



MEDIA RELEASE

25th February 2014

COMMITTEE TO SPEARHEAD PROMOTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN GRAIN INDUSTRY

The grain sector in Southern Africa faces significant challenges which impact on food and nutrition security, livelihoods and development in the region. Grains represent the main staple in the region consumed by the majority of the population.

As a result of these challenges, the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) with the support from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA), provided a platform for grain stakeholders to collaborate and maximise on opportunities as well as mitigate the risks in the grain sector.

A joint regional grain stakeholder's meeting was held under the theme: *"Promoting the grain industry in Southern Africa through collective action"* at Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg South Africa on 28 & 29 January, 2014. The participants consisted of representatives of the whole grain value chain. The following eight countries were involved: Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting agreed to collaborate in the following areas:

- Infrastructure i.e. storage
- Policy and regulatory environment
- Productivity i.e. increased yields
- Harmonisation of standards
- Trade i.e. improved intra-regional trade
- Information i.e. access to market information
- Technology i.e. enhancing yields

An interim committee was nominated to drive the agenda of the stakeholders for 6 months (February-July 2014). Its focus will be on developing the following:

- Governance structures
- Operational modalities
- Workplan

- Resource mobilisation

The following people were nominated to the interim committee:

1. South Africa - Dr John Purchase (Chairperson)
2. Zambia - Mr Jacob Mwale (Deputy Chairperson)
3. Namibia - Mr Christof Brock
4. Malawi - Ms Grace Muhango
5. Mozambique - Mr Lucilio Gerson Daniel
6. Swaziland - Mr Richard Myeni
7. Tanzania - Mr Julius Wambura
8. Zimbabwe - Mr Augustine Tawanda

Editor's note

SACAU was originally established in 1992, and its Secretariat is based in Centurion, South Africa. Its membership is open to national farmers' unions and regional commodity associations in Southern Africa. SACAU 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.

SACAU has 17 members in 12 countries in Southern Africa.

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