



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

CCARDESA THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

**Durban, South Africa
5-8 June, 2023**

1. Background

The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research & Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) was established in 2010 by SADC Member States as a subsidiary organisation of SADC with a mandate of coordinating agricultural research in Southern Africa. CCARDESA supports a range of initiatives that promote technology generation, dissemination and adoption. This is in line with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) of SADC, the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP), CAADP and Malabo Declaration. The ultimate goal of CCARDESA is to contribute to improved regional food security and livelihoods. As a sub-regional research organisation, CCARDESA fosters inter-country collaboration in the region and links Southern Africa to other regional, continental & global organisations.

CCARDESA pursues a vision of sustainable agricultural growth and socio-economic development in the SADC region. This vision is supported by the institutional mission of setting the regional research and development agenda, mobilising resources, supporting capacity development, fostering collaboration and providing agricultural information and knowledge. The mission and vision are contained in the CCARDESA Strategy 2020-2029 as well as the Medium-Term Operational Plan (MTO) 2021-2025. The Strategy and Operational Plan are successors to the first Operational Plan (2014-2018) that also served as a Strategy document for CCARDESA.

The CCARDESA MTO describes thematic areas, compound activities over the next 5 years and the expected outputs. All these have been designed to support the achievements of the following overall objectives of CCARDESA contained in the Charter:

1. To promote coordination and collaboration among the National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS) and Farmer Organisations through regional and international cooperation;
2. To facilitate the exchange of information and technology among the agricultural research and development (R&D) institutions;
3. To promote partnerships in the SADC region between public, private, civil society and international organizations in agricultural R&D;
4. To improve agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption in the region through collective efforts, training and capacity building; and
5. To mobilise human, financial and technological resources to implement demand-driven regional R&D activities that will contribute to the strengthening of national-level institutions/research agencies and individuals.

2. Governance structure and the General Assembly

The institutional arrangement of CCARDESA is summarised in Annex 1. The Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security of countries that are party to the CCARDESA Charter constitute the highest policy body. Ministers have powers of appointment and approval of specific issues. Below the Ministers is the General Assembly of regional stakeholders from SADC Member States, with its own defined powers in the governance of CCARDESA. The Board of Directors of CCARDESA, composed of 13 members, provides oversight and guides the CCARDESA Secretariat on its general direction and programmes. The Board reports to the General Assembly. The CCARDESA Secretariat is answerable to the Board of Directors of CCARDESA, through its Executive Director. The Secretariat performs the day-to-day

functions of CCARDESA by managing and implementing the programmes of the organisation, as approved by the Board, and performing all tasks of coordination of agricultural research and development in the SADC region.

The General Assembly (GA), composed of all stakeholders, is an importance structure within the governance of CCARDESA. The GA is responsible for providing broad guidance to the Board and ultimately to the CCARDESA Secretariat. The key responsibilities of the General Assembly are:

1. Recommend to Ministers CCARDESA's R&D priorities;
2. Approve, Monitor and Evaluate the CCARDESA strategic direction;
3. Appoint, renew or terminate the services of External Auditors for CCARDESA; and
4. Recommend to Ministers new members on CCARDESA Board identified by the sitting Board.

The Governance Manual of CCARDESA states that the General Assembly shall be held every two years. The first GA of CCARDESA was held in May 2014 in Gaborone. At the first GA meeting, the MTOP for CCARDESA was approved, the composition of the Board was endorsed and the Auditors were approved. The second GA which was supposed to be held in 2016 did not take place due to challenges the organisation was facing at that time. Following the stabilisation of the organisation, the second GA was held virtually on 12th June 2021. As per procedure, the 3rd CCARDESA GA will be held on 5th June, 2023 in Durban, South Africa on the side lines of the FARA Africa Agricultural Science Week (5-8 June, 2023) which will be co-hosted with CCARDESA.

The Africa Agricultural Science Week (AASW) is an event relevant for all players in the agricultural value chain and is poised to become the leading science-to-business platform on the African Continent. Accordingly, the event will have significant economic and legacy impacts on the agribusiness ecosystem in the region. CCARDESA will participate in the AASW and strategically hold relevant side events as well as leverage on the attendance of the AASW to convene its third GA. CCARDESA is implementing strategic programmes such the Agricultural Productivity Programme for southern Africa (APPSA), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-pillar 4 (CAADP-XP4), Global Climate Change Alliance plus (GCCA+), Climate Resilience and Natural Resources Management (C-NRM) and the Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP). The GA will give CCARDESA an opportunity to showcase its work under different programmes and hold its governance meetings at the side-lines of this continental spectacle.

Following 3 years of implementing the above-mentioned strategies, the CCARDESA Board has directed the CCARDESA Secretariat to review its long-term strategy and align it to the organisational organogram. The 3rd GA will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to endorse the revised strategies.

3. Objectives

The objective of the forthcoming GA is to provide a platform for the governance structure of CCARDESA to perform its mandate as provided for in the charter.

4. Participation

All regional stakeholders in the agricultural sector are eligible to attend the CCARDESA General Assembly. Therefore, the General Assembly is highly inclusive, and it is designed to

bring together diverse institutions and individuals involved in the agricultural sector. These include organisations in the Public Sector, Agro-Industry, Agricultural Education Institutions, Farmer Organisations, Agricultural Non-governmental Organisations, faith-based organisations involved in agriculture and agricultural marketing organisations.

5. General Assembly Programme and expected outputs

It is the intention of CCARDESA to always combine the business of the CCARDESA General Assembly with technical sessions related to CCARDESA programmes. During the first General Assembly, the programme lasted two days. There were exhibitions and side events alongside the main business meeting of the General Assembly. Unlike the GA of 2021, which was conducted virtually due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions, the 3rd GA will be a face-to-face meeting combining with the AASW and possibly a CCARDESA Board meeting with side events. The detailed draft GA programme is presented in Annex 2.

At the end of the General Assembly, the following outputs are envisaged:

1. CCARDESA Strategic Plan endorsed;
2. Board of Directors of CCARDESA endorsed;
3. CCARDESA Medium Term Operational Plan endorsed; and
4. Chairperson of the General Assembly elected.

6. Registration and further information

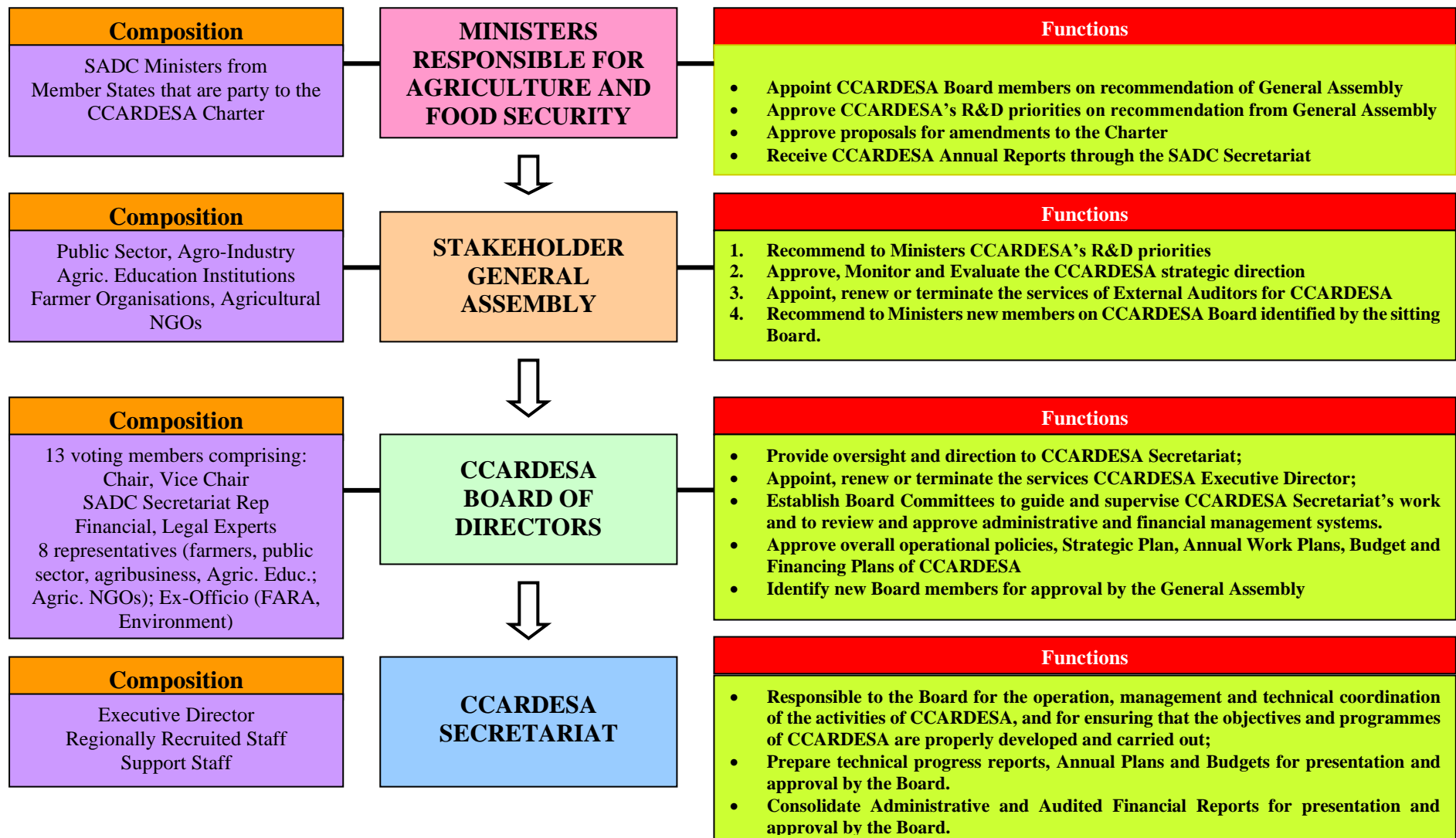
To participate in these meetings, prior registration will be required. Those registered will receive regular updates on the GA. A month before the event, instructions on how to join the meeting will be sent, followed by weekly updates and reminders.

For further information please contact:

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Annex 1: CCARDESA institutional and governance structure





CCARDESA 3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Monday, 5th June 2023

Physical meeting

DRAFT PROGRAMME

SESSION 1: OFFICIAL OPENING Chairperson: Ms Rendani Sadiki		
TIME	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD PERSON
1400-1410	Welcome Remarks	Deputy Board Chairperson
1410-120	Remarks by the Chairperson of the Board of CCARDESA	Prof. L. A. Razafinjara
1420-1440	Remarks by Representatives of Development Partners	EU/WB, IFAD
1440-1445	Invitation of the Hon. Minister by the Principal Secretary	PS Ministry of Agriculture-RSA
1445-1500	Official opening by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture Republic of South Africa	Hon. Minister of Agriculture
Session 2: CCARDESA GENERAL ASSEMBLY Chairperson: Dr. L. Lebesa		
1500-1510	Welcome Remarks	Dr. L. Lebesa
1510-1530	Background to the CCARDESA General Assembly and Update from the past General Assemblies	Prof. C.S. Dlamini
1530-1600	Report of the Chairperson of CCARDESA Board of Directors	Prof. L. A. Razafinjara
1600-1630	Presentation and endorsement of Revised CCARDESA's Strategic Plan and MTOP	Dr Baitsi Podisi
1630-1645	Election of new Chairperson of the General Assembly	Chairperson of the HR & Governance Committee
11645-1700	Closing Remarks	Outgoing and incoming chairpersons



CCARDESA Side event #1

Subject: Partnering with the Private Sector for
Agricultural Transformation in the face of
Climate Change

Date: 7th June 2023

Time: 1400 – 1700Hrs (Central African Time)

NB: The date and time are subject to confirmation.



CCARDESA Side event #2

Subject: Domestication of Harmonized Seed Regulatory Systems & Barriers to cross-border trade of Agricultural inputs (access to fertilizer) in the SADC region

Date: 6th June 2023

Time: 1400 – 1700Hrs (Central African Time)

NB: The date and time are subject to confirmation.



CCARDESA Side event #3

Subject: Gender Mainstreaming in the Agricultural Sector

Date: 6th June 2023

Time: 1400 – 1700Hrs (Central African Time)

NB: The date and time are subject to confirmation.