



COMMUNIQUE FOR THE EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE BUDGET SUMMIT

TUESDAY MAY 26TH 2015

PREAMBLE

We, the participants gathered in Entebbe, Uganda on the occasion of the EAC Agriculture Budget Summit held on Tuesday May 26th 2015, organized by Action Aid, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group on the theme "Walking the Talk: Increasing government investment in Agriculture Sector and Empowering Smallholder women farmers for shared growth and development towards Agenda 2063"

Recognizing that; this is the first of its kind Agriculture Summit with representation from the five East African States of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi; with participation of CSOs, Media, Private sector, Members of Parliament Ministries Departments and Agencies as well Small Holder Farmers.

Acknowledging that agriculture impacts on our very existence; and connects us with our heritage as a people, and the biggest population of the EAC region is rural based, and engaged in agriculture as a means of livelihood.

Noting with concern that under the Maputo declaration and the first decade of CAADP, only Rwanda met the 10% allocation to the agriculture sector with the other East African states stagnating at or below 5%.

Concerned that if these levels of funding towards the agriculture sector by the East African Partner States follows the current downward trend, the Malabo Declaration will not be achieved.

Also concerned that the current partner state initiatives are not favorable and meeting the small holder farmer expectations.

Acknowledging that a majority of smallholder farmers, especially women had not benefited much due to a number of challenges in accessing agricultural credit.

Further noting that 2015 is the African Union Year of Women Empowerment and development towards agenda 2063

Commending government for and recommitting itself to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) through the Malabo declaration of 2014.

Affirming that investment in agriculture should create a change in the lives of the rural smallholder farmers.

Committing as Non State Actors to continue supporting the agricultural sector in the region through provision of support services, the generation of agricultural budget information as well as advocating for increased budget allocation and calling upon the different agricultural stakeholders represented in this summit to work together towards achievement of the Malabo Declaration.

We the participants at this Entebbe meeting do hereby recommend that:

1. International Agricultural declarations and decisions should be domesticated with clear implementation frameworks and adequate resources (at least 10% of national budgets) to achieve meaningful results in the agricultural sector.
2. Emerging from the commitments at Malabo, we urge EAC Partner states in the region to adhere to the commitments and resolutions of the CAADP Framework.
3. Partner states take seriously issues raised by Farmers' in their Farmers' manifestoes and make them part of their new governments' policies, programmes and budgets
4. Mutual accountability between government, non state actors and its people continues to be the guiding principle of a progressive nation and should be instituted
5. Ensure that support to agricultures goes beyond production and moves into productivity, post harvest handling, access to credit as well as price regulation.
6. Partner state governments must find a balance between reclaiming the sector and merely giving agriculture an enabling environment while letting the sector be led by the private sector.
7. There is need for harmonization of actions within country priorities so that the different arms of government, executive and parliament focus on the same priorities in the agriculture sector.
8. EAC governments should facilitate access to market information through farmer networks, within farmer organizations by encouraging investment in ICTs and other media.
9. Media should engage with the sector to highlight critical issues
10. Farmers are to continue playing the important role of food production and holding their governments in the region accountable

We the delegates of this summit unanimously adopt and commit to the implementation of the recommendations therein.

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CSBAG

Small Scale Farmers

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