



DRIVING FARMER-LED CLIMATE ACTION:

EAFF's climate achievements
(2021–2025)

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FOREWORD

By Dr. Stephen Muchiri, Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)

The journey of EAFF's work on climate change began many years ago, but it was in 2021 that our highest organ resolved that climate change must become a central focus of our mandate. We committed ourselves to securing a seat for farmer organisations at negotiation tables, calling for greater investment in sustainable agriculture, and ensuring that farmers' voices are part of shaping solutions. To do so, EAFF first studied the climate policy landscape: the role of agriculture in climate discourse and progress, the key institutions and processes, and the calendar of critical events. We then set out to build the climate knowledge and capacity of our Secretariat and members, and to establish the partnerships needed to engage effectively.

Over the past four years, we are proud to have demonstrated that farmer organisations can meaningfully contribute to climate action, biodiversity protection, inclusivity, and the sustainable development agenda. EAFF has reached "beyond the tarmac" to support youth, women, indigenous peoples, and marginal communities, even in fragile contexts. We are pioneering innovative solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, advancing biodiversity protection, and promoting food productivity through nature-based solutions, regenerative agriculture, and agroecology. Our work delivers integrated benefits: stronger food security, land rights, social and economic empowerment, landscape restoration, and migration support. By bridging the local to global, we connect grassroots needs with climate finance, blended finance models, and policy development at all levels.

Looking ahead, EAFF will continue to strengthen farmers' role in shaping climate and agricultural policy across Africa and globally. Our priorities for 2026–2030 include: scaling farmer-led climate adaptation



Photo: Dr. Stephen Muchiri, EAFF's CEO speaking to farmers about climate adaptation solutions

and mitigation solutions, deepening partnerships to accelerate finance and investment in climate-resilient food systems, and ensuring that African farmers are at the centre of implementing global and continental frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy, and the post-2030 development agenda.

It is my pleasure to present this executive summary on EAFF's climate change work, which documents our activities, achievements and the partnerships that have enabled our progress. I extend my gratitude to our President, Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala, for her outstanding leadership in steering EAFF to become a vibrant voice for farmers in climate policy. I also thank the many experts, resource persons and partners who have supported the Secretariat in carrying out this complex but vital work.

I hope you find this report both informative and inspiring. Should you identify opportunities for collaboration, we warmly invite you to engage with us on the way forward.

INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) represents millions of family farmers across the region, uniting national farmer organisations to strengthen their voice and influence on several key issues, including climate change. Farmers are on the frontline of climate impacts such as droughts, floods, pests, and erratic rainfall, eroding livelihoods, undermining food security, and placing additional stress on natural resources.

Recognising both the threats and opportunities posed by climate change, EAFF resolved at its

fifth Farmers Congress in 2021 to give dedicated attention to climate action. Since then, EAFF has worked deliberately to integrate climate change into its core agenda, equipping farmer organisations with knowledge, shaping debates on policy and negotiations, and building partnerships that place farmers at the centre of climate solutions. Between 2021 and 2025, this shift has positioned EAFF as a well-recognised voice in regional, continental, and global discussions on agriculture, climate adaptation, and food systems transformation and resilience.

STRATEGIC ENTRY POINTS

EAFF's climate change work is structured around priority areas, including:



Enhancing **knowledge and capacity of farmer organisations** through learning workshops, technical guidance, and training resources.



Formulating and **communicating collective positions** among member organisations in advance of major climate policy windows, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conferences of the Parties.



Strengthening **engagement in policy and negotiations** by conducting research and supporting farmer representatives to participate in key meetings at national, regional, and global levels.



Building **knowledge and capacity on climate finance** to ensure farmer organisations are better equipped to access resources, including from the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility



Developing **farmer-relevant and farmer-led policy research** to assess the impact of global and regional policy decisions on farmers.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

EAFF's progress has been enhanced through alliances with technical, research, advocacy, and financing partners. These collaborations bring expertise and platforms to elevate farmers' voices in climate debates. Key examples include:

- **Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA):** Co-developed farmer-led research and adaptation case studies, convened workshops, and supported the mapping of EAFF's climate policy priorities.
- **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):** Strengthened the policy influencing capacity of farmer organisations.
- **Bayer:** Partnered on research into the potential economic impacts of the EU Green Deal on East African farmers.
- **Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES):** Supported advocacy on adaptation and farmer engagement in climate negotiations.
- **Foundation for Farmer Organisations for Restorative Action (FFORA):** Advanced the Family Farmers for Climate Action campaign, focusing on improving farmer access to climate finance.
- **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):** Demonstrated the effectiveness of direct financing and capacity building for farmer organisations, with a focus on integrating vulnerable subsistence farmers into market economies, promoting climate adaptation,

enabling access to green finance and fostering youth and women's participation.

- **Pan-African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO):** As EAFF's umbrella body, PAFO amplifies EAFF's continental and global voice, providing a united call for action.
- **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI):** Created opportunities for EAFF leaders to represent farmers in important climate change fora.
- **The Gates Foundation:** Provided technical and financial support, alongside access to high-level global advocacy platforms.



Photo: Elizabeth Nsimadala delivering key note address during official opening of COP28



Photo: Climate adaptation event organised by EAFF, ESAFF and Seed Savers Kenya

KEY ACTIVITIES

EAFF has significantly expanded its climate-related activities since 2021. Among others, key activities have included:



Policy dialogue and capacity building on key climate events: EAFF hosted multiple capacity-building events for its Secretariat and member organisations. These included sessions on needs-based adaptation advocacy, farmer participation in climate negotiations, and regional dialogues on the Africa Climate Summit and UNFCCC COP processes. Collectively, these engagements have amplified farmer voices and better prepared members to contribute to national, regional and global climate negotiations and policy development. In addition, EAFF members have articulated clear advocacy positions, in the form of [call-to-action statements](#) for COPs, setting out farmers' priorities and requests to governments and negotiators. Such statements strengthen the visibility and influence of African farmers in shaping climate outcomes.



Global Goal on Adaptation: In June 2025, EAFF and AICCRA co-hosted a regional workshop titled *"Enhancing Farmer Engagement on the Targets and Indicators of the Global Goal on Adaptation."* The workshop helped to build awareness among EAFF

members of the technical work underway on adaptation indicators relevant to food and agriculture. Farmer organisations proposed refinements aligned with farmer realities and regional adaptation priorities.



Climate finance: In partnership with FFORA, EAFF has championed efforts to make climate finance more accessible to farmers. This work has included training members in proposal development and raising awareness of financing mechanisms such as the GCF and GEF. EAFF also convened a major workshop in Dar es Salaam in 2025, bringing together donors and partners to explore solutions for unlocking climate finance for farmer organisations.



Regional adaptation dialogues: EAFF, together with the Eastern and Southern Africa Smallholder Farmers' Forum and Seed Savers Kenya, convened farmers, journalists, and influencers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia. These meetings highlighted the critical role of farmers in driving agricultural adaptation and identified both barriers and innovative solutions to strengthen resilience in the region.



Research and knowledge generation:

Evidence generation has been a cornerstone of EAFF's climate agenda. Working with partners, EAFF has commissioned and produced research and policy analysis on critical issues, including:

- **Refining the Global Goal on Adaptation indicators through farmer perspectives** (2025), capturing farmer organisations' recommendations for adaptation measurement frameworks.
- **From Baku to Belem: Key insights and next steps for climate and agriculture.** (March 2025) - unpacking the key outcomes of COP29 and the implications for African farmers.

- **Farmer-led adaptation case studies** (November 2024) - documenting locally led strategies and innovations across nine African countries.
- Implications of the EU Green Deal for smallholder farmers in Eastern Africa (2023).
- **African climate processes, actors and institutions (2023): what this means for farmers** - mapping key decision-making bodies and their relevance to farmers.
- **Building resilient food systems for smallholder farmers: Training manual** (March 2024) - a practical guide for building resilience at farm and community levels.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

EAFF has become the leading farmer organisation on climate change issues in Africa. It is recognised as a highly credible voice in continental and global debates, regularly invited to contribute to major platforms and processes. For example, in June 2025, EAFF President Elizabeth Nsimadala was invited to speak at the UNFCCC Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security Workshop in Bonn. Selected by the World Farmers' Organisation to represent the global farmer constituency, she delivered the opening statement, setting expectations for farmer engagement in this global policy process.

EAFF's professionalism and dedication to its work have attracted funding and strategic partnerships, while its members have been actively engaged in



Photo: EAFF CEO speaking at Action on Food pavilion at COP29

meetings, dialogues, and negotiations across the region and beyond. This combination of evidence-based advocacy, strong partnerships, and active membership has positioned EAFF as a key actor, driving farmer-centred climate action.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building on this momentum, EAFF aims to:

- Ensure a strong farmer presence at COP30 and in shaping post-2030 development frameworks, ensuring farmer priorities are integrated into the global climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development agendas.
- Expand efforts to unlock climate finance, including strengthening proposal development capacity and engaging the private sector and national policy focal points.
- Deepen inclusivity by mainstreaming youth and gender perspectives in climate dialogues.
- Scale up farmer-led innovations and adaptation practices, using case studies to inform national and regional policy frameworks.
- Continue building broad-based partnerships to position EAFF as the “go-to” platform for farmer-led climate action in Africa.



Photo: Norbert Tuyishime, EAFF Project officer, attending COP29



Photo: EAFF workshop to gather farmer perspectives on adaptation indicators

CONCLUSION

The past four years mark a transformation in EAFF’s engagement on climate change. From building farmer capacity and generating evidence, to shaping policy and representing farmers at the highest levels of global negotiations, EAFF has become indispensable in advancing climate-resilient agriculture in Africa. With continued investment and partnerships, EAFF and its members are poised to lead a transformative shift in food systems—one that is inclusive, fair, and capable of withstanding the challenges of climate change.



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