



From the CEO

While it is not a tradition in SACA to have a theme of the year, one could not doubt that the theme for the annual conference, 'Financing Agricultural Transformation Beyond Food Security', was actually the main message and focus of the year!

This contributed to the foundation for SACA's new trend of operations.

The message from the 2013 annual conference was clear, "African Agriculture should be about growing farmers, growing nations, creating wealth, and not just managing poverty - now is the time to pitch the level of ambition beyond food security and aim for a growth and entrepreneurial orientated agriculture if the sector is to be taken to greater heights."

With this message in mind SACA can only wish that 2014 will be a rewarding year in the agriculture sector. We wish all farmers in the southern Africa region a very productive year. Specifically we wish that Climate Change may not have serious effects on agriculture yields so that farmers may realize better harvests. To this effect we appeal to our governments in the region to allocate enough resources and budgets to primary agriculture production.

Ishmael Sunga, CEO, SACA

Agriculture – Cautious optimism from COP 19?

COP19 ended in Warsaw, Poland on the 23rd of November. The final segment of the Conference ran well into the night following 38 hours of negotiations.

Notable progress was achieved on a number of key issues including the Durban Platform, loss and damage and REDD+. Clearing the last remaining stumbling blocks for implementation of REDD+ was perhaps the most celebrated achievement of COP19, marking what many described as a great leap forward in a key area after six years of negotiations.

For many in the agriculture community, the breakthrough on REDD+ brought renewed belief that the seemingly endless negotiations on agriculture will one day bear fruit.

Although some progress was made on the agriculture negotiations many believed much more could have been done. No decisions were made on advancing agriculture.

The only activity on agriculture was a scheduled workshop on the technical and scientific aspects of agriculture and climate change held on the 12th of November. The workshop saw substantive engagement on issues of agriculture and food security, how climate change is impacting the sector and how science and technology can be applied to inform response measures.

Presentations were made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and several government delegates on behalf

of different negotiating blocks. Discussions revealed a broad range of technical and scientific options and countries appeared to be moving gradually beyond their polarized positions.

Despite this encouraging start, no further negotiations on agriculture were held in Warsaw, largely because the G77 & China (comprising developing countries), which is the largest negotiating block, strongly opposed any further discussions before the release of the workshop report. A workshop report will be available in March 2014 for parties and observer organizations to comment on ahead of substantive negotiations at the next SBSTA session scheduled for June 2014 in Bonn, Germany.

Our meetings with them revealed that they feared that any further negotiations at COP19 before the workshop report would open a parallel track to the science-based discussions held at the workshop which should form the basis for moving forward. In their view, any parallel negotiations on agriculture would open doors to political wrangling. To keep negotiations on one track, the G77 & China resolved to push all further discussions on agriculture to SBSTA40 (June) in Bonn next year.

SACA was represented at COP19 by its president, Dr. Theo de Jager, CEO, Mr. Ishmael Sunga and Policy Analyst,

Dr. Manyewu Mutamba.

A speech by the SACA president at the Conference's agenda 18 meeting can be accessed from the following link: http://unfccc4.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/cop19/templ/play.php?id_kongressession=7064&the_me=unfccc

Key people at the centre of the agriculture negotiations were highly optimistic that 50% of the remaining work on agriculture will be done in Bonn, with a possible deal on the table in Peru at COP20. More cautious optimists predicted that agriculture will only get a deal in Paris at COP21.

Save the date!

The SACAU board of directors recently met and made a decision that its next Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference will be held between 26th and 28th May 2014. This follows the agreement made by members at the 2013 Annual General Meeting that the 2014 AGM and Conference will be held in Lesotho.

SACAU consulted and agreed with its local member, Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU), about the dates for the two events. The theme of the annual conference will be on issues related to livestock following the recent interest that SACAU has taken in engaging with agriculture commodity issues including livestock at the regional level.

A notice for the AGM and the Conference has already been sent to SACAU members, partners and stakeholders.

This states that participants should arrive in Lesotho by the 25th May 2014. The notice also indicates that further notices and arrangements will be communicated to members, partners and stakeholders.



New branding & website

We've updated our logo and refurbished our website. Our web address remains www.sacau.org but the site now expresses SACAU's new image in a constantly changing world.

The home page greets you with a set of pictures representing the diversity of agriculture commodities in southern Africa. Accompanying the home page are browsers which include: news, SACAU's goals and objectives, publications, Board of Directors, current membership, events, directory of SACAU members and SACAU contact details.

Visitors to the website will enjoy access to written and visual information about the entire SACAU network through the member logos and country flags provided to illustrate where SACAU is represented and who its actual members are. We look forward to interacting with you through our new web site!



SACAU Board: Mr Hajasoanirina Rakotomandimby (CPM, Madagascar), Dr Theo de Jager (AgriSA, South Africa), Mr Ishmael Sunga, Mrs Jane Ngulube, (NASFAM Malawi), Mr Salum Shamte (ACT, Tanzania).

Our Board and staff wish all members, stakeholders and friends a happy Christmas season and a prosperous New Year in 2014.

Make women key players in agriculture

Women are among the key agriculture players at grassroots level where they are known to be key drivers of family farming.

Women contribute more than 75% of agricultural production in Africa - making a significant positive impact on food security, family well being and on general economic development.

There are a numbers of factors that hinder the involvement of women in leadership. These include the multiple roles and responsibilities that women have at the household level, prevailing cultural beliefs coupled with stereotyped views on men as leaders and women as followers in some societies and limited formal education background.

At the Farmers' organisations level these factors are aggravated by gaps such as a lack of women empowerment policies and programmes. Where Farmers' organisations gender policies exist, lack of incentives and/or sanctions to enforce those in power to carry out stated ambitions for inclusion of women in leadership has resulted in limited implementation.

In addition, Farmers' organisations, especially at the apex level have limited information about the involvement of women in their structures at the local level - largely due to the fact that there is limited gender disaggregated data about their membership.

In the midst of these efforts and challenges women have indicated that they are ready to make significant contribution in leadership positions.

Efforts by Farmer's organisations to involve women in leadership positions should increase their numbers in leadership, but on the understanding that they can also provide a high quality contribution.

As part of its commitment to address gender balance in Farmers' organisations, SACAU has been engaged in processes of strengthening their momentum of involving women in leadership positions. Major activities in these processes included gender studies and workshop with its members.

SACAU has also continued strengthening the inclusivity of its governance instruments and



Women farmers can be quick adopters of better mechanised farming technologies.

structures to create more space for the involvement of women in its leadership bodies.

More Youth Needed For Agriculture

If agriculture is to sustain its growth our youth need to be mobilized to be involved in both agriculture related institutions and value chain process.

However there is a question about the extent to which young people are interested in agriculture.

Evidence from both general observations and empirical studies show that youth do not find the agriculture sector attractive to join in their effort to address individual, family and social well being.

The involvement of youth in small-holder agriculture in African rural areas is not necessarily influenced by its attractiveness, but by general desperation influenced by the lack of alternative jobs.

This state of affairs emanates largely from the fact that agriculture related systems and institutions have not positioned themselves enough to be appealing to our youth. In particular,

there is a lack of appropriate policies, programmes and technologies designed to attract the youth into agriculture. In addition, the youth lack skills to engage in profitable agriculture enterprises.

Many claim that in order for the agriculture sector to attract the youth it has to be made interesting, profitable, deploy modern technologies and demonstrate a respectable brand comparable to other sectors where the youth are attracted. This should be done at both policy and development level through Farmers' organisations.

Without "sugar coating" commercial agriculture, such efforts should limit romanticising subsistence smallholder agriculture as this reinforces the perception among the youth that agriculture does not have the potential for improving individual, household and general economic well-being.

The youth should be encouraged, educated and supported to be involved in agriculture not by picking only the easiest opportunities, but also difficult and profitable opportunities in order to

inherit responsibility for sector development in Africa.

Influenced by these issues SACAU is engaging in a number of activities to create a foundation for developing processes designed to attract the youth into agriculture. These include resource mobilization, studies, workshops and the development of position statements with its members.



Young people need to see farming as a lucrative and rewarding career choice.

Regional Collaboration In The Livestock Sector

Interest in development programmes and projects related to livestock is rapidly growing among the Farmers' organisations in southern Africa.

Farmers' organisations are facilitating more collective action among livestock players at the agri-business and farm level. Facilitation of collective action has come from the understanding that while livestock is an important commodity there are factors which livestock players encounter which cannot be effectively addressed individually.

Specific issues at stake include limited access to good markets, diseases in the context of limited and weak disease surveillance systems, cost of inputs for production, limited and poor veterinary services, cross border issues which result to the loss of revenue to the fiscus as well as destroying the local industry in respective countries, limited access to finance, inconsistent application of standards, cheap imports, inadequate appropriate legislation and poor law enforcement, policy inconsistency, non-prioritization of the sector and high taxes throughout the value chain. These problems are further goaded by natural forces largely manifested through climate change and fluctuations.

While these issues prevail it is a general knowledge that agriculture in southern Africa enjoys a strong culture of keeping livestock and an adequate livestock population to achieve good production. There is a wide range of markets in and outside the region and inroads towards changes in international trade standards to accommodate developing countries are being made. The sub-sector also has well-developed commercial systems in the region.

Efforts geared to developing systems to support the sub-sector can be counted as critical. In this context SACAUs contribution has been through conducting studies and workshops aimed at identifying issues and opportunities common across the different countries, to establish a collaborative mechanism among various livestock players in the region.

A Livestock Working Committee has been established for this purpose.

Vacancy Announcements

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAUs) is a regional membership-based organisation representing farmers in the southern African region through their national unions/associations. It has a vision of a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable farming sector that ensures food security and contributes to economic growth in southern Africa. Its operations are based on three pillars, namely Policy advocacy on common matters of interest to farmers in the region; Strengthening of farmers' organisations, and the Provision of agriculture related information. SACAUs is seeking to recruit for the following positions based at its Secretariat in Centurion, Pretoria, South Africa:

1. Monitoring, Evaluation And Knowledge Management Specialist

Reporting to the CEO, the MEKM Specialist will be responsible for the design and implementation of effective monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management systems for the organisation, and for the provision of technical support to staff, members and grantees. Key duties/functions include: developing monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management frameworks/systems and operational plans; ensuring quality performance measurement and management data, reports and other key information are available at both institutional and project/activity levels; managing project evaluations; contributing to the development of project proposals and the production of institutional, donor and other reports; conversion of various reports into knowledge products; preparation of research materials and case studies for publication and wider dissemination, management of information and knowledge databases, and capacity building of staff and members.

Requirements:

- Minimum Master's degree in a relevant field;
- At least 10 years practical experience in rural and agricultural development;
- Practical experience in the development and implementation of M&E frameworks and systems for development programs is considered essential;
- Experience with donor funded projects;
- Demonstrated experience and familiarity with surveys, research methodologies, qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, sampling techniques;
- Results-oriented, team player, and with excellent interpersonal skills;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills; strong facilitation, teaching and coaching skills;
- Proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets and database skills;
- Willingness to travel in the region
- Must be a citizen of a southern African country.

This position is offered on a 3-year contract with a remuneration package which is based on qualifications and experience.

2. Communications Officer

Will be responsible for all communications related functions for the organization, including the development of a communications strategy; production and dissemination of information materials/products through different platforms and channels; management of website; media activities; sourcing of information materials from members and other stakeholders; conversion of various reports into information products; publicity of SACAUs and its members, and supporting members in their communication functions.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree or equivalent in journalism, communications or a related field; minimum 5 years relevant experience; knowledge and experience in agriculture and rural development; experience with modern communication platforms; excellent verbal and written communication skills; a valid driver's licence, and must be a south African citizen.

Position is open to citizens of RSA on a three year contract, with a remuneration package based on experience.

3. Bookkeeper

Expected to perform full bookkeeping functions up to trial balance

Requirements: Relevant diploma in accounting/bookkeeping or related field; mature with at least 7 years' experience; experience with Pastel (Pastel Evolution is an added advantage); familiarity with project accounting; experience in preparing donor reports (an added advantage); and a valid driver's licence.

Position is open to citizens of RSA on a three year contract, and a remuneration package based on experience

Suitably qualified and experienced candidates are invited to submit their applications and CVs with at least three contactable references. All applications should be by e-mail to info@sacau.org and copy to ceo@sacau.org by 06 January 2014. Women candidates are specifically encouraged to apply. Note: only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Regional Collaboration In Oil Seeds Sector

Alongside the work on livestock SACAUs conducted studies and a workshop with Oil Seeds commodity values chain players.

Here the value chain players have expressed need to work together at the regional level and to address issues related to markets, diseases, productivity, access to certified seeds, finance,

infrastructure, business costs, research and development, access to technical knowledge and advocacy for related policies.

A working committee, coordinated by SACAUs, to reflect on mechanisms for regional cooperation on various issues including those underlined above has been established.

How can we tell we are doing it right?

Things move fast these days and ensuring that SACAU is meeting the wishes and needs of our membership is a continual concern for us.

Towards the end of 2012 we asked members to rate their levels of satisfaction with our performance in a number of areas – for example, involvement in deciding our policy positions, relevance on issues that affect them and use of our outputs in their own work. Feedback showed high rates of satisfaction. This dropped slightly about SACAU's ability to follow up consistently on policies developed – an issue of capacity in our operational abilities that we continually strive to improve.

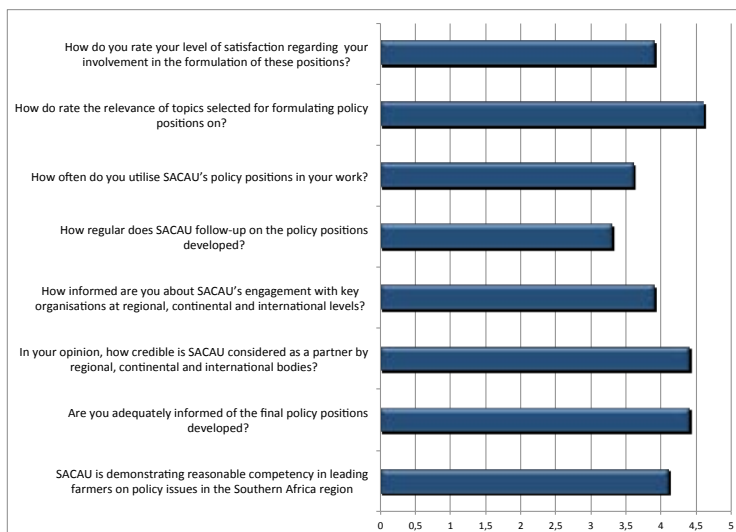
SACAU's training and learning events were rated very highly in both content and frequency. Demand for more included project formulation and strategic planning skills. Information services to members on farming policy and food security were rated very highly and our tools such as newsletters and the website were acknowledged as a source of good information for members.

A wide range of suggestions were also made about areas that SACAU could engage with in the future. These include assistance to members with organizational development including corporate governance, strategic planning, communication skills and strategies and resource mobilization. Policy research and analysis, facilitating national consultations before important regional and global events and influencing private sector investment policies were also some membership priorities.

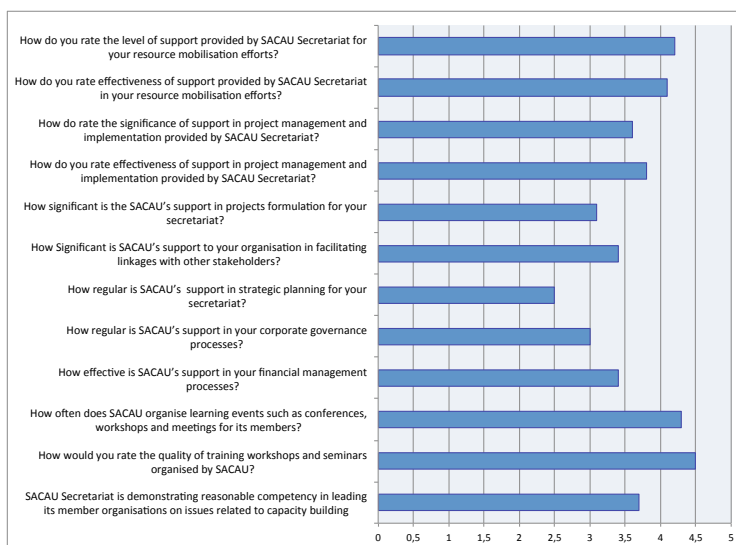
Women and youth in agriculture, climate change and information technologies and farming were some of the areas where members thought SACAU could help with burning issues.

Feedback from the survey is still being explored in several ways. Our Board is continually revisiting it and views from the results have been incorporated into our strategic planning and operational plans for the immediate future. We intend to make our feedback surveys a regular event in Board deliberations and our strategic planning process.

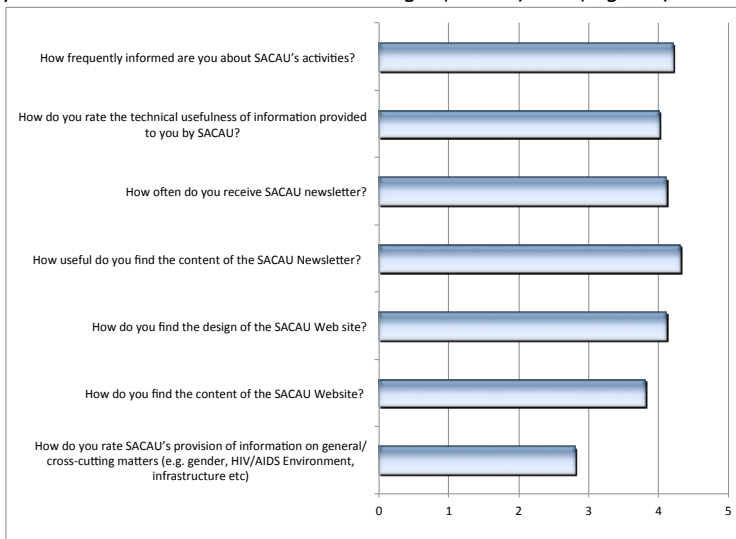
Graph 1: Members' rating of SACAU's performance on policy formulation and engagement on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)



Graph 2: Members' rating of SACAU's performance on capacity strengthening to its members on the scoring 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)



Graph 3: Members' rating of SACAU's performance on information provision to its members on the scoring 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)



SACAU – Across Africa and Beyond

Institutional growth generally goes with increased demand from stakeholders for services and contributions in social and economic developments.

The year of 2013 saw an increased demand from stakeholders for SACAU to make contributions in various forums. SACAU was involved in debates and negotiations about agriculture at more than 20 meetings held within Africa and other parts of the world.



SACAU President Dr. Theo De Jager represented us at many international fora this year.

It was also involved in various electronic and other forms of engagement.

Key areas included climate change, production, resource allocation, infrastructure, input costs, prices, markets and trade and regional agricultural policies.

Through these engagements SACAU was able to raise awareness of various issues concerning the development of agriculture on the continent and has managed to influence certain policy decisions at the regional, continental and international level.

For instance at the recent SBSTA Climate Change negotiations in Germany SACAU contributed to the decisions that are likely to see the development of a separate work programme on agriculture in Climate Change negotiations eventually being agreed to.

New Value Chain Initiative

As part of its efforts to stimulate investment and growth in agribusiness SACAU has partnered with a number of private companies including Bunge Senwes International, John Deere, Monsanto, YARA International and Absa Bank and established a value chain initiative.

A pilot project has already started in Arusha, Tanzania where a local member of SACAU, Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT) is also a partner in this initiative. Commodities included in the pilot project are maize and two oilseed crops (sunflower and soya bean).

Having clearly defined and agreed on their roles through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the partners have decided that the initiative will be expanded as experience increase and opportunities emerge.

2013 Annual Conference: Punch Lines

The 2013 Annual Conference marked SACAU's current impetus into profit and growth oriented agriculture.

The common message from the conference was that "African Agriculture should be about growing farmers, growing nations, creating wealth, and not just managing poverty - now is the time to pitch the level of ambition beyond food security and aim for a growth and entrepreneurial orientated agriculture if the sector is to be taken to greater heights."

Reflecting on these ambitious statements from various stakeholders represented at the conference including His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete stressed the need for greater private sector involvement in driving the transformation of African agriculture and called for better marketing and financing arrangements to support farmers. And others stressed that political commitment, strong unity

among farmers through their organisations, familiarization with global trade issues and developments, involvement of women and youth in agriculture are among the key factors that will enhance the transformation of agriculture in Africa.

Here are some of the punch line quotes from the main statements presented at the conference:

- In my career I have not come across a single subsistence farmer; it was a term given by colonialists
- African farmers have been neglected for decades by governments
- Politicians take farmers for granted; they reach out to them only during elections
- If we package our needs well politicians will have an ear to listen to us
- Africa should be a destination for business and not Aid
- Farmers fail to realize their enormous

potential of influence in policy for agriculture transformation

- Potential to increase production and feed the world in future is not enough; farmers should begin to capitalize on the opportunities that are presented to them
- Treat agriculture as a business not as a development case
- Africa has a lot of poor people but is not a poor continent
- The world can feed itself but not without Africa
- Transformation of agriculture needs to look at the whole value chain; -There is no life for the farmer outside the value chain
- There is a need to have intelligent subsidies that do not distort the market
- Commodity exchange will not work if you cannot transport the commodity
- A farmer is someone who has a dream to grow



SACAU President and CEO chat with CEOs of Zambia National Farmers Union and Farmers Union of Malawi at the Strategy Review Meeting held in Johannesburg.

Members review SACAU strategy

Since the development of its new strategy in 2010 there has been an increasing growth in the scope and range of SACAU's programmes, services and engagement with stakeholders.

Those who have been following developments within SACAU would recall that in 2012 SACAU's annual conference was entitled "Connecting Farmers to the Value Chains in southern Africa" and in 2013 SACAU had its annual conference entitled "Financing Agricultural Transformation beyond food security".

These conferences and other activities undertaken within the context of SACAU's growing programme have created the foundation for strong partnerships with the private sector and other stakeholders and further resulted in lessons which have significantly enriched SACAU's vision and mission.

They have also created a strong space for all the members of SACAU to seriously reflect on the future of their mother body. Thus a decision was made that SACAU's strategic framework developed in 2010 needs to be reviewed.

On September 27, 2013 all members of SACAU met at Kopanong Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa to start the review process.

Here the members reflected mainly on the strategic pillars of the organisation -

Policy advocacy on regional, continental and global matters, strengthening of the capacity of farmers' organisations and provision of agriculture-related information – and their relevant cross-cutting issues.

The SACAU secretariat will further coordinate the review process through electronic communication with the members before the finalization and approval of the new version of the strategic framework at the annual general meeting scheduled for May 2014.

Upgrading Financial And Administrative Guidelines

SACAU has upgraded its administrative and financial guidelines and systems.

This has helped to improve the performance of the organisation in reporting to and interacting with donors and members with whom it has partnerships on specific initiatives.

The updating of the guidelines has also helped SACAU to sustain its relevance to the technological, social and legal changes of our society.

National Farmers Organisations Meet To Discuss A Common Programme

Seven SACAU members met in Pretoria between November 20 and 22, 2013 to discuss and plan a development programme entitled Support to Farmers Organisations in Africa Programme (SFOAP).

The meeting was organized by SACAU in its capacity as the main regional coordinator. Farmers Organisations participating in the project and present at the meeting include:

- Agriculture Council of Tanzania,
- Lesotho Farmers Union (LENAFU),
- Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM),
- Confederation des Agriculteurs Malagasy (FEKRITAMA),
- Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU),
- Seychelles Farmers Association (SeyFA) and
- Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU).

The programme is funded by European Commission and IFAD. With the purpose that Farmers' Organizations (FOs) evolve into stable, performing and accountable organizations that are able to effectively represent their members and advise farmers in their farming enterprises, the programme's goal is to improve the livelihoods and food security situation of African small-holder farmers and rural producers. Thus the meeting aimed at harmonising the plans of the participating national farmers' organisations around this goal.

The outcome from the meeting was that the participating organisations are now clear about their common objectives and how those objectives are going to fit in their institutional and country contexts. The organisations were also able to share and understand some of the common management and administrative requirements for the programme.

A Year for Agriculture

The year 2014 has been declared by the United Nations and the African Union as “International Year of Family Farming” and “The Year of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition” respectively.

The declaration by the United Nations is aimed at raising the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing the world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development particularly in rural areas.

It also recognizes the strong impact family farmers have on gender equality as well as providing livelihood opportunity for youth. On the other hand the African Union declaration calls for a combination of policies that promote sustainable agricultural development with social protection. It also calls for public budgetary allocation that focuses on addressing the needs of the poor. Family and small-scale farming are inextricably linked to world food security.

Family farming preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world’s agro-biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. Family farming represents an opportunity to boost local economies, especially when combined with specific policies aimed at social protection and well-being of communities.

There are an estimated 500 million family farms – those that rely primarily on family members for labour and management – across the developed and developing world, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The 2014 IYFF will promote broad discussion and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers. A number of activities will be organized next year to

commemorate the two events.

SACAUC will host a Pan African Farmers Organisations celebration for the International Year of Family Farming in 2014. The event will be held in Malawi. Information regarding specific dates and other preparatory processes and arrangements will be communicated in 2014.

During the past 6 months SACAUC received 3 missions from its development partners

The missions were from UN International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the We-Effect. The three are among the major development partners who have been collaborating with SACAUC on a number of initiatives. While the missions acted as monitoring exercises, they also provided the opportunity for SACAUC and the partners to harmonize their programmatic focus through pursuing shared objectives. In addition to the IFAD, COMESA and We-Effect, SACAUC wishes to express its appreciation for the partnerships in 2013 with the following institutions:

1. ABSA Bank
2. Agence Francaise de Developement (AFD)
3. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
4. European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development (Agrinatura – EEIG)
5. European Commission (EC)
6. Farmers Organisation Support Centre for Africa (FOSCA)/Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
7. International Land Coalition (ILC)
8. Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
9. Technical Centre for Agricultural Development and Rural Co-operation (CTA)

Membership

SACAUC now has 17 members in 12 countries in southern Africa:

- Botswana Agricultural Union (BAU)
- Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU)
- Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM)
- Confédération des Agriculteurs Malagasy (FEKRITAMA)
- Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM)
- National Smallholders Farmers’ Association of Malawi (NAS-FAM)
- Mozambique Uniao Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC)
- Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU)
- Namibia National Farmers’ Union (NNFU)
- Seychelles Farmers Association (SEYFA)
- Agri South Africa (AgriSA)
- African Farmers’ Association of South Africa (AFASA)
- Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU)
- Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT)
- Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)
- Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe (CFU)
- Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU)

SACAUC also has also started working with farmers’ representatives in Mauritius.

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SACAUC is involved in agricultural development in the region through strengthening the capacities of farmers’ organisations, by providing a collective voice for farmers on regional and international matters, and by providing agricultural related information to its members and other stakeholders.