

**Interim Report for Involving Small Scale Farmers in Policy
Dialogue and Monitoring for Improved Food Security in the East
African Region (INVOLVE) Project
Covering the project activities from 01/12/2012 to 30/11/2013**

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1.3 Names of Partners in Action	MVIWATA and GRET
1.4 Title of Action	Involving Small Scale Farmers in Policy Dialogue and Monitoring for Improved Food Security in the East African Region
1.5 Contract Number	DCI-FOOD/2012/310-073
1.6 Project start date:	01/12/2012 and 31/05/2015 Extension date: Nil
1.7 Target Countries	Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi



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1.0 List of abbreviations

ANSAF	Agriculture Non State Actors Forum (Tanzania)
APPPE	ESAFF Rwanda (Protection De L'environnement au RWANDA (APPPE))
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
AU	African Union
AYoA	AU Africa Year of Agriculture (2014)
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CAL	Campaigning, Advocacy and Lobbying
CPM	Coalition of Farmers in Madagascar
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSS	Civil Society Sector
EAC	East African Community
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa (region)
EACSOF	East Africa Civil Society Forum
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreement between EU and Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
ESAFF	Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum
EU	European Union
INVOLVE	A short form of " <i>Involving Small Scale Farmers in Policy Dialogue and Monitoring for Improved Food Security in the East African Region</i> "
KESSFF	Kenya Small Scale Farmers Forum
MVIWATA	Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania)
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OCA	Organization Capacity Assessment
PAYE	Pay As you Earn
PETs	Public Expenditure Tracking System
PHDR	Poverty and Human Development Report
SAT	Southern Africa Trust Fund
SAYO	Self Assess Your Organization (OCA tool)
ToT	Training of Trainers
ZIMSOF	Zimbabwe Small Scale Organic Farmers Forum

2.0 Assessment of Implementation of Action Plans

2.1 Executive summary

This Interim Narrative Report is a narration of the activities undertaken by the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and other INVOLVE project partners who are Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima (MVIWATA) in Tanzania and GRET of France. It covers the period as from 1st December 2012 when the project implementation started up to 30 November 2013. ESAFF, MVIWATA (a Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania), and GRET are implementing a European Union (EU) funded project "Involving small scale farmers in policy dialogue and monitoring for improved food security in the East African Region.", in short described as "INVOLVE" and it is being implemented five countries in East Africa: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

The project INVOLVE seeks to enhance small scale farmers' participation in governance for food security and is funded for about 1.8 Million Euro for 42 month. Of the total amount, 80% is funded by EU. At the end of the project expect to see enhancement of small scale farmer organizations that are ESAFF members' participation in policy making for food security in the region. It will also enhance small scale farmers' involvement in policy processes from grassroots to national and regional (the East Africa Community) levels. The project will also strengthen farmers' access to fair agro markets in the region building on MVIWATA's successful project on bulky market access for family farming in Tanzania.

Overall objective of the project

To contribute to inclusive formulation and implementation of demand driven-policies for improved food security within the East African Community countries through increased engagement of small scale farmers and scaling up of successful food security local initiatives.

Specific objective of the project

To strengthen the capacities of the ESAFF network and its members in East Africa to contribute to the formulation and monitoring of policies that impact food security at local (district council), national (national parliament) and regional (EAC secretariat and national governments) levels, and to foster agricultural commodities trade within the region, building on MVIWATA-managed district-based bulk markets as pilot experiences.

2.2 Activities and Results

2.2.1 Expected Result 1: Strengthening capacities of ESAFF, its EAC Members and at Grassroots level

Under this line of activity the following were undertaken:

INVOLVE Project Launching Meeting

The meeting was convened by ESAFF, MVIWATA and GRET from 12-13 March 2013 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with participants from both Tanzania and outside the country. The official launching attracted about 100 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives in Tanzania, Department of Farming Systems and Socio-Economic Research, the European Union Delegation in Tanzania, Ministry of EAC Cooperation, members from media houses in Tanzania, other CSOs and farmer leaders as well as ESAFF farmer leaders from 10 member countries. The launch was able to inform the public, policy makers and members of ESAFF in the region about the project, its objectives and expected changes.

The launch event was followed by a launching workshop in the afternoon in which 37 participants attended (15 males and 22 females) while the second day had participants (15 males and 16 females). The following members of ESAFF were present at both the launch and the workshop; MVIWATA, ESAFF Secretariat (Tanzania), Kenya (KESSFF), Uganda (ESAFF Uganda), Rwanda (ESAFF Rwanda), Burundi (ESAFF Burundi), Zimbabwe (ZIMSOFF), Lesotho (ESAFF Lesotho), Madagascar (CPM), Malawi (NASFAM), Seychelles (SeyFA) and South Africa (ESAFF South Africa). The objective of the session was to inform members about the project in details, enhance their understanding on the project, and mutual learning and sharing of best practises of small scale farmers from the Eastern and southern Africa region.

Objectives of the Inception Meeting (Official Launch and Workshop) of the INVOLVE Project

The main objectives of the meeting among others included the following:

- (i) Inform the public about the project and its intention;
- (ii) Widen ownership to the key stakeholders and solicit views how best to deliver the involve project;
- (iii) Internalize the project and enhance ownership and understanding of the key stakeholders (Staff Team and farmer leaders);
- (iv) Prepared detail action plan and budget allocation for each activity that will be conducted in a member country;

The meeting received a warm welcome from the various stakeholders including publicity by the electronic and print media. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives in Tanzania as we as the EAC Ministry acknowledged that the governments was ready to work with small scale farmers to improve on food security and give space for SSFs in policy making processes.

Resolutions of the Meeting

The Inception Meeting among partners of the INVOLVE project gave the broader picture of the level of development and organization (Governance, infrastructure, human resource) of ESAFF and its country members and the following were highlighted:

- That INVOLVE Project is coming to build on what is already existing within ESAFF and its members.
- Each ESAFF country member should learn from one another through a range of exchange visits.

- There should be meetings time to time to discuss what is going on the project.
- Solidarity among farmers is important since most farmers face the same challenges.
- ESAFF is not just an organization to provide something to help small holder farmers with the support but the farmers are the ones to work and make ESAFF strong at national level.
- Exchanging ideas on the market issues is important in improving livelihoods of small scale farmers.

Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee composed of ESAFF Regional Coordinator, MVIWATA Executive Director, 1 Representative of GRET and 5 farmer leaders from Tanzania (MVIWATA), ESAFF Uganda, KESSFF – Kenya, ESAFF Burundi and APPPE – ESAFF Rwanda, . The steering committee meets every six months to oversee the governance and implementation of the Project. The first Steering Committee Meeting was convened on 14th March 2013 for one day with 14 participants (10 male and 4 female) in Dar es salaam and it gave the INVOLVE Partners time to review on the outcomes of the Launching events and plan for the next activities. Partners noted that there is need to strengthen skills of ESAFF staff and even country members through training on new skills and recruitment of new personnel that had begun in December 2012, need to set up or upgrade tools, procedures and manuals. It is also provided partners with platform to determine their reporting time farmers and prepare a detailed time frame for the period to December 2013. This also gave partners to plan for the Organisational Capacity Assessments (OCA) to be conducted in the EAC region.

The other steering committee meeting was held on the 5th of July 2013 and it provided partners with another platform to reflect on the activities that had been implemented. The major decisions taken included the need to abide by EU guidelines in reporting (both financial and narrative) and the need for timeous implementation of activities. There was a report back on the Study of Bulk Markets conducted in Tanzania focusing on MVIWATA experience in bulky marketing and how the project transformed lives in the surrounding villages. It was agreed that there is need to critically analyse how these markets can be piloted in other EAC countries after realising their success in Tanzania.

The Committee meetings have helped to ensure quality in the implementation of the project, enhanced skills in EU project management for ESAFF Secretariat and sharing of lessons.

Coordinating Committee Meetings

The Coordinating Committee is composed of ESAFF and MVIWATA staff and through internet (skype) or in person of a GRET representative and is in charge of programming and monitoring activities and resources, and assessing the level of achievements of the project's expected results. The Committee convenes one coordination meeting every 2 months to check on progress and review activities in line with the EU partnership agreement. The first meeting was convened in November 2012 to prepare the document for partnership agreement between ESAFF, GRET and MVIWATA as well as plan for recruitment of personnel to partners under staffed and how to manage and report the EU projects.

The other Coordination Committee meeting was held on 11th March 2013 before the official launching of the INVOLVE Project. Partners welcomed the EU funding of the project and noted that ESAFF and MVIWATA had over the years been working with such partners as Oxfam Novib, Irish Aid and Brot fur die Welt, thus the coming in of the EU project should be seen as a way of enhancing ESAFF and MVIWATA's work in agricultural policy engagement. Partners agreed the following:

- That the INVOLVE Project will have the Steering Committee, the Coordinating Committee and the Advisory Committee in its implementation.
- There is need to stimulate demand driven policies at national and regional levels.
- Small scale farmers' participation within policy making cycles should be strengthened thus the coming in of the INVOLVE Project was a chance for farmers to capitalize on this opportunity.
- That there is need to improve on ESAFF capacities to contribute to agricultural policy formulation and monitoring within the EAC.
- ESAFF needs to contribute to the harmonization of agricultural policies within EAC through evidence based advocacy thus ESAFF should develop advocacy strategies.
- There is need to speed up the monitoring of the CAADP 10% budget allocations for agriculture.

A third Coordination meeting was held on 7 May 2013 for one day composed of 7 staffs (6 males and 1 female) from ESAFF, MVIWATA and GRET who are in charge of programming and monitoring activities and resources, and assessing the level of achievements of the project's expected results. ESAFF Secretariat gave an update on reports compiled that include the launching meeting reports, and steering committee minutes and the call for expression of interest for consultants to conduct the organisational capacity assessments (OCA) exercise and it was agreed that there is need for reporting in time and continue in updating each other as partners. There was also an agreement that GRET and MVIWATA will continue to assist with technical support to ESAFF on EU reporting guidelines. The Fourth and Fifth coordinating committee meetings undertaken were on the 2nd of July and 1st of October 2013 respectively. These meetings were part of the monitoring of the progress of the project and major decisions taken were mostly on financial issues and these include the need to have proper financial management policies, clear procurement plan, need for technical support from GRET and MVIWATA and the need to engage with the EU country representatives to understand reporting guidelines.

Results of the Meetings

The meetings provided platform for the partners to agree on each role whereby ESAFF is the leading partner while GRET and MVIWATA provide technical support as both have previously implemented EU funded projects. The technical support on both financial and narrative reporting helped to ensure the quality implementation of the project as envisaged. Members also agreed on the time line of implementation and reporting of activities and also on future dates they would be meeting. The meetings have resulted to improved and smooth implementation of the project by partners and on reporting, but also enhanced common understanding of the project among partners.

Activity: Set Up and Improve Internal Systems for Transparent and Accountable Governance

Under the line of activity, the Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) of the Eastern and Southern African Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and its members was conducted by three external consultants. Five ESAFF Members participated in this exercise as well as the ESAFF regional secretariat. The dates were from 13th -14th May 2003 in Rwanda, KESSFF Kenya and MVIWATA in Tanzania. 16th -17th May in Burundi, while 17th -18th May in Uganda. The last OCA event took place for the ESAFF regional Secretariat on 20th -21st May in Tanzania. This was followed up by a report back meeting in Dar es Salaam on the outcomes of the OCA. The feedback event comprised of two representatives from each assessed country while at the regional secretariat all Board members and staff were involved. The main purpose of conducting the OCA was to address the objective of INVOLVE whose essence lies in strengthening ESAFF governance, networking and policy influencing capacities at regional levels, at national and sub-national levels within the first participating countries of the EAC. The specific objectives were to:

- Identify capacity strengths and gaps in ESAFF regional and in five (5) ESAFF member countries in EAC; and
- Develop strategies and implementation plans to address the priority capacity gaps for stronger ESAFF that is better able to govern itself and influence food security and agricultural trade policies and practices in the EAC countries.

OCA workshops were primarily attended by ESAFF Board members and staff at national level as well as at regional level. Staff attended in four of the six assessments, which have secretariats (Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda) and at the regional level. While this is consistent with the concept of self-assessment embedded in the SAYO tool, the OCA guide that was developed makes a case for broadening participation in future OCAs of ESAFF. The following table shows the gender disaggregation during the exercise.

Table 1: Summary of participants to the country and regional OCA workshops

ESAFF Country	Male	Female	Totals	Female %ge
ESAFF Regional Office	11	7	18	39 %
Tanzania (MVIWATA)	9	6	15	40 %
Rwanda	10	7	17	41 %
Uganda	9	8	17	47 %
Burundi	16	8	24	33 %
Kenya	7	3	10	30 %
Totals	62	39	101	37 %

The OCA was organised into five major assessment areas, each with a set of variables that formed the basis for the assessment and the indicators of performance capability. The five areas are:

- Our **Identity** (**Why** do we exist as organisations?);
- Our **Governance** (**Who** makes policy and strategic decisions?);
- Our **Strategy and Procedure** (**How** do we approach our work and manage resources?);
- Our **Activities** and achievements (**What** do we do, and towards what end?); and
- Our **Interactions** within the context (**Where and when** do we connect and interact with society and operating environment?).

The findings were grouped according to the sites that were assessed from three distinct clusters. The rating was done by farmer members and in some instances tended to score themselves higher than the capacity of the organisation. The three clusters of findings can be summarised as follows:

- ESAFF members that are still in the pioneer stage: KESSFF, ESAFF Rwanda and ESAFF Burundi;
- ESAFF and ESAFF members that have functional secretariats, structures and systems – Regional ESAFF and ESAFF Uganda;
- ESAFF member that is well-established and differentiated and has been in existence for two decades: MVIWATA.

Results in each category per country

CRITERIA FOR ASSESMENT	RESULTS					
	ESAFF Regional Secretariat	MVIWATA, Tanzania	ESAFF Uganda	KESSFF Kenya	ESAFF Rwanda	ESAFF Burundi
1 WHY? IDENTITY: understanding vision, mission	3.7	3.5	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.3
2. WHO? GOVERNANCE: Our organization is well governed by able and accountable leaders based on a clear structure separating itself from management	4.1	4.3	4.1	3.0	4.0	4.3
3. HOW? MANAGEMENT and PROCEDURE: Our organization is managed with clearly defined procedures that ensure we use our resources effectively	4.4	4.1	4.4	2.7	3.8	3.7
4.0 WHAT? ACTIVITIES and ACHIEVEMENTS: Our organization realizes its objectives through sustainable projects and programmes which are in link with the vision and mission	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.1	4.2	4.1
5.0 WHERE and WHEN? LINKAGES to the CONTEXT: Our organization works well with other development stakeholders, to assert its interests, achieve common goals without compromising its own image	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.0	3.6	4.1

The results of the score of the OCA activities were indicative of the main challenges that the farmer organisations face. However, in devising capacity building initiatives for each member, the reality and comments of the farmer leaders on the ground helped to provide a sense of capacity gaps needed to be addressed to strengthen member organisations as well as ESAFF secretariat.

The following 3 capacity areas to be addressed were identified:

- ESAFF governance and leadership capacities through supporting the constitutional review and implementation at country (5) and regional levels (this should ensure role clarification, involvement of young men and women, clear terms of office, provision for co-option of Board members to address certain gaps such as financial competencies, youth and women representation); developing leadership and governance capacities of the regional and national Boards (5) through training, induction, accompaniment and development of learning materials

and developing strategic and annual plans that are informed by member needs and linked to the INVOLVE areas of focus in the EAC countries;

- ii) Management and financial procedures and systems through supporting the establishment of national secretariats in three EAC countries where none exist (with a minimum of a coordinator responsible for programme management and a finance person competent to manage funds and meet EU standards. These could be part-time); supporting the development and application of organisational policies (*Financial Procedures*, Code of Conduct, Human Resources and associated job descriptions; Gender; HIV and AIDS) in three countries where secretariats will be established; developing and implementing a resource mobilisation strategy and recruiting key personnel staff to run the structures and systems (e.g. Resource mobilisation committee) covering country and regional levels.
- iii) Technical capacities through developing and strengthening the capacity of farmers, farmer leaders and staff to influence and work with government, agricultural research organisations, private sector and other civil society organisations (priority areas being food security and sovereignty, budgeting and national resource allocation, fair trade); developing ESAFF member (farmers) capacities to utilise Informational and Communication Technology for greater efficiency in communication, tapping into youth capacities; and Ensure the visibility of ESAFF work through the use of various media including the internet, newspapers, radio and television; developing farmer leaders and farmer capacity in marketing, value addition and market information systems through training, exchange visits and learning by experience and developing the capacities of the regional and national Boards (5) to understand and observe EU reporting regulations as well as Develop and implement conditions for the sub-granting of funds between the regional ESAFF and the five country members in the EAC countries

From the above capacity gaps that were identified, ESAFF managed to produce the Governance and Management Handbook and Guide, Financial Management and Fundraising guide and the Campaigning, Advocacy and Lobbying (CAL) Manual and Guide. ESAFF also managed to train twenty (20) farmer leaders in Nairobi from 28-30 November 2013. The training targeted all EAC farmer leaders where the INVOLVE project is being implemented and mostly such countries as Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda because they are still at the pioneering stage thus the need to equip these organizations with good governance systems and financial management. Tanzania and Uganda participated to share their experience on governance and management. The major decision that came out of the meeting is that countries agreed to adopt the governance manual and apply it in their organizations.

Results

The OCA resulted in the development of manuals on governance and management, financial management and the Campaigning Advocacy and lobby (CAL) Manual. In the course of developing manuals, farmer leaders were carried through a training workshop in Nairobi (28-30 November 2013) on issues of governance and management. Farmers agreed to take the issue of governance to their own country levels and improve on governance structures especially in Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda that are still at the pioneering stages. The three least developed members have developed roadmap to ensure they have election to put in place accountable leadership, up-to-date constitution, setup of secretariats, and put in place organizational key policies like financial policy, and Personnel policy as well as office infrastructure. All members also are mainstreaming youth and gender issues in their organisation including ensuring youth and women in leadership, increased membership at regional and district level. The ESAFF youth regional congress will be held in April 2014, in which youth farmers will be presented. A simple

Governance and Management Guide for farmer organisations has been developed to assist members to implement their roadmaps.

Activity: Strengthen networking skills (information systems, communication and coalition building)

Under this line of action ESAFF managed to do the following:

- Development of the ESAFF communication strategy for regional level and later to be developed and adopted for each national members.
- The website, www.esaff.org is being updated regularly and the e-newsletter for first half of the year was disseminated to other partners and network members and the e-newsletter was for April-June 2013 and the other from July-September 2013 targeting topical issues on agriculture
- Network members also contributed to the website and the newsletter
- Setting up an updated database of ESAFF members and relevant non-members is ongoing

Activity: Support development of strategic thinking on agricultural policies

This activity was done on February 18th and 21st, 2013 by ESAFF and a Trainer of Trainers Training (ToT) for 23 farmers (16 male and 7 female) was organised in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim was to discuss major trend in the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and specifically Public Expenditure Tracking systems (PETS). Apart from PETS, the ToT emphasised on the challenge of Seed harmonisation policies in the region which could lead to criminalisation and stopping small scale farmers from sharing or selling local seeds. Seed is important aspect in family farming. ToT on seed focused on the seed harmonisation laws in the region and how to develop alternatives based on agro ecology practises to ensure seed remain in the domain of small scale farmers to enable them preserve, share, sell to fellow farmers. Currently developed policies under COMESA, EAC and SADC aims at denying smallholder farmers privilege of seed ownership and sharing or selling. This could be realised through new property right laws that aim to give monopoly to the multinational seed companies. On PETS farmers were oriented Introduction to Budget and national budget cycle, Entitlements and rights of citizens as well as on District planning and budgeting process. Another areas was on Making PETS work for farmers (starting point and Tools); Utilisation of Scorecards/PIMA CARD to track services in the agriculture sector, Feedback and how to organize Campaigning, Advocacy and Lobbying in PETS through law makers, policy makers and Media

After ToT a total of 10 districts were identified in Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda and then in addition other 12 districts in southern African countries: Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Zambia as part of the ESAFF network to training and organise actual piloting PETS. In the EAC region, more than 250 farmers have so far been trained on PETS and Seed issues.

PETS training and exercises as well as the training and seed and agro ecology level organised in the month of May and June 2013 at district levels. In Kenya trainings were conducted in districts of Trans Nzoia 23 farmers (11 males and 12 females) and Githunguri with a total 45 (30 women

and 15 men), in Tanzania the trainings were in Muleba where 40 farmers were trained and in Kilosa where 35 farmers were trained while in Uganda the trainings were in Mayuge where 30 (18 women and 12 men) farmers were trained and Kabare where 35 farmers (20 women and 15 men) were trained. In Rwanda 20 farmers trained from Musanze, Rubavu, Nyabihu, Gakenke, Kayonza, Kamonyi, Burera, Ngororero and Kicukiro while in Burundi 35 farmers from all over the country were trained on budget issues and took their concerns to meet parliamentarians.

2.2.1.4 Results

Members are now engaging leadership at grassroots level such as (MVIWATA) Tanzania went to districts of Muleba (Kagera), Kilosa (Morogoro) to capacitate farmers to engage districts and village authority. MVIWATA's relationship with local policy makers has improved to a larger extent and is now participating in local policy making issues. Membership in these districts have also grown. Both Kenya, Tanzania - MVIWATA and Uganda engaged media on issues of agricultural budgets and they also followed budget proceedings in their countries in June 2013 and met with parliamentarians. Farmers continue to engage their governments and the EAC Parliament on issues of protecting indigenous seeds.

ESAFF regional office and MVIWATA through a broad coalition of ANSAF and Swissaid approached parliamentarians in June 2013 and November 2013 at a round table discussion on the GMO dialogue with MPs from Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water and lobbied against quick introduction of GMOs and changing of the liability clause in the current Environmental Law that is governing GM issue in Tanzania. The argument by CSOs is that there is a need for more assessment of health, biodiversity, and economic consequences of GM. Hence needed is education and awareness to all stakeholders on GMO. It was proposed that the government should capacitate the existing centers who can engage in research to produce new improved seeds under own environment, politics should not intervene the law rather use professionals to make decision on technical matters and that since Tanzania has not capitalized on the existing seeds, there is a need to improve our own seeds before moving to GMOs. In Rwanda, ESAFF has started working with district authorities; enhance membership and coalition building with PELUM Rwanda and other national organisations including media. In Burundi the lines of communications with MPs and media has been established and enhanced and also the organisation is working hand in hand with ACORD and ActionAid.

ESAFF in Kenya managed to meet parliamentarians in June 2013 and had a court case to review of the EPAs agreement of Kenya and EU and the government of Kenyan government has already started reviewing the inclusion of small scale farmers in the EPAs negotiations. Farmers continue to engage their governments and the EAC Parliament on issues of protecting indigenous seeds. This highlights that the farmers are already getting aware and being able to demand their rights and present cases to policy makers.

2.2.2 Expected Result 2: Fostering agricultural commodities trade in the EAC

2.2.2.1 Activity 1: Conduct an impact study of MVIWATA bulk markets experience on food security and food flows at local and national level with recommendations for scaling up by MVIWATA and GRET

MVIWATA and GRET managed to engage two French students to conduct the impact study in Tanzania, while MVIWATA provided technical and logistical support. The first phase of the study started by detailing the content of the study (first part), with the participation of MVIWATA (on the occasion of the launching meeting in Dar es Salaam, March 2013., Detailing of the methodology of the study was undertaken by GRET in April 2013 with support of MVIWATA. The study in Tanzania has been implemented from April 2013 to July 2013 (field study) and September-October 2013 (writing), with literature review, interviews with key resource persons, selection of markets for field study, interviews with stakeholders and farmers for six bulk markets. There were field studies with the students in Tawa and work session also with the students in Morogoro all in June and July 2013. The students held their report back sessions in July 2013 at the Coordination and Steering Committee meetings (presentation of preliminary findings). The study has now been finalized.

The study will be shared with other stakeholders at regional workshop due in 2014 and countries will start engaging their governments to implement the bulk market concept as shared with MVIWATA. Improving the marketing of agricultural products is essential to increase farmers' incomes and agricultural production, thus to reduce rural poverty and food insecurity. Different models can lead to this goal, and one among them is the model of bulk market. This system is based on the economic theory of free markets, and is supposed to lead to the regulation of supply and demand by bringing sellers and buyers together in a same place.

In order to reduce agricultural market imperfections and to increase smallholders' bargaining power, MVIWATA have implemented several bulk markets models in the country. As well as offering trading infrastructures, markets also provide different services such as storage facilities, weighing and cleaning services and a price information system. The impact of bulk markets include that they induce positive effects especially on farmers' incomes and they galvanise agricultural channels, but only when they are active enough. However, increasing farmers' bargaining power is still a challenge that could be improved and it would strengthen the positive effects of active bulk markets on farm-gate prices.

2.2.2.2 Activity 2: Conduct one regional scoping study on bulk marketing in 5 East African countries to identify opportunities for scaling up experience from MVIWATA and to facilitate cross border trade within the EAC, including analysis of small scale farmers commodity trade in countries, links between bulk market and food security policies

MVIWATA and GRET managed to engage two French students (the same one who carried out the study in Tanzania) to conduct the studies on agricultural markets were conducted in Rwanda and, Uganda. The study has been carried out from July to October 2013 (field study in July and August). Field study in Burundi has been carried out by Gret (Laurent Levard). The report will

be finalized in the next weeks. In Kenya a Kenyan researcher was also identified and conduct the study from December 2013 to February 2014 .A synthesis report will be prepared by GRET by March 2014.Study findings of the research will be shared with other all stakeholders after the studies have been accomplished in a regional workshop due in 2014, and countries will start. The lobbying for scaling up the MVIWATA success in the region will follow after conclusion from the study. What is now impending is to initiate the launch of these markets in other EAC countries after sharing with policy makers on the benefits of bulk markets on SSFs.

2.2.2.3 Results

The studies in Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda have been finalized. The field study has been carried out in Burundi.

Regarding the study in Tanzania, the following major findings included the following:

- There are some markets that very functional and these markets are close to infrastructure such as roads, and market centres
- Markets that intermediary and these are markets close to roads as well but mostly dealing with perishable products such as fruits and vegetables
- Non-function markets that are far away from roads and can be problematic such as during rain seasons with poor roads.

2.2.2.4 Carry out monitoring systems of CAADP engagements on 10%

Though most of the activities will be undertaken in the second and third years some activities are already underway, a farmer leader Mr Hakim Baliraine (ESAFF Secretary General) participated at the 9th CAADP Partnership Platform held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 23-27 March 2013 that was convened by the African Union (AU)to evaluate progress and achievements made in implementing CAADP. Delegates who included policy makers and representatives of governments, multilateral bodies, civil society groups, development partners and farmers' organisations from Africa and outside the Continent attended the meeting. From this meeting voices of small scale farmers were and governments pledged continued engaged with famers and CSOs. Of further importance was the call for more involvement of women and youths in the CAADP processes.

Another meeting to reflect on the CAADP processes was conducted in Nairobi, Kenya from 12-13 November 2013 whereby CSOs were reflecting on the achievements of CAADP after 10 years of implementation and the how CSOs can influence the CAADP+10 processes in 2014.

ESAFF further participated at the NEPAD meeting of key non state actors in Johannesburg from17-18 November to deliberate how farmers can influence the second Maputo Declaration among other calling for more investment in the agriculture sector (the 10% budget allocations) and plan on activities for 2014 that has been dubbed African Year of Agriculture. The plan to participate in the side event of the heads of state summit in Addis Ababa in January 2014 on the proclamation of the AU Africa Year of Agriculture (AYoA) and UN 2014 year of Family Faming are underway. ESAFF will develop her position on the AYoA.

Results planned but not implemented

During the period under review, there were no planned activities that were not undertaken because all the activities planned were implemented. The shortfall is on trainings on CAL and communication as well as networking skills though the training tool kits have already been produced. Training on governance and management for farmer leaders was conducted as planned.

2.4 Assessment of the results

2.4.1 Achievement of Outputs, Outcomes and Impact on Overall Objectives

From the above description of the activities, ESAFF is still in a position to achieve the project objectives and work plan as planned. Most of the activities planned during the inception phase or first semester have been undertaken and now there is need to scale up the remaining activities and influence policy change and enhance organisation capacity.

Through OCA, three weaker members; KESSFF Kenya, ESAFF Burundi and ESAFF Rwanda have started revisiting their constitutions, make efforts to recruit part-time coordinators, increase areas of activities and membership, secure office spaces and develop internal policies on governance and management, personnel, financial and youth/gender based on the ESAFF regional policies. Partnership strengthening with like-minded organisations in those countries has increased which in return will help strengthening organisation capacity and widen impact on advocacy. Well-developed members like MVIWATA and ESAFF Uganda continue to consolidate their positions and address gaps especially in strengthening provincial and districts networks, ensure gender sensitive policies and practises as well as youth participation in leadership and ESAFF activities. Elections are planned in the first half of the year 2014 in which youth and gender elements will be considered.

On advocacy, members are now engaging grassroots such as (MVIWATA) Tanzania in districts of Muleba and Kilosa in Kagera and Morogoro respectively opened another office that are remote to capacitate other farmers. MVIWATA's relationship with local policy makers has improved to a larger extent and is now participating in local policy making issues. KESSFF Kenya, MVIWATA (Tanzania) and ESAFF Uganda engaged media and law makers on issues of agricultural trade, budgets and they also followed budget proceedings in their countries in June 2013 and met with parliamentarians. Farmers continue to engage their governments and the EAC Parliament on issues of protecting indigenous seeds.

ESAFF Kenya managed to meet parliamentarians in June 2013 and had a court case to review of the EPA agreement of Kenya and EU and the government of Kenya has already started reviewing the EPA agreement to meet needs of small scale farmers. This was also later taken to the EAC Parliament and other EAC countries are already in the process of reviewing the EPA agreements they had signed. This highlights that the farmers are already getting aware and being able to demand their rights policy makers.

ESAFF regional office and MVIWATA managed to approach parliamentarians in June 2013 at a round table discussion on the GMO dialogue with MPs from Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water and lobbied against quick introduction of GMOs.

To Support this project with activities related to this project, MVIWATA managed to undertake capacity building on 21-26 March 2013 in 4 districts (Kasanga, Igurusi, Igagala and Matai) in Tanzania by MVIWATA and this was done also at local levels in the same districts from 24-26 April 2013 with an average of 30 participants per workshop. MVIWATA also managed to conduct radio programmes with Radio Ukweli in March 2013, conduct a study on *Bio-Fuel Investment and Its Effects to Small Holder Farmers*. MVIWATA further managed to conduct PETs, trainings on budget trainings and Seed Rights in districts of Muleba, and Kilosa in Kagera and Morogoro Regions respectively in May 2013. MVIWATA further conducted capacity building of farmers 3-26 June 2013 in Kilosa district in Tanzania on advocacy on climate change. MVIWATA managed also to conduct trainings on advocacy, leadership and civic education at Nyandira, Tawa (farmers from Zanzibar, Pwani, Singida and Iringa), Tawa (farmers from Kilimanjaro, Ruvuma, Mwanza and Kagera), Arusha, Tabora, Lindi and Dodoma; all districts in Tanzania with an average of 36 middle level network members for each training session.

2.4.2 Problems encountered

Over expectations from some members especially on subgranting in form of financial resources in the first year of the implementation of the involve project was a challenge. The expectation was not forthcoming because the foundation was to ensure increased the level organisational capacity to manage funds, projects and personnel. To overcome we continue to encourage members to put systems in place before sub granting.

Another challenge was that the project is new to ESAFF and it is the first time ESAFF is conducting a project with huge budgets, some problems included complications on the division of roles in the implementation and reporting of the project. This has been addressed with the support of experienced partners like MVIWATA and GRET who had experience in management of EU projects.

Recruitment process for some staff took time. The Communication Officer from Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, that was approved by ESAFF Board in December 2012 could not take his position due to security reasons in Goma. He could not travel to Kinshasa to collect his academic certificate. This delayed most of activity in the communication area. Another Program Officer was recruited from Tanzania in October 2013

On advocacy there are still some challenges in interactions with policy makers from new members at pioneering stage even after the Public Expenditure Tracking (PETS) exercises at district level. These required proper coordination and consistency understanding and linking with relevant authorities. The pilot funding was also small to ensure wider involvement of farmers and follow ups. However, many farmer groups have been accepted and granted permission to organise PETS in those 10 districts. This paves a way in the second year where PETS will be conducted at full scale in those districts. Lack of standing secretariat in Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda makes our coordination and implementation a challenge. Through the project we are working to see members still at nascent stages establish secretariat to easy communication and

guarantee successful implementation of project activities as well as advocacy at national and district level. These members will be visited to review their laid down roadmap and strategies for organisational development.

2.4.3 Contracts awarded exceeding 10.000 Euros

One contract exceeding 10.000 Euros was awarded during the Organisational Capacity Assessment activity in May 2013. The amount the contract was 18,713.88 Euros. There was a consultation process during the Inception meeting in March 2013 by ESAFF, MVIWATA and GRET on this was to be undertaken and the following issues were agreed:

- The need to produce terms of reference (TORs) for the activity
- A call for Expression of Interest in the EAC print media and website
- Selection of candidates based on knowledge the EAC region, languages (French, Kiswahili and English), knowledge of ESAFF and small scale farmer organisation in the region and beyond, experience in the same line activities, minimal costs and consultants who could meet the deadline just to name a few.
- A total of nine technical and financial proposals were received and were scrutinised and then reduced to three and these were also scrutinised based on the above named criteria.
- Finally the contract was given to three contractors namely Djax Biria from Tanzania, Dr Mutizwa Mukute from Zimbabwe and Thierry Lassalle from France because of their experience with OCA processes, understanding of farmer organisations and major languages in the EAC.

2.5 Updated Action Plan

Year	2013												2014												Implementing Body
	Semester 1						Semester 2						Semester 1						Semester 2						
Activities	Month 1 (in 2012)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Recruitment of staff, Signing of documents and Launch of the Project																									ESAFF, MVIWATA, GRET, network members
Activity 1.1 Set Up and Improve Internal Systems for Transparent and Accountable Governance																									
Coordinating and steering committee meetings The OCA																									ESAFF, MVIWATA, GRET, network members and consultants
1.1.2 Conduct trainings for ESAFF Members																									ESAFF, Capacity building task forces, Consultant
1.1.3. Develop training manuals and guidelines and their translations into Kiswahili and French and printing																									ESAFF, Board, Consultants
1.1.4. Technical Support to members																									ESAFF, Capacity building task force

Activities	Month 1 (in 2012)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Implementing Body
Activity 1.2 Strengthen networking skills (information systems, communication and coalition building)																								ESAFF, network members	
1..2.1 Develop communication strategy																									ESAFF, Consultants
1.2.2 Setting information flow																									ESAFF, network members
1.2.3 Newsletter 2 per year and website updates																									ESAFF, network members
1.2.4 Trainings on leaders on networking - 5 trainings to be conducted																									ESAFF, Consultants, Capacity building taskforce
1.2.5 Technical support of networking and communication																									ESAFF
Activity 1.3 Support development of strategic thinking on agricultural policies (under matching fund)																								ESAFF, Consultants	
1.3.1 Regional TOT on agriculture policies and advocacy issues of 20 trainers																									ESAFF, Capacity Building Taskforce

Activities	Month 1 (in 2012)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Implementing Body
1.3.2 Train 2000 grassroots farmers (400 per country) on agriculture policies and advocacy																									ESAFF, Capacity Building Taskforce
1.3.3 Follow up activities by capacity building task forces																									ESAFF, Capacity Building Taskforce
Activity 1.4 Strengthen advocacy skills and capacities to monitor public expenditures																							ESAFF, Capacity Building Taskforce		
1.4.1 Develop one practical guide on advocacy																									ESAFF, Capacity Building Taskforce
1.4.2 Develop one manual on monitoring public expenditure at local and national levels																									ESAFF, Capacity Building Taskforce
Activity 2: Building on MVIWATA's bulk markets experience to foster agricultural commodities trade in EAC																							GRET, MVIWATA		
2.1 Conduct one impact study of MVIWATA bulk markets experience on food security and food trade at local and national level																									GRET, MVIWATA
2.2 Conduct one regional scoping study on bulk marketing in 5 countries to identify opportunities for scaling up																									GRET

Activities	Month 1 (in 2012)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Implementing Body	
2.3 Showcasing to governments and ESAFF members the effectiveness of bulk marketing - MVIWATA																										
2.3.1 Regional Conference (to present projects study's findings) including field visits to bulk markets in Tanzania for ESAFF country chapter leaders, national authorities, EAC MPs																										MVIWATA
2.3.2 Disseminating study's findings, through communication tools (documentary, radio, TV broadcast, briefs) in the five EAC countries																										MVIWATA
2.4 Consolidate MVIWATA's existing markets and expand market information systems in EAC - MVIWATA																										
2.4.1 Expand Market Information Systems in Tanzania; and linking to other EAC countries, to promote cross-border trade																										MVIWATA
2.4.2 Strengthen cereal value chains in Tanzania (supporting 100 mil small producers groups around markets)																										MVIWATA
2.4.3 Develop marketing models suitable for small scale farmers in the 5 EAC countries																										MVIWATA
2.4.4 Set up market information systems on cereal prices in the EAC in order to promote cross-border trade																										MVIWATA

3.1 Develop Advocacy Strategy for ESAFF and national action plans																					ESAFF	
3.1.1 Conduct a study to review for implementation of the regional food security action plan																						ESAFF
3.1.2 Organise ESAFF regional workshop to disseminate and define ESAFF advocacy strategy (30 leaders)																						ESAFF
3.1.3 Prepare advocacy action plan at national level (5 countries)																						ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees
3.1.4 Organise regional for mid-term review of advocacy strategy																						ESAFF

3.2 Engage for harmonized food policies in the EAC region to support market-oriented family farming																					ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees	
3.2.1 Facilitate discussions at national and regional level on trade through existing or future regional institutions (such as East African Regional Agriculture Advisory Council) bringing together FOs, EAC MPs, government officials, traders and farmers to eliminate non-tariff barriers including frequent export bans																						ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees
3.2.2 Ten workshops with local authorities in pilot districts																						ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees

3.3 Carry out monitoring systems of CAADP engagements on 10% for agriculture at EAC and national level in the support of small scale farming; through public expenditure tracking surveys (PETS) in 10 districts in the 5 countries																								ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees	
Activities	Month 1 (in 2012)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Implementing Body
3.3.1 Set up and implementing 10 pilot experiences in districts with local taskforces in the 5 EAC countries to monitor agricultural public expenditure																									ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees
3.3.2 Gather findings from the 10 pilots (with comparison with national statistics) into a report																									ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees
3.3.3 Disseminate findings (local and national media)																									ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees
3.3.4 Through evidence generated by the 10 pilot experiences, lobby at regional level for improved budgeting processes for the benefit of small scale farmers																									ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees
3.3.5 Prepare in each country position papers about the necessity of allocating 10% for agriculture and market-oriented family farming																									ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees
3.3.6 Carry out campaigns on the position papers in the 5 EAC countries and EAC organs																									ESAFF, MVIWATA and sub grantees

3.0 Partners and other Cooperation

3.1 Partners Relationships

Partners cooperate with each other in mutual and beneficial manner. GRET and MVIWATA have been giving ESAFF support financially and technically while ESAFF has been the lead partner in implementing the project. ESAFF continue to play a leading role in planning and organising meetings, activities and major events.

3.2 Relationship with State Authorities

ESAFF is a registered organisation under the NGO Act (Number 00NGO/1097) and paying its tax obligations (VAT number TIN Number 108-047-437). ESAFF has a mutual and friendly relationship with policy makers and this has enable it to be recognised in policy making processes such being asked to participate in agricultural issues such as the event in Dodoma, Tanzania on GMOs, various meeting with East Africa civil Society Forum (EACSOF) the CSO network in East Africa and the NEPAD Non State Actors Advocacy and Communication Strategy Planning meeting in November 2013. ESAFF members also have cordial relations with their governments such as MVIWATA also being invited for budget processes and agricultural issues, ESAFF Kenya being able to interact with the government and the court on EPAs. The court ordered the government to seat with farmers to see how small scale farmers will be accommodated in the EPAs negotiation. ESAFF Uganda monitoring the budget process and being able to meet with parliamentarians at county and national level. ESAFF and its members have also been able to participate in regional policy making cycles such in the EAC targeting workshops and influencing this body to review its EPA agreement as well as participating in CAADP Processes organised by the AU. At grassroots level all 5 member countries have established mutual understanding in preparing for PETS in year 2. These relationships contribute positively to the realisation of the project goals; enhancing organisational capacity and increase farmers participation in policy processes.

3.3 Other Relationships with other Organisations

ESAFF continue to work with regional non state actors, academic and research bodies. ESAFF is an active member of the Arusha based CSO regional forum (EACSOF), it works with the universities such as Sokoine University; other Agriculture Research Institutes as well as international NGOs working with farmer organisations such as PELUM, African Centre for Bio-safety, Southern Africa Trade Union Council (SATUCC), SADC-Council of NGOs, The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). Oxfam, African Biosafety Centre (ABN), La via Campesina Africa, PROPAC, COMPAS, and the ONE Campaign. One of ESAFF members in Southern Africa (ZIMSOFF) are now the Secretariat of the La via Campesina Africa.

ESAFF continue to have cordial relationship with such donors as the Southern Africa Trust, Oxfam Novib, Bread for the World and Africa Trust.

3.4 Synergies Formed

ESAFF has managed to form synergies with such organisations as ANSAF, PELUM, Tanzania Biosafety Alliance (TABIO) in Tanzania, also outside Tanzania with EACSO, SADC CNGO, Southern Africa Trade Unionists body (SATUCC), as well as ONE Campaign and Oxfam. During reporting period, ESAFF formed linkages with such organisations as AFSA, Africa Centre for BioSafety, PROPAC, COMPAS and IPACC. ESAFF also managed to form synergies with Southern African Development Community - Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (**SADC/FANR**).

3.5 Previous EU Grants

ESAFF has not been directly receiving grants in the previous years for the same group but other partners (GRET and MVIWATA) received for separate projects.

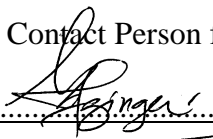
4.0 Visibility

ESAFF has devised a plan of ensuring visibility of the EU by inviting its delegates to meetings such as the launching meeting held in March 2013 whereby European Union Head of Delegation was represented, EU logos are also found on ESAFF reports, banners, call for consultancy, programmes, and other campaign awareness materials. Media was also encouraged to report on the project while explicitly citing the contribution of EU as development partner among others.

Training and all activities including publications at ESAFF or member national level will replicate visibility strategy employed at regional level while observing the disclaimer in the usage of EU logo.

ESAFF does not object if the European Commission wishes to publicise the results of the Actions.

Name of the Contact Person for the Action: Joseph E. Mzingu

Signature... 

Location. Morogoro, Tanzania

Date Report Due January 2014

Date Report Sent: 27/01/2014