

**THE CHALLENGES OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN SOUTHERN
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY'S (SADAC) POOR
RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural decline and high rate of poverty in Southern Africa Developing Community (SADC) are focal point of this study. The international community, Governments in Southern Africa and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), see sustainable agriculture as the only means towards economic growth and recovery of the sub-region. The study points out that carefully formulated policy frameworks, strategies and initiatives by NEPAD can help the national governments in the SADC region to work towards intergovernmental and regional trade relations which will enhance economic growth and reduce high incidents of poverty in SADC region. The international organizations such as the United Nations Food and the multinational organisations such as United Nations Food an Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, played an important role in assisting the SADC region with financial assistance, policy formulation and strategies needed in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. The donor organisations such as the United States- USAID agency are willing to form partnership with both NEPAD and governments in the Sub-Saharan region in their endeavour to eradicate poverty hunger and to develop the agricultural sector and the economy in general. The study also highlights the HIVAID epidemic as consequently affecting the agricultural labour force ad the food production.

DECLARATION

I **MATHEGO SAKALENGWE ETHEL** declare that the dissertation for the degree of Masters of Arts in Peace Studies & International Relations at the University North-West hereby submitted, has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other University, that is my own work in design and execution and that all the materials contained herein have been duly acknowledged.



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Signature

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific Countries.
ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific.
AIDS	Human Immuno Deffeciency Syndrome.
CBO	Community Based Organisations.
EU	European Union.
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation.
GDP	Gross Domestic Product.
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Development.
HDI	Human Development Index.
HIV	Human Immuno Virus.
IEHA	Intitiative to End Hunger.
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute.
IMF	International Monetary Fund.
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change.
LDC	Less Developed Countries.
LRAD	Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development.
NGO	Non Govenmetal Organisations.
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.
S.A.	South Africa.
SADC	Southern African Development Community.
SOFI	State of Food Insecurity.
TDCA	Trade Development and Co-operation Agreement.
UN	United Nations.
US	United States.
USAID	United States Agency for International Development.
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development.
WTO	World Trade Organisation.

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1.1 BACKGROUND

According to Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) report on the State Of Food Insecurity in the world (SOFI 2002), roughly 840 million people are undernourished, the great majority of them living in developing world. In fact almost half (45 percent) of the 371 million people living in African Sub-regions are undernourished (FAO Committee on Agriculture). Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is in a strategic position to fund ways and means to help improve the livelihoods of the rural dwellers in a sustainable manner.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Managed Administration Initiative To End Hunger In Africa (IEHA) states that the problem of hunger in Africa is widespread and getting worse. It estimates that one in three people in Africa are currently undernourished and that a third of all the world-undernourished people reside in Sub-Saharan Africa (USAID, 2002).

According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID, 2002) study, by 2010, Africa may account for nearly two-thirds of the undernourished people in the world. To help ameliorate this trend, the

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has developed a new initiative to be launched soon called The Agricultural Initiative To Cut Hunger In Africa. The initiative focuses on promoting agricultural growth build an African led partnership to cut hunger and poverty. The primary objective of the initiative is to rapidly and sustainably increase agricultural growth and rural incomes in Sub-Saharan Africa (USAID Bureau for Africa, 2002).

The global forum on Agricultural Research states that in 2003 about 14 million people are on the brink of starvation in the South African Development Community (SADC) alone and in it is expected that the number of undernourished people in Sub-Saharan African will increase from 180 million in 1995/97 to 184 in 2015. This stand in a stark contrast to millennium goals of having reduced hunger and poverty by halve by 2015 (Global Forum on Agricultural Research, 2003).

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Sub-Saharan performance in the 1980's and early 1990's was disappointing with much of region unable to break away from the path of low and negative per capita income growth, high inflation and balance of payments difficulties. Then from 1995 – 1997 performance improved and real per capita income began to rise. However, despite the recent progress, growth remains fragile, standard of living is still very low and poverty is wide spread (IMF Staff, 2003).

During the conference on The World Social Summit on Poverty Reduction In Southern Africa, Nairobi-Kenya (1999), it was stated that Southern African Sub-region has enjoyed a relatively good economic growth. The regions' average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of US \$ 934. In spite of this, benefits have not trickled down to the people at grassroots level with the major of the population living below the poverty line. The average Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.521 for the Southern African countries ranks among the lowest in the world. The Sub-region has high infant mortality rate of (82 per 1000 live births) compared to all developing countries (64 per 1000) industrial countries (14 per 1000) (Conference World Social Summit, 1999).

New Partners for Africa's Development (NEPAD) views agriculture as the key sector for achieving economic advancement and poverty alleviation in Africa because Agriculture provides 60% of all employment. It constitute the backbone of most African economies and in most countries and it is still the largest contributor to GDP and the biggest source of foreign exchange accounting for about 40% of the continent's hard currency earnings. It is also the main generator of savings and tax revenue. (Workshop-Global Issues in Sustainable Development, 2003).

NEPAD's goal for the sector is an agriculture-led development that eliminates hunger and reduces poverty and food insecurity thereby opening the way for expansion of exports. This is expected to put the continent on higher economic growth within an overall strategy of sustainable development and preservation of natural resource base.

According to NEPAD's vision, economic advancement of Africa's development can only be achieved through agriculture. Agriculture is destined to be the one economic sector to deliver broadly based economic advancement. Its importance is rooted in the fact that more than 70% of Africa's poor reside in rural areas. With New Partners for Africa's Development (NEPAD) agriculture will act as the economic spearhead of economic growth in quest for prosperous continent free of conflict and in which people can participate effectively in economic activity.

Agricultural sector should firstly have to improve the livelihood of the people in the rural areas, to achieve food security and to increase export of the sector. Secondly it implies that growth in the agricultural sector will stimulate growth in other economic sector. The agricultural sector had deep linkages to other industries both upstream and downstream the production chain, viz, transport, distribution, international trade, finance, equipment, education etc. Thus if agricultural output increases by 6% per annum as projected by New Partners for Africa's Development (NEPAD), its real impact will extend far beyond the value output associated with the 6% growth rate (Department of Agriculture S.A). According to the 2003 workshop on Global issues in sustainable development and the response to NEPAD.

The vision of Agriculture according to NEPAD, is that the continent should by 2015:-

- Attained food security and ensuring access of the poor to adequate food and nutrition.
- Improve the productivity of agriculture to attain an average annual growth rate of 6% with particular attention to small-scale farmers, especially focusing on women.
- Have dynamic agricultural markets among nations and between regions.
- Have integrated farmers into the market economy including better access to markets with Africa to become the main exporter of agricultural products.
- To achieve more equitable distribution of wealth.
- Be a strategic player in agricultural science and technology development.
- Practice environmentally sound production methods and have agriculture of sustainable management of the natural resources based to avoid their degradation (Workshop-Global Issues in Sustainable Development, 2003).

In 2000 the world leaders signed up the Millennium declaration, which defined eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which aims at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and ensuring environment sustainability by 2015. These goals are crucial for NEPAD's agricultural development programme. New Partners for Africa's Development (NEPAD) intervention therefore falls within the framework of Millennium Development Goals. NEPAD's agricultural development programme implementation plan, is contained in the Action Plan for the Comprehensive Development Programme (CAADP) which was developed with the engagement of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) (Mkhize S.F,2003). FAO has worked closely with the World Bank and National Authorities in developing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). NEPAD therefore can be increasingly expected to inform the preparation and revision of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

A regional forum on Poverty Eradication in Southern African States was held in Windhoek-Namibia in May 1997. It addressed poverty issues in the sub-region and setting up for mechanism for the adoption of National Poverty Eradication Plans which would ensure better implementation coordination and monitoring of poverty initiatives at country level. The forum adopted the Declaration which emphasized the role that governments should play in involving people, non-governmental organisations (NGO's), Community Based Organization (CBO), private sector, the media and other agencies in formulating and implementing programs designed to eradicate poverty in the sub-region. (Conference on World Social Summit, 1999).

The forum called on the Southern African Development community (SADC) to encourage memberstates to place poverty issues at the center of their development agenda. Poverty alleviation is currently a policy targeted by all governments in the sub-region. Nearly all Southern African member states are implementing one of poverty reduction program or another. Most of these programs are targeted at women who are mostly vulnerable either as heads of household or wives to unemployed men or men in low paid jobs. During the International Conference on Agriculture and development, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Anaan stated that Africa has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS and other problems as well as the highest number of food insecurity and proportion of vulnerable groups. He maintains that malnutrition of rural populations and HIV/AIDS both conditioned by poverty are threatening the labour force required for food security. (International Conference on Agricultural Development 2002)

In 2002, in the workshop held by USAID on Agriculture, Environment and Food for Peace, it was mentioned that HIV/AIDS is a threat to both development and economic growth. Many countries have lost large number of adults in their prime, creating labour shortages and re-allocation of resources that affect all sectors of economy. HIV/AIDS the USAID maintains, undermine development growth, increase poverty and leaves many children orphans. To provide poverty reduction in Africa, USAID must encourage activities that support participation in the global economy and address the urgent problems caused by HIV/AIDS. (AEPS-SYNTH.12O.doc).

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) argues that HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to hold growth below potential. The United Nations has estimated that HIV/AIDS has affected 24.5 million people or 8 percent of the adult population of Sub-Saharan Africa. It is reducing the labour force and life expectancy is being shortened substantially, undermining growth and social fabric in many countries (IMF Staff, 2003).

According to Edwards (1990), the ability of people on the African continent to feed themselves has declined dramatically in recent years. About 140 million of the continent's 531 million people in 1984 up to 1990's were fed exclusively with grain from abroad. He stated that population growth in Africa is very high. About 2.8 percent per year, resulted in annual addition of 583 million. Sub-Saharan Africa will have 300 million undernourished people by the beginning of the twenty-first century, nearly half of the world population. (Edward, 1990)

It has been noted widely that Sub-Saharan Africa is the only world region where food production through the 1970's and 1980's did not keep pace with its growing population. The population grew at the rate of 3 percent annually. The rate of population growth has been far above that of the food production, thereby causing hunger and malnutrition. Future actions designed to alleviate the food crisis call for effective measures to check population growth (Cole, 1990),

It is therefore obvious that with the integration of agricultural activities in the region, there is a need to create a regional agricultural policy analysis and research network that will help to develop comprehensive agricultural policies and food security strategies. The network would in collaboration with research institution be responsible for research and analysis leading to the co-ordination of agricultural policies and strategies in the SADC region. (Food and National Response, policy Analysis Network 2005).

Policies and programs to alleviate poverty have only gained prominence in the early 1990s, partly due to donor's influence and support. In recent years, attempts to reduce poverty have been hampered by absences of carefully formulated policies and institutional frameworks including inadequate resources (Food and National Response, policy Analysis Network 2005)

1.2 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The study will help governments in Africa; especially in SADC regions that economic advancement of Africa's development can only be achieved through agriculture. Agriculture is destined to be the one economic sector to deliver broadly based economic advancement in SADC. Its importance is rooted in the fact that more than 70% of Africa's poor reside in rural areas and through agricultural sector they can improve their livelihoods, achieve food security and increase export-sector. This implies that growth in agricultural will stimulate growth in other economic sectors

The study view poverty reduction in Southern Africa as critical and requires special attention and action. This can only be achieved through carefully formulated policies and programmes and institutional frameworks. Through NEPAD's policy framework, the African leaders can be able to link their socio-economic developments from local, national regional and international level thereby globalizing their economies.

The study also aims at benefiting the vulnerable groups especially HIV/AIDS victims and women in SADC regions who continued to process food under difficult circumstances due to lack of access and control to agricultural credit. They will acquire knowledge and skills which will help them to engage in both subsistent and commercial farming.

1.3 STATEMENT OF A PROBLEM

The following statement of a problem is expressed in the following questions:-

- What is the role of sustainable agriculture in economic growth and alleviation of poverty in SADC region?
- What are the factors that causes decline in agricultural output in Southern African Countries?
- What policies and strategies are put in place by NEPAD to improve economic development through sustainable agriculture in SADC region?

1.4 AIMS OF THE STUDY

The study investigates the role of NEPAD in alleviating poverty and hunger through sustainable agriculture in SADC region.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of this study is :-

- To investigate the role that sustainable agriculture will play in economic development and alleviating poverty in SADC region.
- To identify factors that causes agricultural declines in agricultural output in Southern African countries.
- To investigate the policies and strategies that New Partners for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has put in place in developing economy growth through sustainable agriculture in SADC region.

1.6 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

Literature review is an essential component of this study because it investigates what other researchers have already explored in this discipline. It also contains account of all existing theories and concepts which can be used

to generate or structure research ideas and provide us with the success or failures of previous researchers in exploring the relationship between poverty and hunger on the one hand and agricultural production on the other.

Parry (1990), view hunger as a dual course of not having sufficient quantity of food and not having adequate sufficient quantity of food and not having adequate nutritional balance. Hunger is most prevalent among rural residents, women and they young. A female according to Parry (1990), is far more likely to die of hunger than a male. This is caused by the high nutritional needs of women during reproduction cycle. Death from hunger is definitely gender biased (Perry, 1990).

The cause of hunger in the Third World Countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, is found in the distribution system. For many subsistence for farmers, there is no distribution system, no roads, no storage and no markets. (Perry, 1990).

In order to acquire food from distribution system, one must have money. Subsistence farmers have little or no cash income. People are hungry not because there is no food but because they are poor. It is therefore important for national governments in Southern African states to improve infrastructure for distribution system so as to bring isolated farmers into cash economy as both sellers of products and as consumers. (Perry, 1990).

As society moves towards economic development, we expected to see population increase, because of this, Africa, especially in the Sub-region, must

increase food production rapidly at least to maintain the amount food available on per capita basis, and they also need to take into consideration that the quality of food demands shift away from traditional food sources such as beans, rice and millet in favour of protein source such as milk, meat and eggs. (Perry, 1990)

In formulating regional agricultural policies in Sub-Saharan Africa, NEPAD need to develop agricultural policies that are designed to improve infrastructure that will facilitate food distribution system in the region, reduce poverty and facilitate economic growth.

According to the “Industrialised World”, Third World countries especially Sub-Saharan region, will never be able to feed itself for ecological, institutional and infrastructural reasons. They maintains that a food gap will emerge between temperate and tropical that a food countries which will be filled by mordenised agriculture in the North. They believe that external inputs, especially pesticides and fertilisers are critical for feeding the third World Countries, especially in the Sub-Saharan countries. (Röling et al, 2002).

The socio-economic crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa in the late 1970's and early 1980's caused stagnation decline and widespread impoverishment in Africa especially the Sub-Saharan countries. Strategies to tackle poverty in Africa has been feature of international development programmes. Since the mid1970's several UN agencies developed their own distinctive strategies for alleviating poverty. Several major initiatives within the UN system have given

fresh importance to the issue of poverty in what Lipton and Maxwell (1992), term it a “New Poverty Agenda” (Lipton,1992).

The decline in agriculture and rural development in Southern African region have raised growing global concern which has been echoed in a number of international pronouncement, including those of the World Food Summit, 1996, Millennium Summit 2002, World Bank’s New Rural Development Strategy, the rural development report of the IFAD, The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the World Summit on sustainable Development (WSSD 2002), all of which have placed renewed emphasis on poverty reduction, rural and agricultural development issues

During the (2002) World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the international community agreed that it is important to address key actions on agriculture with a view to reduce poverty and hunger and to facilitate economic growth and protecting the environment. (Report on World Summit on Sustainable Development South Africa, 2002).

Poverty is evidently a multi-dimensional phenomenon with complex linkage. As such poverty is linked to social roles. Thus the “alternative theories” advocates for interdisciplinary or multisectoral solution to the problem of malnutrition, rather than remedies for symptoms. This has been partly based on the principle that prevention through an attack on poverty and social discrimination would be a more desirable method. The “alternative theories” argues that illness caused by food shortages might impair the capacity of an adult for physical work. This might happen at a critical time when hard work

has to be done to prepare ground for the next crop or at time when employment becomes available. The capacity to produce food or cash will be reduced to a point where starvation or permanent damage to health becomes or the viability of household farming unit may be threatened (Clay et al 1990)

“Malnutrition and Human Capital Theory” therefore maintains that healthy individual will assume optimum nutritional state. According to the “Economic and Nutritional Theory”, an individual who exist below her optimum state of nutritional health can be regarded as having incurred a cost in terms of some loss of functional capacity (Clay et al, 1990).

Food Systems are failing globally by not producing enough balance nutrient output to meet the nutritional need of every person, especially poor-women, infants and children in developing countries, malnutrition therefore result in low work productivity – Madzokere, (1995) views basic health as an effective means of stimulating long-term economic growth and improved general welfare. (Madzokere, 1995).

The state of nutrition and the amount of food needed to maintain the body health, are thus the outcomes of the relationship between individuals and his environment. Food requirement and state of nutrition are aspects of human energy cost of production of food and other essentials (Clay et al 1990).

According to Clay et al (1990), malnutrition and human capital theory, both impurity that changes of health status in individuals (biological systems) and changes of level of consumption in population groups (market system) can be described by deterministic models. Health given free access to adequate

diet will assume optimum nutritional states: population participating in perfect markets will find everything for the best in the best possible worlds. (Clay et al: 1990).

Some of the more ardent proponents of human capital theory advocate that investment decisions whether made by individuals or communities, should take account of human capital according to the rules which are supposed to be applied to investment under scarcity in more tangible assets. Nutritional status measurements seem to offer attractive means of quantifying benefits, provided it can be shown that for example, body size or food consumption valid proxies for physical work capacity and efficiency ability to learn and develop skills, competence in social relationships. (Clay et al, 1990).

There is a school of thought which advocates interdisciplinary or multicultural solution to the problem of malnutrition rather than very specific remedies for symptoms. This has been based partly on the principle that prevention, through an attack on poverty and social discrimination, would be either a more desirable method, even a more effective one than, for example directly targeted for interventions. (Clay et al, 1990).

Clay et al (1990) argues that the model for adequate nutrition, contrast with genetic potential theory of malnutrition in that:

- The body is seen as a homeostatic self-regulating system whose state can be measured in terms of variable as body size, growth rate level blood constituents etc.

- The body can adapt to a range of different diets and environment.

- The state of nutrition and the amount of food needed to maintain that state, are thus the outcome of the relationship between individuals and his or her environment.

We can then say that food requirements and state of nutrition are aspects of human energy costs of production of food and other essentials (Clay et al, 1990).

In this regard, governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and other stake-holders need to have thorough understanding of the causes of poverty. New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), need to develop a comprehensive policy-framework that will embrace all critical aspects, socio-economic development in the Sub-Saharan region.

Graaf (1996) is of the opinion that resources and administration responsibilities must be transformed to local authorities, so as to bring service in line with the needs of communities. The basic need to be met includes food security, shelter, access to health facilities, education and greater employment. Farmers therefore, according to the "Needs Theory" have to take into account the fact that as population-land ratio increase, farmers are forced to employ greater production in order to meet the need of the ever growing population (Graaf, 1996).

Hyden et al (1993) argue that there is a relationship between population growth and agricultural intensification. Population in Africa, especially in the Sub-Saharan region is very high. It has been widely noted that Southern African region is the only region where food production through the 1970s did not keep pace with its growing population. The problem of stagnating food production is reflected in growing imports (Edwards, 1990).

Since 1990, the number of poor people has increased by an average of 10 million a year in Latin America, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the United Nations population is reflected in the growing dependence of food imports, raising poverty and degradation of natural resource base (Byerlee 1997).

The “New Modernist”, are of a view that, the use of fertilisers and pesticides will improve yields. They argue that science-based high input agriculture is more environmentally sustainable than low-input production of the Third World Countries (Rolling et 2000).

Technological change brought dramatic change in agricultural production not only in the first world countries, but also in Sub-Saharan Africa. (Schoones, 2000). According to the theory of intensification, as population land ratio increases, farmers are forced to employ greater labour and technical inputs to achieve greater production (Hyden et al 1993). For improvement to take place. Technological change is required. The change may involve bio-science derived inputs. This technological change Hyden (1993) maintains takes place in response to demand. The “Theory of Intensification” asserts that demand

must be met before investment is made and this leads to a “stair step growth pattern in agriculture”. This pattern in agriculture involves major improvements in land productivity and improvements in per capita production (Hyden and Kate, 1993).

The vision of agriculture according to New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is that of improving the productivity of agriculture to attain an average growth rate of 6% with particular attention to small scale farmers, focusing on women (Workshop, PREGFAR, 2003). NEPAD should therefore need to improve agricultural technology in order to achieve the projected 6% annual economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The “optimists” are optimistic that food production is expected to increase because of biotechnology, which will boost plant and animal productivity. They are also optimistic that the area under cultivation will expand probably by 20 – 40% by 2020. Based on these reasons, they expect that developing countries will sustainable agricultural growth is possible in unimproved areas and that the effects are sustainable. (Roling, 2000).

Most countries when formulating agricultural policies, they focus on input reduction strategies driven by concerns about environmental damage. Governments in Sub-Saharan Africa need to encourage and nature the transition from modernised systems towards more sustainable agriculture. In its quest to achieve sustainable agricultural growth, NEPAD need to formululate new policies that will take into consideration available resources, local skills and knowledge.

The Technological change refers to the change in production processes due to result from the application of science. A change in the economic environment creates a market for the new technology (Carlson et al 1993).

Since the 1960's the 'Green Revolution' has provided a stimulus development through technology. It plays a pivotal role in anti-poverty programmes. Rural communities engaged in food production have undergone changes due to introduction of overseas methods and techniques and production has improved (Campbell, 1991) the technological change asserts that each "Stair-step" in agricultural growth involves major improvement in productivity and in per capita production (Campbell, 1991).

Technology aims at improving product quality, relieve pressure on the natural resource, reduce post harvest losses, help producers to respond to markets raise farmers incomes and lower the price of food to consumer.

Agriculture in most countries of the world is still the largest contributor to the GDP and the biggest source of foreign exchange, accounting for about 40% of the continent's hard currency earning. It is also the main source generator of savings and tax-revenue. The vision for agriculture according to NEPAD seeks to maximise the contribution of Africa's largest economic sector to achieving the ambition of self reliant and productive Africa that can participate fully in the world's economy. Technological change is therefore essential for raising agriculture productivity (Bouis and Haddad, 1990).

According to United Nations Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO), achieving food requires action at national, household and individual levels. The “Equilibrium Theory of the Farm Household” argues that families can be explained in the three major factors: the fundamental behavioural rule of peasant families (called the motivational view), the admissible set of opportunities for the families (called structural view) and the dynamic of social group formation and participation (organisational view). Becker, (1994) argues that his model has applied static, utility-maximising decision providing an econometric analysis of the interplay between food prices, wage, agricultural profits, food consumption and labour supply).

The approach also explains the importance of low-income rural societies that are at risk in production and absence or limitations’ of insurance and of the intertemporal markets due to high information costs. These environmental characteristics and the assumption of risk overseas agents explain rural institution and these institutions are viewed as means of reducing the riskness of agricultural production.

The rural household neoclassical agricultural household model according to Becker, 1994 maintains that family members of subsistence form households have option both in off and on farm activities, the farm household must decide which members will be engaged in on-farm activities to produce required subsistence goods directly to guarantee survival and which members will be engaged in off-farm employment to generate funds for subsistent products and surplus. The farm household theory argues that the farm household must produce a set of survival goods before family resources can be used for labour market activities. It is therefore anticipated that those family members with lowest income potential will

produce the required subsistence products, and not the family members with lowest return to labour. (Caillave et al, 1994).

In realising the inadequacies in agricultural development, the ministers of agriculture in Southern African countries agreed that in (1994), effective institutions able to serve the smallholders farmers' access to credit and marketing be established. NEPAD should therefore strengthen rural institutions. Accesses to markets are vital for rural development. A strong link between agriculture and industrial sector would promote growth. Creating a more competitive climate for large-scale industries will create employment for the majority in rural areas.

Free trade between countries can results in higher income for all parties involved as each nation exploits its own particulars comparative advantage. The governments and donors have attempted to strengthen marketing by providing physical infrastructure, information services, credit and extension of programmes aimed at improving private trade performance. Improving infrastructure has led to better markets performance (Abbott, 1993).

The "Market or Commodity Theory" asserts that farmers respond to market demand within constraints placed upon them, maximising reward. This theory has been merged into a theory of "Induced Innovation" in which technological and institutional changes required to develop agriculture are as a result of changes in resources endowments and demand (Hyden and Kates, 1993).

The (1990) Arusha Workhop on the role of "Popular Participation" in meeting the challenges of Recovery and Development in Africa, proclaimed African Charter for

“Popular Participation” which asserted that the fundamental role of participation in generating the support necessary to overcome the continent’s economic crisis. Brow (1995), argues that any understanding of nature of participation in Sub-Saharan Africa must take into account the relationship between the state and the civil society. He maintains that the colonial state attempted to separate the civil from political society and mobilised traditional forms of relationship thereby excluding the majority of African people to any significant contribution to the determination of national policy formulation (Brown, 1995).

Graaf (1996) is of the opinion that resources and administrative responsibility must be transformed to local authorities, so as to bring service in line with the needs of communities. It creates the added advantage of mobilising resources as well as fostering decision-making at local level. (Graaf, 1996). There is growing consensus that sustainable agriculture and rural development objective and reduction in poverty cannot be achieved by increasing financial flows to the rural communities, but can be achieved through the self-help capacity of rural people who need to be strengthened so that they can become more active partners in the development process (Graaf, 1996).

Social Mobilization and capacity building are critical elements, which ensures success in any poverty alleviation strategy. Partner-ship with other civic society members will guarantee a broader base of all social forces that can be mobilised to tackle poverty (Anurundha and Moore, 2000). They maintain that the international community have for many years accepted the principal that effective poverty alleviation should have significant collective and mobilizing dimension. They talk in

terms of empowerment, participation and demand driven programmes that are responsive to the needs of poor communities (Anurundha and Moore, 2000).

Developing Countries have now become increasingly aware of the importance of implementing plans that are based on the aspirations of people if poverty is to be significantly reduced.

Cooperatives constitute a very favourable instrument for improving small farmers. They enable farmers to economise on transport, distant outlets, undertake initial process themselves and increase their bargaining power (Abbott, 1993)

The “Effects of the Social Matrix “ according to (Hunter, 1993) explains the way in which cooperatives performance depend upon who their members are, what attitude and tension exist between members, between the whole unit and neighbouring society and between the unit of government (Hunter, 1993). The 1966-1970 Kenya Development states: “There is only one course of action open to the nation and that is to strengthen cooperatives to play their role adequately”. (Hunter, 1993).

The international view of cooperatives is “co-operatives provide their own motivation under conditions in which it is sometimes difficult to enlist interest and active participation. It appeals to self-interest of the rural producer in the way he can pool his efforts and resources in order to lift himself out of poverty and stagnation. The co-operatives form of organisation stimulates initiatives and gives him (the farmer) the will and the means to shape his own future. (Hunter, 1993).

The cooperatives (Hunter, 1993), argues, emphasises to benefits self-interest and the stimulation of initiative and participation. The cooperative appears to draw upon traditions of cooperatives behaviour in pre-colonial traditional society and to link with African Socialism, Ujamaa in Tanzania. It symbolises an egalitarian socialist society in contrast with a class-stratified, capitalist one. The advantages of African type of cooperatives is : self-help, participation, democratic control, economic advantage, defeat of the capitalist middle men, egalitarian ideals and continuity with indigenous tradition. (Abbott, 1993).

NEPAD should therefore take into account the fact that, it is only through ownership of the process of development commitment form all levels of society that poverty alleviation can be attained and economic development in the Sub-region be achieved (Graaf, 1996). Partnership with other civic society member will guarantee a broader base of all social forces that can be mobilised to tackle poverty.

1.7 HYPOTHESIS

- The policies that NEPAD has formulated in agriculture are likely to result in improved economic development in Sub-Saharan region.
- Poverty is likely to be reduced in Sub-Saharan region if sustainable agriculture is used as measure to alleviate it.

1.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study will provide policy-makers in Southern African region to take informed decision when formulating local, national and regional policy frameworks based on NEPADs view of agriculture. It will also requipe ogro-farmers with knowledge of analysing international markets, especially on issues relating to agricultural performance and empowering them with knowledge on how to participate in global economy.

The study will also provide researchers with in-depth knowledge when investigating the view of international community and organisation in relation with agricultural development in SADC regions, as well as their views on NEPAD's agricultural policy frameworks. It provides guidance to the non-governmental organisations who are engaged in humanitarian projects of hunger-relief and food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa. It also empowers readers, especially International Relation's Students with information to advance their knowledge in their studies especially on global economy.

1.9 METHODOLOY

This was a documentation study on policy formulation and analysis. The document can be use to formulate policies and evaluate programmes. The researcher focused on the initiatives of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in the formulation of regional agricultural policy frameworks and regional trade relations. The study investigates past and present policies formulated by Southern African communities Development (SADC), the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the

Multinational organisation's, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as well as donor countries in their endeavours to end poverty and hunger in the Sub-Saharan region.

1.10 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study was hampered by different issues such as reluctance of some respondents to participate in providing government policy documents.
- It was difficult working with government officials because they missed scheduled appointments citing their busy schedule as reasons for not honouring appointments.
- More time was delayed while gathering secondary data from different sources.
- The researched problem is so current that new information gathered from Internet does not correspond with the old information from textbooks.

1.10.1 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focuses on policy formulation in Southern Africa's Community Development (SADC) since the region is experiencing serious economic

decline due to policies which are not focused on regional cooperation with regard to trade and economic development.

1.10.2 DATA

The data was gathered by reading governments policy documents, published journals and abstracts, books in the library, and the Internet.

1.11 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

The need to protect the statutory rights of participants was taken into account in order to avoid intrusion and unfair demands on the participants. Through informed consent, subjects were adequately informed regarding the research topic so that they have free choice in participating or declining participation. The researcher took into account social and cultural differences of the respondents with the view to consider conflicting interests of both the researcher and participants. Effort was made to avoid breaches of ethics that could cause serious limitations in collecting reliable and useful data.

1.12 TENTATIVE ORGANISATION OF THE FINAL REPORT

Chapter One: Is the introduction. It includes the background, aims and objectives, literature review and theoretical perspectives, hypothesis and methodology of the study.

Chapter Two: Investigates the role that sustainable agriculture will play in economic development and alleviating poverty in Southern African Countries.

Chapter Three: Identified factors that causes agricultural decline in Southern African region.

Chapter Four: Identifies strategies and policies Frame-works and Strategies that NEPAD has put in place developing economic growth in SADC region through sustainable agriculture.

Chapter Five: Entails the conclusion and the recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

THE ROLE THAT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE WILL PLAY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) REGION.

2.1 THE OBJECTIVE OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The objective of sustainable agriculture according to the United National Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) (2001), is a link between economic, social and environmental issues. Sustainable agriculture, FAO maintains, should respond to the needs of the present populations while recognising the requirements of the future generations to meet their demands.

The underlying premise of sustainable agriculture is an intergenerational obligation to manage agricultural resource in order to provide future generations with the opportunity to engage in farming activities at reasonable costs. Alteiri, et al (1995) are of the opinion that sustainable agriculture refers to a mode of farming that attempts to provide long-term sustainable yields through the use of ecological sound management technologies. This requires that agriculture be regarded as an ecosystem, as such farmers and researchers must look beyond production economics and considering the vital use of ecological stability and sustainability. (Alteiri, 1995).

To date, sustainable agriculture has become a significant issue in the International community Agricultural System. Edwards et al (1990) maintain that agriculture must provide not only what human need, but what the human family will require a decade or century from now (Edward et al 1990). Sustainability must mesh economy with environmental concern, recognising that the continued neglect of the physical and biological resource is undermining the long-term health of agricultural system. The future social and economic condition of human kind represents its central goal, a goal to be achieved in ways that do not lead to the aggregate long-term deterioration in either the quality or quantity of the global resource (World Bank, 2002).

2.2 THE EMPORANCE OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural sector is pivotal to the success of New Partnership as it is engine of economy in Africa, especially in Southern African region. Africa is naturally an agrarian economy. Different climatic condition in Africa enables the sector to support a wider range of different products and it is an added advantage to the sector. The agricultural sector, according to the Department of Agriculture-South Africa is able to:

- Support 80% of the continent's population.
- Employs 75% of the labour force.
- Contributes from 20% to 40% to GDP.
- Generates 40% of the continent's hard currency.
- Is the main generator of savings and tax revenue.
- Is the dominant provider of food and industrial raw material

(Department of Agriculture South Africa, 2002).

The central position that agriculture assumes enables it to steer the industrial strategy of Africa, as it is not supplying raw materials only, but can create value and enhance economic growth. The beneficiation Industrial Strategy could be developed around the sector. It is therefore critical to target this sector to ensure the success of NEPAD's objectives of poverty alleviation, job creation, equitable income distribution and political stability and more importantly sustainable economic growth and development for the continent.

All aspect of concern to NEPAD i.e. governance, infrastructure, policy reforms, human resource development are essential for creating and enabling environment for farmers to play an effective role in their country's sustainable economic development (Department of Agriculture, South Africa, 2002).

Agriculture occupies a prominent place in the economies of Southern African Countries. Half of the economically active population is estimated to be employed in the agricultural sector and 60% of the population resides in rural areas. In Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland commercial farms are operated on a relatively large scale (Lowe, 1996).

The World Bank Group (2002), maintains that sustainable agricultural systems are an essential foundation for rural development in most of the world especially in Africa. Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural systems is key to conservation of natural resource and to reduction of poverty. The banks approach to rural development is a holistic multi-sectoral, focused

on improving their productive, social and environmental assets (The World Bank, 2001).

Most of the World's poor are rural based, and even when they are not engaged in their own agricultural activities, they rely on a nonfarm employment and income that depend in one way or another on agriculture. Agricultural growth according to Anderson and Pandya (1995), is catalyst for broad-based economic growth and development in most low income countries. Very few countries have experienced rapid economic growth without agricultural growth either preceding or accompanying it. Governments in Southern Africa have to link economic growth to poverty reduction. Agricultural growth and development contribute:-

- To alleviate poverty.
- To meet growing food needs driven by rapid population growth.
- To stimulate economic growth
- To conserve natural resources.

There is an urgent need to achieve food security in African states and the alleviate poverty. These can be achieve by addressing inadequate agricultural system so that food production can be increased and nutritional standard be raised. According to NEPAD, plan of action, improved agricultural performance, is seen as a key to economic development of the whole continent.

Agricultural sector NEPAD maintains, will not only benefit the sector itself, but also will improve the livelihood of the people in the rural areas, to achieve food

security and the increase export form the sector. It will also stimulate growth in other sector.

According to FAO committee on agriculture, agriculture is a key factor in promoting more balanced processes of rural and national development and ensuring broader based and more equitable socio-economic change and in a long term, social and political stability (FAO Committee on agriculture).

During the international conference on World Summit on sustainable Development WSSD (2002), it was pointed out that agriculture was not just a food producing machine, but also the backbone of livelihoods and ecological system of most developing countries. Framework for action on agriculture would among other things, increase agricultural productivity and to eradicate poverty and ensure environmental sustainability (World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002).

Kingsley et al (1997), views agri-business as a strategy for creating rural employment and bringing the benefits of economic growth to rural areas in developing countries where the problems of poverty are more acute. International financial donors, as well as developed countries of the North, have become increasingly concerned about distribution of the benefits of economic growth. The concern brought with it, a sharp focus on rural employment, which has in turn led to expanded interest in agri-business. (Kingly et al, 1997). Agriculture according Ministry of Agriculture, South Africa (2001), remains an important sector in South African economy. It provides food and fibre to meet basic human needs. Agriculture according to the strategic plan for South

Africa, accounts to 4.5% of the GDP of South Africa, while the larger agro-food complex accounts for another 9%. About 40% of South African population are primarily dependent on agriculture. In this way, it becomes a back-bone for growth and development not only in South Africa but also in Africa as a whole. NEPAD need to realise that agriculture provide strong foundation and support agricultural sector and other sectors of economy.

Agriculture is the most important economic activity in Sub-Saharan region. Governments in the Sub Saharan-region of Africa, have given agricultural development a high priority, as its role, is critically important to the overall social and economic development. The state of environmental report, North-West Province, South Africa (2002), states that 80 000 formal employment opportunities in the Province, are being provided by agricultural sector. The rural areas are the main beneficiaries of these employment opportunities. Agricultural activities in Sub-Saharan Africa are livestock and crop-production. Poor rural communities therefore depend largely on agriculture to sustain their livelihood. (The State of Environmental Report, North-West Province – South Africa, 2002).

Governments in Southern African Community Development (SDAC), have to focus its priorities on accelerating sustainable integrated rural developmental as a strategy to attack poverty especially on individuals, groups and communities who are currently living in poverty more especially those who vulnerable such as women and children. (The State of Environmental Report, North-West Province, South Africa, 2003).

According to the Department of Agriculture (2001), facing the country and perhaps the rest of Africa, is to unlock the untapped potential that lies in its people and to address the issue of profitability and competitiveness that constraints participation of a full spectrum of people and economic entities. Lack of international competitiveness leads to low investment in agriculture and this is the major challenge that need to be addressed to put agriculture on the envisaged high growth and development (Department of Agriculture, South Africa, 2001).

Small rural producer and entrepreneurs and other disadvantaged sector of the rural population have the potential to become successful economic partners. Governments in Sub-Saharan region need to focus on how to ensure their equitable access to resources such as land, finance, infrastructure and human empowerment and development. In South Africa for example, the department of agriculture has planned to provide financial support to emerging farmers through access to grants and bank loans from agricultural financial institutions. Governments in Southern African States need to ensure that support service and training programmes are provided in order to ensure that the land is used productively in order to facilitate agricultural economic growth. (Department of Agriculture, South Africa, 2001).

CHAPTER THREE

CAUSES OF AGRICULTURAL DECLINE IN SUB-SAHARAN REGION

3.1 DEGRADATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Agricultural intensification and survival strategies by poor rural populations are causing degradation of natural resources and agricultural ecosystems including soil nutrients, loss of biodiversity and resilient systems. Land degradation effects directly the productive capacity and environmental health of the land upon which the rural population especially the vulnerable poor depend for their survival (FAO committee on Agriculture, 2003). The issue of environmental sustainability therefore should be given first priority by NEPAD as well as governments in Southern African region in their efforts to improve economic development through sustainable agriculture.

The gap between population growth and food production is widening and the natural resource biodiversity, land and water are deteriorating in an alarming speed. According to Kotsch (1990), the next 50 years will require a doubling of food production in order to feed an increasing population, 5 – 10 million hectares of agricultural land are lost annually, more than half of it by inappropriate agricultural practices (Kotsch, 1990). Within the last two decades, various initiatives have striven towards an ecological agriculture mainly promoted by governmental or non-governmental donor organisations. They aim at achieving

productivity under-low-external input conditions and at the same time at maintaining a balanced ecosystem (Kotschi, 1990).

Sub-regional governments, in their efforts to revive agricultural economic development, need to remember that poverty alleviation is possible only if agricultural production is intensified and at the same time the natural resources are managed in sustainable way.

3.2 CLIMATIC CHANGES

In 1990, the International Panel on Climate change (IPCC) was set under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme to examine the climate and the sea level might change and what might be the impact of these changes. (Parry, 1990).

According to the IPCC, if the emission of the green house gases continue to grow as currently projected, the global temperature will increase from 0 - 2°C to 0 - 4°C per decade over the next century. There is quite clear indication that warming of globe has occurred over the past century, amounting from 0 - 3°C to 0 - 6°C. Probably the most important consequences of projected changes in climate for agriculture would stem from higher evaporation-transpiration, as result of higher temperature in the air and land surface (Parry, 1990).

Countries that are vulnerable to impacts of climatic change are those that are currently major net food imports. These major food producing countries are important to the world food system because of their key role as holders of large

food stocks. Climate change on agriculture would stem not directly from the effects of altered temperature, precipitation radiation on crops and animals but through potential effects on pests, diseases and soil but through potential effects on natural and semi-natural plant community (Parry, 1990).

Recent concern over the possible agricultural implications of global environmental changes has stimulated a renewal or refocused interest in how agricultural systems respond to various environmental conditions. Some research has suggested that certain regions of the earth may experience significant changes in climatic conditions and agricultural potential over the next several decades (Illbery et al, 1997).

Such changes Illbery (1997) maintains has the potential to alter the ability of farms and regions to produce agricultural commodities and consequently may threatens the availability and thus the sustainability of agriculture (Illbery, 1997).

As governments reassess their commitment public sector funded stabilisation and compensation schemes, the connection between farming and climate, may become more critical in the future (Illbery, 1997).

3.2.1 HUMAN ADAPTATION AND AGRICULTURAL CHANGE

The concept of adaptations has its roots in population biology and evolutionary ecology where applications focus on the survival of species or ecosystems. This concept is central to the model of agricultural response to environmental

change. Three dimension of adaptation has been identified. The first being the importance of environmental stresses as a corner stone of natural hazards and climate impacts. For sustainable agriculture one need to know something about the attributes of climate that stimulates responses. It is important to know what magnitude frequency, duration or real extent of conditions do agricultural system respond to. (Illber, 1997).

The system responds to a planned or unexpected disturbance and the system characteristic such as stability and resiliency, and that as change occurs it is expected regular variability, thresholds of tolerance will exist in the system. Agriculture adaptation can differentiated and described on several axes, their interest scale, timing form and effect.

It is therefore important that understanding of agriculture sensivity and response to environmental stress would be strengthened through better knowledge of the attributes of climate to which agriculture adapts. Further, it is important to understand these processes at a variety of spatial, social and temporal scale in order to estimate the impacts of climatic variability and change and develop and promote strategies to encourage successful adaptation by individuals and the agricultural sector. (Illbery, 1997).

Governments in Sub-Saharan Africa must realise that understanding agricultural sensitivity and response to environmental stress would be strengthened through better knowledge of the attribute of climate to which agriculture adapts. A consideration of agricultural sustainability requires

knowledge of the characteristics of structural change brought about by adaptation (Illbery, 1997).

Atmosphere scientists and climatologists have for over a decade been presenting compelling evidence that human activities are and will continue to modify the chemistry of the earth's atmosphere and that these changes will contribute to unprecedented alteration of climate systems on a global scale. (Illbery, 1997).

The last decade has been characterised by substantial changes to agricultural systems. The agricultural sector has been far from static with several farms reporting changes to cropping system, livestock systems, land resources and farm structure. Environmental conditions in general, more specifically climatic conditions are factors influencing agricultural decisions. (Illbery, 1997)

Countries in the Sub-region remain vulnerable to changes in climatic conditions, including floods and draught. Agricultural production is currently limited by climate. Most of these limitations being in developing countries. Insufficient rain fall is the main climatic limit in the Sub-region curtailing the growing period available for crops overall 63% of the land area of developing countries is climatically rain-fed agriculture. The potential base for rain-fed agriculture is very limited. Any climatic change could severely strain the ability to feed local population (Parry, 1990).

The impact of climatic change and natural disaster should also be considered together with agricultural strategies to safeguard rural livelihoods. Whether

caused by natural disasters such as floods and draughts, often threaten livelihoods base of those living in rural areas, especially vulnerable groups like the poor women and children. The governments in Sub-Saharan region require mobilising resource for effective interdisciplinary programme to reduce the impact of disaster on small holders livelihoods and the environment.

When formulating regional agricultural policy frameworks, NEPAD need to develop a holistic approach that will link natural disasters to poverty alleviation in rural communities (FAO Committee on Agriculture, 2003).

3.3 SOIL EROSION

Sustainability of human use of the environment including sustainability of both resource base and the economic systems, that natural resource support, has become a major concern and focus of research and policy decision in recent years. The prevention of accelerated soil erosion serves to protect an essential resource for agricultural production and also helps to provide protection of other resources that may be damaged by the deposition of soil eroded from agricultural fields (Illbery, 1997).

Governments in Sub-Saharan Africa, should take into account the fact that soil conservation, is the first national recognition of the need to manage the nation environment. (Illbery, 1997).

The need for federal programmes to control the national problem of soil loss has been evident since the 1930's. For example on-going soil concerns has

led to evolution of the soil conservation service, now the National Resource Conservation Service (Illbery, 1997).

Concern about soil erosion in Zimbabwe was expressed during the first decade of the century. A series of articles warned of the dangers inappropriate cultivation measures. Scoone, (1996) maintains that population pressure has had a major impact on farming land–scape. According to the environmental pessimists, growing production strains in the form of resource degradation such as soil erosion, land degradation, forest loss, pesticide over use, over-grazing are seen as an emerging a key problem. So population control has to be a priority policy plan in the sub-region (Roling et al, 2000).

Sub-Saharan states, should therefore realise that soil erosion and land degradation over a long period of time, can have a negative impact on crop yields or on the ability of land to sustain live-stock population (Scoone et al, 1996).

The environmental problems caused by farming, are a direct result of an increasingly intensive and specialised agriculture. Intensification of agriculture has meant greater use of inputs. In Britain, for example, a major cause of soil erosion has been the shift towards the cultivation driven by production oriented policies (Pretty, 1996).

Eroded soil disrupts water courses and run-off from eroded land and causes flooding and damage to housing, irrigation systems and natural resources

(Pretty, 1996). Despite decades of efforts, soil and water conservation programmes have had little success in preventing erosion.

It is therefore important for NEPAD when formulating agricultural policy to be aware of the fact that soil erosion reduce the biological productivity of soil and the capacity to sustain productivity of soil and the capacity to sustain productivity in the future (Pretty, 1996).

3.4. ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION AND CONTAMINATION.

Since 1960's the "Green Revolution has a stimulus to rural development through the transfer of agricultural technology from industrialised countries. (Cambell, 1991). The uses of fertilisers to improve crop yields and more recent introduction of highly yield varieties of seeds and the use of pesticides has altered the traditional patterns of agricultural activities. Technological change brought dramatic change in agricultural production in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite the increase agricultural production and improve economies, there is no doubt that pesticide and fertilizers are hazardous. They can cause severer illnesses and death in both animals and human beings or the entire ecosystem. In the Third World countries, mortality and illness due to pesticide are much more common than in the First World countries (Pretty, 1996).

According to the United Nations World Health Organisation estimates (1990), a minimum of 3 million and perhaps as many as 25 million workers are poisoned each year, with perhaps 20 000 death. (United Nations World Health Organisation Report, 1990).

In 1998, the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S.A. found that 5 per cent of some 10 000 imported food when tested were found to contain residues of products banned in the USA, indicating continued widespread of export use of such compound. (Prettey, 1996).

Intensification of agriculture has meant a greater use of inputs of pesticides, fertilisers and water. Some inputs are never used entirely or efficiently. For example, nitrogen and amounts of pesticides are lost to the environment to contaminate water, food and fodder. Water wasted lead to ground water depletion. (Pretty, 1996).

It has been recognised that farmers are suffering form health effects of modern approaches to agriculture. Water systems have become increasingly contaminated and nitrate in water can be a possible cause of cancer and can also harm wildlife. Nitrates and phosphate form fertilisers and organic waste from livestock manures all contribute to alga growth in surface water (Pretty, 1996).

Pretty (1996) argues that the atmosphere is contaminated by ammonia which plays a role in acid rain production and nitrous oxide derived form fertilisers plays a role in ozone layer depletion and global warming.

Consumers on the other hand are mostly likely to be affected by eating food contaminated by residues of pesticide. For example, leafy vegetables are often sprayed twice a week and may come to the market with high degree of contamination especially during dry season.

Many environmental and health impacts have increased in recent year despite all efforts to reduce them. Agriculture has been identified as a major source of atmospheric pollution, emanating methane, nitro-oxide, ammonia and various products of biomass burning. The single main course of global warming is carbon dioxide, estimated to contribute about half of the projected warming over the next 50 years (Pretty, 1996).

Governments in Sub-Saharan region should be mindful of the fact that the cost of environmental damage are growing and are dispersed throughout many environments and sectors of national economies. Lack of legislation, misunderstanding of the hazards involved, poor labelling and discomfort of wearing protective clothing in hot climate, all greatly increase to hazard both to agricultural workers and the general public (Pretty, 1996).

In formulating agricultural policies, NEPAD should realise that agricultural policies do not reflect the long-term social and environmental costs of resource. The external costs of modern farming such as soil-erosion, health damage or polluted ecosystems, are not incorporated into individual decision making by farmers (Pretty, 1996).

3.5. WATER MANAGEMENT

Agricultural production is limited by temperature. Water rainfall is unreliable, especially in Africa. Water shortage severely limits crop production. Water harvesting systems from short slopes are simple and cheap. Water harvesting systems do not only use water locally, but can manipulated the direction of water flows to reach areas suitable for crop, tree or pasture production (Pretty, 1996).

Over used water in agriculture has led directly to the rapid increase in recent years of land lost to water logging. In order to achieve sustainable agriculture in Sub-Saharan countries, NEPAD should view water management as a priority when formulating national and regional policies.

In its endeavour for alleviating poverty and hunger in the Sub-Saharan region, NEPAD need to take the fact that environmental management contributes to agricultural and rural sector growth through the conservation and production of environmental goods and services that generate public and private economic benefits. Proper environmental management makes agricultural production sustainable and reduce degradation caused by inappropriate farming practices such as overgrazing and poor forest management (USAID operational plan, 2002/2003).

3.6 THE RIGHT TO LAND

Sustainable agriculture incorporates the notion of giving value to the future availability of resources. In most of African countries, especially in the former colonies, there is lack of secure tenure and clear property rights. This discrimination against the long term investment necessary for sustainable agriculture.

If farmers are uncertain how long they will be permitted to farm a piece of land, they will have a few incentives to invest in practice that only pay off in the long term (Pretty, 1996).

In some places, tenants risk eviction if they improve the land they farm. If the land becomes too productive, landlords may claim it and farm it for themselves. According to Pretty (1996), where land reform has occurred, there have been substantial impacts on agricultural growth, poverty alleviation and investments in resource-conserving technologies (Pretty, 1996).

The recent land reform programme in Zimbabwe, has shown how quickly monetary and fiscal policies can get out of control with microeconomic policies. Land reform programme is having effects on investors' confidence in some countries in Southern Africa.

The best option that government in Africa especially in the sub-region can do is to grant property and titling rights through national programme for land

reform. This can be supported by the innovative use of tenancy laws that encourage action by landlords to set lease conditions that specify the use of regenerative technologies and resource-conserving investments they have made during the course of their tenancy (Pretty, 1996).

According to the Ministry for Agriculture and Land Affairs in South Africa, Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) is designed to provide grants to black South African citizens to access land specifically for agricultural purposes or to make better use of land already accessed. Many beneficiaries to access LRAD aim to acquire land for food-crop or livestock production to improve household food security (Ministry for Agriculture and Land Affairs – sub – programme of the LRAD).

The ministry of agriculture aims at engaging beneficiaries in commercial agricultural activities. Beneficiaries will access grants together with normal bank loans. The grant recipient in the case of equity scheme will be both a co-owner and employee of the farm. The ministry of agriculture in South Africa therefore aims at improving the nutrition's and incomes of rural poor who want to farm on any scale and to stimulate growth form agriculture. LRAD in South Africa is viewed as an excellent vehicle for redressing gender imbalances in land access and land ownership. (Ministry for Agriculture and Land Affairs – a Sub-programme of the LRAD).

Fox and Van Rooyen (2004), maintains that land tenure is usually a prerequisite for accessing of micro finance and loans in the absence of which extension of agricultural enterprises and their peripheral business

opportunities is hindered negatively on growth, empowerment and poverty reductions.

According to United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) committee, inadequate rights to land and other natural resources, insecure tenure and those rights will limit the capacity of rural food producer to take capacity for delivering services to farmers and weak private sector and civil society organisations limit small-scale food producer's ability to access information, new technology and markets. (FAO committee on Agriculture, 2003).

3.7 POOR MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICY

Macro-economics considers the entire economic system at local, national, regional and international level. Its focus of concern is with how the total economic system operates and how various policies and institutions affect the vitality of the economic system. Issues such as unemployment rate, the rate of inflation the balance of payments and federal deficit form the material part of macroeconomics Drumond (2004).

The objectives of macroeconomic policy according to Drumond (2004), is stable prices, full employment and economic growth. (Drumond 2004). Economists think of policies as the goals and methods adopted by governments in order to influence the level of economic variables like prices, incomes, national income and exchange rate. Policy as a general term, implies state intervention in the economy. (Drumond, 2004).

Agricultural policies are adopted by governments, but tend to be formulated and implemented by the state or state agencies. It should be noted that the type of policies adopted by countries, affect the agriculture in other countries. For example, developed countries subsidise their agricultural exports to keep down prices and ensure sales. This has tended to keep down international prices. The World Trade Organisation members such as America, Canada and Mexico agreed to liberalise and deregulate agricultural markets, so permitting trade free from these measures of protection. However, there are different views over whether these agreements will hinder or support the development of more sustainable futures. (Pretty, 1996).

There has been calls from the Third World Countries for reducing level of agricultural support, some countries in the developed world, for example the European Union (EU) have not embarked on substantial reforms. Some countries have begun to reduce price supports and replace them with systems of direct payments. Many of these are linked to a reduction of production incentives so as to lower production. (Pretty, 1996).

In Africa, especially in the Sub-Saharan region, agriculture is generally given low priority in policy terms despite concerns about ensuring agricultural growth. Many countries have pursued urban-biased policies that have strongly discriminated against agriculture (World Bank, 1993, FAO, 1993). By selecting macro-economic policies that ensure high real exchange rates and by protecting industry, many countries have imposed heavy direct

taxes on agriculture and held farm gate prices below world prices. The effects have been depressing agricultural growth (Pretty, 1996).

Many countries have sought to re-compensate farmers by subsidising farm inputs such as pesticides, fertilizers, credit and irrigation. These subsidies have increased the use of inputs and have contributed to agricultural growth. On the other hand subsidised, water and electricity, have encouraged the expansion of irrigated agriculture, which in turn contributed to the decline in ground-water levels and accelerated accumulation of salts in the soil (Pretty, 1996).

Rural areas in Africa especially on the Sub-region rely on agriculture as a primary form of industry. However, the inappropriate use of fertilisers, and agricultural equipments, and agricultural technologies demonstrated this point. In many areas, agri-hydro facilities are non-existent, inefficient or ineffective. In many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, proper roads to deliver products to markets and ports do not exist. Such infrastructural limitations affect the quality of produce as well as its delivery (Pretty, 1996).

The colonial governments maintained monopolies in marketing and input supply that enforce prohibitions on sales and raised prices on inputs. Industrialisation and mining activities resulted in families having to send members far to earn wages, resulting in incapacity to develop local agriculture or local industry. Investment in infrastructure and the delivery of public goods and services are skewed to benefit selected segments of communities or groups (Pretty, 1996).

Post colonial policies were ineffective in reversing this heritage. Nationalistic governments applied planning principles that were inappropriate for their countries' environments. In many cases, industrial and urban development initiatives were seen as paramount, resulting in neglect of rural and agricultural development.

Belief in the efficiency of central planning practices resulted in limited private sector involvement, poor macroeconomic policies and non-consultation with the supposed beneficiaries of development initiatives. Simply stated, post colonial governments failed to create conditions conducive to rural development and neglected to nurture entrepreneurial spirit of the rural communities (World Bank,2002).

According to the department of agriculture in South Africa (2002), in most countries in Africa especially in the Sub-region, agriculture is less than 10% of the national budget. Poor macro-economic policies, inadequately staffed and poorly funded research and extension services, institutional weaknesses and poor linkages to markets, policy and the global research community have been major impediment to the attainment of the overall vision for economic development in many African countries. The Department maintains that the fall in the value of agricultural exports since 1960's and loss of market share of all Africa's major agricultural exports commodities, have adversely affected the contribution of agriculture to the national economies (Department of Agriculture-South Africa, 2002).

The outcome of the economic strategy of the 60's and 70's was to extract the maximum surplus possible from agriculture in order to generate capital for other sectors. By the time that this approach was seen to be self-defeating, nearly two decades later, agriculture had suffered a serious setback (Department of Agriculture 2002).

According to the Department of Agriculture –South Africa (2002), there appears to be a weak relation between agricultural policy reform and output growth. In most countries in both Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, liberalisation of markets did not trigger the expected surplus response. It has now become clear that correct economic policy adjustments are not sufficient on their own and sometimes even counter-productive if they take place before other development (Department of Agriculture- South Africa, 2002)).

Governments in Southern African Development Community (SADC) should not close down marketing boards if the private sector is not willing or able to supply seed, fertiliser and credit. Missing or imperfect markets especially for credits, for land, wages labour and farm inputs and output are an important constraint. The changing social structures have also resulted in the gender division of labour and of power to allocate resources within poor rural households (Department of Agriculture-South Africa, 2002).

Serious factors affecting economic development in Southern African region that NEPAD should try to address are infrastructure and institutional constraints such as low level of mobilisation of the farmers, poor transport

and information dissemination systems, inadequate, ineffective and under-resourced research and extension, technology diffusion capacity resulting in weak service delivery by regional and local governments, particularly in respect of production intended for income generation.

3.8 LACK OF CAPITAL

The most serious single constraint for public and private sector alike is lack of capital. Without adequate capital it is almost certain that farmers will not achieve the increases in productivity needed to raise per capita output and profitability. Africa, especially Southern African Countries have retrogressed over the past three decades when it comes to power inputs. The number of tractors in use, according to the department of agriculture has decline by about 50%. Agriculture relies entirely on human muscle-power, on almost 80% of the cultivated land in Sub-Saharan Africa, a large part this being provided by women (Department of Agriculture-Sough Africa, 2002).

3.9 HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is reaping havoc in Southern Africa; it consequently plays an important role in the food insecurity in the region. On the one hand malnutrition and food insecurity may force households to adopt livelihoods that increase the risk of HIV transmission, such as migration to find work, on the other hand has an impact on the agriculture sector in Southern Africa e.g. labour force, food production, commercial production and national and provincial food supplies. HIV/AIDS thus impacts on present and future food

insecurity in the whole region. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), food production in the nine countries in the SADC region most affected by the HIV/AIDS has dropped by 15% over the past 10 years.

The direct impact of AIDS would be on the population decline and the loss of skilled agricultural labour, while the indirect impact would be felt on food production and security.

The spread of major infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS resulting in high death rate also drains labour from economic activities. The total costs in human suffering, lowered economic productivity, and lost intellectual resources

3.9.1 HIV/AIDS AND GENDER INEQUALITY

The most important aspect that influence sustainability is the incidence of HIV/AIDS. According to Fox and Van Rooyen (1996), the greatest moral challenge in Africa is the position of women in unequal gender relation that lies at the heart of HIV/AIDS pandemic. For the fact that women are not valued through the application of equitable social relations, in many instances, HIV is transmitted through rape. In Africa, especially in the sub-region, gender role influence the transmissions and the spread of the diseases.

The United Nations Human Development Index Report (2001), estimated that by the beginning of the new millennium, about 36 million people were living with HIV/AIDS World-wide and 70 per cent of this number is in the

Sub-Saharan Africa. (United Nations Human Development Index Report, 2001).

The spread of HIV/AIDS has multiple negative consequences for development, especially in women. It robs countries of mothers in their prime, especially the economically active group of between the age of 20 to 45 years, and leaves children uncared for. (Fox and Van Rooyen 2004).

Women are responsible not only for household duties and child care but also for most tasks in farming. The increasing incidence of infection among women is a threat to food security as well as family health and welfare.

Social sustainability especially in agriculture will require interventions that are responsive to women social needs. The government intervention is needed. The intervention the World Bank (2002), suggests, should address specific areas through strategically targeted programmes. For example, the Kenya sexually transmitted infection project, teaches women how to recognise sexually transmitted diseases among pregnant women and also creates awareness through information, education and communication activities relating to HIV/AIDS (World Bank Gender Development Group, 2002).

According to the World Bank Gender Development Group, the population and HIV/AIDS control project in Burkina-Faso, which focuses mainly on the creation of public awareness of HIV/AIDS and women's rights and it also

fosters support for the treatment and prevention of diseases. (World Bank Gender and Development Group, 2002).

NEPAD as well as government in Africa should take into account participation of women in HIV/AIDS policy formulation and implementation. The needs of women in relation to HIV/AIDS pandemic should not be undermined, as women are the ones who are mostly affected and infected.

3.10 GLOBALISATION

Globalisation offers opportunity to developing countries producers and exporters. Transnational companies as well as retailers are expanding their international operations to meet new consumer demands. According to Jan Van Roekel (1992), this means that demand is no longer confined to local, at best regional supply but can now be shipped for across the world at lower cost and competitive prices. Advance information technologies enable traders to respond quickly to changes in consumer demands and facilitate the flow of goods in today's highly complex global marketplace (Jan Van Roekel 2002).

According to Fox and van Rooyen (2004), during the past few years the economies of Africa have been exposed to the powerful process of globalisation and African economic policies have shown weakness that have in turn caused governments, especially in Southern African countries, to seriously rethink their economic strategies (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

NEPAD should therefore realise that sustainable growth and development rates will be difficult to achieve should the problem of poverty linked to unemployment and socio-economic inequalities not be addressed simultaneously, speedily and effectively. The economic empowerment of the poor and enrichment of poverty stricken-population must for the foreseeable future be high on the agenda of NEPAD if Africans are to participate and compete effectively in global market (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

For African economies to move forward from their current situation of low-growth to high-growth, NEPAD should realise that new innovative policy action will be required, focused on investment in human capital (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

Rockel (2002), maintains that cross-border supply chains not only benefit the companies directly involved, they also stimulate social, economical and environmental sustainable development within a region or country. It also stimulates the development of local agro-industry, employment generation, local food production, value addition to products, introduction of new technologies, increasing export earnings and improved food safety and nutrition by connecting partners and their activities (Rockel, 2004).

For African markets to participate in cross-border agri-supply chains, they need first to understand markets, plan their activities strategically, have access to means to improve products and upgrade production system, and most importantly shift from product orientation to external market orientation.

For Africa to benefit from international trade opportunities, governments in Africa need to upgrade their production system to compete on global markets and to improve and upgrade institutions and infrastructural facilities to reap the benefits of globalisation (Jan Van Roekel, et al, 2002).

In developing Africa's economy, African leaders should be aware of the fact that the new world economic order-globalisation, bring with it both positive and negative effects and should also mean increasing disparity of weak and deepening of the cycle of poverty. (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

African leaders promoting NEPAD as the key to their economic transformation are largely taking a pragmatic approach to the movement towards globalisation. (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004). By stressing a partnership between Africa and the G8 Nations, they are automatically accepting that globalisation is inevitable and that they have little choice but to concede to the neo-liberal policies if it wishes not to be left behind.

Globalisation provides significant new opportunities for improving rural livelihoods thereby opening new markets, access to new technologies, improved social services, it can also present significant threats, since its benefits can easily bypass those who are isolated and marginal like the rural poor, women ethnic minority groups and other disadvantage members of society. The FAO committee asserts that globalisation tends to favour transitional economic initiatives at the expense of small-scale rural sources of farm and non-farm income-earning activities (FAO committee on Agriculture, 2003).

The sub-region has been unable to share fully in the benefits of globalisation. In most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) discovered inadequate infrastructure, weak tax administration, investment policies based to a large extent on bureaucratic discretion as opposed to transformed rules, limited access to information technology, poor communication facilities, underdeveloped financial services and weak judiciaries have all led to a failure of the region to participate in the international economy (IMF Staff, 2000).

The major problems related to economic and agricultural policy includes inadequate public investment in infrastructure, rural education and rural health. Poor policy and poor public investment have led to a lack of investment in farming, farm inputs supply and processing. Domestic markets have been lost in foreign imports, markets lost of countries in Asia, the Middle East and Latin America; in these countries poverty has been reduced (Kevin, 1995).

The challenge facing NEPAD is to better understand the interconnected relationship and linkages so that policies and regulations can be developed at local, national, regional and global levels to encourage its member states to participate in globalisation (FAO Committee on Agriculture, 2003).

POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND STRATEGIES THAT NEPAD NEED TO PUT IN PLACE IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4.1 GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

According to Giddens (2000) some theorists concentrate on the actors in the international system. Economic actors such as the multinational corporation- the IMF and the World Bank influence the State and are influenced by the state. (Giddens 2000). It is therefore important to acknowledge the role that is played by both multinational corporations and international organisations such as the United Nations in their endeavour to develop global economy and formulation of economic policies.

In considering the role of agricultural policy, it is useful to put in mind the two perspectives: The first pertains to private incentives, those that shape and motivate the behaviour of farmers (Sellen, 2003).

The second approach the World Bank maintains focuses on social incentives those that pertain to the nation as a whole and which concern economic growth and equity. Policy maker and donors on the other hand are concerned about international comparative advantage of commodity system and their role in reducing poverty (Sellen, 2003).

From 1995 to 1996, agricultural performance and real per capita incomes began to rise in the Sub-region. The improvement was caused by a new commitment by many countries to sound macroeconomic policies and more better managed economies to address the declining economic and social challenges that exist through out the region, as well as better terms of trade (IMF Staff, 2000).

With the integration of Agricultural activities in the region, there is a need to create a regional policy analysis and research network that will help to develop comprehensive agricultural policies and food security strategies. The network would in collaboration with research institution be responsible research and analysis leading to the co-ordination of agricultural policies and strategies in the sub-region. (Food and Natural Resources Network, 1994).

The international Monetary Fund (IMF), is placing greater emphasis on poverty reduction as a central objective of economic policy in the poorest countries especially in Sub-Saharan region. The IMF emphasis ownership of policy programmes. The broad strategy is set out in a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (P.R.S.P). The PRSP promote country ownership of policy program and also contribute to the coherence of policies, and it will also be the key strategy paper for the country's relations with all the creditors and donors and lastly it will help to ensure consistency in lending capital among the IMF, World Bank and other creditors and donors (IMF Staff, 2000).

Creating a favourable policy environment at national level for improving sustainable rural livelihoods is not easy. Conflicting political pressure and

urban policy orientations in many countries in both developed and developing countries, often work against rural dwellers, especially the poor. There is a need to continually monitor policy-making processes to ensure that they do not discriminate against the rural sector and the disadvantaged (FAO Committee on Agriculture, 2003).

Governments in Sub-Saharan need to work broadly to improve and sustain the livelihoods opportunities of a rural dwellers and stakeholders since all of them are its clients and have the potential capacity of becoming successful economic partners. In its effort to achieve sustainable economic development in Southern African countries, NEPAD need to maintain a poverty orientation policy framework which aims at targeting the more marginal and more excluded groups in rural areas. The main challenge FAO maintains is to produce benefits that are defined by the poor themselves and are not imposed on them by rigid sector priorities. (FAO Committee on agriculture, 2003).

Sustainable agricultural sector policy reforms will also have to be synchronised with macro, industrial sector and the trade reforms (Pretty, 1996). Setting appropriate prices for agricultural inputs and outputs to reflect better their full environmental and social costs has been identified as one way to achieve better policy integration (Pretty, 1996).

The first action that Sub-Saharan governments can take, is to coordinate policies and institutions more clearly. New policies that need to be adopted in the Sub-region, must be enabling, creating the conditions for development based more on locally available resources and local skills and knowledge.

NEPAD on the other hand will have to find ways of establishing dialogues and alliance with other actors. Dialogues and interaction would give rapid feedback, allowing policies to be adopted interactively. (Pretty, 1996).

Agricultural policies in Sub-Saharan region could enable people and professionals to make the most of available social and biological resources. It is therefore important for governments in the Sub-Saharan countries to declare a national policy for sustainable agriculture to help raise the profile for sustainable agriculture to and also help raise the profile of these processes and needs as well as giving value to the alternative societal goals. It will also establish the necessary framework within which more specific action can be taken. (Pretty, 1996).

Governments in the Sub-Saharan region should involve farmers research and implementation as they know their local conditions best. Research institutions Pretty (1996), maintains, must find ways of working closely with farmers and rural communities (Pretty, 1996).

4.2 AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND GENDER INEQUALITY

Gender inequality has created conditions under which African women's development process has not enabled them to enhance their physical and mental capacities in the promotion of poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

Women's contribution towards development is made problematic by the policy environments created as a result of the social role differentiation between males and females (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004). By incorporating cultural aspects as part of social capital, the disparity that exist between men and women and the promotion of gender equality in terms of rights, resources and voice, become part of equation for sustainable development (World Bank, 2001).

According to the United Nations Division for sustainable Development (1992), various policy documents address the issue of the importance of the role of women in sustainable development. Chapter 24 of Agendar 21 calls for the Global Action for women towards equitable and sustainable development (UN Division for Sustainable Development, 1992).

Fox and Van Rooyen maintains that traditionally the role and place of female are respectively supportive and subordinate to that of male, firstly within the family content and secondly in regard to the society, thus creating disparities between men and women in terms of access to the resource and development, this impacts negatively on the participation of women in social structures and organisations which in turn adversely affects the economic standing and capacity of women in society and leads to poverty (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

Ellis (1996) argues that the independent rights of women to land have tended to receive little attention in land reform policies and debate. Women are often deprived a link to established rights of land access in the process of reform.

The male-biased registration decisions can sharply worsen the social subordination of women to men, and it reflects deep-seated male dominance in all societies (Ellis, 1996).

Governments in Africa, especially in the Sub-region should take into account women's land rights in policy implementation. A critical aspect of discovering the impact of policies on women is to ask women who are likely to be affected by policy initiatives. The integration of women's needs into mainstream agricultural policies would constitute a large step forward in elevation of women in development strategy (Ellis, 1996).

The influence of socio-cultural values manifest among other things, in the exclusion of women in national policies and plans. Women access to land is restricted because of prevailing exclusionary land tenure policies. Access to agricultural land is gained through marriage and forfeited through divorce proceedings. Cultural practices in some African Countries; also dictate that women cannot inherit assets from their deceased husbands, including agricultural land for production and the growing of food to feed their families (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

In formulation of agricultural policies, NEPAD should take into account the fact that poverty and gender inequality are the major constraints that lead to inefficient economic outcome and reduce ability to manage risk.

The World Bank Report summary on Engendering Development (2001) indicates that putting additional income in households in the hands of the

women, results in a larger positive impact in integration sustainability. African leaders should therefore realise that investing in female education does not only yield the highest social return, but also affects economic sector, through its positive impact in agriculture, industry and infrastructure (World Bank, 2001).

The Sub-Saharan governments need to realise that policies will have to be revised not only to incorporate women's participation in existing process and structures, but to revamp these structures and processes to accommodate the specific needs of women (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

Ellis (1996) maintains that the integration of women into the concerns of mainstream policy formulation and integration is to identify women's needs that differ from those of men, so that policies are advised to take into account the different circumstances of men and women (Ellis, 1996).

In formulation of agricultural policies in Southern African Development Communities (SADC), agricultural policies on women should have high status across the range of policies that can have impact on living standards, dignity and self-reliance of farm women.

Maureen (2005), has challenged the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to develop policies that will support the increased participation of women in commercial agriculture. She said that SADC should do away with policies, which on the surface appear to support women engaged in agriculture, when in fact the same policies ended up frustrating them during implementation. She further stated that women have historically been

disadvantaged in owning, accessing and controlling land both under statutory and customary arrangements. This requires the attention of governments in the Southern African region (Maureen, 2005).

According to Maureen, women in Sub-Saharan region continued to process food under difficult circumstances due to lack of financial support and limited access to agricultural credit. Other challenges include lack of knowledge and skills in agricultural techniques. Maureen appeals to governments in Southern African region to work towards the formulation of policies that would support the development of women engaged in agriculture (Maureen, 2005).

According to Chisale (2005), if women were given access to ownership of land, they would positively contribute to national development. He maintains that women in Sub-Saharan Africa are playing an important role in the food security of the nation (Chisale, 2005).

4.3 COMPETITION

Countries are more than ever interested in assessing their status and actively addressing their improvements. Competitiveness initially emerged from techniques used by companies in developed countries to maximise growth and profitability. In the 1990, governments and development agencies began the analytical tool of competitiveness and a method for spurring private sector development in emerging economies (Murphy, 2003).

According to Murphy, (2003) competitiveness has been defined as the ability of a nation to meet the free international markets while expanding real incomes at home (Murphy, 2003). Michael, (2003), stresses that sustained growth in productivity is the ultimatum definition an measure of competitiveness (Michael, 2003).

An agribusiness competitiveness initiative is to assist the agribusiness to respond rapidly to reformed policy and institutional environment to achieve gains as measured by investment, growth productivity, profitability, employment and exports (Murphy, 2003).

The World Trade Organisation (WTO), asserts that globalising of finance policy reforms have shown quick response in private investment, employment and growth. Macro-economic policy reform therefore is necessary but not sufficient causes of growth (Murphy, 2003).

In developing competitiveness in the Sub-Saharan region, NEPAD should involve countries leaders especially ministers in the ministry of agriculture and business people, to assess whether there is interest and commitment among local stakeholders and other agencies of change. Secondly, leaders should be informed by counting a series of presentation designed to raise awareness to demonstrate the need for change (Murphy, 2003).

Increased agricultural productivity and more competitive markets are essentially ingredients of smallholder agricultural growth and offer opportunities for investments. Agricultural trade and market systems contributes to agricultural

growth by raising competitiveness in exports and domestic markets and connecting farmers to consumers and integrating countries into global markets. More market system will add value to products and process, deliver high quality, safe products, and reduce costs for consumers (Murphy, 2003).

NEPAD in its initiative of improved economic development in Sub-Saharan region, needs to work with local firms and cooperatives and associations and they should own the process improvement in their industry. According to Murphy (2003) associations are given technical assistance in such areas as marketing, intelligence, customer learning, competitive positioning, technology also be provided to individual farms as cost-sharing grants scheme (Murphy, 2003).

According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) the Uganda Development Scheme is an excellent example of the recipient of technical assistance. In less than a year the USAID developed agreements with 85 groups and trained over 7600 beneficiaries (Murphy, 2003). In its objective of developing the Sub-Saharan economy, NEPAD need to give technical assistance to the industry associations and individual agro-business farmers (Murphy, 2003).

In its effort in developing the economy of Southern Africa's Development Communities (SADC), NEPAD need to assist the local agro-business sector with technical assistance so that they link with lucrative markets, to innovate, to upgrade their factors of production and improve their strategies and business models. Progress competitiveness initiative can only be realised when local

agro-business leadership owns and participate in the process. This initiative can only work when there is openness and the will to pursue it (Murphy, 2003).

NEPAD will have to provide guidance regarding policies that will ensure human dignity but at the same time also reflect the discipline that is needed for economies to attract direct foreign investment which would ensure growth and enable Sub-Saharan countries to be competitive in foreign markets (Fox and Van Rooyen, 2004).

4.4 EUROPEAN UNION'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

Africa failed to create markets, delivery products in perfect condition and meeting the ever changing tests and preferences of consumers. The European union Subsidies and that of the Americans have marginalised that of African commodities. Now that European Union is in the process of dismantling these subsidies, it is the opportune time for NEPAD to integrate the African agriculture and move in to capture the markets created.

The European Union's agriculture and trade policies are under intense scrutiny in the ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) Donor negotiations. The European Union (EU) is under increased pressure to reform its agricultural and trade policies. The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) are concerned about negative effects of small-scale farmers and rural population that will need to be protected from subsidised EU imports (Faizel, 2003).

During the 2003 Franco-African Heads of State meeting held in Paris, President Chirac of France made three significant proposals to address complaints of African countries regarding EU agriculture and trade policies, he called for a temporary halt to export subsidies affecting Africa, an enhancement for the trade preferences for Africa and possible subsidies to make up for the changes in commodity prices. The recognition by President Chirac of the negative impact of EU agricultural policies on African economies was welcome by African leaders. (Faizel, 2003).

The EU on the other hand argues that one of the reasons for its conservative gradual approach to agriculture tariff liberalisation is its concern for the negative impact that the erosion of preferences will have on developing countries. According to Faizel (2003), the EU has a clear interest in slowing down the opening of its market. Some delegations to the WTO have argued that low-income and vulnerable developing countries should not bear the burden of adjustment of the agriculture sector in developed countries. It has also been argued that developed countries should assist countries that would need to adjust their economies and diversify their industries (Faizel, 2003).

The intense pressure the EU is being subjected to by its trading partners in the current World Trade Organisation (WTO), Doha negotiations create an opportunity for it to accelerate the reform of its agricultural liberalisation and sustainable development, particularly for the majority of developing countries especially in the Sub-Saharan Africa (Faizel, 2003).

According to South Africa Year Book (2001/2002), South African's objective in the agricultural negotiations are to achieve a substantial reduction in domestic support and export subsidies mainly by developed countries and another objective is to achieve the substantial improvement of markets access for South African agricultural exports. (SA Year Book 2001/2002).

The South African Agricultural department is developing trade relation with other countries. Aspects attended include finalising the Southern African Development Communities Protocol on Trade as well as implementing SA-EU Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA).

The agricultural eminence of Africa, especial in the Sub-region, has been slowly eroded because of changing agricultural terms of trade that have gone against African products. Africa failed to realign itself with the changing global needs. Such changes would have entailed movement upward along the agricultural value have seen Africa benefiting form changing tests and preferences of developing society (Department of Agriculture-South Africa 2002).

In formulating regional policies, which will improve agricultural economic development in SADC region, stakeholders in policy formulation must take into account issue of farmer's subsidies. Farmers in the Sub-region find it difficult to compete with their counterparts in global markets.

4.5 DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL AND INSTITUTIONS.

Developing human capital is a fundamental building block of agricultural growth. It is vital to build human and institutional capacity and lead policy research, and to provide agricultural education. Integrating vulnerable groups into sustainable development will reduce hunger and poverty in Sub-Saharan region (USAID Operational Plan, 2002/2003).

The governments in Sub-Saharan Africa can achieve this by helping the poor and hungry in rural communities out of poverty by accumulating assets, reduction of vulnerability to weather-markets and conflict-induced shocks and enhancing capacity of countries to manage shock that have regional and national impacts (USAID Operational Plan, 2002/2003). Developing local institutional capacities would lead to greater resilience of affected population and enhance sustainability of the development process (FAO Committee on Agriculture, 2003).

In developing human capital, NEPAD needs to take in to account that the needs of rural poor are diverse and multi-faceted. In order to address these diverse needs, approaches need to be developed which move away from exclusive production focus in recent years. Small rural producers and entrepreneurs and other disadvantaged sector of rural population, male or female, have the potential to become successful economic actors. However, in order to translate their potential into practice they must be empowered (FAO Committee on Agriculture, 2003).

In its effort to improve economic development in Southern African Development Communities (SADC) NEPAD need to develop institutions, which will provide education and training to the small rural producers to enhance their production and business marketing skills (FAO Committee on Agriculture, 2003).

Governments in Sub-Saharan Africa need to focus on helping disadvantaged groups to improve their own livelihoods. In order to create better opportunities and sustainable virtuous cycles, a number of stakeholders at different levels need to be involved through formation of partnership with other stakeholders on mutual issues of concern. Building the individual and community self-help capacities of rural people, assistance must be focused on creating the incentives that builds a sense of local ownership and encourage self-help initiative (FAO Committee on Agriculture, 2003).

The self-help initiatives of sustainable livelihoods, will help people in poor rural communities to re-integrate themselves into rural economy, contributing to their household's welfare and to the development of their communities. Sustainable Rural Livelihood according to FAO committee on Agriculture, is that of building on the strengths and potential of the poor rather than viewing them as a liability. This can be achieved by:-

- Strengthening and capacity building of self-help groups, farmers association, community based organisation and civil society organisations.
- Giving rural poor a voice through participation, access, training and communication and maintaining a greater focus.

- Facilitating growth at organisational grass-root level and strengthening their legal status (FAO Committee Agriculture, 2003) .

4.6 INITIATIVE AND STRATEGIES TO END HUNGER-USAID

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to End Hunger in Africa especially in Sub-Saharan Africa originated in the global recognition that hunger in Africa is one of the most significant development challenges facing the world today. USAID's commitment to implement the initiative rest on the recognition that clear political and technological options for reversing the trends of hunger and poverty in Africa exist. The initiative recognise that the success requires sustained investments in agriculture-based strategies, programmes and policies, improvements in health, education, infrastructure and public policy management (USAID, Operational Plan for 2002 and 2003).

The initiative calls for partnership that includes African leaders, civil society, donors and African governments to work and invest in smallholder-oriented agricultural strategy. The conditions to attract and support private investment need to be established and maintained because significant domestic and foreign investment come from the private sector (USAID, Operational Plan for (2002 and 2003).

In its initiative to end hunger and improving agricultural investments in agriculture, NEPAD need to involve all the stakeholders at local, national and

regional levels. Transfers of resource and administration responsibilities need to be transferred to local authorities so as to foster direct decision-making and participation at local level. It is only through ownership of the processes of development and commitment from all levels of society that poverty alleviation in Sub-Saharan region can be reduced (Graaf 1996).

The initiative of promoting agricultural growth according to the USAID operational plan for (2002/2003), can be used by NEPAD as framework for economic development in the sub-region.

The plan:

- Take into account that smallholder farmers and agricultural firm need to be assisted with capital in order to generate profits and income.
- Create a coordinated sub-regional trade relations in order to encourage growth.
- Support the efforts of countries and leaders committed to agricultural growth as a critical development pathway.
- Identify and target opportunities to accelerate smallholder-based agricultural growth leading to more efficient and profitable use of resources.

- Forge linkages with other sectors and initiatives including education, health, micro-economic reform and infrastructure improvement, to achieve common economic and social development objectives.

- To build alliances and broad-based political and financial commitment among public and private development partners in the Sub-Saharan region, Africa and Internationally to cut hunger in half by 2015 (USAID, Operational Plan for 2002 and 2003).

4.7 COMMUNITY AND PRODUCER BASED ORGANISATIONAL LINKAGES

Pretty (1996) argues that although government agencies have not been good at working with Non-Governmental Organisations, it is increasingly being recognised that they cannot go it alone when it comes to agricultural development. There is a wealth of skills and knowledge in the Non-Governmental sector, and governments are increasingly recognising the benefits of policies that support closer working with NGO's (Pretty, 1996).

The scale, scope and influence of NGOs concerned with development has grown enormously in recent years (Pretty, 1996). Their activities are diverse and they perform many of the roles carried out by government. This Pretty (1996) maintains, includes not only relief, welfare, community development and agricultural research and extension, but also advocacy and lobbying, development education, training, alliance building and national and international networking (Pretty, 1996).

Governments in Southern African Development Communities (SADC) must realise that varied functions and roles mean that NGO's are both critical actors in their own right, as well as potential partners for government and international institutions. NGO's Pretty and Chambers (1993) argues, they have the freedom to develop their own incentives for professionals, they have capacity to struggle to get things rights and the have the ability at local level to question, change and learn and must importantly they have the strength in supporting community initiatives. Unlike government agencies, NGO's are less affected by time and target bound-projects. Some of these factors make them very different form governmental agencies. (Pretty and Chambers, 1993).

For NEPAD to achieve agricultural growth, it should form partnership with the NGO's because in most instances, government institutions may be by passed because they are weak. Governments in Sub-Saharan region should be aware that NGO's are able to influence policies hence it is important to form consortia with them and farmers organisation for joint planning and coordination. These links between government agencies and NGO's have significant implications for new state-society relations. NEPAD therefore need to see NGO's as potential partners in research and extension.

4.8 LOCAL GROUPS AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

A sustainable agriculture cannot be realised without the full participation and collective action of farming households. A necessary condition for sustainable agriculture is therefore the motivation of a large number of farming households

for coordinated resource management. The successful sustainable agriculture depends therefore not just on the motivations, skills and knowledge of individual farmers, but on the action taken by groups or community as whole. According to Pretty (1996), what is required, is increased attention to community based action through local institutions and users groups (Pretty, 1996).

National governments in the Sub-region of Africa need to decentralise administration to reach down local groups. They could reform land tenure to individuals and give communities the right to manage their local resource (Pretty, 1996).

NEPAD therefore need to develop economic policy-frameworks that would encourage the more efficient use of resources and encourage new institutional frame works that would be more sensitive to the needs of local people. A more sustainable agriculture can only be achieved by integrated action at farm, community and national level.

Community organisation contribute to agricultural grow by providing a wide variety of business, training and leadership development services by giving a political voice to the economic interest of farmers who are too poor and too scattered to be heard. They create basic linkages between and values to producer efforts while offering business an efficient means of reaching producer (USAID, Operational Plan for 2002 and 2003).

The livelihoods perspective builds upon linkages between levels, institutions and sectors active in the rural context including rural-urban linkages. These micro and macro relations are not static, but change in response to international and external factors as well as being affected by programme and project initiatives. Internal or inter-country regional integration issues may also affect these linkages (FAO Committee on Agriculture, 2003).

It is therefore important that when formulating regional policy frameworks, NEPAD have to understand these linkages and how they affect livelihoods and so be able to choose the best development assistance intervention.

4.9 INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIES – AIMED AT ECONOMIC GROWTH

African leaders need to put agriculture at the center of programmes targeting economic growth and poverty reduction. If leaders are committed to agricultural growth, the sector can achieve significant results (USAID, Operational Plan for 2002 and 2003). Multi-sector approaches to reduction of malnutrition and poverty are promoting better public health, education, increased food supplies and non-farm sources of income.

In achieving economic growth, NEPAD needs to work closely with all the stakeholders who are committed to agricultural growth, rural incomes in Sub-Saharan Africa, they include, Africa governments, International Agencies, Private Sector Investors, Civil Society, Universities and a broad range of interest groups that provide support for the Southern region.

4.10. NEPAD'S COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAAD), has been prepared by incorporation with NEPAD steering committee. It offers guidance to member governments on a wide range of aspects of operationalisation and action to revitalise African agriculture. The proposed initiative focus on investment in:-

- Improvement of Africa's agriculture, food security trade,
- Improving rural infrastructure and market accesses including finance,
- Increasing food supply and reducing hunger and
- Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption (Nkulhu, 2003).

Nkulhu (2003), maintains that NEPAD-CAAP is based on the assumption that Africa itself, will increase its level of investment and that its external partners will come forward to support it (Nkulhu, 2003).

NEPAD is also developing Disaster Prevention and Emergency Response Food Crisis Program to address the food crisis in cooperation with the World Food Programme, FAO and the African Development Bank and the regional Economic Committees. The programme will:

- Strengthen the immediate response to the crisis including relief efforts and strengthen early warning systems currently in place.

- Address the food insecurity and HIV/AIDS as core of the food crisis and requiring food interventions.
- Address the question of food reserve systems.
- Strengthen NEPAD's capacity in leveraging financial and political support.

NEPAD Nkulhu (2003), asserts is committed to mobilisation African resource from governments as well as from private sector by increasing their investment in agricultural sector. African farmers associations as well as other civil society organisations will be mobilised to participate fully in the implementation of NEPAD's vision for agriculture (Nkulhu, 2003).

Africa's own commitment of funding agriculture should be seen against the background of re-emerging international recognition that funding agriculture is vital for sustainable development (Nkulhu, 2003). Through NEPAD's vision of sustainable agriculture, the Southern African region will realise it dream of economic recovery.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been deduced from the study and it was resolved that the major challenges that New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and governments in the Southern Africa's Development Communities (SADC) are facing, can be highlighted as follows:-

The governments in the Sub-Saharan region need to develop sound economic policies to promote liberalised trade and exchange in order to achieve economic development in the Sub-region. Through economic reforms, the agro-business will generate growth, which in turn will benefit other sectors.

Obstacles which hamper governmental, regional and international trade need to be removed so that the agricultural sector can participate in global trade thus benefiting both commercial and small household farmers. Subsistence farming need to be transformed into agro-business so as to encourage rural investments and improving the quality of life of the rural farmers.

Rural infrastructure needs to be improved and developed. The infrastructure component of public investment is recognised as an important element in the process of economic development. Infrastructure includes transport, roads irrigation, power, water supply, educational institutions and urban services.

Improvement of rural infrastructure will benefit the commercial farms in transporting their commodities to markets.

Financial institutions need to be transformed so as to facilitate savings, mobilisation to meet the investment and working capital requirements of agrobusiness, investors and small household farmers.

Strengthen local, national, regional and international mechanism for investment and trade by disseminating information about investment in agricultural sector. The information should reach the rural poor, rural farmers and commercial farmers so that they can also be able to participate in agricultural activities which will lead to economic growth at all levels.

Human resources must be improved through expanded investment improved public health, basic education and vocational training. The rural poor need capacity building and to be empowered.

Environmental policies must be conducive and supportive of poverty alleviation and sustainable management of natural resource. The agricultural systems must provide not only what humanity need today, but what the human family will require a decade or century to come.

Cooperative Societies need to be established. Cooperative marketing societies provide competition as well as marketing and storage arrangements in the region. Cooperative Societies promote participation and interests in the

agricultural sector and lead to economic growth at local, national and international growth.

Subsistence farming need to be transformed into agro-business in order to alleviate poverty through profit gained. Rural enterprise projects can be designed as to maximise the benefits for the poor.

Sustainable agriculture must be in the forefront of the local, national, regional and international agenda to eradicate poverty in low-income developing countries especially in Sub-Saharan region.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS

In order for NEPAD and governments in Southern African Countries to improve the economic growth in the Sub-region, action need to be intensified in the following areas agrarian reform, and rural development, strengthening of agricultural marketing services and facilities. Attention be accorded to sub-regional policy as a vehicle for fostering and enhancing inter-country cooperation in the production of trade food commodities and to provide increased income to the rural masses through the creation of greater employment opportunities in the context of viable development programmes and most importantly to liberise trade in the Southern region in order to achieve economic development and to get agriculture moving beyond recovery face.

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