Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Regional Food Security Policy Processes

Presented by

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Look, listen and learn -

An Action Research Project
• **Purpose**

To strengthen the capacity of civil society actors to participate in regional food security policy processes.
• Definitions

policy

civil society
Factors influencing CSO input

- **External Influences**
  - International factors, economic and cultural influences; etc

- **The Political Context**
  - Political structures/processes, institutional pressures, prevailing concepts, policy streams and windows etc.

- **Links**
  - Between policy makers and other stakeholders, relationships, voice trust, networks, the media & other intermediaries etc

- **The Evidence**
  - Credibility, methods, relevance, use, how the message is packaged and communicated, etc
• Objectives

• promote the contribution of civil society organisations to the debate within SADC on food security policy;

• promote the voice of SADC civil society organisations in the international debate on food security policy;

• publicise within the region and internationally the policy and practice lessons learnt;

• disseminate within the region relevant evidence and policy lessons from civil society organisations elsewhere in the world.
•Activities – Pilot Phase

Stage 1: Planning (Jan – May 2005)
- project concept, mobilisation of resources etc.
- inaugural meeting

Stage 2: Activities (June – March 2006)
- regional paper
- regional conference
- national consultations (Zambia, Zim, Mal & Moz)
- policy alerts
- influencing activities piloted
• Outputs

• Understanding of policy processes relating to food security regionally and internationally increased amongst CSOs and other development partners in southern Africa (through project’s collaborative action research, meetings, and Project Alerts)

• Generalisable lessons about the role of CSOs in using evidence to contribute to pro-poor policy processes disseminated internationally (through Project Alerts and web alerts)

• The voice of southern Africa poor people promoted in the international debate on food security policy (through selected dissemination activities by regional CSOs)