



**PELUM Association, ESAFF & Funding
Partners**

Draft II

**Joint Visioning Workshop (JVW)
2005 Report**

5th - 6th May 2005, Berea, Lesotho

**Lusaka, Zambia
May 2005**

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I. Background

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association, is a regional network of over 160 civil society organizations. The PELUM membership is spread in countries of east, central and southern Africa. PELUM decided to convene a joint visioning workshop to bring together funding partners, farmer leaders from east and southern Africa farmers forum –ESAFF- and PELUM Board Members.

In the past, PELUM has made attempts at bringing funding partners, its staff and the membership to discuss PELUM plans and the nature and level of support it needed. In addition, the conversations include strategies to nurture and manage relationships with each other.

In 2003 the PELUM Board decided that PELUM would hold a “donor conference” in 2004 to market its vision, which now had a strong advocacy dimension. During the October 2004 PELUM Board meeting, the Board resolved that the meeting with funding partners needed a new name and a new thrust. This is how PELUM moved from a “donor conference” to a “joint visioning workshop”, and from marketing PELUM mission to funding partners to concentrating on support for the development of a regional farmer movement.

The two-day joint visioning workshop was held on 4-5 May 2005 and was attended by 8 farmer leaders from 8 countries in east and southern Africa, the PELUM Board Members and three funding partners (Misereor- German, Bread for the World- German and GRET-France). The JVV was officiated by the Lesotho Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Mr. Rakoro Phororo.

Overall objective of the Workshop was for PELUM to seek to build on the solid relationships with its funding partners to help a regional farmers’ forum (ESAFF) to benefit from the experiences and support of funding partners.

Among the key issues emerged out of the JVV are: identified area and level of cooperation between ESAFF and PELUM and roles of the three stakeholders namely PELUM, ESAFF and the three donors in supporting one another.

This report presents an overview of the JVV. The report covers three main parts. Part One covers the overall 2-day process. Part two covers the presentation from donor about their organisations. And part three is appendixes; papers presented at the workshop.

Mable Mung’omba from Lusaka, Zambia facilitated the Joint Visioning Workshop.

PART I

2. Day One: Session (a)

Opening and clarifying the objectives of the JWV

The first hour of the first day of the workshop focused mainly on how to create a great organisation by defining Vision and joint visioning (see the following diagrams). The facilitator, Marble Mug'omba, did a three slides presentation¹. She emphasized the importance of carrying the Vision. In the case of the JWV a key objective was to help PELUM, farmer leaders and donor identify their points of convergences.

Objectives of the JWV in a nutshell were outlines as to:

Enhancement of PELUM, ESAFF and Funding partners'
Relationship and develop a strategic framework.
Definition of each developmental partners role and responsibilities.
Resource allocation analysis and Refocus of activities of
PELUM and ESAFF.

Assumptions- Facilitator went ahead to give the key assumptions of the JWV as follows:

That in every organisation, something works and sometimes what we focus on becomes our reality which is created in the movement with multiple realities.

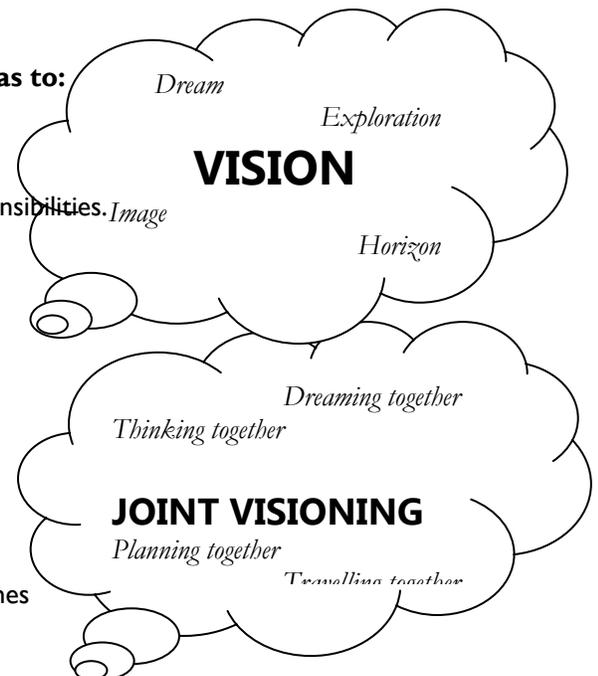
Thus, people have more confidence to journey into the future when they carry forward parts of the past. The meeting of three stakeholders was a great opportunity for more creative and effective organisational development (O.D).

In ending her brief presentation, the facilitator outlined the **expected outputs** as; Strategic framework within new vision, mission, objectives, strategies and milestones. Plan of action that defines roles and responsibilities by the 3 partners as well as trust and confidence built between partners.

PRESENTATION- THE JWV: HISTORY, PURPOSE, RATIONALE AND PLANNED OUTPUT BY M. MUKUTE

This presentation was designed to give a systematic history of the Joint Visioning Workshop, history about both PELUM and ESAFF. It also gave a **purpose** of the workshop, **rationale**, **key assumptions** and **planned output**.

HISTORY- PELUM started off in 1995 as a service provision organisation, building the capacity of its members and other NGOs to work more effectively with the people to produce more, and sustainably.



¹ See the presentation in full at the end of this report

It was mentioned that at the 2001 BGM the delegates made a bold decision to strategically work with small farmer organizations to increase their capacity to speak for themselves on matter that affect them. And that in 2002 PELUM organized some 300 farmers and development workers to attend the Small Farmer Convergence in South Africa during the world summit on sustainable development-WSSD. At the convergence, the farmers decided to form a regional farmers' forum.

The farmer leaders decided in 2003 that they would need PELUM to mentor them. Areas of support were spelt out. And In 2004, PELUM and ESAFF collectively drafted a framework of memorandum of understanding. A memorandum outlined how the partnership was to work out.

The purpose of the JVW therefore was to draw on the development experiences of funding partners and the PELUM network to help the emerging farmer movement – ESAFF – to plan more strategically and obtain support needed.

RATIONALE: NGOs and funding partners have developmental and organizational development experiences that the emerging farmer organizations can tap into and benefit from. While key assumptions were that funding partners are not only there to raise funds and give it to NGOs and others, they are involved in development thinking and activities which are worth learning from. And that Visioning, planning and working together between farmer organizations, NGOs and funding partners will generate synergy, trust and better understanding of each other, which is good for development.

Key expected outputs from the JVW; that ESAFF; PELUM and funding partners understand and appreciate each other more accurately and deeply.

Official Opening

The Minister for Agriculture and food security, Lesotho, Mr. Rakoro Phororo (*in a right photo*), officiated the opening. In her welcoming remarks, the PELUM Association Chairperson, Mary Jo Kakinda, said the essence of the JVW was the realization by PELUM that farmers can speak for themselves, and that the JVW was there to chart a way forward.

On his part, the Minister commended PELUM Association for its good work over the last 10 years of its existence.

He said PELUM's work in Lesotho can be seen in the field. He cautioned that PELUM was a super structure and for a super structure to function well, it needed the substructures to excel their performances.

He commended PELUM's positive outlook in its vision and mission statements. The Minister emphasized GMO as a possible threat to seed security and human health in the region. He ended by arguing PELUM to emphasize the issues of HIV/AIDS, saying good nutritious food can help in combating the scourge.



Session (b)

Group work preparations for the presentations from Stakeholders: ESAFF, PELUM and 3 Donors

This session was on group work for the each of stakeholder: ESAFF, PELUM and the three donors. The guidelines for each group work and presentations were: The mission/vision of the organisation, it activities, structure and its stakeholders.

GROUP WORK Guiding Questions:

- ☞ *Where have we come from?*
- ☞ *What is our vision/mission/focus areas?*
- ☞ *Where are we now?*
- ☞ *What structures have we built to support our vision?*
- ☞ *What is happening now?*
- ☞ *What do we see the role of our stakeholders to be now?*
- ☞ *Who are our stakeholders?*

Presentation by ESAFF

The Purpose of ESAFF- was said to enable small farmers in east and southern Africa to speak as a united voice so that the issues, concerns and recommendations of farmers becomes an integral part of policies and practises at national, regional and international levels

ESAFF Vision - Self-reliant, an independent, effective regional network that will empower National Forums to increase small-scale farmers' visibility and preserve sustainable agriculture. Meanwhile, **Mission Statement of ESAFF** was said to create national, regional and international dynamic alliances and advocate for policy, practice and attitude change that reflects the need, aspiration, and development of small-scale farmers in east and southern Africa.

What is ESAFF Trying to Achieve: To be an Effective Regional Network of farmers' movement that forms Strategic alliances and Empower National Fora and community/local groups.

ESAFF objective 1; to become a Vibrant Regional organisation, Objective 2; is to form strategic alliance, Objective 3 to empower national for a and Objective 4.; To engage in policy advocacy and actions in order to influence global, regional and national policies that impact small holder farmers: debts, trade, resources allocation, and biosafety.

Key challenges that ESAFF face; Balancing the requirement for organisation development (OD) and addressing issues through advocacy at the same time, Lower level of understanding and articulating issues at various level among its leadership and members/farmer groups, Financial constraints and lack of functional regional secretariat as well as untimely information flow to members. Another challenge was how to address cross cutting issues like climate change, HIV/Aids, gender and capacity to learn and influence stretegic institutions at community, country and regional level

ESAFF Way forward- Was mentioned as to: develop and adopt a 3 year strategic plan on the 4 objectives; Fundraise for the activities, Organise and hold the Biennial General Meeting (BGM) to socialise, adopt and operationalise the plan; Produce bimonthly newsletter for Information sifting and sharing; Develop and enhance the capacity of farmer groups and communities, farmer leaders; Establish a regional secretariat and lastly Inform various institutions and stakeholders of ESAFF's existence.

Presentation by PELUM Association

The presentation from PELUM had following areas: Where PELUM comes from, Rationale for its existence, Structure of PELUM, Where PELUM is now and who are the stakeholders.

PELUM was formed in 1995 and the rationale for its existence was due to: Environmental degradation, poor land use practices, declining food level, unresponsive national policies and fragmented efforts by the NGOs. PELUM was formed in 1995 primarily to do capacity building for member organisation. Is now focusing on advocacy, supporting small scale farmers organisations, information sharing and HIV/Aids and gender programmes

How PELUM is Organised; - the Biennial General meeting (BGM), the Board, the Regional Desk, The Country Desk Coordinators and Members Organisations.

Where PELUM is as of Now; - is supporting Country Working Groups (CWGs), Doing advocacy, conducting Senior Staff meetings, Supporting ESAFF in fundraising, Retaining a regional presence through networking, Established a Board Committee on ESAFF and sub regional area in East-Southern Africa for easy networking.

Critical Stakeholders and Their Roles: -

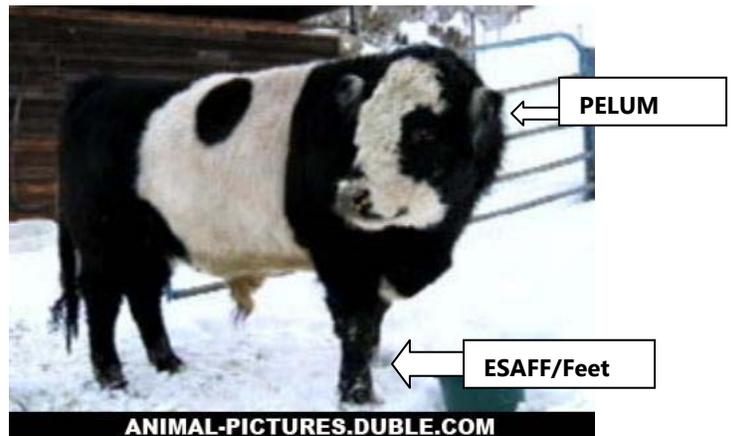
- Funders who provide advice and guidance, provision of financial resources, and Advocacy with other structures (Governments, global institutions and linking PELUM to other potential resources,
- Small Scale farmers- to support farmers to organise effectively at different levels. Be visible in taking a lead advocacy role at national level. Appreciating PELUM's facilitating role.
- Member Organisations (MOs) Facilitators to other stakeholders through lobby, information sharing etc., building capacity of farmer leaders and farmer organisation, help donors to reach and understand community interests.
- And Government- who are doing supportive role, creating conducive political and economic environment for development

Session (c)

Presentations from the Donors

2.7.1 Misereor

Representative from Misereor started by saying that, her organisation support PELUM because PELUM is working towards empowering small-scale farmers at local level. She asked what Misereor would do because ESAFF now is growing and taking over PELUM's role. She said, PELUM has member organisations/NGOs working with farmers. So, it will be very expensive in the future to support two regional bodies.



2.7.2 Bread for the World

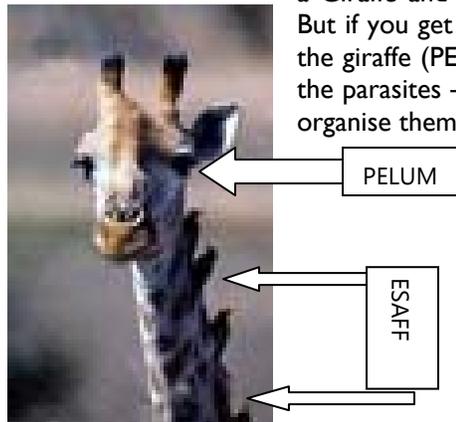
Representative from the Bread for the world illustrated the relationship between PELUM and ESAFF as that of the Sun, the Moon and the Earth. He said the PELUM was like the Sun providing sunshine for the members (the grasses to grow). But now, at night, we see the Moon (ESAFF) emerging to provide light to the grasses.

He posed a question: what is the difference between the Moon and the Sun in providing light to the grass. He asked what is the added value of ESAFF to become an independent body.



2.7.3 GRET

Representative from GRET portrayed the relationship between ESAFF and PELUM as that of a Giraffe and Birds. He said PELUM was much visible from a far. But if you get closer, you see there are birds (ESAFF) surrounding the giraffe (PELUM) and are helping the Giraffe (PELUM) by eating the parasites –ticks- (advocacy). He said the birds be supported to organise themselves and have a nice shape when flying (growing).



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Session (d)

2.8 Afternoon session

Afternoon session started with a plenary session. Questions were asked to ESAFF, to explain its stakeholders and their roles. It was informed that, ESAFF's critical partners are: PELUM Association, Donor community, Government Ministries, Farmer organisations and NGOs working with farmers. Other mentioned were traders and researchers.

After a short debate participant agreed that the role of PELUM is to support the growing of ESAFF. ESAFF emphasized the need to plan together. Meanwhile, some donors thought that PELUM and ESAFF could merge. However, the main problem was that of identity as PELUM members are national NGOs and ESAFF is made of farmer groups. They agreed that the goal should be to have a long-term relationship between ESAFF and PELUM.

Commonalities between ESAFF and PELUM

2.8.1 Participants agreed on the existing commonalities between ESAFF and PELUM Association as;

That both organisations are contextually relevant but the challenge was to seek a niche. There was a consensus that partnership may be looked too close as the fact is that PELUM and ESAFF are close but their strength and weakness are different in reaching the intended goals. They also said that PELUM is a professional organisation putting its credit in professionalism, while ESAFF is a farmers movement/peoples movement with full of passion.

It was agreed that, there is a need to recognise the identities of the two organisations, as they are two different entities. Hence, there is a need to plan together and appreciate each other.

That, both ESAFF and PELUM need to take leadership for their future and do SWOT analysis and see their strength, weakness, opportunities and threat. It was also agreed that both organisation are still in the making though at different stages.

After the Plenary, the three groups were set-up for group work

GROUP WORK - CRYSTALLISING OUR VISIONS

The guiding questions were as follows:

- *What are the similarities existing between PELUM and ESAFF*
- *Which areas can be picked for cooperation*
- *What are the grey areas that needed to be clarified*
- *What do we hope to do as ESAFF and PELUM in 3-5 years time*

2.8.2 Group Presentations

Three groups presentations were almost alike. Here is a brief of all the major points presented on: similarities, areas for cooperation and what ESAFF and PELUM can do in 3-5 years.

Similarities between PELUM and ESAFF

- Both are regional network with members in east, central and southern Africa
- Both are working with smallholder farmers through their existing structure
- Both are advocacy organisations
- They have similarities in their vision and mission

Areas that could be picked for cooperation

- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Fundraising
- Capacity building
- Organisational development

What ESAFF and PELUM need to do in 3-5 years

- Do advocacy at various levels: regional, national, community and international
- Support organisational growth of ESAFF
- Co-fundraising and management of funds
- Establish network with various like minded international, regional and national organisation
- Recruit more members and enhance ESAFF at grassroots, district and national level



End of Day One

After the presentations the first day session was adjourned.

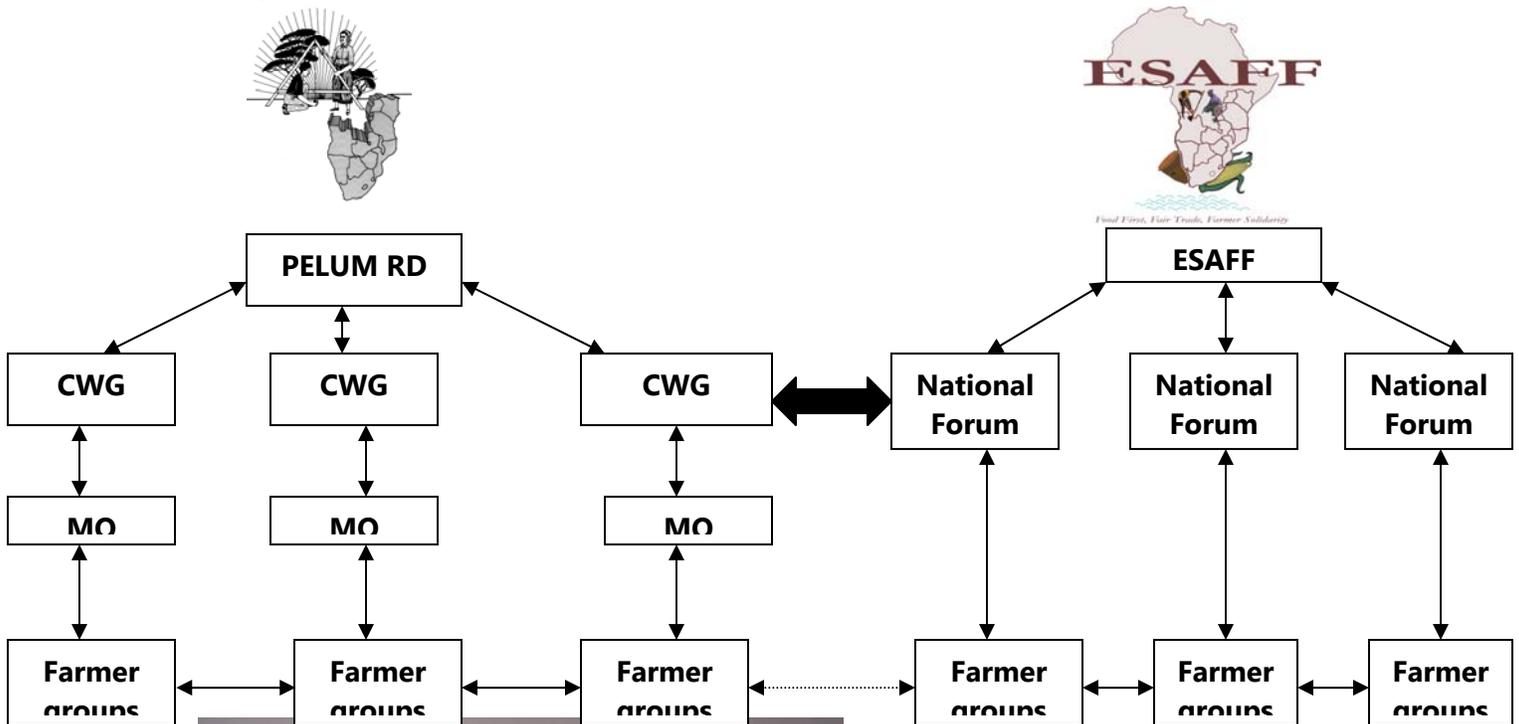
Session (e)

3 Day Two

In day two, the morning session kicked off with a plenary. This focused on the discussions transpired in the previous day presentations on similarities between ESAFF and PELUM and areas and level of cooperation.

It was finally emphasized that more effort be directed to support farmer fora at country level. The following diagram illustrates.

Structure/ level of cooperation²



² Structures were presented in day one

PART II

3.1 GROUP Work and Group Presentations: Donors, ESAFF and PELUM Association

Group work guiding question

How can PELUM and ESAFF support each other?

- *Set objectives*
- *Key milestones for delivery*

3.1.1 Bread for the World (Brot Fur Die Welt)

Representative from the Bread for the World started by mentioning the areas of activities, methods of implementation and dimensions:

Areas of activities

- Empowering the poor
 - Changing gender relations
 - Sustaining the means of livelihood
 - Food security
 - Maintaining and restoring health
 - Demanding and supporting education
 - Generating income
 - For better working conditions
- Implementing HR, promoting democracy and political participation
 - Effective and sustainable assistance in emergencies
 - Supporting non-violent conflict management

Methods of Implementation

- Promoting/developing processes and creating priorities
- Partnership, qualifying cooperation, and financial independence of partners
- Campaigns
- Promoting global thinking and action

Dimensions of action

- Support of projects and programmes
- Global responsibility and advocacy
- Public awareness
- Ecumenical learning



3.1.2 MISEREOR -The German Catholic Bishops' Organisation For Development Cooperation

Representative from Misereor presented about her organisation. She said, Misereor was founded in 1958 as an agency "against hunger and disease in the world". In its capacity as the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Germany, it offers to cooperate in a spirit of partnership with all people of goodwill to promote development, fight worldwide poverty, liberate people from injustice, exercise solidarity with the poor and the persecuted, and help create "One World".

MISEREOR is mandated by the Catholic Church in Germany;

- To fight the causes of hardship and misery as manifested chiefly in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in the forms of hunger, disease, poverty and other forms of human suffering,
- Thus enabling the people affected to lead a life of human dignity,
- To promote justice, freedom, reconciliation and peace in the world.
- The assistance Misereor provide is designed to stimulate and support self-help and pave the way for sustainable improvement in the living conditions of the poor.

Relationship with PELUM

Misereor supports small-scale farmers in east, central and southern Africa through PELUM Association.

3.1.3 GRET- France

Representative from GRET explained about his organisation. A research and Technological Exchange Group which is a non-profit association founded in 1976. The Research and Technological Exchange Group (GRET) is a development support organisation. It is actively involved in furthering economic and social development in developing countries through a combination of research, action and communication. It is active in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

3.1.4 ESAFF

ESAFF presentation answered the question, how can PELUM and ESAFF support each other. It eventually gave objectives and key milestone.

Objectives: That PELUM support ESAFF by providing technical assistance particularly on; capacity building and resource mobilization for national and local strength. It was mentioned that PELUM objective was also to support ESAFF to have its own information network and also connect it to potential donors.

KEY MILESTONE: ESAFF mentioned its milestone as to; have ESAFF that is strong and dynamic regional farmers movement that influences policies and practises in accordance to farmers' needs and expectations and improving livelihoods of farmer from family level in the region.

3.1.5 PELUM Group Presentation

PELUM presentation gave overall areas and level of PELUM support to farmer groups at country level. It further mentioned PELUM's Objectives, Indicators and Timeframe.

PELUM Support to ESAFF

The overall objective mentioned was to support ESAFF to have national presence through; sensitising PELUM members to have a "buy-in" in ESAFF, Joint needs assessment, planning and resource mobilisation, Helping ESAFF to organise themselves: institutional and organizational development and building their capacity on advocacy at national level.

ESAFF Support to PELUM

That by being organized and strong at national level, ESAFF can defend and champion PELUM interests. And for ESAFF to give PELUM a mandate to provide services to ESAFF.



Objectives of PELUM support to ESAFF

- To strengthen and operationalise ESAFF at national level.
- To build ESAFF capacity in advocacy to play vital role in policy making.

Indicators

- Presence of strong national ESAFF's at local level
- Strong partnership between ESAFF and PELUM
- Participation of smallholder farmers in national agendas

Time Frame - 3 to 5 years

4 Conclusion

4.1 In wrapping up, the facilitator highlighted some key points emerged from the workshop;

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ That ESAFF/PELUM and Funders have shared developmental goals (Empowered smallholder farmers advocate for themselves)▪ That appreciated each others plans and aspirations while acknowledging that they can work together▪ That have defined areas of cooperation through various means▪ Also defined roles have been established e.g. PELUM's support role to ESAFF for both service delivery and advocacy, ESAFF role of mobilizing farmers and | <ul style="list-style-type: none">farmer organizations at local and national levels.▪ That both parties have formalised their working procedures.▪ To do feedback to countries and prepare action plans.▪ Each organization to maintain identity and when necessary support each other in resource mobilization.▪ Areas of support and collaboration established and this will help Funders to see when, how and where to support. |
|---|--|

4.2 Closure

A one a half -day workshop was officially closed by PELUM Chairlady who invited ESAFF to say a word of thanks. A farmer leader and ESAFF council member from Lesotho, Mr. Molekuoa Tumane thanked Donors and PELUM board and ESAFF council leaders for coming to Lesotho to take part in the fruitful Joint Visioning Workshop.

From the PELUM side, a PELUM Board members and CAL committee, Chairperson Mr. Ngunjiri thanked every one for active participation and asked participants to work hard to strengthen both PELUM and ESAFF at national and districts levels.

PART III

Appendix I. Presentations

Presentation by Mable Mung'omba – facilitator

<h3>HOW TO CREATE A GREAT ORGANISATION</h3> <p>A Presentation to Pelum, ESSAFF and Funders joint Visioning workshop 5th – 6th May 2005. At the palace hotel in the kingdom in the sky, Lesotho Facilitated by Mabel Luo Mung'omba</p>	<p>How do we understand people, communities and organisations?</p> <p>Mysteries to be explored MYSTERIES TO BE EXPLORED</p>
<h3>PRINCIPLES</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration.• Appreciation, goodwill and good intent.• The power of questions.• Exploiting the magic of difference.• Inviting chaos and order to allow great things to emerge.• Enabling people do great work.• Working towards congruence.	<h3>OBJECTIVES</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancement of Pelum, ESAFF and funding partners' relationship.• Develop a strategic framework.• Definition of each developmental partners role and responsibilities.• Resource allocation analysis.• Refocus of activities at Pelum, ESAFF.
<h3>ASSUMPTIONS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In every organisation something works.• What we focus on becomes our reality.• Reality is created in the moment and there are multiple realities.• The language we use creates our reality.• The act of asking questions of an organisation influences the organisation in some way.	<h3>ASSUMPTIONS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People have more confidence to journey into the future when they carry forward parts of the past.• If we carry parts of the past forward, they should be the best about the past.

Organisational assumptions

- Funding partners have bigger role than raising funds.
- Ngo's have dev. Thinking and activities that worth learning from.
- This meeting of 3 stakeholders is a great opportunity for more creative and effective O/D.
- This is a unique and uncommon way of sharing and dialoguing.
- Partners will understand more the dev. terrain.

OUTPUTS

- PARTNERSHIP..... INTEREST..... COLLABORATIVE.....WISDOM..... PARTNERSHIP.
- STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK New vision, mission, objectives, strategies and milestones. Plan of action.
- Defined roles and responsibilities by the 3 partners.
- Trust and confidence built btwn partners

Presentation by Mutizwa Mukute

Joint Visioning Workshop: ESAFF, PELUM Association and Funding Partners

Palace Hotel, Lesotho: 5-6 May 2005)
By Mutizwa Mukute.

ctd...History

1. In 2000, it began developing its own capacity to carry out advocacy.
2. The 2001 BGM the delegates made a bold decision to strategically work with small farmer organizations to help them speak for themselves.
3. In 2002 PELUM organized some 300 farmers and development workers to attend the Small Farmer Convergence in South Africa during the WSSD.
4. At the convergence, the farmers decided to form a regional farmers' forum.

PURPOSE of the JWV

- To draw on the development experiences of funding partners and the PELUM network to help the emerging farmer movement – ESAFF – to plan more strategically and obtain support needed.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

1. Funding partners are not only there to raise funds and give it to NGOs, they are involved in development thinking and activities which are worth learning from.
2. JWV creates opportunities for more innovative and effective ways of doing development.
3. Visioning, planning and working together generates synergy, trust and better understanding of each other, which is good for development.

E. PLANNED OUTPUTS

1. ESAFF, PELUM and funding partners understand and appreciate each other more accurately & deeply.
2. Build a basis for solid relationships between funding partners, ESAFF and PELUM.
3. Defined roles and responsibilities of the three different development actors.

A. HISTORY

1. PELUM started off in 1995 as a service provision organisation, building the capacity of its members and other NGOs to work more effectively with the people to produce more, sustainably.
2. In the 1997 BGM in Kenya, it asked the Board to start looking at ways to go into advocacy. In the 1999 BGM in Lusaka, the delegates developed an outline of activities and indicators for the advocacy function.

ctd... History

5. In early 2003 PELUM convened a meeting of the farmer leaders, where founding documents drafted and improved upon.
6. The same year farmer leaders decided in 2003 they would need PELUM to mentor them.
7. In 2004, PELUM and ESAFF collectively drafted MoU
8. Two key areas where ESAFF need support are fundraising and organizational development.
9. Meanwhile ESAFF has continued to grow at local, country and regional levels.

Rationale of the JWV

- ♦ NGOs and funding partners have developmental and organizational development experiences that the emerging farmer organizations can tap into and benefit from.

ctd.... Key assumptions

4. The workshop can also result in sharing of perspectives and dialoguing that is uncommon but good for meaningful development.
5. The workshop will help ESAFF to be understood and for it to understand more the development terrain, especially by the funding community.

ctd. Planned Outputs

5. ESAFF taps into the wisdom and experience of funding partners for both organizational development and fundraising.
6. Trust and confidence built between ESAFF, PELUM and funding partners and how they can relate to each other.
7. A way forward agreed on.

Presentation by ESAFF

The East and Southern Africa Farmers' Forum- ESAFF

ESAFF
Presentation at the Joint Visioning Workshop
Maseru, 05th May 2005!

ESAFF: Introduction

- ESAFF is East and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers' Forum
- Established in 2002 after the Small Farmers Convergence that was parallel to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in J'burg 2002
- Currently has membership in 8 countries: Kenya, Malawi, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ESAFF and Advocacy

- Justification for advocacy could be found in its constitution: purpose, vision and mission.
- The Purpose is to enable small farmers in east and southern Africa to speak as a united voice so that the issues, concerns and recommendations of farmers becomes an integral part of policies and practises at national, regional and international levels

ESAFF & Advocacy:

Vision of the Forum:

- Self-reliance, an independent, effective regional network that will empower National Forums to increase small scale farmers' visibility and preserve sustainable agriculture.

Ctd.. ESAFF & Advocacy

- Mission Statement of the Forum
- To create national, regional and international dynamic alliances and advocate for policy, practice and attitude change that reflects the need, aspiration, and development of small-scale farmers in east and southern Africa.

What is ESAFF Trying to achieve

1. To be an Effective Regional Network of farmers movement
 2. To Form Strategic alliances.
 3. Empowerment of National Fora
 4. Policy Advocacy and actions
- All these for "sustainable agriculture"

Objective 1. Vibrant Regional organisation

Overall Objective – To strengthen ESAFF so that it can effectively mobilise, engage and advocate for smallholder farmers in east and southern Africa

How are we achieving it?

1. Through mobilisation and recruitment of membership which now stands at 8 countries. Two countries are likely to join: Botswana and Malawi
2. Enhancement of regional secretariat and country chapters both conceptually and on Organisational Development
3. Maintain mutual partnership with PELUM RD and Country Desks as well as donor

Objective 2. To form strategic alliance

Overall Objective – to effectively influence policies at all levels through gaining sympathy and support both technical, moral and material.

How are we achieving strategic alliances?

- Work with traditional ally - PELUM Association
- Continue identify and forge alliances with gender organisations, the youth, researchers, trade unions, student union, Ministry of Agriculture and the Media
- Develop capacity & our image to link with regional institutions: SADC, COMESA, NEPAD the AU, FAO, IFA
- Link with like minded organisations like SEATINI, EcoNews, Oxfam etc. to influence global policies on Trade

Objective 3. To empower national fora



Overall goal- to cover at least 50% of countries through national membership and be able to articulate policies affecting small holder farmers at various level.

How are we working in empowering national fora?

- Through workshops mainly organised or co-organised by PELUM and other partners. i.e on trade, research and advocacy
- Through farmer days and networking days
- Information sharing from the RD and Countries
- Through campaigns organised by PELUM and other partners

Objective 4. Policy advocacy and actions



Overall Objective- to influence global, regional and national policies that impact small holder farmers: debt, trade, resources/budgets, and GMOs

How do we want to achieve these?

- Fighting for space and accreditation to regional and national and eventually global institutions
- unpacking and address declarations and commitment e.g. the MDGs, AU declaration on agriculture and rural development, the EPAs, WTO negotiations
- Monitoring country agriculture budgets and NEPAD/comprehensive Africa agriculture dev. Programme-CAADP
- Demand more support to small scale farmers/subsidies

Key Challenges

Some of the key challenges that ESAFF face are.

- Balancing the need for organisation development and addressing issues through advocacy at the same time
- Lower level of understanding and articulating issues at various level among leadership and members/farmer groups
- Financial constraints and lack of functional regional secretariat
- Timely information flow
- Capacity to learn and influence key institutions at country and regional level

Way forward

- Develop and adopt a 3 year strategic plan on the 4 objectives
- Fundraise for the activities
- Organise the BGM to socialise, adopt and operationalise the plan
- Establish a bimonthly newsletter for Information sifting and sharing
- Enhance the capacity of farmer readers and the regional secretariat
- Informing various institutions of our existence

Appendix II. List of participants

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The End