



EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA SMALL SCALE FARMERS' FORUM (ESAFF)

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**“Food First, Fair Trade,
Farmers' Solidarity”**



What is ESAFF?

ESAFF is an acronym for Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum.

Where does ESAFF Originate?

ESAFF was established out of the Small Farmers' Convergence (SFC), a parallel event alongside the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2002. The SFC was attended by more than 300 small scale farmers from 19 countries representing Africa, Latin America, Canada, Europe and Asia. In Johannesburg, small-scale farmers from East and Southern Africa decided to form a regional small scale farmers' forum (ESAFF).

What is the Purpose of ESAFF?

To enable small farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa to speak as a united voice so that our issues, concerns and recommendations become an integral part of policies and practices at national, regional/international levels.

Vision of ESAFF

To strive to be a self-reliant, independent, effective regional network that empowers national farmers' organisations in Eastern and Southern Africa Region to increase small scale farmers' visibility and promote sustainable Agriculture and their sustainable livelihoods.

Mission of ESAFF

To increase national and international dynamic alliances and advocate for policy, practice and attitude change that reflects the needs, aspirations, and development of small-scale farmers in eastern and southern Africa.

Objectives of ESAFF

- To create increased farmers' awareness about our potential and capacity to defend our needs, interests and demands.
- To advocate and lobby for our rightful positions in society to enable us campaign effectively for space in policy formulation processes.
- To mobilize for collective voices leading to self-organization to enable us lead our own processes.
- To work in partnership or in affiliated manner with like-minded actors nationally, regionally and internationally.
- To practice sustainable, sound and viable ecological agriculture, environmental and natural resources management.

Core Values of ESAFF

- Integrity
- Mutual trust
- Equal partnership
- Transparency and accountability
- Respect

Membership Composition

The membership of ESAFF comprises of the National Small Scale Farmers Forums (NSSFF) in Eastern and Southern African countries. Small-scale farmer groups' organizations can organize themselves from grassroots, district/regions to national level and apply for ESAFF membership.

Criteria for Membership

The criteria for membership to ESAFF:

- Include the national forums of small-scale farmers in the

countries of Eastern and Southern Africa.

- Members are practicing, innovative, family or subsistence farmers / fisherfolk / pastoralists.
- Members are involved in Sound Sustainable Agriculture and are mindful of the vision and mission of ESAFF.
- Members are practicing conventional agriculture.

Current Areas of Focus and Strategies of ESAFF

- To analyse and influence policies and practices at grassroots, national and regional levels.
- To defend small-scale farmers' rights.
- Networking from grassroots farmer groups, national forum and international levels.
- Linking with like-minded farmer organizations at national, regional and international levels.
- Information generation, sifting, sharing and dissemination.
- Prioritising on the strengthening of national small scale farmers' forum and their secretariats where ESAFF derives its lifeline.

Achievements:

The Forum through its member organizations has recorded a number of success stories:

- In Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Seychelles, South Africa, and Lesotho national small-scale farmers' forums are involved in campaigns to influence plans, budgets and programs on agriculture and rural development in their respective countries.
- Small scale farmers are engaging for impact to influence bio safety frameworks, land access and ownership, fair

trade, right to water and farmer friendly credit scheme policies affecting farmers. This is done in collaboration with other like-minded partners.

- In Zambia and Uganda, farmers' fora are lobbying for favourable land tenure policy and better agriculture financing.
- ESAFF Zimbabwe and NASFAM are working on seed and food security programmes.

ESAFF Campaigns:

1. Agriculture Budgeting Campaign (ABC)

*The campaign aims at engaging in democratic processes for more accountability and transparency in resources allocation to agriculture and rural development in the region. **Our Demand** is to see the increased national budget allocation to the agriculture sector to at least 10% in line with the Maputo/Sirte Declarations by 2015 and fully participation of farmers in the monitoring of resources*

2. Farmers speak for themselves campaign

The campaign is to ensure small scale farmers have rightful space and platforms to exchange ideas, influence and monitor policy processes related to agriculture and rural development, at local, national and subregional and international level.

3. Fair trade, fair market, for small scale farmers

The campaign is organising and demanding for fair price for their agricultural produce from local agro business and seeks to influence international arrangements.