

# Food insecurity in East Africa: Novel ways to combat this

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At the 20<sup>th</sup> SAAFoST Biennial International Congress in Pretoria, Oct. 7 -9, 2013

## East African Community EAC Food Security Action Plan (2010 – 2015): Summary



The map shows the 5 east African countries, in colour:  
Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi

### Major Opportunities:

- Land mass, People, trading, diverse food production capabilities,

### Major challenges:

- Insecurity, porous borders, policies that are not harmonized, surrounded by politically unstable neighbours

### Developed:

- The East African Community Food Security Action Plan 2010-2015, to guide coordination and implementation of the joint programmes and projects emanating from the plan

### Sections of the action plan:

1. Background to the development of the EAC food security action plan and the constraints in achieving food security in the EAC.
2. Section two describes the contexts for the EAC food security action plan.
3. Section three provides for the priority areas for the EAC food security action plan
4. Section four provides detailed action plans which include implementation and coordination arrangements, monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilization for implementation of the Plan.

Comment:

- The 5 year plan is a major step in the right direction. But then, what is new?
- From 1974 World Food Conference, to the International Conference on Nutrition in 1992, the World Food Summit in 1996, the planned revisit of the International Conference on Nutrition in 2014...What progress are we making?

Weaknesses of this Plan:

- It goes ahead and enumerates and highlights all the constraints and challenges.
- All the ones we know are here.
- Why are these regions constituted? To just carry problems to the new entity?
- What are the opportunities?

**Opportunities to make a difference:**

Of all the 5 issues that were listed, I picked only on no 1 which is:

- Provision of Enabling Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework
- Once the above one is addressed, it would include gender, HIV/AIDS concerns, infrastructure, technology, mechanization and job creation
- Farmers will be motivated by availability of functioning fair markets.



### **A good maize crop!**

*Source: ROP File Picture May, 2013*

Farmers in East Africa are mostly smallholder, with less than one hectare of land.

Tanzania is the only one with a lot of land but most of it is going to large scale farmers, Kenya is mostly park, Rwanda and Burundi are densely populated. Uganda is very productive.

Each country has to look at its comparative advantage, what is it bringing to the table?





**Soya beans for both soils and human nutrition, and for income**

*Source: ROP File Picture May 2013*



With this kind of harvest, one wonders why we in Africa go hungry?

What is needed:

- Governments need to be lobbied to support research, not just breeding but value chain focused
- Coordinated approach would help, to save resources by sharing and avoid duplication
- Private sector can also be shared, laboratories, scientists too
- Use a value chain approach







Source: ROP File picture

Private sector would help in innovation: energy saving technologies, and quality food processing and packaging, and reduction in food losses

Enhancement of nutrition quality and food diversity



The more colourful the foods, the more nutritious

Foods need to be fresh too, and well handled

Scientists need to help farmers and policy makers to understand climate change effects

All these issues call for a step up in our efforts to train and capacity build.

Markets will drive so much! And they are more enhanced by regionalization.

**“Some countries face food crises when there is more than enough food in the region as a whole” ...from Feed the Future website**

***Thank You***