

Support Towards the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy

EU contribution: € 10,000,000 (approx. P145,000,000)

Period of implementation: 2024 – 2028

Location: Southern African Development Community countries

Implementing organisation(s): Food and Agriculture Organisation

Project objectives and description:

This action aims to drive a climate-smart, productive, inclusive, and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems across Sub-Saharan Africa. Its core focus is to strengthen the implementation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy, ensuring that agricultural development in the region aligns with resilience, sustainability, and equitable growth goals. STOSAR will help improving how information is shared, reinforcing protection against cross-border pests and diseases, enhancing food and nutrition security monitoring, and ensuring that smallholders, women, and youth are part of the opportunities created.

Expected and achieved results:

This initiative aims to transform agricultural productivity and trade in the region by enhancing information and knowledge-sharing on sustainable and competitive agri-production, enabling evidence-based decision-making, standardising data for research, and facilitating smoother intra-regional trade. It will improve market access through the development of regional strategies for managing plant and animal pests and diseases, while strengthening capacities to meet Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) standards—a critical step for boosting international trade. Additionally, the programme will bolster monitoring and implementation of the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, ensuring more effective regional coordination. Finally, it will increase the operational capacity of regional and national producers' organisations and agricultural industry associations, particularly in inclusive value chains, by promoting sustainable innovations and agro-ecological practices.

As of early 2026, the project team is fully in place, and national priorities have been identified through baseline assessments in all member states. Key successes include upgrading digital platforms to improve data sharing on farming and trade, training officials in managing animal and plant diseases—such as Foot and Mouth Disease and fruit fly outbreaks—and boosting regional cooperation through workshops on food safety standards and early warning systems.

Incoming public / visibility events: -

Project website / Social media account links:

- <https://aims.sadc.int/stosar-project>
- [https://www.fao.org/europeanunion/projects/projects-detail/support-towards-the-operationalization-of-the-sadc-regional-agricultural-policy-\(rap\)/en](https://www.fao.org/europeanunion/projects/projects-detail/support-towards-the-operationalization-of-the-sadc-regional-agricultural-policy-(rap)/en)
- Flickr Gallery: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stosar/albums/>