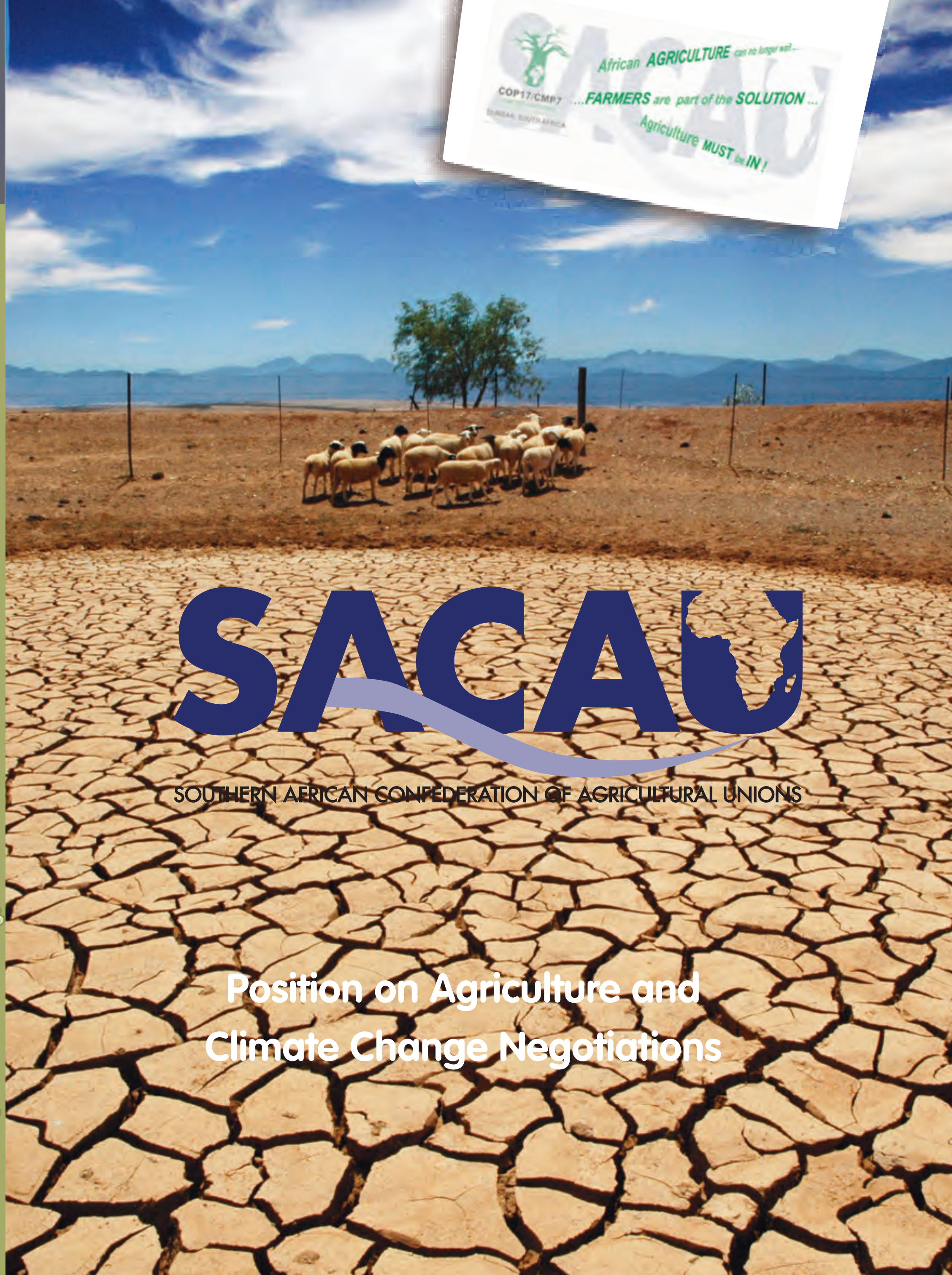
The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) is a membership based organisation that represents the interests of farmers in southern Africa. Its core membership is open to national farmers' unions based in the region. It currently has 16 core members from 12 countries in southern Africa:

- Botswana Agricultural Union (BAU)
- Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU)
- Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM)
- Confédération des Agriculteurs Malagasy (FEKRITAMA)
- Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM)
- National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)
- União Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC)
- Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU)
- Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU)
- Seychelles Farmers Association (SEYFA)
- Agri-South Africa (AgriSA)
- Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU)
- Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT)
- Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)
- Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe (CFU)
- Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU).

SACAU is recognised as the main dialogue partner on agricultural matters by the two regional economic communities in southern Africa, namely the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and collaborates with other regional and international institutions and agencies dealing with agriculture and rural development.



SACAU

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIONS

Position on Agriculture and Climate Change Negotiations

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SACAU

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIONS

POSITION ON AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS

THE FOLLOWING IS THE POSITION OF FARMERS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA REPRESENTED BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIONS (SACAU) REGARDING AGRICULTURE AND THE CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE 17TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP17) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC):[1]

PREAMBLE

Stressing the role of agriculture as the main foundation for the economies of most African countries, and its significant contribution to food security, employment, livelihoods and poverty alleviation for millions of households on the continent;

Recognizing that feeding a rapidly growing population under a changing climate is a major challenge;

Noting that agriculture is the most climate sensitive sector and the most vulnerable to climate change;

Noting that predicted climate change hot spots coincide with areas where food security is already a major problem;

Noting the severe impacts that climate change is having on agriculture, rural livelihoods and economies in Southern Africa, especially on the production of major food crops, livestock and fisheries, and expressing concern that these are predicted to worsen in the future;

Noting that small island states in Southern Africa face specific climate change impacts;

Underlining the high levels of vulnerability among farmers in Africa, especially women and youth, their lack of assets, technologies and capabilities, to cope with and adapt to climate change;

Recognizing that without sustained adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as the technologies and financing to support them, the goals of food security and poverty reduction will not be met and the progress made in economic development could be jeopardised on the continent;

Recognizing the potential of climate smart agriculture to contribute to food security, adaptation and mitigation, the close linkages between these three objectives and their contribution to development, and the need to tackle them jointly;

Emphasizing farmers' stewardship role in managing landscapes which include forests and other ecosystems, and hence the need to put them at the centre of efforts to respond to climate change;

Noting with concern the significant contribution of non-agricultural activities to climate change;

Acknowledging Africa's efforts to put in place frameworks and mechanisms to manage climate change responses on the continent, including climate change funding (e.g. African Green Fund, AUC/NPCA Climate Change & Agriculture Framework);

Expressing concern about the absence of agriculture in the current agreed text of the UNFCCC mainly due to the coupling of the agricultural sector with bunker fuels in the negotiations as well as related trade issues;

Expressing concern on the possibility of a lack of a binding agreement after the expiry of the Kyoto protocol;

And **reiterating** the importance of conducting the negotiations at COP17 in Durban in accordance with universally accepted principles of equity and common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

Now therefore the farmers of southern Africa hereby:

1. Call for a secured text on agriculture in the UNFCCC negotiations in the common vision for Long-Term Cooperative Action (LCA);
2. Advocate, in particular, for agriculture to be decoupled from bunker fuels and for trade related issues to be handled separately under the international trade negotiations;
3. Call for a work program for agriculture under the Subsidiary Board for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) that covers both adaptation and mitigation to maximise the synergies and counter the trade-offs between the two, informed by science and aimed especially at meeting the needs of farmers in developing countries;
4. Call for binding arrangements in the post Kyoto regime;
5. Advocate for the rationalisation of any mitigation measures and targets that would be required from agriculture in order not to compromise productivity and food security goals, and more broadly, sustainable growth and development;
6. Advocate for greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting systems in agriculture, which combine the current area-based accounting with efficiency-based accounting;
7. Urge Annex 1 countries to honour the pledges they made for financing adaptation and mitigation in developing countries and reiterate that they commit new, additional and predictable financial support;
8. Urge the global community to provide resources to support Africa's initiatives and frameworks in responding to climate change;
9. Call for adequate allocation of Green Climate Fund resources to agriculture and advocate for the participation of Farmers' Organisations in the Fund's governing bodies;
10. Advocate for the development of new innovative ways of financing climate change adaptation and mitigation;
11. Call for simplification of the financing mechanisms put in place within the framework of the UNFCCC, especially the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), to make them accessible to farmers in developing countries;
12. Call for transparent and inclusive governance of climate finance resources in the future;
13. Urge the international community to support early action programmes that mainstream adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, through regional and national institutions and programmes;
14. Call for inclusion of agriculture in The Technology Mechanism established by the global climate negotiations to facilitate enhanced action on technology development and transfer in developing countries;
15. Affirm their commitment to outcomes of the global climate negotiations that do not aggravate the current levels of GHG emissions or compromise the contribution of the agricultural sector to food security, rural livelihoods, sustainable growth and development now and in the future.

[1] Position endorsed by the following organisations: ACT (Tanzania), Agri-SA (South Africa), BAU (Botswana), CFU (Zimbabwe), CPM (Madagascar), Fekritama (Madagascar), FUM (Malawi), MCA (Mauritius), NASFAM (Malawi), NAU (Namibia), NNFU (Namibia), LENAFU (Lesotho), SEYFA (Seychelles), SNAC (Comoros), SNAU (Swaziland), UNAGRICO (DRC), ZNFU (Zambia), ZFU (Zimbabwe).