Pan African FO Exchange Platform
SACAU Session: "Introduction to Climate Smart Agriculture"
14 September 2023

CONCEPT NOTE ON PROMOTING AND ADOPTING CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA)

The impacts of climate change on food security and nutrition in Southern Africa region and elsewhere cannot be overemphasised. Southern Africa is warming at twice the global rate and many countries are being affected by multiple shocks at the same time. The average number of climate-related disasters/hazards has increased by nearly 35% since the 1990s. More frequent and intense extreme events increase food insecurity and malnutrition by destroying lands, livestock, crops and food supplies in Southern Africa. In the region, climate change means a warmer and drier climate and greater exposure to multiple climatic hazards including droughts, floods, cyclones, and warmers, shorter growing seasons. Climate change is changing the dynamics of pests and diseases of both livestock and crops. In Southern Africa, new pests like

fall armyworms, tutor absoluter have negatively affected the productivity of maize and tomato crops. The four pillars of food security, that is availability, access, utilization and stability are affected by climate change. There is therefore a need to devise strategies to address climate

change impacts on food security. Therefore, Farmers' Organisations (FO) at all levels have a role to play together with other role players/stakeholders in identifying the climate risks and associated challenges being faced by farmers as a starting point to building climate resilience. The aim of this session will be to identify climate risks in the five regions of Africa where the regional farmers' organisations (RFOs) are operating from. It will also be important for the five (5) RFOs to rank these risks in order of severity and prevalence as an entry point to dealing with the impacts on farming systems and communities. The next step will then be to provide or suggest possible and implementable solutions to these

risks and challenges. These solutions should not be abstract, they should be practical actions being taken by farmers to reduce the impacts of climate induced risks and challenges. This means that the solutions being suggested should not be ideal but what RFOs are observing through their members who are Fos working closely with the farmers.

The solutions normally comes in form of climate change adaptation especially for smallholder farmers, but of late farmers have also started to realise the importance of mitigating climate change impacts. In all these efforts, context matters and Fos should be careful not impose adoption of practices that will not be suitable for certain areas. It has become important to move with great speed to reduce the impact of climate change on farming systems and livelihoods given the climate associated risks already alluded to above.

The task at hand in this session can be summarised as follows:

- RFOs identify climate risks and challenges being faced by farmers from their regions
- Rank the risks and challenges in order of severity and prevalence
- Suggest solutions to the risks and challenges focusing more on practices (adaptation and mitigation) being implemented by farmers