

PRESENTATION TO THE AGRICULTURE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURE CAPE TOWN



Outline

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 - Enhance bilateral political and socio-economic relations
 - Promote the reform of the global governance systems
 - Facilitate human resource development and strengthen organizational capacity to deliver on the government programme
- The 4th World Congress on Rural Women
- Follow up to the Parliamentarian Dialogue on NEPAD



Introduction

- ❑ The International Relations Strategy of the DoA draws its mandate from the South African Foreign Policy, the Cabinet Lekgotla Priorities and the International Relations Peace and Security Cluster
- ❑ The strategy is aligned to, and is in support of, other Departments such as DFA, DTI and DWAF
- ❑ Provinces also play an important role in the realisation of the strategy
- ❑ Implementation of the strategy is mainly through bilateral engagements and participation in multilateral agencies
- ❑ The NEPAD/CAADP is the rallying point for all the departmental engagements – whether bilateral or multilateral



Objectives of the IR Strategy

- ❑ To represent South Africa's agriculture interests:
 - through the development and consolidation of bilateral relations (with a special focus on Africa and South South Cooperation)
 - in multilateral institutions
 - through sourcing international assistance to contribute to the delivery of the DoA priority programmes.



Objectives of the IR Strategy

- The strategy hinges on the following pillars:
 - Trade - increased international trade
 - Technology – (and Research collaboration)
 - Training (human resource development, mentorship and technical assistance)
 - Politics (establishment and consolidation of bilateral and multilateral relations at a high political level, and implementation of high level political initiatives)
 - People to People interaction (multi-stakeholder dialogue, farmer to farmer exchanges, academic collaborations, student exchanges etc).



Priority 1: Consolidation of the African Agenda

- Agriculture development and food insecurity remain major challenges for the continent
- South Africa continues to be called upon to provide:
 - technical support in agricultural development as part of post conflict reconstruction (Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, etc;
 - food aid during periods of conflict and/or drought (Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique); and
 - to promote intra-African trade through assisting in the development of sanitary and phytosanitary standards (Namibia, Mozambique, SADC)



Priority 1: Consolidation of the African Agenda (cont)

- Two processes undertaken in this financial year to strengthen the department's intervention in the rest of Africa in support of NEPAD/CAADP:
 - An Africa Workshop was held with inputs from DTI, DFA and PDAs on the African Agenda, information sharing on developments in the region (in particular the DRC and Sudan); and harmonisation of engagements (knowing who does what and where – example of Mozambique)
 - A forum of Agribusinesses and the department formed with the same objective of sharing information and developing a coherent strategy of engagements with the rest of the continent. The Forum, now known as JADAFSA was launched on September 6th and the concept together with the action plan will be tabled at the Presidential Working Group meeting of September 28th.



Priority 1: Consolidation of African Agenda (cont)

- Engagement with the SADC Secretariat
 - Main objective is to contribute towards the effectiveness of the secretariat in the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (RISDP), in particular the FANR component of the programme
 - To this end, working with the DFA to appoint a suitable candidate to fill SAs quota at the secretariat, which currently stands at zero
 - A number of factors, among others, the salary levels offered by SADC, has been raised as contributing to the disinterest of South Africans in taking up positions at SADC



Priority 1: Consolidation of the African Agenda

□ SADC Heads of State and Government Summit

- Held in Maseru in August
- Considered progress in the implementation of the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security of May 2004
 - Specific measures undertaken by member states include targetted seed and fertilizer subsidies; harmonisation of seed regulations, implementation of land reform programmes and promotion of small scale irrigation (data on all these captured by the secretariat through questionnaires which SA also submitted)



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Priority 1: Consolidation of the African Agenda

- Considered Budgetary Allocation to Agriculture
 - SA did not submit report as we are in the process of the articulation of the 10% budget through the National Medium Term Investment Programme in collaboration with the FAO
- Review of the Regional Food Security Situation
 - The general outlook is that the food security situation is improving as a result of measures taken by members as well as improved rainfall. The current assessment indicate that the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance in the region has dropped significantly from 9.71m in 2005/06 to about 3m in 2006/07



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Priority 2: SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- Department actively involved with the IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) processes
 - IBSA Agriculture Cooperation Agreement signed in Brasilia during the IBSA Summit
 - Agreement places emphasis on capacity building in the technical field
 - Cooperation tested in the implementation of the Guinea Bissau project on livestock development
 - The Bio-fuel initiative also a rallying point for the three countries



Priority 3: Bilateral Cooperation with EU member states

- Cooperation with the United Kingdom Royal Agricultural College
 - Department completed negotiations with the Royal Agricultural College, which will offer graduate and post graduate training in Agriculture and Land Reform to South Africans
 - Project officially launched by minister in June, 2006
 - Department collaborating with the Netherlands government in improving training at agricultural colleges. (what is the outcome of this project?)
 - An assessment of our collaboration with the Australian government on LandCare is taking place in Nelspruit from 18 – 22 September. This will assist in determining how we should take the cooperation forward



Priority 4: Promote the Reform of the Global Governance System

- ❑ The United Nations and its agencies are in the process of restructuring
- ❑ Good news is that SA as head of G77 and China will be appointed to the security council this year and is emphasising respect for multilateralism
- ❑ UN bodies of importance to DoA and sector are:
 - The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
 - This is also undergoing restructuring
 - SA input through the embassy, the agricultural attache and DDGSSP participation in the Programme Committee of the FAO
 - South Africa to be member of Council in 2007-2009
 - IFAD
 - An important development financing institution
 - South Africa nominated to the Board and represented by DoA
 - Issue of paying membership fees still being discussed with Treasury
 - World Food Programme
 - Conduit of Food Aid in the region
 - South Africa has observer status

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Priority 5: Facilitate HR development, strengthen organisational Capacity to deliver

- An international training strategy is nearing completion to take advantage of opportunities provided by both bilateral and multilateral engagements
- Other capacity building activities already dealt with in the previous discussions
- The approach is to take maximum advantage of opportunities provided by our international engagements to address our skills gap.

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Follow up to Parliamentarians Dialogue on NEPAD

- In order to popularize CAADP, the dialogue agreed on the following:
- AU/NEPAD Level
 - Communicate the Maputo Declaration to all stakeholders, including governments, relevant ministries, parliaments, civil society and private sector
 - The NEPAD Secretariat and AU Commission should enhance the monitoring of these agreements, including the Maputo Declaration for all member states
 - Provide a website with real-time information on spending targets and achievements
 - Harmonize definitions of agriculture and total spending. Support the NEPAD initiative on agricultural expenditure tracking within government institutions and the necessary budget translations
 - Host regular sub-regional seminars, to include government, parliament as well as representatives from the farmer organisations

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Follow up to Parliamentarians Dialogue on NEPAD

- NATIONAL LEVEL
 - Immediately internalize, formalize and institutionalize the Maputo Declaration (MD) in national budgeting process. Prepare Cabinet memos, provide high-level briefings within government, legislative branches as well as stakeholder groups. Integrate the MD into national medium-term planning and budgeting systems
 - Improve the quality of agricultural investment allocations
 - Enhance internal capacities to utilize budget allocation effectively
 - Document and showcase past agricultural successes
 - Make agricultural education attractive

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Follow up to Parliamentarians Dialogue on NEPAD

- Parliamentarians
 - Designate the agriculture and associated committees of parliament to monitor progress towards the CAADP goals
 - Annually verify the implementation of the CAASP programme, including progress towards the Maputo Declaration by reviewing annual budget allocations and actual expenditure
 - Engage in sub-regional dialogues
 - Alert constituencies, including youth, men, women and political parties, to the importance of agriculture and increased investment in agriculture
 - Require briefing by the executive to parliament on all initiatives related to agriculture

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Follow up to Parliamentarians Dialogue on NEPAD

- Parliamentarians
 - Monitor government progress in achieving the Maputo declaration
 - Introduce private member resolutions advocaing achievement of the MD
 - Parliamentarians should take a leading role in fighting HIV/AIDS
 - Encourage exchanges of experience and mutual learning with other parliamentarians and technical experts

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The 4th World Congress on Rural Women

- An international congress, which came to the department through the Department of Social Development
- The previous congress was held in Spain in 2002 and South Africa received the bowl to host through Mrs Graca Machel
- Expectation was that SA would host this year in October
- However, matter brought to DoAs attention in July – too late to host an international congress at such short notice
- Cabinet Memorandum has been drafted and will be presented to cabinet next week
- Date of congress changed to April 23 – 25, 2007 and venue is Durban ICC
- A national steering committee has been set up under the chairpersonship of Ms Titi
- Committee to be informed of developments and an invitation to participate will come from the

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!!!**

**QUESTIONS AND
DISCUSSION**

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