

# African Union

## Rural Economy and Agriculture

### AU/SAFGRAD

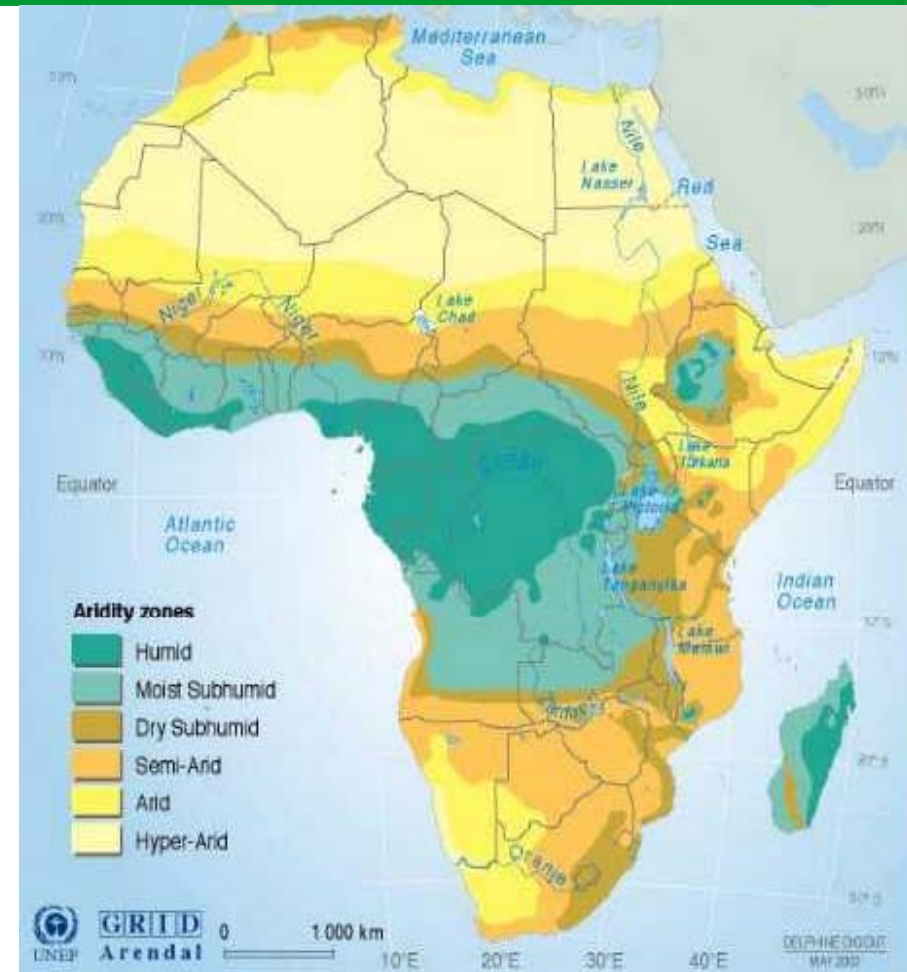


**Issues Challenges and opportunities for  
Improvement of rural livelihood in semi-arid Areas  
of Africa**



# Aridity Zones in Africa

- **Aridity belt**
  - Semi-Arid,
  - Dry sub-humid
  - Arid

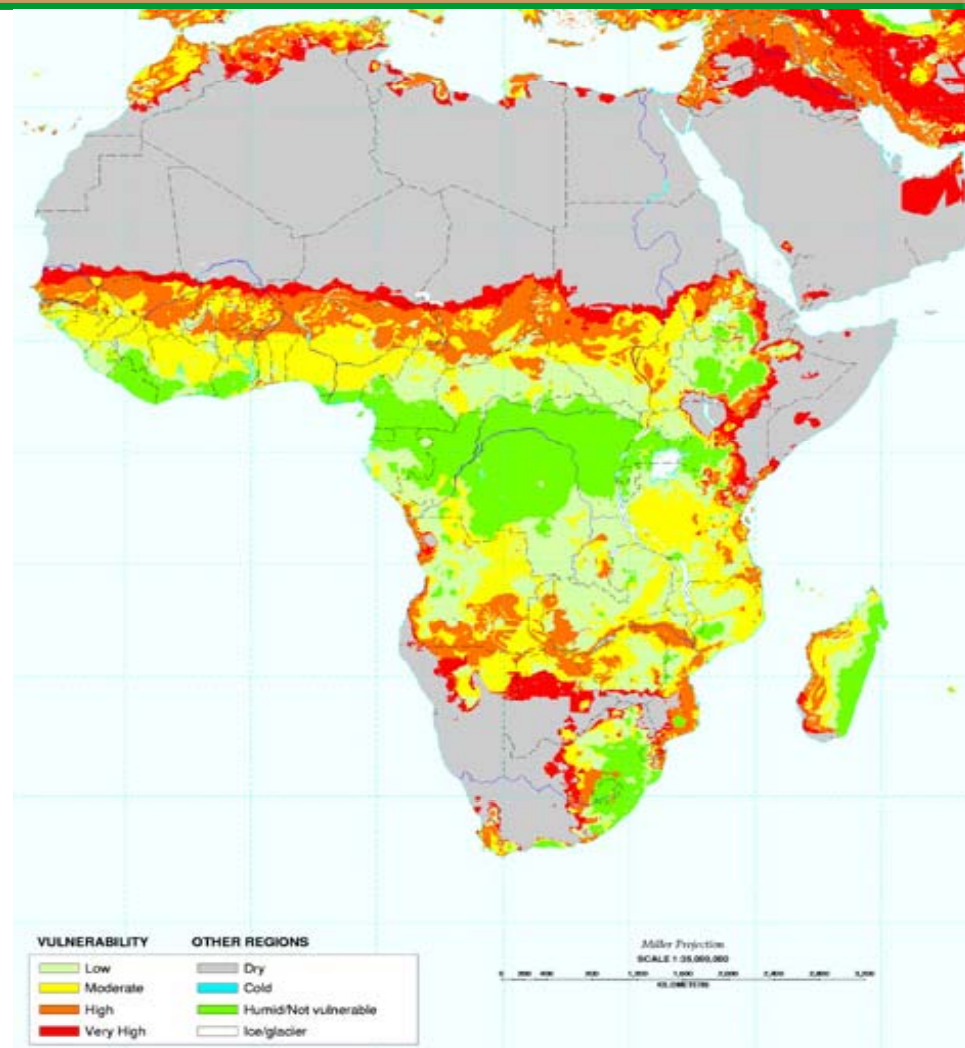


Source: World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*, Contribution of Working Group II to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

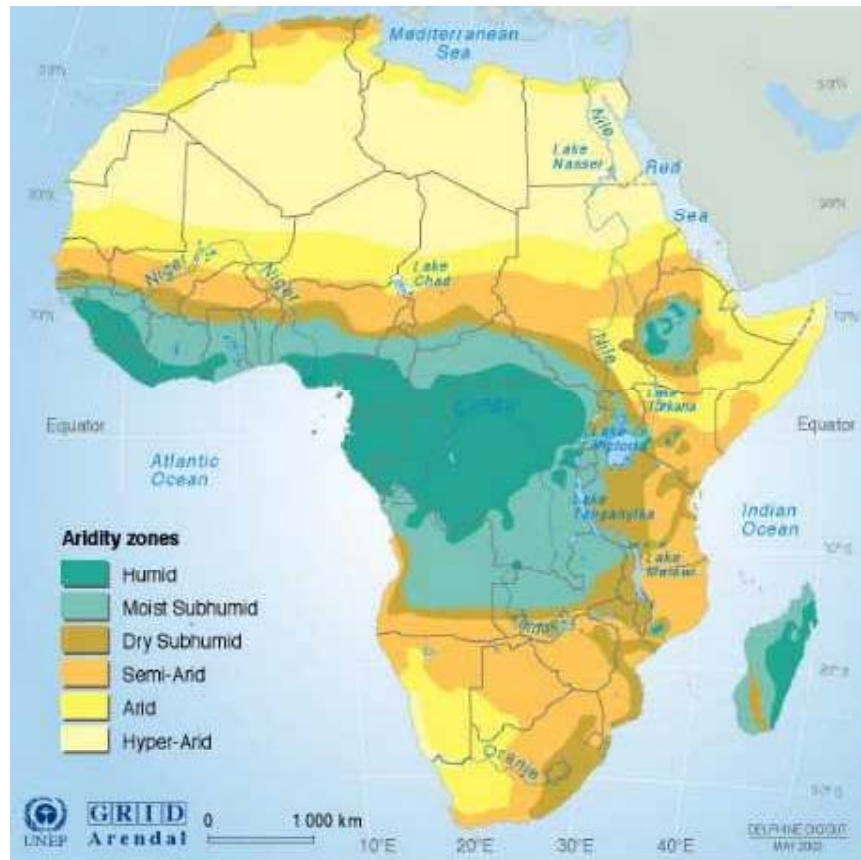


# Vulnerability to Desertification

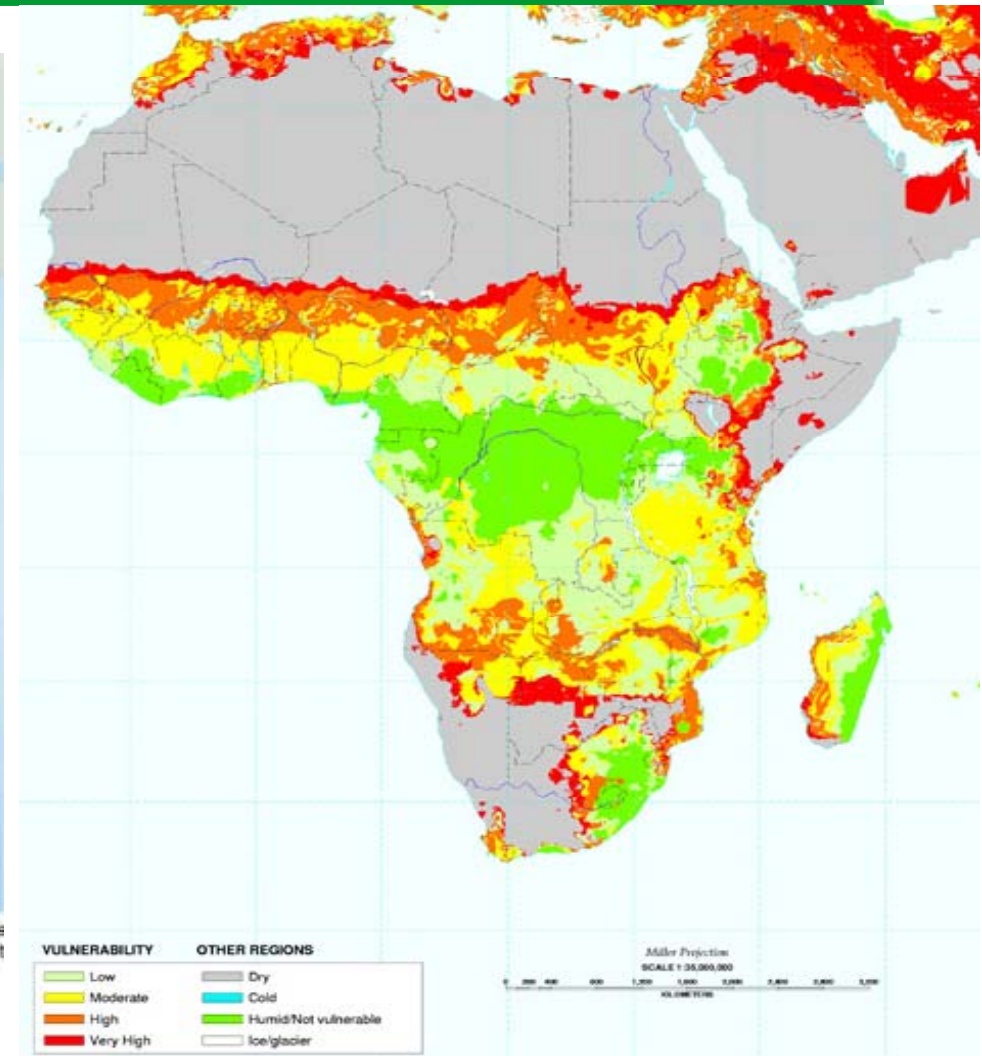
- Challenges:
  - Marginality
  - Fragility
  - Frequency and severity of drought
  - Hostility
  - Uncertainty
  - Poverty
  - Precariousness of livelihood processes



# Semi-Arid Zones are highly Vulnerable to Desertification



Source: World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*, Contribution of Working Group II to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)





# Policy Responses within AU Framework

- Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, Maputo (July 2003) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU
- Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa, Sirte (February 2004) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Extra-Ordinary Session of the AU



# CAADP Pillars

- **CAADP Pillars**

- 1. extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems,**
- 2. improving rural infrastructures and trade-related capacities for market access,**
- 3. increasing food supply and reducing hunger, and**
- 4. promotion of agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.**
- 5. CAADP Companion (livestock, fisheries, forestry)**



# Special Challenges require Special Responses

- **SAFGRAD's raison d'être**
  - AU's specialised technical office for promotion of agricultural research for development in semi-arid areas of Africa.
- **SAFGRAD – is also the institutional focal point for**
  - Thematic Programme Network on Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Farming Systems to Combat Desertification (TPN6) (RAP/UNCCD)



# The Background Document...

- **Makes attempt to:**
  - **Defining and elaborating the themes**
  - **Identifying the issues, challenges and opportunities surrounding each theme**
  - **Proposing specific actions to address the issues**



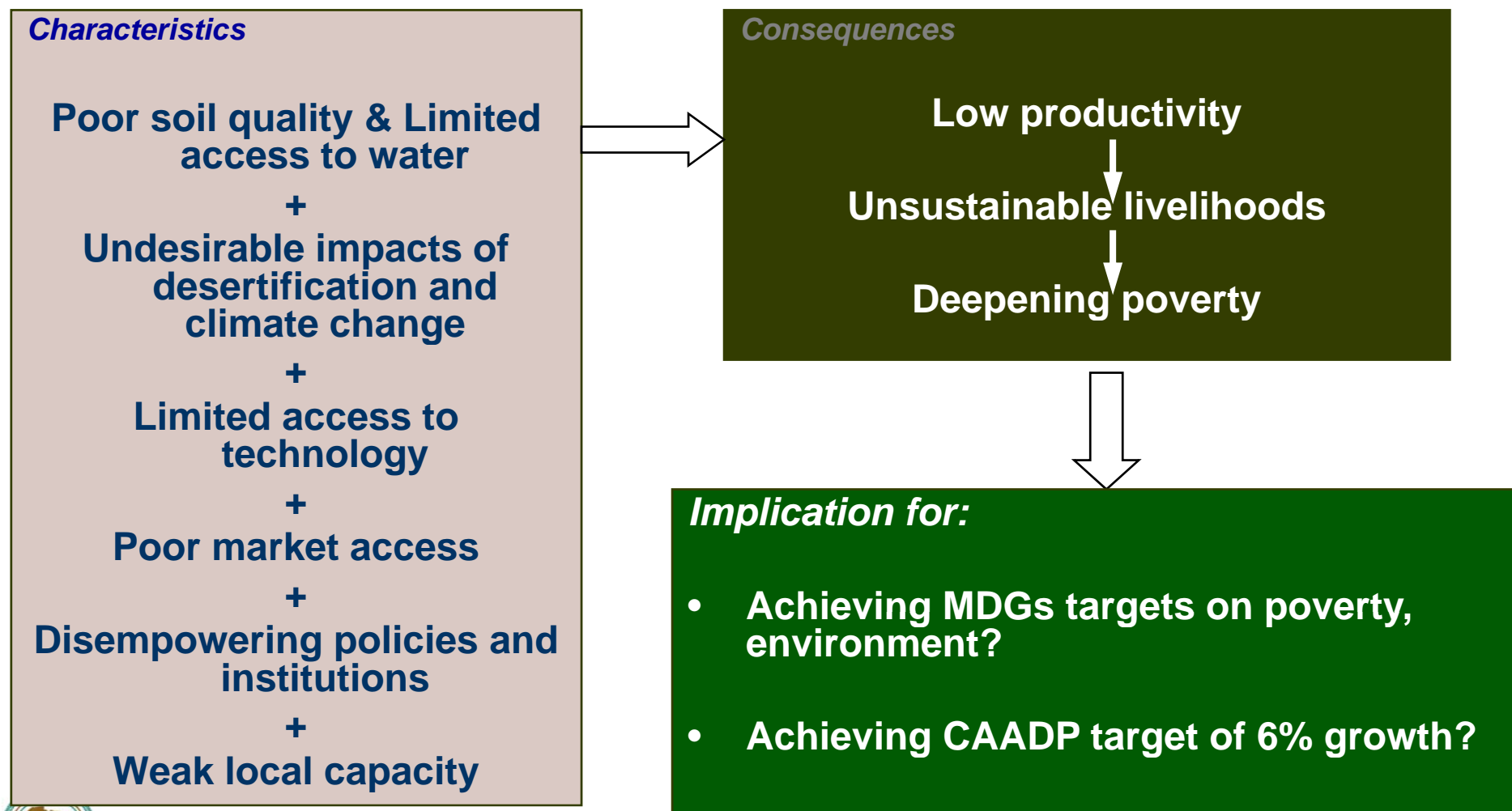


# The Background Document in a matrix...

Items	Organizing Themes					
	(a) Land & Water – access, mgmt	(b) Productivity, Technology Innovation	(c) Climate Change, desertification	(d) Market opportunities	(e) Policies and Institutions	(f) Local capacity Strengthening
<b>What issues?</b>						
<b>What challenges?</b>						
<b>What Opportunities?</b>						
<b>What actions?</b>						
<b>Which consortium of actors?</b>						



# The inter-thematic relationships...



# Issues..

- **Land and water access and management related**
  - Land degradation and poor management
  - Water scarcity on the one hand, & sub-optimal utilisation of the available water on the other;
  - conflicts/ competition for access to water and land
  - Insufficient legislative and statutory regulations to guide the local governance bodies (e.g., problems related to land tenure, and to the management of common natural resources)
- **Productivity, technology and innovation related:**
  - Inadequate involvement of beneficiaries/end-users in technology generation – hence Low or non-adoption of newly introduced technology packages
  - Low levels of investment (government disengagement, poor private sector engagement) – public spending on agr 4% of total government spending (WB, 2008)
- **Climate Change and Desertification related:**
  - Weak implementation of initiatives for combating desertification
  - Adaptation to climate change and managing the inter-action between climate change and desertification
  - Inadequate/lack of communication/coordination among focal points at national, sub-regional and regional levels,



# Issues..

- **Market related:**
  - Low competitiveness of products from semi-arid zones (low added value)
  - Political and institutional impediments (Impacts of trade policies)
  - Weak linkage of production with national, regional and international markets.
  - Lack of information and of competences for active and effective participation in the multilateral negotiations processes.
- **Policy, institution and capacity related:**
  - Concern over appropriateness and effectiveness of policies and institutions?
  - Limited financial and technical capacities of producers and local operators – and difficult conditions imposed for acquiring access to services (e.g., credits) for agricultural production.
  - Local consultation frameworks do not promote information sharing among stakeholders;



# Challenges

- **How to capture more of the available water resources – through productivity breakthroughs that could change the economics of irrigation and for viable alternative water management technologies to improve rain-fed production**
- **How to promote application of science and technology to agricultural production, processing, utilization and marketing; and in particular, how to strengthen African capacity for agricultural research and technology development, dissemination and adoption,**
- **How to formulate and implement policies and institutions that have impact on achievement of food security and promote competitiveness of agricultural production (e.g., administrative and juridical reviews, land tenure)**
- **How to increase agricultural productivity through incentive policies, access to products and inputs markets; improve access to financial services;**



# Challenges

- **How to develop efficient mechanisms for managing the interaction of climate change and desertification; including new and adaptive innovations by the main users of research results;**
- **How to enhance active participation of the rural populations through investments in rural infrastructure and rural employment;**
- **How to strengthen the capacity of producers' organisations and disadvantaged social sectors including women and the youth;**
- **How to formulate appropriate strategy for resource mobilisation.**





# What Opportunities...

- **No reinventing of the wheel – but build on successes!**
  - **Several initiatives** exist at various levels (e.g., national, regional, continental). For example, the initiative to review land tenure systems aimed at securing land use and investments;
  - **land and water management strategies** to reverse the trend of land degradation;
  - **Frameworks** for increased agricultural productivity (FAAP, etc.) – providing for better defined roles of stakeholders in agricultural development initiatives;
  - **Existence of enabling environments** for increasing investments
    - **National Poverty Reduction Programmes, CAADP, and sub-regional agricultural productivity frameworks, as well as the Action Plans for combating desertification** at national, sub-regional and regional levels. Participatory approaches for development of technologies and innovations (e.g., innovation systems approach); **The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)**;



# What Opportunities...

- **building on successes...**
  - **Technologies, innovations and knowledge systems to improve productivity and competitiveness of agricultural products**
  - **Success stories and site specific cases to learn from;**
  - **The increasing call for effective linkages between the Rio conventions**
  - **The growing will from developed countries to improve aid and investments - for programmes on adaptation to climate change and desertification**
  - **Agro-ecological diversity offers favourable conditions for agricultural production.**
  - **potential and emerging markets for high value agricultural and special products;**
  - **Growing consensus on the potential of agriculture in growth process, hence the attention of governments to increase investment in the agricultural sector (e.g., 10% budget commitment)**



# Propositions

- **Increase investments**
  - Improve the levels of commitment and political will from national governments and donor agencies;
  - Improve the levels and targets of domestic and international funding support;
  - Develop and implement innovative mechanisms of investment;
  - Strengthen public-private sectors partnership
- **Scale up and Scale out effective approaches and methods**
  - Improve documentation and analysis of successes and failures.
  - facilitate sharing of successful experiences at local, national and regional levels
  - Improve dissemination of existing best practices
  - Collect, document and exploit local indigenous knowledge and strategies
  - Build strong partnerships between producers, researchers, and extension services including training services to improve the capacity of producer organizations so that they can participate more pro-actively in the generation and dissemination of technologies.



# Propositions

- **Improve the enabling environment**
  - Review and harmonise policies, legislation and institutional systems (tenure security, incentive structure, access to services, etc.)
  - Improve the delivery mechanisms for financial and technical support.
- **Strengthen capacities**
  - for enhanced empowerment at local level (through mobilising local communities and targeting disadvantaged social sectors such as women and the youth);
  - for research and extension services to improve efficiency, accountability, and sustainability of technology generation and advisory systems, including strengthening partnerships and linkages with regional and international institutions;
  - for Improved producers' capacities to make use of effective technologies
  - for effective participation in multilateral negotiations
  - encourage agricultural training institutions to re-design their training curricula and training methodologies
  - Strengthen professional agricultural organisations



# Propositions

- **Improve mechanisms of coordination and tracking progress**
  - Formalize dialogue and coordination among focal points at national and regional level
- **Step-up advocacy**
  - for managing the interaction of desertification and climate change and its effects on livelihoods
  - for facilitation of implementation of decisions/declarations and initiatives in accordance with the commitment of stakeholders.
  - for increase in investments for managing emergency due to climate change such as severe droughts and floods.
  - for interventions to build on livelihood portfolios – livestock, fisheries and aquaculture



# Recommendations

- **A comprehensive strategy and action plan should be developed for an effective and synchronized intervention that facilitates the improvement of rural livelihood processes in semi-arid areas of Africa.**
- **A consortium of key institutions be entrusted with a mandate of working with AU/SAFGRAD in developing the strategy and facilitation of the implementation and follow-up of progress of implementation. In this respect, we request the institutions who have been working with AU/SAFGRAD in preparation of this conference to form the initial consortium and invite other relevant institutions to join them;**





# Recommendations

- **The themes as well as the issues, challenges, opportunities surrounding the livelihood processes of pastoralists in semi-arid areas be carefully and thoroughly elaborated and specific proposals to address those issues developed;**



## Call upon Government, development partners and private sector

- **Increase investments in terms of improving the levels and targets of domestic and international funding support for improving rural livelihoods in semi-arid areas;**



# Call upon Government, development partners and private sector

- **improve the enabling environment in terms of reviewing and harmonising policies, legalisations and institutional systems as well as improve the delivery mechanisms for financial and technical support;**
- **step-up efforts towards strengthening local capacities for enhanced empowerment of the people and their institutions and for effective implementation of initiatives.**



Call upon national, sub-regional, regional and international research, extension and education systems

---

- **to scale up and scale out effective approaches, methods and technologies through innovative and inclusive/participatory approaches.**



## Request AUC to

- **bring these recommendations to the attention of relevant AU ministers for endorsement and subsequent implementation,**
- **improve mechanisms of coordination and tracking progress through enhanced dialogue and coordination among focal points at national and regional level as well as through ensuring that progresses are captured and monitored through the African Peer Review Mechanism.**



# Request AUC to

- **step-up advocacy for**
  - managing the interaction of desertification and climate change and its effects on livelihoods
  - facilitating the implementation and follow-up of decisions/ declarations and initiatives in accordance with the commitment of stakeholders;
  - increasing investments for managing emergency due to climate change such as severe droughts and floods as well as the recent price hikes in basic staples
  - ensuring interventions to build on diversified rural livelihood portfolios in semi-arid areas





---

---

Thank you for your attention!

