

**The “Johannesburg 2005 Regional Multi- Stakeholder Public Policy Dialogue”  
Theme: “Creating a Conducive Policy Environment for a Food Secure SADC”  
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**A Database of National Farmer Organizations in the SADC Region**

*by Thomas Mupetesi*

## **Background**

- SACAU<sup>1</sup> in collaboration with FANRPAN<sup>2</sup> commissioned a study of national farmer organizations in the SADC region in the period June to August 2005.
- The information obtained from the study was provided by the national farmer organisations.
- Data was collected by country consultants using a questionnaire.
- The purpose was to compile a directory and electronic database of farmer organizations (who is who?) in the region for use by development agencies, donors, service providers and other interested parties.
- The format is divided into five sections.
  - (a) Allows for the selection of the SADC country desired;
  - (b) Once the desired country has been selected, the next step is to select the farmer organisation of choice;
  - (c) Provides key information of the Farmer Organisation;
  - (d) Provides contact details of the farmer organisation;
  - (e) Allows for links to key documents related to the membership study.

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<sup>1</sup> For details see SACAU website <http://www.sacau.org>

<sup>2</sup> For details see FANRPAN Website <http://www.fanrpan.org>

## The Database Format

### a. Select the country

- Botswana
- Mauritius
- Namibia
- Lesotho
- Swaziland
- Malawi
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- South Africa
- Mozambique

### b. Select Farmer Organisation

### c. Select Farmer Organisation Details

- Background
- Key Objectives
- Themes
- Funding Information

### d. Select Contact Details

### e. Links

- Detailed Farmer Organisation Profile
- Country Profile of Farmer Organizations
- Regional Profile of Farmer Organizations

## Breakdown of Farmer Organisations Surveyed

- 81% of the targeted FOs in the region were surveyed.
- Detailed individual reports are now available.

**Table: Breakdown of Farmer Organisations Surveyed**

Country	Total Number of FOs surveyed	Total Targeted	Number of Farmers' Unions	Number of Commodity Associations	Cooperatives
Lesotho	6	10(6)*	Nil	4	2
Tanzania	2	12(8)	2	nil	nil
South Africa	13	14(13)	3	9	1
Zimbabwe	10	12(10)	3	7	nil
Malawi	12	12(12)	2	9	1
Zambia	7	11(7)	3	4	nil
Botswana	4	6(6)	1	3	nil
Namibia	nil	8(8)	nil	nil	nil
Swaziland	5	5(5)			
Mauritius	10	10(10)	2	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>85</b>			

\*The bracketed numbers indicate the revised FO list after validation.

## ***DATABASE PROFILE (Example)***

### **THE LESOTHO HORTICULTURAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION (LEHOFA)**

#### **1. Background**

The introduction of the Initiative for Development and Equity in African Agriculture (IDEAA) in Lesotho gave an impetus to the formation of the horticultural association in the country known as the Lesotho Horticultural Farmers Association (LEHOFA). Phase I of the IDEAA programme focused on assisting agricultural institutions to service farmers. Phase II of the programme was launched in 2002 and focused on commercialization of smallholder agriculture through commodity associations. The farmers were organised into Fellows and Associates who were to spearhead the formation of a commodity association. At a later stage the Fellows and Associates decided to form 10 district horticultural associations in the country. The 10 district horticultural associations then formed an apex national horticultural association (LEHOFA).

#### **2. Objectives:** *The objectives of LEHOFA are given as follows;*

- To promote commercial horticulture in the country.
- To be the mouthpiece of horticultural farmers in terms of advocacy and policy formulation.
- To represent horticulture farmers in national meetings where needed.
- To train horticulture associations in running their own business.
- To train horticulture farmers in good agronomic practices.
- To assist horticulture farmers in finding inputs e.g. seedlings.
- To assist horticulture farmers in finding markets for their produce.
- To seek donor funds for members.

#### **3. Themes**

- Policy lobbying and advocacy
- Capacity building
- Horticultural promotion
- Market search

#### **4. Funding Information**

LEHOFA raises funds from member registration fees, membership fees and donor funds. LEHOFA is very much depended on donor financial resources and it is estimated that donor funds account for more than 95% of LEHOFA's funds. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) from the United States of America is funding LEHOFA for the years 2004-2007.

## **5. Contact Details**

*Lesotho Horticultural Farmers Association, P O Box 7591, Maseru, 100, Lesotho.*

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## **6. Links**

- Detailed Farmer Organisation Profile
- Country Profile of Farmer Organizations
- Regional Profile of Farmer Organizations