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List of Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACSS	African Crop Science Society
AFO	Assistant Finance Officer
AIMS	Agricultural Information Management System, SADC
BioFISA	Finnish Southern Africa Partnership Programme to Strengthen NEPAD/SANBio Network
Bioversity	Bioversity International
CEPA	Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy, Malawi
CSIR	Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa
CTDT	Community Technology Development Trust
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GCDT	Global Crop Development Trust, Zimbabwe
ICM	Integrated Committee of Ministers
IIAM	Mozambique National Institute of Agronomic Research
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
LAN	Local Area Network
MSBP	Millenium Seedbank Project
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NordGen	Nordic Gene Bank
NPGRC	National Plant Genetic Resources Centre
NPRCom	National Plant Genetic Resources Committee
PGR	Plant Genetic Resource
PMS	Performance Management System
RCWG	Regional Crop Working Group
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SANBio	Southern Africa Network for Biosciences
SDIS	SPGRC Documentation and Information System
SFC	Senior Finance Clerk
Sida	Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency
SPGRC	SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre
SPO	Senior Programme Officer, SADC



Report Highlights

- 26th SPGRC Ordinary Board Meeting Held in Lusaka, Zambia
- SPGRC Seed Fair, 2009
- Technical Review and Planning meeting in Lusaka, Zambia
- Zambian Deputy Minister for Agriculture & Cooperatives Visit

1.0 Management And Administration

1.1 The 26th Ordinary Board Meeting, Lusaka, Zambia

The 26th SPGRC Ordinary Board meeting was held at SPGRC in Lusaka, Zambia between 5th and 6th of November 2009. The meeting was opened by the Zambian Permanent Secretary for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Dr Banda.

The Board welcomed the new Tanzanian Board Member, Mrs Eva Kanyeka who replaces Dr Mohammed Msabaha who retired from public service. Seychelles, which had recently rejoined SADC was represented by Mr A. Moustache. Ms Elizabeth Matos who retired from the Board in 2008 and was replaced by Dr Antonio Alcochete once again attended as the Angolan Board Member because Dr Alcochete was appointed Director in the Ministry of Science and Technology and no longer represented the country in the Board.

The Board was also attended by the NordGen Director, Jessica Kathle; the MSB Project representative, Tim Pearce; Biversity-SSA Director, Dr Jojo Baidu-Forson.



Group photograph of SPGRC Board Members, 2009

While Dr Jafta from South Africa and Mr Yacoob Mungroo could not attend the meeting and no one represented them, Dr Chalabesa from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives represented Zambia on behalf of Dr Stephen Muliokela, the Board Member who could not attend.



Discussing issues raised at the planning meeting, the Board directed and urged SPGRC Management to implement decisions made at the meeting that include strategic issues and continuation and development of new programmes after the end of Nordic donor funding, sharing of responsibilities between SPGRC and NPGRCs as a way of rationalizing use of limited resources. It also urged SPGRC to play a more proactive role in the multilateral systems and strive to develop global partnerships and collaborations.

The Board urged countries through their respective NPGRCs to honour the obligations to multiply required and pledged accessions for bridging the gap between the active collections in the NPGRCs and the base collection at SPGRC.

The Board approved NPGRC funding requests as well as SPGRC business plan and budget for 2010/11.

1.2 Workshops and Meetings

1.2.1 Annual Technical Review and Planning Meeting

The annual SPGRC/NPGRCs technical review and planning meeting convened in Lusaka between 7th and 9th September 2009 where the genebankers reviewed implementation of the technical activities for 2008/2009 cropping season and evaluated technical plans for the 2009/2010 cropping season. It also facilitated information sharing on technical and networking issues. Attended by 40 participants from NPGRCs, SPGRC, Sida, NordGen, Bioversity International, and the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the meeting discussed a number of issues of mutual interest to NPGRCs and SPGRC as well as other stakeholders.

The meeting was briefed on the status of construction of biotechnology laboratory at SPGRC. Progress reports on the implementation of SPGRC/SANBio policy project and regeneration project funded by the Trust were presented.

The participants were also briefed on steps so far achieved in the development of the web-based SDIS, and the quest for transfer of SPGRC portal for hosting it within the region.



Planning meeting in session at Protea Hotel (Cairo Road), Lusaka

1.2.2 Regional Crop Working Groups

There were no Regional Crop Working Groups (RCWGs) meetings held during the reporting period. The outputs from previous meetings were being considered for use to implement strategies for the conservation of plant genetic resources of various species groups.

A Team that was composed by SPGRC to develop an in-situ/on-farm proposal continued sharing information and to further develop other proposals.

Ms T. Lupupa, the SPO – *In-situ* Conservation informed the participants that the proposal is at advanced stage and final comments were being awaited before it is finally submitted to potential funding agencies and collaborators.

1.3 Visitors

SPGRC hosted many visitors during the reporting period ranging from students, farmers to prominent individuals. They are listed in Appendix III below.



2.0 Personnel, Equipment and Supplies

2.1 SPGRC Personnel

The staffing levels at SPGRC have remained unchanged after the filling-in of the previously vacant Head's and one general worker's positions since last financial year.

2.2 Staffing in NPGRCs

Despite the relative stable staff complements in the NPGRCs, two officers, one from Angolan and Malawian NPGRCs left the genebanks. Dr Antonio Alcochete, Head of Molecular Characterization of Angola was promoted to become the Director of National Centre of Science and Technology in the Ministry of Science and Technology. A Research Officer from Malawi left the NPGRC for an NGO. Mr Abilio Afonso, a Research Officer joined the Mozambique NPGRC after completion of degree studies.

While Zimbabwe recruited eleven new staff members for the Genetic Resources and Biotechnology Institute, the staffing level at Swaziland NPGRC has remained the same with only one Research Officer who has no substantive technical assistants.

Reports regarding National Plant Genetic Resource Committees (NPGRCs) were that their composition remained the same except Swaziland where one member who left an organization he was representing was replaced. Composition in the Botswana NPGRCCom also changed, appointing new Chair and Secretary of the Committee.

Many NPGRCComs held meetings to discuss among other things, training of staff, sensitization, and domestication and implementation of the Treaty. However, some countries including Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia did not hold meetings during the year.

2.3 Equipment and Supplies

The fleet of vehicles at SPGRC is reasonably in a fair condition. The old Land Rover – Discovery has been put up for sale and the disposal (sale) process are on-going. The old Toyota minibus is due for replacement and the procurement process for the new bus is on course.

Four (4) deep freezers were bought locally in January 2009 and another set of four (4) in June 2009. Filter clothes were also procured in April 2009. Electrical re-wiring was done in the genebank during the reporting period to replace the overloaded previous grid. Freezer repairs were frequent as a result of breakdowns caused by power outages by national utility company.

Four (4) desktop computers, colour printer, heavy-duty Uninterruptible Power Supply unit, and assorted computer software packages were procured for SPGRC to replace old ones.

The old stand-by generator has often been made to run more hours than what is expected due to frequent and sometime long power outages by the State power utility company. Replacement of the generator needs to be given priority.

Renovation of the Lesotho NPGRC building was completed,

3.0 Training and Education

Several network staff attended various short training courses in different areas including biosafety, molecular techniques, geo-informatics, and other areas of PGR management.

There are currently 4 network staff pursuing PhD studies from Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe with the latter two being sponsored by the SPGRC network. The Angolan candidate is studying in Brazil, the Mozambican in Denmark and the Zambian and Zimbabwean candidates are studying in Sweden, the latter two under project sponsorship.

The 3 MSc candidates from Mauritius, Tanzania and Zimbabwe who were pursuing their studies in PGR management and related fields successfully completed their studies during the year and have since returned to their respective countries to work. While the Mauritius and Zimbabwean candidates were sponsored by the project in undertaking their studies in Sweden, the Tanzanian candidate was not sponsored by the project. He studied in New Zealand.

3.1 Training for SPGRC Network Staff

3.1.1 Performance Management System

All SPGRC staff attended a Performance Management System (PMS) training conducted in Lusaka in October 2009 by the SADC Secretariat (HR Department)



and appointed consultants. The training was in conformity with the preparation for implementation of the new SADC PMS that is result-based.

3.1.2 Training and Education for NPGRC Staff

Ten (10) SADC nationals attended the annual short course that was held at NordGen in Sweden (Table 1). Other courses attended outside the network are reported separately, under respective technical activities.

Table 1: Participants for short course on PGR Management at NordGen, 2009

No.	Name	Country
1.	Ms. Isabel Hady Daniel	Angola
2.	Ms. Mary Kneen Molefe	Botswana
3.	Mr. Thuso Matejane	Lesotho
4.	Ms. Junice Dzonzi	Malawi
5.	Mr. Egas Jeremias Nhamucho	Mozambique
6.	Mr. Fernandos Tshianaula Shooya	Namibia
7.	Mr. Lisia Tjeripo Tjaveondja	Namibia
8.	Mr. Gugu Mavuso	Swaziland
9.	Ms. Ilitongo Kaywala	Zambia
10.	Mr. Onismus Chipfunde	Zimbabwe
11.		DRC

With the above participants, the total number of trained SADC scientists/personnel between 1990 and 2009 is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Trained Personnel under SPGRC in PGR (1990 to 2009)

Country	Certificate* +NGB	MSc.	PhD	Total
Angola	16	3	-	19
Botswana	17	5	-	22
DRC	2	-	-	2
Lesotho	16	5	-	21
Malawi	28	7	-	35
Mauritius	11	5	-	16
Mozambique	21	3	-	24

Namibia	16	3	-	19
Seychelles	2	1	-	3
South Africa	13	4	-	17
Swaziland	23	4	-	27
Tanzania	26	5	-	31
Zambia	25	5	1**	30
Zimbabwe	25	6	1**	31
Total	241	56	2**	297

* Short course at NGB or short course at the University of Birmingham in U.K., or short course in Plant Taxonomy in Sweden or SPGRC short course in Zimbabwe, or SPGRC Documentation Workshop in Zambia.

** Started in Winter 2007, expected to last 4 years, until 2011

3.1.3 Other Training

The Assistant Finance Officer, the Assistant Administrative Officer and the Senior Finance Clerk attended a training session on the use of the Sun Accounting System in Gaborone Botswana from 29th June to 3rd July 2009.

Under the SANBio project capacity building initiative, the SPO – Documentation & Information underwent training in project management using MS Project software in Pretoria, South Africa between 13th and 15th October 2009.

3.2 Some Important Meetings Attended by SPGRC Staff

Apr 2009	<p>The Head travelled to Windhoek on a mission to hold discussions with the Board Chairperson;</p> <p>SPO – Ex-situ attended a workshop on Land and Agrarian Reforms held in Johannesburg, South Africa;</p> <p>The AFO and SFC attended the annual retreat of the Budget and Finance Directorate in Rustenberg, South Africa.</p>
May 2009	<p>The SPO <i>in situ</i> attended the SANBio Steering Committee meeting in Pretoria where the project proposal on the harmonisation of policies in the SADC region;</p> <p>The Head visited Botswana where he held one-to-one meeting with the SADC Executive Secretary and to South Africa to attend SADC meeting of Ministers responsible for Food Security;</p> <p>The Head travelled to New York (USA) to attend a CSD-17 meeting at the UN at the invitation of the Nordic Council of Ministers</p>



Jun 2009	<p>The SPO <i>in situ</i> attended the FARA meeting that deliberated on the establishment of an Agricultural Biodiversity Initiative for Africa (ABIA) which will fall under the umbrella body of FARA;</p> <p>The Head attended the 3rd Session of the Governing Body of ITPGRFA held in Tunisia</p>
July 2009	<p>The Head and SPO – Documentation & Information attended a planning meeting for the SANBio-funded project on policy review;</p> <p>SPO <i>in situ</i> participated in the germplasm collection mission in the Southern Province of Zambia, in July 2009;</p> <p>SPO <i>in situ</i> attended seed fairs in Swaziland, South Africa and Zambia, July – August 2009;</p> <p>SPO – <i>Ex-situ</i> visited Zimbabwe to provide technical backstopping to the genebank - assist in solving problems and other issues relating to genebank and best practices;</p> <p>SPO – <i>Ex-situ</i> visited and facilitated at a workshop whose aim was to sensitise Policy makers and stakeholders on domestication of ITPGRFA in Lesotho.</p>
Aug 2009	<p>SPO – Documentation & Information visited Zambian NPGRC to help with ICT problems and audit proper placement of accessions as is showing in the database</p>
Sep 2009	<p>The Head and SPO – <i>In-situ</i> travelled to Malawi to attend a joint SPGRC/CEPA/CTDT proposal writing meeting in Blantyre;</p> <p>The SPO <i>in situ</i> attended the Council meeting in DRC; on behalf of the SPGRC Head;</p> <p>SPO – <i>Ex-situ</i> attended African Crop Science Conference in Cape town - South Africa and presented a paper entitled "Seed Regeneration Practices at the Southern Africa Genetic Resources Centre"</p>
Oct 2009	<p>The Head in company of the Project Supervisor visited Malawi on a backstopping mission;</p> <p>The SPO <i>in situ</i> attended the ABS Regional Meeting in Addis Ababa which was organized to finalize issues on the African position for the upcoming Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) negotiations to be held in Montreal, Canada;</p> <p>SPO – <i>Ex-situ</i> visited Zimbabwe to monitor performance of the genebank and provided technical backstopping on issues relating to implementation of best genebank practices;</p> <p>SPO – <i>Ex-situ</i> attended regional conference on Trade, Biodiversity and Development held at the Lake hotel, Gauteng province - South Africa.</p>

Nov 2009	The Head travelled to Botswana to attend SADC meetings; SPO – Ex-situ attended a Research Skills Workshop in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Dec 2009	None
Feb 2010	The Head travelled to DRC to attend SADC meetings;
Mar 2010	SPO <i>in situ</i> visited farmers involved in on-farm activities in Lesotho; SPO – Documentation & Information as a member, attended a SADC-AIMS Steering Committee held in Johannesburg. He also visited Seychelles in order to kick-start genebank activities including training and installation of SDIS at the Seychelles Agricultural Agency; SPO – <i>Ex-situ</i> visited Mozambique and Swaziland to assess the progress made in implementing 'Regeneration and Safety Duplication of Regionally Prioritized Crop Collections in Southern Africa'; SPO – Documentation & Information visited Seychelles to kick-start genebanking activities related to documentation and information management ; The Head travelled to Seychelles to help establish genebanking activities and the NPGRCOM

4.0 Technical Activities

4.1 GERMLASM COLLECTING AND *IN SITU* CONSERVATION

4.1.1 Germplasm Collection

Considerable work has been done on rescuing traditional crops in the region. This is confirmed by the shift of collection missions to target wild crop relative and other wild edible species. It is only a few countries that are yet to cover remote areas which were war zones or not passable due to lack of infrastructure. Those countries involved in the Millennium Project have also covered reasonable forest areas coupled with Red Data Listing of threatened species. During the planning meeting, it was pointed out that there is good will at the global level to assist countries with funding for rescue missions.

A collection mission for wild crop relatives in Malawi was postponed to next year due to logistical problems. SPGRC only participated in the Zambian mixed crop collection mission. Other countries conducted collections targeting crops, wild species and weedy plants. The table below reflects material collected during the reporting period.



Table 3: Germplasm Collections in 2008/09

Country	Number of Samples	Remarks
Angola	211	Mixed crops 140, wild sp 71
Botswana	15	Wild species: 621 through the Millennium Seed Bank Project
Lesotho	423	Multi crop species
Malawi		Eco-geographical survey on wild cowpea
Mozambique	283	Mixed crops 199, from the Northern provinces and Wild sp 84, from the Limpopo Game Reserve.
Namibia	73	Wild species
South Africa	165	Crops and wild species. 768 samples of wild species repatriated from KEW to South Africa
Swaziland	64	Crops, medicinal plants and other wild useful plants.
Tanzania	260	Mixed crop 60, along the Coastal region. 200 cowpea from Dodoma regions for use in the Cowpea Productivity Enhancement project, being funded by DANIDA.
Zambia	275	Mixed threatened crops and gap filling covering Northern and Southern provinces
Totals	1,769	

4.1.2 On-farm Conservation

Conservation of indigenous crop diversity by farmers in their fields is an area that needs to be promoted in the region. This method allows for exposure/evolving of crops to the ever-changing climatic conditions, and to the forces of farmers' practices such as selection and general management. The on-farm agrobiodiversity conservation strategy also broadens the base for food security and diversified dietary intake.

The countries where on-farm activities were piloted way back since 2003/4 were now at the stage of scaling up and spreading out to reach other communities, while other countries (Namibia, Tanzania) are at the initial level of conducting base line surveys for the identification of farmers and target crops. Participating farmers in Malawi and Zambia have experienced surplus produce and are now faced with marketing problems. Restoration of target crops in areas like Rufunsa, in Zambia, Mzimba in Malawi, was successfully achieved and the crops are now in abundance (sorghum, finger millet, groundnuts, bambara and beans). Farmers are now requesting for assistance in the construction of Community Seed Banks for the facilitation of seed storage and sharing.



*Where farm is water-logged, farmers use raised mound ridges to raise crop:
Indigenous knowledge demonstrated by Malawian farmers*

Countries like Swaziland, South Africa and Zambia are in the process of extending the activities to new sites/communities. South Africa is on the verge of establishing 2 Community Seed Banks, one at the Eastern Cape and one at Mpumalanga, for enhancing access to planting material on time and strengthening seed sharing and supply at community level.

Seed Fairs have continued to improve the utilization and maintenance of crop diversity through the spirit of competitions. It serves as an easy tool for assessing and monitoring genetic erosion, seed availability before the next cropping season. As farmers display their diverse range of crops and food dishes (as practiced in South Africa, Swaziland, SPGRC), it becomes feasible to determine what is available, threatened and not common in the area. Farmers also share seed and Indigenous Knowledge on farming practices. It is encouraging to note the increase in the number of countries carrying out on-farm activities, from 6 to 9. The task on the assessment of Community Seed Banks in the region is still work in progress; a final report will be presented in the next planning meeting.

4.1.3 *In Situ* Conservation and Under-utilized Plants

In Malawi, a wild cow pea species, *Vigna repens* is threatened by destruction of forests, unsustainable harvesting, etc, and in situ conservation measures need to



be applied. Monitoring of the Red Data listed *Raphionacme haeneliae*, the only true desert species was done in Namibia. *In situ* conservation measures are also explored.

Threatened medicinal plants and wild fruit species are maintained at SPGRC. More plants are yet to be sourced and planted during the raining season. A second assessment of the status of *Tylosema* was done in Namibia. The plant is threatened by uncontrolled harvesting and by delayed rains due to climate change. More assessments will be done in Botswana and South Africa. A proposal on the domestication of *Tylosema* is yet to be finalized and sent to donors for fund mobilization.



Sharing of seeds and indigenous knowledge is one focus area promoted by the in-situ conservation section

4.1.4 SPGRC Seed Fair

The Crop Diversity Fair was successfully held at SPGRC on the 27th August 2009. The focus was more on the sustainable utilization and promotion of crop diversity. The theme was "Access to Food through Crop Diversity". The guest of honor was Honourable Daniel Kalenga, Deputy Minister of Agriculture & Cooperatives, Zambia. The occasion was also attended by farmers from 3 farming communities around SPGRC. Other invited guests included the SPGRC Board Member for Zambia, and government officials from various relevant institutions. Farmers displayed their crop

diversity and at the end of the function, they shared the seeds by selling, bartering and mere exchange. Traditional food dishes were also displayed and tasted. This function helps to market the activities of SPGRC in the host country.



Hon. D. Kalenga (Centre) chatting with the Zambian member of SPGRC Board, Dr S. Muliokela

National Seed Fairs were held in Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia. The SPM *In Situ* participated in South Africa and Swaziland Fairs.

4.1.5 Field Genebanks

The activity is done at country level. Most root and tuber crops are conserved in specialized institutions. The list of conserved species is captured and updated by genebank managers in the SDIS.



4.2 DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

4.2.1 Hardware and Software

The new telephone system at the SPGRC offices has been extended to staff houses through a wireless connection. A wireless Internet connection extended from the office LAN has been installed and working at residences.

Following frequent breakdowns of the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) unit serving the communication and Local Area Network (LAN), a new UPS (from NordGen) was procured and installed.

Four desktop and three laptop computers and a portable video camera were purchased to replace aging ones used by the staff. A bulk of software including Microsoft Office 2007, In-Design, Photoshop, CorelDraw, Adobe Acrobat, and Anti-virus were also purchased and installed.

4.2.2 Database Development

The Section continued with the design and development of the new version (web-based) of SDIS such that in the near future a stand-alone window based system is eventually replaced. A prototype was demonstrated to participants of the planning meeting. With a few inputs from them, and with the further development plans in mind, the web-based system should be in place by the end of 2010 in anticipation that all NPGRCs have LANs and have operational servers that are connected to the Internet.

4.2.3 Information

4.2.3.1 Network News

The Network newsletter issues for July-December 2008, January – June 2009, and July – December 2009 were published and distributed to stakeholders. As usual, SPGRC calendars and Christmas Greeting cards were distributed to stakeholders.

4.2.3.2 Connectivity to the Internet

SPGRC was asked to update the connectivity proposal that was earlier on submitted

to the donor. This was done and resubmitted to NordGen. The proposal made to NordGen in anticipation for the upcoming web-based SDIS covered building LANs for NPGRCs and connecting them to the Internet.

Table 4: Estimates for NPGRCs Connection to Internet

Item	Countries										
	Ang	DRC	Les	Mlw	Mur	Moz	Swz	Tza	Zam	Zim	Tot
LAN	-	1	1	1*	1	1	1*	1	-	1	8
VSAT/Ded. Line	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Server	1*	1	1*	1*	1	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*	10
Switch	-	1	1	1*	1	1	1*	1	1*	1	9
Commissioning	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Annual Subscr.	1	1	1	1*	1	1	1*	1	1*	1*	10
Workstation(s)	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	4

Notes:

- Zimbabwe NPGRC has a LAN cabling which is not installed/operational; whereas, Tanzania has a LAN that is not connected to the Internet;
- Estimated costs for the whole proposal US\$ 123,550 if everything was to be covered but currently only items with asterisk (*) were covered by the project. By coincidence, a number of them got the proposed infrastructure through their national governments.

In summary, to date, DRC, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe remain unreliably connected to the Internet and extra support is needed, especially in the anticipation of the operationalization of the web-based SDIS.

4.2.3.3 Publicity and Awareness of SPGRC

SPGRC has stepped up its publicity campaign so that the stakeholders become knowledgeable and appreciate of what it is doing and what it has to offer for the region.

In order to increase the institutional visibility to the public, the Section intensified its campaign of publicity by spearheading participation in the Zambian annual agricultural and commercial show held in July – August in Lusaka led by the Information and Documentation Section. It participated in the Zambian National Agricultural and Commercial Show held in Lusaka, Zambia. It also held a Seed Fair at SPGRC.



Our co-exhibition with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives have raised awareness about SPGRC activities and its role in enhancing food security and economic well being of the SADC people.

During the year, SPGRC printed calendars and reprinted Christmas cards that were together with other publications (newsletter) distributed to NPGRCs, Board Members and other stakeholders.

SPGRC has re-designed and added necessary new features to a portal that has been uploaded and is being updated frequently. It is accessible at <http://www.spgrc.org.zm> hosted by a local company in Zambia. It is now kept up to date and NordGen has promised to hand over the older domain name (www.spgrc.org) which is better known by partners and stakeholders. Most information and publications are available from the portal. SPGRC and SADC countries have a clear wish to transfer this server to SPGRC as soon as possible so that all access and maintenance comes under SPGRC's control.

4.2.4 SPGRC Library

Subscriptions to existing journals, serial and other publications were renewed and new subscriptions made and continue to be made. More books (more than 10 titles) related to biodiversity management were purchased and added to the library collections that serve network scientists to keep themselves abreast with new information, technology and other developments in PGR management. Library automation software has been ordered and plans are underway to install and automate library functions at SPGRC. A few library shelves were procured and fitted in the library to give more book stack room.

4.2.5 Support to NPGRCs

The Documentation & Information Officer and Technical Officer went to Tanzanian NPGRC to re-install and update the database in a crashed computer machine. Again, in the process it was discovered that there was need to re-arrange materials in the genebank. Upon visiting the Zambian NPGRC, the officers once again discovered a need for material re-arrangement. It is generally assumed that there is need for the officers to make some kind of audit for accessibility of materials to ensure that the actual locality in freezers tallies with SDIS.

In an effort to re-establish links with and activities in Seychelles, Documentation & Information Officer and Technical Officer visited the country and conducted training on the use and management of SDIS as well as installing the software in designated machine at the Seychelles Agricultural Agency.

4.3 EX SITU CONSERVATION

4.3.1 Seed Handling and Storage

This report covers seed accessions that have been received from November 2008 to October 2009. A total of 937 accessions were received from eight SADC countries and conserved in the genebank at SPGRC.

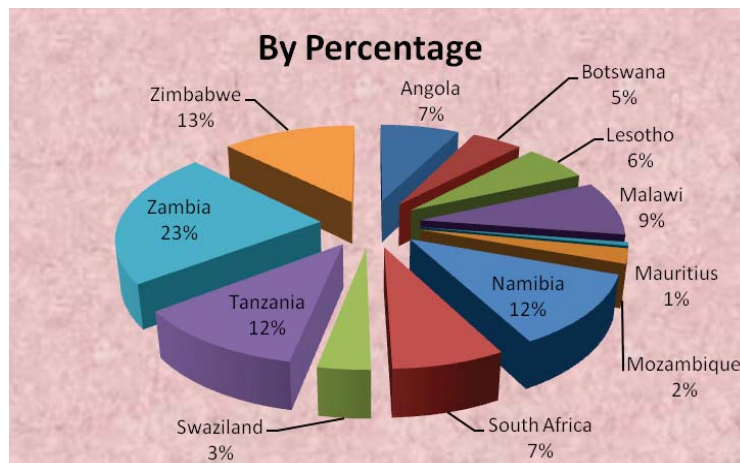
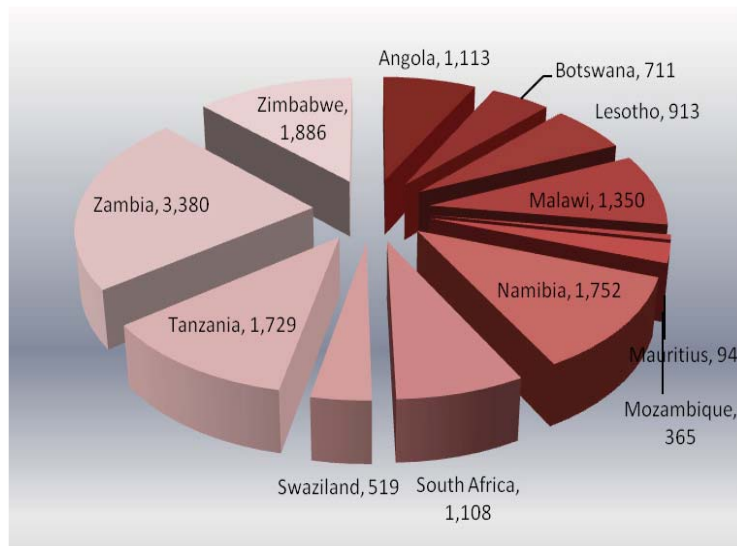
The total number of material conserved in the base collection increased from 14,872 to 15,810. The list of conserved species is shown below:

Table 6: Accessions of major species held at SPGRC

Species	Common Name	Number of Accessions
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench	Sorghum	4,267
<i>Eleusine coracana</i>	Finger Millet	1,128
<i>Zea mays</i> L.	Maize	1,957
<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i> (L.) R. Br.	Pearl Millet	1,561
<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> (L.) Walp.	Cowpea	896
<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.	Groundnut	748
<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.	Beans	1,018
<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	Rice	335
<i>Vigna subterranea</i> (L.) Verdc.	Bambara Nuts	329
<i>Cucurbits (C. Pepo & maxima)</i>	Pumpkin	348
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thumb.) Matsumura & Nakai	Water Melon	215
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Wheat	142
<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (L.) Millsp.	Pigeonpea	168
<i>Cicer arietinum</i> L.	Chickpea	144
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	Pea	106
<i>Oryza longistaminata</i> A. Chev. & Roehr.	Wild Rice	55
<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.	Sesame	101
<i>L. siceraria</i>	Gourd	113
Total		14,920

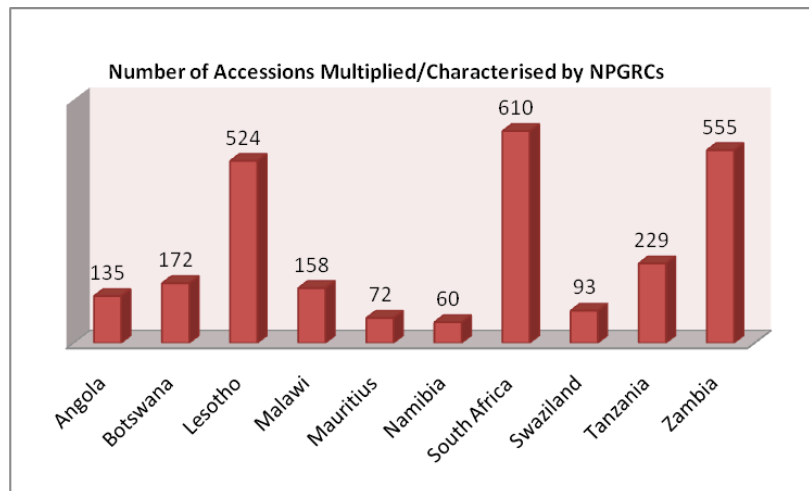


Numbers of accessions conserved as a base collection at SPGRC for individual Member States are shown below.



4.3.2 Multiplication, Regeneration and Characterisation

As part of a regional effort to balance the numbers of accessions that are held as Active collections and the Base collection at SPGRC. 924 accessions were multiplied for Member States at Chalimbana Experimental Station. A total of 3,216 accessions were multiplied and characterised by NPGRCs as shown in the figure below.



1.1.2 Coordination and Support to NPGRCs

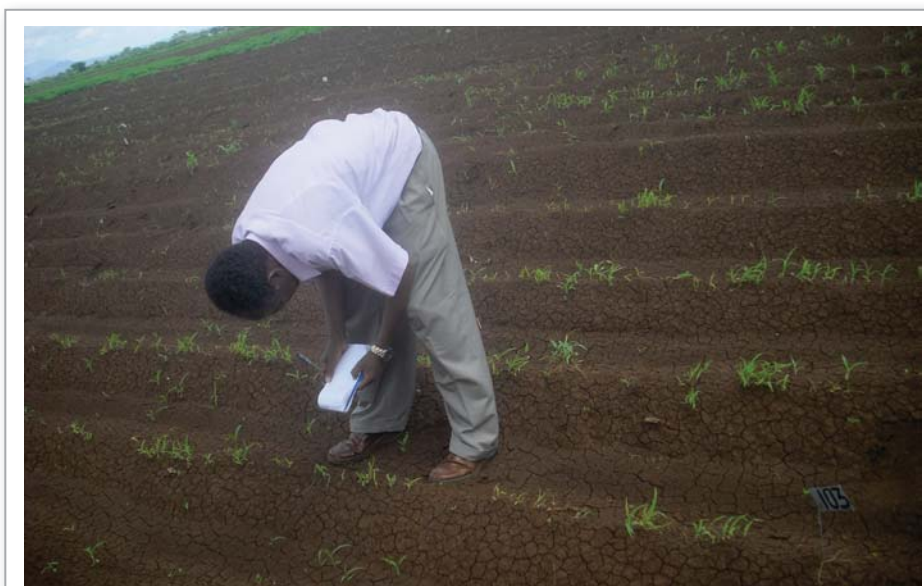
Zimbabwe and Lesotho NPGRCs were visited as part of coordination, technical backstopping and monitoring adherence of agreed gene banking standards.

4.3.4 Regeneration and Safety Duplication of Regionally Prioritized Crop Collections

Five countries namely: Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe planned to regenerate 331 cowpea, 452 maize and 789 sorghum accessions with the funding from the Global Crop Development Trust (GCDT). Furthermore, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia planned to regenerate 147 accessions of beans whereas, 80 finger millet accessions were planned for regeneration by Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe alone further planned to regenerate 60 accessions of pearl millet while Tanzania alone planned for regeneration of 122 accessions of pigeon peas.



A report produced at the middle of the planting season and at the time, 50 accessions each of beans and cowpeas, 90 maize accessions and 178 sorghum accessions were already sown.



Tanzanian Curator, Mr H. Acoonay conscientiously attending to new crop under the regeneration project

5.0 Other News

5.1 PGR Policy Review and Development of Regional Framework

Although the plan was to have July 2009 as the start of activity implementation, this was not possible for a number of reasons including the late finalisation of the MoU between the South African Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the donors and other technicalities as described in the project.

However, all preparatory works was completed in the last quarter of 2009 and money (US\$ 26,438.24 as part of the total US\$ 210,000) was deposited in SPGRC account in December 2009. Activities are therefore started in January 2010, mainly focusing on refining the information collection instruments, disbursing money to National Plant Genetic Resource Centres for desktop studies, and advertising the MSc programme as planned.

Nevertheless, while waiting for the project implementation preparations, a first planning meeting on review and harmonisation of policies was held at CSIR in Pretoria, South Africa on 24th July 2009 with participation of 10 stakeholders from 8 Member States and 2 from SPGRC. Though invited, 3 countries could not make it to the meeting.

Further to the above, the SANBio/Bio-FISA Secretariat at its cost organized training on project management for project leaders. This was attended by Mr B. Kapange together with other Bio-FISA project leaders.

5.2 Long-Term Sustainability Strategy for SPGRC

A study to establish long-term sustainability strategy of SPGRC was commissioned in 2009 and two consultants produced a report that was presented to the Board which commented extensively. The consultants then incorporated the comments and developed Business Plan in December 2009. This document was then finalized and submitted to the FANR/SADC Secretariat for finalization before it is tabled before the Council.

5.3 Construction of Biotechnology Laboratory at SPGRC

Although donors had earmarked funds for the construction of the Biotechnology Laboratory at SPGRC, it has now become apparent that they have reservations on funding the project. The donors are doubtful if SPGRC would be able to complete the building before the end of the no-cost extension of the SPGRC-Nordic project on 31st December 2010.

5.4 Farm

During the year 2008/09, 358x50 Kilogramme bags of maize were harvested and sold. In addition, 62x50 Kilogramme bags of soybean, 37x50 Kilogramme bags of sunflower and 6x50 Kilogramme bags of common beans were harvested and sold, mostly to SPGRC staff.

The cumulative rainfall amount received in 2008/09 season was 1005.5 mm which was an improvement compared to the 2007/08 season that was flood-prone, negatively affecting the crop.



6.0 DISCUSSIONS ON STRATEGIC ISSUES AND FUTURE OF SPGRC

6.1 Sharing of Responsibilities between SPGRC and NPGRCs

The meeting felt that due to diminishing resources, sharing of responsibilities between SPGRC and NPGRCs is the ideal way but clear responsibilities and commitments need to be put in place. SPGRC was asked to develop a working document with regard to sharing of responsibilities for people to comment on.

An important issue was a transfer to SPGRC of the roles that the coordinator is still having as to technical support, *etc.*, to obtain a sustainable and viable network. Regarding repeated multiplication work done by each country, a general consensus amongst the participants was that this should be dealt with in a more efficient way in the future, by doing multiplications of more accessions from various countries on same site, in order to obtain more economically efficient routines, faster solutions on regeneration drawback, and better quality on evaluation data.

6.2 Role of SPGRC in Multilateral Systems

Member States were urged to take a leading role in domesticating the Treaty by considering its elements. It was urged that this should be developed further taking advantage of the Policy project being implemented in collaboration with SANBio.

SPGRC was further urged to play a stronger role in international collaborations, such as CGRFA and ITPGRFA, representing the regional collaboration and also assisting in potential coordination between the SADC countries.

6.3 Benefits to the Network from Global Frameworks

The meeting felt important to develop partnerships with global partners and enhance relationships with other institutions, participate in international gatherings like the Commission meetings and strive to develop convincing regional project proposals for funding. It carries more weight if it is done jointly as a region rather than individual countries.

6.4 Contribution to Regional Food Security

The participants were reminded on the network's role into improving the regional food security thus urging them to ensure SPGRC's visibility and relevance. The

network should conduct regional diversity fairs, give value to materials through evaluation (role of researchers in collaboration with Curator) and consider organizing side events in fora such as SADC Council of Ministers and others.



Planning meeting participants discussing SPGRC Network strategic issues

The network should pioneer in strengthening informal seed system and should keep on promoting on-farm conservation concept to overcome climate change challenges, as well as strengthening marketing strategy for local plant genetic resources.

6.5 Gap Filling Between Active and Base Collections

Although it was agreed at a meeting in Pretoria in 2007 that countries will multiply their materials to bridge gap between active and base collections, it was observed at this meeting that NPGRCs were not fully honouring their obligation of bridging the gap. NPGRCs were therefore reminded that it was their responsibility to honour the Pretoria agreement in order to achieve the goal of bridging the existing gap and where assistance in multiplication by SPGRC is required, it should be pursued. And collaborations should be initiated between NPGRCs to solve the issue.

6.6 Germplasm Collection

Considerable and commendable work has been done on rescuing traditional crops in the region. This was confirmed by the shift of proposed collection missions to target



wild crop relatives and other wild edible species. It is only a few countries that are yet to cover remote areas, which were war zones or not passable due to lack of infrastructure, that are expected to continue with the conventional collections.

Countries involved in the MSBP will continue with collections. It was pointed out that there is good will at the global level to assist countries with funding for rescue missions.

6.7 In-Situ / On-Farm Conservation

It was noted that those countries where on-farm activities were piloted way back since 2003/4 were now at the stage of scaling up and spreading out to reach other communities while others were at the initial level of conducting base line surveys for the identification of farmers and target crops. Participating farmers in Malawi and Zambia have experienced surplus produce and are now faced with marketing problems. Restoration of target crops in areas like Rufunsa, in Zambia, was successfully achieved and the crops are now in abundance (sorghum, groundnuts, bambara and beans).

Countries like Swaziland, South Africa and Zambia are in the process of extending the activities to new sites/communities with ultimate goal of enhancing access to planting material on time and strengthening seed sharing and supply at community level.

During the discussions, it was evident that seed fairs have continued to improve the utilization and maintenance of crop diversity through the spirit of competitions. It serves as an easy tool for assessing and monitoring genetic erosion, seed availability before the next cropping season. As farmers display their diverse range of crops and food dishes, it becomes feasible to determine what is available, threatened and not common in the area. Farmers also share Indigenous Knowledge of farming practices and share or exchange seed.

It was encouraging to note the increase in the number of countries carrying out on-farm activities, from 6 to 9.

6.8 Multiplication and Characterisation

Many participants observed that viability testing equipment was required by almost all members of the network. However, it was revealed that driers in use in NPGRCs can easily be used for germinations tests. The possibility of applying more centralized systems was also discussed, saving money and time.

It was agreed that, an inventory should be taken to assess which countries do not really have the germination facilities and, if possible, action be taken to rectify the situation.

6.9 Documentation and Information

It was reported that the work on developing the web-based SDIS was on the track. A prototype of the SDIS was demonstrated to participants during the meeting. It was emphasised that SPGRC would wish that users highly contribute by process by critically looking at the design and usability and giving recommendations to the developers. It was also reported that database servers procured by NordGen had been delivered to most NPGRCs, and were waiting for installation.

With regard to connectivity, it was reported that the envisaged project had materialised by a large percentage and that now, almost all countries had Local Area Networks (LANs) and were connected to the Internet.



7.0 Financial Report 2008/2009

Table 5: Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

	2008/09, US\$	2007/8, US\$
<u>Income</u>		
Member States Contributions	987,075	843,35
Grants	-	93,820
Other Income	21,749	73,792
Total Income	1,008,824	1,010,967
<u>Expenditure</u>		
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		
Employee benefits expense	586,204	511,160
Transport, Subsistence and Conferences	23,901	40,128
Rents	-	-
General Expenses and Supplies	148,006	138,713
Communications	22,220	23,918
Audit and Professional Fees	14,178	11,010
Depreciation	98,293	85,497
Sub-Total	892,802	810,426
<u>Programme Expenses</u>		
Member States Funded	151,513	130,892
Grants Funded	-	14,543
Sub-Total	151,513	145,435
Finance Costs	5,215	4,881
Total Expenditure	1,049,530	960,742
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus	(40,706)	50,225

Source: SADC Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

Table 6: Assets and Liabilities Statements as at 31st March 2009

	2008/09, US\$	2007/08, US\$
Assets		
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Property, plant and equipment	1,908,112	1,955,222
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Debtors and prepayments	110,327	410,893
Cash and cash equivalents	428,847	140,540
Current Assets	539,174	51,433
Total Assets	2,447,286	2,506,655
Member States Funds and Liabilities		
<u>Member States Funds</u>		
Reserve Fund	20,140	20,140
Accumulated fund	239,120	324,963
Staff loan fund	24,868	24,832
Deferred projects income	-	-
Member States Funds	284,128	369,935
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>		
Post-employment benefit	166,698	88,778
Deferred capital grant income	1,863,612	1,901,401
	2,030,310	1,990,179
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Payables	132,848	141,642
Deferred grant income	-	4,897
	132,848	146,539
Total Member States Funds and Liabilities	2,447,286	2,506,65

Source: SADC Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2009



Table 7: Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

	2008/09, US\$	2007/08, US\$
Cash Retained from Operations		
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	(40,706)	50,225
Adjustments		
Depreciation	98,293	85,497
Amortisation	(85,497)	(85,497)
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(5,734)	-
Interest received	(1,041)	(2,225)
Prior Year adjustments	-	-
	(34,685)	48,000
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	300,564	(153,184)
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	(8,794)	1,684
Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow (on) from Operations	257,085	(103,500)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Grants Received	-	-
Acquisition of fixed assets	(51,183)	(47,708)
Proceeds on disposal of fixed assets	5,734	-
Interest Received	1,041	2,225
Net cash flows from investing operations	(44,408)	(45,483)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Grants	(4,897)	-
Member States Special Funds	2,571	2,727
Staff Loan Fund	36	82
Reserve Fund	-	30
Gratuity fund	77,920	(29,456)
Net Cash Outflows/Inflows from Investing Activities	75,630	(26,617)
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	288,307	(175,600)
Opening Cash and Bank Equivalents	140,540	316,140
Closing Cash and Bank Equivalents	428,847	140,540

Source: SADC Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

8.0 Appendices

Appendix I: Members of the Board of SPGRC

Dr G L Maggs-Kölling	– Namibia (Chairperson)
Dr J Jaffa	– South Africa (Vice-Chair)
Ms Elizabeth Matos	– Angola
Dr P O P Mosupi	– Botswana
Prof Jean-Albert M. Nkonko	– DRC
Dr M M Ranthamane	– Lesotho
Ms M. Andriamahazo	– Madagascar
Dr A P Mtukuso	– Malawi
Ms Carla do Vale	– Mozambique
Mr Y Mungroo	– Mauritius
Mr A. Moustache	– Seychelles
Dr S Kunene	– Swaziland
Mrs E. K. Kanyeka	– Tanzania
Dr S W Muliokela	– Zambia
Mrs D. Hikwa	– Zimbabwe
Ex-Officio Members	
Mrs M Nyirenda	– SADC
Dr Jojo Baidu-Forson	– Bioversity
Dr M B Fatih	– NGB
Dr Torsten Andersson	– Sida
Dr Paul M Munyenembe	– SPGRC (Secretary)



Appendix II: SPGRC Staff Members

Dr Paul M Munyenembe	Head, SPGRC (18 July 2008)
Ms Thandie J Lupupa	Senior Programme Manager – <i>In-Situ</i> Conservation (16 May 2006)
Mr Barnabas W Kapange	Senior Programme Manager - Documentation & Information (09 May 2006)
Mr Lerotholi L Qhobela	Senior Programme Manager – <i>Ex-Situ</i> Conservation (15 May 2006)
Mrs Mary B Phiri	Assistant Administrative Officer (01 March 2000)
Ms Florence C Chitulangoma	Assistant Finance Officer (08 March 1993)
Mrs Peggy S Ng'ono	Technical Officer-Conservation (01 June 2005)
Mr Kennedy K Hamudulu	Technical Officer - Documentation & Information (01 March 1994)
Mr Ferdinand Mushingi	Technical Officer – <i>In situ</i> (01 March 2004)
Mrs Phyllis M Litula	Personal Secretary (12 November 2001)
Mr Wilbroad M Chashi	Senior Finance Clerk (01 July 2002)
Mr Alexius M Nyambe	Driver (01 February 1991)
Mr Kapelwa E Songa	Typist/Receptionist (01 September 1989)
Mr Gibson Zulu	General Worker (01 August 1989)
Mr John Mfwembe	Worker (04 September 1989)
Mr Wale Banda	General Worker (01 April 1990)
Mr Olipen Phiri	General Worker (05 January 2009)

Appendix III: List of Some Prominent Visitors to SPGRC (2009/2010)

Hon. Daniel Kalenga (MP)	Min. of Agric. & Coops, Zambia
Hon. Khwanli Msisha (MP)	Malawi National Assembly
A. K. Banda	PS, Min. of Agric. & Coops, Zambia
Marco Binnendyl	PostBox 7 1600AA, Enkhurst, The Netherlands
Britt Granqvist	Toldbodgade 19B, 1253 Copenhagen, Denmark
Moses Mwale	Mt Makulu Crop Research Station, P/Bag Chilanga
Pheneas Ntawuruhunga	IITA – Malawi, P. O. Box 30258, Lilongwe
Steve Boahen	IITA – Mozambique, CN09, Nampula, Mozambique
K. Munyinda	University of Zambia, Lusaka
Hailu Tefera	IITA – Malawi, P. O. Box 30258, Lilongwe
Justin Njobvu	ZARI – Mansa, P. O. Box 210129 Mansa
James Legg	IITA – Tanzania, P. O. Box 6226, Dar es Salaam
Dave Watson	IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria
Laston Milambo	Kabwe Research, Zambia
Lava Kumar	IITA, Ibadan, Nuigera
Kai Sonder	IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria
Arega Alene	IITA – Malawi, P. O. Box 30258, Lilongwe
Catherine Njuguna	IITA – Tanzania, P. O. Box 6226, Dar es Salaam
Josea Rusike	IITA – Malawi, P. O. Box 30258, Lilongwe
David Chikoye	IITA – Mozambique, CN09, Nampula, Mozambique
Martin Chiona	ZARI - Mansa
Helen Kasalu	ZARI - Kabwe
Joseph E. Cortes	Iowa State Univ. of S&T, Iowa, USA
Adelaide Harries	Iowa State Univ. of S&T, Iowa, USA
Francisco Miti	Chief Seed Officer, Min. of Agric. & Coops, Lusaka
Luke Mumba	Director, NEPAD/SANBio Network, Pretoria, RSA
Gregory Kamwendo	Univ. of Botswana, P/Bag 0022 Gaborone
Max Thondolo	Univ. of Malawi, Bunda College, Box 219 Lilongwe
Andrew Mushita	286 Northway Prospect, Harare, Zimbabwe
Regis Mafuratidze	286 Northway Prospect, Harare, Zimbabwe



Patrick Kasasa	286 Northway Prospect, Harare, Zimbabwe
Gracian Banda	CEPA, P. O. Box 1057, Blantyre, Malawi
Journalists from Zambian Media	MIBS, ZANIS, Yatsani Radio, Daily Mail, 5FM Radio,
Samadilja Taivalma	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
Wilma Viljanma	Embassy of Finland, Box 50819, Lusaka
N. C. H. Lubaba	P/Bag 593, E881, Manda Hill, Lusaka
S. B. Kanyanga	SBK Ltd., Box 320058, Lusaka
M. Mataaa	SBK Ltd., Box 320058, Lusaka
Kijo Waruhiu	Trust, c/o FAO Viale Terme di Caracalla, Rome
Godfrey P. Mwila	Trust, c/o FAO Viale Terme di Caracalla, Rome
Lugudouise Bones	NISIR - Chilanga
Solveig Gunn Kristinsson	NISIR – Chilanga
Robson Nyirenda	Kasisi Agric. Centre, P. O. Box 30652 Lusaka
Gloria Musonda	Kasisi Agric. Centre, P. O. Box 30652 Lusaka
Koagile Molapong	SADC, P/Bag 0095, Gaborone
Linda Kabwato	12 Jacobson Drive, Lynnwoodridge, Pretoria
Isaac J. Minde	ICRISAT – Bulawayo, Box 776, Bulawayo
Cecilia Khupe	USAID – Southern Africa, Pretoria
Yuh Shyy	Iowa State University
Jessica Kathle	NordGen, Sweden
Tim Pearce	Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, MSB, UK
Ray Handema	NISIR, Int'l Airport Road
Tichaona Mangwende	NEPAD/SANBio, CSIR Bldg. 20, Pretoria
Ereck Chakauya	NEPAD/SANBio, CSIR Bldg. 20, Pretoria
Manana Mashologu	NEPAD/SANBio, CSIR Bldg. 20, Pretoria
Madhar Bhandari	Moore Stephens, Box 67486, Nairobi
Amos Maingi	Moore Stephens, Box 67486, Nairobi
Kingsley Chipampe	UNZA, Agric. Dept., Box 32379, Lusaka
Per Andersson	Svalof Consulting, Sweden
Sylvia Hermans	Kamano Seed Company, Lusaka
Tutors, Students	ZCA – Mpika, Box 450143, Mpika

Godwin Mataa	NRDC, Lusaka
Pertti Vuoriranta	SANBio/BioFISA, CSIR, Pretoria
Elder Moonga	NISIR/LRDC, Lusaka
San Kyi	Seed Division, Myanmar Agric. Service, Myanmar
Ruth Kamal	Dept of Agric. Research, box 2066, Dar es Salaam
Pa Pa Win	Dept of Agric. Research, Yegen, Nay Pyi Paw, Myanmar
Priyanga Dematawa	CIC Agribusiness Ltd., Felwehera, Dambulla, Sri Lanka
Musonda M. H. Sikwangala	SCCI, Box 350199, Chilanga, Zambia
Florence Gwibun	Dept of Agric., Malaysia
Taksson Bornchoow	Bioresources and Technology Univ., Thailand
Flora A. Jarilla	BPI-LBNCRDG, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines
Maria C. I. Amat	Quezon Exp. Station – Tiaong, Quezon, Philippines
Thunsamngang Kim	Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia
Hou Shumin	Crop Research Inst., Anhui, China
Si Honqi	China
Nareeluck Wannasai	Doa, Thailand
Dominic Daka	Kamano Seed, Zambia
H. P. Thilakarathne	Sri Lanka
Amdi Hegazi	Cairo, Egypt
Nanfumba David	Makerere University, Kampala
Michael Turner	Edinburgh, Scotland
Do Thauh Tung	Hanoi, Vietnam

Appendix IV: SPGRC Publications in 2008/2009

Qhobela, L. L. and Marandu, W. Y. F. (2009). Seed regeneration practices at the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre. Paper presented at the ACSS Conference, South Africa.