

SADC Futures: Developing Foresight Capacity and Climate Resilient Development Pathways

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change and the SADC region and its member states have long recognized the substantial risk and impacts of climate change on regional integration, economic development, sustainable livelihoods and security. The impacts are already severe and expected to worsen, particularly in agriculture sector, which is fundamental to economic growth and poverty reduction in SADC. The region is contending with trends including high population growth and shifts in demographics, food and energy source and pricing, urbanisation and changing food consumption patterns, land degradation and depletion of natural resources and transboundary diseases - all of which will affect future requirements for food in the region. Rural populations will be affected due to widespread dependence on rainfed farming, low adaptive capacities, as well as limited access to agricultural inputs and innovations, credit and markets, among others.

Future planning for climate-resilient development in agricultural systems will require the development of plausible pathways that take into account the myriad of trends, drivers and uncertainties in the SADC region.

SADC CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT

The project will undertake a regional scale climate risk assessment for the SADC region.

This work will involve the collation and review of a wide range of information, including the following: agriculture systems characterisation, location of smallholder and commercial systems, current and future climate hazards, vulnerabilities, capacities and impacts on climate risks, include hotspots and vulnerable areas.

SADC FUTURES AND MAJOR TRENDS

An additional key component of the project is an assessment on the futures and foresight work that has already been undertaken for the SADC region (including other sectors as well as agriculture). The work will synthesise future's approaches and a summary of trends that identifies the major uncertainties facing the region, the main drivers of change in the coming 20 years, and how these uncertainties and change drivers may affect regional integration.

SADC FUTURE AND FORESIGHT TRAINING GOAL

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of SADC state and non-state actors through a tailored Future and Foresight Training series and associated toolkit for scenario guided policy making, strategic planning, regional prioritization and using foresight approaches in the context of climate change impacts in the region. The facilitated webinars and online training will develop future-oriented climate-resilient development pathways for the SADC region with a focus on agricultural systems, based on a regional climate risk analysis and

taking into account relevant trends and emerging health emergencies (e.g. COVID-19). The socio-ecological scenarios and development pathways will provide guidance for the prioritisation of climate investment decisions and the development of robust, specific interventions and climate proofed strategies.

SADC FUTURE AND FORESIGHT TRAINING OVERVIEW

The project aims to support SADC and its member states, through a Future and Foresight training program for the SADC region. The course will offer the first certified training on using foresight and future's methods, directly relevant to agriculture development in SADC and taking into account climate risks and recent implications from the COVID-19 pandemic and its wider links to food system impacts. To cater for different circumstances, internet connectivity and time schedules the training will be available through live facilitated webinars through a training website. The training, supporting materials, webinar recordings will be open access to all relevant SADC stakeholders and hosted on the CCARDESA website through a dedicated Foresight Training Resource Centre.

FORMAT AND TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRAINING

Facilitated training webinars:

- 6 part facilitated webinar series as an introduction to foresight and future's method in the SADC region
- 12 hours in total
- Format: six two-hour webinars hosted weekly via Zoom (anticipated between May - July 2020) with 1 hour of combined activities for participants to complete between webinar 3 and 4

Online training course:

- Certified online training course broken down into 6 modules of 2.5 hours each, each with four 30-minute segments of exercises to complete in participants own time

SADC Future and Foresight training resource centre:

- A dedicated website accessible via CCARDESA to access the certified online training series, webinar recordings and linked materials

TARGET GROUP

The training is designed for regional and national decision makers and policy makers within the SADC region, the SADC Secretariat and CCARDESA and their members (including climate change focal points and agricultural research and extension services). Additional target audiences include SADC member states in a broader sense, civil society, private sector, farmers' organizations, media, academia, advisory services/extension, women and youth focused organizations as well as potential financiers and development partners.

LINKING TO REGIONAL POLICY PROCESSES

The work directly aims to support selected regional policy processes, where the climate risk analysis, future scenarios and climate resilient development pathways can be used for prioritization in regional agriculture and climate change related policy and strategic plans under review.

- SADC Secretariat together with its UNFCCC focal points across its 16 Member States (MS) is currently reviewing its Regional Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2015).
- The Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), currently under review is a comprehensive 15-year roadmap, that provides the strategic direction for promoting regional integration and achieving SADC's long term social and economic goals.
- Advocate for an integrated regional approach to support the SADC Common Agenda and regional climate action.

Proposed training structure	Key activities and skills development
<p>Module 1 Introduction to applying Futures and Foresight methods for climate change and agriculture policy development in the SADC region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development on virtual engagement • Deepened understanding of policy and institutional landscape • Use of foresight methods in the SADC region
<p>Module 2 Regional trends, multi-sectoral linkages and climate risk analysis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems perspective and multisectoral linkages that underpin decision making • Understanding megatrends in the SADC region • Clarification on climate risk hazards and vulnerabilities
<p>Module 3 Future and Foresight Approaches Part A - Vision, establishing climate-resilient development criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Foresight methods and key steps • Developing a future vision and understanding of key barriers • Agreement on driving forces for agricultural systems in the future • Steps to building climate resilient development pathways
<p>Module 4 Module 4 Future and Foresight Approaches Part B - Validating climate resilient development pathways with rapid scenario narratives and trade-offs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of scenarios method using climate change related scenario examples • Determining the framing and scope for developing regional scenarios • Development of narratives for future scenarios to understand potential future states and risks, trade-offs and barriers to achieving climate resilience
<p>Module 5 Future and Foresight Approaches Part C - Developing climate resilient development pathways for the agriculture sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing risks and opportunities associated with scenarios • Assessing scenarios based on key policy objectives • Clarifying elements and trade-offs for climate resilience • Detail of plausible pathways for climate resilient development in the agricultural sector to support policy prioritization
<p>Module 6 Applying tools, developing skill sets, actions and approaches to apply Futures and Foresight methods in SADC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of key Futures and Foresight methods and processes for application in the national and regional context • Individual action plan to apply foresight methods and tools • Training graduation

PARTNERS

This project is a joint initiative of the SADC Secretariat's Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate, the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) through the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and German Development Cooperation.



This project is supported by the **Adaptation to Climate Change in Rural Areas (ACCRA)** programme which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is jointly implemented by CCARDESA and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in the SADC region on behalf of the SADC Secretariat.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security



The lead executing partner for this project is the **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) through the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)** through its Flagship on Priorities and Policies for Climate-Smart Agriculture and its Scenarios Unit. CCAFS has undertaken participatory scenario activities and climate risk analyses in most of the regions of the developing world, along with local and integrated assessments of a wide range of different technical, financial and policy interventions to help build farmer' resilience and address countries' adaption and mitigation commitments under the Paris agreement.



The **Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)** is a sub-regional organisation that was established by SADC Member States (MS) to coordinate agricultural research and development (AR&D) among its 16 MS. This project is aligned to CCARDESA's regional roles of knowledge brokerage, agricultural research capacity development and training, and planned climate-relevant interventions under the EU-funded CAADP-XP4 project which is financed through IFAD.



SADC Secretariat's FANR Directorate as ACCRA's political implementation partner and its convening power and lead on policy development on all matters relating to regional integration, agriculture and climate change.

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