



African Regional Consultation

**Improving Livelihoods through
Knowledge Solutions and Partnerships**

14-16 October 2015, Lusaka, Zambia

KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE



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Background

These triennial regional meetings have become an important activity in CABI's calendar. They give CABI Member Countries an opportunity to shape and own CABI's plans but, more importantly, they serve as a mechanism for CABI to listen to and engage directly with its Member Countries and help feed strategic recommendations into the Review Conferences for endorsement. The last consultations were held in 2012-2013 and CABI, through the consultations, was mandated to support member countries in SEVEN priority areas in line with CABI's capabilities and donors' funding requirements. The consolidated and derived outcomes guided the revision of CABI's Medium Term Strategy 2014-2016 and included the following:

- Trade and market access and development
- Knowledge management, communication and use
- Plant health
- Biodiversity and invasive species management
- Climate smart agriculture
- Institutional capacity building
- Publication of, and access to, authoritative information resources.

As in the past, this round of Regional Consultation meetings (2015-2016) was aimed towards aligning CABI's work more effectively with regional needs and strategic plans, and developing mutually agreed frameworks for appropriately funded and resourced programmes. Built on the success and lessons learned from the previous regional consultations, these consultation meetings followed a similar arrangement with the following specific objectives:

- Conduct a systematic and focused review of the progress in addressing the 7 priority areas identified in 2012-2013, and their continued relevance
- Identify new emerging regional priorities
- Agree on action plans by linking regional priorities with CABI's capabilities and strategies and identifying synergies among partners.

The outcomes will then be fed into the CABI Review Conference 2016.



The Process

The African Regional Consultation meeting was concluded successfully on 16 October in Zambia and all the objectives set for this regional consultation meeting were met.

With the theme being *“Improving Livelihoods through Knowledge Solutions and Partnerships”*, the programme of this Consultation meeting adopted a more interactive and systematic approach. Our member country representatives and other delegates were positive about CABI’s overall progress, and what CABI has done in addressing their needs and priorities. They were pleased that CABI had engaged with them in such a way, which made them feel real ownership of the organization, the priority areas and issues identified, and those agreed upon at the Consultation meeting. They also highly commended the organization of the event both in regard to content and logistics.

The Consultation meeting was attended by 71 delegates representing 14 African member countries, 2 African prospective member countries (Cameroon and Ethiopia), over 25 partner organizations, and CABI. There was particularly strong member country representation throughout the consultation meeting, a senior representation from the host country, Zambia, at the Opening of the Consultation meeting and the ceremony for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of the Southern Africa Centre in Zambia, as well as good local media coverage of the event, either through live TV/Radio programmes or news online or in print, which helped enhance CABI’s visibility in Zambia and beyond. The establishment of CABI’s Southern Africa Centre in Zambia will bring CABI’s services closer to the people who need them, including smallholder farming communities and those with local knowledge tackling problems in agriculture and the environment.

Opening Session

Delegates were welcomed by Dr Dennis Rangi, Director General for Development. He thanked the host country, particularly the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. Given Lubinda, and CABI Liaison Officer for Zambia, Dr Moses Mwale, Director of the Zambian Agricultural Research Institute, for all the support given to CABI, and for securing an agreement from the Zambian government to sign the MoU with CABI to establish the Southern Africa office in Zambia. Dr Rangi highlighted the importance of agriculture to the African economy and pointed out that if we are to eliminate poverty, then all Africans need to come together and get involved in agriculture – including women and the youth. Nonetheless, he said that all was not that gloomy as Africa’s economy is growing at the average of 4%, and there is hope for further growth/development, which can be achieved through partnerships between institutions like CABI and stakeholders, including smallholder farmers in our member countries. He then outlined the objectives of holding consultation meetings such as this.

Zambia’s Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Julius Shawa, delivered a keynote speech on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. Given Lubinda. Mr Shawa, acknowledged the good work that CABI is doing in Africa, especially in Zambia, and described the government’s efforts in ensuring that the Agricultural sector continues to be a major contributor to the country’s overall economic growth. He pledged his Ministry’s continued support to CABI’s activities in Zambia, especially the Plantwise programme among other projects, and programmes. “CABI is well-positioned to prioritize the development activities and resources to address some of the challenges affecting people in its member countries and the world today. Challenges such as disease identification, crop protection and animal health are some of the issues that require attention by CABI member countries. Zambia fully supports any initiatives that are aimed at revolutionizing agriculture. We want to make the agricultural sector the major contributor to the country’s overall economic growth because we do realise that 80% of Zambia’s population depends on agriculture related livelihoods”, said Mr Shawa.

Dr Trevor Nicholls, CABI’s CEO, set the context of what CABI is, what CABI does and what CABI wants to achieve. He gave an overview of CABI’s capabilities and strengths, as well as the programmes and projects CABI is leading or involved in all over the world and especially in Africa. Dr Nicholls outlined the challenges faced by organizations like CABI in terms of sustainability when working in member countries, and emphasised the importance of ownership of the programmes and projects from the smallholder farmers to the governmental officials. “Member country governments need to devise ways/strategies of sustaining the impacts and outcomes of the programmes and projects once they come to an end”, said Dr Nicholls. He explained in detail about CABI’s Vision 2020 and Medium-term strategies. “CABI is to be the place to go for information on agriculture and the environment. Our meeting in Zambia marks an exciting time for CABI.

CABI – ZAMBIA MOU

At the MoU signing ceremony on the evening of 14 October, Zambian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Harry Kalaba, commented: *“CABI has been working to improve people’s lives worldwide, by solving problems in agriculture and the environment and also engages in regional consultations to take stock and plan for the future. The Zambian Government, therefore, firmly believes that through the hosting of this organization in Zambia more strategies to combat the current challenges that confront us in the region will be developed. With the MoU signed and the office established here in Lusaka, CABI will be better able to respond to these challenges in collaboration with its local partners and donors. This is a welcome move, not only for Zambia but for all CABI’s member countries in Southern Africa. I look forward to furthering the partnership between CABI and the Southern African countries.”*

Dr Nicholls said, *“The signing of the MoU is another step in our journey to extending our presence in Africa. The triennial regional consultation is an important event for CABI and its member countries as it gives us an opportunity of exploring ways of working together more closely and effectively, to update our plans for tackling some of the key issues that impact food security such as market access, plant health, invasive species management, using scientific knowledge and partnerships – themes that are central to this meeting”.*

Presenting Case Studies from Member Countries and Partners

Dr Ambrose Agona of Uganda, Mr Veer Abhimanyu Punchoo of Mauritius, and Dr Edet Ekong of Nigeria each described the current and future partnerships with CABI, showcasing the work that CABI and their countries have collaborated, or will collaborate, on, stated their top national priorities, and suggested opportunities and mechanisms to strengthen partnership. For example, in Uganda, Plantwise was officially launched in 2012 and by October 2015, CABI had established 191 plant clinics and trained 301 plant doctors in partnership with a number of national partners led by the Ugandan Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. In Mauritius, since 2013, the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security has taken advantage of one of the membership benefits, namely the free access to a wide range of



publishing products, such as *CAB Abstracts* and the *Crop Protection Compendium*, which help Mauritian researchers, policymakers and practitioners keep abreast of the latest developments in agricultural science and technology, and make informed decisions. Nigeria, through participation in the African Soil Health Consortium (ASHC), led by CABI, has benefited from the ASHC's approach that targets different members of the smallholder farming family with nuanced but consistent messages that address their information needs.

Representing the Secretary General of COMESA, Ms Winnie Byanyima explained to the participants what COMESA is and what it does. She also described the different ways that COMESA is partnering with CABI, especially through institutional capacity building and harmonisation of the SPS regulatory environment. CABI and COMESA are working together on different projects to facilitate trade and market access which is a big challenge to many smallholder farmers.

Reviewing and Identifying Priorities of Member Countries

At the beginning of this Session, Dr George Oduor, Deputy Director of CABI Africa, outlined the consolidated priority areas and issues that had arisen from the last Regional consultations and the measures taken to review the progress, presented the results from the Survey on CABI's delivery that was carried out in the summer of 2015, and explained the next steps and objectives of the Session. It was generally believed that CABI had made substantial progress in addressing the key priorities of the member countries.

The participants were divided into 3 sub-regional discussion groups in order to review the relevance of the existing priorities, and identify new priorities:

- Eastern Africa (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda plus partners)
- Southern Africa – (Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia and Zambia plus partners)
- Western Africa (Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone plus partners).

The following steps were adopted during breakout and plenary discussions, starting from articulating national priorities, to agreement of sub-regional and regional priority areas and issues:

1. Review and agree on the continued relevance of 7 priority areas and issues identified in 2012-2013
2. Articulate the top 3 new emerging national priority areas by each member country
3. Discuss and agree the top 3 new emerging sub-regional priority areas
4. Discuss and agree the specific issues of each of these 3 priority areas
5. Integrate both relevant priority areas/issues identified previously and sub-regional new emerging priority areas/issues into "Sub-regional priority areas/issues 2015"
6. Discuss and agree the African "Regional Priority Areas and Issues" after reporting back.

Table 1 summarises some new emerging national priority areas while Table 2 summarises regional priority areas and issues agreed at the meeting.

Table 1: New emerging national priority areas

Eastern Africa: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda	Southern Africa: Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia	Western Africa: Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone
<p>Uganda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Commodities • Biodiversity/Invasives • Knowledge management communication and use <p>Kenya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge management, communication and use • Trade and Commodities • Biodiversity/Invasives <p>Ethiopia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant health • Trade and Commodities • Knowledge management Communication and use <p>Tanzania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge management, communication and use • Plant health • Trade and Commodities <p>Burundi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge management, communication and use • Plant health • Trade and Commodities <p>Rwanda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Commodities • Knowledge management, communication and use • Plant health 	<p>Botswana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification, mapping, distribution of all invasive species • Introduced fish that threaten aquatic biodiversity <p>Malawi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition • Quality control of agricultural inputs • Seed systems of neglected crops <p>Mauritius</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-agriculture • Control of pests and diseases • Capacity building (lab practices accreditation, extension tools & legislation) <p>South Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal diseases that affect international trade • Women and Youth capacity building <p>Zambia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental management • Labour saving technologies • Nutrition enhancement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agribusiness • Plant and Animal Health • Improved genetic materials, and range management • Biodiversity and ecosystem management • Institutional capacity building and governance (M&E, Gender and youth in Agriculture, inclusivity of minority groups)

Table 2: Regional Priority Areas and Issues identified and consolidated at the African Regional Consultation meeting, 14-16 October 2015

New Priority Areas	Priority Issues
Trade and market access and development	SPS compliance; Value-chain focus and postharvest value-addition; GAP and best practices promulgation, and capacity building; Commercialization and contract farming; Quality control of agricultural inputs (fake seed and other agro-inputs); Access to local and regional input and output markets; Labour-saving technologies for efficient (cost effective) production; Organizing farmers into business organizations; Access to information (markets, prices, & regulations, etc.); Access to affordable credit; Risk management (price fluctuation, etc.)
Knowledge management, communication and use	Technology transfer (particularly amongst member countries, and south-south); Sharing knowledge amongst stakeholder groups, including men and women , youth and grassroots (using social media to reach these communities); Mobile advisory services; Mass communication and linking multiple stakeholders using mixed communication methods ; Improving communications to farmers; Evidence-based policies. Alternative uses of ICT applications – e.g. e-M&E; e-statistics; e-vouchers; Scaling up and out ; Archiving and managing institutional research, government and others information; Open data ; Private public partnerships to address pests and diseases . Publication of, and access to, authoritative information resources
Plant and Animal Health	Improved genetic materials; Range management ; Managing a range of stressors including pests (IPM), water, and soil nutrients; IPM in high value crops; Reduction in pesticide use ; Early warning systems for newly emerged/key pests & diseases & approaches to respond to emerging pests; Biotechnology applications for pests and diseases; Zoonotic diseases; Safe use of (veterinary) drugs; Improved diagnostic skills and infrastructure
Invasive species management	Invasive management, including aquatic environments and those affecting agriculture ; Mapping and distribution of invasives ; Capacity building of IS identification and diagnostics.
Biodiversity and ecosystem Management	Habitat manipulation/agro-biodiversity enrichment; Microbial resource collection, characterization and utilization; Development and production of biopesticides, and implications of biopesticides use; Composting and waste management. Water management.
Nutrition sensitive agriculture	Awareness-raising of nutrition amongst population; Use of indigenous crops – for nutrition – also to provide <i>nutraceuticals</i> Food safety; (Bio)fortification; Food preparation; Food/diet diversification (micronutrients); Storage, postharvest, processing & preservation.
Seed Systems	Neglected crops and OPVs; Improving self-saved seed (ITK); Regulatory and legislative environment; linking formal and informal sectors; Plant Genetic Resources (PGR)
Cross-cutting:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate smart agriculture – including modelling crop, pest and beneficial organisms' distribution & management (climate change adaptation and mitigation) • Capacity building and governance (M&E, Gender and Youth in Agriculture, inclusivity of minority groups). Coordination, project management. Laboratory practices and accreditation; Legislation (e.g. IPR issues); institutional capacity building 	

Texts in black: those were regarded as relevant priority areas and issues from the previous consultations

Texts in **orange**: those were identified as new emerging priority areas and issues by member countries

Texts in **blue**: those were added after highlighting issues of select CABI strategic area

Highlighting issues of select key CABI strategic areas

The programme focused on invasive species – the livelihood threats facing Africa, and also highlighted issues of other select strategic areas such as:

- Open Data and Mobile information delivery
- Plantwise (Issues in relation to Plant Health System Development, Knowledge Bank and Monitoring & Evaluation)
- CABI's role in facilitating trade and market access
- CABI's Policy on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Compliance under the Nagoya Protocol.

The special session on invasive species aimed to address the following overarching objectives:

- Discuss and review the impact of invasive species on livelihoods in Africa
- Identify where gaps lie in current action plans and what can be done collectively to address the issues
- Identify partnerships and next steps for addressing invasive species at a regional level.

These sessions started with CABI presentations introducing the issues, followed by breakout discussions with pre-prepared sets of questions. The special session on invasive species also included case studies on how farmers have been affected by the invasive problem and how governmental agencies and research communities tackle the invasive problem, which were given by Jenkins Chipulu, BirdLife Zambia, and Mr Griffin Shanungu, Zambia Wildlife Authority, respectively.

Appendix A summarises these presentations from CABI while Appendix B captures outcomes of the breakout discussions.

Concluding Session

The final session started with reporting back and discussions of the outcomes from the Day 2 breakout discussions, followed by discussions on mechanisms for collaboration with regional and sub regional bodies such as COMESA, ASARECA, ECOWAS, EAC, and SADC, etc.

The session was concluded by CABI CEO, Dr Trevor Nicholls, who stated that by the end of the two days, the following objectives set out at the beginning of the Consultation were all met:

- Review the process made in addressing priority areas identified during previous consultations
- Identify key emerging issues influencing and impacting on sustainable development in the region, and identify national and regional priorities
- Share country experiences and views
- Develop regional plans by linking national/regional priorities with CABI's capabilities and strategies, and identify synergies among partners.

Dr Nicholls noted that the outcomes from this Regional Consultation will:

- be consolidated with those from other regional consultations
- be aligned to the Global Goals (GGs) for Sustainable Development and specific targets of each GGs
- be matched with CABI's capabilities, resources and strategies, and donors' priorities
- influence the revision of the CABI Medium Term Strategy 2017-19 and Vision 2020
- be fed into the bigger CABI Review Conference in 2016, which is scheduled for 26-27 July 2016
- facilitate implementation of agreed joint initiatives with member countries.

Dr Nicholls encouraged member country representatives, who unanimously agreed on CABI's policy on access and benefit sharing for genetic resource use at the meeting, to seek approvals from relevant national authorities before CABI's 19th Review Conference in late July 2016, and confirmed that CABI is to commence the establishment of its Southern Africa Centre soon.

Prof Emmanuel Owusu-Bennoah, CABI Governing Board Member, gave the vote of thanks and the meeting was officially closed.

Positive feedback was received from all delegates through completion of feedback forms; 91.3% of them giving the top score for the overall ranking, i.e. very satisfied. Comments included *“Excellent outputs especially on priority areas for Africa’s participation”*, *“High standard meeting - new ideas came”*, and *“This consultation was well organised. Congrats!”* but there were a couple of suggestions for improvement, particularly those requesting for *“a visit to a CABI partner in the host country or a project that CABI is participating in to be included in the future consultation meetings”*.



Further consolidation of the outcomes from regional consultations

Further efforts were made to integrate the three sets of priority areas and issues from the three regional consultations and consolidate them by matching them with CABI's capabilities, resources and strategies. Table 3 presents consolidated outcomes from the three regional consultations.

Efforts have also been made to link member country requests with the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and specific targets for each GGs, and develop specific strategies addressing both the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and member country priorities. The final outcomes will be reflected in CABI's Medium Term Strategy 2017-19.

Table 3: Consolidated Regional Priority Areas and Issues from the three Regional Consultation meetings (2015-2016)

Priority Areas In support of GGs 1, 2, 12, 15, 17 and COP21	Priority Issues
Development of trade and market access for safe food, domestically, regionally and internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and support for farmers on aspects such as GAP compliance, Phytosanitary standards and compliance, advice on crop diversification (e.g. HVH), postharvest management, improving quality of agricultural inputs, access to market information, improved technology, improved range management for livestock • Support for market access along value chains, including SPS compliance and standards harmonization, food safety • Stimulate the creation of farmer organizations, developing entrepreneurial and commercial skills, risk management, access to affordable credit • Strengthen support for food safety, including information on legislative and regulatory requirements, prevention of mycotoxins, maximum residue levels, heavy metal contamination, animal health and welfare, zoonotic diseases, and the safe use of veterinary drugs • Develop public-private partnership to support smallholder market access along value chains, including SPS compliance and standards harmonization, food safety
Knowledge management, communication and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve communication with development stakeholder groups for greater reach, frequency and impact of messaging to stimulate technology uptake and deliver new knowledge to farmers using mixed methods (including mass media such as mobile and social media, as well as extension approaches based on face-to-face interactions), gender inclusive approaches for all stakeholder groups, particularly use of ICTs (including e-M&E; e-statistics and e-vouchers) • Expand the scope of CABI's support to advisory services to include soil health, selection of crop and seed varieties, integrated water and land management, animal health and welfare • Assist national services with information and data management, e.g. publication of and access to authoritative information resources, archiving and managing research data, awareness-raising, and policy development for open and big data policies

Systems approach to Plant Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support farmers for informed decision-making at the farm level through strengthened extension services able to advise on IPM in high value and staple crops, rational use of agrochemical inputs, including biofertilizers, biotechnology applications for pests and diseases including biopesticides, and biological control agents • Develop better approaches to manage pollinators, soil health, and ecosystem services supporting agriculture • Support plant health systems, including aspects such as improved diagnostic skills at all levels, informed advice on new resistant varieties, seed selection, and GM crops, informed policy leading to an improved regulatory and legislative environment, optimizing links between different sectors • Build resilience in farming systems at all levels to better adapt to climate and other changes, including the management of a range of biophysical stressors including pests (IPM), water (IWM), and soil nutrients (INM), and early warning and rapid response systems for newly emerging/key pests and diseases. • Promote access to quality controlled agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, chemicals) • Strengthening support for livestock management, including improved range management, advice regarding zoonotic diseases, and the safe use of veterinary drugs
Food & nutrition security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to improved food security at all levels by the application of technology including new crop varieties to improve efficiency and productivity, reduction of postharvest losses through improved storage, postharvest processing and preservation • Promote the development of nutrition sensitive agriculture through support to aspects such as awareness raising and policy development, human health and food safety, advice on nutraceuticals and bio-fortification advice, food preparation, food diet diversification • Strengthening seed systems, including aspects such as improved genetic materials, availability of neglected crops, and improving self-saved seed. • Promote Climate Smart Agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to changing conditions, and improve resilience • Promote agricultural diversification and the use of indigenous crops • Support cash crops, fodder, fuel, and fibre production and ornamentals
Biodiversity and ecosystem management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve prevention and management of invasive species using national and regional approaches, including capacity building in remote diagnostics, strengthening capacity for management and control of terrestrial and aquatic invasives. • Develop capacity to use microbial resources, e.g. pharmaceutical and nutraceutical production, biopesticides, composting and waste management. • Comply with Nagoya Protocol, and promote its use, in support of CBD • Build a coalition of funding partners to prevent, eradicate or manage the invasive insects and weeds constituting the greatest threats to food security, livelihoods and biodiversity
<p>CROSS-CUTTING:</p> <p>Capacity building and governance at local, national and regional levels</p> <p>Developing public-private partnerships when appropriate</p> <p>Enable, empower and employ women and youth</p> <p>Embed monitoring, evaluation and impact analysis in all activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate knowledge transfer in South-South interactions involving member countries • Provide information and training resources to support sustainable agro-tourism and other non-farm rural employment, particularly for women and youth • Build individual, institutional and regional capacity to develop and govern agricultural innovation systems • Reinforce linkages between the scientific community, universities, government, and farmer associations • Develop public-private partnership to support smallholder market access along value chains, including SPS compliance and standards harmonization, food safety • Assist national services with information and data management, e.g. publication of and access to authoritative information resources, archiving and managing research, production and statistical data, awareness-raising, and policy development for open and big data policies

Appendix A: CABI Presentations

CABI in Africa – in Action

Morris Akiri, Regional Director, CABI Africa

CABI's membership is growing fast in Africa and it is demonstrated by the 16 members plus 2 new prospective members – Cameroon and Ethiopia – that attended the meeting. Mr Akiri briefed the participants about the history of CABI in Africa since 1909, which now has a fully functioning centre in West Africa based in Accra and a country office in Uganda, in addition to the regional centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. He mentioned that with the signing of the MoU with the Zambian government, plans are underway to open a Southern Africa office in Lusaka in 2016.

In his presentation, Mr Akiri described different projects being implemented under the different themes, namely Invasives, Trade and Commodities, Development, Communication and Extension, Knowledge Management, and Bioservices, and showcased the implementation of different CABI initiatives in Africa, including Plantwise, Mobile, and the Good Seed Initiative. In his concluding remarks, he emphasised the importance of involving youth in the agriculture, supporting women, south – south co-operations, and Private-Public partnerships.

Knowledge Business

Elizabeth Dodsworth, Global Director, Knowledge management

Dr Dodsworth introduced the new initiative, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN), which is aimed at making data accessible, usable, and sharable by anyone. CABI hosts the Secretariat of GODAN. Dr Dodsworth encouraged the participants to sign up for this because it needs a licence that permits anyone to access, use, and share it.

Furthermore, she explained in detail about another one of CABI's initiative – mNutrition. The mNutrition initiative builds on the expertise and capacity of two existing platforms, the mHealth and mFarmer/ mAfri. CABI leads the global content consortium arm of this major initiative to harness mobile phones to promote nutrition-sensitive health and agriculture messages to millions of women.

Plantwise Implementation in Africa

Washington Otieno, PW Regional Coordinator for Africa

Dr Otieno described in detail how Plantwise works and stated that its success depends on partnership with plant health stakeholders at national, regional and global levels, and country ownership. Plantwise has 3 components – Plant clinics, a Knowledge Bank and M&E. He noted that Plantwise has been piloted in 12 countries in Africa so far with increasing demand to spread to others.

He stressed that for Plantwise to continue working effectively, there is a need to align with country development plans, engage partners beyond national implementation teams and coordination units for broader buy-in, and commitments of governments in dedicating resources to Plantwise operations.

Trade and Commodities

Roger Day, Deputy Director, Development, CABI Africa

To set the scene, Dr Day outlined different challenges and issues in trade facing Africa, which include quality inputs, product quality and safety, postharvest, marketing and value addition, and effective and efficient regulations. He described several current projects of CABI's that are addressing these issues. He later emphasised that trade is very crucial to achieving both food security and economic goals.

Bioservices

David Smith, Director of Biological Resources

CABI aims to engender trust, facilitate science, and ensure that benefits of genetic resource use are shared. In detail, Dr Smith underscored the benefits of the implementation of the Nagoya protocol but needs support from its member countries. CABI will share benefits as outlined in its policy and operate in compliance to the protocol.

Invasive Species

Phil Abrahams, Business Development Director, Strategic Business Development

Invasive species are a plant, animal, fungi or bacteria that are not native and have negative effects on an economy, environment, and health. CABI's vision is to stop the world's worst invasive species undermining the livelihoods of 50 million farming families. Mr Abrahams highlighted one of CABI's initiatives, the Big Push targeting 10 invasives in 10 countries. This initiative will develop national and regional linkages to facilitate a systematic approach to Invasive Species, create and share knowledge to enable countries to identify, prevent and manage threats, and also develop best management plans to address 10 of the world's worst invasives. This can only be done with member country support and mandates.

Appendix B: Outcomes from the breakout discussions on select issues of strategic areas

1. Open data and mobile information delivery (Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Agricultural Research Council of South Africa)

Understanding of issues:

- Mixed – this is a new area for most people

What are the issues?

- Different types of data – some more sensitive than others/NPPO data sensitive because of trade implications of false positives
- Researchers are being pressurized not to share data as there may be potential for commercial products.
- Concerns exist around IP issues
- Publications starting to request payment for open access and for datasets to be submitted
- Infrastructure and skills to collect data is inadequate
- Need to move step by step
- Evidence needed

New Priority Areas	Priority Issues
Priority Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy • Evidence of benefits • Capacity building
Specific activities	Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote networking in countries • Advocacy at African Union (AU) level • Develop an advocacy toolkit for country partners to use • Promote hackathons/communities of practice – dialogues to demonstrate and stimulate innovation • Share case studies (see below) • Take small steps first to get trust • CABI member country LOs to lead in driving membership of GODAN
Specific activities	Evidence of benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to provide evidence of benefits of open data • Evidence of risks of closed data – and which datasets need to be closed. Evidence of benefits of sharing • Talk to IPPC to learn lessons: as they are promoting reinforcing pest reporting- what mechanisms do they use to encourage pest reporting. A campaign on pest reporting – it is a requirement for years – but how are IPPC managing to achieve behavioural change

2. Plantwise – Plant Health System Development, Knowledge Bank and M&E (Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia, Self Help Africa and PW National Data Coordinator for Zambia plus local partners)

What are the 3 priority Plant Health issues that currently constrain with:

- Efforts to increase crop productivity?
 - Pests and Diseases
 - Soil Fertility
 - Water management
- Access of plant based agricultural products to markets?
 - Pests and Diseases
 - Harmful residue and contaminants (pesticides, mycotoxins, heavy metals, etc.)
 - Postharvest handling and testing for SPS standards compliance

Which Pest Information resources do you use currently to address the issues above?

- Plantwise Knowledge Bank
- Crop Protection Compendium (CPC)
- Invasive Species Compendium (ISC)
- Plantwise Factsheet App
- Animal Health and Production Compendium (AHPC)
- The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL)
- Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA)
- Other search engines
- Hard copy publications from libraries

What improvements do you wish to see in CABI resources to enable them serve you better?

- CPC should include new emerging pests and diseases (e.g. Tuta, CBSV, MLND)
- Increase resolution of distribution maps on ISC and CPC to make them more accurate
- Partners can provide GPS information of location of pest and diseases.
- KB/CPC should contain more information on weeds
- Improve the functionality of the Animal Health and Production Compendium

How could pest data captured under PHS initiatives (e.g. PW) and deposited in a database (e.g. POMS) be put to better use by your country?

- Give extension staff more access to POMS
- Increase relevant stakeholders' access to databases (policymakers, students, researchers, lecturers, other agencies)
- Reduce the time it takes to make collected data accessible on the database – more frequent validation and use of online systems to request for information
- Translate information into a language that end-users can understand and benefit from
- Put in place a feedback mechanism on the use of the databases

How can diagnostic services be improved in the Plant Health System of your country

- Train personnel internally and externally
- Improve the availability of reagents and/or equipment.
- Knowing the available labs, their capabilities and make use of them.
- Better networking and flow of information among local institutions:
 - Formalised partnerships among extension, NPPO, Research (academia) to boost diagnoses
 - Joint resource mobilisation to meet cost
- Make use of the services of iSpot and similar online (regulated social media) facilities

3. Facilitating Trade & Market Access (Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, AfDB, COMESA plus local partners)

Constraints (issues) hindering smallholders from participating in and benefitting from agri-food trade

- Smallholders are price takers
- Poor infrastructure (esp. transport)
- Seasonality of harvested produce (peaks and troughs), inability to maintain consistency of volumes
- Low access to information (market, price, regulation, etc.)
- Operate alone – not in organised business groups
- “Me too” syndrome
- Asset fixity
- Risks - price fluctuation, weather, pests, etc.
- Subsistence mentality
- Access to affordable credit
- Limited land (in some areas)
- Quality of produce below market needs (residues, pests)
- Poor access to, and quality of, inputs
- Weak research and extension support
- Limited marketing channels (aggregation, etc.)
- Poor business management - record keeping
- High export/import licences, certification fees
- Poor postharvest handling – transport, storage
- Disjointed value chains
- Ever stricter standard compliance requirements – esp. EU market
- Poor traceability of produce
- Low capacity of Competent Authorities – e.g. overregulation
- Uncompetitive production
- Seasonal labour shortage – youth deserting agriculture

Agreed Priority Issues for Action by groups

- Build the capacity of smallholders to participate profitably in agri-food trade
- Build capacity of regulators to better facilitate agri-food trade (input as well as trade regulators)
- Enhance postharvest processing, storage, and value addition prior to sale
- Improve efficiency of commodity value chains (strengthening PPPs, contract farming, external links)

4. Key Invasives issues

Are invasive species an issue and why?

- YES an issue – most of the time! But there are some instances where they are used and where there is economic return – e.g. production of biofuels. IS could be a problem for agricultural production and/or natural habitats but could be important economically or medicinally in other sectors.

Who or what is affected?

- Irrigation systems
- Hydro Electricity supply
- Trade/Export
- Tree crop production
- Tourism
- Livelihoods
- Agricultural production
- Biodiversity and Endangered Species
- Waterway
- Promotes other pests and diseases
- Transport on water/fishing
- Wildlife
- Transmission of human diseases e.g. bird flu
- Bee and honey industry
- Loss of plant genetic resources – indigenous plants
- Associated/downstream processing / value chain loss, loss of employment
- Livestock production

Which are the most important/damaging IS for you now, or give you the most concern in the short term?

- Prosopis
- Parthenium
- Nile tilapia
- Indian house crow
- Cynodon dactylon
- Cenchrus sp
- Typha grass
- Cassava brown streak
- Cassava mosaic virus
- LGB
- Quelea
- Striga
- Lantana camera
- Crayfish
- Water hyacinth
- Chromalaena
- Cocoa caterpillar
- Loranthus
- Invasive grasses
- Persian lilac
- Jacaranda
- Tuta
- Maize leaf necrosis
- Salvinia
- Nile perch
- Fruit fly
- Parasitic witch weed
- Solanum
- Cacti sp

Any potential threats?

- Maize lethal necrosis
- Panama disease (TR4)

What are the barriers at national and regional level to effective IS management?

- Lack of capacity
- Policy makers are not aware
- Not coordinated; institutions lack focus and awareness
- No-one knows scale of problems, or actual levels of loss and damage
- Lack of sovereignty
- Remedial actions not identified
- Control techniques are not applied to have proper control
- Regional level agencies are not available to intervene
- Link to privatization – a structured response resource is lacking (also means of funding diversification)
- National institutions must be the first ones to influence the overarching structure
- Technical resources required
- Early warning system is required

What should we do collectively to address IS issues and remove the barriers mentioned above? How will we achieve this?

- Establish IS Desks at COMESA and RPPOs
- IS needs to be prioritised at NPPO level
- Framework of Action developed – currently lacks attention
- Articulate need for a system of funding in regional bodies – increase awareness campaign and engage with scientists to tackle the problem
- Integrate control techniques
- Negotiate bilateral agreement – environment; agriculture
- Partner with Government Departments; NPPOs/RPPOs
- Develop Early Warning System plus package of information to communicate gravity of problem
- Develop an Invasives Sector Advisory group

Why is this not just more of the same? What is new in the ideas being proposed?

- Previously, we have found evidence is not packaged correctly
- Real economic loss and impact was not understood in relation to context and economy of scale
- The new package needs to clearly demonstrate impacts on livelihoods and on economics
- One stop shop for invasives

In your view what would be the most effective regional framework that would address current constraints to IS management?

- Agreement that PW framework offers a good starting point for a structured approach, i.e. stakeholder/landscape analysis; defining national and regional roles and responsibilities; convene workshop of the willing to be a forum where relevant ministries and private partners share and own the problem
- Framework needs to be made up of public/private partners as per below, acting in coordination under three-stage framework as proposed
- Focal contact organizations assigned for each country/region (i.e. NARO)
- Responsibilities need to be costed and funding pathways identified (internal/national for longer term sustainability, with international donors providing seed capital, albeit substantial)
- To mitigate competition, CABI to develop harmonized protocols, working on these alongside Regional bodies like COMESA

Who would be the key collaborators and who need to come together nationally and regionally to make an impact (and what is CABI's role in helping this process)?

- Various Ministries – Agriculture and Food Security, also including as locally applicable Forestry/ Fisheries; Environment/Dept. of Wildlife; Trade/Finance; Transport; Health; Extension staff
- Regional bodies – COMESA; SADC; ASARECA – and their agencies
- NPPOs & RPPOs
- Farmer-based organizations; NGOs and CSOs
- Energy generating (HEP) companies
- Disaster management organizations
- Research institutes' scientists and researchers (local and international), including social scientists
- CGIAR
- Input suppliers and seed companies
- Media

CABI's Role

- To facilitate partnerships
- Consult and develop agreed policies and priorities
- Assigning roles and responsibilities
- Tracking KPIs and describing early wins
- Supporting prioritization by collating baseline data on negative impacts
- Development communications

Appendix C: Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGORA	Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture
AHPC	Animal Health and Production Compendium
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBSV	Cassava Brown Streak Virus
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPC	Crop Protection Compendium
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GGs	Global Goals
GM	Genetically Modified
GODAN	Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition
GSI	Good Seed Initiative
HEP	Hydro Electric Project
HVH	High Value Horticulture
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
IP	Internet Protocol
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISC	Invasive Species Compendium
KM	Knowledge Management
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LGB	Larger Grain Borer
LO	Liaison Officer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MLND	Maize lethal necrosis disease
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organization
NRO	National Research Office
OPVs	Open Pollinated Varieties
PGR	Plant Genetic Resources
POMs	Plantwise Online Management System
PPPs	Private Public Partnerships
PW	Plantwise
RPPOs	Regional Plant Protection Organization
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
TEEAL	The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library

Appendix D: Programme

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

African Member Countries Regional Consultation

14-16 October 2015, Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia

Wednesday, 14 October	
0830 – 0900	Registration
Opening Plenary Session: CABI and its Membership	
Chairpersons: Mr Moses Mwale, Director of Zambia Agricultural Research Institute and CABI Liaison Officer for Zambia, and Dr Dennis Rangi, Executive Director, International Development, CABI	
0900 – 0920	Welcome Address and Introduction <i>Mr Moses Mwale, Director of Zambia Agricultural Research Institute and CABI Liaison Officer for Zambia</i> <i>Dr Dennis Rangi, Executive Director, International Development, CABI</i>
0920 – 0950	CABI: Progress Updates and Medium-Term Strategy Review <i>Dr Trevor Nicholls, CEO, CABI</i>
0950 – 1020	Keynote Address – Zambia's Agricultural Development and Outlook <i>Minister, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock, Zambia</i>
1020 – 1035	Invited Partner's Speech <i>Mr Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</i>
1035 – 1100	CABI in Africa - in Action <i>Mr Morris Akiri, Regional Director, CABI Africa</i>
1100 – 1130	Networking Break and Group Photo
Session 1: Presenting Case Studies from Member Countries and Partners	
Chairpersons: Dr Victor Agyeman, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana, and Ms Caroline McNamara, Chief Commercial Officer, CABI	
1130 – 1230	Working in Partnership with CABI Presentations from member countries and partners Uganda – <i>Dr Ambrose Agona, Director General, National Agricultural Research Organization</i> Mauritius – <i>Mr V A Punchoo, Chief Agricultural Officer, Agricultural Services, MoA</i> Nigeria – <i>Dr Ekong Edet, Donor and Board Secretariat, Agriculture Research Council of Nigeria</i> Local partner for mNutrition project
1230 – 1300	General Discussions and Questions/Answers
1300 – 1400	Lunch
Session 2: Reviewing and Identifying Priorities of Member Countries	
Chairpersons: Dr Lawrent Pungulani, Deputy Director of Agricultural Research Services, Malawi, and Dr Qiaoqiao Zhang, Director of Memberships, CABI	
1400 – 1415	Introduction <i>Dr George Oduor, Deputy Director (Research), CABI Africa</i>
1415 – 1600	Breakout Discussions 1: Sub-Regional Groups (Eastern, Southern and Western Africa)
1600 – 1620	Networking Break
1620 – 1730	Reporting Back on Sub-regional Priority Areas and Agreeing on Regional Priority Areas
1730 – 2200	Ceremonial Signing of the MoU on CABI Southern Africa Centre Cocktail

Thursday, 15 October

Session 3: Prioritising Key Regional Issues

Chairpersons: Dr Joseph M. Kargbo, Director General, Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute, and Dr Dannie Romney, Global Director, Development, Communication and Extension

0830 – 0840	Introduction: Objectives of the day <i>Mr Morris Akiri, Regional Director, CABI Africa</i>
0840 – 1000	Highlighting issues of select key CABI strategic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge Business (open data and mobile information delivery) <i>Dr Elizabeth Dodsworth Global Director Knowledge Management</i> Plantwise (issues in relation to Plant Health System Development, Knowledge Bank & M&E) <i>Dr Washington Otieno, Regional Coordinator, PW Africa</i> Trade and Commodities (CABI's role in facilitating trade and market access) <i>Dr Roger Day, Deputy Director (Development), CABI Africa</i> Bioservices (CABI's Policy on Access and Benefit Sharing Compliance under the Nagoya Protocol including plenary discussions) <i>Dr David Smith, Director, Biological Resources</i>
1000 – 1100	Focusing on Invasive species – the livelihoods threat facing Africa Introduction by CABI <i>Dr Dennis Rangi, Executive Director, ID and Mr Phil Abrahams, Business Development Director</i> Presentations from representatives affected by or working with invasives within the region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers affected by the problem to give their account – Jenkins Chipulu, BirdLife Zambia Site Support Group chairperson (Lukanga Swamps IBA). Governmental/research – Mr Griffin Shanungu, Zambia Wildlife Authority
1100 – 1130	Coffee and opening of the exhibition
1130 – 1300	Breakout Discussions 2: Key Invasives Issues (3 groups)
1300 – 1400	Lunch
Session 3: Prioritising Key Regional Issues (cont'd)	
Chairpersons: Mrs Danisile Hikwa, Principal Director, Department of Research and Specialist Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development, and Dr Victor Clotey, Regional Coordinator, CABI West Africa	
1400 – 1500	Concepts for addressing invasive species together
1500 – 1700	Breakout Discussions 3: Other Issues of Strategic Areas and Action Plans (3 groups) Group 1: Knowledge Business (open data and mobile information delivery) Group 2: Plantwise (issues in relation to Plant Health System Development, Knowledge Bank and M&E) Group 3: Trade and Commodities (CABI's role in facilitating trade and market access)
1800 – 2000	Dinner

Friday, 16 October

Session 4: Crystallizing Key Issues into Recommendations/Action Plans and Partnership for Implementation

Chairpersons: Dr Daphrose Gahakwa, Deputy Director General, Rwanda Agricultural Research Institute, and Dr Roger Day, Deputy Director (Development), CABI Africa

0900 – 1000	Reporting back and Agreeing on “Regional Priority Areas For Action”
1000 – 1100	Further development of Recommendations and Action Plans
1100 – 1130	Networking Break
1130 – 1200	Discussions on collaboration with regional and sub-regional bodies and other partners

Session 5: Conclusions

Chairpersons: Ms Balibi Makoba, Director of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Botswana, and Mr Morris Akiri, Regional Director, CABI Africa

1200 – 1230	Wrap-up Discussions
1230 – 1245	Closing Remarks <i>Dr Trevor Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer, CABI</i>
1245 – 1300	Vote of Thanks <i>Dr Dennis Rangi, Executive Director, International Development, CABI</i>
1300 - 1400	Lunch





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