

SESSION 3

THEME 1

**SADC RECOVERY , FOOD SECURITY AND
TRADE POLICIES: MAKING MARKETS WORK
FOR SMALLHOLDERS FARMERS IN SADC**

**Chairperson: Mr. S. Pazvakavambwa, Secretary for Agriculture-
Zimbabwe**

ISSUES

A young green plant with several leaves is growing out of a mound of brown soil. The plant is the central focus of the image, and its growth is symbolized by the title 'ISSUES' above it. The background is a soft-focus view of the soil and the plant's base.

1. PRICING

2. GMO AND FOOD SECURITY

3. ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

4. REGIONAL TRADE FACILITATION

5. STORAGE AND FOOD SECURITY



RESOLUTIONS

PRICING

Trade is triggered by prices differentials reflecting market conditions.

•Member states should invest in demand driven market information generation, dissemination and utilization to facilitate decision making by all stakeholders.

GMO AND FOOD SECURITY

Importation of GM maize is prohibited in all countries except in Mauritius where it is used as animal feed and in exceptional cases if milled.

- GM free certification is demanded before importation by most countries;**
- Capacity to monitor and regulate GM technology differ among countries;**
- There is need to harmonise and coordinate GM legislation and regulations at regional level**

ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The private sector has an important role to ensure food security.

Governments should:

- create opportunities for private sector maize trading;**
- make import requirements small-scale trader friendly & facilitate linkages with financial institutions;**
- support small-scale farmers to take advantage of market opportunities.**

ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR - CONT

There is mistrust between Government and private sector on maize trading.

- There should be regular dialogue and communication between traders and Government;**
- Government should give clear, accurate transparent & timely signals on demand for food & inputs;**
- Private sector profit motives should not compromise government objectives.**

REGIONAL TRADE & FOOD SECURITY

There is overwhelming evidence that formal & informal regional trade has alleviated food insecurity.

- Trading in neighbouring countries' currencies as legal tender should be formalised and expanded;**
- SADC Governments should coordinate & harmonise legislative & regulatory framework for trade in food commodities and inputs;**
- All food transactions should VAT & Duty free.**

STORAGE AND FOOD SECURITY

Storage is a very important aspect of food security, but only South Africa has accorded it high priority.

- Storage should be encourages at household and community levels and not just in big silos;**

- Countries should share information on practical household/community level food storage technologies.**