



Existing Policies on PGRFA in the SADC Region

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Presentation outline

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Introduction

- Policy documents provide guidance on the course of action proposed by a government - to efficiently carry out and accomplish planned activities
- International instruments have been developed to address mainly the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use



Intro: continued

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of 1992 which is supported by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) of 2004
- Nagoya Protocol that calls for countries to put in place adequate legislative, regulatory policies on access and benefit sharing.
- These instruments are recognizing the sovereign right for countries to conserve and regulate access to the plant genetic resources



Status of International Instruments

- All SADC countries have ratified the CBD and have prepared their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for the implementation of the convention
- 12 countries are contracting parties to the ITPGRFA except Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa
- 5 countries have the accession status to IT (DRC, Lesotho, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania; otherwise the rest of the other countries have ratified



- Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, 4 countries have ratified (Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Seychelles). 4 countries have acceded to the Protocol; Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius and Namibia.

Reflection on International Instruments

Country	CBD	ITPGRFA	Nagoya Protocol
Angola	Ratified	Party	Legislation adopted
Botswana	Ratified		Acceded
DRC	Ratified	Party	
Lesotho	Ratified	Party	Legislation adopted
Malawi	Ratified	Party	Acceded-Legislation adopted
Madagascar	Ratified	Party	Ratified-Draft Legislation
Mauritius	Ratified	Party	Acceded
Mozambique	Ratified		Ratified
Namibia	Ratified	Party	Acceded-Draft Legislation
Seychelles	Ratified	Party	Ratified-Draft Legislation
South Africa	Ratified		Ratified-Legislation adopted
Swaziland	Ratified	Party	
Tanzania	Ratified	Party	Draft Legislation
Zambia	Ratified	Party	Draft Legislation



National Policies on the Conservation and Use of PGR

- ITPGRFA: there are limited laws on its domestication and implementation
- Most countries have regulations relating to biodiversity conservation, environmental issues, agriculture and other pieces of regulations on seed production, phytosanitary and biosafety
- Zimbabwe has developed a draft policy on the management of PGRFA-which takes care of Farmers' Rights. some countries have conducted sensitization workshops – IT and Farmers' Rights
- Movement of plants is based on bilateral and administrative arrangements through environmental of biodiversity laws



SADC Regional Initiatives

- Policy Guidelines on PGRFA developed
- Provide a road map for the development of national policies and legislations such that the national priorities are within the context of regional harmonization
- To facilitate harmonization of regional policies and strategies, nine priority areas are proposed in the guidelines



Guidelines priority areas

- Programmes and activities to be carried out by public, NGOs, private sector and other relevant stakeholders - National policies need to accommodate the coordination role of SPGRC;
- in-situ/on-farm and ex-situ conservation with emphasis on food crops, wild crop relatives, forages, underutilized crop species, medicinal plants and other useful plants - policy measures to ensure trans-boundary management of PGRFA
- Use of state-of-the-art technologies for the identification, characterization, documentation, evaluation, crop improvement and conservation of PGRFA to enhance quality and efficiency towards the attainment of food security and poverty alleviation



Priority areas

- Building capacity of appropriate institutions involved in and contributing to the conservation and use of PGRFA
- Promotion of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, particularly, in the field of access and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use
- Recognition of Farmers' Rights, farmer varieties and providing mechanisms for their protection and promotion for food and agriculture



Priority areas

- Development of a harmonised regional Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regime
- Linking conservation to utilization of PGRFA particularly for crop improvement, in light of climate change challenges
- Funding mobilisation efforts to support conservation and sustainable utilisation of PGRFA



Conclusion

- In overall, Member States need to ensure that their policy statements take care of conservation strategies, sustainable use strategies, access and benefit sharing, transboundary regulations, promotion of Farmers' Rights, Human and infrastructural capacity building, information management and biosafety issues
- **There is an urgent need to conduct regional advocacy meetings on the domestication of relevant international instruments and development of national policies.**
- **The guidelines are to assist Member States in developing their domestic legislation in the light of harmonizing the approach in the region**



Thank you

Merci beaucoup