



FARMERS STATEMEN TO EALA- ATNR, **Nairobi-Kenya, 24/04/2012**

Proposal calling for the EALA's Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resource (ATNR) to partner with small-scale farmers in the EAC to increase agricultural productivity through the CAADP process

Honorable Safina KWEKWE (KENYA) – the Chairperson of the Committee of Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources;

Hon. Manasse NZOBONIMPA (BURUNDI) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Leonce NDARUBAGIYE (BURUNDI) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Abdul Karim HARELIMANA (RWANDA) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Jacqueline MUHONGAYIRE (RWANDA) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Patricia HAJABAKIGA (RWANDA): - Member of the Committee

Hon. Dr. George NANGALE (TANZANIA); - Member of the Committee

Hon. Janet MMARI (TANZANIA) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Kate KAMBA (TANZANIA) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Clarkson O. KARAN (KENYA) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Augustine LOTODO (KENYA) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Dan KIDEGA (UGANDA) - Member of the Committee

Hon. Mike SEBALU (UGANDA) - Member of the Committee and

Hon. Bernard MULENGANI (UGANDA):- Member of the Committee

Hon. Chairperson, allow us to briefly begin with an **introduction of ESAFF**

ESAFF is a farmer initiated, farmer owned and farmer led organization from the grassroots where farmer groups form district forums and district forums form National forums. National forums become members of ESAFF who form a regional forum.

Eastern and Southern Africa Farmers Forum (ESAFF) is a regional forum of Small-scale farmers, pastoralists and traditional fisher folks. It is a forum of smallholder farmers that advocate for policy practice and attitude change that reflects the needs, aspirations and development of small-scale farmers in eastern and southern Africa. The Forum is meant to enhance our leverage in improving our livelihoods in a constrained environment. ESAFF was born in 2002 in Johannesburg South Africa at the Small Farmers Convergence, held alongside the World Summit on Sustainable Development-WSSD. ESAFF is registered in Tanzania and has its secretariat in Morogoro, in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Currently, ESAFF has 13 members in the following countries; Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, South Africa, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Seychelles. ESAFF also is an active member of the East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSOFF) since 2009, which is a civil society network formed to enhance linkages between civil society and the East Africa Community.

ESAFF and its membership is committed to agro ecology farming which is a set of agricultural practices, that seeks ways to enhance agricultural systems

by mimicking natural processes, thus creating beneficial biological interactions and synergies among the components of the agro ecosystem. It provides the most favorable soil conditions for plant growth, particularly by managing organic matter and by raising soil biotic activity.

Honourable chairperson and honourable members of the Committee

ESAFF is very thankful and acknowledges the existing cordial relationship with EAC Secretariat and EALA especially following this interaction session. This is a true spirit as stipulated in the EAC treaty as one of the *operational principle of people centered and market driven cooperation* that shall govern the practical achievement of the objectives of the Community. It is also a testimony that EALA is the true voice of the people regardless of the social status and creed, on matters of integration dispensation and social – economical and cultural development

We small-scale farmers recognize deliberate attempts by the EAC to improve the lives of the majority rural small-scale farmers, (of whom many are women, and the youth) the main food producers for the local markets.

We Small scale farmers further recognizes and commend the EAC Food Security Action Plan 2010-2015 while being cautious that serious new legal frameworks required (from the EALA) along with strong coordination by the EAC Secretariat to ensure effective implementation of the EAC Food security Action Plan. Political will from our government coupled with meaningful participation of small-scale farmer in the making of the EAC CAADP COMPACT are the prerequisites towards making hunger history in our region and ensure attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, Goal number one on halving poverty and eliminating hunger.

Honourable chairperson and honourable members of the Committee

We are conscious that if those measures, which include the legislative, and oversight role of the EALA; Coordination of the EAC Secretariat; strong political will of our governments and true participation of various stakeholders including small scale farmers in the bottom up approach are not realized soon, the adverse impact on the society and the economy will be tremendous.

We recognize that smallholder farmers have low capacities to cope with the transformation processes, which if not well managed, will jeopardize our existence. With the free market economy embedded in the program that lacks government support, dilapidated infrastructure in rural areas, lack of appropriate technology, poor policy implementations, lack of access to reliable fair and secured agricultural markets (with frequent ban on the sales of our cereal harvests) uncoordinated organization to implement policies in EAC member states, inaccessible farmer friendly financial services and capital are hard realities of the small-scale farmers today.

We are aware that currently, policies and laws geared towards making this possible have not been very effective as poverty and hunger is still at the doorsteps of many households.

We are also further aware that the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) since 2003 has not been able to comprehensively change the lives of smallholder farmers in EAC.

It is in view that Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), has generated position papers one on the *state of food and agriculture policy in eastern and southern Africa* and another one on "*The Role of Small Scale Farmers, in Effective and Efficient Implementation of CAADP within the EAC*" (which we are presenting today) in which we strongly see that involvement and meaningful participation of Small Scale farmers in policy processes is paramount to facilitate the realization of the CAADP goals.

Honourable chairperson and honourable members of the Committee

ESAFF believes that the EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources can play a leading role in ensuring that recommendations and aspirations of the small-scale farmers are not ignored in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and other agri-based policies and laws.

We are convinced that the EAC Secretariat and the EALA should review and introduce new legal and policy framework as well as increase its oversight role on national governments and the EAC secretariat to ensure that the CAADP protocol and the EAC Food Security action Plan are adhered to, and realized before the beginning of the year 2015.

We propose to the EAC Secretariat through you that the Regional CAADP COMPACT that is being developed currently to adopt a bottom-up approach that builds on the existing national compacts that addresses regional challenges shared by EAC partner states, with a view to integrate existing and emerging regional initiatives. Towards that end, we propose the secretariat to seek opinion from all stakeholders including small-scale farmers in all member states. ESAFF is committed to participate in mobilization of small-scale farmers, energize the public and stimulate regional wide public debate to that end.

We also call for the formation of an East African Regional Agricultural Advisory Council (NAAC) within the EAC secretariat in order to speedup harmonization of agriculture development policies in the EAC region.

We also further propose that institutionalized relationship be established between the EALA Committee on Agriculture (ATNR) and regional farmer

organisations (including small-scale farmers' regional forum) to enable regular exchange of information as well as regular input and feedbacks on various issues pertaining to agriculture, the rights to food and security/sovereignty as well as rural development in the region. ESAFF propose an annual platform between small-scale farmer leaders and the ATNR Committee of EALA.

Honourable chairperson and honourable members of the Committee

We again would like to end by thanking the chairperson of the committee Honorable Safina KWEKWE (KENYA) for accepting our request, we thank other members of the committee for sparing their precious busy schedule to listen to us; Hon. Dr. George Nangale (Tanzania); Hon. Manasse NZOBONIMPA (BURUNDI) ; Hon. Leonce NDARUBAGIYE (BURUNDI) : Hon. Abdul Karim HARELIMANA (RWANDA): Hon. Jacqueline MUHONGAYIRE (RWANDA): Hon. Patricia HAJABAKIGA (RWANDA): Hon. Janet MMARI (TANZANIA): Hon. Kate KAMBA (TANZANIA): Hon. Clarkson O. KARAN (KENYA): Hon. Augustine LOTODO (KENYA): Hon. Dan KIDEGA (UGANDA); Hon. Mike SEBALU (UGANDA) ; Hon. Bernard MULENGANI (UGANDA):

We also thank the Committee Clerk – Beatrice NDAYIZEYE (Mrs): also Mrs. Perpertue MIGANDA, Mr. Bobi ODIKO; Mr. Moses MARWA and Mr. Tim WESONGA for their support and advice that led to this session.

Kindly convey our proposal and greetings to the Speaker of The East Africa Legislative Assembly **Rt. Hon. Abdi Rahin Abdi** for leading the parliament

effectively as well as our greetings and our proposal to the General Secretary of the EAC, Hon. Dr. Richard SEZIBERA for his distinguishable leadership of the EAC Secretariat.

Signed by ESAFF small-scale farmer leaders from Eastern and Southern Africa;

	Name	Organisation	Nationality	Signature
1	Moses Shaha	ESAFF Kenya	Kenya	
2	Hakim Baliraine	ESAFF Uganda	Uganda	
3	Elizabeth Mpofo	ESAFF Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	
4	Stella Henry	ESAFF Secretariat	Tanzania	
5	Joe Mzinga	ESAFF Secretariat	Tanzania	
6	Simbambuti Habib.	MVIWATA – Tanzania	Tanzania	
7	Veronica Sophu	MVIWATA – Tanzania	Tanzania	
8	Ruby Quantson	Ghana (partner)	Ghana	
9	Sakina Mucavele	ROSA Mozambique	Mozambique	
0	Jacson M'baya	NASFAM – Malawi	Malawi	
1	Elias Kawea	MVIWATA -Tanzania	Tanzania	
2	Rachel Muboyoke	APPPE- Rwanda	Rwanda	
3	Odette Nzeyimana	ESAFF Burundi	Burundi	
4	Olivia Adhiambo	RECONCILE	Kenya	
5	Aaron Tlaka	ESAFF RSA	South Africa	
6	Mamalefetsane Phakoe	ESAFF Lesotho	Lesotho	
7	Mubanga Kasakula	ESAFF Zambia	Zambia	
8	Richard Rabetrano	CPM Madagascar	Madagascar	
9	Mary Kahwai	ESAFF Kenya	Kenya	
0	Samuel Ole Parmuat	ESAFF Kenya	Kenya	
1	Alfayo Kuruna	ESAFF Kenya	Kenya	
2	George Asiiimwe	ESAFF Uganda	Uganda	
3	Lukwiya Vicky	ESAFF Uganda	Uganda	
4	Twalaba Erisa	ESAFF Uganda	Uganda	
5	Mario Mungu Acel	ESAFF Uganda	Uganda	
6	Fredy Njhu	ESAFF Kenya	Kenya	
7	Kisembo John Mzee	HOCADEO – Uganda	Uganda	
8	Maurice Odhiambo	Jamaa - Kenya	Kenya	
9	Edda M. Lujesi	ESAFF - Kenya	Kenya	

24th April, 2012, Nairobi, The Republic of Kenya