



**FANRPAN REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FOOD AND  
NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY DIALOGUE**

**PROTEA HOTEL UMHLANGA RIDGE, DURBAN**

**17 AUGUST 2017**

**CLOSING REMARKS by Mr. BONGA MSOMI**

Programme Director, Prof. Simba Sibanda

FANRPAN CEO, Dr. Tobias Takavarasha and Board members of FANRPAN

Former FANRPAN CEO, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda

NAMC Chairperson, Prof. P.K. Chauke and Board members of NAMC

NAMC Acting CEO, Mr. Zama Xalisa

Delegates of this 2017 Regional Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocols observed.

Programme Director, after 3 days of high level deliberations and highlights of very instrumental policies during and in between the plenaries, we have come to the last formal session of the FANRPAN Regional Multi-Stakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Policy dialogue under the theme “Resilient African Agriculture and food systems: securing prosperity and health for all”.

Let me also take time to congratulate the winners of the 2017 FANRPAN Food Security Leadership Awards honoured last night. As the sector and the region we

appreciate the significant contributions they have made to food security and poverty alleviation in the region, such achievements warrants these excellent awards.

We also recognise the champions (the organisers) who made this dialogue possible.....

We will also like to appreciate the good work done by Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda the former CEO of FANRPAN, it is really an honour for the region to have leaders like Dr Sibanda who played a critical role in the establishment of an organization like FANRPAN, serving as a member of the inaugural steering committee (1997-2001); as Board Chairperson (2002-2004) and subsequently as CEO and Head of Mission (2005 to 2017).

We congratulate you in your new position as the Vice President for Country Support, Policy and Delivery of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). It is gratifying to note that Dr. Sibanda will continue to drive agricultural transformation for a food and nutrition secure Africa, given that her new role at AGRA is aligned to the work we do at FANRPAN.

I believe it has been a good week or rather 3 days, a time of creating sustainable working relations by making new friends and meeting old friends.

As it drizzled this morning, it was a confirmation that the event has gone very well. In the African culture, if you have an event and it rains as you are about to close, it signifies that it has been a good event.

As we close this event, we are proud that we have hosted this successful policy dialogue. The issues of climate change, food security and nutrition security are precisely the issues that we as African countries are currently grappling with. Therefore, this dialogue was addressing the real issues affecting the Continent and the world at large.

I understand that over 100 participants attended this policy dialogue with representation from 25 countries inside and outside the continent. The event was graced by representatives from FANRPAN country node coordinators, relevant government ministries and departments, civil society, non-governmental organizations, farmer organizations, intergovernmental

organizations (including UN and AU entities), researchers, academia, financing institutions, private sector and youth organizations.

This demonstrates the eagerness of different stakeholders in building future resilient African agriculture and food systems.

I believe that this policy dialogue has allowed us to identify knowledge and action gaps, to share experiences on viable technological advancements, progressive institutions, impactful policies and partnerships.

I cannot overemphasise the importance of strong partnerships to improve continental challenges of hunger and food insecurity and malnutrition. The idea of agriculture as an input to manufacturing is outdated; we need to encourage our farmers to participate along the value chain.

It is quite comforting to note that most of the Sub-Saharan African countries present here have in one way or the other managed to develop and implement

the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) policy frameworks and programmes as reflected in the FANRPAN 2017 Synthesis report which we received yesterday although it will be important that ALL of us to commit on putting incentives as part of implementing CSA.

As the Republic of South Africa will be chairing Southern African Development Communities (SADC), we look forward to invite FANRPAN on setting the policy agenda of a safer and a prosperous AFRICA.

We will also look into jointly applying to African Renaissance and International Co-Operation Fund (ARF) as coordinated by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and also approach together other development partners.

Our NAMC colleagues are aware that we are about to finalise the policy we call the mother of all agriculture forestry and fisheries policies which is equivalent to the Farm Bill of the US or the Common Agriculture Policy of the EU which will guide and regulate all support to our producers in South Africa called the COMPREHENSIVE

PRODUCER DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT POLICY So as nodal agency and our entity have got no excuse to complain that they fail to mainstream CSA practices and prioritisation in the country they operate, let us do it!!! and be an example in our beloved continent.

I therefore urge all of you to take forward the recommendations from this policy dialogue and implement at country, regional and continental level. The outcomes should inform regional policy agenda and in the long run lead to improved evidence based policies, increased investment and institutions that build resilient food systems across Africa.

Having hosted this dialogue as South Africa and Kwa-Zulu Natal Province this will leave a legacy. Since one of the major issues that have been raised in this dialogue is lack of meaningful partnerships, as South Africa we are committed to working together in creating partnerships that will take us forward as a continent.

We rededicate ourselves to the enduring Pan African vision of “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a

dynamic force in the international arena” (Agenda, 2063). As Africans we need to recognise that this would not be possible without your participation and involvement.

On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of South Africa in our sector, we would like to complement the host organizations, FANRPAN and the event organisers, NAMC and its board members for the wonderful arrangements for this regional policy dialogue and also for ensuring robust discussions and participation of all member countries.

From the look of the programme, the briefings I got and some sessions I attended, indeed this has been a great learning and knowledge sharing experience that has enhanced everyone's knowledge.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thanks to the facilitators of different sessions, the presenters and all participants on this regional event, not forgetting the FANRPAN Board of Directors and everyone who participated and made this event a success.



Although, you have been here just for three days, I'm sure you will all be carrying very happy memories of this visit to South Africa, specifically to Durban. Many of you might not have the opportunity to really see the Province and the city itself but this event by itself will make this visit always memorable. But you still have another opportunity to to revisit Durban if you attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Forum for Advisory Services to be hosted at the Durban hotel called Elangeni and Maharani Hotels run by Tsogo Sun which are on the beach front from the 29 October to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2017 as invited by the MEC yesterday.

I wish you all a safe journey back to your different destination.

Thank you all.