



Dr JW Ochieng assisted by Dr CM Githunguli, Dr EM Ateka, Mr Victor Wasike and Mr C Lung'aho chaired the local organizing committee LOC).
Dr Mpoko Bokanga of AATF chairs the new IITA ISTRC-AB Executive Committee for 2004 to 2007. Other elected new office bearers are Vice-President to come from the next host country, J. Mkumbira as Secretary, C.

Githunguri as Assistant Secretary, G. Ssemakula as Treasurer, C. Egesi as Associate Editor, Wasillwa Wasike as East Africa Representative, G. Asumugha as West Africa Representative, D. Fontem as Central Africa Representative
The vacant positions that were not filled are the Editor and Southern Africa Representative.

NATIONAL TASK FORCES FOR MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ANGOLA, TANZANIA AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO ON CASSAVA

Dyton M Siyeni and N. M. Mahungu

IITA/SARRNET, P.O. Box 30258, Lilongwe Malawi

A meeting of stakeholders from various countries in the SADC region was organized by IITA/SARRNET in Pretoria, South Africa, between 23 to 26 August 2004 to discuss the draft concept note of SARRNET III. One of the recommendations was that participants take back to their respective countries the consolidated draft concept note for a wide discussion



Participants who attended the National Task Force workshop at Shirehighlands Hotel in Blantyre in Malawi

with other stakeholders, constitute national task forces (NTF), and organize a meeting for setting national priorities. So far Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo have already held their NTF meetings.

Malawi- the workshop was conducted in Blantyre at Shire Highlands hotel from 27th to 28th September 2004. The workshop drew over 37 participants from all sectors of cassava users including Public and private sectors, -Ministries of Agriculture; Trade; World Vision International (WVI), IFDC, Integrated Food Security Project (IFSP), Plan, IDEAA, FAO, Private - Packaging Industrial Malawi (Ltd) (PIM), Nzeru, Representative of Bakery Industries in Malawi-Kachere Bakery, Universities-

Bunda, Chanco, Farmers - Chitipi, Traders- Northern Corridor.

At the end of two days workshop, a National Task Force Executive committee for Malawi was elected and is as follows: Chair-Ministry of Agriculture, Vice Chairperson- Bunda College of Agriculture, Secretary-Packaging Industry Malawi, Vice secretary- ADMARC Investments, and Treasurer-World Vision International.

Zambia-the NTF meeting on root and tuber crops for Zambia was held on 5th and 6th December 2004 at the Commonwealth Youth Center, University of Zambia (UNZA) in Lusaka. Seven participants attended the meeting drawn from all the sectors including Mr. Able Chalwe (ARO-RTIP), Mr. Bright Lukumba Mwaungulu (Fimpulu Cassava Processors and Marketing Association), Dr. A. Muimba-Kankolongo (Copperbelt University), Mr. Nelson Chipawa (World Vision), Mr. Ivor Mukuka (Mount Makulu Research Station), Mrs. Rose Mary Ng'oma (Programme Against Malnutrition - PAM) and Mr. Grant Mulenga (RuralNet Associates Ltd).



Zambia NTF Executive Committee: the following persons were elected: Chairperson: Dr. A. Muimba-Kankolongo from the Copperbelt University; Vice Chairperson: Mrs. Mary Mukwavi, officer in charge of Food Security Programme at World; Secretary: Mr. Able Chalwe from RTIP, Ministry of Agriculture.

Angola-The NTF meeting was chaired by Dr. Moniz Paulo Mutunda and held on 24 September 2004 with 12 participants from various institutions. This meeting was preceded by a pre-meeting of 14 September 2004. The NTF committee was elected. Dr. Mutunda of Instituto de Investigação Agronómica (IIA) was elected as Chairman of the NTF while Dr. David Kiála of Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias, Augustine Neto University was elected Secretary.

Tanzania-the NTF meeting was held from 16th to 17th September 2004 where 26 participants attended the meeting. A total of twelve members were proposed to for NTF as follows; NGOS (2) Mr. Mwita Mchumi, PLAN INT Kisarawe; NPA; UNIVERSITIES (1) Prof. Faustine Lekule, Sokoine University of Agriculture; IITA/CGIAR (1) OIC (Dr. Edward Kanju), PRIVATE SECTOR (2) Peter Chisawillo, INTERMECH ENGINEERING LTD Salim Msellem, FARMERS CENTRE; FARMERS/CBOs (2) Mr. Maige, Temeke Dar es salaam, Mr. Mponeja, Sengerema, Mwanza; PUBLIC SECTOR (4) Mrs. Kiddo Mtunda, Root and Tuber (Secretary), Mr. Jeremiah Sato, Root and Tuber, TFNC (Name to be provided by the institute), DRD (Name to be provided) Chairman.

In Democratic Republic of Congo the meeting took place from 22nd to 23rd September 2004.

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Editorial Comments

Welcome to SARRNET ROOTS Newsletter for this year 2005. This Newsletter highlights technical issues from East and Southern African Countries, which are conducted by partners in root and tuber crops.

ROOTS is published twice a year to promote communication among researchers developments extension workers and farmers. This Newsletter is distributed free to institutions, private organization and individuals interested in cassava production and commercialization.

This newsletter targets all readers scientists, farmers, researchers, farmers associations clubs, faith based organizations nationally and internationally to share experiences on production, processing, utilization, and marketing of root and tuber crops. It also brings a number of factors that are emerging as determinants of adoption of cassava production, processing and commercialization. Partners and institutions involved in promoting root and tuber crops are most welcome to contribute their stories and experiences in the next Newsletter, which will be out in January, 2006.

Once again, we are appealing to all NGOs, farmers associations, institutions, private and public sectors CBOs to share experiences on root and tuber crops research for publication in the next issue.

Send your issues/articles to the following address
IITA/SARRNET, P.O. Box 30258, Lilongwe 3 Malawi. E-mail: sarnet@malawi.net

Look out in the next issue for the following issues

- Masinda Cassava Starch Officially Launched in Malawi
- Success stories on Cassava Industry Promotion Project in Malawi
- Commercialisation of cassava flour through Pilot sites in Malawi.
- Determination of Cyanogenic potential of improved cassava cultivars and their food product from National Root crops Research Institute-Umudike.

Acknowledgement

SARRNET would like to thank all those who contributed to this Roots Newsletter.