



**EASTERN AFRICA  
FARMERS'  
FEDERATION**

**VOICE OF FARMERS IN EASTERN AFRICA**

**E AFF ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER**

**FORWARD FROM THE EAFF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Welcome to the first edition of the EAFF Advocacy Newsletter. This newsletter aims to give visibility to the various advocacy related activities that are undertaken by EAFF and our members organizations. This document will supplement our other newsletter, which provides information on all EAFF activities. The Advocacy newsletter will provide more in-depth insight into EAFF's advocacy work. The intention is that this information will not only be informative, but also analytical.

In this issues, we present the details of our successful lobbying strategy to attaining observer status at the East African Community. In addition, we provide an overview of EAFF's activities in developing a regional cooperative policy. Further, we provide updates on some of the advocacy activities that our members have undertaken in the first quarter of this year.

I hope that you enjoy reading this publication. If you have any questions, please contact us using the information on page 5.

**Steven Muchiri, CEO**



(Picture left) EAFF President, Mr. Philip Kiriro (right), shakes hands with Hon. Mohamed About (left), the Minister for East African Community Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania during EAFF's 2nd Farmers Congress held in Arusha, Tanzania in 2009.

**E AFF IS GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS AT THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

On the 26th of March 2010, the East African Community (EAC) secretariat granted EAFF with observer status during the 20th meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers. In an official notice received from the Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Julius Rotich, EAFF was informed of the implications of attaining observer status. As an observer, the organization is entitled to participate, upon invitation, at

specified meetings of the Council of Ministers and the other organs and institutions of the Community.

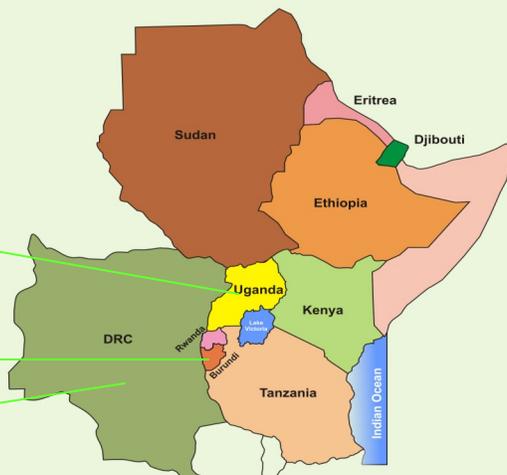
EAFF considers this development as very positive in light of the organization's advocacy mandate at the regional level. Farmers in East Africa are now assured of official representation at the EAC.

The outputs of the 20th council of minister's meeting was the result of a concerted effort of the EAFF secretariat and members that started in 2005. Continued on page 2.

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**News from the region**



## EAC: EAFF'S JOURNEY TO OBSERVER STATUS

EAFF first applied for observer status on 24th February 2005, after receiving initial communication from the Council of Ministers. This application was rejected on grounds that EAFF members must be registered in their respective countries. After fulfilling this requirement, EAFF submitted a second application on 30th May 2007. This application was also rejected. In April 2008, EAFF sent a delegation of farmer leaders, led by the former Vice President, Mr. Chebet Maikut, to Arusha to meet the EAC Secretary General, Ambassador Juma Mwapachu.

The meeting with Amd. Mwapachu resolved that EAFF formalizes its relationship with the EAC through a Memorandum of Understand-

ing. The MoU was signed in August 2008. Shortly later, on 16th September 2008, EAFF submitted a third application. The application was tabled by the Council of Ministers who deferred the decision pending further discussions with their respective Ministries of Agriculture. The Council wanted the Agricultural Ministers to ratify the position of their respective national farmer organizations.

The EAFF President and CEO sent letters to the leaders of her member organizations in the five countries updating them on the developments with respect to the organization's application for observer status. The EAFF management requested the country leaders to lobby their respective ministries. EAFF then

proceeded to organize the second regional farmers' congress in Arusha, near the seat of the EAC Secretariat. The event was attended by the Minister of East African Community Affairs from the Tanzanian government, and the Director of Productive Sectors at the EAC Secretariat, Dr. N. Weggoro. The EAFF President eloquently presented EAFF's case to the Minister, after which the Minister directed Dr. Weggoro to follow up on the matter, to ensure that observer status was granted.

In the meantime, the EAC Secretariat regularly invited EAFF to various EAC policy functions including the Preparatory meeting for the Heads of State summit on Food Security and Climate Change.



### EAFF news updates

The **National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE)**, a national association of coffee farmers in Uganda has become a member of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation. NUCAFE has a membership of 125 coffee farmer organizations located across Uganda, whose total individual membership is 100,000 coffee-growing families.

For more information on NUCAFE, contact:

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Hon. Gerald Sendaula, Chairman  
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## UGANDA: UPDATES FROM UGANDA COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE (UCA)

Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) is the umbrella organization of cooperative societies in Uganda. With an individual membership of 500,000 members, UCA is fast developing into a formidable voice for the cooperative movement in Uganda. In the first quarter of 2010, UCA was involved in several advocacy activities such as:

**UCA advocates for credit for farmers.** The financial sectors in the region have, for a long time, viewed agriculture and

farming as risky business. And as such credit available for small scale farmers has been either hard to access, expensive or in most cases, both.

UCA is currently negotiating the Microfinance Support Centre (MSC), an agency under Uganda's Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, to extend credit to cooperatives for various activities such as storage. UCA's goal is for farmers to access this credit at rates between 9

percent per year which is about half the current market rate.

**Revising Uganda's Cooperative Act.** UCA is actively engaged with the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry in amending the Cooperative Act. These revisions have been on-going for several years, though progress has been slow. UCA is advocating for less government involvement in the management of cooperative societies, and the need for more direct



incentives for cooperative societies. The revised law has been sent to the Cabinet for approval, and a committee is to be formed to fast-track the process. UCA has nominated Mr. Leonard Msemakweli, the Executive Secretary to sit on the committee.



## E AFF DISCUSSES COOPERATIVE POLICY, Nairobi

Cooperative societies are the only form of farmer organizations that are governed by a specific law. In East Africa, the cooperative movement dates back to the early years of the 20th century – 1913 in Uganda, and 1908 in Kenya. Legislation in these countries has evolved considerably over the past 100 years, with the changing economic and political landscape.

With the advent of regional integration, E AFF has deemed it necessary that the region should have a standard cooperative policy from which legislation should be developed. Against this backdrop, E AFF organized a workshop to analyze and compare the Cooperative Acts from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

The workshop brought together representatives from apex coop-



Participants at E AFF Cooperatives Policy Workshop (left to right): *standing*. Stephen Muchiri (CEO, E AFF); Joseph Nkandu (Consultant, and CEO, NU-CAFE); Grace Ngambi (Treasurer, KEN-FAP), Philip Kiriro (President, E AFF); Francis Kamande (Board member, CAK); Tadesse Meskela (MD, Oromia); Geza Varga (MD, Galgafarm First Hungarian Cooperative); Mainza Mugoya (Policy Officer, E AFF); Leonard Msemakweli (Exec Sec, UCA); *squatting*. Gloria Mazoko (Policy Officer, TFC); Harriet Ssali (Vice President, E AFF); Gacoki Kipruto (Workshop Rapporteur)

erative organizations from the region such as the Cooperative Alliance of Kenya, Uganda Cooperative Alliance, and the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives, Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (all E AFF members), International Cooperative Alli-

ance, Uganda National Farmers' Federation, Ministry of Cooperatives in Kenya, and the Galgafarm First Hungarian Cooperative. After discussing the key gaps in the Uganda and Kenya Acts, the participants' recommended that the regional model act should have clear objectives and guiding principles, and should emphasize the following: the promotion of owner-

tives – facilitation versus business; prevention of dual registration of cooperatives under the Cooperatives Act and the Companies Act; and clear guidelines for the implementation of the legislation, with the inclusion of representatives of the cooperative movement in the implementation framework. E AFF's primary target audience for the regional policy and act is

### About E AFF

The Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (E AFF) is a regional farmer organization with membership in eight countries in Eastern Africa— Burundi, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. E AFF's primary objective is to voice the concerns of farmers at the regional, continental and global levels. Since its formation in 2001, E AFF has developed a reputation as a legitimate, democratic organization, and is formally recognized by regional governments such as the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Union (AU). E AFF membership includes national farmer organizations (either commodity-based or otherwise), and national cooperative platforms (see page 5 for more details on E AFF membership). The organization is governed by a board of directors, whose members are farmer leaders in their respective countries. The E AFF headquarters are located in Nairobi, Kenya.

| Key indicators                      | Ethiopia  | Kenya  | Uganda                             |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Most recent legislations            | Cooperative Societies Act No. 147/1990 with Amendment Proclamation No402/2004 | Cooperative Societies Act (CAP) 490 Revised 2005 | Cooperative Societies Statute 1991 |
| Number of primary societies in 2009 | 20,000  | 11,200   | 10,798                             |
| Estimated number of members         |   | 6,100,000  | 500,000                            |

erative organizations from the region such as the Cooperative Alliance of Kenya, Uganda Cooperative Alliance, and the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives, Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (all E AFF members), International Cooperative Alli-

ship by members in terms of governance and management; the promotion of professionalism in the cooperative movement in terms of governance, accounting and management; the distinguishing roles of coopera-

the East African Community. As a first step, E AFF will advocate for the topic of Cooperatives Policy to be placed on the EAC agenda for the period July to December 2010.

## BURUNDI: FARMERS ENGAGE WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, CEPGL (BUJUMBURA)

The Economic Community of the Great Lakes region (CEPGL) is a regional governmental organization whose membership consists of three countries— Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. CEPGL was formed in 1979, and revived in April 2007. The theme of Agriculture and Food Security is a central component of one of the organization's objective: - to significantly reduce poverty. From April 14th to 15th 2010, CAPAD (EAFF members from Burundi) organized a stakeholder's forum to discuss the work of CEPGL and its relevance to farmers in the region.

The forum brought together farmers from the three countries, EAFF staff, and representatives from development partner organizations. CEPGL

was represented by Madame Odette Kayitesi, the Director of Agriculture and Food Security. During the two-day meeting, farmers repeatedly advocated for more involvement in the design and implementation of government programs.

This position was received by the Mme Kayitesi, who urged the farmers to present their positions under one voice. She also proposed that the farmers, through their regional umbrella organization, EAFF, should sign a memorandum of understanding with CEPGL. This would cement the relationship between the two organizations and strengthen the farmers' position at the policy table. In addition to the EAFF Policy Officer, Mainza Mugoya, EAFF was represented by two board members—Mme An-

nick Sezibera from CAPAD (Burundi), and Mme Cesarie Kantarama from INGABO (Rwanda).

The two board members agreed to propose that EAFF develops and signs a MoU with CEPGL during the board meeting slated for May 2010. There are several advantages of seeking a formal relationship with CEPGL. One, CEPGL aims to follow closely in the footsteps of the EAC in terms of regional integration, seeking common standards and procedures and trade regimes among others. Since EAFF already has observer status at EAC, a MoU with CEPGL would strategically place EAFF at the heart of policy-making throughout the region. This would also



(Caption above) Mr. Eliphaz Ndayikengurukiye, CAPAD Coordinator, explains how CAPAD is organized and how the organization works with farmers, and addresses their concerns at the national level. This picture was taken during an IFAD mission trip to Bujumbura in March 2020.

ensure the coherence of farmers' interests in the two organizations.

Two, farmers in the CEPGL region have unique challenges given their recent turbulent history. With a closer and more deliberate engagement in the region, EAFF would be able to develop tailor-made programs for the region.

## DRC: FOPAC DISCUSSES WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS (GOMA)

FOPAC, the umbrella organization of farmers located in the North Kivu region in DRC organized a meeting of stakeholders in the agriculture sector in Goma, in Eastern DRC. The meeting brought together parliamentarians and farmer representatives to review the existing agricultural policies and advocate for more favourable policies for farmers.

The meeting identified four

main policy items which will be the main issues for FOPAC's lobby and advocacy work in 2010. These issues were access to land, access to inputs, production support and processing and marketing support. With respect to land, FOPAC is advocating for the clear demarcation of land to be used for agriculture, forestry, mining, reserves, or other land use. This would provide certainty for farming

activities. In addition, farmers are advocating for clarity in the implementation of the land law and customary laws, which conflict each other in the area of land management.

According to the land laws, the state is mandated to manage the land, while according to the customary laws, the chiefs are the main custodians of the land.



Eastern Africa Farmers Federation

[www.eaffu.org](http://www.eaffu.org)



## EAFF Advocacy Calendar (April–June 2010)

| Activity  | Month   | Location |
|---|---------|----------|
| <b>Land Grab:</b> EAFF has commissioned a study on Land Grab. The study will look at the motivations of the players behind the problem, and highlight specific cases where farmers are negatively impacted. | May     | Nairobi  |
| <b>Policy Training:</b> EAFF will conduct a training for CEOs, policy officers and leaders on the topics of policy formulation, analysis, and advocacy.   | June    | Nairobi  |
| <b>Agricultural inputs:</b> EAFF will commission a study to determine the most appropriate policy environment to ensure that farmers can access agricultural inputs in a timely and cost-effective way.     | May     | Nairobi  |
| <b>EAC Heads of State Summit:</b> EAFF President, Mr. Kiriro will attend the EAC Heads of State summit in Arusha, where the Climate Change policy and Food Security policy will be ratified.                | May     | Arusha   |
| <b>ASARECA Policy forum:</b> EAFF Board member (Rwanda), Mr. Martin Nzamugorora will attend (on behalf of the EAFF President) the ASARECA policy forum on food price stability in the COMESA region.        | May 4th | Kigali   |

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- Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC)
- Vredeseilanden (VECO)
- European Union (EU)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

**Uganda:**

Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA)  
 Contact: Mr. Leonard Msemakweli, Exec. Secretary  
 Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE)  
 Contact: Mr. Jotham Tumusiime, Exec. Secretary  
 National Union of Coffee Agribusiness and Farmers Enterprises (NUCAFE)  
 Contact: Mr. Joseph Nkandu, Exec. Secretary

**Democratic Republic of Congo:**

Fe'de'ration des Organisations Producteurs du Congo au Nord-Kivu (FOPAC)  
 Contact: Mr. Etienne Mbakurahi, Exec Sec  
 Ligue Des Organisations Des Femmes Paysannes Du Congo (LOFEPACO)  
 Contact: Ms. Therese Katungu  
 Cooperative Centrale Du Nord-Kivu (COOCENKI)  
 Contact: Mr. Daniel Bunambo, CEO  
 Syndicat De Defense Des Interests Paysans (SYDIP)  
 Contact: Mr. Mbulula Kambale, Secretary Gen-

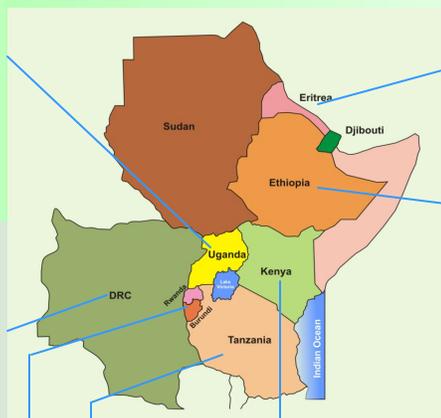
**Burundi:**

Confede'ration des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le De'veloppement (CAPAD)  
 Contact: Dr. Annick Sezibera, Executive Secretary

**Rwanda**

Syndicat Des agri-eleveurs du Rwanda (IMBARAGA)  
 Contact: Mr. Juvenil Musine, CEO  
 Syndicat Rwandais des Agriculteurs et Eleveurs (INGABO)  
 Contact: Mr. Francois Mbabazi, Coordinator

**EAFF MEMBERSHIP, 2010**



**Eritrea:**

National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW)  
 Contact: Mr. Tzeggai Moggos, Sec. Gen.

**Ethiopia:**

Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (OCFCU)  
 Contact: Mr. Tadesse Meskela, GM

**Kenya**

Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP)  
 Contact: Dr. John Mutunga, CEO  
 Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK)  
 Contact: Mr. Francis Munane, CEO

**Tanzania:**

MVIWATA  
 Contact: Mr. Steven Ruvuga, CEO  
 Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC)  
 Contact: Willigis Mbogoro, Exec Sec  
 Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT)  
 Contact: Ms. Janet Bigeko, CEO

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