



AFRICAN UNION
SEMI-ARID FOOD GRAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
AU-SAFGRAD

Improving Rural Livelihoods in Semi-Arid Areas of Africa

A Strategy for stakeholders' engagement
and concerted action to reduce poverty and
sustain land management

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Semi-arid Africa expands over 65% of the continent's land area and represents the agricultural belt of the region, producing much of the continent's food crops and livestock. However, unique environmental and socioeconomic constraints limit the region's agriculture's ability to reach its full potential.

As part of the process of launching a Regional Action Programme (RAP) to combat desertification in Africa, UNCCD established six Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) to carry out priority activities of the RAP. The sixth of these TPNs (known as TPN6) was given the mandate to promote sustainable agricultural farming, but largely due to financial difficulties, TPN6 has not been active beyond the Network's launching workshop.

More recently, however, the financing environment has undergone profound favorable changes with, for example, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) becoming a financial mechanism of the Convention, and also the launching of the TerrAfrica initiative to support Sustainable Land Management activities. Furthermore, AU/SAFGRAD, the institutional focal point for TPN6, has been upgraded from a project status to a specialized office of the African Union Commission (AUC), giving it more weight for policy dialogue with senior government officials and more negotiating power with high-level partners in the donor community.

These favorable developments have rekindled interest in the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods in semi-arid areas of Africa leading to the organization of an international conference on this theme in Addis Ababa in 2008. While recognizing that the CAADP provides the appropriate framework for concerted actions to realize Africa's agricultural

development potentials, the participants of the Addis conference also highlighted the unique and specific challenges being faced by people living in semi-arid Africa and recommended that *“A comprehensive strategy and action plan be developed for an effective and synchronized intervention that facilitates the improvement of rural livelihood processes in semi-arid areas of Africa”*.

This document is written in response to the recommendation of the Addis conference and seeks to take the Addis process forward. It proposes a strategy and action plan to revitalize TPN6 with a focus on the six priority areas identified by the Addis Ababa conference: *i) Land and water; ii) Productivity, technology, and innovation; iii) Climate change and desertification; iv) Integrating production with markets; v) Policies and institutions; and vi) Strengthening local capacities*

The overall objective of the strategic plan is to strengthen the basis for TPN6’s stakeholders engagement and concerted action to improve rural livelihoods in semiarid Africa through sustainable agricultural farming and activities to combat desertification.

The focus of the implementation action plan is to establish a Network that will foster communication, cooperation, and concerted action between the stakeholders with the ultimate view to improving livelihoods through the implementation of relevant activities in the priority areas identified in the strategic plan. The proposed Network is expected to:

- (i) facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices between and among stakeholders;
- (ii) ensure more effective implementation of national and sub-regional action programs to combat desertification and to sustain CAADP’s goal of enhancing agricultural production;
- (iii) raise the voice of semi-arid Africa in international fora by working at the continental level to facilitate the engagement of partners both across the subregions and between semi-arid Africa and other semi-arid regions of the world.

SAFGRAD, the institutional focal point for TPN6, will host the Network and assume leadership role in the conduct of Network activities. To this effect, it is recommended that SAFGRAD forge special partnership with FARA.

A three-year operational programme of work (POW) is proposed to kick start the implementation process. It is considered that the full scope of the six priority areas of the strategic plan would be too broad for the proposed POW. Identification of priority activities for POW is based on likelihood of funding, and also on the mandate and track record of SAFGRAG, and therefore focuses on scaling up/out successful innovations and technologies with the following specific objectives:

1. To promote transfer and scaling up/out of promising technologies for SLM, income generation, and climate change adaptation/mitigation
2. To address policy implication of technology transfer
3. To address capacity needs of technology transfer
4. To facilitate writing and validation of full proposals on other priority areas of the strategic plan

A budget of **US\$ 2 311 500** is proposed for the implementation of POW over a period of three years.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CORAF/WECARD	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West-African States
FAAP	Framework for African Agricultural Productivity
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GM	Global Mechanism
IARC	International Agricultural Research Centres
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems

NASRO	North Africa Sub- Regional Organization
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
R&D	Research and Development
REC	Regional Economic Community
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC/FANR	SADC/ Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources
SAFGRAD	Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SRO	Sub-Regional Organisation
UMA	Union du Maghreb Arabe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

FOREWARD

African Union-SAFGRAD office is publishing this strategy as a part of its activities as the focal institution for The Thematic Program Network for the Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Farming Systems to Combat Desertification in Africa (TPN6). This network was launched in 2004 within the framework of the African Regional Action Program of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The global objective is to enhance efficiency of national, sub-regional and regional sustainable land management programs and agricultural farming systems through facilitation of knowledge sharing and utilization for scaling up/out of successful experiences.

This strategy is written in response to the recommendation of the Addis Ababa conference in 2008 on development of rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa: issues, challenges, and opportunities. This strategy seeks to take the Addis Ababa process forward and to revitalize TPN6 with a focus on the six priority areas identified by the conference: i) Land and water; ii) Productivity, technology, and innovation; iii) Climate change and desertification; iv) Integrating production with markets; v) Policies and institutions; and vi) Strengthening local capacities.

The overall objective of the strategic plan is therefore to strengthen the basis for TPN6's stakeholders' engagement and concerted action to improve rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa through sustainable agricultural farming and activities to combat desertification.

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INTRODUCTION

The African vision established by AU/NEPAD aims to achieve an annual growth in agricultural production of 6% by 2015 (AU/NEPAD, 2003). In his Foreword to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) document in 2003, HE President Olusegun Obasanjo remarked that improving agricultural performance is at the heart of improved economic development and growth in Africa and stressed the role of agriculture development in poverty eradication and in the restoration of human dignity.

Although semi-arid Africa occupies 65 % of the continent's land area and hosts two thirds of its resident populations, the contribution of semi-arid areas to the objective of 6% increase in Africa's agricultural growth could remain marginal unless the severe and unique challenges that constrain agricultural development in the semiarid regions are adequately addressed. Past efforts to promote sustainable agricultural farming in semi-arid Africa in the context of the UNCCD Regional Action Programme (RAP) to combat desertification in Africa, for example, have not been successful, largely because of problems of funding.

More recently, however, the financing environment has undergone profound favorable changes with, for example, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) becoming a financial mechanism of the Convention, and also the launching of the TerrAfrica initiative to support Sustainable Land Management activities. Furthermore, AU/SAFGRAD, the institutional focal point for the Thematic Programme Network (TPN) on sustainable agricul-

tural farming (known as TPN6), has been upgraded from a project status to a specialized office of the African Union Commission (AUC), giving it more weight for policy dialogue with senior government officials and more negotiating power with high-level partners in the donor community.

These favorable developments have brought new hope and interest in the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa, leading to the organization of an international conference on this theme in Addis Ababa in 2008. While recognizing that the CAADP provides the appropriate framework for concerted actions to realize Africa's agricultural development potentials, the participants of the Addis conference also highlighted the unique and specific challenges being faced by people living in semi-arid Africa and recommended that "*A comprehensive strategy and action plan be developed for an effective and synchronized intervention that facilitates the improvement of rural livelihood processes in semi-arid areas of Africa*".

This document has been prepared in response to the recommendation of the Addis conference. The challenge is how to enhance rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa through agricultural farming systems while concurrently reducing land degradation/desertification. The document proposes a Strategy to revitalize TPN6, taking advantage of the new favorable financing environment and building on the priority areas identified by the Addis conference. The proposed strategy is not just another document. It charts a pathway for TPN6 into the future, within the framework of the vision and objectives of the UNCCD's ten-year strategy 2008-2018, the NEPAD/CAADP and NEPAD/Environment Action Programme, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It takes the Addis process forward by proposing an Action Plan to implement the proposed strategy, together with a three-year operational programme of work to kick start the process.

The document first presents a summary review of the main issues, challenges and opportunities in connection with sustainable agricultural farming systems in semi-arid Africa. Then, a strategy and action plan are discussed, and a three-year takeoff programme is proposed with resource requirement for implementation.

SECTION 1.

THE CONTEXT: UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

The Addis conference warned that although the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) provides the appropriate framework for concerted actions to realize Africa's agricultural development potential, rural livelihoods in semi-arid areas of Africa are faced with unique challenges that require specific responses. The Conference noted that unless concerted actions are taken at reversing the situation, communities living and working in semi-arid areas will remain marginalized with far-reaching consequences that might undermine efforts aimed at meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

However, not all is dark and gloomy. Signs of positive changes also are increasingly visible, including significant favorable changes in policy and financing mechanisms (FARA, 2008; UNCCD/COP, 2007).

The sections below review the main challenges that constrain agricultural development in semi-arid Africa, and highlight emerging opportunities to leverage on.

1.1. Unique challenges constraining sustainable agricultural farming and rural livelihood improvement in semi-arid areas of Africa

Africa contains the world's largest expanse of drylands, covering up to 65 per cent of the continent's total land area and hosting about two thirds

of its population. It is estimated that 35 countries in Africa have significant semi-arid areas and include many of the poorer countries of the continent (AU, 2003).

The Addis conference has underlined many specific issues that constrain socioeconomic development efforts in semi-arid Africa. The region is characterized by predominantly hostile and marginal environments. Populations which inhabit these semi-arid areas therefore constantly face the severe impact of difficult environmental challenges to sustain their livelihoods. For example, water is scarce due to limited and unreliable rainfall patterns; soils are poor in nutrients, infertile and susceptible to wind and water erosion. Furthermore, due to continuous environmental degradation, and the prevalence of invasive crops pests and animal disease pathogens, the areas become difficult to manage for agricultural and livestock production. The majority of people in these areas constantly experience food insecurity and are extremely vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change and desertification. In addition, producers in semi-arid areas of Africa have benefited only marginally from emerging economic and market opportunities.

Unless concerted actions are taken to reverse the situation, communities living and working in semi-arid areas will remain marginalized with far-reaching consequences that might undermine efforts aimed at meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as most African countries which face serious food shortages are also confronted with extreme poverty and problems of aridity.

Contrary to the Green Revolution model of agricultural intensification in Asia which benefited from fairly uniform farm conditions with adequate water and fertilizer supply, agricultural production in semi-arid Africa is confronted with more challenging realities, including water scarcity, low soil fertility, more heterogeneous lands and a wider range of food crops than is the case in the rice fields of Asia.

Major specific challenges of semi-arid Africa are highlighted below.

- **Severity of land degradation/desertification**

Article 3 of the CCD Regional Annex for Africa highlights the particularly worrying severity of land degradation/desertification in the African drylands. Various studies quoted in the background document of the Addis conference also underline the severity of land degradation in semi-arid Africa (AU/SAFGRAD, 2008). The primary causes of land degradation in rural areas comprise overgrazing (49%) followed by agricultural activities (24%), deforestation (14%) and overexploitation of other forms of vegetation cover (13%). Once the denuded soils are exposed, they suffer severe degradation by water erosion (46%), wind erosion (36%), loss of nutrients (9%), physical deterioration (4%), salinization (3%) and other minor causes (2%).

As a result of the inherent low soil fertility of African soils worsened by subsequent land degradation, only 16% of the land has soil of high quality. Thus, by reducing cultivable lands, degradation aggravates the chronically difficult access to land by the poor in the semi-arid zones. Indeed, most African soils are vulnerable and up to two-thirds of the productive land area is affected by land degradation. The situation is

worsened by the continuous demands for more agricultural land at a time when land degradation and/or poor land management continues to be a major challenge for sub-Saharan Africa. These increasing demands for land, coupled with continuing land degradation and heightened competition for water, mean that two-thirds of Africa's cropland could become effectively un-productive by 2025, worsening the situation of growing numbers of environmental refugees and migrants.

- **Unfavorable financing mechanisms to address land degradation and promote SLM**

After a decade of implementation of the UNCCD, it is recognized that limiting factors have prevented optimal deployment of the Convention. Chief among these factors is insufficient financing compared to its two Rio sister conventions (UNCCD/COP, 2007).

Indeed, until October 2002, the GEF's support focused on addressing land degradation issues as they relate to its focal areas - biological diversity, climate change, international waters, and ozone depletion/organic pollutants. Countries have been facing operational problems in developing projects to address land degradation prevention and control because of difficulties in defining the linkages between land degradation and the focal areas; and in applying the incremental cost principle. The findings of a study commissioned by the GEF in 2000 included the following (GEF, 2003):

- a) Since the GEF addresses land degradation only through linkages with its focal areas, projects tend to focus largely on focal area objectives with little or no significant focus on land management activities;
- b) The requirement for focal area linkages has resulted in projects with land degradation components that tend to focus more on biophysical issues. If land degradation had been the central issue, these projects would have focused primarily on improving land management and sustainable use options for natural resources management. In addition, key issues affecting people and their interaction with ecological systems such as land tenure and gender issues are often poorly integrated into project design.

The combined effects of these constraints have led to poor availability of funding for activities to combat land degradation/desertification.

- **Disconnect between strategies to combat desertification and initiatives to promote agricultural development**

As discussed earlier, land degradation/desertification is known to be one of the most prominent challenges that constrain sustainable economic development of semi-arid areas; and the magnitude of the challenge has prompted the UNCCD to launch the Regional Action Programme (RAP) to combat desertification in Africa. Although desertification control and agricultural development are both crucial for livelihood improvement

in semi-arid areas, earlier strategies to combat desertification and those launched to promote agricultural development in the region have tended to run in parallel rather than reinforce each other.

For example, in response to the severe droughts of the 70s, the wide range of programmes launched in semi-arid Africa to combat desertification focused mostly on “physical rehabilitation” of degrading/degraded lands through activities such as sand dune stabilization, green belts and woodlot plantation, and the establishment of nonuse protection zones. These projects were designed with the assumption that by investing in environmental rehabilitation, one would restore the productive function of the land and sustain rural livelihoods. Although well-intentioned, these projects rarely involved local people apart from provision of labour force through contractual arrangements such as food for work or other similar schemes.

Few such desertification control projects can claim large scale success in the improvement of people’s livelihoods. The Convention to combat desertification acknowledges the substandard performance of these earlier initiatives and recognizes that development must be human-oriented if it is to be sustainable. This vision recommends bottom-up approaches that fully involve local communities. It is in this new context of great promise that six Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) to implement the RAP were established. Unfortunately, the TPNs have not been able to mobilize sufficient resources to support their implementation and have not made much progress beyond the organization of their launching workshop. Most National Action Programmes (NAPs) and Sub-Regional Action Programmes (SRAPs) to combat desertification also have suffered serious funding difficulties and have not been very active either. Plans by the UNCCD Secretariat to conduct an evaluation of the situation will shed light on what went wrong and what needs to be done. On the agriculture development front, strategies designed to promote agricultural growth also have had a narrow approach that focused mostly on raising the productivity of selected crop and livestock species with

little effort to address land degradation at a larger scale beyond the farm boundaries. Natural resources husbandry through soil and water management on agricultural lands focused on increasing crop production, not at controlling landscape degradation.

Thus, past activities in rural areas of semi-arid Africa have suffered from an unfortunate disconnect between strategies to combat desertification and strategies to promote agriculture development. These weaknesses, however, have generated lessons that provide important directions for the implementation of future programmes and projects. The UNCCD ten-year strategy 2008-2018 addresses this disconnect with its strategic objectives that seek to improve the conditions of both people and ecosystems. Activating TPN6 in this new context would help advance the agenda of bridging the gap between strategies to combat land degradation/desertification and strategies to promote agriculture development.

1.2. Favorable changes and emerging opportunities for reducing land degradation/desertification and improving rural livelihoods

• Political upgrading of AU/SAFGRAD

Initially established in 1977 as a project to respond to the food security crisis and the lack of appropriate technologies to improve agricultural production in semi-arid ecosystems following the severe droughts, AU/SAFGRAD, the institutional focal point for TPN6, was institutionalized as a technical office of the AUC under the department of rural economy and agriculture following the Maputo decision by African Heads of States in 2003 to reorganize the Union. This confers more political weight and legitimacy to SAFGRAD for dealing with governments and donors. As SAFGRAD is the institutional focal point for TPN6, this augurs well for the future of TPN6.

• Favorable changes in the financing environment

Profound favorable changes are taking place in the financing environment with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) becoming a financial

mechanism of the Convention. To further improve the GEF's assistance for land degradation prevention and control, the GEF Assembly, in October 2002, on the recommendation of the Council, designated land degradation as a focal area, with the objective to enhance GEF support for the successful implementation of the UNCCD. This designation makes sustainable land management a primary focus of GEF assistance, helping to optimize the global environment benefits of GEF-funded activities to address desertification and deforestation.

Also, various innovative financing instruments have come to life, including payments for ecosystem services, carbon finance, and the TerrAfrica Initiative. In response to numerous calls for action from constituents of NEPAD and the UNCCD to address land degradation, the TerrAfrica partnership has been designed with the collective goal of mainstreaming and scaling up harmonized support for efficient Sustainable Land Management (SLM) approaches. In addition to African governments and inter-governmental bodies, the TerrAfrica partners include financing agencies such as the World Bank, GEF, UNDP, AfDB, etc. TerrAfrica responds to the demand for the implementation of the UNCCD, and also provides the vehicle through which relevant pillars of NEPAD's CAADP and EAP may be effectively implemented (NEPAD Secretariat, 2006)

- **Evidence of high internal rates of return on investment in semi-arid Africa and increasing recognition of the global significance of drylands**

Recent studies carried out by CILSS and its partners to assess the impacts of investments in natural resource management in four semi-arid countries (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal) show that the internal rates of return of investment in NRM techniques can be high. On the Central Plateau of Burkina Faso, for example, internal rates of return of soil and water conservation techniques range from 27% for stone bunds to 145% for half moons as shown in table 1(CILSS, 2009). Such cost effectiveness of NRM investments are likely to be attractive to investment partners.

Table 1. Cereal yield and internal rate of return of different soil and water conservation techniques

SWC technique	Internal rate of return (%)
Stone bunds only	27
Stone bunds + zai ^a	95
Half moons	145
Zai only	93

Source: CILSS (2009)

Furthermore, semi-arid areas carry many attributes and lessons learned that are of global significance to the rest of the world, especially in agricultural biodiversity and in adaptation to climate change.

With regards to agricultural and food systems, drylands are the origin of many of the earth's most important food crops. For example, maize, beans, tomatoe and potatoes originate from the drylands of Mexico, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Millet and sorghum, and various species of wheat and rice come from the African drylands. The Mediterranean basin has given the world date palm and olive trees.

Native species of plants, animals and microbes of the drylands have developed special strategies to cope with the low and erratic rainfall, high temperature, and low soil moisture conditions that prevail in these ecosystems. The dryland environmental constraints have selected for a large diversity of species of plants, animals and microbes with adaptive traits which form a huge reservoir of biodiversity that can be of great value in the context of the major environmental changes expected from global warming and climate change.

In addition to biophysical assets, traditional knowledge and know-how that have been generated by local people over several generations are

also of immense value. For example, useful lessons can be learned from local farmers' experience in managing mosaics of land use systems in their landscape, transhumant and nomadic pastoralism, and social coping strategies to adapt to climatic events such as droughts and floods. Indeed, following the severe droughts of the 1970s and 1980s in the Sahel, farming households have been shown to adapt to the decline in rainfall by adopting new seeding and cultivation technologies, new crop varieties, and a wide range of soil water and fertility management techniques (CIFOR, 2002; CILSS, 2009). Lessons from these adaptation strategies in semi-arid Africa where droughts in recent history have been more severe than anywhere else, constitute a capital of experience which has global significance for the rest of the world as a dry run on adaptation to climate change.

SECTION 2.

THE STRATEGY: A FRAMEWORK AND PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL FARMING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RAP IN SEMI-ARID AFRICA

2.1. Background

As part of the process of launching a Regional Action Programme (RAP) to combat desertification in Africa, six Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) were established to carry out priority activities of the RAP. These TPNs are:

- Integrated management of international waters, lakes and hydrogeological basins (TPN1);
- Agroforestry and soil conservation (TPN2);
- Rational use of rangelands and development of fodder crops (TPN3);
- Ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems (TPN4);
- New and renewable energy sources and technologies (TPN5); and
- Promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems (TPN6).

AU/SAFGRAD has been designated as the institutional focal point for coordinating the activities of the sixth TPN on *"Promotion of sustain-*

able agricultural farming systems” known as TPN6. The global objective of TPN6 is to enhance national, subregional and regional sustainable land management programmes and agricultural farming systems through facilitation of knowledge sharing and utilization for scaling up/out of successful experiences. Specifically, TPN6 seeks: 1) to create a platform that enhances partnership and synergy among activities and actors; 2) to facilitate dissemination of innovative sustainable farming systems; and 3) to facilitate mutual learning and harmonization of efforts among network participants.

TPN6 was launched in 2004 in Tunis, Tunisia. Largely because of funding difficulties, TPN6, has not been operational.

2.2. Goal and objectives of the Strategic Plan

This strategy seeks to revitalize TPN6 with a focus on the priority areas identified by the Addis Ababa conference. The proposed strategic plan is framed around the vision and objectives of the UNCCD’s ten-year strategic plan 2008-2018, the NEPAD Environment Action Plan and the NEPAD/CAADP’s goal of agriculture-led development. It aspires to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and ensuring environmental sustainability, by facilitating and catalyzing broad-based improvements in agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets in semi-arid areas of Africa within the context of the RAP.

The overall objective of the strategic plan is therefore to strengthen the basis for TPN6’s stakeholders engagement and concerted action to improve rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa through sustainable agricultural farming and activities to combat desertification.

As was highlighted at TPN6 launching workshop, the achievement of this goal places as much emphasis on generating and disseminating technologies and innovations as it does on the support that will be given to the target farmers and rural communities to help them make their own

choices and assist them to adapt the technologies and innovations on offer to their conditions and circumstances. It also focuses on the context in which the technologies and innovations are used. The idea is to build strong dynamic links between agricultural farming systems, the conditions and circumstances confronting farmers and the wider rural and overall national economies (Abalu, 2004).

The Plan also builds on general lessons learnt from mistakes of the past when disconnect between CAADP's efforts to promote agricultural development and CCD/RAP's goal to combat desertification ran in parallel rather than reinforce each other. The challenge therefore, as indicated earlier, is how to enhance rural livelihoods through sustainable agricultural farming while protecting the environment.

2.3. Core Values and Principles

A *Value Proposition* emphasizes the unique and special contribution that an organization can offer to clients: it is the primary benefit that an organization brings to its stakeholders (FARA, 2008).

The principles and approaches that guide implementation of TPN6 activities through this strategic plan include (AU/SAFGRAD, 2005):

- Give due emphasis on adaptive research and development by facilitating the testing, verification and scaling up of successful technologies and innovations at national and sub-regional levels to increase their transfer and adoption;
- Incorporate gender and youth aspects through effective information exchange and communication as well as in the scaling up strategies;
- Avoid as much as possible duplication of efforts among the different TPNs; enhance complementarities and collaboration among all the TPNs;
- Put in place a governance mechanism that assures effectiveness, efficiency and accountability for a smooth implementation of the activities.

2.4. Setting TPN6 Priorities: The process of stakeholder consultations

In order to enhance stakeholders' ownership of the agenda and increase the chance of achieving impact, this strategic plan builds on the numerous consultations that SAFGRAD and the UNCCD Secretariat have held with their constituent partners in the region. The main steps of the process are: First, a regional workshop on the creation of TPN6 was held in Sadore, Niger, in March 23-26, 1999. The workshop recommended closer collaboration and networking among the institutions and organizations in Africa who are involved in the promotion of sustainable agricultural farming in the context of the RAP;

Then, a meeting to launch the proposed network was held in Tunis, Tunisia, from November 22 to 24, 2004. The Tunis meeting proposed a set of arrangements to form the basis for the creation and operation of an effective network. Since the Tunis launching meeting, however, TPN6, like the other TPNs, has not attracted funding to function.

As mentioned earlier, however, the financing environment has undergone profound favorable changes which justify rekindling of interest in semi-arid agriculture and the decision to revitalize TPN6. This new context of hope has led SAFGRAD and UNCCD to reactivate the process of stakeholder consultation, leading to the organization of an international conference on the enhancement of rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa. The participants identified six thematic priority areas for moving the process forward. It is these six priority areas recommended by the Addis conference that form the thematic components of the present Strategic Plan. The six areas are highlighted below.

2.5. Components of the strategic plan: Priority Areas for engagement and concerted action

To achieve the goals of TPN6, the proposed strategy builds on the following priority areas identified by the Addis conference:

1. Access to and management of land and water resources;
2. Productivity, technology, and innovation;
3. Adaptation to and mitigation of impacts of climate change and desertification;
4. Exploitation of national, regional and global market opportunities; and
5. Global, regional and national policies and strengthening of institutions;
6. Strengthening local capacities

All six priority areas are interconnected and provide an integrated and coherent framework to achieve the goal of the strategy. Thus the six thematic areas form a basket of inter-connected and mutually reinforcing lines of intervention to achieve the goal and objectives of the strategic plan to activate TPN6. At the same time, each one of them addresses specific issues that can be developed into valid stand-alone proposals for submission to separate donors. This provides flexibility for resource mobilization.

The section below elaborates further on the six thematic areas.

Priority Area 1: Access to and management of land and water resources

The Addis conference noted that access to - and management of - land and water resources are major constraints to the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods in the semi-arid zones of Africa. The natural resource base for agricultural production is seriously affected by a variety of factors including soil degradation (erosion, soil fertility depletion, desertification etc.), water scarcity, poor water quality, siltation, deforestation, over-fishing and over-grazing. Natural resources are often used in an unsustainable manner, which results in production systems with declining returns to inputs.

The constraints that have been identified revolve around the following three issues: i) land degradation; ii) water scarcity; and iii) inefficient utilization of the available scarce water resources.

Although actual availability of land and water is not in itself a real issue, access of the poor to the resource is constrained by many factors: unfavorable tenure systems, severe degradation of the resource that limits access to good land and water, increasing threats of “land grab” by the agribusiness sector (local entrepreneurs, foreign States, multinational companies, etc.) leading to conflicts, migrations and environmental refugees. NEPAD/CAADP and NEPAD’s Action Plan for the Environment Initiative have identified land and water management as areas for priority attention, with support from the TerrAfrica initiative to promote sustainable land management (SLM). Also, there are signs of improvements on land tenure policies (e.g in Burkina Faso) that open up opportunities for investment in SLM.

The challenge now is how to harness these opportunities to promote wide-scale SLM practices throughout semi-arid Africa. Sustainable land management can only be successful where land users recognize the need for and benefits of sustainable land management or are provided with incentives. For the resource poor producers in the semi-arid zones, this may be achieved through:

- long term commitment for support to implementation of sustainable land management programs;
- definition of land tenure policies that would facilitate access to land by the resource poor smallholder farming families;
- effective involvement of beneficiaries in the development of policies, planning and implementing of strategies.

Priority Area 2: Productivity, technology, and innovation

As noted by the Addis conference, it is widely recognized that the most effective way to reduce poverty and improve food security in the long run is to raise the productivity of resources that poor people depend on for their livelihoods. In most African countries, these resources are agricultural land and labour. Furthermore, the option of agriculture-led de-

velopment and the objective of achieving 6% agricultural growth as set out by African leaders require a more rapid and sustained increases in agricultural productivity.

Main constraints to agricultural productivity include institutional issues (capacity weaknesses, insufficient end-user and private sector involvement), and ineffective producer support systems. Also, there is a systemic fragmentation between elements of the overall innovation system: i.e. between research, extension, training, producers organisations, private sector, consumers' organizations. Indeed, in many African countries, access to key services (inputs, marketing, finance, research & technology, extension) has become very difficult, with state organizations often no longer providing the services, while the private sector has not adequately filled the vacuum.

Opportunities to enhance agricultural productivity as identified at the Addis conference include: i) the development of the continental *Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP)*; ii) the existence of strategies for participatory development of technologies and innovations; iii) the existence of proven technologies and systems developed by NARS, SROs and international Centers that can be used to improve productivity and market competitiveness. To achieve this, however, will require more effective support of national governments and the private sector to extension service, access to credit, markets reforms, etc.

The most important challenge now is therefore how to strengthen African capacity for agricultural research and technology development, dissemination and adoption, together with enabling policies, improved markets and infrastructure. Implementation of these elements would greatly contribute towards:

- Strengthening agricultural support services (research, extension), with the active participation of the private sector;
- Empowering producers to become more active partners in agricultural productivity initiatives so as to ensure their meaningful participation

in priority setting and work programmes implementation for research, extension, and training.

- Development of viable producer organisations that can represent the interests of farmers and pastoralists in public policy making, as well as open new market opportunities for their members with the required inputs and services.
- Upscaling of good agricultural production practices.

Priority Area 3: Adaptation to and mitigation of impacts of climate change and desertification

Climate change has begun to attract the attention of most political leaders in Africa, resulting in the Declaration of Heads of States and of governments on climate change at the 2007 Addis Ababa Summit. Several actors on the ground such as NGOs and organizations of the civil society are also taking into account the issue of climate change in their development agendas. Although Africa as a whole, and semiarid areas in particular, have contributed little to the global dynamics of climate change, the region will be amongst those suffering most from the impacts.

The fourth IPCC Assessment Report projects that yield from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50% by 2020 in some African countries. Therefore, African countries, especially those in semi-arid areas, should actively engage in integrating climate change aspects into all relevant national development programs. Most of the agriculture in semi-arid Africa is rain-fed and therefore very vulnerable to climate change which is expected to be characterized by extreme events such as droughts and floods that at times destroy crops and livestock.

Thus, whereas international indicators of the impact of climate change often focus on melting ice caps in polar or High Mountain regions, consequences of climate change in semi-arid Africa are expressed directly into havocs in the daily lives of the poor.

Climate change represents an immediate and unprecedented threat to the food security of hundreds of millions of people who depend on small-scale agriculture for their livelihoods. At the same time, agriculture and related activities also contribute to climate change, by intensifying greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and altering the land surface. The global significance of the intricate linkages between agriculture and climate change has prompted the CGIAR to launch a challenge programme on climate change, agriculture and food security (CCAFS, 2009).

Despite strong linkages between climate change and desertification in semi-arid Africa, synergies in the implementation of the two conventions remains weak. The international community has paid far more attention to climate change than to desertification. Indeed, the UNFCCC has attracted more support of northern partners while the issue of desertification was often perceived as a problem of African countries.

There are increasing calls and opportunities, however, for effective linkages between the Rio Conventions (CCD, FCC, CBD), through, for example, the GEF/OP15 and the Global Mechanism.

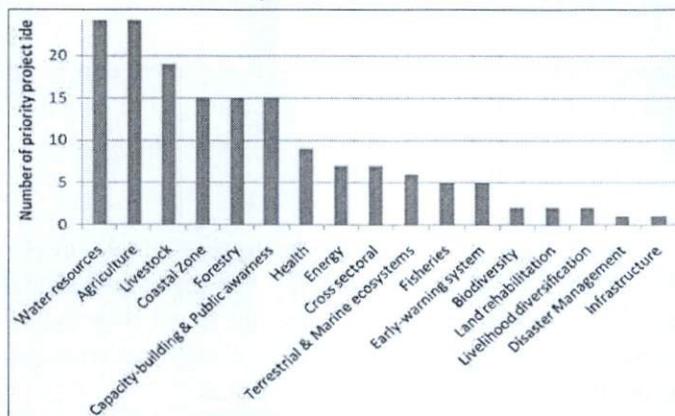
Developing efficient mechanisms for the management of climate change and desertification still remains a major challenge not only for national governments but also for rural communities and national research institutions. In this respect:

- The indigenous knowledge and management strategies developed by rural communities should be carefully collected, documented and shared. This information should constitute a valuable resource to inform research agendas on climate change and desertification as well as for planning new intervention approaches.
- The development of new and adaptive innovations to climate change by the main users of research results also constitutes a challenge for the NARS as well as for the regional and international research organizations which seek to incorporate climate change and desertification in their agricultural research for development programmes.

- A further challenge is to establish regional and sub-regional information networks for sharing of information on progress in research on climate change and desertification. For example, West Africa and Southern Africa have developed sub-regional positions and plans of action (CEDEAO, 2009 & 2010; SADC/FANR, n.d). Harmonizing and coordinating such initiatives across all sub-regions would add value to on-going efforts.

Following recommendations by the International conference on reducing vulnerability to climate change in West Africa organized in Burkina in 2007, ECOWAS has undertaken a comprehensive review of on-going efforts to reduce vulnerability to climate change at local, national and regional level (ECOWAS, 2009), and has developed a sub-regional action programme to address the challenge (CEDEAO, 2010). It appears that priority areas for NAPAs of the region are, in decreasing order: 1) water resources; 2) agriculture; 3) livestock; 4) Coastal zone; 5) forestry; 6) Capacity building and public awareness (figure 1).

FIGURE 1. Priority areas of NAPAs in West Africa



Source :CCNUCC cited In CEDEAO, 2009

Priority Area 4: Integrating production with markets

Access to remunerative markets is what will drive investments of the private sector to support production, processing and commercialization

of agricultural products. Thus, integrating agricultural production with markets is a must if agricultural products are to generate significant levels of income for farm families and make significant contributions to national and regional economies. In semi-arid areas, however, the process of linking rural production to markets is severely constrained by a range of issues, including:

- ***Low competitiveness of agricultural products from semi-arid zones***
High production and transaction costs, weakness of market-support services and export of raw products without added value from processing, are some of the reasons for non-competitiveness of semi-arid agricultural products. In addition, unfair competition from subsidised agricultural products imported from developed countries distorts the local markets and contribute to make agricultural products of semi-arid zones not competitive. Furthermore, traditional export crops from the African continent now have to compete with those from new suppliers from Asia and Latin America who offer to importing countries lower price products with standard required quality/safety.

- ***Poor relation between agricultural production and national, regional and international markets.***

Agricultural products of the semi-arid zones are poorly linked to markets due largely to the lack of market information service about prices and market opportunities, and end market requirements.

- ***Political and institutional impediments to the development of national, regional and international markets.***

Customs barriers as well as the poor state of road infrastructures and low capacity of farmers to offer standard quality products remain constraints to the development of inter-regional markets.

Opportunities to address these constraints include the following:

i) Agro-ecological diversity offering favourable conditions for agricultural production: The semi-arid zone of Africa presents diverse ecologies as well as production systems that are unique conditions for some high potential niche crops or activities;

ii) Presence of promising national, regional and international potential markets for numerous agricultural products: Apart from the potential of the market for staple food crops, opportunities exist for products of high added values such as fruits and vegetables, products from livestock, fishery, aquaculture, and horticulture.

The major challenge therefore is how to develop policy and institutional frameworks that can facilitate achievement of food security and promote competitiveness of agricultural products of semi-arid Africa in satisfying the needs and requirements of the market (local, national and external market) and also developing the relevant capacities for effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations.

Priority Area 5:

Global, regional and national policies and institutions

In semi-arid Africa, disengagement of national governments from productive sectors such as agriculture has not been followed by effective involvement of the private sector. Due to constraints associated with access to financial services, weak human resources capacities, and unfavourable investment policies, the private sector has not been able to effectively take over after government disengagement. As a result, supply of key agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer to producers has experienced severe shortages.

In addition, national agricultural research and extension services are not strong enough to adequately feed the innovation system with the required new knowledge and technologies. Studies by FARA show that constraints are most evident in the areas of agricultural research management, financial and resource allocation and management, scientific capacity to con-

duct high quality research and ineffective collaboration and partnerships with development partners (FARA, 2006). These difficulties in policies and institutional performance have significant negative effects on agricultural and rural development efforts in semi-arid Africa.

Opportunities to respond to the challenges include:

- i) the reconsideration of government supporting roles for the agricultural sector. African Heads of states, through NEPAD/CAADP, have decided to make agriculture the engine of economic growth.
- ii) the emergence of new dynamic markets for high value agricultural products, as discussed earlier

Priority Area 6: Strengthening local capacities

As mentioned earlier, the disengagement of national governments from the agricultural sector without adequate takeover by the private sector has not only affected the flow of goods and services; the situation has severely affected the human and institutional capacities of stakeholders at all levels.

The increasing recognition of the need for participatory approaches requires that all stakeholders be equipped with the required capacity to work as team players. This is a major task that requires targeted actions of training, information and awareness raising, and the establishment of appropriate methods for the transfer of innovations involving the participation of all stakeholders.

At the scientists' level, few professionals have received the multidisciplinary training required to tackle the socio-economic and biophysical complexities of promoting conservation and development in semi-arid areas. As training has slowed pace, existing capacity has been eroded by natural attrition and, in some countries, by high rates of morbidity and mortality due to HIV/AIDS. More than ever, achieving significant

results in agricultural production, processing and marketing in semi-arid Africa will require major improvements in stakeholders' capacity to deliver on their respective agenda.

The development of a capacity strengthening strategy requires that exhaustive diagnoses of human and institutional capacity needs be conducted for the various categories of stakeholders: grass root producers, civil society, research organizations, universities, etc.

Cross-cutting areas

Gender

The proposed strategic plan will be responsive to the needs of poorer rural women and other vulnerable groups with a focus on equitable access to natural and financial resources and on sharing of benefits. This is taken into account through targeted knowledge sharing, capacity strengthening for effective participation in Network activities, and various initiatives that enhance access of this target group to agricultural inputs and remunerative markets.

Links and synergies with other TPNs

Cross-exchanges with other TPNs will be actively sought, building on common areas of interest. For example, water is a clear link between TPN6 and TPN1. Tree-related goods and services in agro-ecosystems and in rangelands are natural links between TPN6, TPN2, and TPN3. Provision is made in the action plan to involve all TPNs as statutory members of the proposed Steering Committee, so as to enhance partnerships and synergies.

SECTION 3.

ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

3.1. Objectives

The **general objective** of the plan is to establish a Network that will foster communication, cooperation, and concerted action between the stakeholders with the ultimate view to improving livelihoods through the implementation of relevant activities in the priority areas identified in the strategic plan. The proposed Network is expected to:

- (i) facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices between and among stakeholders;
- (ii) ensure more effective implementation of national and sub-regional action programs to combat desertification and to sustain CAADP's goal of enhancing agricultural production;
- (iii) raise the voice of semi-arid Africa in international fora by working at the continental level to facilitate the engagement of partners both across the subregions and between semi-arid Africa and other semi-arid regions of the world.

The **specific objectives** are:

1. To improve enabling conditions for access of end-users to land and water for agricultural production
2. To catalyze agricultural production increase through sharing of knowledge and transfer of innovations and technologies
3. To enhance people and ecosystems resilience to the impact of climate change and desertification

4. To facilitate access of semi-arid agricultural products to remunerative markets.
5. To facilitate the establishment of favorable policies and institutions for agriculture and rural development
6. To strengthen human and institutional capacity for production, processing and marketing activities in agriculture

3.2. Expected results

Over the next ten years, TPN6 aspires to make significant impact on agricultural research and development in semi-arid Africa.

Table 2 proposes an overview of expected deliverables and time line for delivery in terms of short term outputs (within 3 years), medium term outcomes (5-10 years) and long term impact (ca. 10 years and beyond).

3.3. Network Activities and operational arrangements

The proposed implementation strategy revolves around ensuring the emergence of a well respected fully functioning Network with an effective coordination unit which is capable of promoting better cooperation, galvanizing concerted and coordinated action, and ensuring harmonized policies and strategies for sustainable agricultural farming in the context of the UNCCD/ RAP. The immediate expected main result, which in fact will ensure the effectiveness of the subsequent deliverables, is the effective emergence of the proposed Network.

The rationale and justification for the network is that the many and diverse stakeholders involved in research on natural resource management, productivity, markets and policies need mechanisms for integrating their interventions on an intra- and inter-regional basis. What is required are platforms based on the comparative advantages and special expertise of these stakeholders to support and catalyze the development of broad-based innovation capacity. This, as indicated above, will involve national, sub-regional, regional and global private- and public-sector partners.

Table 2. TPN6 outputs, outcomes and impact over next ten years

TPN6 Priorities	TPN6 Priorities Outputs (=Direct result of TPN6 work; ca. within 3 years)	Outcomes (=Change in behavior; ca. 5 years and beyond)	Impact (=long-term effects; ca. 10 years and beyond)
Network	Network functional; TPN6 a credible reference in semi-arid agriculture	Stakeholders assume ownership of Network; Semi-arid Africa voice strengthened; CAADP mainstreams semi-arid agriculture	livelihood improved; land degradation reduced
Land & Water	Review of national land policies in process	Vulnerable groups access land & water	Reduced levels of land & water-related conflicts;
Productivity, technology & innovation	Knowledge/innovations documented; Sharing mechanisms and communication tools in place	End-users access broad range of innovations; productivity increased	Food security and income improved
Climate change	Awareness raised; Sub-regional action plans harmonized	Action plans implementation in process; Region one voice in international CC negotiations	Vulnerability of people and ecosystems reduced
Climate change	Awareness raised; Sub-regional action plans harmonized	Action plans implementation in process; Region one voice in international CC negotiations	Vulnerability of people and ecosystems reduced
Market	Market opportunities documented for promising products	Selected Commodity value chains established	Income poverty of target groups reduced
Policy	Policy briefs prepared; lobbying and advocacy on-going	Policy and decision makers undertake reforms	Favorable policies and institutions enhance agriculture and development
Capacity building	Target groups capacity needs documented and strengthenin	Human and institutional efficiency of partners enhanced	Stakeholders influence national and international decisions

To achieve the above, the network will carry out the following duties:

- Organize and facilitate network meetings, seminars and workshops; conduct program review; and publish and disseminate research results on issues and problems in relation to the main issue and questions of interest and relevance to the Network
- Coordinate the conduct of studies and analyses to address specific issues and problems of interest and publish and distribute the reports of these studies to all the relevant stakeholders
- Assist semi-arid African countries in locating and accessing regularly updated data and information related to the priority action areas of the Network and regularly check their relevance for the required follow-up
- Serve as the main hub of thematic information exchange between and among network members
- Promote the use of modern tools of communication (internet, web pages, etc.) to facilitate exchanges between members of the network
- Contribute as appropriate in capacity building at all levels
- Facilitate the creation of “communities of practice” to serve as intermediaries or knowledge brokers between creators and users of knowledge

3.4. Network governance . Membership

Promoting agricultural development while combating land degradation/desertification involves and/or affects many sectoral activities and players. Accordingly, this strategy will seek to engage with a large number and variety of stakeholders, ranging from farmer organizations to international organizations, all involved at different levels in formulating policies and decisions, generating knowledge, and managing and applying knowledge to agricultural development. For the implementation of this strategy, working with partners is an imperative and fundamental approach for achieving impact.

Therefore, membership of the network will not be restrictive; instead it

will be open to individuals and institutions from a broad range of players who are involved and/or interested in the development of sustainable agricultural farming in semi-arid Africa. This includes the following: government institutions and agencies, research institutions, universities, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, farmers' organizations, development partners, the private sector, etc.

The Addis Ababa conference identified the most relevant stakeholders as follows:

- *The Private sector*, including producer organizations, local service providers,
- NGOs and Civil society organizations, as well as local governance institutions,
- *The Public sector*, including national governments (in order for creating an enabling environment, defining access to and management arrangements for land and water resources, providing agricultural statistics and timely information on markets, etc.), elected representatives, extension services, and agricultural research and training institutions.
- *Sub-regional, regional and international organizations & specialised agencies*, including development partner institutions, regional and continental bodies, such as AU, NEPAD, RECs, FARA, SROs, IARCs, UN Agencies, etc. Table 3 shows the expected roles of the various stakeholders.

Table 3: TPN6 implementation stakeholders and their roles
Management and Coordination

SAFGRAD will serve as the home of the Network which will be managed by a Regional Network Coordinator with administrative and logistical support from SAFGRAD. The proposed administration and management arrangement of the Network is as follows:

- Role of SAFGRAD

SAFGRAD, as the institutional focal point for the Network, will be the accountable institution responsible for the overall administration and man-

agement for the implementation and coordination of the activities of the Network. SAFGRAD operates in the context of the AU and is guided by a number of principles including: the pursuit of sub-regional approach to integration, coordination, harmonization, and the building of synergies and networking of African human resources and competences.

- Regional Network Coordination (Coordinator & Secretariat) of the Network

A Regional Coordinator (RC) will be recruited to carry out the day to day management of coordination of the activities of the Network based

Stakeholders	Role
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource mobilization - Provision of goods & services
Civil Society Organizations (NGOs, Farmer organizations, Associations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public awareness - Advocacy - Dissemination of innovations - Capacity building
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of enabling national environment (policies, laws and regulations) - Planning and implementation of strategies (development, research, education/ training, extension, etc.)
Sub-regional and regional policy makers (RECs, AU, NEPAD, UN Agencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of enabling environment at sub-regional and regional levels - Promotion of cross-boundary cooperation (policy, trade, etc.)
Sub-regional and regional R&D institutions/Organizations (SROs, FARA, IARCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sub-regional planning and coordination of R&D.

on agreed Terms of Reference that clearly defines the respective roles of SAFGRAD and RC. The RC will be an internationally recruited staff with the commensurate qualification and experience. The RC will operate under the financial and management control of SAFGRAD.

- Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is the decision-making entity of the Network, in charge of network policy and governance.

SAFGRAD has a steering committee (SC) of some ten Members + observers. For the purpose of this strategy, it is proposed that SAFGRAD's SC be expanded to include representatives of the SROs and of the other TPNs.

The duties and responsibilities of SC will include, but not be necessarily limited to:

- Providing overall policy guidance and oversight of the running of the Network and the management and implementation of its activities;
- Raising awareness on the priority issues and needs of semi-arid areas that need to be addressed and suggesting appropriate ways of addressing them;
- Considering and approving annual work plans and budgets;
- Considering periodic M&E reports
- Providing other support as requested by RC;
- Assisting in the mobilization of funds for network activities.

SC will meet twice a year.

- Forum

It is proposed that TPN6 organize periodically at three-year interval a stakeholders' Forum on semi-arid lands. The objective of the gathering will be to highlight advances in semi-arid land development challenges and opportunities. Building on the experience of FARA's Forum, such an event will draw together representatives of the Network's constituents

from all semi-arid areas of Africa and non African partners involved in semi-arid land development. This includes FARA, SROs (ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, SADC/FANR and NASRO), farmers' and pastoralists' organizations, research institutions, universities, NGOs, policy makers, private sector, etc. In order to reduce cost and also to benefit from FARA's experience TPN6's Forum will be held as a special event within the setup of FARA's Forum.

SECTION 4.

WORK PROGRAMME 2011 – 2013: A STARTUP THREE-YEAR PLAN TO REVITALIZE TPN6

4.1. Background and Justification

The thematic priorities of the Strategic Plan as identified by the Addis conference are exhaustive and provide a good basis for addressing the many challenges that constrain the promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems in semi-arid Africa. The other side of the coin, however, is that the agenda is too broad, especially for a short term operational programme. It is not realistic to expect that resources can be mobilized in sufficient amount to undertake significant levels of activities in all six areas at once. Hence the need to devise a more realistic operational strategy to kick start the process.

Building on lessons learnt from past efforts, the implementation plan proposed here takes account of the need to give due emphasis on resource mobilization. Indeed, as the UNCCD new strategy 2008-2018 notes, after a decade of implementation, it is recognized that limiting factors have prevented optimal deployment of the Convention. Chief among these factors include insufficient financing compared to its two Rio sister conventions. Indeed, TPN6, like other TPNs, has not been able to mobilize resources in the past.

Since the six priority areas identified in the strategic plan are all relevant and are all considered to have the potential to make significant contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the strategy, it is proposed that the startup 3-year operational plan be focused on selected activities with good prospects for funding, and for which SAFGRAD, the institu-

tional focal point, has a credible track record and a clear comparative advantage for leadership. The section below elaborates on these considerations.

• **Identifying programme areas with likelihood for funding and potential for quick impact**

Given the current financing environment as regards the priorities of this program, the TerrAfrica initiative offers fairly good prospects for funding. The current broad-ranging partnership of TerrAfrica includes the following potential donors: the Global Mechanism (GM), the World Bank, GEF, IFAD, UNDP, AfDB, etc. Individually and/or collectively under the TerrAfrica umbrella, these donors are responsive to the land and water management Pillar of NEPAD's CAADP and the following two programme areas of NEPAD's Environmental Action Plan: : i) *Land degradation, drought and desertification*, and ii) *trans boundary conservation of natural resources*.

The priorities of this strategic plan align well with the above priorities of donors and therefore augurs well for potential funding.

• **Building on SAFGRAD's track record and comparative advantage**

As institutional focal point for TPN6, SAFGRAD is expected to assume leadership role in the implementation of the proposed operational programme of work. Prospects for significant achievements and impacts are therefore dependent on whether SAFGRAD has the right technical and managerial expertise to play this leadership role. The section below elaborates on the track record of SAFGRAD.

Based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, AU/SAFGRAD was established in 1977 as a project under the auspices of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the Organization of African Unity (OAU/STRC) to address the impact of the severe drought of the 1970s on food security in the region. The reorganization of the Africa Union in 2003 decided that SAFGRAD should be institutionalized into a Spe-

cial Agency for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture to enable the Union play key role in the improvement of livelihoods of rural households by accelerating growth of agriculture. The new orientation would be on addressing common problems facing African countries that are peculiar to the semi-arid zones. As a result of this reorganization, SAFGRAD is now one of the specialized technical offices within the department of rural economy and agriculture of the African Union Commission.

The current mandate of SAFGRAD is to contribute to the advancement of agricultural research, technology transfer and marketing as well as the management of natural resources by facilitating and coordinating the use of the scientific talents of National Agricultural Research Centers (NARCs), International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) and Scientific Research Organizations (SROs) to enhance food security, promote sustainable agriculture, development of irrigation agriculture, both in rural and peri-urban areas of semi-arid zones of Africa (AU, 2003). Thus, SAFGRAD has a commendable track record including :

- several decades of focus on agricultural R & D in semi-arid Africa;
- is the designated focal point for TPN6;
- Is institutionalized as a technical office of the AUC under the AU/DREA

4.2. Goal and objectives of the proposed programme of work (POW)

Based on the above assessment of funding prospects for the strategic plan, and considering the mandate and track record of SAFGRAG in research for development with emphasis on technology transfer, it is proposed that the startup operational programme to revitalize TPN6 focus on the dissemination of agricultural R & D's results with a focus on scaling up/out successful innovations and technologies. With regard to the six thematic priorities of the strategic plan, the proposed scope for the POW is responsive to priority area 2 on "productivity, technology and innovation." POW will not cover the full scope of all six priority themes

of the strategic plan, but will address them through their linkages with technology transfer. In particular, POW will cover technology transfer-related aspects of climate change (theme 3), markets (theme 4) and policies (theme 5).

During the three-year period of POW implementation, provisions will be made to develop full proposals for each of the five thematic areas, building on the expected deliverables for each theme as shown earlier in table 2.

The **overall objective** of POW is: *To strengthen stakeholders' partnership for sustainable agricultural farming in semi-arid Africa*

The specific objectives are:

5. To promote transfer and scaling up/out of promising technologies for SLM, income generation, and climate change adaptation/mitigation
6. To address policy implication of technology transfer
7. To address capacity needs of technology transfer
8. To facilitate validation of proposals on priority areas of the strategic plan

Outcomes, Outputs and activities of the POW

Outcome 1: Emergence of a fully functional Network

The expected medium term outcome of a fully functional and well respected network will be supported by the following short term outputs and activities:

Output 1.1: *Funding for the takeoff of the Network secured for the period 2011/2013*

- *Activity 1.1.1:* Identification and review of funding opportunities
- *Activity 1.1.2:* Re-packaging of this draft document and submission to potential donors according to their respective required formats

Output 1.2: Network governance instruments in place and operational

Activity 1.2.1: Draw up job descriptions, advertize for the position, and hire Network Coordinator

Activity 1.2.2: Draw up job descriptions, advertize for the positions, and recruit 1 bilingual secretary and 1 driver/mechanic

Activity 1.2.3: Purchase office furniture and equipment

Activity 1.2.4: Prepare network launching meeting agenda and convene takeoff meeting

Activity 1.2.5: Identify and designate SC Members

OUTCOME 2: Wide scale adoption of best technological innovations

The following four outputs will support this outcome

Output 2.1: Successful innovations and technologies from research and traditional practice are identified through sub-regional studies and documented for SLM, market opportunity, adaptation to climate change

Activity 2.1.1: Carry out comprehensive sub-regional compilation and documentation of the available (“ready-on-shelf”) innovations

Activity 2.1.2: Document potential of identified technologies for SLM, income generation, climate change adaptation/mitigation using literature reviews and stakeholders’ interviews

Output 2.2: Promising technologies are disseminated widely across subregions

Activity: Promote wide scale dissemination and adoption of documented technologies using most relevant available dissemination options: ex-

tension channels, farmers' organizations, civil society, private sector, development projects; etc., as appropriate

OUTCOME 3: Favorable policies support wide-scale dissemination and adoption of agricultural innovations and technologies in semi-arid Africa

Output: *Policy implications for wide scale adoption of promising technologies are identified and addressed*

Activity 3.1: Identify and analyze policy and institutional constraints to wide scale adoption of technologies by different stakeholders groups (especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups) in production, processing and marketing

Activity 3.2: Facilitate harmonization of favorable policies across sub-regions (policy briefs, lobbying and advocacy), targeting Ministerial conferences and relevant parliamentary groups.

OUTCOME 4: Capacity strengthening of stakeholders results in more efficient transfer of agricultural technologies

Output : *Capacity needs for wide scale adoption of promising technologies are identified and addressed*

Activity 4.1: Identify capacity deficit that constrains wide scale adoption of identified technologies by various stakeholders groups, especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups in production, processing and marketing

Activity 4.2: Develop capacity strengthening tools and strategies to enhance stakeholders' capacity for adoption, targeting farmers' organizations and civil society, especially women of these target groups.

OUTCOME 5: Finalization of five proposals

This outcome will be supported by the following key activities

- Five proposal documents written, one on each of the following priority areas: (i) land and water; (ii) Climate change and desertification; (iii) Integrating production with markets; (iv) Policies and institutions; and (v) Strengthening local capacities.
- Five thematic workshops organized to discuss and finalize each of the five proposals for submission to targeted donors

4.3. Stakeholders and their roles

The list of players for the implementation of the proposed POW is shown in table 4

Table 4: Stakeholders and their roles in the implementation of the proposed POW to revitalize TPN6

Because of the unique contribution that the various categories of stakeholders are expected to play, the full involvement of all of them in a broad-based inclusive partnership is crucial for the success of the implementation of the programme of work. However, given the focus on R&D, it is proposed that special relationships be developed with FARA as highlighted below.

Forging special partnership with FARA and SROs

The African Union Commission and AU-NEPAD have given the FARA Secretariat the mandate to serve as the lead institution responsible for coordinating CAADP Pillar IV activities, ie “Agricultural Research, Technology Dissemination and Adoption”. The primary role of the lead institution, working with the SROs, is to ensure effective integration of agricultural science and technology into the overall CAADP’s agenda.

The agreement with AU-NEPAD recognizes that FARA is the apex organization for facilitating coordination and information exchange amongst the African Sub-Regional Agricultural Research Organizations

Players	Role
Investment Partners TerrAfrica and/or individual donors, eg GEF, GM, World Bank, AFDB	- Resource mobilization - Provision of goods & services
Civil Society Organizations: Consortium of sub-Saharan NGOS + sub-regional CSOs Sub-regional Farmer organizations: -East African Farmers Federation – EAFF -Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale – PROPAC Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest – ROPPA Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions – SACAU -Union Maghrébine des Agriculteurs- UMA-GRI	- Public awareness - Advocacy - Dissemination of innovations - Capacity building
Public sector: Government and inter-governmental bodies	- Creation of enabling national environment (institutions, policies, laws and regulations) - Planning and implementation of policies and strategies (development, research, education/training, extension, etc.)
Policy makers (Sub-regional and regional): RECs, RAP/TPNs, AU, NEPAD, UN Agencies	- Creation of enabling environment at sub-regional and regional levels - Promotion of cross-boundary cooperation (policy, trade, etc.)
Research organizations Sub-regional (SROs): ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, SADC/FANR, NASRO/AARINENA Regional: FARA International: AROs/ARIs and IARCs	- Sub-regional and regional planning and coordination of R&D

(SROs), and their National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) stakeholders. Under the agreement with the Commission of the African Union, FARA collaborates with the AU Commission through the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and its specialized offices on various aspects of agriculture and rural development.

SAFGRAD is a specialized office of the AU under the same DREA through which FARA partners with the AUC. SAFGRAD's mandate is on semi-arid Africa, covering 31 countries south and north of the Sahara: Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Erithrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia, Egypt, Algeria, Libya and Tunisia.

It is proposed that special efforts be made to forge a stronger and more formal partnership between SAFGRAD and FARA than is currently the case. Apart from difference in geographic coverage with FARA having a continent-wide coverage whereas SAFGRAD focuses on semi-arid Africa, the mandates of the two organizations are quite similar as both focus on agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. Building on the example of ECOWAS devolving leadership of many of its prerogatives in the Sahel to CILSS, FARA and SAFGRAD could consider engaging in a similar type of partnership.

Strengthening SAFGRAD's institutional capacity to ensure sustainability of the proposed plan

AU/SAFGRAD has developed good reputation for the effectiveness of its financial control system. However, at present, SAFGRAD's team is quite lean. Capacity strengthening of SAFGRAD is important to ensure that it can effectively backstop this activity while retaining its high level of institutional credibility and respect.

Housing the Network Coordinator and Network resources is expected to benefit SAFGRAD in many ways, including strengthening its institutional capacity and enhancing its scientific and technical reputation.

SECTION 5.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

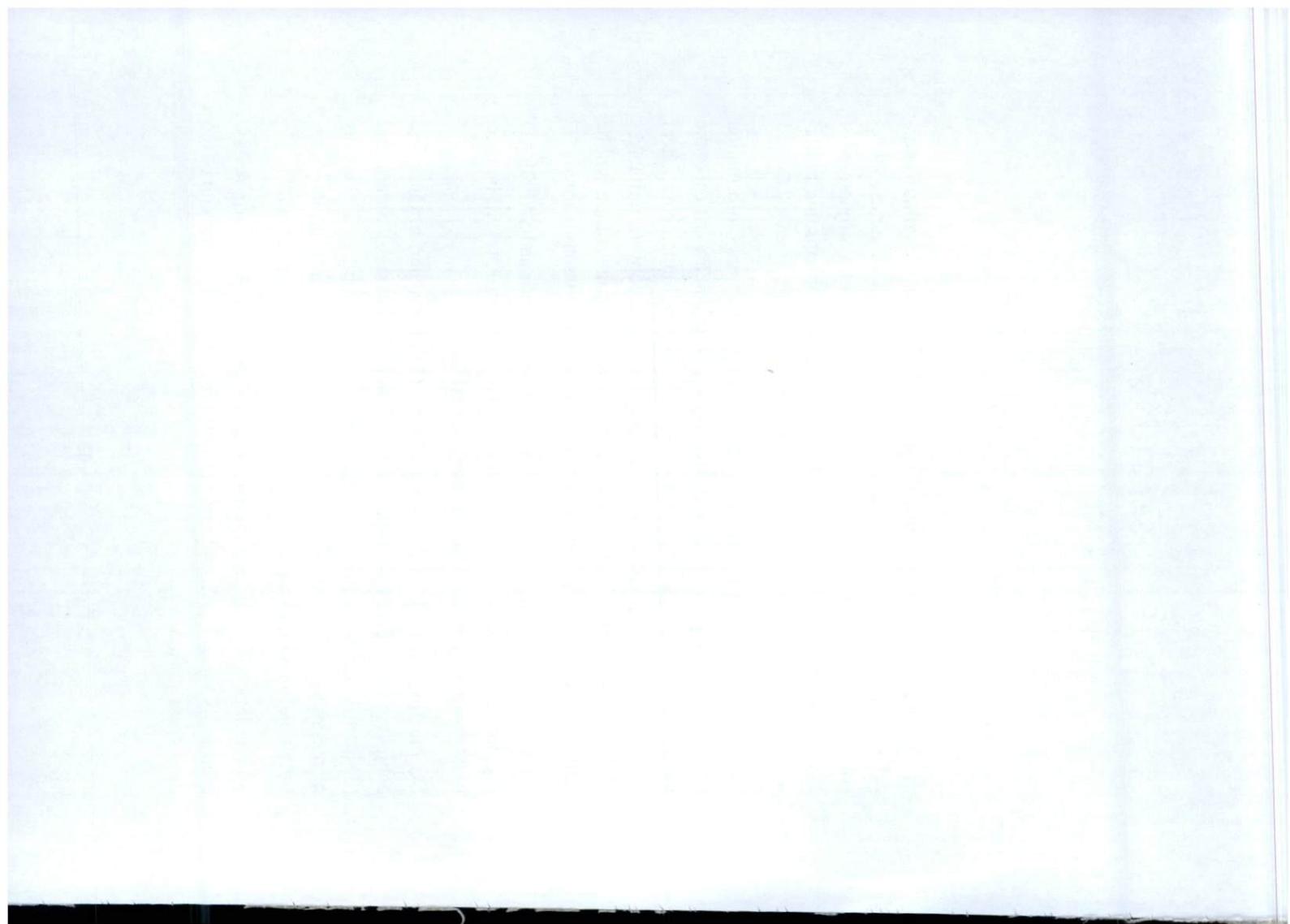
Monitoring is a management tool which involves a continuous assessment of activities against work plan as well as the use of resources against initial budget allocation. The main objective of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is to identify problems and bottlenecks in order to take timely corrective action.

The monitoring component will involve timely gathering of information on the inputs, outputs and complementary activities that are critical to the attainment of the objectives of the Network. The evaluation component will collect data that will be used to compare actual Network influences and impacts against the expected targets. Process documentation will be done to record activity implementation, outputs, and lessons learned.

Financial monitoring will be implemented as per donor and SAFGRAD regulations. Financial records and technical achievements will be used to assess management effectiveness and efficiency.

SC meetings will be held twice a year to: (1) review performance and achievements; (2) review input from beneficiaries and stakeholders; and (3) identify evolving priorities, challenges and opportunities. The results of recursive M&E will be shared with the management team to ensure timely action and integration of findings into subsequent activities.

Two independent external reviews will be conducted: A midterm review after 1.5 year of POW implementation, and a final one at the end of the three-year period.



SECTION 6.

BUDGET (US\$)

The proposed budget for POW is **US\$ 2 311 500** over a period of three years as shown below.

Budget Line	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Outcome 1 on Networking				
Secretariat	114 000	114 000	114 000	342 000
Office equipment	5 000	1000	1 000	7 000
Vehicles	30 000			30 000
Travels	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000
Launching Meeting	100 000			
SC Meetings	60 000	120 000	120 000	300 000
Financial audits	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000
External M & E		30 000	30 000	60 000
Outcome 2 on technol. trsfer	40 000	300 000		340 000
Outcome 3 on Policy	40 000	300 000		340 000
Outcome 4 on Capacity	40 000	300 000		340 000
Outcome 5 on Proposals	362 500			
Total	821 500	1 195 000	295 000	2 311 500

Budget Notes

OUTCOME 1 on Establishing and running the Network

Secretariat staff: The budget is for the total salary/benefit packages for:

- Network Coordinator US\$ 7 000/month, i.e. 84 000/year
- Bilingual Secretary US\$ 2 000/month, i.e. 24 000/year
- Driver/mechanic US\$ 500/month, i.e. 6 000/year

TOTAL US\$ 114 000/year

Office equipment, supplies, and services

2 computers +1 printer +1 photocopier: **7000**

Vehicles

1 small personal car for Network Coordinator + 4x4 vehicle for travel and other official business **30 000**

Travels

The pan-African nature of the Forum will require extensive traveling to maintain contact with partner institutions and organizations, donors, and to attend technical and policy meetings that are of relevance to the Network...@US\$ 20 000/year

Network governance

Launching meeting to also host first SC meeting:
50 participants x US\$ 2 000 **100 000**

Steering Committee meeting
(15 Members x US\$ 2 000) x 2/per year **60 000**

Forum ... piggyback on FARA **NA**

Reviews/audits/M&E

This includes a line item for mandatory reviews and audit, and for technical monitoring and evaluation at mid-term and end-term of POW

- *External financial audit at US\$10 000 each year* **30 000**

- *M&E at US\$ 30 000 x 2* **60 000**

OUTCOME 2 on documentation and dissemination of innovations and technologies

- Four sub-regional studies @10000 each = $10\ 000 \times 4$ **40 000**
- Four sub-regional validation workshops each with 20 participants @
each = $(2500 \times 20) \times 4$ **200 000** 2 500
- Final report + Development of dissemination strategies and seed money for initial implementation activities **100 000**

OUTCOME 3 on Policy and institutional implication of technology transfer

- Four sub-regional studies @10 000 each = $10\ 000 \times 4$ **40 000**
- Four sub-regional validation workshops each with 20 participants @
each = $(2500 \times 20) \times 4$ **200 000** 2 500
- Synthesis report , preparation of policy briefs + advocacy tools and seed money for initial implementation activities **100 000**

Outcome 4 on Capacity strengthening for technology transfer

- Four sub-regional studies @10 000 each = $10\ 000 \times 4$ **40 000**
- Four sub-regional validation workshops each with 20 participants @
each = $(2500 \times 20) \times 4$ **200 000** 2 500
- Synthesis report, development of capacity strengthening plans and seed money for initial implementation activities **100 000**

OUTCOME 5 on writing and validation of five proposals

- Five full proposals (fees + travel) @ 12 500 each = **62 500**
- Five validation regional workshops @ 60 000 = **300 000**

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