

SOUTHERN AFRICA GRAIN NETWORK (SAGNET) COMMUNIQUE

The Southern Africa Grain Network is a not for profit organisation supporting regional efforts for private sector engagement in grain trade and policy in Southern Africa. SAGNET's vision is to be a vibrant, well integrated, viable and sustainable grain value chain network that is contributing to the creation of wealth, employment and food and nutrition security.

At its fourth meeting of the board of directors, members of SAGNET drawn from countries of Southern Africa including Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia met on 26th -27th October, 2017 at the Hotel Avenida in Maputo, Mozambique agreed to:

(i) REVIEW the Impact of Trade Restrictions specifically non-transparent and unpredictable Import and Export bans on grains

(ii) REVIEW and propose alternative (appropriate) food trade policy options that guarantee food security and economic growth while enhancing trade.

NOTING that the SADC region has a great food production potential with the capacity to feed itself, SAGNET reiterates the need to work together and address common challenges affecting the grain value chain

Further RECOGNISING that ad-hoc restrictive market and trade related policies constrain initiatives promoting agricultural productivity as well as developing domestic and regional value chains.

AGREED that optimum agricultural value chain outputs can be greatly increased by unlocking the various policy bottlenecks and thereby enhancing trade policy environment

RECOGNISING the different realities in member states of SADC in addressing food security objectives, SAGNET avails itself to the service of governments as a partner in the development of a CONSULTATIVE, RULES BASED and PREDICATBLE framework for grain trade policy formulation and implementation.

The SAGNET board meeting ADOPTED its Communiqué as read by the Chairperson Mr. Jacob Mwale

DONE at Maputo in the Republic of Mozambique on 27th October, 2017

ENQUIRIES:

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