



## NEWSLETTER

[www.ccardesa.org](http://www.ccardesa.org)

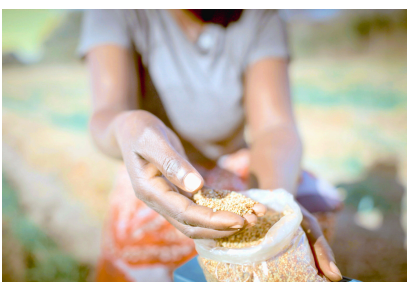
Welcome to the latest edition of Coverage Update, your source for essential information, updates from CCARDESA

### About CCARDESA

CCARDESA was founded by SADC Member States to harmonize 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.



# REMARKS

Dear Esteemed Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the CCARDESA Third Quarter Newsletter for 2025, which captures our continued progress and collaborative achievements in advancing agricultural transformation across the SADC region over the past three months.

This quarter's standout milestones were the "Growing Greener Partners' Reaffirmed Commitment to Climate Resilience and Community-Centered Restoration" and "the launch of the SADC Soil Health and Fertilizer Hub," powerful tools for demonstrating our collective resolve to promote sustainable, inclusive, and climate-smart agrifood systems in Southern Africa.

Building on CCARDESA's solid foundations, the Kingdom of Lesotho successfully established a National Variety Release Committee—a critical step in strengthening seed governance and deepening regional integration for food systems resilience. We also empowered the media through a training for journalists on Rangeland Management and the Herding for Health Model, equipping them to communicate more effectively about environmental stewardship and sustainable land use.

This edition also features inspiring highlights, including a Legacy of Impact as CCARDESA closes APPSA with powerful results, a call for smarter support to farmers, and strengthening regional coordination for food systems resilience.

As you read through these stories, I encourage you to see them not only as updates but as a call to collective action. The challenges we face in agriculture—climate change, soil degradation, and food insecurity—demand collaboration, innovation, and shared responsibility. Together, we can build a resilient and prosperous agricultural future for our region.

Warm regards,  
Prof Cliff. S Dlamini  
Executive Director, CCARDESA



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# Growing Greener Partners Reaffirm Commitment to Climate Resilience and Community-Centered Restoration



## IKI GROWING GREENER

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting for the IKI Growing Greener – Herding for Health initiative concluded in Livingstone, Zambia, with strong reaffirmations of regional cooperation, innovation, and sustainable land management. The high-level event brought together government officials, development partners, researchers, and civil society actors from Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, and Madagascar, as well as representatives from GIZ, BMUKN, Z-U-G, and the German Embassy.

To learn more, follow the link below

<https://www.ccardesa.org/growing-greener-partners-reaffirm-commitment-climate-resilience-and-community-centered-restoration?>

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# A Legacy of Impact: APPSA Closes with Powerful Results

CCARDESA is proud to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA) – a game-changing initiative that officially closed on 30 June 2025.

In a region where agricultural research often lacks adequate funding, APPSA stood out as a strategic investment that harnessed the power of regional collaboration to drive innovation, strengthen institutions, and deliver real impact on the ground.

Key achievements of APPSA (2019–2025):

- 117 improved technologies released – surpassing the 100-target mark!
- Over 50,000 direct beneficiaries reached
- 64.7% adoption rate of new technologies by farmers
- 33% of scholarships awarded to women
- Stronger research capacity in Angola and Lesotho, even amidst COVID-19 challenges

From improved seed varieties and agronomic practices to nutrition-sensitive innovations, APPSA has proven that regional cooperation works – especially through Regional Centres of Leadership (RCoLs), policy harmonisation, and knowledge exchange.



For more information follow the link below

<https://www.ccardesa.org/appsa-strategic-investment-agricultural-research-southern-africa?>



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# Lesotho Establishes National Variety Release Committee to Strengthen Seed Governance

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN) of the Kingdom of Lesotho has officially established a Variety Release Committee (VRC) — a critical body that will oversee the formal release and regulation of seed varieties in the country.

The newly formed Committee plays a vital role in:

- Reviewing proposals for new seed varieties
- Ensuring suitability for Lesotho’s agro-ecological zones
- Upholding plant breeders’ rights
- Promoting mutual recognition of seed varieties across the SADC region
- Managing the national seed variety list

The VRC held its inaugural meeting from 27–29 June 2025, reviewing varieties developed under the Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA).

Mrs. Marankoe Selikane, Secretary of the VRC, stressed that the Committee will ensure that Lesotho’s farmers have access to quality seeds tailored to local conditions. Industry representative Mr. Leuta Matete commended the Ministry for this long-overdue step, highlighting its importance in maintaining the integrity of government-supported seed programs. Mrs. Nothembele Nobala from the Department of Marketing added that the VRC will also support farmers in transitioning to more commercial and profitable farming practices.

Read more about this milestone initiative here: <https://www.ccardesa.org/ministry-agriculture-food-security-and-nutrition-lesotho-establishes-variety-release-committee?>



# Strengthening Regional Coordination for Food Systems Resilience

From 14–15 July 2025, CCARDESA convened regional Monitoring & Evaluation and Communications Working Group meetings in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the World Bank-supported Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP).

The meetings brought together experts from Malawi, Madagascar, Comoros, and Tanzania to harmonize workplans, align reporting tools, and activate regional structures that promote shared learning, accountability, and climate-smart impact.

Communications experts endorsed their Terms of Reference, consolidated 2025 workplans, and initiated a regional newsletter and shared events calendar.

M&E specialists operationalized the Regional M&E Working Group, validated results frameworks, and adopted harmonized indicators for cross-country tracking.

These Working Groups are not just administrative units — they are engines of collaboration driving food systems transformation across the SADC region

Read more: <https://www.ccardesa.org/fsrp-strengthens-coordination-through-regional-me-and-communications-working-group-meetings?>



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# Digital Agriculture Takes a Leap Forward in Southern Africa



CCARDESA, in partnership with the University of Pretoria, hosted a Web 3.0 and Artificial Intelligence (AI) training in Johannesburg, South Africa! The 3-day regional workshop brought together over 30 experts from across the SADC region under the Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP) to explore game-changing digital tools for modern agriculture.

Participants dived into:

- Semantic web & intelligent data integration
- AI-powered content generation
- Blockchain for secure agri-data sharing
- IoT, e-extension, & mobile-first advisory services
- Digital inclusion strategies for youth & women

With practical case studies, real-time prototype design, and vibrant exchanges, the training empowered participants to build farmer-centered, scalable digital solutions for food systems resilience.

“We’re not just introducing new tools – we’re building the systems and skills to make digital agriculture work for farmers,” – Dr. Majola Mabuza, FSRP Regional Coordinator

For more information follow the link below

[l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ccardesa.org%2Fccardesa-hosts-web-30-and-artificial-intelligence-training-advance-digital-agriculture](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ccardesa.org%2Fccardesa-hosts-web-30-and-artificial-intelligence-training-advance-digital-agriculture)



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# Kasheshe Coop: Where Agriculture Keeps the Peace between Villagers and Wildlife



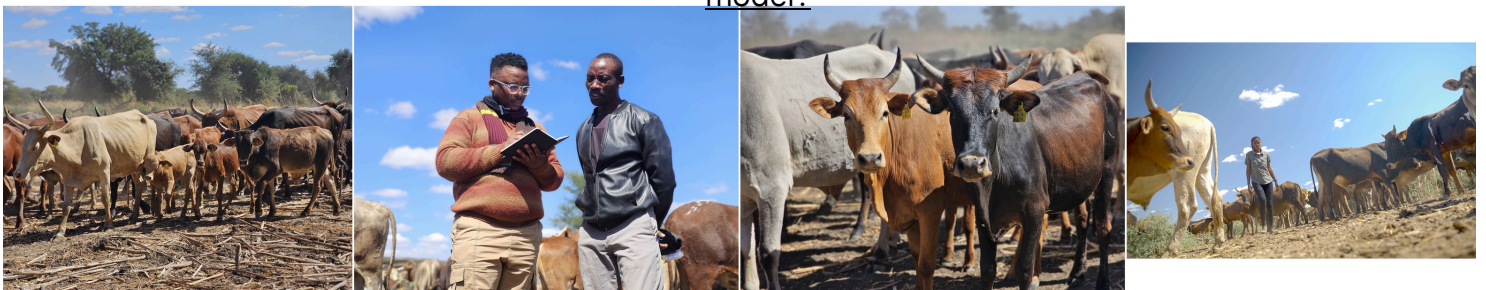
The long-standing struggle between humans and wildlife is shifting in the heart of Zambia. In the Simalaha Community Conservancy, among the Mwilima and Mwandu villages, a quiet revolution is unfolding. Since its establishment in 2022, the Kasheshe Multipurpose Cooperative has become a testament to how farming can do more than feed families; it can create harmony between people and wildlife

To learn more, follow the link below: <https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-trains-media-rangeland-management-and-herding-health-model?>

## Healing the Land, Herding the Future: Restoring Land and Livelihoods -By Prince Mtsweni

In the heart of Zambia's Southern Province, within the Kazungula District, lies Sikaunzwe, a grazing area transformed by a steady and impactful shift towards sustainable livestock farming. This transformation is being led by the Herding for Health (H4H) initiative, a regional rangeland management programme that combines environmental conservation with improved livestock production. What makes this initiative particularly remarkable is how it centres community knowledge, climate resilience, and women's empowerment

To learn more, follow the link below: <https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-trains-media-rangeland-management-and-herding-health-model?>



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## The Young Woman Behind 300 Cattle By Keikantse Lesemela

In the quiet rural stretch of Sikaunzwe, a small village tucked away in southern Zambia, the bleating of cattle is more than just background noise; it's the heartbeat of the community. And at the centre of it all stands 25-year-old Precious Phiri, a determined young woman breaking barriers and reshaping perceptions about what women can do

To read for visit: <https://www.ccardesa.org/southern-africa-launches-soil-health-and-fertilizer-hub-drive-sustainable-agriculture?>



## SADC Urged to Leverage Climate Information Services to Enhance Climate Resilience in Agriculture By Dorcas Kabuya

Over 70 percent of Southern Africa's population depends on rain-fed agriculture, making the region highly vulnerable to climate variability and extreme weather events.

Since climate change knows no borders, policymakers are being urged to adopt a harmonized regional framework and increase strategic investments in climate information services (CIS) to boost climate resilience in agriculture and strengthen institutional coherence across sectors

To learn more, follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/regional-leaders-call-urgent-coordinated-action-transform-african-agri-food-systems?>



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## Official Launch of the SADC Soil Health and Fertilizer Hub

Southern Africa has officially launched the Soil Health and Fertilizer Hub — a groundbreaking regional platform focused on enhancing soil health, improving fertilizer access and efficiency, and promoting climate-resilient agriculture across SADC Member States.

The launch took place on August 4, 2025, in Johannesburg, alongside the FANRPAN 2025 Annual Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue.

This milestone follows the formal endorsement by SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries, and Aquaculture in May 2025, marking a significant step forward in combating soil degradation and addressing fertilizer challenges throughout the region.

To read for visit: <https://www.ccardesa.org/southern-africa-launches-soil-health-and-fertilizer-hub-drive-sustainable-agriculture?>



## Regional Leaders Call for Urgent, Coordinated Action to Transform African Agri-food Systems By Dorcas Kabuya

Regional leaders and Agricultural experts have called for urgent, coordinated action to align policies, investment, and governance across the continent during a high-level policy dialogue on African Agri-food systems transformation

To learn more, follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/regional-leaders-call-urgent-coordinated-action-transform-african-agri-food-systems?>



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# Opportunities

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



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

### INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION

CCARDESA seeks expressions of Interest for a Consultancy to Conduct Training In Agricultural experimental designs, data management, and advanced statistical analysis for CCARDESA.

**CLOSING DATE: 21-II-2025**

To learn more, follow the link below:

<https://www.ccardesa.org/request-expression-interest-consultancy-conduct-training-agricultural-experimental-designs-data>



Follow the link below to apply;

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## Conservation International Open Vacancies

Follow the link below to apply;

[https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/search/currentJobId=4321269847&f\\_C=12533%2C100582574&geold=92000000&origin=COMPANY\\_PAGE\\_JOB\\_S\\_CLUSTER\\_EXPANSION](https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/search/currentJobId=4321269847&f_C=12533%2C100582574&geold=92000000&origin=COMPANY_PAGE_JOB_S_CLUSTER_EXPANSION)



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## LATEST SAAIKS KNOWLEDGE HUB CONTENT

CCARDESA Strengthens Governance Through Board Induction Workshop in Johannesburg

<https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-strengthens-governance-through-board-induction-workshop?>

CCARDESA Champions Agroecology for a Resilient SADC Food System: By Phumelele Mkhonta

<https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-champions-agroecology-resilient-sadc-food-system?>

CCARDESA Joins the Call for Smarter Support to Farmer

<https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-joins-call-smarter-support-farmer?>

CCARDESA at the 2025 CGIAR Gender Research Conference

<https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-joins-global-gender-research-dialogue-strengthen-learning-food-systems-resilience?>

Zambia Launches Regional Agro-ecology Network, as Women Farmers Push for Policy Reforms

<https://www.ccardesa.org/zambia-launches-regional-agro-ecology-network-women-farmers-push-policy-reforms?>

CCARDESA Highlights Knowledge Management and Communications as Drivers of Scaling Up IKI Growing Greener Initiatives

<https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-highlights-knowledge-management-and-communications-drivers-scaling-iki-growing-greener?>

We Are the Circle that Heals By Dr Hlami Ngwenya (through the voice of the participating animals)

<https://www.ccardesa.org/we-are-circle-heals?>



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## LATEST SAAIKS KNOWLEDGE HUB CONTENT

CCARDESA Champions Agroecology and Regional Collaboration in Nairobi  
Nairobi, Kenya

<https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-champions-agroecology-and-regional-collaboration-nairobi?>

BMUKN visits Simalaha-Zambia

<https://www.ccardesa.org/bmukn-visits-simalaha-zambia?>

CCARDESA and CRS Forge Strategic Partnership to Boost Soil Health and  
Fertilizer Use in Southern Africa

<https://www.ccardesa.org/ccardesa-and-crs-forge-strategic-partnership-boost-soil-health-and-fertilizer-use-southern-africa?>

Farmers in Malawi Embrace Improved Rice Varieties

<https://www.ccardesa.org/farmers-malawi-embrace-improved-rice-varieties-after-breakthrough-research?>

Southern Africa Charts Path for Stronger Plant Genetic Resources Management

<https://www.ccardesa.org/southern-africa-charts-path-stronger-plant-genetic-resources-management?>

Strengthening Food Systems Through Stakeholder Engagement

<https://www.ccardesa.org/strengthening-food-systems-through-stakeholder-engagement-malawi-hosts-ess10-consultations?>

People Need Nature to Thrive By Lizaan Camron Cloete

<https://www.ccardesa.org/people-need-nature-thrive?>



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