



Transforming Agriculture in Africa

22 November 2018

PREAMBLE

The 2018 High Level Policy Dialogue on Transforming Africa's Agriculture was held from the 20th to the 22nd of November in Maputo, Mozambique. The 2018 High-level Policy Dialogue for Africa was a collaborative effort of four organizations - the Food, Agriculture and Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), the Graça Machel Trust (GMT), the Mandela Institute or Development Studies (MINDS), and Center for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) together with local, regional and global partners – engaged in transformative and sustainable agenda aimed at ensuring a food and nutrition secure African continent based on active and meaningful engagement of women and the youth.

192 delegates from 21 countries attended the Policy Dialogue. The delegates represented the following stakeholder groupings:

- 24 (13%) Government representatives;
- 6 (3%) Intergovernmental Organizations;
- 66 (34%) Civil Society;
- 29 (15%) Research Institutions;
- 10 (5%) Private Sector;
- 11 (6%); Farmer Organisations;
- 5 (3%) Donors; and
- 34 (18%) not disclosed.

With regard to specialised groups 40 (21%) Youth and 77 (40%) Women attended the 2018 Regional Policy Dialogue.

The 2018 Regional Policy Dialogue was anchored on the following sub themes:

- Nutrition and food systems
- Climate resilient agriculture
- Policies to transform African agriculture
- Youth communities of practice

RESOLUTIONS

Delegates at the 2018 Regional Policy Dialogue resolved that:

1. **Transformation of Africa's agriculture begins with us** - All relevant stakeholder groups need to change:
 - Donor agencies and development partners need to change their investment priorities and strategies.
 - Governments should institutionalize an efficient and effective policy implementation culture, characterized by review of existing policies to ensure that they are pro-smallholder farmers, women, children and youth.
 - Participatory research processes should be adopted to ensure that the voice of the smallholder farmers, women and youth is heard, to facilitate for the co-creation of solutions.
 - Private sector should collaborate with civil society and government to develop innovative financing mechanisms to support the agriculture value chains.
 - Farmers should accelerate adoption of new climate-smart technologies and practices which are gender and nutrition-sensitive.

- Youth should proactively claim their space and drive innovation for agriculture transformation.
2. **Climate Change is happening now and will continue to be a challenge in the future**, there is need to:
 - Make the decisions now that are robust now that can help us deal with the uncertain future that climate change presents
 - Enhance smallholder farmers' adaptive capacity.
 - Support farmers to adopt climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies
 - Enhance investment in irrigation, to include water harvesting technologies, and tapping into the continent's water resources
 - Streamline and support access to climate financing facilities for state and non-state actors.
 3. **Agriculture production and productivity is low**, there is a need to:
 - Enhance innovative access to inputs, technologies and finance.
 - Diversify offerings of the government input supply programmes beyond maize to promote dietary diversity.
 - Institute tracking mechanisms to promote increased use of fertilizer.
 - Improve provision of extension and advisory services for smallholder farmers.
 4. **Low level of investment on other staple crops**, there is need to:
 - Pursue multi-pronged investment in wheat production and marketing to offset the regional import bill (there is a 72% production gap).
 5. **Agriculture markets are not working for the smallholder farmer**, there is need to:
 - Create a level playing field by supporting equitable participation and benefits by all value chain actors (i.e., marketing of products taken over by middle man).
 - Generate evidence to advocate for a policy environment conducive for smallholder farmers (e.g. (i) impact of export ban on agricultural commodities by government, (ii) increasing taxes, levies and production costs, and (iii) low intra-regional trade).
 6. **High levels of post-harvest losses and food waste**, there is a need to:
 - Promote holistic crop management throughout the value chain to minimize pre- and post harvest losses.
 - Improve investment in appropriate storage facilities.
 - Initiate community-level food processing and value-addition interventions.
 7. **The burden of malnutrition**, there is a need to:
 - Re-focus production on traditional nutrient-dense foods
 - Use behavior change communications to enhance consumption of diverse and nutritious diets
 - Increase the budget allocation to nutrition at national and sub-national levels
 - Enhance women's agency in pro-nutrition household decision making and budgeting
 - Institute a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to address malnutrition.
 8. **Low participation of women and youth in agriculture value chains**, there is a need to:
 - Restructure agriculture to make it profitable and appealing to youth
 - Promote the use of appropriate technologies and mechanization to reduce drudgery
 - Institute innovative interventions (financing, inclusive business models, access to land and inputs/output markets) to promote the growth and visibility of women in the agricultural value chain
 9. **Revamp agriculture research and development (R&D)**, there is a need to:
 - Increase financing of agriculture research and development to support implementation of National Agriculture Investment Plans.
 - Adopt participatory approaches to agricultural research and development to amplify the voices of smallholder farmers including women and youth
 - Capacitate women and youth to broaden the base of researchers supporting agriculture
 10. **Inadequate policy implementation at national and regional level**, there is a need to:

- Institute tracking mechanism to monitor policies and their implementation.
- Institute advocacy initiatives to support accelerated implementation of policies.
- Capacitate women and youth to promote engagement with policy processes.

In support by

