

CABI AFRICA MEMBER COUNTRIES REGIONAL CONSULTATION

“Working in partnership for a sustainable future”

25 – 28 February 2019, Cresta Lodge Hotel Gaborone, Botswana

Introductory and Welcoming Remarks

by Dennis Rangi – DG Development CABI

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

Firstly, let me take this opportunity to thank our host, the Botswana government through the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security – Hon Mr. Jimmy Opelo. Sincere thanks for helping us to organize this regional consultation – thank you Dr. Mosupi who is also our LO for Botswana.

A big welcome to all our member country representatives and development partners – many of you have travelled far to be with us here so thank you for the commitment and support that you continue to give us. Special thanks and welcome to our prospective member countries representatives from Ethiopia represented by Hon. Ahmed Sani, State Minister for Agriculture, from South Sudan represented by Dr. John Ogoto Lefuk Okeleng, Undersecretary for Food Security Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security from Cameroon represented by Jean Medjiengoue Ministry of Agriculture. And from Mozambique, Mr. Pedro Daniel Dzucule, the National

Director of Agriculture and Mr. Paulo Felix, the General Inspector at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

There is therefore no question that the CABI family is surely growing.....!

Thanks also to my colleagues led by the CEO, Dr. Trevor Nicholls for the work that has been done to make this meeting a reality!

As you all know, CABI, is a membership organisation with MCs dotted around the world and so this meeting (in Botswana) is the 3rd and last in a series of regional consultation meetings that we have held around the world. The first one was held in Canada for the Americas and Caribbean region in October 2018 and the second one was held in China in November 2018 for the Asia-Pacific region.

These triennial meetings have become an important activity in CABI's calendar and those of our member countries. They present an opportunity for our Member Countries to provide input into CABI's plans and thus own them but more importantly, serve as a mechanism for CABI to listen and engage directly with its membership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My colleagues will be telling you more about our current work in Africa but I thought I could just mention three or so areas that we are working in:-

CABI is working with our MCs to enhance market access in the African region and globally. We are building the capacity of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), producers and exporters of horticultural commodities in order to meet international SPS and export market requirements. For example, we have worked with Ghana to help lift a 2015 ban on vegetables exports from Ghana to the EU – worth \$15 million a year. CABI has helped streamline the country's inspection and export certification as part of improving the country's phytosanitary systems. We believe that better SPS measures will not only lead to more exports of African products to international markets but also within Africa itself.

To this end, working with COMESA, we have also set up an Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Network, comprising of 45 Fellows and led by 15 Senior Fellows with the aim of delivering technical biosecurity mentoring and training, forging relationships between African Fellows and Australian experts, and supporting national and regional biosecurity action. As a result, new markets are being accessed. For example, Tanzania is selling mangoes to Oman and Saudi Arabia, and Zambia is selling bananas and grapes to South Africa.

Many of you will be familiar with the CABI-led Plantwise global programme that seeks to help farmers grow more and lose less. The premise being, if we are able to save just one percent of postharvest losses, we could feed another 25 million people. Since its launch in 2011, Plantwise has been providing support to make national plant health systems more effective with the objective of delivering plant health knowledge to smallholder farmers.

Crucial in this fight against crop loss are the plant clinics, where farmers can get practical plant health advice – these are owned and operated by over 200 national partner organisations in over 30 countries – and a global open-access knowledge bank delivering best-practice pest management advice.

With additional funding support from donors and by developing new partnerships, we aim to reach 30 million farmers by 2020 with relevant plant health information. Connected to this is a new project known as **PRISE - Pest Risk Information Service**, we are now using the very latest in technology (and working in partnership) to bring the best insights on pest population behaviour by using real time data from satellites to predict the risk of pest outbreaks and sending pest alerts to Plantwise plant doctors.

Our Action on Invasives programme which builds on the successful Plantwise Programme is intended to be a unique Global Programme, that seeks to protect and improve livelihoods of millions of rural poor households affected by invasive species using new partnership approaches to **Defend**, **Detect** and **Defeat** new invasions - this includes helping to build biosecurity capacity of countries to effectively monitor and manage specific priority invasive species like the Fall Armyworm which we are doing through the deployment of proven IPM technologies. Currently we are developing a SADC-wide Invasives Species Management Strategy in close collaboration with the SADC Secretariat.

We have also been working with Agricultural Universities across Africa through the RUFORUM Network to provide: Privileged access to the CAB Abstract bibliographic database with over 10 million records, Privileged access to CABI Compendia products like the Crop Protection Compendium, Animal Health and Production Compendium, Aquaculture Compendium, Forestry Compendium and the Invasive Species Compendium as well as providing Training in agricultural knowledge management.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting will help to shape the revisions of CABI Medium-term Strategy. In response to the priorities identified by you in 2016, we have built more capabilities in the issues you identified. We believe these will help our member countries in their endeavour to achieve the SDGs.

At the last regional consultations, you mandated CABI to provide support in five priority areas, plus four cross-cutting areas in line with CABI's capabilities and donor's priorities:

The priority areas were:

1. Trade and market access
2. Knowledge management, communication & use
3. Food and nutrition security
4. Plant health systems
5. Biodiversity and ecosystem management (inclusive Invasives Species Management)

Cross-cutting issues

6. Capacity building and governance
7. Public-private partnerships
8. Women and youth empowerment
9. Support for monitoring, evaluation and impact analysis

During this meeting, we will therefore:

1. Review the progress made in addressing the priority areas identified during the last consultation
2. Identify the key emerging issues influencing and impacting on sustainable development nationally and regionally
3. Share country experiences and lastly,
4. Develop regional plans, identify synergies and agree ways of working together

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will be hearing more about us and our work from our CEO, Dr Trevor Nicholls and my colleagues but more importantly, you will hear the progress we have made since the Zambia meeting in 2015. We will also be hearing from our member countries and partners about their experience in working with CABI in the last three years.

Tomorrow, we will identify priorities of CABI Member Countries and ways of working in partnership with all of you to realise our common goals. My colleagues will be explaining in more details some of the selected strategic

areas of CABI's such as value chains and trade, invasive species, agriculture & climate change, development communication and digital development and a number of new products in CABI such as PestSmart and the Biopesticide Portal. And on Thursday, we will have the Invasive Policy Summit to discuss in depth what we can do together to address the menace of Invasive species.

As an organisation, we continue to focus on making good on our promises to build capacity of our member countries to address the challenges facing them. We have done this for over 110 years of existence. For example, we are trying to do more to address the youth in agriculture agenda. This is an emerging big problem on the continent. At over 60 years of age, the African farmer is literally becoming extinct (without evident and clear succession) and this, should be a matter of concern for everybody because the elderly cannot be relied on to feed Africa's rapidly growing population. And a problem in Africa is a problem in another part of the world – as we have seen with the migration crisis in Europe.

Lastly and as I conclude – we look forward to close interactions with representatives of our partner institutions – we need your buy-in, commitment and support to pursue the proposals emanating from this Consultation. And with the the challenge of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 upon us all, CABI believes on the need for greater and smarter partnership, We must become better partners, and better deliverers for Africa is certainly not in the sort of shape that any of us would like. So once again, thank you for finding the time to attend.

Thank you all very much.