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Date: 6th September 2010

From: Eastern Africa Farmers Federation
Philip M. Kiriro – President

REF: PAN-AFRICA FARMERS FORUM – GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: 26th to 29th October 2010

Venue: Lilongwe - Malawi

Background

The Regional Farmers Networks of Africa together have gone through a lengthy process in the last 6 years focusing on agriculture and producer organizations. As an outcome of the process, the Networks put together two declarations i.e. February 2004 – the Pretoria declaration and on 21st May 2009 the Addis Ababa Pan-Africa Farmers Forum declaration. The Pretoria declaration defined the farmers' vision on the type of Agriculture that is favorable to the family farmers i.e.

- One that guarantees food, employment and revenue to the family farmers in a sustainable manner.
- One that provides and adds value to products for industrial purpose.
- One that generates solidarity and social security.
- One that adds value to our traditional knowledge and experiences.
- And one that ensures equitable access to productive resources and sustainable management of Natural Resources.

In Pretoria, we regional farmers networks also committed ourselves to strengthening our organizations by ensuring good governance based on democracy, transparency and accountability; This would provide us with the capacity to be able to organize ourselves better, address the economic and social situation of our producers and participate in the formulation and implementation of agriculture and trade policies compatible with agriculture and rural development of our countries.

Introduction

The Addis Ababa declaration of 23/05/2008, re-examined the energy and food crisis that was now global and its implications on agriculture and our environment. The regional networks agreed that issues of agriculture in Africa need to be addressed with greater solidarity among the producers. The

networks affirmed, their total engagement, and assumed the current historical necessity to establish a Pan African Forum for the farmers of Africa. The process of establishing the Forum launched a steering committee of four (4) presidents of (EAFF, SACAU, ROPPA, and PROPAC) the regional networks to provide leadership to the process. Mr. Mamadou Cissokho was nominated to facilitate the activities of the steering committee with clear terms of reference. The main tasks of the steering committee was to ensure that PAFFO governance documents, vision and mission statements were developed. The final activity of the steering committee was to finally launch a legitimate Pan-African Farmers Forum.

Announcement

It's therefore my privilege and honour on behalf of the 5 (five) regional networks i.e. EAFF, SACAU, ROPPA, PROPAC and UMAGRI to announce the launching of the PAN-AFRICAN FARMERS FORUM General Assembly to be held in Lilongwe, Malawi on **26th to 29th October 2010**.

I also take this opportunity to thank IFAD, EU, AGRITERRA, CTA, FAO and NGOs that supported the work of the interim PAFFO steering committee and the coming assembly.

EAFF was mandated by the five (5) regional farmers' networks to organize the assembly and therefore details on the assembly organization can be accessed through EAFF website. www.eaffu.org In addition, all issues pertaining to the assembly should also be addressed to EAFF.

Philip M. KIRIRO
President – EAFF
For: Regional Farmer Networks