

FANRPAN

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network



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No time for agendas, it is time for action – South African agricultural minister

"The time is over for compiling agendas on agriculture's future – it is time for action," says South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tina Joemat-Pettersson.

Officially opening Agriculture and Rural Development, Day Joemat-Pettersson said COP17 is a call for action for climate-smart agriculture.

"The time is over for elaborate technical and scientific advice - agriculture is no longer discussed in broad descriptions. We know the specifics and these need to be put into action to ensure that we continue to feed an ever-increasing population. However, it is essential that the way forward needs to be determined with the farming communities.

"The South African government is committed to climate-smart agriculture. It has a common goal to use agriculture to feed its people and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The acknowledgement for agriculture gives recognition to the sector's contribution as an economic driver for the government's new growth path strategy.

"Agriculture is no longer a social involvement programme, it is a serious commitment to ensure food security, whilst at the same time ensuring

climate-smart developments," said the minister.

"Agriculture should be central to the COP17 negotiations. Do not give negotiators and politicians too many choices – give them successful examples of climate-smart agriculture and identify the way forward. In this way agriculture - and people - will be the beneficiaries."



"The South African government is committed to climate-smart agriculture" – Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

No agriculture, no deal

Africa expects deal on agriculture at COP17

African negotiators at the COP17 UN climate change conference in Durban must push for a binding and responsible climate deal on agriculture.

"They should secure a deal that will promote food security despite the realities of climate change," says FANRPAN Chief Executive Officer, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda.

FANRPAN, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, is an Africa-wide organisation advocating for sound agriculture.

It also advocates for climate-smart agriculture which includes sustainable increases in productivity, strengthened resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems and efforts to mitigate climate change by using proven techniques such as agro-forestry, improved grazing, zero tillage and intercropping.

"No agriculture, no deal – FANRPAN's call at

COP17 - will ensure that food insecurity no longer causes havoc on the African continent. We are grateful that COP17 is taking place in Africa. We want African negotiators to strike a responsible, binding climate change deal on agriculture.

"Should they fail to clinch such a deal, civil society will say any deal that does not have agriculture as a stand-alone priority sector with a dedicated work programme is a betrayal to the farming sector and anybody who needs food to survive."

Sibanda says African political leaders should hold those who are negotiating on behalf of the continent accountable.

"Now is the time for previous commitments made in Cancun to be sealed. Financial commitments should also be cemented to ensure that agricultural projects do not remain pipedreams but become realistic with measurable outputs. We should not keep on moving the goalposts - COP17 should produce concrete outputs that are binding to everyone.

"Whilst our call – no agriculture, no deal – is not a protest call, it illustrates how serious we are about a pressing situation. We don't embark on protest campaigns, but we advocate for evidence-based dialogue. Agriculture is the backbone of Africa's economy and it needs a secure climate, so we will use all our power to ensure that the sector is put on the centre stage at COP17, and not through an exit door.

"I am also confident that Africa is well prepared for this conference and will sing from the same hymn sheet. As a matter of fact, Africa will use COP17 to push for a better global policy environment, improved agricultural productivity and land use," says Sibanda.



"We want African negotiators to strike a responsible, binding climate change deal on agriculture" – FANRPAN CEO Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda.

Leading agricultural organisations call on COP17 negotiators – include agriculture in climate agreement

Announcement highlights the need for long-term investment and support for improved food security, farmer resilience and climate mitigation efforts in agriculture

A group of 16 of the world's leading agricultural organisations called on COP17 climate negotiators to take concrete action to include agriculture in the text of the climate agreement.

The organisations include three United Nations agencies, the World Bank, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research, the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions and the World Farmers' Organisation.

At Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2011 in Durban, more than 500 agricultural experts discussed priorities to boost agricultural production while supporting mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Dr Bruce Campbell, Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security says it is astonishing that agriculture remains excluded from a global agreement on climate change.

"This year's conference offered a unique opportunity for this omission to be addressed."

Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Chief Executive of the South Africa-based Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network says with a united voice, African farmers have joined their counterparts around the world to put agriculture on the climate agenda.

"They are calling on negotiators to unlock the continent's agricultural potential to increase food productivity while helping them build resilience against the impacts of climate change."

These organisations are calling for a work programme on agriculture, which would result in a more coordinated and rigorous plan of action for the sector as a whole. The programme would be overseen by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, an official body within the broader UNFCCC negotiations framework.

Agriculture possesses huge untapped potential to both mitigate future greenhouse gas emissions, while helping those most vulnerable adapt to its impacts and reduce pressure on natural resources.

To realise this, long-term investment in climate-smart agricultural approaches must be supported. These include conservation agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable land and water management and soil carbon management.

Rachel Kyte, Vice President for Sustainable Development of the World Bank and Chair, CGIAR Fund Council, welcomed the efforts made by the organisers of the Agriculture and Rural Development Day.

"No single government or organisation can meet this challenge alone. The new norm must be strong collaboration between business, government, research and development organisations and between environmental, food security, and other agricultural specialists."

Kanayo Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development says small-

holder farmers currently manage up to 80 percent of farmland in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia,

"They also provide up to 80 percent of the food in developing countries. We must scale up research and investments in sustainable agriculture approaches that have already succeeded in raising smallholders' productivity while reducing their carbon emissions."

Currently, 97 percent of agricultural workers live in developing countries, and agriculture typically accounts for 50 percent of total GDP in the least developing countries.

It is estimated that the world will require a 70 percent increase in food production by 2050, with climate change already threatening current yields of staple crops, especially in South Asia.

Global food prices are expected to increase on average by 10 to 20 percent over the next ten years with higher temperatures and more extreme weather seriously undermining farmers' ability to feed their families and provide food for national and global markets.

Climate-smart agriculture top of mind at Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2011

I am proud that the unified call 'No agriculture, no deal' has never before been so clearly communicated as during COP17.

I am also proud that Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2011 enhanced that message. But that the meeting of more than 500 minds - policymakers, negotiators, journalists, farmers, and scientists – practised common sense to ensure that climate-smart agriculture is entrenched in all we do. By endorsing food security, mitigation, adaptation and resilience we will ensure that food security remains top of mind.

Sindiso Ngwenya – Chairman, FANRPAN and Secretary-General: COMESA



Climate change disaster to Africa

Basil Msongo

The socio-economic impact of climate change can range from severe to disastrous, especially to African countries, and will require extensive action to adjust and adapt to a changing climate.

This is according to South African Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tina Joemat-Pettersson.

Officially opening Forest Day 5 at COP17, Joemat-Pettersson said many countries are potential victims of global climate change, given that they have energy-intensive, fossil-fuel powered economies and are highly vulnerable to the impact of climate variability and change.

"South Africa regards climate change as one of the greatest threats to sustainable development and believes that climate change, if unmitigated,

has the potential to undo or undermine many of the positive advances made in meeting South Africa's own development goals and the Millennium Development Goals.

"The world needs to recognise that the 2 degrees Celsius goal cannot be achieved by one part of the world on its own.

"We, as a collective, must therefore deliver a comprehensive international programme on adaptation that provides access to significantly up-scaled finance, technology and capacity building for all developing countries, recognising the particular vulnerability of countries in Africa," she said.

The minister challenged COP17 delegates to deliver a framework for nationally appropriate mitigation action by developing countries, supported and enabled by finance, technology and capacity building, all of which are measured, reported and verified.

"Climate change threatens to undermine many of the development objectives of countries in Africa and in the rest of the developing world in areas such as water, energy, health, agriculture and forestry.

"Many concerns and issues surround the use of forestry as a carbon sink. Nevertheless, forestry remains an effective, low-cost method of removing carbon from the atmosphere in a sustainable manner," she said.

Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Forestry Department, Eduardo Rojas-Briales, says forests play a crucial role in mitigating climate change - they are pillars of sustainable development.

"Forestry remains an effective, low-cost method of removing carbon from the atmosphere in a sustainable manner" - South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tina Joemat-Pettersson.



Africa's biggest regional climate change initiative launched

Fidelis Zvomuya

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have announced Africa's biggest climate change initiative.

COMESA Secretary-General, Sindiso Ngwenya says the world has been waiting for a long time for a post 2012 global agreement on climate change.

Addressing the launch of the EAC, COMESA and SADC Tripartite Climate Change programme, Ngwenya said whilst there is no doubt that this is the last chance for the world to take a collective decisive action that will save the planet, progressive countries have teamed up with the continent to come up with a new agreement.

"This new cooperation arrangement will support Africa to address the most pressing challenges to food security through the wide adoption of climate-smart agriculture, building the capacity of African institutions to handle climate change and lay the foundation for the continent's sustainable, green growth and development," said Ngwenya.

The tripartite was set up to facilitate the three economic regions' long-term vision of working together in solving one of the global challenges facing humankind today.

The main objective of the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite initiative is to develop a climate change policy that will contribute to sustainable development in the region through harmonised and coordinated sub-regional strategies, programmes and actions to respond to climate change, including both ad-

aptation and mitigation.

"The initiative is novel in many respects and it stems from the need to harmonise programme approaches among these three eastern and southern Africa regional economic communities. Climate change is the third flagship programme of the regional economic tripartite signed by the heads of states. Its entry point is to support the African effort at the UNFCCC to ensure that agriculture is accommodated in a manner that is responsive to the interests of Africa and its people," said Ngwenya.

Speaking at the same occasion, John Ashton, UK Foreign Secretary Special Representative on Climate Change said Africa's voice has been missing in the global climate change agenda.

"The African voice has been weak and such initiatives as the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite will make sure that Africa is heard loud and clear," he said.

Ngwenya says that it is now well established that women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, primarily because they constitute the majority of the continent's poor.

"In response to the gendered and adverse effects of climate change on women and the youth, the COMESA-EAC-SADC climate change initiative has established specialised technical committees to address gender concerns at national and regional levels, including policy and programmes. The tripartite initiative will also engage youth and civil society," he says.



It is a deal - the panel at the launch of Africa's biggest regional climate change initiative, from left John Ashton, UK Foreign Secretary Special Representative on climate change, Arvinn Gadgil of Norway, Jean Claude Yumva of the EAC, Dr Foupd Mohadji, Vice President of the Comoros, Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA and Chairman of the Tripartite and Dr Caholo of the SADC.

New wave of deforestation threatens Africa's climate resilience - experts

A new wave of deforestation is sweeping across Africa, decimating wildlife and threatening the resilience of its ecosystems to withstand the effects of climate change - especially in the area of food security, experts said.

"Deforestation rates in Africa are accelerating," said Helen Gichohi, President of the African Wildlife Foundation during a keynote speech at Forest Day 5 in Durban on the sidelines of COP17. "The disappearing forests, the overgrazed rangelands, and conversion to crop agriculture of grasslands and wetlands that had served as a refuge to drought have all diminished the resilience of ecosystems."

She called for REDD+ funding to move more quickly to save the continent's forests. REDD+ stands for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. It is a mechanism being discussed as part of the UN climate talks in Durban, which could see billions of dollars channeled to developing countries to protect their forests.

Gichohi's message was echoed by fellow keynote speaker, Bob Scholes of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa, who said, "The next major wave of deforestation is already here and it is happening in Africa.

"If we can do something to influence deforestation we can have a greater effect on everything that has happened so far under the Kyoto Protocol," he said. "This challenge is worth the effort."

Scholes described the typical pattern for deforestation in Africa - loggers come into a forest, they chop the large trees and take out the valuable timber, then charcoal manufacturers remove a

large proportion of the remaining trees, and then low-input, low-output agriculture arrives, which after a few cycles leaves the land degraded and of little value to anyone.

"It is urgent to safeguard Africa's forests, not only because they slow climate change but also because they act as a final barrier to creeping desertification, underpin sustainable agricultural production and support the livelihoods of tens of millions of rural poor," said Frances Seymour, the Director-General of the Center for International Forestry Research.

Scientists have warned that sub-Saharan Africa may be among the hardest hit regions by climate change. The continent has already been struck by a string of climate-related disasters, most recently the drought-induced famine in the Greater Horn of Africa.

Experts say forest destruction and other forms of human-caused land degradation have transformed vast areas of once grazeable and farmable land into barren landscapes.

Gichohi said that nine percent of forest cover has been lost between 1995 and 2005 across sub-Saharan Africa, representing an average loss of 40 000 square kilometres of forest per year. For example, Kenya has lost the majority of its forest cover to settlements and agriculture, leaving only 1,7 percent of its land still forested.

"Forests cannot be sustained if people are hungry or governance of natural resources is inadequate," said Rachel Kyte, Vice President of Sustainable Development at the World Bank.

"Hunger places a direct burden on forests when people are forced to push deeper into forested areas to grow crops, or resort to making and selling charcoal in order to buy food."

With declining conditions in forests looming as a threat to climate health and the wellbeing of a billion impoverished people, the world's largest

consortium of agricultural researchers announced at Forest Day the launch of an ambitious global research programme devoted to forests and agroforestry.

The programme will have an initial three-year budget of US\$233 million.



"If we can do something to influence deforestation we can have a greater effect on everything that has happened so far under the Kyoto Protocol" - Bob Scholes of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa.

Africa loses more than US\$7,5 billion worth of food in 2010

Fidelis Zvomuya

Africa lost more than US\$7,5 billion worth of food due to extreme weather conditions in 2010.

This is according to Dr James Nyoro, Managing Director, Africa Region of the Rockefeller Foundation. Speaking at the Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2011, Nyoro said 1,3 billion tons of food is wasted each year within the continent from farm to fork.

"Every year climate-related disasters affect 200 million people, costing over US\$70 billion worldwide. About 87 percent of households in three Sub Saharan African countries slide in and out of hunger when exposed to shocks."

Nyoro says this can only be solved through climate-smart agriculture - the future and the way to go if governments want to solve these weather-related disasters. Climate-smart agriculture sustains health of the land and increases production, does not pollute and degrade land or loss of forest and biodiversity. It delivers food, fibre, fuel and income, carbon sequestration and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

"Climate-smart agriculture has been in existence for a long time and is practised in several countries. This has been happening through the integration of local and scientific knowledge, which has been essential for weather forecasts, that has been used by local farmers for many years.

"In Niger, Evergreen Agriculture, which is utilising 5 million hectares, regenerated 500 000 tons of cereals per year benefiting 1,25 million people. It combines agroforestry with the principles of conservation farming. The addition of agroforestry offers multiple livelihood benefits to farmers, including sources of green or organic fertilizer to build healthier soils and enhance crop yields, whilst providing fruits, medicines, livestock fodder and fuel-wood. Environmental benefits include land rehabilitation, more effective water cycle and watershed protection, increased biodiversity,

increased carbon accumulation and storage and greater resilience to climate change - addressing mitigation and adaptation.

"In Zambia 160 000 people are using conservation agriculture. In Burkina Faso farmers are using water harvesting to restore land and increase yields," Nyoro says.

Part of Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2011 included sessions on lessons on best practice for climate-smart agriculture. Participating organisations included three United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) FANRPAN, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research, the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and the World Farmers' Organisation.

The event attracted more than 500 agricultural experts including policymakers and negotiators, journalists, farmers and scientists. Issues discussed included priorities to boost agricultural production while supporting mitigation and adaptation to climate change.



Dr James Nyoro, Managing Director, Africa Region of the Rockefeller Foundation says climate-smart agriculture is the way to go if governments want to solve weather-related issues.

Swazi civil society embraces climate-smart agriculture

Ackel Zwane

Representatives of civil society from Swaziland attending the Agriculture and Rural Development Day as a lateral event of COP17 are taking many cues in the concept of climate smart agriculture.

Dalton Nxumalo of World Vision Swaziland presented on how to build the resilience of African smallholder farmers in a changing world.

"Their participation was to influence policy on agriculture in the county and also embrace climate change as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are advocating for evidence-based policy with tools like the household vulnerability index which was piloted in Swaziland through the partnership with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Network Analysis (FANRPAN) and World Vision International.

"The outcomes of the learning event will help us prioritise our programmes and how to survive in the era of climate change by applying climate-smart agriculture."

The World Bank says climate-smart agriculture includes proven practical techniques. For example, by increasing the organic content of the soil



"We are advocating for evidence based policy with tools like the household vulnerability index which was piloted in Swaziland," - Dalton Nxumalo of World Vision Swaziland.

through conservation tillage, its water holding capacity increases, making yields more resilient and reducing erosion. Promoting soil carbon capture also helps mitigate climate change.

Another example is integrated soil fertility management that can lower fertilizer costs, increase soil carbon and improve yields. Climate-smart agriculture gives attention to landscape approaches, for example, integrated planning of land, agriculture, forests, fisheries and water to ensure synergies are captured.

Musa Dlamini of the Consortium of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) says lessons from experiences of four African countries - Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia and Tanzania - enriched him with areas of resilience and adaptation he wants to see adopted in Swaziland.

These are water harvesting techniques, sustainability strategies and scaling up issues of climate-smart agriculture and the issue of integrating these into the national development plan.

The other crucial lesson is the use of technology to disseminate information to smallholder farmers such as distributing weather information via short message services (SMSs).

Intensify, mitigate, adapt now

Basil Msongo

The Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change has reiterated the importance of establishing a work programme on mitigation and adaptation in agriculture in accordance with the principles and provision of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Speaking to COP17 delegates at the Agriculture and Rural Development Day in Durban, the chairman of the commission, Professor John Beddington said there is a need to develop common platforms at global, regional and national levels.

"This is essential for coherent dialogue and policy

action related to climate change, agriculture, crisis response and food security. These include fostering country-level coalitions for food security and building resilience, particularly in countries most vulnerable to climate shocks. Adaptive capacity is needed in agriculture to reduce the effect of climate change on food supplies, livelihoods and economies.

"Food systems must shift to better meet human needs and in the long term, balance with planetary resources."

He said over the course of the 21st century the

Durban must check against delivery

Fidelis Zvomuya

Durban's climate talks must come up with a work programme for agriculture that talks about mitigation, adaptation, women, human rights and the environment, says Mary Robinson.

Delivering a keynote presentation at the third annual Agriculture and Rural Development Day (ARDD) held at the Durban University of Technology, Robinson said while the current text is blocked due to linked agenda items on bunker fuels and issues around trade, COP17 must deliver action on the links between climate change and food and nutrition security.

Robinson, who now heads up The Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate, is a former President of Ireland and a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is also a member of the Elders group.

"Achieving food security and climate justice is doable. Climate change is making a bad situation far worse but, even so, I believe that it comes down to political choices and policy decisions. If we believe that solving the problem of hunger and food security is a priority, a question of justice and fairness, then it is not beyond our power to resolve it," she said.

She said a positive development is the renewed focus on the key role that agriculture plays in addressing food security and the search for innovative approaches to agriculture, "including climate-smart agriculture, the subject of our deliberations here today."

She said it is estimated that up to 25 percent of world food production could be lost by 2050 as a result of climate change, water scarcity and land degradation, resulting in an increase of 10 to 20 percent in the number of people going hungry during the same period.

"The fact is that action is urgently required. We have a situation where almost a billion people go hungry every day, where a further billion are malnourished, which makes it an affront to us all. Progress here in Durban could build strong momentum to put justice and equity at the heart of international responses to climate change as we prepare for the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit next June. We should not let this opportunity pass."

Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change

More funding to link farmers to the carbon market

Zeddy Sambu

More funding is needed to hook more smallholder farmers and rural communities to the carbon funds market and tackle the negative effects of climate change on the sector, said participants at the Agriculture and Rural Development Day.

More private and public funds will help reduce barriers of investments and policy that have so far restricted such opportunities for Africa's largest farming communities, despite existing local, national and regional initiatives.

"Carbon financing needs to be topped up from public and other private sources funds. Financing and policies must be right," one of the learning forums heard.

The forums also emphasised strengthening of research to produce and distribute drought resistance and early maturing crops as mitigation.

"Agriculture, food security is central to UNFCCC agreements. We need a work programme for climate-smart agriculture," said Dr James Nyoro, Managing Director of the Rockefeller Foundation in Africa.

world will need to produce significantly more food to deliver a basic but adequate diet to everyone.

"The amount of food required will be even greater if current trends in diets and the management of food systems continue.

"We need to make concurrent efforts to establish climate-resilient agricultural production systems, make efficient use of resources, develop low-waste supply chains, ensure adequate nutrition and encourage healthy eating choices."

Beddington said that intensification of food



"If we believe that solving the problem of hunger and food security is a priority, a question of justice and fairness, then it is not beyond our power to resolve it" - Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

and its resolution equitably and fairly, she says.

"Time is running out for world leaders, who must go beyond rhetoric and deliver real change. The hungry cannot wait. Unless decisive action is taken now, vulnerable populations will grow hungrier, food markets will be increasingly unstable, and the world will remain completely unprepared for the challenge of feeding 9 billion people by 2050."

The Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2011 was organised by many, including the CGIAR Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) regional office in South Africa, CTA, ACP, EU and the World Bank. The event highlighted the importance of climate-smart agriculture and the need to address food security and agriculture in the climate change negotiations.

Highlighting the theme of the event, Advancing rural development for Africa's smallholder farmers, Robinson said it is a well-known fact that up to 75 percent of people living in developing countries rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. "Over 90 percent of Africa's agricultural production comes from small-scale production. Many of these farmers are women, who play a critical role in food and nutrition security and are responsible for growing, buying, selling and cooking the food. Between 60 and 80 percent of the food produced in most developing countries is produced by women. In sub-Saharan Africa the figure is between 80 and 90 percent, yet women own less than two percent of the land."

Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, FANRPAN Chief Executive Officer says ARDD, in its third year now, supports climate-smart agriculture as it is a smart way of achieving food security, through putting farmers, people and the environment first.

They range from conservation agriculture in Zambia, evergreen farming in Burkina Faso, Tanzania's Kilimo Kwanza as well as initiatives steered under the auspices of the African Union and NEPAD's CAADP.

"Burkinanes practising evergreen agriculture can improve yields by up to 150 percent. Kenyan farmers have seen yields increase by 30 percent and more than 20 000 farmers are practising climate smart agriculture. Another 2 500 farmers are adopting the practices without cash incentives," said Nyoro.

Studies show that some 80 percent of Kenya's small scale rural farmers are willing to pay for weather-related information. Other farmers across Africa are working closely with the World Meteorological Organisation.

By combining climate and agriculture, participants observed the health of land as a key resource for food production should be sustained. Presently, some 200 million people in Africa face food insecurity and climate injustice and related risks. The solution lies in climate-smart agriculture.

production must be accompanied by concerted action to reduce greenhouse emissions from agriculture to avoid further acceleration of climate change threats to the long-term viability of global agriculture.

"As climate change amplifies the environmental and socio-economic drivers of food insecurity, it is imperative that we prioritise where, how and when to act. The threats posed by climate change to food supplies and livelihoods are likely to be spatially variable," he said.

Agriculture can't be treated like aviation - Sibanda

Fidelis Zvomuya

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Chief Executive Officer, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda says the deep, almost inherent adaptability and resilience of the world's farmers make them well suited to deal with a changing climate and their voices to be heard at COP17.

"Farmers are dealing with limits to usable land and water, rising populations and the insatiable appetites of the world's fast-expanding middle class.

"It's a misconception to put agriculture in the same league with the aviation and maritime industry when it comes to climate change negotiations. It needs to be treated separately and we are happy that there is realisation that this must be done."

She says there is every reason to believe that farmers, along with the companies and institutions that develop crop varieties and agricultural technologies, can meet the challenge of reducing emissions from agriculture.

"There is also evidence that today's levels of research and development, particularly for advances that can benefit the poorest regions, are grossly insufficient and need to be improved.

"Agriculture was regarded as a sectoral issue, meaning that it is bundled in with other sectors and negotiations about who should pay what for the emissions that result from aviation and maritime trade, as the chances of an agreement on other issues are likely to weigh down the chances for agriculture as well."

She says the agricultural sector, representing both smallholders and commercial farmers with the support of 54 African governments, has issued a national road map, called climate-smart agriculture, for responding to climate change, along with a performance scorecard to measure how the sector fares when it comes to emission reduction.

According to South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, feeding Africa and the world at a time of climate change is one of the major challenges of our era.

"Global food production must rise by 70 percent by 2050 to feed over nine billion people worldwide. Without strong adaptation measures, climate change will reduce food crop yields by 16 percent worldwide and by 28 percent in Africa over the next 50 years. It is unlikely that the price and yield volatility will continue to rise as extreme weather continues, with further negative effects on livelihoods and placing food security at risk," the minister says.

Sibanda says while they understand that agriculture is the sector most vulnerable to climate change, it is also a major cause, directly accounting for approximately 15 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

"This could be as much as 30 percent when considering land-use change, including deforestation directed by agricultural expansion for food, fibre and fuel.

"However, agriculture can still be part of the solution. Addressing agriculture is critical to achieving global climate goals. This new blueprint outlines a series of short-term and longer-term initiatives that will assist negotiators in coming up with a policy that will take agriculture out of the other leagues," says Sibanda.

Professor Raymond Auerbach of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University says climate-smart agriculture is more about more crops per drop and must be supported as it is meant to have a single line about agriculture being included in the final text that emerges from COP17, which has not been the case at any previous conference.

He echoes Sibanda's sentiments that the African agricultural sector must convince negotiators to agree to the establishment of a work programme on agriculture.

"We are convinced that this would seek solutions to the problem of agriculture's contribution to climate change and vice versa.

"Better climate-change and forecast models, combined with more effective agriculture in drought-threatened areas will not solve all problems, but they should reduce the need for emergency responses, and make such measures more effective when they are necessary," he says.

Tanzania projects to reduce emissions from deforestation get the nod

Basil Msongo

The government of Tanzania has been urged to support the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through REDD+ projects to add impetus to the Agriculture First campaign and the economy at large.

Tanzania's President, Jakaya Kikwete launched the campaign in 2009 to modernise the agricultural sector by involving the private sector.

Tanzania's Forest Conservation Group's Executive Director, Charles Mashaka, said in Durban that REDD+ projects have the potential to help fight poverty, particularly as agriculture employs more than 80 percent of Tanzanians, especially in rural areas.

Mashaka said the projects are very crucial to Tanzania's agricultural sector, especially in adapting the adverse impacts of climate change which affect agriculture through higher temperatures, greater crop water demand, more variable rainfall and extreme climate events such as heat waves, floods and drought.

Climate change is an alteration of the earth's general weather conditions of which the most prominent change is the rising temperature of the earth's surface.

Mashaka says his institution introduced REDD+ pilot projects in 36 villages which have 215 000 hectares of natural forests in 2009.

"Increases in temperature, changing patterns of rainfall, more extreme droughts and floods - all can be attributed to the increase in emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from human activities.

"These have an impact on food production in the future and climate change is the most pressing sustainable development challenge of our time," he said.

Don't convert Climate Change Fund into loan - Swazi agricultural expert

Ackel Zwane

In a bid to protect the smallholder farmer, the cornerstone in food security in Swaziland, Siculo Simelane of the Swaziland Agricultural Development Enterprise (SWADE) says Africa opposes the move by developed countries to convert the climate change grant money into a loan scheme for the developing world.

"Africa feels that by letting the developed world impose this fund as a loan would be reverting the continent's situation back to the ecological debt debate which was dominant prior to the creation of the Climate Change Fund.

"Let's follow the debates at COP17 and set up obligations for the developed world so that they don't just end as just talk, but lead to a roll-out of the grants. This fund was set up by the developed world to assist the developing world cut greenhouse gases. It was successfully brokered at the international talks in Cancun, Mexico last year, a deal that took four years of negotiations. This deal was to result in less deforestation, the transfer of technology to developing countries and the establishment of a yearly fund, most likely to the tune of US\$100 billion to assist countries adapt to climate change.

"I believe there is a need to follow up the Climate Change Fund. Last year's meeting also agreed on the establishment of the fund to handle and deliver the billions needed for the developing world to adapt to climate change and a system to inspect the actions taken to avoid climate change by rich and larger developing countries."

He says in Swaziland there are predominantly two types of agricultural farming, rain-fed agriculture and the irrigation one and both are impacted by changes in the climate. He cites the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation project which has the Siphofaneni Dam alongside it - the dam only gets water when the Lusutfu River is flooded - as a very relevant case. If the river dries up the agreements must take this reality into account, which invariably includes the human factor - the farmers.

"The issue of adaptation is crucial for Swaziland. The government needs to devise adaptation strategies as dams could already be experiencing climate change effects. Policies must be mainstreamed and include all other sectors. We are already feel-

ing the impact of climate change," he says.

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Chief Executive Officer Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda says African negotiators at COP17 must push for a responsible climate deal on agriculture.

"They should secure a deal that will promote food security, help African farmers adapt to climate change and reduce emissions from agriculture. FANRPAN is an Africa-wide organisation advocating for sound agriculture. It also advocates for climate-smart agriculture which includes sustainable increases in productivity, strengthened resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems and efforts to mitigate climate change by using proven techniques such as agro-forestry, improved grazing, zero tillage and intercropping.

"No agriculture, no deal - FANRPAN's call at COP17 - will ensure that food insecurity no longer causes havoc on the African continent. We are grateful that COP17 is taking place in Africa. We want African negotiators to strike a responsible, binding climate change deal on agriculture. Should they fail to clinch such a deal, civil society will say any deal that does not have agriculture as a stand-alone priority sector with a dedicated work programme is a betrayal to the farming sector and anybody who needs food to survive.

"Now is the time for previous commitments made in Cancun to be sealed. Financial commitments should also be cemented to ensure that agricultural projects do not remain pipe dreams but become realistic with measurable outputs. We should not keep on moving the goalposts - COP17 should produce concrete outputs that are binding to everyone.

"Whilst our call - no agriculture, no deal - is not a protest call, it illustrates how serious we are about a pressing situation. We don't embark on protest campaigns, but we advocate for evidence based dialogue. We will use all our power to ensure that the sector is put on the centre stage at COP17, and not through an exit door. As a matter of fact, Africa will use COP17 to push for a better global policy environment, improved agricultural productivity and land use," says Sibanda.

All for climate-smart agriculture



Students of the Durban University of Technology helped promote climate-smart agriculture at the Agriculture and Rural Development Day.



Green was the way to go at Agriculture and Rural Development Day.

FANRPAN News

This issue of FANRPAN News - the fourth in a series - was compiled by a group of journalists who received experiential training at COP17, funded by The Rockefeller Foundation.

Back - Ackel Zwane of Swaziland, Fidelis Zvomuya of South Africa and Yuven Gounden of FANRPAN.

Middle - Zeddy Sambu of Kenya, Paida Mpsa of Malawi, Ben Rootman of Junxion Communications (trainer) and Basil Msongo of Tanzania.

Front - Martin van Niekerk of Junxion Communications (trainer).

Visit www.fanrpan.org for more information.



Rockefeller Foundation supports climate resilience

Basil Msongo

The Rockefeller Foundation says its climate change resilience work in Africa helps smallholder farmers adapt to more extreme and difficult-to-manage weather patterns.

"Delegates at COP17 have an opportunity to focus the discussion and the decision-making on how to build the resilience of communities that are already feeling the impact of extreme weather because of climate change," says the foundation's Associate Director, Cristina Rumbaitis Del Rio.

"Our climate change resilience work, focused at the local and regional level, proves that building real adaptive capacity to climate change is possible. So, as government leaders, climate experts and representatives of the private sector discuss and debate the future of an international climate change framework in Durban, we hope that the COP community also focuses on the success that local governments and communities have already achieved in resilience-building. We hope they will find pathways to support and scale these innovations.

"Since 1995 the UNFCCC has convened the international community to cooperatively consider what they could do to mitigate climate change

and to manage its impacts. Guided by our dual mission to build resilience and promote growth with equity, the foundation focuses on building resilient communities that are able to weather the effects of climate change," she said.

"In 2007 we launched our climate change resilience initiative – a \$90 million commitment which focuses on urban environments in Asia, agriculture in Africa, policy research and replication efforts.

"To help rapidly growing cities in Asia develop resilience plans and to help them prepare for the current and future impact of climate change, we formed the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network."

The foundation's President, Judith Rodin says between 2004 and 2011, over \$1.3 billion was committed to help Africa reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

"However, to date only \$390 million has been spent.

"We stand at a fragile point in history. We are not sitting in conference rooms in Copenhagen or Cancun anymore. We look out of our window and Africa is right there, a continent whose climate predicament can be ignored no longer," she said.

Rescuing the Kyoto Protocol

Basil Msongo

Thousands of delegates at the 17th Conference of Parties on climate change are facing the huge challenge of rescuing the Kyoto Protocol as it's the last opportunity to reach agreement for its second phase before it ends in 2012.

COP17 delegates from more than 190 countries who are in Durban, South Africa for the conference are expected to face critical decisions on whether or not there will be a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

The protocol was adopted in December 1997 at a meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Kyoto, Japan aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The Kyoto Protocol, which was opened for signature on 16 March, 1998 and came into force in 2005 is set to expire in 2012, hence talks in Durban are the last chance to set another round of targets before the first stage of the protocol ends.

Action Aid International's Climate Justice Coordinator, Harjeet Singh said in Durban that the death of the Kyoto Protocol could leave deep wounds in the COP17 negotiations.

"Rich countries have purposefully kept expectations low for the climate summit. Yet poor nations, whose people are worst hit by climate change, have made it clear the bar must remain high," he said.

"Over one and a half billion people are on the verge of a climate-driven food crisis and unless

tackled now, another 50 million people could be at risk of hunger by 2020. If rich countries don't radically curb their carbon emissions by 2020, the climate crisis that ensues could dwarf our ability to respond."

Some countries such as Japan, Russia, Canada and Australia have already signalled their intention not to join a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and it is alleged that they want a legally binding agreement that will include all major developing countries such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa.

South Africa agreed to the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 and is one of the countries which appeal for an inclusive, fair and effective climate change deal to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which is favourable to both developing and developed countries.

39 of the 40 industrialised countries have ratified the protocol which sets binding targets for industrialised countries to reduce their combined greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 percent between 2008 and 2012.

"It may seem impossible, but you can get it done," Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, told delegates.

The Kyoto Protocol is the most crucial issue of the Durban meeting, and it is alleged that the whole process of the climate change talks will be affected if decisions cannot be reached on the issue.

Keeping the legacy of Maathai alive

Zeddy Sambu

Fourteen global bodies championing the cause of the environment have launched an award in honour of the late Professor Wangari Maathai for her lifelong commitment to environmental protection.

The various UN bodies and non-governmental organisations under the banner of the Collaborative Centre for Conservation of Forests say the award will reward excellence in seven different areas that the environment icon championed.

The 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate, environmentalist, scientist, parliamentarian, founder of the Green Belt Movement, advocate for social justice, human rights and democracy, elder and peacemaker, died of cancer in September 2011.

2011 is the United Nations' International Year of

the Forests and the award is being set up in the name of a woman who in 1977 established most probably the greatest tree planting initiative in the world. The Green Belt Movement works with women to improve their livelihoods by increasing access to resources like firewood for cooking and clean water. She became a great advocate for better management of natural resources and for sustainability, equity and justice.

As the first eastern and central African woman to hold a PhD and the first African woman Nobel laureate for peace, Maathai went on to establish the movement which has planted over 45 million trees in Kenya. The target is a billion trees.

Her work inspired reforestation by adding millions of trees, enhancing the fact that although human activities partly cause the current climate crisis, it can also help solve it.

The award will celebrate her remarkable selfless dedication to improving the environment, and enhancing the lives of women in Kenya. Her legacy continues to inspire leaders around the world, among them, former US president Bill Clinton. The Clinton Climate Initiative Forestry Programme was among those who paid tribute to Maathai's legacy at Forest Day 5 at COP17. Clinton said Maathai was a good friend.

"She would be so pleased that COP17 is taking place in Africa. She recognised that the continent was tragically hard hit by deforestation and climate change and she urged us not to give up," said Clinton in a personal letter to Forest Day 5.

FANRPN Chairman Sindiso Ngwenya says Maathai stood next to him at COP14 in Poznan, Poland when he announced the African Climate Solution that called for support for Agriculture, forestry and other land uses. "I am sad today that she is no longer with us, but I am happy that her spirit lives on in all of us as we commit to making sure that Africa is food secure."



Judith Nyanghuthii Kimamo of the Green Belt Movement founded by Prof Maathai in 1977 addressed delegates at Forest Day.

Gender key to sustainable forests

Paida Mpasu

If the forestry sector ignores gender issues it will miss a huge opportunity to reduce poverty, conserve biodiversity and bolster sustainable development, states the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) book, Gender and Forests.

The Director of IUCN, Julia Morton-Lefevre says women have important primary roles as managers of forests, land, water and other natural resources in many communities - a position which makes them powerful agents of change in formulating responses to climate change.

Speaking at the launch of the book at Forest Day 5 at COP17 in Durban, Morton-Lefevre said women are part of the solution.

"By developing national gender-sensitive climate strategies, we can concretise practical steps that lead to improved benefits for men, women and nature."

IUCN is an international organisation that helps the world find pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environment and development challenges. It focuses on biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy.

This is done by supporting scientific research, managing field projects all over the world and

bringing governments, non-governmental organisations, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

The book, which has been published in partnership with the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), recognises that after decades of neglect and marginalisation, gender issues are at last finding their way into many forests, land use and environmental policies.

In addition, the book states that women across the world are primary users of forest resources and their sale of forest products is vital to covering household expenses and taking them through leaner times of the year. Women, therefore, have more at stake than men when forests are degraded or forests access is denied.

Morton-Lefevre said that despite this, numerous studies have shown that women's concerns are often neglected as the ownership of forests and sales of valuable forest products are largely under the control of men.

"We need to take gender issues more seriously, not only to make our work more effective but also to redress gender imbalances by enhancing women's empowerment, strengthening women's rights and ensuring that women get their fair share of benefits," she said.

What is climate-smart agriculture?

Agriculture sectors must become climate-smart to successfully tackle current food security and climate change challenges.

Agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, is crucial for food security and rural incomes as well as other essential products such as energy, fibre, feed and a range of ecosystem services.

Climate-smart agriculture is a pathway towards development and food security built on three pillars –

- Increasing productivity and income
- Enhancing resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems
- Reducing and removing gas emissions from the atmosphere



Yes for climate-smart agriculture – from left – Kirsty Graham, Alessandro Craparo and Rennie Campbell.



Support from SACA – from left – Fhumulani Mashau, Janet Florence Bitegeko, Benito Eliasi and Zanele Penelope Phiri.

Kenya turns 17 million acres into arable land

Zeddy Sambu

Kenya, along with several other African states, has been classified as food insecure by among others, the UN's Food Agricultural Organization.

Therefore, among other measures, the government, in this year's budgetary allocations, is intent to shift some 1,7 million acres of potential arable land to transform Kenya into a food secure and net exporter of surpluses.

To fight hunger in Kenya the Treasury allocated Ksh10,2 billion – more than US\$100 million – for irrigation to initiate and expand smallholder programmes around the country. The budget proposes measures to shift to irrigated agriculture to feed Kenya's 41 million people – 13 million more than in 1999 - and create surplus for export.

It proposes to expand irrigation, reduce overreliance on rain-fed agriculture and ensure sustainable food security. Only ten percent of Kenya's arable land is under irrigation, about 25 percent of harvested produce goes to waste and the national poverty headcount is 47 percent.

"The frequent adverse effects of climate change on agriculture are a threat. There is a need to shift to irrigation-based programmes," says Kenyan Finance Minister, Uhuru Kenyatta.

Policy experts welcomed the long-term interventions but questioned the capacity of state bodies to spent entire allocations as evidenced through previous repatriations of funds allocated to the exchequer.

"The policy to open up new irrigation schemes is good but what is the capacity to spend," said James Nyoro, a sector policy analyst and Africa's Managing Director of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Treasury, however, says it will channel funds directly to the National Irrigation Board - the responsible state agency to speed up project initiation and completion.

"Funds will be held at the Ministry of Finance for direct transfer to the board to speed up approval of necessary interventions," said the minister.

More than 85 percent of Kenya has faced some form of food insecurity in 2011 alone, with some three million Kenyans classified as food insecure.

The majority of citizens spend over 50 percent of their household income on food. The inflation rate stands at 17 percent and a significant portion of this was due to high food and fuel prices.

Swazi farmers look up to development partners to survive

Ackel Zwane

Although Swaziland has not succeeded in allocating at least 10 percent of its budget to agriculture, farmers are unfazed and look to development partners for survival.

The country is a signatory to the Maputo Declaration of 2003 where it was agreed that at least each country must push to meet this minimum.

Obed Dlamini, a FANRPAN elder and a former prime minister turned successful commercial farmer, believes not all is lost and counts on organisations such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation and FANRPAN.

He says government allocated only six percent of the national budget for this fiscal year to agriculture, but at the moment that money is unavailable because government redirected funding to other 'more pressing' priorities such as the purchase of antiretroviral drugs and the payment of free and primary education.

Dlamini's optimism is based on the fact that last year NEPAD entered into an agreement with Swaziland to play a pivotal role in the consolidation, strengthening and adding value to the country's efforts in improving agriculture development.

CAADP committed to enhance and support the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme (PRSAP) and other relevant and related programmes.

There is also hope that Swaziland's economy might recover in February after the country receives its share of the customs revenue collected under the Southern African Customs Union.

Despite all the odds, FANRPAN recently awarded the Swazi Queen Mother the Food Security Policy Leadership award for her leadership with various agricultural innovations, such as a mushroom farming project and a goat market in the Seychelles.

Farmers demand representation at all levels of decision-making

Ackel Zwane

Farmers have always heard of huge moneys from donor funders but fail to access them because they have been marginalised by politicians and now demand their place in every stage of decision making. Ishmael Sunga of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) says farmers are now demanding transparency and accountability in accessing international funding.

"Funders themselves must also take part in all the structures to safeguard their interests and follow how their money is managed. We are part of the problem and therefore there is no solution about us without us. If we cannot evaluate our capacity as part of the problem then our contribution to the solution will be questionable.

"We have been looking for finances and discovered there were lots of funding promises of significant amounts of money, but to translate this into securing the actual funds has come to nought. We are being blocked somewhere."

SACAU is the main dialogue partner on agricultural matters of the two regional communities in southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

COMESA's Myclay Kanyangarara says Africa's interest and priority is to ensure food and water security.

"But seeing disruptions in climate cycles, food production and droughts, there is an urgent need to apply climate smart agriculture techniques.

"We are focusing on the rural smallholder farmers, which are mainly women and children. Fortunately we already have good experiences from countries such as Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Madagascar, who have adopted these techniques. A survey in southern Zambia determined who adapted conservation agriculture and those who did not. Those who did adapt improved their yield from 800kg to four tonnes per hectare and are still increasing to nine tonnes per hectare."

South Africa's National Planning Minister Trevor Manuel says that the formation of a climate fund should not be held up by ideology.

"While farmers are battling to find funding, either for climate change adaptation or mitigation, the

first world appears to be renegeing in its promises when it comes to funding. The climate fund seeks to help the developing world, especially the small island states and least developed nations, and ensures its development is in line with a secure environment. Industrialised nations promised the fund would have reached US\$100 billion annually by 2020. They have now shifted talk to place blame to the global financial crisis as a reason why the money is no longer available."

In line with Manuel's comments, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network Chief Executive Officer Dr Lindiwe Majeje Sibanda says now is the time for previous commitments made in Cancun to be sealed.

"Financial commitments should also be cemented to ensure that agricultural projects do not remain pipedreams but become realistic with measurable outputs."



"Farmers are now demanding transparency and accountability in accessing international funding" - Ishmael Sunga of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU).

Kenya and CAADP

Zeddy Sambu

The Kenyan government has committed more than 11 percent of its national budget to agriculture, up from eight percent in 2010, nearly doubling the amount from 4,5 percent in the 2008/09 financial year.

Kenya is one of the nine African countries who are signatories to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), assisting the country chart a new path for its key economic growth engine. The programme supports agriculture development strategies and programmes by establishing a clear commitment to deliver on specific targets.

In the current financial year the Kenyan Treasury allocated US\$1 000 million to the agriculture sector ministries.

The other countries that have signed are Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Countries lined up to sign national compacts in the next six months include Sudan, Zimbabwe, Djibouti and Seychelles while Comoros, Eritrea, Madagascar, Egypt and Mauritius are also in line to sign up.

Kenya has developed fully costed investment plans which have been technically reviewed by independent experts under coordination of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Malawi submitted funding proposals to the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund, the Global Agriculture and the Food Security Programme which is managed by the World Bank management.

John Omiti, a sector policy analyst with the public policy think-tank in Nairobi, says its policy document which prioritises investment up to 2015, is aligned to the CAADP.

Consistent with Vision 2030 – the economic master plan that identifies agriculture as key to transforming Kenya to a globally competitive and prosperous country with an economic growth rate of ten percent, the agricultural sector ministries have developed the think tank policy.

CAADP was endorsed by the AU Heads of State as the agenda for agricultural development and was consolidated as the AU Maputo Declaration in June 2003.

'Malawi doing fine on CAADP'

Paida Mpasu

The Chief Executive Officer of the Smallholder Farmers Association says Malawi is one of the countries that is doing well in the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Addressing a press briefing at COP17 in Durban recently, Dybon Chibonga said over the past five to six years Malawi has been allocating a budget ranging from 12 to 17 percent in the agricultural sector.

CAADP is a voluntary continent-wide programme that requires participating countries to allocate ten percent of their national budgets to agricul-

ture and food security in pursuit of achieving six percent annual growth in agricultural productivity.

"Malawi is doing well and the results are there for everyone to see. For the past five years for example, the country has been food secure. With this we are assured that our farmers not only have enough to eat but also have some for commercial purposes.

"CAADP's specific objective is to support agriculture development strategies and programmes by establishing clear commitment to deliver on specific targets, which ensures clear deliverables for maximum productivity," he said.

Meanwhile, the Government of Tanzania has scaled up its budget allocation for agriculture to 7,4 percent from the previous 2,5 percent.

Agriculture Minister Prof Jumanne Maghembe said at COP17 that the country signed the Tanzania Agriculture Investment Plan which will increase the budget allocation up to 10 percent in less than three years.

He said the private sector is being encouraged to invest in agriculture and that Tanzania's Southern Agriculture Corridor will help the country to raise the budget allocation to 12 percent.

Leader of CIFOR to step down

Paida Mpasu

Having joined the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in 2006, Frances Seymour is set to retire June.

In a press statement released recently, the Chair of CIFOR's board, M Hosny El-Lakany described Seymour as being instrumental in further raising the standard and visibility of work at the organisation and the impact on her forest-related policy worldwide.

"From this position of strength, I am sure that CIFOR will attract some of the world's top talent to compete for the chance to lead the organisation to the next level of performance and achievement," he said.

Seymour once served as the director of the influential Institutions and Governance Program of the World Resources Institute. Before joining CIFOR as the director, Seymour had had a highly successful career in forestry and development issues with the World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund,

Ford Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development.

"I believe that now is a good time for a leadership transition at CIFOR because the organisation is so strong in so many ways. Thanks to the commitment of our staff and the breadth of our partnerships, we have achieved remarkable progress toward our goal of becoming the go-to place for information and analysis on key forest issues," says Seymour.

During her tenure at CIFOR, the organisation doubled its budget and developed a robust new strategy for research and impact, which is now in its fourth year of implementation.

CIFOR currently has about 200 staff members, complemented by almost as many associates and consultants, who are carrying out forest-related research in some 20 countries.

"CIFOR has a number of high profile global comparative research projects at various stages

of completion that are generating new knowledge and impact consistent with its mission.

"We have significantly enhanced CIFOR's presence on the global stage through increased investment in communications.

"CIFOR is committed to ensuring that forests stay high on the political agenda, and that decision-making that affects forests is based on solid science and principles of good governance."

CIFOR is one of 15 centres within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.



"We have enhanced CIFOR's presence through increased communications" - Frances Seymour.

Malawi encourages non-governmental organisations to engage farmers in mitigating climate change

Paida Mpasu

The Malawian Ministry of Agriculture has appealed to non-governmental organisations to drive awareness campaign demonstrations on the ways to mitigate the effects of climate change on the production of small holder farmers. Speaking in Durban at the Conference of Parties 17 (COP17), the Director of the Land Resources Conservation Department, John Mussa said the effects of climate change are being felt and there is a need to scale up on mitigating factors.

"The best thing we can do for our smallholder farmers is to further encourage fellow extension workers and the non-governmental organisations to hold demonstrations on the impacts of these practises that can assist the farmers in the adoption of the best practises that can withstand the harshest temperatures," he said.

A study conducted by GOAL in 2010 found that some districts in the southern part of the country like Nsanje are more prone to both dry spells and floods, a situation which makes life difficult for smallholder farmers who make up the majority of the district's population. Mussa said the Malawian government, through climate-smart agriculture, is

already implementing ways of mitigating climate change effects.

"Government is already encouraging smallholder farmers to mitigate the effects through the adoption of farm practices like conservation agriculture and agro forestry farming systems. Ever since these methods were introduced, farmers have been responding well and I think we are making progress. However, there is a need for non-governmental organisations to further help in especially encouraging farmers to use hybrid and improved seeds as opposed to the local recycled seeds."

According to Mussa the population of Malawi is fast growing and this could hinder agricultural production as the land is continuously being further degraded.

"Malawi has about 13 million people. Land is becoming a constraint to agriculture production. We need to intensify agriculture production and apply modern-day farming methods," he said.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

(FANRPAN), Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, says if there is no agriculture work programme, then there is no deal.

"This year's agriculture and rural development day at COP 17 highlights and promotes the climate-smart agriculture agenda. Currently agriculture is on the sidelines of UNFCCC negotiating text, so the goal of the Agriculture and Rural Development Day is to ensure that the agriculture sector is elevated and considered as a priority sector in the negotiations. We are saying no agriculture work programme, no deal.

"Climate change and food security are central to the social, economic and environmental agenda and this calls for collective action from multiple actors that include relevant government industries and research community development agencies, the private sector and the farmers.

"Appropriate policy frameworks are required to address the challenges on increasing smallholder farmer productivity, building resilience and helping farmers adapt to climate change mitigations," she said.

Close to a million died of weather related illnesses

Fidelis Zvomuya

More than 710 000 people died as a direct consequence of 14 000 extreme weather events, which resulted in estimated losses of about US\$ 2.3 trillion during the period from 1991 to 2010.

According to the recently released Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index 2012, in 2010, the ranking of the most affected countries is led by Pakistan, Guatemala, Colombia, Russia and Honduras, with all of the ten most affected countries being developing countries in the low-income or lower-middle income country group.

Sven Harmeling, Team Leader International Climate Policy at Germanwatch says this year's analysis underlines that less developed countries are generally more affected than industrialised countries.

Harmeling says in the African region, indirect impacts like food scarcity as a consequence of droughts often cause the most severe consequences, which cannot be considered with sufficient reliability in the data that provide the basis for the Climate Risk Index.

"Nearly 1 in 30 Africans were affected by drought in 2010 only, but also considerable flooding exposures and vulnerabilities highlight the need for African countries to embark much more expeditiously on a risk reduction paradigm," he says.

Almost 37 million people from the continent were affected in 2010 by these extreme weather event. "However, the problem is that these figures are much less than reliable and more difficult to determine than the number of deaths," Harmeling says.

According to Harmeling the findings can be seen as a warning signal to be better prepared for a higher level of extreme weather events. "To be prepared for the future, we need to understand our past lectures.

Unfortunately, the current inadequate promises of the world's governments to fight climate change will push our limits of preparing for disasters and adaptation. Durban's climate summit will also be decisive for necessary commitments made by all governments to reverse the global emissions trend."

The index says adding climate impacts, such as desertification and increased variability of extremes, means that adaptation must be top priority for most African countries. "Since response capacity is the lowest in many of the African countries, which also have contributed almost nothing to the climate crisis, the support of this endeavour becomes a priority, yet obligation for the international community and developed countries in particular," the report says.

With regard to future climate change, the Climate Risk Index can serve as a warning signal indicating past vulnerability which may further increase in regions where extreme events will become more frequent or more severe through climate change.

While some vulnerable developing countries are frequently hit by extreme events, there are also some where such disasters are a rarity.

The Global Climate Risk Index analyses the quantified impacts of extreme weather events both in terms of fatalities as well as economic losses.

Harmeling says at the UN Climate Summit in Cancun in 2010, Parties to the UNFCCC agreed to establish a work programme on loss and damage from climate change impacts. "What is important to take into account is that addressing loss and damage is crucial because it recognises that the next 20 years of climate change impacts are locked in because of the emissions already accumulated in the atmosphere and their associated effects on global warming."

research programme we can create powerful collaborations to make a major contribution toward greater food security and climate stability.

"We must be ambitious and drive innovation, adopt new methods, form new partnerships and create more capacity if we are to close the time gap between research discoveries and their impact in real-world settings," said Kyte.

The programme has an initial three-year budget of US\$233 million. While US\$90 million of that has already been secured through the CGIAR Fund, the balance will be raised through additional resource mobilisation efforts. The programme will work with leading national research institutes and other organisations necessary to complement the core competencies of the CGIAR.

Big agricultural spend, but lagging behind CAADP targets

Fidelis Zvomuya

South Africa is still lagging behind in implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), seven years after African heads endorsed the programme in Mozambique with the hope for an agricultural investment growth.

Simon Kisira, a member of the CAADP's implementation team says despite South Africa having the most advanced agriculture and value chain sector on the continent, it lags behind its peers in the SADC and the African region in CAADP implementation.

Within the SADC, South Africa together with Angola, Botswana, Madagascar and Zimbabwe are still in the early stages of the process. At least 40 countries on the continent are at various stages of implementation, with 28 having signed their national CAADP pact. Kisira says his team met with the country's agriculture stakeholders in October, aiming to kick starting a co-ordinated CAADP-related intervention in agriculture development.

"A lot still needs to be done and we do hope South Africa will meet its obligation," he says without giving what percentage the country is at the moment. Despite having a huge agriculture budget a

lot still need to be done in making sure the country meets its ten percent commitment as per the Maputo declaration," he says.

"So far eight African countries have exceeded the ten percent target and most have made significant progress towards it. Ten countries have met the six percent productivity target and another 19 have achieved productivity growth of between three and six percent," he says.

CAADP's aims to accelerate agricultural growth, improve food security and strengthen environmental resilience within the continent, was put in place in 2003 as part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which wants the country's endorsement as the one with the most advanced agricultural production and value chain on the continent.

In establishing the programme, NEPAD set ambitious targets of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty through agriculture and by addressing policy and capacity issues across the sector and the continent. Zita Langa, Director-General at the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, says despite not meeting the quota, this year alone the agriculture budget received a 17,9 percent increment.



"Our 2011/12 budget of R4,719 billion is over R700 million more than in the previous financial year. This alone reflects government's seriousness about the agriculture sector. We already spend more than ten percent of our budget on agriculture through various programmes such as subsistence-farming assistance projects, agricultural infrastructure development, various national technical farming assistance programmes, agricultural research and services institutions and local and provincial government-led agricultural development programmes," he says.

Millions of farmers, forest communities to benefit from forest-carbon stocks programme

Paida Mpasu

With declining conditions in forests looming as a threat to climate health and the wellbeing of a billion impoverished people, agricultural researchers have launched a ten-year global research programme devoted to forests and agroforestry.

Director-General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Frances Seymour, said the new ten-year Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) programme aims to re-invigorate efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and expand the use of trees on farms.

"The initiative is focused on the critical importance of forests as natural carbon sinks that can help slow the pace of climate change. We urgently need a strong and sustained effort focused on forest management and governance, given the crucial role of forests in confronting some of the most important challenges of our time - climate change, poverty and food security," said Seymour.

"Otherwise we risk the further impoverishment of the billion people who depend on forests and trees for their livelihoods, continued carbon emis-

sions from forest destruction and degradation that already are a significant source of greenhouse gases, and loss of ecosystem services crucial to sustained agricultural productivity.

"The initiative will focus on areas where forests and agroforests play a major role in local livelihoods and where carbon sequestration are under severe pressure from timber extraction, agriculture expansion or other threats.

"Deforestation and land use change contribute an estimated 12 to 18 percent of the world's total annual carbon emissions, which are accelerating global warming. Large areas of forests are lost every day when trees are cleared to make way for food and biofuel production," she said.

CGIAR experts believe that improved management of forests and trees can play a bigger role in reducing risks for smallholder farmers and improving the well-being of forest-dependent communities, particularly women and other disadvantaged groups. Chair of the CGIAR Fund Council and Vice President of Sustainable Development at the World Bank, Rachel Kyte says with this new



A 10-year global research programme to protect forest-carbon stocks and reduce risks for millions of farmers and forest communities was announced at Forest Day 5 alongside COP 17.

Rooted in agriculture

Pieter Mulder certainly has agriculture running in his veins - his grandfather headed the Agricultural College in Potchefstroom and his father hails from Cedara, an area in KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa that is rooted in agriculture (no pun intended!).

The country's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries opened the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Climate Smart Knowledge Day at COP17 in Durban. It was appropriate that his talk was titled 'A call to action on climate-smart agriculture'.

When asked about South Africa and, more specifically, about the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and its standpoint on climate-smart agriculture, he indicated that South Africa is taking steps to address the issue and that COP17 would assist in raising the level of awareness.

But he is convinced that South Africa can do a lot more. He was optimistic that a deal for agriculture will be imminent. The first step in ensuring that South Africa is in sync with the rest of Africa was when his department arranged a meeting of African Ministers to brainstorm climate-smart agriculture issues in September 2011. He describes



South Africa's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Pieter Mulder called for action on climate-smart agriculture at COP17.

this as a step in the right direction.

The deputy minister's roots as a communication professional became apparent when he outlined how key messages on, especially climate-smart agriculture, was communicated to key stakeholders. He was confident that South Africa's green policy and the Planning Commission's strategy would be key communication initiatives from a departmental perspective.

When it comes to South Africa and the agriculture sector, it must be the deep agricultural heritage that prompted Mulder to say that matters of food security and poverty alleviation were close to his heart and that he was committed

to making a difference and ensuring that South Africa continues to grow in terms of commercial agriculture and to also feed southern Africa - in spite of commercial farmers shrinking from 100 000 to 40 000!

The buzzword is emissions and Mulder is convinced that South Africa will meet its emission targets set in Copenhagen at COP15. However, he expressed the hope that the industrialised big players like China will also take steps to reduce emissions.

Africa urged to apply practical climate change solutions to avoid economic threats

Basil Msongo

African governments have been urged to put in place very practical resolutions of adapting climate change to avoid future massive impact which threatens the economy of Africans and the continent at large.

Climate scientist Elina Kululanga of the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Service in Malawi, says Africa needs strong mitigation and adaptation measures now because climate change impacts will be very hard to Africans.

"African leaders and policy makers are supposed to have a common voice which will enhance the continent to have strong measures of mitigating and adapting climate change.

"Recently, Southern African countries have been experiencing extreme events such as floods and drought, which affects crop production, hence climate change needs to be tackled now."

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Climate Change Coordinator, Dr Sepo Hachigonta says climate change poses a real risk to the future of farming and food security in Africa.

"All stakeholders including policy makers, researchers, scientists and farmers should, therefore, be engaged to find solutions.

"Climate change impacts are very localised and since African farmers are very vulnerable, their government should spearhead initiatives of climate-smart agriculture. All partners have to

be involved in the climate change adaptation strategies."

Hachigonta says there is a need for stakeholders to understand the current climate so that they can share information which will enhance the capacity of policy analysts and scientists in the field of agriculture, climate and socio-economics to collectively build a strong base of evidence on cropping systems to inform adaptation policies and investment decisions.

"A key strategy for managing risk and vulnerability associated with climate change is developing and implementing evidence-based policies and programmes that respond to local realities and priorities.

"It is important to have more weather stations and to digitise data sites so that important information can be available when needed."

Hachigonta says African governments are obliged to build the capacity of young researchers on climate change on various issues such as cost benefit adaptation and vulnerability assessments.

"There are various ways of adapting to climate change, hence if climate becomes more variable in future, the continent should find other ways of using climate smart agriculture, while initiatives to assist farmers to apply climate-proof agriculture such as building dams and constructing irrigation facilities must be encouraged."

with modern-day amenities such as access to the information, improved seeds and affordable fertilisers?

"For example, in Swaziland where farmers depend entirely on rain to irrigate crops, they normally plant by 11 November after the first rains. By 29 November the country still had no rain. In the same vein, farmers apply 10kg of fertiliser to a hectare of land - despite the scientific recommended minimum of 60kg. However, this is what they can afford.

"Organised agriculture needs to ensure that the providers of the world's food basket are informed, have access to appropriate technologies and are assisted to realise their vision of earning an honest income."

About youth involvement Sibanda said young

Talk to farmers, not about them

"Negotiators on climate change should talk to farmers, not about them, when they discuss its effects on agriculture," says Dr Theo de Jager, Vice President of the Confederation of Southern African Agricultural Unions.

Speaking at a climate-smart knowledge day, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation at COP17 in Durban, De Jager said if it is true that agriculture is responsible for generating a third of the world's carbon emissions, why is agriculture not part of the discussion?

"There is a willingness among farmers to be part of the solution and they should be part of the discussion. Farmers are from the land and are used to surviving under harsh conditions. If they are left out, they will not become part of the equation.

This is what is happening at COP17 in Durban and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network's stance - No agriculture, no deal - needs to be saluted.

"Farmers need to have the assurance that they will be able to survive in a stressful and challenging environment. Assistance from governments to ensure climate-smart agriculture should be a long-term investment. This entails access to the latest research, international scientific information and an all-inclusive conducive environment to continue farming, even when the odds are down during difficult years.

"Farming is a people-thing, more than a scientific-thing - it calls for common sense, in many cases more than scientific sense," said De Jager.

Swaziland can still save indigenous forest

Ackel Zwane

The abrupt change from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture by residents along the Lower Usuthu Irrigation Project in Swaziland has seen the killing of the indigenous forest. However, the realities of the uncertainty in the world market price of sugar have dawned on the farmers who now realise how much the forest meant to them. But the question is what are the chances of salvaging or conserving what remains?

The answer may come from a study by Dr du Plessis of South African National Parks who revealed that in South Africa new strategies and approaches for indigenous forest management were developed. These became operational in 1984, resulting in a series of modifications to the regulation system.

There are close similarities between the case in Swaziland and that in South Africa, giving reason why it is possible to still regain indigenous forests. There has been mass destruction of sparse land to give way to sugarcane growing.

Du Plessis says developments in South Africa and the subsequent growth of its economy, the period between 1892 and 1939 was characterised by an escalating demand for timber.

"Large sawmills were established and the woodcutter population gradually increased. It soon became evident that such high exploration levels were not sustainable. In 1939 the government passed the woodcutter Annuities Bill, which saw the registered woodcutter's system come to an end."

In the case of Swaziland most of the land had been in the hands of peasant farmers who had nothing much to do with it except for game, medicinal plant species harvesting and logging for domestic use. The rest was used as grazing as it lies in the low veld where cattle thrive. However, most of these farmers only operated on a subsistence scale until the sugarcane industry started encroaching. The European Union offered to convert these farmers into commercial ones by offering loans,



Dr du Plessis of South African National Parks says it is still possible to regain indigenous forests.

on condition the farmers would convert their land to sugarcane farming. There has been argument that the money made available for the project was for sugarcane farming alone but that is the only area where the market is available. The farmers have since realised that proceeds are only realised once a year and hardly make any difference in their lives. They then remember the days of the forest.

Du Plessis says with the logging technologies and methods presently in use, only about 6 000 of the 9 276 hectares of timber harvesting Management class are effectively subjected to harvesting, primarily due to conservation constraints requiring terrain restrictions with no harvesting on very steep slopes and in moist patches.

During the first eight years, the Swaziland project was to construct three dams and a distribution system, together with on-farm works, to irrigate a net irrigable area of approximately 6 500ha.

After completion of this first phase, the government of Swaziland intended to expand the project into a second phase during which the water delivery system would be extended and an area of further approximately 5 000 ha would be developed. The project was to support the development of irrigated farms.

The project area is located along the west bank of the lower Usuthu River between Siphofaneni and Big Bend. The area is subdivided into five different blocks - the Weir Block at Bulungapoort, the Lubovane North Block, the Lubovane South Block, the St Philips Block and the Matata Block.

The area encompasses four chiefdoms and parts of another four chiefdoms, and is expected to benefit approximately 2 600 households. Beneficiaries generally would be smallholder farmers, mainly involved in sugarcane farming, cotton, maize and other high value crops under irrigation.

F is not a swear word in climate-smart agriculture

"At FANRPAN we believe in the triple F bottom line for sustainable climate-smart agriculture - feeding the Farms, Family and feeding the Fiscus. Climate-smart agriculture is about food security, it's about farming as a business, it's about sustainable agriculture."

This is according to Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

Speaking at a climate-smart knowledge day, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation at COP17 in Durban, Sibanda said 70 percent of the world is fed by smallholder farmers. The majority of these are cultivating rain-fed land.

"How does one expect these farmers to apply climate-smart agriculture if you do not assist them

people are mainly interested in upstream agriculture, such as processing, distribution and marketing, not so much in hands-on farming.

"Today we see many farmers older than 70 years. To them farming is a retirement job, not a business. This does not auger well for the modernisation of agriculture.

"We will only attract young people if we can convince them that agriculture is not for paupers, but a high-tech, high-income occupation. By applying the triple F bottom line we can move closer to practical climate-smart agriculture," she says.

Swazi farmers Sam Sithole and Happy Shongwe fly the flag for climate-smart agriculture.

