



SMALLHOLDER FARMERS: POSITION PAPER ON THE CAADP POST MALABO AGENDA & KAMPALA DECLARATION



"Smallholder farmers should be placed at the center of CAADP agri-food systems based on sound investment to rural transformation for the creation of resilient and equitable systems that support the majority of our population"

From Smallholder Farmers' Consultations in May 2024

WE, THE SMALLHOLDER FARMERS from Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF), representing 5.5 million small-scale farmers in 17 countries in Africa (**Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe**).

WE, A COLLECTIVE OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS, ADVOCATE for a united voice to ensure our concerns are addressed in policies and practices at all levels. Our strength lies in our numbers, representing 5.5 million small-scale farmers in 17 countries.

WE UNDERSCORE our 20 years' experience and active collaboration in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) since 2005, collaborating with the PELUM Association, MVIWATA and later worked with different organisations such as OXFAM International, Bread for the World, EU, GREAT, Trust Africa, Southern African Trust, ActionAid, AFSA, ANSAF, CAADP NSA Group (CNG), SADC CAADP NSA Group, and PSA Alliance. Others are the EAC Directorate of Agriculture, EALA Parliament, SADC FANR Directorate, SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), AUC, IFAD and FAO.

AWARE THAT our recommendations are based on this 20-year engagement with CAADP, coupled with extensive on-the-ground experience and farmer leaders meeting held on Friday, 31 May 2024

STRONGLY CALLING THAT the next CAADP Kampala Declaration focuses on FOOD SYSTEMS and Food SOVEREIGNTY based on Territorial African Rural Transformation as centres of inclusive PARTICIPATION in decision-making of Smallholder Farmers which include women, youth and poor men who are the majority food crop growers, livestock keepers, fisherfolks and beekeepers.

COGNIZANT THAT game changer is financing Rural Development and Transformation to ensure available quality infrastructures like electricity, rural roads, ICT, irrigation schemes, warehouses, cold rooms as well as Social Services like water, education, health and good governance for improved safe agro-production and productivity, agro-processing, value addition, trade, wealth creation and happy dignified rural life.

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT food sovereignty and agroecology be mainstreamed in the next 10 years of CAADP implementation to ensure that Africa is not only food and nutrition secure but with promoted biodiversity and protected against the danger of food dependency or import sanctions.

WE BELIEVE THAT for the Kampala Declaration 2025-2035 to work, African countries should ratify the declaration and ensure its financing and implementation and monitoring by the people start from grassroots level, district, national, regional and AU level.

2

RATIONALE

The current Malabo Declaration Framework concludes a new strategic framework is being developed for the next decade (The Kampala Declaration). ESAFF, among the largest smallholder farmer's forums in Africa, is deeply concerned about the limited participation of smallholder farmers in the Post Malabo CAADP Agenda Regional Consultative Processes. We are calling upon the AUC to address our recommendations to ensure it puts in place a more effective Continental Agricultural Framework that is much more inclusive, democratic, and equitable, addressing the needs of all stakeholders, particularly rural and small towns smallholder farmers who are crucial to the continent's agri-food systems. We need sustainable agriculture, gender equality and equity, diverse nutritious foods, healthy soil, biodiversity preservation and implementable goals

3

Call to Action

WE, THEREFORE, DO HEREBY AS SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, PRESENT OUR CALLING FOR THE FOLLOWING CRITICAL ACTIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMING HISTORICAL KAMPALA DECLARATION 2025-2035;

1

Thematic Area:

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE CAADP PROCESS

- Moving from the ag-led economic growth and transformation, to addressing of agri-food systems
- Future of smallholder agriculture and continuous relevance of smallholder driven agriculture in Africa

(i) PLACING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS AT THE CENTRE OF AFRICA AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS:

In the Kampala Declaration, smallholder farmers should be placed at the centre of African agri-food systems. Smallholder producers are the majority of women, youth and poor men who resides and work in rural areas. The World Bank Report of 2015 shows that over 40% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa mainly in rural areas, live below the extreme poverty line of USD 1.90 per day. Smallholder producers contribute significantly to food security, raw materials availability, rural livelihoods peace and good governance. The Kampala Declaration should prioritise farmers' needs and challenges to make agri-food systems more resilient and equitable. This include **support to rural governance and innovative local action programme, based on a territorial approach**, (including decentralisation of CAADP to rural areas).



(ii) SUPPORT TO COOPERATIVES AND CROP GROWERS' ASSOCIATION WHICH ARE GENDER SENSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND POOR MEN.

Cooperatives play a crucial role in enhancing inclusive agricultural development and governance by actively supporting interests and involvement of diverse groups, particularly women, youth and economically disadvantaged men. By offering tailored extension programs, financial resources and training, cooperatives will empower more women and young people to take on leadership roles and enhance their agricultural skills, bargaining and negotiations, trade, ICT and marketing thereby increasing their dignity, productivity, income, wealth creation and improved happy livelihood

2

Thematic Area:

INVESTMENT AREAS ARE CRITICAL FOR DRIVING AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION POST 2025

- Enhancing Investment Finance in Agriculture
- Effective mechanisms to track the main financial flows into the agri food systems
- Tracking the effectiveness and efficiency of investment in agriculture
- Best way to track private sector investment in the post-Malabo era

(i) FINANCING FOR RURAL TRANSFORMATION AS CENTRES OF AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA:

As game changer, Africa should emphasise the importance of quality infrastructure, electrification, social service and good governance in rural farming communities by ensuring quality rural roads, electricity, ICT, irrigation schemes, cold rooms, warehouses and equitable markets, processing plants. Emphasis should also be on social services such as education, health, clean water and good governance through social accountability.

According to the Report by the Task Force Rural Africa of the EU-AU 2019, African rural transformation will unlock the full potential of the agricultural sector and enhance inclusive growth while reducing the continent's quick urbanisation which is expected to reach 65% by 2050. According to the taskforce, with a 60% global share of arable land, Africa is in a strategic position to become global leaders in agriculture and agribusiness and become the world centre for food and agribusiness.

The AU Common Position on Food Systems shows the average electricity consumption per person in sub-Saharan at 500 kWh in relation to 13,000 kWh per person in the USA and 6,500 kWh per person in Europe, this shows the consumption in African being still low compared to other continents. Africa will need to critically examine policies to incentivise off grid and mini-grid solutions to meet energy needs of farmers in which 50% - 80% of Smallholder Farmers live in rural areas. In order to support rural development, the Kampala Declaration should take a broad territorial approach to development focusing on improved planning, in 2018, FAO suggested a Territorial Approach to development and drive local change. According to FAO 2012, private and public investment in agriculture and rural areas in sub Saharan Africa have remained stagnant or declined. It estimated that additional resources amounting to USD 181 billion required between 2016-2030 to end poverty and hunger in rural areas and transform agriculture.

Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program shows that only 34% of rural Africans live within two kilometers of an all-season road, compared to some 65% in other developing regions. Lack of rural road connectivity seriously constrains agricultural production: in the absence of rural feeder roads, the cost of moving produce can be as high as USD 2.00 per ton-kilometer. As a result, some 85% of crop production takes place within six hours' travel time to the largest cities. This shows the necessity of improving rural roads and infrastructure for the sector wide development.

The UNESCO report of 2018, says half of Africa sub-Saharan total primary school population mainly in rural areas will reach adolescence without the minimum level of skill to perform a successful and productive life. The rate of trained teachers has decreased from 85% in 2000 to 63% in 2016. On agriculture, extension and advisory services, the ratio of extension officer to farmers is still low in Africa, it is believed that the presence of well trained, motivated, equipped extension officers will result to enhanced rural democracy and inclusivity, flourishing of well organised gender sensitive cooperatives and farmers associations, increased safe food and nutrition security, and reduced rural poverty.

Rural areas should be centres of production, processing, value addition and marketing Rural transformation will unlock the full potential of the agricultural sector and enhance inclusive growth while reducing the continent's quick urbanisation which is expected to reach 65% by 2050. With a 60% global share of arable land, Africa is in a strategic position to cement global leadership in agriculture and agribusiness and become the food and agribusiness centre of the world. According to Malabo Montpellier Report of 2018, Irrigation accounts for 6% of the arable land in Africa, while in Asia is 67% hence Africa is still far behind.

Hence the indicator on 10% and more of national budget allocation to Agriculture sector and the 6% growth should be retained in the next CAADP Kampala Declaration, as it was in the Maputo 2003 and Malabo 2014 Declarations while ensuring substantial investment is allocated to rural infrastructure, electrification, social service and good governance in at least the first five years of CAADP Kampala Declaration (2025-2030)

3

Thematic Area:

FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION, HEALTH, AND FOOD SAFETY/SPS

- Africa raising its game in boosting productivity among smallholder farmers
- Requirements for agriculture and economic growth to translate to accelerated reduction and ending of hunger
- Requirements for FS to ensure access to healthy food and better nutritional outcomes
- Addressing issues of food safety in rapidly transforming value chains and burgeoning processing sector

(i) FOCUS ON AGROECOLOGY AS THE BACKBONE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, RESILIENCE AND WEALTH CREATION FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS:

The United Nation Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report of 2023 indicates food insecure people in Africa were 868 million, while in 2021 undernourished people were 282 million due to drought, displacement and environmental degradation,

Smallholder farmers call for the inclusion of agroecology in the upcoming Kampala Declaration, emphasising it as a sustainable practice that harmonises farming activities with natural ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity and soil health while reducing dependence on chemical inputs. According to the FAO's 10 Elements of Agroecology and the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the UN, agroecology supports sustainable food systems by improving resilience to climate change and other shocks, ensuring long-term food security and enhancing biodiversity and soil health. For smallholder farmers, agroecological practices increase yields and diversify income sources, leading to economic stability and wealth creation. Moreover, these practices empower local communities by fostering traditional knowledge and innovations tailored to their specific environments and needs.

(ii) AWARENESS ON FOOD SAFETY AND SPS SHOULD REACH SMALLHOLDER FARMERS (WOMEN, YOUTH AND POOR MEN), FOOD PROCESSORS, TRANSPORTERS, AGRO-DEALERS AS WELL AS WOMEN INFORMAL TRADERS

Raising awareness about food safety and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards among farmers is essential for ensuring the quality and safety of agricultural products. Effective outreach programs and educational initiatives are needed to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills to adhere to these standards. By understanding the importance of proper hygiene, farming soil choices, pest control, and safe pesticide use, farmers can produce crops that meet national and international safety regulations and opens up new market opportunities for farmers, boosting their income and contributing to the overall economic development of their communities

(iii) FOOD SOVEREIGNTY TO BE AT THE CENTRE OF AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA, TAKING LESSONS FROM THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN EUROPE AND COVID-19

Smallholder Farmers call for Food sovereignty to be at the centre of agri-food systems in Africa, as evidenced by recent global events like the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Europe and food crisis in 2008, which disrupted international supply chains and exposed vulnerabilities in food security> According to the AU Common position on Food Systems, Africa on average imports about 40% of its food under unfair terms of trade that have eliminated tariff protection at frontiers. Africa is highly dependent on food imports from outside the continent; **food bills are currently 54 billion USD yearly and are expected to rise to over USD 110 billion USD by 2030.** These crises have highlighted the risks of over-reliance on global markets and the need of territorial local control over food production, processing and distribution. Hence, Food sovereignty approach will ensure our agri-food systems are resilient and self-sufficient, reducing dependency on external sources. This approach will support and empower local farmers, promote sustainable agricultural practices and secure access to culturally appropriate and nutritious food.



4

Thematic Area: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES BIOTECHNOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH

- Boosting mechanization and water management technologies across agri-food value chain segments
- Digitization to be mainstreamed and leveraged at scale across all key value chains to enhance efficiency

(i) INVESTMENT ON DIGITALISATION OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS VALUE CHAINS TO SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Substantial public and private investments are required in rural telecommunications infrastructure, including the construction of **telecom towers** and the expansion of high-speed internet through fibre-optic networks in rural areas. These investments are critical for **providing reliable digital services that support agricultural production and extension services** accessible via mobile phones.

Through reliable digital connectivity, women and youth engaged in agriculture will utilize digital platforms to gain crucial information on weather forecasts, best farming practices and good market prices.

This access not only helps producers make informed decisions but also empowers to create wealth by optimizing production and marketing strategies which will also enhance economic growth and improving the livelihoods of small-scale producers. Studies by Bilali and Allahyari assert that ICT-based innovations can improve rural livelihoods and empower smallholder farmers in developing counties **by enhancing connectivity and increasing access to accurate and timely agriculture information.**

Hence governments should support and create enabling environment for rural **telecommunications infrastructure development and utilisation.**

Likewise, in order to enhance trade and movement across regions and throughout the continent, Africa should consider implementing standardized communication tariffs, a unified VISA system, one currency and a common type of electrical plug.



5

Thematic Area:

HALVING POVERTY THROUGH INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

- Key drivers for future growth and competitiveness
- Enhanced integration of smallholder farmers into rapidly growing urban and regional markets

(i) FOCUS ON AGROECOLOGY AS BACKBONE OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, RESILIENCE AND WEALTH CREATION FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

According to the FAO 10 elements and 13 High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the UN high Agroecology supports sustainable agri-food systems by improving resilience to climate change and other shock which ensures long-term food security. For smallholder farmers, agroecological practices increase yields and diversify income sources, leading to greater economic stability and wealth creation. Moreover, these practices empower local communities by fostering traditional knowledge and innovations tailored to their specific environments and needs. **Therefore, Smallholder farmers call for the inclusion of agroecology in the upcoming Kampala Declaration, emphasizing it as a sustainable practice that harmonizes farming activities with natural ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity and soil health while reducing dependence on chemical inputs.**



(ii) CALL FOR RURAL TRANSFORMATION/ DEVELOPMENT AS A CENTRE OF AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA:

Smallholder farmers emphasise the importance of rural electrification and infrastructure (irrigation schemes, rural roads, cold rooms, warehouses), processing plants and other services such as education, health and clean water. This is to make rural areas centres of production, processing, value addition and marketing, improving infrastructure, enhancing access to markets and providing support services in rural areas. **According to the Report by the Task Force Rural Africa of the EU-AU 2019, African rural transformation will unlock the full potential of the agricultural sector and enhance inclusive growth while reducing the continent's quick urbanisation which is expected to reach 65% by 2050. With a 60% global share of arable land, Africa is in a strategic position to cement global leadership in agriculture and agribusiness and become the food and agribusiness centre of the world.**

6

Thematic Area:

WEALTH CREATION & DISTRIBUTION FOR SHARED PROSPERITY

(i) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST IN MARKETING

Utilizing technology to assist in marketing can transform the economic landscape for smallholder farmers. The AU Common position on food systems shows that from 2016 to 2018, US\$19 million was invested in agriculture technology in Africa, and agri-tech start-ups grew by 110 percent—an indication of a growing African agri-tech industry. **Placing digitalization at the centre of agri-food system transformation strategies and policies will be key to harnessing its cross-cutting innovative power.** Digital platforms and mobile apps enable farmers to reach broader markets, access real-time price information and connect directly with buyers and improve profit margins.

(ii) ACCESS TO FINANCING FOR SMALLHOLDER PRODUCERS

Ensuring smallholder farmers have access to affordable financing is critical for halving poverty, with adequate financial resources, farmers can invest in essential inputs such as seeds, tools, and post-harvest handling infrastructure. This will enable farmers to manage risks better and stabilize incomes, making farming operations more resilient and productive.

(iii) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST IN MARKETING

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(iv) INVESTMENT IN EXTENSION SERVICES (FINANCING, QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY)

Smallholder farmers call upon High-quality extension services that are accessible to women, youth and poor men are essential for halving poverty in farming communities. **Adequate funding allows for the recruitment and training of skilled extension workers** who can provide tailored advice and support to farmers. Extension services provide critical education and training on farming techniques, pest management, and sustainable practices, helping farmers increase productivity and income.

(v) THE NEED FOR REGIONAL EXTENSION STRATEGIES

Regional Extension Strategies should be developed and implemented to assist RECs member countries in harmonizing extension approaches to cross borders according to agroecological zones.

7 Thematic Area: BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN AGRI-FOOD TRADE

- Key tariff and non-tariff obstacles hampering cross-border and intra-African trade
- Key policy, regulatory and institutional measures that would reduce the above obstacles
- Key investments to be carried out at country and regional levels to boost integration of regional markets
- Key investments at country & regional levels to enhance competitiveness of domestic agri-food sectors in regional markets
- Relevance of AfCFTA's response to the issues that affect the trade in agricultural commodities

(i) THE KAMPALA DECLARATION SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE AND ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF INFORMAL CROSS-BORDER TRADERS PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND YOUTH

Central and local Governments in Africa should address challenges faced by informal cross border traders mainly women and youth. It should recognize the significance of intra-African cross-border trade, which accounts for **40% to 50%** of trade volumes in Africa. **The Declaration must also respond** to the specific challenges faced by small cross-border traders, such as high export taxes, levies cumbersome procedures and a lack of awareness regarding SPS from production to processing, value addition, and marketing.

Enhance Free Trading within a Country, this should be free of government pronouncements that prohibit small scale farmers sell their produces for a number of reasons, mainly shortage of food in a particular country. This discourages farmers to produce. Removal of such barriers as well as tariffs, levies and restrictive regulations to allow agro food to move more easily across different area of the country and regions **will motivate farmers who are private sector number one in food production and distribution (trade) to access better markets throughout seasons.**

The AfCFTA should **not** serve as a backdoor to flood African market with excessive food imports. The World Bank Report shows that Africa spends 53 billion US dollars annually for food imports Projections indicate that by 2030, annual food imports could reach 110 billion USD.

To enhance trade and movement across regions and throughout the continent, Africa should consider implementing standardized communication tariffs, a unified visa system, a common type of electrical plug and reduce levies, taxes and have common agreed standardise sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and other non-tariff barriers and support to small scale traders to grow.





Thematic Area:

ENHANCING RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS AND AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TO SHOCKS

- Measuring and tracking community vulnerability to shocks to improve preparedness and response
- Requirements to boost preparedness by countries and local communities to a variety of shocks
- African countries boosting institutional, physical, and financial capacities to respond to shocks

(i) RECOGNITION OF FARMER MANAGED SEED SYSTEM AS A SOURCE OF BIODIVERSITY, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

Recognizing Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) in the Kampala Declaration will acknowledge the vital role these systems play in **preserving agricultural biodiversity** and variety of crops, livestock that are adapted to local conditions, essential for food sovereignty and the ability of communities to withstand environmental shocks. FMSS contribute to variety of nutritious food both crops, animal and fisheries and reduce dependency on expensive seed markets and protects traditional agricultural knowledge. The Declaration should emphasize the importance Research on local indigenous knowledge including seed, calamity forecast and culture related to food.



In the forthcoming Kampala Declaration, it is essential to RECOGNIZE THE CRITICAL ROLE OF FMSS and LOCAL SEED BANKS, as well as the contributions of indigenous knowledge to local crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry (bee keeping) in enhancing resilience to economic and environmental shocks and nutrition.

(ii) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE SCHEMES

It is crucial to protect smallholder farmers and rural communities against unforeseen risks and losses, thereby ensuring sustainable agricultural development and improved livelihoods.

(iii) FINANCING FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION TO ENSURE PREPAREDNESS AND LIVELIHOODS ASSISTANCE BEFORE AND AFTER DISASTERS

Financing for social protection measures are critical to ensure preparedness and provide livelihoods as well as create a robust safety net for vulnerable populations, enabling them to better withstand the impacts of crises and recover more swiftly. The AU Common Position on Food Systems shows that Africa would yield agriculture production gains between 2% and 11% if most countries recognises and closes the gender productivity gap.



Thematic Area:

MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

- Improving the clarification and quantification of mitigation and adaptation ambitions
- Aligning mitigation actions with the imperative to boost growth and improved livelihoods and low carbon emissions

(i) TIMELY AND EASY TO ACCESS AND UNDERSTAND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS,

Providing timely information that can help prepare for and mitigate the impacts of adverse weather conditions, pest outbreaks and other environmental shocks. It is vital that the **language used** in these systems is simple and easily understandable by smallholder farmers, ensuring that they can effectively act on the information provided. Furthermore, the emphasis should be placed on the **use of local seeds and knowledge**, which are often better adapted to withstand environmental stresses and are more resilient to local climatic conditions.

Lastly, **EFFECTIVE AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES** are essential, offering farmers the support and guidance they need to implement best practices, improve productivity and enhance their overall resilience to shocks. **These services should be accessible and tailored to the needs of smallholder farmers, fostering sustainable agricultural development and improved food security.**



Thematic Area: **INCLUSIVITY AND EQUALITY IN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS**

- Key policy, institutional, technical, financial and other obstacles to empowering smallholder farmers, youth and women
- Opportunities to overcome these obstacles and boost participation by women, youth, and marginalized groups
- Ensuring an equitable distribution of wealth among all actors along agri-food system value chains

(i) PUBLIC SUPPORTING CROP GROWERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND GENDER-SENSITIVE COOPERATIVES

Is crucial for the empowerment of smallholder farmers (women, youth and poor men).

These organizations provide essential resources, training, and market access, fostering a collaborative environment where farmers can thrive. By emphasizing gender sensitivity, cooperatives ensure that women and men benefit equally from agricultural advancements.

(ii) ACCESS TO FINANCING FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

Particularly through interest-free loans. The study on Bridging the Gap: How to facilitate access to finance for youth and women agripreneurship shows that **60-70%** of the population in Africa works in agriculture, receiving less than 10% of commercial bank lending in most African countries, An estimated 3 in 4 agricultural SMEs lack sufficient access to finance and the capacity to manage it, leaving an annual **financing gap of \$65 billion across Sub-Saharan Africa**. Women and youth face significant barriers to accessing financial services due to lack of collateral, credit history and financial literacy.

Providing targeted, interest-free loans empowers women and youth groups to invest in entrepreneurial projects, health, education and agricultural activities, thereby enhancing economic independence and productivity. This financial support also stimulates local economies by encouraging diverse business growth and innovation.

(iii) ACCESS TO, OWNERSHIP, UTILISATION AND MECHANISATION OF PRODUCTION RESOURCES LIKE LAND, WATER, SEED FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH

In the upcoming Kampala Declaration, ensuring access to, ownership, and utilization of production resources like land (Title Deeds), water and seeds for women and youth is crucial for promoting equity and sustainable development. Lowder, S.K. et al. (2016) indicates that 52% of African farmers are smallholders with less than 1 hectare and 76% have less than 2 hectares (62% and 82% respectively in Sub Saharan Africa). **These resources are fundamental for agricultural productivity and economic empowerment. By guaranteeing women and youth secure rights so to enhance capacity to contribute to food security, increase income potential and foster inclusive growth.**

(iv) RIGHTFUL SPACE TO PARTICIPATE IN AGRICULTURE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING FROM COMMUNITY, DISTRICT, NATIONAL LEVEL THROUGH ASSOCIATIONS AND COOPERATIVES

In the upcoming Kampala Declaration, it is vital to recognise the importance of meaningful space for grassroots smallholder participation in CAADP agriculture policy implementation and monitoring from the grassroots community to the national level. This approach promotes transparency, empower farmers by giving a voice in decisions that directly affect their livelihoods.

11 Thematic Area: IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION CAPACITY (DELIVERY MECHANISMS)

- Hindering factors to effective implementation of CAADP/NAIPs and CAADP / RAIPs and solutions
- Good practices to be scaled up and required conditions

(i) DOMESTICATION OF KAMPALA DECLARATION THROUGH RATIFICATION BY AFRICAN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS TO ENSURE FULLY IMPLEMENTATION

The ratification should be done at RECs level and national levels through regional and national parliaments to give legal and fiduciary mandate. Farmers emphasise the need for greater involvement of parliamentarians in CAADP processes; this will lead to better agricultural policy formulation and implementation, resource allocation and ensure accountability through parliamentary standing committees.

Farmers call upon for the Kampala Declaration to be discussed and ratified by the AU member states as well as Regional Economic Communities and National parliaments to ensure that it is fully and speedily implemented and that national and local government fund its implementation and reporting. Coordination of CAADP should be in the Prime Minister's Office like is in Tanzania.

(ii) DEMOCRATISATION AND DECENTRALIZATION OF CAADP

Smallholder Farmers call for decentralisation of the CAADP processes from grassroots to AUC level to ensure that CAADP initiatives are more inclusive, reflecting the needs and voices of local farmers, communities, and stakeholders who are directly impacted. This will enhance greater ownership, accountability and sustainability of the agriculture sector. Additionally, decentralization will allow for more responsive and adaptive governance, as local authorities can tailor strategies to the unique conditions and challenges of the specific country, regions and district.

12 Thematic Area: COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

- Most effective communication channels, and streamlining them for strategic impact
- Mechanisms for documenting success stories at national, regional, and continental levels

(i) USE OF SIMPLE LANGUAGE IN BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORTING

Smallholder farmers urge consistency in reporting and the use of language that is straightforward and easily understandable. Smallholder farmers are emphasizing the importance of using pictorial and **graphical reports** that are easy to understand so to hold public official into account in case of failure in implementations.

(ii) BRR NEEDED A ROBUST AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (AMIS) IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING SYSTEMS

The successful implementation and reporting of the BRR heavily depend on the establishment of a strong Agriculture Management and Information System (AMIS) that will streamline data collection, management and analysis, ensuring that information is accurate, timely, and accessible. This system should be capable of integrating data from various grassroots sources and supporting decision-making processes at national, regional, and continental levels.

13 Thematic Area: CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- Scope to better integrate JSR and BR processes at the country level
- Bringing country level activities by development partner organizations into the JSR processes

(i) FUNCTIONAL JOINT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR REVIEWS (JASR):

Some RECs like the EAC have a JASR framework. Smallholder Farmers are calling for the African Union to ensure that JASR serves as a crucial platform for stakeholders to assess progress, share knowledge, and address challenges in the agricultural sector at all levels - community to district, district to national, and national to regional and regional to AU through CAADP PP. Functional JASRs will facilitate evidence-based decision-making and enhance collaboration among key actors.

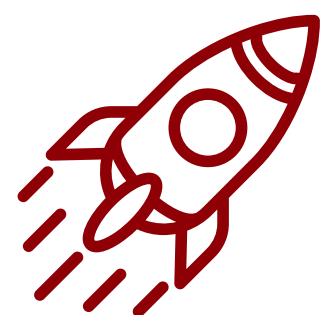
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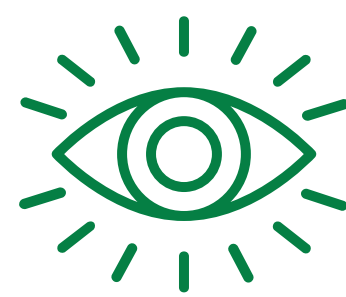
ABOUT ESAFF

The Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) is a network of grassroots small-scale farmers' organisations working in 17 countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region. ESAFF enables small-scale farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa to speak as a united voice so that issues, concerns, and recommendations become an integral part of policies and practices at grassroots, national, regional, and global levels. The organisation, which is farmer-initiated, farmer lead and farmer-owned, was formed in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg – South Africa.

Mission: Empowering Small-Scale Farmers in ESA to influence development policies and promote ecological agriculture through capacity strengthening, research and networking




Vision: A strong, effective forum of empowered Small-Scale Farmers with united voices in the policy processes for ecological agriculture and poverty-free Eastern and Southern Africa region.



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