



Increasing Farmer Resilience to Climate Change-Upscaling Market Oriented Climate Smart Agriculture Project (CSMA)

Project Number: 00109500

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

2nd MEETING MINUTES: CLIMATE SMART MARKET-ORIENTED AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room

November 15, 2018

Attending:

1. Eric Maziya – Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) – Alternate Chairperson
2. Bheki Ginindza – Project Manager, Project Management Unit (PMU)- Secretary
3. Boy Matse – President, Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU)
4. Duduzile Nhlengethwa-Masina – Director, Meteorology (MET)
5. Edith Tibahwa – Programme Manager – Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA)
6. Henry Mndawe – Principal Economist, MoA
7. Lomalungelo Dlamini – Project Accountant, (PMU)-
8. Nelson Mavuso – Director, MoA
9. Siphoshe Shiba – Senior Land Use Planning Office, MoA
10. Sithembiso Gina – Programme Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
11. Tammy Dlamini – Agri-Business Manager, National Marketing Board (NAMBoard)

Agenda,

1. Opening Remarks Chair Person
2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Presentation and Approval of Work Plan and Budget
5. Closing remarks
6. AoB

1. Review of previous meeting minutes

The previous meeting minutes were read and adopted with the following corrections:

- 1.1 **Page 1, List of Participants:** The names of the members should be written in full with designation in the attendant list.
- 1.2 **Page 2, Section 5. Bullet 1** changed to: Adjustment in the project document can be done during the inception period
- 1.3 **Page 2, Section 6. Bullet 5** changed to: UNDP and COMESA perform two functions, that of being a supplier and also do monitoring of the project
- 1.4 **Page 2, Section 6. Bullet 8** change to: the PSC will meet quarterly

2. Matters Arising,

- 2.1 It was agreed that members added in the last PSC were formally requested from their principals through PS MoA.

2.2 The Project launch will be discussed at the next PSC meeting and invitation letters endorsed by the Principal Secretary (PS) will be issued.

2.3 ToRs of the PSC were reported available, detailed in the project document which will be sent to all members in due course.

3. Presentation and Approval of Work Plan and Budget

3.1 A presentation on the project implementation was made by the Project Manager as a summary of a detailed report shared with members. This included an analysis which informed the draft Inception Report together with the revised work plan and associated budget.

3.2 The PSC accepted a proposed shortened name of the project "Climate Smart Market – Oriented Agriculture Project (CSMA)" from the project document name "Increasing Farmer Resilience to Climate Change – Upscaling Market Oriented Climate Smart Agriculture Project"

3.3 Detailed discussions were held and a summary is attached as annex 1

3.4 Work Plan

After revision of the project document, it was reported that one (1) impact, one (1) outcome and four (4) outputs were established: These outputs were:

3.4.1 Climate change resilience established in the two (2) communities

3.4.2 Producers adherence to timely market supply with quality produce increased

3.4.3 Rural semi- and fully commercial farmers skills in Conversion Agriculture (CA) improved

3.4.4 Project implemented timely and within budget

3.5 Budget

3.5.1 From SZL8,282,508.00 (Euro 571,207.45) the revised budget increased to SZL12,126,400.00 (Euro 836,303.45) with government contributing increasing from SZL 674,600.64 (Euro 46,524.18) to SZL 970,112.00 (Euro 66,904.28) due to:

3.5.1.1.1 Increased focus on visibility and communications,

3.5.1.1.2 Increased oversight, monitoring and evaluation costs and

3.5.1.1.3 Increase cost of service consultants and project employees including provision of office space and equipment, not included in the original budget.

3.5.2 Out of a total Budget of SZL 12,126,400.00, SZL 6,474,800 was planned to be spent before December 2018. The total reported expenditure was as follows:

3.5.2.1 Committed SZL3,161,785

3.5.2.2 Paid - SZL206,000

3.5.2.3 Balance to spend- UNDP – SZL 2,126, 471 NAMBoard – SZL 888,800.00

3.6 Progress Report

The following key achievements were reported:

3.6.1 Signing of the funding and operation agreements with COMESA, GoE and NAMBoard

3.6.2 Establishment of the PSC and successfully holding the first meeting on 25 September 2018

3.6.3 Certification of NAMBoards under the United Nations HACT framework for disbursement of funds

3.6.4 Commissioning of the Baseline Study to establish the first Monitoring and Evaluation baseline milestones.

4. Resolutions from Discussions:

4.1 Resolution 1: PSC granted approval of the project work plan

4.2 Resolution 2: Budget provisionally approved pending a formal letter signed by the PS to be sent to UNDD, requesting for release of resources for 2018 for project implementation.

4.3 Resolution 3: Approval for formation of Project Technical Team was granted and the terms of reference for the group will be developed for approval by PS.

4.4 Resolution 4: The PSC agreed on a date for next PSC meeting to be held in March 2019. In addition, that the PSC meetings will be held quarterly.

5. AOB

The meeting was closed with a word of prayer.

Approved by Chairperson



Mr. Bongani Masuku
Principal Secretary MoA
Ministry of Agriculture

Secretary



Bheki Ginindza
Project Manager
NAMBoard

Annex 1: Detail Discussions of the Presented Report

Project Background

- It was reported that out of five evaluated schemes only two were eventually selected to benefit from the project: Mavulandlela at Ntfontjeni and Ntamakuphila at Ngwempisi.
- It was explained that the project had five specific objectives as listed below:
 - o 1. to improve irrigation from furrow to water saving technologies,
 - o 2. To improve cold chain management systems between production and markets,
 - o 3. To increase accessibility to CSA and its equipment to fully commercial farmers,
 - o 4. To improve linkages between farmers and markets,
 - o 5. To improve access to finance for farmers
- It was reported that Food security was the initial purpose for the project, therefore operating as a business and building resilience will be the main challenges.
- It was emphasised that the project will focus on capacitating farmers on water saving irrigation, strengthening cold chain systems and farmers access to financial assistance

Report about Ntamakuphila scheme

- There are 51 farmers and their total land is 26 hectares
- has siltation problem that needs to be urgently addressed
- This scheme consists of elderly mostly women and a few youth people
- Farmers will be trained to use all the space available to maximise their income
- There is no electricity and no cold room where the farmers may store their produce whilst waiting for a NAMBoard truck from to arrive for collection of their produce.
- A cold room or a refrigerated truck would be helpful to the farmers so that their produce would not get spoilt before even reaching the market

Report about Mavulandlela scheme

- This scheme is made up of 23 members and their land measures 23 hectares
- They use furrow irrigation that is not well maintained
- The scheme draws water from a reservoir. Due to siltation, use of an electricity pumphouse makes irrigating very costly for the farmers
- They grow baby vegetables and supply Sdemane with their baby vegetables.
- A cold room, but non- functional due to the fact that there is not electricity supply

Other Issues Discussed

- It was reported that the project is targeting 60ha but 50 hectares of land is available
- There was evidence of infighting in these schemes which affects their business
- It was mentioned that there is a Catchment Management Approach that will be in place but not just for this project but many other projects
- Watershed management should be adequately funded
- The Baseline Study that is already going on will help to come up with the many issues affecting the farmers
- The issues of a sound business model have to be promoted with the farmers since this is what will help sustain their business and increase income. It was also mentioned that some farmers are already commercial
- Farmers need to be trained on financial management

- There is a need to establish a farmers' company since currently farmers are working individually. The company will also help them to work together.
- Farmers are helped to collect their money after collection of the produce by the same entity from the farmers.
- There is a need to allow the farmers to invoice Buyers and know exactly the cost of their produce.
- There is also a need for farmers to be informed of the quality of produce much earlier to avoid unmet expectation
- Irrigation and catchment issues are very critical and a priority therefore Infrastructure development should come first then trainings to follow
- Agroforestry and conservation agriculture can be beneficial to the farmers
- The project will focus on the schemes selected but even other farmers outside the schemes will benefit to reach the targeted number of beneficiaries
- Lessons learnt from demonstration plots should be used to help inform way forward for the farmers
- There is a need to change farmers attitudes, noting that this could not be achieved immediately or even within the project lifespan
- Adding compost can also help farmers adhere to climate smart principles as compared to other expensive chemicals or fertilisers
- Solar energy should be encouraged and used as compared to the Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) energy to help reduce energy costs.
- Solar energy, however, has issues around its technicalities and maintenance need to be considered.
- UNDP to provide a report on solar energy. Synergies with other projects will be eminent
- Regional Project on Renewable Energy was done and Tammy to share with the committee

