

Group Break Out Session #1 Information Management and Data Sharing Issues and Status Wednesday, June 5, 2002 (morning)

1. Information, Uses and Users

Identify what **natural resource and food security** information products are available at local, national, regional and global scales for Southern Africa.

For each information product identify current (C) and potential (P) uses and users ? Try to quantify the current and potential size of the user communities?

If possible, try to prioritize the information products and their uses (High / Medium / Low) relative to national and regional strategic priorities and needs, relative to Poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS epidemic, Regional Integration, Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Gender Equity.

What is the quality of the existing information (timeliness – how often produced; comprehensiveness- content and extent; accuracy-resolution)?



Is the user community satisfied with the product – does it meet the needs?

Consider using a table (see below) to capture the discussion notes.

| Information Need | Info. Uses and User (C/P) | Priority (H/M/L) | Quality | User Satisfaction |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------|-------------------|
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2. Information Production and Support

Who produces/generates the current information?

Where does the funding support come from? Is it sufficient to do the job?

Is the information available, accessible and documented for users? If yes, how can it be accessed? If not, why can't it be accessed?

Consider using a table (see below) to capture the discussion notes.

| Information Need | Producer/Generator | Funding | Availability and Accessibility |
|------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
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3. Information Sharing

Which information products are shared between local and national levels; between nations, between national and regional levels; and regional and global levels.

For each information product what are the key issues that limit broader access, use and sharing.

What are the mechanisms and procedures for sharing and exchange.

Are there any formal publishing and access policies and regulations requiring sharing of specific information? Describe.

Are there any copyright, liability, freedom of information (FOI), cost recovery issues regarding publishing and sharing of specific information? Describe.

Consider using a table (see below) to capture the discussion notes.

| Data/ Information | Sharing | Key Issues reg. Sharing | Mechanisms / Procedures | Policies and Regs. | Copyright, FOI, Liability |
|-------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
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Group Break Out Session #2 Information Management and Sharing Solutions Tuesday, June 5, 2002 (afternoon)

Given information management and data sharing issues and status, define and describe potential solutions to strengthen current or enable new capacities. The following components can be used as a guide:

- Management Framework – what enabling organizational structures are needed. Identify any existing structures that could be leveraged.
- Information Policies and Standards – what policies and standards are needed (e.g., copyright/ownership, liability, privacy/security, maintenance). Identify any existing policies and standards which could be leveraged.
- Information/Data and Metadata - identify additional requirements for natural resource and food security information at local, national and regional scales and requirements for their documentation.
- Capacities – what additional or new technical and management capacity is required to support proposed activities.
- Tools – what tools are required to further strengthen the creation and publishing of natural resource and food security information.
- Telecommunications and Technology – what additional technologies and telecommunications networks are required to support the creation and dissemination of information.
- Processes/Procedures – describe any required enhancements to existing information management/sharing processes and/or identify new ones.

Prioritize the solution components based on an implementation-pay offs:

- Which ones are most important to longer-term success (high payoff).
- Which ones can be perused in the short term to demonstrate results and build support (easily implemented).

**Group Break Out Session #3
Work Planning
Thursday, June 6, 2002 (morning)**

For each solution component identify main implementation activities that need to be pursued.

For each activity identify who are the key implementation stakeholders (organizations or individuals) that need to be involved.

What are the key factors that need to be considered in order to have a successful implementation, e.g., funding, regional commitment, integrated approach, etc. For each issue identify the potential impacts.

Assuming funding and other considerations can be dealt with, define a realistic schedule for implementation. Also identify any major activity dependencies.

For each activity identify the expected outcome and expected benefits to end-users.

If possible, identify the level of financial resources required (in broad terms) to implement each solution component and undertake associated activities.

**Group Break Out Session #4
Roles of External Stakeholders
Thursday, June 6, 2002 (afternoon)**

FAO-GTOS has proposed the concept of a Regional Natural Resources and Food Security Information Resource Center.

- Does the concept make sense? Is an Information Resource Center required?
- Does the Center have to be a new organization, or can it be added to an existing organization? If added to an existing organization, which one? What are the pros and cons of each?
- What should the Center's roles and responsibilities be?
- What is the best organizational structure and relationship to key stakeholders, i.e., to SADC, national institutions, etc.?

Who are the other external stakeholders, i.e., donors, international organizations, etc.?
What role can they play in the implementation activities?