

**Maize Marketing and Trade Policies in Southern Africa:
Toward Defining Appropriate and Mutually Supportive
Roles for the Public and Private Sectors
June 21-22 Centurion, South Africa.**

OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN OF FANRPAN BOARD

PROF H.K.R. AMANI

Senior Representatives from Government in SADC

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Representatives of the Donor Community

Representatives of the Private Sector and the Civil Society at large

Representatives from Michigan State University

Partners and Friends of FANRPAN

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a great pleasure to welcome you all to this very important meeting on **Maize Marketing and Trade Policies in Southern Africa: where we seek to define Appropriate and Mutually Supportive Roles for the Public and Private Sectors.**

A lot of work has gone into undertaking the study over the past two years, compiling reports, and coordinating the regional meeting. It gives us great pleasure as a policy network to see that our in-country policy research work culminates into a regional dialogue where we share information and seek ways to harmonise policies for a food secure SADC.

Some of you might be hearing about FANRPAN for the first time. The secretariat has prepared hand outs that will give you comprehensive information. In brief, FANRPAN was formed following recommendations by SADC Ministers of Agriculture as far back as 1994. FANRPAN is an autonomous southern African stakeholder-driven policy research analysis and implementation network. The network is active in 11 of the 13 SADC countries and works through an inter-sectoral platform designated as a country node, all coordinated by a regional secretariat.

The main objectives of FANRPAN are to promote appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty, increase food security and promote sustainable agricultural development in the SADC region. Its mission is to provide a forum to co-ordinate, influence and facilitate policy research, analysis and dialogue at the national, regional and global levels in order to develop the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources sector. This is done through networking, capacity building and generation of information for the benefit of all stakeholders in the SADC region.

With regards to FANRPAN programs, we have produced highlights of the projects we hosted in 2004. Indeed the Regional Maize marketing Study is one of seven projects that we are hosting. On this note I would like to thank Michigan State University for the commitment to working with FANRFAN. I can say we have all mutually benefited from the partnership which we hope to grow to greater heights. I must say most of what we have achieved would not have been possible without the benevolence of the Rockefeller Foundation. I would like to thank Dr Akin for his unwavering support to FANRPAN. In addition to the Rockefeller Foundation, I would like to thank DFID and the World Bank who have all contributed financially to making this regional meeting a success. Allow me Ladies and Gentlemen to seize this opportunity to mention and thank USAID/RCSA who have committed to strengthening the capacity of FANRPAN's regional secretariat and 5 country networks over the next 2 years. We are most grateful for this assistance.

Ladies and gentlemen we have a long agenda to be accomplished over a very short period. Let me therefore end here and wish you all a productive and beneficial meeting.

Thank You.