



Strengthening FANRPAN Country Nodes and the Role of Civil Society in Regional FANR

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Context

- 1. Strengthened and for what purpose?***
- 2. Whose role is it to formulate, implement and monitor policy?"***
- 3. Whose responsibility is it to collect data, package it and present it for effective policy formulation, implementation and monitoring?"***

FANRPAN CHALLENGES

- Unable to implement effective stakeholder-driven policy programs due to lack of long-term personnel and non-systematic approaches at both the national and regional secretariat levels.
- How to better respond to the policy analysis and research needs of the SADC region.
- How to strengthen national regional and international partnerships,
- Quality of policy research undertaken
- Improved policy environment for smallholder-based agriculture.

The USAID funded Strengthening of FANRPAN Node:

- Five pilot SADC countries – Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Angola and Namibia

Overall Objective

- Improve the policy environment of smallholder farmers through:
 - Transformation of FANRPAN into a reputable regional network,
 - Enhanced human and institutional capacity for supporting policy formulation and implementation in the SADC region.

Specific Objectives

- Revitalise and strengthen the FANRPAN governance systems for effective advocacy, peer review and strategic policy direction
- Revitalise the regional secretariat and consolidating its capacity for coordinating policy research and advocating for effective policies in sustainable manner
- Enhance the quality of policy research through joint research partnerships, staff secondments and mentoring arrangements with leading policy research institutions - with a view of harmonizing regional policies
- Establish a national FANRPAN node in Angola;
- Develop and implementing a resource mobilisation and sustainable funding strategy for the network.
- **Strengthen FANRPAN country nodes through revitalising the membership in the FANRPAN national networks and promoting wider participation of key stakeholders in national FANR policy dialogue**

The SARPAN-ODI-FANRPAN Tri-partite Partnership

- *The Look-Listen-and Learn (and Act) Project – An Action Research Project for Promoting the Use of CSO's Evidence in Promoting the development and Implementation of Sound Food Security Policy at Regional level*

The Zambian Experience

- One-day National Consultation Meeting (NCM) hosted by the ACF a PP Forum**
- **To present the SARPN-ODI-FANRPAN regional project concept for promoting the use of CSO evidence in policies for food security;**
 - **Strengthen the Zambia FANRPAN node as part of USAID funded FANRPAN project to revitalise country nodes.**

Some participants at the NCM



Adopted Theme for National Consultations

- **“Strengthening institutional capacity for supporting Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources policy formulation and implementation in the SADC region”,**
 - **Provides both for the building of the institutional capacity of CSOs to engage in evidence-based policy advocacy**
 - **Allows for strengthening of the FANR country policy dialogue platform.**

Selected A/NGO Experiences

- The “**Food Security Pack**” – A Production-based Social Protection Pack for Food Insecure Households: A joint food security programme by an Agro-based NGO – Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM) and the Government of Zambia
- The “**Basic Needs Basket**” – A Survey Tool used by the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) for costing the essential food and non-food items that comprise the bare-minimum basket of goods needed for an urban family of six (6) to survive with a decent and healthy standard of living
- The **Zambia Women in Agriculture (ZAW)** – An advocacy effort for gainful participation of Zambian women in Agriculture



Lessons

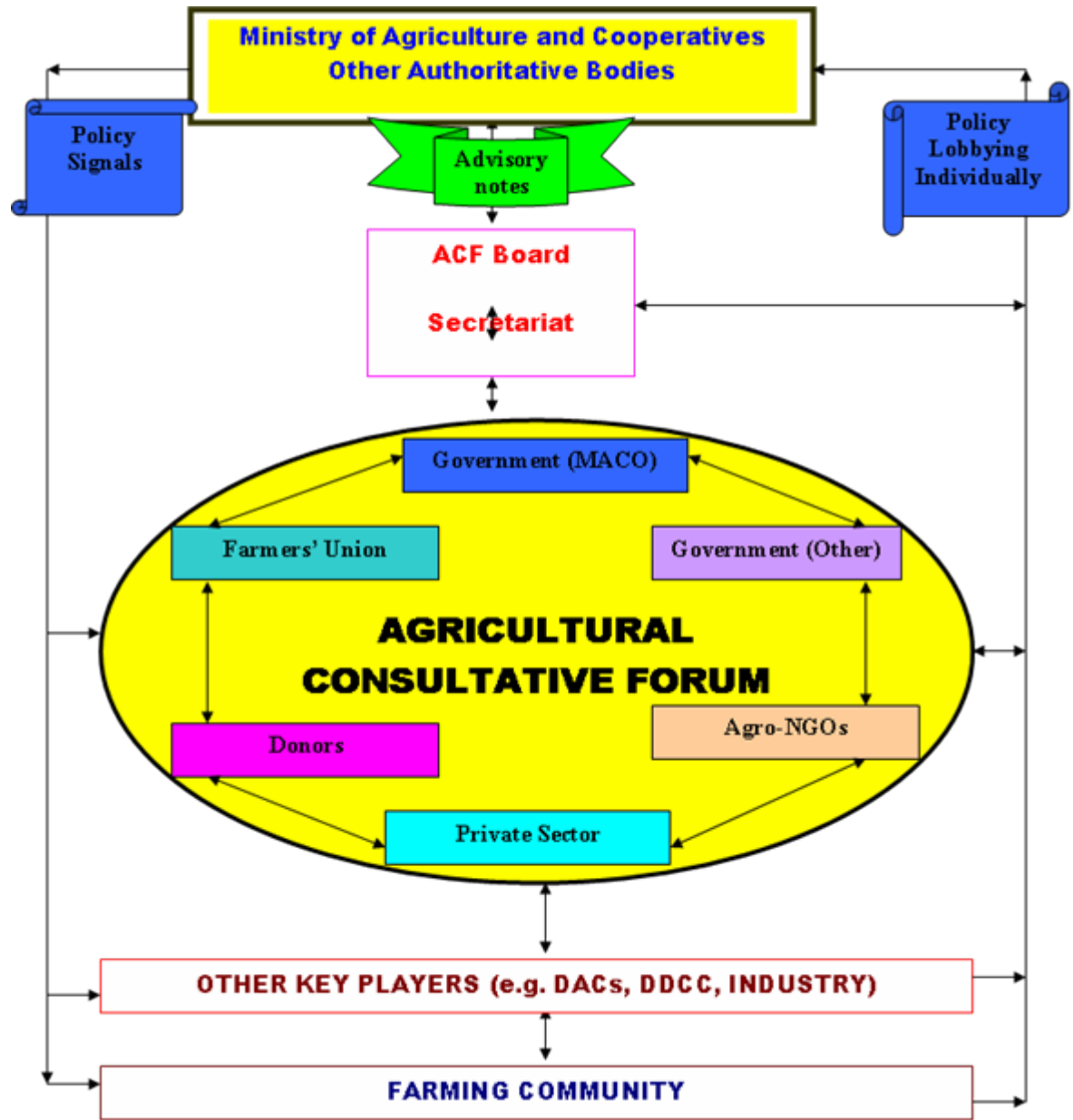
- **Excellent food security policy engagement is taking place at national level.**
- **Little or no engagement at all at regional level.**
- **There is thus space for the Look, Listen and Learn (and Act) project.**
- **Key on-going FANR policy processes and the key actors at regional level, need to be presented at the next country consultative meeting, in order to identify entry points for Zambian NGOs into the regional policy making processes**

Recommendations

- **FANRPAN Node to be housed and supported by the ACF.**



- **A node steering committee based on the FANRPAN constitution (6-8 people drawn from government, policy analysts, agro-based NGOs and the private sector) to be constituted**
- **A Node Facilitator (NF) to be engaged under ACF**
- **ACF to provide office and logistics for NF**
- **FANRPAN to provide the monthly support.**





ACF a Unique Node

- *Strong national nodes and dialogue platforms are the basis for FANRPAN legitimacy.*
- *ACF by bringing together government, private, NGOs, universities/policy analysts, and FOs on a roundtable based on sound researched outputs is a strong national node .*
- *Evidence-based research remains the key challenge for legitimacy and credibility for all other stakeholders engaging governments*

ACF

- Consultations, networking and information sharing
- Advisory service through PANs
- Independent M&E of PRPs

CSO

- Ground based
- up-to date with issues and constraints that affect the poor and vulnerable people, whose voices may not otherwise be heard effectively in the policy process.

Integrating Evidence into the Policy Process

- The political context,
- The linkage between policy makers and other stakeholders
- The external influences
- The RAPID framework: evidence-policy links

External Influences

International factors,
economic and cultural
influences; etc

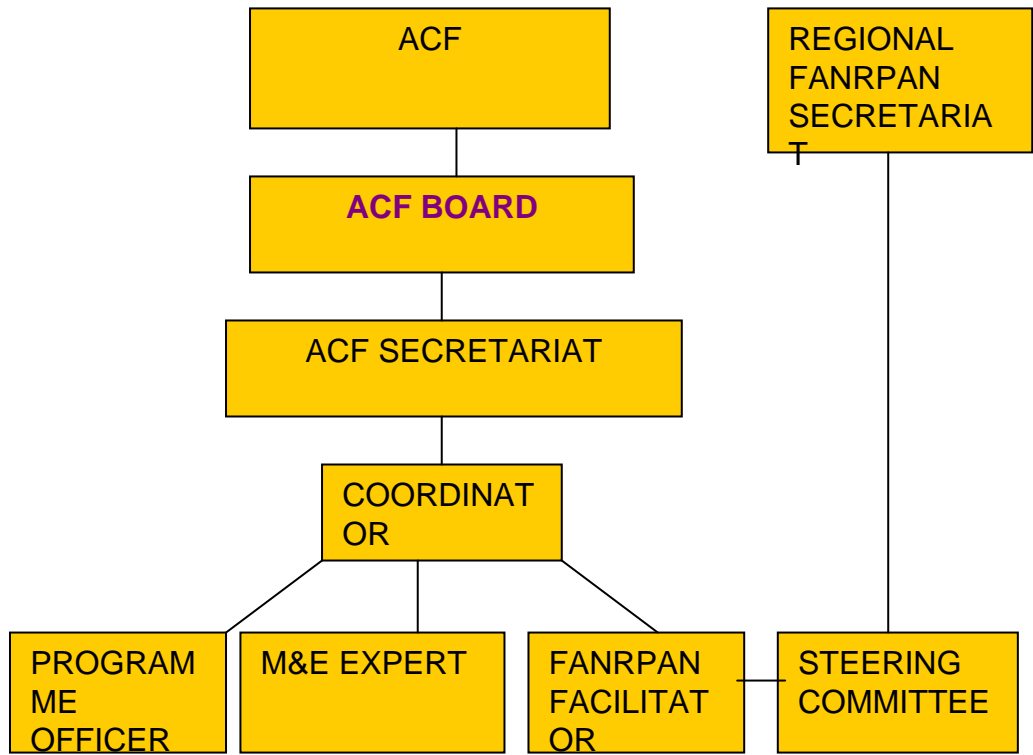
**The Political
Context** – political
structures / processes,
institutional pressures,
prevailing concepts, policy
streams and windows etc.

Links between
policy makers and
other stakeholders,
relationships, voice
trust, networks,
the media & other
intermediaries
etc

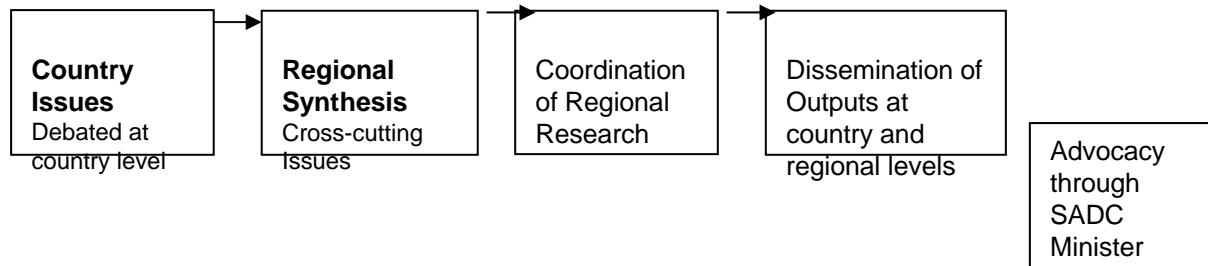
The Evidence,
credibility, methods,
relevance, use,
how the message
is packaged and
communicated,
etc

How to Influence Policy

- A two-way process shaped by multiple relations and reservoirs of knowledge
- Collaborative engagement
- Fitting evidence based research results into the political and institutional limits of policy makers,
- Credible,
- Convincing and relevant.
- Specific and not generic but instead provides practical solutions to current policy problems.
- Packaged to attract policy-makers' interest
- mutual trust honesty and openness.



FANRPAN Research Process



Inspirational Quote

**“The only
room there
is is room
for
improvement**

**Mrs Miriam Nkunika, ACF
Chairperson, at the
National Consultative
Meeting, 14 July, 2005**

