

Center for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa

RESEARCH FOR AGROECOLOGICAL NETWORK, SOUTHERN AFRICA (RAENS) PROJECT

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Presentation Outline

- ❖ **Intention of the Action**
- ❖ **About RAENS Project (Objectives and Targets)**
- ❖ **Expected roles of CCARDESA**
- ❖ **Project Governance**
- ❖ **Project Status to date**

Intention of the Action

The EU provides support through the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) to support Research Institutions, Universities, and other local Organizations to establish and operationalize at least one Regional Multi-actor Research Network (RMRN) on Agroecology in the SADC Region.

EXPECTED ROLES OF SROs: Management, Coordination and Policy Engagement

- ❖ Provide oversight coordination within and out of the sub region
- ❖ Coordinate and facilitate regional meetings of the RMRN
- ❖ Develop a regional strategic research agenda and platform for knowledge exchange, information sharing and networking
- ❖ Develop and implement a regional M&E framework
- ❖ Provide guidance and support to RMRN members and link RMRN with REC policies and priorities.
- ❖ Effect the MoU between the SRO and members of the RMRN.
- ❖ Effect contract between the EU delegation and the SRO including the selected RMRN.
- ❖ Undertake preliminary assessment of submitted proposals for compliance to the RMRN Call
- ❖ Review draft RMRN reports and provide technical advice to the RMRN regarding improvements

EXPECTED ROLES OF SROs: Management, Coordination and Policy Engagement

CCARDESA will support the successful establishment and operationalization of RMRN consortium.

Specific tasks would include:

- ❖ Organize project inception and provide oversight coordination in SADC Region**
- ❖ Convene regional coordination meetings for joint planning and monitoring**
- ❖ Support NARS and encourage collaboration and partnership in the RMRN.**
- ❖ Provide logistical support to the lead of RMRN.**
- ❖ Facilitate bank transfer of resources.**

SADC REGION RMRN MILESTONES

- ❖ Call For CNs in Dec 4, 2023, Closed: Feb 1, 2024
- ❖ 9 Concept Notes submissions received
- ❖ 2 proposals were shortlisted for next stage
- ❖ UCT-led Consortium proposal selected
- ❖ Proposal finalization DeSIRA-LIFTsupported
- ❖ Finance Agreement signed 16th Dec 2025
- ❖ Project Launch 25-27 Feb in Cape Town



RAENS Consortium Members

- 1 African research organisations (**1. ZARI**)
- 4 African universities (**2.UCT; 3. MUA**ST; **4. LUANAR; 5.SUA**)
- 2 International/European research organisations (**6.FIBL; 7. CIFOR-ICRAF**)
- 1 Non-research-organisations (including FOs, private sector, extension, CSO)
(**8. YPARD**)



FiBL



MUAST
MARONDERA UNIVERSITY
OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY



Goal of the RAENS Project

To grow a robust, innovative and sustainable transdisciplinary agroecology research and knowledge network in Southern Africa

Specific Objectives of the RAENS Project

1. **Establishing a research network:** To improve coordination of agroecology research and sharing of experiences in the region through the RMRN-network, in collaboration with farmer groups and farmer organisations/unions, extension agents, market actors and other grassroots practitioners;
2. **Developing a learning network:** To equip a growing number of agroecology scholars and practitioners in the region with skills, knowledge and relevant tools;
3. **Knowledge management and communications:** To increase the availability and awareness of agroecological knowledge materials, methodologies and tools, including innovations of regional actors;
4. **Evidence-based policy analysis and advice:** To contribute to an improved policy environment for gender-sensitive agroecological transitions at local, national and regional levels.

RAENS TARGET GROUPS AND BENEFICIARIES

- **For the research network**, to bring together researchers, farmers, practitioners, market actors, NGOs and indigenous knowledge holders.
- **Stakeholders** drawn from natural and social sciences based in universities, research institutions, technical and agricultural colleges, and national agricultural research institutes and from a variety of agro-ecosystems and farming systems across SADC region.

RAENS TARGET GROUPS AND BENEFICIARIES

- a) **Farmers** in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania, as well as farming communities in eSwatini, Lesotho and Namibia, (at least 50% women)
- b) **Tertiary-level students**, who will learn from and participate in cutting edge agroecology research, and benefit from cross-institutional exchange and capacity development.
- c) **Market actors**, who will be engaged to bring innovations and new thinking to agroecological value chain development and to research and training
- d) **Policy- and decision-makers**, will receive evidence-based policy recommendations based on the research findings, to support policy processes lead to agroecological transitions
- e) **SADC communities in general**, will benefit from the transition to a food and agricultural system based on agroecological principles.

RAENS OVERALL PROJECT COMPONENTS

COMPONENT 1: Developing a Research Network & Strengthening Farmer-led Research

Outcome 1: Improved coordination of agroecology research and sharing of experiences in the region through the RMRN-network, in collaboration with farmer organisations / unions, extension agents, market actors and other grassroots practitioners

COMPONENT 2: Developing a Learning Network

Outcome 2: A growing number of agroecology scholars and trained practitioners in the region are equipped with skills, knowledge and relevant tools

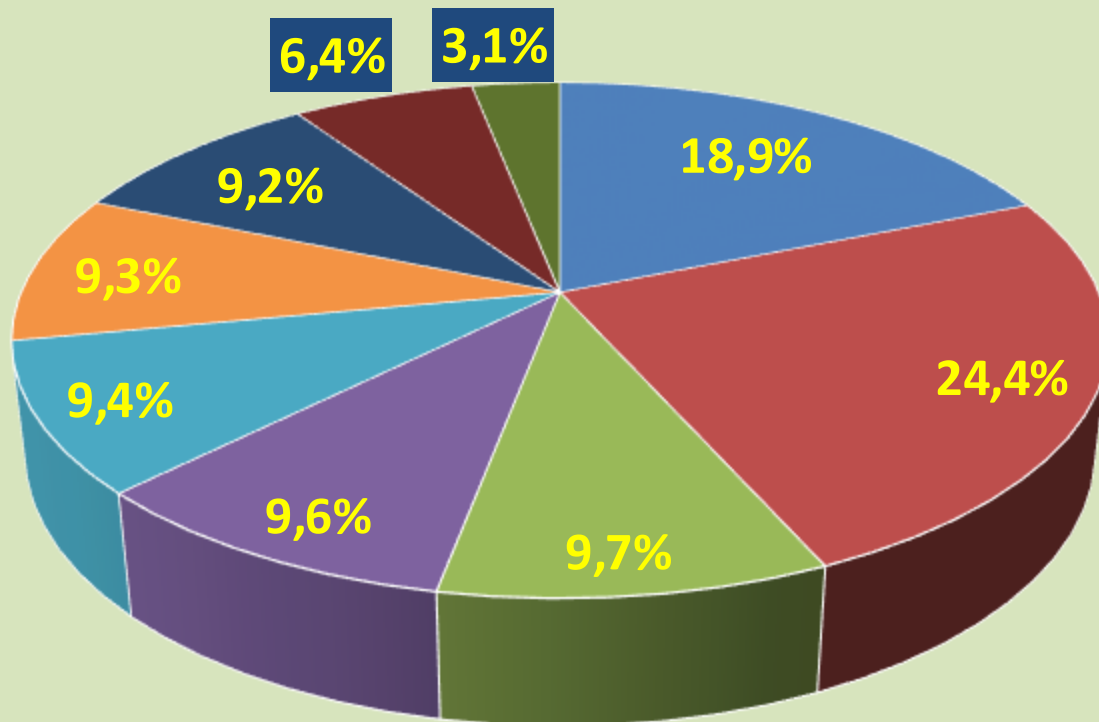
COMPONENT 3: Knowledge Management and Communications

Outcome 3: Increased availability and awareness of AE knowledge materials, methodologies and tools including innovations of regional actors

COMPONENT 4: Evidence-based Policy Analysis and Advice

Outcome 4: An improved policy environment for gender-sensitive AE transitions at local, national and regional levels

RAENS 4YEAR BUDGET ALLOCATION OF 5.28 Million EUROS



■ CCARDESA ■ UCT ■ CIFOR-ICRAF ■ LUANAR ■ ZARI ■ MUAST ■ SUA ■ FiBL ■ YPARD

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RAENS Project Coordination Arrangements

- 1. CCARDESA is the Lead Applicant to account to EUD**
- 2. Project Steering Committee**
- 3. Project Advisory Board (Appointed)**
- 4. Collaboration with other Agroecology initiatives**

Center for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa

Current RAENS Advisory Board Members

No	ORGANISATION / INITIATIVE
1	Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI) and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)
2	ESAFF (East and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum)
3	Chinhoyi University of Technology
4	Cornell University
5	RUFORUM
6	EU Joint Research Centre (JRC)
7	Southern African Regional Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (SARFAAS)
8	FARA
9	CCARDESA
10	UCT

NEXT STEPS

- 1. Following Signing of the Finance Agreement by EUD and CCARDESA on 16th Dec, 2024,**
- 2. Project Inception was held 25-27 Feb, 2025**
- 3. Assessment of consortium members by CCARDESA Secretariat**
- 4. Signing of the agreements by CCARDESA and the individual consortium members**
- 5. Measures underway towards implementation**



www.ccardesa.org

Thank You

