

SADC Explores Sustainable Solutions To Challenges Of Financing Projects For Energy Transmission Infrastructure



SADC senior officials in charge of Treasury and Energy held a regional workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, on September 19, 2022 to discuss the idea of a Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF) intended to offer a long-term solution to the region's energy financing challenges.

Most of the mainland SADC Member States are experiencing insufficient supply of electricity due to frequent breakdown of aging power generation plants; inadequate power generation capacity to meet growing demand; inadequate transmission interconnectors to fully facilitate energy trading between SADC Member States and congested power lines along the main power transfer corridors.

Furthermore, energy infrastructure projects are capital intensive and most Member States may not have adequate sovereign capital to individually develop energy generation and transmission infrastructure.

The consultative workshop took place against the backdrop of the identified challenges which all need a consolidated regional approach through pooled resources.

To this end, a RTIFF has been identified as one of the viable mechanisms for financing of resilient energy infrastructure in order to secure long-term energy supply. The RTIFF, once established and operationalised, is expected to assist Member States that have challenges in raising funds for electricity transmission projects of national and regional importance.

In his introductory remarks at the workshop, the Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for Regional Integration at the SADC Secretariat, Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo, highlighted that SADC Member States and their national power utilities were not necessarily required to participate as investors because RTIFF will be a funding platform that complements Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) lending with pooled debt.

The objectives of the consultative workshop were to discuss how the SADC Member States could address their energy infrastructure financing needs through innovative financing mechanisms for regional transmission projects by leveraging resources from the International Cooperating Partners, and the private and public sectors.

Source - SADC

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to our audience, about highlight news and activities being undertaken by SADC



SADC Explores Challenges Of Financing Energy Transmission Infrastructure

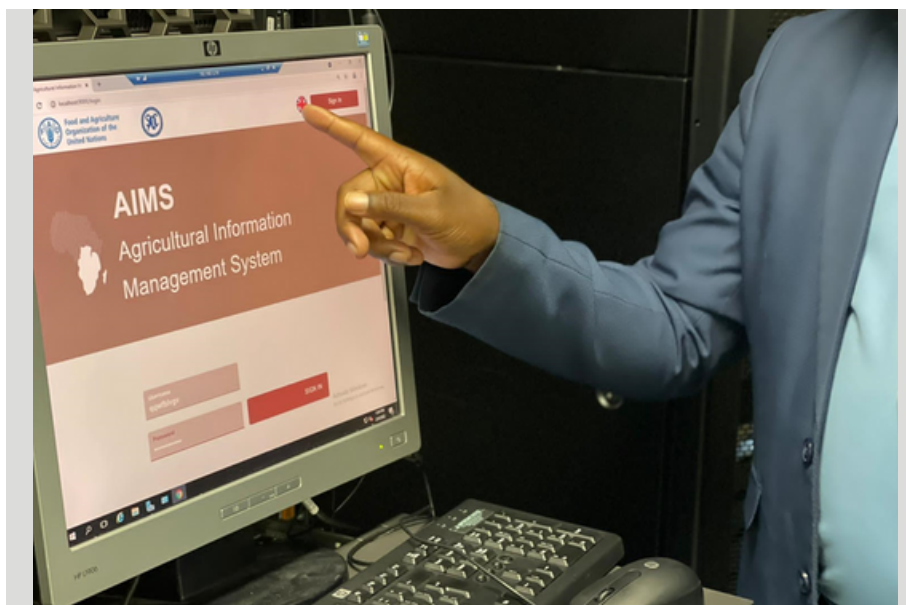
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has taken an important step towards enhancing seamless flow of intra-regional trade following the launch of the electronic Certificate of Origin (e-CoO) in Blantyre, Malawi, on 7th September 2022 under the theme 'Enhancing trade facilitation through the SADC Electronic Certificate of Origin'.

The recently launched e-CoO is intended to address the challenges encountered with the use of manual Certificate of Origin by simplifying customs procedures, enhancing e-Commerce, eliminating fraud, improving record management and statistical data, reducing cross-border certificate verification time as well as reducing the cost of doing business.

Speaking at the launch of the SADC e-Certificate of Origin, Commissioner General of the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA), Mr. John Bizwick, said the e-Certificate of Origin will improve the way business is conducted in the Region because the challenges that were associated with the manual processing of the certificate will be eliminated.

He said the electronic system will allow manufacturers, producers and exporters to electronically register their products for preferential treatment and apply for Certificates of Origin whenever there is an export shipment, adding that the introduction of the SADC e-Certificate of Origin will increase the seamless flow of intra-trade across the SADC Region by eliminating impediments caused by the manual process.

Director of Finance, Investment and Customs at the SADC Secretariat, Mr. Sadwick Mtonakutha, said implementation of the e-CoO is a notable milestone for SADC to keep pace with the rapid shift to e-Commerce, the drive to foster industrialisation and improve efficiency in serving the business community.



FAO, SADC Launch Regional Agricultural Information Management System

Unreliable and unharmonized data in the agricultural sector in Southern Africa has been a set-back for policy-makers, resulting in planning delays in processes for implementation of well-coordinated regional responses to curb threats that negatively impact on productivity and trade in the region.

To mitigate this, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) launched the inaugural SADC Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS), a platform to generate agricultural data for evidence-based decision-making for the region. The AIMS platform was developed through the project 'Support Towards Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy' (STOSAR) funded by the European Union (EU).

"The SADC AIMS is an integrated and multilingual system providing policy-makers with access to reliable and timely data on which to base policies resource allocations, and emergency interventions. This web-based application will provide SADC Member States with standardized instruments necessary to produce and disseminate comparable statistical information to inform SADC policies," said FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa Patrice Talla.

The SADC AIMS platform is a web-based application with 12 modules for collecting, storing and analyzing agricultural information. This system is supported by a high-end server that was installed at the SADC Headquarters data centre in February 2022. Thirty-two (32) computers were also procured for the 16 SADC countries to ensure they had the infrastructure for setting up a functional AIMS system at national level.

Source - SADC

SADC, FAO Strengthen Collaboration In Agriculture And Food Security



SADC Deputy Executive Secretary Regional Integration Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo met virtually with Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa (SFS) and FAO Representative in Zimbabwe Dr Patrice Talla Takoukam to share updates on implementation of programmes and activities under the SADC-FAO Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Dr. Mhlongo emphasized the role of FAO in assisting SADC to increase agriculture sector production, productivity and competitiveness, and intra-regional trade. He commended FAO for the groundbreaking achievements in agricultural information system, food security, notably crop and livestock development, including animal and plant pest/ diseases programmes, among others.

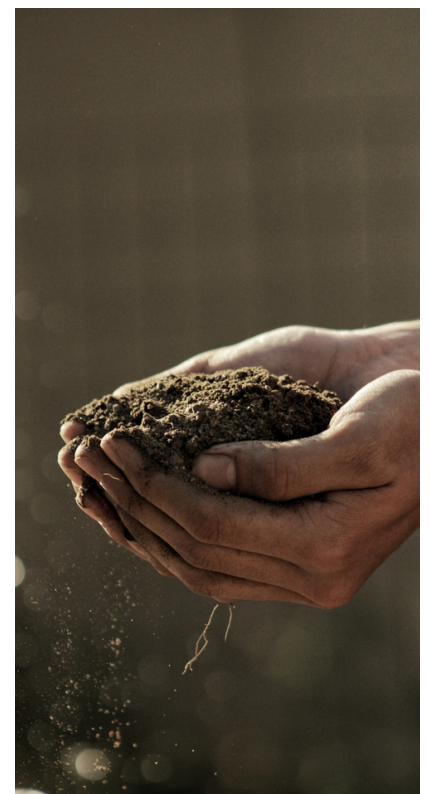
And Dr Takoukam stated that FAO values the cooperation with the SADC

region in providing support and assistance to Member States, stating that the relationship between the two parties has been productive in accomplishing a great deal of progress in the development of the agriculture sector in the SADC region.

FAO is working with SADC Member States to mobilize resources to provide support for flagship programmes by enhancing productivity, efficiency, competitiveness and catalyzing sustainable investments and trade in southern Africa's food systems.

FAO co-chairs the SADC-International Cooperating Partner (ICP) thematic group for Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources issues.

Source - SADC



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