

# Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAFF)

## EAFF Presentation-

JUNE, 28<sup>TH</sup> 2023

WIPO

**Presented By:** Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala

**Position :** President





**My presentation today will be on**

**THE ROLE OF IP IN PROVIDING**

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE**



# Content

- Introduction of EAFF
- Actions by farmers
- Take-ways
- conclusion



## E AFF Vision

A Prosperous and Cohesive Farming Community in Eastern Africa

Currently (> 25 million farmers)

## E AFF membership

10 countries; 24 apex organizations

Our scope is the Eastern Africa – Membership

scope in EAC; COMESA & IGAD....

- Producer co-operatives;
- Commodity Associations;
- Women organizations;
- Lobby & advocacy based ;
- Youth Organisations

- Launched in 2001 - operations from 2005
- Purpose – Regional Integration process
- Members are producers of crops; livestock; fisheries & Agroforestry



# Introduction

- **My name Elizabeth Nsimadala**, I am a small-scale young farmer from western Uganda. I am the Chair of the advisory board of NAAC – Uganda, the President of EAFF, Director of women affairs in PAFO and the Africa representative on the WFO Board.
- **At EAFF**, we have a new strategic plan 2021-2028 that focuses on ***“Transforming small holder agriculture into a rewarding investment”*** and we have cross cutting themes on climate change; youth & gender



# Actions by farmers to deliver sustainability & innovation

- **First and foremost** – we have to get “**organized into formidable groups**” to be able to achieve cohesion homogeneously ( as commodity groups) and heterogeneously (as federations) – We have 24 apex organizations comprising of hundreds of commodity associations/ cooperatives – representing >25 million individual farmers
- **Secondly** –we have developed **business plans** that guide our vision and mission as organizations - @EAFB we are on our 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic plan and each member has a SP aligned to that of EAFB



## Actions by farmers to deliver sustainability & innovation

- **Thirdly** – we have invested in **professionalizing our secretariats** – currently we have **25 CEOs** and over 100 technical staff. A professional secretariat is able to bridge the gap between farmers and other actors
- **Fourth** – we have developed **formal partnerships** with both private, research, NGOs, governments; development partners etc.; we have over 30 active partnerships – **these assist in co-creation of innovations**; seeking support both financial & policy; technology adoption, evaluation and commercialization of the innovations



# Actions by farmers to deliver sustainability & innovation

- **Fifth – Capacity building and skills development** – for innovations to be generated and deployed; E AFF has a program that looks at governance and technical competence of her members; this is the foundation for any form of sustainable development at the local level
- **Sixth – embracing technology** – there are many forms of technology these days; @E AFF we have developed a mobile based platform - **e-granary** to help us roll out our SP; deliver economic services as well as extension support





## Take a ways

1. **Why Organized groups?** – we have innovated around “aggregation” at local, national, regional and continental level and through policy (on-going at EAC) – these aggregated voices when deployed will achieve “sustainability” on many fronts.
2. **“business plans”**- our plan to *“Transform small holder agriculture into a rewarding investment”* means our “now aggregated” farmers are ready to embrace investments – **that are transformative since we are aggregating their “resources & assets” to make them attractive to investors**



## Take a ways

3. **“Professionalizing ...”**- global discussions have to be localized just like local ideas need to be projected globally; deployment of professionals in **FOs helps contextualize farmer issues into global decisions**; national policies and project targeting; all PAFO members have embraced this.

4. **“Formal partnerships”** - Agriculture sector has many players; and innovations can be achieved by creating “innovative partnerships”; EAFF has had over 10 such platforms. Partnerships help in creating awareness of innovations; protecting the innovations (IP); scaling through commercialization and extension and having the right policy framework. **We have active partnerships that assist deliver these objectives as well as our partners objectives.**



## Take aways

5. **Capacity building and skills development** – there is a lot of indigenous knowledge untapped; **there are technics of training literacy-challenged farmers** and there are different ways of disseminating information and receiving feedback. **These skill-sets are attained through regular consultations with members** and testing of different sets/combination of approaches. Delivery of actions at local level is paramount.

6. **“Embracing technology”**- EAFF is probably one of the first FOs to embrace farm-2-fork mobile-enabled digital platform at multi-country level. We have “virtually-aggregated” members for different services



# Conclusion

- **To achieve sustainable agriculture food systems;** all systems that are important must “de-silo” and work as a **mutual ecosystem;** as farmers we have invested in convening other actors to form “**active partnerships**” across the food systems from the market; through backward linkages to the farm-gate....these are built on trust, equity; communication; transparency and support. **We can not innovate without these partnerships and we can-not sustain our agriculture without such investments**



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Thank You **for listening**

**merci beaucoup** votre attention