



## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (APPSA)



### Background

The Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA) is a six year (2013 – 2018) initiative to improve technology generation and dissemination within and among participating countries in southern Africa. The Programme is funded by the World Bank loan facility to the tune of US\$ 30 million for each participating country. APPSA has been launched with the participation of three countries—Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. Other countries in the SADC region are expected to join as the project evolves.

### Programme Development Objective

To increase the availability of improved agricultural technologies in participating countries in the SADC region by:

- (i) establishing **Regional Centers of Leadership (RCoLs)** on commodities of regional importance, thereby allowing regional specialization around priority farming systems and more strategic investment in agricultural research capacity;
- (ii) supporting regional collaboration in agricultural research, technology dissemination, and training
- (iii) facilitating increased **sharing of agricultural information, knowledge, and technology** among participating countries.

### Project Expected Results (ER)

**ER 1:** Collaborative technologies generated and disseminated around priority farming systems

**ER2:** Improved technical capacity to lead national and regional research and dissemination agenda

**ER3:** Effective structures and systems for regional collaboration and R&D management

### APPSA Approach

This Programme entails building capacity within national R&D systems and enhancing regional collaboration among participating countries. Each country establishes a Regional

Centre of Leadership (RCoL) in its respective commodity area. An RCoL is a leading agricultural technology center or program with established capacity (or the potential to establish capacity) that distinguishes it as a leader in the region and beyond. Malawi elected to provide regional leadership in maize-based cropping systems; Mozambique focuses on the rice-based cropping systems while Zambia focuses on food legume-based cropping systems. CCARDESA plays a coordinating role in supporting APPSA implementation.

### Project Components

#### ***Component 1: Technology Generation and Dissemination***



- Component 1 finances technology generation and dissemination activities associated with the commodity or commodity group being targeted by the RCoLs.
- R&D projects focus on regional priorities identified through a participatory process

coordinated by the RCoLs and CCARDESA, and support collaborative research, training, and other activities (e.g. knowledge exchange).

- This component will also support technology dissemination activities (extension, strengthening of innovation systems).



### **Component 2: Strengthening Regional Centers of Leadership**

Component 2 supports core capacity building activities, guided by the specific needs of that country's RCoL. In general APPSA supports:

- (i) upgrading of research infrastructure, including physical infrastructure and equipment;
- (ii) improving management and performance systems, including knowledge and information systems;
- (iii) human capital development (short and long-term training);
- (iv) strengthening of seed, regulatory and related services.

### **Component 3: Coordination and Facilitation**

Component 3 finances three main types of activities:

#### ***1. National level research coordination and management.***

At the national level, APPSA will finance project coordination activities, including planning and budgeting, management and administration, monitoring and evaluation, safeguards compliance, and regional engagement.

#### ***2. Regional facilitation by CCARDESA.***

APPSA supports CCARDESA to undertake regional facilitation activities such as:

- (i) planning, monitoring and evaluation activities related to regional collaboration;
- (ii) regional exchange of information, knowledge and technologies; and
- (iii) technical assistance and capacity building.

CCARDESA will also organize the peer review process and provide quality control of research proposals from the countries.

#### ***3. R&D policy analysis and dialogue.***

APPSA supports analytical work, needs assessments, and policy dialogue or policy harmonization activities in key areas that affect R&D at national and regional level. Focus will be on clarification of intellectual property rights, operationalization of the SADC harmonized

seed regulatory system, implementation of biosafety regulations, and similar topics.

### **Project Regional Benefits**

APPSA will magnify the benefits of research by providing mechanisms to increase technology spillovers. Research projects will encourage testing of promising technologies across national boundaries. Policy dialogue and regulatory reform work will reduce barriers to technology transfers across national borders.

### **Project Beneficiaries**

The primary beneficiaries of APPSA are farmers, livestock producers, and other potential end users of the improved technology and knowledge generated and/or disseminated by the Project. APPSA will also benefit other stakeholders within the national agricultural research systems (NARS): agricultural researchers; extension agents and advisory service providers; and agricultural input producers and suppliers.

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