CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

10th ReNAPRI Stakeholders Conference

THEME: In Motion - *"Fortifying Africa's food system through increased productivity, climate resilience and adaptation"*

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14-16 NOVEMBER 2023
Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
https://www.renapri.org/2023-concerence/

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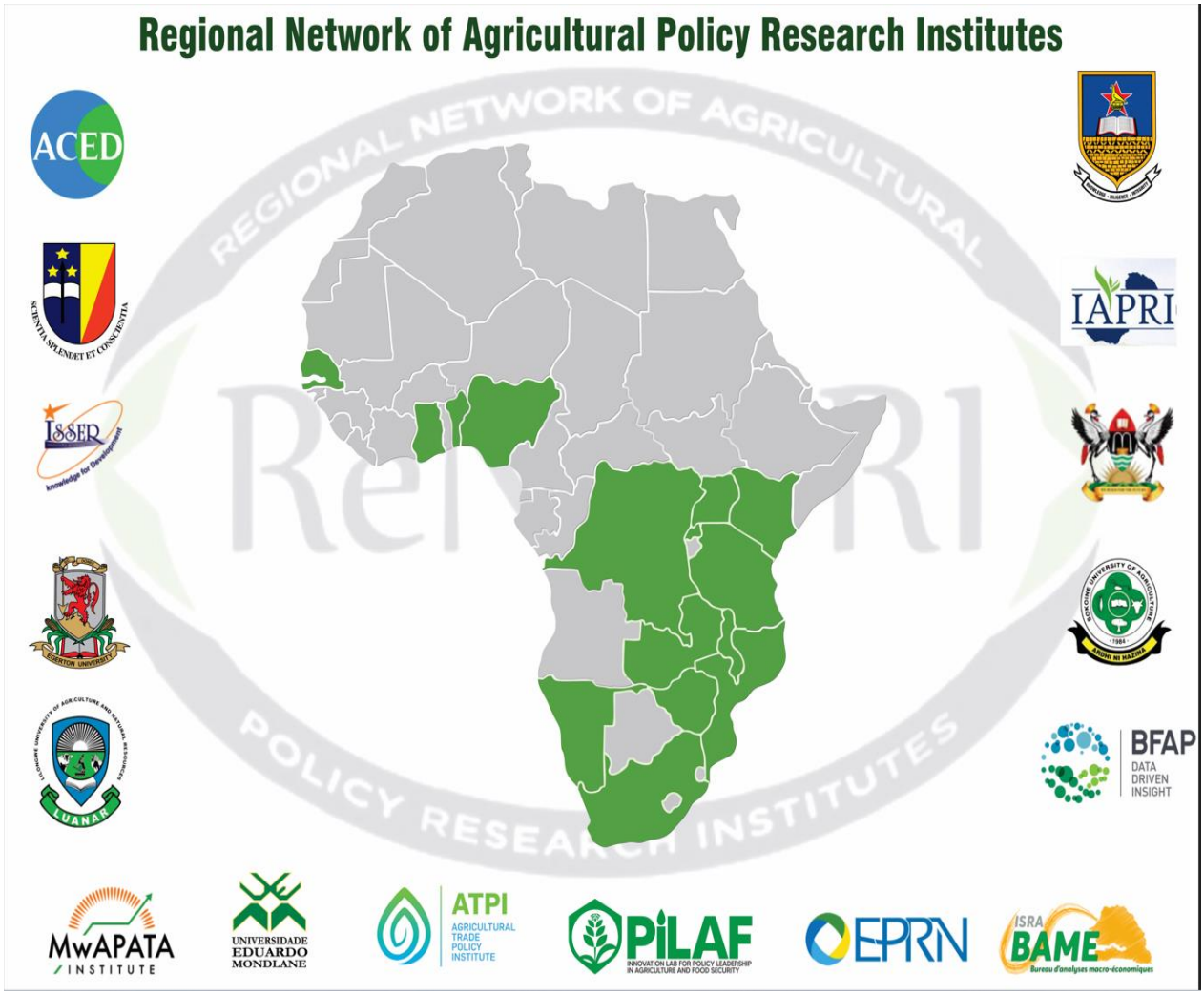

Advancing Africa's Agriculture through Policy, Research, and Influence

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CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

Drawing upon the wise words of Aldo Leopold who says, *"Land is not merely soil, it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals"*, it is possible to deduce that there is a strong link between land, and for that matter soil on one hand, and crops, livestock, and forestry on the other. It is no wonder that the Heads of State and Governments of the African Union, will soon pronounce themselves on a 10-year Action Plan for fertilizer and soil health on the continent. This plan will serve as a road map focused on high-impact solutions over a proposed 10-year horizon towards accelerating access to high quality fertilizers and sustainable soil management practices and investments (by of hundreds of millions of farmers) that are required to: reduce the yield gaps in Africa by enhancing soil productivity; halting soil degradation; restoring degraded soils; and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

ReNAPRI, has continued to play a critical role in supporting the African Union Commission in its efforts to organise the upcoming African Union Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit.

On another note, we are told that, *"Climate Change isn't something in the future… [That]... This narrative is fundamentally flawed"*. Aneesa Khan further emphasizes that millions of people are already impacted as a result, while many are also displaced. It is therefore imperative for national governments around the world to address the issue of climate change and its effects on humanity and the planet, sooner rather than later. Within this context, ReNAPRI has partnered with AKADEMIYA2063, and Michigan State University to implement the Comprehensive Africa Climate Change Initiative (CACCI) to develop a proof of concept focused on supporting the implementation of nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans by African countries. CACCI will then be scaled out to other countries, eventually. It is also essential to note that this initiative is also being implemented in other regions of the world (i.e., South-East Asia and Latin America & Caribbean)

Finally, Charles R. Swindoll says that *"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities [that] are brilliantly disguised as impossible situations".* One would say the same for value chain development in Africa - a great opportunity that currently seems impossible to actualize. But thanks to a project that is being implemented by ReNAPRI, with a focus on policy prioritisation through deep dive value chain analyses, key value chains will be examined vigorously for existing challenges, gaps, and potential triumphs!

CONFERENCE THEME

The theme for this year's conference perceives of the continent as being, **"In Motion, *fortifying Africa's food system through increased productivity, climate resilience and adaptation"***. Africa is in motion towards strengthening its food systems and attaining agricultural transformation, despite several shocks and disasters that have faced the continent over the last few years. These setbacks include among others the fall armyworm and red locusts, the COVID 19 pandemic and climate change, and the effects of the Russia- Ukrainian War of food fuel and fertilizer prices and availability. The theme also focuses on the relevance

of value chains, fertilizer and soil health, and the need for member states of the African Union to effectively implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and report on progress made in the context of the Paris Agreement.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

ReNAPRI firmly believes that its role as a think tank is crucial in supporting socio-economic development in Africa. This conference is designed to create a platform for dissemination of research findings, strategic dialogue, evidence-based guidance, and stakeholder validation. The key objectives of the 10th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders' Conference are as follows:

1. Sparke policy conversations around key thematic areas that the network has explored in recent times (fertilizer and soil health; value chain analysis for policy prioritisation; climate change; effects of shocks on commodities (food, fuels and fertilizer availability and prices)

2. Receive feedback/validation from stakeholders, including policy makers, vis a vis the various topics that will be presented during the conference

3. Discuss and appreciate the relevance of local think tanks and the kind of support required to sustain them, as we celebrate the 10 editions of the ReNAPRI Annual Stakeholder Conferences.

VENUE AND DATE

The event will take place on 14-16 November 2023 at the Elephant Hills Resort, Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

The conference will be held over a 3-day period. It will consist of a series of in-person and virtual activities including:

1. VIP Opening Session.

2. High-Level Panel discussion.

3. Keynote Presentations.

4. Moderated Panel Discussions involving policy makers; industry experts/ stakeholders; regional, continental, and international organisations, charged with identifying concrete strategies that address challenges and unlock the continent's agricultural potential.

5. Interactive Question and Answer Sessions

PARTNERS

ReNAPRI has partnered with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation to organize the 10th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders Conference. Other partners include, among others, national governments, AUC, AUDA- NEPAD, COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS, USAID, BMGF, MSU, IFPRI, A2063 and ReSAKSS, AGRA, AAP, FtF PRCI and other FtF ILs, FARA, CCARDESA, IFDC, AidDATA, GIZ, ECDPM, and the ACBF.

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PARTICIPANTS

The conference will bring together a range of stakeholders actively engaged in Africa's food system and agricultural transformation agenda. These include Policymakers at national level; African Union Commission; Regional Economic Communities; Sub-Regional Organisations; Farmers' Organizations; Private Sector; Research Organizations (national and international) and Academics; Development Partners (technical and financial); Women and Youth; the Media etc.,

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Conference participants will include a range of stakeholders actively engaged in Africa's food systems and agricultural transformation agenda. These include: 1. Greater awareness of fertilizer and soil health matters, value chain analysis, as well as resilience and sustainability challenges facing the agri-food system, and the effects of shocks in the supply chain. 2. Identifying approaches for implementing programs that effectively address these challenges – answering the practical "how" questions. 3. Linkages and new partnership opportunities among the various stakeholders

PLANNING

The planning and organization for this conference is coordinated by the ReNAPRI Secretariat and the host member institution - University of Zimbabwe, working closely with the United Nations Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO), and ReNAPRI Research Directors.

FINANCE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Financial and technical support for the conference is provided by key partners including: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Michigan State University under Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) Project, and the Comprehensive Africa Climate Change Initiative (CACCI) Project; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC), Aid Data and others.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Time Zone: **Central African Time (Harare)**

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023

08h00 - 09h00	Registration of Participants
09h00 - 11h00	***Session 1*** Beyond the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) Summit: *Support towards operationalization of the AFSH Action Plan*
11h00- 11h30	Health Break
11h30 - 13h30	***Session 2*** Prioritization of Agricultural Policies and Investments through Value Chain Analysis
13h30- 14h30	Lunch
14h30 - 15h30	***Official Opening Session***
15h30 - 16h00	Group Photo and Health Break
16h00 - 17h30	***High Level Panel Discussion*** Strengthening local expertise to deliver high-quality research for policymaking and influence*: 'Localization'*.
18h30 - 21h00	***ReNAPRI CONFERENCE @ 10 CELEBRATIONS & LAUNCH OF THE 1ST ANNUAL ReNAPRI AWARDS CEREMONY*** ***End-of-Day 1***

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

07h30-0900	***ReNAPRI & Partners Business Breakfast***
09h00- 10h30	***Sustainable Food Systems in Africa I*** • Role of Zimbabwe's Agriculture in attaining *Vision 2030* **Convenor:** University of Zimbabwe
10h30- 11h00	Health Break
11h00- 12h30	***Joint Event*** Seed Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa **Convenors:** COMESA, Seed Co *& ReNAPRI*
12h30- 14h00	Lunch
14h00 - 1600	***Session 3*** Implementation of NDCs and NAPs in Africa under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change: *Lessons Learnt from four (4) Pilot Countries*
16h00-16h30	Health Break
16h30- 18h00	***Session 4*** Effects of global shocks on food, fuels, and fertilizer (prices and availability) on food systems in Africa: *a case of the conflict in Ukraine*
	End-of-Day 2

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023

09h00-11h30	***Session 5*** The 2023 OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook and FAO's support to the AUC in promoting agribusiness development towards enhancing implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) **Convenor:** FAO
11h30 -12h00	***Summary of Conference Proceedings***
12h00 - 1215	***Closing Remarks***
	 LUNCH AND TOURISM
End-of-Conference	