



African climate processes, actors and institutions: What this means for farmers



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Introduction and Context

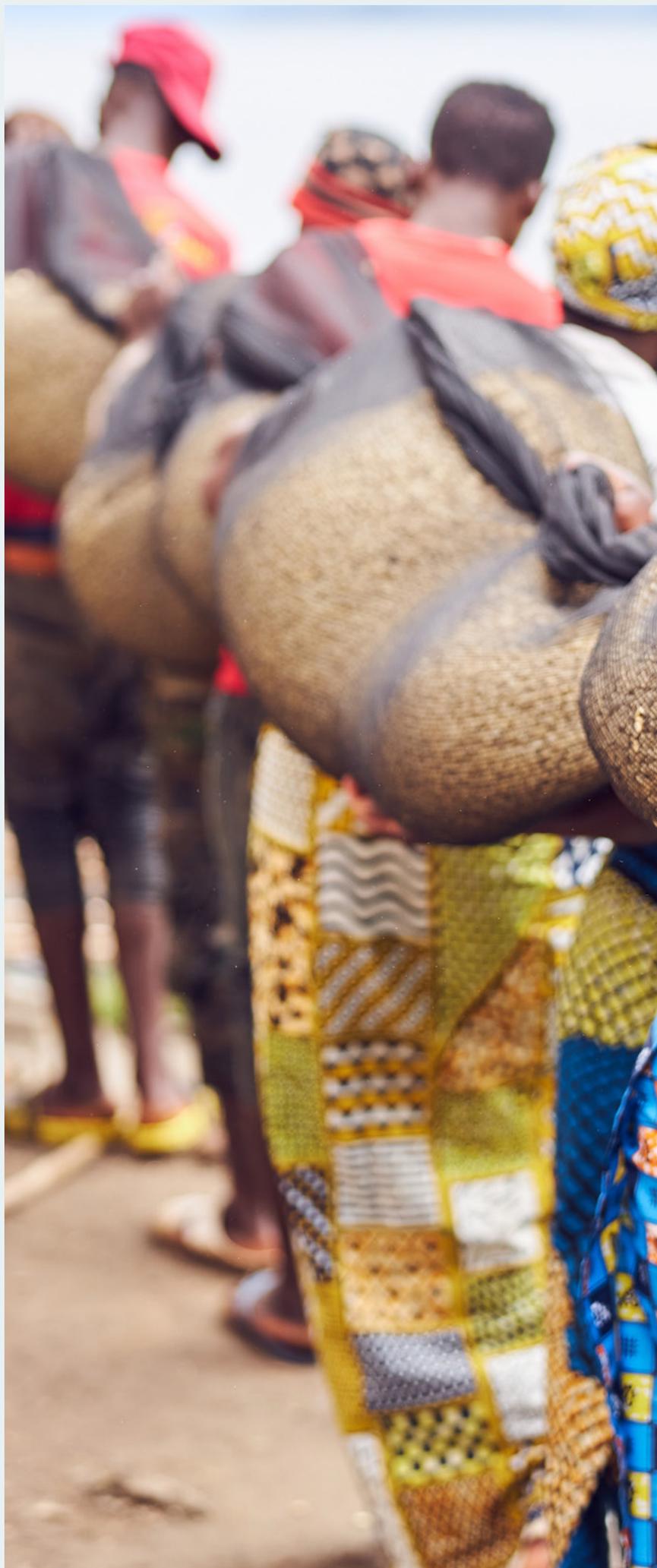
The world is no longer in denial that climate change is a reality and that unless something is done about it urgently, the consequences will be catastrophic to all people, flora and fauna.

Like never before, we are already witnessing intense droughts, severe storms, heat waves, warming oceans, rising sea levels, melting glaciers among many other pointers. These occurrences are fast adding to pressures on global agricultural and food system and are therefore a threat to our livelihoods and future survival.

The urgency of dealing with climate change has never been more pronounced. Several institutions and organizations are already working towards averting this crisis, in a coordinated global approach under aegis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As the conversation grows and actions to circumvent climate change are formulated, it is important that farmers, whose livelihoods are and will be greatly affected by it, are at the centre of these discussions and actions.

The reality however is that until now, farmers and the organizations and constituencies that they represent are on the sidelines of this whole process. It is upon this realization that the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), sought to establish how they can play a more definitive role in understanding and engaging in climate policies and processes at various levels.





It is in this light the EAFF has developed this study, with support from her partners. This report assesses:

- The UNFCCC processes with a view to understanding and being enjoined in the Conference of the Parties (COPs) engagements;
- The institutional capacity needed to strengthen the role and leadership of farmer organizations at national, regional and global levels in advocating for the mainstreaming of farmers issues and priorities in climate change negotiations; and
- The formulation of policies and scaling up of sustainable agriculture practices to increase climate resilience and food security in Eastern Africa.

EAFF's core mandate and functions include natural resources and biodiversity conservation, active engagement of women and youth in agricultural development, as well as enhancement of food security and poverty alleviation. As a corporate members-based regional farmers' organization, with 24 member organizations, from ten Sub-Saharan Africa countries, it behooves EAFF to strengthen their global adaptation efforts to address Climate Change.

Objectives of the Study

1. Assessing the level of understanding of EAFF and national farmer organizations on climate change processes and building the relevant capacity needed;
2. Identifying and profiling the funding opportunities and modalities targeting farmer organizations;
3. Mapping of national, regional, and global climate policy processes and engagement windows;
4. Understanding the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) processes and international climate decisions making mechanisms;
5. Unpacking the key decisions from the previous four COPs, focusing on the critical elements in preparation for COP28.

The report also identifies strategic organizations and key resource experts that the EAFF should engage, and build partnerships with, to further their common climate change objectives.

Recommendations from the Key Areas of Focus

01 ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF EAFF AND OTHER FARMER ORGANIZATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE PROCESSES AND BUILDING THE NECESSARY CAPACITY

In order for the EAFF to fully understand climate change processes, the sourcing of information on key players is essential. This includes stakeholders involved within the UN system, governments, NGOs, the private sector, and

representatives of other organs created within these structures. To engage them effectively, it was also necessary to identify the gaps in terms of technical resources available for farmer organizations to pursue this goal.



Key Findings

- There is insufficient knowledge on the science of climate change as it relates to mitigation and adaptation options for climate-smart agriculture (CSA).
- There are low levels of non-state actor participation in the development and implementation of national and regional climate governance and response policies, including in the revision and development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), agriculturally-focused National Adaptation Plans (Agric NAPs) and Long Term Strategies (LTS).
- There is a gender imbalance and poor age representation in the participation, design, and development of climate policy processes and implementation.
- There is inadequate capacity in climate mainstreaming and in the application of national monitoring and evaluation approaches, including the Performance Measurement Framework at the national level and Measurement Reporting and Verification and MRVs for the Global Stocktake (GST) at the regional and global levels.
- The generation, uptake, and effective use of Climate Information Services (CIS) as an adaptive measure by member organizations and other stakeholder groupings is low.



Key Recommendations

- Given by the pivotal role of farmers in food production and in developing climate-resilient responses, the EAFF should prioritize the development and implementation of a climate capacity building strategy to enhance the capacity and participation of farmers organizations in climate change processes.
- The capacity built must comprehensively include all gender and age groups and must be tied to a retention strategy, to ensure sustainability.
- EAFF should identify key representatives from farmer organizations to represent farmer priorities in climate change processes at national, regional, and global levels.

02 IDENTIFYING AND PROFILING THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND MODALITIES TARGETING FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

To engage effectively as a participant in the climate change arena, EAFF and other farmer organizations, will require technical support and financial resources. This study mapped numerous climate finance opportunities and funding pots available to support farmer organizations..



Key Findings

- There are a plethora of specialized funds set up to meet the large scale investments needed for farmers to pursue climate adaptation actions. These funds are at the disposal of developing countries provided that set criteria for accessing the funds are met.
- For many years, the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement have called for financial assistance from Parties with more financial resources to those that are less endowed and more vulnerable.
- In accordance with the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities', developed countries are to provide financial resources to assist developing countries in implementing the objectives of the UNFCCC. This financing has not been forthcoming and is inadequate in terms of quantum and quality.
- To facilitate the provision of climate finance, the Convention established a mechanism to provide resources to developing countries. As such, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as an operating entity of the financial mechanism since the Convention's entry into force in 1994. This financial mechanism also serves the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- In 2010, Parties established the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and also designated it as an operating entity of the financial mechanism. The financial mechanism is accountable to the COP, which decides on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for funding.
- In addition to the GEF and the GCF, Parties have established two special funds, namely the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, both of which are managed by the GEF and the Adaptation Fund (AF) established under the Kyoto Protocol in 2001. These financial mechanisms all serve the Paris Agreement.
- Regarding the Adaptation Fund, negotiations are underway in the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA).
- These financial structures have very complex access modalities and only Parties to the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement may be eligible.
- Outside of these formal channels, there are also many other climate finance avenues and mechanisms, including from the private sector, investment and development partners, foundations, philanthropic ventures, and the like. These can offer farmers direct access to financing, which is often not the case for multilateral sources of financing.



Key Recommendations

- To help narrow the financing gaps, there is need for EAFF and other farmer organizations to diversify their sources of funding and tap into other new, innovative windows like foundations.
- EAFF should take full advantage of domestic, regional, and global funding opportunities to mobilize resources and partnerships for climate action through proactive engagement and initiation of project concepts for consideration by UNFCCC funding mechanisms
- EAFF should enhance their internal fiscal control systems and measures to meet financial management standards required for funding eligibility by potential funding agencies.
- EAFF should strive to ensure that climate finance mobilized is directly accessible by the vulnerable groups for on-the-ground climate action to enhance their resilience.
- For purposes of increasing direct access to funds under the Adaptation Fund, EAFF should consider pursuing accreditation to the fund at a regional level.



03 MAPPING OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CLIMATE POLICY PROCESSES AND ENGAGEMENT WINDOWS

There are several engagement windows and forums in which EAFF, a relatively new player in the climate change arena, can present itself in the quest to build capacity and to learn the procedures and practices in climate change negotiation processes. These include climate change events and policy windows at national, regional, and global levels that provide opportunities to advocate and build a case for farmers issues and needs, as well as enable farmers to engage in stakeholder's consensus building and contribute to common positions, submissions, and statements on issues of climate negotiations and implementation of outcomes.



Key Findings

It is important to keep track of current and on-going policy windows and events. This are constantly evolving and yet offer a key opportunity for farmers to elevate their voices, learn about opportunities and develop strategic networks.



Key Recommendations

- An up-to-date and constantly evolving interactive calendar or policy scoping map of relevant climate events and policy windows (at multiple levels) can help farmers be prepared and proactively plan for their interventions in important meetings.
- EAFF should use this interactive calendar to identify and plan to participate in events and policy windows that increase exposure, experience, and build capacity and visibility of farmers organizations.
- EAFF should utilize the preparatory events leading to COPs and other major events to build their case and lobby for and advocate for farmers' priorities and their integration in national, regional, and global positions of interest groups.
- EAFF should utilize the events at all levels to expand their network particularly related to attracting additional finance and support for implementation activities.

04 UNDERSTANDING THE COP PROCESSES AND THE CLIMATE-DECISION MAKING MECHANISMS THAT INFLUENCE AGRICULTURE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS

COPs proceedings and decision-making processes are multi-layered and complex, with numerous convention specialized bodies. One needs to understand their roles in the COP process if they are to make any meaningful contribution on the climate change arena. In the UNFCCC system, there are also numerous geographical and thematic negotiation blocks, observer organizations and constituencies, like youth and NGOs, that influence the direction of the negotiating process.



Key Findings

- The COP is the highest decision-making body of the UNFCCC, and usually meets annually to adopt decisions, review progress, and consider further action.
- In the climate process, only governments can negotiate and take decisions. However, government delegates are joined by scores of non-state observers, including representatives from non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, international bodies, the private sector, from indigenous people's organizations etc. These entities play a critical role as the eyes, ears, and conscience of the outside world.
- Parties to the Convention and observer states, members of the press and media, and representatives of observer organizations are also welcome to participate at the UNFCCC Negotiations. IGOs and NGOs can register delegates once they have received observer status.
- Over the years, participation in the climate change negotiations by non-state actors has increased tremendously.
- For farmer organizations, like other non-state actors, the formal negotiations as well as the gatherings on the outside of COPs at numerous side events and pavilions, also present important avenues to make input in the climate debate through debates.



Key Recommendations

- EAFF, in partnership with their member country parties, should identify UNFCCC constituted bodies, local and international partners, and allies, to champion implementation of key COP decisions that address farmers' priorities.
- EAFF should identify the relevant COP processes and convention bodies to advance and address farmers' climate change priorities.
- EAFF should build the case and advocate for farmers' climate change priorities through contributing to positions, submissions, and statements of national, regional, and international interest groups as well as sharing farmers views at side events and workshops in the sidelines of the COPs and Subsidiary Bodies meetings (mid-way point between the COPs).

- EAFF should engage relevant UNFCCC constituent bodies through partnerships with Parties to enable farmer organizations to benefit from UNFCCC technical assistance.
- EAFF should lobby spokespersons of member states and key people from African negotiating blocks to integrate farmer priorities in their climate change agenda items and seek advice from them on strategy options to advance farmers issues.
- EAFF should lobby other farmer organizations at national, regional, and global levels to get accredited as observers with a view of building a critical mass of farmer representatives at UNFCCC negotiations.
- EAFF should strongly advocate for the recognition of the farmer constituency to provide a voice to champion farmers' issues and priorities in climate change at climate change negotiations.

05 UNPACKING THE KEY DECISIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS FOUR COPs AND FOCUSING ON THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR COP28 AND SB59

The UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COP) meetings – COP24, COP25, and COP26 – were held in Katowice, Poland in December 2018; in Madrid, Spain in December 2019; and in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November 2021, respectively. The report provides a snapshot of key outcomes of these three COPs that preceded COP27.

COP27 was held in November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The declarations and decisions of this COP form an important milestone in the rulebook for climate change actions that are to be implemented by parties and stakeholders. In addition, COP27 was an important moment in the timeline for agriculture in the climate negotiations.



Highlights of COP27 for farmers

- At COP27 a four-year work package, the Sharm el-Sheik Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, was established.
- COP27 urged Parties, relevant organizations, and other groups to increase their efforts in relation to promoting sustainable agriculture and proceeded to establish the Sharm El-Sheikh online portal for sharing information on projects, initiatives, and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security.
- COP27 established a new funding arrangement for Loss and Damage, assisting vulnerable countries better prepare for adverse climate impacts.
- COP27 urged developed countries to scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for adaptation to respond to the needs of developing countries as part of a global effort for the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans and Adaptation Communications.
- COP27 initiated the development of a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation to be undertaken through a

structured approach under the Glasgow–Sharm El-Sheikh work programme, with a view to the framework being adopted at the COP28 in November–December 2023.

- COP27 welcomed pledges made to the Adaptation Fund (totalling US\$211.58 million), the Least Developed Countries Fund (\$70.6 million), the Special Climate Change Fund (\$35 million), and the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (totalling USD 5.33 billion and with a climate-related finance target of no less than 80 per cent of all funding commitments in the eighth replenishment period).
- COP27 recognised Global Stock-Take as a critical turning and moment to reflect on the state of our planet and chart a better course for the future. Each stock-take is a two-year process that happens every five years. The first one got underway at COP26 and will conclude at COP28.
- The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate, an initiative co-facilitated by the United Arab Emirates (host of the COP28) was also promoted during COP27. The COP28 presidency will likely continue the promotion of this Initiative.



Key Recommendations

- EAFF should identify inputs and priority issues from Sharm El-Sheikh to guide EAFF ahead of COP28. The decisions made in 2022 at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, encompassed adaptation, mitigation, and adaptation co-benefits as well as emphasized the allocation of resources towards means of implementation (capacity building, technology transfer and finance). In addition, a new agreement on loss and damage is of vital importance for the world's farmers. These elements emphasize an implementation focused outcome from COP27.
- EAFF should review decisions of previous COPs to identify and follow up on elements that present opportunities for addressing farmers' issues and priorities in climate change.
- The EAFF should lobby its member country parties to ensure that COP28 and the next Subsidiary Body meeting (SB59 in June 2024) includes the empowerment of farmer institutions as part of the Sharm El-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Agriculture and Food Security (JWAF).
- EAFF should work with member state parties to ensure that farmers organizations are included on delegations at SBs and COPs to champion farmers' issues and priorities.
- EAFF should prepare a farmer-centered information paper on each of the new topics of the Sharm El-Sheikh JWAF, when agreed, to highlight interests and priorities of farmers and to inform national and regional submissions and negotiating positions.
- EAFF should pay special attention and follow the proceedings and outcome of the first Global Stock Take and use the outcome to sensitize farmers on the risks and the need for climate action to support the implementation of country NDCs.
- EAFF should ensure high level representation at the COP28 agriculture negotiation under Joint SBSTA / SBI and COPs.

Main Recommendations for the Report

1. EAFF should fast-track their application to be accredited as an observer to the UNFCCC process in order to participate and contribute to development of the farmer constituency, and to support farmers in their member organizations to access information and additional means of climate action and implementation
2. It is a priority to build capacity the capacity of farmer organizations, including the EAFF, to represent, advocate and negotiate for farmers on agricultural-climate change issues and priorities.
3. Successful efforts to mobilize financial resources for climate action calls for the proactive engagement of farmer organizations with financing partners to initiate bankable climate-smart projects and project proposals.
4. EAFF should prepare a farmer-centered advisory note for each of the completed KJWA workshops and future Sharm El-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Agriculture and Food Security workshops, highlighting potential actions and opportunities to scale up climate action in agriculture, particularly in support of NAPs, NDCs and LTS implementation by farmer organizations.
5. In preparation for COP28 in November 2023, EAFF should prepare a working paper to share with and lobby governments of its members states, stakeholders and partners.
6. EAFF should mobilise funds to set up a stall at COP28 to showcase and share their climate-smart agriculture experiences and best practices in implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security.
7. At COP28 and SB59, EAFF should strongly advocate for the recognition of the farmer constituency to provide a voice to champion farmers' issues and priorities in climate change.

Conclusion

The role of farmer organizations in implementing climate action should be enhanced by ensuring more effective farmer participation in the implementation of national climate change policies and strategies, as well as in important meetings and global climate change negotiations. This will in turn strengthen the farmers constituency and the voice of local land users at the UNFCCC, prioritising farmer access to information and supporting the building of resilience measures throughout farming landscapes. A stronger and more cohesive voice is also likely to attract additional financing, technical and capacity support to farmers.



Board of Directors, EAFF. 2021-2024



P.O.Box 13747-00800
205 David Osieli Road, Westlands
Nairobi - Kenya
+254 20 4451691 | info@eaff.org | www.eaffu.org