



National consultative Meeting - Zambia¹

Strengthening institutional capacity for supporting Food, Agriculture And Natural Resources policy formulation and implementation in the SADC region

held at the

Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF), Lusaka, Zambia

July 14, 2005



The Chairperson of ACF, Ms Miriam Nkunika (left) and Dr Peter Sinyangwe (right), Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO), at the consultative meeting

A REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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Table of Contents

	Page
<i>Executive Summary</i>	3
1. Attendance.....	6
2. Agenda.....	6
3. Introductory remarks.....	6
4. Statement by the ACF Chairperson.....	6
5. Statement by FANRPAN CEO.....	7
6. Statement by Dr Peter Sinyangwe.....	8
7. Presentation on FANRPAN operational and institutional structure.....	9
8. Presentation by Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM).....	11
9. Presentation by the Jesuit Centre for Theological reflection (JCTR).....	12
10. Presentation by Zambia Women in Agriculture (ZAW).....	13
11. Presentation of the Look, Listen and Learn Project Concept.....	14
12. The Way forward.....	16
13. Closing Remarks.....	16
Annexes	
1. List of Participants	
2. Statement by Ms Miriam Nkunika	
3. Statement by the PS – Mr Sam Mundia (read by Dr Peter Sinyangwe)	
4. Meeting Programme	

Executive Summary

The Zambia national consultative meeting brought together 24 out of the 30 target participants from 4 core sectors: 6 government, 4 research institutions, and 14 private sector and non-governmental organisations. 4 facilitators and 8 press members also attended bringing the total attendance to 36. The meeting took place at the ACF conference room. The Chairperson of ACF – Ms Miriam Nkunika welcomed the participants to ACF and pointed out that ACF was happy to host the meeting as it was in line with its core business of continuous stakeholder consultation, advisory services and networking. Through these processes public-private dialogue and partnerships, in the agricultural sector, have been strengthened. She pointed out that this consultation was going to discuss the question: “What are the Zambian experiences in food security policy dialogue at national and regional level?”

The FANRPAN CEO, Dr Lindiwe Sibanda outlined the context of the consultation and presented three key objectives. Firstly - strengthening institutional capacity for policy development – and the key question she posed for consultation was: “which institutions and for what purpose?” Secondly – supporting policy formulation and implementation in the FANR sector – and the guiding question posed was: “whose role is it to formulate, implement and monitor policy?” Thirdly – influencing policy with evidence-based research – and the key question posed for the consultation was: “whose responsibility is it to collect data, package it and present it for effective policy formulation, implementation and monitoring?” She pointed out that the meeting was the first in a series of meetings lined up five pilot SADC countries. She observed that Zambia was selected as a starting point because of the active participation of ACF. Dr Sibanda also presented the operational and institutional structure of FANRPAN, as well as the current programmes across the region – as evidence of the window of opportunity that the FANRPAN platform provides for evidence-based policy influence in the region.

The meeting was opened by Dr Peter Sinyangwe, a Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO), on behalf of the Permanent Secretary in charge of marketing and cooperatives, Dr Sam Mundia. This high-level government presence was indicative of the strategic positioning of FANRPAN in bridging the gap between other stakeholders and government. The Director pointed out that the government of Zambia recognised the complementary roles played by other stakeholders in the Zambian Agriculture. He, also, pointed out that the government has provided a consultative window for all players through ACF. Mr Sinyangwe observed that many aspects of national food security are anchored at regional level including seed policy, GMO and biosafety policy, water and irrigation, early warning systems and agricultural trade and thus the need to engage at regional level. He, further, observed that there was need to build a strong national multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform that would serve as a basis for engagement at regional level.

Prior to opening of the consultation, the Director expressed concern by the Zambian government about the use of the term “civil society organisations (CSOs)” – as this tended to have political connotations in Zambia. The meeting thus adopted the use of the term “agro-based NGOs” in reference to CSOs present at the consultation. The participants observed, however, that the flip side of this concern is the recognition that CSOs have the potential to bring about significant change – if well organised. Evidence-based advocacy will go a long way, not only in legitimising this potential, but also in adding to the credibility and integrity of CSOs.

The main thrust of the 1-day consultation was two-fold – firstly to present the SARPN-ODI-FANRPAN regional project concept for promoting the use of CSO evidence in policies for food security; and secondly to strengthen the Zambia FANRPAN node as part of USAID funded FANRPAN project to revitalise country nodes. The theme “Strengthening institutional capacity for supporting Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources policy formulation and implementation in the SADC region”, which encompasses both thrusts, was thus adopted for the consultation. This will be the running theme for all national consultations because it provides both for the building of the institutional capacity of CSOs to engage in evidence-based policy advocacy and the strengthening of the FANR country policy dialogue platform.

The organising and hosting of the consultative meeting by ACF, in collaboration with the FANRPAN node Coordinator – Dr Kalinda – based at the University of Zambia, was a departure from the traditional FANRPAN procedure of operating through the university based node. This was a clear statement of the new FANRPAN impetus to broaden the participation in node activities as enshrined in its constitution. The exemplary performance of ACF in hosting this event was a clear statement to FANRPAN on the need to review the “host organisation” for the node – if it is to become more effective and efficient. The less bureaucratic nature and the broadness of a network like ACF makes it conducive for hosting a multi-stakeholder platform like FANRPAN. The recognition and respect that ACF has acquired as a source of sound agricultural advice to government further rendered it a preferred organisation for hosting policy dialogues. The participants affirmed these sentiments and selected ACF to be the new host organisation for the revitalised Zambia FANRPAN node. A task force – the FANRPAN Zambia steering committee – was constituted to lead the revitalisation of the node as well as recruit a node facilitator.

Three civil society organisations presented their food security advocacy programmes at national level. The Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM) presented its “food security pack (FSP)” programme as evidence of its advocacy towards sustainable livelihoods for the poor. PAM was contracted by the Zambian government to empower vulnerable but viable households to be self-sustaining and food secure through the distribution of a food security pack. The main purpose of the pack is to empower small-scale farmers who had become vulnerable due to recurrent poor weather and impact of structural reforms and to provide productive as opposed to consumption oriented social safety net.

The FSP programme targets 200,000 households per year based on a set of primary (viability) and secondary (vulnerability) criteria. The pack is composed of cereals, legumes, root/tuber, fertilizer (for recipients of maize) and agricultural lime (for recipients in areas affected by soil acidity). These packs are distributed as in-kind loans. The recipients pay for the packs after production and 60% recovery has been achieved so far. The exit plan is a gradual graduation of viable households from the pack to a higher programme – the fertiliser support programme (FSP). Participants observed that the pack lacked a livestock component and that there is need to focus on marketing and the promotion of substitute crops. The biggest challenge of the programme was the fact that the pack cannot be distributed as a stand-alone – but rather must be part of a broader holistic programme that includes alternative livelihoods, markets and entrepreneurship development, small-scale irrigation systems, and improved extension services.

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) presented their monitoring tool - the “Basic Needs Basket (BNB)” that they have used monthly, since 1990, to survey the cost of essential food and non-food items that comprise the bare-minimum basket of goods needed for an urban family of six (6) to survive with a decent and healthy standard of living in Lusaka. This tool was set up mainly to assess the impact of economic liberalisation, as a structural adjustment macro-economic policy, on people’s livelihoods.

The BNB tool graphically reveals the declining living conditions and declining economic performance. It also reveals the declining opportunities for families to access decent employment, health care, education and other social services. This tool has been the basis of JCTR’s extensive advocacy programme for prudent social-economic and political decisions. The main challenge is that the BNB survey has, to date, been limited to urban centres and has not spread to rural areas. The JCRT plans to extend its coverage to rural areas. Participants observed that there was very limited government involvement in the BNB survey and recommended collaborative initiatives in order to build rapport for policy influence. Participants also noted that JCRT needed to move beyond just running the BNB survey and also engage in building the capacity of the families to reduce and manage their cost of living – and that this could be easily be achieved indirectly by developing linkages with other organisations already involved in entrepreneurship development.

The Zambia Women in Agriculture (ZAW) presented its advocacy work in mobilising rural women to participate gainfully in agriculture. This presentation was remarkable in that it was made by a visibly transformed rural woman –Ms Cecilia Makota – who now carries the banner on behalf of her folk in rural Zambia. She explained that most women still do not have access to the critical factors of production - especially land and credit. She indicated that this was mainly due to traditional cultural norms that have tended to portray women as subservient to men. She pointed out the urgent need for improved rural transport infrastructure, information and communication facilities, as well as, improved agro-marketing systems for rural women. She called for strict adherence to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The meeting noted the exemplary linkages and relationships ZAW enjoyed with the provincial and district level government agricultural departments, as well as, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO).

From the three CSO (Agro-based NGOs) presentations, it was clear that excellent food security policy engagement is taking place at national. It was, however, clear that there was little or no engagement at all at regional level. This was clearly the space for the Look, Listen and Learn (and Act) project. Fred Kalibwani made a presentation of the project concept. The background paper to the project, outlining the current status of food security in the SADC region, the key on-going FANR policy processes and the key actors at regional level, was not presented because it was not yet reviewed by the partner organisations – ODI, SARPAN, and FANRPAN. This was referred to the next consultative meeting, which will take place in Lusaka 9-11 August 2005 – alongside another FANRPAN forum on maize marketing.

Following the recommendations from the participants it was unanimously agreed that the Zambian FANRPAN node would, henceforth, be housed and supported by the ACF. A node steering committee based on the FANRPAN constitution (6-8 people drawn from government, policy analysts, agro-based NGOs and the private sector) will be constituted before end of July 2005. This committee will oversee the recruitment a node facilitator that will be based at ACF. ACF will provide an office and logistics while FANRPAN will provide the monthly remuneration.

In closing the Dr Anthony Mwanaumo quoted a saying by the chairperson of ACF: “the best room there is, is room for improvement” and noted that from the deliberations of the day – it was clear that the only room there is, is room for more and more engagement in food security issues by all stakeholders.

1.0 ATTENDANCE

1. The ACF Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Mwanaumo called the meeting to order at 9.15 hours and apologized for the late start. A total of 36 people (**6 Government, 4 Policy Analysts, 14 NGO/Private, 4 Facilitators/Organizers and 8 from the Press**) attended the meeting (See Annex 1). The meeting was graced with the presence of Dr. Peter Sinyangwe, Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives representing the Permanent Secretary in charge of Marketing and Cooperatives, Dr. Sam Mundia. The ACF Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Mwanaumo, facilitated the Meeting.

2.0 AGENDA

2. The proposed agenda (See Annex 4) for the meeting therefore included the following items:
 - i) Welcome Remarks by the ACF Chairperson, Mrs. Miriam Nkunika
 - ii) Statement by FANRPAN Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda
 - iii) Official Opening by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Marketing and Cooperatives), Dr. Sam Mundia
 - iv) Presentation on SADC FANRPAN Policy Platform: Scope and Operations, by FANRPAN CEO, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda
 - v) Presentation of 3 Case Studies: Agro-based NGOs involvement in Policy Advocacy for reduced poverty, improved agriculture and food security at National level by Programme Against Malnutrition, Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection and Zambian Women in Agriculture
 - vi) Presentation on Look, Listen and Learn-An Action Research Project in Southern Africa by Mr. Fred Kalibwani
 - vii) Group Discussions: Processes, Challenges and Opportunities to Agro-based NGOs engagement at National and Regional levels
 - viii) Group Feedback
 - ix) Way Forward
 - x) Closing Remarks
3. The Agenda was adopted as presented with one addition-**Vote of Thanks**. However, during the course of the meeting it became evident that there was no need for Group Work as the issues that were to be discussed were being well articulated by the participants.

3.0 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

4. The ACF Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Mwanaumo welcomed the participants to the National Consultative Meeting. The National Anthem was sung to signify the importance of the meeting before the participants were requested to introduce themselves.
5. Dr Mwanaumo then introduced the Chairperson for ACF, Mrs. Miriam Nkunika, and invited her, to make a few opening remarks.

3.1 Statement by the ACF Chairperson, Mrs. Miriam Nkunika

6. Mrs. Nkunika welcomed all to the National Consultative Meeting on **Promoting the use of Agro-based NGOs' evidence in policies for food security** (See Annex 2 for full Statement). She welcomed the hosting of the meeting by ACF since it was in line with its core business of continuous stakeholder consultation, advisory services and networking. She emphasized that through this process, public/private sector dialogue and partnerships were being promoted in the agriculture sector.

7. Mrs. Nkunika informed the meeting that the ACF membership was drawn from a very diverse group of stakeholders namely government, private sector, NGOs, farmer organizations and cooperating partners. This clearly showed the importance of complementary roles of sector stakeholders in steering the agricultural sector forward towards food and income security. She noted that the diversity of stakeholders entails the diversity in views, but what is important is that there is consensus on the issues discussed. She challenged the participants to actively participate in the deliberations and come up with very specific steps that will take the process positively forward.



Ms Miriam Nkunika – Chairperson ACF addressing the meeting

8. Mrs. Nkunika then called upon Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for FANRPAN to say a few words.

3.2 Statement by FANRPAN CEO, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda

9. Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, the FANRPAN CEO, made a brief opening Statement by emphasizing three key issues:

- Strengthening Institutional Capacity: Which institutions and for what purpose?
- Supporting Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Policy Formulation and implementation: Whose role is it to formulate, implement and monitor policy?
- Influencing Policy with Evidence based research: Whose responsibility is it to collect data, package it and present it for effective policy formulation, implementation and monitoring?

10. Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda told the participants that it was on the basis of these three issues that the meeting was being held. The meeting was the first in a series of workshops lined up for the SADC countries of Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Angola. These countries were chosen as pilot case studies before the project is expanded to the other remaining SADC countries. She informed the meeting that Zambia was chosen to host the first



Dr Lindiwe Sibanda, CEO, FANRPAN addressing the meeting

meeting because of the active participation of the ACF, an institution comprising of key stakeholders in the agricultural sector. From Zambia, the FANRPAN team will proceed to Malawi, then Mozambique, South Africa and finally Angola.

11. After the Statement by Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, the ACF Chairperson, Mrs. Nkunika then called upon Dr. Peter Sinyangwe, Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to bless the occasion.

3.3. Official Opening by Dr. Peter Sinyangwe

12. Dr. Peter Sinyangwe, Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives delivered a speech on behalf of the Permanent Secretary (Marketing and Cooperatives (See Annex 3 for the Speech). The salient points of the Speech are highlighted below.

13. The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) recognizes and appreciates the complementary roles of other players in Zambian Agriculture.

14. The complementary players in Zambian Agriculture are the profit and non-profit making private sector.

15. MACO accords these players through the Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF) a consultative window on issues pertaining to agriculture development in general and food security in particular.

16. Key policy documents and plans in Zambia have been formulated with the active participation of the Agro-based NGOs.

17. Noted that one of the objectives of the consultative meeting was to see how the National consultative processes could be anchored onto the Regional level



Dr Peter Sinyangwe, Director Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO)

18. Many aspects of National Food Security such as seed policy, GMO and Biosafety policy, water and irrigation, early warning systems and agriculture trade require Regional Cooperation.

19. The Consultative Meeting in Zambia was held to share experiences on regional policy processes and key players in the Food Security sector and identify key on-going policy processes with a regional scope and impact to understand constraints to participation, involvement and engagement of key players in food security policy development at regional level.

20. There is need for a platform for national policy dialogue between Agro-based NGOs, farmer organizations, policy analysts, private sector and government in the food security sector that will serve to build a constituency for engagement in regional dialogue

21. Participants face the challenge of assessing the relevance and contribution of the proposed Agro-based NGO Project to key national players and identifying agro-based NGO networks that will participate in the evidence based policy advocacy project.

22. Specifically, to what extent can the project accord Agro-based NGOs to assess the progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to formulate new strategies for improved impact? How do we formulate and support implementation of better policies for increasing food availability, strengthening effective access to food, and improving food utilization as a priority need in the SADC region and fundamental to the achievement of the MDGs.
23. What about inadequate food security policies and how they are constraining progress towards achieving regional food security. How can Agro-based NGOs be strengthened and their participation improved in policy processes in the region to increase their awareness?
24. He hoped that the proposed project, as a collaborative effort between NGO networks working on food security in Southern Africa, should help develop understanding of the context, evidence and links in policy processes for food security in the SADC Region.
25. He concluded by thanking the organizers of the meeting and the sponsors including the participants and wished them very constructive deliberations.

5.0 Presentation on FANRPAN: Scope And Operations: By Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda

5.1. Background

26. In the SADC region (200 million people) face food insecurity challenges. Agriculture is the prime driver of economic development across SADC. Agricultural investments by governments have remained low. Agricultural yields for crops and livestock have been level or declining. Food aid and imports have almost doubled in the last 10 years. HIV/AIDS pandemic, natural disasters (droughts, floods) and civil conflicts have compromised SADC's efforts to ensure food security
27. It is against this background, that SADC Ministers of Agriculture recommended the formation of FANRPAN in 1994 to: Promote appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty; Increase food security and promote sustainable agricultural development
28. FANRPAN was formed to: Promote appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty; Increase food security and promote sustainable agricultural development; Focus on promoting regional trade and exchange of information across member states; Provide a conducive policy and legal framework, including functional input supply and markets for produce

5.2 Mission

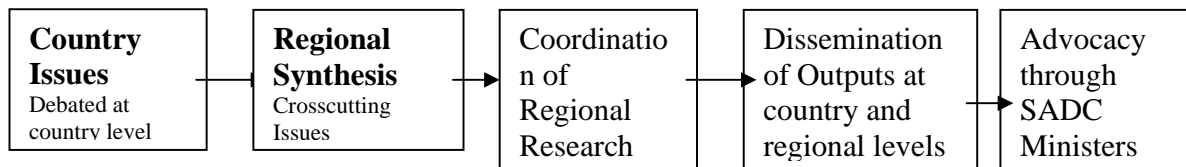
29. The FANRPAN Mission is to coordinate, influence and facilitate policy research, analysis and dialogue at the national, regional and global levels in order to develop the food, agriculture and natural resources sector. The Mission is achieved through networking, capacity building and information generation for the benefit of the SADC region

5.3 Operational Structure

30. FANRPAN in an autonomous stakeholder-driven policy research analysis and implementation network. The regional secretariat is strategically positioned to deal with policy aspects of food security at the national and regional levels. FANRPAN is represented in 11 SADC countries through an inter-sectoral platform designated as a country node

31. Institutional Structure: The FANRPAN Structure has 4 levels: Country Nodes which comprise of Government, Policy Analyst, Private Sector and Farmer Organizations; Regional Office Secretariat comprising of CEO, Research Analyst, Communication Officer, and Administration Officer; Thematic Technical Advisory Groups; Board of Government with the following representations: 1 Donor rep; 2 Farmer reps; 2 Private Sector reps; 2 Policy Analyst reps and 1 SADC Rep.

32. FANRPAN Research Process



5.4 Current Work

Eleven regional studies including:

- 1) Study on Impact of HIV/AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security from 2003 to 2005
- 2) Rural Livelihoods Project in Southern Africa from 2003 to 2004
- 3) Profiling of SADC Farmer Based Organisations from 2003 to 2004
- 4) Biotechnology Policy for Food Security 2003 to 2004
- 5) Maize Marketing Study 2004 to 2005
- 6) Contract Farming from 2004 to 2007
- 7) Centre for Technical Cooperation Communication and Networking from 2004 to 2005
- 8) Agricultural Policy Harmonisation Project from 2005 to 2007
- 9) NMTIPCAADP from 2003 to 2004
- 10) BioSafety Risk Analysis from 2005 to 2006
- 11) Strengthening SACAU from 2004 to 2006

5.5 Discussion of Presentation

- The meeting heard that the structure and strengthening of the country nodes was dependant on what each country wants. The regional office will provide some minimum support to facilitate the establishment of the country node.
- The meeting was advised by one participant that the Zambia node should be housed in the ACF due to its strategic position with a wider membership.
- The meeting heard that research studies being undertaken were not limited to crops only. If stakeholders want a study on livestock it will be undertaken.
- The meeting further heard that there were no permanent advisory committees. The meeting was told that for each issue being studied, a technical group is formed to provide technical advisory services to the team undertaking it.
- The meeting was also informed that the formation of the country nodes would assist in tracking down of the implementation of SADC declarations, the results of which would be fed to the FANRPAN Regional Office.

6.0 3 Case Studies: Agro-Based NGOs Involvement in Policy Advocacy for Reduced Poverty, Improved Agriculture and Food Security at National Level

6.1 The Targeted Food Security Pack- A Case for Sustainable Livelihoods for the Poor, under the Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM) by Mr. Ronald Msoni

33. Background of the Food Security Pack (FSP): FSP was initiated in November 2000 to empower small scale farmers who had become vulnerable due to recurrent poor weather and impact of structural reforms and to provide productive as opposed to consumption oriented social safety net. It funded by the government of Zambia. Was scaled up by World Bank after 2001/02 drought

34. Rationale: Vulnerable groups represent 4 million out of the 10 million Zambians (700,000 households). Usually unable to participate in commercial programs due to limited own resources. Resort to unsustainable farming practices that lead to land degradation. FSP is a Social safety net Program designed to empower the vulnerable to help themselves



Mr Ronald Msoni from PAM responds to a question

35. Main Objective: to empower the targeted vulnerable but viable households to be self sustaining through improved productivity and household food security and thereby contribute to poverty eradication

36. Program design: Crop diversification and Conservation farming for food security, productivity and sustainability; Market Entrepreneurship and Seed/Grain Bank development for surplus, increased seed availability; Alternative livelihood for areas of low crop production; Programme Management and Coordination for efficient program implementation

37. Pack Composition: Cereal (Maize, Sorghum, Millet or Rice; Legumes (Beans, Groundnuts, Soya beans or Cowpeas); Root/Tuber (Cassava or Sweet Potato); Fertilizer for recipients of Maize seed and Agricultural lime for recipients in areas affected by soil acidity

38. Targeting: 200,000 beneficiary families per year. Primary entry-Viability (all must be met) includes: Have access to land and cultivating less than 1 hectare; Have adequate labour; Not in gainful employment. Secondary entry – Vulnerability (one or more must be met) includes: Female headed household (widow, single mother); Household keeping orphans or abandoned children; Child headed household; Terminally ill headed household; Disabled; Unemployed youth

39. Programme Achievements: Provided assistance to thousands of households who without the assistance rendered would have been food insecure and dependent on relief food or handouts from various sources

40. Beneficiary Coverage: So far 710,000 households benefited over a period of 5 seasons of which 54% are female-headed households.

41. Constraints/Challenges include: Inadequate & untimely funding resulting in reduced pack size, partial implementation and late input distribution and planting; Political expedience; Inadequate extension services leading to low adoption of technologies; Poor rural infrastructure; Lack of formal marketing arrangements in remote areas

42. Some of the lessons learned: It is possible to empower vulnerable but viable households through programmes such as FSP; Programmes that target the poor should be adequately and timely funded on a long term basis; Crop and livelihood diversification is important; Capacity building in improved technologies and practices to increase productivity is very essential; Provision of adequate and quality extension services is critical; Marketing is critical for empowering small scale farmers; and Government/NGO partnership is best suited for programmes such as FSP
43. Recommendations include:
- 1) Programmes must be implemented holistically specifically to include alternative livelihoods and market and entrepreneurship development
 - 2) Pack size be increased and diversified as follows: 2 lima cereal, 1 lima legume; improved seed material for cassava or sweet potatoes
 - 3) Wetland programmes must continue coupled with development of small scale irrigation systems for long term sustainability
 - 4) Adequate and timely release of funds (June)
 - 5) Extension services to be strengthened to ensure increased adoption of new technologies and consequently increased productivity by small scale farmers
 - 6) Organized rural market structures
44. **Discussion of Presentation**
- It was learnt that the Food Security Pack was a government program that was contracted out to PAM for implementation
 - The meeting heard that PAM was not meeting its annual targeted number of beneficiaries due to limited and late release of funds by government. It was also pointed out that not all farmers receiving the support were graduating into higher programs each year.
 - On the issue of promotion of own seed production, the meeting heard that PAM was encouraging farmers to use recycled seed of the other crops in the pack other than maize, which is a hybrid.
 - The meeting was informed that PAM was promoting conservation farming among its farmers to maintain soil fertility.
 - The meeting was informed that while the FSP was silent on livestock, it was an equally critical component of food security. The meeting heard that there were other government programs that were promoting livestock.
 - On the future plans of the FSP and sustainability of the beneficiaries, the meeting was informed that from the lessons learnt, PAM was lobbying government on how to modify the program for it to have more impact. Further, the meeting heard that the FSP was designed to graduate the viable but vulnerable farmers into higher government programs such as the Fertilizer Support Program.

6.2 JCTR Basic Needs Basket (BNB) – By Mr. Muweme Muweme

45. Initiated by the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection in the 1990s when the economy was liberalized
46. Since the 1990s the JCTR has been keenly monitoring the rising cost of living through a monthly survey of a basket of essential food and non-food items. The tool is thus a monthly survey of the cost of essential food and non-food items that comprise the bare-minimum

basket of goods needed for an urban family of six to survive with a decent and health standard of living.

47. The purpose of the monthly monitoring is to assess the immediate impact of liberalization, on the lives of the people. BNB also helps to evaluate how the liberalized economy is affecting the standards of living of ordinary Zambians.
48. The JCTR BNB reveals the dramatic story of how living conditions have rapidly deteriorated in Zambia in relation to the deteriorating economic situation.
49. The tool has revealed the declining opportunities to access decent employment, health care, education and other social services.
50. The JCTR BNB has been used extensively to advocate for prudent socio-economic and political decisions and just relationships between employers and employees in order to create more human conditions for the people of Zambia.
51. There is widespread awareness of the BNB by policy makers ranging from government officials to employees of international organizations
52. The Committee of Permanent Secretaries that meet prior to negotiations with public service unions always makes reference to the BNB.
53. The BNB is always included in the UNDP's annual Human Development report
54. Trade unions in Zambia use the information
55. International organizations such as the Finnish Government took into account the JCTR Basket in determining its level of support to Zambia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).
56. The Central Statistical Office (CSO) has adopted the BNB concept that portrays an average cost of basic food and non-food goods across Zambia
57. Currently, the JCTR BNB is limited to the line of rail (Lusaka, Livingstone, Luanshya, Kabwe, Kitwe and Ndola.
58. Plans underway to spread the coverage of the BNB to the rural areas.
59. Discussion of Presentation
 - In response to a question on why JCTR was not teaching people urban people to grow their own food to cut on the cost of living, the meeting heard that though the idea is good, there were other organizations that were better placed to do this. Further, the meeting was told that the targeted people for the BNB at the moment were the workers whose background may not be agriculture, hence may be difficult to train them.
 - The meeting also heard that the JCTR was interacting with government on a number of fora though the frequency may be limited.

6.3 Promoting the Use of Agro-based NGOs evidence in Policies for food Security the Case of Zambian Women in Agriculture – Cecilia Makota

60. Women in Agriculture (ZWA) facilitate the development of agriculture among women in the country through lobbying and advocacy. There are a number of obstacles that constrain women from fully participating in Agriculture.
61. Discrimination against women mainly due to: Traditional practices which make women subservient to men; failures to achieve 30% quota allocated to women; and inadequate Land policies - traditional land in the hands of traditional leaders who are usually men
62. Poor rural infrastructure: Distances to rural area affect marketing programs; poor network and road infrastructure affects prices; inadequate access to transport affects marketing
63. Information and Communication: Low literacy levels of women; Lack of adequate information; Lack of access to good agriculture technologies; Poor communication – traditionally, men spoke for women; subservient roles of women
64. Markets: Poor rural marketing strategies for produce; Lack of control over the prices of their produce; Lack of negotiating skills; Poor credit culture
65. In conclusion: There need to adhere to the convention of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
66. Discussion of Presentation
- The meeting heard that Women in Agriculture were interacting with the provincial and district Agricultural Coordinators offices, the Marketing department, and the Livestock section of MACO.



Ms Cecilia Makota making her presentation

7.0 The Look, Listen, and Learn Project: - By Fred Kalibwani

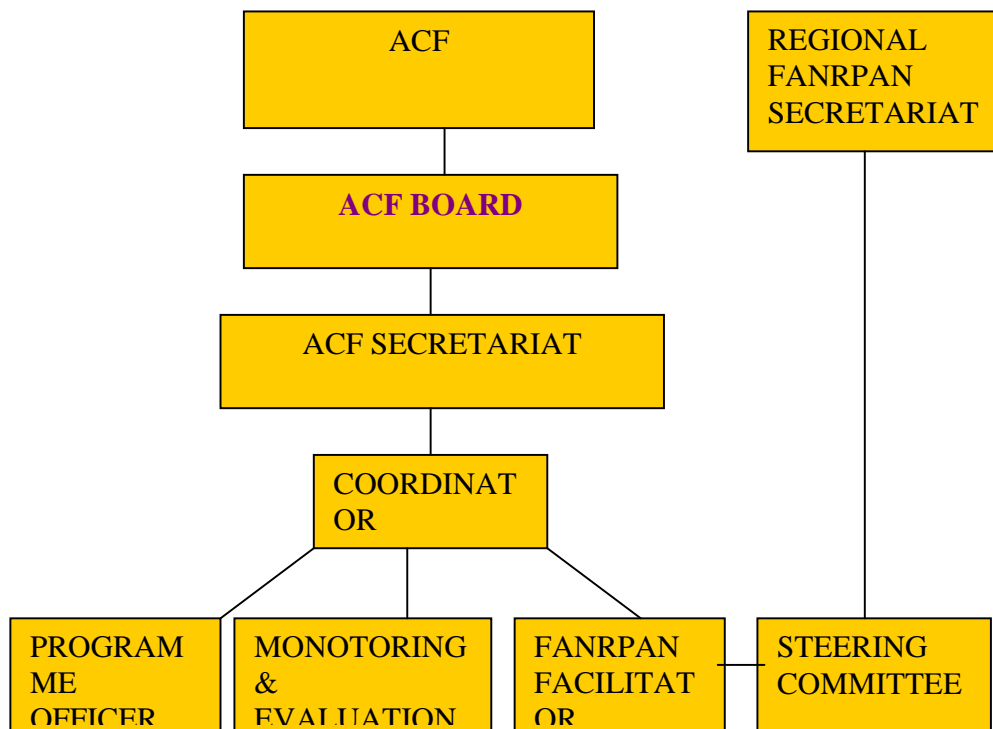
67. Background: Southern Africa is lagging behind global trends in strengthening food security. Hunger has increased in the region over the last decade. Progress in the region is too slow to meet the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015. There is evidence that in Southern Africa, poor progress with strengthening food security has been as much the result of weaknesses in policy processes as failures in food production and utilisation technologies. Better policies for increasing food availability, strengthening effective access to food, and improving food utilisation are now recognised as priority. There is concern to move beyond focus on domestic food production to considering the opportunities and constraints for using cross border trade to strengthen food security
68. The Role of Agro-based NGOs: Where countries have conducted reviews of national food and nutrition security policies, agro-based NGOs have actively contributed by providing evidence of the failures of past policies and communities' current policy priorities
69. Agro-based NGOs and Regional Policy: In the same way that at country level Agro-based NGOs have played an important role in promoting more appropriate policies for food security, there is a need for them to increase their influence on regional policies

70. Definition of CSOs: CSOs include a wide range of institutions such as: NGOs, Faith Based Institutions, Farmer Organisations, Trade Unions, Professional Associations, research Institutes and Think Tanks
71. CSOs and Policy Processes: A policy process can be defined as a purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors. CSOs can strengthen policy processes by working in the arena between the household, the private sector and the state to negotiate matters of public concern
72. The different roles of CSOs in influencing policy include: advising through policy briefings; direct advocacy like environmental petitioning (e.g. Green Alliance); activism through direct action like the Green peace and lobbying
73. Role of CSOs in influencing policy: CSOs are in a unique position to present and promote the needs of poor and vulnerable people, whose voices may not otherwise be heard effectively in the policy process. How this evidence is best presented is determined by the political context, by the nature of the links between policy makers and other stakeholders.
74. Project Objectives: These are two-fold. The project is intended to engage with a range of development partners at national and regional levels in Southern Africa to: Promote the contribution of CSOs to debate within Southern Africa on food security policy; Promote the voice of CSOs in the international debate on food security policy. The project will publish within the region and internationally the policy and practice lessons learnt; Disseminate within the region relevant evidence and policy lessons from civil society organisations elsewhere in the world
75. Implementing Partners: These are: Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis (FANRPAN); Overseas Development Institute (ODI); and Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPAN)
76. Project Approach: The project recognises that all three basic components of food security are important and these are: Food Availability; Food Access; Food Utilisation. The project will use action research to develop understanding around: Lessons about how CSOs use evidence to influence policy; Lessons about how CSOs relate to their downstream and upstream partners; Lessons about food security priorities for poor and vulnerable people in Southern Africa
77. Main Activities
- **Stage 1:** Planning: Prepare and circulate draft concept paper; Inaugural project meeting
 - **Stage 2:** Regional Activities: Research current policy processes at regional level; Host one day country meetings; Ongoing preparation of project alerts
 - **Stage 3:** Pilot Influencing Activities: Project stakeholders will disseminate information products; After action review meeting of project partners and lessons learnt report; Regional meeting
78. Discussion of Presentation
- The meeting heard that the term CSO refers to any organised civil society that can change food security for the betterment of the common people.
 - On the concern about the variety of NGOs uniting for a common goal, the meeting heard that the structure of agriculture in our countries was designed by the colonial masters and was adopted by our leaders at independence. These structures need to be changed for our countries to have surplus production. To change these structures, there was need for dialogue for a common goal with the policy makers.

- The meeting further heard that while most NGOs operate at implementation level while a few at policy level, it was possible for them to organise themselves at each level and influence policy both at national and regional levels.

8.0 WAY FORWARD

79. Following recommendations by participants, it was unanimously agreed that the FANRPAN Zambia Node be housed and supported by the ACF with a Node Facilitator employed. The Facilitator will be guided by a Steering Committee.
80. In accordance with the FANRPAN structure, the Steering Committee should comprise of 6 to 8 people drawn from Government, Policy Analysts, Agro-Based NGOs, and the Private Sector.
81. Following the outcome of the Meeting, ACF was advised to immediately call for a meeting where members of the Steering Committee will be identified, and terms of reference developed.
82. ACF should then engage a Facilitator, after a formal request is made to FANRPAN Regional Office, in accordance with the provisions of the FANRPAN Constitution.
83. The following is the provisional reporting structure of the Zambia Node.



9.0 CLOSING REMARKS

9.1 Vote of Thanks



84. Mr. Rodger Phiri, one of the participants gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants. He welcomed the FANRPAN team to Zambia with their vision of making the region food secure through promoting the use of Agro-based NGOs' evidence in policies for food security. He noted that with the current low level of funding by government to the agricultural sector, the use of agro-NGOs' evidence in policies for food security was important to complement government. The NGO input has the potential to contribute to increased funding of the sector. He concluded by thanking ACF for hosting the meeting and for accepting to be the FANRPAN Node for Zambia.

9.2 Closing Remarks by FANRPAN CEO, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda

85. Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda paid tribute to the Zambian team and all the participants for a well-organized meeting and for reaching a consensus on which institution should house the FANRPAN Node. He thanked the participants for making her work easy.

9.3 Closing Remarks by ACF Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Mwanaumo

86. The ACF Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Mwanaumo closed the meeting on behalf of the ACF Chairperson, who was unable to attend the afternoon session due to other equally important commitments, and that the meeting closed earlier than anticipated.

87. He noted the statements made by the CEO, the Guest of Honour and the background information on the FANRPAN Platform, and the experiences of PAM, JCTR and WIA in issues of food security. He saw room for more engagement in food security issues by all the stakeholders

88. On the way forward, he mentioned that the pillars of FARNPAN are the Nodes. And ACF having been chosen to be the node, it will rely heavily on the Steering Committee and on the results of the Evidence Based Research that will be undertaken by Agro-based NGOs. All this will be feeding into the policy formulation process. He informed the meeting that policy makers in Zambia were listening and taking some recommendations from stakeholders in policy decisions.



*Dr Anthony Mwanaumo – Coordinator
ACF giving concluding remarks*

89. Dr. Mwanaumo concluded by thanking all the stakeholders for having made it to the meeting and encouraged them to play their roles to make the process a success.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. A Attendance List For The National Consultative Meeting On The Promoting The Use Of Agro-Based NGOs' Evidence In Policies For Food Security

No.	Name of Participant	Institution	Designation	Tel/Fax Number	E-Mail Address
Government Participants:					
1.	Dr. Peter Sinyangwe	MACO	Director		
2.	Mr. Fred Mushimba	MACO	Principal Economist Manager Fert Support Prog.	01-256039/40	Fmushimba@yahoo.com
3.	Dr. Hyde Haantuba	MACO	Deputy Director	01-250504	hydehaantuba@hotmail.com
4.	Ms. Dora Mutakwa Phiri	MACO	Provincial Agricultural Coordinator	01-237773 01-221755	pddconsultdora@yahoo.com
5.	James Mazumba	Food Reserve Agency	Acting Executive Director		
6.	Mr. Chikakula Mitti	COMESA	Agric. Prog. Assistant	095858510	cmiti@comesa.int
Policy Analysts:					
7.	Mr. Mwikisa Likulunga	UNZA	Lecturer	01-295419 097-532688	mlikulunga@yahoo.com
8.	Dr. Thomson Kalinda	UNZA	Lecturer	01-295419	Tkalinda@agric.unza.zm
9.	Dr. Jones Govereh	FSRP	Research Fellow	01-234539	goverehj@msu.edu
10.	Dr. Benson H. Chishala	UNZA	Senior Lecturer	01-295421 01-295655 097-889076	bhchishala@yahoo.com bchishala@agric.unza.zm
Private Sector/NGO:					
11.	Mr. Christopher Kasonde	Poultry Association	Vice Chairman	01-256354	christopherkasonde@yahoo.co.nz
12.	Muweme Muweme	JCTR	Assistant Director	01-290410 01-290759	socialjctr@zamnet.zm jctr@zamnet.zm
13.	Mr. Maambo Mudenda	ECAZ/ZNFU	Project Coordinator	01-252577 01-252648 (fax)	znfu@zamnet.zm ecaz@zamnet.zm
14.	Mr. Bonne Chooka	ABF	Marketing Officer	01-262936 01-262950	bchooka@yahoo.com
15.	Mr. Douglas Mwasi	CARE	Project Manager	01-221822	mwasi@carezam.org
16.	Mr. Christopher Mulenga	KATC	Training Coordinator	01-233101	pd@iconnect.zm
17.	Dr. David Chungu Mimba	ASP	Livestock Coordinator	01-250250 01-253532	dmimba@asp.org.zm
18.	Mr. Rodger Phiri	NAPSSFZ	President	097308801	rodgersaiuphiri@yahoo.com
19.	Mr. Ronald Msoni	PAM	Manager FSP	01-235941/2 01-235939	rmsoni@zamnet.zm
20.	Mrs. Cecilia Makota	Zambia Women in Agriculture	Initiator	01-258336	treetops@microlink.zm
21.	Mr. Godwin Nsofu	HODI	Head of Programme	01-292020	programmes@hodi.org.zm
22.	Mrs. Patricia Mukumbuta	Swedish Coop Centre	Country Coordinator	01-260577	Patricia.mukumbuta@sccfo.org.zm
23.	Mr. David Mulolani	Natural Resources	Coordinator	01-266367	nrcf@zamnet.zm

No.	Name of Participant	Institution	Designation	Tel/Fax Number	E-Mail Address
		Consultative Forum			
24.	Mr. Clement Chipokolo	Pelum Zambia	Country Desk Coordinator	095752878	pelum@zamtel.zm
Facilitators/Organizers:					
25.	Dr. Anthony Mwanauomo	ACF	Coordinator	01-260767 096751752	Mwanaumo@zamnet.zm
26.	Mr. Masiye Nawiko	ACF	Programme Officer	01-263083 096455696	acfs@zamnet.zm mnawiko@yahoo.co.uk
27.	Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda	FANRPAN, RO	CEO	27128459100 27128459110 Fax	imsibanda@mweb.co.za
28.	Fred Kalibwani	SARPN	Consultant		
Press/Media:					
29	Mr. Songolo Akakandelwa	MACO-NAIS	Programme Producer	095762524	Songaka@yahoo.co.uk
30	Mr. J.K. Amulimukwa	MACO-NAIS	Cameraman		
31.	Mr. Nicholas Mwale	MACO-NAIS	Journalist	097468366	
32.	Effie Mphande	ZNBC	Journalist	097708702	effiemp@yahoo.com
33.	Abram Banda	ZNBC	Cameraperson	097792795	abrambanda@yahoo.com
34.	Andrew Lungu	Times of Zambia	Journalist	097549634	andrewlungu@yahoo.com
35.	Ms. Yande Kapeta	ZANA	Journalist	097707024	ykapeta@yahoo.co.uk
36.	Ms. Beauty Undi	%FM Radio	Journalist	096679507 01-221515 fax	

ANNEX 2. Statement By Mrs Miriam Nkunika, ACF Chairperson at the National Consultative Meeting On Promoting The Use Of Agro-Based NGOs' Evidence In Policies For Food Security, ACF Secretariat, 14/07/05, Lusaka, Zambia

Let me on behalf of the ACF and its board of directors and indeed on my own behalf, welcome you all to this national consultative meeting on promoting the use of agro-based non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) evidence in policies for food security. As ACF we are very pleased to host you today because this is in line with our core business of continuous stakeholder consultation, advisory services and networking. In this regard, we promote public/private sector dialogue and partnerships.

As most of you are aware, the ACF membership is drawn from a very diverse group of stakeholders, government, private sector, agro-based NGOs, farmers' organizations and indeed our cooperating partners. This is a clear recognition of the importance of complementary roles of sector stakeholders in steering the agricultural sector forward towards food and income security.

Inevitably the diversity of stakeholders entails the diversity in views. What is important however is that there is consensus on the issues discussed. In arriving at consensus, clearly each view should be taken as an important view. I therefore challenge you all participants to actively participate in the deliberations today to achieve the objectives of this meeting. Dialogue is however not an end product in itself. It is therefore important that as we deliberate we clearly come up with very specific steps that will take the process positively forward.

Some of the key questions I would like to pose from the outset, are what are our experiences in food security policy dialogue at both national and regional levels? It is also important that we come up with some specific next steps. Looking at the level of participants in this meeting, I have no doubt in my mind that we shall succeed.

At this juncture it is my honour to call upon Dr Lindiwe Sibanda, the chief executive officer for FANRPAN to say a few words.

ANNEX 3: Statement By Dr Sam Mundia, Permanent Secretary Ministry Of Agriculture And Cooperatives (Marketing And Cooperatives) At The SARPAN, FANRPAN, ODI National Consultative Meeting On Promoting The Use Of Agro-Based NGOs' Evidence In Policies For Food Security, ACF Secretariat, 14th July, 2005, Lusaka, Zambia

Madam chairperson
Chief executive officer of FANRPAN
Chairperson of the agro-based NGO forum
Invited guests
Ladies and gentlemen

It is my honour and indeed privilege to officiate at this important consultative meeting on promoting the use of CSOs' evidence in policies for food security. The government of the republic of Zambia recognises and appreciates the complementary roles of other players in Zambian agriculture. Thus though key, government is one among many players in delivering services to the agricultural sector. The other complementary players are both the profit and non-profit making private sector. Specifically the agro-based NGOs form a core player in Zambia's agricultural sector. It is for this reason that my ministry accords the agro-based NGOs through the agro-based NGO forum and the agricultural consultative forum (ACF) a consultative window on issues pertaining to agriculture development in general and food security in particular.

In Zambia all key policy documents and plans have been formulated with the active participation of the agro-based NGOs. Some examples include the agriculture component of the poverty reduction programme, (PRSP), the national agriculture policy, (NAP), the agriculture market development plan (AMDP), the ongoing formulation of the national irrigation plan (nip), the agricultural input markets (AIM) plan and the fifth national development plan (FNDP).

Madam chairperson, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, we are here today under the tripartite collaborative effort of three organisations: the southern Africa regional poverty network (SARPAN), the overseas development institute (ODI), and the SADC food and natural resources policy analysis network (FANRPAN), as part of this consultative process to see how we can anchor our national consultative processes onto the regional level.

I am aware that as agro-based NGOs, most of you operate within the confines of Zambia and tend to pay little attention to issues and processes beyond our national borders. However, there are a number of you with networks that now have a regional mandate and are engaged in national issues with a regional scope and impact. Food security is one of these.

As most of you may be aware, many aspects of national food security require regional cooperation including seed policy, GMO and biosafety policy, water, and irrigation, early warning systems and agriculture trade.

Madam chairperson, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, we are here today to share our experiences on regional policy processes and key players in the food security sector and identify key on-going policy processes with a regional scope and impact to understand constraints to participation, involvement and engagement of key players in food security policy development at regional level.

We are also here to create a platform for national policy dialogue between CSO networks, farmer organisation, policy analyst, private sector and government in the food security sector that will serve to build a constituency for engagement in regional dialogue.

Let me challenge you to also use this opportunity to assess the relevance and contribution of the proposed CSO project to key national players and identify active CSO networks that will participate in this evidence-based CSO policy advocacy project. This is more so in piloting different approaches to feeding CSO evidence into regional policy processes affecting food security.

Specifically to what extent can the project accord CSOs to assess the progress made towards the MDGs and to formulate new strategies for improved impact? How do we formulate and support implementation of better policies for increasing food availability, strengthening effective access to food, and improving food utilisation as a priority need in the SADC region and fundamental to the achievement of the millennium development goals?

What about inadequate food security policies and how they are constraining progress towards achieving regional food security? How can NGOs be strengthened and participation improved in policy processes

in the region to increase their awareness, an important component of strengthening policy processes as a whole? This is especially given that civil society has the potential to provide hands-on and grassroots experience in strengthening policy processes because they operate in the arena between the household, the private sector and the state and can thus effectively negotiate matters of public concern. How do we strengthen CSO engagement in policy processes to ensure quality and credibility of the evidence?

Madam chairperson, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, we seem not to know much about the context, evidence and links in policy processes for food security in southern Africa. The proposed project, as a collaborative effort between CSO networks working on food security in southern Africa, should thus help develop understanding in this area, to test the impact of different approaches, and to disseminate lessons on both context and process, at national, regional and international level.

Lastly, let me thank USAID-RCSA for funding the country consultative meeting. FANRPAN, ODI and SARPN for driving the regional consultative meetings and for choosing Zambia as one of the focal points for the programme. I also wish to thank the Zambia FANRPAN node, the agro-based NGO forum in Zambia and indeed the ACF for collaborating in the hosting of this meeting. Lastly and definitely not least all of you participants for making it to this meeting. I wish you very constructive deliberations.

With these very few words, let me declare this consultative meeting on promoting the use of CSO evidence in regional policies for food security officially open.

Annex 4: National consultative Meeting – Zambia: Strengthening institutional capacity for supporting Food Agricultural And Natural Resources policy formulation and implementation in the SADC region; 14th July 2005

Meeting Programme

Time	Activity	Facilitator/Presenter
08.00hrs	Registration	ACF Secretariat
08.30hrs	Welcome Remarks	Mrs. Miriam Nkunika ACF Chairperson
	Statement by FANRPAN	Dr Lindiwe Sibanda FANRPAN CEO
	Official Opening	Dr. Sam Mundia, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Marketing & Cooperatives Dept)
09.00hrs	SADC FANRPAN policy platform: scope and operations	Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda FANRPAN CEO
09.30hrs	Presentation of 3 Case studies: CSO involvement in Policy Advocacy for reduced poverty, improved agriculture and food security at National level	√ Programme Against Malnutrition √ Zambian Women in Agriculture √ Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection
10.30hrs	TEA BREAK	
11.00hrs	Presentation on Look, Listen & Learn Action Research Project in Southern Africa	Mr. Fred Kalibwani
12.00hrs	Group Discussions: Processes, Challenges & Opportunities to CSO engagement at: (1) National level (2) Regional level	Dr. Anthony Mwanaumo ACF Coordinator
13.00hrs	LUNCH BREAK	
14.00hrs	Group Feedback	Group Reporters
14.45hrs	Way Forward	√ Dr. Anthony Mwanaumo, ACF Coordinator √ Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda FANRPAN CEO
15.15	Closing Remarks	Mrs. Miriam Nkunika ACF Chairperson

A Collaborative effort by FANRPAN, Zambia ACF, SARPN, ODI
Supported by USAID (RCSA)