

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (APPSA)

CONTEXT

Agricultural productivity in the region is far below potential. Although productivity has increased in recent years within Southern Africa, most of the growth has come from bringing previously uncultivated land into production, rather than from intensification made possible by technical change. Southern Africa offers attractive opportunities for regional research. Groups of countries within Southern Africa share similar agro-ecological zones and farming systems, suggesting that there is potential for finding shared solutions to common problems. Although technology spillover is already occurring within the sub-region, significant potential remains for expanding spillovers.

RATIONALE

Investment in agricultural research and development (R&D) is needed to get agriculture going. National systems for generating and disseminating agricultural technology are operating well below their potential, constrained by inadequate facilities, shortages of qualified staff, and low levels of overall investment and budget support. Adoption of a regional approach to research can deliver a number of benefits, such as (i) reducing duplication (ii) helping capture economies of scale by concentrating resources within a reduced number of large, specialized research institutes serving an expansive shared technology space (iii) increasing the payoffs to research by facilitating dissemination of improved technologies across

national borders (iv) mitigating the isolation that frequently occurs in small, fragmented research institutes by creating effective mechanisms for facilitating knowledge exchange and technology transfer.

STRATEGY

The Agricultural Productivity Program for Southern Africa (APPSA) seeks to improve technology generation and dissemination within and among participating countries in southern Africa. As a regional project, APPSA is based on partnerships and collaboration among participating countries. APPSA pursues its objective by: (i) establishing Regional Centers of Leadership (RCoLs) on commodities of regional importance, (ii) supporting regional collaboration in agricultural research, technology dissemination, and training; and (iii) facilitating increased sharing of agricultural information, knowledge, and technology among participating countries. APPSA includes three components: (1) Technology Generation and Dissemination; (2) Strengthening Regional Centers of Leadership; and (3) Coordination and Facilitation. The project has been launched with the participation of three countries—Malawi (Maize RCoL), Mozambique (Rice RCoL) and Zambia (RCoL for food legumes). It is expected that additional countries within the SADC region will join as APPSA evolves and expands.



Project Development Objective (PDO) Results Indicators

| PDO | Outcome Indicators | 2019 Target Impact |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| To increase the availability of improved agricultural technologies in participating countries in the SADC region | Number of technologies that are being made available to farmers and other end users | Ninety three (93) |
| | % of Lead Farmers in targeted areas who are aware of improved technologies promoted by the project | Eighty five (85) |
| | Number of technologies generated or promoted by the Project in one participating country that are released in another participating country | Fifty (50) |
| | Number of direct project beneficiaries (% female) | 6,100,000 (>30%) |

KEY RESULTS

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| 1. Collaborative technology generation and dissemination around priority farming systems (US\$ 37.98 M) | 2. Improved technical capacity to lead national and regional research and dissemination agenda (US\$ 37.85 M) | 3. Effective structures and systems for regional collaboration and R&D management (US\$ 18.81 M) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification and testing of promising technologies - Design and testing of dissemination packages and tools - Production, supply and delivery of seed - Development of farmer-research-extension platforms including use of communication and information technology packages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved infrastructure and equipment for targeted agricultural research centres and related systems (seeds) - Improving Management and Performance Systems - Developing Human Capacity (MSc and PhD training; Targeted training of staff in technical areas and research management) - Strengthening Seed, Regulatory and Related services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of functional national and regional coordination systems - Multi-stakeholder platforms - Development of learning and knowledge sharing mechanisms - Policy dialogue and harmonization - Peer reviews - Trainings/Workshops/ Strategic Meetings |

AT A GLANCE

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| Estimated Cost | US\$ 90 Million |
| Funding Source | World Bank |
| Project Duration | March 14, 2013 - June 14, 2019 |
| Regional Project Coordination | CCARDESA Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana |
| Participating Countries | Malawi – RCoL for maize based cropping systems <u>Responsible Agency:</u> Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) Mozambique - RCoL for rice based cropping systems <u>Responsible Agency:</u> Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) Zambia - RCoL for food legume based cropping systems <u>Responsible Agency:</u> Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) |
| Project Components | Component 1: Technology Generation and Dissemination Component 2: Strengthening Regional Centres of Leadership Component 3: Coordination and Facilitation |

For more information on this project: www.ccardesa.org
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