

Campaign – Invest to agriculture responsibly

1. Objective of the campaign

“Strengthening capacity of small scale farmers in eastern and southern Africa to engage in democratic processes for more accountability and transparency in resources allocation to agriculture and rural development in the region”

2. Focus countries of the campaign:

Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa

3. Campaign Duration September 2009 to December 2012



4. Rationale for the campaign

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. This was also to ensure that farmers are holding leaders accountable to the Maputo Declaration of African leaders of 2003 in which they pledged to increase budget allocation to agriculture and food security to 10% by 2009. The Maputo declaration was restated in 2009 during the AU summit in Sirte Libya in which again African leaders set a timeframe by 2015 to reach the 10% level.

Farmers believe that the 10% goal can be reached if there is a popular participation of small scale farmers in budgeting processes in which their voices can be heard and they can be in the position to remind policy and decision makers on their pledge and monitor utilisation of resources.

This campaign will be an entry point to enable popular participation of men and women in policy making and budgeting processes which for many years they have been left out. People participation will lead to more transparency, equitable and accountability in the allocation and utilisation of national resources.

5. The problem

The eastern and southern African region account for a population of about 250 million people which is mainly made by smallholder farmers, sometimes referred as small scale farmers (60 to 80 percent) who are crop growers, fisher folks and livestock keepers that are mainly not adequately involved in decision making and policy processes that touch their daily lives.

Whereas other groups and communities in the eastern and southern Africa i.e. women, business people, trade unions; have at least managed to find space in decision making bodies at national and regional levels, but real poor rural small scale farmers are still not visible in decision making processes.

Despite enormous contribution to the entire economy in which agriculture account for 20% of total merchandise export, 60 to 80 percent of labour force and contribute between 20 and 40% to gross domestic product of countries in East and southern Africa, still **small-scale farmers voices on policy making in influencing is still insignificant and uncoordinated**. The limited voices in decision making at regional and at country level are mainly made by NGOs working on agriculture sector.

Hence this campaign seeks to enable small scale farmers organise, coordinate and speak for themselves to influence agriculture and rural development policies at regional level (SADC, COMESA and AU/NEPAD).

At national levels (Ministry of Agriculture and rural development and National Parliaments) and also to apply pressure to ensure that states allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture by 2015 as re-agreed at the AU summit in Libya on July 2009.

On the other hand, this campaign seeks to create stronger small farmers movement in the southern and eastern Africa. Strong farmers institutions, will ensure sustainable advocacy campaign and coordination of small-scale farmers which well articulated vision, mission, excellently managed with clearly defined policies, procedures that ensure the use of resources effectively.

6. Key Result Area of the campaign,

Built and enhanced ability of smallholder farmers to influence agriculture policies, resource allocation/engagement in budgeting processes from grassroots level to national and regional level by December 2012

7.1 Specific Objectives under Key Result Area on budgeting process and policy engagement, are as follows;

- (i) Increased smallholder farmers participation in government planning and budgeting processes in which at least 10% of the budget will be allocated to the agriculture sector by 2012.
- (ii) Enhanced engagement between national smallholder farmers forum and parliamentary committee for land, agriculture and rural development to advance farmers advocacy agenda
- (iii) Increased transparency and accountability in utilization of public resources at all levels
- (iv) Increased small farmers ability in holding private sector working in agriculture sector accountable
- (v) Enhanced ability of small scale farmers (SSF) to engage with regional economic groupings (EAC, COMESA, SADC) on agriculture and rural development declarations and policies

7.2 Indicators for the above specific objective on budgeting process and policy engagement, will be;

- Increased number of small holder farmers participating in village/ ward/ council development planning meetings

- Number of national smallholder farmers forum engaging government (ministry of finance and Agriculture) and parliamentary committees on agriculture budgeting processes
- Number of district councils whose plans incorporate smallholder farmers perspectives/requirement in development plans
- Position papers and meetings attended by farmers in regional economic groupings (EAC, COMESA and SADC)

7.3 Activities to be performed under key result area on budgeting process and policy engagement are;

- Support national farmer forum to involve smallholder farmers in local/central government planning and budgeting process
- Support small scale farmers to ensure local/central government plans and budgets on agriculture and rural development are made publicly available
- Build capacity of national forums on central/local government planning and budgeting processes
- Support national farmer forum to engage and dialogue with (ministry of finance and Agriculture) and parliamentary committees on agriculture budgeting processes
- Support small scale farmers (SSF) to engage with regional economic groupings (EAC, COMESA, SADC) on agriculture and rural development declarations and policies by producing and presenting positions and attending relevant meetings with clear messages and positions.