



G20

SOUTH AFRICA 2025



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability

CONCEPT NOTE

Meeting of **G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS-G20)**

Southern Africa Regional Dialogue

Date: Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Time: 14:30-16:30 SAST

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BACKGROUND

South Africa's G20 Presidency (December 2024 – November 2025) presents a strategic opportunity for Africa to shape global agricultural policies and drive transformative change. As the only African member of the G20, South Africa is uniquely positioned to advocate for the continent's agricultural priorities, ensuring that Africa's voice is heard in advancing agricultural innovation, food security, and climate resilience.

A key platform for this engagement is the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS), where Africa can showcase its scientific expertise, indigenous knowledge, and homegrown innovations. Strengthening partnerships with regional research institutions, policymakers, and international stakeholders will further position Africa as a key player in global agricultural research and innovation.

To ensure that Africa's priorities are well-articulated in the G20 MACS, the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), South Africa's leading agricultural research institution, is spearheading the country's participation, ensuring that Africa's research priorities are effectively integrated into global discussions. The ARC and the Department of Agriculture are co-convening a regional dialogue that will bring together scientists, policymakers, and development partners to consolidate insights, strengthen regional collaboration, and establish a unified African position on key agricultural priorities. With technical support from the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), the convenors will collaborate with the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) and other regional stakeholders.

REGIONAL DIALOGUE OBJECTIVES

While the dialogue seeks to consolidate inputs from South Africa's agricultural science and research community, it also aims to ensure that Africa's agricultural transformation agenda is well-positioned within the G20 framework. The specific objectives are to:

- **Identify key challenges and opportunities** in agricultural innovation, sustainable food systems, climate-smart agriculture, and technological advancements that have implications for Africa's food security.
- **Strengthen Africa's influence** in global agricultural science discussions by ensuring that research and policy recommendations reflect the continent's priorities.
- **Enhance collaboration** between African researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to align national and continental research priorities with global trends beyond South Africa's G20 Presidency.

THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

South Africa's MACS team highlights eight key priorities, which are directly relevant to Africa's broader agricultural and economic transformation:

- **Theme 1:** Stewardship of biodiversity, genetic and natural resources
- **Theme 2:** Transformation Agri systems to enhance the Water-Energy-Food-Health Nexus
- **Theme 3:** Reinforcing Climate Smart Agriculture for resilience, mitigation and early warning systems
- **Theme 4:** Investment and partnerships in R&D, technology transfer, IP & Commercialization
- **Theme 5:** Digital agriculture and the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technology
- **Theme 6:** One health approach- Human Animal Ecosystem
- **Theme 7:** Building resilient Agricultural Bio economies in Africa
- **Theme 8:** Sustainable Soil Health and Management

These priorities not only address South Africa's national interests but also align with Africa's broader development agenda as encapsulated in Africa's Agenda 2063, and more recently, the Kampala CAADP Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa, which will be implemented from 2026 to 2035.

The upcoming dialogue will explore opportunities for research, innovation, and policy actions that can drive agricultural transformation across the continent while strengthening Africa's position in global food systems transformation.

Below is a tentative program for the regional dialogue.

PROGRAMME

Date: Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Time: 14:30-16:30 SAST

Welcome and Overview of the Regional Dialogue

Facilitator: Ms. Sithembile Mwamakamba, Director, Policy Research and Analysis, FANRPAN

Welcome Remarks

- Dr. Tshilidzi Madzivhandila, Head of Mission and Chief Executive Officer, FANRPAN

Opening Remarks

- Prof. Cliff Sibusiso Dlamini, Executive Director, CCARDESA

Why MACS?

- Ms. Bridget Takalani Murovhi, International Relations Manager, ARC

Thematic Research Priorities

- Prof. Bongani Ndimba, Specialist Researcher, ARC

Thematic Breakout Sessions

1. Sustainable Natural Resource Management & Biodiversity

Theme: Stewardship of biodiversity, genetic, and natural resources

Theme: Sustainable Soil Health and Management

2. Climate Resilience & Agricultural Sustainability

Theme: Reinforcing Climate Smart Agriculture for resilience, mitigation, and early warning systems

Theme: Building resilient Agricultural Bio economies in Africa

3. Integrated Approaches to Food, Water, Health & Ecosystems

Theme: Transforming Agrifood systems to enhance the Water-Energy-Food-Health Nexus

Theme: One health approach – Human, Animal, Ecosystem

4. Technology, Innovation & Digital Transformation

Theme: Digital Agriculture and the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technology

Theme: Investment and partnerships in R&D, technology transfer, IP & Commercialization

Feedback Session

Closing and Way forward

- Dr. Petronella Chiminuka, Acting Group Executive: Impact and Partnerships, ARC



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL DIALOGUE

CONTACT DETAILS

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC)

www.arc.agric.za

FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY ANALYSIS NETWORK (FANRPAN)

www.fanrpan.org

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

www.dalrrd.gov.za

**CENTRE FOR COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR
SOUTHERN AFRICA (CCARDESA)**

www.ccardesa.org

FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA (FARA)

www.faraafrica.org

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL (NAMC)

www.namc.co.za