



PROGRAMME

Convenors:

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

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
5mins	Introductions and Side Event Overview	Dr M. Mabuza - CCARDESA
30mins	Main Report Presentation	Dr Claid Mujaju - Zimbabwe
60mins	<p><u>Panel Discussion</u></p> <p>Dr Grace Kaudzu : Director of Agricultural Research Services– Malawi</p> <p>Dr Gordon Mabuyaye : Global Head: Research and Development (Seed Co) – Zimbabwe</p> <p>Mr Justin Simukonde : Farmers Representative (Zambia)</p> <p>Mr Bruce Simbunji : Chief Seed Technologist (Seed Control and Certification Institute)– Zambia</p> <p>Dr Justify Shava : Head– SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC)</p>	Mrs Sithembile Mwamakamba
20mins	Question and Answer	
5 mins	Summary and Conclusion	
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Rapporteurs:

1. Dr B. Chataika – CCARDESA
2. Mr D. Tawonezvi - CCARDESA

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



3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (APPSA)



AFRICA AGRIBUSINESS AND SCIENCE WEEK 2023

Seed Policy Harmonisation & Domestication Side-event

CONCEPT NOTE & DRAFT PROGRAMME

 **Durban, South Africa**

 **7th June 202 | 1630 – 1800Hrs**



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CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Seeds are at the core of food production, and the seed regulatory framework covers a wide spectrum of activities within the agricultural sector. The activities that seed policies and law cover include seed testing, certification, variety release, and registration, phytosanitary measures, and plant breeders' rights or plant varieties protection. The manner in which each of these activities are regulated by existing policies and the law has a profound effect on the outcome of seed production, availability, accessibility and ultimately how national and regional agricultural systems are shaped. In Sub-Saharan Africa's context, the seed regulatory framework has to take cognisance of the unique characteristics and context of small-scale farmers who constitute the majority within the farmers' constituency, yet they are often marginalised in policy discussions.

SADC's efforts to advance the Harmonised Seed Regulatory System (HSRS) have been ongoing since Member States began discussing the harmonisation of seed laws in 1988 and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on implementing the HSRS was approved in 2009. Over two-thirds of SADC Member States have signed the SADC HSRS MoU since 2009. However, regional seed policy harmonisation is progressing slowly in some countries, including Phase 1 and Phase 2 countries under the World Bank supported Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA). With continued efforts channelled towards technology generation programmes aimed at improving national and regional agricultural productivity, while countries have not fully domesticated the SADC and/or COMESA HSRS will most likely result in negative returns to investment and limited contribution on food and nutrition security.

In collaboration with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), CCARDESA will convene a side event during the Africa Agricultural Science Week (AASW) to discuss the extent to which SADC countries have domesticated the SADC/COMESA Harmonised Seed Regulatory System s (HSRS). The discussions will be based on findings of a regional study commissioned by CCARDESA to identify gaps and bottlenecks in selected SADC countries' seed policy and regulatory frameworks and propose pragmatic recommendations to effectively integrate seed policy harmonisation issues in to national programming.

Objectives	The overall objective of the dialogue is to appreciate the current status of domestication of the SADC /COMESA HSRS among selected SADC countries and discuss pragmatic means to effectively integrate seed policy harmonisation issues into national planning and implementation.
Duration and Approach	This will be a physical event to be held in Durban, South Africa, on June 7 2023. The programme is structured such that first, will be a presentation of the study findings, followed by a panel discussion, and a plenary discussion to identify areas for policy intervention and action.
Expected Outputs	The following are the expected outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Stakeholders' comments on the report on current status of national seed policy framework in selected SADC countries (ii) Assessment of the extent of alignment of national capacities, legislation and regulatory systems to the SADC/COMESA HSRS; role played by APPSA and other programmes and agencies in supporting domestication efforts in the region; and current gaps and recommendations on how national seed regulatory systems can be capacitated, strengthened and/or improved to fully domesticate the SADC/COMESA HSRS.
Expected Participants	The event will have over 50 participants including policy makers, representatives of the public sector, private sector, research and academia, farmers' organisations, and civil society.



PANEL DISCUSSION

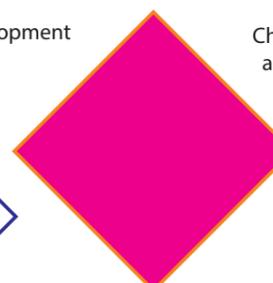
Panellists



Dr Grace Kaudzu
Director of Agricultural Research Services – Malawi



Dr Gorden Mabusyaye
Global Head: Research and Development (Seed Co) – Zimbabwe



Mr Justin Simukonde
Farmers Representative (Zambia)



Mr Bruce Simunji
Chief Seed Technologist (Seed Control and Certification Institute) – Zambia



Dr Justify Shava
Head – SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC)



Mrs Sithembile Mwachakamba
Facilitator



Lead Presenter: Dr Claid Mujaju
Director - Agricultural Research Innovation and Development Directorate - Zimbabwe