

I INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourth Joint Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources was held in Ezulwini, Swaziland on 21 - 22 July, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of the regional agricultural, environmental and natural resources development programmes in the COMESA region and prepare a report for Ministers.

II ATTENDANCE, OPENING OF THE MEETING, ELECTION OF THE BUREAU, ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK (*Agenda item 1 & 2*)

Attendance and Opening of the Meeting

2. The meeting was attended by delegates from Burundi, Comoros, Congo D R, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of Africa Conservation Tillage (ACT), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Department for International Development (DfID), East African Farmers Federation (EAFF), Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Michigan State University (MSU), Norwegian Embassy, Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The list of participants is attached as Annex III.

3. The meeting was officially opened by His Excellency, the Right Honourable Prime Minister Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini who welcomed all the delegates to the Kingdom of Swaziland and wished them a pleasant stay.

4. In his opening statement, His Excellency observed that the choice of the theme of the meeting (Climate Smart Agriculture: Towards Sustainable Agricultural Development) was relevant to the regional integration agenda as the agriculture, environmental and natural resource sectors had not been spared by the impact of climate change.

5. He called on the Member States to collectively mobilise financial material and technical resources to invest in agriculture environment and natural resource sectors with the objective of promoting sustainable agriculture and land use practices, biodiversity conservation, maintenance of environmental services and successful adaptation to climate change. He further urged the Member States to enter into the global climate change arena with one voice demanding for global efforts to build Africa's capacity to participate in bio-carbon markets and thus lay the foundation for successful adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

6. He also observed that the innovative regional efforts in the climate change agenda is motivated by the fact that Swaziland is not spared from the devastating effects of climate change. He noted that the first communication to the UNFCCC of 2002 and Swaziland risk vulnerability report indicate that water resources agriculture and food security, natural resources, bio-diversity and the health sectors are most vulnerable to climate change.

7. In closing, the Right Honourable Prime Minister called on the Member States to increase intra regional trade through reduction in the cross border hurdles faced by the private sector by addressing sanitary and phytosanitary and other non tariff barriers to trade

8. Earlier on the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Clement Dlamini gave some welcoming remarks. In his welcome remarks, the Honourable minister welcomed the delegates to the Joint COMESA Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Meeting. He informed the meeting that Swaziland during the year 2010/2011 the area under maize production was 7334 hectares which shows an increase of about 20% compared to the previous season. He attributed the increase in the area planted to a number of factors including good rains received and good government policies that has made tractors available to all farmers at low cost.

9. The Honourable Minister informed the meeting that from the time Swaziland signed the CAADP compact, a lot of progress has been made. The Ministry of Agriculture has embarked on a drive for commercialization of agriculture in the rural areas. He called on the Member States to fully implement their national CAADP compacts. He also observed that Climate Change is critical to attainment of food security and that all agriculture methods should take into account all the various technological measures necessary for mitigating climate change effects.

10. Speaking earlier on, the Assistant Secretary General, Mr Karangizi also addressed the meeting. In his remarks, he informed the meeting on the status of implementation of the COMESA, EAC and SADC Tripartite arrangement that was initiated in October 2008. He noted that the three RECs, comprise 26 countries with a population of 527 million and a combined Gross Domestic Product of US\$ 624 billion. The second Tripartite Summit was held in June 2011, South Africa. At the Summit, the Heads of State and Government signed the Declaration Launching the negotiations for the establishment of the Tripartite FTA; adopted the Roadmap for Establishing the Tripartite FTA, the Tripartite FTA Negotiating Principles, Processes and Institutional Framework and directed that a programme of work and roadmap be developed on the industrialisation pillar.

11. He also briefed the meeting on the status of CAADP implementation in the region. He noted that nine countries have signed the CAADP compact, namely: Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia and DRC. Five countries completed their National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIP) and are in the process of resource mobilisation, namely Rwanda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Kenya and Uganda. Subsequent Rwanda and Ethiopia successfully accessed funds from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP).

12. He also observed that climate change is a global and local issue with serious implications for economic growth, sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and that it threatens to reverse the gains our regional integration has made, especially in food security.

13. The Assistant Secretary General called on the Member States to take deliberate actions to address the challenges of climate change and low agricultural productivity for the betterment of the livelihoods of the people.

Vote of thanks

14. Following the official opening, by His Excellency, the Right Honourable Prime Minister Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, His Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Comoros, Dr. Fouad Mohadji, moved a vote of thanks on behalf of the other Member States. H.E expressed his delight to represent other Member States in thanking the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his opening statement. He also conveyed gratitude to His Majesty King Mswati III for hosting this important meeting. He saluted the Government and people for the hospitality that was accorded to all Ministers and delegates and also commended COMESA, the development partners and representatives of international

organizations, for their support to the region. He thanked COMESA for the opportunity of facilitating the experts from the Member States to deliberate prior to the Ministers Meeting and was pleased to re-iterate the commitment that Comoros shares with other COMESA countries.

Election of the Bureau

15. The meeting elected the following Bureau:

Chairperson	-	Swaziland
Vice Chairperson	-	Seychelles
Rapporteur	-	Zimbabwe

Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

16. The meeting adopted the agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Bureau, Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of Work
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the Fourth Joint Technical Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
4. Interventions and Statements by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation
5. Statements by Cooperating Partners
6. Consideration of the Draft Declaration by the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
7. Any Other Business
8. Consideration and Adoption of the Report and Declaration by the Joint Fourth Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting
10. Closure of the Meeting

III. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOURTH JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT (*Agenda item 3*)

Current CAADP Process Implementation Status

17. The meeting was informed that at national level, the COMESA Secretariat has collaborated with the Member States and facilitated them in the following main areas: launching of the CAADP process, conducting the agricultural sector stock-taking exercise, performing evidence based sector analysis to identify priority investment areas for agricultural growth and poverty reduction, designing of quality strategic investment plans with detailed and fully costed investment programmes, convening of National Round Tables

and signing of National Compacts, conducting independent technical reviews of National Investment Plans and organizing the Post Compact High Level Business Meetings for resource mobilization for implementation of the Investment Programmes.

18. Currently, nine (9) countries have signed their National CAADP Compacts, namely: Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia and DRC. Countries lined up to sign National Compacts in the next six months include: Sudan, Zimbabwe, Djibouti and Seychelles. Countries that are lined up to launch the CAADP Process include Comoros, Eritrea, Madagascar, Egypt and Mauritius.

19. Further, the meeting was informed that COMESA in collaboration with the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) and Development Partners, have mobilized experts to provide technical support to different countries to ensure the design of high quality and detailed investment programmes immediately after the signature of the compacts. Currently six (6) countries, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Malawi have developed fully costed Investment Plans. All the plans have been technically reviewed by independent experts under coordination of COMESA and NPCA apart from the Burundi Investment Plan which will be reviewed in August 2011. Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Malawi submitted funding proposals to the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) which is under World Bank management. The GAFSP subsequently approved grants to Rwanda (USD 50 Million) and Ethiopia (USD 51.5 Million), for implementation of some of the programmes presented in their respective Investment Plans. Burundi has finalized the Investment Plan in the first week of July 2011, which is scheduled to undergo the independent review process by September 2011.

20. The remaining countries with signed compacts, namely: Swaziland, Zambia and DRC are currently in the process of designing their respective Investment Plans with the support of the Secretariat.

Decisions

21. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***Member States that have not signed their compacts are encouraged to complete their CAADP stock taking process and signing of the compact, consistent with the recommendations of the Second and Third Joint Ministerial meetings in Victoria Falls and Lusaka;***
- b) ***Member States that have not yet established and strengthened multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral Country CAADP Teams are urged to do so and to provide them with adequate technical and financial capacities as well as enable them to work closely with the continental Resource Group, in both Pre- and Post-Compact phases;***
- c) ***Member States are encouraged to request for technical expertise from the Secretariat to be funded from the MDTF – Child Trust Fund;***
- d) ***The Secretariat should finalise consultations for completion of the Tripartite Regional CAADP Framework to enable endorsement through signatures by the parties to the compact;***
- e) ***COMESA Secretariat should explore the possibility of setting up an agricultural fund to support the implementation of CAADP Investment Plan programmes; and***
- f) ***The Secretariat should support Member States to operationalise the CAADP M & E Framework at the national level to inform national, regional and continental dialogue and review process.***

Food Security Situation in COMESA Region Season 2010/2011

22. The meeting reviewed the report on the food security conditions in Eastern and Southern Africa for the period April 2010 to June 2011. Some Member States are generally food secure, while others face serious challenges. Countries such as Uganda, Zambia, Malawi and Kenya were food secure for the period due to good rains. However, the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) indicates that the region has a food deficit and that 10 million people require emergency food aid.

Decision

23. ***The Ministers directed that Member States should adopt a short to medium term strategy to protect the poor without distorting the domestic food economy.***

Establishment of the Regional Food Balance Sheet

24. The meeting agreed that it is essential for the region to have accurate and timely information on regional food availability. In this regard there is need for Member States to harmonise their national food balance sheets to feed into a Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS).

25. The RFBS will provide a regional picture on the status of food availability, food requirement (consumption and other uses) and export or import requirements. This will build upon the existing food balance sheet for the East African Community (EAC), and work will be undertaken in collaboration with the East African Grain Council (EAGC) and USAID's COMPETE programme as well as other relevant partners. The work will require the support of Member States with the necessary data such as production, stocks and imports and exports. In view of the poor availability of quality data in many Member States, the Regional Food Balance Sheet will be established gradually over 3-5 years, with countries added incrementally during this period. The work will also include some capacity building in Member States for collection of data, construction of national food balance sheet and in the use of information.

Decisions

26. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***Member States should endorse the initiative to establish a Regional Food Balance Sheet to be based on the national balance sheets; and***
- b) ***Member States should support its implementation through the provision of the necessary information that include data on production, food stocks, imports/exports.***

Seminar on Policy and Programmatic Actions to Address High Food Prices in the COMESA and SADC Regions

27. The meeting discussed the report of the joint COMESA, SADC and FAO High Level Seminar on Policy and Programmatic Actions to address high food prices. The meeting was held on 6-8 June in Lilongwe, Malawi. The Seminar noted that following a decline since the late 1970s, global food prices had been relatively stable up to the early 2000s, before increasing markedly from 2007 and reaching a peak in 2008. The high and volatile prices of 2007-2008 occurred at a time when food stocks were generally low, with the crisis following a period of neglect of investment in agriculture. Participants agreed on a number of issues that will form the basis of future short- and long-term actions to address high and volatile food prices in member countries and at the regional level:

- a) Local and regional maize prices in the COMESA and SADC sub-regions have been relatively stable during 2010 while there have been increases in prices of imported rice and wheat. This showed that contextual developments may be more important in determining regional and national prices than price transmission from global markets;
- b) Past and recent responses by member countries to high food prices have included control or ban of exports and reduction in taxes on imported basic foods, some of which might have exacerbated the crisis;
- c) Policy and programmatic responses, especially those in favour of consumers, may hinder local food production, the normal functions of private sector entities and markets and increase budget deficits, thereby worsening the situation. It is necessary to balance the needs of both consumers and producers including women and youth, when designing responses to high food prices;
- d) Although poor households are more vulnerable to high food prices, spending up to 80% of their budget on food, the impact is inversely related to the degree of diversity of their food sources. Therefore, promotion of alternative and diversity in staple and other foods is one long-term option available to countries;
- e) Agriculture, food security and development programmes should integrate nutrition in order to address both the immediate needs of households while at the same time strengthening the resilience of vulnerable groups, including support for crops and livestock produced by women;
- f) The involvement of all key stakeholders in the decision making processes, including the choice of varieties and commodities by producers, is critical in addressing food and nutrition security;
- g) Closing the nutritional gap – the gap between what foods are available and what foods are needed for an adequate diet - should be addressed through nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture-based approaches, and nutrition education for maximizing production-consumption linkages;
- h) Producer targeted policies and programmes should build long-term resilience of agriculture and food systems by promoting sustainable intensification of crop and livestock production systems, improved post-harvest management of produce, value chain development, improved risk management, strengthening of farmer organizations, and improved access to market information;
- i) Climate change adaptation mechanisms are critical for building the resilience of smallholder producers to food price shocks and should be promoted at country and regional levels;
- j) Institutional arrangements and capacity for policy analysis and monitoring to provide evidence in support of policy and programmatic measures should be strengthened at both regional and national levels;
- k) Promotion of investment in agriculture through increased budgetary allocation, increased private sector and foreign direct investment in agriculture and improved access to credit and financing by producers is necessary for developing more resilient agricultural and food systems;
- l) Regional integration efforts such as market expansion, increased investment in agriculture, regional strategic food reserves, information availability and policy harmonization to improve predictability are important measures to stabilize food prices;
- m) The CAADP framework is strengthening the resilience of food systems by focusing on increasing production and productivity, agricultural markets and investment through public-private partnerships, value chain development and enhanced participation of women and youth; and
- n) Countries should have exit strategies for short-term measures such as subsidies and consider how they will transition from short to long-term measures.

28. The meeting agreed that participants from member countries would use these results to initiate national dialogue on the issue of rising and volatile food prices, with a view to agree on appropriate policy and programmatic actions.

Decision

29. ***The Ministers noted the report and recommendations of the COMESA/FAO/SADC Seminar on policy and programmatic actions to address high food prices.***

Progress Report on Implementation of Natural Resources, Climate Change and Environmental Programmes

Fisheries Development in COMESA Region

30. The Meeting was informed that the COMESA Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture which aims at enhancing the contributions of fisheries and aquaculture to the region's socio-economic development and food security was validated by the COMESA Meeting of Directors of Fisheries which was held in Lusaka on 23 – 24 November 2009. The Draft Fisheries Development Strategy was presented to the Committee for adoption.

Decision

31. ***The Ministers adopted the COMESA Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture attached as Annex I.***

Forestry Development in the COMESA Region

32. The meeting noted that the Forestry Strategy was adopted by the COMESA Ministers of Agriculture meeting held in Zimbabwe in 2009. The meeting reviewed the progress made in operationalising the forestry strategy.

33. The meeting noted that there is an increasing recognition that linkages between trade in forest products and services and sustainable forest management based on cross-sectoral collaboration, coherent policies and good governance will contribute towards poverty alleviation and better managed forests. This programme buys into the conceptualization that forests and woodlands can contribute to efforts to achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs), underscore their fundamental importance to rural livelihoods and national economies, as well as to the sustainable provision of forest products and ecosystem services.

34. The draft programme was presented to the Committee. This programme is aimed at addressing some of the key challenges currently undermining the sector's potential to deliver on food security. Some of the challenges to be addressed include the following:

- a) Undervaluation of the sector's value to the economy, leading to low funding levels and under-investment in research, service provision and law enforcement;
- b) Under-recognition of the forestry sector's role in poverty reduction strategies;
- c) Illegality and corruption;
- d) Insufficient development of and local benefits capture from forest-based enterprises;
- e) Insufficient market entry and value addition;
- f) Trade-offs associated with trade and investment in forestry and other sectors affecting forests;
- g) Limited cooperation in trans-boundary resource management;

- h) Unsustainable forest management practices; and
- i) Under-representation of African perspectives in international negotiations on forests.

Decisions

35. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***COMESA Secretariat should convene a meeting of the Directors of Forestry and Natural Resources to validate the draft project proposed programme on Forestry Development; and***
- b) ***COMESA Secretariat should mobilize resources for the implementation of the Forestry Development Programme.***

Climate Change Initiative

36. The meeting was informed that the COMESA, EAC and SADC have been jointly implementing the Climate Change Initiative. The Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the ESA (COMESA-EAC-SADC) Region is a successor programme to the COMESA Climate Change Initiative. COMESA has been supporting the Member States to participate in the UNFCCC negotiations. The text for negotiations on sectoral issues which include agriculture was agreed on at the just ended UNFCCC meetings held in Bonn, German.

37. Agriculture is currently being discussed under cooperative issues and other sectoral approaches under 4.1 (c). The Bonn Meeting came up with a text on sectoral issues that has three parts:

- a) General framing which has four options;
- b) Text on agriculture
- c) Bunkers which has six options of the text.

38. There is need to ensure that a decision on agriculture is reached during COP 17. It has been observed that participation of Ministries of Agriculture in the negotiations has been weak. African Negotiating teams are usually inadequate in numbers and lack negotiation skills. Further the teams are not adequately prepared for the negotiations and the African common position seems not to be clear to all parties. This to some extent compromises the participation of African negotiators in the negotiations.

39. The meeting was further informed that COMESA has registered the carbon fund in Mauritius. Further there are other mechanisms coming on board. Participation of Africans in the carbon market has been low due to weak legal and institutional frameworks. The meeting was also briefed on the up scaling of climate Smart Agriculture, in particular, Conservation agriculture. Moreover, the meeting noted progress made by COMESA and FARNPAN in supporting the engagement of CSOs in Championing the African Climate Solution. The meeting was informed about the COMESA Regional Climate Smart Agriculture Conference and Study Tour which was held in May 2011. The Climate Smart Agriculture Conference explored ways of up-scaling climate resilient technologies and practices in the region. It was agreed during this meeting that the COMESA region should establish Centres of Excellence that will champion adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture.

Decisions

40. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) **Ministers of Agriculture should proactively engage in the ongoing climate change discussions in the period up to, during and beyond COP 17 to ensure a decision is reached on agriculture which is responsive to the African Situation;**
- b) **Member States should include agricultural experts in their multi-disciplinary climate change negotiations teams and ensure consistency and adequate negotiations skills and logistical support.**
- c) **COMESA Secretariat in collaboration with other RECs and non state actors should facilitate the consolidation of and championing of the unified African position;**
- d) **Member States should actively engage in and support the upscaling of climate smart agriculture;**
- e) **The COMESA Secretariat in collaboration with relevant partners to support Member States to set up legal and institutional frameworks necessary for effective participation in climate response measures (such as COMESA Carbon Fund, African Climate Fund, the UNFCCC, Green climate fund and Fast Start Finance under the Copenhagen Accord); and**
- f) **COMESA Secretariat should explore the possibility of setting up a Centre of Excellence on Climate Smart Agriculture for the arid and semi – arid areas to be based in Djibouti.**

Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture and Climate Change

41. The meeting was informed that the COMESA Secretariat has undertaken some activities aimed at increasing the integration of female farmers as direct beneficiaries of existing agriculture and climate change interventions at secretariat and member state level. With the financial support from USAID, the Secretariat through the Gender and Social Affairs Division conducted a regional study on “integrating female farmers in agribusiness into regional and global value chains” in 2010 in Kenya, Uganda and Mauritius. In addition, COMESA held a Regional Consultative Meeting in April 2011 as a follow-up action to the study findings. The outcome of the meeting was the development of the Draft Framework of the Regional Strategy on Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Climate Change. Efforts to finalize the draft framework are still on-going pending consultative sessions with other selected regional institutions.

Decisions

42. **The Ministers decided that:**
- a) **The Secretariat should provide technical support to Member States in building capacity for integrating gender issues into agricultural programmes and climate change initiatives;**
 - b) **Member States should include gender experts in the design of agricultural and climate change initiatives; research (including collation of sex/gender disaggregated data) and M & E frameworks; and**
 - c) **COMESA Secretariat should support Member States to enhance the visibility and participation of youths in agriculture and climate change related policies and programmatic actions.**

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Programme in the COMESA Region

43. Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) issues are increasingly becoming critical as COMESA deepens regional integration to reduce barriers to transacting business and to free the movement of agriculture and food products among Member States.

44. COMESA has been implementing the SPS programme which aims at building the capacity in Member States. Further, COMESA has been supporting Member States participation in the activities of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and *Codex Alimentarius* Commission.

45. Further, the COMESA Regional SPS Sub-Committee held its Third Technical Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia from 23 – 24 June 2011. The meeting reviewed progress made against the Council decision urging the Secretariat to strengthen Member States SPS capacities as they strived to implement the COMESA regulations for harmonization of SPS measures.

46. Successor projects to the Agricultural Marketing Promotion and Regional Integration Project (AMPRIP) that are currently under development were reviewed in detail.

47. The meeting agreed on regional priorities and activities to be undertaken. Among the priorities agreed were:

- a) Strengthening laboratory infrastructure (reference and satellite laboratories);
- b) Strengthening the surveillance and monitoring of priority SPS risks; and
- c) Implementing the green pass scheme for mutual recognition and equivalence of SPS systems. COMESA SPS Regulation No 7 provides for the establishment of the Green Pass Certification Scheme to facilitate free movement and trade in food and agricultural products within the common market. The meeting discussed the need to develop the Green pass concept into a practical tool that will facilitate countries to establish “equivalence” or “mutual recognition” of SPS systems i.e. that although countries’ SPS systems may be different they provide the same level of protection.

48. The meeting noted the Report of the Third Meeting of the Sub-Committee on SPS.

49. Egypt reiterated the need to take into consideration additional reference laboratories based on the geographical locations of COMESA countries in accordance with the decision of the July 2010 Ministerial meeting.

Decisions

50. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***Member states should support development of the Regional SPS and Agricultural Trade facilitation project that seeks to action priorities endorsed by the SPS Sub Committee;***
- b) ***Member States should support development and implementation of the Green Pass Certification Scheme ;***
- c) ***Member States should support harmonization of regulatory aspects relating to aflatoxin control including natural remedies such as bio control technologies; and***
- d) ***Member States should support the SPS joint work programme developed by EAC, COMESA and SADC for harmonization of SPS measures in the tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA).***

Agriculture Trade, Investment Promotion and Value Addition

Guiding Investments for Strengthening Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA) Programme

51. The Committee was informed that COMESA is implementing a policy research and outreach programme “Guiding Investments to Strengthen Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA)” with the support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the Michigan State University (MSU). The programme supports the CAADP process in the area of market development by facilitating evidenced-based stakeholder discussions to guide future investments and policies necessary for competitive food markets to thrive at national and regional levels. The programme activities seek to contribute to improved market participation of smallholder farmers in region. Currently, only 40% of smallholder farmers effectively participate in the staple food markets as sellers, despite the fact the region has been implementing the agricultural reform and liberalization agenda for more than three decades.

Decision

52. ***The Ministers decided that Member States should institutionalize national and regional policy discussion platforms on agriculture investments involving governments, private sector and other stakeholders with a view to evolving sound and evidence based agricultural policies and strategies at the country level.***

Cross Border Trade Component: Regional Food and Risk Management Programme (CBT/REFORM)

53. The Committee reviewed the progress made on the implementation of the REFORM project. COMESA set up a Cross Border Trade (CBT) Desk in April 2009. The key mandate of the desk is to assist the small Cross Border Traders have better access to the benefits of free trade as directed by Council. The desk was established with financial assistance from the EU, as part of its Regional Food Security and Risk Management (REFORM) Programme. This Trade component of the REFORM Food Security programme seeks to improve food security by pushing for liberalization of trade in food so that food flows freely across borders. This will allow food to move from areas of surplus production in one country to provide for areas of deficit in a neighboring country.

54. The desk is also working to help build the capacity of cross border traders into establishment of associations and provision of trainings which will enable them better influence governments to liberalize trade, especially in terms of how current regulations affect the small trader.

Decisions

55. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***Member States should expedite the simplification and decentralization of the Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures at the border levels to allow smooth flow of agricultural commodities by cross border traders; and***
- b) ***Member States should facilitate the monitoring of implementation of STR through relevant border authorities.***

The EU- All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme (AAACP)

56. COMESA Secretariat, with support from The European Union and in collaboration with five International organizations is implementing the All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme (AAACP) in the Eastern and Southern Africa. The five international organizations are; International Trade Center, United Nations Conference on Trade, Food and Agriculture Organization, The World Bank and Common Fund for Commodities.

57. The overall objective of the programme is to reduce poverty in the ESA and ACP countries by:

- a) Increasing the revenue of traditional and non-traditional commodity producers; and
- b) Increasing the resilience of countries and producers with regards to the volatility of commodity prices.

58. With regards to the cotton sector, the programme has also implemented supply chain finance techniques in the cotton sector, improving cotton efficiency in Cotton production, Strengthening National and Regional Ginner and Farmers Associations and market linkages, Facilitated South - South Cooperation along the cotton Value Chain. Promotion of the development of the horticulture Industry was also complemented by conducting video conferences which facilitates information sharing and exchange among participating member countries. These activities have also been backed up by evidence based policy support.

Decision

59. ***The Ministers decided that Member States should note the progress made in the implementation of the AAACP programme activities and domesticate the sub-sectoral strategies developed to date.***

Food and Agriculture Marketing Information System (FAMIS)

60. In terms of providing regional market related data and information, AMPRIP developed the regional Food and Agricultural Marketing Information System (FAMIS). The last AMPRIP Steering Committee meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia from 13 – 14 December, 2010 and attended by 11 countries, namely: Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The critical challenge with the system has been the lack of capacity to regularly update the information at both national and regional levels.

Decisions

61. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***Member States should incorporate the FAMIS component on data collection into their national processes and link it, where possible, to the CAADP process at both the national and regional levels;***
- b) ***The Secretariat should explore the possibility of FAMIS being managed by private sector entities, such as the chambers of industry and commerce and the commodity exchanges; and***
- c) ***The Secretariat should provide technical assistance and build capacity of national focal points in charge of FAMIS.***

Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA)

62. ACTESA is implementing several programs and activities as follows:

Development of ACTESA's Strategy

63. There are numerous initiatives and a wide diversity of stakeholder with different interests working in the region's agricultural sector. Instead of continuing with short-term projects which come and go, there is need for these multiple stakeholders to build an alliance around a common long-term agenda.

64. ACTESA which is a specialized agency of COMESA established by the Authority is a single platform for collaboration, coordination and harmonization of various partner programs and it seeks to promote opportunities for stakeholders to work together. On the policy front, the alliance seeks to harmonize national policies, regulations and standards across the region and make agri-business more competitive.

65. ACTESA is in the process of defining its direction clearly and reposition itself into the future. The following focal areas are what will galvanize the actions of various players in the region.

- a) Improved competitiveness of staple foods markets in COMESA Member States through improved micro and macroeconomic policies;

COMESA Member States rank amongst the poorest in the world in international assessments of the business environment. The region's extremely unfavourable business environment results in low rates of investment for all scales of enterprises, in virtually all sectors. Without investment into facilities and services that support production, mobilizing improvements in agronomic practices will not occur, and increased production and productivity will be impossible to realize. Investors must perceive the business environment as both stable and conducive.

- b) Improved and expanded market facilities and services for staple foods commercialisation; and

Improved and expanded market services and facilities in the region will support staple foods commercialisation and marketing. These include: market places, financial services, contract and arbitration systems, market price and information services, emerging warehouse receipts and commodity exchange programmes, grading and standards systems, laboratories, transport and infrastructure and business clusters of small scale farmers such as producer cooperatives and commodity associations.

- c) Increased commercial integration of staple foods producers into national and regional markets.

Staple foods producers are the enterprises that form the backbone of growth in staple foods markets. However, large numbers of producers especially small scale farmers within the COMESA region are poorly integrated into national and regional markets. These producers orient their production around their immediate consumption needs, rather than toward market opportunities. As a result, they often minimize investments into farming systems, resulting in low incomes, highly variable production levels, and low per unit productivity. There is, therefore, need to assist organizations of small

scale farmers to enable them enhance productivity, efficiency and be able to access profitable markets at all levels.

66. ACTESA's broad ten-year strategy will pull together various partners. This strategy will give a single identity of the Alliance for which all partners will buy-in. The Alliance seeks to organize its members to support one common strategy.

67. There are two processes which are underway:

a) The development of a strategy and action plan for ACTESA. This will be accomplished through:

- (i) An internal review of accomplishments;
- (ii) A technical consultation; and
- (iii) A stakeholders meeting.

b) The development of the institutional structure of ACTESA

68. The process of developing the institutional structure of COMESA is underway. This will be addressed together with the restructuring of COMESA Secretariat and other institutions in accordance with the directions of the Bureau of Council. The restructuring exercise is expected to be completed by August 2011 for consideration by Member States prior to the policy meeting to be held in Malawi in October 2011.

69. Egypt informed the meeting that she was ready to open an office of ACTESA in order to contribute to the strengthening of commodity trade in the region especially amongst small scale producers. The meeting was informed that the proposal by Egypt would be considered after the completion of the strategy and institutional arrangements have been put in place..

Decisions

70. ***The Ministers decided that:***

a) The following three broad focal areas of the Strategy be endorsed:

- (i) Improved competitiveness of staple foods markets in COMESA Member States through improved micro and macroeconomic policies;***
- (ii) Improved and expanded market facilities and services for staple foods commercialisation; and***
- (iii) Increased commercial integration of staple foods producers into national and regional markets.***

b) ACTESA should develop a long-term strategy and action plan jointly with Member States, partners and stakeholders and complete this process before the end of 2011 calendar year.

COMESA Regional Agro-Inputs Programme (COMRAP)

71. The Programme is expected to significantly increase agricultural productivity through enhanced access to three intertwined factors: finance (credit), seed and fertiliser. As reported at the last meeting, the programme has 3 components as given below:

The Financial Services Component

72. The programme has trained and built capacity of 1142 officials on weather indexed insurance in (Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe). These trainings targeted officers from insurance companies, meteorological stations, bankers, insurance regulators and farmers.

73. Capacity building on the development of credit packages for smallholder farmers has been done in Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe. A total of 284 bankers, insurance officers, policy makers, farmers and banking regulators have been trained to date.

The Agro-dealer Development Component

74. The focus under this component is on training Agro-dealers including certifying and accrediting them.

75. Capacity building and training has been undertaken in all eight target countries mentioned above and progress is rated at 70 per cent completion. Over 4562 Agro-dealers have been trained and 1259 agent's have been trained. In their capacity as regulatory authorities, national governments are expected play a leading role supporting the establishment of accreditation centres. The actual accreditation process will commence in August 2011.

The Seed Development Component

76. The seed development has two sub-components: viz, seed production and quality improvement, and harmonization/rationalization of Seed Policies and Regulations. In the COMESA region, currently only provides about 23% of improved seed requirements to smallholders. The seed Multiplication process is well underway in (Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The varieties of seed being include hybrid maize, open-pollinated maize varieties, beans, groundnuts, cassava, rice, bananas and wheat among others.

77. All the 19 Member States are set to benefit from seed certification equipment with the 8 targeted countries additionally benefiting from seed multiplication equipment. The tendering of this equipment has been done, and the selection will be completed by August 2011

78. This activity on harmonization/rationalisation of seed trade policies and regulations is being implemented in all the 19 COMESA Member States. To date, the situation analysis on the current status of seed regulations and policies in COMESA countries has been done in 18 out the 19 countries.

Decisions

79. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***Member States should promote Weather index Insurance through relevant national institutions;***
- b) ***Member States should facilitate the speedy clearance of seed certification and multiplication equipment being procured under the programme; and***

- c) ***Member States should continue to support the harmonization and rationalization of seed policy initiatives through participation in technical and policy meetings.***

Africa Agricultural Markets Programme (AAMP)

80. COMESA convened the Fifth Regional Policy Seminar and Training Workshop on the theme "Successful Smallholder Commercialization". This event was held in Kigali, Rwanda from the 18-22 April, 2011. Background research reports, training materials and a policy brief were developed and have been uploaded on the COMESA website.

Decision

81. ***The Ministers decided that the Secretariat should distribute the materials through COMESA's formal channels of communication with Member States.***

Strengthening Markets for Regional Trade and Food Security (SMART-FS) Programme

82. The Strengthening Markets and Regional Trade for Food Security Program (SMART-FS) is an Australian Government supported initiative seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

- a) Improved policy environment and competitiveness of food staple sector;
- b) Improved and Expanded Market facilities and services for staple foods; and
- c) Capacity Building.

83. A draft design document has been submitted to AusAID for consideration of funding.

Decision

84. ***The Ministers decided that Member States should support the implementation of SMART-FS programme.***

Irrigation Development

85. COMESA/ACTESA has strengthened its collaboration with Automated Geospatial Watershed Assessment (AGWA) and arrangements are being made to host the latter at ACTESA Headquarters; signed a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Water Management Institute (IWMI)-Southern Africa.

86. COMESA/ACTESA has submitted two proposals to BADEA for funding a regional Irrigation Training of Trainers course in Sudan as per offer by the Sudanese Government and a Regional Irrigation Fund. The irrigation training course is expected to take place in August 2011.

87. COMESA/ACTESA is preparing guidelines on how COMESA Member States could access help for irrigation development from the Secretariat. COMESA/ACTESA is working with the Egyptian government in transferring low-cost irrigation technologies and training for in-field irrigation water management. Further, the Secretariat is working with the Indian government in ensuring that water resources assessments and irrigation potential determination are conducted in countries that require this assessment.

Decisions

88. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***The Secretariat should make a follow up with BADEA to support the convening of the regional workshop on irrigation development in the COMESA region;***
- b) ***Member States should take advantage of the various irrigation initiatives by nominating participants to the training courses and also participating water resources and irrigation potential assessment offered by the Indian Government; and***
- c) ***COMESA Secretariat should develop a comprehensive irrigation programme and mobilize technical expertise and financial resources from other institutions, such as the African Development Bank.***

Biotechnology and Biosafety

89. National consultative workshops on the three draft regional biosafety policies and guidelines – Commercial Planting of Genetically Modified Crops (GM Crops), Trade in GM Crops, and Emergency Food Aid with GM content - were conducted in Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan, Swaziland, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Seychelles, Burundi, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea and Malawi. Contentious differences of opinion on biotechnology issues were pronounced among the different stakeholders within Member States.

90. National Consultative Workshops are planned for the remaining five Member States. Thereafter a regional workshop will be held to consider the feedback from national consultations to build consensus.

Decisions

91. ***The Ministers decided that:***

- a) ***The COMESA Secretariat should facilitate intensive national consultations and assist with promoting consensus at the national level involving all stakeholders and complete the national consultations in the remaining five Member States;***
- b) ***COMESA Secretariat should commission a comprehensive analysis of the status of GM Crops and regulatory frameworks in Member States; and***
- c) ***COMESA Secretariat should organize a regional workshop to consider the feedback from national consultations and build consensus.***

Livestock Programme

92. COMESA/ACTESA is working with the support of USAID to design a long-term livestock programme, focusing on developing livestock and livestock products markets for the region. During the ongoing design of the livestock marketing programme, value chain assessments have been completed in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia. The next phase of the assessments is to look at the value chains in selected Southern African countries to allow for conclusion of the strategy. The activities will commence after a programme manager is recruited.

Input Markets Development Programme

93. As a follow up to the COMRAP Programme, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Integrated Partnership Assistance Agreement Implementation Letter (IPAA/IL) 7 is supporting the agro input activities building up on the COMRAP programme. USAID has pledged to support the African Seed Traders Association (AFSTA), International Potato Centre (CIP) and International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) through ACTESA and processes to initiate the work are ongoing. The work to be

undertaken includes; (i) facilitation of the development of commercial seed sector through seed trade harmonization and strengthening of national seed associations by AFSTA. The main output of this activity is to establish a seed alliance that would cover the Eastern and Southern Africa region, (ii) Establishment of a roadmap for private sector led markets of vegetative planting material with emphasis on potato seed by CIP whilst, (iii) IFDC will facilitate the process of establishing public private partnerships on input support and agro-dealer development in the region.

Decision

94. ***The COMESA Secretariat should report to Member States by early 2012 on arrangements put in place to develop a follow up programme to COMRAP.***

Joint Fertilizer Procurement Initiatives (JFPI)

95. COMESA Secretariat requested the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to: i) carry out a feasibility study on the viability of JFPI in COMESA Member States and, (ii) identify necessary conditions for the successful implementation of the JFPI and prepare implementation strategy for the JFPI.

Decision

96. ***Member States noted and commended the progress on the on-going collaboration between COMESA and FAO, and the Secretariat should deepen collaboration with FAO to cover procurement of other agro inputs.***

INTERVENTIONS AND STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (Agenda item 4)

Burundi

97. Mr Gerard Ndabemeye, Director General of Agriculture and Livestock of Government of Burundi extended thanks to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Swaziland for the legendary welcome. He thanked COMESA for organizing the Joint Meeting of Ministers and for the support given to Burundi's integration into COMESA. He noted with gratitude the technical and financial support that COMESA had been providing for the Burundi CAADP implementation process. He looked forward to similar support for the Business Meeting scheduled for September 2011. He extended an invitation to all delegates to attend the Burundi Business Meetings.

98. Further he noted that Agriculture is the backbone of the economy in Burundi and has become more commercialized in recent times. It is for this reason that Government has taken a bold decision to implement programmes that have capacity to enhance household incomes.

99. Mr Ndabemeye said that Burundi's annual budget allocation to agriculture for the year 2011 is at 6% but it is forecasted that the sector will receive 40% in 2012. This illustrates the commitment of the Burundi Government to develop the agricultural sector. The delegate thanked COMESA for the support that his country has received in building capacity for agriculture development and requested further support in the areas of rain water harvesting and irrigation as well as private sector investment in agriculture.

Congo D R

100. The representative of Congo D R, Dr Christopher Mampuya thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland for the hospitality accorded to his delegation. He stated that despite the experiences that his country has undergone in the past, Congo D R is slowly becoming stable and beginning to re- launch its development process particularly through mining and agriculture. The country has developed a strategy and also designed an investment plan. With regard to CAADP, Congo D R signed the national compact and is currently requesting COMESA to provide technical support to finalise the investment plan.

Djibouti

101. The Djibouti delegate Mr Djama informed the meeting that the climate COMESA Secretariat convened a smart agriculture workshop which was held in Zambia in May 2011. The workshop made a decision on the need to set up a regional technical centre of excellence for the arid areas in Djibouti. He therefore called upon the meeting to consider endorsing that recommendation of setting up a Centre of Excellency for agricultural and climate change in Djibouti.

Egypt

102. The Egyptian Ambassador H. E. Sayed Tantawi, Ambassador of Egypt to Mozambique and Swaziland, informed the Ministers that Egypt has had a long history of agriculture and and long standing cooperation with sub Saharan Africa and that the country feels more integrated with Africa after the recent revolution in the country. The Ambassador assured COMESA of his continued support to Member States and Africa.

Ethiopia

103. The representative of the Government of Ethiopia, Mr Melaku Tadesse Gebresellasie, National Coordinator for Climate Change gave an overview of Ethiopia' agriculture, environment and natural resources sectors. He stated that Ethiopia was the second most populated country on the continent with a large surface area and varying eco-systems. For this reason the country faces various challenges, particularly in matters of food security. Hence since the year 2005, Ethiopia has been implementing a Safety Net Programme.

104. He emphasized the need for continued cooperation with COMESA Member States. He thanked the Secretariat for the support rendered in implementation of CAADP compact He also noted that Ethiopia has designed the investment plans which is the pillar for implementation of programmes. In partnership with COMESA Ethiopia has laid the ground for development.

105. The Ethiopian representative reported that the country has prepared a climate change initiative and has identified seven sectors with high relevance to the Ethiopian growth agenda. It is the hope of the Ethiopian Government that COMESA will provide the necessary support to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

Malawi

106. The Malawian representative, Mr Christopher Mbukwa, Agricultural Economist, informed the meeting that agriculture features high on the development agenda of Malawi with 80% of the labour force working in the sector. Agriculture is also the main forex exchange earner particularly through tobacco production and export. It was noted that in

terms of food security, Malawi has been registering surpluses over the last agricultural seasons and currently 13% of the annual total budget is allocated to the sector.

107. Malawi is making good progress in the implementation of regional programmes and in this regard the governments and its partners signed the CAADP Compact last year. The investment plans have been finalized and resources are now being mobilized for implementation.

108. Malawi also places importance on issues of land and water management as well as the need to upscale conservation agriculture. It is currently implementing a Green Belt Initiative along Lake Malawi and other water bodies.

Rwanda

109. Ms Caroline Kayonga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources, the representative of the Government of Rwanda thanked the Government and people of the Kingdom of Swaziland for the warm hospitality accorded to all the delegates since their arrival in Swaziland.

110. She informed the meeting that Rwanda is committed to the regional agenda aimed at achieving sustainable economic and social progress in all Member States through increased co-operation and integration in all field of development including agriculture, environment and natural resources management.

111. She emphasized that key areas of focus on environment and natural resources are to reverse the effects of deforestation, erosion, declining of biodiversity, polluted soil, water and air.

112. She noted that Rwanda signed the CAADP compact in 2007 and conducted the post compact process in drafting and discussing the agriculture investment plan. Based on the agreed investment plan with our partners, Rwanda has been able to access 50 million dollars from the Global Agriculture Food Security Fund to upscale hillside protection and irrigation project. In addition agriculture receives 10.2% of the budget.

113. As a result, Rwanda has commenced mechanization of the Agricultural sector as well as increased investment in irrigation development.

114. She observed that the implementation of the Irrigation Master Plan in Rwanda cannot be successful if it is not built on the comprehensive and integrated water resources management. Water is the most precious of the natural resources of Rwanda and proper management of our water resources is a high priority for the Government of Rwanda.

115. The Government of Rwanda in the vision 2020 recognizes that the development of the forestry sector is a National priority. In this context the national forestry areas must be significantly increased and reach 30 % of the national territory by 2020 while the Agro forestry system must be increased and reach 85% of the cultivated space.

116. On the issue of addressing Climate change she note that Rwanda is committed to engage in the ongoing climate change discussions in the period up to, during and beyond COP 17, to ensure a decision is reached on agriculture which is responsive to the African situation

Seychelles

117. Honourable Peter Sinon, Minister for Natural Resources and Investment delivered a statement highlighting the issues in the agricultural sector of Seychelles. He stated that although agriculture's contribution to country's GDP, is not significant, emerging issues of food security have compelled the Government of Seychelles to look at intensifying agricultural production. The Seychelles Government will utilize the outer islands which have potential for farming activities. Fishing remains a major economic activity in the Seychelles.

118. Honourable Sinon also shared with the meeting the issue of piracy and the impact that this has had on food security. The Minister stressed the importance of enhancing the link between Seychelles and main land Africa particularly in light of her membership in COMESA and SADC.

119. He reported that Seychelles is now advancing in the CAADP implementation process and will sign the compact before the end of the year. He also reported that the First African Summit on Fisheries and Aquaculture will take place in Seychelles in November, 2011 and this will be preceded by the Conference on Piracy in September.

120. Honourable Sinon thanked the COMESA Secretariat for the support given to the Government and people of Seychelles in their efforts to attain sustainable development. He called on COMESA to join his country in addressing piracy.

Sudan

121. The delegate from Sudan Mrs Abla Malik Osman, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, stated that agriculture is the leading sector in Sudan particularly following the recent separation of South Sudan from the rest of the country. She requested COMESA to intensify its support to Sudan by ensuring that the country participates in, and benefits from, all COMESA programmes particularly those that ensure enhanced productivity.

Zimbabwe

122. The representative of Zimbabwe, Mr R Muzamhindo, stated that agriculture plays a pivotal role in the economy contributing between 16 and 20% of the GDP. Current strategies are directed towards increasing agricultural production and productivity.

123. It is estimated that in the current summer season the production of maize which is the main staple food will increase by 9%.

124. Efforts are also being enhanced in areas of livestock production and annual health programmes. A national irrigation master plan is being adopted and government continues to allocate funds under its public sector investment programmes annually.

125. The CAADP compact has not yet been signed but the country has moved ahead in the implementation of investment programmes identified under the programme. Zimbabwe has trained agro dealers and is in the process of seed bulking and multiplication. Conservation agriculture strategy is now in place and a draft investment plan is now in place. Country based natural resources management programmes are being implemented under our fisheries programmes.

126. A National Forestry Policy is being developed so as to come up with actionable programmes such as tree seedling production, tobacco, wood and energy programmes. Climate change is now being mainstreamed into development policies but requires resources to finance programmes. Programmes of mainstreaming environmental issues so as to

ensure sustainable development. The country is beginning to carry out consultations on the issues of GMOs.

STATEMENTS BY COOPERATING PARTNERS (*Agenda item 5*)

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

127. The representative of CIDA, Ms Ellen Hagerman thanked COMESA for the opportunity to participate in the meeting. She stated that CIDA is supporting programmes in agriculture in the continent and is pleased to partner with COMESA. CIDA focuses on matters of food Security, agriculture, sustainable development and issues relating to children and youth in 6 African countries

Department for International Development (DFID)

128. The representative of DFID, Mr Eraman Symony thanked COMESA for the opportunity accorded to his organization to observe the discussions of the Joint Technical Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. He stated that DFID is working on various agricultural issues at the global, regional and national levels. He said, looking ahead, DFID has undergone an extensive aid review process and an operational planning process. One of the operational plans is the 4 year Africa Regional Operational Plan which will continue up to 2015. A big thrust of the Plan is on wealth creation and part of it is on agriculture. DFID intends to spend over 250million British Pounds for 4 years on wealth creation. This will cover regional activities and not national activities. A major focus of DFID is on regional integration and in this regard DFID has been supporting this process.

129. In addition, Agriculture market development is an area where DFID is supporting Africa and furthermore, DFID is now designing two support programmes. One of the programmes is on an Eastern and Southern African Regional Agriculture Markets Programme to develop regional agriculture value chains. Another is on climate resilient agriculture programme and is currently under design.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

130. The FAO Sub Regional Director Dr Gauju Han thanked the COMESA Secretariat for the invitation to attend the meeting. He congratulated COMESA Member States and the Secretariat for their efforts in identifying key areas in the agriculture, environment and natural resources sectors.

131. FAO will continue to work closely with COMESA in areas of agriculture and food security. He underscored the significance of implementing programmes within the tripartite framework. FAO will soon disseminate a policy document before the end of the year to assist countries in their planning processes.

132. Dr Han pledged FAO continued support to COMESA in the areas of conservation agriculture, CAADP Compact development and investment plan design, fertilizer procurement and distribution SPS and forestry.

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

133. The Chief Executive Officer of FANRPAN, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, commended COMESA for convening the meeting and the selection of the theme, Climate Smart Agriculture. She encouraged COMESA to support an all-inclusive policy dialogue between Governments and key stakeholders in the sector and to support the visibility of civil society

and other vulnerable groups. She proposed some recommendations to COMESA in the following areas:

- a) Members states to work together to push for a win at Durban COP 17;
- b) Urged COMESA to effectively use the sub-regional organizations with which it has signed MOUs including: RUFORUM, SACAU, FANRPAN and, ASARECA; and
- c) Invite all Member States to the FANRPAN High Level Policy Dialogue Platform to be held in Swaziland under the theme Advocating for the Active Engagement of the Youths in the Agriculture Value Chain from 19-23 September, 2011.

Norwegian Embassy

134. The Representative of the Norwegian Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia Dr. Mbosonge Mwenechanya stated that Norway is supporting various programs in the agriculture sector, including the area of climate resiliency and food security. Norway is committed to working with COMESA to support the agriculture development agenda.

Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)

135. Mr Ishmael Sunga, the Chief Executive Officer, stated that SACAU has been working closely with COMESA/ACTESA on various fronts in support of farmers' organisations and their members. He noted that, based on the deliberations over the last two days, it was clear that there is much more that SACAU with COMESA. Such areas include trade, including SPS matters, and climate change in which there was need for the region to speak with one voice; gender; agricultural information and agricultural policies. Regarding climate change, there is need to ensure that key messages of farmers from the region, including their issues, concerns and expectations, are captured and considered by the forthcoming COP17 in Durban. The organisation is already in the process of developing such messages, and COMESA has already agreed in principle to cooperate on COP17 and the general area of Climate Change.

136. He informed the meeting that SACAU members recently formally adopted a framework for its policy positions on GMO technology. Among others, SACAU acknowledges GM technology as one of the options to increasing productivity, production and incomes for framers; it respect s the right of consumers to choose whether or not to consume GMO foods, and calls for a regional Bio-safety framework and the responsible promotion of the GMO. Details of the framework are being fleshed out and will be shared with COMESA once approved by the SACAU Board by the end of August.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

137. Representing UNEP, Ms Cecilia Kinuthia – Njenga from the South Africa Office commended COMESA for hosting the meeting. She informed the meeting that UNEP had opened a liaison office for the SADC Region based in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. The main objective of the Office is basically to have much more interaction and collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities in the region and to build an in-depth partnership.

138. UNEP has been supporting AMCEN to prepare for the COP 17 Negotiations. Mrs. Jenga stated that there is need to prepare the Africa Negotiators sufficiently in order to strengthen Africa's position on the agenda of COP 17. UNEP has further published a document on the Green Economy focusing on how to promote jobs and increase incomes for the populations through green initiatives.

139. In preparing for the whole concept of sustainable development there is need to consider the green initiative and to look at resource efficiency as a key area of interest. UNEP therefore, offers their collaboration particularly in the area of climate change financing and will assist Member States in absorbing some of the funds that are available.

Michigan State University (MSU)

140. Prof. Isaac Minde from Michigan State University also thanked COMESA for partnering with his institution and for the invitation. MSU will continue to support COMESA in the area of technical capacity and food systems in Africa.

141. He noted that the world is yet to witness population growth rates and increase in incomes which will impact food systems. There is need therefore to enhance the skills base in order to respond effectively to these projected changes. Higher institutions of learning need to be ready and equipped sufficiently for this challenge. The main issue of the MSU initiative will be to work with institutions of higher learning to build this capacity to respond to the changing food system in Africa.

The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT)

142. Mr, Saidi Mukomwa spoke on behalf of the African Tillage Network (ACT) whose objective is to prompt conservation agriculture (CA). This includes the idea on preserving the lands. There are climate resilient technologies that have been proved to address environmental degradation and therefore, adaptation to climate change. ACT as a network and its partners have knowledge and information to share with COMESA Member States and they should therefore seize this opportunity. ACT has been involved in developing investment programmes and funds programmes.

East African Farmers Federation (EAFF)

143. The President of the East Africa Farmers Federation, Mr. Philip Kiriro informed the meeting that the Farmers Federation implements various activities and is made up of various members. He stated that the Federation is concerned about food insecurity in the continent, and focuses on both the EAC and IGAD blocks. He noted that IGAD receives a large percentage of the world's aid and therefore, agriculture plays a very important role in alleviating some of the food challenges faced by the region

144. EAFF would like to work towards designing a regional food programme and putting together a regional food security strategy. EAFF is working with EAC and IGAD in this regard. In addition, EAFF is also looking at land issues as well as matters relating to land grabbing, climate and bio-technology, which are important for agriculture. Mr. Kiriro said that his Federation is working with COMESA and both institutions regard food security as being high on the agenda of their activities. EAFF supports enhanced productivity, trade and regional integration and will continue to work with COMESA and other partners to realize these objectives.

The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (RESAKSS)

145. Dr. Josph Karugia, Coordinator for RESAKSS expressed his gratitude for the invitation to observe the proceedings of the meeting. . He noted that the reporting of progress on activities undertaken in the region was pertinent to informing the way forward. He introduced RESAKSS as an Africa-wide initiative organized in three (3) nodes in Eastern and Central Africa; Southern Africa and West Africa. He reported that COMESA chairs the Regional Steering Committee that guides the agenda for the East and Central African Node.

RESAKSS also contributes to the Continental CAADP M&E Framework and is able to track progress in the implementation of CAADP.

146. The thrusts of RESAKSS activities include: strategic analysis including monitoring of sector performance and forecasting of future challenges. RESAKSS also undertakes analysis of growth options to inform the CAADP planning process. Some of the key outputs besides the analyses are: annual agriculture trends and CAADP M&E Reports. RESAKSS would therefore, like to implore COMESA Member States to fully operationalize the CAADP M&E Framework and the knowledge support systems at country level.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

147. Mr. Dermot Cassidy, contractor with USAID presented an on-going initiative on prioritizing SPS Capacity Building Options using the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) framework. He mentioned that the tool identifies different SPS capacity building options and ranks them based on the extent to which they impact on the countries trade flows. Together with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), USAID will by the end of 2011 support COMESA to apply the framework at regional level to clearly identify commodities with SPS issues that are constraining intra-regional trade. Based on the information generated, bankable projects will be developed that would qualify for USAID support. This includes the green pass certification scheme for establishing equivalence of SPS systems. He mentioned that through the Feed the Future Initiative, USAID will support sub-Saharan countries, several of which belong to the COMESA block including Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi to develop and implement effective aflatoxin control and mitigation strategies. In this regard, USAID will support COMESA's efforts on strengthening the competences of a network of aflatoxin analysis laboratories in the region.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION BY THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (Agenda item 6)

148. The Chairman Honourable Clement Dlamini, Minister of Agriculture of Kingdom of Swaziland guided the meeting through the process of considering the adoption of the Draft Declaration. The meeting unanimously adopted the Draft Declaration as amended. The Declaration is attached as Annex II.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 7)

149. There was no business discussed under this agenda item.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND DECLARATION BY THE JOINT FOURTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (Agenda item 8)

150. The Chairman Honourable Clement Dlamini, Minister of Agriculture of Kingdom of Swaziland guided the meeting through the process of considering the draft report and declaration. The meeting unanimously adopted the Report and Declaration of the Fourth Joint Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources with amendments.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING (Agenda item 9)

151. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the venue and date of the next meeting will be communicated to all Member States once the consultations for the venue have been concluded.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING (*Agenda item 10*)

152. The Chairman of the meeting Honourable Clement Dlamini, Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Swaziland closed the meeting. In his closing remarks, he thanked the vice-President of Comoros and his fellow Ministers for their support and commended them for the high quality of deliberations. He observed that Climate Change has far reaching implications on food systems in the region. He was also pleased that the meeting endorsed decisions to strengthen SPS systems and competitiveness of food systems in the COMESA region.

153. The Honourable Minister noted that the competitiveness of the COMESA region lies in its ability to participate effectively in the negotiations around climate change, trade and Environment matters. He was pleased to note that the region is closer to coming up with a common position on the inclusion of agriculture in the climate change negotiations. He urged member states and the Secretariat to expedite the decisions which had been agreed upon.

154. Finally, he thanked the Secretariat for the hard work and job well done. He wished all the delegates safe passage to their respective capitals.

155. Honourable Sinon, Minister of Agriculture of Seychelles proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of other delegates. He expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Swaziland for hosting the meeting and for their exceptional hospitality. He thanked his fellow Ministers and heads of delegation for their excellent contributions that resulted in concrete decisions and the Ezulwini Declaration on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources.

Annex I

COMESA Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Purpose and objectives of the Strategy
3. Development potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sector
4. Priority areas for investment
5. Implementation plan

1. INTRODUCTION

The COMESA region is a large part of the African continent, covering an area of about 13 million square kilometres, and has a population of over 400million (1998), more than half the continent's population. It covers the Horn of Africa, Eastern Africa, the Indian Ocean Island States, Southern Africa and the Great Lakes States. Formed as a Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) in 1981, it changed to its current name in 1994 and established a Free Trade Area on 31st October, 2000, with the ultimate objective being to create an African Economic Community. Presently, the membership of COMESA comprises the following nineteen countries: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Congo D.R, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The COMESA vision is to provide excellent technical services to Member States in order to facilitate the region's sustained development through economic integration. In this regard, COMESA as a regional grouping carries out economic activities in the areas of trade, customs, monetary affairs, industry, transport and communications, agriculture and natural resources in accordance with the COMESA Treaty, which sets the agenda for COMESA. This is done in order to raise the standard of living of its peoples, to foster closer relations among its Member States, and to contribute to the economic integration and development of the African continent. The Fisheries Development Programme, comprising capture fisheries and aquaculture in both inland and marine waters, is one sub-sector intervention, which is part of the COMESA Plan of Action aimed at increasing food production to self-sufficiency as well as promoting intra-and extra- COMESA trade.

The COMESA region is home to some of Africa's most important fisheries resources. These include, among others, marine resources in the Western Indian Ocean, Southeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, as well as the vast freshwater systems of the Nile, Congo and Zambezi Basins and the Great Lakes found within them. Taken together, COMESA Member States have access to a coastline of some 14,418 Km, a continental shelf of about 558,550 square kilometers, and a total Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) area of about 3.01 million square kilometers, as well as in inland waters of about 394,274 square kilometers. Based on these rich resources, fisheries is an important economic sector in the COMESA region. It serves as as a source of high quality nutrition, income and employment, and public revenue. Fish is also a significant commodity of trade both within the COMESA region and from Member States to international markets. Export trade generates substantial foreign exchange for Member States. In order to safeguard and further increase the sector's contribution to food security and economic development in the region, COMESA is prioritizing the new Fisheries Development Programme to assist Member States in sustainably developing their fisheries and aquaculture resources.

Since 2005, COMESA has contributed significantly to developing Africa-wide fisheries strategies and frameworks. These include the *AU-NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture* which is an integral part of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The overall objectives of the Action Plan are (i) to increase and sustain the long-term productivity of African fisheries and aquaculture through sustainable use of aquatic resources and application of environmentally sound and efficient technologies, and (ii) to strengthen the food security and trade benefits for Africa's socio-economic development through improved access of African fish products to domestic, regional and international markets. These objectives guide COMESA's initiatives in the fisheries sector. However, they need to be further specified to articulate the specific priorities of the COMESA region. The COMESA Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy is fulfilling this purpose and ensures alignment of programs and projects in the sector with the long-term objectives of COMESA.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

The overall goal of the COMESA Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy is to increase and sustain the contributions of fisheries and aquaculture to the region's socio-economic development and food security.

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify regional priorities for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture and to outline COMESA's approach for the development of regional programmes in support of these priorities.

This Strategy Document pursues the following specific objectives:

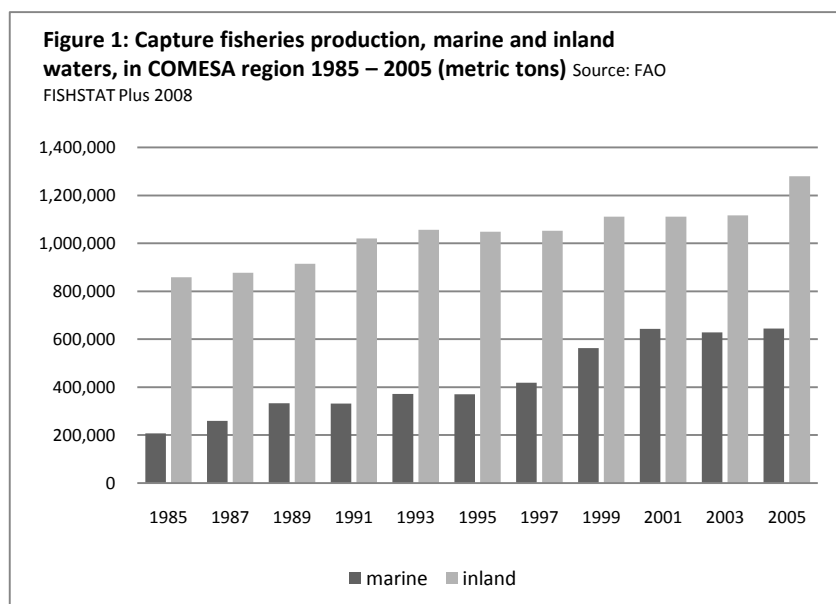
1. To give an overview of the potential for fisheries and aquaculture development in the COMESA region;
2. To identify key constraints to realizing this potential;
3. To outline the priority areas within the sub-sectors of marine fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture where targeted investment can overcome constraints and foster sustainable development;
4. To identify the roles of the main stakeholders, including COMESA, for taking this development agenda forward;
5. To identify the priority actions by COMESA over the next three to five years to support implementation of this Strategy.

3. DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR IN THE COMESA REGION

Countries in the COMESA region produce about 2.5 million metric tons (mt) of fish every year. This figure has grown steadily over the past decades but since the 1990s, growth has slowed down in the capture fisheries sector amid indication that several fisheries are nearing production limits. Aquaculture, on the other hand, is gaining momentum, although with the exception of Egypt production levels are still very low. Capture fisheries in marine and inland waters together contribute over 1.9 million mt and aquaculture produces about 575,000 mt, over 93% of which come from fish farms in Egypt. Setting aside Egypt where aquaculture contributes more than half of fish supplies, capture fisheries provides 97.8% of the region's fish production and aquaculture 2.2%.

3.1 Capture Fisheries

Production from capture fisheries in the COMESA region is estimated at over 1.9 million mt, of which 643,709 mt are from marine fisheries and 1,279,481 mt from inland fisheries. After increasing steadily during the 1980s and 1990s, this production level has been stagnating since then for the region as a whole. This trend varies, however, between Member States



and individual fisheries. In some cases production has declined, while others continue to experience increases in production. There are strong indications that several fisheries in the region, both in inland and marine environments, are fully exploited or over-exploited, and the

potential for further increasing production is limited to a few locations. The overall challenge in capture fisheries is to stabilize and sustain production levels in the long-term and to increase the value of this production through development in the post-harvest sector and expansion of markets and trade.

Among the main producer countries in marine fisheries are Angola (201,000 mt), Egypt (160,000 mt), Madagascar (120,000 mt), Seychelles (87,000 mt), Libya (34,000 mt), and Mauritius (11,000 mt). In the inland fisheries sector, among the main producers are Egypt (313,000 mt), Uganda (240,000 mt), DR Congo (215,000 mt), Kenya (113,000 mt), Zambia (65,000 mt) and Malawi (54,000 mt).

The first sale value of capture fisheries production is estimated at over US\$ 2 billion annually. Detailed data, however, are not available for the majority of small-scale fisheries so that the actual economic contributions of the sector to household incomes and local economies are likely to be significantly higher.

Capture fisheries in the COMESA region employ several 100,000 fishers. The vast majority of these are small-scale fishers in inland or coastal waters using artisanal vessels and fishing gear. Industrial investments in fishing and post-harvest technologies are still limited to a number of commercialised fisheries such as in the Great Lakes and in the marine environment. In these areas, fish supply chains have become more integrated and small and medium scale fishers are linked to industrial processing and trading facilities.

Development Challenges

In order to capitalize fully and sustainably on the potential of the capture fisheries sector, the following constraints need to be addressed:

- a) Capture fisheries production overall is stagnating and indications of overexploitation are mounting in increasing numbers of fisheries.
- b) Fisheries resources are under growing pressure from increased fishing effort as well as competing demand for alternative uses of aquatic resources and their negative impact on fisheries productivity.
- c) Investments in fisheries management capacity, research and monitoring, and trade and market infrastructure, on the other hand, are very low, in particular in inland capture fisheries.
- d) Management of trans-boundary fisheries resources such as in shared river basins and coastal zones continues to be an institutional and political challenge, though successful examples are emerging in the region.
- e) In many countries, national fisheries policies and management frameworks require up-dating and further elaboration to keep abreast of changing realities and to better align the fisheries sector with overall national development planning.
- f) Institutional and technical capacity for planning, implementation and monitoring is often still weak. Resource flows to and within the sector need to become more efficient in order to facilitate effective enforcement of management measures in collaboration with stakeholders.
- g) Human resources in the fisheries sector are affected by prevailing poverty and poor health conditions. Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, other infectious diseases, malaria and other water-borne diseases is very high and has a debilitating impact on good management and sustainable production.

3.2 Aquaculture

Aquaculture, the world's fastest growing food production sector, is still at a low level of investment and production in the COMESA region. The exception is Egypt where dramatic

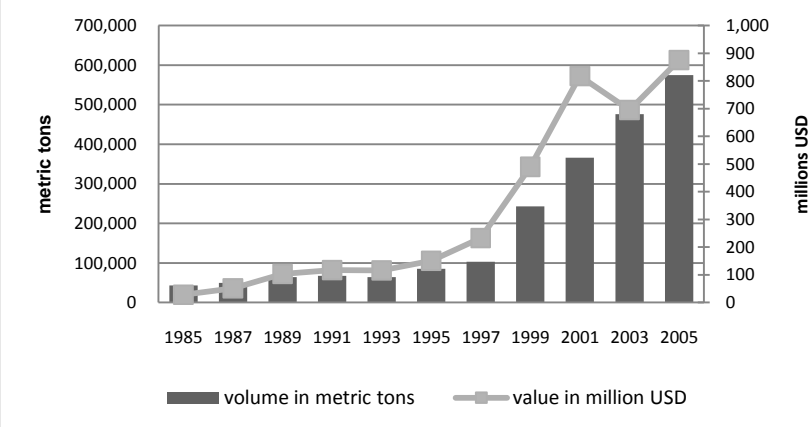
growth has occurred over the past 20 years leading to a production level of 540,000 mt (2005). Egypt thus contributes over 93% of aquaculture production in the COMESA region. In several other countries, aquaculture is starting to grow strongly albeit from a low base. The technical potential for scaling-out emerging successes in the region is very high, both in freshwater and marine environments.

In mariculture, Madagascar (6,000 mt) has the highest production capacity, followed by Seychelles (772 mt) and Mauritius (377 mt). In freshwater culture Uganda (10,817 mt), Zambia (5,125 mt), DR Congo (2,965 mt) and Zimbabwe (2,452 mt) are experiencing strong growth as do several other Member States at lower levels.

Among the main species farmed in the COMESA region are tilapia species (41% of production), mullets (27%) and carps (24%). Catfish (3%) and shrimp and prawns (2%) are important products in specific Member States.

Figure 2: Aquaculture production and value in COMESA region, 1985-2005

Source: FAO FISHSTAT Plus 2008



The total value of aquaculture production in the region is about US\$ 875million annually of which Egypt realizes US\$ 792million and Madagascar US\$ 34million. Uganda, Zambia, DR Congo, Seychelles and Zimbabwe all report over US\$ 5million of annual value. Overall, brackish water aquaculture, dominated by the Nile delta, accounts for 86% of

value, freshwater aquaculture for 9.5% and mariculture for 4.5%.

Development Challenges

To meet the challenge of scaling-up and accelerating the growth of aquaculture in the region, several constraints need to be addressed:

- a) A fundamental shift towards a market-led approach to aquaculture development, based on a realistic understanding of technical and economic potentials, is required. This needs to include stronger partnerships between public and private sector.
- b) Dissemination of productive and sustainable technologies requires much stronger support. While progress is being made at local level and through specific enterprises, there are very few mechanisms for scaling-out this impact to much wider areas where technical and market conditions are conducive.
- c) Disseminating lessons and experiences from Egypt, and other growth zones, to the wider COMESA region requires further facilitation and technical support.
- d) Few countries in the region have comprehensive aquaculture development plans that encourage and facilitate investments by a range of private and public sector stakeholders in production, marketing, monitoring and overall sector management. Technical capacity building support to countries for developing and implementing such plans is required to enable the aquaculture sector to gain a stronger foothold in national economies.

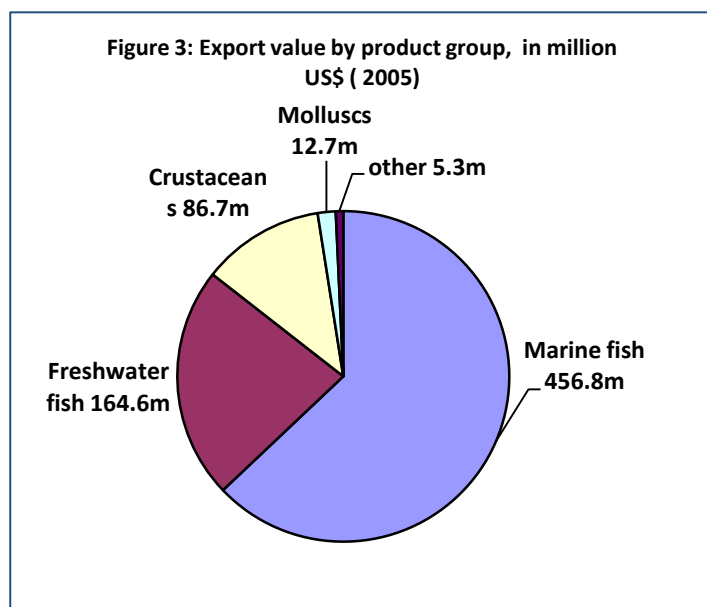
- e) Key technical inputs, including quality fish seed (fingerlings), affordable aqua-feeds, technical advice and financial and other business services, continue to be a constraint in many aquaculture zones. Targeted interventions involving private sector stakeholders are needed to strengthen the capacities for effective and efficient delivery of such inputs.
- f) Understanding of the respective contributions of different aquaculture systems to economic growth and food security and of their different support requirements is weak. Differentiated approaches are required to support the growth of industrial aquaculture operations, small and medium scale commercial enterprises and small-holder farmers. Within the COMESA region, all of these categories are important, but priorities will differ across countries and this needs to be reflected in aquaculture development plans.

3.3 Trade and markets

Trade is an essential part of fisheries and it is estimated that globally over 41% of fish and fish products cross international borders between the point of harvest and the point of consumption. COMESA Member States export about US\$ 726million worth of fish and fish products annually. At the same time, they import fish and fish products with a value of US\$ 531million.

Among the region’s leading exporters are Seychelles (US\$ 191m), Uganda (US\$ 143m), Madagascar (US\$ 122m), Mauritius (US\$ 109m), Kenya (US\$ 51m) and Angola (US\$ 16m). Most of the fish exported by COMESA Member States is destined for the European Union (EU), USA, Japan, Australia and Israel.

Among the main importing countries are Egypt (US\$ 150m), Mauritius (US\$ 146m against a re-export value of US\$ 55m), Seychelles (US\$ 79m), DR Congo (US\$ 55m), Angola (US\$ 33m), Madagascar (US\$ 21m) and Libya (US\$ 20m).



Export products come from marine as well as inland fisheries, and from capture fisheries as well as aquaculture. Among the main export product categories are marine fish (US\$ 456.8m), freshwater fish (US\$ 164.6m), crustaceans (US\$ 86.7m) and molluscs (US\$ 12.7m).

In addition to these official statistics, fish and fish products are traded between COMESA states as well as with other African countries through informal trade. This trade is very substantial in inland fisheries but also encompasses coastal fisheries. No good data exist that would

document this trade, but it is assumed that several 100,000 mt annually are traded across borders in this way. Main informal trade routes extend from the Great Lakes to Central, Western and Southern Africa, but they also source fish from coastal fisheries and inland floodplains. This informal trade provides essential services for regional food security throughout Africa. Most of the products traded are ‘low-value’ products, often dried, salted or smoked, but fresh products are also traded. These products are a critically important source of high-quality nutrition for millions of poor people in the COMESA region. Women are the

leading entrepreneurs in this industry and also provide much of the work force in processing and marketing. Several 100,000 women find income opportunities in this way.

The overall picture of fish trade and markets in the COMESA region is therefore one of great diversity. In order to enhance the value and benefits of this sector, a multi-pronged approach is needed that targets the requirements of different markets and different types of businesses involved in fish processing and trade.

High-value products for export markets, both from capture fisheries but increasingly also from aquaculture are a growth industry in the region. Investor interest is high and the region has an internationally competitive advantage through relatively intact aquatic environments. This advantage needs to be strategically developed to maximize long-term economic benefits.

Several Member States have made great progress in developing policies regulatory frameworks as well as infrastructure and institutional capacity to facilitate exports of fish products to international markets. To date, fish inspection and quality assurance systems are well developed in Eritrea, Kenya, Seychelles, and Uganda. Ethiopia, Malawi, and Zambia are making progress in the establishment and improvement of fish inspection and quality assurance. Kenya, Seychelles and Uganda are on List 1, and Eritrea is on List 2 in satisfying the market requirements of the European Union Authorities.

All the factories in these countries have in place a quality management programme based on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles on which approvals are pegged. Countries on List 1 have access to the EU market while those on List 2 can have access to individual EU country markets bilaterally. Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia are at the moment exporting fish to other COMESA countries such as Djibouti, Congo D.R. and Zimbabwe, and have initiated programmes towards improving fish inspection and quality assurance system to qualify as COMESA fish exporting countries to EU and USA markets.

COMESA has been supporting these initiatives by Member States through technical programmes and projects and wishes to increase this support further. The objective is to strengthen the technical capacity of Member States for gaining increased benefits from their widening trade in fish and fish products. In addition to the technical aspects of trade, COMESA has also taken a leading role in international policy dialogue in support and on behalf of Member States. During the negotiations between countries of Eastern and Southern Africa and the European Union for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the fisheries sector has been an important priority.

Development Challenges

COMESA places great emphasis on facilitating Member States' access to regional and international markets for fish and fish products. In order to achieve this goal, a number of constraints need to be addressed:

- a) Capacity, experience and opportunities to participate in regional and international fish markets vary greatly between Member States. While some countries have established themselves as international fish exporters, others are just starting to assess their opportunities in this respect. COMESA needs to account for these differences when designing and prioritizing support programmes.
- b) In many Member States, critical constraints to more effective participation in fish trade include insufficient regulatory frameworks and standards, limited technical capacity to implement standards that have been adopted, lack of laboratory facilities

and operational capacity, weak cold-chain capacity along supply chains, poorly defined roles of private and public sector in planning and implementation, and general lack of experience in fish exports.

- c) The most important markets for fish and fish products (with some exceptions for high-value products) continue to be within the COMESA region. Established intra-regional fish supply chains are essential for regional food security, but require significant support to sustain supplies, improve trade efficiencies and enhance the quality of products. Key challenges in this area of trade are poor access to financial service sectors, inefficient cross-border trade facilities, lack of standards for artisanally processed fish products, lack of harmonization of trade regulations between Member States and weak organizational capacity of small-scale operators.

Desired future outcomes

There is great potential in the region for sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture that will generate benefits through growth of local and national economies, improved food security and further regional integration. Yet, to achieve this potential, significant changes are required in the way the sector is managed, investments are undertaken and developments are being monitored. It is important to set targets for the sector over a defined time frame and prioritize interventions accordingly. Table 1 summarizes the current status of the sector and describes desired future outcomes in the near, medium and long term. These scenarios are grouped according to six impact areas identified by the AU-NEPAD *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Companion Document on Fisheries*.

Table 1: Desired future outcomes for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector in the COMESA region.

Current status	Desired outcomes		
	1 year	5 years	15 years
Purpose: To increase and sustain the contributions of fisheries and aquaculture to socio-economic development and food security in the COMESA region			
Increasing awareness of issues and challenges, and series of instruments and protocols developed; there is a momentum of change, policies being reviewed, but implementation needs to be defined.	Coherent, co-ordinated approach is agreed at regional level, targets and indicators defined, stake-holders committed to implementation, and investors are aware of options and opportunities in public, private and other sectors.	Cross-sector investments and programs are in place, important actions taken to secure longer-term aims; measurable development gains have been achieved; case for further investment is made and accepted.	Achievement of major defined targets, all sector elements fully institutionalised, secure base and processes are in place for continued benefit delivery.
1. Human and institutional capacity			
Fragmented sectoral approach, lack of regional and national capacity, and limited linkages with stakeholders.	Identify regional, national and local capacity in management and development. Linkages with private sector and civil society agents are developed. Strategies for sector resource management	Increased capacity to manage sector resources. Structures oversee resource management, with linkages to stakeholders. Increased production and value addition due	Structures with resident capacity capable of achieving sectoral goals. Structures with robust linkages with relevant stakeholders.

Current status	Desired outcomes		
	1 year	5 years	15 years
	defined. Capacity building targets determined.	to capacity building.	
2. Management tools and implementation			
Poor understanding of stock and resource status. Limited capacity to manage stocks and develop resources. Significant pressure to exploit certain resources.	Best practice management defined. Key resources identified for development of management plans. Capacity needs for implementation assessed. Strategies developed for better understanding of stocks/ resources.	Major fisheries and resource systems under best practice management. Management plans implemented by stakeholders. Total resource value and capacity better understood.	As pressure to exploit resources increase, management strategies are further developed and adapted to ensure sustainability of resources utilisation.
3. Sustaining and increasing production			
Capture fisheries production stagnating, with limited underexploited fisheries; limited aqua-culture production, with centres of growth and innovation emerging; scope for fisheries enhancement not fully understood.	Priority zones and targets for aquaculture development identified and investment strategy developed between public and private sector; priority areas for fisheries enhancement identified and intervention plans agreed; opportunities for fuller exploitation of natural stocks ascertained and strategies for utilization agreed	Medium term targets for aquaculture in priority zones achieved (production increase, diversification, type of enterprise); zones for further expansion identified; Fisheries enhancement delivering medium term production increases; scope for further expansion understood; Investments in full exploitation of natural stocks established and well integrated into management	Diversified aquaculture sector established and well-integrated markets (domestic, region, export); generating significant employment; sustainability of aquaculture production systems understood; capture fisheries production stabilized at sustainable levels; fisheries enhancement generates production increase over 2008 levels
4. Developing and adding value			
Total value of sector supply chain not well understood, but probably significant scope for increasing value through investments in technologies, infrastructure and policy	Value chain approach to sector development adopted and targets and investment strategies identified; roles of public and private investors clarified; baseline established for total economic value in national accounts	Post-harvest losses in small-scale and industrial fisheries reduced; diversified value-added and processing sector emerging in fisheries and aquaculture; significant increase in value of product chains; trade and market conditions improved to attract further investments in supply chain	Value addition, processing and service industry contribute at significantly to sector value; domestic and regional markets and trade provide enhanced food security and employment; well-established access to export markets for range of products and producers

Current status	Desired outcomes		
	1 year	5 years	15 years
		(domestic, regional, international)	
5. Sharing benefits			
Poverty, food security, health and livelihoods issues emerging but limited understanding of benefit distribution; recognition of equity, access and rights issues, but no strategy for action	Raised awareness at all levels of social development issues; sectoral options for addressing equity, potential links with MDGs; potential food security impact understood; agreements to develop and apply targeted approaches; recognition of linkages with other sectors	Range of examples of securing and enhancing equity, rights access, reducing vulnerability in all major sub sectors/ resource domains; food security impact of investment well established; strategies in place to scale up to more substantial MDG impact	Significant contribution of sector to achieving MDGs and putting in place longer term mechanisms for securing human development gains
6. Learning and exchanging knowledge			
Limited and unorganized functions in place, though recognized that monitoring roles are increasingly required; knowledge scattered and poorly accessible.	Framework and processes established for defining change, monitoring indicators, building and exchanging knowledge; parameters for ICT, knowledge links, decision-making, accountability	Range of monitoring processes operational, definable change in information and knowledge content and exchange across stakeholders, resulting in improved decision making, resource allocation, management action	Well-developed, fully institutionalized process linking scalar and operational levels, clear understanding of benefits, long-term commitment to support and extend; lessons widened outside sector

PRIORITY AREAS FOR INVESTMENT

In order to overcome the current development challenges and achieve the desired outcomes, significant investments are required across a number of priority areas. COMESA's stakeholders identified the following investment areas where COMESA has a particular role to play to foster the sustainable development that will realize the full potential of fisheries and aquaculture in the COMESA region:

1. Trade and market access;
2. Regulations, standards, policy;
3. Technology dissemination and research;
4. Capacity building and training;
5. Management of shared fisheries and aquaculture resources;
6. Investment facilitation.

These priority areas correspond with the investment areas promoted through the AU/NEPAD *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)*. The *CAADP Companion Document on Fisheries* proposes broad investments on a continental scale. COMESA's priority areas specify these investment areas further and reflect the particular mandate of COMESA as a Regional Economic Community. Table 2 provides an overview of how the two sets of investment areas are linked.

Table 2: Contributions of COMESA Strategy Priorities to Investment Areas in CAADP Companion Document		
<i>COMESA Strategy</i>		<i>CAADP Companion Document</i>
1. Trade and market access;		1. Human and institutional capacity;
2. Regulations, standards, policy;		2. Management tools and implementation;
3. Technology dissemination and research;		3. Increasing and sustaining fish production;
4. Capacity building and training;		4. Enhancing the value of fish products;
5. Management of shared fisheries and aquaculture resources;		5. Sharing benefits from the sector throughout society;
6. Investment facilitation;		6. Monitoring and exchanging of information and knowledge.

COMESA's stakeholders have identified specific action points within each of the six areas for investment. These action points are grouped according to the three main sub-sectors, i.e.

- a) Aquaculture;
- b) Inland Fisheries;
- c) Marine Fisheries.

The following section provides a consolidated summary of priorities identified through regional stakeholder consultations during 2008. Detailed priority lists developed by participants at the COMESA Regional Stakeholder Consultation on 2-3 September 2008 in Nairobi are provided in Annex 2.

1. TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS

Aquaculture

Utilize the growing demand for aquaculture products in domestic and intra-COMESA markets by:

- a) Facilitating intra-regional marketing of aquaculture products;
- b) Facilitating regional exchange of market information;
- c) Improving access to value-addition technologies in the region;
- d) Monitoring supply and demand trends for aquaculture products;

Inland Fisheries

Enhance business growth and socio-economic benefits from intra-regional and international fish trade by:

- a) Enhancing trade infrastructure and facilities along main intra-regional trade routes;
- b) Streamlining and harmonizing existing regulations governing cross-border trade of fish products;
- c) Developing and implementing standards for regionally traded fish products;
- d) Implementing support programmes for artisanal processors and traders in key technical areas so that they can adhere to standards and regulations and access higher-value markets,
- e) Focusing these support programmes in particular on women who are the majority of small-scale entrepreneurs in the sector;
- f) Supporting regional fish trade expositions to promote regionally traded fish products;
- g) Harmonizing standards across the regions to facilitate access to international markets for fish products from the COMESA region;

Marine Fisheries

Increase economic development benefits from trade in marine products from the COMESA region in international markets by:

- a) Establishing a common COMESA market information system for fish;
- b) Strengthening capacity of Member States to negotiate favourable and appropriate international market access for their fish products;
- c) Improving trade infrastructure to reduce high costs of trade;
- d) Linking Island States more effectively to regional market system;
- e) Harmonizing standards across the regions to facilitate access to international markets for fish products from the COMESA region;

2. REGULATIONS, STANDARDS, POLICY

Aquaculture

Support the development of a sustainable aquaculture sector through:

- a) Formulation and up-dating of policies, standards and legislation;
- b) Harmonization of policies, standards and legislation in the region;

Inland Fisheries

Enhance management of regional inland fisheries resources through:

- a) Development of a regional fisheries policy and protocols;
- b) Harmonization of existing national management standards and regulations for trans-boundary fisheries resources;
- c) Establishment of regional fora for discussion of fisheries policy and management;

Marine fisheries

Further enhance policy framework for sustainable, market-led development of marine fisheries resources through:

- a) Support to Member States to harmonize regulatory mechanisms for food safety and product quality standards;
- b) Development of a regional Fisheries Protocol (as for example SADC has done);
- c) Technical support to Member States to up-date policies in view of new challenges including climate change and rising food prices;
- d) Capacity building support to Member States in the area of food safety, quality and SPS;
- e) Training of technicians and equipping national quality assurance laboratories in the Member States;
- f) Establishment of more accredited laboratories in the COMESA region which could be used as regional referral laboratories.
- g) Formation of a regional fish inspection association which should meet regularly to review the progress on the fish inspection and quality assurance system in the region;

3. RESEARCH AND TRAINING

In order to address the significant research and training needs in the region, a strategic regional approach, working through national institutions, will be most cost-effective and will further facilitate regional exchange and information sharing.

Aquaculture

Strengthen capacity for impact-oriented aquaculture research to support accelerated development of sustainable aquaculture in the region through:

- a) Support to initiatives that build human and institutional capacity;
- b) Establish Regional Centers of Excellence in Aquaculture Research and support their capacity to reach stakeholders;
- c) Support strategic research targeted at key development constraints in the sector;
- d) Strengthen regional networking of research institutions and stakeholders;

Inland Fisheries

Enhance quality, relevance and sustainability of research support to inland fisheries through:

- a) Identification and networking of research and training institutions in the region;
- b) Development and institutionalization of research and training programmes targeted at specific regional development priorities;
- c) Establishment of new and sustainable funding mechanisms for research and training;
and

- d) Support to mechanisms for technical cooperation and scientific exchange in the region.

Marine fisheries

Strengthen coherence and quality of research and training in the region through:

- a) Networking of existing research and training initiatives in the region;
- b) Support to Member States for standardized and harmonized training curricula;
- c) Identification of critical knowledge and capacity gaps in the region; and
- d) Identification of sustainable funding mechanisms.

4. MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY RESOURCES

Aquaculture

Strengthen momentum and capacity for sustainable aquaculture development in the region by:

Harmonizing aquaculture legislation and regulations among COMESA Member States;

Inland fisheries

Improve management of shared freshwater resources by:

- a) Strengthening capacity of existing management bodies for trans-boundary fisheries;
- b) Promoting establishment of trans-boundary management fora where they not yet exist;
- c) Fast-tracking the approved COMESA project on a Common Framework for Managing Shared Inland Fisheries that supports collaboration between riparian states in research, law enforcement and training.

Marine fisheries

Strengthen capacity for implementation and expansion of regional management mechanisms by:

- a) Linking up with the IOTC/IOC to explore opportunity for establishing a regional-wide contiguous fisheries management plan;
- b) Consolidating experiences in SWIOC and explore opportunities to include Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea Member States;
- c) Linking up with the Benguela Current Commission to explore opportunity for a establishing a coordination mechanism with between Atlantic and Indian Ocean management;
- d) Supporting Member States to put in place strategies and mechanism for implementing IPOA-IUU, including MCS/VMS;
- e) Consolidating experiences from IOC and exploring opportunities for other Member States to adopt these; and
- f) Setting up a Joint COMESA-SADC Ministers of Fisheries Committee.

5. INVESTMENT FACILITATION

Aquaculture

Facilitate increased and improved investments in sustainable aquaculture expansion by:

- a) Developing business and financial profiles for aquaculture; and
- b) Engaging regional banks with aquaculture investment profiles;

Inland fisheries

Support Member States to attract investments that increase and sustain the value of inland fisheries by:

- a) Strengthening the regional framework for investments in inland fisheries through regional fisheries strategies and policies;
- b) Harmonizing fisheries investment policies for shared inland water bodies;
- c) Targeting specific potential investors with consolidated bankable proposals;
- d) Supporting Member States in identifying investment opportunities in infrastructure development; and
- e) Supporting the development of soft and micro credit programmes.

Marine fisheries

Support Member States to attract investments that will increase and sustain the value of marine fisheries by:

- a) Documenting and disseminating all relevant investment opportunities;
- b) Establishing a Special Investment Trust to facilitate access of investment for local poor-resource fishers;
- c) Supporting Member States to plan and implement infrastructure development (e.g. project preparation, feasibility studies, project implementation etc);
- d) Supporting Member States to prepare bankable projects;
- e) Identifying success stories and create a platform for cross-learning; and
- f) Harmonizing fisheries investment policies for shared marine resources.

5. Implementation Plan

In order to take this agenda forward, COMESA will develop and implement technical support programmes through Member States and a wide range of relevant stakeholder groups. These programmes will be aligned with national and regional priorities in fisheries, aquaculture and related sectors in order to add value to these efforts and realize synergies across related intervention areas.

Stakeholders

The following stakeholder groups have been identified for implementation of programmes under this Strategy:

1. COMESA;
2. Member States, through their Ministries responsible for fisheries and involving other relevant Ministries;
3. Relevant community-level fisheries institutions and farmers groups;
4. Competent Authorities in relevant areas;
5. Private sector associations;

6. Sub-regional fisheries organizations;
7. Universities;
8. Research and training institutions;
9. Civil society organizations working in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
10. ASARECA;
11. WorldFish Center;
12. FAO and other international organizations working in fisheries and aquaculture in the region;

COMESA stakeholders have identified short-term, medium-term and long-term action required to implement the Strategy. These comprise the following broad areas:

Timing	Actions by COMESA and Member States
Short term (2009 – 2012)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COMESA will coordinate the development of technical support programmes in priority areas, including resource mobilization and stakeholder engagement; 2. Implementation of flagship Technical Programmes in aquaculture, inland fisheries and marine fisheries started; 3. Member States will identify a Focal Person for implementation and up-date of the COMESA Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy; 4. COMESA Secretariat will assess need and resource implications for a Fisheries Adviser position; 5. COMESA will consider establishing a Committee of Ministers responsible for fisheries;
Medium term (2012 – 2015)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of Technical Programmes on-going; 2. Monitoring of impact of programmes and feedback into policy and Strategy up-date; 3. COMESA Committee of Ministers responsible for fisheries established and providing guidance for Strategy implementation; 4. COMESA will facilitate development of regional policies and protocols as required;
Long term (beyond 2015)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of Technical Programmes and Infrastructure Investment Programmes; 2. Promotion of regional technical and policy networks in fisheries and aquaculture to continue development of programmes; 3. Impact of interventions well documented and understood and Strategy regularly up-dated to account for changing environment.

ANNEX 1: Overview tables of fish production in the COMESA Region

CAPTURE FISHERIES - production by country and environment (metric tons)

Country	Environment	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Angola	Inland	7,500	8,000	6,000	7,000	10,000
Angola	Marine	92,593	125,088	116,781	232,351	230,000
Burundi	Inland	11,369	17,395	21,101	17,315	14,000
Comoros	Marine	5,200	12,234	13,000	13,200	15,070
Congo, DR	Inland	146,220	159,300	154,751	205,000	215,000
Congo, DR	Marine	2,056	2,000	3,876	4,300	5,000
Djibouti	Marine	380	360	350	270	260
Egypt	Inland	136,255	175,669	244,300	253,470	242,100
Egypt	Marine	37,855	75,367	91,002	130,845	107,454
Eritrea	Marine	-	-	3,559	12,712	4,027
Ethiopia	Inland	3,500	3,773	6,325	15,681	9,450
Ethiopia	Marine	500	1,172	-	-	-
Kenya	Inland	99,647	190,993	187,241	210,343	141,020
Kenya	Marine	6,297	10,103	5,644	5,017	7,311
Libya	Marine	15,901	24,746	34,410	44,893	46,076
Madagascar	Inland	33,836	29,960	30,000	30,000	30,000
Madagascar	Marine	35,189	73,640	86,627	107,959	106,400
Malawi	Inland	61,892	73,903	53,664	50,000	58,783
Mauritius	Marine	12,175	14,098	16,395	9,615	10,048
Rwanda	Inland	906	2,350	3,300	6,726	7,800
Seychelles	Marine	4,118	5,437	4,008	32,776	106,555
Sudan	Inland	25,881	30,000	40,000	48,000	56,500
Sudan	Marine	409	1,500	4,003	5,010	5,508

Swaziland	Inland	78	65	60	70	70
Uganda	Inland	160,800	245,223	208,789	219,356	416,758
Zambia	Inland	68,000	64,868	70,546	66,671	65,000
Zimbabwe	Inland	17,260	25,607	16,463	13,114	13,000
<i>Total Inland</i>		<i>773,145</i>	<i>1,027,106</i>	<i>1,042,540</i>	<i>1,142,746</i>	<i>1,279,481</i>
<i>Total Marine</i>		<i>212,672</i>	<i>345,745</i>	<i>379,654</i>	<i>598,948</i>	<i>643,709</i>
TOTAL		985,817	1,372,851	1,422,194	1,741,694	1,923,190

Source: FAO FISHSTAT Plus 2008

AQUACULTURE - production by country and environment (metric tons)

Country	Environment	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Burundi	Freshwater	2	30	50	100	200
DR Congo	Freshwater	180	700	600	2,076	2,965
Egypt	Brackish water	26,500	32,000	48,002	303,573	499,834
Egypt	Freshwater	15,346	29,916	23,813	36,520	39,914
Ethiopia	Freshwater	0	36	55	0	0
Kenya	Freshwater	210	1,009	1,301	512	1,047
Kenya	Marine	3	227	1	0	0
Libya	Freshwater	0	70	100	100	10
Libya	Marine	0	0	0	0	256
Madagascar	Freshwater	284	270	3,177	2,480	2,500
Madagascar	Marine	0	10	1,535	4,800	6,000
Malawi	Freshwater	180	197	226	530	812
Mauritius	Freshwater	28	50	108	83	23
Mauritius	Marine	25	28	68	4	377
Rwanda	Freshwater	39	164	79	270	386
Seychelles	Marine	0	15	195	425	772
Sudan	Freshwater	30	234	1,000	1,000	1,600
Swaziland	Freshwater	12	45	88	69	0
Uganda	Freshwater	33	52	194	820	10,817
Zambia	Freshwater	363	1,460	4,081	4,240	5,125
Zimbabwe	Freshwater	140	157	150	2,151	2,452
<i>Total brackish water</i>		<i>26,500</i>	<i>32,000</i>	<i>48,002</i>	<i>303,573</i>	<i>499,834</i>
<i>Total freshwater</i>		<i>16,847</i>	<i>34,390</i>	<i>35,022</i>	<i>50,951</i>	<i>67,851</i>
<i>Total marine</i>		<i>28</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>1799</i>	<i>5229</i>	<i>7405</i>
TOTAL		43,375	66,670	84,823	359,753	575,090

Source: FAO FISHSTAT Plus 2008

AQUACULTURE - value of production by country and environment (USD '000)

Country	Environment	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Burundi	Freshwater	8	90	65	140	600
DR Congo	Freshwater	289	651	720	5,193	7,419
Egypt	Brackish water	17,750	72,520	89,561	756,995	752,807
Egypt	Freshwater	6,608	52,082	25,634	58,051	39,039
Ethiopia	Freshwater	-	90	132	-	-
Kenya	Freshwater	531	1,784	3,201	1,026	2,307
Kenya	Marine	16	1,771	2	-	-
Libya	Freshwater	-	84	150	150	20
Libya	Marine	-	-	-	-	1,244
Madagascar	Freshwater	407	312	2,986	3,720	4,000
Madagascar	Marine	-	90	7,675	24,000	30,000
Malawi	Freshwater	213	219	266	596	1,372
Mauritius	Freshwater	213	513	960	932	193
Mauritius	Marine	40	68	333	22	2,057
Rwanda	Freshwater	48	401	119	344	485
Seychelles	Marine	-	240	2,457	4,098	5,614
Sudan	Freshwater	26	117	1,000	1,500	2,280
Swaziland	Freshwater	12	90	202	170	-
Uganda	Freshwater	7	18	171	820	11,913
Zambia	Freshwater	907	1,400	14,447	6,996	8,717
Zimbabwe	Freshwater	650	620	560	4,577	5,149
<i>Total brackish water</i>		<i>17,750</i>	<i>72,520</i>	<i>89,561</i>	<i>756,995</i>	<i>752,807</i>
<i>Total freshwater</i>		<i>9,919</i>	<i>58,470</i>	<i>50,612</i>	<i>84,214</i>	<i>83,493</i>
<i>Total marine</i>		<i>57</i>	<i>2,169</i>	<i>10,467</i>	<i>28,121</i>	<i>38,915</i>
TOTAL		27,726	133,159	150,640	869,330	875,215

Source: FAO FISHSTAT Plus
2008

ANNEX 2: Investment priorities identified by COMESA Regional Stakeholder Meeting, Nairobi, 2-3 September 2008

Guiding question: *What regional priority actions should COMESA focus on in supporting fisheries and aquaculture development?*

1. AQUACULTURE WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing
Management of trans-boundary resources	<p>Opportunity: Cooperation among COMESA Member States existing</p> <p>Constraint: Legislation not harmonized</p>	Facilitate harmonization of legislation among COMESA Member States	Short term (2009 – 2012)
Research and training	<p>Opportunity: Research and training institutions available</p> <p>Constraints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Poor research facilities. On-going research targeting academic work and not applied. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support human and institutional capacity building (e.g. Egypt's Initiative). Promote regional networking. Establish Regional Centers of Excellence in Aquaculture. Encourage and support targeted research on practical aspects of aquaculture. 	<p>Short term</p> <p>Long term (beyond 2015)</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p>
Investment facilitation	<p>Opportunity: Potential regional and international funding institutions available. (e.g. ISDB, AfDB, EADB, PTA Bank, IFC WB etc)</p> <p>Constraints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Role of private sector underdeveloped. Lack of understanding of aquaculture by lending institutions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop business and financial profiles for aquaculture. Engage regional banks with aquaculture investment profiles 	<p>Medium term (2012 – 2015)</p> <p>Short term</p>
Regulations,	Opportunity:	Encourage formulation	Short term

1. AQUACULTURE WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing
standards, policy	<p>Policies, standards and legislation exist.</p> <p>Constraint:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of harmonization; 2. where they exist they are outdated 	and harmonization of policies, standards and legislations	Medium Term
Trade and market access	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ready market for fish within COMESA 2. Free market zone <p>Constraints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. low intra regional trade (volume and value); 2. Weak market information; 3. limited value addition technologies; 4. Lack of information on regional fish supply and demand; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate development of standards 2. Facilitate intra regional marketing of fish and exchange of market information 3. Generate and disseminate regional information on fish supply and demand 	<p>Short term</p> <p>Long term</p> <p>Short term</p>

2. INLAND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing (year)
Management of national and trans-boundary resources	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Huge potential for fisheries resources 2. Shared water resources <p>Constraints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weak national fisheries management regimes. 2. Lack of common for management of Tran boundary. 3. Inadequate support to existing common trans boundary fisheries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific country to tackle and strive to meet regional and international standards; 2. Strengthening of common management fora for trans boundary fisheries and establishing them where they don't yet exist; 	<p>Short term</p> <p>Medium term</p>

2. INLAND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing (year)
	management fora		
Research and training	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Existing fisheries research centers in most countries. Unique economic and scientific (ecological and evolutionary) value Training – existing tertiary institutions with fisheries programmes. mainstreamed in their cultural. <p>Constraints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Poor or lack of research and training facilities (labs, equipment, research vessels, technical expertise) Lack of specialized training institutions. Research is very expensive for most countries and the region there is no clear funding mechanism. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Source and support infrastructure for research (research vessels, laboratories, lab equipment). Support institutionalization of specific programmes for research and training for national fisheries (specific water body programmes). Identify universities and other tertiary institutions for regional fisheries training programmes, e.g. that offered by Egypt. Develop hands-on programmes tailored to national and regional fisheries research and training needs. Design and support the establishment of technical co-operation and exchange programmes for research and training among regional members. Identify existing technical expertise and research infrastructure in the region and produce a directory. Study and support establishment of sustainable research and training funding mechanism. 	Short to long term
Investment	Opportunities:	1. Regional focus on	Medium to

2. INLAND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing (year)
facilitation	<p>Growing market and value for fish and fish products in respective countries in the region.</p> <p>Constraints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack or limited national and regional focus on economic opportunities presented by fisheries. 2. Poor infrastructure to attract investment 3. Lack of financial support in the fisheries sector (micro credit). 	<p>fisheries development should be strengthened – regional fisheries strategy and policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Attract potential investors and investment into fisheries sector. 3. Support to infrastructure development – assist in identification of investment opportunities in Member States and across countries for infrastructure development. 4. Support and assist in development of soft and micro credit programmes. 	long term
Regulations, standards, policy	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There exists national regulation standards and policies in a number of countries for fisheries management and development. 2. Extensive work has been done by organizations such as FAO on national and regional fisheries management and development issues of policy, standards and regulations. <p>Constraints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of common regional fisheries policies. 2. Lack or weak national policies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of a regional fisheries policy. 2. Harmonization of standards and regulations for management of trans boundary fisheries resources. 3. Establishment of fora for discussing standards and policies on fisheries. 	Medium term

2. INLAND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing (year)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Need for standardized regional protocols. 4. Differing national policies on trans boundary fisheries resources. 		
Trade and market access	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High market with over 400 million people. 2. Existing informal national and regional trade in fish and fish products. 3. Good percentage share of the informal local and regional trade by women and youth. <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Despite the high market there is low purchasing power. 2. No formal structures and routes for trade in fish and fish products. 3. In technical barriers to trade that stifle small fish trader's access to premium markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the development and establishment of clear trade routes and facilities for fish and fish products. 2. Review existing laws and regulations and establish the markets and demand for fish in the region. 3. Establish support programmes artisan fishermen and small fish traders to access formal local and regional markets. 4. Support development of regional fish market infrastructure. 5. Establish programmes for development of women managed fish processing and trade businesses. 6. Support creation of a fisheries trade expo regular programme. 	Medium to long term

3. MARINE FISHERIES WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing (year)
Management of trans-boundary resources	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IOC/IOTC already have a plan for tuna and management and other regional fisheries management plans 2. SWIOC has research and management activities for non-tuna resources 3. Benguela Large Marine ecosystem members of SADC have a management plan for the South East Atlantic Ocean <p>Constraints: limited capacity to set up and implement strategies to combat IUU (e.g. MCS/VMS, Port State Control, IPOA-IUU; harmonized legislation)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To link up with the IOTC/IOC to explore opportunity for establishing a regional-wide contiguous fisheries management plan 2. COMESA to consolidate experience in SWIOC and explore opportunities to include Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea Member States 3. COMESA to link up with the Benguela Current Commission to explore opportunity for a establishing a coordination mechanism with between Atlantic and Indian Ocean management 4. COMESA to support Member States to put in place the strategies and mechanism for implementing IPOA-IUU, including MCS/VMS 5. COMESA to consolidate experiences from IOC and explore opportunities for other Member States to adopt 6. COMESA-SADC Joint Ministers of Fisheries Committee to be set up 	<p>Short-term (now)</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short to medium-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p>

3. MARINE FISHERIES WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing (year)
	financing	<p>opportunities for MF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. COMESA to support with preparation of bankable projects 6. COMESA to identify success stories and create a platform for cross-learning 	
Regulations, standards, policy	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Member States have national legislations, standards and policies which can be used as a starting point 2. SADC, IOC have regional fisheries protocols <p>Constraints: Many Member States still have difficulties to understand consumer demands and quality requirements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COMESA to support Member States to put in place legislative and regulatory mechanisms for safe and quality products according to the market demands 2. COMESA to support Member States harmonize legislative and regulatory mechanisms for food safety and product quality standards 3. COMESA to institute regional training program for food safety, quality, or SPS in general 4. COMESA to examine existing fisheries protocols (e.g. SADC) and identify issues for other Member States to adopt 5. COMESA to encourage Member States to develop and implement National Fisheries Policies 6. COMESA to encourage Member States to develop 	<p>Short to medium-term</p> <p>Medium to long-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short to medium-term</p> <p>Short to medium-term</p> <p>Short to medium-term</p>

3. MARINE FISHERIES WORKING GROUP			
Area of regional intervention	Specific opportunities or constraints	Action by COMESA	Timing (year)
		<p>National Fisheries Policies which are coherent to self-sufficiency and National Food Security (in view of rising food prices)</p> <p>7. COMESA to encourage Member States to develop National Fisheries Policies which are coherent to adaptation and mitigate against climate change (Climate-Proof Fisheries Development)</p>	
Trade and market access	<p>Opportunity: Demand for fish is still high (domestically, regionally and globally)</p> <p>Constraints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many Member States still have poor trade infrastructure (policies, regulations; value-addition etc); 2. Trade information is very poor in the region (a lot of trade is unreported) 3. Member States on different levels of negotiating levels of preferences to access to EU & American markets 4. High cost of trade (freight; trade knowledge) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COMESA to institute a common marketing information System for fish 2. COMESA to support Member States to explore market opportunities (intra, extra-regional) 3. COMESA to support Member States with negotiating skills to ensure favourable and appropriate market access (e.g. NAMA; AGOA) 4. COMESA to support linking the Island States with linkage and integration to the regional market system 	<p>Short to medium term</p> <p>Short to medium term</p> <p>Short to medium term</p> <p>Short to medium term</p>

ANNEX II

**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA**



EZULWINI DECLARATION

OF THE

**FOURTH JOINT MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HELD AT
EZULWINI, SWAZILAND
21 - 22 JULY 2011**

WE the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources from the COMESA member states, meeting at Ezulwini, Swaziland on 21 to 22 July 2011 to review progress in the implementation of the regional agricultural programme in the region, have deliberated and reached consensus on a number of issues and have agreed to issue this Declaration on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources;

EXPRESSING our appreciation to His Majesty, King Mswati III, King of the Kingdom of Swaziland, the Government and people of Swaziland, for hosting this important meeting which has availed us an opportunity to review regional strategies and programmes to expand agricultural production, enhance regional food security and foster a common position in preparation for the Conference of Parties (CoP 17) to the UNFCCC;

RECALLING the commitment that our Governments have made to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing hunger in Africa by 50% and child malnutrition by 40% by the year 2015;

RECALLING the decision of the AU Heads of State and Governments at the Maputo Summit in July 2003 to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as a framework for accelerating agricultural development and food security on the continent;

RECALLING COMESA Council Decision to strengthen the Member State's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) capacities in order to promote both intra and extra-COMESA trade in agricultural commodities;

COGNIZANT of the need for the region to develop evidenced based strategies aimed at addressing the rise in food prices and the need to stem high poverty levels and famine in some parts of the region;

RE-AFFIRMING our decisions at the Lusaka Meeting of July 2010, which underscored the importance of accelerating the CAADP processes in member states and the importance of increasing agricultural productivity to achieve food security in the region; and

EXPRESSING appreciation to the Government of Norway, the EU, Rockefeller Foundation, DFID, USAID, AusAID and several others for the generous support rendered to COMESA for the implementation of the COMESA Programmes.

WE HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **URGE** Member States that have not signed the CAADP Compacts to fast-track the process and design appropriate and bankable investment programmes in key areas of crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry development;
2. **URGE** Member States to fully incorporate gender issues in their national agriculture, environment and natural resources development programmes in line with the existing regional and international gender declarations;
3. **DIRECT** the COMESA Secretariat to expeditiously conclude discussions with EAC and SADC to design and implement the Tripartite Regional Agriculture Development and Investment Framework (i.e. the Regional Compact);
4. **URGE** COMESA Secretariat to explore the possibility of setting up an agricultural fund to support the implementation of CAADP Investment Plan programmes;
5. **REQUEST** the COMESA Secretariat to mobilize resources for strengthening capacity of key stakeholders groups in the Member States, including women and youth, to effectively participate in the CAADP implementation process;
6. **DIRECT** the Secretariat to facilitate the development of a long-term strategy and action plan for ACTESA;
7. **ENDORSE** the development of the Regional SPS and Agricultural Trade Facilitation Project, setting priorities through a structured and transparent manner that can contribute to the better allocation of resources; and request the Secretariat to mobilize the necessary resources for its implementation;
8. **URGE** Member States to develop their Climate Smart Agriculture investment framework which will guide the expansion of conservation agriculture in order to raise agricultural productivity and ensure food security at the household, national and regional levels;
9. **CALL UPON COMESA** Member States to continue participating in the ongoing Climate Change negotiations with a view to ensuring a common position and

- actively call for the inclusion of agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) in the post 2012 Climate Regime;
10. **ENDORSE** the COMESA Strategy on the development of fisheries and aquaculture and its expeditious implementation;
 11. **REQUEST** the COMESA Secretariat to mobilize resources for the implementation of the regional programme on sustainable forestry management and range land in arid and semi-arid areas;
 12. **URGE** Member States to support the national policy dialogue platforms that seek to promote effective stakeholder participation in the National Agriculture Policy and Investment Frameworks;
 13. **URGE** Member States to allocate resources to support the provision of information for the Food and Agricultural Marketing Information System (FAMIS); and
 14. **DIRECT** COMESA Secretariat to develop a comprehensive programme on irrigation development and mobilize technical expertise and financial resources from such institutions as the African Development Bank and others.

Adopted, this 22nd day of July, 2011, at Ezulwini, Swaziland

ANNEX III

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