

CCARDESA
Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa



news letter

**WELCOME TO THE
LATEST EDITION OF
COVERAGE UPDATE,
YOUR SOURCE FOR
ESSENTIAL
INFORMATION,
UPDATES FROM
CCARDESA**



We are pleased to share our first quarter newsletter in which we highlight some of the remarkable accomplishments for the past three months. CCARDESA, since its genesis has offered itself as a home for sheltering & fostering agricultural research and development in Southern Africa. Indeed, in its quest to engage researchers, farmers, extensions and other relevant stakeholders in the agricultural sector. CCARDESA will feature more news around conservation, forestry, aqua culture to be more inclusive of other agricultural themes.

I hope you will enjoy the stories in this newsletter featuring the European Union-funded African Union Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Meeting Concludes with the Kampala Declaration: A Renewed Push for Agricultural Transformation and Africa Research, Extension and Education Organisations Re-affirm Cooperation at the Kampala CAADP Summit. Herding for Health Indaba 2025: Advancing Rangeland Restoration and Community Prosperity in Africa.

In addition, as we celebrate women and youth in agriculture throughout the month of March, you will learn about Kushata Moesi, Joshua Zinzombe, Lumka Digashu, Susan Hanene, Rosa Muchaziwepi, Tlotlo, CEO of Native Feeds and Abel Hangoma.

Lastly CCARDESA's World Bank-funded Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA) Lesotho's Minister of Agriculture Tours APPSA-Lesotho Development Sites and APPSA Scientific Conference Concludes with Renewed Commitment to Agricultural Innovation. Opportunities such a Job Opportunity Alert and Consultancy Opportunity.

It is my sincere wish that this newsletter will contribute to your agricultural information needs.

Executive Director
Professor Cliff Dlamini

AFRICAN UNION CAADP MEETING CONCLUDES WITH THE KAMPALA DECLARATION: A RENEWED PUSH FOR AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

Kampala, Uganda—The African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) meeting, held at Speke Resort in Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, brought together leaders, experts, and stakeholders to reflect on two decades of progress, address persistent challenges, and chart a transformative path forward. Adopting the Kampala Declaration marked twenty years of implementing CAADP and a re-commitment to implement this framework which will enable agriculture to contribute towards the ambitious goals of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

To learn more, follow the link below:
<https://www.ccardesa.org/african-union-caadp-meeting-concludes-kampala-declaration-renewed-push-agricultural-transformation?>



AFRICA RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION ORGANISATIONS RE-AFFIRM COOPERATION AT THE KAMPALA CAADP SUMMIT



Africa's Agricultural Research, Innovation and Education Institutions (AARIEIs) made up of the Regional University Forum for Capacity Development (RUFORUM), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Africa (ASARECA), Africa Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), Council for Agricultural Research and Development for West and Central Africa (CORAF) and the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) participated in a side-event where they deliberated on research collaboration with the One-CGIAR focussing on Human Capacity Development.

For more information follow the link below;
<https://www.ccardesa.org/africa-research-extension-and-education-organisations-re-affirm-cooperation-kampala-caadp-summit?>

LESOTHO'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TOURS APPSA-LESOTHO DEVELOPMENT SITES



The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition, Mr. Thabo Mofosi, recently visited key agricultural research sites in Lesotho to assess progress under the World Bank-supported Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA). From February 3rd to 4th, 2025, the Minister toured the regional Agricultural Research Station in Thabang (Mokhotlong district), Mahobong in Leribe district, and the main Agricultural Research Station in Maseru. Accompanied by senior officials, researchers, and extension officers, he observed critical infrastructure developments, field trials, and technology dissemination efforts aimed at improving agricultural productivity in Lesotho. During the visit, the Minister expressed his appreciation for the advancements made possible by APPSA, highlighting the importance of well-equipped laboratories, weather stations, and enhanced research facilities in strengthening Lesotho's agricultural sector. He also acknowledged the World Bank's continued support in fostering agricultural innovation and self-sufficiency in the country.

Read more about the visit here: <https://www.ccardesa.org/lesothos-minister-agriculture...>



HERDING FOR HEALTH INDABA 2025: ADVANCING RANGELAND RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY PROSPERITY IN AFRICA



From January 27 to 31, 2025, CCARDESA participated in the Herding for Health (H4H) Indaba under the theme “Accelerating Rangeland Restoration and Community Prosperity in Africa” at the Radisson Safari Hotel in Hoedspruit, South Africa. Conservation International and the Peace Parks Foundation explain H4H as “a community-driven livestock management model that supports the livelihoods of rural communities living in and around protected areas — while restoring rangelands and conserving biodiversity through herding, capacity building and collective governance”

To read more, follow the link: <https://www.ccardesa.org/herding-health-indaba-2025-advancing-rangeland-restoration-and-community-prosperity-africa?>

AN INITIATIVE TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF AGROECOLOGY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TAKES OFF

Cape Town, South Africa – A crucial milestone was marked for agroecology in Southern Africa as key stakeholders gathered at the Lagoon Beach Hotel on February 25-28, 2025, for the Inception Meeting of the Research for Agroecology Network in Southern Africa (REANs) Project.

To learn more, follow the link below: <https://www.ccardesa.org/initiative-shape-future-agroecology-southern-africa-takes?>



PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CCARDESA, CGIAR CENTRES AND NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN TANZANIA, MALAWI AND ZAMBIA INITIATES DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE-SMART LEGUME PRODUCTION GUIDES



Agriculture in Southern Africa is under immense pressure due to climate change and climate variability. The impacts of climate change on agriculture include late onset and early cessation of rainfall, reduced length of crop growing period, unpredictable rainfall distribution, water stress and prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, and the growing threat of increased pests and diseases disrupting food production.

To learn more, follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/partnership-between-ccardesa-cgiar-centres-and-national-agricultural-research-institutes-tanzania?>

ADVANCING SOIL HEALTH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



Member States from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have taken a major step toward sustainable agriculture with the official validation of the Southern Africa Soil Health and Fertilizer Hub and Programme. This AU-endorsed initiative will combat soil degradation, optimize fertilizer use, and promote resilient farming practices across the region.

Hosted by CCARDESA, the hub will serve as a center for research, innovation, and policy coordination to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability.

To read more visit: <https://www.ccardesa.org/southern-africa-validates-soil-health-and-fertilizer-hub-proposal?>

THE RADICAL FARMER GOES BACK TO HIS ROOTS AND LIFTS SORGHUM

My name is Abel Hangoma, though most people know me as the Radical Farmer. I have spent years championing sustainable agriculture and organic solutions that put power back into the hands of smallholder farmers.

To learn more, follow the link below: <https://www.ccardesa.org/radical-farmer-goes-back-his-roots-and-lifts-sorghum?>



AFRICAN ARMYWORM OUTBREAK THREATENS FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



An alarming outbreak of African armyworm is sweeping across Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana, Eswatini, and South Africa, endangering food security and millions of smallholder farmers. This fast-spreading pest devastates staple crops like maize, millet, and sorghum—posing a serious economic and humanitarian threat.

Governments and agricultural organizations are mobilizing urgent response efforts through early detection, chemical and biological control, and farmer awareness campaigns. CCARDESA, through the Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP), is promoting regional knowledge-sharing to combat this crisis.

- Collaboration is key! Sustainable pest management and climate-smart agriculture are essential to safeguarding Southern Africa's food systems.

To read more: <https://www.ccardesa.org/african-armyworm-outbreak-threatens-food-security-southern-africa?>



KUSHATA MOESI PAVES THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

CCARDESA is thrilled to celebrate women and youth in agriculture throughout the month of March! As part of this celebration, we will spotlight their inspiring agricultural journeys and share personal stories of resilience, innovation, and impact. Stay tuned as we highlight the faces behind the fields and the change-makers shaping the future of agriculture! Today we spotlight; Kushata Moesi who Paves The Way for Future Generations of Women in Agriculture

By Lorato B. Kgakatsi

Farming is not just about the land or the cattle. It's about independence, empowerment, and staying connected to the earth that has always been part of my story. It represents growth—both personal and financial—and gives me the opportunity to carve out a livelihood that sustains not only my family but also my community's food security.

To learn more about this story, follow the link below: <https://www.ccardesa.org/kushata-moesi-paves-way-future-generations-women-agriculture?>



JOSHUA ZINZOMBE: THE YOUNG FARMER REVOLUTIONIZING AGRICULTURE IN ZIMBABWE



I am Joshua Zinzombe, 38 years old, the CEO and Director of Greenfarms Organics. My journey in agriculture is more than just farming. I knew that agriculture wasn't just about survival; it was about transformation, innovation, and empowerment.

To learn more, follow the link below: <https://www.ccardesa.org/joshua-zinzombe-young-farmer-revolutionizing-agriculture-zimbabwe?>



LUMKA DIGASHU: CULTIVATING GROWTH, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



My name is Lumka Digashu. I am 35 years old and the Founder and CEO of Accuwoman Holdings. I am a passionate farmer and entrepreneur rooted in the fertile lands of Kokstad, KwaZulu-Natal. My journey in agriculture started in 2016, and it has been one of resilience, innovation, and commitment to the land and the people who depend on it.

To learn more about Lumka's story, follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/lumka-digashu-cultivating-growth-empowering-communities?>

SUSAN HANENE: FROM HOSPITAL HALLS TO HARVEST CALLS

My name is Susan Hanene, aka Nurse Farmer Hanene. I am a nurse by profession, but my true passion lies in farming because agriculture is the backbone of both individual and national health. I manage a small farm in the rural area of Katuba, in Chibombo District, Central Province, Zambia.

To learn more, follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/susan-hanene-hospital-halls-harvest-calls?>



FROM FORAGING TO FARMING: ROSA MUCHAZIWEPI, MUSHROOM QUEEN OF ZIMBABWE

Today we spotlight Rosa Muchaziwepi, a passionate entrepreneur, qualified business administrator, and currently pursuing a Bachelor's Honours Degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. I am the proud founder and Director of Rosmuc Mushrooms—a thriving enterprise born from heritage, passion, and resilience.

To learn more, follow the link below: <https://www.ccardesa.org/foraging-farming-rosa-muchaziwepi-mushroom-queen-zimbabwe?>



CHIEF CHITEMBO COMMENDS THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT FOR EMPOWERING OVER 1000 WOMEN WITH LIVESTOCK BY JOSIAH MPOFU



Chief Chitembo of the Ng'umbo people in Chifunabuli district, Luapula Province, has appreciated the government's decision to empower over 1,000 women-headed households in the district with Livestock.

For more information, follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/chief-chitembo-commends-zambian-government-empowering-over-1000-women-livestock?>

TLOTLO FIGHTS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: BY LORATO KGAKATSI

Today we spotlight Tlotlo, CEO of Native Feeds. I am a young woman in agribusiness and my greatest passion is to see women advancing in this field not just as workers, but as leaders, innovators, and decision-makers. I believe in a future where equality, fair policies, and representation are not just aspirations, but realities for every woman in agriculture.

To learn more, follow the link below: <https://www.ccardesa.org/tlotlo-fights-social-and-economic-inclusion-women-agriculture?>



OPPORTUNITIES

JOB OPPORTUNITY ALERT



**VACANCY
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**PROJECT OFFICER – RESEARCH FOR AGROECOLOGY
NETWORK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (RAENS)**

The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research & Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA) is looking for a dynamic Project Officer to join the Research for Agroecology Network of Southern Africa (RAENS) Project in Gaborone, Botswana.

DEADLINE: 25/04/2025

APPLY NOW

<https://www.ccardesa.org/research-agroecology-network-southern-africa-raens-project-officer>

The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research & Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA) is looking for a dynamic Project Officer to join the Research for Agroecology Network of Southern Africa (RAENS) Project in Gaborone, Botswana.

Are you passionate about agricultural research and development?
Do you have experience in agroecology and project coordination?
Ready to make an impact in Southern Africa?

Join us in driving sustainable agricultural solutions.

Location: Gaborone, Botswana
Application Deadline: 25/04/2025

For more details, visit our website:
<https://www.ccardesa.org/research-agroecology-network-southern-africa-raens-project-officer?>

CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY



Consultancy Opportunity

Individual Consultant Selection

The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) invites expression of Interest for the Development of a Performance Management System for CCARDESA-Secretariat-CCARDESA Secretariat Botswana.

To apply follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/request-expression-interestdevelopment-performance-management-system-ccardesa-secretariat>

DEADLINE:16 MAY 2025



CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SELECTION

CCARDESA requests an expression of interest in the development of a performance management system for CCARDESA Secretariat -CCARDESA Secretariat, Botswana.

For full details follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/request-expression-interestdevelopment-performance-management-system-ccardesa-secretariat?>

Deadline: 16/05/2025

About CCARDESA

CCARDESA was founded by SADC Member States to harmonise the implementation of Agricultural Research and Development in the SADC region.

CCARDESA intends to address agricultural research following interventions

- Coordinating implementation of regional agricultural research and development programmes.
- Facilitating collaboration among stakeholders of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems.
- Promoting public-private partnerships in regional agricultural research and development.
- Improving agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption in the region through collective efforts, training and capacity building.



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