



THE CALL TO ACTION

Image: Georgina Smith (CIAT)

ABOUT THE STATEMENT

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The **Eastern Africa Farmer's Federation (E AFF)**, comprising of 24 farmer organisations from 10 countries, has signed a shared call-to-action to enhance the role of farmers in climate policy. The E AFF's members represent apex farmer associations, co-operatives and commodity associations, representing over 25 million farmers across East Africa. Despite the unique national priorities and processes within each member country, this call serves as a common request for support to enhance farmer-led climate change intervention processes at the national and regional level. **This collective statement includes key messages from farmer organisations, as well as contributions from the E AFF Secretariat in support of their members.**

It is important to note, from the outset, that the E AFF acknowledges the vital role that agriculture and food systems play in mitigating and adapting to climate change. In addition, it highlights the enormous threat that climate change poses to farmers across the East Africa region and the requisite support needed to adapt to its impacts. This statement calls for a fair and socially just outcome for African farmers at COP27, wherein farmers are recognised for their strategic importance as partners that represent vital climate constituencies.

This call requests policy makers in the region to acknowledge the key messages of this call-to-action and to use their positions and influence to amplify the voices of farmers at COP27 and in other climate policy processes. The **six priority areas** of this joint statement highlight where governments should strengthen their support for farmer organisations to enhance their policy capacity, representation and financial resources needed to engage effectively in climate policy processes, at COP27 and beyond.

- Increase financing to support climate actions of small-holder farmers
- Support for developing on-the-ground action in small-scale farming systems
- Strengthen farmer engagement in international climate negotiations
- Develop relevant intervention and engagement opportunities for farmers
- Support policy and advocacy development of farmers in East Africa
- Push for concrete progress on adaptation and loss and damage at COP27

This call-for-action includes six key messages:



Increase financing to support climate actions of small-holder farmers

There is an urgent need for **additional financial support, both in quantity and quality, to support and empower farmers in their transition to climate resilient, low emission agricultural systems**. This includes resources to implement activities targeted for the benefit of small-scale women farmers and their communities. Farmer organisations in East Africa cannot apply directly for climate finance to support their activities and the current structure is extremely complex and rigid. Farmer organisations request to be included in government applications for climate finance in agriculture, and they request assistance and support to become accredited financial entities in their own right. To do so, they require enhanced capacity and knowledge to document bankable and scalable adaptation projects. In addition, there is a call to appoint more agriculture leaning accredited entities or alternative means to lobby for financial support.



Support for developing on-the-ground action in small-scale farming systems

Climate change policy processes are extremely complicated, and farmers require increased knowledge and capacity to translate their country climate commitments into local climate adaptation plans of action. They request **feedback mechanisms that translate global policy outcomes into national level action, through local policy dialogues and the use of simple messaging**. This in turn will help farmers to identify their needs and allocate financial support to adaptation and mitigation activities aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement. In addition, to engage effectively at the local level, farmer organisations need to hold consultations with their committees and other local constituencies. EAFF calls for **financial resources to support these local information-sharing dialogues**.



Strengthen farmer engagement in international climate negotiations

Farmer organisations **want to acquire up-to-date knowledge on the developments of agriculture and food systems within UNFCCC architecture and other global resilience building policy processes**. Farmer organisations request support to better understand the mechanisms for climate-agriculture dialogue and to help translate the complex outcomes of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture into meaningful actions at the grassroots level. In addition, farmer organisations call to be **included in the preparation of national and regional position statements** preceding climate negotiations, as well as to form part of their **national climate change negotiating teams to the UNFCCC**. This direct engagement of farmers can ensure better delivery of key messages, ensure that farmer proposals and positions are included in African common positions towards COP, and that farmer participation in oversight committees are affirmed.



Develop relevant intervention and engagement opportunities for farmers

There are few known policy engagement opportunities around which farmers can strengthen their involvement and participation in key climate policy processes at various levels. EAFF calls **for the development of deliberate national and regional engagement platforms around which farmer organisations can engage**. Understanding these relevant avenues for intervention, entry points and engagement processes will enhance the inclusion of farmers' voices in key processes and elevate their concerns in climate change discussions.



Support policy and advocacy development of farmers in East Africa

A challenge impeding greater climate advocacy amongst farmer organisations is the lack of policy capacity and engagement knowledge. Capacity development, knowledge generation and advocacy training are needed to interpret climate policy decisions and decipher what they mean for farmers at a practical level. **Farmer organisations call for tailored training provided by relevant government ministries and related non-state actors to participate more effectively in climate policy drafting, implementation and monitoring**, acknowledging that climate policies, such as Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Strategies, are important vehicles to pursue climate-related farmer interests. In addition, EAFF **calls upon the regional and international policy community to support farmer bodies that represent the common interests of farmers**. These unifying platforms provide a structure through which individuals and farmer organisations can come together to proactively develop policy engagement strategies, produce collective input and effectively lobby the government in a structured way, to provide very specific requests.

In the absence of mechanisms to hold decision makers and financial entities to account at multiple scales, EAFF calls upon national governments to **recognise the important role farmer organisations can play in the tracking and monitoring of policy implementation, including of COP decisions**. To this end, this call requests support from governments and the international community to **strengthen the capacities of national farmer organisations to conduct monitoring and reporting** and to become leaders in **accountability** for national and international commitments to sustainable development.



Push for concrete progress on adaptation and loss and damage at COP27

Climate change is very close to the hearts of farmers who bear the brunt of its impacts and who have insufficient safety nets to buffer them from climate risks. The regularity and intensity of climate shocks in East Africa has increased dramatically over the past five years, putting the regions food security in jeopardy, without sufficient compensation for damages and losses. It is imperative that COP27 makes progress on the structure and delivery of support needed, as well as the specific funding mechanisms to be used.

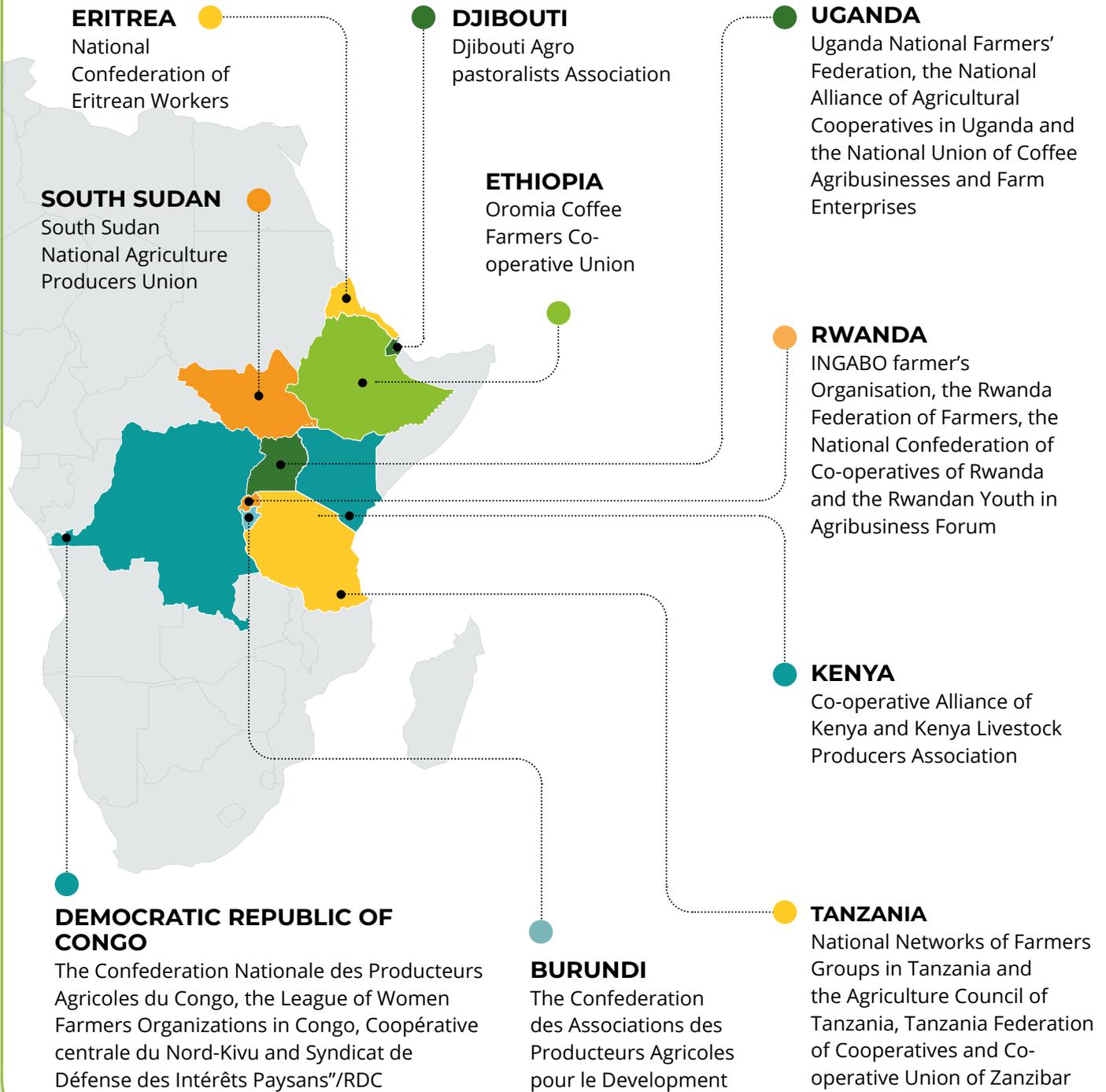
Scalable actions that promote adaptation and resilience-building are therefore a key priority at COP27 and beyond. In addition, urgent progress is needed on the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**. This includes the development of indicators, timeframes and targets to specifically track progress on this goal. These reporting indicators must be designed through engagement with various agricultural stakeholders, including farmers, so that they are fit for purpose and realistic.

Lastly, as a farmer organisation we commit to the following process

- 1 To continuously consult with our membership on climate change and to support discussions, proposals and the monitoring of programmes that emanate from the local level.
- 2 To support our members in partnership with different expertise, to interpret and communicate the decisions on COP and other related reports.
- 3 To contribute physically in COP meetings and to lobby to have our member associations included in national programmes.
- 4 To participate in any partnership programmes that will help us document better adaptation practices by farmers that are scalable
- 5 To continuously call for, and participate in, promoting accountability at all levels and by all parties
- 6 To lobby for the easing of funding mechanisms so that farmers can directly benefit from loss and damage compensation, as well as from adaptation financing.



MEMBER SUPPORT FOR THE STATEMENT



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