



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

ACTESA held its 2nd Regional Stakeholder Farmers' meeting

Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, June 20th-22nd, 2012

ACTESA held its 2nd Regional Stakeholder Farmers meeting under the theme,
***“ALIGNING FARMERS INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS TO
THE ACTESA FIVE YEAR STRATEGY”***

The meeting was held to provide information on the ACTESA Strategy, Operational plan and Draft Charter. The meeting, which was jointly hosted by ACTESA, SACAU and EAFF, was attended by representatives of farmers' organizations and Member State Governments from the COMESA region, development agencies and implementing partner's institutions.

The meeting was officially opened by the Agriculture Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture of Kenya Dr. Wilson Songa.

The meeting addressed key issues pertaining to agricultural development and food security in the region with special reference to the smallholder farmers.

The meeting discussed a number of topics, including the following:

- The need to enhance the productivity of smallholder farmers ;
- Key challenges in the marketing of agricultural commodities;
- The importance of adopting harmonized regional agricultural standards to foster market access;
- Tools and products that can be used to link small scale farmers to regional markets ;
- Initiatives on climate change activities and how these impact on agricultural production and development; and

- Need to Mobilize resources to support and sustain the implementation of identified agricultural interventions for smallholder farmers.

The Second Stakeholder Farmers Meeting made the following resolutions:

1. The farmers forum endorsed the ACTESA Five –Year Operational Plan (2012 -2016)
2. In line with ACTESA objectives, ACTESA should pay particular attention to promoting productivity enhancing and climate change resilient technologies among smallholder farmers
3. ACTESA should roll out market extension tools and products that partners have developed to enable members of the Alliance to utilize them
4. COMESA and ACTESA should explore ways on how the successful elements of past programs, such as COMRAP, can be carried forward under the Operational Plan
5. When designing programs, ACTESA should take into account the CAADP investment business plans and farmer organizations programmes.
6. The ACTESA Charter is critical to defining the identity of ACTESA and Alliance members should therefore be given ample time to contribute to its finalization.
7. ACTESA should consider having sub-regional (EAFF, SACAU) and national (Ministries of Agriculture) focal points for effective delivery of its mandate and programmes
8. ACTESA should elaborate further the implementation modalities, the form of partnership and the reporting mechanism in line with the farmer’s interests and aspirations.
9. ACTESA should continue to promote livestock production and marketing, including promoting initiatives of smallholder livestock keepers.
10. Where feasible, ACTESA should partner with Alliance members in resources mobilization
11. With the completion of the Strategy and Operation Plan, ACTESA has now become a key partner institution in the region to address issues of agricultural

development in partnership with all its Alliance members, including Member States and the private sector

12. ACTESA should create a data base of all Stakeholders for the purpose of information dissemination, sharing and networking

13. ACTESA should share the operational plan with many development partners and key stakeholders as possible, in order to promote its programs and forge strong partnerships.

Done at Nairobi

22nd June 2012