Eastern Africa Farmers’ Federation (EAFF)

EAFF Presentation-

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
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

EAFF Vision
A Prosperous and Cohesive Farming Community in Eastern Africa

Currently (> 25 million farmers)

• 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 - @EAFF we are on our 3rd strategic plan and each member has a SP aligned to that of EAFF
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; EAFF 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; @EAFF 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
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 been 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
Thank You for listening

merci beaucoup votre attention

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