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THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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

Project Number: 00109500

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

1ST MEETING MINUTES: CLIMATE SMART MARKET-ORIENTED AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room

Date: 25 September 2018

Participants,

1. Bongani Masuku -Principal Secretary (PS) Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) – Chairperson
2. Bheki Ginindza - Project Manager (PMU)
3. Edith Tambahwa - COMESA Programme Manager
4. Gabriel Masuku -Legal Affairs Officer and IP Coordinator COMESA
5. Lomalungelo Dlamini - Project Administration Accountant (PMU) – Secretary
6. Lwazi Mamba Chairperson Representative, Swaziland National Farmers Union (SNFU)
7. Nelson Mavuso - Director of Agriculture and Extension Services MoA
8. Siphaphiso Dlamini - Chief Executive Officer NAMBoard
9. Sithembiso Gina – Programme Specialist (UNDP)
10. Tammy Dlamini - Agri-business Manager NAMBoard

Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks
2. Overview of the Project
3. Progress to date
4. COMESA Representative Comments
5. Approval of the PSC terms of reference (ToR)
6. Resolutions
7. AOB

1. Opening remarks

In the opening remarks it was highlighted that challenges, normally affecting project performance, reducing delivery quality and causing project delayed implementation, need to be improved upon. MoA's commitment to support Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and UNDP's efforts towards implementing the project, was confirmed.

2. Project Overview

An overview of the project was presented to the meeting. It was reported that the project is for three years (Jan 2018 to Dec 2020). It was highlighted that the project was an upscaling of a pilot in Mpatheni vegetable scheme implemented in 2014-2016. This follows a feasibility study of five potential schemes in the country undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and COMESA. In preparation for the project implementation, the meeting was informed that:

- 2.1. The Project Document was developed and approved by COMESA
- 2.2. The project document and relating agreements were signed and accepted By MoA through the Principal Secretary's office on the 26th April 2018.
- 2.3. The project has six (6) results divided into 3 segments as detailed in the project document,
- 2.4. Only two out of five schemes, (Mavulandlela and Intamakuphila) in Ntfontjeni and Ngwemphisi tinkhundla respectively, were eventually selected to benefit, while the other three (3) would however receive capacity development support due to limited funding.

- 2.5. The project targeted 1500 farmers from the two (2) schemes and surrounding areas within respective tinkhundla.
- 2.6. The project will help farmers understand and build climate change resilience and take advantage of available local and international market to sell high value produce
- 2.7. Supporting infrastructure to cater for cold-chain linkage to markets will be developed and also rehabilitate, where necessary.
- 2.8. The project visibility will need to be stepped- up, including monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project's outcomes.
- 2.9. A Revolving Fund would be established as key component of the project, to receive USD100 000 from the project.

3. Project Progress

The status of the project and challenges experienced were reported as follows:

- 3.1. The Project Management Unit (PMU) was in place and consist of the following personnel:
 - 3.1.1.The Project Manager
 - 3.1.2.The Project Accountant
 - 3.1.3.The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (Part-time)
- 3.2. The Project bank account had been created by NAMBoard and ready for operations
- 3.3. Lessons from a pilot at Mpatheni vegetable schemes were incorporated for better implementation of the current project.
- 3.4. Delays experience have shortened the project implementation time from three (3) years to two (2) years, five (5) months
- 3.5. Involvement of regular financial institution to the administration of the fund was not supported since it would become expensive for the farmers. A Revolving Fund model will be developed for management under NAMBoard
- 3.6. It was projected that the project activities could be completed e in two (2) years and the last year will be for harmonization and ensuring sustainable outcomes.

4. COMESA Representative Comments

The country was commended for a successful pilot project compared to the other countries benefiting from the previous support. It was also mentioned that the project should review the project document and develop a realistic work plan and budget with necessary adjustments during the inception period. This should cater for:

- 4.1. A focus on market linkages
- 4.2. The revolving fund was \$24 000 in the pilot and it was raised to \$100 000 in this current project
- 4.3. Quick project implementation that will enable advanced request for more support financial support for further up-scaling of the development outcomes in the country. It was pointed out that COMESA is prepared to provide more funding in this regard.

5. PSC Terms of Reference

It was explained that the MOA owns the project and serves as its executor. UNDP and COMESA are senior suppliers (Project funders) with UNDP also responsible for monitoring the achievement of the project results (the efficiency and sustainability of the project outcomes). The farmers are the primary beneficiaries of the project. The ToR of the PSC as contained in the project document was explained as follows:

- 5.1. The PSC operates under the leadership of the Principal Secretary
- 5.2. The PSC guides the implementation of the project
- 5.3. PSC is supposed to meet once every quarter.
- 5.4. All PSC meetings will be held at the MoA and the Secretariat will be PMU Project Manager
- 5.5. PSC should meet every 2 months and have limited number of members to 11.
- 5.6. There following individuals were requested added as members of the PSC:

- 5.6.1. MoA Land Use Department Representative
- 5.6.2. MTEA-Climate Change focal person from Meteorology
- 5.6.3. MoA Principal Agricultural Economist (PAE)

6. Meeting Resolutions

- 6.1. **Resolution 1:** The project needed to incorporate lessons from the Mpatheni pilot project revolving fund modality.
- 6.2. **Resolution 2:** A revised project work plan and budget should be immediately developed before implementation commences.
- 6.3. **Resolution 3:** An Inception Report should be submitted 2nd week of November tentatively.
- 6.4. **Resolution 4:** Project launch is necessary for visibility purposes and should be included in the revised work plan
- 6.5. **Resolution 5:** The involvement of the local EU office in the project should be facilitated through the MoA.
- 6.6. **Resolution 6:** The next PSC meeting was scheduled on the 7th or 8th of November 2018

7. AOB

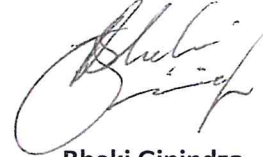
Meeting closed with a word of prayer.

Approved by Chairperson



Mr. Bongani Masuku
Principal Secretary MoA
Ministry of Agriculture

Secretary



Bheki Ginindza
Project Manager
NAMBoard