



SMALL-SCALE FARMERS PETITION

We demand the EAC States to Allocate 10% Budget to the Agriculture Sector

We the small scale farmers recognize that by 2050, the population of East African countries in the East African Community (EAC) is predicted to hit 411 million people of which the largest proportion will be young people. We also recognize that the agriculture sector, which is mainly subsistence employs on average over 76% of the entire population of the EAC of which over 85% are women and it takes a large share of national economies of countries in the region.

We acknowledge that government investment in the agricultural sector can not only address hunger and malnutrition but also other challenges since agricultural development is considered a key pillar in achieving about 9 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including Ending Poverty, Zero Hunger, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Responsible

Consumption and Production, Climate Action and Life on Land.

We are aware that in 2014 EAC Heads of state were part of a meeting held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea where African Heads of State and Governments of the African Union adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for shared prosperity and Improved Livelihoods meant to transform the Agriculture sector in Africa and to give CAADP an opportunity to guide agriculture development on the African continent.

We also recall that the 3rd East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in Zanzibar, Tanzania on 20th October 2016 heard farmers' cries and came out with a Resolution for fast tracking the implementation and domestication of Malabo Declaration. This came about after we small scale

farmers actively engaged the East African Legislative Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources. We clearly note that by putting in place concrete plans and timeframe to realise the Malabo Declaration as well as the Zanzibar Resolution on Malabo from the budget of 2019/2020 will ensure progressive realization of inadequate public financing into agriculture to the level of 10%.

Small-scale farmers, hereby, petition the East African Community (EAC) Heads of State and their governments to do the following;

- 1) to speedily and progressively implement Malabo Declaration and make it mandatory (legal requirement) as from 2019/2020 budget to allocate not less than 10 percent of national budget to agriculture sector and operationalise Agriculture Investment Banks; Commit to end hunger and malnutrition by doubling productivity and reduction of post-harvest loss; Commit to reduce poverty by half by sustaining annual agriculture growth by at least 6% and create job opportunities to at least 30% of the youth in agriculture. Also the budget should commit to enhance resilience in livelihood and production among small-scale producers in the advent of climate variability and other shocks.
- 2) to ensure that the 10% funding be directed to agroecological agriculture that is sustainable, protect and preserve local seeds, preserve biodiversity, soil, water and living organisms and further ensure that small-scale farmers have access to financing, promoting organic fertilizers, pest and vector control, access to quality extension services, responsive research, access to suitable technology and equitable markets.

- 3) to ensure that each of EAC states develop a just and fair disbursement system of 10% agriculture budget in support of small-scale farmers especially the youth and women at grassroots level.
- 4) to ensure that each EAC State put in place and operationalise national and regional platforms for enhancing mutual accountability to actions and results where all stakeholders will regularly review plans and implementation of the Malabo Declaration of 2014 and EALA Zanzibar Resolution of 2016.

It is our prayer that the East African Community (EAC) Heads of State will take on the demands in this petition that we small scale farmers know will lead to the transformation of the agriculture sector.

SIGN THE PETITION

1. Sign online:

<https://www.change.org/p/the-east-african-community-heads-of-state-make-it-legal-requirement-for-eac-states-to-allocate-10-budget-to-agriculture-sector>

2. Beep this mobile number:

+256 705 320818

3. Sign on a petition form:

Find petition forms with different organisations and at different events around you. You can also contact us on rbagaga@esaffuganda.org and we shall send you the forms.

4. Spread the petition on social media:

Facebook/Twitter hashtag: #ActMalaboNow

ABOUT THE MOTIVATORS

Visit: www.esaffuganda.org OR www.esaff.org

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