Strengthening the Advocacy Movement for Equitable Smallholder Agriculture in Africa.

There is recognition that:

- A significant proportion of Africa’s population remains vulnerable to economic marginalization, hunger and malnutrition; and
- Concrete action to deliver tangible results

- nearly two thirds face acute food challenges, compounded by insecure access to land, inputs, credit, markets, extension and viable technologies. Although Africa has been among the fastest urbanizing regions in the past 20 years, its rural populations have also grown. Indeed, more people live in rural communities than ever before. The vast majority, about 852 million or 15 percent of the population, lives in developing countries, where poverty is predominantly a rural phenomenon. Africa therefore continues to face an acute food challenge, compounded by insecure and fragile rural livelihoods.

At the 2003 African Union summit in Maputo, Mozambique, African governments agreed, under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), to make agriculture a top priority in national development. Commitments were made to, by 2025, end hunger and halve poverty through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation.

Of note, they committed to a results framework for:

- Improved implementation and monitoring of the Malabo Declaration
- Concrete action to deliver tangible results
- A mechanism to improve mutual accountability, resource use and learning.

For representatives associations of smallholder farmers, unions, associations, cooperatives and women’s organisations, this provides an opportunity to participate in improving smallholder agriculture, and to contribute in aligning agricultural policy to CAADP.

Our Work:

Our Work: Since 2009, TrustAfrica has been working in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to build an effective advocacy movement for sustainable and equitable agricultural development in Africa. The project covers six countries - Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Malawi, with a combined population of roughly 250 million.

Our project strengthens policy advocacy activities within national coalitions of farmers’ organisations (unions, associations and intermediary NGOs) to ensure countries achieve the goals of CAADP. We nurture and strengthen communities of advocates to hold their governments to account on CAADP commitments and to prioritize agricultural development, reduce hunger and increase the prospects for food security and nutrition.

Goals, Objectives and Targets:

Our project aims to create a strong community of advocates to hold governments accountable for better policies and increased budget allocations, especially women. We seek to achieve:

- Increased organizational capacity of advocates: Through small to medium-sized grants and technical support, we have contributed to improve governance and capacities for targeted policy advocacy campaigns within partner organizations that position themselves as advocacy champions.
- Increased technical capacity of advocates: We have supported several advocacy organizations in cutting-edge advocacy and campaign trainings to enable advocates to develop campaigns for the unique conditions within each participating country. Our Agriculture Advocacy Knowledge Hub serves as an information sharing and capacity building platform for a developing community of practice amongst partner organizations.
- A cohesive advocacy movement: With country partners, we have provided technical support on movement/coalition building, policy analysis and advocacy. We have also introduced new innovations to strengthen advocacy campaigns that prioritize pro-smallholder agriculture policies and budgetary allocations.
- Improved policy and budget climate for Africa’s smallholders: Our partners consistently convene stakeholder policy dialogue forums with policy makers at country level to put forward key policy reforms and influence policy change in the agriculture sector.

Our Impact:

More specifically, the project will advance these goals over the next 30 months by:

- Increased visibility and awareness of CAADP processes at country level.
- Improved participation of local organisations in government processes on agriculture policy-making, analysis and budget tracking.
- Strengthened national and sub-regional networks of organisations advocating pro-smallholder agriculture policies.
- Strengthened smallholder capacity for effective policy advocacy with evidence-based budget tracking.
- An increased number of local organisations in Ghana, Malawi and Uganda engage in processes for improved allocations to agriculture. Some provide technical support for governments to refine policies and monitor effectiveness in extension policy (Uganda) and input subsidies (Malawi). Conducting a scoping study of organizational capacity needs and strengths in each of the six countries.
FACT SHEET

About TrustAfrica

TrustAfrica is an independent foundation that strives to secure the conditions for democracy and equitable development throughout the continent.

Led by Africans, we convene dialogues, catalyze ideas, and provide grants and technical assistance to organizations working to advance these goals.

Our programs focus on:

- Governance
- Equitable Development
- African Philanthropy

We also award competitive research grants through our:

- Investment Climate & Business Environment Research Fund

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STRENGTHENING POLICY AND BUDGET ADVOCACY FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT IN TANZANIA

Tanzanian smallholder livestock farmers advocate for improved public investment

In September 2016, TrustAfrica launched a pilot project in Tanzania, to strengthen a CSO advocacy network for improved smallholder livestock development. The aim is to enhance sustainable and equitable growth through better and more inclusive policies and investments in the Tanzanian livestock sector. The project, a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, works with farmers’ associations, pastoralist organisations, value chain actors, the private sector and others.

Background

The livestock sector has been neglected in both the initial Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework and its strategic framework: Integrating Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries sub-sectors into the CAADP (NEPAD, 2006). A review of investment plans of countries with potential for growth in the livestock sector found that:

- there is little appreciation of livestock’s contribution to the CAADP objective of raising agricultural productivity by 6% per annum;
- there is almost no recognition of livestock’s role in promoting food security and poverty reduction as well as non-monetary livelihood services (such as draught power, manure, hauling services, insurance, and gender empowerment) and
- there has been limited consultation, if any, with livestock stakeholders such as smallscale livestock keepers or the farmer associations or NGOs who speak on their behalf.

Improving public support and finance for the livestock sector facilitates pro-poor economic growth, empowers smallholder farmers and addresses some challenges impeding growth of the national economy.

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