



**LAND AND SECURITY FDI REGIONAL DIALOGUE-KENYA
16TH -17TH APRIL, 2018**



This dialogue was organized by Farmers' Dialogue Kenya and DR Congo to pursue implementation of the action points, lessons learned, and solutions covered during a similar dialogue at Caux - Switzerland, in July 2017. There were 31 participants from; Mayotte, Kenya, South Sudan, DR Congo, Rwanda and France. The aims were;

- to reach farmers and stakeholders in the food production chain processes, to improve food security, income generation, ecosystem resilience, restoration of degraded land and peace/trust building.
- to strengthen the teamwork of Farmers' Dialogue International (FDI),
- to plan for the future of local initiatives aiming to help farmers at grassroot levels in their task of feeding their families and exporting surplus food for profit.

Ms Rosemary congratulated the participants for coming together for a common goal as farmers to pursue and explore solutions and challenges in the farming sector.

She also appreciated FDI office for accepting to support the idea financially and morally and Rosemary requested participants exercise active participation during the two days of the dialogue.

In her address, she stated that Land degradation; Land insecurity and conflicts/mistrust compounded by climate change are now the major global challenges. Participants were reminded to apply the FD slogan; "Think global, Act local" i.e. we should use local interventions to solve these global challenges.



Participants were requested to focus on specific important areas as follows;

Land Restoration- Are you restoring degraded land and are the practices used in land restoration both profitable and sustainable?

Peace Building- How are you supporting the development of peace and trust in your communities, country, village, home and even within yourself?

Land Governance- How is land ownership in terms of women and young people? How is it affecting land

restoration efforts? How does land ownership affect human security in our communities? What is the government doing in terms of land rights?

OPENING REMARKS

Several key stakeholders were given the opportunity to give opening remarks according to their position and role in the organization and their expertise. These involved; FDI staff, the host, and government officials

Appropriate Rural Development Agriculture Program (ARDAP) CEO

Being the host, he welcomed all participants to his Centre and informed them that they should be free to interact with his staff since they are all farmers trying to improve their livelihoods

He emphasized that as Farmers' Dialogue members we should think of how do we integrate; land restoration, land governance and peace building towards nutrition, income, peace building and environment conservation.

Government Officials; Administration-Butula Sub County and Busia County Land Commissioners Ministry of Agriculture; Butula Sub County Agricultural Officer

All appreciated FDI for the noble idea of reaching farmers at grass root level.

The Agriculture officer called upon participants to take the topic for discussion seriously. He reiterated that land restoration and land governance are whole. They cannot be separated. These are the driving force behind food security and society development.

The County land commissioner emphasized the need to understand land law and related issues for the productive and peaceful farming environment.

FDI Staff

Lokeka; appreciated all participants for turning up to share their experiences. He also appreciated the organizer for enabling the chance for sharing between various countries. He emphasized the need for food production, peace building and teamwork.

Phil Report

He appreciated the planning team, the attendance, and the relationship of peace building. He emphasized that 'Feeding the world' is an important venture.

He gave a brief history that FD started in 1995. It is now 23 yrs. Food is very crucial, but farmers are not recognized in many countries, so there was need for farmers to have a forum where they can meet and share their experiences.

He added that there is food insecurity all over the world. Imported food is very expensive. FDI objective is to enhance food production worldwide. Local initiatives should be encouraged to pursue all potential innovations/practices that can enhance food security, income generation and environment conservation using the slogan; 'Think global, Act local' by local interventions to solve global challenges.



Fiacre Sengati (Rwanda)

He appreciated all participants for attending the dialogue despite their busy schedules in the farm. He emphasized the need for proper and timely planning for activities, resource mobilization and teamwork. He added that FDI Office is ready to promote local/regional initiatives in all countries.

DIALOGUE PROGRESS

The dialogue themes; Land Restoration, Land Governance and Peace Building were organized in a way to allow farmers and organizations/government to share their experiences, expectations and challenges in respective areas as follows;

LAND RESTORATION

Farmers' Perspective

DR Congo

Farmers are farming without knowing that land productivity is deteriorating.

They are using practices that degrade land e.g. Overstocking, planting of trees that have negative effects, cropping without manure, deforestation, etc.

This is always accelerated by ignorance and inadequate knowledge on appropriate technologies among farmers. But with time, sensitization and training farmers learn that land can be improved by the way we do farming i.e. our normal farming practice e.g. use of manure, tree planting, agroforestry, terraces, etc

Kenya

Nyandarua: There are individual farmers and farmers groups. Farmers practice intensive farming of assorted crops and livestock namely; dairy, fruits, vegetables, French beans, coffee, tea and rice in some areas characterized by over use of fertilizers, pesticides, cultivation on steep slopes without soil protection measures. This contributes to soil degradation hence inadequate food production, soil erosion and floods during rainy season.

To solve this problem there are farmers sensitization and training programs by the government and organizations but due to farmers population compared to the ratio of change agent initiatives the percentage covered is still small.

There is need for more training and sensitization programs on; tree planting, use of manure, soil testing, animal feeds for livestock eg silage, terraces, drainage systems, etc

Transzoia; was a white settlement scheme from 1950s where soil was exhausted by overuse of fertilizers. It is characterized by monocropping of maize. About 95% of current land under farming was a forest, which was cleared for human settlement. These caused low soil productivity, high rate of soil erosion, low soil PH, water pollution, health related problems, among others.

To tackle these problems farmers were sensitized and trained on practices that can reduce the stated challenges such as; organic farming and other appropriate technologies, soil started to improve by use of manure and plant residue, compost making, agroforestry, enterprise diversification e.g. poultry, livestock, beekeeping, horticulture etc.

Bungoma; This is a high potential area for farming of fish and field crops such as; bananas, vegetables, maize, coffee, fruits, etc. Due to high and continuous farming of maize, beans and vegetables like tomatoes, French beans, among others there is overuse of fertilizers and pesticides which has led to low soil PH, low production and pollution of water bodies since most lands are not protected by terraces or trees to facilitate open land for tractor use.

To reduce these challenges, there are training programs by the government and organizations on appropriate technology farming techniques e.g. use organic farming, agroforestry, crop diversification, etc. Farmers are also encouraged to promote soil improvement and other beneficial crops e.g. fodder crops, medicinal plants, nitrogen fixing plants and bamboo.

Participants were encouraged to plant bamboo as a land restoration plant especially in water catchment areas and also because of its numerous benefits.

ORGANIZATION/GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

Kenya:

Government

The government is out to enforce environment, land and generally natural resources policies for mutual utilization of available resources with the aim of food security, income generation and environment conservation. More emphasis is put on land productivity improvement whereby farmers are advised to use farming techniques that improve and conserve soil such as; manure, crop diversification, enterprise diversification, agroforestry, integration of soil/ground/water conservation measures such as trees, cover crops, terraces, dams, ground water reservoirs, 10% of land as forest,



Catchment conservation by terracing e.g. conversion ditch, appropriate tree planting, intercropping with legumes, use of gabions in areas with intense soil erosion, terraces reinforcement, crop rotation, use of sacks filled with soil.

This can be sustained by; reinforcement of terraces, reduce tree cutting, conservation agriculture etc.

Farmers were also advised to use relevant quantity fertilizers and pesticides to minimize soil damage.

Agribusiness/entrepreneurship was emphasized in all farming activities as the only way to achieve sustainability of land restoration interventions mentioned.

Farmers were encouraged to join/form groups depending on group category such as; youth groups, women groups, gender balanced groups, etc to facilitate collaboration and accessibility by the government because the government uses a group approach. The officer reiterated that farmers who

remain alone i.e. individual farmers might not benefit from the government programs.



Farmers' Dialogue (FD)

FD Kenya promotes both individual and group/organizations initiatives. Due to large area covered, devolved government, diverse ethnic backgrounds/culture/lifestyle and diverse climatic conditions most initiatives/activities are regional based i.e. each region promotes different activities determined by these factors. FD provides a platform for sharing of what farmers are doing in their communities as individuals or organizations/groups such as; fish farming, crop farming, livestock production, beekeeping, agroforestry, tree planting, capacity building on appropriate technologies, environment conservation, etc. through meetings, emails, whatsapp, dialogues and trainings.

Examples of such organizations are;

1. Dajopen Waste Management

This is an environment conservation initiative based in Transzoia trying to control pollution. It is an NGO that recycles degradable wastes into manure and non-degradable wastes e.g. polythene, metal pieces into assorted items e.g. baskets, mats, necklaces, hand operated equipment, etc.

Challenges; inadequate raw materials, difficulties in transport due to bulkiness, government policies e.g. banning of use of polythene bags in the country which cut supply of polythene papers.

It trains farmers on making and utilization of manure; craft work e.g. making of baskets, mats, etc. It is also sells all products for income.

Dajopen facilitates land restoration by collecting garbage from dumping places, towns, and slaughter house surrounding making such places fit for farming.

2. Appropriate Rural Development Agriculture Program (ARDAP)

Busia County depends on only farming for its livelihood. The rate of poverty is very high due to low soil productivity because of infertile soil, over and under use of fertilizers, ignorance, and floods along lake Victoria shores, soil erosion, and deforestation for wood fuel, among others.

ARDAP an agricultural based NGO in the County was formed to help farmers deal with these challenges by promoting organic farming and other related appropriate technologies. It focuses on farm production of food crops, trees/vegetable seedlings, and livestock within the centre and in the community.

Its main activity is training of farmers and community service providers on short courses like one week, one day or one month in appropriate technologies e.g. organic farming, agroforestry, crop diversification, water sanitation, nutrition, food processing, among others.

The CEO emphasized the need to harmonize the land restoration lessons/ shared with activities on the ground for the ultimate goal of food production. He encouraged participants to pursue the idea of land restoration continuously because researchers are coming up with new land restoration technologies and approaches very often.

3. DR Congo

Farmers' Dialogue works with farmers through ADMR. There is sensitization and training of farmers on land protection techniques such as tree planting on steep slopes, use of manure, agroforestry, crop diversification, keeping of the right quantity of livestock, among others things.

ADMR also helps farmers in networking with other partners within DR Congo and beyond.

4. Mayotte

For efficient water use and proper crop production, farmers are trained and encouraged to use sensors to detect soil water/humidity and temperature to determine the appropriate crop production time.

A group approach in acquisition of sensors is encouraged to reduce the cost of each sensor. Participants were taken to a demonstration in the field on utilization of different sensors.

5. South Sudan.

Despite availability of both natural and human resources it is also experiencing desertification Farmers' Dialogue (FD) decided to focus on; human development, land and wild life.

Activities taking place are; cereal crops, horticulture, timber tree, medicinal plants, etc

The government works with farmers by; enforcement of land policy, environment protection, agriculture mainstreaming and organizing of agricultural show.

Other NGOs e.g. FAO train farmers and distribute improved tools

FD and University of Juba collaborated to run 1

million-tree project, which involves; seed collection, nursery bed, tree planting, networking, lobbying and advocacy.



They formed a University environment club, which is in charge of community outreach in neighbouring villages on formation of school clubs, research on preservation of vegetables and Provision of free practical skills.

LAND GOVERNANCE

Farmer Perspective;

Bungoma-The effect of education on land governance was brought out clearly in that educated people have more say on land ownership in families regardless of the position i.e. an educated and economically empowered child gets more land than non educated and less economically empowered. Women and young people are allowed to own land by buying, but in most families because of various reasons namely; fear that they will sell after owning, small pieces which cannot be subdivided, culture that prevents female children from inherit their parent's land and ignorance.

Busia, Central and Transzoia

Land ownership is in the hands of men. The youth and women are denied that opportunity. Men are not willing to give land to their sons and wives until they die. Daughters are denied parental land with the reason that they belong to their husband's property. These has led to land insecurity among women and the youth which retard long term land restoration interventions like manuring of land, tree planting, among others. Sometimes these long-term restoration efforts are seen as land grabbing strategies by family members. Most farmers are not aware of existence of land laws despite the fact that they are in the constitution. Farmer groups try to collaborate with existing networks and NGOs for lobbying and advocacy programs to the government departments like Kenya Land Alliance which fights for citizens rights.

ORGANIZATION/GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

This was explained in detail by the Kenya government; Busia county Land Commissioner and ADMR Staff from DR Congo as follows;

Kenya

There are laws but enforcement is inadequate. Culture affects land governance especially ownership because it determines society conducts. Women just know that they are under men; men know that land belongs to them not women so changing the attitude is still slow. Some cultures perceive women as inferior family members who cannot be trusted with land neither make sound decisions in families which also affect land utilization for man will always determine what to be done on the farm. The dead own Land until it is adjudicated.

Intervention; The government advocates for change in attitude, holistic approach by community members in meetings and family discussions in which women and young people are marginalized. The community/farmers should make an effort of knowing the relevant laws and rights governing land. Teamwork by government and NGOs is essential for awareness creation. All stakeholders should come together. Land adjudication process should start early e.g. 1st generation not 4th generation of the dead person/parent and be participatory by all family and related community members. There are bodies dealing with land governance e.g. Kenya Land Alliance, Kenya Land Commission, Land boards in every county. There are clauses in the constitution so sensitization of farmers is needed. The government with assistance of World Bank is working on a digitalized system where farmers will be able access their land details and status online and phone short texts.

DR Congo

Land is key factor in life. It controls all activities. Women are denied land ownership thus unable to get the required benefits- loan, food, income, etc. There is insecurity due to fights over land ownership. Land purchase is allowed but it has very intensive process making it to be hard. Therefore it becomes hard to acquire land in the rural areas. ADMR sensitizes women on law rights. Ignorance among women due to the level of illiteracy. Land is purchased and owned by rich people and poor people with inadequate income are chassed from their land. Men would like women to remain in their state no improvement.

Intervention; There are advocacy groups to fight for women rights e.g. ADMR. Cooperatives/Groups have been formed for loan services and education to reduce ignorance

Farmers are encouraged to participate in farming clauses/land rights formulation
Men are involved in the discussion to make them understand what should happen and how they should handle women and youths.

PEACE BUILDING

The relationship between IofC and Farmers' Dialogue was explained to participants. They were helped to understand that the foundation of all activities should be focus on personal change controlled by the inner voice achieved by quiet time basing on the IofC absolute standards as the benchmarks in life.

Peace building/ trust building can be enhanced by; team work at all levels, effective communication systems and processes, respect and honest among players, transparency and accountability in all operations, among others.

SUMMARY

LAND RESTORATION

- In all regions/countries there are practices that cause land degradation, which are affecting land productivity negatively.
- These are; soil erosion, over use of fertilizers and pesticides, mono cropping, inadequate supply of water, salinity, low PH, poor farming methods due to ignorance among farmers, deforestation, etc.
- There are also possible interventions across borders or in all regions/countries
- Namely; Ecological farming, tree planting, agroforestry, crop diversification, enterprise diversification, quality and quantity fertilizer and pesticide utilization, terraces, etc
- There are bodies/development agencies to help farmers.
- Namely; Farmers' Dialogue (International) chapters, governments, NGOs/CBOs which are dealing with capacity building, peace keeping, resource mobilization, advocacy and lobbying
- There are willing farmers in all communities to take up the challenge.

LAND GOVERNANCE AND PEACE BUILDING

- In all African countries there is insecurity among women and young people about land due to the attitude of men, culture and ignorance. These affect long-term land restoration efforts negatively.
- There are laws governing this but there is inadequate enforcement process.
- There is need to fill the gap by sensitization and training programs on these issues.
- There are bodies/development agents to help farmers.
- Namely; Farmers' Dialogue (International) chapters, governments, NGOs/CBOs which are dealing with capacity building, peace keeping, resource mobilization, advocacy and lobbying.
- There are willing farmers in all communities to take the challenge

RESOLUTIONS / WAY FORWARD;

- Formation of Task force to spearhead the program at all levels to manage overlapping themes i.e. previous and present year's theme e.g. 2017 and 2018 themes from August 2018 after 2018 dialogue.
- All countries contact peoples to reinforce their teams for mutual handling of internal programs to facilitate inter country partnerships.
- Develop a centre of reference for FDI programs ie FDI to have its centre with reference materials and facilities, both human and physical.
- Promote appropriate technologies that are inline with restoration of degraded land and land governance such as; ecological farming, beekeeping, agroforestry, crop/enterprise diversification, land rights, peace building, etc. By training, exchange visits, dialogues, sharing of case studies, progressive reports, photos, etc
- Monitoring and Evaluation of what countries are doing by the formed Task force.
- Resource mobilization based on thematic areas at all levels from Counties to international levels
- Networking and collaboration with other partners e.g. government, donors, IofC, etc
- Inclusion of peace building, team building and group governance in all dialogues/trainings.



PARTICIPANTS MOMENTS OF CONCENTRATION AND DISCUSSION
BY ROSEMARY NAMATSI, DIALOGUE ORGANIZER AND HOST, FDK SECRETARY

Farmers' Dialogue

