



EASTERN AFRICA FARMERS FEDERATION

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

WE WORK IN



OUR VISION:

“A prosperous and cohesive farming community in Eastern Africa”

OUR MISSION:

“To represent, lobby and advocate for Eastern Africa farmers interests and build their capacities”

Organizational Motto

A strong federation for progressive farming

The goal of EAFF is to contribute towards improved rural livelihoods and alleviate poverty in the Eastern Africa Region!!!

ABOUT EAFF

The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation is a non-profit, non-political and a democratic farmers' organization of farmers of Eastern Africa region. The formation of the organization was out of the conviction and foresighted by the founding leaders to address issues of interest to farmers at all levels i.e. National, regional, continental and at global level.

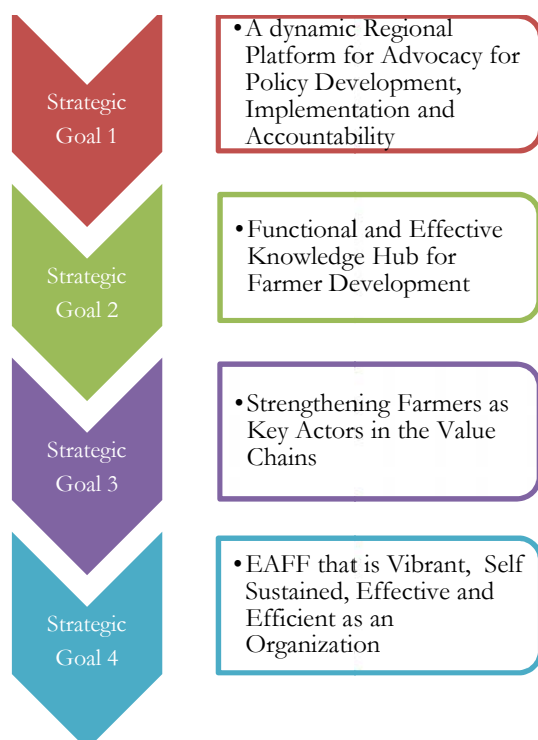
The spirit to form the regional farmers body has been on the drawing board since 1994. A number of meetings and conferences have been held to start such organizations. The first meeting was held in Tunisia in 1994 where all African Farmers' Organizations recommended through Tunis declaration, the formation of block farmers organizations in recognition of efforts by governments to form political and economical blocks like SADC, EAC and ECOWAS.

In East Africa, talks have been going on since 1995. Uganda National Farmers Association (UNFA) and Kenya National Farmers Union (KNFU) had been at the forefront to start this Regional Farmers' Organizations. At a meeting held at the Silver Spring Hotel Nairobi, Kenya on 22nd to 23rd February 2001 and attended by Apex farmer's organizations from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the East Africa Farmers Union was formed. The name was later changed to Eastern Africa Farmers Federation to capture more countries of Eastern Africa.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (2012 - 2020)

Through an in-depth, highly participatory process, four strategic goals were identified from the challenges and opportunities that EAFF faces, the vision of the impact which the organization would like to realize, and the functions required to be performed at different levels in order to produce the desired impact.

The four strategic goals were identified as follows:



Strategic Goal 4 is central to all the other three goals. The success of these other strategic objectives depends on the extent to which EAFF as an organization is effective. Figure 3 shows the interlinkages of the goals.



The figure above demonstrates the Relationships among the Strategic Objectives

Together, the above strategic goals comprise EAFF's response to the challenges and demands of stakeholders and as informed by the current and perceived opportunities. Specifically, the goals will assist EAFF in moving towards the direction of commercialization of the agriculture sector and service delivery to members as was often stated and emphasized during the planning workshop. The need for effective harnessing of the energies and potential of Youth and Women in farming in the sub region was widely discussed and agreed upon as an important issue requiring attention.

NB: Our Strategic plan is ending this year, we are in the process of contracting, consulting in order to better our services to our members – our strategic focus next year will mainly revolve around economic services to our members (farmers across the region)!!

Our services

- ✦ Provision of capacity to the member platforms through training and provide linkages with the development partners.
- ✦ Representation in the meetings or consultations at regional, continental and international levels on issues of interest to farmers of the region.
- ✦ Lobby and advocate for farmers participation in policy formulation and participation in the implementation of rural development protocol whose aims are to eradicate poverty and ensure food security i.e. NEPAD- CAADP, FAO Special Programmes for Food Security (SPFS), IGAD projects.
- ✦ Commodity marketing within the region and international.
- ✦ Participation in discussion on trade rules and regulations that might lead to agreements in agriculture trade e.g. WTO, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA under EU).
- ✦ Communication and information management.

The federation also conducts surveys to provide critical information to the member platforms to assist them lobby and provide member services.

Surveys on: Agricultural production, extension, marketing, training needs and information dissemination.



IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE TO THE REGION

The Eastern Africa region is within the Sub-Saharan Africa where the seriousness of hunger and poverty is not only real but also critical. It is in this region where the majority of the poor and the hungry live.

The majority of the people in the region (80%) depend on agriculture, either crop or livestock production. Unfortunately over the last ten years support to Agriculture either domestically or through development co-operations has been declining sharply. It then implies that if this trend is not addressed, it will not be possible to realize economic growth, reduce poverty and enhance food security in the region.

Agriculture remains the primary activity of the people of the sub-region. The small-scale agriculture is the most important. Apparently the small-scale farming is more developed and specialized than in most regions of Africa. It produces most food for domestic consumption and export. The intensive small scale farming is confined in small (1/3) the high potential areas where 70% of the population is concentrated. The rest of the 2/3 of the regional area is semi to arid, faced with constant food insecurity and dependency on food aid.

The Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF) was formed in 2001. During this period of existence, it has had the opportunity to understand or even have a better insight on National Farmers Organizations in the region. Since then, it has been undergoing changes to enable it become a well integrated farmers' movement for the region and be able to link up with National Farmers Organization that would represent the aspiration's of the rural people.

We now have a better understanding of agriculture in our region and the role our national organizations are supposed to play to be able to assist the family farmers at the grass root level. We are also aware that the majority of our people 80% live in the rural areas and 90% of them are small-scale holders. This then means that food security in the region can only be ensured if the family small-scale farmers are facilitated to produce. The agriculture performance in the region has been on decline for the last 15 years due to poor domestic and international policies of rural development and support to agriculture. This has impoverished and even created food insecurity amongst the sub-regional rural communities who are mainly small-scale family farmers.



For agriculture to be of benefit to the farmers of the region, its development must be in line with their thinking and beliefs. There is therefore need to be clear about:-

- ✓ Our vision of agriculture in our sub-region to 2015.
- ✓ Changes that have taken place in the last 15 years, in the institutions, governments, that have drastically changed the different ways of doing business and our participation
- ✓ What we see as our challenges and priorities in this new order
- ✓ What we perceive as our new role and responsibility.
- ✓ What new policies and institutional framework, we need to achieve our goals.
- ✓ What we consider to be the necessary and immediate intervention to be able to prepare a base for addressing these broader challenges, i.e. roles and responsibilities.

Farmer Vision to Agriculture



Agriculture although faced with numerous challenges, is still the primary activity of the 80% of the people of the region. Agriculture in this region which is basically small scale has got its uniqueness which can be viewed either as strength or weakness. The EAFF would like to see agriculture that;

- Guarantees food and revenue to the family farmers in a sustainable manner.
- One that creates surplus for external markets
- One that creates and adds value to products for industrial purpose.
- One that generates solidarity and social security in our communities
- And one that ensures equitable access to productive resources and sustainable management of natural resources.

For the agriculture of the region to attain this identify and benefit, policies and other supportive mechanism must be negotiated with the farmer's organization at national and regional and with governments and development partners to ensure that the policies are coherent and address the critical problem of the family farmer. For sustainability, implementation must be participatory.

The Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation is a regional organization that attracts membership from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Congo DRC. The membership to the federation are supposed to be Country Apex peasants and producers organizations that are either lobby Farmers Unions, commodity associations; Producer Cooperatives, women and youth organizations. Currently we have membership from organizations listed below:-

Our members

- Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) of Uganda
- Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP) Kenya.
- Mtandao wa Vikundi Vya Wakulima wa Tanzania (MMIWATA) Tanzania.
- Syndicat des agri-eleveurs du Rwanda (IMBARAGE) of Rwanda
- Syndicat Rwandais des Agriculteurs et Eleveurs (INGABO) from Rwanda.
- Confédération des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement (CAPAD) from Burundi.
- Djibouti Breeders Association from Djibouti
- Oromia Coffee Farmers Co-operative Unions from Ethiopia
- National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW) of Eritrea
- Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) Tanzania
- Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) Uganda
- Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC) Tanzania
- Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK) Kenya
- National Union of Coffee Agribusiness and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE) Uganda
- Cooperative Centrale Du Nord – Kivu (COOCENKI) of DRC.
- Syndicat De Defense Des Interests Paysans (SYDIP) of DRC.
- La Fédération des Organisations des Producteurs Agricoles du Congo (FOPAC) - DRC

We are in the process of profiling farmer organizations in Sudan and Somalia has shown keen interest in joining our family!

P.O.BOX 13747 NAIROBI; KENYA TEL/FAX +254 20 4451691; info@eaffu.org;www.eaffu.org



Our partners and affiliates

	<p>The federation has been able to establish strategic linkages and alliances with a number of institutions whose programs and activities are of interest to the farmers of the region in the fight against hunger and poverty e.g.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NEPAD Secretariat • ASARECA - The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa • AGRA – Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa • FAO – Food and Agricultural Organization • IFPRI – International Food Policy Research Institute. • ACP-EU – European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) • CTA – Technical Centre for agriculture and Rural Cooperation • CSA – Collectif Strategies Alimentaires • IFAD – International Fund on Agricultural Development • AGRITERRA and AGRICORD • IGAD – Intergovernmental Authority on Development • EAC – East African Community • BELGIUM GOVT • TERRA NOUVA • SCC – Swedish Co-operative Centre • GTZ – German Technical Co-operation • AU secretariat • COMESA secretariat • EC, EESC • AFDB, WB • USAID; COMPETE, MLI • INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION, FANRPAN, • Oxfam, Acord, More and Better and Action Aid • Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO)

The federation will continue establishing alliances and linkages at all levels with the objectives of ensuring that farmers of the region have reasonable returns from the products they produce under very difficult production environment.

THE PAN AFRICAN FARMERS ORGANIZATION (PAFO)

This is the farmers platform at the continental level formed by the sub-regional farmers organizations in Africa i.e. EAFF, ROPPA, SACAU, UMAGRI and PROPAC. It was officially launched through a declaration on 23rd May, 2008, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and we held our General Assembly on 27th October 2010 in Lilongwe, Malawi in an event witnessed by the Chair of AU, HE Professor Gwasi Bingu wa Mutharika, President of Malawi. Nairobi was identified to serve as the head quarters. The need to create and have a voice at the continental level was on the basis of farmers' being in a position to have unity of purpose in voicing their issues and engaging RECs, governments and development partners using a continental platform. EAFF fully supports this endeavor being a principle endorser and will work with other sub-regional farmer organizations in strengthening this forum.

EAFF RELATIONSHIP AND ACTIVITIES WITH REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (COMESA, AU AND EAC)

COMESA

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a very important regional economic community for EAFF. COMESA is already a lead organization in a number of regional initiatives i.e. NEPAD/CAADP. This is mainly because of its large catchments area and capacity. EAFF therefore considers COMESA a very strategic partner on matters of development.

EAFF has already partnered with COMESA in a number of ways i.e.

- The NEPAD/CAADP – Regional Implementation Planning meeting (RIP) in Tanzania – Dar-es Salaam on January 25th - 28th 2005. During this meeting, EAFF joined COMESA in developing the short and long term CAADP programmes for the region. At the meeting, EAFF presented its already developed proposal and a statement of implementation of CAADP on behalf of the farmers of Eastern Africa.
- EAFF also joined COMESA for the launching of the CAADP implementation in Accra Ghana on 5th – 6th May 2005. During this meeting EAFF grouped with COMESA to fine tune the short and long term programme proposal on CAADP for final approval.
- The Chairman of EAFF – Mr. Philip Kiriro was also appointed by COMESA as a delegate to represent farmers as a COMESA delegate during the FISH FOR ALL SUMMIT in Abjua, Nigeria on August 22nd – 25th 2005.
- EAFF also joint COMESA on regional position discussions on Soil Fertility and Fertilizers during the Africa Fertilizer Summit in Abuja, Nigeria on 9th to 14th June 2006.
- The Chief Executive seats in the steering committee for the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System – Eastern and Central Africa node (ReSAKSS-ECA) of COMESA as from Nov 2007
- COMESA was instrumental in providing information on EPAs during the development of the mid-term reviews of EPAs conducted in 2007 by EAFF.
- EAFF participated in the launch of ACTESA during the COMESA launch meeting in September 2008.
- EAFF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with COMESA 5th May 2008 that will ensure long term and sustainable partnership for the sake of the family farmers and rural communities in our region.

- EAFF president is current is ACTESA chairman (2010-2011)

(A) EAC

Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) recognizes the need to partner with the East African Community (EAC). This is mainly because the countries where EAFF has member platform organizations i.e. Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania are members of EAC. The East African States are working through a process of Regional integration that would possibly lead to a political Federation.

EAFF has been on a working relationship with EAC community. We have held several meetings with EAC Secretary General, development partners supporting EAC i.e GTZ and other stakeholders e.g. EABC that have program with the community and a formalized working relationship.

Within EAFF 2007 workplan , we already had a joint activity with EAC on the sensitization of farmers on EAC issues and especially the Customs Union and the Agriculture and Rural Development programs being developed. This programme activity covered Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. The program assisted EAFF officially finalize a working arrangement with the community and develop a joint 2008 partnership workplan. This culminated in the signing of an MOU in August 2008 with EAC on defined working areas.

In 2010, EAFF was awarded an Observer status by EAC and shall hence be seating in various committees discussing EAC Agriculture, already we have contributed to the EAC Climate change debate through our position on the issue, we have also contributed to the agenda of EALA for 2010-2011 on issues of climate change and land grab.

C) AU- NEPAD

EAFF has been closely working with AU and we are involved in many consultations with them. EAFF has sat in select committees discussing Land Policy, Development of a Common market at the AU level and even in discussions towards the writing of an African Model Law on Biotechnology (and Biosafety). This recognition by the AU is also being used as a stepping stone towards the amalgamation of Sub-regional farmer organizations to form an African Farmers Forum at the African level.

Currently EAFF seats in the Expert Reference Group of CAADP (Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program) pillar 2 which is co-ordinated by NEPAD with two representatives attending these deliberations regularly.

In 2008, in our strategic plan, we developed proposals on CAADP that aim at creating awareness and linkage of farmers of the region about the importance of this process so that they can learn and be able to engage their respective governments especially during the operationalization of the program. These were later executed through national workshops in each respective EAFF member country, currently (2010) we have 6 of the 9 member countries having already signed CAADP compacts, EAFF is now discussing with the Tripartite arrangement of the RECs – EAC, COMESA, SADC on the Regional Compact, which we are party to signing.

Special Strength of EAFF

The federation is unique in many ways. At the inception of the federation, it was ensured that the federation would be transparent and democratic in structure and operations. The membership to the federation is only allowed from peasants and producer organizations that are National and have a network system that emanates from the small and large farmer at the village level. The leadership of such a platform have to be democratically elected and should manage their platforms in a transparent manner. It is for this reason that all our membership platforms have been profiled to establish their legitimacy and credibility. The leadership of the federation also originates from the member national platforms. The council memberships of the federation are elected during farmers congress in our member country platform. Each country elects three council members to represent them in the federation.

The council meets every year to provide guidance to the management and the secretariat. The day-to-day activities of the federation are managed through a board of 11 (eleven) people elected by the council, with the help of a fulltime secretariat.

Apart from structured order of the federation, it is also unique in that its membership is from countries that have a lot in common, politically, culturally, socially and economically. It therefore brings together people who have already integrated themselves through languages, trade, political blocks, and cultural.

It is therefore not only a forum that farmers of the region own but are very excited about it. EAFF is also unique in that it was formed at a time when a wave of regional integration either through political or trade blocks was cutting through regions of Africa. Some of the regions e.g. ECOWAS, EAC, SADC are even strengthening their relationship through common custom union, joint services in transport, communication and road networks and are removing such barrier as transit visa to facilitate free movement of people, goods and services. As the farmers organizations in the region strengthen their relationship to be able to do business, they all have one aspect in common, that their lifeline both economically and socially is agriculture.

As a consequence of the on going integration, development partners, international governance institute and donors are shifting their operational base from nations to regional networks. EAFF is strategically positioned to ensure that all those seeking to work with rural communities from a regional level have a legitimate farmers forum to partner with to ensure that farmers in the villages are linked to regional, continental and international protocols. The existence of EAFF is timely and strategic to ensure that farmers of the region have the opportunity to speak for themselves. The EAFF is the only established and operational regional forum for the farmers of the region.



Stephen Muchiri
Chief Executive
Eastern Africa Farmers Federation