



CONCEPT NOTE

CCARDESA SYMPOSIUM AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

1. Background

The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research & Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) is a subsidiary organisation of SADC with a mandate of coordinating agricultural research in Southern Africa. It supports a range of initiatives that promote technology generation, dissemination and adoption. This is in line with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) of SADC, the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP), CAADP and Malabo Declaration. The ultimate goal of CCARDESA is to contribute to improved regional food security and livelihoods. As a sub-regional research organisation, CCARDESA fosters inter-country collaboration in the region and links Southern Africa to other regional, continental & global organisations.

CCARDESA pursues a vision of sustainable agricultural growth and socio-economic development in the SADC region. This vision is supported by the institutional mission of setting the regional research and development agenda, mobilising resources, supporting capacity development, fostering collaboration and providing agricultural information and knowledge. The mission and vision are contained in the CCARDESA Strategy 2020-2029 as well as the Medium-Term Operational Plan (MTO) 2021-2025. The Strategy and Operational Plan are successors to the first Operational Plan (2014-2018) that also served as a Strategy document for CCARDESA.

The CCARDESA MTO describes thematic areas, compound activities over the next 5 years and the expected outputs. All these have been designed to support the achievements of the following overall objectives of CCARDESA contained in the Charter:

1. To promote coordination and collaboration among the National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS) and Farmer Organisations through regional and international cooperation;
2. To facilitate the exchange of information and technology among the agricultural research and development (R&D) institutions;
3. To promote partnerships in the SADC region between public, private, civil society and international organizations in agricultural R&D;
4. To improve agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption in the region through collective efforts, training and capacity building; and
5. To mobilise human, financial and technological resources to implement demand-driven regional R&D activities that will contribute to the strengthening of national-level institutions/research agencies and individuals.

2. Governance structure and the General Assembly

The institutional arrangement of CCARDESA is summarised in Annex 1. The Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security of countries that are party to the CCARDESA Charter constitute the highest policy body. Ministers have powers of appointment and approval of specific issues. Below the Ministers is the General Assembly of regional stakeholders from SADC Member States, with its own defined powers in the governance of CCARDESA. The Board of Directors of CCARDESA, composed of 13 members, provides oversight and guides the CCARDESA Secretariat on its general direction and programmes. It reports to the General Assembly. The CCARDESA Secretariat is answerable to the Board of Directors of CCARDESA, through its Executive Director. It performs the day-to-day functions of

CCARDESA by managing and implementing the programmes of CCARDESA, as approved by the Board, and performing all tasks of coordination of agricultural research and development in the SADC region.

The General Assembly (GA), composed of all stakeholders, is an importance structure within the governance of CCARDESA. The GA is responsible for providing broad guidance to the Board and ultimately to CCARDESA Secretariat. The key responsibilities of the General Assembly are:

1. Recommend to Ministers CCARDESA's R&D priorities
2. Approve, Monitor and Evaluate the CCARDESA strategic direction
3. Appoint, renew or terminate the services of External Auditors for CCARDESA
4. Recommend to Ministers new members on CCARDESA Board identified by the sitting Board.

The Governance Manual of CCARDESA states that the General Assembly shall be held every two years. The first GA of CCARDESA was held in May 2014 in Gaborone. At the first GA meeting, the MTOP for CCARDESA was approved, the composition of the Board was endorsed and the Auditors were approved. The second GA was scheduled for 2016 but this did not take place due to challenges the organisation was facing. Focus was put on addressing these challenges and stabilising the organisation. This has now been completed and CCARDESA will convene its second GA on 10th June 2021.

3. Objectives

The objective of the forthcoming GA is to provide a platform for this governance structure of CCARDESA to perform its mandate as provided for in the charter.

4. Participation

All regional stakeholders in the agricultural sector are eligible to attend the General Assembly. Therefore, the General Assembly is highly inclusive, and it is designed to bring together diverse institutions and individuals involved in the agricultural sector. It includes organisations in the Public Sector, Agro-Industry, Agricultural Education Institutions, Farmer Organisations, Agricultural Non-governmental Organisations, faith-based organisations involved in agriculture and agricultural marketing organisations/individuals.

5. General Assembly Programme and expected outputs

It is the intention of CCARDESA to always combine the business of the CCARDESA General Assembly with a technical session. During the first General Assembly, the programme lasted two days. There were exhibitions and side events alongside the main business meeting of the General Assembly. Unlike the GA of 2014, which was a face-to-face meeting, the forthcoming meeting in June will be virtual because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Physical meetings are no longer feasible under the current global situation.

The GA meeting will be held back-to-back with a technical session in the morning to discuss the crucial topic of climate change and the progress made in promoting adaptation. The business of the GA will then follow in the afternoon, and it will exclusively deal with the governance matters of CCARDESA and the future direction. The detailed draft programme is presented in Annex 2.

At the end of the Symposium and General Assembly the following outputs are envisaged:

1. Proceedings of the symposium produced;
2. CCARDESA Strategic Plan endorsed;
3. Board of Directors of CCARDESA endorsed;
4. CCARDESA Medium Term Operational Plan endorsed;
5. CCARDESA External auditors formally appointed; and
6. Chairperson of the General Assembly elected

6. Registration and further information

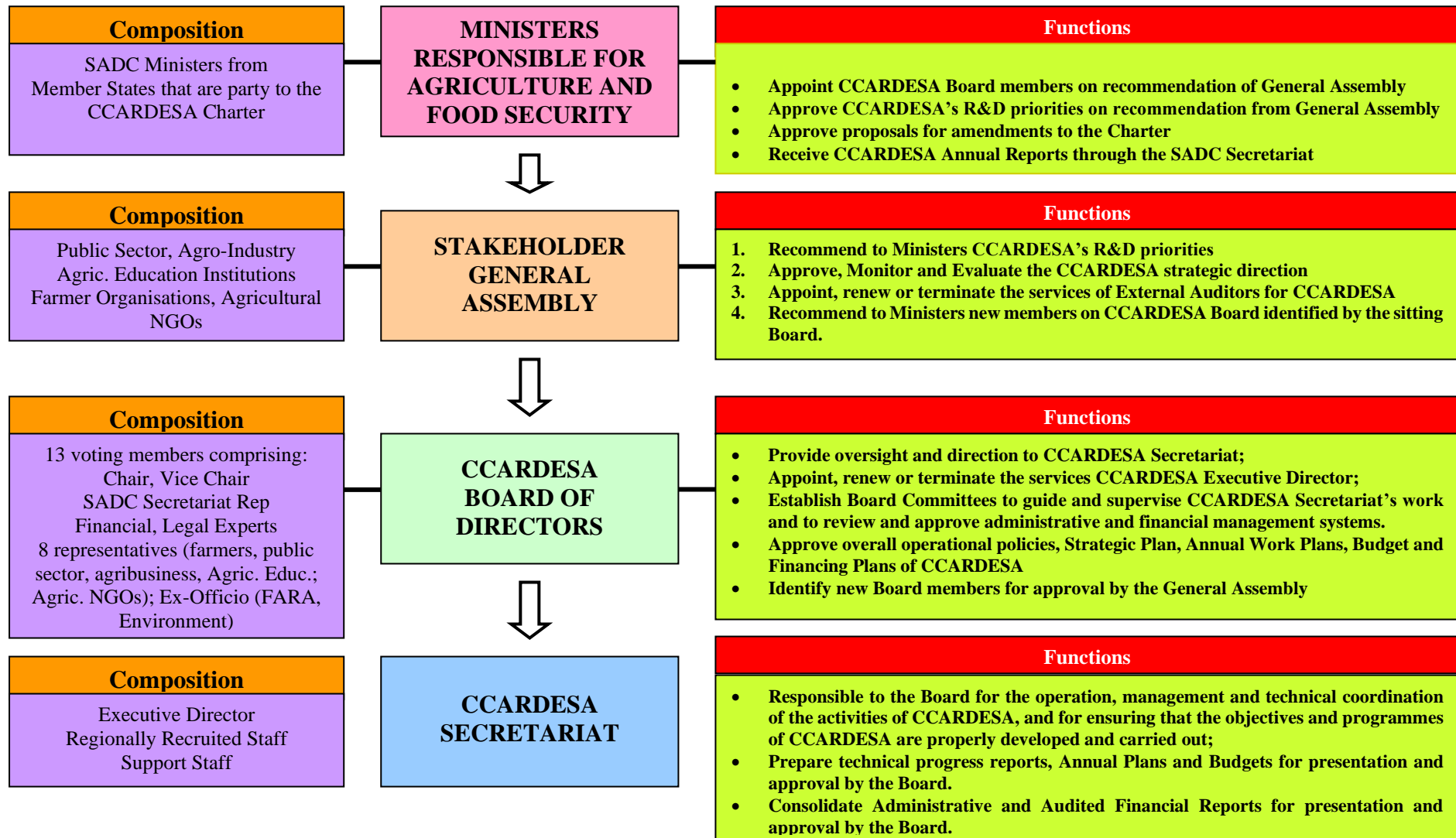
To participate in these meetings, prior registration will be required. Please register on this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eQc-zRCxTOynIdePezvewA, after which the system will generate a registration confirmation. Those registered will receive regular updates on the GA. A month before the event, instructions on how to join the meeting will be sent, followed by weekly updates and reminders.

For further information please contact:

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Annex 1: CCARDESA institutional and governance structure



Annex 2: Programme for the Symposium and General Assembly



CCARDESA Agricultural Symposium and General Assembly

**Topic: Climate change and agricultural productivity
– what have we achieved? Where do we go
from here?**

Date: 10th June 2021

Time: 0900 – 1200Hrs (Central African Time)

Symposium Facilitator: Dr. Simon Mwale

Time	Agenda item	Speaker-Facilitator
0900-09:10	Welcome Remarks	Dr Dlamini
09:10-09:20	Introduction of sessions, speakers and panelists	Facilitator
09:20-09:40	Key Note 1: Current climate and agricultural scenarios in SADC	Dr Philip Thornton, CCAFS/ILRI
09:40-10:10	Key Note 2: Adaptation, Mitigation and Food Systems in SADC – achievements, challenges and needs	Dr. Lewis Hove
10:10-10:20	Break	
10:20-11:45	<p>Dialogue on what we achieved and where do we go from here?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Philip Thornton, CCAFS 2. Dr. Baiti Podisi CCARDESA 3. Dr. Christian Thierfelder, CIMMYT 4. Dr Ackim Mwape, New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre 5. Dr B. Kuenene 	Facilitator
12:00	Summary of webinar outcomes and closing remarks	Rapporteur



CCARDESA SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 10th June 2021

Virtual meeting

DRAFT PROGRAMME

SESSION 1: OFFICIAL OPENING Chairperson: Dr. C. Senkoro		
TIME	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD PERSON
1400-1410	Welcome Remarks	Dr C. Senkoro
1410-120	Remarks by the Chairperson of the Board of CCARDESA	Prof. C. Camarada
1420-1440	Remarks by Representatives of Development Partners	EU/WB, IFAD
1440-1445	Invitation of the Hon. Minister by the Principal Secretary	PS Ministry of Agriculture-Eswatini
1445-1500	Official opening by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Eswatini	Hon. Minister of Agriculture
Session 2: CCARDESA GENERAL ASSEMBLY Chairperson: Dr. M. Mwala		
1500-1510	Welcome Remarks	Dr. M. Mwala
1510-1530	Background to the CCARDESA General Assembly and Update from the 1 st General Assembly	Dr. C. Dlamini
1530-1600	Report of the Chairperson of CCARDESA Board of Directors	Prof. C. Camarada
1600-1630	Presentation and endorsement of CCARDESA's Strategic Plan 2020-2029 and MTOP 2021-2025	Dr Simon Mwale
1630-1645	Appointment of CCARDESA External Auditors	Chairperson of Finance Committee
1645-1715	Election of new Chairperson of the General Assembly	Mr Isaac Chiundira
1715-1730	Closing Remarks	Outgoing and incoming chairpersons