

HaSSP Mid-Term Review (MTR)
Findings, Validation and Dissemination Workshop
Report



8 - 9 May 2012
Birchwood Hotel
Johannesburg, South Africa

REPORT DETAILS

This report documents the salient issues and information pertaining to the HaSSP Mid-Term Review Findings, Validation and Dissemination Workshop, as part of the HaSSP mid-term review process, hosted by FANRPAN, at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

This report does not attempt to be an exhaustive account of the aforementioned workshop, but rather is a summary and ready reference to the information disseminated, as well as the interaction between the delegates. More comprehensive accounts and reports, as presented by the various participants, are included in the Annex Section at the back of this document. Moreover, all proceedings of the said workshop were professionally recorded on video tape, serving as the ultimate record of this event.

The workshop was arranged by FANRPAN and facilitated by Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda (FANRPAN CEO). This report was compiled by Paul Roos and video recording and production was conducted by No-Line Communications.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACAT	Africa Cooperative Action Trust
ACC	African Christian College
ACF	Agriculture Consultative Forum - Zambia
ARC	Agricultural Research Council - Zimbabwe
ASSMAG	Association of Smallholder Seed Multiplication Action Group
CANGO	Coordinating Assembly of NGOs - Swaziland
CD	Capacity Development
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CISANET	Civil Society Agriculture Network - Malawi
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMRAP	COMESA Regional Agro-inputs Program
COPE	Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence
CPM	Commission for Phytosanitary Measures
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DARS	Department of Agricultural Research Services
DUS	Distinctness, uniformity and stability;
EAC	East African Community
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture and Natural Recourses Policy Analysis Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FNS	FANRPAN Node Secretariat
FS	Food security
FUM	Farmers Union of Malawi
GART	Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust
HaSSP	Harmonised Seed Security Project
HH	Household
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measure
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MACO	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MAMID	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NAMBoard	National Agriculture Marketing Board
NASFAM	National Association for Smallholder Farmers in Malawi
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organization
NSA	National Seeds Authority
NSTA	National Seed Trade Association
PBR	Plant Breeders Rights
PC	Phytosanitary Certificate

PCE	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
PQPS	Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services
PQS	Plant Quarantine Services
PRA	Pest Risk Analysis
RI	Research Institutes
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SCCI	Seed Certification Control Institute
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SI	Statutory Instrument
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SRC	Seed Release Committee
SSSN	SADC Seed Security Network
SWADE	Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise
TOT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
VCU	Value for cultivation and use
WI	Work Instructions
WTO	World Trade Organization

Preface

“You can count the seeds in an apple,

”

Seed harbours the genesis of life. It is a vital constituent for establishing and improving agricultural enterprise and productivity and, most importantly, it lays a firm foundation for food security. In truth, there can be no food security without seed security.

Seed security is an issue that farmers around the world acknowledge as vitally important to production and boosting productivity. Yet, even amidst global debates on achieving food security and better rural livelihoods, this issue is often only afforded peripheral attention.

Throughout Africa, seeds are expensive, generally of poor quality and difficult to access due to trade barriers. With a swelling global population and projected future yield losses due to climate change, there is a need to step one level down the production chain and pay adequate attention to this most primary of agricultural inputs: the seed.

Seed security guarantees that farmers, especially small scale farmers, enjoy uninterrupted access to quality seeds and new varieties at affordable prices and at the right time.

From policy to practice

For this reason, in 2010, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) launched a four-year project to boost seed security within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The pilot project, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and USAID, initially covered four countries, namely, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The programme ultimately aims to create a secure SADC-wide system that will provide farmers with improved quality seeds now and in the future. In particular, it addresses the needs of resource-poor smallholder farmers whose seed systems have been affected by a history of recurrent disasters and rely mainly on informal seed sources.

Trade barriers between SADC member states have prevented seeds from moving quickly across borders when a seed deficit occurs due to a disaster, such as flooding, drought, or pest infestation. Fragmented seed legislation has meant that sourcing seeds between neighbouring countries is complicated and lengthy, leaving farmers without the bare essentials to grow crops.

Integrating seed policy and seed regulation, including phytosanitary policies, also reduces the cost of seed testing and ultimately the cost of importing seed, since this is typically currently carried out in both the country of origin and import. This unnecessary duplication is both costly and time-consuming. It also leaves farmers with less time to plant during harvest season, or with lower-quality seed, which affects the amount of food they are able to grow.

Economic growth from agriculture reduces poverty by twice as much as any other industry, according to the World Bank. However, over the years, agricultural productivity in the developing world has stagnated, with the average growth in cereal yields falling from 6% to 1.5% in recent decades. The most recent food crisis from 2008 pushed an additional 100 million people below the poverty line.

The Harmonised Seed Security Project (HaSSP) aims to create a harmonised regional market by integrating smaller seed markets into one large SADC market, facilitating easier movement of quality seeds between countries and reducing the cost to farmers of accessing them when needed.

FANRPAN's seed security project will not only work with member countries at a regional policy level, but it will also train farmers at the community-level in practical seed production, improved agronomic techniques, harvesting, processing, treating, bagging, storage and marketing of seed.

Making markets work for farmers is essential if the world is to meet its food security objectives and the aspirations of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). FANRPAN's HaSSP looks to connect fragmented marketplaces and smooth out unnecessary bureaucracies in the current regulatory system.

In May 2010 a two-day HaSSP common vision planning meeting was attended by over 50 participants representing government, private sector, research community, farmers, not for profit NGOs, development partners and regional economic community secretariats, who were involved at different levels in the development of the seed harmonization protocols.

The four-year pilot project was duly launched in 2010 in the four focal countries, namely Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe and was received with much enthusiasm.

Mid-term review workshop

Two years down the line, in May 2012, a mid-term review was held in the form of a similar workshop in Johannesburg to assess progress, share experiences, identify hindrances and redirect energies in order to obtain the goal of harmonised seed security.

At this mid-term review workshop two additional countries, namely Mozambique and Tanzania, by way of their authorised representatives, "signed up" to join the HaSSP pilot project.

This workshop provided a platform for key stakeholders to deliberate, develop and fine-tune work plans which will not only translate to the final realisation of seed security for farmers in the region and the entire continent, but will ensure that even small-scale farmers can become successful and significant seed producers.

Preface by Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Mission at the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

Background: Why HaSSP?

The purpose of the Harmonized Seed Security Project (HaSSP) is to provide enabling support to SADC member states to domesticate the regional seed protocol, harmonise their seed policies and legislation, and effectively implement the provisions of the protocol with enhanced national capacities. Domestication of the regional seed protocol is expected to stimulate the availability of more varieties, encourage more companies to invest in the seed business and increase the choices of varieties available to farmers. It will lead to better seed quality as a result of improved facilities and skills, and save time and resources because importing countries will no longer need to re- test imported seed. It will allow more efficient movement of seed in the region through the use of a common seed certification scheme, terminology, standards, procedures, seals and labels. Harmonization will also facilitate better targeting of relief seed.

The goal, objective and outputs

The set goals, objectives and outputs for this project contribute to improved food security of smallholders in the SADC region through increased availability of and access to quality seeds.

The intended outcome (objective) of the 4-year project is to pilot the domestication and implementation of the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System in Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe with important data, information and knowledge utilized in the wider SADC region for evidence-based decision-making on seed systems.

This will be manifested in the form of outputs outlined below.

Expected outputs:

- Seed variety release policies in Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe aligned with SADC protocols;
- Phytosanitary policies in Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe aligned with SADC protocols;
- Seed certification policies in Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe aligned with SADC protocols;
- Measures to operationalise policies introduced and related capacity of government, civil service and other key stakeholders strengthened; and
- Seed certification facilities strengthened and successfully functioning in the four focal countries.
- Project monitoring, evaluation, learning and communications framework developed.

Purpose of the Mid-term Review (MTR)

HaSSP is in the second half of its intended four-year period. The primary purpose of the review is to learn lessons from the programme design and implementation and indicate adjustments that may need to be made to ensure the success of the project. The internal Mid-Term Review seeks to understand the extent to which the project, in its effort to achieve its objectives, will contribute to the overall goal of food security through the domestication of harmonised, effective and efficient seed systems to enhance availability and access to improved seed varieties to small-scale farmers.

HaSSP Mid-Term Review Workshop, 8 - 9 May 2012

Facilitator: Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda (CEO of FANRPAN)

DAY ONE

11 Welcome, Introductions and Workshop Objectives

Dr Sibanda warmly welcomed all the participants and invited guests to the HaSSP Mid-Term Review Workshop. Everyone was asked to introduce him or herself and asked to place themselves in specific groups, per definition, of Farmers, Government, Research Bodies and Private Sector.

Dr Sibanda afforded special recognition to the women farmers attending the workshop.

She reiterated the stated objectives of the Mid-Term Review and invited everyone to air their expectations and to embrace the opportunity, while all stakeholders were present, to make a positive contribution to the proceedings with the ultimate aim of gleaning the maximum amount of value for their own individual efforts, thereby adding value to the collective Harmonised Seed Security Project.

1.2 Opening Address by Mr Ajay Vashee (FANRPAN Board Member)

On behalf of FANRPAN, Mr Vashee thanked everyone involved and particularly donor organisations like the SDC and USAID for their invaluable contributions to date.

Reflecting on the project's progress after the first two years, he emphasized the primary objective should always be seed security that has a quantifiable impact on better agriculture and the livelihood of people. For example: has the project significantly impacted seed prices, access to seed and the lives of smallholder farmers especially in rural areas? Positive, quantifiable answers to questions like these will ultimately determine the level of the project's success.

1.3 Presentation on HaSSP by Dr Bellah Mpofu (FANRPAN)

Dr Mpofu delivered a presentation reviewing the project to date.

She remarked that amending legislation in the four focal countries seems to be more challenging than expected. However, valuable lessons have been learnt and significant progress is anticipated in this regard during the second half of the project. What works in one country does not always succeed in another. Policy training is now a priority to improve legal understanding and capabilities.

See Annex 1.

1.4 Statement of Intent

Dr Sibanda pointedly asked the teams representing the four focal countries, one by one, whether they would vouch for total commitment to achieving the stated objectives of HaSSP by the end of 2013.

Representatives of all four countries, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, concurred and gave the assurance of their full commitment in this regard, stating that they anticipated that these objectives were achievable in their respective countries.

In addition, Dr Sibanda asked the same question to the authorised representatives of Mozambique and Tanzania. Both countries concurred and pledged their full commitment.

(Video clip: [Countries commitment](#))

1.5 Methodology for the HaSSP Mid-Term Review Process by Mr Gregory Chanda Chilufya.

Mr Chilufya presented an outline describing the methodology of the HaSSP Mid-Term Review process.

Aspects covered in this outline included the scope of the MTR, the timing of consultations, the methodology and tools used in the process as well as the specific challenges faced in the four focal countries. Mitigation of these challenges was also explored.

See Annex 2.

2. Presentation and Discussion of Country Reports

2.1 Zimbabwe – Mr Munhamo Chisvo.

A draft report presenting Zimbabwe's case as a country team was delivered, representing the various sectors involved in the process.

Some delays have resulted due to the failure in having the HaSSP Implementation MoU signed by their government, but the Zimbabwean team are confident of having the MoU signed soon and that they can make up for lost time.

Significantly, Zimbabwe rated the HaSSP process to date, including FANRPAN's involvement and also their own efforts in achieving the project objectives by way of a unique rating system, giving each aspect an A, B, C or D in their own estimation (A representing excellent and D being poor). The rating system was the cause for a lively discussion and as a result a task team was formed to evaluate and refine this and other rating tools as a means of measurement.

Zimbabwe's delay in having the said MoU signed by government was questioned, to which the team cited difficulties in approaching the relevant government officials. A question was also posed as to whether the team thought Zimbabwe would regain its former position as a leading agricultural nation in Africa. The team replied in the affirmative, saying that considerable progress was being made by farmers in their country.

See Annex 3.

2.2 Swaziland – Mr Thulasizwe Dludlu

A draft report presenting Swaziland's case as a country team was delivered, representing the various sectors involved in the process.

According to the report, Swaziland is experiencing economic difficulties and as a result the HaSSP process is not afforded the priority status it deserves. The report also mentions other shortcomings in terms of human resources and capacity problems. Alignment of national legislation and regulations is behind schedule.

A number of questions were posed to team Swaziland, as well as a fair amount of well-intended advice. Significantly, representatives from Zimbabwe mooted the sharing of their excess capacity to help Swaziland in areas where it was lacking and invited them to discuss the matter with them.

Dr Sibanda suggested that the report does not do Swaziland justice and invited the country team, which was led by the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture and a former

Prime Minister, to redraft their report. The Swaziland representatives agreed to table a new, updated report with a plan of action within three weeks.

See Annex 4.

2.3 Zambia - Mr Gregory Chanda Chilufya

A draft report presenting Zambia's case as a country team was delivered, representing the various sectors involved in the process.

Zambia's comprehensive mid-term review report was well received. Significantly, Zambia expressed its appreciation for the HaSSP methodology of working through established organisations with the national mandates for harmonisation of seed regulations.

It was noted that the Zambian report mentioned some frustration due to what is perceived to be overly complex procurement procedures on behalf of FANRPAN, claiming some processes appear to be 'bureaucratic'.

In response, Dr Sibanda explained that funds are managed and disbursed according to very strict rules and measures; FANRPAN is proud to have an excellent audit record in terms of responsible financial management and is held in high esteem by leading international donor organisations as a result, she added.

The Zambian team also committed to providing an updated mid-term review report with a plan of action within three weeks.

See Annex 5.

2.4 Mark of Respect

A minute of silence was observed in honour of the late Ngwazi Dr Bingu Wa Mutharika, recipient of the 2008 FANRPAN Food Security Policy Leader Award.

2.5 Status Update for Malawi - Dr Peter Ngoma

As a result of the passing away of their president, the Malawi team could not complete the full Mid-Term Review process; hence their report is referred to as a status report. This report was delivered, representing the various sectors involved in the process.

The report noted some hindrances in the implementation process including delays in tasks and deliverables due to the lack of a country specific logframe, long procurement procedures, delays in remitting funds to implementing partners and limited capacity within the implementing partners.

The team committed to update and finalise the country project logframe and M&E systems, as well as motivating its HaSSP implementers to develop a clear action plan, resource allocation and time frame for the remaining project period.

See Annex 6.

DAY TWO

3.1 Reflections on Day One – Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda

Dr Sibanda summarised the proceedings of Day One and remarked that of the 57 participants, most had indicated their eagerness to chart a course for the rest of the HaSSP journey, with clear aims and terms of reference.

She expressed her gratitude to the four initial pilot project countries, along with Mozambique and Tanzania, that they are still fully committed to achieving the original HaSSP objectives, set for completion in 2013. A common vision has been sought and found and the project is heading surely and steadily towards its intended destination, she added.

3.2 Participant's Expectations

Participants were asked to note their expectations on Day One of the MTR Workshop. Some notable expectations included the following:

- To obtain effective strategies for the domestication of international standards and policies;
- To get a full understanding of the HaSSP project and how the components of advocacy services delivery and capacity building work together to achieve project objectives;
- The identification of the best approach to harmonization, and
- The expectation that HaSSP will achieve its objectives by 2013.

3.3 Report-back from Country Groups

As a result of the reports presented on the previous day, as well as the questions raised, representatives from all six countries responded:

3.3.1 Malawi

Team Malawi expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the entire HaSSP group represented at the MTR workshop. It suggested that the focus will be on strengthening and developing capacity. As a country it aimed to finalise changes in legislation with the aim of completing the seed harmonisation objectives.

3.3.2 Swaziland

Team Swaziland asserted that it aimed to increase the seed production capabilities of smallholder farmers in their country. It aims to draw up a comprehensive plan after conducting relevant consultations with all stakeholders. It also aims to strengthen the FANRPAN node activities. Furthermore it aims to give more attention to legislative transformation. New regulations for phytosanitary certification will also be finalised in the near future. Swaziland is in the process of appointing and training government officials that will improve the current situation. Swaziland committed to tabling a comprehensive Seed Value Chain document early in September 2012.

3.3.3 Zambia

Team Zambia reported that it has government buy-in and that the seed harmonisation process is well on course. Legal compliance is being fast-tracked. It intends to ensure that the private sector becomes a more prominent participant in Zambia. It also intends to pay more attention to developing the SADC Seed Centre. Zambia reported that 2 200 farmers have bought seed from the smallholder seed production programme.

3.3.4 Zimbabwe

Team Zimbabwe reported that it fully supported the HaSSP common vision. It realised that the signing of the HaSSP implementation MoU is of the utmost importance and reported that it had already been approved by the relevant parliamentary committee and the official signing was expected soon. They acknowledged that their policy process needs to be accelerated and that they aimed to give special attention to strengthening their node and to build and develop capacity. New private public partnerships (PPPs) are envisaged in the near future. Plans are also being made to train the smallholder farmers in seed business and marketing management. There is a need for assisting the smallholder seed associations to develop a marketing plan and market all the seed through the agro-dealer network and private seed companies.

3.3.5 Mozambique

Team Mozambique confirmed that the HaSSP Implementation MoU has already been signed in their country and they have full government buy-in. Seed laboratories are available for testing purposes. Plans are in place to upscale seed growing activities and Mozambique looks forward to learning from the other pilot project countries in this regard.

3.3.6 Tanzania

Team Tanzania confirmed that it fully intends to join the HaSSP pilot project group and to review its legislation and seed growing guidelines accordingly. They are updating their seed variety list. They intend to align their seed certification policy with that of the SADC countries. Tanzania would like to improve capacity and buy equipment as well as a vehicle. Farmers will also be encouraged to produce seed under the HaSSP banner. The next step is to set up a steering committee with private sector and farmer involvement. The team noted that their seed legislation needed only minor adjustments to comply with both SADC and East African standards.

3.3.7 SADC Seed Centre

A representative from the SADC Seed Centre reported that the Centre's database is undergoing improvements. Already over 400 seed varieties are listed that qualify for the variety catalogue and are hence ready to be marketed. The Centre intends to link the database to the Internet to make it web-based and thus accessible to all member countries. The centre urged member states to ensure that their registrations comply with the protocol.

(Video clip: [Mr. Muhano Chisvo, Consultant](#))

4. Address by Mr Francois Droz, Resident Director of SDC in Southern Africa

Mr Droz thanked Dr Sibanda and everyone at FANRPAN for their sterling work and exemplary relationship with the SDC. As a result the SDC has been able to convince the Swiss Parliament to accept the upgrading of regional development programmes like the HaSSP programme. The latter has actually been used as an example of a successful regional programme.

Mr Droz emphasised the importance of finalising legislative transformation by countries in the region. He also advised that it was important to engage the private sector in the programme. Furthermore, the role of smallholder farmers was considered to be very important by the SDC. Concrete, documented results in terms of farmer participation and success are very important.

Mr Droz was happy to announce that a significantly improved budget had been approved for continuing development in the seed security harmonisation process in the Southern Africa region for the period 2013 to 2016 (Video clip: [Mr. Francois Droz, SDC](#).) He called on FANRPAN to work on a proposal for this next phase.

He was grateful that FANRPAN was already conducting a regional vulnerability assessment, as these problem areas can only be addressed once they have been identified.

He thanked all involved in HaSSP and commended them for their energy and good results so far. He encouraged all SADC countries to participate in FANRPAN activities and congratulated Dr Sibanda and her team on the progress made and the firm foundations that have been laid to date.

Dr Sibanda expressed her sincere appreciation to Mr Droz and his office especially for his remarkable honesty, integrity and insight in regional challenges and aspirations. She added that his dedication has left a lasting impression on all the stakeholders in the region and his legacy will long be remembered.

5. Report by FANRPAN Elders



From L to R: Mr. O. Dlamini (Swaziland); Dr. S. Mundia (Zambia); Dr. LM Sibanda (FANRPAN CEO); Mr. F. Droz (Regional Director: SDC); Dr. R. Thwala (Swaziland) and Dr. K. Mugwera (Uganda)

Recognising the wealth of wisdom held in store by the FANRPAN Elders, this astute group was tasked with the sometimes daunting challenge of how best to approach influential policy makers in corporate and government bodies. The HaSSP process to date had shown that some difficulties were experienced in approaching these people.

Some highlights of the collective advice provided by the Elders included the following:

- Always be well prepared and observe the correct protocol.
- Find the right entry point.
- Study the people who need to be approached beforehand and speak the type of language they understand
- Find a suitable person to champion your cause.
- Communicate clearly and succinctly.
- Eliminate suspicion . influential personalities are often approached by people with dubious motives.
- Trust is earned and built up over time . always keep your promises.

6. Plenary: Thematic Lessons and Work Plans

Groups comprising members from all six participating countries, including FANRPAN personnel and other guests were convened and tasked with discussing and exploring solutions to problems encountered in various key areas of the HaSSP process under the following themes:

6.1 Alignment of variety release policies, facilitated by Dr John MacRobert and Dr Peter Ngoma

A detailed report-back of this discussion by Dr John MacRobert is filed in Annex 7.

It was reported that all four countries have instituted the necessary technical requirements for national variety release in conformity to the SADC Seed System. However, the major outstanding issue is for national seeds acts to be aligned to the SADC Seed System to enable SADC Variety Release.

It also recommended that the SADC Seed Centre needs to develop and publish the list of required VCU descriptors and other relevant information for specified crops, so that National Seeds Authorities can curate the appropriate information in variety lists.

6.2 Alignment of seed certification policies and strengthening of seed certification facilities, facilitated by Mr Munhamo Chisvo and Dr Christopher Nyakanda.

A detailed report-back of this discussion by Mr Munhamo Chisvo is filed in Annex 8. Some challenges highlighted were the shortage of legislative drafters in some countries, the length of policy changing processes and limitations in resources.

Recommendations included were to involve legal officers from the outset, elevate the priority of the matter by working with the highest ranking government officials and to

get all stakeholders involved throughout the process to improve communication, collective goal-setting and taking ownership.

6.3 Alignment of Phytosanitary Policies, facilitated by Mr Gregory Chanda Chilufya and Mr Thulasizwe Dludlu.

A detailed report-back of this discussion is filed in Annex 9. Some challenges highlighted were a lack of suitably trained staff in some countries, lack of resources, a lengthy review process and the fear of the unknown. Recommendations included conducting regulatory process assessments, to engage with all stakeholders throughout the process, to introduce an on-line permit-issuing system and to involve legal officials from the outset.

6.4 Community Seed Production Enterprise, facilitated by Mr Fungayi Simbi and Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila.

A report-back of this discussion was delivered by Nelson Munyaka. The community seed production enterprise benefits smallholder farmers in the respective countries (Video clip: [Mrs Chimwemwe Mnenula, Seed Producer, Malawi](#)). The most prominent challenge highlighted was the need to match production and demand in some countries and it was recommended that more attention be given to the marketing function at this level. See Annex 10 for details.

7. Country Working Groups Discussion, Planning and Report-back

The HaSSP MTR Workshop culminated in a final session where all six countries were tasked to review their national status quo and, following the recent deliberations, to draw up a comprehensive plan of action for the remaining scheduled period of HaSSP. Their reports included:

- Revised logframe and work plan
- Matching project activities to budget
- Learning and knowledge sharing
- Communication and advocacy strategy
- Scaling up

All six countries presented their final reports. These documents can be found in the Annex Section (Annex 11 to 16). It is noted that Dr Sibanda remarked that budgeted

activities need to be credible, transparent and as accurate as possible to have any hope of receiving funds.

(Video clip: [Dr. H. Lunogelo, Tanzania](#))

7.1 Workshop Evaluation

The evaluation conducted at the end of the workshop showed the majority of the participants considered it to be a successful, well-organised and useful event. Many comments voiced appreciation for the exchange of ideas regarding countries' specific experiences. Some participants suggested the workshop could have been spread over three instead of two days due to the large amount of information disseminated. See Annex 17.

7.2 Closing Remarks

FANRPAN Elder, Hon. Obed Dlamini, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the FANRPAN office in Pretoria for their hard work in hosting the event and thanked Dr Sibanda in particular for her tireless efforts and impressive facilitation of the MTR Workshop. He also thanked all participants and encouraged everyone involved in the HaSSP programme to make the most of this opportunity to benefit and prosper the region and to make every effort to ensure the success of the project.

8. Annexes

Annex 1: HaSSP project overview by Dr. Bellah Mpofu

Annex 2: HaSSP mid-term review methodology by Mr. Gregory Chilufya

Annex 3: Zimbabwe HaSSP MTR findings presentation

Annex 4: Swaziland HaSSP MTR findings presentation

Annex 5: Zambia HaSSP MTR findings presentation

Annex 6: Malawi HaSSP MTR findings presentation

Annex 7: Report back from variety release working group

Annex 8: Report back from seed certification working group

Annex 9: Report back from phytosanitary policies working group

Annex 10: Report back from community seed production working group

Annex 11: Country working groups report back . Zimbabwe

Annex 12: Country working groups report back . Zambia

Annex 13: Country working groups report back . Swaziland

Annex 14: Country working groups report back . Malawi

Annex 15: Country working groups report back . Tanzania

Annex 16: Country working groups report back . Mozambique

Annex 17: Workshop evaluation results

Annex 18: Questions and Answers

Annex 19: List of Participants

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