

Dear Partners,

I am pleased to present the first issue of Inside the Horn, our quarterly newsletter, which will serve as an additional communication channel to pass our message to our growing and diverse partners in the subregion. The newsletter contains information on our activities, progresses and challenges, as well as upcoming engagements, which, we believe, are of interest to our partners. It also highlights partnerships and key development issues on food and agriculture, drought and food insecurity in the subregion. As witnessed, the issues of drought, food insecurity and signs of famine in the subregion have dominated our discourse in the recent past and recommence yet again to govern our thinking and actions at national and subregional levels. We now have over 17 million people, many of whom are food insecure and their main means of living, the animals, are being starved to death. In Somalia, people are in a dire situation where famine is looming. Thus, the situation in the Eastern Africa region calls for an urgent action to save human and animal lives; while taking a pragmatic action to end hunger and malnutrition. With this important note, I invite you to have a pleasant reading of our newsletter.

Patrick Kormawa, Ph.D.
SRC-FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa and Rep. to AU & UNECA

OUTLOOK: DROUGHT AND FOOD SECURITY IN EASTERN AFRICA

The October to December rainy season failed in several areas of East Africa in 2016, heavily damaging crops to be harvested and pastures in early 2017. FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) has indicated an alarming food insecurity situation in several areas of East Africa due to severe drought. The report highlights that widespread drought has severely affected crops and rangelands in East Africa and food insecurity is expected to significantly deteriorate further. The major areas of concern are central and southern Somalia, south eastern Ethiopia, northern and eastern Kenya, northern and eastern United Republic of Tanzania and south eastern Uganda. Another key finding is the sharp increase in the prices of cereals and livestock products which constrain food access for many households. Lastly, it underlines that recurrent climatic shocks have undermined household resilience and urgent support for the agriculture sector is needed.

The FAO Crop Prospects and Food Situation Report (CPFSR) states that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at a record high of 23.6 million people, which is 2.5 million higher than this time last year when the subregion was affected by the El Niño. This includes 5.6 million in Ethiopia, 4.9 million in South Sudan, 3 million in Sudan, 2.9 million in Somalia, 2.7 million in Kenya, 1.6 million in Uganda, 1.5 million in Burundi, and 200 000 in Djibouti. Conflict and economic crises in some of these regions has meant the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the subregion has almost reached 10 million people, exacerbating the levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in host communities.

The price of cereals have surged to near-record or record levels in most countries of the subregion following drought-reduced harvests (CPFSR). The high price of cereals and livestock products constrain food access for a large



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number of households. This coupled with recurring climatic shocks, such as drought in 2015 and below-average March to May rains in 2016, has eroded the resilience of households. Secondary season crops in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and northern United Republic of Tanzania are also severely impacted. Cereal production estimates of 2016 are well below-average in several countries following the extremely poor October to December rainy season, especially over the eastern part of the subregion. The 2016 aggregate cereal output for the subregion is estimated at 50.8 million tonnes. Production prospects for current crops this year are highly unfavorable and households are expected to enter the next lean season much earlier than usual.

Grazing resources have also been severely affected by poor October to December rains. For pastoralists, trekking distances have generally increased, livestock body conditions range from fair to poor and are declining, and milk production is generally below average. The CPFSSR describes an alarming situation in most pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of north eastern, eastern, and coastal Kenya, southern and central Somalia, southern parts of SNNPR, Oromia and Somali regions in Ethiopia and northern United Republic of Tanzania. In these areas, pasture and water availability continue to deteriorate and improvements are not expected before the onset of the next rainy season from end of March or early April.

In South Sudan, food insecurity has escalated during the last three years due to conflict, violence, macro-economic collapse and exhaustion of households' coping mechanisms. Between February and April, about 4.9 million people, over 40 percent of the total population are estimated to be severely food insecure and is projected to reach 5.5 million people in July, at the peak of the lean season. The analysis also shows significant food insecurity in Somalia, where nearly 3 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure. This represents a more than twofold increase compared to six months ago. Three consecutive poor rainy seasons have severely affected the livelihoods of pastoral and agro-pastoral households. Food stocks from the well below-average **Deyr** harvest have already been depleted and livestock body condition is generally



poor, with low milk production and birth rates. Widespread livestock deaths are reported throughout the country. Food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate until June/July 2017, when first green **Gu** crops will be available for consumption.



PROPER NUTRITION GOVERNANCE TOWARDS HARNESSING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

Patrick Kormawa, FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the AU and UNECA, addressed the 9th ATTND (African Task Force on Food & Nutrition Development) meeting organized by the African Union on the 8th of March 2017 in Dakar.

The meeting discussed "Accelerating Nutrition Governance towards Harnessing the Demographic Dividend in Africa". Topics included the need for mainstreaming nutrition into national agriculture and food security investment policies; developing multi-sectoral nutrition strategies; and promoting integrated school feeding programs to ensure the nutritional wellbeing of the younger generations.

Mr Kormawa said in his address, "Africa needs a well-nourished and intellectually

sound population to drive its socio economic development." Mr Kormawa highlighted that sound nutrition in childhood and adolescence is important to maximize intellectual potential and school performance, while preventing malnutrition and hunger. He finally made a call to African governments to put in place agriculture and food systems that deliver healthy diets that are required for Africa's younger population to be optimally productive and drive African's development agenda 2063, which envisioned a hunger-free, united and prosperous Africa.

Insufficient budget and financing for nutrition at national levels, lack of actionable programs, clear frameworks on partner roles and accountability were cited as challenges in nutrition governance. The ATTND urged African governments to increase investments in nutrition and food systems to reduce the levels of under nutrition, particularly childhood stunting and underweight, as outlined in the AU Malabo Declaration of 2014 in order to reap the economic benefits that young people can generate to their nations.





FAO AND ECA PARTNER TOWARDS A HUNGER FREE, PROSPEROUS AFRICA

In an effort to alleviate the challenges that millions of African families face from abject poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity, FAO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) signed a new partnership agreement that paves the way for a stronger cooperation in fostering sustainable agriculture.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Abdalla Hamdok, UNECA Executive Secretary and Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, at the UNECA Headquarters. This provides the two parties with the framework to collaborate on food and nutrition security, regional integration and trade, development of strategies for policy assistance, statistics development; regional consultative mechanism (RCM); population dynamics and urban-rural linkages and governance.

“FAO and ECA share common goals and objectives and recognize the importance of undertaking concerted and coordinated programmes to further these common goals and objectives, based on the reciprocal recognition of each party’s role and responsibilities,” said Mr. Hamdok, adding that FAO was ECA’s oldest partner having signed their first MoU in 1958.

Semedo, in her remarks, said “The partnership agreement lays a strong foundation towards realizing the shared vision FAO and UNECA have been upholding for many years to ensure a prosperous Africa free from hunger.” FAO and UNECA have successfully implemented various programmes,

such as: championing policy focus for a globally significant African agriculture; global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics; strengthening land rights, enhancing productivity and securing livelihoods in Africa through the implementation of the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, and the establishment of a monitoring system for food market prices in African Member States.

The partnership will contribute to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a specific focus on SDG 2 and SDG 11, which are targeting ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, promoting sustainable agriculture, as well as improving resilience, food systems and urbanization.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS TO CONTROL DESERT LOCUST

FAO’s Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to AUC & ECA (SRC-SFE), Patrick Kormawa and the Director of DLCO-EA, Stephen Njoka have signed a Letter of Agreement to jointly implement a project to control the desert locust. The project named Effective Emergency Desert Locust Control in Locust-Prone Countries in the Horn of Africa, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is being implemented in five front line states of the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan). FAO and Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) have important complementary roles in the management of the desert locust. The two organizations have opted to combine resources, which will maximize synergies as well as improve desert locust control service delivery to the ultimate beneficiaries. “Reliable early warning and early action systems are key to effective desert locust control”, said Patrick Kormawa. On his part, the Director DLCO-EA noted that “Promotion of sustainable agriculture and the achievement of food security in the Horn of Africa must take into account the effective control of the desert locust”. FAO and DLCO-EA both emphasized that effective control of the pest is of crucial importance if the subregion is to achieve its vision to ending hunger, enhancing food security, and improving nutrition and livelihoods.



FAO AND EAC AGREE TO TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

FAO and East Africa Community (EAC) have joined hands to foster urban and rural agriculture and agribusiness in order to create opportunities for youth employment in Africa. Despite relatively high economic growth in the Partner States of the East African Community (EAC), youth unemployment remains a great concern for the region, as it slows down economies and causes social problems.

Libérat Mfumukeko, Secretary General for EAC, and Patrick Kormawa, Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the AU and UNECA have signed a technical cooperation agreement at the heels of 28th African Union Summit themed ‘Harnessing Africa’s Demographic Dividend by Investing in Youth.’

The agreement will allow FAO and EAC to find a path for young people to secure decent work opportunities, as well as explore innovative e-business models in the agricultural sector.

Kormawa, in his address, emphasized the role of the partnership on youth. “This Technical cooperation project (TCP) addresses one of the most pressing issues of job creation for youth in the sub region. We at FAO believe that youth employment in agriculture and agribusiness is a way of lifting a significant number of youth out of unemployment and poverty”. Mfumukeko in his remarks, highlighted the positive impact of the

agreement saying “the cooperation with FAO was long overdue, and the current support will go a long way in addressing pertinent issues in East Africa where agriculture is the way of life.”

The two institutions have the tools to respond to unemployment in the EAC region. FAO has developed expertise on youth, agriculture, livelihoods and migration. EAC, on its part, has prepared its Youth Policy, a cornerstone for many emerging public and private initiatives.

In addition to this agreement, in a bid to identify common ground to support member states affected by drought Kormawa together with a team of FAO experts met with the East African Community (EAC) Secretary General H.E Ambassador Libérat Mfumukeko and management team at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The two organizations agreed on the need to enhance partnership in the areas identified through an MoU, coordination and joint resource mobilization in a manner that will catalyze the desired level of change in the EAC Partner States. The meeting identified and agreed on a number of areas where FAO’s technical support is needed. In particular, documenting and sharing of good practices and scalable successful projects for agricultural transformation given FAO’s global outreach, projects to advance regional value chains and intra-regional trade, market information and intelligence and, actions to address short, medium and long-term impacts of drought and climate change.

H.E Ambassador Libérat Mfumukeko underscored the need to strengthen FAO-EAC partnership. In particular, he requested closer collaboration on regional early warning and market surveillance systems in order to enhance the degree of preparedness and early response to food insecurity that is related to drought. Patrick Kormawa outlined that FAO’s regional priorities for Africa were agreed upon by the Ministers of Agriculture during the African Regional Conference (ARC). As such, FAO does not come with a prescribed agenda, but instead responds to and supports the priorities identified by member states. “To better serve its member states, FAO in the last decade has successfully embarked on a process of decentralization coupled with a new set of Strategic Objectives complemented by a set of regional initiatives that has brought FAO’s services and experts closer to the countries and people.” Kormawa said.





FAO AND IGAD CALL FOR EARLY ACTION TOWARDS DROUGHT IN THE HORN

FAO and IGAD held a high-level meeting to agree on the key steps to enhance collaboration in mitigating the severe drought currently affecting the countries in the Horn of Africa region and strengthening food security and resilience analysis on 16 January 2017 in Djibouti. The meeting emphasized the importance of enhancing the role of the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) through greater investment to guide strategy and inform response. Key steps include improving preparedness in the form of early warning systems, and implementing contingency measures and response that include stronger efforts to build more resilient livelihoods in the region.

“While FAO and IGAD cannot stop the drought, they can assist countries to prepare for and cope with its impact. By providing early warning information, data and knowledge needed to respond, and by strengthening this response, we can contribute to saving lives and livelihoods. We need to support member states to mitigate the impact of drought on livelihoods in Eastern Africa”, said Patrick Kormawa, Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to AU and UNECA. “Strengthening FAO partnership with IGAD is critical to build resilience to shocks and crises in the Horn of Africa”, stressed Dominique Bugeon, Director of FAO Emergency

and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader for Resilience. “It is essential to monitor developing situations – such as the drought which is threatening parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia – in order to trigger early actions to save lives, livelihoods and sustain peace”, he added. IGAD Executive Secretary, Mahboub Maalim, who chaired the meeting, emphasized the importance of FAO’s continued collaboration with IGAD in areas of food security and agricultural development.

The two organizations concluded that joint priorities going forward will include enhanced coordination, increased and systematic engagement of member states and effective response to member state needs, as well as strengthened resource mobilization. Early action is urgently needed to prevent the current drought in the Horn of Africa from developing into a massive humanitarian crisis.

‘By providing early warning information, data and knowledge needed to respond, and by strengthening this response, we can contribute to saving lives and livelihoods.’

FAO CALLS FOR STRONGER TIES WITH KEY PARTNERS IN SOUTH SUDAN

The subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, Representative to the AUC and UNECA Patrick Kormawa visited South Sudan in the month of March. He visited partner UN agencies such as WFP and UNDP and called for collaborative and subregional approach to emergency response in South Sudan. In addition he visited the FAO offices and held a meeting with all staff where he commended the results being delivered by the staff despite working in a crisis situation.

To enhance the collaboration with stakeholders, he paid a courtesy visit to The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Ministry of Agriculture. He discussed how FAO and the government offices can work together towards the economic revitalization of the communities of the country through investments in agriculture and livestock. Moreover, during his visit Kormawa co-led the launch of a technical cooperation project on Foot and Mouth Disease and a handover of laboratory equipment worth 19,000 USD. He gave an opening speech along with James Janga Duku, Minister of Livestock, Animal Resources and Fisheries, Serje Tissot, FAO Representative to South Sudan and Undersecretary Mr. Makuei Malual. The Minister stated that Foot-and-Mouth disease, if not addressed, will restrict the development of our livestock sector. The registration and tracing of our livestock is the way of assuring access to the international market.

Kormawa highlighted the importance of managing trans-boundary diseases such as the foot and mouth disease. He stated that “animals don’t have passports so they are freely moving across borders, which has a big impact on the spread of diseases and the livestock sector in the sub-region. We look forward to working with the Minister, ministry staff and other partners contributing to this project”.

COUNTRY FOCUS

RWANDA POULTRY PROJECT PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT IN RWANDA

Kamuntu Isaiah sat pondering how he and his family will survive. You can hear the distress in his voice when he tells of his hasty departure from Tanzania where he grew up and raised his 5 children. The 46 year old Kamuntu was among Rwandans expelled from Tanzania in 2013.

After living in the Refugee Transit Camp, Kamuntu and his family were reintegrated in Ruhango district, but had nothing to live on apart from the little assistance they got from the government of Rwanda and well-wishers. “We were not given a chance to pack our belongings because it was violent; I came with nothing. It was hard life living in such a manner. In Tanzania, I was a farmer and through that I raised my children well, but now I have to live on government assistance



meaning that I sit the whole day waiting to be helped.” Aside cultivating the farm, Kamuntu didn’t possess any other skills to permit him to easily gain employment in Rwanda.

Thanks to the poultry project supported by African Solidarity Fund (ASTF) through FAO, four months ago Kamuntu became employed in the project. “My children were in bad health and they were no longer going to school. When I started

working at the poultry house, I got enough money to take my children back to school. I can afford basic necessities. I am also given twenty-five eggs per month which I feed to my family,” Kamuntu states. The project has enabled Kamuntu to learn new skills in poultry farming. In addition, he was offered training in poultry feeding and rearing techniques. “Poultry is a profitable business, now that I have the skills, I dream to one day start a business of my own,” he envisions.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

FAO AND AUC CALL FOR SENDING THE HAND HOE TO THE MUSEUM

FAO in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) has developed a draft framework document on sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies for sub Saharan Africa [SSA] planned to be validated by experts across the continent. This initiative came through a request for technical assistance from the AUC to develop a program intended to accelerate agricultural mechanization in Africa with, among other objectives,

sending the hand hoe to the museum. The intent of this AUC/FAO initiative is to mainstream and integrate agricultural mechanization in development policies and strategies of African countries while taking into consideration past mistakes and achievements.

In this regard, the AUC posited that agricultural mechanization has to be developed along the value chains; should be private sector driven, environmentally compatible and climate-smart; as well as being affordable and friendly to small-holder farmers and inclusive of the interests of women and youths.

As stipulated by the AUC, the initiative has a particular interest of relieving the African farmer, within a set time frame, of the hard labor and back-breaking drudgery associated with the agricultural sector in many parts of SSA. The draft

framework has been informed by a number of processes including a project inception workshop convened in Addis Ababa on implementation modalities of the initiative, an analysis of the state of agricultural mechanization in the four sub-regions of SSA (i.e. Central Africa; Eastern Africa; Southern Africa and Western Africa) to inform learning from past experiences, electronic consultations and peer review of the draft documents by experts in agricultural mechanization.

The framework is aimed to have regional and global perspectives anchored in commercial/business sustainability; environmental sustainability, and socio-economic sustainability specifically factoring in the needs of small-holder farmers, youth and women.

STRENGTHENING AGRIBUSINESS AND VALUE CHAINS TO BOOST ECONOMIES OF THE HORN

A Letter of Agreement is drafted between FAO and the University of Nairobi to assess how private and development financial institutions can effectively support agribusiness development and Value Chain Actors in East Africa.

This joint initiative has been crafted to address the low agricultural productivity, low trade of value added agricultural products both intra-regionally and internationally. Also it aims to address inadequate and oftentimes inefficient input and output markets, inadequate investment and financing of agriculture; and heightened levels of vulnerability to economic, socio-economic and environmental factors in the Horn of Africa. An assessment is planned on how private and development financial institutions can effectively support agribusiness development and value chain actors in East Africa.

Through a series of desk reviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussions, the research will map out the main private sector stakeholders, analyze gaps and opportunities within the agricultural financing landscape, both for the private sector and for development financial institutions in Eastern Africa and identify priorities for financing or investing to end hunger in the sub-region. Moreover, the assessment will explore the potential for establishing a Regional Agricultural Fund to leverage public and private sector financing into agriculture in the sub-region.

FAO Agribusiness wing makes efforts to address the low agricultural productivity, low trade of value added agricultural products both intra-regionally and internationally



FAO LOOKS INTO SCHOOL FEEDING TO ENABLE CHILDREN ATTEND CLASSES

With the aim of developing a sub-regional program on school food and nutrition in response to Africa Union's call for investing in school feeding as a mean to create income opportunities for the rural poor while enhancing retention and performance of school children. The FAO Sub Regional office for Eastern Africa (SFE) conducted a situational analysis of school food and nutrition through a technical cooperation: Mainstreaming school feeding and nutrition education in primary and secondary school curricula. The assessment was completed in four countries namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda to understand gaps and challenges for linking agriculture, school feeding and nutrition education and help identify good practices and entry points to guide FAO support to government to strengthen their school food and nutrition programming .

Findings from the assessment were used to develop a sustainable, farmer friendly

school food and nutrition program that links school meals program with local agriculture, nutrition education and income generation for farmers. The program will be presented for endorsement at the second African Union specialized technical committee on health, population and drug control in March 2017.

Following AU's endorsement, the program will be implemented. It will include i) advocacy and high level policy dialogue for increased investment on school food and nutrition and for local farmer friendly procurement legislation; ii) Strengthening the legal, policy and programmatic environment for school food and nutrition; iii) strengthening farmers and public and private sector capacities to supply schools with nutritious foods, iv) capacitating teachers and mainstreaming agriculture and nutrition education in primary and secondary school curricula; v) promoting joint partnership and synergistic planning and implementation between UN agencies and other development partners.



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF MEAT EXPORT OF IGAD COUNTRIES

FAO Subregional Office for East Africa conducted a technical mission to Khartoum, Sudan from 21 to 26 February 2017, to facilitate meetings between Ministry of Animal Resources and the management of two selected export slaughterhouses, Al Kadro and Sabaloga. This visit aimed to draw a road map towards attaining Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certification in the respective export slaughterhouses by December 2017.

The Al Kadro and Sabaloga slaughterhouses visited were identified during the first phase as the closest to HACCP certification and meat export. Their staff had been trained on HACCP methods and a specific HACCP team had been identified. During the next phase a specific tailored HACCP plan will be prepared, training activities continued in order to get certification by the end of 2017. The slaughterhouse staff will, with FAO technical assistance, prepare priority training needs and identify gaps in skills to be acquired in order to attain national and international HACCP certification.

In addition to working towards national HACCP certification, the management of Al Kadro and Sabaloga slaughterhouses, in consultation with FAO Sudan and FAO SFE, should explore possibilities. The technical team also visited Mr. Abdi Jama, FAO Country Representative to Sudan, Mr. Vincenzo Racialbuto, Italian Cooperation Agency, AICS,



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which is funding the activities as well related senior officers in the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fishery including Mr. Mahmud ShakhaAldin, Acting Undersecretary, and H. E Mussa Tibin Minister of Animal Resources Minister receiving full collaboration and interest.

The visit was organized through the FAO-IGAD joint regional project on “Improving Supply of Safe and Quality Livestock and Meat Exported from the Horn of Africa to Middle East and Gulf Countries”. The objective of the program is to increase the export volumes of safe and quality livestock and meat from the Horn of Africa countries to countries in the Middle East and Gulf States. The program, funded by the Italian Development Cooperation (IDC) is implemented in the IGAD-member countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan, with a focus on enhancing exports of live animals and meat.

EASTERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES EMBARK ON COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FAO SFE introduced innovative methods and good practices in fish productions and fish post-harvest management to improve the nutrition status and incomes of local populations, who engage in fisheries in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

Following a broad consensus on enhancing fish farming as a viable commercial activity in the Eastern Africa Region, FAO-SFE, in collaboration with FAO’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FIAA), organized a series of training workshops on commercial fisheries development in the subregion. The workshops have benefited over 200 individuals, including government officers and farmers, who received practical lessons on technical and scientific methods on fish productions, fish marketing and business planning for commercial fishery. The preliminary assessment indicates that fish farmers have shown sound business planning and specialization in feed preparation, fish grow-out, and fingerling supply. They have also begun to increase production and maximize market share through improved production quantity and quality, as well as accessibility of seeds and feeds, and market networks, and thereby improved their livelihoods incomes, while creating employment for younger generations. FAO supports countries to increase fish production, aiming at improving nutrition, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing livelihoods in Africa through the introduction of innovative business approaches and capacity development.



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NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN EAST AFRICA

In this edition Mr. Edward Kilawe, Forestry Officer, at FAO Sub Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) answers questions on natural resources management in the sub-region.

How long have you worked for FAO and why are you motivated to work in natural resources?

I have worked for FAO for 15 years out of which six have been spent working on NRM issues for the East Africa sub-region. We are all dependent on natural resources, livelihoods depend on it and yet we are not aware of the consequences of lack of its sustainable management and protection. I am devoted to serving in natural resources management and protection for the improvement of both the natural resource base and the incomes, productivity and resilience of people who rely on natural resources for a livelihood.

What are the key challenges of NRM in the subregion?

The food security situation in Eastern Africa faces a myriad of challenges, ranging from persistent long dry spells, unsustainable farming techniques and practices, political instability, increasing human population, sedentary farming and other challenges to traditional mobility. Climate change and the occurrence of conflicts also exacerbate the problems related to natural resource management exposing people and livestock to forced migration. This comes at the expense of natural resources such as when people move to a new place, natural resources become their only means of survival (water, trees, ranges, pastures, etc.). This dependence as well as lack of clear ownership, utilization and management guidelines brings about the risk of depleting these resources to the point that they no longer bring value to the people who once relied on them. As a whole, the production of food and the majority of rural livelihoods are highly dependent on natural resources including soil, land, water, fisheries, forests, and wildlife. Despite this, there is lack of proper knowledge and mechanisms to protect these natural resources and to deal with emerging issues such as climate change in an effective manner.

What are the NRM issues that need attention from key actors in the subregion?

It is important for key actors in this region to harmonize food security and agriculture policies with natural resources management. Expansion of land for agriculture is one of the key factors resulting in removal of natural vegetation which causes deforestation,



Mr Edward Kilawe, Forestry Officer, FAO Sub Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE)

degradation, loss of biodiversity and genetic resources, and loss of wildlife habitats. Clearing of natural vegetation and exposing land to the direct sun increases the risk of natural disasters such as drought, floods and landslides. FAO's climate-smart agriculture (CSA) approach offers farmers information and innovative techniques that support adaptation to climate change, improve production and productivity, while also contributing to climate change mitigation. CSA can improve farmers' knowledge on when and what to plant, how to improve the efficiency of their production systems, how to integrate different farming practices, and to ensure that their agricultural production and use of natural resources is sustainable in the long run.

While there are many technologies and practices to support NRM, they require support to enhance their use through access to finance, availability to equipment and inputs, improved knowledge and extension services among many others. NRM stakeholders in the sub-region need to work together to address the barriers to the adoption of technologies and practices, from the policies through to addressing the challenges of farmers on the ground. For example, agro forest techniques are important in integrated farming systems and aid in soil protection as well as creating a good micro climate for production of some crops. In order to protect natural resources, there must be a stride towards micro-finance and entrepreneurship efforts in order to enable communities to invest in NRM and earn a living from off farm activities. There are options of agro processing, entrepreneurship, and skills development to support livelihoods through engagement in crop, livestock and fisheries value chains. Value chain skills development and the diversification of income have significant contribution in building resilience to the weather-prone Eastern Africa. This can also take the pressure off natural resources, making livelihoods more resilient and sustainable. Furthermore, the region is

endowed with a large population of livestock which is a main livelihood for many people. NRM can help improve the availability and quality of fodder, water and pasture for livestock and hence the social and monetary returns from livestock production that help communities cope with crises better. Water harvesting (both in and off field), water conservation and efficient water management can also help to improve livelihoods and the sustainability of natural resources. Countries need to harvest the little rain that comes in and conserve it for farming, livestock and domestic needs.

All these actions require the attention of various stakeholders and that they are tackled at all levels, from the policy makers to the farmers themselves.

Can good NRM assist countries in disaster resilience in East Africa?

Yes, and it is time for the region to come up with actions at national level on drought resilience and mitigation to build resilience of farmers long before any drought occurs and also equipping authorities to properly respond when crisis does happen. For instance, people should not wait to act until their animals die but manage their risk with early warning information to help avoid loss of income and assets.

There needs added investment in capacity building, early warning information systems, resilience building, social protection, preparedness and response strategies. NRM plays a big role in all aspects of these, as it is well known that poor natural resources management can often result in increased vulnerability of people to hazards and disasters such as droughts and floods.

Despite the reliance of more than 80 percent of rural populations in Eastern Africa on natural resources, the value of these resources are not well recognized in the economy. It is imperative that member states fully recognize the value of natural resources and its effects on development. Promoting sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, reducing the destruction of forests, and putting in place systems of NRM that support sustainable agriculture are a necessity. Breaking the vicious through creating a good balance between development programs and humanitarian programs at times of crisis is essential. There is a need for a cross sectoral manner of addressing the NRM-agriculture-livelihoods-sustainable development linkage. More information and data on natural resources management and their relation to sustainable livelihoods and disaster resilience must be gathered and shared to support proper government resource allocation for NRM.

EVENTS



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Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, and representative to the AUC and UNECA, Patrick Kormawa speaking at the FAO-IGAD high level mission to discuss on enhancing collaboration in mitigating the severe drought in the horn of Africa. Djibouti, January 16 2017



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Abdalla Hamdok, UNECA Executive Secretary and Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on issues including food security, regional integration, trade, development of strategies for policy assistance. Addis Ababa, January 31 2017



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FAO Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, Maria Helena Semedo speaking on behalf of the FAO Director-General at a High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Situation in the Horn of Africa chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, on the sidelines of the 28th AU Summit. 29 Addis Ababa, January 2017



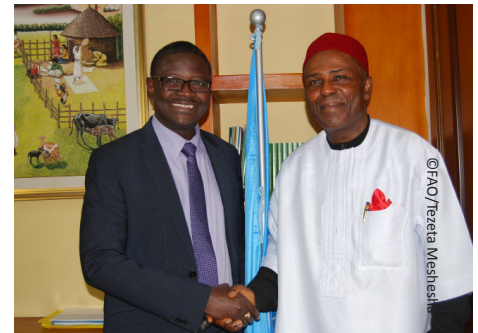
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FAO Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, Maria Helena Semedo and FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Mr. Bukar Tijani held a town hall meeting with FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa and FAO Ethiopia staff to discuss on issues that matter to staff and shared updates. Addis Ababa, January 31 2017



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Patrick Kormawa, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the AU and the UNECA and H.E Ambassador Libérat Mfumukeko Secretary General of the EAC – East African Community during a partnership meeting held at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. Topics discussed include the need to enhance partnership in the areas of coordination and joint resource mobilization to catalyze change in the EAC Partner States. Arusha, February 14, 2017



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Nigerian Minister for Science and Technology, H.E Ogonbony Onu paid courtesy visit to the FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa Coordinator and Representative to the AU and UNECA Patrick Kormawa's Office. Here Kormawa, giving the Minister a book after their deliberation on a common food security challenge to Eastern Africa and Nigeria: The Animal Trypanosomosis. Addis Ababa, 17 January 2017.



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FAO South Sudan launched its TCP on Foot and Mouth Disease in Juba town, Livestock and Fisheries Resources compound in the presence of The Minister of Livestock and Fisheries resources James Janga Duku, undersecretary Mr. Makuei Malual FAO Representative to the South Sudan Mr. Serge Tissof, and the Subregional, Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the AUC and UNECA, Patrick Kormawa, key partners including the media. March 14 017



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The Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the AUC and UNECA, Patrick Kormawa held a lunch meeting with the female staff of SFE. Discussions were held on the need for change for women in the areas of improved health services, education, empowerment in decision making on issues of reproductive health, and better opportunities for women in leadership and entrepreneurship. March 11, 2017



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Subregional Office for Eastern Africa staff held its 2017 Annual Planning Meeting where Technical Officers presented their milestones, priorities and discussions on work improvement were discussed. Addis Ababa, February 08 – 09, 2017



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FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa Coordinator and Representative to the AU and UNECA Patrick Kormawa speaking to the press during the Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050 (ASL2050) launching event. Government ministers and representatives from Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) attended the event. ASL2050 is a cross-sectoral initiative analyzing the impact of a growing livestock sector on public health, the environment, and livelihoods. Addis Ababa, February 23/2017.

New and Outgoing Staff



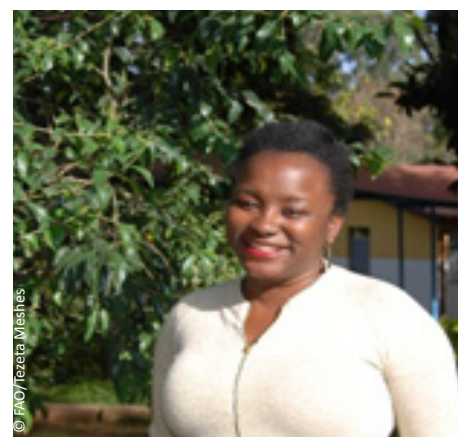
Outgoing staff Mr. Oumar Dial, SFE Livestock Officer, receiving long serving staff award from UN Secretary General, António Guterres, Jan 2017



Ms Zita Ritchie – Junior Professional Officer – Food Security



Mr. Abebe Demissie - Media and Communications Consultant



Ms. Kankou Kaba, Junior Professional Officer - Nutrition



Mr. Kafkas Caprazli, Statistician, Placed by FAO Rome, Statistics Division (ESS)



Mr. Aemro Gezahegn Information Technology Consultant (Community Manager for Web Knowledge Management Platform)



Mr. Cephas Taruvunga placed by FAO Regional Office for Africa at the African Union as Project Officer (Food Losses Reduction)



FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa

The FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa is a technical hub which supports 8 countries in Eastern Africa and has a core team of professionals with multi-disciplinary expertise. It is responsible for developing, promoting, overseeing and implementing agreed strategies for addressing subregional food security, nutrition, agriculture and rural development priorities. The office also plays a very important liaison role to the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as well as Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and to a large number of important development partners based in Ethiopia and within the subregion.

The office serves as a technical resource base for agricultural policy development in the subregion, supporting Member states and RECs on agricultural development; contributing to resilience building in agriculture; enhancing resource mobilization for agriculture; development of agribusiness and agricultural value chains; as well as developing standards and sharing of best practices in agriculture and food security. In this way the SFE contributes to ending hunger in Africa by 2025 and ultimately to FAO's overall goal of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in the world.

In 2017, SFE will work with partners on flagship projects that will focus on developing and promoting strategies for ending hunger; promoting opportunities for rural youth employment; developing and promoting strategies for agricultural mechanization and value addition; and institutionalizing nutrition and agriculture education in secondary schools in Eastern Africa.

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