



6 – 8 February 2023

MISSION REPORT

MEETING OF SADC DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AND DEANS OF FACULTIES OF AGRICULTURE (CCARDESA)

**Prepared by
Dr PK Chembe**

1. INTRODUCTION

Country Name & City:	South Africa
Title of the Programme/Activities organized:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of SADC Directors of agricultural Research and extension and deans of faculties of agriculture
Date & Venue:	6- 8 February 2023
Numbers of participants:	Four (2 GCSA
Target groups (youth, women, persons living with disabilities. etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors responsible for Agricultural Research and Development and the • Deans for the Faculties of Agriculture in the SADC region • Youth networks
Partners/ Supporters Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)
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2.OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

After the original Medium-Term Strategy ended in 2019, CCARDESA produced a new long-term (10-year) Strategy and a Medium-Term (5-year) Operational Plan (MTO) to steer the organization's technical focus. These strategic documents have been used since 2020, and the MTO reached its mid-life. CCARDESA identified the need for lesson learning, combined with recent global events such as the COVID pandemic, global conflicts, digitalization and the One-CG configuration, as well as the recently endorsed food system agenda, are just a few of the issues that have serious implications for the delivery of their strategic documents' outputs. As a result, CCARDESA recognised the need to reconsider the relevance of its strategies and reposition the organisation considering current and projected future developments. CCARDESA, therefore, arranged this conference of Directors responsible for Agricultural Research and Development and the Deans of Faculties of Agriculture in the SADC region to engage key stakeholders on a revised agenda.

2.1 Specific objectives:

The specific objectives of the SADC Deans and Director's meeting were to:

- Review progress in addressing the capacity-building needs of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in addressing emerging priorities and facilitating the exchange of experiences; and
- Rally the NARS with respect to their delivery of services to the farmers and to mainstream current issues in agriculture; and
- Reposition the NARS in the implementation of the Malabo Declaration (CAADP), the Regional Agriculture Policy (RAP) and the regional strategy of food security and nutrition as well as the Science Agenda in Agriculture for Africa (S3A) and to;
- Obtain feedback on the relevance of the priorities that CCARDESA needs to address in the medium to long term in view of the unfolding trends.

3. DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PROGRAMME/ACTIVITIES

3.1 Day 1 (6 February 2023)

- The day started with the registration of delegates. This was followed by welcoming comments and a summary of the workshop's objectives, goals, and expectations. Following that, an overview of CCARDESA and its strategic orientation was provided. A group photo was then taken.



After the tea break, a panel discussion took place on the 'overview of the agriculture sector performance in the SADC region: Outlook'. The panelists were:

- Mr. Francis Hale - Food Agriculture Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)
- Dr Lewis Hove - Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations: Resilience Hub for Southern Africa (FAO-REOSA)
- Dr Phyllis K Chembe - Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN)
- Mrs. Deidre Januarie - Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform: Namibia.

In representing the CSAYN, I discussed how the network is tackling agricultural difficulties in the SADC region, youth challenges, and whether government initiatives bear fruit. I discussed the shortcomings we as a youth network have identified and how we have addressed them via our various flagships. I concluded with viable ideas that may be implemented to solve the different difficulties that youths confront and urged the delegates present to support our efforts.



The panel discussion concluded with a question and answer session.

- After lunch CCARDESA representatives presented the various programmes they have.

3.2 Day 2 (7 February 2023)

- The day started with presentations from CCARDESA representatives on mainstreaming STI indicators and the status of agriculture research investment in SADC. The presentations were followed by a discussion.
- After the tea break, the delegates were divided into 3 teams to review the CCARDESA strategy. In doing so, emerging issues also had to be identified. I was appointed as our team's rapporteur.

3.3 Day 3 (8 February 2023)

- The day started with presentations from CCARDESA representatives about the organisation's Partnerships and Resource Mobilization. This was followed by discussions.
- There was a panel discussion on 'Funding of Agricultural Research and Development (Lessons from SADC)'.
- After the tea break, there were presentations and discussions on Gender Mainstreaming in agriculture and Digitalization in the Agricultural Systems of the SADC region.
- As the rapporteur for our team, we were responsible for looking at:
 - o Thematic Area 4: Women, Youth and Social Inclusion, and
 - o Thematic Area 6: Capacity strengthening of CCARDESA and AR4D institutions.

I gave feedback on our contributions regarding the themes, followed by discussions.

- Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the networking session at 6 pm due to ill health.

4. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Ms Amanda Chimbeze, who is a CCARDESA board member requested to be interviewed to enlighten the youth about CCARDESA and funding opportunities they have for youth. We decided that perhaps the interview should be followed by a workshop that will allow her to show the youth how to navigate their system.

1. Because of this idea, I thought as a network, we could go the extra mile and host a channel on a monthly basis to interview youths that are doing fantastic work in the agricultural space. This can also include interviews with our flagship leads and centres of excellence that are doing fantastic work of fulfilling the goals of the network. This will help in making the organisation more visible.

- Dr Lewis Hove, who is a team leader of the FAO for the Resilience Hub for Southern Africa, requested that we get in contact with him to see how we can collaborate with his office and/or what support they can offer us.
- Ms Takalani Murovhi, who is a manager at the Agricultural Research Council, also approached me and requested that we get in contact with her to see how we can collaborate.
- Mr Francis Hale, who is a director at the FANRPAN, indicated that they have a vibrant youth network that we could possibly collaborate with in some areas. We need to get in contact with him so that he can allocate a person within his organisation that can assist us in seeing through the collaborations.

GCSAYN Representative



Dr PK Chembe



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