



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY DEPARTMENT



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMES

1.0 Introduction

The economies and livelihoods of citizens in East Africa are predominantly dependent on agriculture. The sector accounts for 25%-40% of EAC Partner States (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Republic of South Sudan) Gross Domestic Product and is a leading employer for over 80 percent of the population in the region. More than 70% of the industries in the EAC are agro-based and depend on agriculture as the main source of raw materials. Agricultural commodities constitute about 65% of the volume of intra-regional trade in the EAC.

Cooperation in agriculture and food security is one of the priorities that feature prominently in the EAC integration process. Chapter 18, Articles 105-110 of the Treaty sets out the overall objectives of the agriculture sector as the achievement of food security and rational agricultural production with a view of promoting complementarity and specialization in the sustainability of national agricultural programs, in order to ensure among other things, food sufficiency within the EAC region. Cooperation in Agriculture and Rural Development is further



underscored in Article 45 of the Common Market Protocol. The work of the Sector is guided by Sectoral Council of Ministers on Agriculture and Food Security (SCAFs).

The EAC Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (EAC-ARDP) was developed as a fundamental step in implementing one of the key objectives of the Treaty, which is to ensure sustainable agricultural development and food security in the EAC region. Emanating from the EAC-ARDP was the multi-year, multi-sectoral EAC Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (EAC-ARDS) which provides the roadmap for Partner States and other stakeholders in defining interventions that will lead to achievement of food security in the region.

In 2015, EAC Vision 2050 was launched as

the long-term vision for six Partner States and provides architecture of the desired future state for the region. Vision 2050, prioritizes agriculture as the sector that will be the driver of industrial transformation, food security, rural development and economic prosperity in EAC.

2.0 EAC Agriculture Sector Projects and Programmes

The EAC Food Security Action Plan was the first instrument adopted by the Summit in 2011 (at the (highest political level) to guide coordination and implementation of flagship projects and programmes aimed at catalysing agricultural transformation. The implementation period for the FSAP came to an end in the

financial year 2015/16. The process of reviewing implementation of FSAP was undertaken and the successor EAC Food and Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2022) formulated and approved by the Council of Ministers in 2018.

Over the years, progress made on several fronts include development of governance instruments for strengthening regional coordination of the sector, enhancing food and nutrition security and safety, and interventions to promote agricultural value chains in the areas of crops, youth employment and livestock and fisheries.

EAC flagship programmes in the agricultural sector are interrelated and interdependent as follows:

1. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)
2. Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP)
3. Food and Nutrition Security
4. Farm Inputs
5. Promoting Youth employment in Agriculture
6. Livestock Development.

3.0 SPS Programme

The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement under the World Trade Organization (WTO) focuses on how governments can apply SPS measures and regulations to ensure plant health, animal health and food and feed safety. SPS measures are now one of the key factors dictating safety considerations and market access for agricultural commodities. Article 108 (c) of the Treaty and Article 38 (1C) of the Customs Union provide for Partner States to harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary measures in order to facilitate trade within the community and other trading partners. With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union Smartfish project, EAC has developed SPS instruments aimed at strengthening capacities of Partner States to enforce SPS measures, ensure food and feed safety and enhance competitiveness of agricultural commodities traded within and beyond the region.

Under the EAC SPS programme the following has been achieved.

3.1 EAC SPS Protocol

In 2013, EAC Partner States adopted the SPS Protocol. The principal objective of the Protocol is to enforce sanitary and phytosanitary measures, standards and promote intra- and inter-regional trade. In laying the foundation for effective implementation and enforcement of the Protocol, a number of key instruments have been developed including the following.

- The SPS measures and procedures for fish and fisheries, phytosanitary measures and procedures for plants, food and feed safety measures were developed and adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2016
- A draft SPS Bill has been adopted by the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security and is awaiting enactment by the East African Legislative Assembly. It will provide a legal framework for enforcement of EAC SPS measures and instruments.
- Harmonized SPS regulations and Standard Operating Procedures required to facilitate implementation of SPS Bill have been developed.

The SPS Protocol has been ratified/acceded to by Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the Republic of South Sudan. To conclude the process, it is anticipated that the United Republic of Tanzania will ratify soon to pave way for implementation and domestication of various instruments developed under the Protocol.

3.2 SPS Information Sharing Platform

Development of the SPS Information Sharing Platform (SPS-IP) is currently being supported by Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA). The SPS-IP will enable electronic sharing and access of trade documents such as Phytosanitary and import permits issued from the country of origin to the country of destination in a manner that will eventually eliminate the need for traders to present paper documents at points of entry, transit or exit in the EAC. The platform will keep records of origin and destination of consignments/goods

within the EAC region. This will include the exporter and importer information hence improving accountability of the process.

3.3 Harmonized procedures for conducting PRAs

Harmonization of procedures for conducting pest risk analysis (PRAs) for maize, beans and rice has been concluded with support from USAID and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). These commodities are highly traded for food or seed for planting. The aforementioned PRAs were adopted by the Council of Ministers in November, 2019. Implementation of the PRAs will contribute towards reducing Phytosanitary trade barriers in the EAC. In addition, a Pest Information Management System (PIMS) has been established to facilitate development of credible pest risk analysis. PIMS will allow NPPOs to share resources and develop joint strategies for agricultural pest management. It will also allow trading partners to access and share information that satisfies intra and international trade obligations.

3.4 Aflatoxin Prevention and Control

Aflatoxin contamination is one of the formidable SPS challenges posing a threat to human and animal health and trade in the region. Defined as family of toxins produced by certain fungi that are found on agricultural crops such as maize and ground nuts. Aflatoxin-producing fungi can contaminate crops in the field, at harvest, and during storage.

Aflatoxin exposure in the EAC is reflected in the frequent outbreaks of acute aflatoxicosis, especially



in Kenya where in 2004, case fatality rate was 123 out of 341 reported cases in Eastern Region. In July, 2016, at least 14 deaths in the United Republic of Tanzania (Dodoma and Manyara regions) were linked to Aflatoxin contamination. Aflatoxin contaminated food is also associated with adverse human and animal health impacts including immunosuppression, stunting among infants and young children, and liver cancer in both humans and animals.

Impacts on trade are enormous translating to significant financial losses for the agriculture sector. According to Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), Africa loses an estimated US\$670 million in rejected export trade annually due to contamination by aflatoxin. Consequently, this has undermined the livelihoods and well-being of millions of households who depend on agriculture. In line with the Council of Ministers directives, EAC is implementing a multi-sectoral Aflatoxin prevention and control project funded by USAID and technically supported by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) since inception. The project is aimed at mitigating adverse effects of aflatoxin along the food and feed value chains.

Achievements

- A robust Aflatoxin prevention and control strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2018.
- A total of 11 evidence -based Technical Papers and 9 policy briefs have been developed and disseminated through strategic forums. They contain recommendations on interventions required to mitigate the multi-sectoral impacts and effects of aflatoxin. The policy briefs can be accessed from this link (<https://www.eac.int/documents/category/aflatoxin-prevention-and-control>).

- In 2017, the EAC Secretariat organized a benchmarking visit to IITA headquarters in Ibadan, Nigeria to enable Partner States gain practical experience on the contribution of Aflasafe technology in the control of aflatoxin and the associated health, economic and farm-level benefits. Aflasafe is a natural, safe and cost-effective biocontrol product developed by IITA and able to reduce aflatoxin contamination in maize and groundnuts from 80 to 99 percent, enabling farmers to earn approximately 15% more income. Under public-private partnerships modalities for the manufacturing and distribution of the technology have been put in place in Kenya and Tanzania. There are efforts by IITA to introduce the technology in other EAC Partner States.
- A comprehensive training course on Aflatoxin Prevention and Control Project for EAC Partner States experts was held in 2017.
- In February and March, 2020, the EAC Secretariat convened national stock-taking workshops which revealed that remarkable progress had been made by Partner States in mainstreaming aflatoxin prevention and control interventions in their national planning and budgeting instruments in accordance with the Council of Ministers Directives. EAC Partner States have allocated funding for aflatoxin mitigation and invested in capacity building, research and development, manufacturing and distribution of technologies for aflatoxin prevention and control and stepped up communication and awareness efforts.

3.5 Transboundary Crop and Animal Pests and Diseases

EAC region is a hot spot for many transboundary animal crop pests and diseases.

3.5.1 Crop Pests and Diseases

The Fall Army Worm (FAW) was reported in 2016 and is one of the ferocious transboundary crop pest in the EAC and Africa continent as a whole. The Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND)

has also been a threat in the EAC since 2011. Both diseases have reduced the productivity and availability of key staple and commercial crops such as Maize which many people depend on directly or indirectly in terms of food, employment and income.

The Fall Army Worm (FAW) was reported in 2016 and is one of the ferocious transboundary crop pest in the EAC and Africa continent as a whole. The Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND) has also been a threat in the EAC since 2011. More recently, in 2019/2020, some EAC Partner States have been battling the worst desert locust outbreak in 70 years. The diseases and pests have reduced the productivity and availability of key staple and commercial crops such as maize which many people depend on directly or indirectly in terms of food, employment and income.

Achievements

- a. In May 2018, the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) organized a regional workshop on MLN. The main focus of the workshop was to appraise EAC Partner States and other regional stakeholders on the current state of MLN in the region and management practices in place; share knowledge and information on current activities including capacity building, awareness creation, technologies developed or under development and deployed to manage MLN; and identify areas that require enhanced coordination and complementarity among EAC Partner States in the management of MLN.
- b. In September, 2018, the EAC Secretariat convened a regional stakeholders' workshop on combating the FAW. The objectives of the workshop among others included taking stock of the status of FAW management efforts and practices in the region and define the niche, critical role and response by EAC and mechanisms for strengthening regional coordination and complementarity among EAC Partner States.

The EAC Secretariat and Partner States have initiated a process of harmonizing Emergency Registration Protocols to facilitate access to safe and effective pesticides as part of the strategy to deal with emerging and re-emerging transboundary crop pests and diseases.

3.5.2 Animal Pests and Diseases

Some of the common endemic animal diseases include Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CBPP), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Tick borne diseases, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Peste de Petits Ruminants (PPR), Sheep and Goat Pox, African Swine Fever, Newcastle Disease, Trypanosomiasis (animal and human), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Rabies, Rift Valley Fever, Brucellosis, and Bovine Tuberculosis among others. TADs and zoonoses are responsible for tremendous economic losses to both farmers and governments. There are direct costs related to prevention and control of disease outbreaks as well as indirect costs related to loss of productivity and the impact on trade and tourism.

They have been recent outbreak of important animal and zoonotic diseases such as Rift Valley Fever, Marburg, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, FMD, PPR and anthrax in the community. Complementary actions at regional, continental and International level are needed to address the challenge in a coordinated manner. EAC Secretariat has collaborated with strategic regional and international partners that have adequate technical capacities and infrastructure for effective management of such diseases.

Implementation of the first EAC Regional Strategy on Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal and Zoonotic Diseases was concluded in 2018. A new strategy covering the period 2019 to 2023 has been developed and is awaiting adoption by EAC policy organs.

4.0 The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP)

The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), under the African Union is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food and nutrition security and economic growth. EAC has embraced and domesticated the CAADP agenda and is committed to the June 2014, African Heads of State Malabo Declaration

on Agriculture Growth and Transformation in Africa. The goals of Malabo include reducing levels of poverty, ending hunger on the continent and tripling intra-African trade in agricultural goods, among others by 2025. EAC engagement in the CAADP process has been supported by USAID and the Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA).

Key achievements under the CAADP programme include the following;

- a) adoption and signing of the EAC CAADP compact by the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security in 2017. The EAC CAADP Compact has been developed with the objective of catalyzing and facilitating the coordination of regional and crosscutting programmes of regional nature. It is a high-level commitment and agreement that defines EAC agricultural transformation priorities and focuses on facilitating coordination of regional programs that complement agricultural programs at the national level contained in the national CAADP compacts and national agriculture investment plans (NAIPs).
- b) In an effort to operationalize the CAADP Compact, the EAC Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP) has been adopted as a regional coordination and harmonization framework whose purpose is to complement and accelerate achievement of CAADP goals at the national levels. It will also serve as a central instrument to rally financial, institutional and technical support required to drive agricultural transformation.
- c) EAC Partner States have developed Malabo compliant National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) that are aligned to the EAC RAIP. NAIPs are the main vehicles for implementation and actualization of Malabo Declaration commitments.

In 2017 and 2018, the EAC Secretariat worked closely with the African Union Commission, the

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) and other RECs in supporting and coordinating the process of preparing the 1st and 2nd Biennial Reports which were submitted to the AU General Assembly. Biennial Agricultural Review process involves tracking, monitoring and reporting on implementation progress in achieving commitments under Malabo Declaration. EAC is among the RECs with outstanding performance. The Republic of Rwanda was ranked as the top performing country in Africa in implementing Malabo commitments in the 1st and 2nd Biennial Review reports (in 2017 and 2019 consecutively). In 2017, EAC was on track in meeting targets on i) Re-commitment to CAADP process; ii) Boosting intra-African trade in agriculture commodities; iii) Halving poverty through agriculture by 2025; and iv) Mutual accountability for actions and results. In 2019 Biennial Review report, the region was on track in meeting commitments on boosting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and enhancing resilience to climate variability. However, none of the EAC Partner States achieved the commitment on increasing agriculture spending to 10% of the national budget. This commitment is paramount in catalyzing agricultural transformation.

5.0 Food and Nutrition Security

EAC region is endowed with a wide range of resources including land, water, favorable climate,



human resources and market outlets that provide for potential food security within the community. However, food insecurity remains rampant in some parts of the region. Important common constraints to achieving food and nutrition security are diverse. They include overdependence on rainfed agriculture, high post-harvest losses (averaging 30-40%), low adoption of high-yielding and pest-resistant/tolerant varieties/breeds; low quality of produce; poor access to inputs; negative environmental and climate change impacts, and climate variability; inability of smallholder producers to meet stringent market requirements due to low produce and low quality of produce; poor pre&

post-harvest management regimes and market linkages, prevalence of pests and diseases and poor infrastructure. All these factors have constrained availability, accessibility and utilization of food. The EAC Food and Nutrition Security Programme is designed to ameliorate the aforementioned challenges.

Achievements

- In January 2019, the Council of Ministers adopted a five-year (2019 – 2024) EAC Regional Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (FNSS) and Action Plan

(FSAP) to guide the implementation and actualization of the regional food security objectives. FNSS and FSAP consolidate achievements made during the implementation of the Food Security Action Plan adopted by the Summit in 2011. They are designed to address prevailing gaps and challenges still undermining food and nutrition security in the region. FNSS and FSAP provide a unified approach to implementation, coordination and monitoring of the food and nutrition security programs at national and regional level. EAC Partner States are obligated to integrate the two instruments into their national policies and agriculture investment plans to achieve food and nutrition security.

- In September, 2018, the EAC Secretariat with technical and financial support from NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency convened a regional capacity development workshop on Food and Nutrition Security Knowledge Management. The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen EAC Partner States capacity on knowledge sharing and monitoring in the region as stipulated in the Malabo Declaration on commitment to end Hunger by 2025. The workshop resulted to creation of Community of Practice and launch of EAC regional hub on food and security matters.
- In enhancing access to information, EAC has established two online systems, the Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) and Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) to facilitate information exchange and support decision-making. RFBS provides evidence-based data about food stocks availability to inform policy decisions on movement of food from regions of surplus to deficit in the EAC. The ARIS database is an important tool for generation of data and information to guide decision-making and influence policy actions on strategic investments in the livestock and fisheries sub- sectors. EAC Partner States dedicated support to ensure ownership, institutionalization and long-term sustainability of these systems is critical.

- EAC Secretariat and Kilimo Trust are jointly implementing a three-year project (2019 - 2022) to enhance competitiveness of the rice sub-sector. The central aim of the project is to enable locally produced rice in East Africa to competitively substitute the current over 300 million US\$ worth of rice imports to the EAC Common Market. The project will contribute to inclusive transformation of the rice sector in East Africa for sustainable increase in incomes of 220,000 women, men and young people employed in the value chain of locally produced rice in the EAC.

6.0 Agricultural Inputs System Development

One of the factors contributing to low agricultural production and productivity in the EAC is inadequate access to appropriate technologies and farm inputs. EAC is implementing the Agricultural Inputs System Development Programme. The programme aims at facilitating harmonization of agricultural inputs policies and regulations, including seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to enhance agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security and intra-regional trade.

6.1 EAC Seed Harmonization Initiative

Seed is a critical input for agriculture and is a key pathway to delivering agricultural innovations to farmers. The seed industry is crucial for realizing agricultural transformation and competitiveness in the EAC region. The inherent weaknesses in seed delivery pathways limit farmers' access to improved varieties and seeds thus limiting the impact of increasing agricultural productivity. Addressing seed system constraints at national and regional levels is expected to improve the delivery of improved varieties and seeds thereby contributing to improving agricultural productivity, ensuring food security and improving the livelihoods of the rural poor.

The EAC seed harmonization initiative has been supported by both USAID and AGRA. The goal is to improve regional availability of seeds and planting materials through creation of an enabling and facilitative environment. The envisaged benefits from harmonization and enforcement of

appropriate legislative and regulatory framework on seed is enhanced accessibility to quality seeds, facilitation of inter and intra-regional trade, and enabling expansion of market opportunities for seed traders, reduced transaction costs and contribution towards agricultural productivity in the EAC Partner States.

Achievements

The EAC Seed and Plant Varieties Bill was adopted by SCAFs in December 2018 and has already been cleared the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs. Next steps will entail approval by the Council and enactment into law by the East African Legislative Assembly. The scope of the Bill applies to coordination, release and registration of plant varieties between Partner States; common processes for seed certification and protection of plant varieties within the Community and other related matters. Robust administrative arrangements have been spelt out to ensure enhanced coordination and cooperation among Partner States. The Bill makes provision for the Council of Ministers to establish a seed and plant variety evaluation committee, designation of national seed authorities and national plant variety committees. Other key areas that will be addressed include establishment of national and Community plant variety catalogues, seed certification, testing and marketing based on common understanding and application of harmonized procedures within the Community.

6.2 Fertilizer Policy and Bill

With support from AGRA, the EAC fertilizer policy and Bill have been drafted and subjected to national and regional validation in 2020. The two instruments upon adoption by EAC statutory



organs will contribute towards creating an enabling environment for local production, regulation and intra-regional trade in fertilizers. Proposed provisions include mutual recognition of fertilizers already registered in other EAC Partner States. Fertilizers on the EAC regional list will be given preferential treatment during the registration process if they have already been tested in similar agro-ecological conditions in other Partner States. A common decision-making approach will also be adopted with respect to blended fertilizers available for trade from one country to other EAC Partner States.

6.3 EAC Harmonized Pesticides Management Guidelines

The EAC, with support from FAO and USAID initiated the process of harmonizing EAC pesticide management guidelines in September 2016. The process culminated to the approval of the guidelines on efficacy trials, residue trials and data requirements by the Council of Ministers in January 2019. Additional guidelines on Data Requirements for Registration of



Meeting of EAC Technical Working Group on Pesticides

Biopesticides and Biocontrol agents for Plant Protection and Guidelines for Protection of Confidential Business Information were developed and adopted by the Council of Ministers in November 2019 with support from the USDA and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF). Following the approval of the guidelines by the Council of Ministers, piloting of efficacy trials guidelines on potential products that could be used to control the Fall Army Worm has been prioritized and are on-going in the Partner States.

7.0 Promoting Youth Employment in Agriculture

Promoting youth employment in agriculture is a top priority under Malabo Declaration Commitment 4 which focuses on halving poverty by the year 2025. The key targets under this include creating job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains and supporting and facilitating preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agribusiness opportunities. In responding to this commitment, remarkable progress has been made in the implementation of the EAC-FAO project on “Promoting Youth Employment in Agriculture”. The youth constitute the largest segment of the population in the EAC. However, they face many challenges that impede their optimal participation in agriculture initiatives.

The aim of the project is to reduce rural poverty and boost economic growth through supporting the creation of better opportunities for youth in the agricultural sector. Since inception of the project



Best Youth Agripreneurs in EAC Awarded Prizes

in June 2017, important milestones have been achieved.

Achievements

- a) A modus operandi for the documentation exercise of Best Youth Agribusiness Models was developed and selection criteria and parameter for documenting youth agribusiness models defined.
 - b) A total of 18 EAC Youth Champions in Agriculture were identified during the documentation exercise and supported to participate in a hands-on ***Incubation Training in Agribusiness and Sustainable Agro-ecological Practices*** at Songhai Center in Porto Novo, Benin, from 2nd to 29th May 2018. The outstanding top 6 youth champions (one per Partner State) were recognized and awarded prizes on the margins of the 11th Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security. A total sum of **US\$ 55,000** was awarded in grants.
 - c) A comprehensive synthesis report on Best Youth Agribusiness Models in the EAC was consolidated. The report provides detailed information to Governments and Development Partners on identified models to replicate, adapt, and upscale
- in line with promoting youth employment in agriculture.
- d) Taking cognizance of the project outputs and achievements, four program areas have been identified for potential joint resource mobilization in upscaling and sustaining implementation of the project on promoting youth employment in the agriculture sector. They include the following;
 - Program Area I: Setting-up of a regional database/web-portal and clearing house mechanism for Youth-in-Agriculture
 - Program Area II: Establishing youth facility/centre to provide specialized training in agriculture value chains;
 - Program Area III: establishing a Youth-2-Youth matching grants facility to scale-up support for youth in agriculture.
 - Program Area IV: Award recognition scheme to mobilize and support youth champions in agricultural Development.

8.0 Livestock Development

The livestock sub-sector has a central role in building the economies and livelihoods of East African citizens as evidenced by the high and increasing demand for livestock and livestock products. However, the sub-sector is faced with many challenges. Existing policies and regulatory frameworks are often restrictive and act as barriers to market participation of producers and traders. In order to spur sustainable development of the livestock sub-sector a number of key instruments have been developed and adopted by EAC Policy Organs.

Key achievements under the Livestock development programme include the following;

8.1 EAC Livestock Policy

The Council of Ministers adopted the EAC Livestock Policy in 2016. It focuses on coherent set of strategic decisions and actions for enhancing growth in livestock productivity and competitiveness. The policy envisions a “vibrant livestock industry contributing significantly to improved living standards of EAC citizens, economic growth and sustainable natural resources management by 2025.”

8.2 Harmonization of Registration of Veterinary Vaccines

In an effort to ease access to and use of safe and quality vaccines for control of animal diseases, the EAC Council of Ministers adopted a Mutual Recognition Procedure (MRP) for registration of vaccines for the management of animal diseases in 2014. The MRP harmonised registration



system allows licenses or market authorizations (MAs) issued in one partner state to be recognized by other partner states, hence reducing the time and cost of processing multiple licenses (market authorizations) within the Community. This will also reduce duplication of dossier assessments and allowing the rapid introduction of good quality immunological products into more markets at less cost. A Technical Working Group (TWG) and Coordination Group for Mutual Recognition (CGMR) developed a number of documentations to facilitate Marketing Authorisations of immunological veterinary products using the mutual recognition procedures. The documents which are regularly updated by the Technical Working Groups can be accessed on EAC Website: <https://www.eac.int/documents/category/livestock>

The first application for market authorizations (licences) of a veterinary vaccine submitted under the Mutual Recognition Procedure (MRP) involved two Partner States, namely Rwanda and Uganda. The licences and were issued in June and October 2018. (<https://www.eac.int/press-releases/141-agriculture-food-security>; <https://www.galvmed.org/news/east-african-countries-register-first-veterinary-product-under-new-mutual-recognition-procedures/>)

The second application for marketing authorizations involved the Republic of Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The third MRP application involved the Republic of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. A total of four products have been registered under the EAC MRP mechanism and additional two are at their final stages of registrations. The Global Alliance for Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed) has supported the MRP initiative since inception.

8.3 Mutual Recognition Agreement among Veterinary Professionals

Mutual Recognition Agreement among Veterinary Professionals in the EAC has been adopted by the Council of Ministers. The Agreement will promote increased availability of veterinary services across the region; spread best practice in regulation and raise standards of qualification, which would help to support the development of the livestock sub sector.

8.4 The EAC Veterinary Governance in Africa (VETGOV)

The project has been implemented with financial and technical support from the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). It has been dedicated to strengthening regional institutions to play their roles of coordination, harmonization, and integration with the aim to stimulate a more conducive environment for public and private investments in the livestock sector. Under this project, National Livestock Policy hubs have been formed in all the EAC Partner States to stimulate a more conducive policy and institutional environment for public and private investments in the livestock sector.

8.5 The Action for Enhancing Resilience of Pastoralists in the EAC

The socio-economic importance of pastoralism in East African cannot be overstated. Over 90% of cattle pastoral and agro-pastoral communities' own sheep and goats in East Africa. Pastoralism creates employment, generates revenue and contributes significantly to the high and increasing demand for livestock and livestock products in the national and international markets. However, the contribution of pastoralism to economic development is underestimated and often missed in national and regional accounting systems. A Plan of Action for Enhancing Resilience of Pastoralists in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in the EAC was adopted by the 31st Council of Ministers.

9.0 Lessons Learnt

The progress made and achievements registered was as a result of dedicated financial support from development partners, ownership and buy-in from EAC Partner States as well as leveraging of resources and technical expertise through strategic partnerships.

11.0 Challenges

Slow pace in the domestication and implementation of instruments adopted at the regional level is an important area that requires attention. This can be strengthened through mutual accountability mechanisms and enhanced tracking of progress made by the relevant EAC Policy organs.

Overlapping membership across the Regional Economic Communities (EAC, COMESA, IGAD and SADC) is a challenge on one hand but presents opportunities for synchronizing efforts at the same time. This can be realized through enhanced inter-RECs coordination and cooperation in order to minimize duplication of similar interventions across Partner/ member Partner States. They are opportunities for RECs to benefit from each other through sharing of information and best practices. This can entail adapting and applying regional instruments already adopted by other RECs such as EAC harmonized guidelines for testing and registration of pesticides and other SPS related instruments as opposed reinventing the wheel.

12.0 Conclusion

The EAC Secretariat has laid a strong foundation aligned to the key drivers and vehicles of agricultural transformation at the global and continental levels. These include Vision 2050, Pillar on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Economy and the forthcoming 6th EAC Development Strategy. At the global level, EAC Agriculture Sector interventions respond to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while at the continental level they contribute towards delivery of the goals and commitments of the African Union Heads of State and Government, June 2014, Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Livelihoods.

Expanding, sustaining and strengthening partnerships with relevant institutions will remain crucial in leveraging resources and augmenting the limited capacity challenges that the EAC Secretariat is facing in the department of Agriculture and Food Security. More efforts should be dedicated to unlocking potential of the private sector. The private sector can play a catalytical role at the national level in complementing the public sector and facilitating implementation of instruments adopted at the regional level. However, EAC Partner States will be expected to create an enabling environment and provide incentives to attract private sector participation and investments. The already existing mechanisms for engagement such as the East African Business Council (EABC) should be harnessed.

13.0 Development Partners

The Department of Agriculture and Food Security has tremendously benefited from technical support and sustained financial commitment of a wide range of development partners including the following:

- » The United States Agency for International Development (USAID Kenya and East Africa)
- » United States Department of Agriculture. (USDA)
- » USAID East Africa Trade and Invest Hub (EATIH)
- » Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA)
- » The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- » Global Alliance for Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed)
- » The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
- » European Union (EU)
- » Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- » Deutsche *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ)
- » African Union Commission (AUC)
- » NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)
- » Kilimo Trust (KT)
- » The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- » The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
- » African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)
- » The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
- » The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)
- » Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)
- » CropLife Africa Middle East

EAC Agriculture and Food Security Team

- » Fahari Marwa- Principal Agricultural Economist
- » David Balikowa- Senior Livestock Officer
- » David Wafula- Agricultural Specialist
- » Jean Claude Kabano - CAADP Coordinator
- » Sindi Kasambala- Program Assistant Agriculture



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

East African Community
EAC Close
Off Afrika Mashariki Road
P.O.Box 1096 Arusha, Tanzania
Tel: +255 27 2162100
Fax: +255 27 2162190
Email: eac@eachq.org www.eac.int