

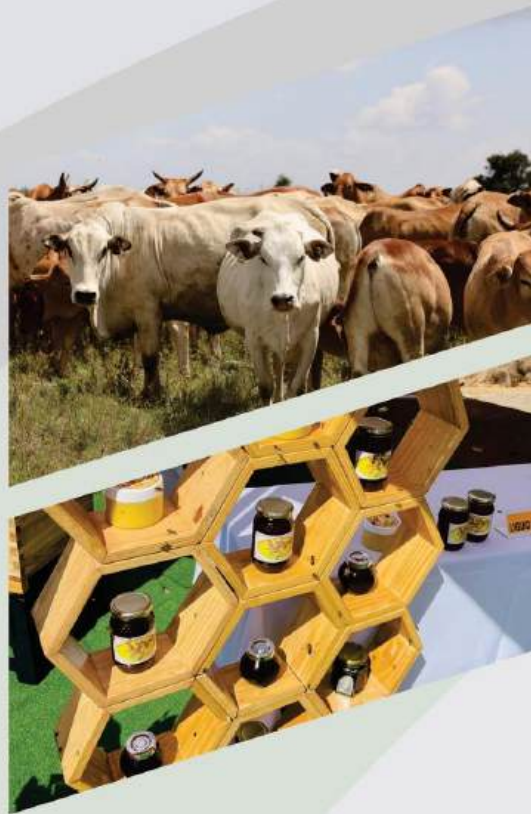


CCARDESA

Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa



2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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REMARKS: CCARDESA BOARD CHAIRPERSON



I am pleased to present the CCARDESA Annual Report for 2024, which is an outcome of concerted effort, of the CCARDESA Secretariat and its development partners and marks another milestone in our efforts to foster agricultural research and development in the SADC Region.

As institution mandated with the agricultural research and development agenda for the SADC region, CCARDESA continued to make some significant strides in coordinating the implementation of activities geared to (1) improve agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption in the region through collective efforts, training and capacity building; (2) strengthen research and development in Member States by mobilising human, financial and technological resources to implement and sustain demand-driven activities; (3) promote collaboration among regional and national agricultural research and development systems (NARS) through regional and international cooperation; (4) facilitate the exchange of information and technology among Member States; and (5) promote partnerships in the SADC region between public, private, civil society and international organizations in R&D.

In line with the above, I am ecstatic to report that, under the guidance of the Board, the Secretariat managed to promote 117 in the region in 2024, an increase from 107 in 2023. Twenty-one new technologies were generated from the 43 sub-projects implemented under the Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA) in Angola and Lesotho. Support is being given to the countries to officially release the technologies. Research Infrastructure in Angola and Lesotho was upgraded (5 research stations were rehabilitated, and laboratories and main offices for the Department of Agricultural Research were constructed. Conference facility and access roads were also constructed in Lesotho. Research Centre of Leadership was constructed in Angola). I am also proud to indicate that CCARDESA, along with partners like FARA, AFAAS, CORAF, ASARECA, and CGIAR, contributed to shaping the African Agricultural Research and Innovation Institutions Space (AARIISpace) framework, reinforcing collective efforts toward a scalable and inclusive digital platform for agricultural knowledge sharing.

Last but not least, let me congratulate CCARDESA for facilitating the development of several policy documents that are imperative for improved governance and functions of the institution namely: (1) Revised Longterm Strategic Plan and Medium-Term Operational Plan; (2) Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Strategy for Agricultural Research and Development; (3) Revised Governance Manual, General Assembly Rules of Procedures Handbook; (4) Job Evaluation and Grading Policy & Procedures Manual; (5) Revised compensation policy; (6) Training & Development Policy; (7) Travel Policy; and (8) Secondment Policy.





Lastly, I would like to thank several individuals and organizations that contributed to the successful achievements realised by CCARDESA in 2024. These include: the SADC Secretariat, SADC Member States, the National Agricultural Research Systems of SADC Member States, Farmer Organisations, and regional and international organizations for their valuable contributions to CCARDESA in 2024. The flourishing partnership between CCARDESA and the CAADP-XP4 partners namely FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF) is worth a special mention. The invaluable contribution of the development partners including the World Bank, the European Union, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the financial and technical support is deeply appreciated.

Professor RAZAFINJARA Aimé Lala

CCARDESA Board Chairperson





FOREWORD



As the Executive Director of the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), I am honoured to present our Annual Report for 2024. This report represents our efforts and unwavering commitment to advancing agricultural research and innovation to benefit our stakeholders, communities, and the region. In a world grappling with the dual challenges of food insecurity and climate change, our institution has remained steadfast in its mission to coordinate the provision of sustainable, science-based solutions. Over the past year, we have made remarkable strides in facilitating the development and dissemination of agricultural technologies, innovations, and management practices, including resilient and nutrition-sensitive crop varieties, management practices for biotic and abiotic stresses, and climate-smart agricultural practices. We have also made significant strides in enhancing the capacity of National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES), including farmers and researchers, and also brokered the regional sharing of technologies through our robust knowledge management system. These achievements underscore the critical role that agricultural research plays in building resilient food systems and fostering economic growth in the SADC region, whose member states rely primarily on agriculture. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication of the Member States, our dedicated staff, and partners at regional, continental, and global levels, whose tireless efforts have driven our success. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to our journey, including the guidance from the Board of Directors. Your passion and perseverance inspire us to continue pushing boundaries and striving for excellence.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to addressing the evolving challenges of agriculture with innovative and inclusive approaches. We aim to expand our reach, strengthen our partnerships, and deepen our impact. Together, we can create a world where agriculture thrives, food security is guaranteed, and livelihoods are transformed.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. We look forward to another year of impactful agricultural research and collaboration.

Prof. Cliff Sibusiso Dlamini (Ph.D., MDF., EMBA., CDFA)

Executive Director and Head of Mission-CCARDESA





ABBREVIATIONS

AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
AICCRA	Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa
AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
AGRINATURA	European Alliance for Agricultural Knowledge for Development
AR&D	Agricultural Research and Development
AR4D	Agricultural Research for Development
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAADP-XP4	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Ex-pillar 4 Project
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CNRM	Climate Resilience and Natural Resources Programme
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CORAF	Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU	European Union
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa





FFS	Farmer Field Stories
FSHS	Fertiliser Soil Health Summit
GCCA+	Global Climate Change Alliance Plus
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICKM	Information, Communication, Knowledge Management
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
IKI-GG	International Climate Initiative - Growing Greener
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTOP	Medium Term Operational Plan
MS	Member State
NARES	National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RAP	Regional Agricultural Policy
RCoL	Regional Centre of Leadership
RAENS	Research for Agroecology Network of Southern Africa
ReNAPRI	The Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
SAA	Sasakawa Africa Association
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
S3A	Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa
S4AC	Science for Agriculture Consortium
SACAU	Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAAIKS	Southern Africa Agricultural Information and Knowledge System
SPAC	Science and Partnerships for Agriculture Conference
SRO	Sub-regional Research Organisation
STDF	Standard and Trade Development Facility
TA	Thematic Area
TFCA	Trans frontier Conservation Area





TIMPs	Technologies, Innovations and Management Practices
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar
WB	World Bank
WCCA	World Congress on Conservation Agriculture



CCARDESA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Higher Education Expert





1. CARDESA HIGHLIGHTS

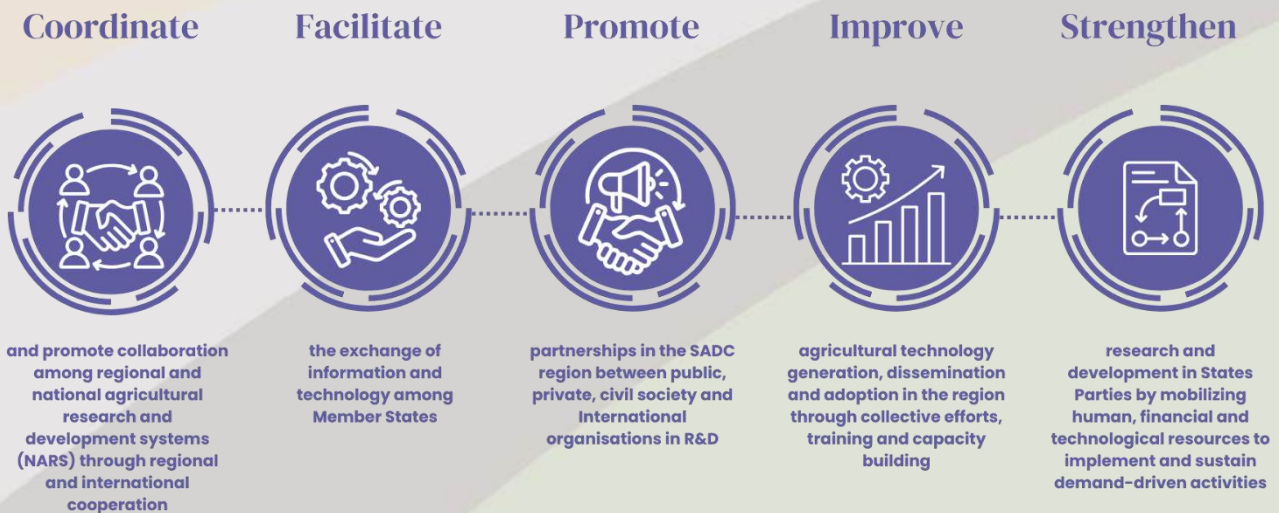
1.1 GENESIS OF CCARDESA

CCARDESA was established by the SADC Council of Ministers in February 2010, through a Charter, as a subsidiary organization of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat. Its mandate is to coordinate agricultural research and development (R&D). The Centre became operational in 2012 and signed a hosting agreement with the Government of Botswana in 2014.

1.2 IMPACT

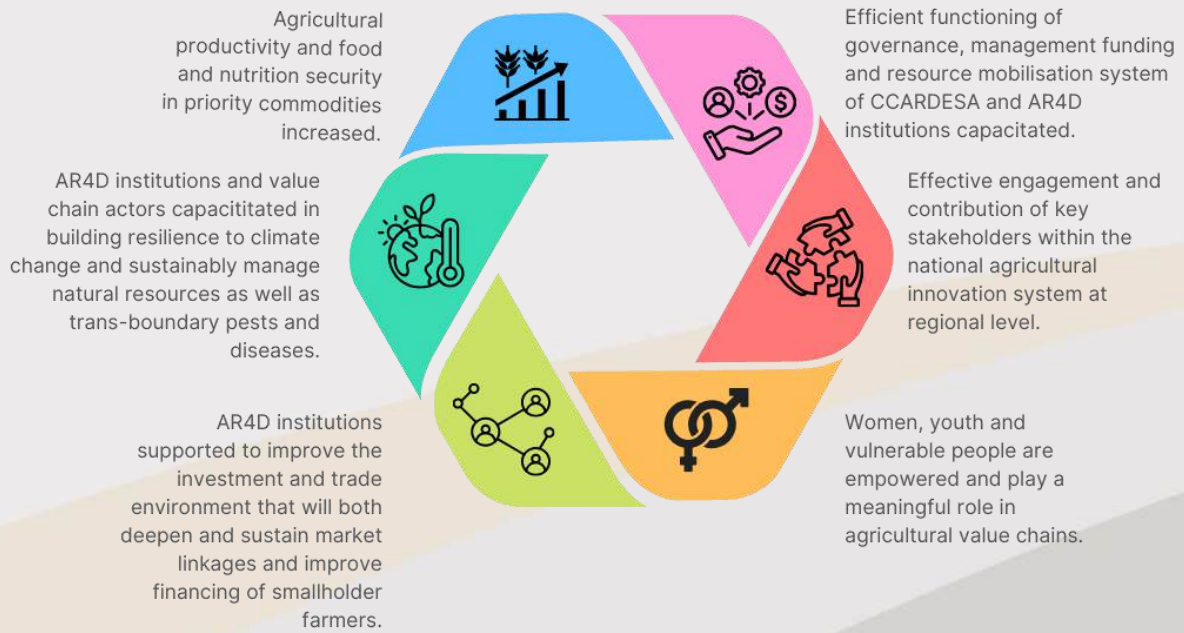
- Resilient agricultural and food systems
- Improved incomes and nutritional status of rural farming communities and other value chain actors

1.3 CCARDESA'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES





1.4 KEY OUTCOMES



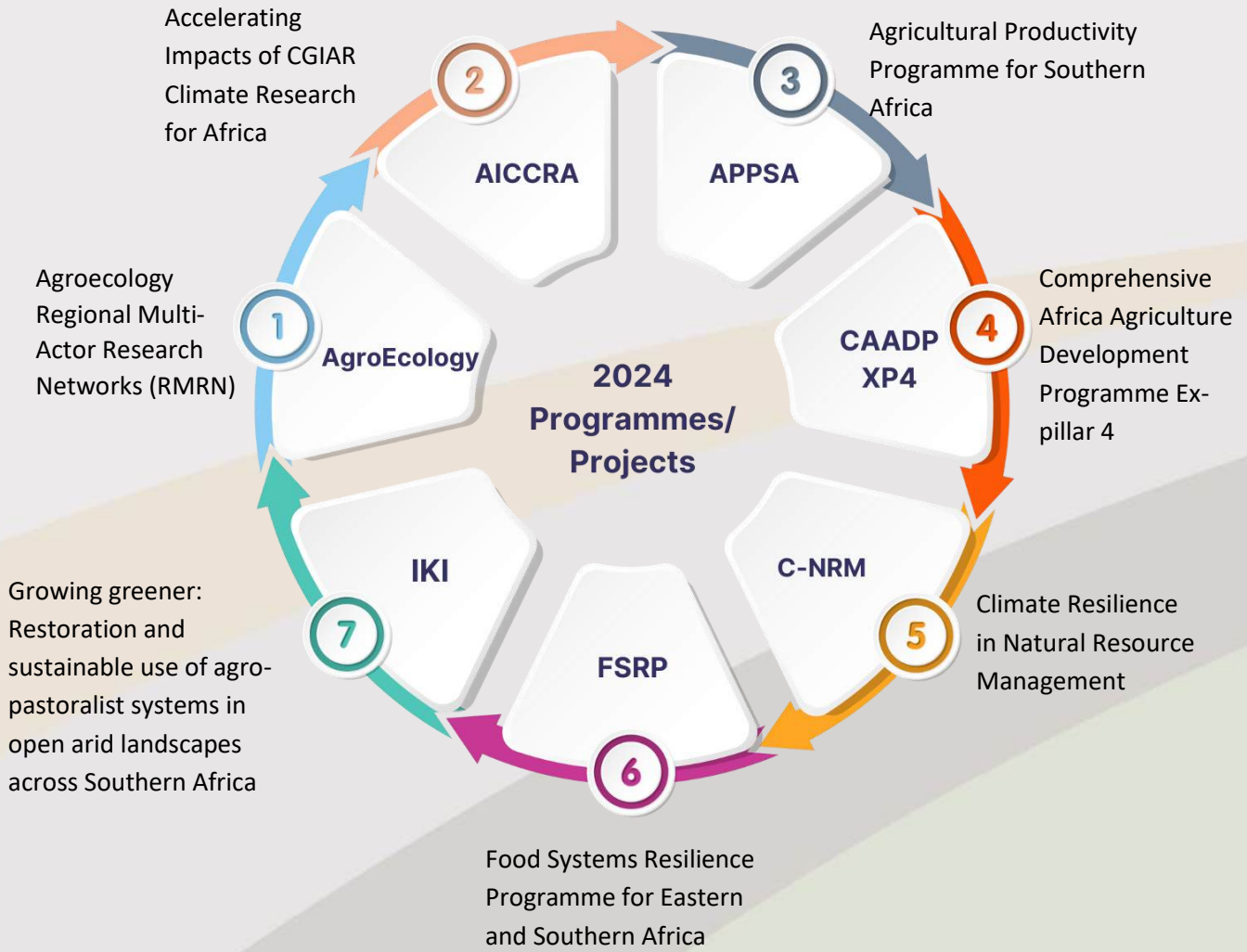
1.5 CCARDESA'S THEMATIC AREAS AND PROGRAMMES

In order to achieve the outcomes, CCARDESA implements activities under the six thematic areas as follows:



In pursuing the implementation of the above thematic areas, CCARDESA implemented key programmes and projects in 2024.





2. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED OUTPUTS

Tables 1, 2, and 3 summarize the delivery of the planned outputs across years, projects/programmes, and thematic areas, respectively.

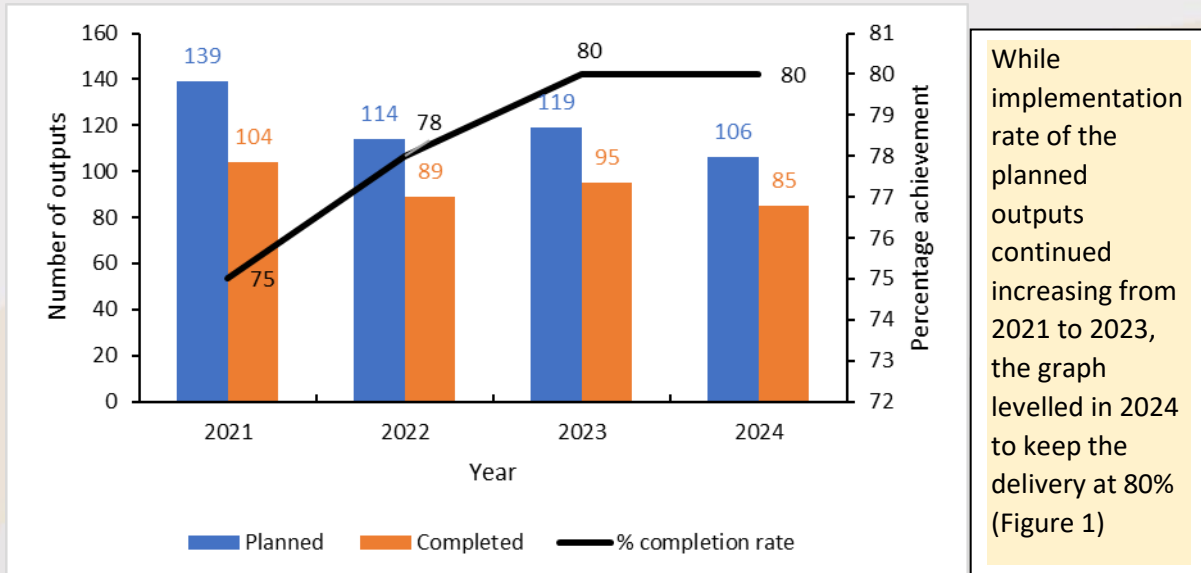


Figure 1: Implementation of planned outputs over the four-year period

C-NRM planned the least number of activities (three) and implemented all of them. Most activities were implemented through CAADP-XP4 and APPSA (Table 1).

Table 1: Achievement of planned outputs by programmes and projects in 2024

Activity	APPSA	CAADP-XP4	FSRP	AICCRA	C-NRM	TOTAL
Planned	31	37	24	11	3	106
Completed	28	29	19	6	3	85
% Completion	90	78	79	55	100	80



3. DETAILED ACHIEVEMENTS BY THEMATIC AREAS

3.1 THEMATIC AREA 1

Agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security

Thematic Objective: To achieve increased agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security, with a special focus on smallholder farmers and priority commodities.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS/RESULTS

- New and existing technologies, innovations and management practices developed and
- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture integrated into AR4D institutions programs and resilient national and regional food systems improved.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Facilitate the establishment of regional centers of leadership in priority commodities
- Facilitate the promotion of new and existing technologies, innovations, and management practices for adoption by value chain actors.
- Facilitate the establishment of partnerships and the implementation of regional client-driven research and development networks and projects through strategic meetings, conferences, and workshops.
- Facilitate the development and dissemination of new technologies, including post-harvest labor-saving technologies amongst NARES
- Facilitate domestication of the harmonized seed regulatory seed system for SADC
- Facilitate dissemination of technologies that target the primary underlying causes of malnutrition.
- Facilitate technical backstopping, monitoring, and implementation support missions to improve the quality of science and track implementation progress.



Key Achievements

Technologies, Innovations, and Management Practices (TIMPs) made available to the end-users:

In 2024, 117 TIMPs were made available, an increase from 107 in 2023 (Figures 1 and 2). The target of 100 TIMPs over the five years was surpassed. The majority of the TIMPs were seed varieties (66) followed by nutrition sensitive technologies (Figure 2).

Different dissemination strategies were used, including scientific animation and demonstrations using Lead and follower farmers and media.

Generation of new technologies, innovations, and management practices

Twenty-one new technologies were generated from the 43 sub-projects implemented under the Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA). The TIMPs are yet to be officially released.

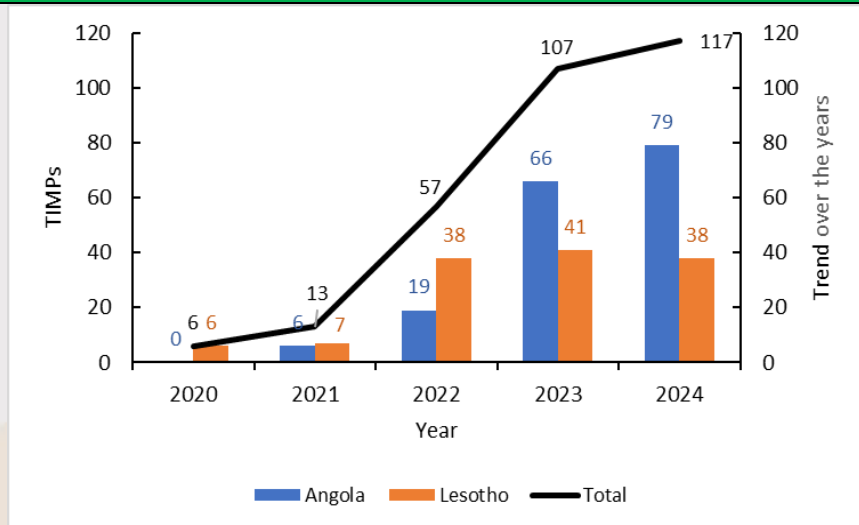


Figure 2: Trend on availing technologies, innovations and management practices (TIMPs) from 2020 to 2024

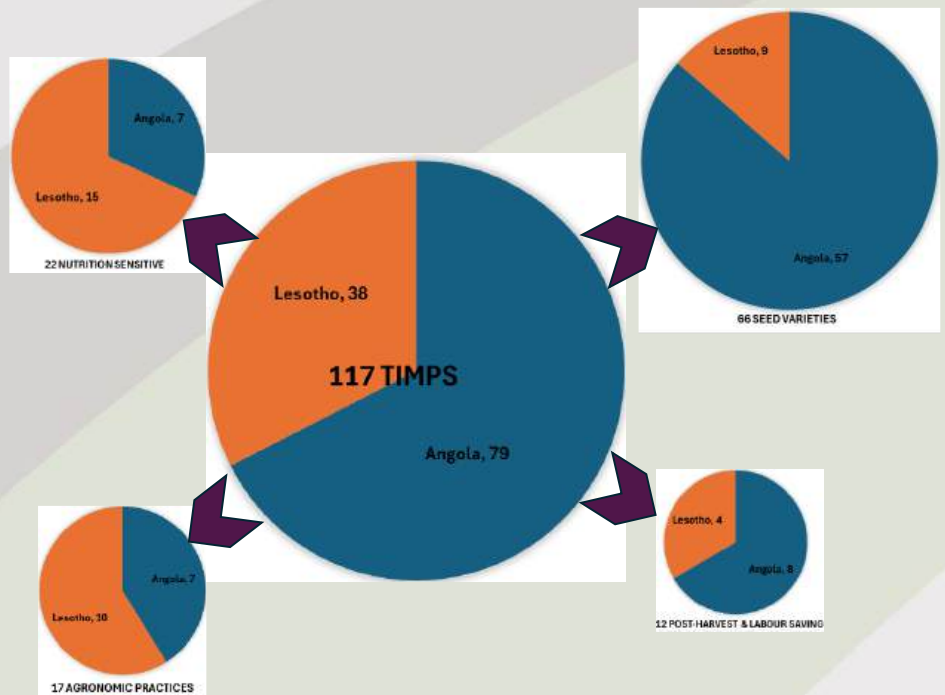


Figure 3: Breakdown of technologies, innovations and management practices (TIMPs) made available to end-users in 2024

Quality of science in implementing agricultural research sub-projects

Independent technical backstopping and implementation support missions reported improvements in planning, designing, and managing the research fields and research data. This was a result of several CCARDESA’s interviews that included scientific trainings on the research designs, field management, and data analysis; exchange visits amongst researchers to learn from each other; technical backstopping missions involving independent reviewers; partnering with specialist institutions and regional collaboration to enforce peer learning and continuous learning amongst researchers through short and long-term trainings.

Domestication of the harmonized regulatory seed system for SADC

One strategy for improving agricultural productivity through access to and availability of improved seed varieties was to enhance the domestication of harmonized seed regulatory systems. Several interventions were conducted, including a seed learning event in Lusaka, learning visits in Zambia and Malawi, policy briefs, and training of potential members of a seed release committee from Angola and Lesotho.

Dissemination of technologies, innovations, and management practices

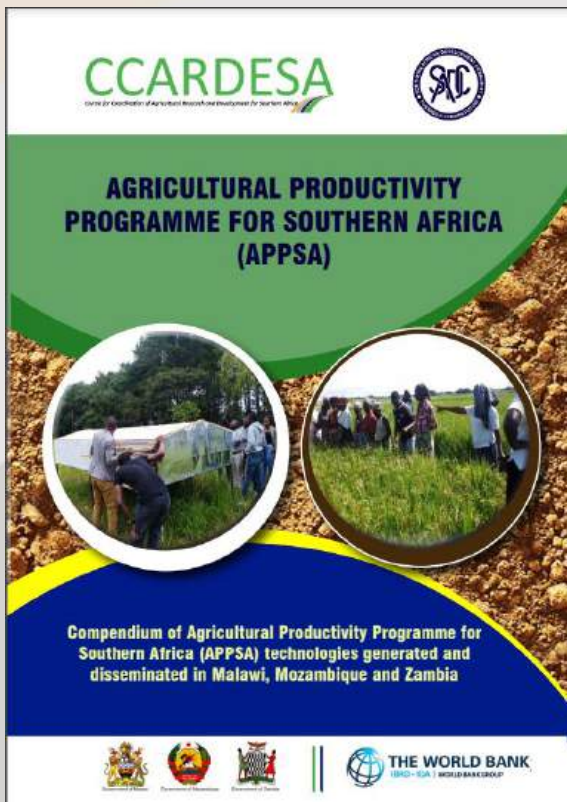


Figure 4: Cover page of the first edition of the compendium of technologies, innovations and management practices

Twenty copies of the first volume of a compendium of technologies, innovations, and management practices (TIMPs) were printed (Figure 4) and distributed to the stakeholders. CCARDESA also partnered with Scientific Animation Without Borders (SAWBO) to develop and publish animated

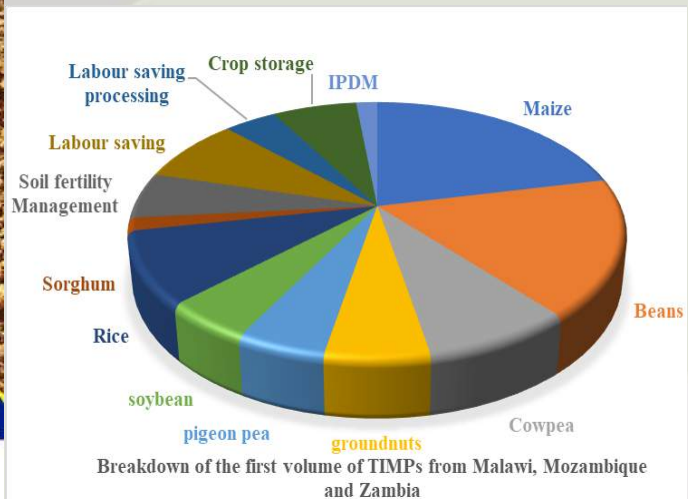


Figure 5: Categories of the technologies, innovations and management practices published in the first edition of the compendium

videos, which were shared using different platforms. Representatives from 12 Member States were also trained to produce animated videos. The process of compiling and editing TIMPs for online

publication is ongoing. Around 326 TIMPs were shared by 10 Member States

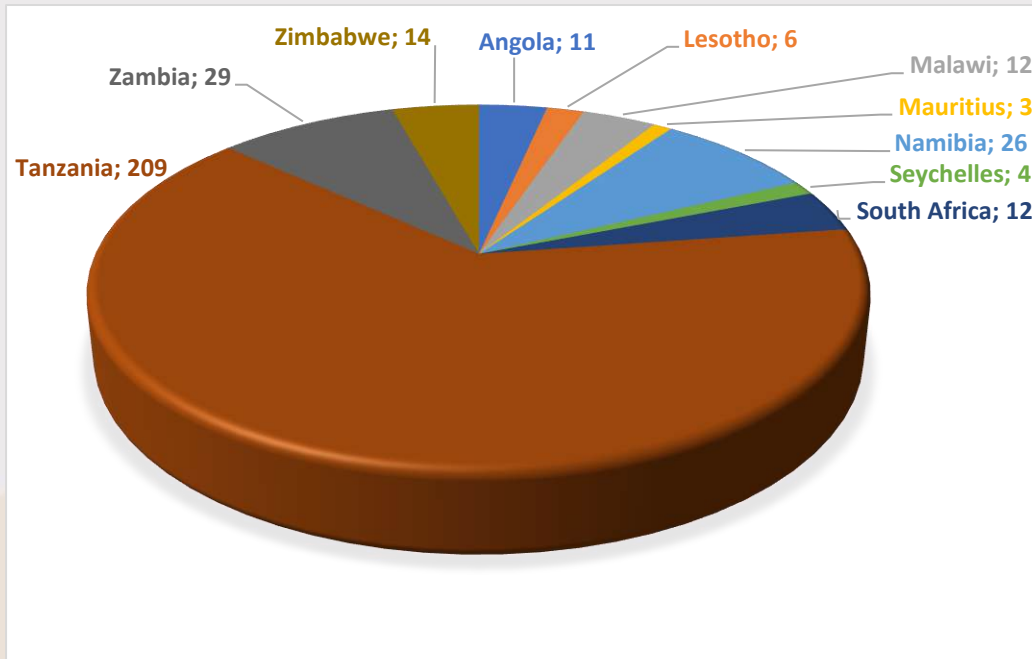


Figure 6: List of TIMPs submitted by Countries for review and on-line publication

Beneficiaries and impact

- 1,317 Lead farmers (35% women) were directly involved in technology generation and dissemination (212 in Lesotho and 1,105 in Angola).
- 1,790 Lead farmers (1,187 in Angola, 603 in Lesotho) are not directly involved but are aware of the APPSA technologies and technologies promoted by APPSA.



3.2
THEMATIC
AREA 2

Resilience to Emerging Agricultural Risks: Environmental, Climate Change and Trans-boundary Pests and Diseases

Thematic Objective 2.1: To increase resilience to climate change and strengthen early detection and rapid response to trans-boundary pests and diseases.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS/RESULTS

- Enabling regional environment for effective management of pests and diseases as well as natural resources created.
- Farmers and other value chain actors supported to sustainably manage the environment and resilient value chains.
- The impact of climate change

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Mitigate impact of climate change and risk of pest and diseases on farmers and natural resources.
- AR4D institutions capacitated to support disaster risk reduction initiatives at national level.
- Facilitate the establishment and hosting of a Regional Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA).
- Strengthen the capacities of national and regional partners on Climate Smart Agriculture, Climate Change and Climate Information Services.
- Build capacities of national partners to support the post Malabo agenda.
- Facilitate strengthening of Early Warning Systems.

Key Achievements

Enabling regional environment for effective management of pests, diseases and natural resources

- **Policy Frameworks and Strategic Documents:** One key strategy to create an enabling environment is to have policy frameworks and strategic documents in place. The documents developed during the year include (1) a Disaster Risk Management Framework, which addresses the increasing disaster risks in the region, (2) the SADC Drought Resilience Building Programme, (3) the revision of the strategic plan, and (4) the development of a new medium-term operational plan for 2024-2029, which included emerging pests and disease





management. The SADC Drought Resilience Building Programme was approved by Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Management. The programme seeks to enhance drought resilience among SADC Member States in the implementation of the SADC Drought Disaster Resilience Strategy (SDDR) (2021-2031). The SDDR strategy provides several entry points for partners to align their respective areas of expertise and resources to help SADC and its Member States implement the three pillars and seven strategic focus areas (SFAs) of the SDDR.

- **Strategic meetings:** CCARDESA participated in the post-Malabo Agenda, the regional One Health learning and exchange event, and the Africa Food Systems Conference (AGRF), which is essential for developing an effective strategy to accelerate the transformation of food systems,

Sustainable management of the environment and resilient value chains.

- **Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit (FSHS):** Key achievements include (1) participation in the Nairobi Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit (FSHS) (CCARDESA supported the participation of 30 beneficiaries out of which 21 were from Member States); Development of a proposal for establishing a SADC FSH Hub to coordinate the implementation of the 10-year African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan.
- ***Upscaling the Promises of Agroecology to Deliver Sustained Soil Health in Africa:*** CCARDESA hosted an Agroecology side event on Upscaling the Promises of Agroecology to Deliver Sustained Soil Health in Africa. The event generated the following key action areas that needed to be considered:
 - (i) prioritize soil health in Africa in order to transform agri-food systems;
 - (ii) strengthen research to extension linkages;
 - (iii) recognize and incorporate traditional Indigenous farming practices into modern agricultural science;
 - (iv) crop diversity is the foundation for increasing soil organic matter, soil fertility, and productivity;
 - (v) national subsidy programmes should include a variety of seeds to encourage crop diversification instead of distributing only maize seeds, and
 - (vi) it is necessary to standardize approaches to avoid confusing smallholder farmers.



- Minimizing Agroecology Conflicts in the Implementation of Conservation Agriculture (CA) on Smallholder Farms:** Eight (8) SADC Member States were supported to participate in the 9th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (WCCA), where a side event was convened to discuss generate ideas for *minimizing agroecology conflicts in the implementation of CA*. Pros and cons of herbicide use and other methods available to farmers were discussed, including cost-benefit analysis and possible integration of the approaches.



Figure 7: One of the presentations during a side even on minimizing agroecology conflicts in the implementation of conservation agriculture

The impact of climate change: Climate change in SADC exacerbates the existing challenges of poverty and food insecurity, and several interventions have been implemented to minimise its impacts. These strategies included:

- Supporting the participation of Member States in key decision-making regional and continental events to ensure the domestication of the decisions at the country level. In 2024, 12 individuals were supported to attend UNCBD COP16, UNFCCC COP29, and UNCCD COP16. In addition, national CSA Alliances were mapped to identify their capacity gaps in informing capacity-strengthening interventions and linking the national platforms to regional, continental, and global CSA platforms.
- Generation of worth of information for tackling climate change through participating in climate-related strategic conferences and hosting side events. These conferences included (1) the Science and Partnership for Agriculture Conference (SPAC), where an Agroecology side event on Upscaling Agroecology in the Face of Agri-Food Systems Transformation was hosted; (2) the Tropical Summit, where an Agroecology side event on Catalysing Agroecological Transitions in the Tropics in the Context of Climate Change was hosted; and (3) Investing in SADC's Future: Climate-Smart Agriculture & Water Security for Sustainable Growth, a side event in COP29 in Baku, which emphasized on the critical intersection of climate-smart agriculture (CSA), water management, and private-sector engagement in building climate resilience across the (SADC) region the SADC region; and (4) the SACAU

annual conference which advocated on putting farmers at the center of climate resilience through multistakeholder consultation.

- Finally, a 4.5 million Euro International Climate Initiative (IKI) Growing Greener



Figure 8: Signing ceremony on the launch of International Climate Initiative (IKI) Growing Greener Project

Project was launched in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through GIZ with its consortium partners and Peace Parks Foundation (PPF). The project will be implemented in Zambia, Botswana, Madagascar, and South Africa. It aims to work with agro-pastoralists to adopt

innovative land-use practices and nature-based solutions, developing soil and landscape restoration economies through public and private investments, market access, ecosystem valuation, and green Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMME).



3.3
THEMATIC
AREA 3

Commercialisation of the Agricultural Sector and Market Access

Thematic Objective 3.1: To promote commercialisation of smallholder agriculture through increasing productivity, value addition, and marketing with emphasis on commodity chain development.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS/RESULTS

- Foresight on market trends for regional priority agricultural commodities to enhance market driven production provided.
- Integration of smallholder farmers into value chains and their capacity to access capital to invest in market driven production supported.
- Value chain actors' access to technologies, innovations, and management practices (TIMPs) improved.
- Participation of women and youths in commercialisation and markets linkages improved.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen the enabling environment for regional trade, markets, and trans-boundary commodity movement.
- Provide foresight on market trends and market driven production, and advocate for policy harmonization that will expand markets and attract investment.
- Support partner institutions to link smallholder farmers to markets and value addition facilities.
- Support technical studies on value chain competitiveness and risk assessments..

Key Achievements

Market-driven production of regional priority agricultural commodities

- Priority agricultural commodities amongst the Member States were identified through a study that was conducted. The results will be used to support establishing and strengthening regional centres of Leadership.



- CCARDESA initiated the development of a regional agricultural trade and market scorecard. This scorecard will be used to assess the implementation of policy commitments on agricultural trade and market access in the Southern African region by identifying country-level policy gaps and areas for improvement related to intra-regional food and agricultural trade. A firm has been engaged to undertake the assessment, which will be completed in 2025.
- Development partners and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) were engaged to identify ways to link STDF knowledge products and good practices to CCARDESA activities, including knowledge networks, to benefit smallholder farmers. STDF is a global partnership that facilitates safe trade and contributes to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, and food security. It supports developing countries in building capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and requirements and gain and maintain market access.

Table 2: List of proposed priority commodities for 10 Countries

Proposed priority Research and Development Commodities for 10 Countries		
#	Country	Priority Commodity
1	Botswana	Cow Peas
2	DRC	Green Coffee
3	Eswatini	Wheat
4	Madagascar	Sorghum
5	Mauritius	Sugar Cane
6	Namibia	Beef
7	South Africa	Citrus
9	Tanzania	Rice
10	Zimbabwe	Horticulture



3.4
THEMATIC
AREA 4

Women, Youth and Social Inclusion

Thematic Objective 4.1: To promote the development and use of appropriate agricultural technologies and innovations for women, youth, and vulnerable groups.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS/RESULTS

- AR4D technologies and innovations specifically targeting women, youth and vulnerable groups developed and promoted.
- AR4D institutions supported to develop interventions that will increase participation of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups in agricultural value chains.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Support gender-responsive policies for sustainable agricultural value chains.
- Principle of inclusiveness in the planning and execution of AR4D interventions promoted.
- Empowerment of women and youth in agriculture.

Key achievements

AR4D technologies and innovations specifically targeting women, youth and vulnerable groups

- **Nutrition-sensitive and Post-harvest and labor-saving technologies:** Twenty-two nutrition-sensitive and 12 post-harvest and labor-saving technologies, targeting women and vulnerable groups, were made available.



Participation of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups in agricultural value chains

- Supported 67 Women & Youth to participate in the Knowledge Exchange and Transfer Symposium held in Kasane, Botswana. The symposium focused on agricultural enterprises and the deployment of innovative practices, including preserving and utilizing Indigenous seeds, integrating traditional crops and livestock into modern value chains, and implementing CSA techniques.



Figure 9: A presentation on mainstreaming gender in climate smart services

- A women and youth symposium on Apiculture and Forestry was held in Eswatini and Botswana. The symposium served as a platform to explore the socio-economic benefits of beekeeping for communities and its role in preserving forest ecosystems. Eswatini utilized the outcomes of the symposium to inform the development of an Apiculture Policy, while Botswana launched its National Apiculture Strategy for 2022 – 2027.



Figure 10: Women and Youth Symposium, foresight training, and Botswana apiculture symposium



- CCARDESA ensure that women are involved in different key areas including capacity building, implementation of research activities and as Lead Farmers (Table 3).

Table 3: *Women's involvement in some of the key CCARDESA activities*

Activity	Women involvement
APPSA Long-Term Training (BSc, MSc and PhDs)	34% of women (20 out of the 59 students) were supported for post-graduate under APPSA (17 in Angola and 3 in Lesotho).
Implementation of research and development sub-projects	11 out of 43 sub-projects were led by women as Principal Investigators (PIs), representing 25.6%. Women Scientists also participated in 8 sub-projects as Co-Principal investigators.
Lead Farmers engagement	1,317 Lead Farmers were involved in APPSA Programme. 465 were female Lead Farmers, representing 35%
Project beneficiaries	APPSA involved 49% female beneficiaries (51% for Angola and 56% for Lesotho)





3.5
THEMATIC
AREA 5

**Knowledge and Information Management,
Communication and Policy**

Thematic Objective 5.1: To provide AR4D stakeholders with information and knowledge to ensure evidence-based policy making within the agricultural sector.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS/RESULTS

- Knowledge management hubs to foster collaboration and information sharing among various stakeholders in different countries strengthened.
- Audience specific agricultural knowledge and information through CCARDESA's ICKM and the Southern Africa Agriculture Information and Knowledge System (SAAIKS) enhanced.
- NARES institutions strengthened in information packaging and use of digital innovations and ICT with potential to transform agriculture

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Improve information and knowledge collection, curation, collation, packaging and reporting to meet the needs of the target audience.
- Strengthen AR4D institutions in information packaging and use of ICT tool and digital innovations to advance agricultural transformation
- Support food and agriculture regional policies development and harmonisation. The target was to undertake a situational on SADC Policy harmonization and recommend actions to strengthen harmonization

Key Achievements

CCARDESA has successfully revamped its website (<https://www.ccardesa.org/>) following a consultative stakeholder process. From January to December over 100,000 total users visited CCARDESA website. The visits increased significantly in 2024 when compared to 2023 (Figure 11). The highest peak was registered between July and October, 2024.





Figure 11: Trend of users visiting the CCARDESA Website in the year

Table 4: Printing and distribution of different branding materials

Nr	Visibility items	Quantities
1	Branding for 3x3 exhibition booth for AFSH Summit	3 panels
2	Printed and distributed brochures for regional events	2,250 copies
3	Compendium of APPSA technologies shared with Scientists in Angola, Lesotho, and during regional events	50 copies
4	Book of Liming distributed during regional events	10 copies
5	Biochar Production manual distributed in the AFSH Summit	4 copies
6	Pop-up banners displayed at regional events	4 types
7	Backdrop banner in regional events	3 types
8	Telescopic banner in regional events	4 types
9	CCARDESA Success stories booklet with 12 stories from various CCARDESA projects	1

Figure 12 shows the percentage change in CCARDESA's reach in 2024 compared to 2023. The highest change was registered on Facebook reach (337.6%), while the lowest was on knowledge management products.



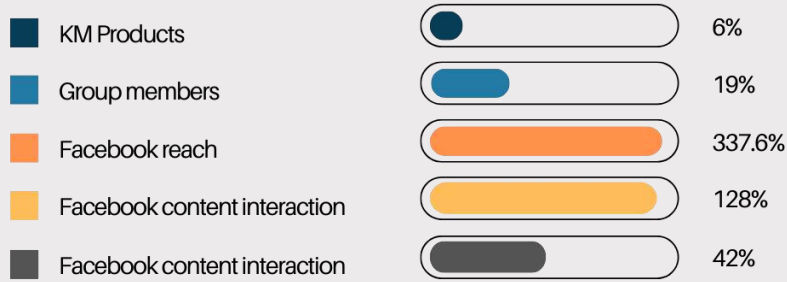


Figure 12: CCARDESA’s reach (percentage growth comparison between 2024 and 2023)

Key achievements under CCARDESA-SAWBO collaboration

- Twenty-eight (28) extension officers from Zambia (Petauke) were the pilot beneficiaries of the digital extension approach through animated videos and received four digital dissemination kits composed of four pico projectors with micro tripods, four Bluetooth speakers, pen drives containing 11 videos in 8 local languages spoken in Zambia. These animated videos come in four formats, namely: MP4, MP4 light, MOV and 3gdp.



Figure 13: Training on the production of animated videos in collaboration with Scientific Animations without Borders

- CCARDESA facilitated the adoption of e-Extension through animated videos among Thirteen (13) Technical staff working in Technology Transfer and Partnership (TTP) under the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI). This provided TARI with advanced alternatives to complement the dissemination of Technologies, Innovations, and Management Practices (TIMPs).
- Scripts of critical knowledge products translated into local languages from 12 out of 16 SADC Member States sampled from over 150 available animated videos in the SAWBO library during a regional ICKM workshop held in Johannesburg.

Other key achievements

- Brochures (8 types) on soil health agricultural R&D technologies compiled, designed, printed and distributed during regional events.





- Regional Communications Strategy for food systems resilience was developed, reviewed by stakeholders and the World Bank, and validated by regional ICKM experts.
- Sharing of best practices and innovations regionally to support soil restoration, green SMMEs, and sustainable agro-pastoral practices to create green jobs, boost household incomes, and strengthen sustainable land management policies.
- Hosting the fourth annual Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD) Conference at the Lemigo Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda. The event covered Indigenous knowledge, climate-relevant agricultural transformation, and sustainable development.
- Certified four managers from Botswana, South Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Knowledge Management for Agriculture for Sustainable Development managers.
- Convening of a Knowledge Management Policy Dialogue through the Ukama Ustawi Initiative.
- Training on using CCARDESA Knowledge Systems, including the Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Mobile Learning App and Knowledge Hub. Two ICKM National Focal Point persons were capacitated.
- CCARDESA, along with partners like FARA, AFAAS, CORAF, ASARECA, and CGIAR, contributed to shaping the African Agricultural Research and Innovation Institutions Space (AARIISpace) framework, reinforcing collective efforts toward a scalable and inclusive digital platform for agricultural knowledge sharing.
- Promoted Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAS) among media practitioners from 7 SADC Member States to improve their skills on reporting-related topics.





3.6
THEMATIC
AREA 6

Capacity Strengthening of CCARDESA and AR4D Institutions

Thematic Objective 6.1: To increase the effectiveness and capacity of NARES and CCARDESA Secretariat in governance, management, human and financial resources.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS/RESULTS

- Regional AR4D agenda developed, and foresight provided to AR4D institutions Governance, management, and resource mobilisation systems for CCARDESA strengthened.
- New strategic partnerships established, and existing ones strengthened.
- AR4D institutions' programmes supported and managed efficiently.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Finalize revision of CCARDESA Strategic Plan and Medium-Term Operational Pan.
- Strengthen existing multi stakeholder partnerships to develop and implement joint programmes.
- Support regional AR4D Institutions to establish and access infrastructure for enhancing the efficient delivery of AR4D projects/programmes.
- The target is to rehabilitate and equip at least 3 research Centres in Angola and Lesotho between 2020 and end of 2024.
- Enhance human capacity in AR4D by facilitating short term technical and administrative trainings.
- Enhance human capacity in AR4D by facilitating long term technical and administrative trainings. The target is to have 15 experts who will have successfully completed training by end of 2024 in Angola and Lesotho under APPSA (BSc, MSc, and PhD).
- Facilitate regional collaboration and mentorship to enhance skills transfer and support for efficient delivery of AR4D projects/ programmes.
- Support AR4D institution to capacitate their staff in resource mobilisation.



**Key achievements****The establishment and strengthening of partnerships and collaboration**

Several partners have engaged with CCARDESA, leading to the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), AKADEMIYA-2063, and the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN). The finalization of an MoU with IITA is also underway. These new alliances will broaden the range of partners that can contribute to CCARDESA's efforts in addressing regional research and development challenges and capacity strengthening by leveraging the unique strengths of these organizations. This initiative aligns with the goals outlined in CCARDESA's Resource Mobilization Strategy and Action Plan.

Table 5: Some of the partnerships established by CCARDESA

SN	Partner	Objective
1	Stellenbosch University	to provide technical support
2	Agricultural Research Council (ARC)	to provide technical support
3	The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)	Policy harmonization support
4	International Crops Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	Collaboration in the following key areas: (1) accelerated crop improvement; (2) resilient farm and food systems; (3) enabling systems transformation; and (4) capacity building
5	African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)	Support efforts to step up technology development and dissemination efforts, including developing an e-platform for publishing the technologies developed in different SADC Member States.
6	World Bank and AGRA	Dialogue on domestication of the harmonized seed regulatory seed system for SADC
7	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Forum for Agricultural Research for Africa (FARA)	Implement Country Foresight Exercises (CFEs) aimed at transforming agri-food systems and equipping policymakers and stakeholders with tools to navigate future challenges in food systems related to sustainability and resilience.





8	Alliance for Agrobiodiversity and CIAT (ABC)	
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Figure 14: Some of the participants during one of the high-level partnership conferences

Capacity strengthening of Regional Centres of Leadership (RCoLs)

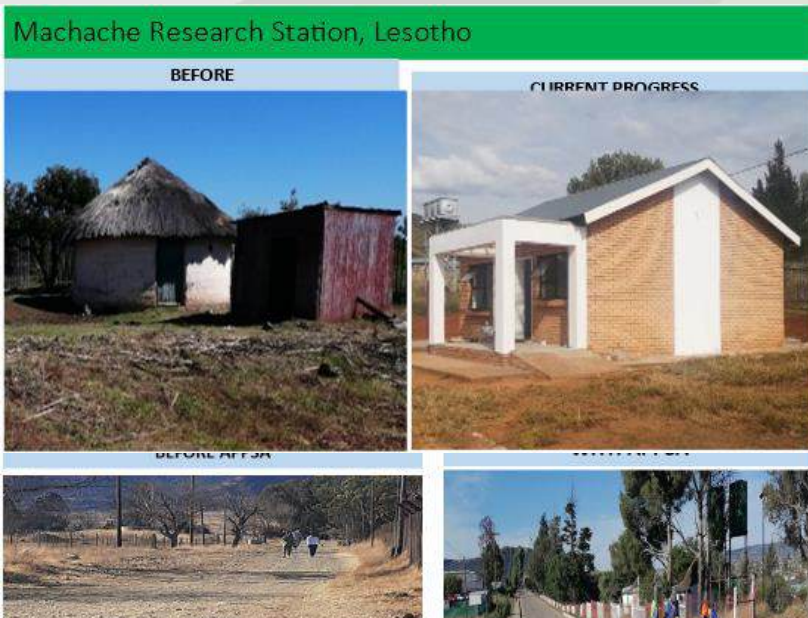


Figure 15: Pictures showing improvement made to infrastructure supporting research in Lesotho during the implementation of the Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA) (Top: Machache research station, bottom: access road to DAR Offices)

Research Infrastructure in Angola and Lesotho was upgraded. In Lesotho, five (5) research stations were rehabilitated, and laboratories and main offices for the Department of Agricultural Research were constructed. Conference facility and access roads were also constructed. In Angola, the construction of Cassava RCoL in Malanje and the rehabilitation work of the Tissue Culture



Laboratory of the Mazozo EEA in Luanda were completed.

- Short-term training of RCoL's staff on management and leadership, HR, and financial management (FM), procurement, safeguards, and M&E, totaling 9,998 days of training (5,957 for Angola and 4,041 for Lesotho) between January 2021 and December 2024.
- CCARDESA, through APPSA, continued supporting the long-term training of 59 students (45 from Angola and 14 from Lesotho). As of the end of 2024, four Scientists (3 males and one female) had completed their MSc, 2 male students had completed BSc, while two (2) BSc, 1 MSc, and 5 PhD students from Lesotho were still undergoing training. As of the end of 2024, all the 45 Angolan students were still undergoing long term training.
- Twenty Extension Officers were trained on alley cropping approach in Lesotho.
- A learning visit to Zambia was undertaken with officials from Angola and Lesotho in May 2024 to learn about the formulation and operations of a Technology Release Committee and processes for releasing new varieties.

Other Institutional Capacity Strengthening achievement: Short-term trainings were provided to SADC Member States by different CCARDESA projects and programmes across all six thematic areas. Some key capacity building programmes were:

- Training of agricultural officers on crop yield prediction modelling in Lilongwe, Malawi in December 2024 under AICCRA to help farmers make informed management decisions to minimize risks under adverse climates and maximize production opportunities under favourable climate conditions well ahead of time.

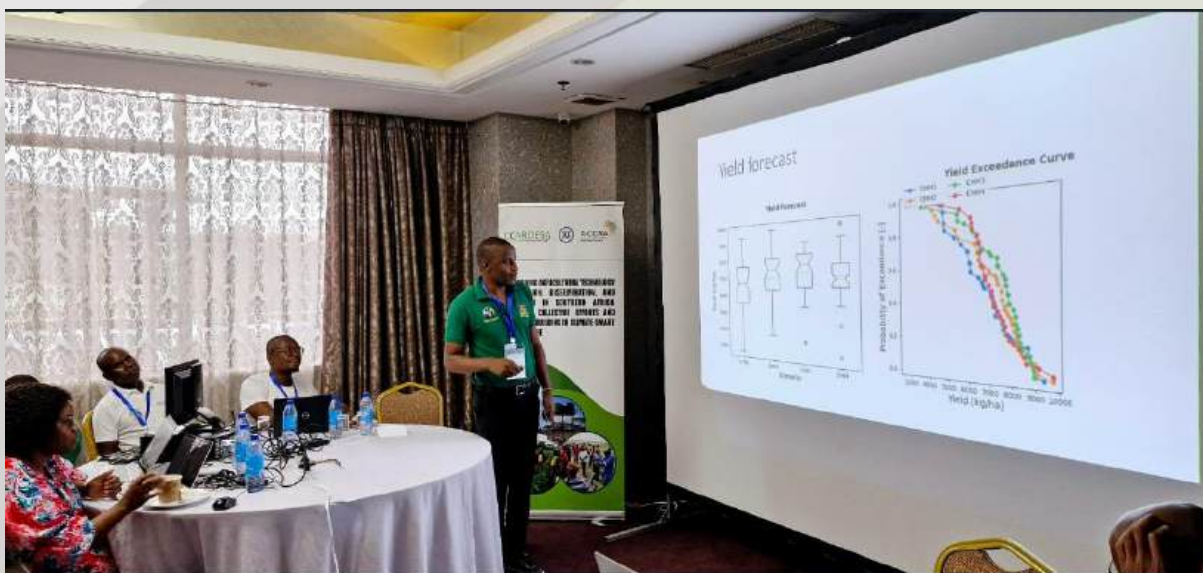


Figure 16: Institutional capacity training

- Four CCARDESA Officers were trained in Climate-Smart Livestock Training in Nairobi, Kenya, with support from the World Bank and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to help CCARDESA to develop bankable project proposals on climate-smart livestock interventions.
- Regional training of the Eastern and Southern Africa country representatives on sub-seasonal prediction, Gaborone, Botswana.



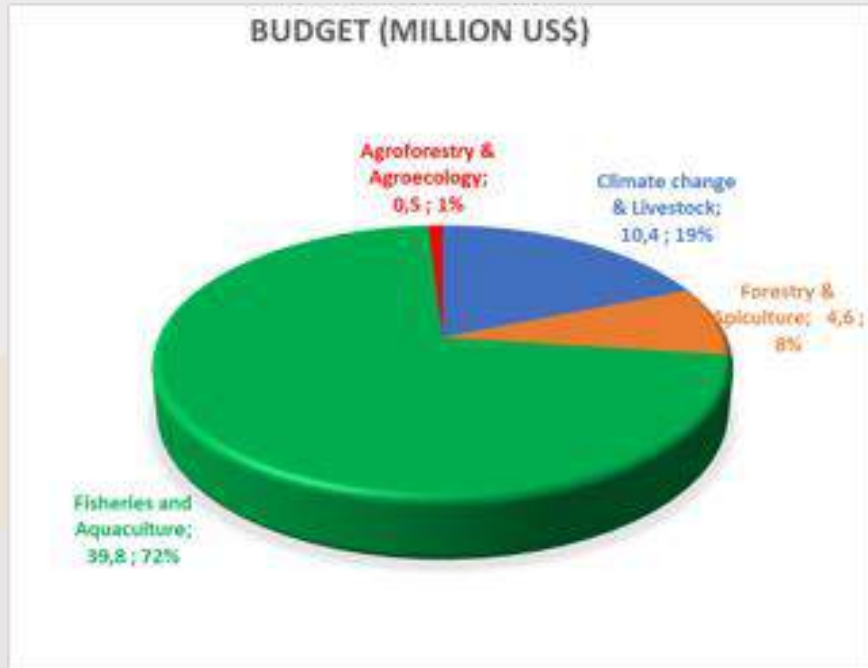
Figure 17: A group photo of the participants of regional capacity building training on Climate and Climate-Related Topics for Agricultural Experts in Southern and Eastern Africa Regions, Gaborone, Botswana

- Regional Capacity Building on Climate and Climate-Related Topics for Agricultural Experts in Southern and Eastern Africa Regions, Gaborone, Botswana
- Capacity building on CSA, soil fertility management, and soil health monitoring was held in Mombasa, Kenya.
- 47 (20F:27M) participants from SADC member states were trained in Foresight for Food systems in Lusaka, Zambia. The objective of the training was to build foresight capacity within agricultural research and development institutions and relevant regional organizations to enable the application of methods and approaches for robust, future-proofed planning and implementation for climate-resilient sustainable food systems

4. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Nine (9) concept notes and project proposals were developed in the four thematic areas (Figure 15), thus

- Co-developing climate-smart innovative technologies centered on small livestock to enhance resilience submitted to International Development Research Centre (IDRC) but was not successful.
- Developed 1 proposal on Livestock and submitted to potential donors
- Submitted a concept note on adaptation to AfDB but CN was unsuccessful



5. GOVERNANCE

During the year, CCARDESA facilitated the development of governance and strategic documents as follows:

Table 6: List of strategic documents developed in 2024 and their status

SN	Strategic/governance document	Status
1	Longterm Strategic Plan and Medium-Term Operational Plan	Revised to include livestock, fisheries, and forestry and the current trends in agri-food systems, amongst others Validated by stakeholders and approved by the Board.
2	Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Strategy for Agricultural Research and Development	The DRM was developed and is awaiting stakeholder validation. It aims to address the increasing negative impact of disasters on the SADC agricultural sector. By embedding DRM into the agricultural research agenda, CCARDESA seeks to enhance the resilience of agricultural systems, particularly for



SN	Strategic/governance document	Status
		smallholder farmers who are most vulnerable to climate extremes and other environmental risks.
3	Revised Governance Manual, General Assembly Rules of Procedures Handbook	The manual was alignment with the Agreement Amending the CCARDESA Charter. The General Assembly Rules of Procedures Handbook was also revised. Terms of reference for the scientific and technical committee were developed.
4	Job Evaluation and Grading Policy & Procedures Manual	<p>The new CCARDESA organizational structure meant to implement the revised LTS and MTOP gave rise to the development of a job evaluation and grading exercise for positions in the new structure. A grading manual, which includes a minimum hiring standard, job evaluation & grading policy for CCARDESA, was produced.</p> <p>The documents were approved by the CCARDESA Board of Directors.</p>
5	Revised compensation policy	Given the revision of the CCARDESA Long-Term Strategy and Mid-Term Operation plan, there was need to consequently revise the CCARDESA organizational structure to design one that can implement the LTS & MTOP effectively. This further necessitated the revision of the CCARDESA Compensation policy which houses the revised salary structure. The purpose of the policy is to support CCARDESA to attract and retain suitably qualified and competent employees through the provision of a competitive compensation package.
6	Approved Training & Development Policy	CCARDESA recognizes its staff as the most valuable assets, and aims to attract, retain and develop staff members of the highest quality. Accordingly, CCARDESA devotes considerable resources towards ensuring staff's well-being and a working environment that is intellectually stimulating and professionally rewarding. It is in this regard that CCARDESA deemed it fit to develop a comprehensive training and development policy. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for employees and line managers on the Training and Development policy and processes and on the implementation of Training and Development initiatives
7	Travel Policy	The implementation of CCARDESA's mandate involves significant travel, mainly within the SADC region. CCARDESA developed a Travel Policy with



SN	Strategic/governance document	Status
		the objective of designing adequate controls for operationalizing travel planning, management, and coordination that ensures relevant travel is undertaken in the context of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
8	Secondment Policy	<p>CCARDESA has developed policies and procedures to guide and direct matters concerning the engagement of secondees, Flexis, volunteers, temporary personnel, interns, post-doctoral associates, technical assistance, and sabbatical placements, which will help address the organization's persistent capacity gaps. The board approved these policy and procedures in December 2024.</p> <p>Developed and approved by the Board of Directors.</p>



Figure 18: A team of experts who participated in validating the CCARDESA long-term strategy and the medium-term plan

6. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of Financial Position

Cash and cash equivalents decreased by 39% from US\$ 1.92 million in the previous year to US\$ 1.18 million on account of implementation of planned activities. International and regional cooperating partners (ICP) disbursed US\$ 3.24 million



during the year to compliment the opening financial resources for various projects and US\$ 4.04 million was expended on project activities implementation during the year. The Member states contributed US\$ 0.42 million to support the Secretariat activities.

Property and equipment increased from USD31 757 to USD 35 006 during the period due to the addition of office computers and equipment. The CCARDESA Reserve Fund received \$80 000 contributions from Member States. No costs apart from bank charges were incurred by the Reserve Fund during the period. The Reserves and Net assets decreased by 36.76% owing to implementation of planned activities. The Table below shows the organisation's Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2024

Table 7: Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024

	2024 USD	2023 USD
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1 177 849	1 923 002
Trade and other receivables	5 730	38 374
	1 183 579	1 961 376
Non - Current assets		
Plant and equipment	35 006	31 757
Total assets	1 218 585	1 993 133
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	64 260	167 934
Total liabilities	64 260	167 939
Total Net Assets	1 154 325	1 825 199
NET ASSETS		
Reserve Fund	611 428	531 501
Member States Contribution Fund	300 218	335 693
Administration Fund	89 427	933
Capital Grants	35 006	31 757
Programme Funds	118 246	925 315
Total net assets	1 154 325	1 825 199

Statement of the Financial Performance

The revenue for the period increased by 18.72% from US\$ 3.79 million to US\$ 4.50 million. The expenditure increased by the same percentage on account of implementation of programme activities during the period. The Project/ Programme implementation costs included in the operating expenditure were USD 4,037,190 which translate to 89.69% of the total costs for the year. The Table below shows the





abridged Statement of Financial Performance of CCARDESA for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Table 8: Statement of the Financial Performance of CCARDESA for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 USD	2023 USD
Revenue	4 501 516	3 791 713
Amortisation of capital grant	13 509	12 697
Operating expenditure	(4 515 025)	(3 804 410)
Surplus for the period	-	-

Financial Performance by thematic areas and by projects

All Thematic Areas performed well over the year achieving an overall financial implementation rate of 72% of the annual budget. The financial performance per project was topped by GIZ CNRM at 96% as the project closed in the year 2024. The CAADP XP4 and APPSA project financial performance was 69% and 75%, respectively. While the FSRP Programme deferred some of its activities to 2025 it achieved a 58% implementation rate. The AICCRA Project performed at 49% and was affected by delays in funding with the bulk of the resources being availed in the last quarter of the year.

Table 9: Financial Performance by Thematic Area, 2024

#	Thematic Area	Budget (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	Variance	Utilization rate (%)
1	Agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security	1,251,417	757,276	494,141	61%
2	Resilience to emerging agricultural risks: environmental, climate change and transboundary pests and diseases	1,250,028	950,546	299,482	76%
3	Commercialisation of the agricultural sector and market access	203,549	160,280	43,269	79%
4	Women, youth, and social inclusion	394,750	323,823	70,927	82%
5	Knowledge and information management, communication, and policy support	676,253	515,025	161,228	76%
6	Capacity strengthening of CCARDESA and AR4D institutions	1,832,910	1,329,595	503,315	73%
TOTAL		5,608,907	4,036,545	1,572,362	72%



**Table 10: Financial Performance by Programme/Project, 2024**

Thematic area summary	Budget (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	Variance (US\$)	Implementation Rate %
APPSA	1,912,378	1,432,313	480,065	75%
AICCRA	448,950	219,498	229,452	49%
CAADP XP4	2,566,978	1,758,561	808,417	69%
CNRM	104,000	99,406	4,594	96%
FSRP	906,601	526,767	379,834	58%
TOTAL	5,608,907	4,036,545	1,902,362	72%

International and Regional Cooperating Partners financial support

During the financial year ended 31 December 2024, CCARDESA received financial contributions from various International and regional Cooperating Partners to support the implementation of Programme activities during the year. The Table below shows the financial support for the year ended 31 December 2024

Table 11: International and Regional Cooperating Partners' financial support 2024

Financing Agreement details				Total (US\$)	Received
Development Partner	Project/ Programme	Action period	Total Grant	2024	2023
World Bank IDA/ IBRD	Agricultural Productivity Program for Southern Africa (APPSA)	2019 - 2025	USD 7.05 million	1 049 925	1 046 925
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Ex-pillar 4 Project (CAADP XP 4)	2019 - 2024	Euro 5.37 million	1 300 375	1 205 530
World Bank IDA	Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP)	2023 - 2029	USD 5 million	528 161	281 990
Alliance of Biodiversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)	Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa	2021 - 2024	USD 379,741	255 000	56 000
TOTAL				3 183 041	2 590 430





BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2025

The budget for 2025 activities is estimated at US\$5,936,813. Thematic Area 6, Capacity strengthening of CCARDESA and AR4D Institutions, has the highest allocation of 32%. Some cross cutting activities under the thematic areas supporting women, youth and social inclusion were mainstreamed in other thematic areas.

Table 12: CCARDESA Budget by thematic areas in 2025

2025 CCARDESA PROJECTS BUDGET BY THEMATIC AREAS	Budgetary Allocation	Budgetary Allocation %
Thematic Area 1: Agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security	1,120,143	19%
Thematic Area 2: Resilience to emerging agricultural risks: environmental, climate change and transboundary pests and diseases	1,617,140	27%
Thematic Area 3: Commercialisation of the agricultural sector and market access	225,896	4%
Thematic Area 4: Women, youth and social inclusion	35,000	1%
Thematic Area 5: Knowledge and information management, communication and policy support	1,012,335	17%
Thematic Area 6: Capacity strengthening of CCARDESA and AR4D institutions	1,926,299	32%
TOTAL BUDGET	5,936,813	100%





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Executive Director and Head of Mission

Senior Managers



Dr Majola L. Mabuza (PhD)
APPSA-FSRP Regional Coordinator



Dr. Baitisi Kingsley Podisi (PhD)
CAADP-XP4 Regional Programme Coordinator



Mrs. Lerang Maruping (née Lephole)
Interim Admin and HR Manager



Mr. Simon Mukuze
Finance Manager



Dr Jerome Queste (Ph.D.)
Resource Mobilization & Partnership Specialist (On secondment from CIRAD)

Middle Management



Dr. Barthlomew Chataika (Ph.D.)
Programme Officer



Ms. Futhi Magagula (M.Sc)
Programme Officer



Mr. Dagmore Tawonezvi
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer



Mrs. Bridget Ndalela. Kakuwa
Information, Communication and Knowledge Management Officer



Mr. Sostino Junior Mucumbe
Information, Communication and Knowledge Management Officer



Mrs. Lerang Maruping (née Lephole)
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Mr. Simbarashe Mutamiri
Finance Officer



Mr. Tseliso Benedict Makara
Procurement Officer



Ms. Mirjam Selma Taapopi
Environmental and Social Safeguard Officer

Support staff



Mrs Botho Monyama
Administrative Assistant



Ms Kopo Rachel Letsebe
IT Support Officer



Mrs. Botsang Mogotsi
Assistant Procurement Officer



Mr Nelson Ediretse
Driver/Messenger



Mrs. Thato Methodi
Receptionist





SOME OF THE CCARDESA PARTNERS





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