



About The Center for Agriculture and Food Policy

Overview

Established in August 2020 and transitioning from Policy Technical Assistance under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) managed Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP), “Strengthening Evidence and Analysis to Influence Policy and Private Sector Investments”, the Center for Agriculture and Food Policy (CAFP) is a locally registered Trust for agricultural policy research, outreach and capacity building. The Center falls under a diversified Board of Trustees drawn from the public sector, regional and international policy think tanks, private sector stakeholders and experts in public policy providing robust oversight. In its first 3 years of operation, the Center will build on the financial management system and operational procedures from Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI), a Zambian premier agricultural policy research Centre of Excellence and systems inherited from the LFSP.

The beneficiaries of CAFP activities and programmes include, but not limited to the following: government ministries responsible for lands, agriculture, fisheries, water and rural resettlement, social welfare, climate, industry, commerce, finance, and local government; quasi government bodies; private institutions; farmer organizations; civil society groups; members of academia; and local, regional and international development partners.

CAFP Mandate and Strategic Focus

CAFP’s principal mandate is to coordinate, implement and conduct objective research and analysis to provide evidence-based policy solutions needed to sustainably transform Zimbabwe’s agricultural and food systems. The Center’s programmes and activities will aid the country in dealing with food and nutrition insecurity and poverty, and stimulate the country’s agricultural competitiveness, promote trade, create jobs and invigorate rural and urban economies. CAFP coverage is national in scope with structures and systems to provide specialized support at provincial, district and individual institution level.

The activities of CAFP are broadly anchored on four core operational pillars as follows:

- 1) Research and policy development;
- 2) Partnerships, outreach and communications;
- 3) Capacity strengthening for policy implementation;
- 4) Governance and financial sustainability.

CAFP Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives

Vision: A competitive food and nutrition secure Zimbabwe.

Mission: To provide competitive-based solutions necessary to shape productive, sustainable, inclusive and resilient agricultural and food systems; alleviate poverty; create wealth and sustain the environment.

Strategic Objectives

1. To shape a productive, sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agricultural and food system that is capable of achieving broad-based agricultural growth and development to end hunger and malnutrition, and reduce poverty through high quality evidence based public research goods on policies, investments, and programmes.
2. To conduct, catalyse, assist, curate and support policy research and analysis in Zimbabwe into all aspects of agriculture.
3. To integrate research findings into national, regional, and international investments, policy strategies, dialogue, and programmes.
4. To promote platforms for dialogue and engaging to enable agriculture sector stakeholders to effectively participate in agricultural (all value chains) policy development and implementation.
5. To establish strategic alliances with institutions that have similar and complementary mandates
6. To support the development and strengthening of capacity for policy research, analysis and outreach of public and private institutions through the establishment of strategic alliances, and organizational capacity building of key agriculture sectors stakeholders.
7. To build an environment of trust, transparency and accountability necessary for fostering long-term investment, financial stability and business integrity of the Center
8. To responsibly generate and manage resources in order to enhance the long-term sustainability of the Center.

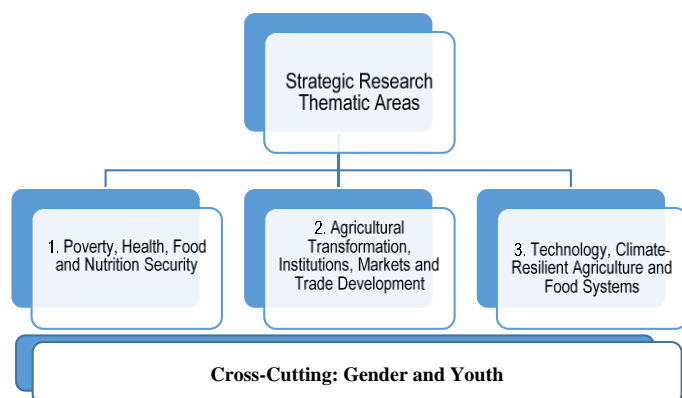
Methodology and Approach

CAFP's approach and specific research themes and activities are consistent with the objectives and focal areas of National Development Strategies and the country's agriculture sector priorities, Vision 2030, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our approach includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Partnering with government, farmer unions, academic institutions, cooperating partners, civil society, individual analysts and decision makers;
- Integrating research, outreach, capacity building, and institutional strengthening policy development and implementation;
- Conducting policy analysis with attention to implementation - in particular provide input and technical support to actualise, monitor, evaluate and learn lessons from implementing the country's agricultural transformation strategy;
- "Disaggregated" research that looks below the macro level to examine sub national, community, household, and gender-level impacts, and fully explore the dynamics of poverty, gender and agriculture; and
- Taking into account how regional agricultural and food security challenges affect Zimbabwe's policy decision processes and vice versa.

CAFP conducts empirical research and outreach on core policy themes affecting medium to long-term agricultural growth and food security in Zimbabwe. In addition, the Center provides "rapid-response" policy analysis on important topics that emerge suddenly and that are judged to require immediate attention to help guide policy discussions and decisions. CAFP's efforts are founded on the premise that improved empirical information as well as improved capacity to generate such information about the behavior of farmers, consumers, and marketing agents can improve agricultural sector decision making as well as private sector performance in the country.

CAFP Strategic Research and Policy Development Thematic Areas



Thematic Area 1: Poverty, Health, Food and Nutrition Security

Creating synergies among agriculture, nutrition, health, and the other sectors that make up the entire food system—with consideration for gender differences in the process—can lead to great advances in tackling hunger and malnutrition. With a large segment of the rural population relying on Government-run or donor-based seasonal food and non-food safety net interventions for their food and nutrition security, it is important to carry out action-research to generate lessons to guide national policies aimed at innovatively dealing with food and nutrition insecurity in the country without overburdening the National Treasury.

Our work in this areas will focus on providing answers to the following indicative policy objectives/issues:

- Generate income and decent employment to feasible optimum levels, with a special focus on women and youth.
- Assuring national and household food and nutrition security in a sustainable and resilient manner.
- Increase production and productivity to ensure household self-sefficiency and generate surplus for industry consumption and exports.
- Options for improving diet quality for the poor and vulnerable households.
- Improving crop and livestock productivity and raise the gross agriculture production value.

Thematic Area 2: Agricultural Transformation, Institutions, Markets and Trade Development

Efficient agricultural markets and trade can encourage agriculture-led economic growth and food security in Zimbabwe. However, ineffective and often inconsistent policies, weak institutions, high transaction costs, increasing costs of doing business, and inadequate infrastructure hamper efforts to move toward a private sector-led market-oriented economy. These challenges lead to thin or missing markets, inadequate access to finance, and high production and marketing risks among others.

Zimbabwe has great potential to regain its status as the regional food breadbasket given the country's diverse agro-ecological diversity, water supplies, large tracts of arable farmland, and proximity to large neighbouring food-deficit markets. Also, the rapid rise in population and urbanization leading to high demand for diverse food commodities present great prospects for smallholder farmers to earn higher incomes from increased participation in the domestic markets and regional trade.

Our work in this thematic areas will focus on providing answers to the following indicative policy objectives/issues:

- Promoting access to rural financial services through innovative tools.
- Strengthening the coordination of farmer and commodity associations.
- Development of competitive and self-sustaining input supply system and mechanisms.
- Attracting local and foreign direct investment into agriculture.
- Export promotion and diversification into high value crops.
- Transferability and bankability of land tenure systems to unlock private funding.

Thematic Area 3: Technology, Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems

Agriculture's capacity to feed the growing Zimbabwean population is being threatened by climate change, compounded by widespread unsustainable farming practices and natural resources use. The growth in the country's population is raising the demands for food, energy, water, and land. A combination of factors including natural resource degradation and overexploitation imply that the resource base required for sustainable food production and natural resource management is becoming increasingly scarce. Climate change makes the choices more complicated and its interaction with poverty is intricate. Smallholder farmers who largely depend on rain-fed agricultural production and yet produce most of the staple crops are more vulnerable to climate variability.

The uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, irrigation, climate-resilient crop varieties, and animal breeds remains slow. Therefore, building climate resilience and prudent natural resource management are key going forward. There is an urgent need to find ways of making crops and livestock more resilient to extreme weather, pests, and diseases; and how to prevent the degradation of natural resources and biodiversity loss. In addition, the capacity of private sector, policy makers and smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe needs strengthening in order to effectively and sustainably manage the dwindling natural resources and plan and manage climate-smart farming systems for enhanced and sustained agricultural productivity and climate resilience. There is need to find innovative ways of financing the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe.

Research priorities: Research under this thematic area is sub divided into three sub themes-

- 1) Climate change and resilience;
- 2) Food systems, digital agriculture and technology;
- 3) Green agriculture

Our work in this thematic areas is sub divided into three sub themes- 1) Climate change and resilience; Food systems and technology and Green economy and will focus on answering the following indicative policy objectives/issues:

- Building resilience in Zimbabwe's food systems in the face of climate change.
- Enhancing Zimbabwe's food systems through increased use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the agricultural sector.
- Green agriculture to mitigate the impacts of climate change

For any further information please contact

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