



**Economic Commission  
for Africa**

**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON**

interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS  
on smallholder agriculture, food security and  
rural livelihoods

**IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**





**Economic Commission for Africa  
Southern Africa Office**

**Report of the workshop on  
interventions to mitigate the  
impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder  
agriculture, food security and rural  
livelihoods in Southern Africa**

**17-19 October 2005, Lusaka, Zambia**

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral treatment
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
COMESA	Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECA-SA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Southern Africa Office
ECA-SDD	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Sustainable Development Division
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GART	Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust
GFPs	Gender Focal Points
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (Germany Technical Cooperation)
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
MACO	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Zambia
MRDP	Mpumalanga Rural Development Programme – South Africa
NAC	National Aids Council
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OVC	Orphans and vulnerable children
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
RENEWAL	Regional Network on HIV/AIDS, Rural Livelihoods and Food Security
SACU	Southern Africa Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAFAIDS	Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service

## I. Background to the Workshop

1. HIV/AIDS has added significantly to the problems of agriculture and food security in Africa through its effect on subsistence agriculture, where production is highly labor intensive. AIDS causes severe labor and economic constraints that disrupt agricultural activities, aggravate food insecurity, and undermine the prospects of rural development. There is evidence that all dimensions of food security - availability, stability, access and use of food - are affected where the prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDS is high.

2. Households, communities, governments and development partners are implementing a variety of interventions to mitigate the impact of the epidemic on smallholder agricultural production. However to date, dissemination of these interventions is low. Yet in communities experiencing high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates it is important that rural development practitioners are knowledgeable on such potential interventions so as to ensure that agriculture and rural development interventions can support the mitigation of HIV/AIDS. It is in this context that the Workshop on interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods in Southern Africa was held from 17 – 19 October 2005 in Lusaka, Zambia. The objective of the workshop was to share knowledge and experiences on policy responses and effective practices in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural livelihoods and rural food security and identify actions, strategies and recommendations to strengthen HIV/AIDS mitigation.

## II. Attendance

3. Participants from ministries of agriculture, agricultural training institutions and non-governmental organizations from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated in the workshop. The following partner organizations also participated: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), World Food Programme (WFP), Germany Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Africare, and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)/Regional Network on HIV/AIDS, Rural Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL). Staff members of Economic Commission for Africa Southern Africa Office (ECA-SA) and ECA Sustainable Development Division (ECA-SDD) participated in the workshop. The list of participants is provided in annex 1.

### III. Opening of the Meeting

4. The Director of ECA-SA and the Deputy Director, Policy and Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Government of the Republic of Zambia delivered opening statements.

5. The Director of ECA-SA, welcomed delegates to the workshop. She thanked the Zambian Government and specially appreciated the presence of the Deputy Director, Policy and Planning Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. She also thanked the Zambian Government for their continued support to the activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Zambia.

6. On the review of the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, the Director pointed out that the overall result of the impact shows a decline in agricultural production and other off-farm sources of livelihood. The Director highlighted the gender dimension to the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder farming and food security including the care burden, which falls most heavily on women who are responsible for weeding, harvesting, post-harvest processing, fuel wood and water provision, and household maintenance.

7. The Director concluded her statement by urging participants to be bold and come up with an action plan for scaling up interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods.

8. The Deputy Director, Policy and Planning Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives Zambia presented the opening statement. He welcomed the participants to Zambia on behalf of the Ministry and informed the participants that his Ministry was preoccupied with finding ways of mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agricultural production. This he stated was crucial in achieving food self-sufficiency and poverty reduction.

9. He indicated that 60% of Zambia's population of 10.3 million resides in rural areas and depended on smallholder agricultural production as their major source of livelihoods with 65 percent of smallholder farmers being women, indicating the importance of this sector in meeting the welfare needs of women. He indicated that increased prime age morbidity and mortality caused by HIV/AIDS had resulted in decreased agricultural production and disposable income and loss of tangible assets at the household level. He pointed out that studies done recently in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) established linkages between HIV/AIDS, food security and rural livelihoods in two provinces in Zambia and the resulting impact has been a decrease in agricultural production and lower nutritional status among vulnerable households.

10. The guest of honour informed the meeting that in an effort to mitigate these economic hardships at household level, the Ministry in collaboration with other ministries and institutions has worked on promoting drought resistant crops, and the use of low input and conservation farming technologies; improvement of procurement and early delivery of inputs; improving extension service delivery and enhancing water-harvesting techniques. He added that the Ministry has been running a Fertilizer Support Programme

and a Food Security Pack since 2002 that was established under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. This input programme was created to increase food production among small-scale farmers by supplying fertilizers and seed at a 50% subsidy. This programme is ongoing in the 2005/2006 season and 125 000 smallholder farmers will be targeted.

11. He also acknowledged that a number of national and international development agencies as well as NGOs had also implemented some mitigation interventions aimed at addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural households. The interventions include; provision of non-collateral agricultural input credit schemes, food aid, farmer capacity building through training, improving access to low-input technologies and support for short cycle income generating activities.

12. He called on the meeting to critically examine the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods and the associated gender dimensions in the sub-region; share knowledge and experiences on HIV/AIDS mitigation interventions in rural areas and suggest concrete policy recommendations that can foster HIV/AIDS mitigation. Furthermore, he appealed to participants to discuss how to develop effective inter-country mechanisms of sharing widely best practice policy and mitigation intervention experiences, data and other resources. What is desperately needed is for these successful interventions and policies to reach more people.

13. Finally, he commended ECA for convening the workshop and wished participants successful deliberations.

14. The participant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi, made a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants. She thanked the guest of honour for taking his time from his busy schedule to officially open the workshop. She highlighted that the participants had learnt a lot from the mitigation strategies that the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives was undertaking and how they were collaborating with other partners. She indicated that participants had noted down his plea for inter-country mechanisms for information sharing on HIV/AIDS mitigation.



The impact of HIV/AIDS falls most heavily on women.

## IV. Account of Proceedings

### 1. Organisational matters

15. The workshop elected the following countries to the Bureau: Botswana - Chairperson, Zimbabwe - vice-Chairperson, and Zambia – Rapporteur.

16. The agenda adopted by the workshop is presented in Annex 2.



## 2. Overview of the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on smallholder agricultural production, household food security and rural livelihoods

17. A representative of the Secretariat introduced the background document for the workshop entitled Interventions to Mitigate the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Smallholder Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Livelihoods in Southern Africa (ECA/SA/WST/HIV/AIDS/2005/L). The document indicated that morbidity and mortality rates in Southern Africa are high as a direct result of HIV/AIDS, and consequently life expectancy has fallen to as low as 33 years in some countries. Additionally, there were now as many as 5 million HIV/AIDS orphans in Southern Africa and an increasing number of women living with HIV/AIDS in the sub-region.

18. Farm production remains a major source of food for smallholder farm households, however the sector is experiencing major technological, credit, marketing and climatic constraints. HIV/AIDS is impacting heavily on an already weak sector by increasing the prime-age mortality rate and hence a reduction in production, loss of non-farm income, and loss of agricultural knowledge. The gender-related impact of HIV/AIDS on rural livelihoods included an increased domestic and agricultural workload for women, increased vulnerability of women to land and property dispossession, and increased households headed by women, which could lead to the withdrawal of children from school, especially the girl-child.

19. In light of the above, there was a heightened need for more secure land rights and improved access to inputs, markets and appropriate technologies. Further, there was a need for good health, drugs and nutrition, skills training, and improved prevention information and strategies. The representative also emphasized that a rights based approach to development was fundamental to ensuring that States and all development actors are made responsible for realizing individual rights to basic amenities and also the importance of developing policies and programmes that strengthen access to production resources.

20. The representative also highlighted the importance of a multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS interventions in terms of prevention, treatment and mitigation. It was pointed out, however, that more importance needed to be placed on mitigation in order to reduce vulnerability to the impact of HIV/AIDS. There existed a number of interventions that mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. These included improving agricultural production through labour saving techniques and crop diversification; developing community initiatives such as labour saving schemes and community seed banks; providing support to women, orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) by protecting land rights; reviewing the gender division of work with the aim of reducing the domestic labour burden for women; improving technology development, transfer and skills training; increasing economic empowerment of households by improving access to education and credit and developing income-generating opportunities; establishing social safety nets through school feeding programmes and targeted food aid; strengthening prevention to new HIV infections by promoting women's access to information and integrating prevention strategies into agricultural programmes; supporting access to antiretroviral treatment (ART) by improving access to the drugs and building partnerships with the health sector.

21. In terms of HIV/AIDS policy development, it was recognized that most countries in the sub-region had national HIV/AIDS strategies, which include national strategic frameworks and National AIDS Councils (NACs). However it was noted that mitigation still receives low priority status in comparison to prevention and treatment. In addition, the role that agricultural sector policies play in HIV/AIDS mitigation was to strengthen the agricultural sector human resource base; promote the availability of inputs; strengthen agricultural research and improve market access; strengthen land tenure rights of women and OVCs; strengthen existing community-based initiatives; foster information sharing; and foster replication/scaling-up.

22. In conclusion, the representative noted that the mitigation of HIV/AIDS remains problematic due to the lack of information and stressed that more information is needed on mitigation interventions and the contexts in which they work. Similarly, the cost-effectiveness of mitigation interventions was needed for prioritizing and allocating resources appropriately. Indicators were fundamental to the effective assessment and monitoring of interventions and policies.

## Discussion

23. During the ensuing discussions, it was recognized that there tended to be more concentration on women and children when categorizing vulnerable groups. It was also noted that men were the main transmitters of HIV/AIDS and should also be termed as “vulnerable” because of their lack of preparation for their role as carers after they are widowed. There was a need to develop support mechanisms for men to respond to the new roles that they may be playing in society.

24. It was also observed that there was a lack of co-ordination between the different actors (Non governmental organizations (NGOs), government, civil society organizations (CSO) and other stakeholders) and of information sharing between them. It was agreed that there was a need for a strong coordination mechanism to identify the different areas of action to ensure that mitigation was effective. The meeting also noted that different ministries may each possess different strategies and policies for HIV/AIDS intervention which may be general in nature, and that there is a need for specific HIV/AIDS strategies to be developed and integrated into agricultural sector policies that can mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on livestock and crop production.

25. The workshop participants agreed on the Secretariat’s recommendation that there was a need for a multi-sectoral, multi-faceted approach to HIV/AIDS mitigation and that government should have a leadership role in defining the solutions.

26. The meeting was reminded that the essential outcome of the workshop was to develop an Action Plan that would be the basis for defining a road map on mitigation of HIV/AIDS and the scaling up of interventions.

Men are also  
“vulnerable”  
to the impact.

### 3. THEME ONE: Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods

#### 3.1 Agricultural mitigation strategies: Experiences from agricultural research initiatives in Zambia

27. A representative from GART (Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust) outlined strategies that the organisation is using to improve the productivity of farmers and enhance the competitiveness of Zambian agriculture. Support initiatives under GART include the promotion of conservation farming, smallholder dairy development, local chicken farming and seed multiplication. Under conservation farming, GART is introducing water harvesting technologies and cover crop production to smallholder farmers. The presenter informed the meeting that the organization was testing a technology for drying milk for marketing in outlying areas through their smallholder dairy project. Increased productivity through this project generates surplus income, empowers communities, and helps meet the food requirements of people affected by HIV/AIDS. In addition to supporting communities with these technologies, GART also supported workers and their households affected by HIV/AIDS. The GART project is supported by research in Universities and has been extended to three other countries in the sub region – Lesotho, Botswana and Namibia.

#### **Discussion**

28. During discussions participants noted that the cost of accessing the technologies and their marketing were key to ensure adoption by targeted households. The representative from GART informed participants that GART was working through commodity associations, government extension workers and NGOs to facilitate dissemination of technologies. The presenter noted that extension services had to function so that the technology can be demonstrated to farmers through training.

29. Participants noted further that the involvement of end users in technology development was important to enhance uptake and affordability. Equally important was the development of effective methods to transfer technology to the end users.

#### 3.2 Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools: A Zambian Case Study

30. A representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO) Zambia introduced the “Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools” a collaborative programme between MACO and FAO aimed at mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods.

31. The presenter gave an overview of the origins of the programme and its institutional framework for the HIV/AIDS Multi-Sectoral Response. He gave some information on the baseline studies conducted in 1997, the main geographic areas of focus and aims. A timeline, beneficiaries, curricula components in terms of technical, life skills and partnerships was presented. He indicated that a pilot Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools was introduced in two communities in Choma, Southern Province supported by funding for inputs from FAO and food rations from WFP. The pilot involved a training of trainers course whose curricula included technical skills on small livestock and vegetable gardening; bee keeping; mushroom growing and life skills that included HIV/AIDS awareness and psycho-social support, and gender awareness (women's issues, polygamy, property grabbing). He rounded off the presentation by giving a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the programme.

## **Discussion**

32. In the discussions that followed his presentation, the meeting noted that it was important to ensure sustainability of the programme especially in as far as provision of inputs was concerned. It was noted that in the selection of enterprises for income generation, the enterprises needed to be those that could have an immediate impact and from the revenue generated they could sustain the schools and leave some surplus to start similar schools elsewhere. The programme also aimed at building participants' capacity to enable them take up responsibility to teach others after they themselves have graduated.

33. Regarding the success of training acquired once participants return to their communities, it was noted that participants imparted knowledge to others in their communities within the first two weeks. Examples included new gardens for growing vegetables and mushrooms, and village chickens that were used for income generation and improving the household's nutritional levels.

34. It was observed that there was always a link between gender and HIV/AIDS as elderly women, as opposed to men, were the ones who took up the responsibility of looking after orphans and nursing the sick. In terms of a mitigation framework and being mindful that HIV/AIDS cut across several sectors, it was noted that it was important to identify stakeholders at district, provincial and national level to implement activities and ensure success of interventions by tackling the problem from all possible angles.

35. The meeting also noted that the selection criterion of programme participants was participatory and involved community leaders, programme members and local institutions in order to ensure the success of the scheme. Community meetings were held, which stipulated the criteria of participants to help with the facilitators; MACO and FAO were merely validating the choices.

36. Concerning food rations, it was noted that their introduction was a response to constraints that were found on the ground to do with people's apprehension about the programme as potential participants lacked energy due to ill health. WFP provided the rations that enabled adults to get onto the programme and children to gain knowledge and take some food to their guardians thereafter.

37. On budget support, the meeting noted that within the HIV/AIDS area, there were a lot of resources being provided by cooperating partners to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. At ministerial level the major challenge was to factor in measures to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS in the activity-based budgets at camp, district and provincial levels and consolidate these at national level. It was also noted that there was need for cooperating partners to work closely with MACO to ensure a large impact of the interventions.

### 3.3 Strategies to improve land rights of women and children in HIV/AIDS contexts

“ Customary law and statutory laws should be aligned to strengthen access to land by women and children. ”

38. A representative of the Platform for Women's Land and Water Rights in Southern Africa informed the meeting that poverty and HIV/AIDS were strongly interrelated. Many women affected by HIV/AIDS were poor and lacked education. Women form the majority in rural areas where they accounted for 75% of the labour and produce 90% of household food but they are heavily affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic because of lack of ownership of land and increased domestic responsibilities including the burden of care for the sick and orphans. This situation is worsened by lack of decision-making power, access to markets and agricultural knowledge. Despite major declarations being signed such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the SADC Gender and Development Declaration and the Maseru Declaration on HIV/AIDS by Heads of States and Governments, gender inequality is still embedded under the constitutions in some countries because of the provision of customary law.

39. The presenter further highlighted the lack of good nutrition, which hampers the working of the anti-retroviral treatment. She noted the neglect of nutritious crops such as avocado, onion and cowpea, which are easy to grow and preserve and can be intercropped. To encourage production of these kinds of products and use of certain products for school feeding, she highlighted the need for secure land rights by women.

40. The presenter proposed an integrated strategic framework in which health, HIV/AIDS and agriculture would be included. She further urged participants to discuss information dissemination, the enforcement of policy and the involvement of local leaders. She emphasized that customary law and statutory laws should be aligned to ensure that women and children have access to land and are able to make production decisions in line with international norms.

## Discussion

41. The workshop observed that women only accessed land through a male family member as a result they lacked control of land and they usually had to ask for permission to grow certain crops. The documents signed at the international level did not bear much value to these women, as they were not translated into practice and national laws. Since customary law was provided for under the constitution, this superseded all other laws. The workshop noted that cultural practices and customary laws that are discriminative of women are so embedded in societies and affect rights of women to land. The workshop

further noted that women's land rights would be enhanced by the harmonization of customary and statutory law.

### 3.4 The role of community initiatives in HIV/AIDS mitigation: experiences from Malawi

42. The delegate from Malawi Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation presented a report on the Role of Community Initiatives and strategies for mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS in Malawi. The initiatives included: dependence on kinships and neighbourhood support networks; funeral maize banks, community based gardens and food banks; village seed banks; community based labour banks; community based day care centres; community woodlots; community youth groups; community based transport; community markets and orphanages.

43. The representative proposed a number of strategies for strengthening and scaling up efforts of various initiatives for mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS. The strategies included capacity building efforts; creation of a documentation mechanism to better share information on HIV/AIDS mitigation; improved coordination between the various stakeholders and partners; and exchange visits among villagers.

“Community leadership is vital.”

## Discussion

44. The workshop noted that the responsibility for coping with the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS falls upon leaders such as chiefs, spiritual leaders, local political leaders, and administrators who should take the lead in promoting mitigation interventions. The meeting suggested that community leadership was vital in ensuring the success and sustainability of community mitigation measures. It was therefore recommended that governments should build the capacity of community leaders and should also provide inputs, and credit in order to reinforce community initiatives. The workshop also suggested that where possible orphanages should be the last resort in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS.

### 3.5 Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods: Lessons learnt in the context of World Food Program's experiences from its long and short-term humanitarian programmes

45. The presentation from WFP outlined the impact of HIV/AIDS on agriculture including its effect on the most productive segments of the population especially by creating labour shortage, loss of knowledge and loss of capacity. The presenter noted that women were more vulnerable to the disease and its impacts and that HIV/AIDS prolonged and deepened poverty. WFP's response to HIV/AIDS in Zambia include the following programmes: (1) Prevention programmes focused on raising awareness on HIV/AIDS through media and drama groups, provision of condoms, training of trainers on HIV/AIDS pre-

vention and timely response to pressing food needs which helps to lessen the likelihood of the vulnerable engaging in risky behavior. (2) Mitigation measures included providing food for assets and training to support conservation farming, home gardening and provision of nutritional support. (3) Provision of nutritional support and adherence to treatment through food support to prevention of mother to child transmission, home based care for the chronically ill, ART support, and school feeding in community schools for OVCs.

## Discussion

46. During discussions, the workshop noted WFP's efforts and measures undertaken to ensure that their programmes are sustainable and do benefit and empower the communities. Eighty per cent of WFP's resources were being targeted towards food for assets initiatives such as conservation farming, resources for training and land preparation, programmes aimed at ensuring sustainability of the communities. In addition, WFP's strategy of procuring food from local communities and from the region was designed to support local farmers. While support to ART was still a new concept for WFP, it had initiated a pilot programme with 2000 patients on ART support. Whilst no guidelines had been formulated as yet regarding food support for ART, the workshop noted that integration and coordination were important for sustainability of such support programmes.

47. The workshop underscored the importance of coordinating with other stakeholders in implementing HIV/AIDS mitigation programmes. WFP representative informed the meeting that there was coordination of work with responsible government organs, especially with Office of the Vice President, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit in identifying the affected and targeting assistance to them.

48. The workshop also suggested that it was important for implementing agencies to provide information on the number of beneficiaries to their programmes. This information would assist government in planning its own programmes including budgetary allocation.

49. The workshop also noted that it was important to foster information sharing and adopt mitigation initiatives that have proved to be working effectively in other countries of the sub-region. The workshop was informed that the supplementary schools feeding programme currently in use in Zambia was adapted from other countries in the region.

### 3.6 Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods: Lessons learnt in the context of Africare's experiences on household portfolio diversification and micro finance services

50. A representative of Africare Zambia gave a background of Africare and an overview of its operational areas. In Zambia, Africare operates in six of the nine provinces and cur-



rently manages nine projects. Africare aims to improve the lives of people through sectoral focus in agriculture and food security, health and HIV/AIDS, humanitarian assistance, natural resource management and micro-enterprise development. The organisation employed mainstreaming gender and HIV/AIDS into its programmes as their approach to development.

51. The presenter informed the workshop that the main HIV/AIDS mitigation interventions that Africare is promoting include: labor saving technologies such as treadle pumps, groundnut shellers, cassava, conservation farming; crop diversification into legumes and cash crops such as cotton, paprika and tobacco and seed multiplication; crop processing enterprises such as oil expelling, grain dehulling and grinding, and peanut butter processing; micro-finance for income generating projects such as piggery and village poultry. The Africare representative further noted that their programmes had many benefits that include diversified sources of income; improved availability of nutritious foodstuffs; and reduced labour burden. A regular income for widows and OVCs could help in combating high-risk behavior. The representative added that their approach to HIV/AIDS mitigation is also well integrated and mainstreamed because wherever they are implementing an HIV/AIDS project they also promote labor saving equipment and technology, including food processing at village level to improve labor productivity and food security. The reverse is also true, where Africare implements agriculture and food security projects, HIV/AIDS and gender are mainstreamed.

## **Discussion**

52. In the discussions that followed, it was noted that it was necessary to coordinate efforts at field level and ensure that there is participation by all stakeholders in district development coordination meetings to share experiences and best practices. The Government of Zambia was well informed at national level through MACO programme Steering Committee on a quarterly basis. International NGOs fora also provided a platform to share experiences with various stakeholders.

53. Regarding numbers of people being reached by Africare programmes, it was observed that the programmes had different targets and figures would have to be compiled to give an accurate status. It was stressed that it was important for statistics to be provided in order to assess the progress that was being made in as far as coverage was concerned.

54. The workshop noted that best practices in Africa, should be shared and replicated in other countries on the continent. The presenter informed the meeting that Africare's work in South Africa on promotion of mechanization, conservation farming and crop processing had attracted a lot of interest from other countries in the sub region and efforts were being made to replicate the initiatives in other countries. It was noted that a data capture and analysis system and sets of monitoring and evaluation indicators were needed against which progress could be measured.



## 4. Making mitigation strategies work: Report of group discussions

55. The workshop was divided into two groups to discuss the first strategic area of focus: Making mitigation strategies work. The groups were asked to (1) identify the major issues or problems that constrain work on mitigation, (2) identify the actions/activities necessary to address each issue and the strategies that need to be put in place to facilitate the implementation of the actions, and (3) define actors and their areas of responsibility. The two groups identified seven key issues that affect HIV/AIDS mitigation strategies. The issues include: **lack of coordination mechanisms for mitigation interventions amongst stakeholders; inadequate documentation of successful practices for replication; inappropriate/poor information/technology transfer to end users and end users needs analysis; gender inequality in the access, control and ownership of productive resources; weakening community or household coping strategies to shocks; weakness of the nutrition component in mitigation strategies; and weak monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS interventions.**

56. **In order to address the problem of lack of coordination mechanisms for mitigation interventions amongst stakeholders; the workshop suggested that member states and all stakeholders (CSOs, NGOs, donors, international agencies) should design activities to strengthen coordination among stakeholders such as empowering inter-sectoral committees with resources, knowledge, information and clear terms of reference. Participants agreed that the government should play an important role in facilitating greater networking among stakeholders and also in providing resources to enhance the effectiveness of coordination. Participants also agreed that the formulation of an integrated programme of implementation together with a monitoring and evaluation system were important for enhanced coordination.**

57. On the issue of inadequate documentation of successful practices for replication, participants agreed that sharing of information was important within countries, between countries and internationally. Participants noted that with ICT, countries should be able to share information on best practices through the web. The workshop suggested that it is important for member states, development partners and international and regional bodies like FAO, ECA, COMESA, SADC and SAfAIDS to document best practices for wide dissemination and identify institutions that can host information exchange system for best practices at national and regional levels.

58. On transfer of appropriate technology, participants agreed that the issue was unavailability and inaccessibility of the appropriate technology. Participants suggested that the problem could be addressed by strengthening research-extension linkages, encouraging development of appropriate adaptive research to context and capacity building for extension.

59. On gender inequality in the access, control and ownership of productive resources participants suggested that there was need to review and reform both customary and statutory laws, and legislation to address sources of land tenure insecurity and discrimination against women owning land.

60. With respect to the issue of weakening community/household survival and coping strategies to shocks, participants agreed that government and civil society were important players in strengthening coping strategies. Participants suggested that governments should develop mechanisms for strengthening positive community leadership; reinforce successful community coping strategies; and identify ways of harnessing communitarian spirit.

61. On weak nutrition component of mitigation strategies, participants suggested promotion of block farming, school gardening, community gardens, home based care, nutrition support and nutrition awareness campaigns and training. Although there was concern about the development of a dependency syndrome from recipients of food baskets, participants agreed that food baskets were an important intervention. In a similar manner, participants agreed that the provision of community kitchens to OVCs was necessary as many of these children would go without food if this programme did not exist.

62. Participants agreed that monitoring and evaluation was key to the success of strategies and interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS and needed to be a standalone issue. Participants also agreed that in addressing all the issues that were identified, the media plays an important role in these strategies and interventions and should be included as one of the responsible institutions.

63. The detailed and consolidated action plan to address the identified issues is presented in section 10.

“Mitigation interventions should be multi-faceted.”

## 5. THEME TWO: The role of governments in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods

### 5.1 The role of national agricultural sector policies in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS

64. The representative of ECA Sustainable Development Division (ECA-SDD) presented the report on the role of national agricultural sector policies in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS. The report addressed the following issues: agriculture and HIV/AIDS linkages; the impact of HIV/AIDS on agriculture and food security; implications for policy formulation; and policy instruments that could be used. To illustrate these issues the representative presented practical examples on policies for research, extension, land related challenges, and disaster related food insecurity and policies to enhance linkages between agriculture and small and medium enterprises.

65. The representative observed that causes and consequences of HIV/AIDS were related to wider challenges to development such as poverty, food and livelihood insecurity and gender inequality. Other observations made included the fact that HIV/AIDS can intensify existing problems of development and even trigger structural changes like heightened mortality levels. She emphasized that policies should be development-focused addressing the environment under which HIV/AIDS occurs especially the underlying developmental challenges that increase the vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and its impacts. In this context agricultural policies can help address the following issues in HIV/AIDS mitigation; land related challenges for women and orphans; labor saving technologies; agricultural inputs and other production technologies; improve agricultural extension to facilitate information flow; alleviate credit constraints; increase income; improve nutrition and increase participation in decision-making.

## **Discussion**

66. In the debate that followed, the workshop noted that although some good food policies might be in place, the major problems affecting their success was poor infrastructure that hindered the movement of food to deficit areas or countries in the region; lack of early warning systems; and lack of food reserves in the sub region. The workshop discussed examples of operations of national early warning systems that are in existence in the sub region and suggested that the early warning system of South Africa should be recommended for use in other countries. Furthermore, the workshop observed that it was important to review national policies identifying the major constraints limiting their success and suggest actions to address the problems. This formed part of the group discussions that was done on day 3.

## **5.2 Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into GTZ program for Zambia: Successful strategies and investment for change**

67. A representative from GTZ Zambia introduced the presentation “Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into GTZ program Zambia: Successful strategies and investment for change”, pointing out that the programme was not specific to HIV/AIDS but a framework to mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into GTZ programmes. The four objectives of the mainstreaming concept were given as: prevention, care and support, impact mitigation and systemic intervention. Under prevention, the objective is to create awareness amongst all GTZ stakeholders on the impact of HIV/AIDS, propagate and implement preventive measures, attitude and behavior change. Under care and support, the objective is to facilitate access to comprehensive care and support to GTZ staff, counterparts and target groups. Under impact mitigation, the objective is to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on GTZ staff, counterparts and target groups by strengthening existing and establishing new partnerships and networks. Under the systemic approach, the objective is to support the development of a policy framework and concept for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS activities for all GTZ stakeholders and counterparts.

68. The representative presented examples of how GTZ had mainstreamed HIV/AIDS into: GTZ's workplace program; the program on Support to Decentralized Rural Development, a programme aimed at poverty reduction being implemented in Southern Province; and into the GTZ's support programme on the Water Sector. The major lessons learnt included the need to avoid exclusive use of printed media; tailor-making strategies for the urban and rural settings; and encouraging participatory learning.

## Discussion

69. In the discussions that ensued, the meeting noted that there was need to co-ordinate efforts of the various organisations working in the same communities trying to address the HIV/AIDS problem. Good coordination efforts included membership of working groups and HIV/AIDS thematic groups in which NGOs and government agencies engage in collaborative efforts some of which feed into the National Development Plans.

70. The meeting noted that it was important to measure the impact of programmes using participatory approaches and tools with practical action plans and adopt workable needs assessment methods. It was also noted that there was need to be aware of the prioritization of programmes by civil society organizations and government agencies.

71. On the dissemination of HIV/AIDS messages, the meeting recognised the need to use a multi-pronged approach. Leaflets and posters could be combined with other communication strategies. The peculiarities of particular communities also need to be borne in mind in designing intervention programmes. It was also important to put in place measures to ensure that activities based on participatory learning and action are not lost.

“ Document best practices and experiences and disseminate widely.”

### 5.3 Lessons on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS mitigation measures in the agricultural sector: GTZ experiences from South Africa

72. A representative from GTZ South Africa introduced the presentation “Joining hands in the fight against HIV/AIDS: Lessons learnt from the mainstreaming approach of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, South Africa”. The presenter explained that the programme was developed by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and was being implemented jointly with GTZ.

73. Statistics were given on the HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the province that stood at 14% for the total population in 2002 and 31% for antenatal clinic attendees in 2004. A definition of “mainstreaming” was given and its three domains were presented. The three domains presented were: internal activities (at workplaces), external activities (targeting the population) and activities beyond Government level (NGOs and community-based organisations in the wider environment). The areas of intervention of the Mpumalanga Rural Development Programme (MRDP) which were at provincial and local government

levels and projects by community-based organisations were outlined together with the related HIV/AIDS component.

74. The main entry points and key partners were the **existing working relationships** of the MRDP, the Office of the Premier, Heads of Departments, Gender Focal Points (GFPs) and Senior Management who all participated in workshops and developed action plans. Examples of HIV/AIDS related activities of the Department of Agriculture include: **Training on HIV/AIDS and related communication skills for employees** (particularly field staff); **Research on less labour intensive production in existing programmes**; **Promotion of food gardens** (healthy nutrition) and HIV/AIDS awareness; and **Support to home-based care centres and affected households in the establishment of food gardens**. The Department of Health provided material support, first aid kits, technical support and training on primary health care, nutrition to home-based care centres, while the Department of Social Services provided food packages and social grants.

75. **The lessons learnt from the programme included the following:** **Improved cooperation** and experience exchange is enhanced when departmental workshops involving all programmes are held at once; **Need to enhance authority and decisionmaking power of GFPs** within their departments; **Need for commitment and continuous involvement of Senior Management**; **Need to address the challenge of turnover of staff in departments**; **Need to address the problem of limited budgetary resources**; **Need to harness individual and collective contribution capacities**; and **Mainstreaming process supports integration of different departments and other stakeholders**.

## **Discussion**

76. In the ensuing discussion it was observed that there was need to put in place a structure within which NGOs and government agencies could meet to come up with a more coordinated approach as they implement measures to address the problem of HIV/AIDS. Examples of where this approach was working in Zambia and Malawi were given.

77. The meeting also agreed that budgetary allocation and capacity building were necessary for interventions to succeed. Concern was expressed about the turnover of gender focal points and the need to enhance their decision making power. The meeting observed that there was need for a legislative framework within which NGOs could operate and be able to have regular meetings to discuss their action plans. The meeting observed that migrant labour and lack of access to HIV/AIDS information had led to high HIV/AIDS prevalence in some places.

### **5.4 HIV/AIDS and Livelihoods: Experiences in Mainstreaming from Malawi - OXFAM video**

78. A representative from Oxfam Zambia made a brief introduction of a video prepared by Oxfam entitled: HIV/AIDS and Livelihoods: Experiences in Mainstreaming from Malawi. The video shows how the Oxfam Programme in Malawi took a strategic decision to

increase its understanding of HIV/AIDS and of the impact of the pandemic at a program and policy level. The video captures some of the mitigation interventions devised in this program in Malawi that include promotion of small livestock (village chickens and goats); adoption of improved agricultural technologies; provision of seed on a revolving loan basis; and community support to OVCs. The video highlights the need to place HIV/AIDS and its effects at the centre of the development programme in order to minimise the impact of HIV/AIDS on people at the community level; shares real experiences of mainstreaming through interviews with Oxfam staff, Village Development Committees, and beneficiaries; shows the spin-offs of increased community mobilization and raises key issues for planners and policy makers.

## Discussion

79. The discussion following the video presentation raised a number of issues to be addressed. One of the issues pertain to the need to have a common definition or benchmark on what mainstreaming is. Participants noted that some organizations indicated that they had mainstreamed when they have worked only on one aspect of livelihood without fully addressing the needs of the beneficiaries.

80. Participants also noted that there was need to ensure that mitigation interventions are relevant to the needs of the smallholder farmers. If the interventions are in the form of livestock, they should be the correct breeds suited to the area. The same applies to seeds, they should be suited to the local conditions. Furthermore participants stressed that mitigation projects should be sustainable even after the NGOs or donors have pulled out. Participants also underscored the importance of involving community participation in the identification of the mitigation projects that they would like to undertake and recommended that all those who were vulnerable including those affected and living with HIV/AIDS should be involved in identifying mitigation interventions.

“ Use participatory methods to identify mitigation interventions.”

## 6. Reinforcing the role of governments in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS: Report of group discussions

81. Using the terms of reference for groups presented on day one and explained in section 4, the workshop was divided into two groups to discuss the second strategic area of focus: Reinforcing the role of government in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS at both national and local levels. The participants defined the major role of governments to include: facilitation of policy development and implementation; coordination, provision and mobilization of resources; guidance and leadership; creating an enabling environment; incorporating HIV/AIDS into policies; monitoring and evaluation (quality control); and piloting and scaling up of technologies/ strategies.

“ Budgetary allocation and capacity building are necessary for interventions to succeed. ”

82. The groups identified six key issues that affect the role of government in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS for which actions, strategies to implement the actions and the key actors were defined. The key issues include: Inadequate legal and policy framework; Limited access to legal and policy documents; Weak government role on coordinating and monitoring the work of development agencies on HIV/AIDS mitigation; Absence of HIV/AIDS implementation policy, guidelines and structures; Inadequate financial and material resources; and Lack of political will.

83. During discussions participants indicated that the policy and legal framework issue was a combination of lack of policy guidelines, inappropriateness of policies and weakness of policies. The workshop recommended that Governments need to review legal and policy frameworks to ensure that it supports HIV/AIDS mitigation and to put in place policy implementation monitoring systems.

84. The key issue of limited access to legal and policy documents was defined to be the problem of governments not providing the information thereby leading to inaccessibility of legal and policy documents. Participants indicated that easily accessible databases need to be created, documents have to be translated into local languages and the local media has to play a major role in disseminating information on documents.

85. The workshop noted that the absence of HIV/AIDS implementation policy and structures was a key issue limiting the role of governments and suggested that ministries of agriculture should appoint full-time HIV/AIDS Focal Points or coordinators, establish HIV/AIDS apex committees and provide training or capacity building.

86. On the issue of inadequate financial and material resources participants suggested mobilization of adequate internal and external resources, improved budgetary allocation for HIV/AIDS and strengthening of financial management.

87. The workshop noted that the lack of guidelines for development partners to follow in mitigating HIV/AIDS was the major reason why there was poor coordination and monitoring of the work of development agencies on HIV/AIDS mitigation. The workshop noted that some development agencies or NGOs were not complying to national development programmes as they are running their own agenda's. Participants suggested that governments should establish guidelines on the operation of development agencies; ensure development of mechanisms for enforcing rules and regulations such as memoranda of understanding at district level, monthly reports, and annual work plans; and establish oversight mechanisms in the form of inter-body committees at local level.

88. The workshop noted that lack of political will required sensitization of political leaders, lobbying for creation of parliamentary committees on HIV/AIDS and encourage use of politicians as role models.

89. The session ended with the important remark that the focus on the smallholder farmers and HIV/AIDS mitigation measures for their protection should not be lost.



7. THEME THREE: Policies and other actions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods.

### 7.1 Approaches to scaling up HIV/AIDS Mitigation: The RENEWAL networking approach

90. A representative of IFPRI's Regional Network on HIV/AIDS, Rural Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL) made a presentation on "Approaches to Scaling up HIV/AIDS Mitigation: The RENEWAL networking approach". She outlined that RENEWAL aims to enhance understanding of the worsening interactions between HIV/AIDS, food and nutrition security; to facilitate a comprehensive response to these interactions; and to work with other regional networks in scaling up of responses. RENEWAL is now active in Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Kenya and South Africa. She outlined that the core pillars of RENEWAL are locally prioritized action research, capacity strengthening and policy communications.

“Scale-up responses beyond “boutiques”

91. RENEWAL had national coordinators who are responsible for connecting policy-makers, civil society, researchers and other stakeholders throughout the research cycle; facilitating sharing of inputs and outputs of country research; and work toward finding answers to scaling up mitigation interventions in a coordinated and concerted manner. RENEWAL's current research in Malawi, Zambia and South Africa and their call for proposals for 2005 were highlighted. The presenter highlighted some of RENEWAL's outputs to include publications, quarterly RENEWAL network bulletins, living evidence base on the web, bibliography of key documents, stakeholder maps for each country and the conference that they organized that was held in Durban from 14-16 April 2005.

92. The major lessons learnt include: need to ensure relevance and ownership of research; adapt existing tools to move from understanding to responding; learn by doing (action research), and through better monitoring and evaluation; open up spaces for innovative research; allow the network to evolve; balance speed and capacity and conduct longitudinal datasets on impacts. The representative concluded by indicating a way forward that includes: scaling-up responses beyond “boutiques”; ensuring that mitigation responses are community driven; and strengthening monitoring and evaluation.

### Discussion

93. On the way forward, the participants felt that the RENEWAL process should go much deeper than presented and enquired as to what kind of incentives should be applied to mitigate the effects and impact of HIV/AIDS. The presenter responded that more re-



search is needed in order to define the specific type and incentives needed for a particular situation. She further referred the participants to a website which contains some of the research on the subject.

94. The presenter further clarified that, IFPRI/RENEWAL is a research institution as opposed to a development institute, and while it is involved in research on scaling up interventions, it is not involved in implementing actual programmatic scaling up of activities. Rather, governments should take the lead and bring development partners on board for implementation.

## 7.2 The Role Of Regional Networking And Information Sharing In Scaling Up HIV/AIDS Mitigation

95. A representative from SAfAIDS made a presentation on “The Role Of Regional Networking And Information Sharing In Scaling Up HIV/AIDS Mitigation”. The workshop was informed that the mission of SAfAIDS is to promote ethical and effective development responses to the epidemic and its impact through HIV/AIDS knowledge management, capacity building, advocacy, policy analysis and research. The core strengths of the organization include: building capacity of other NGO’s; information collection, production and dissemination to a wider audience; building partnerships and networking and leadership in identifying and addressing cutting edge issues.

96. Under capacity building, policy, research and advocacy, the organization assists governments and organizations to develop HIV/AIDS workplace policy and programmes; mainstream gender and human rights into HIV/AIDS policies and programmes; conducts policy reviews and analysis; repackages and disseminates policies; and links policy makers with stakeholders/implementers. Under advocacy the organization conducts training in advocacy for access to treatment as a basic human right; encourages advocacy networks and meaningful involvement of PLWHA. Under information dissemination, the organization produces a quarterly newsletter, posters and brochures, books, information toolkits, fact sheets and topical issues sets and videos, CDs, radio and television programmes. SAfAIDS also use the following methodologies to raise community preparedness for HIV/AIDS programmes: material production of information packages and tool kits that contain key information on the disease and drugs; audio and visual productions to disseminate relevant information; training of community workers who work on treatment at individual and community level; community education and talks on treatment; and training of peer educators in the workplace.

97. **The major lessons learnt on SAfAIDS work include the need for community involvement in identifying eligibility criteria for treatment and that community preparedness is critical in increasing uptake and adherence to ART.**

## Discussion

98. The meeting noted that SAfAIDS is running a large number of programmes in relation to the size of the organization and hence expressed concern over SAfAIDS effectiveness. The presenter informed the participants that SAfAIDS does not act as an implementer but rather works directly with partners. SAfAIDS also has a database of consultants that can be deployed to provide assistance based on the request of implementing partners. In addition, SAfAIDS also has a workplace consultant that can assist with the implementation of HIV/AIDS policies and strategies in the workplace.

99. The workshop noted that information dissemination on HIV/AIDS was better in the urban areas than rural areas. In this regard, one of SAfAIDS “best practices” is identifying partners that can provide a “multiplier effect” to assist with information dissemination to the remotest areas of Lusaka, Southern, Eastern and Copperbelt Provinces. The meeting recommended that dissemination of relevant information in rural areas should be intensified.

100. The meeting noted that there is considerable overlap between the RENEWAL and SAfAIDS programmes and a suggestion was made for more collaboration especially for upcoming policy forums. The presenter recognized that there was a multiplicity of players in the terrain of HIV/AIDS generally and stressed that, given this fragmentation, Government’s should be playing more of a leadership role in order to encourage harmonization amongst the different players.

101. Considering the importance of the linkages between proper nutrition and the successful use of ARTs, the meeting enquired if there are any linkages between SAfAIDS treatment programmes with the agriculture sector. The presenter informed the participants that SAfAIDS is encouraging the involvement of all Ministries involved in food production to attend all their policy dialogue series so that these linkages can be highlighted. SAfAIDS is also advocating for the attainment of food self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector so that fewer countries in the sub-region are reliant on food aid. A Zambian participant informed the presenter that a National Food and Nutrition Commission had been created by Parliament which acts as a statutory body that provides advise on food and nutrition issues. The participant suggested that this particular Commission should be involved in some of their up-coming policy dialogue series.

### 7.3 COMESA's initiatives in HIV/AIDS mitigation in the area of agricultural production and trade

102. A representative from COMESA made a presentation on “COMESA’s initiatives in HIV/AIDS mitigation in the area of agricultural production and trade”. The representative highlighted that agriculture is the main economic activity of the 20 COMESA member states accounting for more than 32 % of COMESA’s gross domestic product, 80 % of labour force, provides 50% of raw material for domestic industry and provides a main

source of livelihood for most of the 353 million people of the COMESA. He highlighted that in 2003 the COMESA Ministers of Agriculture meeting agreed to come up with strategies of mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS among smallholder farmers.

103. The workshop was informed that COMESA is (1) reviewing and developing a strategic framework for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in the COMESA Gender Policy and action plan. (2) **Support HIV/AIDS prevention awareness along border posts and key intra-COMESA agricultural transportation routes targeting mostly railway workers, truck drivers, commercial sex workers, staff of departments of customs, immigration and police at the border posts and other vulnerable groups.** (3) Undertaking programmes that **promote food security that include COMESA agricultural policy; irrigation, fisheries and livestock and improvement of Early Warning Systems and Food Reserves.**

## **Discussion**

104. The meeting expressed concern that it might be more costly to trade with countries in the sub-region that are not part of COMESA, but are part of SADC and the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) such as South Africa. The presenter indicated that trade is not confined to regional organizations and that bilateral arrangements ensure that trade continues to flow over borders such as Zambia and South Africa. However he did note that not being part of regional arrangements is not beneficial for consumers due to import duties imposed on foodstuffs. The presenter further informed the meeting of the joint SADC/COMESA Task Force which is aimed at the rationalization of policies and programmes. He also added that while SACU is a special case, it does not preclude its members to deal with COMESA. COMESA, for example, has a special arrangement with Swaziland a SACU member.

105. Participants also enquired as to whether COMESA has a work place policy and whether there are programmes beyond sensitization and awareness creation at the border posts such as medical centres. He responded that a HIV/AIDS work policy exists in COMESA but implementation is limited to weekly sensitization by peer educators. The border post and transport sector programme is still in its formative stages however COMESA is devising ways of ensuring that policy makers can incorporate HIV/AIDS into concrete programmes. COMESA is also carrying out the initial analytical work on the need for health centers at border posts and assessing the magnitude of the problem.

106. The meeting also noted that the annually held COMESA Ministers of Agriculture meeting from the 20 Member States is a very good example of information sharing since it enables the Ministers to make an analysis of national initiatives and to highlight best practices and share experiences which other States can emulate.

107. Commenting on the question on food reserves in the sub-region, the presenter informed the meeting of the recent COMESA grain Summit which recommended the establishment of a Regional Grain Reserve with a view to boosting grain stocks and the possibility of receiving cash from donating countries as opposed to food aid.

## 8. Making policies work for HIV/AIDS mitigation: Report of group discussions

108. Using the terms of reference for group discussion presented on day one and explained in section 4, the workshop was divided into two groups to discuss the third strategic area of focus: Making policies work for HIV/AIDS mitigation. The participants identified six issues or problems that limit the use of policy in HIV/AIDS mitigation. The issues identified include: Lack of relevant policies or outdated policies in which HIV/AIDS is mainstreamed; Ineffective policy implementation; Poor understanding of mainstreaming interventions in programmes to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS; and Mismatch between policy priorities and government budget.

109. On lack of relevant policies or outdated policies in which HIV/AIDS is mainstreamed, participants noted that this resulted in policies that were irrelevant, that did not adequately address HIV/AIDS mitigation and that did not fully address the needs of beneficiaries. The workshop suggested that governments and all stakeholders should review current policies with respect to HIV/AIDS mitigation, identify the gaps or missing links within the policies and revise the policies accordingly. Participants also suggested capacity building on technical aspects of HIV/AIDS mitigation and promotion of participatory approaches in policy formulation.

110. Participants also noted that lack of policy implementation mechanisms renders most policies ineffective. The workshop suggested that there was need to develop implementation plans for policies based on available resources and guidelines for integrated implementation of policy. Participants also suggested that there was need to conduct monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation and encourage participatory approaches in policy development.

111. The workshop further noted that poor understanding of mainstreaming interventions into programmes to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS was an issue that hampered development and implementation of policies on HIV/AIDS mitigation. The meeting suggested that in order to address this issue there was need to prepare guidelines on how to mainstream HIV/AIDS mitigation into programmes and to undertake capacity building.

112. On mismatch between policy priorities and government budget, the workshop suggested that Governments need to prioritise mitigation issues in the budget and increase budgetary allocation to HIV/AIDS mitigation. The workshop further recommended that there was need to cost policy implementation plans and ensure that adequate resources are allocated.

“ Intensify dissemination of relevant information in rural areas. ”

## 9. Recommendations of the workshop

113. The Workshop adopted the following recommendations directed to member states and all stakeholders involved in mitigation work;

114. General recommendations arising from the opening and overview session:

- Develop effective inter-country mechanisms of sharing widely best practices, policy and mitigation intervention experiences, data and other resources;
- Strengthen coordination mechanisms among all stakeholders to ensure that mitigation is effective;
- Develop a multi-sectoral, multi-faceted approach to HIV/AIDS mitigation with governments playing the leadership role in defining the solutions; and
- Develop and integrate specific HIV/AIDS strategies into agricultural sector policies that can mitigate the impact of the pandemic on crop and livestock production and livelihoods

115. On developing relevant technology

- Technology for improving agricultural productivity should be affordable for users to be able to access it;
- New technology should be supported by training and extension services to ensure that potential beneficiaries are knowledgeable of the new technology;
- End users of technology should be involved in its development to enhance uptake;
- Effective methods to transfer technology to the end users should be developed.

116. On improving the land rights of women and children in HIV/AIDS contexts

- Develop an integrated strategic framework in which health, HIV/AIDS and agriculture are addressed;
- Disseminate information about new laws that promote the rights of women to land so that they are familiar to all stakeholders working on land issues.
- Support the training of legal personnel on women's land rights, especially those who administer customary law including traditional leaders;
- Enforce new laws;
- Customary law and statutory laws should be aligned to ensure that women and children have access to land and are able to make production decisions in line with international norms.

117. On the role of community initiatives in HIV/AIDS mitigation

- Where possible, orphanages should be the last resort in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS;

- Build the capacity of community leaders and provide inputs, and credit in order to reinforce community initiatives;
- Create or strengthen mechanisms for documenting best practices and information sharing on HIV/AIDS mitigation;
- Improve coordination between the various stakeholders and partners;
- Encourage exchange visits among villages;
- Develop data collection and analysis systems for strengthening intervention of HIV/AIDS among smallholder farmers and communities;
- Include men as a vulnerable group because of their lack of preparedness on their role as carers after they are widowed.

118. On Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools

- Develop a participatory selection criterion involving community leaders, programme members and local institutions in order to ensure the success of the scheme.
- Cooperating partners should work closely with responsible government departments to ensure a large impact of the interventions.
- Adopt a multisectoral approach to planning at Ministerial level in the budgeting process to increase the level of success of interventions.

119. On social safety net or humanitarian programmes

- Social safety initiatives should focus on increasing the productive capacity of farmers and communities and reducing dependency including any adverse impact that aid might have on local production;
- Governments need to revisit the issue of strategic national food reserves to ensure that countries have enough food stocks to take care of shortages.
- Development partners need to coordinate their activities with relevant government structures and also work with each other to ensure effective delivery of assistance;
- Development partners should share experiences across national boundaries;
- Need for agencies providing assistance to indicate the number of beneficiaries to their programmes so as to assist government in national planning.

120. On household portfolio diversification and micro finance services

- Efforts in the field should be coordinated to ensure participation at the grassroots level to facilitate sharing of experiences and best practices;
- Agencies should develop data capture and analysis systems and sets of indicators against which progress could be measured so as to provide statistics on progress and on coverage;
- Agencies share and replicate successful approaches from other countries.

“Coordination among all stakeholders is vital for ensuring effective mitigation strategies.”

121. On the role of national agricultural sector policies in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS

- Policy formulation process should include poverty, food and livelihood insecurity and women empowerment to have effective mitigation strategies;
- Need for capacity building for policy makers on technical aspects of HIV/AIDS mitigation;
- Promote participatory approaches in policy formulation;
- Review current policies with respect to HIV/AIDS mitigation, identify the gaps or missing links within the policies and revise the policies accordingly;
- The South African early warning system should be adopted for use in other countries in the sub region;
- Synergies between agricultural and HIV/AIDS policies should be enhanced

122. On mainstreaming HIV/AIDS mitigation measures in the agricultural sector

- The dissemination of HIV/AIDS messages should be done using multi-pronged approaches (bearing in mind the peculiarities of particular communities in designing intervention programmes);
- Involve all those who are vulnerable including those affected and living with HIV/AIDS in identifying mitigation interventions;
- Establish a coordination structure for NGOs and government agencies to collaboratively develop and implement measures to address the problem of HIV/AIDS;
- Establish clear guidelines on the operation of development agencies;
- Need to have a common definition or benchmark on what mainstreaming is;
- Prepare guidelines on how to mainstream HIV/AIDS mitigation into programmes;
- Ensure that mitigation interventions are relevant to the needs of smallholder farmers;

123. On actions required in scaling up HIV/AIDS mitigation

- Need to scale-up mitigation responses beyond “boutiques” – government should take the lead in scaling up,
- Ensure that mitigation responses are community driven;
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of mitigation responses;
- Need to look at what type of incentives may sustain community driven responses and development;
- Networks need to identify partners that have a multiplier effect in scaling up of responses;
- Intensify information dissemination on HIV/AIDS mitigation in rural areas.

## 10. Suggested Action Plan to improve mitigation of the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods

124. Tables 1 to 3 show the action plan for improving mitigation of the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods developed at the workshop. The action plan identifies the major issues or problems that constrain work on HIV/AIDS mitigation on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods and focuses on three strategic areas: (1) Improving mitigation of the impacts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, (2) Reinforcing the role of governments in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS; and (3) Making policies work for HIV/AIDS mitigation epidemic. The action plan identifies the main actions/activities necessary to address each issue and the strategies that need to be put in place to facilitate the implementation of the actions, and identifies actors and their areas of responsibility in implementing the plan.



**Table 1. Action Plan to improve mitigation of the impacts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic**

Issues	Action/Activities	Strategies to execute the action	Responsible Entities
1. Lack of coordination mechanisms for mitigation interventions amongst stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Strengthening coordination among stakeholders</li> <li>-Strengthen coordination mechanisms which include; committees, inter-sectoral multi-disciplinary bodies at all levels on HIV/AIDS with clear terms of reference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Governments be proactive in facilitating coordination</li> <li>-Empower committees with resources, knowledge, information</li> <li>-Strengthen networks for information sharing</li> <li>-Formulate an integrated implementation programme</li> <li>-Monitor and evaluate the coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government ministries</li> <li>-Local government</li> <li>-Civil society organizations (CSOs)</li> <li>-Private sector</li> <li>-Non-farming Communities</li> <li>-Farmers</li> <li>-Donor agencies</li> <li>-The media</li> </ul>
2. Inadequate documentation of successful practices for replication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Proper documentation of practices</li> <li>-Capacity building for stakeholders</li> <li>-Host an information exchange system for best practices at national and regional levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Collate existing and upcoming successful practices</li> <li>-Identify at national and regional level consortia of stakeholders to act as depository for successful and best practices in HIV/AIDS interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government ministries</li> <li>-Local government</li> <li>- CSOs</li> <li>-Private sector</li> <li>-Non-farming Communities</li> <li>-Farmers</li> <li>-Donor agencies</li> <li>-The media</li> </ul>
3. Inappropriate/ Poor information/ technology transfer to end users and end users needs analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Strengthen research-extension linkages</li> <li>-Capacity building</li> <li>-Piloting technologies</li> <li>-Raise awareness on appropriate technologies</li> <li>-Make technologies accessible/affordable</li> <li>-Strengthen regional centres of excellence for research and networking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Finance research, extension</li> <li>-Priority setting</li> <li>-Train researchers and extension agents</li> <li>-Encourage on-farm /adaptive research, demand driven technologies and Group acquisition</li> <li>-Adequate resource allocation to research centres by governments and other partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government</li> <li>- Research and development institutions</li> <li>-Donor agencies</li> <li>-Farmers</li> <li>-Education Institutes</li> <li>-Extension Workers</li> <li>-Media</li> </ul>
4. Gender inequality in the access, control and ownership of productive resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reform policies and legislation</li> <li>-Promote awareness on existing policy and legal provisions</li> <li>-Improve implementation of ratified conventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Policy and legal review</li> <li>-Review inappropriate customs</li> <li>- Provide civic education and legal aid</li> <li>-Engage in advocacy to garner political will</li> <li>-Domesticate agreed upon conventions in national law</li> <li>-Strengthen oversight institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Parliamentarians</li> <li>-Local government/authority</li> <li>-Judiciary</li> <li>-Voting public</li> <li>-Public service</li> <li>-Communities</li> <li>-Traditional leaders</li> </ul>

Issues	Action/Activities	Strategies to execute the action	Responsible Entities
5. Weakening community/ household coping strategies to shocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Strengthen positive community leadership</li> <li>-Reinforce successful community coping strategies</li> <li>-Facilitate interaction among community leaders and other government actors</li> <li>-Identify and harness communitarian spirit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Empower community leaders with knowledge,</li> <li>-Establish and strengthen community networks</li> <li>-Promote and document oral history</li> <li>-Reinforce community development planning, resource mobilisation and utilisation</li> <li>-Reinforce transparency and accountability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government line ministries</li> <li>-CSOs</li> <li>-Traditional leaders</li> <li>-Faith Based organisational leaders</li> <li>-Women's groups</li> <li>-Farmer associations</li> <li>-Youth groups</li> <li>-Community members</li> </ul>
6. Weak Nutrition Component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Promote block Farming, school and community gardens</li> <li>-School health and nutrition</li> <li>-Community kitchens for orphans and vulnerable children</li> <li>-Home Based Care support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Food production</li> <li>-Community mobilisation incentives</li> <li>-Food provision to deserving households</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government departments</li> <li>-Community</li> <li>-Civil Society Organisation</li> <li>-Development partners</li> <li>-Researchers</li> <li>-United Nations Specialised Agencies</li> </ul>
7. Weak Monitoring and Evaluation of HIV/AIDS interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Develop guidelines and indicators for M&amp;E of HIV/AIDS interventions</li> <li>-Establish benchmarks</li> <li>-Establish a database for HIV/AIDS intervention initiatives</li> <li>-Conduct internal M&amp;E, Mid-term and final M&amp;E</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Regular assessment of performance of HIV/AIDS initiatives</li> <li>-Encourage participatory community monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS at community level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-UNECA &amp; SADC</li> <li>-Civil Society Organisations</li> <li>-Target communities</li> <li>-Local Authorities</li> <li>-Government ministries</li> <li>-Independent Evaluators</li> </ul>

**Table 2. Actions to reinforce the role of governments in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic**

Problem	Actions	Strategies to execute the action	Responsible Entities
1. Inadequate legal and policy framework due to weak leadership by governments in policy implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify existing gaps in the policy</li> <li>-Simplification of the policy in a manner that could be understood by implementers</li> <li>-Translate to local languages</li> <li>-Develop and simplify guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Governments to review legal and policy framework</li> <li>-Simplify the policies and repackage</li> <li>-Develop guidelines and implementation plan</li> <li>-Develop policy implementation monitoring system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government</li> <li>-Civil society</li> <li>-National AIDS councils</li> <li>-United Nations Agencies</li> <li>- UNECA &amp;SADC</li> <li>-Local leadership</li> <li>-Communities</li> <li>-Media</li> </ul>
2. Limited access to legal and policy documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Simplification and dissemination of information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Create an easily accessible database (e.g. information resource centres)</li> <li>-Translation of documents in local languages</li> <li>- Use media (e.g. community radio)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ministry of information</li> <li>-Local government</li> <li>-Civil society organisations</li> <li>-HIV/AIDS committees</li> </ul>
3. Weak government role to coordinate and monitor the provision of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Enforcement of rules, regulations and guidelines for the operation of Non Governmental Organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Establish guidelines on the operation of development agencies</li> <li>-Develop mechanisms for enforcing rules and regulations (Memorandum of understanding)</li> <li>-Oversight mechanism put in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government (Judiciary),</li> <li>-NGOs</li> <li>-Local leadership</li> <li>-Local Government</li> </ul>
4. Absence of HIV/AIDS implementation policy and structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Create appropriate structures at all levels eg. Focal persons and coordinators</li> <li>-Strengthen Exist structure</li> <li>-Develop Terms of reference</li> <li>-Harmonise activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Appoint full time HIV Focal point persons</li> <li>-Establish HIV/AIDS apex committees</li> <li>-Capacity building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government departments and line ministries</li> <li>-All stakeholders</li> </ul>
5. Inadequate financial and material resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mobilise ext resources</li> <li>-Office space/equipment</li> <li>-Activity plans</li> <li>-Strategic plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Office space/equip</li> <li>-External resources</li> <li>-Budget allocation and funds released</li> <li>-Financial Management Systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government departments and line ministries</li> <li>-Civil Society Organisations</li> </ul>
6. Lack of political will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sensitise political leaders</li> <li>-Collect Empirical data</li> <li>-Incorporate leaders in HIV committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Communication strategies</li> <li>-Lobby for creation of parliamentary committees on HIV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-National Aids Councils/ commissions</li> <li>-UNAIDS for expertise</li> <li>-Politicians as models</li> </ul>

**Table 3. Actions to make policies work for HIV/AIDS mitigation**

Issues	Action/Activities	Strategies to execute the action	Responsible Entities
1. Lack of relevant policies/outdated policies in which HIV/AIDS is mainstreamed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review current policies with respect to HIV/AIDS</li> <li>-Revise the policies</li> <li>-Capacity building (research, mitigation)</li> <li>-Implement participatory approaches in policy formulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Conduct consultative planning process</li> <li>-Conduct policy review to identify the gaps or missing links within the policies</li> <li>-Conduct M &amp; E to make them relevant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government and line ministries</li> <li>-Civil Society Organisations</li> <li>-Farmers</li> <li>-Village Development Committees,</li> </ul>
2. Ineffective policy implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Needs assessment to identify gaps</li> <li>-Develop implementation plans for policies and guidelines</li> <li>-Conduct consultative meeting with various stakeholders</li> <li>-M&amp;E of policy implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government ministries</li> <li>-Civil Society Organisations</li> <li>-Farmers</li> <li>-Community Based Organisations</li> <li>-General Public</li> </ul>
3. Poor understanding of mainstreaming interventions in programmes to mitigate HIV/AIDS impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Develop and administer training programmes</li> <li>-Prepare guidelines on how to mainstream</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Build capacity of implementers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sector ministries</li> <li>-(R&amp;D) institutions</li> <li>-Civil society organisations</li> </ul>
4. Mismatch between policy priorities and government budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cost implementation strategies</li> <li>-Government to prioritise social and economic activities</li> <li>-Agriculture ministries to prioritise HIV/AIDS mitigation issues in budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lobby for funds</li> <li>-Capacity building of key actors and those in authority</li> <li>-Special budget line for HIV/AIDS</li> <li>-Lobby parliamentarians and respective parliamentary committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Government line ministries</li> <li>-Civil Society Organisations</li> <li>-Development Experts</li> </ul>

## 11. The way forward

125. The meeting stated that they would like to see the process move forward. Participants expressed the hope that ECA would take the lead to ensure that the recommendations of the meeting are taken up for implementation to all the stakeholders. The recommendations would be relayed to COMESA and SADC so that they could be incorporated into their respective programmes.

126. Information sharing was also greatly encouraged. It was suggested that a website be developed on which different countries in the region would post their experiences and best practices. In the same vein it was noted that it would be wise if the countries in attendance met in a few years time to review the recommendations and report on the progress made by each Member State.

127. The Director proposed to write to the Ministries of Agriculture of all the countries represented informing them about the workshop and its outcome and encourage them to hold similar meetings at national level.

## 12. Closing of Meeting

128. The Director of ECA-SA expressed her gratitude to all the participants for the high level of participation in the deliberations, the encouraging outcome of the workshop and the level of commitment of the group to mitigation of HIV/AIDS in smallholder agriculture. She noted that the recommendations from the workshop were important and that ECA would endeavour to ensure that they would make a contribution to addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods in Southern Africa. She also thanked the Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur for ably facilitating and guiding the workshop deliberations. She encouraged participants to network and continue to share information and experiences. She thanked the hotel for the good setting for the workshop.

129. The Director also expressed her appreciation to the ECA-SA staff for their efforts and dedication. She took the opportunity to inform the workshop of the forthcoming Twelfth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa (ICE) to be held in Swaziland in early 2006 to which some of the participants would be invited.

130. In conclusion, she thanked the resource person and the presenters for a job well done.

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# ANNEX 2: Agenda of the Workshop

1. Official Opening
2. Election of Bureau
3. Plenary Session I: Overview of the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on smallholder agricultural production, household food security and rural livelihoods: Presentation of Workshop's Background Document
4. Plenary Session II: THEME ONE: Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods
  - Agricultural mitigation strategies: Experiences from agricultural research initiatives in Zambia
  - Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools: A Zambian Case Study
  - Strategies to improve land rights of women and children in HIV/AIDS contexts
  - The role of community initiatives in HIV/AIDS mitigation: experiences from Malawi
5. Plenary Session III: THEME ONE continued
  - Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods: Lessons learnt in the context of WFP's experiences from its long and short-term humanitarian programmes.
  - Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods: Lessons learnt in the context of Africare's experiences on household portfolio diversification and micro finance services.
6. Group discussions: Making mitigation strategies work
7. Plenary Session IV: Feedback from groups and discussions
8. Plenary Session V: THEME TWO: The role of governments in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods.
  - The role of national agricultural sector policies in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS
  - Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into GTZ Program Zambia: Successful Strategies and Investment for Change
  - Lessons on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS mitigation measures in the agricultural sector: GTZ's experiences from South Africa
9. Plenary Session VI: Presentation of OXFAM video - HIV/AIDS and Livelihoods: Experiences in Mainstreaming from Malawi
10. Group discussions: Reinforcing the role of governments

11. Plenary session VII: Feedback from groups and discussions
12. Plenary Session VIII: THEME THREE: Policies and other actions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture, household food security and rural livelihoods
  - Approaches to Scaling up HIV/AIDS Mitigation: The RENEWAL networking approach
  - The role of regional networking and information sharing in scaling up HIV/AIDS mitigation
  - COMESA's initiatives in HIV/AIDS mitigation in the area of agricultural production and trade
13. Group discussions: Making Policies work for mitigation.
14. Plenary session IX: Feedback from groups and discussion.
15. Plenary session X: Review of the Recommendations, Action Plan and Way Forward
16. Closing of Meeting