

**Back – to – Office Report on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF) Congress  
Bujumbura, Burundi, 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

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**Introduction**

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF) Congress was conducted in Bujumbura, Burundi on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013, at the Royal Palace Hotel. The congress is convened every four years and brings together all stakeholders involved in African agricultural development, especially Eastern African Farmers.
- The EAFF was formed in 2001 on registration of its Chapter in its member countries. It is a non-political and democratic organization of all Eastern African Farmers with the role of voicing legitimate concerns and interests of farmers of the region with the aim of enhancing regional integration and socio-economic status of the farmers. The major issues of the farmers include: i) markets, ii) productivity, iii) capacity building, iv) information, and v) regional integration. It also deals with issues of women and youth in agriculture.
- The current membership encompasses 22 farmers organizations from 10 member countries as follows:

<u>Member Country</u>	<u>Member Organization</u>
1. Burundi	1) CAPAD
2. D.R. Congo	1) CONAPAC [2) SYDIP 3) COOCENK] 4) LoFEPACO
3. Djibouti	1) Djibouti Agro-Pastoral Association
4. Eritrea	1) NCEW
5. Ethiopia	1) Oromia Coffee 2) Ormoa Pastoral Platform
6. Kenya	1) KENAFF 2) CAK 3) KLPA
7. Rwanda	1) IMBARAGA 2) INGABO 3) NCCR
8. South Sudan	1) SSAPU
9. Tanzania	1) MVIWATA 2) TFC 3) ACT
10. Uganda	1) UNFFE 2) UCA 3) NUCAFE

- It has its Headquarters and Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya. Its current President (in his 3<sup>rd</sup> four-year term) is Mr. Philip Kiriro and its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is Mr. Stephen Muchiri.

- EAFF completed its first Strategic Plan of 2008 – 2011 and has embarked on its Second Strategic Plan extending over 8 years, 2012 – 2020, with 4 Strategic Goals as follows:
  1. Promote a Dynamic Regional Platform for Policy Development Advocacy, Implementation and Accountability;
  2. Enhancing Functional and Effective Knowledge Hub for Farmer Development;
  3. Strengthening Farmers' Role as Key Actors in the Value Chains;
  4. Promote a Vibrant, Self-Sustained, Effective and Efficient EAFF as an Organization.

### **EAFF 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress Proceedings**

- **DAY 1** (5<sup>th</sup> August 2013) commenced with Registration of participants, followed by Opening Statement by representatives from CAPAD (Chairman), AU Commission, the EAFF President and the Representative of the Burundi Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mrs. Odette Kayitesi). The Guest of Honour, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, representing the President of the Host, Republic of Burundi, officially opened the Congress.
- Key Note Addresses were given by Dr. Seyfu Ketema (Ethiopia), former Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture and former Executive Director of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA). His topic was Agricultural Transformation and Food Security. His interesting presentation focused on protection of agricultural land, a limited resource, by law, like heritage sites and wild life parks, globally protected by law.
- The other Key Note Address, by video link, was given by the Coordinator of UN High Level Task Force on Food Security, Dr. David Navarro.
- The morning session was moderated by Dr. Chris Muyunda (Zambia), formerly a COMESA Staff as Director for Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA), and presently Founder and Executive Chairman of the Boulder View Agribusiness Centre, Lusaka, Zambia, and member of AU/NEPAD CAADP Non-State Actors Team.
- Very important topics were presented by high level officials and highly experienced consultants and senior experts were invited to present pertinent issues of the farmer and agriculture. These included representatives from EAC, Grow Africa , AU Commission, IFAD, UNECA, CGAIR in the morning session. The whole presentation was followed by a discussion, question and answer session.

- The afternoon session was moderated by Mr. George Magai (Malawi), who is a COMESA staff, currently the Director of ACTESA (a specialized Agency of COMESA) and had also served in IFAD.
- The paper presenters, starting with the writer of this report (the Programmes Coordinator in the Leather and Leather Products Institute, again a specialized Institution of COMESA), were representatives from COMESA/LLPI, Afrira, IFDC, WFP, USAID, Syngenta Foundation, PACA and EAGC. These presentations also were followed by a discussion, question and answer session.
- This 2<sup>nd</sup> Topical Discussion was followed by a High Level Panel which was moderated by Mr. Phil Malone, a former BBC staff, currently working for “Access Agriculture”, producing high quality agricultural training videos in local languages for download. The Panel which discussed on the Theme of the Conference” “Towards the Economic Sovereignty of the Eastern African Farmer”, consisted of 10 reputed officials and experts from EALA, CTA, PAFO, ICA, Action Aid, GFAR, ASARECA, NERAD.
- **DAY 2** (6<sup>th</sup> August 2013) programme consisted of the presentation, by the CEO, Mr. Stephen Muchiri, of EAFF Current Strategic Framework (2012 – 2020), EAFF Report (2009 – 2012), EAFF Operational Plan (2013 – 2014) and EAFF various reports. This was followed by closed session for EAFF Audit Report for 2012/2013, a Break-Out Session which discussed Congress Resolutions and Recommendations, and a Plenary Session to adopt the Congress Resolutions and Recommendations.
- **DAY 3** (7<sup>th</sup> August 2013) was the last day of the Congress, and consisted of EAFF Council presenting to the Congress the Election of new Board members for the period 2013 – 2016 with the dissolution of former members at each level and replaced by new Council, and Management Board, except the retention of the President Mr. Philip Kiriru, who continued at his post.
- The Congress finally came to a close with closing remarks from the EAFF President, the CEO, and the Guest of Honour, the lady Minister of Agriculture of Burundi.

## Conclusion

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> EAFF Congress was well organized and successfully conducted, thanks to the EAFF Secretariat Organizing Committee (Nairobi, Kenya) and the Burundi National Organizing Committee (Bujumbura, Burundi) for their thorough and dedicated work in the advance preparation as well as throughout the proceedings of the Congress. Congratulations for a job well done!
- I hope the COMESA/LLPI presentation “Leather Industry Sector Contribution to the Eastern African Economy” has managed to indicate to participants, in particular the Eastern African Farmers present and, through them their respective members, that they have a potential source of income and an economic resource in hides and skins

available to them every time they slaughter one of their sheep or goat or bovine animal, if they take good care of their live animals, practice good slaughter procedures, immediate and correct preservation of the hide or skin and wise sales to the trader or preferably through their Cooperative/Association, directly to the tanner.

- The participation at the Congress has provided LLPI the opportunity to introduce the Institute to the Farmers of Eastern Africa and the role it plays in the development of the Region's leather industry sector.
- Finally, I would like to express my deep sorrow for the unfortunate fire accident that gutted part of the Jomo Kenyatta Airport building the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013. I am sorry for those Congress participants whose flights were delayed and they were temporarily stranded in Bujumbura and Nairobi and other airports because of the accident.