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Agência Suíça de Desenvolvimento e Cooperação

Secretaria de Estado para Assuntos Económicos

# Regional Programme Southern Africa RPSA

## Coordinating Centre for Agricultural research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA).

**Duration:** 2 Years (1.12.2011-  
31.12.2013)

**Budget:** CHF 1,830 000-00

**Implementing Agency:** Forum for  
Agricultural Research in Africa  
(FARA) Secretariat.

**Partners:** SADC-FANR, National  
Research Institutions, CGIAR  
centres, USAID, World bank

**Project location:** Gaborone,  
Botswana

### Current Situation

The need to coordinate agricultural research and development in the SADC region has been recognised for a long time. The SADC region is losing a lot in terms of resources and opportunities as it does not have a Sub-regional Research Organisation (SRO) like other regions. The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) was established in July 2011 to coordinate agricultural research and development in order to promote technology generation, dissemination and adoption, which will contribute to improved food security and livelihoods in the SADC region. Following the handover of CCARDESA in August 2011, the Board of Directors developed the work plan for the 18-month start-up phase (October 2011 – March 2013) during which the institutional structures and administrative systems will be put in place, together with revision and finalisation of the first 5-year Medium Term Operational Plan (MTOPI)

### Swiss Objectives

The objective of the project is to ensure coordination of research and investments in agriculture in the SADC region through the support of a fully operative CCARDESA as a regional institution mandated and supported by SADC member states with a proper governing body. Five major objectives have been identified for CCARDESA: (1) to coordinate and promote collaboration among regional and national agricultural research and extension systems (NARS) through regional and international cooperation, (2) to facilitate the exchange of information and technology among the SADC region, (3) to promote SADC region partnerships between public, private, civil society and international organizations in R&D; (4) to improve agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption in the region through collective efforts, training and capacity building; and (5) to strengthen national R&D institutions by mobilizing human, financial and technological resources to implement and sustain demand-driven activities.

### What will change?

Through CCARDESA, regional and national agricultural research and extension organizations will be able to collaborate on SADC priority issues that impact on food security. This will include exchange of information, and technology for the advantage of poor communities. Training and capacity building programs will be able to be well coordinated to ensure that SADC member states benefit and are aligned with best practices and procedures on agricultural research and extension. National research and development institutions will be able to tap into CCARDESA for support on human, financial and technological resources required to implement activities aligned with SADC food security priorities.

SADC, will have a dedicated research and development implementing arm that addresses agricultural research issues that affect member states. The SADC comprehensive agenda for regional agricultural productivity investments will also be implemented by CCARDESA.

### Contacts

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