


**FRAMEWORK FOR AN INTEGRATED COOPERATION OF
REGIONAL TECHNICAL LABORATORIES: TOWARDS
ESTABLISHMENT OF SADCLAB**

**3rd SADC MET Water PT Evaluation Workshop, Hotel
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Outline



- Framework Context: The Starting Point
- SADC-SQAM Programme (Gaps)
- SADC TBTSC: Details
- EU/SADC SQAM Project: 6 Key Result Areas
- KRA 6: Testing & Certification Development
- Challenges
- Strategy/ Way Forward

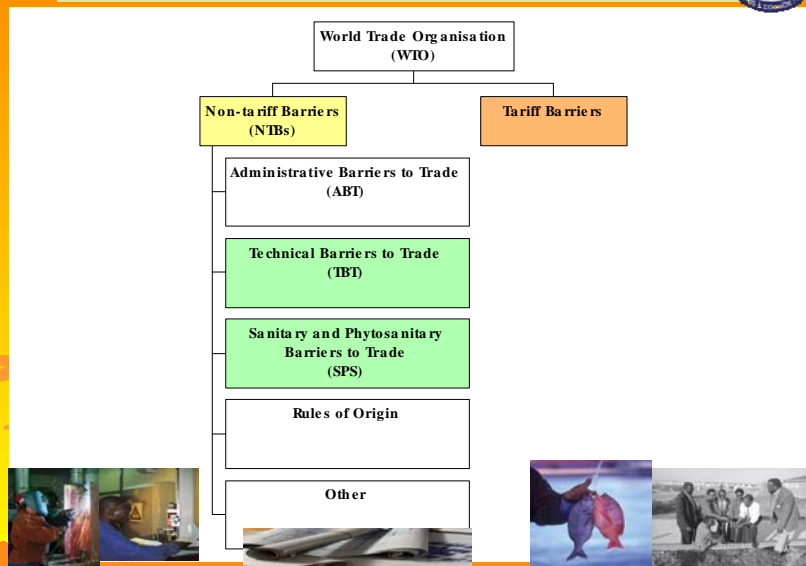
The Broader Picture: Barriers to Trade 1



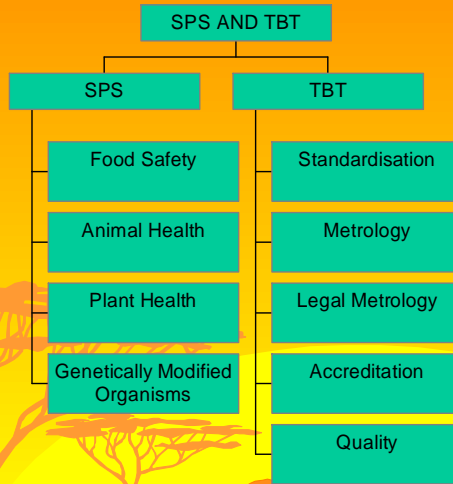
- A plethora of obstacles that can hinder free trade, such as tariff and non-tariff barriers, including technical barriers to trade, TBTs.
- SADC has recently launched its Free Trade Area (FTA) as a result of substantially all tariff barriers being dealt with. Next 2010 CU
- TBTs arise because countries want to fulfil the genuine objective of protecting their citizens and environment from harmful products through standards or technical regulations



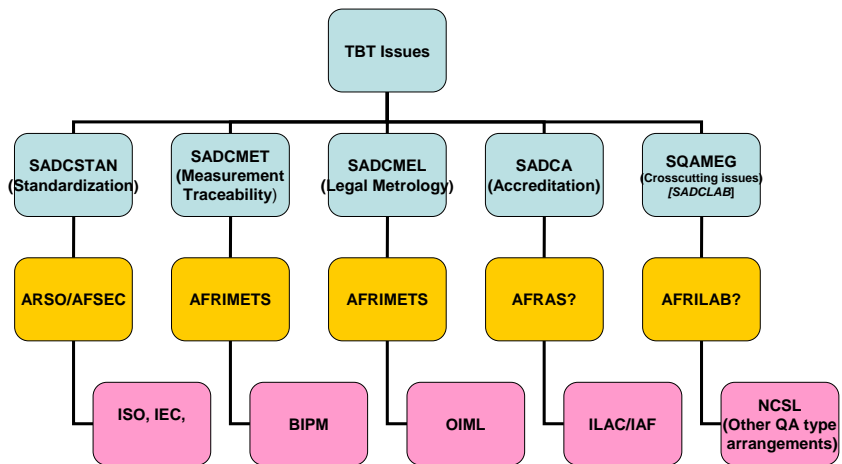
BARRIERS TO TRADE 2



SPS AND TBT



The TBT Landscape

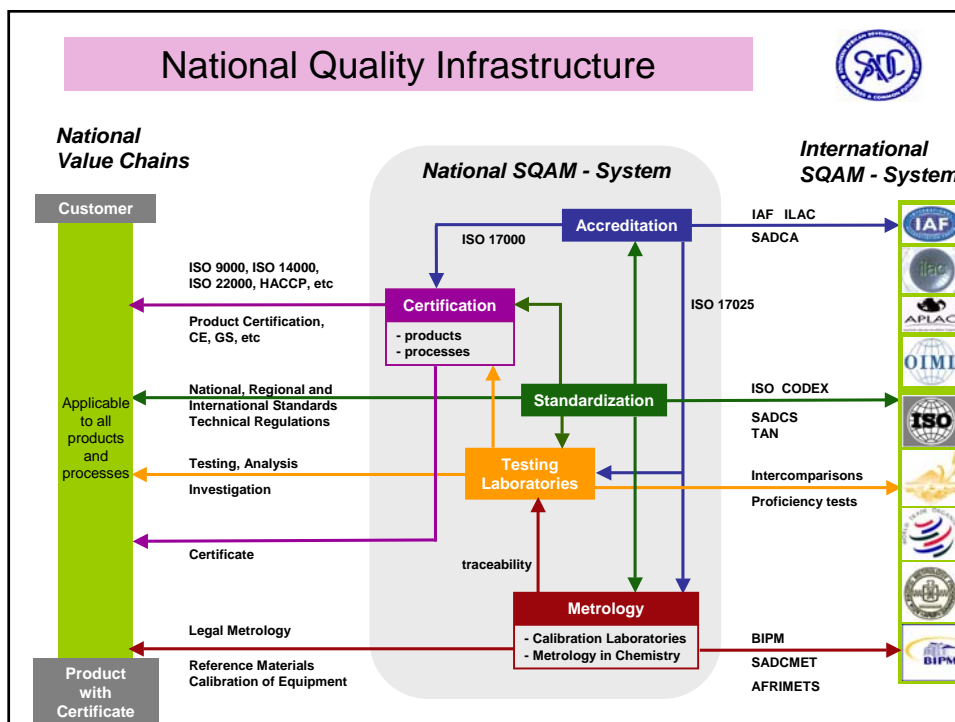


QI Defined



- Inadequate QI in most countries in Africa, hence regions are unable to exploit opportunities that exist in preferential trade agreements (ACP; AGOA etc) and in global markets in general.
- QI is combined institutional framework related to standardisation, quality management, metrology, testing, inspection, certification and accreditation.
- Overall objective of the QI: to improve the quality of products, processes, and services and to **effectively demonstrate** through **adequate** conformity assessment procedures that these products, processes and services comply with and are equivalent to international requirements

National Quality Infrastructure



The Economic Impact



- Food safety and food testing now have huge global public profile due to recent disasters (BSE, salmonella, dioxin etc)
- **Reliable sampling and measurements; performance criteria of analytical methods; validated measurement procedures; strict legislation covering the testing of foodstuffs in the whole chain – from farm to fork!**
- But in food testing many reference standards are not, and as yet cannot easily be linked to SI units (taste, smell, biological activity, proteomics, even pH, hardness.
- What does QI mean for Africa with a relatively less sophisticated economy than the so called developed world?
- In simple terms, if Africa cannot compete with the developed world in accuracy of measurement and testing of export products, we are at a disadvantage in trading even the most basic commodities

Why so much insistence?

Food scandals

- Growth hormones in beef
- Dioxine in milk
- Heavy elements in rice and wine
- Glycol in wine, diesel oil in olive oil
- Salmonella in eggs
- BSE in beef
- Toxic residues in fish
- GMO's
- Dietary supplements



Standards and Food Safety related Market Requirements become more stringent

AFLATOXINS

News flash

September 2002



The European Union has changed the requirements for the antibiotic (chloramphenicol) content in imported seafood from 1.5 ppb gram to 0.3 ppb gram. As a result, the National Fisheries Quality Control Center (Nafiqacen) of Vietnam will revoke all licenses for seafood producers not complying with the new standard.

The Vietnamese shrimp industry is rapidly growing and central to Vietnam's economic growth projections. Last year Vietnamese shrimp exports reached US\$ 780 mn..



*www.wto.org, www.iso.org

- Found in African cereals, dried fruits and nuts - causes liver cancer
- Treated as carcinogenic food contaminants
- EU regulation based on the objective to reduce health risks by about 1.4 deaths per billion annually
- impact of this regulation would cut African exports of nuts, cereals, and dried fruits products by 64% or US\$ 670 mn., compared with their level under international standards

Source: Otsuki, Sewadeh & Wilson, "A Race to the Top? A case study of Food Safety Standards & African exports", The World Bank, 26 Feb 2001

Food Safety from FARM to FORK

- Soil, water, air quality
- Treatment of seeds and plants
- Fertilizers
- Animal feed (natural and industrial)
- Treatment of animals (treatment for sickness, hormones)
- Industrial food processing
- Storage, transport, sales, delivery conditions

Food is one of the biggest business and safety issues in the world

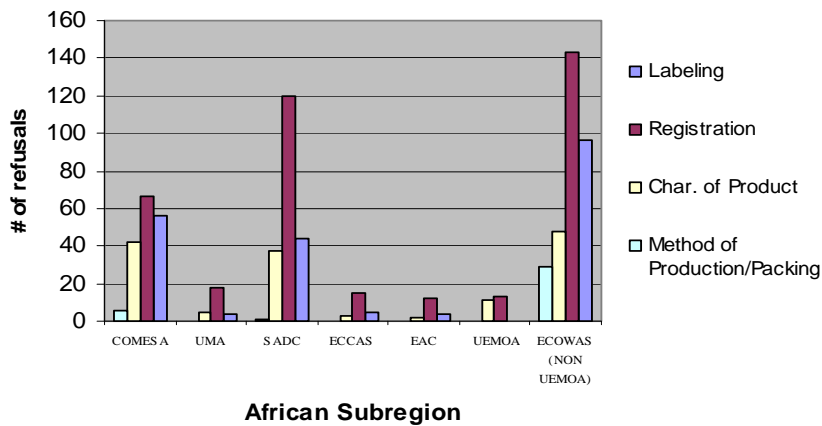
The Economic Impact of QI



FDA IMPORT REFUSALS FOR THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES DISTRIBUTED BY SUBREGIONS

Source: US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

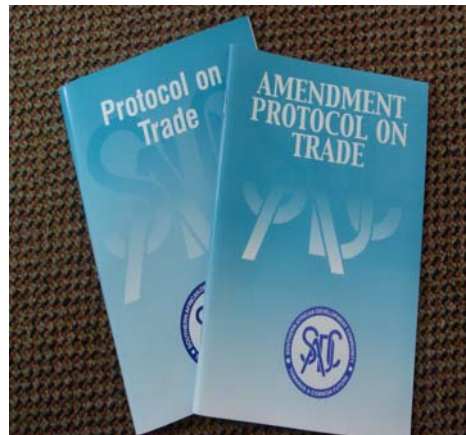
(January 2005 - December 2006)



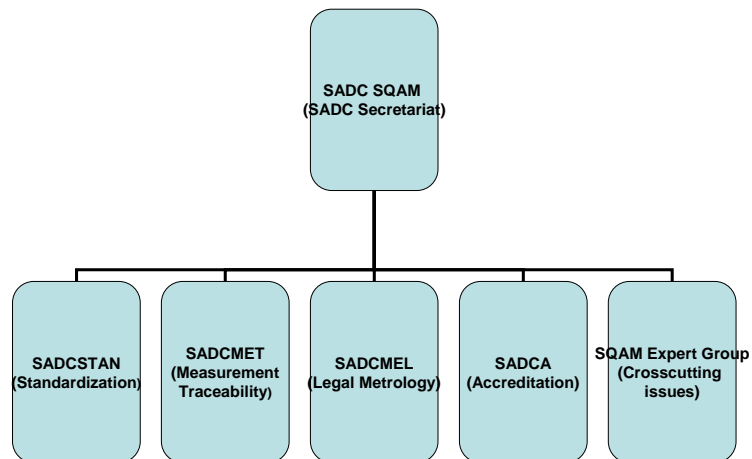
SADC Protocol on Trade



- The SADC instrument put in place for the liberalization of intra-regional trade on the basis of fair, mutually equitable and beneficial trade arrangements is the SADC Protocol on Trade



The SADC SQAM Structures



OBJECTIVES OF SADC SQAM PROGRAMME



- progressive elimination of TBTs between the SADC Member States and between SADC and other Regional Trading Blocks internationally
- promotion of quality and of an infrastructure for quality in SADC Member States.
- The Programme encompasses *standardisation, accreditation, certification, conformity assessment, testing, inspection, metrology and related matters.*

SADCSTAN



- SADCSTAN is SADC Cooperation in Standardization, a sole body mandated by SADC Council of Ministers to coordinate standardization activities and services in the region with the purpose of achieving harmonization of standards and technical regulations in support of the objectives of the SADC Protocol on Trade.

SADCMET



The SADC Cooperation in Measurement Traceability coordinates metrology activities and services in the Region, in order to provide regional calibration and testing services, including regulatory bodies, with readily available traceability to the SI units of measurement, through legally defined and regionally and internationally recognized national measurement standards.



SADCMEL



The SADC Cooperation in Legal Metrology facilitates the harmonization of the national Legal Metrology regulations of the Member States and between SADC and other regional and international trading blocks.

SADCA



The SADC Cooperation in Accreditation facilitates the creation of a pool of internationally acceptable accredited laboratories and certification bodies (for personnel, products and systems, including quality and environmental management systems) in the Region, and provides Member States with accreditation as a tool for the removal of TBTs in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.

SADC Accreditation Services (SADCAS)



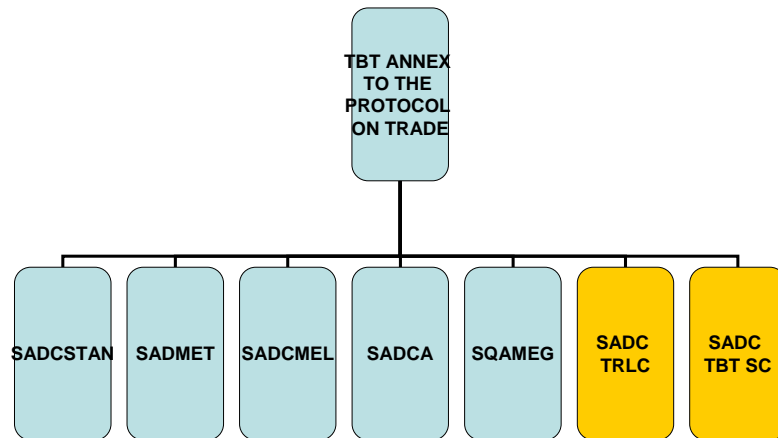
- A regional accreditation body formed to provide accreditation services in all SADC countries
- Brings to three the number of accreditation bodies in SADC
- International recognition initially from partnering
- Will be able to join ILAC/IAF

SQAMEG



- SQAMEG is a Committee consisting of delegations from each Member State most representative of all SQAM fields in that Member State, and the SQAMEG chairperson.
- To co-ordinate regional activities of SQAM and provide a forum where *conformity assessment issues* can be dealt with;
- To provide a single communications channel between the Structures and the Committee of Ministers responsible for trade (CMT), through the Secretariat;
- To co-ordinate interdependent activities of SADC MET, SADC MEL, SADC STAN and SADC A;
- To compile the agenda for the annual SQAMEG meeting, taking into account any issues raised by the other Structures and any actions requested by the CMT;
- To co-ordinate general funding policy for SQAM activities, such as establishing overall SQAM project priorities.

The “TBT Annex” Provisions



SADC TRLC



- SADC Technical regulations Liaison Committee
- Objective:
 - Prepare recommendations regarding SADC Technical Regulation policy issues relating to the TBT Annex;
 - Develop and make available guidelines and other tools for the national implementation of the SADC Technical Regulation Framework in the member states;
 - Provide a forum for the identification of common technical regulations to be implemented in the Region;

SADC TBT SC



- Articles 10, 13, **16**
- SADC TBT Stakeholders Committee
- Expected to house Conformity Assessment stakeholders
 - Testing/calibration
 - Inspection
 - Certification



Article 16



- SADC TBT SC shall facilitate SADC stakeholder participation in SADC TBT matters in both the voluntary and regulatory domain
- Aims: to advise the SADC TRLC and SQAMEG on matters in respect to the Annex – priority programmes, issues that may affect the efficient operation of the SQAM infrastructure and Technical Regulatory Framework in the region
- Ordinary members of the SADC TBT SC shall be national delegations of reps of pvt sector and regulators having an interest in the matters contemplated in this Annex.
- SADC TBT SC shall nominate reps to attend meetings of the SADC TRLC and SQAME as observers
- IN SADC TBT SC, observer status shall be granted to representatives of SADC TRLC and SQAMEG

EU SQAM Project: Purpose



- To contribute to the development and implementation of a regional policy on technical regulations
- Establishment of a more effective, efficient and functioning trade related SQAM infrastructure in SADC.

EU SQAM Project



- Eur 14.3 million project divided into 2 Project Estimates (PE 1 and II).
- Major part of the programme estimate 1 relates to equipment specification and procurement, training in five technical and one legal field including, analysis of the present status, assistance in implementation and attachments.
- In total, some 130 activities for about 1400 persons are envisaged in the scheduled 3 year project period, starting Nov 2008.

Six Key Result Areas (KRAs)



- **Result Area 1: Development of regional and national SQAM regulatory frameworks**
- **Result Area 2: Standards and national inquiry points development**
- **Result Area 3: Metrology development: Mass, Volume, Length, Temperature**
- **Result Area 4: Legal Metrology Development**
- **Result Area 5: Accreditation Development**
- **Result Area 6: Testing and Certification Development**

Testing & Certification



Result Area 6 - Testing and Certification Development

PE- No	Activity title
6.1	Train quality managers in relevant quality systems
6.1.1	Seminar on ISO/IEC 17025
6.1.2	Seminar on ISO/IEC 17025 for staff of private laboratories
6.1.3	Seminar on ISO/IEC 17020
Sub-total for Activity PE1 6.1	
6.2	SADC Member States regulatory framework
6.2.1	Seminar on ISO/IEC 17021
6.2.2	Seminar on ISO 9001
6.2.3	Seminar on 14001
6.2.4	Seminar on Assessment techniques
6.2.5	Seminar on presentation skills for trainers
6.2.6	Seminar on ISO 9001 for private institutions

Promotion of private testing laboratories

Fact finding Member States

Seminar on ISO/IEC 17021

Seminar on ISO 9001

Seminar on ISO 14001



Seminar on assessment techniques

Seminar on presentation skills for trainers, plus development/management of training courses

Seminar on ISO 22000

Seminar on HACCP

Seminar on Proficiency testing

 
Traceability by reference materials
Seminar on use of reference materials
Seminar on storage, distribution and financing reference materials
Provision of Reference Materials for water
Provision of Reference Materials for blood
Provision of Reference Materials for food

2	SADC Member States regulatory framework								
	No activity foreseen								
3	Promotion of testing laboratories								
3.1	Fact finding Member States								
3.2	Seminar on ISO/IEC 17021								
3.3	Seminar on ISO 9001								
3.4	Seminar on ISO 14001								
3.5	Seminar on assessment techniques								
3.6	Seminar on presentation skills for trainers and development of training courses								
3.7	Seminar on ISO 22000								
3.8	Seminar on HACCP								
3.9	Seminar on proficiency testing								
4	Traceability by reference materials								
4.1	Seminar on use of reference materials								

Accreditation



Result Area 5 - Accreditation Development

PE-No	Activity title
5.1	Support to the regional Accreditation Body to establish a SADC Communication and Information Network
5.1.1	Analysis of existing capabilities and development of a strategy for all structures
5.1.2	Meeting with responsible officers for information and decision on implementation
5.1.3	Tender for procurement of harmonised IT-infrastructure and software
Sub-total for Activity PE1 5.1	
5.2	Identify and train technical assessors
5.2.1	Training on ISO/IEC 17025 and requirements from ILAC
5.2.2	Training in ISO/IEC 17020 including exercises and examples
5.2.3	Training in ISO/IEC 17025 including exercises and examples from ABs
5.2.4	Specialised knowledge in ISO/IEC 17025
5.2.5	Training in ISO/IEC 17021 and requirements from IAF
5.2.6	Assessment Techniques
5.2.7	Attachment to MLA-Member ABs

CHALLENGES

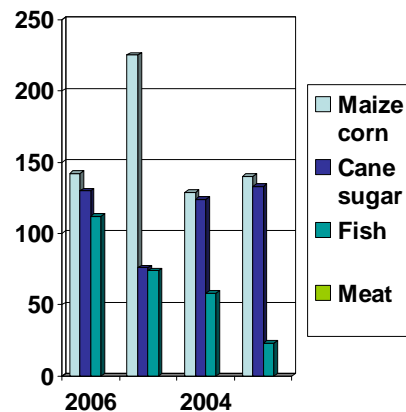


- 2 PTs in one area (water)
- Most labs do analysis in other parameters (food, soil, etc)
- Funding for PTs in broad range of essential areas (Food and health sector)
- Association structure (constitution, focus, recognition)
- Priority areas: food sector (most traded goods in the region – by value and/or by volume)

Traded Goods (SADC) 2003-2006



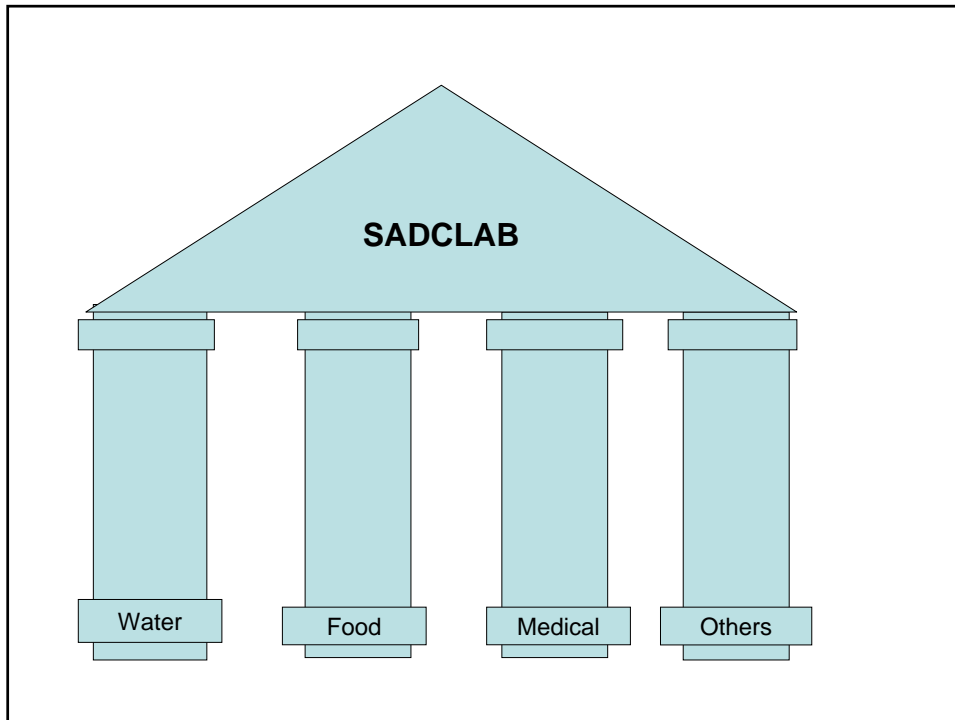
- Maize corn US \$143 m
- Cane/beet sugar US\$ 130m
- Frozen fish US\$ 112m
- Frozen bovine meat US\$ 65m
- Bovine meat fresh US\$ 52m
- Sheep/goat US\$ 37m
- Wheat Flour US\$ 26m
- Tea US\$ 24m



Proposals



- Establishment of SADCLAB as umbrella body to represent interests of testing labs in the region
- SADCWATERLAB as one of the building blocks/committees of SADCLAB (SADCFOODLAB etc).
- Submit structure, constitution and relevant docs to SADC Secretariat
- Workshop the most urgent required next PT area: one in the food sector, and another in health sector (blood) by March 2009.



Tripartite Framework



- **COMESA:** Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Swaziland, DRC, Seychelles
- **SADC:** Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, DRC, Swaziland, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles
- **EAC:** Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda

Integrated Approach: Way Forward



- **Integrated approaches:**
- **Tripartite Framework Arrangements: Mutual participation in each other's PT schemes**
- **Open up membership to each other of regional bodies**
- **Harmonisation on next areas of PTs.**
- **Linkage to the requisite political level framework within the Tripartite Arrangement**
- **Joint funding schemes or arrangements (EU, PTB)**
- **Evolution of sub-regional Associations to continental level ones: AFRILAB?**

