



## **CABI Member Countries Regional Consultation: Africa**

**Working in partnership for a sustainable future**

26–27 February 2019, Cresta Lodge Hotel, Gaborone, Botswana

**KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE**



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## Background

As an intergovernmental organization, CABI's strategies and programmes are driven by the concerns and needs of its member countries, and regional consultations are an important part of that process. As in the past, these triennial consultations are aimed at aligning CABI's work with national and regional research and development needs to help to develop mutually agreed well-resourced projects in close collaboration with national partners.

In the last round of regional consultations, held in 2015 and 2016, CABI was mandated to provide support in FIVE priority areas, plus FOUR cross-cutting areas, in line with CABI's capabilities and donors' priorities:

### Priority areas:

1. Trade and market access
2. Knowledge management, communication and use
3. Food and nutrition security
4. Plant health systems
5. Biodiversity and ecosystem management (including 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

In 2018–19, three very successful regional consultations were held in the Americas (Canada), Asia (China) and Africa (Botswana), respectively:

- Americas and Caribbean: 12–14 September 2018, Delta Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
<https://www.cabi.org/news-and-media/2018/cabi-americas-and-caribbean-consultation-focuses-on-the-impact-of-invasive-species-on-food-security-and-trade/>
- Asia-Pacific: 16–19 October 2018, Beijing Friendship Hotel, Beijing, China  
<https://www.cabi.org/news-and-media/2018/stronger-value-chains-and-trade-links-high-on-agenda-at-cabi-s-asia-pacific-regional-consultation/>
- Africa: 26–27 February 2019, and the aligned Invasive Species Policy Summit on 28 February 2019  
<https://www.cabi.org/news-and-media/2019/strong-inclusive-and-empowering-partnerships-vital-to-tackling-the-world-s-food-crisis/>

Building on the success of and lessons learned from the previous regional consultations, these consultation meetings followed a similar arrangement, with the following specific objectives:

- to review the progress made against CABI's Medium-Term Strategy 2017–19, both globally and regionally
- to share national strategies and priorities, and examples of partnership with CABI involving member countries, prospective member countries and partners
- to review the continued relevance of the priorities identified previously
- to link regional and partner priorities with CABI's capabilities and strategies
- to carry out more in-depth discussions on key strategic areas, programmes and initiatives

The outcomes of the regional consultations will be fed into the next CABI Review Conference, scheduled for 12–13 September 2019, and they have helped to guide the revisions of CABI's Medium-Term Strategy 2020–2022.

## Process

The consultation meeting, which was held from 26 to 27 February 2019, was attended by over 70 delegates, including representatives from 13 member countries and four prospective member countries and many partner organizations. This was followed by the Invasives Policy Summit on 28 February 2019. The meeting stressed that inclusive and empowering partnerships are key to tackling not only Africa's but also the world's food crisis, with some 815 million currently suffering chronic undernourishment. The aligned summit enabled delegates to learn about and discuss the impact of invasives, as well as the technical and policy solutions required to defeat them.

Presentations were given on the progress made against the Medium-Term Strategy 2017–2019 since the last regional consultations, particularly on the five priority areas and four cross-cutting areas. As stated above, these included: trade and market access; knowledge management, communication and use; food and nutrition security; plant health systems; and biodiversity and ecosystems (including invasive species management); with the cross-cutting issues being capacity building and governance and women and youth empowerment, with the ultimate purpose of working towards addressing/contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting programme and pre- and post-meeting efforts and interactions followed a logical flow:

- They started with a focused review of the progress made on the priority areas identified in 2015–2016 by
  - compiling and distributing a dossier on “CABI in Africa”
  - the delivery of a presentation by CABI's CEO to provide an update on the overall progress
  - the Regional Director reviewing the progress in the region
  - other presenters providing updates on some of CABI's new initiatives and products
- This was followed by
  - the highlighting of issues relating to the five CABI strategic areas through five pre-prepared and circulated position statements, associated presentations and break-out discussions
  - reviewing the continued relevance of the five priority areas and four cross-cutting areas and associated issues identified in 2015–2016, and identifying new key emerging priorities, both subregional and regional
- The process concluded with the consolidation of priority areas and issues for the African region with those from the other two regions, and by linking regional priorities with CABI's capabilities, resources and strategies, and identifying synergies among partners.

Appendix A presents the final programme of this regional consultation.

The process and outcomes of the key events and sessions during the regional consultation are summarized below.

# Summary of key events and sessions during the regional consultation

## Opening session: Medium-Term Strategy review and keynote addresses

Delegates were welcomed by CABI's Liaison Officer, Dr Pharoah Mosupi, who wished them a safe stay in Botswana. He thanked CABI for choosing Botswana to host this year's regional consultation, a choice which confirms that the country is valued as a member country and informed delegates that CABI and Botswana had pledged to continue working together to improve people's lives through developing sustainable and innovative agricultural practices.

Dr Dennis Rangi, CABI's Director General for Development, thanked the host country, particularly the Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Hon. Mr Patrick Pule Ralotsia. He also thanked our CABI Liaison Officer, Dr Mosupi, for helping in the organization of the regional consultation. Dr Rangi gave a special welcome to representatives from CABI prospective countries, including Hon. Ahmed Sani (State Minister for Agriculture) from Ethiopia, Dr John Ogoto Lefuk Okeleng (Undersecretary for Food Security Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security) from South Sudan, Jean Medjiengoue (Senior Official, Ministry of Agriculture) from Cameroon and Mr Pedro Daniel Dzucule (the National Director of Agriculture) and Mr. Paulo Felix (the General Inspector at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security) from Mozambique. Dr Rangi noted that CABI is working with member countries and prospective member countries to enhance market access in the African region and globally. He highlighted CABI's achievements in different projects, which he said would be explained in more detail in other presentations.

Hon. Mr Patrick Pule Ralotsia, Botswanan Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, delivered a keynote speech. He acknowledged the good work that CABI is doing in Africa and pledged his Ministry's continued support for CABI's activities in Botswana, especially in working together to achieve food security in the African continent. He stated: *"Consistent with the theme of this meeting, I wish to implore you to find sustainable solutions to enhance food production and to reduce or reverse land degradation in order to feed a rapidly growing African population."*

Dr Trevor Nicholls, CABI's CEO, gave an overview of how CABI develops its strategy, how CABI's strategic priorities link to the SDGs and the progress on the Medium-Term Strategy 2017–2019 critical milestones. Dr Nichols outlined the new product plans for 2019 and assured the delegates that CABI remains in good health. He stated: *"There has been good progress in the Plantwise and Action on Invasives programmes, which have elevated CABI's presence and reputation, and we are also increasingly seen both as reliable implementation partners and as thought leaders in next generation advisory/extension services."*

Two keynote presentations followed:

- **African Union Commission (AUC)** – Dr. Simplicie Nouala Fonkou, Head of Division, Agriculture and Food Security Division gave remarks on behalf of the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture. He pointed out how the Malabo Declaration that was adopted by AUC's member states fits in with this regional consultation's theme and stressed why everyone needs to work towards achieving its goals: *"In other words, you cannot transform African agriculture if you don't pay special attention to the management and control of invasive species. It is time to act and move the talk."*
- **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** – Mr Domingos Gove, Director of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources described the main objectives of SADC being to achieve development, peace and security, and economic growth; to alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa; and to support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration, built on democratic principles and equitable and sustainable development.

## Presenting case studies from member countries and partners

This session started with a presentation from Dr Morris Akiri, CABI's Regional Director for Africa, entitled *CABI in Africa – Partnerships in Action*, which reviewed partnerships and collaborative activities in the region over the past three years, and outlined CABI's future regional plans and strategies.

The following member countries and partners were invited to inform delegates of their countries' strategies and priorities in agriculture and the environment, and to present case studies on their working in partnerships with CABI:

- **South Africa:** Agricultural Priorities – Ms Tintswalo Angel Khumalo, Senior Officer, Research and Technology Development, Department of Agriculture, and acting CABI Liaison Officer for South Africa.
- **Zambia:** *Zambia – CABI Partnership and Actions* – Mr Moses Mwale, Director, Zambia Agriculture Research Institute and CABI Liaison Officer for Zambia.
- **Ghana:** Reviewing progress, and presenting national priorities and case studies on working in partnership with CABI – Dr Victor Agyeman, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and CABI Liaison Officer for Ghana.
- **Cameroon:** *Agroecology of Cameroon and collaboration with CABI* – Mr Jean Medjiengoue, Representative, Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Ethiopia:** *Ethiopia's partnership with CABI* – H.E. Mr Sani Redi, State Minister for the Agriculture sector, Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia.
- **South Sudan:** *Comprehensive Agriculture Development Master Plan and Irrigation and Development Master Plan* – Dr John Ogoto Kanisio, Undersecretary for Food Security, Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Mozambique:** *Opportunities and partnership for sustainable development* – Mr Paulo Felix, General Inspector at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

These presentations can be accessed at <https://www.cabi.org/membership/key-documents-members-only/regional-consultations/>



## Reviewing and prioritizing key issues

In order to address member countries' needs better, build upon CABI's core strengths and shape CABI's new Medium-Term Strategy 2020–22, CABI selected five strategic areas and one key programme (listed below) to focus on for this round of regional consultations, after assessing the impacts and opportunities of the changing global environment issues:

1. invasive species
2. agriculture and climate change
3. development communication
4. digital development
5. value chains and trade
6. Plantwise

Presentations highlighting key issues and focusing on the position statements, sent to delegates in advance, were given by members of CABI staff, and associated break-out group discussions were held to enable member countries' representatives and partners to provide their input to and feedback on the future plans for the Plantwise programme, and position statements regarding the five selected strategic areas. In particular, the goals, opportunities and challenges of the strategic areas were identified and discussed, and member countries' commitments were sought.

Table 1 summarizes some key suggestions and feedback from the break-out discussions while Appendix B presents more comprehensive feedback.

**Table 1: Key suggestions and feedback from the break-out discussions at the African regional consultation**

Strategic area/programme	Suggestions/feedback
Plantwise	Extend its focus beyond production to support farmers in accessing (new) markets; explore with private companies the possibility of creating a CABI-managed benefit-sharing fund to sustain Plantwise to support the farmers in their supply chain; and link plant doctors with local mass media to increase uptake and reach of Plantwise services.
Development communication and digital development	Use multiple channels, ways and languages to get the latest science to the audience in accessible/actionable terms; make sure we clearly demonstrate examples of how programmes actually share lessons learned and celebrate successes; and it is important to consider utilizing open data and information sources.
Invasive species	Promote citizen science to help to detect and identify invasive alien species; access information on biodiversity from other countries, which may exist but not be shared; and mitigate against illegal imports.
Agriculture and climate change	Disseminate more climate research in the form of actionable advice for smallholder farmers; work with partners on increasing community/farmer awareness of greenhouse gases coming from agricultural activities; and facilitate access to improved information on seasonal weather events for farmers, so they can make informed decisions (what crops/varieties and what pests to prepare for).
Value chains and trade	The importance of involving youth and women in value chain development, which is also more likely to secure funding (inclusivity); building the capacity of regulatory authorities; and keeping the value chain linked (if you lose one part the whole chain breaks down).

## New CABI initiatives and products

Four new CABI initiatives and products were showcased in presentations by CABI:

- **PestSmart** – an e-learning tool for field diagnostics
- **Biopesticide Portal** – a digital tool to facilitate the identification, sourcing and application of biocontrol products
- **SciDev.Net** – brings science and development together through news and analysis
- **CABI Agriculture and Biosciences** – a fully open access primary research journal which will soon be launched

Delegates were informed that in addressing member countries' needs, and building on CABI's core strengths in plant health, publishing and development communication, as well as successful implementation of major programmes like Plantwise, over the past three years CABI has developed a number of new initiatives and products, particularly the above-mentioned ones, as well as completing a merger with SciDevNet.

## Priorities for national, regional and international partners

Partnership is the key to success in meeting the requests of CABI's member countries. Without the strong support of partners and donors CABI is not able to achieve its mission and goals. In this session, three key donors and partners in the region (see the list below) were invited to talk about the priorities and strategies of their respective organizations, funding mechanisms in the region, and opportunities for strengthening collaboration with CABI, and its member countries and partners in the region:

1. **Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO)** – Dr Eluid Kireger, Director General KALRO, and CABI Liaison Officer for Kenya.
2. **The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)** – Dr Baitsi Podisi, Research and Advisory Services Coordinator, CCARDESA Secretariat.
3. **National Centre of Agriculture and Silviculture, Mozambique** – Mr Pedro Daniel Dzucule.
4. **National Agricultural Research Organisation, Uganda** – Dr Ambrose Agona, Director General.
5. **United Nations Development Programme** – Mr Rethobogile Botebele, Project Leader, Biodiversity Finance Initiative Project.

Some of these presentations can be accessed at <https://www.cabi.org/membership/key-documents-members-only/regional-consultations/>



## Review of the relevance and importance of priority areas/issues identified in 2015–16

To review the priorities identified previously, the a second set of break-out group discussions was held, with the following specific objectives:

- to review the relevance and importance to the respective subregions of the priority areas and issues identified previously
- to identify and agree on newly emerging priority areas and specific issues, taking into account member countries' national and regional priorities, and priority areas and issues described by CABI, donors and partners in their presentations

The delegates were divided into three subregional groups:

- **Group 1 – West Africa:** Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, plus partners
- **Group 2 – Eastern Africa:** Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda, plus partners
- **Group 3 – Southern Africa:** Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, plus partners

Table 2 presents the outcomes of the second set of break-out discussions during the African regional consultation.



**Table 2: Priorities reviewed at the African regional consultation 2018**

(Blue font signifies lower-priority areas/issues, orange font signifies new priority areas/issues and black font signifies ongoing priority areas/issues)

<b>Priority areas</b> In support of Global Goals 1, 2, 12, 15, 17 and COP21	<b>Priority issues</b>
Development of trade and market access for safe food, domestically, regionally and internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provide advice and support to farmers</b> on aspects such as good agricultural practices compliance, phytosanitary standards and compliance, crop diversification (e.g. high-value horticulture), post-harvest management, improving the quality of agricultural inputs, access to market information, improved technology and improved range management for livestock.</li> <li>• <b>Provide support for market access along value chains</b>, including sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) compliance and <b>quality</b> standards harmonization, food <b>and feed</b> safety, <b>and plant and animal health</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Stimulate the creation of, and strengthen existing, farmer organizations</b>, to develop entrepreneurial, commercial and risk management skills, improve access to affordable credit (including sustainable credit guarantee mechanisms), and develop credit guaranteed and crop projects in selected value chains, as well as crop insurance (weather and pest-based index).</li> <li>• <b>Strengthen support for food and feeds safety</b>, 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.</li> <li>• <b>Develop people–public–private partnerships</b> to support smallholder market access along value chains, including SPS compliance and standards harmonization, food safety, <b>and plant and animal health</b>.</li> <li>• Facilitate intra-regional trade.</li> <li>• Strengthen infrastructure/labs, human capacity (e.g. for testing SPS compliance), product quality.</li> <li>• Support Africa Free Trade Area through breaking barriers and capacity building.</li> <li>• Support national policy and regulatory frameworks – not only compliance.</li> <li>• Implement research that provides evidence to inform investments and actions to address the above issues and which leads to increased participation of smallholder farmers in value chains.</li> </ul>
Knowledge management, communication and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improve communication</b> 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 <b>and local languages</b> (including mass media such as mobile and social media, as well as extension approaches based on face-to-face interactions) and gender-inclusive approaches for all stakeholder groups, <b>particularly the use of ICTs</b> (including <b>e-extension</b>, e-monitoring and evaluation, e-statistics and e-vouchers).</li> <li>• Expand the scope of CABI's <b>support to advisory services</b> to include soil health, selection of crop and seed varieties, integrated water and land management, animal health and welfare, and the <b>effects of climate change</b>.</li> <li>• Assist national services with <b>information and data management</b>, 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.</li> <li>• <b>[Support knowledge management</b> through working with knowledge partners to collate, sift and manage existing information, and by making it available and accessible to those who need it].</li> <li>• <b>Skills development</b> to encourage youth entrepreneurship and engagement in agriculture.</li> </ul>

<b>Priority areas</b> In support of Global Goals 1, 2, 12, 15, 17 and COP21	<b>Priority issues</b>
Systems approach to plant and animal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support farmers</b> to engage in informed decision-making at the farm level through strengthened extension services that are able to advise on integrated pest management in high-value and staple crops, rational use of agrochemical inputs (including biofertilizers) and biotechnology applications for pests and diseases (including biopesticides and biological control agents).</li> <li>• <b>Develop and upscale better approaches</b> to manage pollinators, soil health and ecosystem services supporting agriculture.</li> <li>• <b>Support plant health systems</b>, including aspects such as improved diagnostic skills at all levels; informed advice on new resistant varieties, seed selection, drought tolerance and genetically modified crops (where appropriate); informed policy leading to an improved regulatory and legislative environment; and optimizing links between different sectors.</li> <li>• <b>Build resilience in farming systems</b> at all levels to better adapt to climate and other changes, including the management of a range of biophysical stressors, including pests (integrated pest management), water (Integrated Water Management), and soil nutrients (integrated nutrition management), early warning and rapid response systems for newly emerging / key pests and diseases, and crop insurance.</li> <li>• Promote <b>access to quality-controlled agricultural inputs</b> (seeds, fertilizers, chemicals).</li> <li>• Strengthen support for <b>livestock management</b>, including improved range and feed management, animal health advice regarding zoonotic diseases, and the safe use of veterinary drugs.</li> </ul>
Food, feed and nutrition security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to <b>improved food security</b> at all levels by the application and scaling of technology, including new crop varieties, to improve efficiency, productivity and nutrient density; reduce post-harvest losses through improved storage, post-harvest processing and preservation and reduced food waste</li> <li>• Promote the development of <b>nutrition-sensitive agriculture</b> through support to aspects such as awareness-raising and policy development, human health and food safety, advice on nutraceuticals, fortification and bio-fortification, food preparation and food / diet diversification.</li> <li>• <b>Strengthen seed systems</b>, including aspects such as improved availability of breeders, basic, foundation and certified seed; availability of neglected crops; and improving farmer/ self-saved seed.</li> <li>• <b>Promote climate-smart agricultural practices</b> that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to changing conditions and improve resilience.</li> <li>• Promote <b>agricultural diversification</b> and intensification and the use of high-value indigenous crops.</li> <li>• Support <b>cash crops</b>, bio-prospecting for food, biofertilizers, biopesticides and pharmaceuticals fodder, fuel, and fibre production and ornamentals.</li> <li>• Promote livestock and aquaculture for improved food security.</li> <li>• Promote circular production systems (reduced waste)?</li> <li>• Advocate for the inclusion of food security in constitutions to cater for a voluntary right to food for the underprivileged.</li> </ul>

<b>Priority areas</b> In support of Global Goals 1, 2, 12, 15, 17 and COP21	<b>Priority issues</b>
Biodiversity and ecosystem management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the <b>prevention and management of invasive species</b> using national and regional approaches, including capacity building in remote diagnostics, and strengthening capacity for management and control of terrestrial and <b>subterranean</b> and aquatic invasives.</li> <li>• Develop <b>capacity to use microbial resources</b>, e.g. pharmaceutical and nutraceutical production, biopesticides, composting and waste management.</li> <li>• <b>Comply with Nagoya Protocol</b>, and promote its use, in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> <li>• <b>Build a coalition of funding partners</b> to prevent, eradicate or manage the invasive insects and weeds that constitute the greatest threats to food security, livelihoods and biodiversity.</li> <li>• <b>Promote the sustainable utilization of natural resources.</b></li> <li>• <b>Develop a regional strategy on biosecurity in relation to invasive species (including predictions of invasions).</b></li> <li>• <b>Support social change towards a green economy.</b></li> <li>• <b>Support sustainable use of biodiversity.</b></li> </ul>
<p>CROSS-CUTTING: 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, and embed monitoring, evaluation and impact analysis in all activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate knowledge transfer in <b>South–South interactions and North–South</b> tripartite collaborations involving member countries.</li> <li>• <b>Provide information and training resources</b> to support sustainable agro-tourism and other non-farm rural employment, particularly for women, youth and <b>disadvantaged groups.</b></li> <li>• <b>Build individual, institutional and regional capacity</b> to develop and govern agricultural innovation systems.</li> <li>• <b>Reinforce linkages</b> between the scientific community, universities, government and farmer associations.</li> <li>• <b>Maintain a database of people who have been capacitated/trained (as in Plantwise).</b></li> <li>• <b>Create an enabling environment, and support governments to develop such legislation and advocacy.</b></li> <li>• <b>Enforcement and implementation of laws and acts.</b></li> <li>• <b>Peer review processes</b> to monitor progress and adapt accordingly.</li> <li>• <b>Engage with policy processes</b> – taking account of the enabling environment, collecting evidence to support change and engaging with policymakers and decision-makers.</li> </ul>

## Concluding session

The final session started with reporting back on the outcomes of the second set of break-out group discussions, which was followed by completion of feedback forms by delegates.

The session was concluded by CABI CEO, Dr Trevor Nicholls, who gave a presentation entitled *Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks*, and stated that by the end of the two days, the objectives set out at the beginning of the consultation had all been met thanks to the active participation of delegates from CABI's member countries and partners, and the good efforts of the CABI team.

Dr Nicholls noted that the previous five priority areas and four cross-cutting areas are still very relevant, but increased emphasis will be placed on:

- value chains and market access
- climate-smart agriculture in practice
- digital development and data literacy
- knowledge management advice and consultancy for national systems
- a systems approach to plant health, including ornamentals
- invasives pathways – proactive not reactive defence
- use of microbial resources
- enabling biological control through access and benefit-sharing in line with Nagoya
- considering high-input, intensive, urban agricultural systems, in addition to smallholders
- evidence-based agricultural practice and policy

Dr Nicholls reflected that having listened to the feedback from delegates, CABI's strategic priorities should be driven by two key SDGs: Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Climate Action (SDG 13)). This will contribute to six other SDGs: No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Quality Education (SDG 4), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Life on Land (SDG 15) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17), which are of most relevance to CABI. There are therefore implications for the way CABI works: CABI needs to put women and girls at the centre of its plans from the outset; identify opportunities with a high potential for reach, benefit and empowerment across the agriculture value chains and food systems; define women groups; and set clear baselines and target results for women.

Dr Nicholls informed delegates that the outcomes from this regional consultation would:

- be consolidated with those from other regional consultations, matched with CABI's capabilities, resources and strategies, and prioritized
- influence the updating of CABI's Medium-Term Strategy 2020–22
- be fed into the CABI Review Conference 2019, which is scheduled for 12–13 September 2019
- used to identify and implement agreed joint initiatives with member countries

Positive feedback was received from delegates through the completion of feedback forms: 94% of them gave the top two scores for the overall ranking, i.e. very satisfied and satisfied. Comments included the following:

*"I felt part of the decision-making process in the development of strategy and objectives for all the programmes"; "What has been discussed is in alignment with our national goals and programmes"; and "I would like to commend CABI management for the meeting. It is well organized and the output and learning experiences were great. In the future, CABI should include a half-day field visit to see a project of significance to the workshop objectives."*

There were also suggestions for improvement, in addition to the need to provide a field trip:

*"Topics and the agenda should be shared with participants well in advance to stimulate and enhance participation during the workshop"; and "The time allocated for the duration of the entire workshop was inadequate as other issues needed more elaboration".*

## Further consolidation of the outcomes from all regional consultations

Efforts have been made to consolidate some key outcomes from all three regional consultations to influence the finalization of five position statements and the development of two new ones (gender and youth development), and to guide the revision of the Medium-Term Strategy 2020–2022.

Please refer to the summary paper presented to the Review Conference for key and consolidated outcomes and priorities.

# Appendix A: Programme

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



## Monday 25 February 2019

Morning/Afternoon **Arrival of delegates**

1730 – 1830 **Registration**



## Tuesday 26 February 2019: Regional Consultation

0800 – 0900 **Registration**

### Opening Plenary Session: Medium-term Strategy Review and Keynote Addresses

0900 – 0920	<p><b>Chairpersons: Dr Pharoah Mosupi and Dr Dennis Rangi</b></p> <p><b>Welcome Remarks and Introduction</b></p> <p><i>Dr Pharoah Mosupi, Director of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security and CABI Liaison Officer for Botswana</i></p> <p><i>Dr Dennis Rangi, Director General, Development, CABI</i></p>
0920 – 1010	<p><b>Keynote address and officiating of the Opening of CABI Regional Consultation meeting from the Host Country, Botswana</b></p> <p><i>Hon Patrick Pule Ralotsia, Minister, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security</i></p> <p><b>CABI: Progress updates and medium-term strategy review</b></p> <p><i>Dr Trevor Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer, CABI</i></p>
1010 – 1050	<p><b>Keynote Addresses</b></p> <p><b>African Union Commission (AUC) – Dr Simplicie Nouala Fonkou, Head of Division, Agriculture and Food Security Division</b></p> <p><b>Southern African Development Community (SADC) – Mr Domingos Gove, Director of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources</b></p>
1050 – 1120	<b>Networking Break and Group Photo</b>
<b>Session 1: Reviewing progress, and presenting national priorities and case studies on working in partnerships with CABI</b>	
1120 – 1140	<p><b>Chairpersons: Dr. Ambrose Agona, Director General, National Agricultural Research Organisation and CABI Liaison Officer for Uganda, and Dr Qiaoqiao Zhang, Director, Memberships, CABI</b></p> <p><b>CABI in Africa – partnerships and actions</b></p> <p><i>Dr Morris Akiri, Regional Director, CABI Africa</i></p>

<b>Presentations from member countries and prospective member countries (6 x15 minutes)</b>	
1140 – 1310	<b>Ghana</b> – <i>Dr Victor Agyeman, Director-General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and CABI Liaison Officer for Ghana</i>
	<b>South Africa</b> – <i>Ms Tintswalo Angel Khumalo, Senior Officer, Research &amp; Technology Development, Department of Agriculture, and acting CABI Liaison Officer for South Africa</i>
	<b>Zambia</b> – <i>Mr Moses Mwale, Director, Zambia Agriculture Research Institute and CABI Liaison Officer for Zambia</i>
	<b>Cameroon</b> – <i>Mr Jean Medjiengoue, Representative, Ministry of Agriculture</i>
	<b>Ethiopia</b> – <i>H.E Mr Sani Redi, State Minister for the Agriculture sector, Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia</i>
	<b>South Sudan</b> – <i>Dr John Ogoto Kanisio, Undersecretary for Food Security, Ministry of Agriculture</i>

1310 – 1400	<b>Lunch</b>
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## Session 2: Highlighting and prioritising key issues of strategic areas

1400 – 1530	<b>Chairpersons:</b> <i>Dr Wilkson Makumba, Director of Agricultural Research Services, Department of Agricultural Research Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development and CABI Liaison Officer for Malawi, and Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann, Executive Director, Global Operations, CABI</i>
	<b>Key issues of select strategic areas: CABI presentations (5x15 min)</b>
	<b>Plantwise</b> – <i>Dr Noah Phiri, Regional Representative, CABI Southern Africa Centre</i>
	<b>Development Communication and Digital Development</b> – <i>Dr Dannie Romney, Global Director, Development, Communication and Extension</i>
	<b>Agriculture and Climate Change</b> – <i>Dr Victor Clottey, Regional Representative, CABI West Africa Centre</i>
	<b>Invasive Species</b> – <i>Dr Arne Witt, Coordinator, Invasives Species Management</i>
	<b>Value Chains and Trade</b> – <i>Dr George Oduor, Global Director, Value Chains and Trade</i>

1530– 1600	<b>Networking Break</b>
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1600 – 1740	<b>Break-out Discussions 1: Highlighted issues of CABI strategic areas (3 groups)</b>
	Invasive Species and Value Chains & Trade
	Development Communication and Digital Development
	Agriculture & Climate Change and Plantwise

1900 –	<b>Official Dinner</b>
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## Wednesday 27 February 2019: Regional Consultation

0800 – 0830	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Session 2: Highlighting and prioritising key issues of strategic areas (continued)</b>	
0830 – 0840	<b>Chairpersons:</b> <i>Dr Mguni Cames, Principal Director, Department of Research and Specialist Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and CABI Liaison Officer for Zimbabwe, and Dr Morris Akiri, Regional Director, CABI Africa</i>
	<b>Introduction: Objectives of the day</b> – <i>Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann, Executive Director, Global Operations, CABI</i>
0840 – 0930	<b>Reporting back on group discussions 1 and plenary discussions</b>

0930 – 1040	<b>CABI new products and initiatives</b>
	<b>PestSmart</b> – an e-learning tool for field diagnostics ( <i>Mrs Carol McNamara, Chief Commercial Officer, CABI</i> )
	<b>Biopesticide Portal</b> – a digital tool to facilitate identification, sourcing and application of biocontrol products ( <i>Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann, Executive Director, Global Operations, CABI</i> )
	<b>SciDevNet</b> – bringing science & development together through news & analysis ( <i>Mrs Carol McNamara, Chief Commercial Officer, CABI</i> )
	<b>CABI Agriculture and Biosciences</b> – a fully open access primary research journal to be launched ( <i>Dr Andy Robinson, Managing Director, Publishing, CABI</i> )
1040 – 1110	<b>Networking Break</b>
1110 – 1220	<b>Break-out Group Discussions 2: Reviewing the relevance of previous priorities and identifying new emerging priorities</b> East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa
1220 – 1300	<b>Reporting back on group discussions 2</b>
1300 – 1400	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Session 3: Promoting win-win partnership</b>	
	<b>Chairpersons:</b> <i>Dr Eluid Kireger, Director General, Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation and CABI Liaison Officer for Kenya, and Mr Paulus Verschuren, CABI Board Member and former Special Envoy for Food and Nutrition Security for the Dutch government</i>
	<b>PANEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH PARTNERS</b>
1400 – 1520	<b>KALRO:</b> Dr Eluid Kireger, Director General, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation <b>CCARDESA:</b> Dr Baitsi Podisi, Research and Advisory Services Co-ordinator, CCARDESA Secretariat <b>NAS:</b> Mr. Pedro Daniel Dzucule, the National Director of Agriculture and Silviculture, Mozambique <b>NARO:</b> Dr. Ambrose Agona, Director General, National Agricultural Research Organisation, Uganda <b>UNDP:</b> Mr Rethobogile Botebele, Project Leader, Biodiversify Finance Initiative Project
1520 – 1620	<b>Discussions on collaboration with international, regional and sub-regional bodies and other partners</b>
1620 – 1650	<b>Networking Break</b>
<b>Session 4: Wrapping-up</b>	
	<b>Chairpersons:</b> <i>Dr Matthew Gboku, Acting Director General, Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) and CABI Liaison Officer for Mauritius, and Mrs Carol McNamara, Chief Commercial Officer, CABI</i>
1650 – 1705	<b>Feedback from delegates</b>
1705 – 1720	<b>Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks</b> – <i>Dr Trevor Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer, CABI</i>
1900 –	<b>Cocktail Reception</b>

# Appendix B: Outcomes from the first set of break-out group discussions

## Highlighted issues for CABI strategic areas

### General points on goals in position statements

- Whose goals are they? Who is the target?
- ✓ By saying “CABI will” it should be clear that this implies CABI and its members, partners and stakeholders

Highlighted issue for CABI strategic area	Development communication and digital development
What do you think of CABI’s proposed goals and activities?	<p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• many of the position statements are overlapping – an overarching statement is needed on a general strategy</li> <li>• needs to be more explicit that CABI will partner and <b>support member countries in work under development communication and digital development</b></li> <li>• evidence is needed, including on how private and public sectors can complement each other</li> <li>• we need to be evaluating activities and adjust as we go along</li> </ul> <p><b>Development communication</b></p> <p>Goal 1: Evidence-based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate end-user feedback (e.g. Farmer evaluations on new practices seed etc.).</li> <li>• Research opportunities to understand communication</li> </ul> <p>Goal 2: Hybrid models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must take account of local context and situation of end-users and end-user communities (e.g. Literacy levels, local culture and customs and the influence of local leaders, including religious leaders)</li> <li>• Use co-operatives and community groups as entry points</li> <li>• Role of indigenous knowledge to be able to communicate to other partners</li> <li>• Mass media needs to complement inter-personal (e.g. Farmers would prefer to see and experience)</li> <li>• Strategical alliances with development communication and digital communication partners</li> </ul> <p>Goal 3: Entrepreneurship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edit to clarify this is about engaging with the enabling environment, including the policy context, value chains and input–output markets, not just entrepreneurship.</li> </ul> <p>Goal 4: Partnership building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge partners not just formal science-based organizations – also those (e.g. farmers) with indigenous knowledge; policymakers/decision-makers; spiritual and cultural leaders</li> </ul>

Highlighted issue for CABI strategic area	Development communication and digital development
What do you think of CABI's proposed goals and activities?	<p><b>Digital development</b></p> <p>Goal 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk of 'interactive' not two-way communication?</li> </ul> <p>Goal 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be more explicit about who is meant by data partners. This will be all players in the relevant agricultural information value chains and policy.</li> <li>• Clarity needed that capacity building is not just training of individuals and skills building – it is about policy and practices around data use.</li> <li>• The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) has done a lot of work on knowledge management and communication (e.g. what are we learning from them, nexus?). CABI has worked a lot with FARA and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) etc to build capacity to communicate especially with users who need the information.</li> <li>• Inventorize existing digital tools/platforms and capitalize on existing initiatives around compiling and accessing agricultural content for farmers:</li> </ul> <p>AgriVas that allow farmers to access locally relevant content (e.g. the FARA-led Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI) project)</p> <p>other digital apps and platforms e.g. "Rice advice"</p> <p>online content databases, including institutional (e.g. research organizations)</p> <p>Nigeria toll-free helpline to focal points from national extension and agriculture</p> <p>Other issues raised and discussed</p> <p>Different people access information in different ways – user-centred design (how information is accessed, fits into workflows, actionable in local context) is vital</p>
Within these areas, what are the key opportunities that you see?	<p><b>Age profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth are better educated, more familiar with and more interested in digital tools</li> <li>• Literacy is increasing in many countries</li> <li>• Functional ICT literacy is increasing – showcasing use of development communication, digital solutions at an early age</li> </ul> <p><b>Infrastructure and regulatory environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to use evidence to influence development of emerging regulatory environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy and practice needed for harmonization; national validation of information and certification of agriVAS</li> <li>• Use appropriate language and formats and support knowledge partners</li> <li>• Ensure information is timely</li> </ul> <p><b>Linkages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create processes and platforms to engage a broad range of stakeholders/partners early on in the design of content and delivery, particularly researcher-extension-farmer linkages but also a broader range of public and private sector partners involved in the enabling environment as well as the knowledge value chain</li> <li>• Communication specialists to draw on content from different sources – including indigenous knowledge</li> </ul> <p><b>Capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity of the knowledge partners, e.g. Research to communicate with farmers</li> <li>• Build capacity of delivery partners, including mass media</li> </ul>

Highlighted issue for CABI strategic area	Development communication and digital development
What challenges are we likely to encounter?	<p><b>Age profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older farmers are traditional and slow to change to new practices (e.g. precision agriculture – even in US adoption is low)</li> <li>• Older farmers (and others) are less ready to use digital technology</li> </ul> <p><b>Infrastructure and regulatory environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Cost Of Accessing Mobile Services</li> <li>• Lack Of Electricity And Internet In Rural Areas</li> <li>• Regulatory environment is catching up as AgriVAS proliferate and bad practice creeps in</li> <li>• Lack of funds/ resources to address the different communication challenges</li> <li>• Farmers receive information from regions/countries where not appropriate (e.g. Ugandan farmers at borders receive information from Kenya)</li> </ul> <p><b>Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information from different sources can be confusing and conflicting or incorrect/inappropriate locally</li> <li>• End-users may be illiterate or do not relate to 'scientific' language</li> <li>• Information that is not timely is not useful (e.g. seasonally relevant)</li> <li>• Danger of 'fake news' along the knowledge value chain reaching many people through mass media</li> <li>• Farmers have broad requirements for information while scientists focus on what is new and in their area of expertise</li> <li>• Communication approaches don't account for user environment (e.g. mobile users turn on phones for short periods when charging is a challenge)</li> </ul> <p><b>Linkages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak linkages between research, extension and farmers on technologies</li> <li>• Communication capacity in research organizations is weak and scientists lack capacity for communication</li> <li>• Urban and rural divide in development communication and digital development</li> <li>• Private sector service providers reluctant to work with competitors or organizations that work with their competitors</li> </ul> <p><b>Capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills of scientists to translate scientific language to suit user needs is weak</li> <li>• Scientists and other formal knowledge partners do not make use or partner with development communication specialists to ensure appropriate format and content while not altering intended message</li> <li>• Farmer trainings don't use appropriate tools</li> </ul>
Which opportunities do you see as your top priority?	Digital solutions – climate / weather information (climate change and pest outbreak prediction and solutions)

Highlighted issue for CABI strategic area	Agriculture and climate change
What do you think of CABI's proposed goals and activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion: one common goal with three strategic objectives rather than three goals under one common theme.</li> </ul> <p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CABI needs to get ready to help coordinate relevant work on climate change adaptation and mitigation with member countries, but please add one extra element under Goal 1 that indicates that CABI will contribute to building capacities of member countries to coordinate and deliver work on climate change adaptation and mitigation</li> </ul> <p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in addition to diversification, please also mention intensification</li> <li>• penultimate bullet: building capacity for local research should go beyond pest management only, so add pest and crop management</li> <li>• when you increase resilience you reduce vulnerability so add those words to fourth bullet</li> <li>• suggested addition: capture all the successful experiences in local climate adaptation in agriculture, as when the knowledge is documented then others can benefit from it</li> </ul> <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suggestion: Goal 3 to have an additional bullet to explain that there will be efforts to enhance regional collaboration for ensuring spill-over of technologies so more countries can benefit (even non-CABI member countries)</li> <li>• ensure that applied research is included and that member countries benefit from collaborative research</li> </ul>
Within these areas, what are the key opportunities that you see?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding from foundations, e.g. Gates and McNight.</li> <li>• CABI could take advantage of being in different countries so that data are collected to help predict, for example, what crops would be most suitable under changing rainfall patterns, so a more climate-change-proofed advisory service could be developed.</li> </ul>
What ongoing country/ regional-level initiatives on climate adaptation/ mitigation offer potential for collaboration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are climate change activities in relation to landscape management in Zambia funded by World Bank; CABI could look at activities that would fit with their activities.</li> <li>• West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (West Africa, German-funded) wants CABI to help contribute to address issues with pests and pollinators.</li> <li>• Project in Botswana (DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service)-funded) on climate change and ecosystem services in agriculture versus in natural ecosystems and associated services.</li> </ul>
With CABI's three goals and proposed intervention areas, do you think that CABI needs to consider other member country priorities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is nothing about carbon sequestration, could that be added under Goal 2?</li> </ul>

Highlighted issue for CABI strategic area	Plantwise
How can CABI ensure that interventions introduced under Plantwise (e.g. plant clinics and data management systems and the use of ICT tools and apps) get embedded in country systems for agricultural extension or plant protection?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domesticate Plantwise by embedding in policy and mainstream Plantwise in national programmes to ensure sustainability.</li> <li>• Harmonize national plant protection regulations at regional level.</li> <li>• National governments should budget for Plantwise activities.</li> <li>• The content of apps/tools should be translated into local languages.</li> <li>• Plantwise could be included in curricula for high schools, agricultural colleges and universities.</li> </ul>
What regional initiatives better leverage resources with Plantwise for sustained plant health management designed to benefit smallholder farmers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate Plantwise into (sub-)regional activities; either work through regional bodies OR national programmes; pull together under regional body umbrellas – The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa, SADC, Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa, etc).</li> <li>• Work with private sector or trade entities that need better quality and assurance of quantity of produce and that will sponsor Plantwise.</li> </ul>
How can Plantwise be modelled to serve the broader needs of stakeholders, including private sector organizations with interest or investments in agricultural value chains?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agro-input dealers should also be included in the system, so there are recognized markets for inputs – this is the third, private, leg that needs strengthening.</li> <li>• Find out what incentive will make the private sector want to adopt the Plantwise approach, by demonstrating profitability or by introducing the concept of food safety.</li> <li>• Include, for example, livestock and fisheries into plant clinics because farmers grow not only crops (e.g. one-health).</li> </ul>
Besides the donors currently funding Plantwise implementation globally, which other organizations are active in the region and can be brought on board to sustainably fund the elements of the programme that are a high priority for the region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas mentioned: Desert Locust Control Organisation, AGRA, working with regional economic bodies/communities (e.g. SADC) and African Union to incorporate into their programmes.</li> </ul>

Highlighted issue for CABI strategic area	Invasive species
What do you think of CABI's proposed goals and activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goals/activities are general, 'one size fits all'; will need national implementation plans that are tailored to country contexts.</li> <li>• Activity areas for inclusion across the four goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ quantification of the impact of invasive species</li> <li>✓ utilization of invasive species as part of integrated management</li> <li>✓ make use of indigenous technical knowledge under Goal 4</li> <li>✓ mapping invasive species distribution (e.g. with remote sensing)</li> <li>✓ understanding drivers of invasions (pull factors)</li> <li>✓ identification and characterization of invasive species</li> <li>✓ early warning, monitoring</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Within these areas, what are the key opportunities that you see?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link to existing programmes/projects (e.g. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) fruit fly programme; national projects on Fall Armyworm).</li> <li>• Support implementation of existing national and regional policies, strategies.</li> <li>• Biological control agents known to be effective.</li> <li>• Other development partners' networks would be utilized.</li> </ul>
What challenges are we likely to encounter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflicting interests – some people benefit from invasives, others suffer.</li> <li>• Mainstreaming/domestication of invasive species issues.</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge on invasive species.</li> <li>• Lack of resources, capacity (including hi-tech solutions).</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure, e.g. bio-factories and labs for mass rearing of biocontrol agents.</li> <li>• Parallel uncoordinated efforts (national and regional).</li> <li>• Use of natural pesticides – available but standardizing etc is difficult.</li> <li>• Weak enforcement of regulations (e.g. phytosanitary certificates without inspection).</li> <li>• Overemphasis on managing invasive risks in exports while ignoring risks from imports.</li> <li>• Lack of real-time data on distribution and impact of invasive species.</li> </ul>

Highlighted issue for CABI strategic area	Value chains and trade
What do you think of CABI's proposed goals and activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate resilience has its own position statement so doesn't need to be so prominent (e.g. Goal 1).</li> <li>• Too much emphasis on production in Goal 1.</li> <li>• "Reduce" not "prevent" pest attacks (Goal 1, bullet 1).</li> <li>• Activity areas for inclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ nutrition and quality assurance</li> <li>✓ crop insurance (in Goal 1)</li> <li>✓ market information, farmer responsiveness to market signals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Within these areas, what are the key opportunities that you see?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link to existing programmes/projects (e.g. ECOWAS fruit fly programme; national projects on Fall Armyworm).</li> <li>• Support implementation of existing national and regional policies, strategies.</li> <li>• Biological control agents known to be effective.</li> <li>• Other development partners' networks would be utilized.</li> </ul>
What challenges are we likely to encounter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity, skills, knowledge gaps.</li> <li>• Infrastructure (e.g. access/feeder roads, markets).</li> <li>• Inputs unavailable, poor quality, counterfeit.</li> <li>• Packaging products.</li> <li>• Private sector not always well organized.</li> <li>• Mind-sets (farmers', consumers').</li> <li>• Inadequate policy harmonization.</li> <li>• Unrealistic and/or changing market demands.</li> <li>• Overemphasis on international exports rather than local/regional trade.</li> <li>• Absence of crop insurance.</li> <li>• High cost of local production in comparison to imported agricultural products.</li> <li>• Intensification and diversification.</li> </ul>







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