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AFRICAN UNION SAFGRAD NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL TPN6

The Thematic Program Network for the Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Farming Systems to Combat Desertification in Africa (TPN6)

The Thematic Program Network for the Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Farming Systems to Combat Desertification in Africa (TPN6) was launched in 2004 within the framework of the African Regional Action Program of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). AU/SAFGRAD has been designated as the institutional focal point for coordinating TPN6 activities. 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. Specifically, the project seeks: 1) to create a platform that enhances part-

nership and synergy among activities, 2) to facilitate dissemination of innovative sustainable farming systems and 3) to facilitate mutual learning and harmonization of efforts among network participants.

In 2008, under this program the conference on the enhancement of rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa took place in Addis Ababa. The conference which was well attended by over 120 participants discussed the background document on **development of rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa: issues, challenges, and opportunities**. Participants endorsed the proposal contained in the document and made recommendations for moving forward. The report of the conference has been submitted to



TPN6 Meeting attended by various stakeholders in Ouagadougou in 2011 to discuss the manual of the network

the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture (CAMA), 26-29 October 2010, Lilongwe, Malawi. The Excellences Ministers of Agriculture endorsed the issues identified in the background document as well as the proposals suggested for actions. The resolution was adopted and endorsed in the 2011 Assembly of AU Heads of state and Government *EX.CL/Dec.600-643 (XVIII)*.

Capacity Building for African Young Researchers



In the last 3 years (2010, 2011 and 2012) AU-SAFGRAD organized training courses in the area of the Impact of climate change and desertification on agriculture and food security for the African young researchers. Young researchers from 24 countries have been participated in these courses (all of coun-

tries have been trained on the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security and 12 countries out of them have been trained on the impact of climate change and desertification on agriculture and food security).



PUBLICATIONS



AU SAFGRAD Publications

The above mentioned documents have been disseminated to the decision makers in the relevant countries as well as to all the relevant institutions all over the world. Copies (PDF format) are available on the AU SAFGRAD Website at <http://www.au-safgrad.org>

AU-SAFGRAD has published many documents for the success stories, lessons learned and challenges of Agriculture in Semi arid zone of Africa such as the following:

1. A Comparative study on large scale extension methods used in Ghana (2009) in English version
2. Etude comparative des methodes de vulgarisation a grande echelle au Burkina faso(2009) in French version
3. Technologies agricoles au Burkina Faso(2010) English and French Versions
4. WEST AFRICAN AGRICULTURE: CURRENT STATE, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES :The Case of semi- arid zones (2011) In English and French versions

TPN6 Manual

In 2011 AU-SAFGRAD has prepared the manual of TPN6 which discussed during workshop participated by various organizations amongst them (ICRISAT, IFPRI, FARA UNEP, AU-IBAR, UNCCD, World Fish Programme, IITA , CORAF, CILLS, ROPPA, IWMI, IAPSC, ILRI, NEPAD, EAA, IFDC, IGAD, ADB, UEMOA..etc.).

AU SAFGRAD MANDATE

AU/SAFGRAD's mandate is defined in AU Assembly in 2003 as follows: "To lead, coordinate and facilitate the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes that would build resilience of rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa through strengthening of institutional capacities aimed at advancing agricultural research, technology transfer and adoption; enhancement of value chains; management of natural resources; and mitigation and adaptation to climate change and combating desertification as well as other related areas".

VISION

"Sustainable food security and improved rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa".

MISSION

"To accelerate sustainable agricultural development and rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa by building resilience of rural communities through working in partnership with African and global research and development organizations".



Focussing on Building Resilience on the Semi-Arid Zones of Africa is one of the AU SAFGRAD mandate

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African Union-SAFGRAD Strategic Plan (2014-2018)



In 2012 AU-SAFGRAD has prepared its strategic plan (2014-2018). The main strategic goals and programmes are as following

Strategic goal 1: Strengthen policies, institutions and strategies that help enhance the resilience of rural livelihoods in semi-arid zones of Africa

Programme 1: Capacity building support for policy development and resilience programming

- Policy dialogue on key issues affecting resilience of rural livelihoods in semi-arid zones of Africa
- Policy analysis and training focusing on building resilience
- Support programme design, review and monitoring and evaluation in semi-arid zones as part of CAADP-based National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs)

Programme 2: Strengthening producer (agricultural livelihood-based) organisations in semi-arid zones

- Support institutional development of producer (agricultural livelihood-based) organisations and their engagement with CAADP
- Support the promotion of strategic agricultural value chain in Semi-Arid zone of Africa.

Strategic Goal 2: To Enhance African capacities in research, technology dissemination and knowledge management for building the resilience of rural livelihoods in semi-arid zones of Africa.

Programme 3: Facilitation of agricultural research and transfer of technologies and innovations in the context of semi-arid zones

- Facilitate technology generation that would strengthen resilience in semi arid zones through capacity strengthening of research institutions priorities.
- Facilitate dissemination of technologies that would enhanced resilience and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Programme 4 : Knowledge management, networking and communication

- Documentation and sharing of success stories and lessons Inform global deliberations on desertification and sustainable agricultural farming system through TPN6
- Coordination of the thematic programme network for the promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems to combat desertification(TN6) of the UNCCD,

Support 'resilience oriented' thematic networks and the CAADP Knowledge, Information and Skills(KIS) support system.

OVERVIEW OF TPN6

History of the TPNs

The United Nations General Assembly established the UNCCD in order to effectively address the threat of land degradation at global level. In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) recognized the UNCCD as the international instrument for sustainable development and the United Nations General Assembly declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) to further help prevent the exacerbation of desertification around the globe.

The main operational instruments of the CCD are: the national, sub-regional and regional action programmes to combat desertification (NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs). The RAP focusing on 6 thematic areas:

- Integrated management of International River, lake and hydro-geological basins;
- Promotion of agroforestry and soil conservation, rational use of rangelands and promotion of fodder crops development;
- Ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems;
- Rational use of rangelands and promotion of fodder crops development;
- Promotion of new and renewable energy sources and technologies;
- Promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems

For each thematic area a network of leading African institutions and agencies involving all key actors at regional, sub-regional and national level has been created in order to facilitate the exchange of information and development of concrete and innovative activities in their respective fields: the Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs). To coordinate and stimulate their activities an Institutional Focal Points (IFP) has been designated for each TPN as follows:

- TPN1: Network on integrated management of water resources of transboundary river, lake and hydro-geological basins: *SADC water resources unit (based in Lesotho)*;
- TPN2: Network on promotion of agro-forestry and soil conservation: *Institute of Sahel of CILSS (based in Bamako, Mali)*;
- TPN3: Network on the rational use of rangelands and fodder crops development: the *Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union (based in Nairobi, Kenya)*;
- TPN4: Network on ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems: the *African Organization for cartography and Remote Sensing (based in Algiers, Algeria)*;
- TPN5: Network on the promotion of renewable sources of energy and eco-technologies: the *Tunisian Agency for renewable energy (ANME) in collaboration with ENDA Tiers Monde (based in Dakar, Senegal)*;
- TPN6: Network on the promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems: the *African Union Bureau for Semi-Arid Africa Agricultural Research and Development (AU/SAFGRAD) based in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)*.

AU SAFGRAD as Focal Point of TPN6

Promotion of sustainable agriculture (TPN6) has been identified as one of the six priority areas with AU/SAFGRAD as focal point. Sustainable agriculture includes organic agriculture, ecological agriculture, biological agriculture and others. In addition, it also refers to making best use of natural resources and based on local knowledge and skills and economic/social sustainability.

Recommendations based on SWOT analysis formulated during previous SAFGRAD workshops includes: increase budget to agriculture, training and sensitization, access to land, technology dissemination, market access to farmers, promoting agro-industry, plant conservation,

TPN6 Strategies

TPN6 will build its activities on three (3) strategies: knowledge transfer, harmonization of plans and efficient communication. The proposed Network is expected to carry out on the following strategies:

- **Knowledge Transfer:** Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices between and among stakeholders and provide proactive interventions to tackle the six TPN6 Priorities (Network-Land and Water-Productivity, Technology and Innovation- Climate Change- Market)

- **Advocacy:** 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 sub-regions and between semi-arid Africa and other semi-arid regions of the world.

- **Harmonizing existing NAPs and SRAPs:** Ensure more effective implementation of National and Sub-Regional Action Programs to combat desertification and to sustain CAADP's goal of enhancing agricultural production

Communication strategy: the communication channel for sharing information and experience is key to the network. Therefore, the communication strategy has a flow which comprises end-users and scientific bodies, and SAFGRAD will play the role of facilitator between these entities.

General Objective of the Network

Diversified stakeholders are involved in research, production, markets and trade policies, and there is need for intra- and inter-regional integrating mechanisms. Harmonization of the different interventions is crucial to effectively address challenges.

The general objective of the network will be 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 will be achieved through the followings:

- To improve enabling conditions for access of end-users to land and water for agricultural production
- To catalyze productivity, technology adoption and innovation
- To enhance people's adaptation and mitigation to climate change and desertification
- To facilitate access of semi arid market opportunities;
- To facilitate the establishment of global, regional and national policies and institutions; and
- To strengthen human and institutional capacities.

MORE DETAILS ON AU SAFGRAD WEBSITE :

<http://www.ua-safgrad.org>

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Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA)

African Union Specialized Technical Office on Research and Development

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