



SADC unveils historic blueprint to fight poverty

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The Chairperson of SADC, President Benjamin William Mkapa, has launched the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), a landmark blueprint meant to guide a new SADC that has emerged out of a rigorous restructuring process.

The blueprint for integrated regional development and poverty eradication was launched on 12 March at the start of a two-day SADC Council of Ministers meeting in Arusha, setting in motion a 15-year mission to, among other targets, halve the number of people living below the poverty line in SADC by 2015. The RISDP, which will be reviewed on a five-yearly basis, has important milestones in all key areas of regional integration.

Its time-bound targets are beacons that lead towards continental and international goals, in particular the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The overriding target is to attain annual economic growth rates of at least seven percent, necessary to halve the proportion of people living in poverty by 2015. The plan is built around a number of intervention areas, one of which is regional cooperation in ensuring food security.

In recognition of the critical importance of food security and the recurrent nature of food shortages in the region, President Mkapa is convening an extraordinary SADC summit to discuss and agree on short, medium and long-term strategies. The summit is expected to take place in Dar es Salaam,

on 14 May, 2004. To that end, a preparatory meeting of ministers of agriculture was held recently to prepare the agenda for the summit and identify concrete strategies (see box on page 6).

Reflecting on the role Tanzanians played in support of liberation struggles in southern Africa, President Mkapa said, "Today we fight a different war... a war against poverty and deprivation... we need all the people in southern Africa to feel deeply for this struggle, to be attached to it, to realise that it is the only hope for our children in a globalising world."

The leafy Tanzanian town of Arusha,

continued on page 6

AU to create Agriculture Fund

by Bonifacio Antonio

African leaders have decided to establish an Agricultural Development Fund as one way of eliminating food deficiency and increasing production and productivity in the continent.

The African Union (AU) Second Extraordinary Session held in Sirte, Libya, recognised the urgent need to respond to Africa's critical problems of hunger, poverty and disease by employing innovative complementary and comprehensive approaches aimed at optimizing the productivity of Africa's acknowledged massive resources and huge possibilities for sustainable development. The response would take into account the variations in resource potential and endowment in different regions of the continent.

African leaders instructed the Chairperson of the Commission of the AU "to undertake a feasibility study for the expeditious establishment of an African Agricultural Development Fund" aimed at boosting agricultural production.

The African leaders recognised that to attain self-sufficiency in food production and eradicate hunger, "it is necessary to promote strategic food crops" particularly wheat, rice, corn, cash crops and others in the regions appropriate for their production.

To achieve this, Africa needs to implement the governments' commitment (adopted last July in Maputo) of allocating at least 10 percent of their

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"Enhancing agriculture and food security for poverty reduction in the SADC region"

Theme of extra-ordinary SADC
summit on agriculture and food security
14 May 2004 -- Dar es Salaam
United Republic of Tanzania



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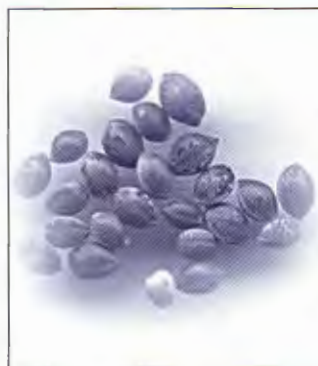
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Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan

The Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), launched by Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa during the Council of Ministers meeting held in Arusha in March, is seen as the road map through which SADC can achieve its major development objective of poverty reduction.

In line with commitments made by member states under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the RISDP identifies the following priority intervention areas:

Cross sectoral

- ◆ Poverty reduction;
 - ◆ Combating of the HIV and AIDS pandemic;
 - ◆ Gender equity and development;
 - ◆ Science and technology;
 - ◆ Information and communications technology;
 - ◆ Environment and sustainable development;
 - ◆ Private sector;
 - ◆ Statistics;
- Sectoral cooperation and integration
- ◆ Trade, economic liberalization and development;
 - ◆ Infrastructure support for regional integration and poverty eradication;
 - ◆ Sustainable food security; and
 - ◆ Human and social development.

"The RISDP accords top priority to poverty eradication with the aim to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development that will ensure poverty alleviation with the ultimate objective of its eradication," says the policy document.

HIV and AIDS continue to be the biggest health challenge in the region with corresponding adverse impacts on socio-economic development. The RISDP aims to decrease the number of infections and affected persons through strategies that promote the re-allocation of responsibilities for planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SADC response across all its sectors.

With regard to gender equity and development, the RISDP aims to facili-

RISDP and food security

The RISDP emphasises cooperation in sustainable food security in order to achieve lasting access to safe and adequate food at all times by all people in SADC. The focus of the RISDP is on improving food availability, access to food and nutritional value of food, while minimizing food losses, improving forecasting, prevention, mitigation and recovery from adverse effects of natural disasters and improving the institutional framework. The RISDP has formulated strategies for attaining the goals and objectives for sustainable food security which include:

- ◆ increasing crop and livestock production, productivity and profitability;
- ◆ promoting irrigation and appropriate agricultural production technologies;
- ◆ promoting trade in food and non-food agricultural products;
- ◆ promoting rural non-farm income generating activities, entrepreneurship development, and effective food storage and preservation technologies;
- ◆ improving the quality of processing, packaging, labelling and preparation of food;
- ◆ broadening and strengthening the early warning system; and
- ◆ developing Protocols for Food Security and Agriculture, and the Environment.

Source: RISDP document

tate achievement of substantive equality between men and women through mainstreaming gender in all national and regional policies, programmes and activities with specific targets.

In science and technology, SADC aims to develop and strengthen national systems of innovation in order to provide scientific and technological solutions for sustainable socio-economic development, regional integration and poverty eradication. The need to use modern communication technology to ensure efficient dissemination of information in the region is also a priority.

The RISDP proposes policy developments towards environmental and sustainable development to ensure equitable and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources. Cooperation in food security is also a major priority area in the regional plan given related challenges that the region has been facing.

Trade promotion, economic liberalisation and development are highlighted, with emphasis on the formation of a free trade area by 2008 according to the SADC Trade Protocol. The development of infrastructure to ensure the

availability of integrated, efficient and cost effective infrastructure that will support and sustain regional economic development, trade, investment and agriculture while contributing towards poverty eradication is also emphasized.

The successful implementation of RISDP requires a major commitment of sustainable financial resources. In order to improve the financial capacity of SADC, member states are exploring the potential for developing self-financing mechanisms for the organization. So far, SADC has relied mainly on contributions from member states and grants from International Cooperating Partners.

An appropriate institutional framework is also essential for the effective operationalisation of the RISDP. "The RISDP envisages that at the political level, the Council of Ministers, through the Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) will provide policy direction and oversight to implementation," says the document. At the operationalisation level, management and coordination of the RISDP will primarily be the responsibility of the SADC Secretariat. □

Population requiring food aid decreases

by Munetsi Madakufamba

More than seven million people are expected to be in need of food aid during the current crop season in southern Africa, just under half of the number that was affected last year.

This was revealed by latest information released by the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate at the Council of Ministers meeting held in March in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha. FANR noted that late rains in most parts of the region were going to result in reduced cereal harvests.

"Because of the delayed onset of the rainy season, planting which normally is carried out in the October-November period, was late in most member states, as late as January particularly in parts of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe," said Margaret Nyirenda, FANR supervisor at the SADC Secretariat.

Although rainfall distribution improved in January through February, this was too late to save standing crops in drought-stricken areas of southern Mozambique, Swaziland, and eastern and southern Zimbabwe. "As a result, another poor harvest is expected for the current growing season," said Nyirenda.

She said the late rains had also affected non-cereal production, resulting in reduced area planted in all southern African countries except Angola and Zambia. Angola has benefited immensely from the peace dividend since the end of civil war in April 2002. Previously inaccessible parts of the country have now been put under agricultural production and inputs are freely distributed as widely as possible.

South Africa, the largest grain producer and exporter in the region, planted its smallest maize area in 60 years. Its prime maize producing areas of Free State, Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga have been affected by drought. Although the country is forecast to produce an overall maize surplus, it is unlikely to export to countries with a shortage of the staple grain.

The situation which has been so bad in Lesotho and Swaziland has prompted

the two governments to declare, separately, national disasters and appeal for emergency aid. In Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, inadequate inputs such as seed and fertilizer worsened the situation.

Richard Masundire, Senior Agricultural Economist at SADC Secretariat said the actual situation might be slightly different as several countries were still compiling their crop forecasts. He said only South Africa had so far announced crop production forecasts for the 2003/04 season which suggested that a lower harvest than last year was in prospect.

Masundire said countries such as Angola and DRC that grow cassava were better placed to supplement their cereal production. Cassava requires less rain than most cereals. SADC countries are being encouraged to grow more crop varieties as an insurance policy against bad weather.

In addition, the region is employing medium to long-term strategies that ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods. For instance, a new pro-

gramme on irrigation development and water management that is aimed at reducing the dependency on rain-fed agricultural production is being explored. The programme is funded by the Africa Development Bank.

The SADC Secretariat is also exploring the possibility of creating a "food reserve facility" to be supported by member states and the World Bank. The reserve facility would build a grain reserve that member states can rely on, as well as a fund that can support other non-food requirements during periods of need.

The forthcoming SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit on Agriculture and Food Security to be held in the Tanzanian capital, Dar es Salaam on 14 May, is also expected to make major decisions that support sustainable agriculture and food security in the region.

"The Extra-Ordinary Summit will consider short, medium and long term measures to ensure food security in the region, taking into consideration the experiences of the recent food crisis," said Nyirenda. □

AU to create Agriculture Fund

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national budgets to transform plans to boost agricultural production into reality. This commitment would also create the right environment for attracting local and foreign investment in the sector.

African leaders also decided to support the "development of the human resource potential in the continent through education, training, skills development and exchange of expertise".

"We need to effectively utilise the results of scientific research for agricultural planning to tackle problems of desertification, soil and water conservation and environment protection for sustainable agricultural and animal resources development," they said.

The extraordinary summit decided to enhance the Early Warning Systems at regional level and their establishment where they do not exist as well as their coordination at continental

level in order to avert the negative impact of drought, desertification, floods, natural disasters and pests.

The African leaders highlighted the importance of livestock and fisheries in the economic and social development of Africa. They committed themselves to "promote the development of livestock production including the improvement of natural pastures, distribution of veterinary products and genetic resources with a view to improving food security".

The summit decided "to strengthen existing river and lake water basins organizations where they exist and establish new ones wherever appropriate to develop and promote water resources through support to infrastructure projects, including the construction of dams and canals, sinking of wells and providing irrigation equipment." □

SADC formulates seed regulations across borders

by Singy Hanyona

Plant breeders and seed experts in SADC have developed a new model for regional seed certification and quality assurance. The Seed Certification and Quality Assurance System, when ratified by governments, would enhance the movement of seed across borders of all the SADC member states.

A highly technical meeting recently organised by the SADC Seed Security Network (SSSN), in Maputo, brought together stakeholders and seed experts to agree on modalities and mechanics for drafting the model. The meeting also brought in international experiences in seed from the European Union (EU).

Most seed systems in the region are not yet in tandem with SADC policies. The Community is however working on harmonizing seed regulations to ensure seed security contributes to the overall regional goal of guaranteeing food security.

According to Edward Zulu, Coordinator of the SSSN, movement of seeds across borders in the region still faces undue constraints. "This has not been in the interest of seed industry development, seed security and overall food security," says Zulu.

Although, the region has had enough aggregate seed stocks to serve farmers at regional level, the various national pieces of legislation have brought about difficulties in transporting seed from one area of surplus to those of deficit.

"The systems have remained user-unfriendly, time consuming and complex," says Zulu. SADC, through the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (FANR) is determined to improve seed trade among member states.

The draft regional Seed Certification and Quality Assurance System comprises a unified technical procedure or agreements for seed testing. The missing link, however, seems to be the "mechanism" which should be provided to relevant authorities in SADC before implementation.

The Maputo meeting sought to address the problem by formulating some technical details, agreed at regional level, that would allow for smooth seed trade in SADC or beyond. Member states will present the proposed model to SADC Ministers of Agriculture for recommendation for adoption and implementation.

Once adopted, the system would take care of the management of the clearinghouse arrangements for seed. It would also provide a platform for efficient exchange of information on seed varieties in the region.

To ensure that the system meets the requirements of the region, some Seed Focal Points (SFPs) have already been trained for inputting data in the system. In April 2003, the first regional Seed Variety Release Model was developed, aimed at reducing bureaucracy in variety testing and release within SADC.

With these instruments in place, it is hoped that the question of variety testing and release in SADC would no longer be an issue. "It is now time to move forward," says Stephen Muliokela, Director of the Golden Valley, a private Research Station in Zambia, reiterating that the seed release status in the region has been cumbersome.

According to the old system, for a new seed variety to be marketed commercially in any of the SADC countries, it needs to be tested by national authorities for its distinctness, uniformity and stability and for its value for cultivation and use in that country. It must also be listed or registered on the national variety catalogue.

Such testing can take between one and three years depending on the country and the crop, resulting in delayed access and choices by farmers to new varieties. "To seed companies, a return on investment is also delayed as they will have to wait for a long

time before they can enter the seed market," says Muliokela.

SADC is also concerned about the differences in import and export procedures among countries in the region. Although most countries in the region are now using the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) systems, Tanzania uses the Organisation of American Seed Certification Association (OASCA) system. Zimbabwe, on the other hand, has a flexible system that uses both, although the commonly used is the OECD.

Most countries have a seed class whose standards are lower than the certified seed class. These are known by various names such as Quality Declared Seed (QDS) in Zambia, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Lesotho. In Mozambique, it is known as Guaranteed Seed (GS), in Malawi as Approved Seed (AS), in Botswana as Government Tested Seed (GTS) and Standard Grade Seed (SGS) in Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, the SSSN is developing a database for crop varieties, seed availability and seed legislation. With support from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the SADC Seed Security Information System will be developed. The system will help in the storage and dissemination of seed information in the SADC region. □

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where the launch ceremony took place, is widely regarded as the "Geneva of Africa". Situated near the famous Mount Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro and Serengeti game parks, Arusha is not only a symbol of sustainable development, but also a renowned centre that has hosted many regional and international meetings of historic significance.

In July 1979, a ministerial meeting was convened at the Arusha International Conference Centre, bringing together what were then known as the Frontline States and donor agencies to ponder ways of enhancing economic liberation and reducing dependency on the then apartheid South Africa. It is at this meeting that the idea of forming SADC was concretised.

The Southern Africa Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC), the precursor to SADC, was then formally launched at a summit in Lusaka, Zambia, in April 1980, with nine founding member states. Although SADCC was a loose regional functional cooperation organisation, it facilitated important political, administrative and infrastructural links and projects.

In 1992, at a summit in the Namibian capital Windhoek, the organisation was transformed, through a Declaration and Treaty, from a "coordinating conference" to a "development community", that is from SADCC to SADC. The aim was to give the organisation an integration mandate with a formal and legal basis.

Strategies to ensure food security

A communiqué issued by the FANR ministers at the end of February highlighted the following issues among other measures to increase agriculture production, productivity and food availability:

- need to increase household food security and self-sufficiency to decrease over-dependence on government by SADC citizens;
- need for an increase in Member States' budgetary allocation of "at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources" to agriculture and rural development within five years and other innovative financing instruments that promote private and public resource mobilization;
- need to review lessons learnt and share best practices on land reform policies and programmes in order to enhance access to and use of land for agricultural productivity;
- ongoing review of national food security policies; sustainable water and natural resources management;
- increased trade in agricultural products and removal of protectionist policies; and
- establishment of a Regional Food Reserve Facility for emergencies.

To facilitate this, sector protocols and charters were introduced and to date, more than 20 have been signed.

Over the last two decades, SADC membership has increased to what it is today, with Namibia joining in 1990, South Africa in 1994, Mauritius in 1995 while Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Seychelles also joined in 1997.

With the organisation growing in size and mandate and new challenges and opportunities arising, it became necessary to realign the institutional structure of the 14-member body. Consequently, a decision was taken at an extra ordinary summit held in Windhoek in 2001 to restructure all SADC institutions.

As part of the process, 21 sectors previously coordinated by member states were collapsed into four directorates that are now centrally managed by an enlarged SADC Secretariat in Botswana. The new directorates are on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment; Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Infrastructure and Services; and Social

and Human Development and Special Programmes.

The RISDP was thus formulated to provide a clear direction for SADC policies, programmes and activities over the long term. Jakaya Kikwete, Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation described the RISDP as a framework within which member states should align national plans.

"The RISDP is a home grown blueprint," he said, adding that its development was done by "SADC experts and their leaders through a consultative and participatory process".

Prega Ramsamy, SADC Executive Secretary, said the immediate task after the launch of the RISDP is to unbundle the plan, "allocating clear and specific roles to key-players with quantifiable deliverables".

Quoting from President Mkapa's recent address to the nation, Ramsamy said, "... like an aircraft on the runway, we are facing the right direction... we must now take off". He said this statement is true for the United Republic of Tanzania as it is for the rest of SADC.

"It is indeed, time for us to take off on the wings of the RISDP," said the SADC chief. □



Sustainable water management strategies for southern Africa

by Charles Mkoka

The vision of food security for all makes it imperative to recognize that increased agricultural production will raise the demand for water and place additional stress on the region's fragile water resources and environment.

Southern Africa, well endowed with productive agricultural land, presents lots of potential. Challenges however, exist in that water is unevenly distributed throughout the region. Drought still poses a serious threat to food security in the region. Floods have similar disastrous consequences.

Looking at the region as a single "bread basket" frees land and water resources to the economic activities for which they are best suited. There are obvious implications for national sovereignty, but ways exist to deal with this, including the potential for better trade or the benefits of regional economic integration.

The people of southern Africa recognise that water is essential to their own personal and community survival, to the production of their food, to their sanitation and conveyance of waste.

Water is also essential for the generation of energy, the commodities produced for national consumption and export, the sustenance of the environment and the survival of other living forms with whom the world is shared.

The region is blessed with 15 shared watercourses including the Congo, Limpopo, Senqu/Orange and Zambezi. The Zambezi River basin is a vast natural water resource that stretches across eight member states of SADC. The basin covers 25 percent of the combined total area of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia,

United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

These basins are endowed with various natural resources that contribute significantly to economic development through the provision of food, shelter, medicine and the sustenance of environmental processes. Agriculture, wildlife and fishing play an important part in socio-economic roles in most of the national economies in the region.

Water resource management is integral to attaining food security in the region, which has an estimated population of about 200 million people. Due to the region's high average annual population growth rate of 2.6 percent, more pressure is being put on the already stressed water supply.

SADC has prepared a Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) for Integrated Water Resource Development and Management (1999-2004), which is used for developing particular projects and programmes.

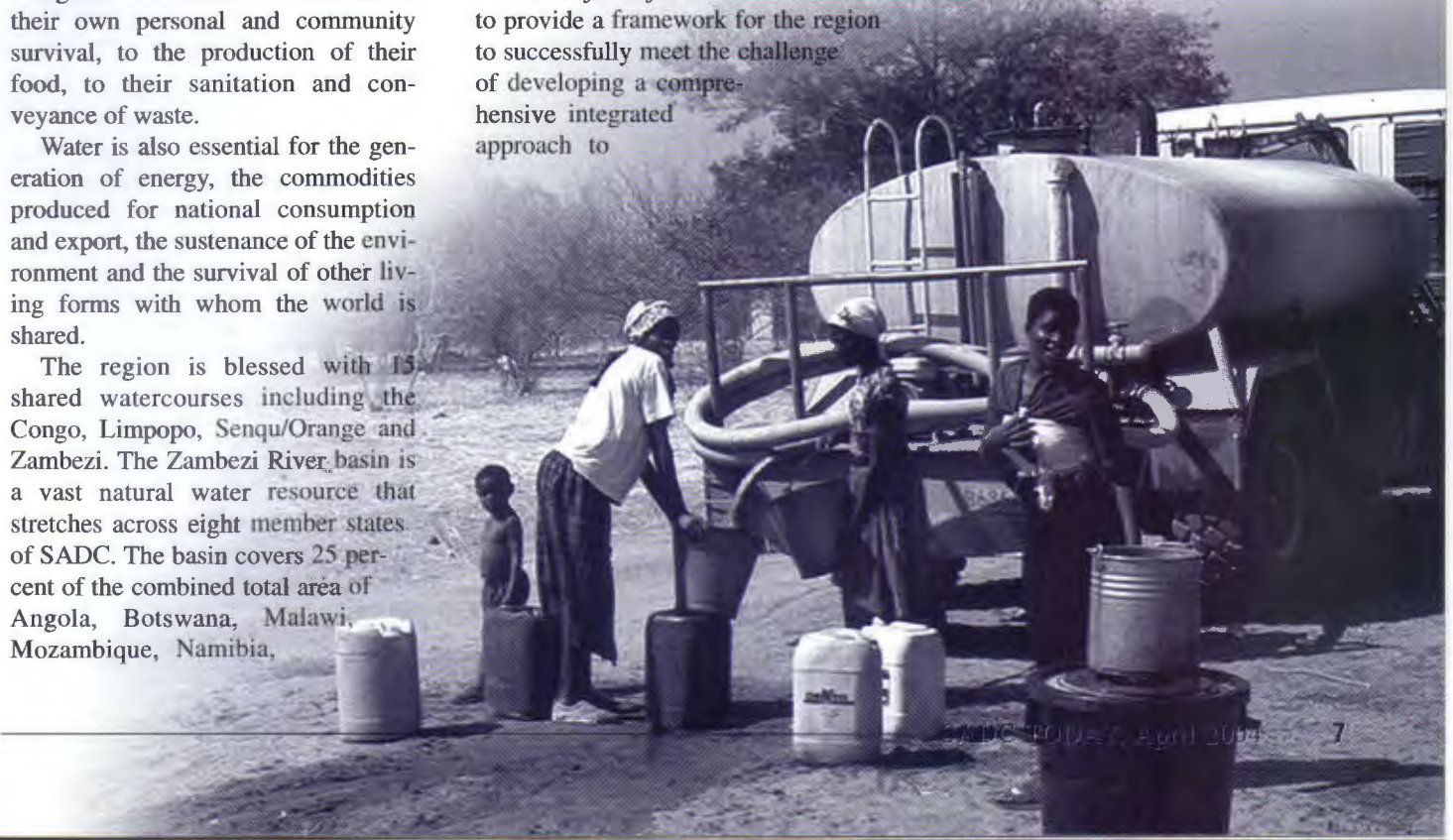
The major objective of the RSAP is to provide a framework for the region to successfully meet the challenge of developing a comprehensive integrated approach to

water resources development and management. Its vision is to support the equitable and sustainable utilisation of water for social, environmental justice, and economic benefit for present and future generations.

This initiative is meant to enhance the region's food security through sustainable use of the water resource.

All SADC countries have since the early 1990s adopted environmental policies and institutional instruments and frameworks, including National Conservation Strategies (NCSs), National Environmental Action Plans (NEAPs), national environmental policies and strategies.

In this regard, Zambia (1985), Zimbabwe (1987), and Botswana (1990) prepared NCSs, while Lesotho (1989), Malawi (1994), Zambia (1994), Tanzania (1996), Swaziland (1997), South Africa (1997) and Mozambique developed NEAPs. These initiatives are meant to enhance sustainable utilisation of water and other natural resources. □



SADC seeks to create a for small sc

by Virginia Muwanigwa

Smallscale farmers stand to be rewarded for their unrelenting efforts in production for subsistence and trade. SADC and the African Union (AU) concur that the envisaged high economic growth rates cannot be realized unless farm production is significantly increased.

SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) launched recently in Arusha, Tanzania, by the SADC Chairperson, Benjamin Mkapa, gives high priority to agricultural development and food security.

A meeting of SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources ministers held in Dar es Salaam recently emphasised the need for an increase in capacity building and provision of credit at grassroots level to ensure access to basic agricultural inputs by small, medium and largescale producers. The meeting was in preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on "Enhancing Agriculture and Food Security for Poverty Reduction in the SADC Region" to be held in Dar es Salaam in May.

The ministers also reiterated the importance of improved access by small, medium and large producers to basic agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, agrochemicals, seed, mechanisation, fishing gear, as well as surveyed land, to ensure food security.

Access to credit remains one persistent challenge especially for smallscale producers, possibly explaining the agriculture ministers' commitment "to explore innovative financing instruments that promote private and public resource mobilization that could be used to finance agricultural activities including marketing, irrigation, agro-processing, infrastructure, rehabilitation of degraded areas, capacity building and the provision of credit at grassroots level."

The AU, like SADC, aims to achieve food security within its wider goal to combat poverty, corruption and conflict.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) believes that "agriculture will provide the engine for growth in Africa." To this end, consultative discussions among stakeholders including the African Development Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, experts from the World Bank and especially the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation have resulted in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) -- (see box). The plan requires a total investment of some US\$4.6 billion for the period 2002-2015.

Increasingly, there are calls to move away from concentrating only on farm cultivation activities as core business to addressing other non-cultivation issues such as policy, credit, information, institutional mechanisms, and participation in national, regional and global markets.

Traditionally, farmers have relied on parastatals for marketing of agricultural products and emphasis was invariably on crops and animal husbandry.

A regional workshop held to discuss agricultural markets and market information within eastern and southern Africa noted that market liberalisation has had a negative impact among developing countries. This is due to "lack of input for smallscale producers; an increase in the cost of inputs and credit; and a weakening of producer associations that has created a major financing gap, market concentration; ... unpredictable incomes and financial losses by the private sector."

The workshop revealed that most SADC countries need effective policies to govern the opening up of national economies as liberalisation

may have been rushed into without adequate planning, especially around the envisaged participation not only by the private sector but also the smallscale producers.

Economic policies to reduce poverty through improved health, increased education opportunities, improved physical infrastructure and a thriving private enterprise are also necessary. Rural-urban considerations should be incorporated in development of national and regional policies affecting agriculture, markets, land use and urban planning.

New institutions representing the varied interests thus need to be set up and a clear institutional framework agreed upon. Policies should provide an enabling environment for fair com-

NEPAD – The four "pillar"

Sustainable land management and

- ◆ Building up soil fertility and moisture holding capacity
- ◆ Rapidly increasing the area equipped with irrigation

Rural infrastructure and trade-related

- ◆ Infrastructural improvements;
- ◆ Adjustments in the promotion and support policies
- ◆ Exporting countries in the region need to raise standards to meet the increasingly stringent quality requirements

Increasing food supply and reducing

- ◆ Accessing improved technology;
- ◆ Provision of improved farm support services; and
- ◆ A supportive policy environment.

Agricultural research, technology dissemination

- ◆ Increased rate of adoption for the most promising technologies
- ◆ Expansion of African production through the mobilization of resources to producers;
- ◆ Technology delivery systems that rapidly bring in new technologies, including biotechnology, to Africa
- ◆ Renewing the ability of agricultural research systems to develop new technologies, including biotechnology, to Africa
- ◆ Mechanisms to reduce costs and risks of adoption

an enabling environment for small-scale farmers

petition through continuous evaluation of impacts, provision of inputs and other support.

Smallscale farmers' success also depends on access to reliable market information to facilitate informed decisions. Information on commodity types, supply, quantities, competitive prices to attract increased participation by the private sector, marketing and trading should thus be provided to farmers, traders, consumers and policy makers.

More effective regional planning involving all stakeholders – government, private sector, farmers and their associations and NGOs - should be encouraged to ensure diversification of crops in sync with competitors. Currently, most countries in the region

produce similar crops at the same time due to lack of adequate planning and reliance on rain-fed production.

This creates a glut on the market, reduces market opportunities and depresses prices. National and regional production planning to balance production with market needs and demands is therefore necessary.

Investment in irrigation technology to move away from rain-fed production is also necessary to ensure consistent supply of varied crops at a profitable price.

Socio-cultural issues such as gender also need to be incorporated within planning and supportive structures for smallscale producers. This is because women-specific needs may exist that may not be covered within gender-neutral policies. Lack of access to micro-financing is an especially acute problem among women.

Very few women, if any, hold key positions such as minister of agriculture despite the fact that they form the majority of food producers in the region.

Stakeholders in the sector suggest that priority be given to the strengthening of representative production and marketing farmer organizations to ensure lobbying for policy and legislation review, provision of credit, collection and dissemination of relevant information, market scoping and acquisition of required technology.

Adequate, technical, human and financial resources need to be provided to cooperatives, associations, private sector and individual entrepreneurs. Training should include transfer of skills in agro-business, market research and development.

Opportunities do exist for participation by smallscale producers in regional and global mar-

kets, albeit with lobbying for "fair not free trade" in recognition of the fact that the playing field is not level. This is particularly important for farmers in the developing world who cannot hope to compete in a free market with their more advanced, better-resourced counterparts in the developed world.

Regional and international trade is possible within such economic blocs as SADC, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and within the framework of the US African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA).

Recognition from social partners will come through a collective voice representing certain interests and farmers need to be encouraged to organize themselves into bodies that can command respect in production, marketing and negotiations.

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) identifies three prerequisites for a thriving agricultural trade: a strong private sector to strengthen and diversify rural and town market centres; a strong consumer voice to ensure quality, quantity, diversity, competition; and a strong public sector to invest in infrastructure and other supporting structures. □

Strategies of CAADP

Water control systems

Capacity of agricultural soils; and
improvement, especially small-scale water control units.

Human capacities

Skills of developed countries; and
improvement of their capacity to participate in trade negotiations and
access to benefits of world trade.

Food security

Dissemination and adoption

Availability of available technologies to support the immediate
and efficient linking of research and extension systems

Transfer of innovations to farmers and agribusiness

Methods to efficiently and effectively generate and adapt
technologies, which are needed to increase output and pro-

duce new technology.



PHOTOGRAPH BY J. J. J. J.

SADC Guidelines on GMOs, Biotechnology and Biosafety

SADC approved the following guidelines recommended by the SADC Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and Biosafety in August 2003 as interim measures aimed at guiding the region on issues relating to biotechnology and biosafety. This should assist countries in the region to avoid situations similar to Argentina (*see box below*).

Handling of Food Aid

- ◆ SADC should develop and adopt a harmonised transit information and management system for Genetically Modified food aid designed to facilitate trans-boundary movement in a safe and expeditious manner;
- ◆ SADC is encouraged to source Food aid preferably from within the region, and advise all cooperating partners accordingly;
- ◆ Donors providing Genetically Modified food aid should comply with the Prior Informed Consent principle and with the notification requirements in accordance with Article 8 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- ◆ Food aid consignments involving grain or any propagative plant material that may contain GMOs should be milled or sterilized prior to distribution to beneficiary populations;
- ◆ Food aid in transit that may contain GMOs should be clearly identified and labelled in accordance with national legislation;
- ◆ SADC countries managing or handling food aid in transit that may contain GMOs are encouraged in the absence of national legislation to make use of the requirements under the AU Model Law on Biosafety and/or the South African Guidelines on the handling of transit material which may be GMO.

Policy and Regulations

- ◆ Each Member State should develop national biotechnology policies and strategies and expedite the process of establishing national biosafety regulatory systems;
- ◆ All Member States should sign and ratify the Cartagena Protocol on

Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

- ◆ The region should develop a harmonized policy and regulatory systems based on the African Model Law on Biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other relevant international processes;
- ◆ Member States without a regulatory framework for GM crops should use approved guidelines and should not import GM grain for seed before approved guideline are in place;
- ◆ Risk assessments should be done on a case-by-case basis and every genetic modification should be tested in the environment under which it will be released.

Capacity Building

- ◆ Member States should develop capacities at national and regional level in order to develop and exploit the benefits of biotechnology;
- ◆ SADC should allocate resources for capacity-building in management of biotechnology and bio-safety;



- ◆ SADC should encourage Member States to commission studies on the implications of biotechnology and bio-safety on agriculture, environment, health and socio-economics as part of an integrated monitoring and evaluation system.

Public Awareness and Participation

- ◆ Member States should develop public awareness and participatory programmes on Biotechnology and Biosafety that involve all stakeholders. □

Argentina GM experiment goes wrong

by Sue Branford

Argentina is one country that has embraced genetically modified (GM) technology most wholeheartedly. Today, more than half of its arable land is covered with GM soya beans.

Yet something has gone wrong. Argentina's main agricultural research institute has warned that unless the move into soya monoculture is reversed, "a decline in agricultural production will be inevitable".

At first, GM technology seemed like a gift for farmers. The pampas, an area of rich land that fans out for roughly 600 kilometres around Buenos Aires, were suffering from serious soil erosion, caused partly by repeated ploughing. RR soya seemed the solution: it allowed farmers to control weeds by spraying glyphosate during the growing season and thus farm without ploughing. The proliferation of weeds had earlier made such no-till farming unsuccessful.

Driven by the huge demand on the world market for soya meal as cattle fodder, farmers enthusiastically adopted the technology. Soya looked like an ideal export product where the country had "comparative advantage". The area under soya cultivation increased by 60 percent in the second half of the 1990s, output more than doubled.

After a currency collapse in December 2001, only export crops remained profitable. About 150,000 small farmers who had cultivated rice, maize, lentils, potatoes, fruit and other food crops, were driven off the land, hit both by low prices for their products and by herbicide contamination from soya farmers' spraying.

New weeds, probably naturally resistant to glyphosate and opportunistically occupying the new ecological niche, are proliferating. Soya, sprouting inconveniently from seeds dropped during harvesting, is also becoming a nuisance.

The case of Argentina shows that genetic modification of crops, by its very nature, permits farmers to indulge in irresponsible practices such as deluging the soil with glyphosate, something that would be impossible in conventional farming.

(Excerpt from an article in *New Statesman*, 01 March 2004)

National biosafety frameworks a prerequisite for modern agricultural biotechnology

by Mwananyanda Mbikusitwa Lewanika

The majority of countries in SADC have no national biosafety regulatory regimes, often referred to as biosafety frameworks, which enable countries to regulate the research, development and marketing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The frameworks are comprised of national policy, appropriate legislation and administration structures that often prescribe national implementation regulations and complementing guidelines.

Administration structures permit or deny the introduction of GMOs into a country based on parameters such as risk assessment and socio-economic factors. In addition, they are responsible for the development of mechanisms for public awareness on issues pertaining to biosafety as well as public participation in the decision-making process.

In SADC, only Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe have national biosafety frameworks.

Only South Africa and Zimbabwe have practical experience in handling GMOs. Against the obvious implications, it is not advisable to introduce genetically modified crops in countries without national biosafety frameworks.

Global biotechnology companies have developed most of the innovations in modern agricultural biotechnology but are profit rather than need-driven. Simultaneously, innovations in agricultural biotechnology coming from public institutions are declining due to lack of investment in research and development.

In addition, most of the major investment into public institutions is

commissioned by the biotechnology industry. The situation is further compounded by the fact that innovations in modern agricultural biotechnology are controlled and protected by intellectual property rights (IPRs).

Modern agricultural biotechnology can contribute to food security in developing countries if its techniques are employed to increase food production. This could be through the development of food crops that can grow under stressful conditions such as drought. Currently, on the market, there are no genetically modified crops that are drought tolerant.

Genetically modified crops that are commercially available now exhibit herbicide tolerance, pest resistance, and virus resistance or a combination of these and other traits. Canola, maize, cotton and soya beans accounted for more than 99 percent of worldwide biotechnology crops in 2001 and this scenario remains.

The focus of modern agricultural biotechnology is on producing cash

crops that can be sold on world markets. Modern agricultural biotechnology heavily relies on monocultures of genetically modified seed. This does not promote food security but reduces agricultural diversity as exemplified by the recent food crisis in southern Africa. For example, communities that cultivated maize, but multi-cropped with traditional staple foods like cassava and sorghum were still food secure in the face of drought and maize failure.

Research and development in new genetically modified crops is concentrated on crops of interest to developed countries and does not take into account unique challenges faced by small-scale farmers in developing countries. Although genetically modified seeds are more expensive than hybrid and traditional seeds, farmers have to buy seeds every planting season, as they cannot save their best seed or exchange seeds, as is customary practice. □

Dr. Mbikusitwa Lewanika is the chairperson of the SADC Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and biosafety.

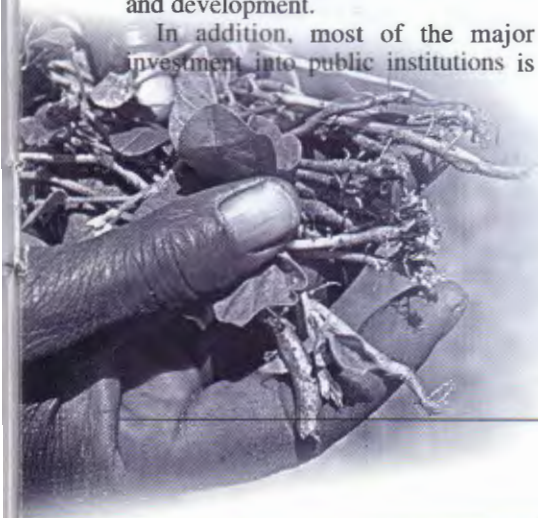
Defining the terms

The terms biotechnology and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are often mistakenly used interchangeably. Biotechnology is a general term that refers to scientific techniques that use living organisms or their components to produce useful products. It is usually classified as either being traditional biotechnology or modern biotechnology.

Traditional biotechnology includes well-established techniques like plant breeding and the use of micro-organisms in industrial production such as beer brewing, production of antibiotics, yoghurt and vaccines. Modern biotechnology is comprised of recently available scientific techniques such as Recombinant Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology (Genetic Engineering), Monoclonal Antibodies, Cell Culture and Tissue Culture. Deoxyribonucleic acid is hereditary material (genes) that is found in all living organisms. It is reproduced and passed on from one generation to another and it is responsible for passing traits from parents to their offspring.

Recombinant DNA technology allows scientists to take hereditary material from one organism and put them into another. This changes the characteristics of organisms, making new forms of plants, animals and micro-organisms known as GMOs.

GMOs are of concern as they bypass reproduction and they are significantly more novel than conventionally modified organisms. They usually incorporate hereditary material from distant or unrelated organisms in combinations that are unlikely to occur in nature.



Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into food security strategies

by Virginia Muwanigwa

SADC has committed itself to mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into its policies and programmes in response to the scourge's multifaceted nature and implications on the social, economic and political outcomes at household, community, national and regional levels. The mainstreaming is aimed at alleviating poverty in general and ensuring food security in particular.

SADC, among other stakeholders in the region, recognises that HIV and AIDS make it expedient for a response that does not consider the problem a medical one but one that has socio-economic and cultural implications likely to reverse all developmental efforts.

SADC's Multi-sectoral HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework and Programme of Action 2003-2007, contained in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), seeks to intensify measures and actions to address the prevention of HIV and AIDS and mitigation of its impact in order to ensure sustainable human development of member states.

In July 2003, SADC leaders signed the Maseru Declaration on HIV and AIDS, demonstrating their commitment to addressing a number of issues including: prevention and social mobilisation; improving care, access to counseling and testing services, treatment and support; accelerating development and mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS; intensifying resource mobilization; and strengthening institutional, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

A SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania, recently, reviewed progress on implementation of decisions that were taken at the Maseru Summit on HIV and AIDS. These include the establishment of a special HIV and AIDS unit at the Secretariat. The unit has since been established under the chief director to

ensure that AIDS-related issues are mainstreamed in all the core areas of integration.

In addition, a regional meeting of national AIDS councils, the first of its kind, is expected to take place in May 2004 to finalise a four-year business plan as mandated by the Maseru Summit. The exact date and venue are being



A vicious cycle between poverty, HIV and AIDS and food insecurity

finalised. SADC is also mobilising resources through an HIV and AIDS Trust Fund, which would be used to support programmes aimed at fighting the pandemic.

Specific to food security, a vicious cycle results between conditions of poverty and susceptibility to HIV and AIDS. This in turn, increases the level of vulnerability through chronic illnesses, productivity and job losses, diminished prospects for economic recovery, and a tendency for risky behaviour just to meet basic needs.

That the issue is being viewed at the highest levels in SADC is seen in that a Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Ministers meeting held in February in Dar es Salaam, included HIV and AIDS among the priorities to be addressed at the forthcoming SADC Summit on agriculture and food security.

A communiqué released at the end of the meeting noted that "the high incidence of HIV and AIDS in the region has a devastating impact on all sectors and levels of society and consequently on food security". Against the fact that farming is generally labour intensive and therefore not suitable for people who are chronically ill, the ministers noted that labour saving technologies should be explored.

In some countries in the region, community-based structures are being set up to address the problems deriving from HIV and AIDS. These efforts include: home-based care to relieve besieged medical facilities; and community-driven orphan care programmes.

The Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAFAIDS), however, observes that more attention has been given to HIV prevention, and to treatment of opportunistic infections and even antiretroviral drugs than to the fundamental nutritional and primary survival needs of the poor, rural or urban.

An integrated approach to livelihood enhancing programmes thus becomes necessary to mitigate the challenges arising from HIV and AIDS. So too, does long-term investment in agricultural infrastructure such as dams, good transport networks, irrigation facilities, seed and input provision. □

A cultural perspective of food security in southern Africa

In traditional African belief, food security is considered as a gift from the spirits. Good rains and plentiful harvests are events that call for celebration and thanks giving to the ancestral spirits through traditional ceremonies. Organized rainmaking or harvest ceremonies are performed uniquely in different ethnic groups in southern Africa, withstanding the pressure to adopt western beliefs.

On an ancient shrine in Zambia's Eastern Province, drums, song and dance are used to appease the spirits and request for favourable rainfall to nurture crops. This is common in years when rainfall is erratic. After the harvests, the N'cwala ceremony, common among the Ngoni, celebrates good crops and victory in combat. This ceremony receives a lot of support and it is given credit for uniting people, regardless of their cultural backgrounds, in Zambia.

In Swaziland, the Incwala, also known as the 'first fruits' ceremony, is the most sacred of all Swazi ceremonies. Held in December or January each year, the ceremony begins with preparations by the Bemati or 'people of the water' who collect foam from the waves off the coast of Mozambique. Upon appearance of the full moon, youths are sent to collect sacred branches, lusekwane from an acacia species. These are used to build a small enclo-

sure at the royal byre. On the fourth day, the King joins the warriors in the traditional Incwala dance. The ceremony ends with the King eating the first fruits of the new season before the community can do so. The following day is set aside for peace and meditation.

In Zimbabwe, there are numerous rainmakers including those residing at the Nharira Hills, just outside Harare and Njelele in Matabeleland. The majority of rainmakers' families are descendants of the Venda. During a time of drought, a black ox is killed and the meat is distributed amongst village leaders gathered at the ceremony. Traditional beer is also brewed for this ceremony. Very early the next day, the custodian of the rainmaking ceremony together with other village elders go to a secret shrine and squatting on their haunches and clapping rhythmically, they relay their pleas to the spirit within a cave. When this is

done, it is believed that the spirit responds through a voice that is heard coming from within the cave. When the spirit has conveyed its message, the ceremony is over and there is hope for good rains in the country.

The slaughter of a goat as a sacrifice to the spirits is done as part of rainmaking ceremonies in some parts of Tanzania. Village leaders and spirit mediums in the villages are selected to lead the rainmaking ceremonies. They then take the blood of the slaughtered goat and pour it on a tree which has been chosen as the shrine. This is done to appease the ancestors and to plead for the land which has become dry due to lack of rain.

After a good harvest, the Wagogo in the Dodoma region of Tanzania gather in celebration and thanksgiving to the spirits for the good rains. The harvested maize is used to brew beer, which will be shared by the whole community at a lively ceremony where food is also prepared for the celebrations. These celebrations can go on for as long as two months, with the community moving from one household to another in thanksgiving for the good harvests.

African culture and beliefs also play a crucial role in environmental conservation through taboos which force the society to comply with certain societal norms. For example, for the Ndebele of Zimbabwe, trees cannot be felled indiscriminately. There are certain trees that are prohibited to burn for household use. It is believed this would cause disharmony amongst the residents of the homestead. This in turn reduces desertification, thus maintaining a balanced ecosystem.

Preservation of animal species through totemic taboos is also used in African communities. Some totemic taboos entail that a certain clan should not eat meat from the animal which is their totem. All those tribes who revere their totem therefore directly protect the environment.

Sources: Hemans Trevor, Those were the days, 1987

The SADC Challenge, December 2002-February 2003

Swaziland travel guide on line, www.mytravelguide.com □

SADC re-affirms commitment to UNESCO

SADC has reaffirmed its commitment to continued cooperation with UNESCO. The Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Prega Ramsamy said recently in Gaborone that a number of developments have taken place since the formalisation of cooperation between SADC and UNESCO through the 1996 memorandum of understanding.

Ramsamy was speaking at a meeting with UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura. He commended Matsuura for his contribution to SADC and said he had played a major role in bringing UNESCO nearer to the people. Ramsamy said SADC would need UNESCO support in the implementation of its major activities planned for this year. Such activities he said, included the launching and operationalisation of the SADC Culture Trust Fund, which is intended to mobilize resources for the promotion of cultural programmes in the region.

The operationalisation of the SADC Arts and Culture Multidisciplinary Festivals will provide the platform for artists and culture performers to share experiences and networking of ideas. Other priority activities include establishing a SADC media accreditation body to facilitate easy movement of media personnel in the region in performing their professional duties.

Also, Ramsamy urged UNESCO to continue its collaboration with SADC in areas of education, training and human resources development. Priority activities include coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Intra-Regional Skills Development Programme.

Ramsamy said UNESCO should also give the region support on the development of the SADC HIV and AIDS strategic framework and programme. The framework provides the region with concrete strategic direction in the fight against HIV and AIDS and the key areas of focus are on prevention, support, care, treatment and procurement of anti-retroviral drugs. (*Botswana Daily News*)

Boost for SADC restructuring process

SADC has received a major boost towards its restructuring process through financial assistance provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD). A financing agreement worth US\$600,000 was signed recently between NORAD and SADC as part of a total contribution of US\$1,7 million.

Since the restructuring process began in 2001, most of the planned activities have been successfully completed,

including the development of the 15-year Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), said the Executive Secretary of SADC, Prega Ramsamy during the signing ceremony.

These funds will go a long way towards the implementation of the RISDP, which "requires the development of medium and short-term business plans, expenditure frameworks and additional capacities at the Secretariat," according to Ramsamy.

A press release by the secretariat says that other activities under the agreement will include the establishment of a Policy Analysis and Strategic Planning Unit at the SADC Secretariat and the streamlining of the RISDP with NEPAD. The RISDP is the blueprint for the region's development objectives, providing a clear direction for SADC policies and programmes over the long term. □

Mozambique to host zone six games

Preparations for the Zone Six SADC games to be held in Mozambique from 24 April - 2 May, are now at an advanced stage.

The games organised by the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA) will attract athletes in the under-20 age group from all SADC countries except DRC and the United Republic of Tanzania. The athletes will take part in various events lined up for this tournament including athletics, football, netball, boxing and basketball.

Mozambique is the first host of the games, which are expected to become biannual "in order to expose the region's youths to an elite competition that will prepare them for higher competitions such as the Olympic games to be held later this year in Athens," said Charles Dzimba, Programme Officer of the SCSA.

The major objective of the games is to "promote regional integration through developing sport among the youth," said Dzimba.

The SCSA is the official arm responsible for implementing all SADC sports activities as contained in the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport.

The games have been received with much enthusiasm by all participating member states. □

Export processing zones increase Zimbabwe's earnings

Zimbabwean companies operating in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have generated more than US\$770 million in export earnings since the project was started seven years ago, an official said.

Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) chairperson, Lovemore Chihota said that at least 174 companies, with a total investment of US\$155 million, were operating in the special economic zones.

"EPZ companies are contributing more than ten percent of the country's

exports," said Chihota. He said that at least 29,000 jobs had been created through the programme since its inception.

The programme has achieved more than what was expected of it when it was first launched, and there was room for improvement to add further momentum, he said.

The government introduced the concept of EPZs in 1997 to promote exports as a way of generating foreign currency, creating jobs and securing transfer of technology. (*The Herald*) □

Zambia to wipe out hunger

The Zambian government is determined to wipe out hunger through agro-forestry, the country's Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Mundia Sikatana has said.

Sikatana said this recently when he officially opened a three-day Regional Agro-forestry Steering Committee (RASC) workshop in Lusaka.

The minister said the annual nutrient depletion rate over the last 30 years in Africa had translated into an equivalent of US\$ 4 billion worth of fertiliser.

"Agro-forestry which focuses on trees on farm and landscapes, attempts to meet the economic, social and eco-

logical needs in today's world," he said. Sikatana outlined some of the challenges as helping to eradicate hunger through food production systems based on agro-forestry methods of soil fertility and land regeneration.

Others included lifting the standards of more rural poor through market driven tree cultivation systems that generate income and build assets.

About 150,000 farmers in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe were now using fertiliser trees and Zambia's Eastern province had 30,000 such farmers. (*The Times of Zambia*) □

Africa in 2025: Some scenarios

Review by Chipu Muvezwa

Imagine a rich Africa which enjoys good relations, is economically empowered, politically stable with wars down the history lane and enjoying widespread, effective democracies through an involved and authoritative traditional leadership. This is one of the four scenarios set in a study produced by the United Nations Development Programme's African Futures project "Africa 2025".

The objective of the book, "Africa 2025: What possible futures for sub-Saharan Africa," edited by Alioune Sall of the University of South Africa, was to explore possible scenarios for the region. More than a thousand Africans, in 46 countries, women and men, Anglophone and Francophone, and from very different backgrounds, were involved in this exploration. They first determined the status quo in Africa at the dawn of the 21st century and then constructed four scenarios for the next 25 years.

These scenarios were given metaphorical names: "the lions are trapped"; "the lions are hungry"; "the lions come out of their den"; and "the lions mark their territory". In each case, there is a consideration of the conditions that must be in place for these scenarios to become reality.

The four scenarios encompass a wide range of possible futures and they vary markedly. The first scenario, "the lions are trapped", sees the region struggling to get out of the situation it currently finds itself in. The old pattern of looking after relationships dominates, but with no envisaged boost to productivity.

The second scenario "the lions are hungry", is the hopeless picture painted by American journalists such as Robert Kaplan, of "lawless lands plagued by violence, wracked by hunger and poverty, adrift at the whim of warlords hungry for power and new wealth to pillage".

The third, "the lions come out of their den", is a type that a number of Asian countries have experienced starting with Japan. New generations of entrepreneurs and politicians will create new relationships between political and economic power and commit to continent-wide economic integration.

Meanwhile, religious institutions, emphasising individual responsibility, work, effort and savings, would reinforce this climate.

The best outcome, the study says, is one in which "the lions mark their territory". This fourth scenario is introduced by a quotation from Martinique's Aimé Césaire, poet, surrealist and intellectual leader of the anticolonial movement: "We do not wish to revive a dead society... We must create a new society... rich with all the productive capacity of today, warm with all the brotherhood of old." It looks to a leadership - political, religious and traditional - with a social vision rooted in the spread of information, training, the rule of law and pluralism.

This scenario sees the continent as enjoying a rich future, with more productive economies and widespread effective democracies.

In a foreword to the book, President Thabo Mbeki describes the publication as a bold attempt at trying to understand the continent's future. "Like other such projects, it has to 'think the unthinkable' yet at the same time present plausible scenarios which can be of some value to policy makers," he says. Among its basic assumptions is that a number of people seek lives that blend a mix of scientific reason with uniquely African values.

Some of what the scholars regard as likely to be most influential for the next generation is unsurprisingly: urbanisation; the role of government; peace and security; leadership; and new information and communication technology. Religion, surprisingly, is also seen as particularly important.

Even more surprising, given their domination of the continent's economic policies for three decades, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and foreign aid, are regarded as less decisive. □

Africa 2025: What possible futures for sub-Saharan Africa?
Published by University of South Africa, Pretoria and UNDP, 2003

Recent publications and acquisitions

African Savannas: Global narratives and local knowledge of environmental change.
Basset, Thomas. J and Crummey, Donald (eds) - 2003

Available from: James Currey Ltd, 73 Botley Road Oxford OX2 OBS.
E-mail: orders@marston.co.uk
Website: www.jamescurrey.co.uk

Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa to 2020: Socio-economics and policy research -- Working Paper 49. Ehui, S, [et. al.]. - 2002

Available from: International Livestock Research Institute.
P.O Box 30709, Nairobi, Kenya
Email: ILRI-Kenya@cgiar.org
Website: www.ilri.cgiar.org

From War to Peace on the Mozambique-Malawi borderland.

Englund, Harri - 2002
Available from: Edinburgh University Press for the International African Institute, London
22 George Square, Edinburgh
E-mail: marketing@eup.ed.ac.uk
Website: www.eup.ed.ac.uk

Political and Economic Liberalisation in Zambia 1991 - 2001.

Rakner, Lise - 2003.
Available from: The Nordic Africa Institute
P.O Box 1703 SE-751 47 Uppsala
Sweden
E-mail: nai@nai.uu.se
Website: www.nai.uu.se

Social History and African Environments.
Beinart, William and McGregor, Joahn (eds) - 2003.

Available from: New Africa Books, 99 Garfield Rd, Claremont 7700, Cape Town.
E-mail: info@newafricabooks.co.za
Website: www.newafricabooks.co.za

Aids and Governance in Southern Africa: Emerging theories and perspectives.

Compiled by Chirambo, Kondwani and Caesar Mary - 2003
Available from: Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA)
E-mail: kondwani@idasa.org.za
mary@idasa.org.za
Website: www.idasa.org.za

SADC diary

| 2004 | Event | Venue | |
|-------|--|--|---|
| April | 12-16 | SADC workshops on rules and transit regulations | Zambia |
| | 14 | South African presidential elections | South Africa |
| | 17 | SADC livestock technical committee meeting | Malawi |
| | 19-23 | SADC meeting on strengthening the capacity of machineries through the effective use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) | Namibia |
| | 19-24 | SADC Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) meetings | Mauritius |
| | 20-22 | SADC regional anti-corruption conference | South Africa |
| | 20-22 | SADC strategic management of HIV and AIDS in the workplace meeting | Botswana |
| | 24 April - 2 May | Supreme Council of Sports in Africa Zone VI/SADC Games | Mozambique |
| | 26-29 | SADC sub-regional review meeting on Beijing +10 and consolidation of reports for submission to Africa regional level | Zambia |
| | 28-29 | Workshop on Relations between AU and Regional Economic Communities | South Africa |
| | 28-30 | SADC roundtable on dispute settlement mechanism | South Africa |
| | 29-30 | Second SADC/EU Media Practitioners Workshop on the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) | Zambia |
| | May | 3 | SADC mining legislative and policy harmonisation workshop |
| 3-5 | | African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) council of ministers meeting | Botswana |
| 3-6 | | SADC Indaba 2004 | South Africa |
| 3-7 | | SADC epidemiological network on drug use training mission to Angola | Angola |
| 7 | | ACP - EU council of ministers meeting | Botswana |
| 10-14 | | First SADC sub-regional workshop of the joint practicing synergy initiative under the programme of work on biological diversity | Botswana |
| 14 | | SADC special summit on agriculture and food security | Tanzania |
| 15-18 | | High level ministerial meeting on NEPAD | Tanzania |
| 18 | | Malawian presidential and parliamentary elections | Malawi |
| 18-20 | | Eleventh SADC drug control committee meeting | South Africa |
| 20 | Fourth steering committee meeting for the Regional Environmental Education Programme | Botswana | |
| June | 2-4 | World Economic Forum-African Economic Summit | Mozambique |
| | 7-11 | SADC workshop on drafting training modules on risk management | Zimbabwe |
| | 14 | SADC-EU Joint Steering Committee | Belgium |
| | 14-16 | SADC workshop on trade facilitation model customs management act | Botswana |
| | 14-18 | Integrated Committee of Ministers | Botswana |
| | 21-24 | Regional adjudication committee on the SADC Media Awards | Botswana |
| | 23-24 | ACP Summit | Mozambique |

Currency checklist

| Country | Currency | (US\$1) |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Angola | Kwanza (100 lwei) | 79.84 |
| Botswana | Pula (100 thebe) | 4.83 |
| DRC | Congo Franc | 381.00 |
| Lesotho | Maloti (100 lisente) | 6.57 |
| Malawi | Kwacha (100 tambala) | 105.00 |
| Mauritius | Rupee (100 cents) | 25.4 |
| Mozambique | Metical (100 centavos) | 27,000.00 |
| Namibia | Dollar (100 cents) | 6.60 |
| Seychelles | Rupee (100 cents) | 5.18 |
| South Africa | Rand (100 cents) | 6.59 |
| Swaziland | Lilangeni (100 cents) | 6.60 |
| Tanzania | Shilling (100 cents) | 1109.00 |
| Zambia | Kwacha (100 ngwee) | 4750.00 |
| Zimbabwe | Dollar (100 cents) | 4214.01 |

2 March 2004

Public Holidays in SADC for the period April 2004 - May 2004

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 4 April | Peace and National Reconciliation Day | Angola |
| 4 April | Heroes Day | Tanzania |
| 7 April | Women's Day | Mozambique |
| 9 April | Good Friday | All except DRC, Mozambique, Mauritius |
| 10 April | Public Holiday | Botswana, Malawi, Seychelles, Zambia |
| 12 April | Easter Monday | All except DRC, Mauritius, Seychelles, Mozambique |
| 18 April | Independence Day | Zimbabwe |
| 19 April | Public Holiday | Zimbabwe |
| 19 April | King's Birthday | Swaziland |
| 25 April | National Flag Day | Swaziland |
| 26 April | Union Day | United Republic of Tanzania |
| 27 April | Freedom Day | South Africa |
| 30 April | Education and Youth Day | DRC |
| 1 May | Workers Day | All SADC |
| 2 May | Maulid Day | United Republic of Tanzania |
| 3 May | Public Holiday | Malawi |
| 4 May | Cassinga Day | Namibia |
| 17 May | Liberation Day | DRC |
| 20 May | Ascension Day | Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland |
| 25 May | Africa Day | Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe |
| 25 May | Heroes Day | Lesotho |
| 26 May | Public Holiday | Zambia |