



DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

LAUNCH OF TULI CATTLE FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (TCFSSA) AND FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre

Johannesburg, South Africa

16th to 19th November 2021



BACKGROUND

1. The African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Interim Council representing national Tuli breeders associations/societies and representatives of Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa and Namibia, conducted a consultative stakeholder meeting at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre from 16th to 19th of November 2021 to launch the Tuli Cattle Federation of Southern Africa and conduct the Inaugural General Assembly of the Federation.
2. The meeting was attended by 40 participants from Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and representatives of their governments.
3. The overall objective of the workshop was to: launch the Tuli Cattle Federation of Southern Africa and conduct the Inaugural General Assembly meeting.
4. The specific objectives were to:
 - a) To provide an opportunity for stakeholders in the region to get empirical evidence on the importance and contribution of Tuli cattle genetics in the region and beyond.
 - b) To discuss and validate the draft constitution of the TCFSA
 - c) To officially launch the TCFSA and its website
 - d) To conduct council election and propose members from the Member States
 - e) To undertake an experience sharing tour of a select Tuli Stud farm

PROCEEDINGS

5. Official Opening:

The meeting was officially opened by the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Development of South Africa, Mr Ramasodi. He was representing the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development who sent apologies for not being able to attend personally. Mr Ramasodi highlighted what South Africa has with its wealth of advantages, for example being the only ICAR-accredited country in the region, having advanced institutions like Onderstepoort, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Pretoria, Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Emergent Red Meat Producer's Organisation (NERPO), databank for animal genetic resource registration and genetic information system (INTERGIS), animal recording and improvement schemes, among others, all of which could be utilized by the Southern African region. He also noted the commitment made at COP26 to reduce methane production by livestock by 30% by 2030, highlighting the need for climate-smart livestock production. He emphasized the important role the Tuli Cattle Federation of Southern Africa will play in the region.

Official welcome remarks were delivered by Dr Mary Mbole-Kariuki on behalf of the Acting Director of AU-IBAR. She highlighted AU-IBAR's commitment to support the SADC region with its priority livestock value chain (Red Meat and live animal) and the importance of collaboration and cooperation between the public and private sectors for the benefit of the Tuli cattle breed.

Dr Gaolathe Thobokwe representing SADC welcomed the participants and highlighted the challenges of food insecurity in the SADC region due to climate change and urbanization and the important contribution of indigenous breeds to tackle these challenges. He also reported that SADC was working on legal documents for the operationalization of the regional gene bank and other protocols.

6. Presentations:

Dr Mbole-Kariuki made presentations on the Live2Africa project as well as a presentation on AU-IBAR to enlighten the participants on this technical institution which is a department in the African Union Commission. Representatives of Tuli societies from the Member States presented the status of the Tuli cattle breed in their respective countries. Government representatives from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia, gave presentations on their respective countries on the status of the Tuli cattle breed.

Dr Edward Nengomasha (Animal Production Expert consultant) gave the background to the establishment of the regional Tuli Cattle Federation of Southern Africa, noting that this was the first regional breed-specific breeders society in Africa and will provide lessons for other regional entities in other parts of Africa.

The Interim Council (Mrs Anne Cooke, Mrs Grace Tambo and Mrs Chenayi Garise-Nheta) presented on the work conducted so far including results of the survey conducted through the administration of a questionnaire, website and the draft constitution. Other presentations were made by the South African Stud Book (Dr Helena Theron), operations of SADC (Dr Thobokwe), Animal Business Research Institute (ABRI/BREEDPLAN) (Mrs Izaan Du Plooy).

7. Constitution and Website

The proposed constitution of the TCFSA was extensively deliberated on and members' suggestions were discussed and necessary changes were made to the draft constitution. The amended constitution was adopted by the General Assembly. The final version of the constitution will be shared with all members. The draft website was presented by Mrs Cooke and participants made suggestions and inputs to improve it. The website was then adopted and approved by the Tuli Cattle Federation of Southern Africa.

8. Elections of the Council for the TCFSA.

The participants nominated the members of the council as per the constitution. The following were elected as members of the Council:

Voting Members

President - Mrs Anne Cooke (Zimbabwe)

Vice-President-- Mr. Dave Mullins (South Africa)

Secretary - Mrs Grace Tambo (Zimbabwe)

Treasurer - Mr Volker Rugheimer (Namibia)

Council Member - Edward Clark - Breeder (South Africa)

Council Member - Nyreen Roberts - Breeder (Zambia)

Non-voting Members

Government representatives in the Council

Zimbabwe - Mr Andrew Chamisa

South Africa - Mr Joel Mamabolo

Zambia - Mr Gilbert Mwangi (Alternate: Ellison Musimuko)

Namibia - Mr Ricky Kaputjaza

Ex-Officio Members

AU-IBAR - Dr Mary Mbole-Kariuki (official nomination will be made by Director)

SADC - Dr Gaolathe Thobokwe

9. Field Visit

The participants visited Mr Albie Rautenbach's AVOCA Farm in Reitz, in Orange Free State. Mr Rautenbach's farm is 1300ha and with a breeding herd of over 400 head including 200 breeding cows and 160 heifers. Participants gained knowledge on cost effective animal production and other breeding strategies.

10. Action Plan:

The Council and participants developed an Action Plan for the TCFSA with activities, roles and timelines. The activities were prioritized and ranked in order of importance. This was agreed to and adopted by all the participants. The key themes and activities planned by the Council of the TCFSA focussed on four main thematic areas; marketing and promotion, Genomics and genetic evaluation, propagation, Utilization and conservation of Tuli Cattle genetics, quality standards, Biosecurity and Traceability.

11. Closing Remarks

Closing remarks were presented by representatives of the Tuli Cattle Societies of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia, and AU-IBAR and SADC. They thanked the participants for their cooperation and contributions towards the birth and successful launch of the Tuli Cattle Federation of Southern Africa and validation and endorsement of the TCFSSA constitution. AU-IBAR was thanked for the technical and financial support.

The meeting was officially closed by a representative of the Government of South Africa, Mr Joel Mamabolo on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

This day 19 November 2021

Johannesburg, South Africa