

The Southern Africa experience in regional food reserve

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Regional Food Reserve Facility

- Setting up a Regional Food Reserve Facility in SADC
- To respond to the recurrent food crises in Southern Africa, SADC recognises the need to develop a long-term strategy that is cost effective, minimises risks, and builds the basic foundations for long term growth.

Institutional and implementation issues

- A Management Committee draft an MOU to
 - formalizing setting up of the facility
 - get all the participating member states to sign

- Each member country to:
 - strengthen the food reserve system, construct or rehabilitate storage facilities, revise food security & stock holding policies in line with regional priorities.
 - promote cross border trade, increase domestic food production

Why is the food reserve not in place?

- SADC Secretariat & Council of Ministers have not finalised the proposal
- No consensus among the technical experts that such a facility is needed
- The 14 SADC countries have different challenges, governance issues hence the delay in project implementation
- Private sector is excluded in this arrangement
- Food is sensitive, linked to politics, sovereignty & inadequate financial resources

Conditions for success (1)

- Agreement on the fact that setting up a food reserve will resolve food shortages and high prices and that the country & region will benefit
 - More work is needed to convince member states of the benefits
- Private sector, development partners & other stakeholders must participate

Conditions for success (2)

- There must be a free trade environment guided by policy & good governance
 - High level institutional policy analysis, formulation and advocacy
 - Experts must be engaged in this project
- Financial commitment from member states & support

Lessons from the SADC RFRF for RESOGEST (1)

- The state owned companies or boards could be audited for compliance and effectiveness before engagement. This could also be applied to assess the effectiveness of even ECOWAS
- The public or private company must be well structured to attract funding from national or international banks

Lessons from the SADC RFRF for RESOGEST (2)

- Local producers associations will need a lot of capacitation to be effective in this process.
- More of 80% of the member countries for ECOWAS have signed their compacts and are implementing CAADP and share a common vision as it is a framework upon which African nations can easily coordinate and speak the same language. It is also an harmonising tool to bring African nations to work together.