

Regional Workshop on Agricultural Information, Communication and Knowledge Management (AICKM) Strategy Development and Meeting of SADC Network of AR&D Information Management Managers

***30th August – 3rd September 2010
Johannesburg/Pretoria, South Africa***

Opening access to agricultural information in SADC

The Open Access Working Group was born from the final regional ICART workshop by the SADC Network of Agricultural Research & Development Information Managers with its main aim on the development of a regional Agricultural Information Communication & Knowledge Management Strategy (AICKM). Though nearing project closure, the ICART project team acted as enabler to develop capacity and a better as well as holistic understanding of the related issues on AICKM in the SADC region, not only on regional level but also for the development of national AICKM strategies. The last workshop held from 30 August – 3 September 2010 successfully integrated information professionals, scientists and ICT practitioners to share expertise and learn from each other. One of the three parallel sessions was on Open Access and Institutional Repositories facilitated by Imma Subirats from FAO.

The working group drafted an initial outline of considerations on how to position the region, whereby the different agricultural institutions (government, education and research) in member countries can share information and knowledge in content systems allowing interoperability but most of all visibility. Considerations discussed were mandate, advocacy and incentives, systems and software, resources (financial & human), content and digitization, standards, workflow, policies and most of all how the network can be optimised, resulting in effective cooperation. The current working group is represented by Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Malawi, Mosambique, Seyshelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe. The following coordinators will act as champions to mobilize activities and output within the SADC AR&D Network:



- Christine W Kanyengo (Zambia) – User Needs Assessment & Capacity Building
- Poloko Ntokwane (Botswana) – Content & Digitization
- Rejaene van Dyk (South Africa) – Advocacy & Sensitization

SADC Working Group on Open Access: Initial Members

NAME	COUNTRY
Poloko Ntokwana	Botswana
Pinkie Sephelane	Lesotho
Isaac Chirwa	Malawi
Rosemay Ngkee Kwong	Mauritius
Sostino Mowmbe	Mozambique
Yuna Madeleine	Seychelles
Rejaene van Dyk	South Africa
Innocent Dlamini	Swaziland
Vidah Mahava	Tanzania
Christine W Kanyengo	Zambia
Richard Makanza	Zimbabwe
Imma Subirats	FAO