

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (MAFS) IN LESOTHO
HOLDS THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE (NCATF)
MEETING.**



Fig 1: Stakeholders at the NCATF Meeting

The Lesotho NCAFT held its meeting on 10 December 2019. This Task Force was established in 2007 with the sole purpose of bringing together different stakeholders in the agricultural sector to discuss issues concerning promotion and adoption of Conservation Agriculture in Lesotho as one of the strategies to combat climate change. Members in this team are from Different Government Ministries including MAFS, NGO's, Institutions of higher learning, Ministry of Education (National Curriculum Development Centre), Farmers Union, Private Sector (Input suppliers) and FAO Lesotho Office as the Secretariat.

The objectives of this meeting were to:

- Revive the NCATF meetings, which were usually held every quarter but have not been for quite some time.

- Revisit the terms of reference for the NCATF
- Review the 2012-2017 strategic plan with a view of developing the 2020-2023 strategic plan
- Share and update the task force the current national and regional work around Conservation Agriculture (CA).
- Develop the 3w,s (Who is working where and on what) in the country
- Brainstorm on the resource mobilization for CA

The Director of Crops Services who is also the chairperson of the task force gave the opening remarks. He welcomed all present and indicated the importance of this meeting because it is a platform where these stakeholders come together to deliberate on how to engage more farmers into practicing and intensifying CA.

In 2007 when the platform was established, terms of reference (TORs) together with the mission and vision were drawn and during this meeting, participants deliberated on whether the TORs were still relevant after all these years or needed to be upgraded. A minor change was made on the TORs, which was the addition of mobilization of funds by the Task Force in order to support and strengthen CA activities in the country.

Since Lesotho is the member of SADC, the region held a three day CA Regional Dialogue in Zambia. During this Task Force meeting, the Lesotho NCATF representative to the regional dialogue presented on the deliberations of the dialogue.

The second presentation was by an NGO called Growing Nations Trust. It presented on the CA work it has been doing since the last NCATF Meeting. These works included CA farmer competitions, engaging local schools to undertake CA activities using different CA equipments, farmer exchange visits and developing a youth and community CA Project which had very high success rates.

To conclude the meeting, the team appointed four members to work on developing the 2020-2023 strategic plan, with inputs from the rest of the team members. It is anticipated that during the next

setting, there will be a draft of the strategic plan where the members will study it, give comments and make it in to a final working document.