

Campaign - Small scale farmers speak for ourselves”

1. Objective of the campaign

“Strengthening capacity of Small Scale Farmers in eastern and southern Africa to engage in democratic processes for more state accountability and transparency in the region”

2. Focus countries of the campaign:

Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa

3. Campaign Duration September 2009 to December 2012



4. Rationale for the campaign

From the onset of ESAFF’s conception, the farmers have sought to have a fully opportunity to participate in all policy and democratic processes at regional, national and grassroots level to ensure that authorities accord national resources to the agriculture and rural development sector. This was also to ensure that farmers are holding leaders accountable to the Maputo Declaration of African leaders of 2003 in which they pledged to increase budget allocation to agriculture and food security to 10% by 2009. The Maputo declaration was restated in 2009 during the AU summit in Sirte Libya in which again African leaders set a timeframe by 2015 to reach the 10% level.

Farmers believe that the 10% goal can be reached if there is a popular participation of small scale farmers in budgeting processes in which their voices can be heard and they can be in the position to remind policy and decision makers on their pledge and monitor utilisation of resources.

This campaign will be an entry point to enable popular participation of men and women in policy making and budgeting processes which for many years they have been left out. People participation will lead to more transparency, equitable and accountability in the allocation and utilisation of national resources.

5. The problem

The eastern and southern African region account for a population of about 250 million people which is mainly made by smallholder farmers, sometimes referred as small scale farmers (60 to 80 percent) who are crop growers, fisher folks and livestock keepers that are mainly not adequately involved in decision making and policy processes that touch their daily lives.

Whereas other groups and communities in the eastern and southern Africa i.e. women, business people, trade unions; have at least managed to find space in decision making bodies at national and regional levels, but real poor rural small scale farmers are still not visible in decision making processes.

Despite enormous contribution to the entire economy in which agriculture account for 20% of total merchandise export, 60 to 80 percent of labour force and contribute between 20 and 40% to gross domestic product of countries in East and southern Africa, still **small-scale farmers voices on policy making in influencing is still insignificant and uncoordinated**. The limited voices in decision making at regional and at country level are mainly made by NGOs working on agriculture sector.

Hence this campaign seeks to enable small scale farmers organise, coordinate and speak for themselves to influence agriculture and rural development policies at regional level (SADC, COMESA and AU/NEPAD).

At national levels (Ministry of Agriculture and rural development and National Parliaments) and also to apply pressure to ensure that states allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture by 2015 as re-agreed at the AU summit in Libya on July 2009.

On the other hand, this campaign seeks to create stronger small farmers movement in the southern and eastern Africa. Strong farmers institutions, will ensure sustainable advocacy campaign and coordination of small-scale farmers which well articulated vision, mission, excellently managed with clearly defined policies, procedures that ensure the use of resources effectively.

6. The Campaign Goal:

Through this campaign, ESAFF is looking forward to contribute towards seeing that;

Smallholder farmers are a driving force for social change and poverty reduction through participation in democratic processes to ensure quality life in rural areas in eastern and southern Africa.

7. Key Result Areas (Outcomes)

This project will work to achieve results (outcome/impact) in four main areas as follows;

Main **outcomes** of the project

These are the intended short-term and medium-term effects of the proposed project. Outcomes give an indication of the impact of the project. List no more than three main outcomes.

Key Result Areas under the campaign	
1	Enhanced capacity of smallholder farmers to influence agriculture and rural development policies, resource allocation and engagement in budgeting processes from national (countries) level, regional levels (SADC, EAC, COMESA and the African Union-AU) and in international level December 2012
2	Enhanced networking, communication and information sharing between national farmers forum and district farmers forum as well as among national farmers forum as well as other likeminded forums in the region and beyond by December 2012
3	Self-reliant, active, vibrant and well connected, eleven (14) national small-scale farmer forums (ESAFF Chapters: – Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, RSA, Tanzania, Seychelles, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya) with basic office infrastructures, policies and guidelines, as well as strong leadership, resources base, and inspired staff and membership by December 2012