



20 23

EASTERN AFRICA FARMERS FEDERATION

ANNUAL REPORT

The Voice of all farmers in Eastern Africa

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About this report

The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) is proud to present its Integrated Report and financial statements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

This report offers our stakeholders a comprehensive view of how EAFF has generated value during the period under review, detailing how we utilized various forms of capital to drive value creation and growth. It provides a deeper insight into our operations, achievements, opportunities, and challenges, as we continue to pursue our goal of a prosperous and cohesive farming community in Eastern Africa.

Purpose of the Report

This report underscores the Federation's commitment to strengthening communication with stakeholders by integrating both financial and non-financial metrics in evaluating our performance. It offers a comprehensive overview of our financial, operational, strategic, social, and governance outcomes, highlighting key results and their implications for the Federation during the year under review.

“ONCE IN YOUR LIFE YOU MAY NEED A DOCTOR, A LAWYER, A POLICEMAN, AND A PREACHER BUT EVERY DAY, THREE TIMES A DAY, YOU NEED A FARMER.”-BRENDA SCHOEPP

ABOUT US

The Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAFF) is a regional, member-based organization founded in 2001, registered under the Societies Act of Kenya. With chapters established across its member countries, EAFF brings together apex farmer associations, cooperatives, and commodity associations from 10 nations in Eastern Africa, including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania (Zanzibar), Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Eritrea.

EAFF's mission is to empower regional farmers by advocating for pro-farmers policies that support agricultural development and trade. It plays a pivotal role in facilitating regional integration and entrepreneurship, promoting food security, sovereignty, and poverty alleviation. EAFF is also dedicated to managing and disseminating agricultural information effectively, while actively engaging women and youth in the sector. Additionally, the federation is committed to conserving natural resources and biodiversity, ensuring a sustainable future for the region's agriculture.



WE Believe Farmers are Africa's greatest asset

OUR KEY STAKEHOLDERS

In its mission to empower regional farmers by advocating pro-farmer policies that support agricultural development and trade, the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) collaborates with a diverse range of stakeholders. These dynamic relationships allow EAFF to leverage expertise, resources, and networks to ensure that farmers in the region have access to the tools, knowledge, and markets necessary for long-term success.



Farmers and Farmer Organizations

one of our primary stakeholders are the national and regional farmer organizations that represent smallholder farmers. These collaborations strengthen our ability to advocate for farmer-centric policies and drive the adoption of agricultural best practices across the region.



Development Partners

EAFF actively engages with international development organizations such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), USAID, and the European Union. These partnerships provide critical support for capacity building, research, and financing to further agricultural development in Eastern Africa.



Government Agencies

EAFF ensures that farmer concerns are heard at the highest policy-making levels. These collaborations are crucial in shaping agricultural policies that enhance productivity and support value addition for better market outcomes.



Research and Academic Institutions

Partnerships with research bodies and universities enable EAFF to facilitate knowledge transfer, innovation, and the development of technologies that are tailored to the needs of smallholder farmers.

OUR FOOTPRINT IN 2023



1. Kenya
2. Tanzania
3. Uganda
4. Rwanda
5. Burundi

1. Ethiopia
2. Eritrea
3. South Sudan
4. DR Congo
5. Djibouti



MEMBERS OF EAFF PER COUNTRY

RWANDA



- **INGABO Farmers' Organization**
- **IMBARAGA (Rwanda Federation of Farmers)**
- **National Confederation of Co-operatives of Rwanda (NCCR)**
- **Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum (RYAF)**

UGANDA



- **Uganda National Farmers' Federation (UNFFE)**
- **National Alliance of Agricultural Cooperatives in Uganda (NAAC)**
- **National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE)**

MEMBERS OF EAFF PER COUNTRY

8



ERITREA

- **National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW)**



KENYA

- **Kenya National Farmers Federation (KENAFF)**
- **Co-operative Alliance of Kenya (CAK)**
- **Kenya Livestock Producers Association (KLPA)**

MEMBERS OF EAFF PER COUNTRY

TANZANIA

- MVIWATA (National Networks of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania)
- Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT)
- Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC)
- Co-operative Union of Zanzibar (CUZA)

BURUNDI

CAPAD (Confédération des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement)

SOUTH SUDAN

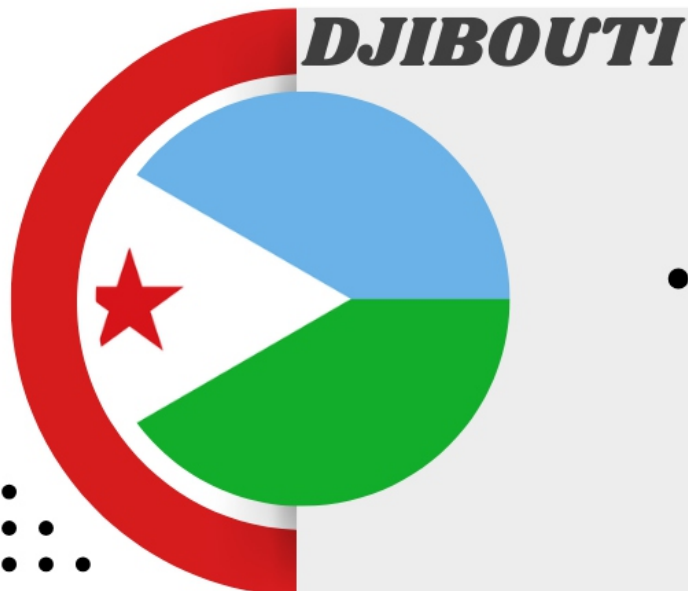
- South Sudan Agriculture Producers Union (SSAPU)

ETHIOPIA

Oromia Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Union (OCFCU)

MEMBERS OF EAFF PER COUNTRY

10



DJIBOUTI

- **Djibouti Livestock Breeders Association (DAPA)**



DR CONGO

- **CONAPAC (Confédération Nationale des Producteurs Agricoles du Congo)**
- **FOPAC (Fédération des Organisations des Producteurs Agricoles du Congo)**
- **COOCENKI (Coopérative Centrale du Nord-Kivu)**
- **SYDIP (Syndicat de Défense des Intérêts Paysans)**

FOREWORD



I am pleased to present the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation's (EAFF) Annual Report for 2023. This report reflects the dedicated work we have undertaken over the past year, focusing heavily on policy advocacy, institutional development, and capacity building. We are proud that these achievements align with the priorities set out in our strategic plan, which is now approaching its midpoint.

While we celebrate the progress made, we acknowledge that much remains to be done, particularly in the area of resource mobilization to meet the growing needs of our members.

This includes not only addressing existing challenges but also responding to emerging thematic areas such as climate change, improved representation, and the diverse new demands that have arisen due to our increased visibility and influence. Our work is far from finished, but it is important to recognize the collective effort that has brought us this far.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the EAFF Board and Council for their unwavering support and to our development partners, whose contributions have made these accomplishments possible. As we look ahead, we remain committed to driving meaningful change and ensuring that the voice of the farmers across Eastern Africa continues to be heard, represented, and acted upon.

-Elizabeth Nsimadala, EAFF President

From the Chief Executive Officer



As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, it is essential to underscore the pivotal role that farmers and farmers' organizations play in ensuring food security and sustainable development in our region.

Farmers are the backbone of our economies, tirelessly working to feed families and communities while driving agricultural growth. Their resilience and dedication are critical in addressing the challenges posed by climate change, economic shifts, and evolving consumer demands.

This year, the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) has made significant strides in advocating for the interests of farmers and enhancing their capacity to thrive in an increasingly complex agricultural landscape.

Our initiatives have focused on empowering farmers' organizations, promoting collaboration, and ensuring that farmers have a voice in policy-making processes. Through strategic partnerships and targeted advocacy efforts, we have succeeded in bringing attention to the pressing needs of farmers and the vital contributions they make to food systems.

In addition to advocacy, our commitment to capacity building has never been more robust. We have implemented various training programs aimed at equipping farmers with the skills and knowledge necessary to adopt innovative agricultural practices, improve productivity, and access markets. By fostering a culture of learning and sharing, we are empowering farmers to become more resilient and better equipped to navigate the challenges ahead.

As we move forward, let us continue to prioritize the welfare of farmers and strengthen their organizations. Together, we can build a more sustainable agricultural sector that not only secures food for our communities but also enhances the livelihoods of millions across Eastern Africa.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the farmers of our region.

Mr. Stephen Muchiri
CEO, EASTERN AFRICA FARMERS FEDERATION

A person with dark dreadlocks, wearing a yellow shirt and blue overalls, is crouching in a field of green leafy plants. The background is a soft-focus landscape with hills and a sunset sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**EAFF STANDS FOR A
FUTURE WHERE EVERY
FARMER HAS THE
TOOLS, SKILLS, AND
OPPORTUNITIES TO
SUCCEED**

OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy is intricately aligned with our vision for prosperity and cohesiveness within the agricultural sector. Our primary objective, articulated in the EAFF 2021-2028 Strategic Plan, is to transform smallholder agriculture into a rewarding investment opportunity. We believe that by empowering smallholder farmers, we can enhance their livelihoods and foster economic growth across the region.

To achieve this vision, we have established five strategic pillars that will guide our efforts over the next several years. These pillars are framed as key results to be delivered by 2028, ensuring a focused approach to transforming smallholder farming units into profitable enterprises.



TAKING AGGREGATION IN USE TO SCALE.

We aim to develop and scale farmer collectives as vehicles for aggregation. By facilitating economies of scale and scope, these collectives will enhance farmers' bargaining power and improve access to markets.



LEVERAGING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY.

We will develop and scale ICT platforms that serve as knowledge hubs for smallholder farmers. By providing access to vital information, we empower farmers to make informed decisions and adopt best practices.



TAKING PROVISION OF ECONOMIC SERVICES TO SCALE.

Our strategy includes the development of digital platforms that facilitate commercial transactions. These platforms will connect farmers with buyers, streamline supply chains, and enhance market access.



ADVOCATING FOR SUPPORTIVE POLICIES.

We are committed to improving the capacity of EAFF and our national and sub-national member organizations to provide economic services to their members. By strengthening our implementation support to partners, we can enhance the effectiveness of our initiatives.



IMPROVING CAPACITY OF MEMBERS TO DISCHARGE THEIR REPRESENTATION MANDATE

We are enhancing the capacity of EAFF and our member organizations to discharge their representation mandate through effective policy advocacy. By engaging with policymakers and stakeholders, we aim to influence policies that support smallholder farmers and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Economic Service Delivery

Market Access

Access to markets is essential for farmers to sell their produce, generate income, and improve their livelihoods. It allows them to reach a wider customer base, obtain better prices for their products, and invest in their farms for increased productivity and sustainability.

EAFF has been facilitating B2B meetings between Farmers Organisation (FOs) and prospective buyers of their products. In 2023, more than 20 B2B agreements were negotiated in 8 countries. More than 74 Sub national FOs in 15 National farmer organizations collectively sold Maize, Cassava, Irish potatoes, beans, rice and milk worth USD 3.8 million.

Specifically, FOs sold 6,714 mt of Cassava tubers valued at USD 1,093,086; 67 mt cassava flour valued at an amount of USD 83,750.; 2,697.79Mt worth USD 851,246; Irish potatoes: 836.5 MT of potatoes sold for an estimated value of USD 343,299.5, Beans: 178 MT worth USD 163,760, Rice: 405 MT worth USD 461,70. The buyers included millers, hotels and bakers.

Financial Access

Having access to finance enable's farmers to invest in seeds, equipment, and technology thus increasing their productivity and income. Further, it enables them to expand their operations, mitigate risks, and adapt to climate change.

In 2023, we were able to negotiate for and secure USD 1,555,738.96 in funding from various financial service providers for onward lending to farmers and cooperatives. That amount was loaned to more than 26,692 farmers. In addition, USD 515,093 was in form of bank loans to cooperatives to aggregate farmers' produce. We also received grants amounting to US\$2,145,000 to support activities under the economic service delivery pillar.



Partnerships

Creating meaningful partnerships is critical to achieving economic service delivery. At the regional level, EAFF has been engaging various partners in negotiations to forge partnerships that can enable farmers to access, markets, finance, policy and climate change and development partners to get funding for different programmes and projects.



The e-Granary project continues to thrive because of the partnerships we have built. Apart from establishing 15 agri-business working alliances, we have also created over 20 partnerships with private sector actors (markets and finance) under project like Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation & Livelihoods in Eastern Africa (AIRTEA) and Farmer Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions (FO4ACP).

African Youth Agripreneurs (AYA), with 4,400 young female and male farmers, is a platform we utilized for sharing opportunities and supporting collaborations. More than 30 opportunities and collaboration have so far been shared.

Our policy influencing capacity programme has resulted in the creation of new partnerships with the AICCRA, PACJA, AGNES, Food Action Alliance (FAA), GGGI – Green Growth Planning & Implementation – Africa Regional Bureau in Cote d'Ivoire; CIRAD, France (EA Regional office; among others. These have strengthened our activities influencing policy in our priority thematic areas in: markets, finance, youth and climate change.

Extension Services

Extension services are essential for farmers in East Africa to receive training, information, and support to improve agricultural practices. They help farmers adopt new technologies, increase productivity, and adapt to changing environmental conditions.



Extension services also promote sustainable farming methods, enhance food security, and empower farmers to make informed decisions.

The e-GRANARY programme, as a tool for the provision of extension services to farmers has succeeded greatly, especially as an e-extension platform helping farmers improve their yields and earnings.

Under AYA programme, 8 communication channels have been created and are operational servicing more than 4,400 young people in agribusiness. The platform gives users access to a community of like-minded people, posting information and learnings. They get to interact on diverse topics, and share content, comments, and messages with their peers. They have exclusive weekly virtual meetups i.e live podcasts or live chats with key stakeholders. They also have access to exclusive live events, webinars, and unlimited replay of all past events. Most importantly as an e-extension service, that have access to e-learning courses, online mentorship, and coaching sessions.

With the Upscaling the benefits of Push-pull technology for Sustainable agriCultural intensification in East Africa (UPSCALE) whose focus is to expand the adoption of push pull technology to n 2023, we sent 5,000 farmers extension messages on push pull technology. In East Africa, UPSCALE project is helping farmers improve productivity, access larger markets, attract investment, create jobs, and contribute to economic growth.

We have also extended Aflatoxin technologies to over 10,000 Farmers under the DEPRiN project, in the cereal value chain, helping achieve its main objective of fostering the capacity and agility of Small-Holder Farmers (SHFs) and their organizations in advancing food systems transformation and enhancing resilience to future shocks.

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY ENGAGEMENT

A key mandate of EAFF is to foster a conducive business environment for farmers through advocacy and policy engagement by National Farmers' Organizations (NFOs). In 2023, EAFF engaged in several advocacy initiatives aimed at influencing policy at the national level.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), EAFF advocated for the establishment and formal registration of cooperatives. Under the theme “Cooperatives: Partners for Accelerated Sustainable Development,” EAFF pushed for the creation and recognition of farmers' cooperatives as vehicles for promoting economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

Following EAFF's advocacy efforts, a ministerial decree was issued by the Minister of Rural Development to establish a national register of cooperatives, in line with the Organisation pour l'harmonisation en Afrique du droit des affaires (OHADA) law. Additionally, EAFF's member, CONAPAC, advocated for improving the business climate for maize production and ensuring the inclusion of farmers' organizations in government projects in Haut Katanga and North Kivu.



In South Sudan, SSAPU (South Sudan Agricultural Producers Union) has been actively involved in policy discussions, including contributing to the National Agriculture and Livestock Policy (NALEP).

As the coordinators of the ILCRP2 Platform, EAFF supported the review of family farming policies in Africa, aligning with FAO guidelines. This included efforts in land digitization and advocacy for policies related to land access, resilience to climate change, and family farming. EAFF also participated in IGAD discussions on land governance and conflict resolution, and collaborated with the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDIFF) to contribute to public policies for the empowerment of women and gender equality.

In Kenya, EAFF supported the Kenya Land Alliance's efforts to integrate women's land rights into broader agricultural policies.

East African Farmers' Policy Influencing at the Regional Level

Through the Strengthening East African Farmers' Policy Influencing Capacity project, supported by FAO/IUCN, EAFF continued its advocacy for the EAC Co-operatives Act (2014/2015). This Act will enable the formation of regional cooperative unions across East African Community (EAC) partner states and allow citizens from different countries to jointly form cooperatives. Once enacted, it will also establish the East African Cooperative Agency to develop rules and regulations for the sector. Despite facing bureaucratic delays, including challenges in securing a meeting with the Tanzanian President, EAFF remained committed to advocating for the Act's passage.

At the Africa Food Systems Summit (AFS) in Dar es Salaam, EAFF's President highlighted the importance of recognizing agricultural cooperatives as business models that enable farmers to participate more effectively in food systems. She also reiterated the call for the enactment of the EAC Cooperative Societies Act. EAFF's participation at AFS included moderating the Farmers' Forum during the event.

Throughout 2023, EAFF continued to mobilize NFOs across Eastern Africa to advocate for the passage of the Act in their respective countries. Once the Act is enacted, EAFF has developed implementation plans to ensure its domestication across member states.

Promoting Sustainable Practices and Food Security

EAFF is implementing the DEPRiN project, which promotes intercropping and technologies that reduce aflatoxin contamination in grains, improving food security and incomes for smallholder farmers. Similarly, the SOLFOOD project focuses on improving food security by reducing post-harvest losses due to aflatoxin and finding alternative uses for contaminated maize in aquaculture and poultry value chains.

Through the Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy and Practice for Sustainable Food Systems under the EU-AU Partnership (StEPPFoS) project, EAFF contributes to Africa's transition towards sustainable food systems. This project supports the FNSSA (Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture) agenda, which is central to Africa's development priorities and AU-EU cooperation.

In 2023, EAFF actively participated in numerous regional policy engagement activities and led specific interventions focusing on Climate Change Advocacy by Farmer Organizations (FOs). EAFF received over 200 invitations, with the EAFF President attending more than 79 global, continental, and regional meetings to advocate for farmers in Eastern Africa. This year saw an increase in policy engagement compared to previous years. Below is a summary of EAFF's key interventions, aimed at enhancing FOs' capacity and solidifying EAFF's position as the lead voice in shaping national and international climate adaptation policies.

Pre-SB58 AGNES Strategy Meeting, March 14-17, 2023, Eka Hotel, Nairobi

EAFF made a significant presentation focusing on:

- Implementation modalities for Climate Action in Agriculture.
- New topics that need to be explored concerning climate change and agriculture.
- Proposals for developing an information portal to streamline climate-related data sharing.

AU Climate Change and Resilience Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2023)

EAFF participated in the inaugural Climate Investment Partnership Roundtable hosted by the African Union's Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy division. The roundtable gathered stakeholders from EU member states, the United States, Canada, FAO, IFAD, the World Bank, African Development Bank, private sector, and civil society. Discussions centered on transforming food systems, priority action areas, and regional flagship initiatives. EAFF contributed to clarifying key action areas and requested that farmers be given an opportunity to deliver a statement at the upcoming Nairobi Climate Summit. It was agreed that a side event would be organized to allow farmers to package their input for the Summit.

Pan-African Parliament Climate Summit, May 16-17, 2023, Midrand, South Africa

The Pan-African Parliamentarians Summit serves as a crucial platform for discussing the climate crisis. Legislators, heads of state, experts, and leaders gathered to shape discourse on climate justice and drive action. EAFF participated in a panel focused on the role of farmers in climate change dialogues, noting that farmer organizations face significant challenges, including lack of capacity, information, and influence in policy and investment decisions.

STUDIES AND CONSULTANCIES

ANNUAL REPORT

In 2023, EAFF commissioned several studies and consultancies to support its work in economic services delivery, institutional development, and policy engagement.

Africa Climate Process, Actors, and Institutions: Impact on Farmers

Supported by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, this study explored the processes and roles of actors and institutions in global climate change discourse, with a focus on how these dynamics impact farmers. The study assessed NFOs' understanding of climate adaptation, mitigation, and the COP process. It also provided insights into national, regional, and global climate policy processes and engagement opportunities. As a result, EAFF members gained valuable knowledge on climate change negotiations and the relevant policy frameworks.

Study on the Economic Impact of the EU Green Deal on Smallholder Farmers in Eastern Africa

This study examined the potential effects of the EU Green Deal on smallholder farmers in Eastern Africa. The findings revealed that new EU regulations, particularly the Farm to Fork strategy and Chemical Sustainability Strategy, could increase costs for farmers already grappling with high input prices due to inflation and the Russia-Ukraine war.

These additional requirements could threaten the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and reduce export earnings in the region.

Development of Enterprise Development and Structured Trade in FOs Curriculum

This consultancy engagement aimed to create a curriculum to guide National Farmers' Organizations (NFOs) on how to scale and transform into business-oriented institutions capable of offering sustainable economic services to smallholder farmers. The curriculum, which includes performance indicators, was used in a regional training for FOs to enhance their capacity for enterprise development and structured trade.

Building Resilient Food Systems for Smallholder Farmers: EAFF Curriculum for FOs

This curriculum was designed to help FOs train smallholder farmers in climate-smart and sustainable farming techniques. The training module focuses on both short- and long-term solutions to increase farmers' resilience and scalability.

EAFF at COP28, United Arab Emirates

The EAFF President was invited to over 10 key speaking sessions at COP28, where the organization reaffirmed its stance on climate action. These engagements included:

- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) General Assembly – November 29, 2023.
- World Leaders Summit – December 1, 2023.
- Presidential Side Event on Leveraging Investment for Climate Adaptation – December 1, 2023.
- Keynote at the CGIAR Development Partners Dinner – December 4, 2023.
- Agri-Food Systems Summits – December 4 and December 8, 2023.
- Coalition of Action for Soil Health Dinner – December 8, 2023.
- "Money Does Not Grow on Trees" Side Event at the UK Pavilion – December 9, 2023.
- "Building Local Ecosystems" Side Event organized by ECPDM and SNV – December 11, 2023.
- Side Event by Ban Ki-Moon Centre and German Ministry of Food and Agriculture – December 9, 2023.

EAFF continues to lead efforts to ensure farmers' voices are amplified in global climate discussions.

Advocacy on the EU Green Deal

Following a comprehensive study on the EU Green Deal, which highlighted its potential adverse effects on smallholder farmers in Eastern Africa, EAFF took proactive steps to initiate policy engagements within the EU from July to October 2023.

During this period, we conducted courtesy meetings with key stakeholders including the EU, COLEAD, AGRICORD, and OACPS in Brussels. These discussions focused on the implications of the Green Deal for agricultural activities in Eastern Africa. The primary objective of the meetings was to update the stakeholders on the study findings and garner their support in advocating for the concerns raised by the farmers.

A significant outcome of these engagements was the consensus on the need for a deeper, more detailed analysis, particularly value chain-specific studies for different countries. Furthermore, we established an ongoing dialogue around the EU Green Deal, ensuring continued engagement on this critical issue. Additionally, we secured a partnership with the Austrian Farmers' Association to collaborate on supporting smallholder farmers in complying with the Green Deal requirements. Follow-up discussions are underway to further this partnership and explore areas of support.

Africa Climate Summit (ACS) Preparations, August 8, 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

EAFF, as the lead for the Farmers Cluster, participated in the ACS consultation meeting. Key priorities identified by the cluster included:

- Supporting adaptation through technology and innovation transfer.
- Ensuring inclusive mitigation interventions.
- Promoting transparency in climate change information, including indigenous knowledge.
- Enhancing access to climate finance and diversifying funding sources.
- Ensuring fair market access for farmers, including carbon markets, and addressing the impacts of new regulations like the EU Green Deal.

Pre-AMCEN Roundtable and the Launch of the Community of Practice Network, August 10-11, 2023, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EAFF attended this roundtable to discuss African interests in environmental and climate change dialogue processes ahead of the 19th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The meeting emphasized safeguarding African perspectives in regional and global forums.

EAFF Side Event during Africa Climate Change Summit

At the Africa Climate Change Summit, EAFF hosted a side event titled "A New Vision for Scaling Climate Action in African Agriculture: The Case for Investing in Regional Organizations." The event highlighted the disconnect between climate decisions made at past COPs and their implementation in agriculture, advocating for enhanced investment in African farmer organizations.

COP28

The Road to COP28: Strengthening the Role of Farmers in Climate Change Policy

EAFF prioritized deepening its understanding of agriculture and food systems within the COP processes ahead of COP28, held in the United Arab Emirates from November 30 to December 12, 2023. EAFF, in collaboration with AICCRA, organized a virtual workshop on November 2-3, 2023, to consolidate a common position and strategize on how farmers can effectively voice their concerns in the negotiations. The workshop resulted in the "COP28 Call-to-Action Statement," which EAFF presented at COP28.

EAFF's Growing Recognition

EAFF's role and impact have been increasingly acknowledged, resulting in our incorporation into over 10 influential bodies. These include:

1. PAFO Board, representing Women
2. World Farmers' Organization Board, representing Africa
3. COP28 Food Systems Reference Group, under UAE leadership
4. FAO's Global Steering Committee for the Forest and Farm Facility
5. AU–EU Task Force on Agricultural Cooperation
6. Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) Board
7. African Union Commission's Technical Committee on Common Agro-Industrial Parks
8. Pan-African Agribusiness Chamber Steering Committee
9. Vice President, FAO Africa's "One Country, One Priority Commodity" initiative
10. ACTESA/COMESA Board Member

EAFF Annual General Meetings: 25th EAFF Council Meeting

At the 25th EAFF Council Meeting, members participated in an open seminar where the Secretariat, on behalf of the Board, presented updates on the organization's ongoing projects. Key among these was the EAFF Strategic Plan, which continues to guide our operations and decision-making processes.

The Council later convened in a closed meeting to deliberate on various matters. Key decisions made included:

- i) EAFF will continue pursuing partnerships and fundraising efforts with relevant organizations.
- ii) Members are urged to prioritize climate change issues, enhancing both understanding and participation within their networks.
- iii) EAFF will take the lead on land policy and advocacy, areas often dominated by NGOs, despite the fact that land ownership largely rests with farmers.
- iv) Strengthening engagement with private sector actors is crucial, as numerous opportunities exist for partnerships and funding.
- v) Members will implement all recommendations from the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA), focusing on governance, financial management, procurement, and communication.

- vi) EAFF will continue following up on the East African Community (EAC) Co-operative Societies Bill.
- vii) Awareness around the European Union (EU) Green Deal will be sustained, focusing on advocacy, visibility, and resource mobilization.
- viii) EAFF will continue its Presidential Missions to address key issues affecting farmers.

EAFF CEO's Forum

The EAFF CEO's Forum serves as a platform to receive communications from the Chair of CEOs and discuss EAFF's annual reports, strategy, and fundraising efforts. Key topics discussed in 2023 included:

- I) Providing orientation for both Board and Council members on emerging trends. This will be combined with a session to discuss the Presidential Mission and OCA Report in the first quarter of 2023.
- ii) Continuing to track the progress of the EAC Cooperative Societies Bill.
- iii) Disseminating information on the EU Green Deal, raising awareness, and mobilizing resources for compliance.

- iv) Undertaking additional EAFF Presidential Missions to support member organizations in unlocking opportunities at the national level, including partnerships with private sector actors, and conducting OCA assessments for remaining countries.
- v) Exploring membership opportunities in Ethiopia and Eritrea as part of efforts to expand EAFF's network.

EAFF Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA)

Backstopping, monitoring, and evaluation are vital components of capacity building within EAFF. The aim is to provide National Farmers' Organizations (NFOs) and Farmer Organizations (FOs) with tools, guidance, and expertise to effectively address challenges and enhance their impact.

In 2023, EAFF continued to focus on strengthening governance within FOs through the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA), a structured tool for self-assessing organizational capacity and creating action plans for improvement. This approach fosters ownership of the process and helps organizations recognize their strengths, clarify varying perspectives, and develop strategies for capacity enhancement.

Since 2014, EAFF had not conducted a comprehensive OCA, and the decision to undertake it in 2023 was driven by the recognition of the evolving environment in which FOs operate. The OCA enabled EAFF to evaluate the current status of member organizations and devise improvement plans to address identified challenges.

The OCA tool was administered to 14 Farmer Organizations across six countries. It assessed areas such as governance, legal structures, administrative and procurement systems, financial management, human resources, organizational management, and performance management. A scoring criterion was used, with results interpreted as follows:

- Score 0-1: Low capacity
- Score 1-2: Basic capacity
- Score 2-3: Moderate capacity
- Score 3-4: High capacity

The overall cumulative score for all organizations was 2.6, indicating a moderate capacity level. This suggests that most organizations require institutional strengthening to foster growth. Individual performance results were shared with each entity to highlight variations. Table 4 below outlines the performance scores across the assessed organizations.

Governance and legal structure – 2.8	Admin and procurement systems – 2.7	Financial Management – 2.6
Human Resource – 2.9	Organizational Management – 2.3	Performance Management – 2.3

Organisational and performance management are a key area of emphasis that had the lowest score. To ensure that the members improve their scores, supportive supervision missions, internal audits, and continuous assessments should be encouraged. These entities could also benefit from scaling-up investments.

Joint interventions are necessary to capacity build entities in plenary sessions where experience can be shared, and best practices harvested. Implementation support supervision and technical assistance areas would also be identified, costed, and deployed for short-term realisation of gains.



A conceptual image featuring a glowing lightbulb with a small green plant growing inside it. The lightbulb is surrounded by more greenery, including leaves and moss, set against a solid green background. The text is overlaid on this image in a bold, white, serif font.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
THAT ENHANCE FOOD
SECURITY, IMPROVE
LIVELIHOODS, AND PROTECT
THE ENVIRONMENT ACROSS
THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



LIST OF DONORS AND PARTNERS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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