

# **Research Review 1997 - 2001**



***Tea Research  
Foundation  
(Central Africa)***

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# Member countries

## Malawi

P.O. Box 51, Mulanje

Code: +265

Head Office: 467 277/238/225/  
297/298

Director: 467 293

Mimosa: 467 225

Nsuwadzi: 467 261

Thyolo: 473 218

Fascimile: 467 209 or 671 427

**Email: [trfca@africa-online.net](mailto:trfca@africa-online.net)**

## Zimbabwe

C/O Southdown's Estates  
P/Bag 2004, Chipinge

Code: +263

Telephone: 272992/3

Fascimile: 272 991 or 272723

**Telex: 82308 ZW**

## South Africa

C/O Sapekeo Estates (Pty) Ltd  
P.O. Box 576, Tzaneen 0850

Code: +27

Telephone: 0152 32073120

Fascimile: 01523074381

**Telex: 331856 SAPEKSA**

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# Mission

The **Tea research Foundation of entral Africa** is the service provider of **scientific research** and **technology** to the tea industry in southern Africa by developing **new high yielding, good quality and globally competitive tea** together with **cost effective production and management techniques** in the field and factory, disseminating these technologies through **extension and training**. All activities are conducted in an **ethical, sustainable and environmentally sensitive** manner leading to improvement in the livelihoods of the rural communities in the tea growing areas of southern Africa

## **Preamble**

In the absence of the annual reports from 1997 to 2001, the Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa (TRF) has compiled this research review to document results from the experiments it implemented during that period. The reader is referred to principal investigators of each chapter for details of the experiments. Other details which, have been omitted in this review, because they have been considered of less value for the purpose of this report, include staff list, Director's report, and meteorological data.

Readers may wish to know that some of work reported in this review has been published in the quarterly newsletters (QNL) from 1997 to 2001. Details of such experiments will be found in the concerned newsletter.

The present management TRF would like to thank all scientists that prepared the reviews of their work included in this report. Without their efforts, this review would not have been published.

With the publication of this review, TRF hopes it will be on track again with its documentation programme. Editorial work for the 2002 Annual Report was completed six months ago and is now awaiting designing and printing. TRF plans to publish another research review for the period 2001/2 to 2003/4 because during this time, the experimental programme was put on hold pending the completion of the restructuring of TRF. The restructuring process was completed in 2003.

After restructuring TRF, several things changed and the reader is referred to Newsletter number 146 for all the changes that happened. For the purpose of this report, a major change was the development of a Strategic Plan and the

initiation of new research projects that are focussed on high priority areas spelt out in the plan. The projects have a define lifetime to avoid experiments rolling over years.

Other major changes that will follow include the review of Constitution of TRF, increase in collaboration with other institutions in Africa and elsewhere. TRF will also promote inter-institution interactions in the SADC region.

All these changes are intended to make TRF an efficient and effective provider of scientifically proven tea technologies to growers which can spur productivity of their estates and farms in Zimbabwe and Malawi.

I wish all readers of this report good reading. Every effort has been made to report most relevant information, which, even if out of date should be useful to know.

**Dr. A. Suzgo Kumwenda,**

**DIRECTOR**