

Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF)



Annual Report 2010/11

"Voicing small scale farmers concern in policy platforms"



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Acronyms

ACORD	- Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development
ACTESA	- Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa
AGM	- Annual General Meeting
AIDS	- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ATNR	- Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (committee of the EALA)
BftW	- Bread for the World
BoD	- Board of Directors (ERB)
CAADP	- Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CBO	- Community Based Organisation
COMESA	- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPM	- Coalition of Farmers in Madagascar
CSO	- Civil Society Organisation
CSR	- Corporate Social Responsibility
CSS	- Civil Society Sector
DPs	- Development Partners
EAFF	- East Africa Farmers Federation
EAC	- East African Community
EC	- ESAFF Coordinator
EALA	- East Africa Legislative Assembly
ERB	- ESAFF Regional Board
ESA	- eastern and southern Africa (region)
ESAFF	- The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum
Exco	- The Executive Committee (of the Board of Directors of ESAFF)
EU	- European Union
FPM	- The Financial Policy and Manual
GBS	- General Budget Support
GDP	- Gross Domestic Product
HIV	- Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
ICT	- Information and Communication Technology
IFRS	- International Financial Reporting Standards
KRA	- Key Results Area
M & E	- Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	- Millennium Development Goal
NGO	- Non Governmental Organisation
NSSF	- National Social Security Fund
NSSFF	- National Small Scale Farmer Forum
OCA	- Organisation Capacity Assessment (SAYO)
OD	- Organisational Development
ON	- Oxfam Novib

PAFFO	- Pan African Farmers Forum
PAYE	- Pay As you Earn
PHDR	- Poverty and Human Development Report
PPM	- Personnel Policy and Manual
ROPPA	- Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles d'Afrique de l'Ouest
SACAU	- Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SADC	- Southern Africa Development Community
SG	- Strategic Grant
SAYO	- Self Assess Your Organisation (OCA tool)
TGS	- Triennial General Summit (of ESAFF)
WSSD	- World Summit of Sustainable Development
USD	- United States Dollar

About this Report

This report explains about major activities performed by ESAFF and its members in the year 2010/2011. The report highlight the major accomplishment, deviations, lessons learnt, challenges faced and provides a glimpse on the future plans in the year 2012. The report is meant to cover activities performed by ESAFF from the beginning of the financial period on 1st June 2010 to 30th August 2011 (according to financial year of ESAFF — Art. 10.3 of the constitution)¹ as it has been adjusted to cover the contractual period between ESAFF and its partners: Bread for the World (BftW) and Oxfam Novib.

The report has two parts; part one is the narrative report of major activities undertaken by ESAFF during the reporting period, while part two of the report contains financial report. The narrative report highlights ESAFF's achievements and challenges as well as a way forward on the key result areas (Food security advocacy activities; Trade and marketing as well as HIV/AIDS, Gender and Youth involvement in ESAFF activities. It also covers Organizational and institutional development of ESAFF and its members in terms of managerial skills, coordination and technical capacity in lobbying and advocacy.

Part two of this report provides a detailed overview of the financial performance over the period of 2010/11.

¹ The Constitution of ESAFF Art. 10.3 “financial year of the organisation shall start on 1st June to 31 July of each year” as amended by the Triennial General Summit that sat in Morogoro in April 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The year 2010/11 provided another opportunity for small scale farmers in eastern and southern Africa to work toward the realization of our purpose. Our purpose is “to enable ourselves (small scale farmers) to speak as a united voice so that our issues, concerns and recommendations become an integral part of the public policies and practices at national, regional and international levels.”



August 2011 marked the end of the first strategic plan which begun in the year 2008. The end of the first strategic plan marked the beginning of the new strategic plan that will guide ESAFF's activities in the next three years to the year 2014. The year 2010/11 saw the evaluation of the ESAFF strategic Plan. Some member chapters have grown institutionally which inspire others to follow their examples. Countries like Uganda, Zambia, and Seychelles have managed to draw their strategic plans, engage the states and other stakeholders and fundraise for different activities. Well established members like MVIWATA (Tanzania), CPM (Madagascar), NASFAM (Malawi) continued to defend the interests of small scale farmers and consolidated their position in policy processes in at national level. The evaluation report of the past strategic plan performance shows that strong national farmers forum can be effective in lobbying and advocating on issues concerning small scale farmers in particular member countries.

During the reporting period of 2010/11 we witnessed increasing trend towards engagements with regional economic communities (RECs). This took farmers to the SADC Headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana to meet the directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) to discuss issues regarding small scale farmers in the SADC region. In the same year, ESAFF engaged the specialised Agency of COMESA on issues of agriculture trade. The Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) is based in Lusaka, Zambia. ESAFF leaders also interacted with the East Africa Community's (EAC) through its official. The purpose was to orient itself on the Food Security Action Plan of the EAC, seek areas of collaboration and get updates how the EAC was implementing the Maputo Declaration under the banner of CAADP that requires African governments to set aside a 10% of the total annual budget to agriculture.

The Triennial General Summit (TGS) was held in Morogoro, Tanzania in which about 50 farmer leaders and members representatives from all ESAFF member countries attended. The summit endorsed the charter on agro ecology which defined AGROECOLOGY as *“As a set of agricultural practices, that seek ways to enhance agricultural systems by mimicking natural processes, thus creating beneficial biological interactions and synergies among the components of the agroecosystem...Agroecology is highly knowledge-intensive, based on techniques that are not delivered top-down but developed on the basis of farmers' knowledge and experimentation”*.

The year 2010/11 also saw ESAFF take gender issue to its core and mainstream to its activities. The Triennial General Summit discussed and deliberated on gender, youth and HIV/AIDS and its effect to small scale farmers in the region. ESAFF saw the importance of conducting research on youth interest to agriculture in the region. This was following the fact that many youth are absconding family farming. The Triennial General Summit (TGS) was again another landmark achievement in the year.

We thank our partners who supported us throughout the year: Oxfam Novib (ON) the Netherlands and Bread for the World (BftW) Germany, for their financial and technical support in the implementation of our strategic plan. Our gratitude also goes to them for their support to small scale farmer participation in the World Social Forum (WSF) 2011. We are also delighted to see Trust Africa willing to support ESAFF in the advocacy for the increased and proper utilization of agriculture budget as to the Maputo 2003/Sirte 2009 Declaration for 3 countries in east Africa.

Our list of gratitude cannot be complete without mentioning support we cherished from many partner organisations that we worked together to realised our mission; the Tanzania Bio-safety Alliance (TABIO), Alliance for Food Security and Sovereignty (AFSA), Africa Bio safety Network (ABN); East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSOF), PELUM Association, Peoples Coalition on Food Security (PCFS), Peoples Dialogue (TCOE) and GRET of France for their technical support and all other friends of ESAFF who in one way or another contributed to our success.

Moses Shaha, ESAFF Chairperson,
Morogoro, November 2011, Email: info@esaff.org

ABOUT ESAFF

Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum — ESAFF, is a network of small holder farmers that advocate for policy, practice and attitude change that reflects the needs, aspirations, and development of small-scale farmers in east and southern Africa. It was established in 2002 after the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in South Africa. ESAFF was registered in Tanzania on 27th August 2007, under Non Governmental Organisations Act 2002 of the United Republic of Tanzania. Registration Number of ESAFF is **OONGO/1097**. ESAFF is based in Morogoro Municipality at Postal House, off Old Dar es salaam Road.

ESAFF is a grassroots farmer initiated, farmer led and farmer owned organisation

The vision of ESAFF²

"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 (ESA) region".

Mission of ESAFF

"Empowering small scale farmers in eastern and southern Africa to influence development policies and promote ecological agriculture through *capacity strengthening, research and networking*".

The purpose of ESAFF

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

keeping our promises.

The structure of ESAFF

Is built on the national farmers' forums which are themselves membership based, the Board of Directors under which there is a Secretariat, and above it the Annual General Meeting and the Triennial General Summit (TGS).

ESAFF Core Values

- **Integrity:** To be honest, reliable and upright in our conduct as well as to stand for what we believe;
- **Mutual trust:** Cultivate confidence and self reliance among farmers to avoid hurting each other;
- **Equal partnership:** Treat every member equally with the same rights irrespective of their country of origin, sex, age or beliefs;
- **Transparency and accountability:** Openness and truthfulness in our conduct and being answerable to one another and to others; and
- **Respect:** Holding high opinion of each other and of others, valuing each other and nurturing the esteem of fellow farmers as well as

² As it was amended in April 2011

Part I
ESAFF NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

I.0 INTRODUCTION

This is the annual report of ESAFF for the period of July 1st 2010 to August 31st 2011. The report is titled ***"Voicing small scale farmers concern in policy platforms"*** from the fact that the year 2010/2011 focused mainly on engaging the national and regional bodies and take the small scale farmers concerns and recommendations in policy processes to various levels.

During the reporting year, small scale farmers visited ACTESA which is the specialised agent of COMESA in marketing of agriculture commodities based in Lusaka. Farmer leaders also travelled all the way from different member countries to Gaborone, Botswana to meet and exchange views with the SADC's FANR Directorate. FANR is the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). ESAFF participated in the World Social Forum 2011 in Dakar, Senegal, The Asian Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Colombo- Srilanka, and Dialogue on Food security and the role of small scale farmers which was held in Pretoria, South Africa.

The year 2010/11 produced a **Declaration on the current state of food and agriculture policy in eastern and southern Africa**. The declaration called for East and Southern African governments to focus support on small scale farmers because are the major producers of food as well as industrial raw materials for local industries and for export. It also demanded all governments to increase agriculture budgets to the committed 10% of their national budgets as per their Maputo Declaration of 2003, among others

Internally, noted accomplishment included the organised Triennial General Summit (TGS) in Morogoro, Tanzania in the month of April 2011 in which members endorsed a charter on agroecology, elected new leadership and crafted the new strategic plan 2011-2014.

During the reporting period ESAFF conducted an evaluation of the past Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and hold meetings with strategic development partners. The evaluation report noted that ESAFF is good at supporting sustainable agriculture farming, capacity building of its members, mobilization of small scale farmers and participating in policy dialogue and change. They also noted that ESAFF is special and different from other farmer organizations in the region because it: (i) Practices and promotes sustainable agriculture, (ii) Is farmer led, farmer driven right from grassroots levels, (iii) Has membership stretches from grassroots to regional level; and (iv) Has farmers as the people who speak for themselves as opposed to being represented by their professional staff.

On financial management and fundraising, the year 2010/11 ESAFF continued to receive support from Oxfam Novib. In July 2010, ESAFF signed a contract for support from Bread for The World (BftW) to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan of ESAFF. ESAFF also was supported by the EU through a consortium of 6 organisations (3 based in Europe and 3 in Africa) to promote the Inclusion of Small Scale Farmers in Agriculture Research for Development (INSARD). Trust Africa a pan African grants making organisation supported ESAFF to enhance small scale farmer's engagement in CAADP processes in East Africa while Ford Foundation supported PELUM Uganda and ESAFF on the project that aimed at enhancing small scale farmers' access to market and land in East Africa.

Financially, for the year 2010/11 anticipated budgeted to finance ESAFF core activities was Euro 169,501 equivalent to TZS 347,411,879. The total actual income earned in this period was Euro 188,806 which is equal to TZS 367, 033,060. The increase is attributed to additional funds (€ 25,000) received from Oxfam Novib to support preparations and participation of farmers to the World Social Forum. The budget also included the balance of unspent grant from Bread for the World amounting Euro 46,587 brought forward from previous year.

Taking the voices of small scale farmers to relevant policy platforms in the sub region



*Above left: ESAFF engages ACTESA of COMESA officials in Lusaka, Above Right Demonstration at WSF, Dakar, Senegal
Below left: ESAFF Presenting its Annual Report 2010 to EAC Official Ms. Perpetue Miganda; Below Right – photo opportunity after meeting SADC- FANR directorate in Gaborone Botswana.*

Activities accomplished in the year 2010/11

During the reporting period, ESAFF's activities were in line with the Strategic Plan (SP) of 2008 — 2011. The strategic plan has four (4) key result areas. These result areas were on;

- (i) Food Security through raising the voices of small scale farmers in policy processes at national and national level
- (ii) Trade and Marketing
- (iii) Gender Youth and HIV/AIDS as well as
- (iv) Organizational development for ESAFF Headquarters and Organisational Development for ESAFF Member Countries

The following are the accomplishments as per the key result areas;

2.0 FOOD SECURITY: RAISING THE VOICES OF SMALL SCALE FARMERS IN POLICY PROCESSES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.

Goal - Improved Food Security by supporting small scale farmers to advocate for improved access to necessary resources, better government policies and sustainable agriculture practices.

Planned activities under this focus area of food security included taking the voices of small scale farmers in the eastern and southern African region to relevant policy making platforms. During the year 2010/11, ESAFF issued a declaration of the state of food and agriculture in the region. Despite the declaration that was sent to various policy makers; ESAFF had policy engagements with the regional economic community in Eastern and Southern Africa. ESAFF farmer leaders met top officials of the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) which is a special specialised agency of COMESA based in Lusaka. ESAFF leadership also engaged the SADC- Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) in Gaborone as well as engaged the top official of the EAC in Dar es salaam. At international level, ESAFF participated in the World Social Forum (WSF) in Dakar, Senegal to show case and share experience in the struggle for the marginalised communities, ESAFF also actively took part in the international dialogue on global food prices volatility in France (preparation of the position to the EU) in which the country was to assume presidency of the EU. ESAFF also participated in civil society mission to FAO in Rome. At the national and local government level, ESAFF members engaged with national structures (parliaments) and ministry of agriculture and local governments' structures to introduce small scale farmers perspectives in policy processed and agriculture and rural development resources allocation.

2.1 Engaging the Southern Africa Development Community, SADC

Small scale farmers had mini caravans organised to visit regional economic communities (RECs): COMESA (Zambia) and SADC (Botswana) to share and exchange experience on various issues affecting agriculture development in the region. SADC's Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources directorate (FANR) met in Gaborone in January 2011 with leaders of Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers (ESAFF) and had deliberations that culminated in a promise of information sharing in order to push for policy implementation. The meeting

was attended by high level officials of FANR led by its Acting Director Mr. Bentry Chaula. Other FANR officials included Mr. Duncun Samikwa, Mr. Patrick Tawonezwi, Mr. Beedeeanan Hulman, Mr. Misheck Mulumba among others.

The overall objective of the FANR Directorate is to develop, promote, coordinate and facilitate harmonisation of policies and programs meant to increase agricultural and

natural resources productivity and to promote trade, ensure food security and sustainable economic development in the region. The region also is on the process to introduce the regional agriculture policy which is at the higher level of its making.

FANR Acting Director Mr. Bentry Chaula (**in the picture above: third from left**) told farmers delegation that his directorate was ready to partner with small scale farmers to speed up agriculture policies implementation in the Southern Africa region. He said FANR will assists in



availing necessary information regarding SADC member states that have signed protocols on food security and agricultural development to ESAFF members. “It is high time for small scale farmers to partner with SADC in the push for implementation of many policies aimed at ensuring food security and agriculture development in the region,” he said. Many policies are adopted and African Union (AU) and SADC level but needed a push to ensure there is enough adherence and adequate implementation at country level. “SADC Secretariat is not an implementer of these agreements but member countries are the one that are obliged to implement these agreements... and organised small scale farmers have the opportunity to hold governments into account to ensure timely and effective implementation”. The FANR requested ESAFF members to link up with SADC focal persons in their countries.

Speaking at the same meeting, small scale farmer leaders said they are now struggling to organise themselves to influence policies from grassroots to districts and national levels. The most important areas is to ensure that small scale farmers’ needs and aspirations reflected in policy processes including the agriculture budget “ we have been doing agriculture budgeting campaigns (ABC) in our national levels while strengthening our organisations”. ESAFF farmer leaders added that nothing can be achieved without passionate people while nothing can be sustainable without strong institutions in which ESAFF invests in role model leaders and in strong national ESAFF chapters.

Speaking after the meeting with SADC one farmer leader said it was worth travelling by road over 3000 Kilometres from Lusaka to Gaborone and back to meet policy makers within SADC “It was a professional meeting and we have gained a lot. We as ESAFF should be much equipped with information and should use the available lobbying opportunities at country level and at COMESA, SADC and EAC.

2.2 Engaging the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA)

ACTESA was officially launched by Ministers of Agriculture in the eastern and southern Africa in 2008. It was formed on the premise of promoting CAADP pillar 2 and pillar 3 within the region. The main reason as to why ACTESA as an Agriculture Trade Agent of COMESA was formed, was to ensure that issues of agriculture are well articulated within the COMESA region. COMESA is a regional policy formulation organ and from policy formulation it is supposed that those policies translate to actual action down to the grassroots. But overtime recipients who include small scale farmers have complained that some policies have not worked very well. So this specialized agent is to actually ensure effective policy implementation and change from the grassroots level to involve farmers in practical implementing program that actually affect the region.

ACTESA come into being from Nine June 2009 with COMESA result and government actually endorsed the formation of the agent. It is an institutional with over 28 staff and managed by chief Executive officer. ACTESA has several units; (i) Trade and Market (ii) Finance and Budget and administration (iii) Africa Agriculture Market Program (iv) Production and market development department (v) COMESA regional agro input program.



ESAFF farmer leaders appreciated the program of ACTESA in the region but requested for more voices in its programs (from formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation) of the grassroots small scale producers both women and poor men. They requested ACTESA to have structures from the grassroots (apart from the annual ACTESA stakeholders Forum) level that might bring in the voices and concerns as well as recommendations of the smallholder

producers.

2.3 Engaging the East African Community

In April 2011 ESAFF farmer leaders from Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Kenya met an official with the East African Community (EAC). The meeting took place in Dar es salaam. Farmer leaders met and exchange ideas on various issues pertaining small scale farmers with Mrs. Miganda Perpetue. Ms. Miganda is a senior officer in charge of gender, community development and civil society of the EAC. She was impressed the way ESAFF is set up and how it works with the grassroot people. She further stressed that was pleased to see that small scale farmers are united and have formed a regional organization for themselves. Amongst the things promised was that after EAC strategic plan on food security is done they would find ways of how civil society in the region can be represented during its implementation. Ms. Perpetue Miganda (**in the picture below**) said that, the relationship between people and community is now increasing as now people want to join hands with the community, in principle the EAC look at the market link and that now want to bring people in the community together.



She explained that the implementation of food security action plan of the EAC has to involve the key stakeholder and that ESAFF is one of these key stakeholders. She noted that there are many initiatives regarding cross border trade, most of the product are the agriculture products and EAC wants to enhance that sector through trade, infrastructure, also to facilitate people to move from one country to another. EAC wants to supply food across the region because some countries sometimes do not have enough food due to drought, hence the need to enhance infrastructure so as to enable free movement of trade. The EAC officials informed ESAFF of other advocacy avenue within the EAC as Council of Ministers meeting, the summit of head of states and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) with its committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR). The other

avenue was the East Africa Court of Justice. On its part ESAFF said would like to see the EAC comes out with concrete action plan on the implementation of CAADP and the Maputo Declaration on the increase of agriculture national budgets to at least 10% and ensure sector growth of 6% per year.

2.4 Participation in the World Social Forum (WSF) 2011, Dakar Senegal

In February 2011 small scale farmer leaders of ESAFF participated in the World Social Forum 2011 in Dakar, Senegal. The gathering brought together over about 50,000 participants mainly from civil society organisations and activists from all over the world. ESAFF was represented by a delegation of 5 small scale farmers from Kenya, Uganda, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. ESAFF produced advocacy materials which include posters, t-shirts and digital video disc on the situation on small scale farming and challenges facing smallholder producers in the eastern and southern Africa. ESAFF also commissioned a desktop study on the current implementation of the comprehensive African agriculture development program (CAADP) in 12 countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. A declaration (position paper) on the state of agriculture was produced and circulated widely. The declaration drew a lot of interests from researchers and the media.

ESAFF used the WSF occasion in Senegal to share its main agenda that was to push for the governments in Africa to allocate more money into the agriculture sector. They said that it has been long time after the Maputo Declaration in 2003 where States pledged to allocate more budgetary money to agriculture. ESAFF also set an exhibition booth in which more than 300 participants visited the booth. ESAFF farmer leaders also attended various seminars that enhanced their knowledge on a range of issues like climate change, land grabbing, natural

resources (mineral exploitation), human rights and on resources mobilisation. ESAFF leader learnt a lot from other participants of like minded nature like the Pesticide Action Network, Climate Justice Network, anti — exploitative multinationals

Prior to the participation of the WSF 2011 in Dakar, Senegal ESAFF farmer leaders had a number of activities as preparatory for the event. The 13 farmer leaders from all ESAFF member countries participated in the mini caravan that took farmers from their countries to Lusaka. At LUSAKA small scale farmers had successful interactions with ACTESA (see 3.1.3) in which issues concerning CAADP and agriculture in the region were discussed. Farmer leaders' knowledge on agriculture policies notably increased and areas for engagement as well as entry points were identified.

From Lusaka, small scale farmers travelled in a "mini caravan" by road via the Zambia southern town of Livingstone to Gaborone, Botswana. It was called a mini caravan because it gave leaders a memory of the main caravan to South Africa in 2002 during the WSSD in Johannesburg, South Africa where more than 300 farmers convened and established ESAFF.

In Gaborone, small scale farmer leaders had a successful interaction with the SADC — Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate on a number of issues concerning agriculture policies in the SADC region (see 3.1.2). Farmers were informed of the process to establish the SADC agriculture policy in which they requested to put their inputs. The FANR directorate commended ESAFF leaders and their effort to ensure the voice of small scale farmers is heard and heeded in various policy processes at grassroots, national and regional/international levels. The FANR team advised farmer leaders to work through the SADC Focal Points at national level and help in pushing the establishment of farmer friendly policies as well as proper implementations of decisions reached at SADC.

After successful encounter in Lusaka and Gaborone, ESAFF farmer leaders met the officer of the East Africa Community, Perpetual Miganda in Tanzania in April 2011. The meeting took place after the WSF 2011.

To the climax of the World Social Forum 2011 in Dakar, Senegal, ESAFF staged a mini demonstration at the world social forum (**picture above**). The demo was to amplify the call to all African Governments to allocate 10% plus to the agriculture sector and ensure that small scale farmers reap benefits from the allocation.

Speaking before the demonstration at the world social forum (WSF) in Dakar, the then ESAFF chairperson of the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers (ESAFF), Elizabeth Mpofu said that it was eight years since the Maputo Declaration in which African leaders committed themselves to allocate 10% by 2008. "It is unfortunately that that promise has not been fulfilled by many states today" she said adding that, small scale farmers are now united to demanding not begging for action to fulfil the promise. However, she pointed out that the 10% is not enough if it will not benefit small scale farmers at grassroots level. She called for small scale farmers to participate in local government meeting budgeting processes and to monitor the implementation of the budget by looking what was decided at the budgeting process and



ESAFF Signs the Dakar Appeal against the land grab.

The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) has strongly endorsed the Dakar Appeal against land grab. The appeal came out as one of the major issues that arose out of the convergence in Dakar during the World Social Forum (WSF) 2011.

In one of the side event that was jointly organised with IBON and the Peoples Coalition on Food Security (PSFS) at the WSF, The General Secretary of ESAFF says that while blaming the Multinationals on land grabbing in Africa, still we have to hold responsible our own African governments and demand they stop the whole sale of African lands.

what is to be done to help small scale farmers and rural development in all countries.

ESAFF had 6 strong delegations to the WSF in Dakar. Two farmer leaders (Hakim Baliraine — Uganda, and Mamalefetsane Phakoe — Lesotho) were sponsored by Oxfam Novib after being nominated to represent ESAFF at the Board Meeting in Gaborone. Two others; Elizabeth Mpofu (Zimbabwe) and Moses Shaha (Kenya) were sponsored by TCOE of South Africa while the Coordinator of ESAFF was supported by Bread for the World.



In a nutshell, the WSF 2011 in Dakar was crucial for ESAFF because of the following reasons;

(Picture left: an exhibition booth set by ESAFF at the WSF 2011)

- Through prior- WSF 2011 activities ESAFF was able to establish linkages and engage with agriculture directorates in the regional economic communities (SADC - FANR, COMESA — ACTESA and the EAC — Agriculture and Gender/CSOs)
- ESAFF established linkages with like minded organisation including small scale farmer organisations in Gambia and Nigeria
- ESAFF started relationship with Peoples Coalition on Food Security (PCFS), a Philippines based organisation in which is a large network of CSOs and small scale farmer organisations working on the area of food security and food sovereignty in Asia and in Africa. ESAFF is a full member of PCFS.
- ESAFF accumulated a lot of new ideas linked to food security and food sovereignty; land grabbing, debts, politics around bad aid, the curse of mineral and oil exploration as well as the dark side of pesticides,
- ESAFF was offered platform to share its idea on agro ecology, food security and land issues which popularised ESAFF among activists all over the world.
- ESAFF was able to meet and exchange ideas with development partners; Oxfam Novib, Bread for the World and Trust Africa.

2.5 Southern Africa Dialogue on the role of small scale farmer

In July 2011, ESAFF participated in the regional dialogue on the role of small scale farmers in Southern Africa. The conclusion of the high-



level dialogue attended by officials from SADC, Ministry of Agriculture in South Africa, researchers, farmers and activities from Eastern and Southern Africa was that Small scale farmers play a pivotal role in the African continent when we come to feeding the nations. It has emerged that, only South Africa, in Southern African states really depends on large scale farmers for food, export earnings and other agri-based raw materials. The rest, it is the smallholder farmers who call the shots. If only proper systems would be put in place to support such farmers, Africa would become self food sufficient and exporter.

When will African states make good the

Maputo Declaration of 2003 on Agriculture? This was a question that baffled speakers at a regional dialogue, as they all agreed that supporting small-scale farmers by putting in place necessary system, would go a long way to ensure food sufficiency in the continent. This support can be possible if Maputo Declaration is honoured. Speakers at the meeting concurred that small scale farmers provide almost 70% of livelihoods and employments to people in the southern African region. This call for government policies, which provides resources for supporting smallholder agri-sector, they said.

For everyone it was a disappointment that in the last two decades, the level of investments by the states is still low despite the declaration, which called on African states to increase the budget allocated to agriculture to at least 10% of the national budgets. It also charges states to ensure the sector grows by 6% annually. "It is a big shame that our governments are not giving adequate resources and political priority to agriculture... since 2003 to the deadline in 2008/9 and up to now (2011) no country in the southern Africa region have allocated more than 10% of its budget to agriculture except Malawi," said a delegate from ESAFF. Malawi was cited as an example of where small scale farmers have been able to produce enough food for national consumption and export. Another ESAFF delegate said that governments in the region should not see large scale farming and GMO (genetically modified organism) as a solution on food security and poverty alleviation. "We haven't yet explored the available resources and potential of GMO, which will just make us (small scale farmers) slaves to the multinational seed companies as we can no longer use or exchange seeds once are patented and genetically changed," she emphasized.

Talking about poor organization of small scale farmers in the region, many speakers complained that small scale farmers are not united and they do not speak in one voice. Responding to the issue, one of the delegate who is a farmer leader of ESAFF said that farmers have come a long way to establish the Eastern and Southern Africa small scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF). He said that ESAFF is farmer initiated, farmer led and farmer owned. He wondered why many partners and willing to support farmers through other organizations instead of directly working with organizations that are led by farmers themselves. Speaking on the same topic, Nancy Kachingwe (pictured right) from South Africa said that people have wrong perception about coming together without any support. She said that the best organized trade unions or political parties have full financial support from the states. "The best organized institutions have support from the states, when it comes to small scale farmers they are told to organize themselves without resources!" quipped Kachingwe.



Other panellists at the dialogue included Dr. Bentry Chaura (SADC- FANR Directorate), Tendai Murisa (Trust Africa), Russell Wildeman (IDASA) Johan Bodenstein (INDI FLORA), and Ishmael Sunga (SACAU)

2.6 ESAFF Declaration of concern on agriculture trends and its impact to small scale farmers

In August 2011, ESAFF after observing what has been happening in the region, decided to issue a declaration on the state of agriculture and financing in the region. The declaration was widely shared through media and online to various policy makers, academics and activists. The declaration had an intention to share the stand of ESAFF, raise awareness on the threatening trend to agriculture monopoly and alert policy makers of embracing multinational dominated agriculture as opposed to small scale sustainable farming. Part of the declaration read;

We the small scale farmers (crop growers, livestock keepers and fisher folk) of the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region met recently in Morogoro, Tanzania, including delegations from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho South Africa, Madagascar and Seychelles.

RECALLING African governments' initiatives to invest in agriculture as per the Maputo Declaration of 2003, the Dar es Salaam Declaration on agriculture and food security of 2004 and Sirte Declaration of 2009 on investing in agriculture for economic growth and food security;

COMMENDING efforts to support agriculture through the AU/NEPAD- Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in various countries;

AWARE that the CAADP Compact agreements signed by our countries are leading to increased resources in the agriculture sector and have the potential to increase the involvement of smallholder farmers in agriculture policy processes;

NOTING that despite the commitment to increase national agriculture budgets to 10% by 2009 and to ensure annual growth of the sector by 6%, few countries in the ESA region have reached these goals. Moreover in most countries where there is a significant increase of the budget, the growth of the sector is still less than 6%;

CONCERNED that national agriculture development programmes mostly depend on external funding, hence the local agendas become heavily influenced by funders from China, USA, EU with emphasis on exports cash crops and dependence upon fossil-fuel based inputs;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the neo-colonial global agrochemical companies are capturing African agriculture, from seeds through to markets, by introducing genetically modified seeds (GMOs), pesticides and chemical fertilizers. This further threatens farmer independence on seed production that has already been eroded by hybrid seed and jeopardizes African agricultural biodiversity and food sovereignty;

OBSERVING the negative trend in which many foreign multinational companies and foreign states influence our leaders to cede our land for production of export cash crops, biofuels and carbon credits which are not beneficial to the local populations;

ARE THEREFORE CALLING FOR

1. East and Southern African governments to focus their support on small scale farmers because we are the major producers of food as well as industrial raw materials for our local industries and for export. The promoted model of monoculture agriculture will not benefit smallholder producers; instead "agriculture investors" will mine the fertile soils which are still available in Africa and leave our environment degraded and polluted. Governments must regulate agribusiness instead of offering tax breaks for ecological plunder masquerading as economic development.
2. We demand all governments to increase agriculture budgets to the committed 10% of their national budgets as per their Maputo Declaration of 2003. We feel that this is a mockery that this level was supposed to be reached by 2009 but has been extended to 2015 following the Sirte Declaration.
3. We call for Regional Economic Groupings (RECs) in our region: COMESA, SADC, and EAC to sign and domesticate CAADP COMPACT as the ECOWAS has done. The RECs should set goals and have clear monitoring tools towards achieving the 10% budget allocation and 6% growth. EAC and SADC have never signed CAADP and some regional action plans.
4. CAADP programme implementation should involve small scale farmers, our opinion and observations should be taken into account to realize sustainable agro-ecological agriculture development which is meaningful to Africa. All these initiatives must widely inform and include opinions of the real practitioners of small scale crop, livestock and fish production.
5. We call on CAADP processes and finance to give special attention to gender and especially women who are the majority (70%) of food producers in our region. We need access to usage and ownership of land, together with appropriate technology
6. African governments must to increase public investment from within our national budgets to support small scale farmers who are the majority of food producers in our eastern and southern Africa region. Resources from foreign donor should support the implementation of the national programmes.
7. African governments and civil society should monitor the multinational agro-chemical corporations with their various strategies for penetrating their technologies into our production systems, for example by funding our research institutions various agriculture projects with the long term objective of imposing Bt cotton, cassava and genetically modified maize in our region.
8. Agriculture research funding should prioritise research into indigenous seed and breed varieties that can withstand climate variability and are prized for their taste and nutritional value.
9. Authorities must ensure that the agriculture budget is reaching and benefiting small scale farmers in the villages and not consumed in recurrent expenditure which benefits only government officials.
10. We are convinced that agro-ecological agriculture is the answer to future food security as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier de Schutter has demonstrated in a series of reports since 2009. These reports show that agro-ecological farming model can double agricultural production in 10 years and reduce hunger in Africa whilst protecting and even enhancing the natural environment.

3.0 FOOD SECURITY ADVOCACY AT MEMBER LEVEL

3.1 Tanzania - Small Scale Farmers meet the parliamentary committee on finance and economic affairs

The Tanzania Parliamentary Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs of the Tanzania National Parliament visited MVIWATA headquarter during the year 2011 to learn about the activities of MVIWATA in the empowerment of farmers. The delegates headed by Hon. Hamza Mwenegoha, the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, who is also a legislator of the Morogoro South Constituency in Morogoro region. In his presentation to the Committee, the Executive Director of MVIWATA, Mr. Stephen Ruvuga challenged law makers in Tanzania to use their power to find solutions for practical problems of farmers. He also pointed out that MVIWATA is keen to work with policy makers in order to improve smallholder farmers' livelihood.

The Committee members applauded initiatives of MVIWATA in improving farmers' livelihood especially on the accessibility of the market and creation of farmers' awareness to different policies and laws related to agricultural sector. However, some members of the committee said many problems hampering farmers initiatives to economic development could be solved by joint effort with the local government authorities within their areas, than taking the matters to parliament or national level.



The West Bariadi legislator Hon. Andrew Chenge, recommended to farmers to collaborate with village and ward land committee to resolve land dispute in their area and to collectively protect their land by not selling it illegally to aliens. Hon. Chenge also applauded MVIWATA for the good weekly educative Radio Program which has helped farmers to be updated with agricultural information, markets and market price information, learn new skills and exchange experience of farming technologies. The program namely SAUTI YA MVIWATA (Voice of MVIWATA) has been aired on Tuesday at 5.30 to 6.00 pm through radio Maria.

The Mwibara legislator Hon. Charles Kajege appealed to the government to exclude farmers Savings and Credit Cooperatives Organisations (SACCOS) from the list of organizations being taxed with Value Added Taxes (VAT).

In the year 2010, MVIWATA, PELUM Tanzania together with ESAFF organised and supported 10 small scale farmer leaders to follow up the budget speech, analyse it and present their opinion to the media (pictured right). The event was held in Dar es Salaam and brought about 15 news editors and journalists from prominent media houses in Tanzania. One of the deliberations of farmer leaders was to make sure that they engage the budgeting processes proactively at all levels. In June every year, East African governments namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi; present their annual budgets to their parliaments. Ministers for Finance and ministers for Planning and Economy in these countries present their national budgets for the coming fiscal year.



3.2 Farmers in Uganda vows to participate in budgeting processes at local level.

In Uganda, agriculture is the mainstay of rural development and small scale farmers are responsible for 95% of the agriculture production in



Uganda which is enough to feed the population of Uganda and therefore must be recognized as key actors in development. In a bid to create a forum where Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) in Uganda are able to deliberate on and voice their concerns, ESAFF Uganda organized a meeting with the parliamentary budget committee on Agriculture. The major aim of the meeting was to create a platform for dialogue between the farmers and parliamentarians.

ESAFF Uganda is part of a campaign that was launched in eastern and southern Africa and is also in the countries of Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar, Namibia, Seychelles and

South Africa. The major aim of this campaign was to strengthen capacity of small scale farmers to engage in democratic processes for more accountability and transparency in resources allocation to agriculture and rural development in the region. From the onset of ESAFF's conception, the farmers have sought to have a fully opportunity to participate in all policy and democratic processes at regional, national and grassroots level to ensure that authorities accord national resources to the agriculture and rural development sector.

In Uganda the meeting was between farmer leaders and a representative from the budgets office in parliament, who was able to dialogue with the farmers. Farmers were disappointed for the four MPs who were invited but could not attend. Farmer leaders from Kabale, Jinja, Kamuli, Mayuge, Mukono, Masaka, Nebbi/Zombo, Gulu, Manafwa, Soroti, Bugiri, Iganga, Mityana, Mubende and Mbale.

Mr. EDWARD NGOBYE from Parliamentary Budget Office, and economist on the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and fisheries shared with farmers on the National Budget Process in Uganda: Definition of the Budget Process; Stages of the National Budget Process; and Milestones in the National Budget Process

Reactions from the farmers about presentations

Farmers noted among others of the small allocation of money to the national budget (below 10% percent) and that the national budget is in English only hence a problem for many farmers to understand it. Farmers also were of the opinion that the government does not put agriculture first despite farmers being the majority Ugandan citizens. Farmers also complained of a few planning meetings at the village level and sub county level. The means of communication for the meetings is also a challenge in many villages. Other things highlighted included corruption at the different levels of the government before the funding reaches the small scale farmers, wrong agricultural materials are distributed at the district level. However, despite challenges farmers after understainging budget cycles were determined to increase their participation in budgeting processes at grassroots level.

3.4 Farmers in Zambia gets representative in a national CSOs budget forum

The year 2011 was an election year for Zambia. ESAFF Zambia also organised its activities around the election. To start with the organisation Mobilised farmers at Shimbizhi community in Mumbwa District to attend local budgeting meeting and raise their concerns. ESAFF Zambia also mobilised farmers In Mwembeshi in Kafue District to meet local aspiring candidates MPs/councillors and raise their concerns as it was an

election year. However, meeting with a Ministry of Agric and MPs could not take place as it was an election year. Plans are under way to meet the new minister after the change of government from the Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) to the Patriotic Front (PF).

Issues presented by farmers concerning the lack of support to farmers practicing sustainable agriculture were highlighted in the CSO report to Parliament. Confidence of farmers increased following the capacity building of farmers in Campaign advocacy and lobbying skills as can be seen by the representation of Mary Sakala for ESAFF on the CSO budget Campaign Steering Committee as opposed to ESAFF staff that now provides technical input. The CSO steering Committee for Budget Advocacy is being spearheaded by PELUM Association which is a network of CSOs working with small scale farmers in eastern, central and southern Africa.

3.5 CPM Madagascar mobilised grassroots farmers on CAADP.



During the reporting period a member of ESAFF in Madagascar (CPM) mobilised farmers at provincial level to attend local budget planning meeting (sensitization – information – training). It also conducted a national workshop on CAADP. CPM also organised a world food day event that was supported by ESAFF (*left: newspaper cutting*) to highlight the demand of small scale farmers to policy and law makers. During the reporting period also CPM with support from COMESA and SACAU organised a national workshop on CAADP. CPM also had several meetings with Madagascar government officials on various issues facing small scale farmers in the country. Before the political crisis, the budget for agriculture in Madagascar stood at 12%.

3.6 Small scale farmers in Zimbabwe strategizes how to engage policy makers

Fourteen (14) members of the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers' Forum (ZIMSOFF) attended a two-day workshop at Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre in Zimbabwe. Of these, 8 were men and 6 were women. The workshop was organised by the ZIMSOFF itself with support from ESAFF. The objectives of the workshop were to conduct an organizational development assessment of ESAFF Zimbabwe and identify gaps and good practices, Develop strategies to address the identified gaps and Identify agricultural issues arising from the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC region on which to lobby; and Develop strategies to engage with policy makers, government, media and other key stakeholders.

3.7 Small scale farmers in Seychelles made the minister aware of the small agriculture budget

During the reporting period, Seychelles Farmers Association (SeyFA) Mobilised grassroots members to discuss and deliberate on the government's commitment in Agricultural Budget allocation as per the Maputo Declaration of 2003. The engagement enhanced Farmers and government officials' awareness on resources allocated to the sector. It came to the limelight that the minister responsible for agriculture was not aware that the budget allocation for agriculture in 2011 in Seychelles was below 1%.

3.8 World Food Day advocacy

During the reporting period ESAFF coordinated a regional wide awareness raising on the small scale farmers demand on various policies connected to agriculture. ESAFF partnered with its members in Tanzania (MVIWATA); CPM (Madagascar); Seychelles (SeyFA), ESAFF – Zambia and ESAFF Uganda to issue press statements. The statement signed by ESAFF leadership in eastern and southern Africa said hunger is not caused by nature, it's a political imposition! It said that hunger and poverty roots lie in unequal access and control over to resources like land and water, marginalization of small scale farmers in global policy processes, regional policy making as well as lack of participation in national policy processes. The situation is worsened by bad imposed policies by IMF and the World Bank that forced African governments not

to support small scale producers. Other reasons for continued hunger and malnutrition in Eastern and Southern African region is the growing

Gov't turns deaf ear to plight of small scale farmers

JOSEPH MITI

"We will not eat to eat, but eat to work. If we don't want to work, we will not eat. Eat every meal after working for four hours," this is a heartening prayer, the Agriculture Minister Hope Mwesigye asked Ugandans to say each morning, as she wooed farmers to make an extra effort to double food production to avert hunger currently threatening 15 per cent of the country's population at the commemoration of the World Food Day.

"Eradicating hunger is not the responsibility of government alone. It's not a role of one person or organisation. It is a battle each one of us has to fight. The process should start with individuals, local governments, government and then all other stakeholders," Mwesigye told a well attended function held at Mukono Zonal Agriculture Research Institute (ZARDI). However, as the minister sweet-talked farmers to enhance food production, small scale farmers were complaining that the government has marginalised them.

Mr Hakim Baliraine, Chairperson of Eastern and Southern African Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda said, though small scale farmers contribute 80 to 90 per cent of food in the country, they are normally marginalised and denied to participation in regional, national and global policy processes.

"Hunger is not caused by nature, it's a political imposition. It's caused by bad policies, ruthless competition and disastrous mismanagement of resources," Mr Baliraine, who was exhibiting local food at the function, said.

His dissatisfactions were echoed by Ms Nancy Mugimba, ESAFF Country Coordinator, who also explained that the roots of hunger lies in unequal access and control of resources like land and water as well as sidelining small scale farmers.

She said the situation is likely to worsen as governments in developing countries impose bad policies that limit providing support to small scale producers as advocated by IMF and the World Bank.

"We appeal to government to invest more on small scale food producers for food security and food sovereignty instead of embracing much effort to the big investors. We are already feeding a huge amount of people, using our smaller plots of land. So we are the best solution to hunger and poverty in the region," Ms Mugimba said.

Meanwhile, according to report released by ActionAid-Uganda this year, many small farmers working on an average plot of 1.7 acres, are missing out on government support, though they produce 96 per cent of the food that passes through the market outlets in the country.

The report says though agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy accounting for 25 per cent of the national GDP, employs around 75 per cent of the labour force and provides the basis for livelihood of about 80 per cent of the rural poor, the government is yet to give enough support to the sector.

Despite the fact that Uganda has four million household farmers, vast arable land and natural resources enough to provide food for the entire nation, about 15 per cent of 32.7 million people go hungry or never reach their full potential due to stunting caused by inadequate nutrition.

However, Mr Peter Lusombo, director of ZARDI, ruled out claims suggesting that Uganda is food insecure.

"The challenge Uganda is facing is not food unavailability but poor management of food resources. Many people prepare too much food that eventually put to waste," he said.

Like this year's World Food Day theme goes "United against hunger", Mr Percy Misika, Food and Agriculture Organisation (Fao) Country Representative said, every living person is obliged to join the struggle to reduce chronic hunger, threatening one billion people worldwide.

With Uganda rapid population growth Mr Misika said, every year we are going to have more mouths to feed and food production will have to increase by 70 per cent.

Interestingly, although farming is the backbone for most African countries, Africa spends about \$20b annually on food imports, 45 per cent of rice and 85 per cent of wheat consumed in Africa is imported. Worse still, many people in Africa spend about 50 to 60 per cent of their budget on food.

Mr Baliraine suggested that government should adhere to the Maputo Declaration of 2003, which advocates for increasing the budget allocated to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the national budget to revamp the sector.

He also called for a deliberate effort that would see a large portion of the budget utilised on developmental activities rather than being used for allowances and transport.

However, the State Minister for Agriculture Aggrey Bagire said increasing the agriculture budget to Shs310b in the 2010/2011 national budget from Shs279b in the 2009/10, is a sign of government's commitment to support the sector.



impact of global warming, land grabbing and harmful genetic technologies (GMOs) aimed at enslaving small scale farmers by making us dependent on seeds from the multinational agrochemical industry. Women and the youths in Eastern and Southern Africa, who produce the majority of the world's food, face the greatest challenges. The statement called for the increase of national Agriculture Budget as per the Maputo Declaration of 2003 and demanded the establishment of

Agriculture Banks that will support small scale farmers, fisher folks and pastoralists to improve and increase productivity. During the events ESAFF also called for governments to set aside substantial amount of funds for agriculture research and development and cautioned research institutions Not to be used as gateways for harmful technologies like Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs) which might threatens Africa's food sovereignty, biodiversity, health, and environment. The statement also cautioned the trend toward Land grabbing for production of bio fuels, forests for carbon credit and production of food for people in rich countries, as they undermine ability for countries to feed themselves.

4.0 ACCESS TO MARKET AND FAVOURABLE TRADE FOR SMALL SCALE FARMERS

Levels of engagement in trade and markets

ESAFF has been engaging in the agriculture market issues in three fronts; at local level, national and at international level. At national level in which advanced members like MVIWATA (Tanzania), NASFAM (Malawi) and SeyFA (Seychelles) are involved in large scale marketing activities. SeyFA constructed a market for meat to enable smallholder producers to have a decent place to sell their products at profitable prices. The quality of sold meat improved so as the price per kilogram. On the other hand MVIWATA has been constructing cereal, vegetable, fish and domestic animal markets to help small scale farmers produce, and sell high quality at better prices. Markets are bringing farmers and buyer together. Availability of fair, accessible, guaranteed and profitable market also make farmer increase production. *Picture below: market before and after MVIWATA construction of a modern market).*



Studies on market access by small scale farmers in east Africa

During the reporting period ESAFF also partnered with PELUM Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda to conduct a study on market access by small scale farmers. The project was funded by Ford Foundation with the aim of developing a simplified agriculture marketing model that will help small holder producer increase value of their product. The studies in four east African countries revealed that states are rich in coded policy, strategy, programs and project documents. Fortunately policy statements and objectives in the documents favour the interest of small scale farmers. The problem has always been how to translate them into actions and lead to realisation of intended impact to the beneficiaries.

It was noted that the minister of finance had powers to make subsidiary legislation in the form of Regulations and rules based on the main tax statutes and that district councils are given the authority to tax up certain percentages of the value of the crop. In some countries it was noted that at specific crop level; maize and coffee in this case, it was observed that district cess is the main tax component that stakeholder lament about. The cess is paid by buyers, but its incidence falls on farmers. Although the cess seems small, but for a typical farmer whose producer price is usually below production costs, any marginal deduction from his or her income creates financial burden.

ESAFF position on Economic Partnership Agreements (Africa and EU)

At another level ESAFF is engaging various policy processes related to trade and market at regional and international level. At this juncture we are talking of various negotiation processes within the (World Trade Organisation – WTO) and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between Africa and Europe. Both have impact to small scale farmers' welfare.

In January 2011, in Lusaka – Zambia, ESAFF organised a training workshop on global trade and market negotiation and their impact to small scale farmers. At the end of the workshop, farmer leaders produced a position that was widely shared to our networks and governments as well as regional economic groupings (ACTESA and SADC- FANR).

In the position paper farmer demand the right of African government to protect small scale farmers who are the major producers of food and agriculture raw materials. Farmers also want subsidies to agriculture, protection of food security, and assurances of food security and food sovereignty of the African countries. Farmers demanded that the EU give African governments the space and the right to protect small scale farmers through the use of tariffs that do not get dismantled through a Free Trade Agreement with the EU as the Economic Partnership Agreement currently outlines. Small scale farmers could be faced with increased competition from the EU due to an influx of agricultural commodities such as maize, wheat, cereal, milk and milk products, rice, sugar, tomato paste, poultry, flour, meat and meat products and cotton.

Farmers demanded the followings;

1. The EPA negotiations in their current form to be stopped.
2. Negotiations between the EU and ESA on agriculture must be based on the interests of the region's small scale farmers and allow for the protection of their markets, livelihoods and local food production.
3. Trade negotiations between the EU and ESA must not go beyond what was agreed at the WTO. Investment, government procurement and competition policy should not be on the agenda in regional negotiations between EU and ESA, since these issues have been dropped from the Doha Work Programme in the WTO.
4. Instead urged the European Union to urgently support ESA in her endeavour to find alternatives to the EPAs as part of the current review process and as provided for in the Cotonou Agreement. And demanded that trade and development co-operation between the EU and ESA be founded on an approach that: is based on the principle of non-reciprocity

5.0 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ESAFF HEADQUARTERS AND ITS MEMBERS

ESAFF envisages that the region, will reach a point at which small scale farmers are empowered, realize their rights and are in control of a democratic process for transformation and development. ESAFF will continue to work through and strengthen national small scale farmers to become key catalysts of ongoing transformation and development process, supporting them with their strategic engagement in the following areas: *Creation of a mass movement for sustainable agro ecological farming; work towards the realisation of meaningful participation of smallholder farmers in policy processes; ensure governance and accountability at all levels, as well as ensuring that ESAFF remain a farmer led, farmer owned and farmer initiated organisation.*

The above mentioned areas form the basis of the organisation philosophy in which its activities are drawn from.

During the reporting year ESAFF modified its mission and vision to suit the ongoing trend. This came after the evaluation of the previous strategic plan 2008-2011. The triennial general summit (TGS) of ESAFF was held in April 2011 in Morogoro. The TGS approved the evaluation of the strategic plan as well as crafted the new strategic plan of ESAFF. It also made constitutional changes and elected office bearers (Board Chairman, Board Vice Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer).

ESAFF continued to have a small secretariat which implemented activities in collaboration with member countries. ESAFF regional secretariat supported new and upcoming members in terms of institutional development, financial management and in campaigning and advocacy.

5.1 ESAFF Regional Secretariat - Staffing

As per August 2011, ESAFF regional office was staffed with the coordinator, an accountant, administration and communication officer as well as a front desk officer. The four teamed up to ensure smooth running of the daily activities of the organisation. The account section was also supported by the internal auditor who regularly supported the Unit. The accounting package, Sage Pastel, was purchased and installed and is utilized. Auditing service was solicited from Trion and Co. Certified Accountant. The office also continued to use a hired security services from Quality Security Company Limited

5.6 Office Furniture and Equipment

In order to enable smooth operation of the secretariat, office furniture and equipment were maintained properly while the office purchased one laptop (Toshiba Satellite), a small printer for office use (HP Laser jet 1505), a scanner coloured printer F 2280 and a Toshiba LCD Projector. Equipments purchased in the first and second year were properly maintained. The set back was experienced when most of the equipments were stolen in August 2011. These included not only equipment: desktop computers (2); LCD projector (1), Printers (3); scanner (1) and one damaged camera. Two laptops and cameras were not taken as were kept in a secured place. Police investigation was launched which revealed that other organisations and institutions had also their computer and other electronic devices stolen. The security company took responsibility of the theft in which



In another development ESAFF purchased an office vehicle and desktop computers for member countries. Personal Computers were purchased for ESAFF Lesotho, ESAFF Burundi, ZIMSOFF Zimbabwe, KESSFF Kenya and for ESAFF HQ. The process for purchasing the ESAFF office car started with advice from the board of the desired type of the vehicle. It was followed by soliciting of proforma invoices from different companies, and from the proforma invoices the secretariat with support from the Board and advice of car technicians opted to purchase the **TOYOTA REGIUS HIACE** model 1999, with capacity to carry eight (8) passengers, Black colour (picture above), from YUASA AUTO IMPLEX (T) LTD, Dar es salaam.

5.7 ESAFF Leadership and Governance (Board Meetings, Triennial General Summit)

The structure of ESAFF is built on the national farmers' forums which are themselves membership based. ESAFF maintains clear separation of powers and mandates between its different governance structures. The Governance Structures of ESAFF consist of four layers:

- (i) *The Triennial General Summit which meets every three years to decide the direction of the organisation;*
- (ii) *The Annual General Meeting that meet every year to oversee the implementation of annual plan and approve activities for the following year;*
- (iii) *The Board that actually help to run the organisation through an executive committee (EXCO), and*
- (iv) *The Secretariat is charged with daily operations and led by the regional coordinator who reports to the Board.*

During the reporting period ESAFF had Executive Committee (of the Board) meetings wherever there were opportunity to meet prior to board meetings. Full Board meeting were held in Mukono, Uganda parallel to the climate change workshop, Gaborone, Botswana during the mini caravan to SADC and in Dar es salaam, Tanzania during a workshop organised by Peoples Coalition on Food Security (PCFS).

Deliberations of the ESAFF Triennial General Summit 2011



As per ESAFF constitution, after every three years Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) holds a Triennial General Summit (TGS). The most recent one — which is the first one, since the body was established, was held on 13th to 15th April 2011 in Morogoro. The event brought about 50 members together from all 12 countries forming ESAFF. The main agenda was to fulfil constitutional requirement and hold elections of office bearers. Also the summit decided to amend the constitution to make the body more forward looking and approved its new strategic plan. It was also an opportunity to appoint its banker and auditor for the next three years.

The Summit amended some of the articles of the constitution to give all delegates present the right to take part in **electing the ESAFF office** bearers for 2011 to 2014. They are chairperson, vice chair, general secretary and treasurer. Secret ballot was used to elect the new officials. Those elected are Chairman (Moses Shaha- Kenya), Vice Chairman (Elizabeth Mpofu- Zimbabwe), General Secretary (Hakim Baliraine - Uganda) and Treasurer (Goodwell Chiteya — Malawi).

The constitution also was amended to state that the chairperson of each member country de facto smallholder farmers body becomes **board members of the ESAFF regional board**. The financial year was also altered to commence on 1st July and end in 31 June 2011.

The summit appointed **EXIM BANK** Morogoro Branch as its banker and **Trio & Co. Certified Public Accountant** of Dar es salaam as auditor of the Forum for the coming three years.

The Vision and Mission of the organisation were also modified to suit the current situation. Changes came when members were crafting the new strategic plan. The new vision states: “A strong effective forum of empowered Small Scale Farmers with united voices in the policy processes for ecological agriculture and poverty free ESA region.”

The new mission reads: “Empowering small scale farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa to influence development policies and promote ecological agriculture through capacity strengthening, research and networking”

The summit also crafted and approved the ESAFF strategic plan that will run from 2011-2014. The plan has four key result areas (strategic focus); Food security and sovereignty; Trade and markets; Cross cutting issues: Gender, youth and HIV/AIDS and Institutional and organizational strengthening.

• Gender, Youth and HIV in ESAFF

A workshop on gender, youth and HIV was organised during a reporting period. Farmer leaders from 12 member countries were sensitised on issues of Gender Concepts, Gender Budgeting as well as Youth and HIV/AIDS.

After the workshop that was held in Dar es salaam, Tanzania, farmers unanimously decided to mainstream gender in all ESAFF's activities and into the constitution at all levels. ESAFF members also decided to embark on developing a gender policy and gender monitoring guidelines to address issues of Gender, Youth and HIV/AIDS and to measure its implementation thereafter.

AGROECOLOGY defined as

“ A set of agricultural practices, that seek ways to enhance agricultural systems by mimicking natural processes, thus creating beneficial biological interactions and synergies among the components of the agroecosystem. It provides the most favourable soil conditions for plant growth, particularly by managing organic matter and by raising soil biotic activity. The core principles of agroecology include recycling nutrients and energy on the farm, rather than introducing external inputs; integrating crops and livestock; diversifying species and genetic resources in agroecosystems over time and space; and focusing on interactions and productivity across the agricultural system, rather than focusing on individual species. Agroecology is highly knowledge-intensive, based on techniques that are not delivered top-down but developed on the basis of farmers' knowledge and experimentation ”

5.8 Information and communication activities

During the Reporting period, communications and communication was at the heart of ESAFF activities. ESAFF continued to communicate to members through emails and website. During the reporting period, the ESAFF website was updated regularly and a number of visits kept growing. Visits were both from within ESAFF member countries, USA, Canada, Russia and America. Europe also has a substantial number of visits to the website. New links like Facebook, Youtube and Flickr were embedded to the website to allow more interactive followers. Between March and December 2009 we had **1201** visits in which **5114** pages were visited, equivalent to bandwidth **389 MB**. In the year 2010 between January and October number of visits reached **6200 hits** pages visited are 22,000 and **bandwidth of 1.49 GB**.

Between January 2010 and December 2010 we recorded a number of **7,014** visitors while pages visited were **24,536** and bandwidth of **1.62 GB**. In January 2011 and December 2011, the website recorded a number of **10,088** visitors while pages visited accounts for **29,862** and bandwidth was **3.81**.

The growing number of visitors could be attributed to the circulation of the ESAFF e-newsletter. During the reporting period 3 (three) E-newsletter were widely circulated. Most countries visiting the website are USA, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa.

6.0 NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ESAFF AND LIKEMINDED ORGANISATIONS

The year 2010/11, ESAFF continued to work with likeminded partners. Partnership was mainly in terms of joint activities and experience sharing. In the year ESAFF continued to work with its primary stakeholders, the members which increased to 13 after ROSA of Mozambique joined ESAFF. ESAFF also entered into a contractual agreement with Trust Africa to fund some of the policy advocacy in East African Countries (policy engagement with the East African Legislative Assembly — EALA). ESAFF also continued to work with GRET,



Practical Action, REPAOC and PELUM Association under the including small scale farmers in agriculture and research for development (INSARD) project funded by EU. ESAFF also established working relationship with Peoples Coalition on Food Security (PCFS) a movement based in Manila, The Philippines. In the reporting year ESAFF partnered with the following organizations:

Organizations	Nature of Partnership	Impact/ changes to ESAFF
Oxfam Novib	Financial and technical support	Enabled ESAFF to achieve its third year of the strategic plan 2008-2011, with an annual support of Euro 115,000
Bread for The World	Financial and technical support	Enabled ESAFF to achieve its second year of the strategic plan 2008-2011, with a one year support of Euro 50,000 from June 2010- July 2011
Trust Africa	Financial and technical support	Invited ESAFF to participate in a workshop on the role of CSOs and the implementation of CAADP in Lilongwe in March 2011. ESAFF submitted a proposal on increasing small scale farmers voice in CAADP implementation in east Africa.
PELUM Tanzania and PELUM Uganda	Joint advocacy activities	PELUM Uganda secured USD 60,000 from Ford Foundation to enable small scale farmer enhance awareness, rights and deliberate on land issues and market scooping study in which ESAFF participated.
GRET of France	Fundraising and technical support	ESAFF managed to enter into partnership with 3 organizations in Europe and 3 in Africa under the project Involving Small Scale Farmers in Research and Development (INSARD) e funded by EU in 2011.
Oxfam Pan Africa	Technical support	Sharing of information on key issues to advocate within the African Union framework. Also issued a joint statement on Ending Hunger in the Horn of Africa
Peoples Coalition on Food Security (PCFS)	Capacity building for farmer leaders on Aids issues	12 ESAFF farmer leaders in the ESA region participated in workshop on Aid and Development Effectiveness in agricultural rural development organised by PCFS. Also in a meeting with FAO in Rome. A joint workshop was also organised on land grabbing during the World Social Forum (WSF) 2011 in Dakar
TCOE South Africa	Exchange of ideas and attracting new members	ESAFF took part in the People's Dialogue Delegation to the WSF in Dakar in February 2011
SAT	Experience sharing	ESAFF participated in conferences on agriculture and the role of small scale farmers in food production in the SADC countries held in Johannesburg.

7.0 EVALUATION OF ESAFF STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2011

In April 2011, ESAFF commissioned consultant to evaluate the organisation again the performance of the strategic plan 2008-2011. The evaluation was conducted by an external consultant who has knowledge about the history and development of ESAFF. The evaluation aimed to achieve the following: (i) Learn from the implementation of the strategic plan; (ii) Assess the extent to which the objectives of the plan were achieved; (iii) Discuss main risks faced by ESAFF and suggest strategies to mitigate them; (iv) Draw out lessons learnt; and Make recommendation for the next strategic plan.



Key findings of the evaluation

Evaluation participants noted that ESAFF is good at supporting sustainable agriculture farming, capacity building of its members, mobilization of small scale farmers and participating in policy dialogue and change. They also noted that ESAFF is special and different from other farmer organizations in the region because it: Practices and promotes sustainable agriculture, Is farmer led, farmer driven right from grassroots levels, and is against Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs); Has membership stretches from grassroots to regional level; and Has farmers as the people who speak for themselves as opposed to being represented by their professional staff.

The evaluation found that ESAFF has tried to achieve all areas of the strategic plan; i.e progress towards making small scale farmers speak for themselves; organisational development: too for organisational assessment (SAYO) development and usage, support to weaker members, staffing at regional secretariat, policies, funds, legal requirements and increased membership. Trade and marketing by creating awareness to farmers and developing position. Food security which included success in advocating for the increase of 10% budget to agriculture through various fronts.

Conclusion of the evaluation report

The evaluation concluded on the following major points: relevance of the action, effectiveness of ESAFF and Efficiency in resource management;

- **Relevance:** This is about whether ESAFF's strategic plan was based on important developments in the area of *agriculture and food security*. ESAFF's focus on food security, trade and marketing, and HIV/AIDS, gender and youth were highly relevant in the in eastern and southern Africa because of the land degradation, famine and hunger and marginalization of women and youth in land and resource ownership. At the same time HIV/AIDS was an important development issue in ESAFF's area of work as many farmers are infected and affected.
- **Effectiveness:** This is concerned with making the right actions to address the issues identified. ESAFF was effective in the area of *policy influence* as it was able to build farmer capacity to engage with policy makers especially on the issue of allocating more resources towards agriculture in their national budgets. However, ESAFF did not put enough emphasis on *sustainable agriculture* (agroecological farming) which is an important part of its reason for existence. Lobbying for sustainable agriculture in this context would also have addressed climate change which was raised as an important contextual factor shaping the strategic plan under review. The focus on

developing the *organizational capacity* appears to have been the right thing to do under the circumstances because the organization is/was young and needed this kind of attention. ESAFF also built *important relationships* with decision-makers eastern and southern Africa and beyond. These connections have the potential to allow for ESAFF to be listened to. They include connections with Members of Parliament, government officials, the media and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) i.e SADC, COMESA/ACTESA and EAC. In short, ESAFF work was effective.

- **Efficiency:** This means getting the most out of each Euro, dollar or any other type of money donated. The evaluation noted that ESAFF events were carefully planned so that *several activities could be achieved at the same time*. For example, ESAFF leadership met in Tanzania to participate in the evaluation, prepare the strategic plan, attend training and conduct the Triennial General Summit meeting. So one ticket was bought instead of four. This saves money. At country level, most chapters who received regional funds for SAYO and ABC campaigns held these events one after the other and took advantage of these to either discuss elections or carry them out. The venues for events are usually those which are reasonably cheap. However, ESAFF has experienced low efficiency in a minority of countries where money that was meant for a particular two activities (SAYO and ABC) was utilized for one activity in time and reported back late despite the fact that national farmer leaders signed a commitment letter with Regional office to execute the two activities. ESAFF has therefore been generally efficient.
- **Impact:** This refers to the changes that ESAFF interventions bring about. Since the evaluation is covering the first strategic plan of a relatively young organization, it is difficult to see impact as it tends to take long to show. Having said that, it is important to note that considerable improvements have been made to build the capacity of farmers to speak for themselves. The evidence lies in how ESAFF members are taking part in ABC, which has earned respect for the new farmer organization by Members of Parliament, media, sub-regional development arms of governments and international farmer organizations. Both ESAFF itself and the issues of smallholder farmers in eastern and southern Africa have become visible to decision-makers. At country level there have been good efforts to include women and youth in leadership and planning and in taking up issues of concern to them. In general, the impact of ESAFF has been relatively high compared to its stage of growth.

Recommendations from the evaluation report

The recommendations of the evaluation were organized around three areas: future focus, implementation strategies, institutional and organizational development. The recommendations are based on what participants suggested as well as the evaluator's own understanding of ESAFF that was informed by the evaluation process and findings.

- a. **Future areas of focus:** The evaluation recommends that the next strategic plan should build on the work of the current strategic plan. The next strategic plan should also focus on a few strategic areas so that the human and financial resources of ESAFF are directed effectively at these areas. Another key determinant of what needs to be included in the next strategic plan is the need to make the *sustainable agriculture dimension matter* in all the work of ESAFF from practice, capacity building to policy influence. When some farmer organisations in the region have endorsed GMOs, it was high time for ESAFF to remain vigilant and voice out a pro agro ecological farming model. The significance of *climate change* and its effects on food security makes a strong case for its inclusion in the next plan. The evaluation also suggested that country level *access to markets and influencing of pricing* are imperative in order to enable the smallholder farmers to get a fair share of the market while at the same time getting fair prices. Advocacy work at the international level does not appear to be a priority. This suggests that the main Key Result Areas for ESAFF in the next strategic plan should be:
 - Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Sovereignty;
 - Access to markets and fair trade;
 - Gender, youth, HIV/AIDS and Climate Change (as cross-cutting issues); and
 - Institutional strengthening of ESAFF Regional Platform and national ESAFF members.
- b. **Implementation strategies:** In the current strategic plan the main strategies for implementing the objectives of ESAFF were concerned with capacity building (training, exchange visits, provision of information), partnership development, conducting campaigns, advocacy and lobbying. These strategies remain necessary. However, the capacity building efforts should be broadened *to include more members of ESAFF*. At the same time, more efforts should be made to ensure that most of the training actually creates a multiplier effect and benefits the whole organization not just few individuals. Instead of the regional secretariat only sending information to ESAFF leaders in the national chapters, it should also *send information directly to other members who have*

e-mail addresses. These would also be efficient and well as empowering to the members who get to know about relevant developments in time. In addition to the implementation strategies used in the strategic plan under review, ESAFF should **include research**. This research should cover both practice and policy issues. **Documentation** and sharing of good practice should also be introduced and practised to highlight innovations, breakthroughs and lessons learnt.

- c. **Institutional and organizational development:** ESAFF should continue its work on **strengthening country chapters**. There is need to assist country chapters to monitor and evaluate their work regularly and to produce good reports and share them with others on time. The developed *ESAFF Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines* should be adopted by all members as a starting point. ESAFF should also assist *country chapters to fundraise* for their activities as well as to account for them appropriately. *The Code of Conduct should be widely applied* to ensure good practice. In many countries the leadership of ESAFF will be holding their last terms of office. Here there is immediate need for steps to be taken to ensure that a *transfer of knowledge and connections is strategically* made to other members in the national chapters. This way the memory of the institution will be retained and made good use of without unnecessary delays. A good number of ESAFF member countries have been able to hire staff to implement their national plans some of which are aligned to the regional strategic plan. There level of achievement in such countries has tended to be higher than in those countries that do not have staff. ESAFF regional should *assist country chapters to have functional secretariats* as part of organizational development. Finally, the inclusion of new member countries in ESAFF should be accompanied by proper and *adequate assessment of applications* which is followed by induction and orientation process of those member countries whose applications are accepted. This way, the vision and mission of ESAFF will remain as the compass of the organisation while at the same time being reviewed and nurtured as necessary.
- d. **Identity and branding:** ESAFF being a farmer organization should ensure that it retains and strengthens its identity and brand. This can be achieved through ensuring that sustainability is underlined in its policies, practices and advocacy work. It can also be achieved through using appropriate communication and knowledge management strategies and approaches. It is crucial that *information is packaged* in a format, style and language (including font type and size) that is easily accessible to farmers for effective and efficient programmes implementation. *Story telling, images, metaphors, poetry and practice-based learning* are some of the strategies associated with African farmers whose use should be promoted and nurtured.

Lessons from the evaluation of the strategic plan 2008-2011

The evaluation process produced a number of lessons learnt during the implementation of the strategic plan which could be attributed to the implementation of operational plan 2010/11. Some of the important lessons on **farmer leaders** were that:

- Good leaders must have focus otherwise their efforts will be dissipated; they should not cast the net too wide. This means that leaders prioritise.
- Getting results through people requires time, patience and the ability to tap into the ideas of the people concerned.
- Leaders must be open and transparent, dedicated and committed. Similarly, without principles and policies it is easy to mess up with institutional resources. Where leaders have not been accountable to either their followers or to those who provide resources, progress has been slow.
- Self assessment is important before conducting a strategic plan. This enables plans to be realistic and to be build on what is there.
- A good leader should come down to the level of the followers.

The evaluation also noted constraints in implementing the strategic plan and risks faced by ESAFF as;

(i) Language barriers:

The farmers who took part in the evaluation complained that the strategic plan was too complex for them. They underlined the need for all ESAFF documents to be written in a manner that is accessible to them. The language and communication issue was not only noted in oral communication during meetings. ESAFF has French; Kiswahili and English speakers hence needed translation all the time. Eg. Not understanding the strategic plan or joint declaration means not being able to fully implement it. Interestingly ESAFF leaders have learnt how to use SMS, emails and instant messengers to communicate among themselves.

(ii) Inadequate activity linkages:

The evaluation also noted that there were insufficient activity linkages between regional and member country plans. This was common in member countries that were much more advanced than ESAFF itself. These are like MVIWATA – Tanzania, CPM - Madagascar and NASFAM –

Malawi as well as Medium advanced like ESAFF — Zambia, ESAFF Uganda, SeyFA — Seychelles. However, the evaluation noted that members mostly with permanent secretariat were efficient in communicating their activities through E- bulletins.

(iii) Limited Funding:

The other challenge was limited funding for the activities in the plan. ESAFF was spreading to thin in moving for instance, the ABC campaign. At the beginning of the strategic plan implementation, ESAFF had about 1/3 guaranteed funding. With additional funding from Oxfam Novib on support national members saw most of them utilizing the SAYO tool for organizational development. Another funding from Bread for the World, in the last year of the strategic plan, enabled more support to institutional capacity development and advocacy at national level. This supported to about half of the members still at the infant stage (to improve communication and for advocacy work and purchase of computers to enhance communication). The six weaker members are KESSFF Kenya, ZIMSOF — Zimbabwe, Lesotho, ESAFF Burundi, APPPE — Rwanda and ESAFF RSA.

(iv) Lack of Full Time Staff and poor leadership:

Lack of full time staff in six member countries was another limiting factor. This could be attributed to lack of standing secretariats for development and poor communication with others. Delayed or poor accountability in the form of narrative and financial reports was given as another key limiting factor and this was linked to either poor leadership, lack of permanent secretariat or lack of full-time staff.

(v) New members and common vision:

The evaluation also noted that the acceptance of new members who were more established than ESAFF itself and had a different history and culture posed potential threats to the implementation of the plan and its vision. In some member countries, ESAFF structures and capacities are not yet strong. The evaluation revealed that the concept of sustainability in agriculture (agro ecological farming) which was at the core of the reasons for forming ESAFF appeared to have been lost in the implementation of the evaluated strategic plan.

Risks faced by ESAFF linked to above Weaknesses

There are three main risks faced by ESAFF and these are closely linked with the weaknesses and constraints discussed above. The risks are: **Managing and addressing the high expectations** that country chapters have in terms of support from the regional office and leadership; **Retaining independence and focus** in the context of a complex operating environment in which stakeholders such as donors and governments have different and competing interests that sometimes differ from the mission and vision of ESAFF; and **Raising enough funds** to enable the carrying out of planned activities in the face of dwindling donor funds and competitions from many other farmer organizations.

The following specific suggestions were made on the constraints, risks and weaknesses

- **Fundraising:** Establish national fundraising committees; Establish SSF SACCOs;
- **Language and communication:** English should be used as first language, provide translation facilities especially for French speaking members, teach farmers major languages. ESAFF should employ an officer who can help in translation. One of the respondents pointed out:
- **Leadership:** ESAFF leaders should abide by our Code of Conduct. Conduct capacity building in leadership for a wider range of small scale farmers. ESAFF should develop mechanisms that continue to tap into the experience and wisdom of former leaders. In addition, there should be periodic leadership change at all levels;
- **Weak country structures and capacities:** The regional office should help country offices mobilize resources for membership recruitment and for supporting local programmes. More importantly, national chapters should be supported in the appropriate use and accountability for funds. This suggests the need for more training on fundraising and financial management as well as more backstopping staff at regional office;
- **Sustainability:** Teach sustainable agriculture practices and ensure that farmers produce enough food and generate some income and develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to risks such as climate change. Ensure that advocacy, lobbying and campaigns include the need for sustainable agriculture farming practices as well as for social justice;
- **New members with different histories:** Use their experiences and induct them into the philosophy of ESAFF. In order to ensure that ESAFF decisions and recommendations reach farmers in the new member countries, chairpersons of the old and joining organizations should be the focal persons for ESAFF;
- **Member expectations:** The regional office and leadership should communicate regularly and adequately with the membership so that the membership knows what to expect. In addition, the leadership should ensure that the strategic plan and related activities are built on

member needs and interests. This should be accompanied by 'downward' accountability. At the same time, country chapter support should be expanded and increased; and

- **Inadequate capacity to mobilize for members at the grassroots;** it was noted that ESAFF has spread in many countries (13) in ESA countries but had few members at grassroots level compared to the farming population of a particular country.

Opportunities for ESAFF

There are several opportunities for ESAFF. These are well summarized in the Opportunities and Risk Assessment that it conducted with one of its funding partners. These are re-stated below:

- 1) There is an increased attention at global level for agriculture in Africa. International development funding institutions, donors from developed countries and African governments and civil society are among key actors that recognize the need to pay more attention to agriculture and food security. ESAFF could work more to ensure efficiency in funds utilisation. It does not matter how much funds is allocated by the state, but rather how much reaches and benefit the small scale farmers;
- 2) There is increase in recognition of the agro ecology model of farming at the AU and UN level. This is referred to the Special Rapporteur of the UN Olivier De Shutter and the IASTAAD panel report, in which ESAFF was attributed among others 6 networks in Africa that promote sustainable agriculture. ESAFF can include sustainable agriculture in its future strategic plan to amplify its importance amid the so called "second green revolution" promoted by the multinational companies.
- 3) African government have jointly and individually made commitments to improving agriculture through such programmes and declarations as the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Plan (CAADP) and the Maputo declaration. ESAFF could work to raise awareness among the public and policy makers to ensure RECs and government adhere to the commitment ;
- 4) Small farmers increasingly feel marginalized and challenged by the new trade plans and agribusiness for example bio fuels and introduction of GMOs and Genetically engineered seeds. This is pushing farmers to become organized at local level and increasingly at national level and regional level to defend against GMOs.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT IN THE YEAR 2010/11

The year 2010/11 mainly focused on consolidation of gains in the year before while capitalising on the raising of the voices of small scale farmers in policy making platforms and institutions. Being the last year of the first strategic plan, ESAFF also took break to evaluate itself before making the next strategic plan. Many lessons have been drawn from the evaluation report of the past strategic plan. All lessons will be internalised, though through and worked on in the year 2012 and beyond.

ESAFF is looking forward to engage the RECs on CAADP, looking for more funds, operationalisation of the code of conduct for members and support young members to enlarge their membership base and engage more strategically with local and central governments. ESAFF will also consolidate existing partnerships while looking for areas to work with other like-minded partners. The new strategic plan 2011-2014 will include above mentioned activities and strategies.

Part II
ESAFF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

1. INTRODUCTION

This section presents the third year financial report on the implementation of the ESAFF three year Strategic Plan that started from 2008-2011. The report comprises ESAFF financial operations performance for the period of July 1st 2010 to August 31st 2011. Financially, the year 2010/11 anticipated budgeted to finance ESAFF core activities was Euro 169,501 equivalent to TZS 347,411,879. The total actual income earned in this period was Euro 188,806 which is equal to TZS 367, 033,060. The increase is attributed to additional funds (€ 25,000) received in December 2010 from Oxfam Novib to support preparations and participation of farmers to the World Social Forum (WSF 2011) in Dakar, Senegal. The budget also included the balance of unspent grant from Bread for the World amounting Euro 46,587 brought forward from previous year

2. OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2010/11

The financial operation performance report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and have been also audited in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and they are in agreement with the accounting records.

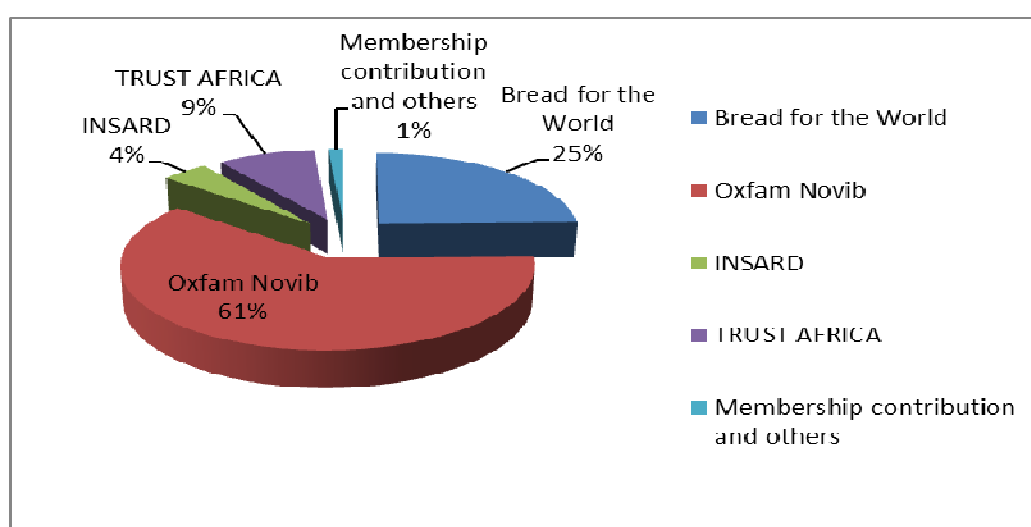
2.1 Income

For the year 2010/11 anticipated budgeted to finance ESAFF core activities was Euro 169,501 equivalent to TZS 347,411,879. The total actual income earned in this period was Euro 188,806 which is equal to TZS 367, 033,060. The fund was received from various sources including expected first disbursement of grant from Trust Africa worth USD 20,800 (to be utilised in the year 2011/12) and EU INSARD project of euro 7,865 as shown in Table 1 and Chart 2 below.

TABLE 1: INCOME FROM DONORS /OTHER SOURCES FOR THE YEAR 2010/11

Actual funding contributions for the year 2010/11		
Source of funds/Partner	Amount (EURO)	Amount (TZS)
Bread for the World	46,587	82,595,157
Oxfam Novib	115,429	229,046,650
INSARD	7,865	17,348,536
TRUST AFRICA	16,576	33,319,740
Membership contribution and others	2,349	4,722,976
TOTAL	188,806	367, 033,060

Chart 1: Revenue by Source 2010/11

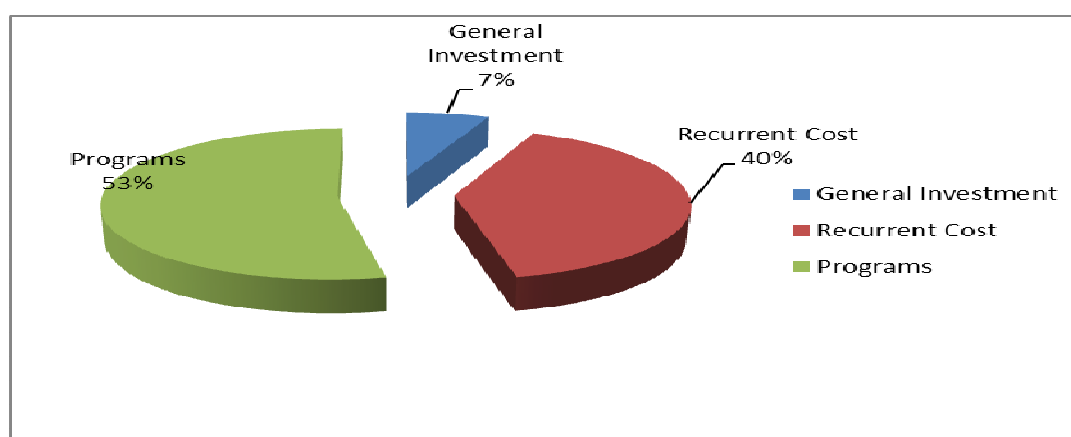


2.2 Expenditure

In this section we provide explanations on how income earned were put into use in the reported period. The total fund available was Euro 188,806, the total expenditure amounted to Euro 167,750.78 equivalent to TZS 347,411,879 as indicated in the Table 2 and Chart 2 below was spent.

Descriptions	Expenditure In Euro	Expenditure In TZS	Percentage (%)
General Investment	10,860	22,492,113	6.5
Recurrent Cost	67,281	139,339,981	40
Programs	89,608	185,579,785	53.5
Total	167,750	347,411,879	100

Chart 2: Expenditure by Type 2010/11



2.2.1 Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure included purchases of noncurrent assets during the period i.e. motor vehicle cost TZS 17,500,000 equivalent to Euro 8450 and electronic equipments cost TZS 4,992,112 equivalent to Euro 2410 respectively.

The total amount spent for capital items was Euro 10,860 equivalent to TZS 22,491,060 which made 7% of total annual expenditure.

2.2.2 Recurrent expenditure

The recurrent expenditure comprise personnel cost and administration overhead cost. During the period fund spent for personnel cost was euro 54,101 equivalents to TZS 112,043,515, and administration cost was Euro 13,180 equivalents to TZS 27,296,467 which is 40% of total annual actual expenditure.

2.2.3 Program expenditure

During the period program expenditure was amounting to Euro 89,608 equivalent to TZS 185,579,785 which is 53 % of total annual actual expenditure. The detailed income and expenditure report in terms of activities see item number 4 below.

3. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2010/11

In the budget for the year 2010/11 ESAFF continued to focus mainly in 5 strategic areas identified from the Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and an additional item on enhanced organizational, technical and managerial capacity of ESAFF country chapters. The key focus areas and budget areas are as follows:

- (i) Organizational and institutional development of ESAFF HQ (the regional secretariat)
- (ii) Engagement of farmers in Food Security activities (World Social Forum 2011 activities)
- (iii) Engagement of small scale farmers in Trade and Marketing
- (iv) Mainstreaming of Gender, HIV/AIDS and youth in ESAFF's activities including evaluation of the strategic plan
- (v) Organisational and Institutional Development of ESAFF country chapters³.

In order to achieve the strategic objectives funds were allocated according to priorities and operational plan, and also we examine the uses of funds based on source of funding and conditions set out in the contract documents. The expenditure basing on source is shown below on table 3

Table 3: Summary of comparison of budget and actual expenditure basing on strategic objectives and sources of funding

Strategic objectives	Budget Euro	Actual Euro	Variance in %	Source of Fund		
				Oxfam Novib	BftW	Other sources
1. Organisational and institutional development of the regional secretariat	94,541	94,079	0.49	51,911	35,229	6,939
2. Engagement of farmers in Food Security activities including WSF 2011	35,000	32,156	8.13	27,912	4,244	-
3. Engagement of small scale farmers in trade and marketing	4,500	4,713	(4.73)	-	4,713	-
4. Mainstreaming of gender, HIV/AIDS and youth in ESAFF's activities as well as Evaluation of the strategic plan 2008-2011	24,340	26,121	(7.32)	26,121	-	-
5. Organisational and Institutional development of ESAFF country chapters	11,120	10,428	6.27	8,017	2,410	-
Total	169,501	167,498	1.19	113,962	46,597	6,939

Overall budget performance of ESAFF for 2010/11 in terms of expenditure was 98.81 % compared to the total annual budget set up to the end of August 2011. This indicates that performance of ESAFF was boosted by resources for WSF 2011 that ESAFF strategically utilised to achieve activities that would be difficult to achieve with earmarked resources at the beginning of the financial year on food security advocacy. The budget and actual expenditure indicating variances, funding and percentage are shown on Table 3 and Chart 3 above.

4. DESCRIPTIONS OF PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2010/11

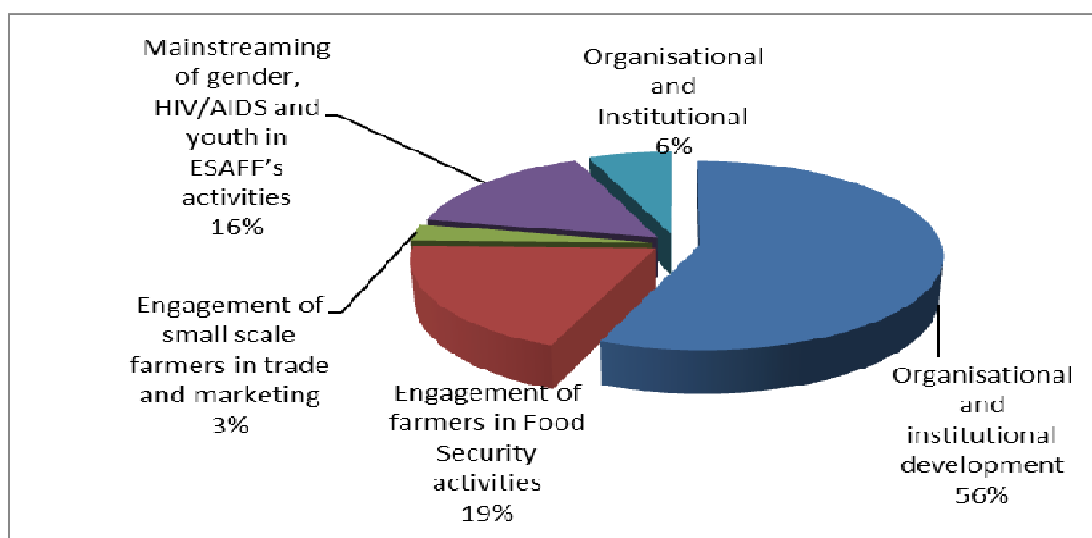
1. During the period a large amount of budgeted and actual expenditure was directed at implementing activities falling under strategic objective one on **Organisational and Institutional Development of ESAFF regional secretariat**. The total cost was euro 94,079 which about 56% of total expenditure. Out of that total budget 45% was personnel cost and the remaining was used for office rent, purchase of the office vehicle, office utility cost, facilitate the ESAFF Board by conducting Board meetings, maintaining functional information and communication systems.
2. Expenditure under **Food Security** costing euro 35,000 constituted 19% of total budgeted and actual expenditure, where much was done in terms out of total amount budget 83% was used for **World Social Forum 2011 activities** and 17% for built and enhanced ability of smallholder farmers to influence agriculture policies, resource allocation/engagement in budgeting processes from districts to national and regional level by December 2011. In WSF activities 52% of that was to organise 3 mini caravans for small scale farmers to go

³ This area was duly added in the course of implementation of the strategic plan, 2008-2011

regional's networks and have a press conferences and the remaining balance was used to facilitate different activity such conduct desktop survey and implementation of CAADP, to produce position paper on small scale farmers on CAADP, producing mini video documentary and to develop, print and distribute the 10% campaign posters, leaflets and 40 t-shirts for the agriculture budget campaign.

3. **Trade and marketing** — under this focus activity a total of euro 4,713 was spent making 3% of total budget and actual expenditure for the reporting period. Under this key result, much of work with regard to trade and marketing policy, create awareness on market and trade issue, capacity building on trade, marketing and access to credit had been done with less cost implication. ESAFF implemented a project with PELUM East Africa that focused on trade and access to land for small scale farmers in four countries of East Africa of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.
4. **Gender, HIV/AIDS and Youth** - It was planned under activity funded by Oxfam Novib where Euro 24340 was set aside as restricted fund in the contract to implement HIV/AIDS activity and evaluation which make about 16% of annual total expenditure. ESAFF conducted a two day workshop on gender and youth HIV, and an evaluation workshop where by participant come with an agreement to include gender issue on ESAFF constitutions, Increased percentage of youth attending policy process meeting regarding agriculture and national and local level and also to mainstream gender, youth in all ESAFF members country. A scooping study on youth involvement in agriculture will be done in the year 2011/12.
5. With regards to **Organisational and Institutional development of ESAFF country chapters** 6% of total budget and actual expenditure was spent amounting to euro 10,428. The amount was used to enhance networking between member countries this is to ensure that county's chapter will have ensured effective communication within and out of member countries.

Chart 3: Analysis of budget and Actual expenditure 2010/11



5. LESSONS and RECOMMENDATIONS on FINANCIAL REPORT 2010/11

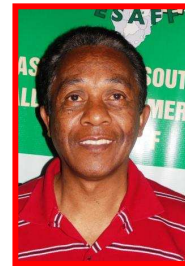
From the financial and budget performances report for the year 2010/11, the following are lessons and recommendations that we wish to take with us in the next year. Some of them emanated from the external and internal auditors' recommendations while some from members and our development partners meeting as follows:

- (i) Budget discipline and management be strengthened further to ensure proper utilisation of funds as per budget and time stipulated. The proper budget plan and periodic revised budget were commended as steps towards proper planning and utilisation of funds as

per budget. The installed sage pastel accounting package is helping to achieve that goal. ESAFF will continue investing on training of the accounts staff to that endeavour.

- (ii) ESAFF has been utilising the service on an internal auditor. However it has been suggested that the service be more mainstreamed through consolidating, expanding and providing clear timetable within clear agreed terms of references.
- (iii) A fundraising plan and the increase of donor portfolio should be among the top priority in the near future at all levels of ESAFF
- (iv) Annual plan of ESAFF to be synchronised with that of member countries to allow smooth implementation of ESAFF activities at all levels.
- (v) Membership contribution should be increased as a source of sustainability and increased ownership of ESAFF by its members
- (vi) Staffing with competent and qualified personnel in the account section is important for enhanced financial management and reporting. A salary structure and staffing establishment should also put in place.
- (vii) It is also recommended that the ESAFF Board adopt a honorary member with financial background to provide an effective financial oversight, support and advice at that level.

ESAFF Board Members at 31st August 2011



From above: **Moses Shaha** (Kenya) – Chairman,

Second row; left: Goodwell Chiteya (Malawi)- Treasurer, **Centre Elizabeth Mpofu** – (Zimbabwe) – Vice Chairman, **right Hakimu Barilaine** (Uganda), General Secretary

Third row; Mubanga Kasakula (Zambia), **Rachel Muyobokey** (Rwanda), **Mamalefetsane Phakoe** (Lesotho), **Richard Rabetrano** (Madagascar)

Forth row : Serge Benstrong (Seychelles), **Odette Nzeyimana** (Burundi), **Aaron Tlaka** (South Africa); **Elias Kawea** (Tanzania), **Joe Mzinga** (ex – Officio),

Staff Members of ESAFF at 31st August 2011



ESAFF Staff HQ: *Top left, Joe Mzinga — Coordinator, Caroline Kingu — Finance and Fundraising Officer;*
Below *from left: Stella Henry — Assistant Accountant, Vicky Mandary Admin & Communication, Leila Athuman (Front Desk); Mtaki Josephson (Accountant to 30th May 2011)*