

SADC Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programme (SADC MAPP)

Proceedings of the Malawi National SADC- MAPP Consultative Workshop Held at Malawi Institute of Management(MIM) Lilongwe, Malawi from 4th to 5th October, 2007

Prepared by

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADP Agricultural Development Programme

Agric. Agriculture

AISAM Agricultural Input Supplier's Association of Malawi
CAADP Comprehensive Agricultural Development Programme
CAETS Controller of Agricultural Extension and Technical Services
CGIAR Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research

CNFA Citizen Network for Foreign Affairs- Rumark

DARS Department of Agricultural Research

Director of Agricultural Research Services

Govt Government

ICT Information Communication Technology

IPR Intellectual Property Rights
MADECO Malawi Development Corporation

MAPP Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programme

MIM Malawi Institute of Management

MCCI Malawi Chambers of Commerce and Industry

NGO Non Governmental Organization

SACCAR Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Research

SADC Southern Africa Development Community

SRO Sub- region Organization R&D Research and Development

ICRISAT International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics

IITA International Institute for Tropical Agriculture

EXECUTE SUMMARY

The Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) in collaboration with the Southern Africa Development Community– Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme (SADC- MAPP) organized a two days stakeholder's workshop. The workshop was held from 4th to 5th October, 2007 at Malawi Institute of Management. The workshop's objectives were to appreciate the state of technology generation and dissemination in Malawi; to agree on priority areas for investment in technology generation and dissemination in the country; to provide feed back to a proposal for establishing a sub-regional organization (SRO) for coordinating agricultural research and technology dissemination at the SADC Regional level. Participants to the workshop were drawn from civil society, government departments, non governmental organizations, CGIARs and faith based organizations.

Three papers, two by SADC MAPP core team member and one from a local consultant were presented during the workshop. Among other things participants critically looked at the proposed SADC SRO and gave suggestions as to what would be the best SRO that would serve the needs for all SADC member states. They also provided input into consultancy report prepared by the local consultant on the *Analysis of the Agricultural Technology and Dissemination Situation in Malawi*. Six thematic areas that form the basis for achieving progress on the SADC MAPP's objective of improving agricultural productivity were evaluated. The themes are Farmer Empowerment and Market Access; Research and Technology Generation; Farmer led Advisory Services and Innovation Systems; Education, Training and Learning Systems; Knowledge, Information and Communication; Institutional Development and Capacity Building.

In general the workshop was successfully conducted. Malawi looks forward to full participation in the SADC MAPP and envisages benefits from the programme.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MALAWI NATIONAL SADC- MAPP CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP HELD AT MALAWI INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT(MIM) LILONGWE, MALAWI FROM 4TH TO 5TH OCTOBER, 2007

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1.0 Introduction

Preparations to host the Malawi National SADC –MAPP consultative workshop began as early as August, 2007. The Workshop was first scheduled to be held from 13th to 14th September, 2007 but because of some logistical problems the workshop was postponed and held at Malawi Institute of Management in Lilongwe Malawi from 4th to 5th October 2007. About 50 participants were invited to this workshop but only 40 responded representing 80% attendance. Participants to the workshop included agricultural scientists, agricultural research and extension officers, non governmental organizations dealing with agriculture, farmers' associations and agricultural training institution in Malawi. List of participants has been appended. The total proposed budget was about US\$18,000.00.

1.1 Opening Remarks by Malawi SADC MAPP Contact Person- Dr A.P. Mtukuso, Director of the Department of Agricultural Research Services

In his opening remarks the Malawi SADC MAPP contact person welcomed all the participants and thanked them for their attendance. He appealed to all participants to actively participate in the deliberations. He then invited the guest of honour to officially open the workshop.

1.2 Opening Speech by the Guest of Honour- Dr J.L. Luhanga, Controller of Agricultural Extension and Technical Services

The guest of honour to this workshop was the Controller of Agriculture Extension and Technical Services (CAETS). In his opening remarks he affirmed Malawi's commitment to participate fully in the planning and implementation of the SADC- MAPP activities. He also said that Malawi agrees totally with the proposal of establishing a Sub-Regional Organization (SRO) similar to the Southern African Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research (SACCAR) which was shut down in the 1990s. On this note he said he had no doubts that SADC MAPP will strengthen coordination of agricultural research and technology dissemination in the SADC region. He, therefore, urged participants to the workshop to critically study the proposed SADC SRO and give suggestions as to what would be the best SRO that would serve the needs for all SADC member states. Finally he thanked the SADC Coordination unit for working in collaboration with Malawi's SADC MAPP National Focal point in organizing the workshop.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The objectives of the consultative workshop were as outlined below;

- to appreciate the state of technology generation and dissemination in Malawi;
- to agree on priority areas for investment in technology generation and dissemination in the country;
- to provide feed back to a proposal for establishing a sub-regional organization (SRO) for coordinating agricultural research and technology dissemination at the SADC Regional level.

3.0 WORKSHOP'S PROGRAMME.

Presentations of the workshop were followed by a discussion. Participants gave comments, made observations and sought clarifications of certain issues. See appendix 2. Two presentations were done by the SADC Core Team member on the first day of the Workshop. Participants were then split into five groups to work on an assigned Task. The second day's deliberations started with a presentation from the local consultant. Groups then continued to work on the first day's assignment. After which a synthesis of the group assignments was done. See appendix 2 for Programme of Events

4.0 KEY PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Background to SADC MAPP – Emelda Berejena, SADC MAPP Core Team Member

In her presentation the SADC MAPP Core Team Member made the following key points;

- the closure of Southern African centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Training (SACCAR) and the need to establish a pluralistic approach to agricultural training, technology generation and dissemination are reasons for the formation of SADC Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme (SADC MAPP).
- SADC MAPP intends to implement Pillar 4 of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) which focuses on research, technology adoption and transfer. On this note the presenter stated that the objective of SADC MAPP is to bring about pluralistic and strengthened agricultural technology generation and dissemination and strengthened linkages among agricultural institutions in the SADC region.
- the programme would contribute to significant increases in agricultural productivity, agricultural growth, competitiveness and incomes, and reduce absolute rural poverty within SADC member states, because member states will share ideas and expertise in research technology generation and dissemination

- the programme will run for 15 years and at the end of each three 5 years, among others, it is expected that relationships between nationals, sub regions, and international research institutions would be strengthened and adoption of pluralistic approaches and participatory mechanisms would be enhanced; many smallholder farmers will participate in priority setting; increased uptake of improved and market responsive technologies in participating countries will be achieved; organizational capacities and governance arrangements will be reformed and strengthened.
- the rationale for establishing a SADC sub-regional programme is that there exists a substantial opportunity to pool resources to more effectively address areas of common interest and take advantage of economies of scale; develop mechanism for sharing knowledge, building capacity and contributing towards market integration; increase the level of investment in agricultural technology development and dissemination.
- the focus on the design consideration will be given to interventions that ensure that investment in agricultural technology generation and dissemination are linked to a clear economic benefit; support technology generation and dissemination activities; establish pluralistic approaches in the provision of agricultural services in which research technology generation and dissemination are a shared responsibility between different stakeholders in both the public and private sector; establish effective partnership linkages among research, extension education, the private sector agricultural NGOs and end-users.
- six thematic areas form the basis for achieving progress on the SADC MAPP objective of improving agricultural productivity. The themes are as illustrated below:
 - **§** Theme 1: Farmer Empowerment and Market Access
 - § Theme 2: Research and Technology Generation
 - § Theme 3: Farmer led Advisory Services and Innovation Systems
 - § Theme 4: Education, Training and Learning Systems
 - § Theme 5: Knowledge, Information and Communication
 - § Theme 6: Institutional Development and Capacity Building.

4.1.1 Discussion

The following comments and observations were made on this presentation;

participants wanted to know the mechanism that was instituted by SADC MAPP to ensure that some SADC member states do not dominate in this programme. The fear that some members may dominate on the SADC MAPP was cleared by the fact that all the SADC members are treated as equal and that participation by member states in SADC MAPP activities is voluntary and there will be need to assess strengths of the Member States.

- it was again noted that leadership and organization of the SADC MAPP might be affected by economic strength of the member states since different SADC member states have different economic strengths. On this point it was hoped that the situation analysis will clearly reveal those differences and also during the implementation phase SADC MAPP will be able to identify centres of leadership and institutions that will create and lead networking amongst partners with similar skills and expertise.
- under SADC MAPP capacity building (Theme 4) participants emphasized that education institutions and universities be considered as SADC-MAPP stakeholders. On the same participants considered capacity building of farmers as an important aspect of the performance of the SADC MAPP initiatives.
- participants also felt that Theme 5 should be split into sub themes
- participants wondered whether the SADC MAPP will not shun away from promotion of tobacco production as it is already suffering a ban by the tobacco antismoking lobby. On this issue it was learnt that SADC MAPP is ready to promote any area that is considered to be an economic priority in the region.
- participants expressed concern on the feasibility of conducting stakeholders meetings annually considering the cost implications. It was then indicated that one yearly meeting was considered ideal but stakeholders would be welcome to give in their suggestions which will guide the SROs on the frequency of such meetings. However, no suggestion was made by the stakeholders on the frequency of holding stakeholders, meetings.
- on the support to be given to regional activities and not national systems participants opposed the idea but instead want SADC MAPP to strengthen and support national systems and regional activities concurrently.

4.2. SADC MAPP Governance and Organization

The presentation was centred on the following issues;

- implementation of SADC- MAPP activities would be guided by the following principles;
 - o flexibility in that stakeholders will drive the implementation process of SADC MAPP activities and that frequent adjustments would be allowed where necessary.
 - o effective partnerships and a centre of leadership approach focusing on collaboration and capacity building.
 - o focused on achieving sub-regional benefits by identifying and implementing specific activities with well defined sub-regional benefits and not as a means of topping-up for national initiatives.

- o results oriented programmes with monitoring and evaluation tools playing a key role in decision making.
- implementation mechanism would be done through;
 - o annual meetings and work programme development would be the primary decision making mechanism for SADC MAPP activities
- management and coordination of the (SRO) managed by a small team in the SRO secretariat.
- SRO to play a major role in strengthening national systems
- SADC-MAPP activities will be implemented in three phases each running for 5 years sequentially over a period of 15 years.
- financial and fiduciary management are currently being developed. These will include procedures for financial reporting; procurement and accounting system, among others.
- financing mechanisms and flow of funds for thematic activities would be through agricultural productivity grants and core funding for SRO
- programme financing is expected to come from a range of sources.
- a monitoring and evaluation system will be developed during SADC MAPP preparation process.
- on the SRO structure it was agreed that Thematic Coordinators to report to Director and that the structure should be streamlined. Selection of the board/steering committee not to be political appointees but equitable.

4.2.1 Discussion

Observations made on the presentation;

- participants were eager to know why SADC MAPP chose SRO to be semiautonomous. It was explained that the initial study though not detailed, as it would have been cumbersome to carry out a detailed study, supported the idea of semi-autonomous. However, participants urged SADC MAPP to conduct a detailed study on the preferred option.
- on the proposal by SADC MAPP to support regional programmes and not the
 national programmes participants thought that this arrangement was not fair
 since different member states are at different economic development stages
 and have different priorities. The core Team member then reiterated that
 SADC MAPP will facilitate and finance institutions collaborating on projects
 involving two or more member states and that SADC MAPP will complement
 national programmes which provide a platform for other countries to learn
 from.
- on how issues of trade will be addressed by SADC MAPP, it was indicated that SADC MAPP will develop processes that enhance capability of smallholders to access markets and respond to market opportunities. It also stated that SADC MAPP will facilitate commissioned studies to assess policies and regulations that constrain farmers in accessing markets. On the same, the Core Team member pointed that SADC MAPP will liaise with an

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- existing trade directorate so that it learns how issues of agricultural trade are being addressed.
- participants expressed concerns on how CGIARs would manage to financially support SROs when it is the same donors who fund CGIARs. On this issue it was suggested that CGIARs could redirect some resources to MAPP funding mechanisms to enable the implementation of SADC-MAPP thematic activities.
- on how member countries were going to harmonize the issue of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), it was learnt that SADC MAPP is in the process of identifying an IPR specialist who would carry out a desk study on the current situation in the region and provide guidelines on the way IPR issues could be addressed during the implementation phase.

4.3 Group Tasks and Discussions

Participants were split into five groups comprising of about 10 members. Five Themes were presented and Groups were supposed to rank the themes' relevance on the 1-5 score scale. Each group was assigned two themes to discuss the current status, expected activities and then rank the expected activities within the themes. At the end of the discussions, each group presented their proceedings which were synthesized.

This activity was not completed on Day One and was continued to Day two. The outcomes of the group discussions are presented in details in section 4.0.

DAY TWO ACTIVITIES

4.4 Analysis of the Agricultural Technology and Dissemination Situation in Malawi- Paul Jere, Consultant.

The study revealed the following issues;

- technology generation is undertaken by public research institutions, university institutions, CGIARs and private sector research institutions.
- technology dissemination is done by both the public, semi public institutions and the Non Governmental Organization.
- the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security technical departments play a significant role in empowering farmers. However Non Governmental Organization complement this Ministry's role.
- agricultural education is provided by Bunda College of Agriculture and natural Resources College.
- farmers access agricultural inputs through the efforts the Ministry of Agriculture, CGIARs, NGOs and the private sector.
- market promotion is mainly the domain of farmers associations and semi-public institutions such as MCCCI.
- diverse number of institutions are linked and coordinated on issues of
 - o research / technology generation

- o technology dissemination
- Malawi has developed and released many agricultural technologies; however, not all of these technologies have gone to the intended end users.
- evaluation on the performance of released technologies has not been done
- critical technology gaps still exist among others in the areas of;
 - o potato breeding
 - o crop storage of some crops
 - o livestock production
 - o agro-processing
- some constraints exist on technology generation and dissemination which include the following:
 - o inadequate staff capacities
 - o funding limitations
 - o poor infrastructure in agricultural institutions
 - o transport shortages
 - o poor technology transfer and adoption mechanisms
 - o poor seed systems for crops and inadequate livestock breeding stock
 - o undeveloped marketing systems
 - o bureaucratic government systems
- besides the constraints opportunities also exist as follows:
 - o existence of multiple stakeholders
 - o conducive policy environment
 - o available on-shelf technologies
 - o availability of training institutions

The study concludes that;

- there exist a lot of technologies that have been developed already but with numerous technological gaps with some areas having more needs than others.
- there is serious mismatch between the number of technologies produced and those reaching the end users.
- limited dissemination progress mainly emanates from the poor linkages amongst research and extension professionals on one hand and the technology end users on the other.

The study recommends:

- a comprehensive review of past research and development
- increased diversity in research agenda
- rehabilitation of infrastructure
- revival and intensification of research extension –farmer linkage and general coordination/networking
- increased support to the public sector by non-public actors
- capacity building for critical areas in research and development
- media field days

• integration of SADC MAPP into the Malawi agricultural Development Programme (ADP)

4.4.1 Discussion

The following observations and comments were made after the presentation:

- public research institutions have achieved a lot in terms of technology generation but the public at large do not appreciate this work. An example was cited where public research institutions have been in front in responding to pest and disease epidemics and other crises in agriculture.
- Malawi Fisheries College and MADECO should be included in the list of agriculture education institutions and that there should be a deliberate effort to strengthen the linkage with the Ministry of Agriculture as is done elsewhere with other Ministries.
- the study should have separated constraints affecting technology generation from those affecting technology dissemination and the constraints ranked according to their priority. Participants wanted also to know the impact of current technologies on productivity and whether the technologies that are generated are meeting the farmers' requirements.
- training of farmers to enhance technology dissemination and adoption should be expanded and that commercialization of seed production systems especially of crops other than maize and tobacco.
- tobacco technologies were erroneously left out in the analysis and an assurance was given to include them in the revised report.
- there is need to support education institutions with equipment, infrastructure, and research grants to improve the quality of graduates (human resource quality improvement).
- there is need to engage the private sector to scale up technologies developed in the public sector in order to reach farmers.
- Dwangwa Cane Growers was left during the consultations and yet there is a lot that needs to be done to address challenges in sugar cane production in Malawi.
- Dwangwa technology generation lack own (local) cane varieties because all the varieties grown are from the Republic of South Africa and Mauritius. As such good lessons should have been learnt if consulted.

5.0 Synthesis of Themes

After Groups had finished the tasks that were assigned on Day one each group made presentations which were then synthesized as illustrated below:

Theme 1: Farmer empowerment and market access					
Current Status	±	Rating of activities			
Low access to technical information	Improve information dissemination through mass media	2			
	Strengthen extension systems to be within reach of farmers by increasing capacity in the field	1			
	Strengthen farmer to farmer extension systems	2			
	Conduct farmer trainings, demos, field days	1			
Low access to farm inputs	Low access to farm Promote inputs agro-dealers in the rural areas as inputs is done by CNFA, AISAM etc				
	Provide capitalization to rural agro-dealers to scale up their abilities to stock inputs	1			
Lack of access to markets	Strengthen market information systems	2			
	Develop infrastructure development (roads, bridges, storage facilities, etc)	2			
	Build farmers capacity to improve product quality including grades and standards	2			

Theme 2: Research and Technology Generation						
Current Status	*	Rating activities	of			
<u> </u>	Some technologies are Scaling up extension systems to tap and interpret available but only a technical information from research centres few are in use					
	Revamping of rural technology dissemination centres	3				
	Training of village extension volunteers, NGOs etc to be up to date with available technologies	2				
Research & Dev efforts are hampered with limited human	Training of staff in appropriate fields for them to conduct research professionally	2				

technical capacity		
	Lobby for Govts and the private sector to invest in research	2
	Look for alternative funding sources such as competitive grants	3
	Prioritize research activities	2

THEME 3: Farmo	er-led Adviso	ry Services	and In	novation	Systems
Current Status	Expected Activ	ities			Rating of activities
driven extension	Promotion of s providers intera local leaders, pu	ct with technol	logy end		1
Farmer to farmer extension	Motivation of farmers) e.g. imfacilitation and	proving their n	nobility tr	. •	2
Participatory extension	Conducting tra leaders	ining in transf	ormation	for local	3
Multi-media extension	Promote rese (field day, agric			linkages	4
Fortnightly training sessions	Promote farmer	to farmer tours	s (exchan	ge visits)	5
Agriculture shows	Promote rese (field day, agric	arch-extension shows, open d		linkages	

THEME 4: Education Training and Learning Systems

Current Status	Expected Activities	Rating of activities
lacks entrepreneurship	Curriculum to be reoriented in order to include entrepreneurship skills. This should start from primary school level	
•	Promote specialized training in extension technical schools (revitalizing farm institutes)	2
	Develop language policy which favors use of local language in education and training institutions apart from English (English as a certificate requirement should be reviewed)	3
Institutions available	Leaner centered, problem solving systems – African agriculture.	5
	Curriculum development and revisit educational methodologies.	4

THEME 5: Knowledge, Information and Communication

Current Status	Expected Activities	Rating of activities
Field extension staff have limited access to ICT services(i.e No internet, e-mail No computers)	Building capacity of Field Staff in ICT	1
	Setting up ICT/Information Centres for access by farmers and field extension staff	2

Creating awareness 3 of ICT issues to
Up scaling farmers access to cell phones and 4 market information program to reach more farmers • subside cell phones • training • link them to a system of market information
Establishment of Community Resource Centres 5 KIOSKS

6.0 WORK SHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants to the workshop recommended that:

- education institutions and universities be considered as SADC-MAPP stakeholders and that the issue of capacity building of farmers is an important aspect of the performance of the SADC MAPP initiatives and needs to be considered.
- SADC MAPP should strengthen and support national systems activities as well as regional activities.
- the final report on 'Situation Analysis of Technology Generation and Dissemination' should incorporate views from some important key stakeholders such as ARET and Dwangwa Cane Growers who were left in the consultations.
- all member states should be treated as equal without when implementing SADC MAPP without regard to economic or political strength of some members states.

7.0 WAYFORWARD AND WORKSHOP CLOSURE

Participants assured The SADC MAPP Core Team member that what was discussed during the workshop and what was contained in the Consultant report reflects the true situation on the ground. On her part the core Team indicated that the outcome of the Malawi workshop will be presented at the SADC region workshop to be held sometime in November, 2007 and that some of the participants will be invited.

8.0 PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP

Although no formal evaluation was done at the end of the workshop to get the participants' views of the workshop their active participation in the deliberations and group Tasks was a clear manifestation that they were clear about the workshop's objectives and that they are looking for ward that the achievement of SADC MAPP goals will also improve the performance of the agricultural sector in each of the member states and the whole SADC region.

9.0 OBSERVATIONS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE SADC MAPP NATIONAL CONTACT PERSON

The technical aspects of the workshop were a great success. The workshop had participants from the civil society, government departments, non governmental organizations, CGIARs and faith based organizations. However, the logistics part of it was not good. This resulted in the department of Agricultural research services to shoulder a lot of embarrassment. It was surprising that some line items which were indicated in the Budget document, and presumably approved by SADC-MAPP Secretariat, were not honored. For example it was clearly indicated that regulations in Malawi do not provide for drivers to be accommodated in Hotels. As such a line item to pay for their up-keep was included, but was not used. It is therefore, sad to report that drivers were not given an equivalent of incidentals for their accommodation and dinner. What should also be noted is that, in Malawi not everybody is allowed to use own vehicles when on official business. Even for officers in the private sectors and non governmental organizations very few are allowed to self drive. In addition, government departments' budgets carter for activities that are planned well in advance. As the SADC-MAPP Malawi workshop was not in incorporated in departmental budgets, it was anticipated that the workshop's budget would accommodate for fuel costs. The cashier did not turn up at the right time hence, a high proportion of participants left without collecting their refunds. It is strongly that SADC MAPP Secretariat should in future consider these countries' differences when planning for national workshops or meetings by improving on the following: communication between SADC MAPP Secretariat and SADC MAPP country contact point; transport and communication costs; incidentals for participants; local logistics team costs.

Appendix 1: List of participants

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Appendix 2: Programme of Events

SADC MAPP MALAWI NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP $\mathbf{4}^{\text{TH}}$ TO $\mathbf{5}^{\text{TH}}$ OCTOBER, 2007

AT MALAWI INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, LILONGWE

DATE/TIME	TOPIC	RESPONSIBILITY
Day 1	4 th October, 2007	
08:00-08:30	Registrations	Mr. A. Katunga
08:30-09:00	Introduction of Participants	Mr. A. R. E.mwenda
09:00-09:30	Official Opening	PS/CAETS
09:30-10:30	Background to	SADC MAPP Team
	SADCMAPP	Member
10:30-11:00	Tea Break and group Photo	Mr. A. Katunga
11:00-11:30	SADC MAPP Governance	SADC MAPP Team
	and Organization	member
	Arrangements	
11:30-12:00	Discussion	
12:00-13:00	Group Task and work	Facilitator /Mr. I.
		Kumwenda
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Group Work	Facilitator /Mr. I.
		Kumwenda
15:30-16:00	Tea Break	
Day 2	5 th October, 2007	
08:30- 09:30	Report on Malawi Country	National Consultant(Mr. P.
	Assessment	Jere
09:30-10:00	Group Discussion	Facilitator /Mr. I.
		Kumwenda
10:30-10:30	Tea Break	
10:30-11:30	Group Discussion	Facilitator /Mr. I.
	Continues	Kumwenda
11:30-13:00	Group Presentation	Facilitator /Mr. I.
		Kumwenda
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	Group Presentation	
15:00-15:30	Way forward Facilitator /Mr. I.	
		Kumwenda
15:30	Closing/Tea	DARS-SADC MAPP
		National Contact Point