



COP25 fails to reach global expectations
4



Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS) discusses food waste
5



Towards a regional land network
6

Amplify farmers' voices in NDCs

As countries are expected to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020, SACAU will be working with National Farmers' Organisations (NFOs) to ensure they don't miss the opportunity to influence national climate change related policy processes and decision making.

Adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) was one of the milestone achievements in the history of climate change negotiations. One hundred and ninety-six (196) parties (195 countries plus the European Union) agreed upon pragmatic measures to address climate change. At the heart of this Agreement were the NDCs that embody efforts by each party to keep the increase in global temperature below 2°C and improve national efforts to adapt to the impact of climate change.

That year marked the first development of NDCs, which were eventually submitted almost at the same time when countries presented their instruments of ratification of the Paris Agreement. While the process was expected to be transparent and consultative, sectors such as agriculture were generally overlooked despite their critical role in promoting adaptation and mitigation. The scanty submissions under agriculture were developed without the farmers' voice, hence their views, needs, interests and aspirations were not taken on board in this important exercise.

Towards addressing this gap, the 25th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25), held in December 2019, took the progressive step of introducing a Farmers' Day. This was a highlight of the COP25 programme for SACAU and partners, bringing together farming groups, researchers, civil society, and other advocates to share perspectives on climate neutral and carbon smart farming, agroecology



CEO, Policy Advisor and young farmer from Botswana at COP25

and food security.

SACAU co-convoked the 'Raising ambition for climate action: transformative actions for a food secure future side event'. We participated in the World Farmers' Organisation Climakers event, 'Transforming food systems with a farmer's driven climate agenda'. A key message from the Climakers event was the call by WFO President Mr Theo de Jager to bring farmers to the centre of the debate on climate action in agriculture as they are key for the transformation of our food systems. We are a member of Climakers, whose goal is to take action and work together to strengthen farmers' capacity to influence the decision-making processes on climate change.

Amongst others, we proposed that, regarding the Koronovia Joint Work on Agriculture, farmers will need support to upscale and adopt technologies, best practices and approaches that increase and optimise efficient use of soil

(Continued on page 3)

CEO's Letter



By Mr Ishmael Sunga

A happy new year and prosperous decade to our members, stakeholders and our readers.

As 2020 begins, it is worth first highlighting the various achievements we made in 2019. Several areas come to the fore in this regard, including the launch of a new regional initiative that involves eight of our smallholder member organisations; engagements on advocacy on policy-related matters such as climate change negotiations and promotion of regional approach to weather based index insurance; involvement in food systems dialogues; promotion of young agripreneurship; implementation of skills enhancement and organisational development programmes; promotion of ICT-enabled and data-driven agriculture and projecting the voice of farmers in various regional, continental and global platforms. Indeed, we look back with a sense of pride and satisfaction.

As we say goodbye to 2019, we are set to continue on an upward trajectory, building on the solid operational infrastructure that we have established and consolidating the progress we have made in the past. A few areas are worth highlighting in this regard. Last year climate change caused havoc in the region, and predictions are that it will get worse. Thus, we will intensify our various efforts in this area, including on advocacy, capacity building, information provision and risk management fronts -weather based index insurance included. Other areas for consolidation and scaling up include youth agripreneurship, capacity building, including organisational development and skills development, strengthening of selected regional commodity platforms, information and publicity.

In addition, we will continue to engage in strategic discourses that are shaping the future of agriculture world-

wide using appropriate platforms at regional, continental and global levels. The areas include food systems, digital technology and big data, and advances in scientific and technological innovations, including food systems.

We look forward to the introduction of new areas of work which promise to be exciting. Among them are agricultural trade and its various facets such as negotiations and capacity building, the development of an academy, the launching of a regional initiative on the poultry value chain as well as the establishment of a multi-stakeholder land network for southern Africa. Related elements will be innovative financing, more effective deployment of public support, the development of appropriate business models and sustainability.

We will continue to belong to a larger community of practice in agricultural development at regional and continental levels, in collaboration with relevant institutions, such as PAFO. Relatedly, existing partnerships with technical agencies, knowledge, policy research, agribusiness and development agencies will be strengthened, whilst new ones will be cultivated as needed.

Last but not least, we continue to pride ourselves in good corporate governance and we aim to maintain the usual high standards and make further enhancements as required. Scheduled meetings of our Board of Directors and the Annual General Meeting are permanent features in our annual calendar, as well as our flagship annual conference. We aim to increase communication with members, stakeholders and the general public, and the increased use of social media will particularly be useful in this regard.

All the best!

Scaling up climate solutions

With partners CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), University of Copenhagen and University of Vermont, SACAU co-convened the 'Raising ambition for climate action: transformative actions for a food secure future' side event at the UNFCCC 25th Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP25). The event's key message was the urgent need for raising ambition to do more and raise significant resources in light of the rapid pace of climate change. The goal was to present leading science-based solutions to transform food systems and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It further sought to catalyse action-oriented partnerships to facilitate action to scale these solutions to around 200 million small-scale farmers.

In his remarks, Mr Sunga underscored the importance of addressing the need for massive investment in the backbone infrastructural issues in order to enhance effective management of climate change. He noted that small holder farmers are not homogenous, thus there is no one size fits all. Furthermore, he emphasised the need to move with urgency and act pragmatically in supporting farmers'



CEO addressing the side event. Credit: CCAFS

climate resilience.

Key inputs on the topic were also presented by speakers from Biodiversity International, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and participants.

(Continued from page 1)

nutrients and manure. Emissions from nutrient use in Africa remain extremely low compared to the global average and lowering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the agriculture sector was a key topic, with the "4 per 1000" – initiative noting, in its presentation of results from its study on soil in NDCs, that NDCs are currently not good indicators of national ambition or action on soil carbon and proposing that they can better reflect soil organic carbon actions in 2nd NDCs by increasing sectoral specificity under economy-wide targets, mentioning soil organic carbon (SOC) and related measures under agriculture, and indicating relative contributions of SOC protection to sectoral targets. The "4 per 1000" initiative's goal is to demonstrate that agriculture and agricultural soils, can play a crucial role where food security and climate change are concerned.

In addition, countries are called upon to work with relevant agriculture sector stakeholders, especially farmers and Farmers' Organisations (FOs), in scenario building, analysis and prioritising actions in communicating their respective long-term strategies (LTS) in 2020. Emphasis was on making a direct link between LTS and NDCs to reduce national emissions and adapt to climate change impacts for effective implementation, while encouraging countries to harmonise their climate change related policies to ensure policy coherence in implementing evidence-based adaptation and mitigation actions. We highlighted that the agriculture sector should be an im-

portant component of the NDCs given the critical role it plays in adaptation, mitigation and the co-benefits thereof and called upon southern African countries to integrate gender into the NDCs and national adaptation planning processes. In addition, they should develop core gender and climate change indicators to be integrated into the sectoral and national M&E frameworks.

Countries in the region that have not accessed available resources are urged to undertake technology needs assessments (TNA) expeditiously and to work with farmers and Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) in identifying appropriate technologies for transforming the agriculture sector and enhance farmers' capacity on adopting and scaling up of climate-technologies and practices.

A further recommendation was to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) to consider adequate and predictable financing of agriculture, in particular, setting aside dedicated financial resources, special programmes and call for proposals to support agriculture, when developing draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention for the COP. The establishment of a strong link between the transparency framework, NDCs, adaptation communication and compliance is another of our recommendations considering the significant overlaps in the inputs and outcomes.

COP25 fails to reach global expectations



No planet B. No plan B. Ignoring climate change is no longer an option. Credit: NiklasPntk (pixabay.com)

The 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ended on a rather low note after two weeks of negotiations. The event was held in Madrid, Spain.

“Our leaders are not behaving as if we are in an emergency. In an emergency you change your behaviour. If there is a child standing in the middle of the road and cars are coming at full speed you don't look away because it feels uncomfortable. You immediately run out and rescue that child. Without that sense of urgency how can we, the people, understand that we are facing a real crisis. If the people are not fully aware of what is going on then they will not put pressure on the people in power to act. Without pressure from the people, our leaders can basically get away with not doing anything,” said Greta Thunburg.

COP25 was, amongst others, expected to agree on rules to set up a global carbon trading system and a system to channel finance to countries facing the impact of climate change as demanded by the 2015 Paris Agreement. Setting up these rules is the main outstanding part of the Paris rulebook, which is expected to outline the practical details of how the Paris deal will work out. Parties should have agreed on these rules in Katowice in 2018 but the issue was pushed to COP25. With tensions breaking out yet again in Madrid, no consensus was reached despite this COP being the longest on record, concluding two days after the scheduled Friday 13 December conclusion. Some believe that postponing the decision rather than accepting a poor outcome could enhance the chances for a stronger deal in 2020.

Notwithstanding the above, COP25 raised the urgency of climate action, underlining the need for deeper cuts to

emissions than those agreed in 2015 in Paris. The EU made a commitment to make their bloc climate neutral by 2050. Over 70 countries (primarily small and developing) committed to submit their enhanced climate ambitions and revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by September 2020. In the final decision text, governments expressed the need for more ambition by parties and non-state actors and agreed to improve the ability of the most vulnerable to adapt to climate change. Commitments from a number of sectors also reflected an overwhelming agreement on the need for negotiators, policy makers and practitioners, such as farmers, to base their future actions on scientific evidence.

The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) focused on improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems, a subject that stimulated a lot of interest from the farmers' constituency. Farmers advocated for an integrated approach, which is central to successful nutrient management. One of the key outcomes of the KJWA workshop was the recognition that issues relating to soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility as well as sustainable soil and integrated water management are context-specific and, taking into account countries' circumstances, should be dealt with in a holistic and inclusive manner to realize the full potential of increased productivity in contributing to food security, adaptation and adaptation co-benefits as well as enhancing carbon sinks.

Indeed, ignoring climate change is no longer an option as consumers demanding change may abandon certain goods and services and/or brands from suppliers perceived not to be taking sufficient action.

COP26 will be hosted by Scotland in 2020.

Pontifical Academy of Sciences discusses food waste

The conference discussed the extent and impact of food loss and waste (FLAW) reduction. This time around, the Vatican, through the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Rockefeller Foundation arranged this multi-stakeholder conference on the subject.

Food waste was attributed to the lack of appropriate infrastructure, regulations, profit-seeking and negligence, time scarcity and economic abundance at the consumer level. Food loss is the result of unfavourable climatic conditions, improper post-harvest handling, and incentive structures leading to food loss as a rational economic option, as well as lack of information, education, technology, infrastructure, affordable financing and market access. FLAW has social equity and gender implications as food production involves large shares of women's unpaid labour and often low paid workers producing cheap food that might be undervalued and thus wasted by customers.



The conference also brought to attention the need to prevent wasteful processing, transportation, packaging and energy usage along food supply chains and their possible impacts on food access and affordability. Mr Sunga highlighted that farmers' organisations are important change agents, therefore they should be involved in the resolution of the problem in collaboration with other players. Another key message was that farmers should not shoulder the



costs of food loss and waste on their own. Everyone in the value chain is accountable.

The conference recommended action on improved data gathering and making this data available, as well as measurement and monitoring of progress against benchmarks. The research community was called upon to communicate, coordinate and collaborate, and governments, business and foundations were urged to invest new resources to fund FLAW research and the private sector to report on a volunteer basis. Close cooperation among research communities and different stakeholders across the food system to make progress on evidence-based FLAW reduction and action was also recommended. This includes food market analysis to understand the potential of solutions and innovations, and the feasibility of their adoption.

In addition to the roles of governments and business, civil society and religious communities were also called upon to play a role in reducing FLAW.

Read the [Final Statement on Food Loss and Waste Reduction here](#).

IFAD Farmers' Forum to bring global FOs together

SACAU will be attending the Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 4 - 11 February 2020, in conjunction with the 43rd session of IFAD's Governing Council. The theme will be Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030.

The Farmers' Forum is an on-going process of consultation and dialogue between farmer organisations from all over the world, IFAD and Member States.

In addition to discussions at the Farmers' Forum, the

Session of the Governing Council will discuss creating jobs for rural youth; opportunities in agribusiness; rural development as a means of addressing conflict, and promoting peace; building smallholders' resilience to climate shocks; and disability, food security and rural development and how innovation and technology can help.

A high-level delegation will be attending this meeting comprising of Dr Sinare Y Sinare (Chairman), Mrs Doreen Hlatshwayo (Vice Chair), Mr Phenias Gumede (Board Member) and CEO.

Towards the establishment of a regional land network

SACAU is facilitating the establishment of a land network for southern Africa. The recent completion of a draft strategic plan became a major milestone in this process.

The plan envisions 'a southern African region with secure land rights and sustainable livelihoods for small-scale farmers, including women and youth'. Its mission for the next five years, therefore, is to 'promote and support attainment of secure land rights and sustainable livelihoods for small-scale farmers including women and youth'.

The objective is to improve land tenure security and land governance for small-scale farmers including women, youth and vulnerable people; improve sustainable land use and livelihoods; influence regional and global policies; and strengthen the voice and collaboration of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working on land and agrarian issues in southern Africa.

The plan identifies four key result areas, mainly to establish a regional land-network of national CSOs with capacity and mandate to effectively represent the interest of small-scale farmers and vulnerable groups, including women and youth, to secure land rights. Additionally, it

aims for an improved land policy and legislative framework and enforcement mechanisms at national, regional and continental levels. Further, it seeks to increase input and influence in law and policy making and implementation processes on land issues and to improve sustainable land use and livelihoods.

The network will be active in research, policy engagement, capacity development and empowerment, and play a watchdog role, among other strategies.

The strategy is in response to increased land tenure insecurity for small-scale farmers, especially women, due to rapid processes of commodification and privatisation of customary land by the elites, degradation of land, affecting ecosystems and agrarian based livelihoods, weak implementation of some progressive Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) policies and limited collaboration of CSOs working on land and agrarian issues for greater influence.

SACAU is a We Effect southern Africa partner.

SACAU's 2020 Poultry Conference

The poultry value chain in southern Africa will be the main focus of SACAU's Annual Conference. We intend to focus on the development of a single value chain in the coming years in line with a recommendation from the Strategic planning process on the need to adopt a narrower and sharper approach to developing agriculture – to concentrate our efforts for a significant impact.

In selecting the poultry value chain as the main focus, several factors were taken into consideration. Among them, its popularity with farmers in the region, both from a food sector and commercial production view. Poultry has a lower impact on climate change compared to other live-

stock. It is less capital intensive and has important backward and forward linkages.

The various dimensions of the poultry value chain make it an appropriate case for a food systems approach towards its development. Thus, the design of the conference will incorporate all key elements of a food systems approach, which include nutrition and the environment.

The conference will be an opportunity to launch our poultry initiative to our members and stakeholders. The outcomes will be used in the design and development of the programme.

On our calendar

4 – 12 February	Attending the IFAD Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum 2020
19—21 February	Trade Capacity Workshop
23 March	Organisational Self Assessment
24 March	Board Meeting
May	Annual General Meeting, Lilongwe, Malawi

