

SESSION 11

The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region

From Research to Action

Methodology:

To revisit the Policy recommendations from the studies carried out on the 4 countries and go forward, identifying research areas that can add value.

Recommendations:

- To monitor the situation in regular basis, for instance, every one or two years, looking into all the aspects of the impact;
- To put in place an AIDS warning system (like the early warning system), for monitoring the impact trend in agriculture as well as in food aspects, at national and at SADC levels;
- To come up with appropriate agricultural technologies;
- To build up capacity for the community to use the appropriate technology and information;
- To develop a transmission system of information from the research to who needs the information for making an appropriate decision. This includes too:
 - the dissemination of information available to where the farmer is and not to keep it in the office only;
 - strengthening the awareness in the rural area, exploring all possible channels to make sure that the information reaches to who needs it;
 - being creative and not relying only on the traditional channels;
- To develop support services at the consumption and nutrition side;
- To improve the targeting through quantified vulnerability data in a meaningful time for policy makers to take appropriate decisions related to social protection and shocks mitigation (ex: children feeding programs);
- To identify and to develop a tool for targeting as well as different programs for different levels of family vulnerability;
- For avoiding free food service abuse
 - To involve the community in targeting (community based targeting)
 - To involve the community in care services as well as in implementing effectively and monitoring the program;
 - To develop different packages for different vulnerability levels.
- To pick up the equity issues as real and critical issues, and to look at the vulnerability globally, and not only as HIV driven issues;
- To consider the drivers of HIV when considering the HIV vulnerability;
- To recommend off-farm income generating activities as complementary to the agricultural contribution for poverty reduction;
- To match the assistance with the vulnerability problem;

- To make farming attractive where land is in plenty and is not used;
- To complement farm income generation with nutrition aspects;
- To undertake further studies on rural areas to assess the impact on other areas beyond the agriculture (ex: health, expenditure, education, nutrition,...);
- To develop strategies for addressing and quantifying the impact on the extension workers as well as on the overall extension service. The extension workers make the information to flow from the government agencies and/or researchers to the farmers and vice versa and they can be affected/infected by the HIV/AIDS;
- The same apply for teachers;
- To build capacity for women extensionists targeting women farmers;
- To strengthen the farmer to farmer sharing experiences;