



# *The Farmers Digest*

A COMPILATION OF NEWS FROM EAFF FAMILY

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## CGIAR SCIENCE WEEK 2025: EAFF STRESSES TRUE CO-CREATION, CO-IMPLEMENTATION & FARMER-CENTERED PARTNERSHIPS



*Participants pose for a group photo during the event*

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## CGIAR SCIENCE WEEK 2025: EAFF STRESSES TRUE CO-CREATION, CO-IMPLEMENTATION & FARMER-CENTERED PARTNERSHIPS



*EAFF President, Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala gives her remarks during the panel discussion*

The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) joined over 8,000 delegates at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) complex for a week of events, workshops, exhibitions, and field trips. Science Week builds on CGIAR's 50-year legacy of driving impact through partnerships that develop and scale innovations to tackle the most pressing agricultural challenges facing our planet's food, land, and water systems.

Speaking at the official opening, Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary, Musalia Mudavadi, urged governments and leaders to proactively embrace science and technology to boost food production and tackle agricultural diseases.

"I call on governments and leaders to proactively embrace science and technology to boost food production, tackle agricultural diseases, and counter the impacts of climate change, which continues to cause significant losses," Mudavadi said.

He further noted: "We believe that transforming this sector will drive poverty reduction and job creation, improve livelihoods and food security, promote gender equality and inclusion, and enhance climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability."

He added: "Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy, providing over 60 percent of employment. Yet, the sector faces a perfect storm of challenges: climate change, loss of biodiversity, and rapid population growth. The only way forward lies in science-driven solutions generated through robust partnerships among stakeholders."

On her part, UN Nairobi Office Director-General Zainab Hawa expressed appreciation for hosting the event, which brought together the brightest minds in agricultural science and development.

"Science Week presents unique opportunities to share knowledge and advance the role that agriculture plays in solving some of the world's most pressing challenges," she remarked.

CGIAR Executive Managing Director, Ismahane Elouafi, said the week marked a pivotal moment in transforming global agriculture and food systems. She affirmed CGIAR's unwavering commitment to advancing groundbreaking agricultural science.



## CGIAR Science Week 2025: EAFF Stresses True Co-Creation, Co-Implementation & Farmer-Centered Partnerships

“CGIAR is unwavering in our commitment to advancing agricultural science that is sustainable, inclusive, and rooted in the belief that research, innovation, and collaboration are the keys to overcoming the complex challenges facing agri-food systems today,” Elouafi said.

During a panel discussion, EAFF President Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala emphasized that true inclusivity in agri-food systems must go beyond rhetoric. She stated that real enablers of inclusivity include inclusive policies, strategies, leadership commitments, and a culture that fosters mutual respect and understanding.

She questioned whether inclusivity is genuinely being practiced, noting that while the term is frequently used in speeches and documents, the reality on the ground often tells a different story. Ms. Nsimadala pointed out that farmers, those frequently cited as being “at the center”, are often excluded from meaningful participation.

She challenged stakeholders to walk the talk, especially when using terms like “co-creation,” “co-innovation,” and “co-implementation,” urging that these concepts be genuinely applied rather than reduced to buzzwords.

Co-hosted by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), CGIAR Science Week brought together leading voices in agricultural science to explore how partnerships can be forged more effectively to harness and scale pioneering science and innovation that deliver food and nutritional security and strengthened livelihoods for all.

The conference also served as a platform for stakeholders to explore new investment pathways that accelerate agricultural research in the face of mounting global challenges.





## A CALL FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE FINANCING IN DAR ES SALAAM MEETING



*Participants pose for a group photo during the event*

From 29th April to 2nd May 2025, the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), in partnership with the Foundation for Farmers Organisations and Restorative Action, and in collaboration with the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives, successfully convened a high-level meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The event brought together representatives from 11 family farmer organizations across the Global South to engage in a strategic dialogue with leading climate finance mechanisms.

Held under the theme of facilitating the transition to resilient, just, and biodiverse farming systems, the meeting aimed to foster constructive partnerships between smallholder farmer organizations and climate finance institutions.

The meeting was a landmark gathering that underscored the collective call from smallholder family farmers for increased access to climate finance. At the heart of their discussions was the demand for a dedicated Family Farmers Fund—a transformative mechanism tailored to the unique needs and realities of small-scale producers. The participants emphasized that climate finance must be inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the critical role that smallholder farmers play in food systems and climate resilience.

The event provided an exceptional platform for farmer organizations to directly engage with more than 20 key climate finance development partners. Among the participating institutions were the World Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, McKnight Foundation, ClimateWorks Foundation, Green Climate Fund (GCF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), CRDB Bank, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), among others.



## A CALL FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE FINANCING IN DAR ES SALAAM MEETING



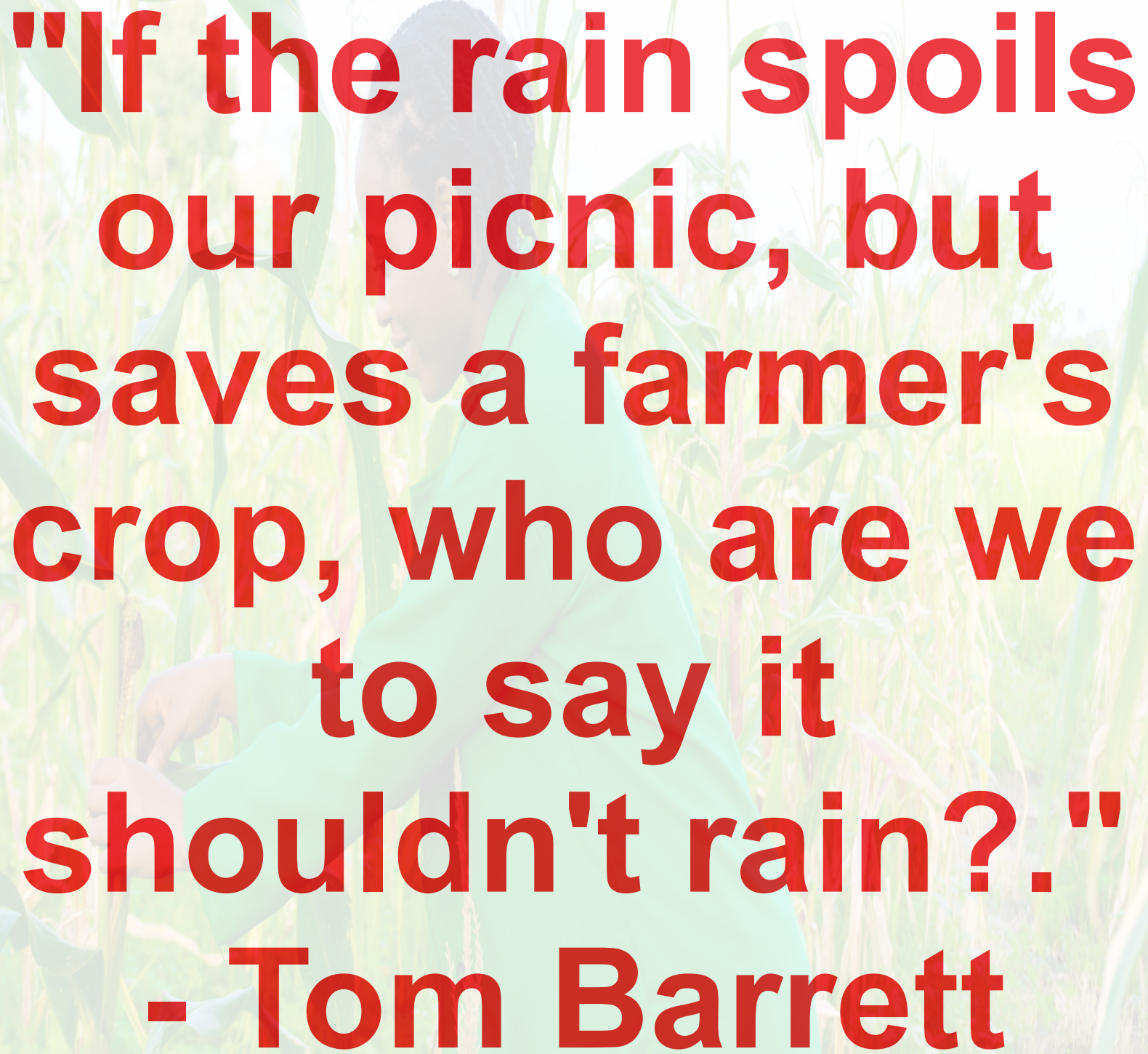
*EAFF President, Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala gives her remarks during a field visit*

Through panel discussions, bilateral meetings, and knowledge exchange sessions, farmer representatives articulated their priorities, shared lived experiences, and co-designed potential models for inclusive climate finance. The dialogues served not only to influence global and regional mechanisms but also to align national strategies with the urgent realities of smallholder agriculture.

Participants forged a unified advocacy voice and strengthened their commitment to champion climate financing structures that prioritize smallholder family farmers—who remain at the frontline of climate vulnerability yet are critical actors in sustainable development and food sovereignty.

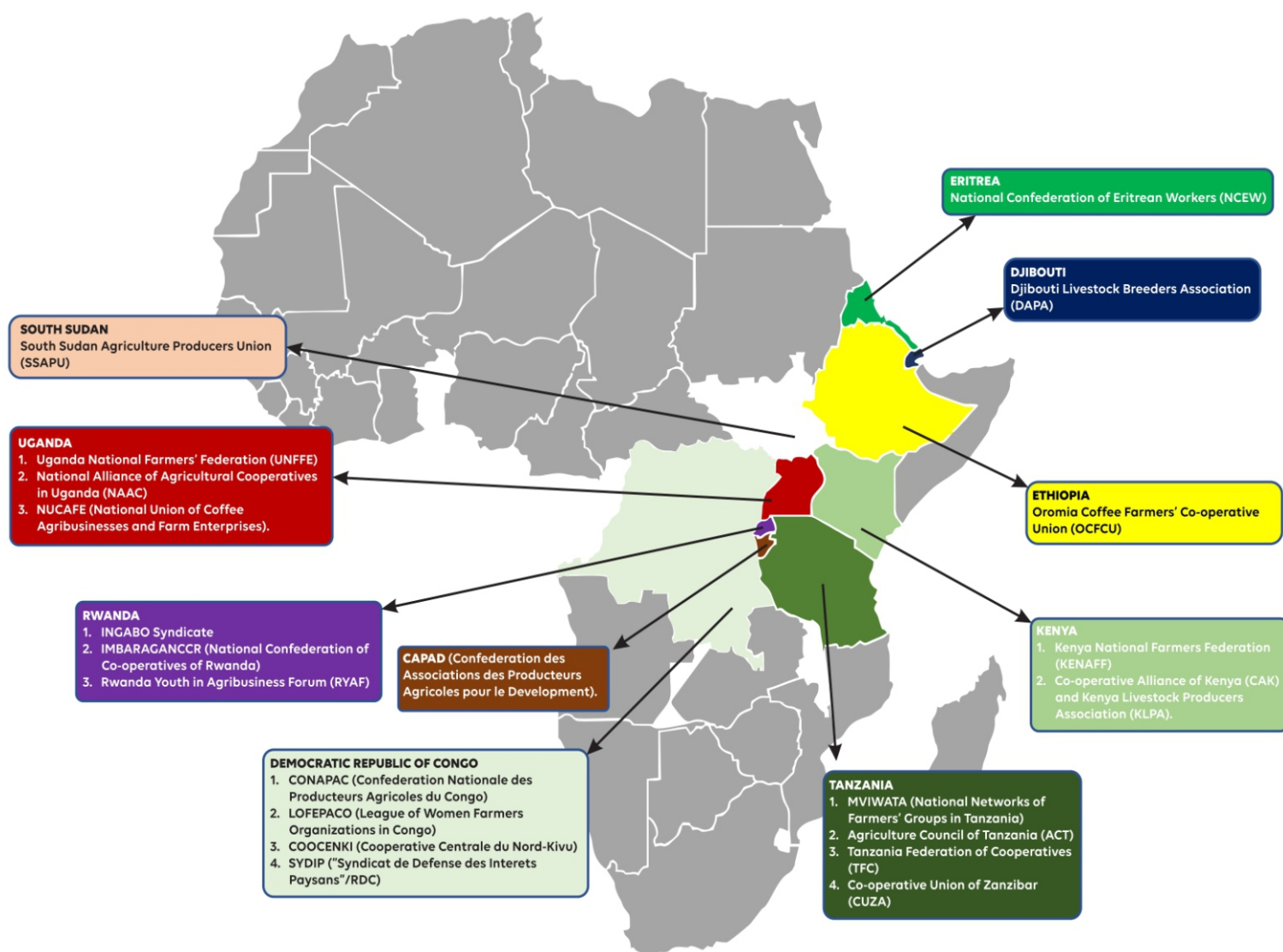


## Quote of the Month

A woman with dark hair, wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, is shown from the side, working in a cornfield. She is holding a wooden stick and appears to be tending to the corn plants. The background is filled with tall corn stalks and green leaves, creating a lush agricultural setting.

**"If the rain spoils  
our picnic, but  
saves a farmer's  
crop, who are we  
to say it  
shouldn't rain?."**  
**- Tom Barrett**

## EAFF MEMBERSHIP



**We believe that farmers are the backbone of Africa's economy and that empowering them is key to food security, economic growth, and sustainable development. At the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), we are committed to championing the rights, interests, and prosperity of farmers by advocating for policies that support inclusive agricultural transformation, access to markets, and value addition.**





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