

# CCARDESA Agribusiness and Gender and Youth Responsive Food Systems

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# CCARDESA Agribusiness and Gender and Youth Responsive Food Systems

## Conference Proceedings Report



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## 1.0 Background

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The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) is a SADC subsidiary mandated by Members States to coordinate regional cooperation in agricultural research and development is implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme EX Pillar 4 (CAADP-XP4) Programme on Gender. The CAADP-XP4 Programme is financed through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for a period of four (4) years 2019-2023.

The CAADP-XP4 programme supports a science-led and climate-relevant agricultural transformation in Africa. It aims at strengthening the capacities of CCARDESA to deliver on their Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) mandate and to collectively support African countries implement relevant programmes of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) through inclusive regional and international partnerships; production and exchange of climate-relevant agricultural knowledge; effective communication, monitoring and evaluation; promotion of systemic and effective use of science, knowledge and innovation; and representation of the Sub Regional and National Organizations at Continental level.

The programme seeks to achieve outputs and one of them is to build the capacity of women-led and youth-led organizations to participate at strategic events and in global climate issues. This entails enhancing partnerships among the multi-stakeholders across sectors and strengthening capacities of the implementing countries on gender strengthening/capacity to realize the outputs of the programme. One of the roles of the CAADP-XP4 programme is to strengthen and support women and Youth in agribusiness for improved livelihood and increased income. As part of accomplishing this key activity, CCARDESA in collaboration with AFAAS, ASARECA, CORAF and FARA facilitated a gender-focused side event titled 'The CCARDESA Fostering Agribusiness and Gender/Youth-Responsive Food Systems' side event at the Science Week in Durban.

This side event was dedicated to promoting gender and celebrating the successes of women and youth in agribusiness including those using climate-smart initiatives and technologies for empowerment in partnership with the private sector, and education fields. The side event also discussed opportunities for long-term partnerships to strengthen women and youth participation in establishing sustainable and inclusive food systems in Africa. The event was held from 2:00pm - 5:00pm on 6th June 2023.

The CCARDESA Agribusiness and Gender/Youth-Responsive Food Systems side event brought together women and youths to showcase their innovations and agribusiness initiatives for better learning, exchange and transfer of knowledge from 16 SADC member states and beyond. The side event also included knowledge exchange and networking among the participants. Furthermore, the event contributed to the validation of an action plan for a long-term continental program to strengthen women and youth participation in establishing sustainable and inclusive food systems in Africa.

## **2.0 Workshop Objectives**

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The main objectives of the side event were;

1. To showcase the diversity of women and youth innovations and agribusiness initiatives for better learning and create linkages to the private sector and possible donors for future collaboration and funding.
2. To strengthen the exchange and transfer of knowledge among women and youth in Agribusiness in the SADC and beyond.
3. To document the agribusiness success stories for sharing in a CCARDESA success stories table booklet and CCARDESA online platforms.
4. To validate an action plan for a long-term continental program to strengthen women and youth participation in establishing sustainable and inclusive food systems in Africa.
5. To support the development of the CCARDESA & ASARECA Gender policy.

## **3.0 Proceedings of the Workshop**

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### **3.1 Welcoming and Opening Remarks**

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Dr Paul Demo who was the moderator for the first part of the workshop called the meeting to order and welcomed the workshop participants present. He stated that gender is at the heart of his organization which is the International Potato Centre and that as a man it was an honour for him to be engaged by CCARDESA to participate in the Gender side event especially that most people think gender is all about women. He also said that it was his expectation that all the workshop objectives would be met at the end of the event.

Dr Demo then invited Dr Baitisi Podisi who is the CAADP-XP4 Regional Programme Coordinator standing in for the CCARDESA Executive Director Prof. Cliff Dlamini to give the opening remarks. Dr Podisi welcomed all the participants in attendance and duly recognised the organisations represented at the side event and encouraged them to fully participate and that he looked forward to good interactions. Dr Podisi stressed that CCARDESA takes gender related matters seriously and has included gender and youth among the list of important cross-cutting issues that influence agricultural productivity mainstreaming gender in various processes.

Dr Podisi informed the participants that CCARDESA intends to formulate a gender policy and action plan. Therefore, it will leverage other partners' work in the process. He stated that gender integration is not just about ticking boxes; instead, real change needs to be seen, especially since women and girls comprise most of the population. He also said that women need to speak out for themselves and share ideas, as this will help achieve gender equality going forward.



Dr Podisi also stated that CCARDESA will continue working with other partners who are engaged in agricultural research and have gender integrated in their programmes and are implementing that at various levels to bring real change that is needed to be seen. He concluded his opening remarks by wishing all the workshop participants fruitful deliberations.

## 3.2 Keynote

### Speech

Dr Susan Kaaria, Director at the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) gave a keynote speech during the side event which was entitled, 'Advancing Gender Responsive Programs, Policies and Institutions in Africa'. She stated that women continue to play an important role in agri food systems and they make up well over 50 percent of the agricultural labour force in many sub-Saharan African countries. Dr Kaaria said that Agrifood systems are a major employer of women globally and constitute a more important source of livelihood for women than for men in many countries.



Dr Kaaria highlighted some of the 'Persisting Rural Gender Inequalities' which included: Employment – that women who work in agricultural production tend to do so under highly unfavourable conditions, women's working conditions are likely to be worse than men's –

irregular, informal, part-time, low-skilled, labor intensive and often without any social protection and that there is a substantial gender pay gap.

On Land rights – She stated that most countries do not have legal frameworks that provide adequate protection on women's rights to land and that the percentage of men who have ownership or secure tenure rights over agricultural land is twice that of women (evidence from more than 40 per cent of the countries that have reported).

Furthermore, Dr Kaaria touched on the gaping gender gap in food insecurity where it was stated that women are more food insecure than men in every region and the gap has widened since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and that the gap in food insecurity between men and women widened from 1.7 percentage points in 2019 to 4.3 percentage points in 2021 (SOFI,2022). In addition, she stated that a yawning gender gap in access to financial services was also another inequality in that roughly 250 million more women in developing economies have gained some form of financial access since 2017, three times that many (742 million women) are still financially excluded.



During the keynote address, Dr Kaaria also presented the 'Root Causes of Gender Inequalities', including discriminatory social norms, attitudes and behaviours. She mentioned that such norms commonly restrict women's mobility and limit their options for non-domestic work and market activities and their access to and control over assets and income. Apart from that, attitudes towards women's work outside the home, the acceptability of gender-based violence and other norms affecting women's livelihoods in agrifood systems, remain substantially restrictive.

Dr Kaaria also said that there is gender gap in Agriculture Research for Development (AR4D) in that organisations and institutions lack gender researchers, there is lack of gender parity amongst researchers/scientists and in leadership positions in institutions, for example on average, the percentage of women in agriculture research in African institutions stands at 24% and in leadership positions it is 7% while institutional policies are gender blind and there is lack of an enabling environment for gender equality.

In concluding the keynote speech, Dr Kaaria shared what needs to be done differently going forward and this includes:

1. Increase women's access to resources, services and opportunities by addressing the barriers that they face and tackling the root causes of gender discrimination.
2. Enhance women's voice, participation and leadership skills at all levels (households, communities, organizations, institutions, policy).
3. Gender Responsive Institutions and Organizations: with institutional mechanisms to support gender parity and integrate gender systematically in all technical work.
4. Gender Responsive Policies with clear targets, gender-responsive budgeting, gender indicators and
5. Collect and use better data, including sex-disaggregated data, to monitor progress.

### **3.3 Presentation on the Overview of Gender and Agribusiness in the SADC Region**

Dr Nawa Shalala Mwale the Gender Advisor for Global Water Partnership Southern Africa made a presentation on the overview of gender and agribusiness in the SADC region. She started off by stating that the agribusiness sector is important for economic growth and poverty eradication in developing countries, especially in Africa and the Southern African (University of Pretoria:2008). Apart from that, she stated that the agribusiness sector accounts for approximately 34% of the Gross Domestic Product in Africa (AfDB, 2013) and that the main source of income for 70–80% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa. Agribusiness is critical to food security and employment opportunities especially for women and youth, and in Southern Africa, women provide 80 90% of agricultural labour in subsistence agriculture and 70% in cash crop production (Gosling et.al:2020). She emphasised that ignoring gender integration in agribusiness programmes may result in economic inefficiency and poor performance of the agribusiness sector.

Dr Mwale defined the major terms for Gender and Agribusiness and then outlined the international and regional relevant legal and policy framework. She then presented statistics concerning the governance and key decision-making positions in SADC, in particular cabinet ministers and members of parliament. This was done because it is important for both men and women who have a right and an obligation to active participation in governance and



other leadership positions. She then shared the importance of gender integration in Agribusiness and the points included:

1. Gender integration leads to better agricultural and development outcomes.
2. Addressing gender inequality is essential to achieving sustainability in agribusiness.
3. High levels of inequality make it harder to increase productivity and reduce poverty and hunger.
4. Informs the development of indicators that will facilitate monitoring of the impacts of policies, programme, project

activities along the value chains.

Later, she presented the various challenges faced by women in agribusiness and these included the following:

1. Invisible Women' in Extension Services - Women do not receive adequate access to agricultural advisory services along the value chain due to traditional practices and social norms, lack of time to attend training due to household work burdens and that in Zambia, while the majority of women are engaged in agriculture, women's share of extension workers is only 25%.
2. Inadequate Productive Resources - (land, labor and finances) Ownership and control of land resources reflect a male dominance (source of food and income security). In Botswana men own more cattle and goats than women as the former tend to have more resources (UNDP:2021). Due to subordinate social position, women are unable to control male labour and lack of access to finance and less opportunities to acquire technical skills often translates into limited access to improved inputs and lower yields.
3. Transportation and Marketing - Women, particularly in rural areas, have limited access to information on guaranteed markets, technologies and business support services. Limited access to resources for processing, reliable road connectivity and transport, packaging, storage and preservation and restrictions on freedom of movement that limit women to markets.
4. Unpaid Care and Domestic Work - As part of their gender roles, women are expected to take care of their household duties daily. Women's high burdens of unpaid care and domestic work leave them less able than men to invest their time in agricultural work. Women are also less able to work on their own self-managed plots of land due to social norms that create the expectation that they will work on plots that are controlled by or jointly with their husbands before working on their own, particularly in polygamous households (UN Women: 2018).
5. Majority of Women Unlikely to Grow High-Value Crops - High-value crops include cash crops and exported crops, which men typically farm, while women are more likely to plant subsistence crops. Social norms that assign women the primary responsibility for household food production contribute to this disparity. Growing high-value crops may be constrained by plot size, plot quality and/or ownership, limited access to climate change adaptation tools and extension services. Women's crops vs men's crops (sweet potato in Mozambique, groundnuts in Zambia, navy bean in Zimbabwe fluctuates).

After presenting the challenges, Dr Mwale shared various recommendations that if implemented can help in achieving gender equality in agribusiness and these included the following:

1. Taking Gender Transformative interventions which seek to challenge underlying causes of gender inequalities (all levels) by involving all key stakeholders.
2. Encourage political leadership to put gender equality on the agenda of agribusiness.
3. Track and monitor gender policy implementation and service delivery.
4. Stakeholders should collaborate and avoid working in silos.
5. Invest in research to better understand how to successfully integrate gender in agribusiness.
6. Allocate adequate budget line to support gender-responsive activities in agribusiness.
7. Build the capacity of technical staff in gender equality so that they are better equipped when designing and implementing agribusiness projects.
8. Document and share good practices of gender mainstreaming in agribusiness to inform national policies and plans.
9. Equal and active participation of men and women in decision-making processes at all levels.
10. Gender analysis to inform the designing and planning of interventions considering men's and women's needs, interests, and constraints.

She concluded her presentation by emphasizing that Gender equality is not a women's issue but that it should concern and fully engage men as well as women!

## **3.4 Plenary Session: Representatives of Youth and Women from the SADC Region**

Women and youth representatives from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia showcased their work from their respective agricultural initiatives and their brief profiles and presentations are outlined below:

### **3.4.1 Marcia Sento - Botswana**

Marcia is the founder of Dune Food Products, a business specialised in canning of traditional Foods including Setso Beef Tripe in gravy, packaged in 410g cans which comes in plain & chili flavours and ready to eat. During the plenary session, she retaliated what the Minister of Agriculture (South Africa) said during the opening ceremony of the AASW that as Africans we need to appreciate local foods as they are healthy. Marcia emphasized that her products are of good quality and then shared samples for participants to see.



### **3.4.2 Orapeleng Nareetsile – Botswana**

Orapeleng is a Climate Smart Agriculture Farmer & Youth Advocate who is part of youth agricultural worker cooperative engaged in Horticulture. He mentioned that despite facing some challenges, his work (together with his team) has made some progressive innovations to manage farming costs and increase their profit margins where they showcase climate smart solutions through hydroponics for climate adaptation and mitigation. He stated that the business employs eight people and 3 of them are female, and most of the work is labour-intensive. He encouraged youths in the audience to be resilient



even when things seem to be rough, as solutions can be found for challenges being confronted with.

### 3.4.3 Mandla Phillip Langwenya - Eswatini

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Mandla said that his business is called Madze investment, and that he is into Beekeeping consultancy, beekeeping supplies, and gender agricultural supplies including protective clothing, processing equipment, packaging materials among others.

He mentioned that he started operations in 2017 and that the business is still going on strong and that he works to link farmers to markets, and advised youths to focus on self-employment creation and get involved in partnerships. Mandla stated that the climate in Eswatini is good; therefore, the

youth should take advantage of this and build their businesses. He also said that his business has a good gender balance among workers and, in particular deals with a good number of women who supply him with various equipment and other items he needs for his business.

### 3.4.4 Marelebohile Ramokone - Mountain Kingdom, Lesotho

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Marelebohile shared that she is the Director at Qeme Farm Production, involved in Horticulture in the lowlands of Lesotho and that the farm has been in operation since 2012 and grows crops like watermelons, rape, peach tree, onions, tomatoes, cabbages, among others. Marelebohile stated that at the beginning of the business, a number of challenges were encountered including inadequate water, theft, lack of markets, poor seedling quality, too much rain and limited storage facility for crops. Nevertheless, she stated that a number of lessons were learnt from the challenges faced, and now she has a good market for the crops and working on past

mistakes made, thus improving her farming business.

### 3.4.5 Abel Hangoma – Zambia

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Abel popularly known as the 'Radical Farmer' is the Company Director of Farm 7 involved in organic farming and grows vegetables, fruits like avocados and grapes and herbs for essential

oils. He stated that he is also involved in training and consultancy services which are done virtually and physically.

Abel mentioned that he has 7 workers with a good gender balance. The business makes its own fertiliser and helps other farmers to do so, as this is very effective, especially for vegetables and fruit trees. He stated that the farm has supplied about 80,000 seedlings of fruit trees and vegetables and supports land preparation and irrigation to other farmers. He also mentioned that the farm works towards fighting climate change by using techniques that help retain moisture in the soil.



### 3.4.6 Lily Singano – Malawi

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Lily runs a company called Lily Meals which manufactures a range of indigenous and nutritious flours. The focus of the company is to process forgotten legumes and grain foods like white and red sorghum flour, cassava flour, and yellow maize, which is said to be nutritious and used by patients suffering from diabetes, HIV/AIDS, Autism, and pregnant mothers. She informed the participants that the business idea came about during the Covid pandemic when people could not go out to buy their staple foods due to the lockdown, while at the same time, they became more conscious of what they eat in order to be more healthy.

Therefore, the solution was to provide readily available foods. She mentioned that while she started with \$31 in January 2021, she was now making about \$6 000 per month while supplying about 500 homes a month.

### 3.4.7 Michael Mulunga – Namibia

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Michael, who is a poultry breeder and horticulture farmer, firstly educated himself on poultry production and general farming and later he underwent training through some poultry-related courses. He explained that he was inspired to go to France to learn more about a particular breed of chickens which he says is 'between broiler chickens and village chickens'. He imported about 300 chicks from France, went back home to Namibia, and introduced the new breed on his farm and now has 40 000 chicks hatched in hatcheries and supplies to several farmers across the country. Therefore, he currently breeds Sasso Chickens, which he got from France, as chicks and Dekalb brown chickens, which are layers, and these give him good profits compared to the village or conventional broiler chickens.



### 3.4.8 Felista Joseph Mpore - Tanzania



Felista is the Director of the Masompo Food production and processing complex, which is involved in horticultural crop production and processing like grapes and vegetables. She has grown 1 tonne of vegetables, 1 tonne of sweet pepper, and tomatoes. She has 30 livestock/dairy farming and in the process, drilled a borehole supplying water to the neighboring communities who work for her as the area usually has no water for months. She also stated that she uses a solar drier for drying grapes and the idea came about after seeing the fruit going to waste due to a lack of markets, and now she dries

the fruit throughout the year. She explained that the manure from the animals is used for vegetables and fruits. Felista also mentioned that she conducts some training and offers consultancy services to other farmers.

## 3.5 Presentation and Validation of the FARA Gender Action Plan

The AUDA-NEPAD/FARA project draft Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan for Inclusive Sustainable Food Systems in Africa was presented by Dr Mercy Akeredolu who started off by stating that the Gender Action Plan springs from various global, continental, and regional frameworks on gender inclusiveness and equality (UN sustainable development goals, AU gender strategy, and others); it draws from the existing literature on the current state of gender gaps affecting the drivers of the food systems in Africa and also derives from the outcomes of the round table discussion on gender in Nairobi 2022 as well as the result of the online knowledge based assessment on gender issues and the food system in the continent.

Dr Akeredolu presented two figures that explained the Gender inequality and drivers of the food systems in Africa and another which explained the Theory of Change - Gender Transformative Model (Adapted from the EKATA, Burundi). She then explained in detail the



eleven (11) key components of the Gender Action Plan, and these are summarised below:

1. **Gender analysis and gender learning** - which she said are crucial for achieving sustainable food security and nutrition in Africa. Gender analysis helps identify strategies for increasing women's participation in the food system and addressing gender inequality. This, in turn, can lead to increased productivity and efficiency in the food system and improve food security and nutrition in Africa. It is crucial to ensure that women's contributions to food production and distribution are recognised and valued. When

women's roles are recognized and valued, they can fully participate in decision-

making processes and benefit from the food system's rewards. Gender learning involves learning about the different gender roles and how they affect the food system.

2. **Gender-Sensitive Policy and Legal Frameworks** - Develop, review, and revise existing policies and legal frameworks related to agriculture and food systems to ensure they are gender-responsive. This involves integrating gender considerations into laws, regulations, and agricultural policies, promoting women's land rights, and addressing discriminatory practices and barriers that limit women's participation in agriculture and the entire food system.
3. **Access to Productive Resources** - Enhance women's access to and control over productive resources such as land, water, seeds, and credit. This can be achieved by implementing measures such as land reforms, improving women's access to credit and financial services, and promoting gender-equitable inheritance laws.
4. **Capacity Building and Training:** Provide training and capacity-building programs that specifically target women farmers and entrepreneurs. This includes equipping women with agricultural skills, knowledge on sustainable farming practices, and business management skills to enhance their productivity and income generation.
5. **Market Access and Value Chain Integration** - Facilitate women's access to markets and ensure their active participation in the agricultural value chain. This involves creating market linkages, providing market information and extension services, promoting women's entrepreneurship, and supporting the establishment of women-led agricultural cooperatives and associations.
6. **Technology and Innovation** - Promote adopting and adapting gender-responsive agricultural technologies and innovations. This includes providing women farmers access to appropriate and affordable agricultural machinery, tools, and equipment, as well as promoting climate-smart and sustainable farming practices.
7. **Social Protection and Safety Nets** - Develop and implement social protection programs that address the specific vulnerabilities and challenges faced by women in the agricultural sector. This can include measures such as insurance schemes, savings groups, and safety nets that provide a social safety net for women farmers during times of crisis or shocks.
8. **Research and Data Collection** - Promote research and data collection on gender and agriculture to better understand the needs, constraints, and opportunities for women in the food system. This includes conducting gender analysis, collecting sex-disaggregated data, and incorporating gender considerations in agricultural research and development programs.
9. **Awareness and Advocacy** - Raise awareness about gender inequalities in the agricultural sector and advocate for gender-responsive policies and investments. This involves conducting gender sensitization campaigns, engaging with stakeholders at various levels, and fostering partnerships between the government, civil society organisations, and the private sector to advance gender equality in food systems.
10. **Monitoring and Evaluation** - Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress, identify gaps, and ensure accountability for gender mainstreaming efforts in the agricultural sector. Regular monitoring and evaluation allow for course corrections and adjustments to strategies based on evidence and results.

11. **Resource mobilisation for implementation** – Includes Government funding, International Aid and Development Agencies, Public-private partnerships, Philanthropic Foundations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Research Grants and Scholarships, Crowdfunding and Social Impact Investing, National and Regional Networks Policy Advocacy and Leveraging Existing Initiatives, Local Contributions and Community Engagement.

Dr Akeredolu then concluded by presenting the Institutional Framework which include the Lead Agency, Steering Committee, Technical Working Groups, Country Focal Points, Monitoring and Evaluation, Resource mobilization, Communication and Advocacy as well as the Supportive Institutional Framework which include National Governments, Regional Economic Commissions, Regional Research and Development Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Development Partners, Monitoring and Evaluation. She also presented the chart of Institutional Framework actors at continental, regional, state and stakeholder levels.

### 3.6 Brainstorming on the CCARDESA Gender Policy



Dr Recha who was the co-moderator guided the workshop participants through a brainstorming session where participants were informed that CCARDESA intends to develop its Gender Policy and as part of the consultative process to inform the policy formulation, the AASW side event sought to engage participants in sharing ideas on how best the policy could be formulated and implemented.

In particular, the participants were asked to provide feedback on the following questions: what key focus/thematic areas should CCARDESA include in the gender policy? Are there any gender gaps that

the policy should address, and what strategies should be used for the policy implementation? The feedback from the participants is outlined below:

- Women and girls continue to be marginalised despite forming the majority in the global, regional and national populations. Therefore, CCARDESA should be deliberate by applying equity in favour of women and girls so that they also benefit accordingly.
- CCARDESA should not just focus on the girl child as doing so will create inequalities for the boy child.
- The Youth should not be discussed as a homogenous group, but these should be separated between young men (boys) and young women (girls) as they have different needs, priorities and challenges.
- There is need for CCARDESA to include issues to do with gender as they relate to climate resilience.



- CCARDESA should make use of the existing women empowerment frameworks and prepare strategies on how best women can be uplifted in the agriculture sector.
- The Gender policy should clarify that gender is not all about women but that it involves both men and women.
- It was observed that in the agriculture sector, gender equality matters are not well addressed at policy, community levels and school curriculum. In schools, agriculture is seen as a programme for boys and girls go for social sciences so the narrative should change. Therefore, children should be taught about gender balance and girls to be encouraged to take up Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes.
- CCARDESA should really focus on how best the gender policy will be implemented. Most times, documents are developed but end up not being adequately implemented. So, implementing structures should be established at all levels and monitor how the objectives are being met.
- The monitoring and evaluation system for CCARDESA should be strengthened so that there is value for money. An example was given that in Burundi, it was found that investing in gender equality in agriculture brought a \$5 return for every \$1 invested.
- CCARDESA needs to lead other organisations in member states to conduct research and have evidence based advocacy and convince policymakers. This data should inform concept notes and proposals for better impacts.
- CCARDESA should support building capacity and helping people change their mindsets over boys and girls taking particular courses/programmes considering them masculine and feminine, respectively.
- Agriculture should be promoted and seen as a money-making sector, not people looking down on people engaged in the field as failures. This will help youths to get attracted to the sector.
- There is a need to interrogate why women do not have adequate access to agricultural inputs compared to men and their inadequate knowledge on the use of the inputs.

## 4.0 Outcomes for the Workshop

*The following were the workshop outputs:*

1. Women and youth from SADC showcased their innovations and agribusiness initiatives and shared lessons learnt in terms of creating linkages with the private sector, collaborations and confronting challenges in the value chains.
2. Participants exchanged and transferred knowledge on gender and youth in agribusiness among themselves.
3. Success stories were documented and it is hoped that these will be shared via various platforms for others to gain knowledge.
4. The FARA Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan for Inclusive Sustainable Food Systems in Africa (for a long-term continental programme) was presented as part of the validation process.
5. A brainstorming session was held which sought to engage participants and get their views as part of the support for the development of the CCARDESA gender policy.



## **5.0 Next steps and Closing Remarks**

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Dr Recha concluded the side event by thanking all the organisations represented during the workshop including CCARDESA for organising, AZARECA, AICCRA, FARA among others and everyone who played an important role to make the workshop a success. He commended FARA on the Gender Action Plan that was presented and that it will inspire CCARDESA in developing its own and in particular the 11 action areas and that these areas should be fully implemented and applied in all countries at continental level.

He also stressed that CCARDESA and its partners should be tactful in the way they engage politicians as they are key to policy formulation and implementation. Furthermore, he stated that politicians should be held accountable so that they, together with their teams, can achieve national goals in the development process.

He ended his remarks around 17:25hrs by thanking all those all stayed on until the end of the workshop and wished everyone well for the rest of the Science Week.

## **Appendix**

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### **Attendance List:**

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**AICCRA**  
Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR  
Climate Research for Africa



## About AICCRA

Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) is a project that helps deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture.

It is led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.

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