



## **A Roundtable Discussion on Drought Resilient Agriculture in Response to the Southern Africa Drought**

### **Background**

This year, Southern Africa is experiencing the worst drought witnessed in 35 years, with widespread crop failures exacerbating chronic malnutrition and likely the result of a very strong El Nino. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization has projected that almost 40 million people could face food insecurity by the peak of the coming lean season, between January and March 2017, when the effects of the drought are expected to peak.

SADC has declared this drought a regional disaster and launched an appeal of about US\$ 2.7 billion. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization warns that some 23 million people are in need of urgent support to be able to produce enough food to feed themselves and avoid being dependent on humanitarian assistance until mid-2018

And yet, some farmers, for instance in some parts of Malawi, who are planting more drought-tolerant crops—cassava, sweet potato and pigeon pea—and using better agricultural practices are not only surviving the drought, they are expecting to generate a good income on this year's harvest.

### **Roundtable – Purpose**

In the build up to the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2016 to be held in Nairobi next month which will explore ways of securing gains made in the agricultural sector, AGRA and partners will convene a breakfast roundtable on drought resilience on 18 August 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The roundtable's discussions will be through the lens of resilience programming—how to anticipate crises like Southern Africa's current drought and prepare the people on the ground for the worst impacts—to ensure that it is embraced by most development initiatives. It will highlight best practices and explore opportunities for their replication across the continent explored.

### **Format and Run of Show**

A 10 -15min keynote presentation will be made setting the scene for a 50min facilitated "fireside-style" panel discussion. Panelists will be asked a question that will guide their remarks.. This will be followed by a moderated Q&A session.

A policy brief on climate change and agriculture by AGRA that will inform the overall framing of the roundtable's discussions will also be launched.

7:00 – 7:30	Guests arrival, registration
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 – 8:45	Introduction by the MC and a curtain raiser video
8:45 – 8:55	Opening remarks and setting the scene
8:55 – 9:10	Key note statement
9:10 – 9:50	Guided panel discussion
9:50 – 10:50	Moderated Q&A session
10:50 -11:00	Closing statement
11:00	Refreshments and Departure

### **Participants**

The roundtable will be attended by about 50-60 people who will include top media representative from Africa and beyond, government representatives at the level of ministers or permanent secretaries, development partners, research institutions, private sector mainly agri-businesses, farmers associations and academia.

### **Date and Venue**

The roundtable will be held on 18 August in Johannesburg, South Africa at the Hyatt Regency Johannesburg.