



agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NAMC

Promoting market access for South African agriculture

FANRPAN Annual Regional Multistakeholder Policy Dialogue 2025

RESOLUTIONS



Introduction

The 2025 FANRPAN Regional Multistakeholder Policy Dialogue took place in Johannesburg from 04-07 August 2025 under the theme Aligning Regional Policies and Investments for Accelerated Agrifood-Systems Transformation in Africa. The Dialogue brought together over 200 participants from diverse sectors, including government, regional bodies, farmer organizations, academia, the private sector, civil society, youth, and media. Participants represented more than 20 African countries, as well as the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

The event was co-convened with the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of South Africa and the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC). Key partners included the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa (ARC-South Africa), the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Trust Africa, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP), the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) as well as FANRPAN-led initiatives like the Food Systems Transformation for One Health (FoSTA Health) initiative funded by the European Union, the Strengthening Adaptive Capacity of Extensive Livestock Systems for Food and Nutrition Security and Low-emissions Development in Eastern and Southern Africa (Livestock Systems) project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Scaling-up Community Action for Livelihoods and Ecosystems (CBA SCALE+) funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

Policy Dialogue Resolutions

Over four days, stakeholders mapped challenges, shared evidence, exchanged innovative solutions, and agreed on collective actions aimed at creating resilient, equitable, and nutrition-secure food systems across Africa. The participants resolved that the following actions must be taken to advance food systems transformation:

1. Develop transformation pathways and proactively envision future scenarios, which will guide and inform the decisions made today and in the coming years. Comprehensive planning for food systems transformation must prioritize the identification of necessary actions for each scenario and assess their impact on One Health outcomes, ensuring that policies and initiatives are aligned with sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development goals.

2. Activate a Regional Soil-Health and Fertilizer Hub that harmonizes regulations, mobilizes finance, and provides technical assistance to member states. The hub should ensure equitable access to soil-health services and fertilizers, empowering smallholder farmers and enhancing agricultural productivity across the region.

3. Accelerate the modernization of seed systems by adopting inclusive seed laws, establishing a regional online variety-release portal, and creating certification rules that streamline approval processes. This will ensure broad access to quality seeds for both large-scale and smallholder farmers, fostering seed sovereignty and inclusivity in the region.

4. Professionalize the Agrifood Workforce by launching a continental skills compact that links universities, regulators, and industry through mentorship schemes, ethics accreditation, and curriculum reforms. This initiative will professionalize the agrifood workforce, ensuring that it is equipped to meet the challenges of food systems transformation by 2026.

5. Institutionalize Youth Policy Innovation by scaling up the FANRPAN Youth Policy Fellowship model to embed young leaders in policy labs, incubators, and decision-making forums. This will ensure youth are actively shaping the future of Africa's agrifood systems, driving innovation and sustainable development through structured policy engagement with first cohort placements by Q2 2026.

6. Establish a permanent network of National Planning Commissions (NPCs) that will support aligning national development plans with regional and continental strategies such as Agenda 2063, CAADP, and AfCFTA. NPCs will share a common evidence-and-financing dashboard and conduct peer-learning reviews to accelerate implementation and identify policy bottlenecks across the continent.

7. Drive Community-Led Nutrition Behaviour Change by utilizing innovative communication and advocacy tools such as Theatre for Policy Advocacy and mobilize and train a cohort of policy champions who will work with policy makers, development partners, community leaders and local health-worker networks to promote optimum complementary feeding practices for mothers and children, thereby improving nutrition outcomes in communities.

8. Scale the adoption of low-emission, nutrition-sensitive livestock systems by establishing demonstration sites that showcase low-emissions feed-efficiency technologies and promote women's decision-making. This will empower communities to improve livestock productivity and nutrition without compromising the environment.

9. Incorporate the water-energy-food and ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach into national and regional investment plans by launching cross-sector pilots that enhance resource management and support climate-resilient food systems across the continent.

10. Accelerate the harmonization of biotechnology and biosafety regulations by updating laws, building regulatory capacity, running public-awareness campaigns, and finalizing a regional mutual recognition protocol. This will unlock the potential of biotechnology to drive innovation and trade in Africa's agrifood systems, ensuring that Africa remains competitive on the global stage.

11. Mobilize Transformative Finance for Farmer-Led Value Chains prioritizing women and youth-led enterprises. This initiative will ensure that transformative finance supports smallholder farmers and agribusinesses, promoting inclusive growth in Africa's agrifood systems.

12. Strengthen science–policy interfaces by establishing multi-level coordination committees and transparent impact-tracking dashboards. This will close the gap between research investments, policy, and on-the-ground change, ensuring that science drives actionable outcomes in food systems transformation.

13. Strengthen Climate-Information Services for Climate-Smart Agriculture by establishing regional data hubs and farmer-friendly advisories. These services will improve preparedness for climate-related events such as droughts and floods, enabling farmers across SADC and COMESA regions to implement climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices.

14. Prioritize the accelerated comprehensive implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enhance intra-Africa trade, foster agrifood systems resilience, and improve supply chain connectivity across the continent, including coordinated action on SPS/TBT measures and trade facilitation for priority agrifood value chains.

15. Ensure Continuous Regional Accountability for agrifood policy implementation by conducting periodic progress reviews and publishing a public dashboard to enable course-corrections where necessary.

16. Leverage the Outcomes of South Africa’s G20 Presidency by translating the Agriculture Ministers’ Communiqué into concrete programs that align finance, knowledge, and technology flows with African agrifood needs. This will ensure Africa’s agrifood priorities are firmly embedded in global discussions and aligned with the continent’s development goals.

Conclusion

These resolutions represent a collective agreement among the participants of the FANRPAN 2025 Regional Policy Dialogue. While these resolutions outline the critical steps needed to advance food systems transformation, FANRPAN, in collaboration with its partners, will play an active role in driving the implementation of these actions. FANRPAN will work closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that these resolutions are effectively executed, monitoring progress, overcoming challenges, and ensuring accountability. Through coordinated efforts and partnerships, FANRPAN and partners will continue to strive to achieve a successful, resilient, and sustainable future for Africa’s agrifood systems, aligning with the region's development goals.