

Concept note on the Regional Training Workshop on Policy Development and Harmonization 1-2 September 2012

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Date: 1 – 2 September 2012

The Harmonized Seed Security Project (FANRPAN-HaSSP) was developed through a consultative process and represents a direct response of the Member States of SADC to the low availability and limited access by farmers in the Region, to key agricultural inputs. FANRPAN is piloting the project in four countries – Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe and up scaling to Tanzania and Mozambique.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to improved food security and poverty reduction through increased seed security and better disaster preparedness in the SADC region. The project seeks to domesticate and implement these three SADC approved protocols which were the outcome of the SADC Seed Security Network project, at national level. FANRPAN will leverage on its partnerships and scale up the project region-wide (COMESA and EAC) and continent-wide through the African Union-NEPAD.

FANRPAN commissioned a policy study in June 2012 (i.e. the HaSSP Policy Study) to examine the standard domestication processes ordinarily followed in the pilot studies, and to assess the challenges being faced by HaSSP project country Steering Committees and Task Teams in policy alignment. The research is intended to provide technical guidance on the way forward to enhance national policy alignment processes. The findings from this study form the basis for a regional training workshop on ‘Policy Development and Harmonization’.

The 2 day workshop, which is scheduled for 1-2 September 2012, is expected to enhance the capacity of country teams to expedite national alignment processes and come up with action plans for preparing draft legislation for presenting to the parliamentary and cabinet committees for approval. The training workshop participants will be drawn from experts on seed certification, variety release, phytosanitary and quarantine, seed growers, seed advocacy elders, legal experts and policy makers.

The training sessions will be conducted by two trainers from the Centre for Applied Legal Research (CALR), with expertise and experience in the areas of:

- 1) Public international law aspects of domestication of international and regional legal instruments in national legal systems, and
- 2) National legal and policy reform processes of the agriculture sector