

## AGRICULTURE/Participation

# Supporting small holder farmers' involvement in policy

The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) has come up with a number of resolutions including calling for meaningful participation of smallholder farmers in policy processes and quality government investment into the agriculture sector. Staff Writer, Michael Haonga reports on the resolutions of the 15-member country forum at their just meeting in Dar es Salaam. The Forum also called upon governments to uphold the Malabo ambition of deliberately involving small holder farmers, women and youth in development processes...

“WE call for more inclusive participation in decision making processes in a way of joint sector mutual accountability reviews,” it underlined, adding that “We would like to call upon the African Union to involve the small scale farmers in designing and agreeing on the new operational framework for the Malabo Declaration.”

It also emphasised the

need for it to be part of the process to develop joint indicators and milestones at all levels specifying, “We call upon national governments to increase the quantity and quality of public spending in agriculture “with an increase in real per capita investment

It gave an example of the difference between Uganda and Tanzania in 2011 where

Uganda invested \$6 per annum with a 15 percent agricultural sector growth whereas Tanzania invested \$18 achieving 4.1 percent and Rwanda which invested \$43 per capital resulting in registering higher agricultural sector growth”.

The ESAFF resolutions statement exemplified further that “This demonstrates that an increase in per capita public

investment in agriculture contributes to increase in agricultural sector growth and thus to lifting the lives of the small scale farmers out of poverty.”

The ESAFF also underlines that “We explicitly ask governments to honour the CAADP and Malabo Declaration commitments and invest at least 10 percent of national budgets to the agricultural sector,” in addition to acknowledging further that “We wish to be part of this inclusive transformation agenda.”

Regarding the concrete utilisation of the funds allocated to agricultural sector, they concurred with saying “we ask the Governments to prioritise small scale farmers, who are the majority of African citizens and are much more able than large-scale farming and agribusiness to contribute for African



A Tanzanian farmer tilling

economic growth, generation of employment and incomes, food security and sustainability in agriculture.

They gave a tick concrete priorities to be given for small-scale farmers underlining further that they should be

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# rs' involvement in policy making



*A Tanzanian farmer tilling the land*

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They gave a tick for concrete priorities to be given for small-scale farmers underlining further that they should be sought through participatory budgeting and financing processes.

It further appealed and called upon governments to be mutually accountable to the small scale farmers and to put in place mechanisms for effective resource distribution and monitoring specifying that "We wish to see more transparent and responsible government. We call upon governments to reduce wastage of resources and the eradication of corruption."

They called upon national governments to avail factual budget information on time and in user friendly formats to communities," demanding implementation to be tagged against the budgeted and prioritised issues of small scale farmers.

Other testimonies to that drive were underlined in

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plementation follow-on, including monitoring UNICEF  
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project work plans and assist in identification of required  
in the drafting of Country Programme Recommendation

and the eradication of corruption."

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Other testimonies to that drive were underlined in affirmation that "We demand to be active players in the value chain and not just recipients or consumers agribusiness products with contentions such as affirming that " We want governments to develop value chains which benefit the majority of small scale farmers and to see us as active players and investors who should benefit from an enabling policy environment."

They said "We remind Governments that small-scale farmers were actually the main private sector investors in agriculture and that we could invest even more if we would benefit of a favourable economic environment and support access to credit, markets, information," adding that "policy should prioritise small-scale farmers.

It called upon governments to uphold the Malabo ambition of deliberately involving small holder farmers, women and youth in development processes.

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It also emphasised the need for it to be part of the process to develop joint indicators and milestones at all levels specifying that "We call upon national governments to increase the quantity and quality of public spending in agriculture "with an increase in real per capita investment giving an example of the

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