



Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries

A Decade of Impactful Policy Reforms: Driving Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems

A Concept Note for the 10th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC)

Dodoma, April 17th – 19th, 2024



POLICY ANALYSIS GROUP (PAG) MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



The Context: 10th AAPC Theme and Sub-themes

Over the past decade, Tanzania has undergone transformative changes in its agricultural landscape through a series of impactful policy reforms. These reforms have played a pivotal role in fostering resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability within the country's food systems.

A collaborative approach of industry stakeholders and the Government has been instrumental in effecting reforms. The crop and livestock subsectors have witnessed various reforms, including reviewing policies and regulatory frameworks through streamlined and rationalized licenses, taxes, charges, fees, and levies to improve the business environment for the private sector. Furthermore, sector-transforming initiatives such as Agenda 10/30 have been launched, which have been instrumental in charting a road map for the sector. Agenda 10/30 aims to achieve more than 10% growth for the agriculture sector by 2030. There has been development in transformative policies in tailored programs like Agricultural Sector Development Program-2 (ASDP-2) and Building a Better Tomorrow - Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA). BBT, launched in 2022, aims to promote Tanzanian youth engagement in agribusiness, while the Livestock and Fisheries Entrepreneurship for Youth program (BBT-LIFE) aims at transforming the livestock and fisheries sector to contribute towards national economic growth through the promotion of youth investment in livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture enterprises.

Public spending in the sector has also substantially increased during this time; the agricultural sector has received a boost in its budget with an increase of 200% from TZS 300 billion in 2021/22 to TZS 951 billion in 2022/23, with the primary objective of increasing sector productivity (Ministry of Agriculture, 2023). Similarly, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries budget has been increased by TZS 100 billion, from TZS 168.3 to TZS 268.3 billion, encouraging more investment in agro-processing facilities for meat and its products.

Significant reforms have also been made in the nutrition subsector during the past decade. The President of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT), Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, has continued to be a nutrition champion since her Vice Presidency. The Prime Minister's Office has assumed the role of convenor of the Global Movement to Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) and coordinator of the national multisectoral nutrition framework. Nutrition governance and structures have also been reformed, including the establishment of one national multisectoral nutrition action plan, formation of high-level and subnational nutrition multisectoral steering committees, revision of the 1992 Food and Nutrition Policy, the establishment of Nutrition Service sections within the Ministry of Health and President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PoRALG) and nutrition compact for Regional Commissioners.

The funding for nutrition in the past ten years from the Government has increased from below TZS 11 billion in 2015 to above TZS 14 billion in 2023/24 in order to scale up nutrition interventions and services at national and subnational levels. Such reforms have led to a reduction in stunting from 42.5% in 2010 to 30% in 2022, wasting from 4.9% to 3%, and underweight from 16.2 to 12% over the same period. Also, the prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age remained relatively stable over time (40% in 2010, 45% in 2015–16, and 42% in 2022), while anemia among children under-fives has remained around 59% since then. On the other hand, overweight and obesity have increased among adult women from 21% in 2010 to 36% in 2022, while for children, it has remained relatively stable at around 5% (NBS, 2010:2022).

Overall, Government commitment with support from development partners has accelerated the pace of policy reforms across sectors, especially in recent years, committing to over 50 broad reforms (over 200 detailed reforms) in the crop subsector and more than 50 reforms in the livestock and fisheries subsectors.

The Ministry of Finance has implemented commendable fiscal reforms, but challenges remain in regulatory reforms under sector ministries. From the value chain perspective, policy reforms have varied by the kind of policies and potential impact.

Thus, this year's 10th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference theme is **A Decade of Impactful Policy Reforms: Driving Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems**". The conference aims to celebrate these achievements, reflect on the progress made, and chart a course for the future.

Sub-themes covered will include:

1. Food Systems Supportive Policies
2. Enabling Private Sector Policies (Regulatory frameworks)
3. Trade and Market Policy
4. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment
5. Access to Finance and Support Services
6. Access to Farm Inputs and Technology
7. Human Resources, Skills, and Labor Policy
8. Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems: Food Safety, Nutrition, Women and Youth



Young girl drinking a glass of milk

Source: freepik

KEY POLICY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Based on the theme and sub-themes for the 10th AAPC, the following are some of the critical questions that will be addressed during presentations and discussions:

What remaining policy reforms are critical in ensuring Tanzania's food systems are resilient, inclusive, and sustainable?

- ✓ What are the lessons learned from a decade of effecting policy reforms?
- ✓ What continues to be a major challenge affecting policy reform?
- ✓ How can the processes of effecting reforms be improved?
- ✓ How do the reforms bring about the major sector transformations?
- ✓ How can we align future reforms to support the transformation of food systems?

ABOUT PAG AND AAPC

The Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC) is organized by the Policy Analysis Group (PAG) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries. The PAG is an informal (community of practice) and voluntary group comprising members working on agricultural policy projects/initiatives, academia, and local and international policy think tanks. Established in 2013, the group has 27 members and provides a platform for sharing information on policy research findings to enhance coordination, collaboration, and synergy. The PAG also aims to ensure consistency in policy messaging.

The AAPC brings together over 200 participants from academia, the private sector, research institutions, policy-making institutions, advocacy groups, and development practitioners from Tanzania and beyond. The Conference provides an opportunity to assess progress in implementing policy reforms under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework of the New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition. In addition, the Conference discusses successes, lessons learned, identified(ies) remaining gaps, how to increase competitiveness within the alliance, and emerging issues that require attention.



PAG members during a PAG retreat: 8th December 2023



A collage showing activities at the AAPCs. Top left: Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Hussein Bashe, gives opening remarks at the 8th AAPC. Top Right: Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Hon. Abdallah Ulega, speaks to AAPC participants after his speech at the 8th AAPC. The bottom pictures show the ongoing deliberations at the 6th and 9th AAPC

The Policy Analysis Group (PAG) includes the following:

- Aga Khan Foundation (AKDN)
- Agricultural Markets and Development Trust (AMDT)
- Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF)
- Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs)
- Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reforms Strengthening (ASPIRES) Tanzania: (SERA BORA USAID)
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- Axum (formerly Dalberg Implement)
- Building Rural Incomes Through Entrepreneurship (BRiTEN)
- Care International

- Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)
- Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)
- Feed the Future Tanzania (USAID)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- Kijani Pamoja
- Kilimo Tija (Feed the Future USAID)
- Prudence Zoe Glorious (PZG) Public Relations
- REPOA
- Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)
- Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT)
- Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA)
- TAHA Fresh
- Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF)
- Trademark Africa
- USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Project
- Private Sector Strengthening Activity (PSSA)

Development Organizations who have been close partners to the PAG and financial contributors to the AAPC through the years include:

- AGRI-CONNECT
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- The World Bank
- UN Women
- UNEP
- USAID

PAG also recognizes the close collaboration of corporate organizations who have supported and financially sponsored the AAPC through the years:

- CRDB Bank
- National Microfinance Bank (NMB)
- Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) TRUST
- Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB)



Fisherman with a catch of the day

Source: freepik

PREAMBLE SESSIONS

Food Systems Supportive Policies

A food systems approach helps identify a portfolio of policies needed and designs policy instruments that bring benefits across multiple objectives. The Government and agricultural stakeholders recognize that a holistic approach to transforming the agri-food sector is instrumental to inclusive economic development, environmental and social protection, and rural poverty reduction.

Overall, a robust policy framework is in place to guide sector transformation. The Development Vision 2025 and the third Five-Year Development Plan recognize the centrality of agriculture in reaching national objectives and setting ambitious goals for transforming the sector. The development goals envisioned in these frameworks are

articulated in the sector strategies and policies and implemented through the Second Agricultural Sector Development Program (ASDP II)¹.

The country's agricultural transformation strategy is aligned with Agenda 10/30, which aims to accelerate agricultural sector growth from 4-5% to 10% by 2030 and increase agricultural export earnings from \$1.2 billion to \$5 billion. There have been significant investments in research and development, seed multiplication, and irrigation projects to achieve these ambitious targets. And to ensure inclusivity and sustainability, youth and women are at the center of these initiatives.

Several initiatives launched by the Government in the last ten years have been geared to promote inclusiveness in the agricultural sector, especially women and youth. They include:

- Agenda 10/30 initiative, a clarion call to transform the agricultural sector, aiming at attaining an impressive 10% annual growth rate for the industry by the year 2030. One of the pillars of Agenda 10/30 is increasing the participation of young people in the agricultural sector by promoting self-employment
- The Building a Better Tomorrow initiative (BBT), whose main objective is to motivate and facilitate women and youth participation in agribusiness
- Livestock and Fisheries Entrepreneurship for Youth (BBT-LIFE): the program aims at transforming the livestock and fisheries sector to contribute towards national economic growth through the promotion of youth investment in livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture enterprises
- The Government is also transforming the livestock and fisheries sub-sectors guided by the Livestock Sector Transformation Plan 2022/27, Tanzania Livestock Modernization Initiative (2015) (which considers the sector to present attractive investment opportunities for meat production, dairy products, and leather) and the Fisheries Master Plan (2021/22–2036/37)
- The National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP II), covering the period from 2020/21 to 2025/26, adopts a life cycle approach to address nutritional issues while considering the needs of children, youth, men, and women. The plan brings together all nutrition key sectors, including Agriculture and Livestock and Fisheries, with one plan, one result framework, and one accountability framework

The Government, through stakeholders' support, has demonstrated a strong commitment to reforming policy and changes in the tax structure, fees, levy, and other revenue measures to secure food systems transformation. Reforms that the Government has undertaken to stir transformation include removing over one hundred fees and charges to reduce production costs, lifting cereal export bans, promoting investments, and protecting domestic industries.

Major Government reforms to ensure food systems sustainability have been geared towards initiatives aimed at increased productivity and resilience. These include: 1. Enhancing access to improved seed through research and support to seed systems; 2. Improving soil health, including support to improve efficiency in the fertilizer value chain; and 3. Improving agronomic practices through revitalizing the public extension services and research in

¹ The United Republic of Tanzania (2017), Agricultural Sector Development Program Phase II (ASDP II)

pest and disease. Fiscal reforms in agricultural financing were crucial to affect these initiatives. The country's agricultural budget for three consecutive years has increased significantly by over 200%, \$132 mil in 2021/22, \$327 mil in 2022/23, and \$422 mil in 2023/24.

Key policy challenges for food systems policy reform prioritization:

- *Policy predictability*
- *Harmonization of regional trade policies with other African countries*
- *Protection of domestic industry without compromising regional trade*

Policy issues predominating discussions concerning food systems policy reform prioritization:

- *Is there alignment between Tanzania's food systems strategies with other national policies geared towards the 2050 Development Vision?*
 - ✓ *Agricultural Sector Policies vs 2050 Development Vision*
 - ✓ *Agenda 10/30 vs. 2050 Development Vision*
 - ✓ *Livestock Transformation Plan vs 2050 Development Vision*
- *What policy reforms are crucial for a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive agricultural sector?*
- *What are the critical challenges for creating resilient and sustainable food systems sector policies?*
- *What value chain-specific policies need to be expedited to enable the growth of food commodities?*
- *What policy reforms are needed to effectively position nutrition in the food systems?*



Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Hussein Bashe (MP), at Parliament in Dodoma, Tanzania

Enabling Private Sector Policies (Regulatory Frameworks)



A young store owner selling packaged tomato sauce and spices

Source: USAID Advancing Youth

The private sector plays a crucial role in improving food security and supporting the transformation of food systems by driving innovation, strengthening value chains, promoting sustainable practices, and mobilizing financial resources. Creating a favorable policy environment for the private sector to flourish promotes the development of resilient and inclusive food systems.

The plurality of regulatory authorities, excessive power (overregulation), high transaction costs (multiplicity of regulatory fees and charges), and bureaucratic processes have been issues of concern for agribusinesses and businesses in general. In December 2017, the Government of Tanzania (GoT) endorsed “The Blueprint on Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment,” hence ushering in its implementation. The 486-page document reflects a conclusion of two years of broad-based stakeholders’ consultative process on what needs to be done to improve the business environment in the country. The document popularly known as the “Blueprint” was praised by the private sector and raised expectations for a new chapter in the business environment in Tanzania. It elaborates on challenging areas in policies, laws, regulations, and implementing institutions that require reforms aimed at reducing the cost of doing business in the country. Specifically, the Blueprint discusses issues faced during business registration (such as permits, licenses, and inspection) and issues faced during business operations (such as taxes, levies, and registering products and inspections). The analysis covers six economic sectors: agriculture, natural resources and tourism, construction, health, energy and minerals, and transportation. The selected sectors reflected prioritized public investment areas in Tanzania’s Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020).

During the last ten years, the GoT has waived over 120 nuisance fees and charges in agriculture and livestock, particularly those charged by regulatory authorities such as agricultural boards.

Illustrative discussion questions on enabling the private sector are:

- ✓ *How can we leverage the private sector to contribute to promoting the development of resilient, inclusive food systems?*
- ✓ *With 50 regulatory agencies in agriculture, how could the regulatory framework be streamlined for increased efficiency?*
- ✓ *What could be alternative sources of revenue for regulatory agencies to avoid excessive fees and charges?*
- ✓ *How could the delay and costly registration of pesticides, seeds, and fertilizer be addressed?*

Trade and Market Policies



Shipping containers preparing to dock

Source: freepik

Trade forms the backbone of the global and regional food systems. By moving food from surplus to deficit regions, trade can address production shortfalls and diversify food supplies so that consumers are not overly exposed to domestic production shocks. It ensures food security while creating economic opportunities for producers, including farmers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). With the right policies in place, trade

can holistically support agricultural value chains, including enabling climate mitigation and sustainability (OECD, 2022)

Tanzania's agricultural exports contribute about 30 percent of total export earnings. Major agricultural exports in descending order of value of export earnings include cashew, tobacco, coffee, cotton, tea, sisal, and pyrethrum. The export portfolio of traditional crops has not changed much over the years for the seven crops. During the last ten years, the average production of cotton and cashew nuts has been increasing while the production of tobacco and coffee has been dwindling. Over 90 percent of crops are exported raw, hence missing an opportunity to create jobs through agro-processing.

Horticulture is the leader in non-traditional exports. According to the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), annual exports for horticulture are estimated to stand at USD 779 million per annum, creating employment for over 4 million Tanzanians, especially youth and women.

Tanzania's annual food import bill is estimated to be around US\$ 800 million. Major imports include edible oil (US\$170 million), wheat (US\$291 million), sugar (US\$132 million), and other food and beverages primarily for household consumption (BoT 2023). Although most imported products are locally produced, the demand exceeds supply, hence the need to import to close the supply gap.

Tanzania strives for self-sufficiency in some imported products, such as sugar (50%) and edible oil (40%). However, domestic production has not increased fast enough to close the supply gap, resulting in continued dependency on imports. The challenge has been how to manage imports in a way that meets the short-term supply gap without undermining long-term domestic production. The Government is promoting the industrialization agenda, which could help to reduce the country's dependency on imports to create employment opportunities for Tanzanians, particularly the youth, while also creating a market for farmers.

Recent reforms in trade policy have focused on protecting the domestic industry. Import tariffs have been raised on imported agricultural products such as edible oil, milk, juice, wine, poultry, meat, etc.

The following are policy issues on agricultural trade:

- ✓ *What are the better trade policies that promote Tanzania's food system transformation?*
- ✓ *How could ASDP-2 balance export diversification and prioritization of value chains?*
- ✓ *How could indicative pricing be implemented without causing market distortion?*
- ✓ *How effective are export levies in promoting the domestic processing of crops such as cashew nuts before export? What lessons do we learn from India and Vietnam in their cashew nut industry?*
- ✓ *Is a tariff increase necessary and sufficient to incentivize the import substitution industry?*
 - *What factors hamper the operationalization of the commodity exchange*

Access to Finance and Support Services



Young farmer using mobile banking services

Source: freepik

Financing is a game changer in achieving food systems transformation. Unlocking the capital needed to finance this transformation will be key, especially as COVID has exacerbated existing challenges – pushing another 150 million people into extreme poverty, increasing hunger and unemployment, and adding to debt burdens (World Bank, 2021).

African economies have grown faster than any other in the world. Post-COVID projections by the African Development Bank (AfDB) indicate an average growth of 5.5% in 2023-2024 and at an even higher rate for Africa's top five performing economies. Those include Rwanda, which is projected to grow by 7.9%, Côte d'Ivoire by 7.1%, Benin by 6.4%, Ethiopia by 6.0%, and Tanzania by 5.6% (AfDB, 2023), for many African economies, including Tanzania, growth has occurred outside of agriculture. Less than 3% of total bank lending in Africa goes to a sector that accounts for about 70% of all employment and over 40% of the GDP (AfDB).

Low investment in agriculture has led to Africa's economic expansion to exclude the majority of the population. Research has shown inclusive growth in Africa can only be achieved when there are increased public and private investments in agriculture. According to the Financial Sector Deepening Trust - FSDT (2023), 76% percent of the population in Tanzania has access to formal financial services. Domestic lending to agriculture has declined from 12% to 7% of the total lending between 2010-2018 (BoT, 2018). Private lending to agriculture seems to decline with a decrease in public investment in agriculture. Agriculture manifests a double tragedy in financing as reported in 2017, it receives the lowest share of credit and also contributes the largest share of non-performing loans (29%) e.g., Kiliflora, Kilombero Plantation Ltd.

Only 5% of TIC projects were focused on agriculture (1996-2013); in 2018, the share increased to 8% but declined to 7% in 2019. Tanzania's private equity uptake has been relatively slow compared to other countries in East Africa since 2017. The reduction of interest rate for agricultural loans to a single digit was one of the major reforms in the past decade geared towards increasing lending to agriculture.

Policy issues for discussion:

- ✓ *Has the single-digit interest rate in agriculture been a success?*
- ✓ *Savings and investments are interwoven. What policies could incentivize saving?*
- ✓ *What policies need to be implemented to minimize crowding out of private lending by public sector borrowing?*
- ✓ *What policies could mitigate the perceived risk by banks in lending to agriculture?*

Access to Farm Inputs and Technology



A well-irrigated field

Source: Freepik

For maximum productivity, there are three factors that need to be taken into account: the genetic makeup (seed), nutrition (feed/fertilizer), and management (animal husbandry and agronomic practices). The lack of use of farm technologies has resulted in low productivity.

In the last decade, Tanzania has substantially increased the number of farmers using improved seed, and there is potential to increase utilization further. The average fertilizer application in Tanzania is 16kg /ha², far below the 50 kg/ha target set by African governments at the 2006 Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer, and only 21 percent of Tanzanian rural households applied inorganic fertilizer to any crop. Tanzania imports more than **90%** of its inorganic fertilizer (Urea, DAP, and NPK). Fertilizer import bill is about **USD 155.1 mil** in the year ending October 2018 (BoT, 2018). About **60%** of all the fertilizer is used in the Southern Highlands regions (TFRA, 2018).

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census Report, only 34 percent of households use improved seed. Farmers are increasingly likely to use mechanization by 2021; 10 percent were using a tractor to prepare land, and 24 percent were using improved seed.

Policy issues for discussion:

- ✓ *What are alternative policies to input subsidy in promoting the use of fertilizer and improved seed varieties?*
- ✓ *As national soil mapping progresses, how could such information be used to package fertilizer recommendations?*
- ✓ *Are the roles of the public and private sectors clearly defined in farm input value chains?*
- ✓ *How could farm mechanization be promoted without threatening rural employment?*
- ✓ *How could public and private extension services complement each other?*
- ✓ *What is the role of cooperatives and farmer organizations to enhance farmers' access to agricultural services*
- ✓ *What policy and regulatory frameworks need to be in place to promote public-private-partnership in providing agricultural services, e.g., private versus public extension service*
- ✓ *What is the impact of public investment (rural roads, rural electrification, water projects, extension) in productivity and competitiveness*
- ✓ *What are the necessary human resources and skills needed to keep pace with the desired reforms?*

² World Bank Development Indicators, 2018



Application of fertilizer

Source: freepik

Human Resources, Skills, and Labour Policy



Factory workers at Eatfresh Tanzania sorting out green beans

Source: Eatfresh

Despite significant skill gaps in Tanzania, hiring skilled foreigners has become too difficult and protracted in recent years. Work permits for skilled foreigners (managers, technicians) are difficult to come by. While the level of knowledge of agricultural production, post-harvest handling, and marketing has risen in Tanzania over the past decade, there remain skill gaps in key technical areas such as irrigation systems, cold storage, soil science, and

the use of micro-nutrients to achieve higher yields; not to mention the management of complex farming enterprises.

There are some key agricultural value chains that are knowledge-intensive; for example, the horticultural subsector relies heavily on farm input (seed, fertilizer, pesticide), agronomic practices, technologies used, and its handling of perishable produce is very prescriptive. The aquaculture sector also follows suit, heavily relying on several inputs, such as technology for the production and handling of fingerlings, feeds, ponds and dams, extension services, and processing facilities. Inadequate skills for farm workers have been a binding constraint to improved productivity in the sector. Furthermore, former sector assessments have revealed that most university and college graduates lack practical and employable skills.

Among the reforms achieved in the agricultural sector is the establishment of the Skills Development Fund (SDF) through the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) 2016-2027. The overall goal of the SDF is to minimize skills gaps. SDF waiver has been observed to be applied to employees directly and solely engaged in farming.

Further proposed reforms include streamlining and expediting the process of issuing work permits to investors, building local skills and knowledge base, conducting curriculum reviews for local institutions, and strengthening skill transfer to youth in terms of incubation programs.

Policy issues for discussion:

- ✓ *Should the Government review their work permit policies for skilled foreigners?*
- ✓ *How do we strengthen training and skill development in the agricultural sector to meet the evolving demands of the sector?*
- ✓ *How can we promote responsible adoption of technology that enhances productivity without exacerbating unemployment?*

Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems: Food Safety, Nutrition, Women and Youth



Student farmers at SUGECO inspecting plants

Source: SUGECO

Tanzania has made significant progress in reducing malnutrition in the last two decades, with a considerable reduction in the prevalence of stunting from 42.5% in 2010 to 30% in 2022, wasting from 4.9% to 3%, and underweight from 16.2 to 12% over the same period among children under five (TDHS 2010,2022). These levels of undernutrition are still high and unacceptable. On the other hand, overweight and obesity have continued to increase. For example, while 4% of under five are overweight, 36% of women and 17% of men aged 20-49 years are overweight or obese. Such various forms of malnutrition among Tanzania's population negatively impact production, reproduction, learning, economic, and social development. Therefore, aligning and leveraging the investments in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries with nutrition transformation is imperative for improved labor force quality due to nutrition outcomes.

Policy Issues for Discussion

- ✓ *How could the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries programming integrate nutrition for greater synergy and impact?*
- ✓ *The southern highlands have continued to be the home of various forms of malnutrition; what policies and reforms are needed to curb the situation?*
- ✓ *How can we improve the nutrition framework for Tanzania for better nutrition outcomes?*



Young farmers holding a fresh ginger harvest

Source: TAHA

Food standards and safety are critical components of sustainable food systems. Standards and safety are important elements of the food value chain as they affect the health and well-being of people and trade, and they include many players from production to consumption.

Safe and nutritious food improves nutrition and health status but reduces the impact of food-borne diseases, which cause many illnesses and deaths and deteriorate human and economic development. To achieve optimal human

health and well-being, people must be well-nourished and free from food-borne diseases. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food safety as "the absence or safe, acceptable levels of hazards in food that may harm consumers' health. Food-borne hazards are invisible biological, chemical, or physical elements that adversely affect food quality. Food hazards include bacteria, viruses, parasites, and pesticide residues.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one out of ten people falls ill from consuming contaminated food, and Africa bears the most burden. Approximately 92 million people fall sick from consuming contaminated foods, resulting in 137,000 deaths yearly in Africa (WHO, 2015). The impact of food safety risks is not only limited to the population's health but also tends to affect the agricultural sector's competitiveness, involving efforts at promoting trade in agricultural commodities. Thus, investments in adequate food safety and quality control systems are critical to sustainable food systems.

Initiatives are underway to improve food safety for the region to optimize national food and nutrition security strategies, promote economic development, and increase intra-regional trade. Accessing safe food is essential to ensure consumers can access the nutritional benefits of their food. The African Union (AU) has put forth initiatives such as the Africa Food Safety Initiative (AFSI) to attain the capacity to meet international agricultural trade standards, establish an African Food Safety Agency, and coordinate food safety across the continent. These efforts are expected to promote investment in infrastructure, including food safety laboratories, to contribute to improvements in food safety standards necessary for implementing the AfCFTA (Covic, 2020).

Tanzania has been integrated into international markets as it trades with other regions. Hence, it has had to comply with related standards for trading agricultural commodities such as GlobalGAP (Asfaw, 2009). However, the same cannot be said for implementing food and safety standards related to regional and domestic markets. Despite several Tanzania laws and acts defining and shaping food safety, most agricultural commodities produced and consumed in these markets have gone through without inspection. Several governmental bodies, including the Ministry of Health, oversee food safety and standards in the country. Furthermore, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) is mainly involved in regulating food safety. Still, TBS has mainly focused on processed and semi-processed products, not raw produce. With the increase in food prices due to the Ukraine-Russian war, food safety, especially by food vendors, could be ignored and have more effects on consumers.

In the fisheries sub-sector, the Nile Perch provides a 'white flesh readily fillet' and is a meat option in good demand in international markets. Ten processing plants in Tanzania are authorized for international exports of Nile Perch (compared to fourteen in Uganda and four in Kenya), all situated in Lake Victoria's region. In addition, four establishments are authorized to export marine products (based in Dar es Salaam, Mafia, and Tanga). These establishments are operated to international standards, including Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), and comply with European Union (EU) hygiene rules. In addition to complying with EU hygiene requirements, many establishments are certified to ISO 22000 BRC and other globally accredited food safety and hygiene standards.

Although the sanitary conditions for fish export are primarily well regulated, the domestic and regional trade in fishery products have hardly any adequate food safety controls. Handling and quality management practices leave much to be desired. As a result, post-harvest losses are high, and contamination with harmful hazards cannot be ruled out (Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, 2019). Also, there are shortages of modern slaughter capacity in the livestock sector, with many of the existing facilities representing a health risk in the livestock sector. Food safety in Tanzania, especially for raw agricultural products in domestic and regional markets, is still in its infancy.

in scope and practice. However, Tanzania has the potential to improve the implementation of food safety and standards to improve its food systems.

Policy issues for discussion:

- ✓ *Alternative policy options in food safety and control systems across the entire food chain, from provision of animal feed to final consumers*
- ✓ *Policy reforms to enforce food standards and safety for sustainable food systems in domestic and regional markets*
- ✓ *Policy reforms to promote food safety among food vendors in urban and rural settings*
- ✓ *Policy incentive to domestic food value chain actors to adhere to food safety and standards*
- ✓ *Policy options for addressing emerging challenges on imported foods and food contamination*
- ✓ *Inclusive policy options and regulations to sustainably monitor food safety and standards to promote public health and sustainable food systems*



SERA BORA Food Service Survey underway – Prelisting of a vitambua vendor at school in Msasani, Dar-es-Salaam *Source: ASPIRES – SERA BORA (Better Policies) Project*

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Environment



Seaweed farming in Zanzibar

Source: MoA

Tanzania is endowed with a wide range of natural resources, including extensive areas of arable land, wildlife reserves and parks, mountains, forests, rivers, and lakes. Sustainable management of natural resources determines the quality of life for current and future generations of humans and livestock. It is worth noting that natural resources support the livelihoods, especially of the poor, ensure biodiversity, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and sustain water cycles and soil conditions. About 40% (48.1 mil. ha) of Tanzania's land is covered by forest, of which 90% is woodland (REDD Desk Tanzania, 2012). About 18 mil. ha is under the Forest Reserve and 5.2 million ha under Participatory Forest Management (PFM) (Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, 2022). Forest goods and services contributed 20.1% of GDP and 10-15% of export earnings in the past decade (The REDD Desk Tanzania, 2012).

Despite the efforts to ensure sustainable forest management, there is a substantial loss of forests, including deforestation and forest degradation through encroachment for settlements and farmlands, extraction of wood resources for charcoal making, unsustainable farming practices, and overgrazing. Tanzania's primary domestic energy sources are biomass fuels, charcoal, and firewood. About 91 percent of Tanzania households use charcoal and firewood for cooking and heating. Charcoal consumption in the country is estimated to be 2.3 million tons annually. Forest products, such as firewood and charcoal, contribute 90% of national energy and 75% of construction materials. Tanzania lost an estimated 470,000 hectares of forest annually between 2015 and 2020

(FAO, 2020). If not mitigated, the current trend could lead to a total loss of forest in 50-80 years. The alternative domestic energy sources for cooking and lighting include paraffin, LP gas (Liquefied Paraffin Gas), electricity, and renewable energy (solar, wind, etc.). One-third (33%) of Tanzanians have access to electricity. Urban households have more access to electricity (65.3%) compared to rural areas (16.9%) (NBS, 2016).

The water-food-energy nexus is central to the development of sustainable natural resources. It shows the interdependence and the increasing integration of water, food, and energy resources and how they impact the environment. Demand for all three is increasing rapidly, driven by a rising global population, rapid urbanization, changing diets, and economic growth. Agriculture accounts for approximately 72% of global freshwater consumption, and more than one-quarter of the energy used globally is expended on food production and supply (UN-Water, 2023). Water is a finite resource, serving exponentially more people and usages. Moreover, fossil fuel production, a dominant part of the global energy mix, is highly water intensive, as is biofuel production.

According to the World Bank, about 20% of the total cultivated land globally is irrigated. Asia is leading in irrigation (40%) while the least irrigation is done in Africa (5%). In Tanzania, 727,000 ha is under irrigation (2.5% of irrigatable land). The Government is determined to revitalize the irrigation sub-sector by increasing the land under irrigation to 1 mil ha by 2024/25 and 2 mil ha in 2030 (MoA, 2023).

Livestock play an important role in Tanzania's food systems, contributing to food security, nutrition, and poverty reduction. Tanzania has the second-largest livestock population in Africa after Ethiopia. According to the livestock census, Tanzania has approximately 30.5 million cattle, 18.8 million goats, and 5.3 million sheep. Other livestock in the country include 38.2 locally bred chickens, 36.6 exotically bred chickens, and 1.9 million pigs. Unlike the crop subsector, livestock and freshwater aquaculture consumption is relatively small but contributes to growing agricultural water uses. Furthermore, climate change is a major challenge to the sustainable management of natural resources as it affects the production and, eventually, the availability of food, water, and energy. Various parts of Tanzania are experiencing rising temperatures, intense rainfall events resulting in floodings, and periods of dryness resulting in droughts.

This session will discuss key policy issues in the sustainable management of natural resources, such as:

- ✓ *Alternative policy options to promote sustainable use and management of natural resources for the health of ecosystems and well-being of people and animals*
- ✓ *Regulatory reforms for inclusive land use, natural resource management, and environmental protection*
- ✓ *Available policy incentives for discouraging the use of conventional energy (charcoal and firewood) and promoting the use of alternative energy (gas, electricity)*
- ✓ *Alternative policy options to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation to ensure sustainable management of natural resources*



Farming field across a busy street in Dodoma

Source: MoA

PARTICIPANTS

The **three-day Conference (April 17th, 18th, and 19th)** will bring together over **200** stakeholders from the agricultural and nutrition-sensitive sectors. These include representatives from the following entities:

- Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries
- Development partners
- Farmers and agribusiness associations
- Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture Livestock and Water
- NGOs engaged in agricultural development
- Nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive sectors/ organizations
- Private sector
- Regulatory authorities in agriculture
- Research and training institutions

THE APPROACH

The AAPC continues to intensify its regional and international character. This year's conference marks its 10th anniversary and will take stock of all the policy transformations that have taken place in the last decade. Physical attendance for the conference will be **200 people**, with virtual participation encouraged to enable wider engagement.

This will be the fourth time in a row that the AAPC will implement a blended approach, combining physical and virtual attendance. This format has proved successful in motivating buy-in from the donor community and increasing participation in the conference.

The Conference will implement a "Davos" style, in which thematic papers are presented, followed by panel discussions, and followed by discussions and interaction by participants.

The Conference will take place at Mabele Hall, Dodoma.



Onion farmer holding a fresh harvest

Source: MoA



SERA BORA Food Service Survey underway – Prelisting of a mihogo vendor at Kisiwani Secondary Buguruni School, Dar-es-Salaam
Source: ASPIRES – SERA BORA (Better Policies) Project

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