	4,350	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Sorghum	N/A	1,900	560	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Sunflower	N/A	7,000	4,000	Surplus Certified/QDS seed

Source: South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR)

SWAZILAND

The late rains in Swaziland had a minor effect on the maize seed production as all the Hybrids and Open pollinated maize seed under the local seed production scheme is produced under irrigation.

However, this local production is not enough to meet the country needs. As a result, the bulk of seed in Swaziland is imported from neighbouring countries and the rest of SADC Countries

Table 5: Seed status in Swaziland

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2006		National seed Demand (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	60	215	1,498	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Groundnuts	21	10	N/A	
Beans	37	30	N/A	
Jugo Bean	62	49	N/A	
Sorghum	1	1	N/A	

Source: Seed Quality Control Services

ZAMBIA

Seed surpluses have been recorded in all seed crops except for groundnut seed which is in deficit. There is more than enough maize seed for export. Although there is deficit in groundnuts, the bulk of seed is from informal seed sources. Other than maize, the quantities of seed produced for most

crops is low and the national demand does not reflect the true seed requirements considering the area planted for most of these crops. The current picture suggests that there is a lot of seed being sourced from the local sources for which information is difficult to capture.

Table 6: Seed status in Zambia

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2006		National seed Demand 2006 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	7,289	36,586	20,500	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Groundnuts	566	1,133	2,414	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	293	586	486	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Cowpea	268	268	154	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Rice	33	98	2	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	1,301	3,425	2,218	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	839	1,299	126	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Millet	52	104	3	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Sunflower	164	96	82	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Seed Control and Certification Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

ZIMBABWE

The country has experienced a good season this year. Surplus seed has been registered in Maize, Millet and Sunflower while the rest of seed crops are in deficit. Most of the crops in deficit are those that the private sector find little incentive to engage in business and the solution might lie in the promotion

of small scale seed enterprises which the government is promoting. Most farmers rely on the informal seed sources on farm or off-farm. Actual seed demand is not easy to estimate because it is influenced by a number of factors and this is the case for all the countries.

Table 7: Seed status in Zimbabwe

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2006		National seed Demand (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	16,618	110,494	70,000	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Groundnuts	1,883	5,649	28,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	351	1,053	6,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Cowpea	434	1,301	9,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	3,404	13,616	32,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	689	2,754	4,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Millet	100	3,500	1,400	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Sunflower	188	752	600	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Seed Services, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural development

CONCLUSIONS

The situation depicted on the current seed situation in SADC is that the region will have sufficient seed stocks for maize and as such, there will be no need to import seed from far sources. There may be situations when certain special varieties may be demanded for in which case seed may be sourced from other areas. It is important that enquiries for seed begin early so that adapted varieties are identified in good time. We are aware that this is often a problem as farmers only purchase seed when they see rain.

The region must move forward in creating enabling environment and incentives for the establishment of small scale seed enterprises that will service at low cost the niche of small farmer's seed crops which are currently neglected by seed companies.

One of the ways is the formulation of appropriate and well applied seed regulatory frame.

10th Anniversary Africa Forum Programme Based Approaches in Agriculture and Rural Development -The Specific Challenges of Productive Sectors- 30 October - 3 November 2006, Windhoek, Namibia

Meeting Details

Date : 30 October to 3 November 2006

Venue : Safari Court Hotel, Windhoek

Languages : English and French

Website : www.africaforum.info

Registration : registration@africaforum.info

Hosts of this 10th anniversary Africa Forum are the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement of Namibia.

The forum is organised by the Sector Network Rural Development of GTZ.

What is the topic about?

Africa-wide, particularly in countries with Poverty Reduction Strategies, experience has been gained with the shift from standalone projects to *Programme-Based Approaches* (PBA) – a new way of delivering aid especially in social sectors, where government is the main service provider.

Programme-Based Approaches, whether at sector level or below, represent a steadily growing share of total aid and development funds. The reputation of such programmes in agriculture and related sectors is often poor compared to social sectors. Support to Agricultural Sector Programmes is in steep decline although rural growth is largely driven by agriculture

and it is seen as the key towards poverty reduction in most Sub-Saharan countries.

How does this the poor reputation for agricultural PBAs arise? Is agriculture simply seen as a sector that “takes care of itself”? Is the link between public investment in agriculture and growth in agriculture not understood? Or have rural developers not been able to adapt the new programmes to the needs of the sector? How do we reconcile the challenges of decentralisation and coordination between sectors with an aid instrument that appears best suited to „single sector – single ministry” conditions?

Where are the bottlenecks to a successful programme in a sector, where most of the necessary investment and initiative comes not from public but from private sources? In short: ***What does an ideal PBA for a productive sector look like?***

What is the Africa Forum? What are its objectives?

The origins of the Africa Forum date back to the mid-nineties when Sector Investment Programmes were introduced throughout Africa. The first forum was held in Lusaka in 1997 to help government and donor representatives understand this new concept. The Africa Forum is based on the premise of peer-learning: Most of the papers and studies presented are by national resource persons and relate detailed

implementation experience. The aim is to develop a network where countries can learn from each other’s mistakes and successes; where Francophone and Anglophone colleagues can compare experiences; where planners from one Ministry can learn from their counterparts in another country. Africa Forums are hosted by the partner country, usually the Ministry of Agriculture whilst the organisation and financing is a joint effort by GTZ and others that have included the World Bank, IFAD, FAO and several bilateral donors.

Since the first event in 1997, a total of nine Africa Forums have been held, bringing together more than 700 people from over 20 African countries. The continuity in the discussion as well as the growing number of core-participants has turned these forums into a true regional debate.

To date, Africa Forums were held in:

- Lusaka, Zambia (1997 & 1999)
- Lilongwe, Malawi (1997)
- Harare, Zimbabwe (1998 & 2000)
- Accra, Ghana (2001)
- Pretoria, South Africa (2003)
- Nairobi, Kenya (2004), and
- Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (2005)