

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

ESAFF Triennial General Summit (TGS) 2014

"Consolidating gains for organisational development and agriculture policy engagements"

- Promoting agroecological practises
- Advocating for favourable policies



24th to 26th June 2014,
Ubungu Plaza,
Dar es salaam, Tanzania



Report of the Chairman to Delegates of the TGS 2014,

26th June 2014, Dar es salaam, Tanzania

I. Introduction



Fellow ESAFF farmers and delegates, the ESAFF secretariat and invited guests,

It is with a sense of gratitude, pride and satisfaction that I stand in front of you today. I am grateful to you all because you afforded me the opportunity to lead our organisation over the last three years. I am grateful to fellow Regional Board members who co-led our Forum with me; and to the secretariat for effectively implementing our decisions and plans. I am proud because we have come a long way over the last three years. We were able to implement most of what you tasked us to do. I am satisfied by the legacy that we have left for the incoming Board. It is a legacy of hard work, dedication, humility and determination.

Our achievements were a collective effort at regional and country levels; by members and our staff. They were also made possible by our development and funding partners. For the first time ever, our Forum was able to raise about EUR 2 million for the implementation of our Strategic Plan.

Dear Delegates, members of the secretariat and Invited guests

On behalf of the ESAFF Regional Board, I am particularly pleased to be able to report that the year 2011 – 2014 provided another milestone for our organisation in the areas of organisational development, agro ecology and agriculture policy advocacy. This has been through across the eastern and southern Africa region from grassroots level to continental and global level. The performance is especially pleasing given that ESAFF is a young organisation that started its operations in January 2007 initiated by smallholder farmers with support from PELUM and other well-wishers, owned by smallholder farmers and led by smallholder farmers. ESAFF was officially registered in Tanzania on 27th August 2007.

THE year 2011 - 2014 provided a number of opportunities for small scale farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa to work for a common objective. This is “to enable ourselves (small scale farmers) to speak as one 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.”

July 2011 marked the beginning of the Second Strategic Plan in the life of our Organisation, which guided ESAFF's activities up to now, June 2014. The Plan that was made by us in the TGS 2011 in Morogoro, Tanzania, identified four Key Result Areas (KRAs) in which the Organisation was to work to deliver and, therefore, accomplish its mission.

These are (i): Food Security and Sovereignty. (ii): Trade and Markets (iii): Cross-cutting Issues: Gender, Youth and HIV/AIDS; and (iv): Institutional and Organizational Strengthening of ESAFF and its Members.

During the period we witnessed intensified coalition-building with like-minded organizations and engagements with Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Smallholder farmers were able to participate in the crafting of the SADC Regional Agriculture Policy (SADC-RAP) thanks to Southern Africa Trust and the SADC Secretariat.

To implement our Strategic Plan, we received a lot of support and encouragement from our own fellow smallholder farmers, likeminded organisations and funders in which to all of you and them, we say thank you.

Dear Delegates

We got financial and technical support from many partners including Oxfam Novib (ON) of The Netherlands; Bread for the World (BftW) of Germany; the Southern Africa Trust (SAT) based in South Africa, and Trust-Africa from Dakar, Senegal. Other supporters included but not limited to: Africa Centre for Biosafety (ACB) of South Africa; the Tanzania Bio-safety Alliance (TABIO); the Africa Biosafety Network (ABN), the Alliance for Food Security and Sovereignty (AFSA), East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSOF); SADC CNGOs; PELUM Association; Peoples Coalition on Food Security (PCFS); Peoples Dialogue (TCOE); the World Mountain People Association (WMPA), and GRET of France.

Dear Delegates

During the reporting period, ESAFF has managed to accomplish the following:

2.1 accomplishment on General Investments

ESAFF had managed to support young members to purchase (3) desktop computers for Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe as well as for staff at its Secretariat in Morogoro. Other equipment were also purchased for the regional office like air conditioner and spider kits for interpretation from English and Ki-Swahili language to French and vice versa during meetings. Just after the TGS 2011, we also managed to purchase an office car **TOYOTA REGIUS HIACE** model 1999, with a capacity to carry eight (8) passengers. On general investment we could not purchase land as was promised, but am sure efforts will be intensified by the coming 3rd Chairman of the ESAFF board to ensure that we purchase a plot of land and plan to put a permanent office for ESAFF.

2.2 Recurrent Cost both technical (program) and administrative

ESAFF managed to retain and recruit staff. By the beginning of the current financial year 2013, we had full staffing that included ESAFF Coordinator (Tanzania) – Male, Administrative Officer (Tanzania) – Female, Networking, Communication and ICT Officer (Tanzania) – Male, Campaigning Advocacy and

Lobbying Officer (Zimbabwe) – Male, Finance and Fundraising officer (Tanzania) – Male, Assistant accountant (Tanzania) – Female.

Challenges under staffing are two-fold. One: to ensure **good gender balance** and **regional diversity**; and two: to retain and add more staff as proposed at the May 2013 AGM that we recruit staff for Capacity Building & OD, as well as for Monitoring and Evaluation.

Another challenge and opportunity is that staff contracts will cease on 30th June 2014 and new recruitment and new contract will be issued. I recommend the new leadership to be very careful with recruitment and observe careful the background of candidates, education level and ensure good gender composition and regional diversity.

I also recommend to tap on outgoing board members and retain some as advisers, or as distinguished fellows or even employed as staff as we have experience

Dear Delegates, secretariat and Invited guests

3. Accomplishment in programme-related activities

3.1 KEY RESULTS AREA 1: FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

The overall aim of this Key Result Area was to support small scale farmers (SSF) to contribute more meaningfully to food security and sovereignty through improved access to the requisite resources in the agriculture sector and rural development.

The planned activity under Food Security and Sovereignty included building the capacity of selected small scale farmers on agro-ecology farming practices. Specifically, the activity was to conduct Training of Trainers for selected small-scale farmers from National Chapters in (a) Community Seed Banks Management (b) Organic Farming and, (c) Conservation Farming and Sustainable Livestock Management.

Most workshops were done at regional level and members level and now ESAFF is preparing a seed bank establishment manual that will help farmers to start our own seed banks to counter the takeover of our local seed by multinational companies.

We recommend that in the next strategy ESAFF should come with projects to support farmers to produce and distribute own seeds and support organic farming. This will enhance wealth creation among small holder farmers, bring about empirical evidence and counter the argument that local seeds are the things of the past. We need also to document our indigenous knowledge that can help on climate change and continue working with meteorological agency as we have started in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho and Zambia.

A robust advocacy plan of action on seed policy at national and regional level cannot be ignored especially as EAC is now moving with validation workshop on plant breeder's rights. I recommend all ESAFF members in EAC to become members of the East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSOFF). In SADC I argue the new leadership to push for the SADC farmers rights protocol as the secretariat of SADC has hinted they will support the move by farmers to ensure that the protocol is in place. We may use the SADC heads of state summit in Zimbabwe in August 2014 to launch our manifesto to that end.

On the Kilimo Budget Campaign formerly known as Agriculture Budgeting Campaign we have done a lot especially in East Africa and at the AU level. At continental level we will continue to work with CAADP NSA and at subregional level we will be working with action aid, CSO Bag in Uganda and other national partners like Kenya Institute of Economic Affairs, (KIEA), ANSAF as well as our member countries. I recommend that we continue following up the agriculture budgets starting at our villages and districts level so that we know how much is allocated and for what and we challenge local authority first before coming to national level.

ESAFF is preparing PETS Manual and Advocacy Strategy Documents that will be useful for members. Lets ensure that they are translated in our working languages like Kiswahili, French and even Portuguese.

I am also pleased to report that we have begun working with progressive agricultural research organisations. Our major interest, as you know, is to make agricultural research work address our interests and needs as small scale farmers. The new Board will need to invest even more time and effort to ensure that we participate in Agricultural Research for Development which produces innovations that serve us. The new Board may also want to begin recognising, nurturing and celebrating innovations made by small scale and family farmers.

3.2 KEY RESULT AREAS ON TRADE AND MARKET

This area was not addressed adequately in the last three years. However, some members like MVIWATA and NASFAM have done a lot. We have to go any learn from them. It is my desire that ESAFF farmers start to use opportunities and funding available to start trading interregional. Let us use our network to share information about available market in neighboring countries. Lets stop being complainers and observers, lets trade and create wealth.

Under the access to market areas, we worked with in a joint project with PELUM, funded by Ford Foundation-Nairobi through PELUM-Uganda. It was to empower smallholder farmers in accessing reliable markets, as well as secure agricultural land in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya.

Under the involve project in which ESAFF works with MVIWATA and GRET, we conducted an impact study of MVIWATA bulk markets experience on food security and food flows at the local and national levels in Tanzania with recommendations for scaling up the study in the rest of the EAC region. Studies also were done in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. A big meeting is planned next month to disseminate information and lobby for bulky Markets.

3.3 Key Result Area 3: mainstreaming gender, youth and HIV

In all its policies and programmes ESAFF has identified and engaged in a number of cross-cutting issues for advocacy at the national and regional levels regarding Gender, Youths and HIV/AIDS. Youths, Gender and HIV/AIDS are at the centre of ESAFF. In 2013, three sessions were organised for members to deliberate on these three key issues.

Youth

Various surveys have shown that ESAFF must introduce and mainstream a Youth Agenda to ensure sustainability and ideology entrenchment through succession and, therefore, continuity. It was clear that new youth leaders could bring new vigour, and enhance technology utilisation within the ESAFF network. I also noted that, in countries like in Kenya, Uganda and RSA, had no youths were in leadership positions! Due to this fact some members agreed to incorporate youth issues in the Constitution and related activities in the year 2013/14.

The Youth Congress 2014 was successfully organized in Uganda in which more than 20 youth took part. This followed a regional study in East and Southern Africa (ESA) member countries based on country case studies on current and emerging youth policies and initiatives. This was with a special focus on links to agriculture, ESAFF work and leadership positions.

I call for ESAFF members to continue recruiting youth members, both men and women and accord them space in our leadership. This might call for constitutional amendments.

Gender

It was noted during the Gender Monitoring session that few national ESAFF members had gender policies, notably Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. It was then decided that ESAFF and its members work to ensure gender-balanced leaderships at all levels. Members also wanted assurance within the Constitution that both men and women are guaranteed gender-balanced leadership positions. It was further decided that, during the run-off to the Triennial General Summit (TGS) in 2014, member countries and ESAFF should organize a Constitutional Assembly to assess awareness and appreciation of gender and youth issues.

HIV/AIDS

During a session on AIDS organized in May 2013, members agreed to put in place a more practical guideline on HIV/AIDS for ESAFF in general. The objectives of the guidelines would be: (i) To

minimize the possibility of HIV infection during activities organized, co-organized or attended by ESAFF farmers, farmer-leaders or staff. (ii) To build a supportive environment for individuals and families infected and affected by the pandemic (iii) To manage and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on the lives of individuals and families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS within ESAFF; and, (iv) To eliminate stigma and discrimination in and during ESAFF activities on the basis of real or perceived HIV/AIDS status.

3.4 Key Result Area 4: Strengthening ESAFF and members institutional capacity and Funding

In the course of the report period, it was noted that some ESAFF members have institutional incapacities in such areas as governance, management, finance, lobbying & advocacy, well as in communications. Under this particular Key Result Area, activities done during the reporting period included strengthening ESAFF Regional Secretariats to make them professional, efficient and effective, as well as ensuring a conducive working environment for them. The specific activity under the sub-activity was to solicit funding for the implementation of SP (fundraising activities) as follows;

- (i) Funding was secured from the EU during the reporting period to support capacity building activities for ESAFF members on OD, market and advocacy. The project, which focuses on eastern Africa ESAFF members for 42 months since December 2012, was worth 1.8 million euros. ESAFF share is EUR 977,571, MVIWATA's share is EUR 303,794 and GRET is EUR 166,155
- (ii) Another funding of Rand 900,000 was secured from Southern Africa Trust to finance organizational capacity assessment and development, as well as membership mobilisation and support of fundraising efforts.
- (iii) Tradition funder Oxfam Novib from the Netherland provided EUR 310,000 for the period of 2011 to 2014
- (iv) Likewise Bread for the World of Germany provided EUR 150,000
- (v) Trust Africa supported us with USD 36,000
- (vi) Euro 40,000 secured through the INSARD project in which ESAFF has a saving 9,000 Euro to support bringing together researchers and farmers in Tanzania.

I would like to report to you that, in the last 2 years, we have managed to get unqualified audited report. This is an indication that we have sound and robust financial management

• Enhancing ESAFF region governance

I promised you that I would highlight the key achievements. Let me stop here as far as achievements are concerned. I want to conclude by underlining the importance of supporting the development of member organisations that are lagging behind. We cannot effectively achieve our goals if some members get left behind. I also want to urge the new leadership to give more attention to creating more added value for grassroots members. This means striking a healthy balance between policy influence, capacity development and supporting practical work on the ground.

The details of what could be the focus of our next Strategic Plan are contained in the Draft Strategic Planning Framework that was developed through a consultative process. I will present it separately.

During the reporting period ESAFF managed to hold a number of executive committee meetings and Board meetings as well as two AGMs in Nairobi and Dar es salaam which among other things oversaw the running of the organisation, monitoring planned activities and selection of office bearer (the Treasurer, Richard Rabetrano of CPM, Madagascar).

Among the major policy decision that came from the statutory meetings which acts as monitoring of ESAFF activities are as follows:

- **Proposed a Change of Auditors** after the 3 year term expiration of the current Trion and Co Certified Public Accountants to Ernst & Young
- **Change of ESAFF Accounts signatory** (office bearers and staff)
- **Leadership replacement** (Treasurer) Mr. Richard Rabetrano of CPM, Madagascar following the end of term of Goodwell Chiteya in his organisation (NASFAM) n Malawi
- **Enact and amend organisational policies:** ESAFF Vehicle, Asset Disposal policy and procedures, travel policies, personell policies, and financial policies.

I am glad to note that most ESAFF members are beginning to change their ways of leadership, financial management and procedures as well as governance structures. Countries like Lesotho, South Africa and Zambia who are now preparing new policies, bank accounts and recruiting qualified personnel. Some are beginning to amend their constitutions to cater for more women and youths to participate in their structures and mobilise new members, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia doing the same.

Enhanced Linkages, and partnerships within ESAFF network

Under this Key Results Area, ESAFF planned to work with like-minded organizations in the region and beyond. ESAFF continued to update its website, an enormous task in the absence of a Communications Officer. Some like-minded organizations that ESAFF extensively worked with included the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSO), the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty—The Philippines (PCFS), the World Mountain People Association—France (WMPA), the African Centre for Biosafety (ACB) of South Africa, PELUM Association, TCOE, and the Southern Africa Trust Fund.

ESAFF member countries continued to participate in various like-minded organizations. Public relations with other like-minded organizations are improving, and ESAFF is now working with regional like-minded organizations such as SADC-CNGO, EACSO, SATUCC and SAPSN.

ZIMSOFF is the current Secretariat of La-Via Campesina as from May 2013. Lesotho is forming alliances with like-minded organizations such as CARE RSA-Lesotho, now considered our development partner, Connector and Critical Friend.

We have added new members in the period of 2011 to 2014 from 12 to 15. These are Mozambique, Swaziland, DRC) Also, efforts are being made to have membership from Botswana.

4. In conclusion

ESAFF has achieved a lot through this strategic plan. We have proposed that we have an extension of this strategy to June 2016 to ensure that are in line with the end of the EU funding. In the same time, BftW has pledged to support southern Africa members and Oxfam Novib has agreed to support ESAFF to the year 2015. Members will have to decide of our focus and direction in those two years. I will present the draft strategic plan shortly for adoption

Allow me, fellow farmer leaders, the secretariat and invited guests to thanks each and every one of you for your contributions to the successes of the last three years. And to the incoming Board, we, the outgoing Board, wish you even more success.

Thank you.