

Trip Report on 'NEPAD Capacity Support to African Universities and Research Institutions' meeting under the 'SADC REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP' 4-5 December, Pretoria, South Africa

Dr Catherine Adeya-Weya, ATPS Research and Training Manager attended the SADC Stakeholder Engagement Workshop from 4 - 5 December 2008 in Pretoria, South Africa. The workshop was facilitated by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat in collaboration with the Flemish Government and the Southern Africa Trust.

The workshop was based on a project that the three collaborators have undertaken aimed at engaging countries for the integration of NEPAD into national development plans and processes, as well as fast-tracking implementation. This process involved comprehensive engagement with seven national governments in the SADC region. It also included the introduction of the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategy and its implementation at national level. A key component was to get a better understanding of NEPAD to enable them to communicate appropriately. Dr Adeya-Weya was specifically involved in the session on "**The Role of African Universities in Capacity Development**". This session was attended by a mix of scholars from universities, research institutes and research networks in Africa. It was a brainstorming session to understand and contribute to how universities/research institutes can play a more visible and effective role in capacity building in Africa.

It was recommended that NEPAD should organize another meeting exclusively to discuss the role of universities and research institutes in capacity building in Africa. The ATPS, ANAFE (African Network for Agroforestry Education), RUFORUM (Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture) and University of Maseno will assist NEPAD facilitate and organize this meeting in 2009.

In a side meeting Dr. Adeya-Weya and Dr Sloans Chimataro of NEPAD explored possible collaborative ventures between ATPS and NEPAD. The two agreed that the ATPS and NEPAD will explore future avenues for collaboration.

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