



Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Sustainability Summit Lusaka Zambia, 16th to 17th March, 2017

Summit Communique

Delegates from ten (10) African countries, namely, The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, numbering 134 attended the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Sustainability Summit, which was held at Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka from 16th to 17th March 2017. The Regional Sustainability Summit was hosted by the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI), VUNA and the Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence in Food Security (DST-NRF Center of Excellence) hosted by the University of the Western Cape and the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Among the participants were the Zambian Minister of Agriculture, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture in Zambia, traditional authorities and other high ranking government officials, representatives from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), representatives from the UK Department for International Development (DfID), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), private sector players, media houses, academics and researchers. The countries represented at the Summit included: The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Summit had the overall theme of climate change adaptation and mitigation in relation to agriculture and food security. The overall objective of the summit was to bring together experts and policy makers from Zambia, the Region, and the international community for learning and sharing research findings, highlight promising response strategies, and identify unresolved issues for future research. The specific objectives of the summit included:

- Sharing available research evidence that may assist African governments put in place or strengthen strategies that take into account increasing climate variability, and promote sustainable agricultural productivity, growth, and energy supplies, while maintaining and improving the natural resource base;
- Identifying the key knowledge gaps on climate resilience (adaptation and mitigation);
- Identifying options that can create incentives for farmers in the region to adopt practices that will improve and maintain agricultural productivity while maintaining and improving upon the natural resource base;
- Sharing knowledge on how best durable agri-food, energy, and ecological systems in the region can be maintained in the light of threats posed by climate change;
- Promotions on key outcomes and insights to policy-makers.

Over the two-day period, the participants worked in four break out session groups that focused on the following thematic areas: Coping with Climate Variability and Change; Regional Policy; Multi-Sectoral Coordination and Climate Change Financing.

1. COPING WITH CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE

i) What are the key knowledge gaps?

The deliberations aimed at identifying the key knowledge gaps and the sustainable solutions in climate change research in the region in relation to the agricultural sector. Knowledge gaps were identified at three levels, namely: farmer level, multi-sectoral players' level and policy maker level.

Farmer level

The key knowledge gaps identified at farmer level include: (1) inadequate information on the varieties that are resistant to extreme events, (2) current information on the level of knowledge farmers have on climate change (perceptions and perceptions of risk), and (3) a clear understanding of the practices that farmers are using and come up with best practices that can help adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Multi-sectoral players' level

At the multi-sectoral players' level, it was noted that there is a knowledge gap in terms of research on: (1) the impact of the private sector (agro-dealers) as conduits for Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) promotion; (2) the different models that can be used to incentivise the private sector; (3) techniques for harmonisation of extension messages between the public and private players; (4) information gaps on the knowledge and skills of extension staff (mis-information) as they pass on information to the farmers; (5) resilient seeds research and business models; and (6) communication and packaging of research findings from researcher to farmer.

Policy makers' level

The key knowledge gap identified at this level was how policy makers could bridge the gap between researchers and the farmers; particularly with regards to the use of subsidy programs and other government programmes to incentivise farmers to take on agricultural practices that increase their resilience to climatic shocks.

ii) What are some of the sustainable solutions that can work in tackling the identified knowledge gaps?

The key solutions that were identified to address the knowledge gaps were:

- Packaging research findings in a simplified way that can be easier to understand for the different audiences particularly farmers and policy makers, and exploring new opportunities for utilising digital information and messaging;

- Formation of farmer field schools to train farmers on CSA practices and collect information on what they know about climate change and strategies they are currently using to mitigate or adapt to the shock;
- Strengthening public private partnerships for the purpose of harmonising extension messages;
- Strengthening the synergies between research, extension and the farmer.

2. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICY

i) What are the current regional and national policy options?

At least five major regional/national policy options that could be used as an avenue in the fight against the adverse effects of climate change were identified. These were the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Maputo and Malabo Declarations, Regional Food and Nutritional Security Strategies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Food and Nutritional Security Strategy, the National Climate Smart Agriculture Frameworks, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)/National Adaptation Plans.

ii) Can these policies be implemented practically at regional and national level?

The three biggest challenges identified in the practical implementation of these policies were: (1) insufficient funding being channeled to the implementation processes, (2) a lack of local ownership because most of these policies were drafted by consultants, e.g. the NDCs, NAPAs/NAPs, and (3) the political systems in some instances were making implementation difficult.

iii) What is the best practice on how evidence can be used to inform regional and national decision-making?

Several options were suggested on how to improve practice using evidence. These were:

- Using champion countries in the region to encourage best practices on regional policies from lessons learnt by peer countries;
- Ensuring that the development of policies, even when adapted from an internationally drafted document, involves a local consultative process;
- Creating a strategy to support the implementation of policies such as the CAADP, the Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs) and National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs).

iv) What new policies can be developed?

It was highlighted that CSA policy needs to complement the existing national agriculture and climate change policies directed towards increasing the ability of smallholder farmers to adapt and build resilience. This could be further strengthened by reviewing existing policies with the aim of mainstreaming climate change considerations and integrating the recommendations from Agricultural Joint Sector Review as well putting in place mechanisms that enhance Public Private Partnerships.

3. MULTI-SECTORAL COORDINATION

- i) What are the best strategies to create coordination among these key sectors (agriculture-energy-food security)?

Key considerations were identified to underscore the need for multi-sectoral co-ordination.

- Why is coordination required?

The importance and need for a coordination body was emphasized during deliberations to bring together the various sectors. It was emphasized to enhance the use of the Regional Network of Agriculture Policy Research Institutes (RENAPRI) across Eastern and Southern Africa (9 countries) and regional bodies such as COMESA and SADC.

- Do we need to create another body?

RENAPRI was identified as the body to establish a context specific platform that encompasses the various sectors and can create a climate specific thematic area/platform to its mandate. The following were identified as the mandates that RENAPRI could take on.

- a. Communication of research findings across sectors;
- b. Harmonization of research efforts and agreed upon terminologies.

The topic of a regional multisector platform was reoccurring throughout the event and the below mandates (whilst not discussed specifically in this group session) were also identified;

- c. Establish strategies and models of communications, reporting and sustainability which can be shared and disseminated across levels i.e. national, project, district etc.
- d. Inclusion of formal engagement with private sector, traditional leadership, government into the multi-sector approach

- Where does this existing body need more support?

The biggest challenge identified was in the funding for and the actual creation of a platform where issues can be discussed that are cross-cutting and affecting all these sectors.

- ii) How can current multi-sectoral evidence in the region on climate resilience be used as a more effective tool for informing policy and the general populace across these sectors?

Three ways were identified to enable multi-sectoral evidence to be used as a tool for informing policy. The first way was identifying innovative interventions from ongoing research that can make a difference on the ground and identifying civil society organizations that can lead the advocacy work. The second option was making sure information generated is available and shared in the public domain. RENAPRI was identified as an organization that could have resources that are dedicated to media awareness. The third was to identify key champions in each country across the region that can help move policies by engaging with policy makers at the highest level based on

evidence. For example, RENAPRI could use influential personalities to assist in dissemination. For example, in Zambia, Honorable Chance Kabaghe, Board Chairperson, IAPRI.

iii) What kind of communication and actions can be used to enhance understanding/collaboration among these sectors?

Several communication tools and actions were identified to help in establishing collaborations across sectors. These were:

- Local and national institution strengthening particularly in knowledge sharing;
- Training of media persons (journalists) to be able to disseminate information on climate change issues;
- Use research institutions to help share information e.g. through policy briefs to enhance understanding/collaboration among the various sector actors;
- Have multi-sectoral learning visits to other countries and institutions.

iv) What steps do we need to take to ensure we are not where we are right now in the next five years?

There was recognition that there is need to ensure that sustainable implementation of multi-sectoral collaboration takes place and having the presence of a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track this collaboration.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCING

i) Why should we finance climate change?

It was recognised that the impact of climate change due to anthropogenic activities can be seen in all sectors and its effects are unavoidable e.g. energy deficits, effect of agricultural production, extent of deforestation, water shortages etc. It was also recognised that financing climate change is a public good because the impact of climate change affects everyone, therefore investment and funding has to be made a priority.

ii) What are the challenges in accessing financing?

Five major challenges in financing climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes were identified.

- Lack of narrative buy-in: The benefits of acting on mitigation and adaptation are more long term than short term and this acts as a disincentive for action;
- Infancy of banking sector: The traditional way of banking inhibits financing and generally, players in the banking sector do not understand the concepts of climate change or have capacity to enact financing for climate change.

- Procedure and Bureaucracy: Access to some funds (e.g. Green Climate Fund) requires accreditation which is a long procedure;
- Inadequate capacity to develop bankable proposals: Accessing financing for adaptation or mitigation projects requires the development of bankable proposals and technical expertise by those who really need the financing is not always adequate;
- Inadequate appropriate policies: This especially pertains to the presence of policies that are multi-sectoral in nature.

iii) What are the recommendations (opportunities and solutions)?

Five opportunities were identified as ways that the constraints to accessing financing can be addressed:

- Lobbying to simplify the procedure and bureaucracy involved in accessing funds (e.g. through Global Climate Fund);
- Providing clear communication of funding procedure to relevant stakeholders;
- Capacity building for finance and capital market sectors through providing training and stronger linkages with evidence base (research findings relevant to the sector);
- Providing training in negotiation skills for regional negotiators to push the Sub Saharan Africa agenda through the UNFCCC processes;
- Using climate actions as economic incentives, e.g. development of de-risking instruments for the finance and capital market sectors.

iv) What steps do we need to take to ensure we are not where we are right now in the next five years?

Implementation was identified as key to moving away from the status quo and being held accountable for our actions in terms of actively engaging finance and research players.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

The second day of deliberations yielded solutions and proposed implementers from each of the four groups. The time frames were summarised as Short term being 0-2 years; Medium term, 2-5 years and Long term, Over 5 years. The proposed solutions are summarised in the table below.

Recommendation	Short term	Medium term	Long term	Implementing Institution
GROUP 1: COPING WITH CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE				
Building awareness on climate change adaptation and mitigation, e.g. building capacity to enable people to adopt some of these practices				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Media especially in the awareness Ward Development Committees can initiate development.
Making appropriate technology such as energy saving and efficient technology, drought tolerant crop varieties, Irrigation, Soil tailored fertilizers, conservation farming etc.				
Adaptive Research				RENAPRI
Skills diversification for those most vulnerable to climatic shocks				Relevant Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture) and private institutions and NGOs to supplement government effort
Climate Insurance				
Cultural change, behavioural change to understand the impact				Farmer groups, traditional institutions, cooperatives, farmer associations
GROUP 2: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICY				
Regional integration – ratify existing policies and suggest new one				Governments and Civil society
Capacity building				Government and Private sectors like NGOs

Recommendation	Short term	Medium term	Long term	Implementing Institution
Having a regional climate change policy network				Governments, private sector and NGOs
GROUP 3: MULTI-SECTORAL COORDINATION				
Strengthen the body and capacity of RENAPRI at regional level to work with (new or existing) individual country level institutions to ensure the climate change aspect is encompassed through resource mobilization and leveraging existing forums				RENAPRI CARWIG National CSA/CA Taskforces
Draw up a communications and reporting strategy that encompasses all the sectors, which will guide how to carry out the activities, impact focussed monitoring, verification and reporting, as well as standardization of terminologies.				RENAPRI led, in collaboration with relevant existing bodies and platforms identified as appropriate to best achieve objectives.
Create a platform for information sharing and dissemination, to create awareness in at the regional, national and community levels. Engagement of the chiefs at the planning level.				RENAPRI led, in collaboration with relevant existing bodies and platforms identified as appropriate to best achieve objectives.
Creation of a sustainability model, that is flexible to account for specific contexts.				RENAPRI led, in collaboration with relevant existing bodies and platforms identified as appropriate to best achieve objectives.
Capacity building at regional, national and community level				RENAPRI led, in collaboration with relevant existing bodies and platforms identified as appropriate to best achieve objectives.
GROUP 4: CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCING				

Recommendation	Short term	Medium term	Long term	Implementing Institution
Lobbying for simplified procedure and bureaucracy				CAHOSCC, AMCEN
Clear communication for funding process				UNFCCC focal points and National Designated Authority (NDAs).
Capacity building for capital and financial markets			Formal training qualifications in climate finance	NDAs in collaboration with capital and financial market associations *continuous process as the funding sources change with time.
Capacity building for negotiators	Improving team composition and preparatory meetings	Continuity in attendance of negotiations	Formal training for negotiators	- Ministries responsible for Environment and Climate Change
Institutional Capacity Building		Training in grant application		
Use of economic incentives to spur climate change action		Developing de-risking instruments e.g. guarantees, grants, taxes		- Ministries of Finance