



Working for Better Agricultural Policies and Practices

AGRICULTURAL NON STATE ACTORS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Secretariat Report 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As ANSAF progressed through the year 2011, we are indebted to our members and development partners for their contributions both in cash and in kind in enabling the success of the implementation of ANSAF objectives. 2011 had been assessed to be one of the challenging and successful year; which without the support granted to us would not have been possible.

Our foremost appreciation goes to all organizations and individuals who made their valuable contributions during the undertaking of ANSAF activities in 2011. Not to mention, the list goes on. However, ANSAF would like to mention a few for their special contributions without which this achievement would not have succeeded.

Special thanks goes to our development partners Institute of Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), Embassy of Ireland (Irish Aid) , Service Centre for Development (KEPA) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) who donated funds to support the various activities and publications that were done in 2011. This would not have been possible without their unlimited support

ANSAF also acknowledges its member organizations that made their contributions both in cash and in kind. The Secretariat is indebted to Concern Worldwide for hosting and supporting them throughout the year; Oxfam GB, Rural Livelihood Development Company and ACTIONAID for their financial support and VSO for their volunteer program. In addition, ANSAF is greatly gratified to new members that joined in 2011 and their continued support and trust in pushing the smallholder farmer's agenda to the higher level. We thank all members for their valuable time and support for being active participants in ANSAF forums and meetings. Not only did these become active informants in spreading ANSAF advocacy work further, but also shaped ANSAF in many ways. We hope that this undying spirit is carried on for many years ahead.

ANSAF appreciates tireless efforts and support from the Steering Committee under the leadership of Charles Ogutu (RLDC), Juma Shamte (KATANI LTD), Justin Morgan (OXFAM GB) and James Davey (Concern Worldwide) who have been instrumental in pushing ANSAF agenda forward and for their various contributions and inputs during the whole period.

Furthermore, ANSAF acknowledges the secretariat for its efforts and ambition to see the organization evolve to be an effective learning and sharing platform where other stakeholders can learn/share and collectively seek to bring their experience and research in lobbying and influencing the government, key policy and decision-makers on specific sector priorities to the national level.

Executive Summary

The year 2011 had been a year of both success and challenges. Most of ANSAF 2011 activities were based on the 2011 work-plan. This was a turn-around year for ANSAF network as witnessed in strengthened Secretariat and firming the programme focus. With increased demand for ANSAF's involvement at both national and local level, its work also attracted some international organizations such as People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) based in Manila Philippines and the East Africa Grain Council (EAGC) based in Nairobi Kenya.

In January 2011, ANSAF signed a contract with two staff and by the end of the year, there were three additional staff, making it five. The deployment had a lot of implications in terms of future undertakings and engagement with members and non members. Increased number of staff meant we could better serve our clients, -ANSAF members in particular.

Furthermore, 2011 marked the end of ANSAF's first strategic plan. The review was done in mid year (June & July) and findings/recommendations have been used to develop a new strategic plan. Needless to say we deepened our work with members on smallholder agriculture and public expenditure tracking, collaboration with media, focus on aid effectiveness in the context of rural development and embarked on social accountability monitoring.

There were some few challenges especially on website being deleted and late agreement with partners that slowed down the implementation of most activities for the better half of the year. As the year unfolded, the issue of office space emerged and strongly felt need to relocate was evident.

On organization level the governance of ANSAF was strengthened in terms of constant meetings which reflected most on the strategic issues that mattered most. For the first time, the decision to have an independent audit for ANSAF accounts was reached and audit conducted; the constitution is under review and more people from the private sector have been encouraged to join the board (steering committee). The New Strategic Plan is being developed that will cover the period between 2012 -2016.

On a programme level, ANSAF registered its own Magazine (Ulimwengu wa Mkulima) and towards the end of 2011, the first edition was released. Also ANSAF worked with media through news spots capturing ANSAF activities through news and articles production. Outreach and field visits to members, followed by training to stakeholders were done in several districts to collect data and transfer skills, knowledge and information to local level actors.

Results from our engagement are mixed. To greater extent ANSAF has been able to demonstrate how stakeholders' involvement can contribute to sector performance and resource mobilization. ANSAF membership has increased from 16 by the beginning of the year to 31 by December 2011.

This report summarizes key achievement, challenges and proposes the way forward on some specific areas based on our understanding of the current economic and political context.

1.0 Introduction

Since its registration in 2008, the network has maintained its focus based on the three key objectives, which were to:-

- Undertake researches and document best practices that can be shared for wider uptake.
- Provide a platform where people learn/share and collectively seek to bring their experience and research. The platforms provide space where issues are critically discussed within the context of policy framework and economic growth.
- Use evidences and experience to lobby and influence the government and key policy and decision-makers on specific sector priorities. Such priorities impact on the country's economy and equitably contribute to poverty reduction specifically at community level. ANSAF provides alternative policy proposals for wider uptake

ANSAF envisages awakening and catalyzing the latent opportunities in agriculture through identifying and articulating the potential which currently exists.

Being a member-based network, ANSAF Secretariat is accountable to the members who are presented by the board (Steering Committee). ANSAF maintains a lean team of professional and multi-skilled staff who are committed and capable to deliver the above objectives.

This annual report is organized into five sections. The first section gives introduction, the second and third sections cover the sector context and ANSAF's work respectively. The last two sections give information on organizational and staff development (section four); and challenges and lessons learnt are covered in section five.

2.0 Social and Economic Context

Tanzania continues to be an emerging economy with high growth potential. With per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$ 500 the economy has shown strong and consistent growth over the last decade averaging 6.0% per annum. Tanzania's economy remains largely agrarian. Agriculture continues to be the mainstay of the economy with its contribution to GDP dropping slowly (from 50% 1980s to the current 24% 2010). Poverty is rampant in rural areas where the majorities are smallholder producers. Despite its significance to the country's economy, agriculture receives just above 1% of the GDP.

Tanzania is relatively food sufficient with food security fluctuating between years of surplus in good season and years of deficit in poor rainfall season. On average the Food Self Sufficiency Ratio (FSSR) remains around 95%. Some regions and districts have had food surpluses of varying magnitude and there are some pockets of persistent and seasonal food shortage annually.

The level of investment in agricultural sector remains relatively low, which could explain the disconnect between economic growth and poverty and food security outcomes; poor coordination of sector actors where food production is mainly driven by small-scale farmers; poor use of improved methods (inputs, mechanization and irrigation); market and general policy failures.

Although the agricultural sector budget has grown over the last decade from 2.9% (2001) to the highest 7.95% (2010/11), it dropped to 6.9% in 2011/12. This is contrary to the 2003 Maputo Declaration by all the African Union Member States. The budget increase is also challenged with high inflation rate and therefore not accomplishing most of the activities. For example, although the 2011/12 nominal budget stands at Tzs 926 billion, in real terms¹ this is about Tzs 540 billion². At the centre of low budgetary allocation, the sector performance remains little below 4% annual growth, and therefore little contribution on poverty reduction and MKUKUTA goals realization.

Tanzanian government follows the General Budget Support. Seemingly a better road to donor harmonization than the previous project funding, some select donors adopted to fund agricultural sector through a sector-wide approach (ASDP Basket fund). Pledges are made on annual basis and donors' commitments are traced based on what they committed themselves for. However other donors such as USA and Japan prefer the project/earmarked funding. Sector donor group and government hold meetings on regular basis and ANSAF has consistently been invited in such meetings to represent the Non-State Actors (NSAs).

¹ The base year for this calculation was 2001

² This is over 41% discrepancy between the real and nominal value of the budget, and it affects spending patterns unless local authorities have this in mind when producing plans.

2011, was the first year after the General Elections. Citizens, particularly rural communities have fresh memories of pledges under Kilimo Kwanza resolve. While this remains the government's commitment to deliver, there is a notable interest (whether genuine or not) by private investors and challenge remain on how the smallholders can organize themselves to tap up such opportunities. The ability of citizens to monitor the implementations of such commitments by politicians remains in the hands of other actors (ANSAF members in particular) to strengthen capacity and build the confidence of smallholders to question and demand accountability from office bearers.

Agricultural infrastructures and systems were at the brink of collapsing until recently (a decade ago) where the efforts were garnered to revamp the sector. Extension services remain weak, rural infrastructures are dilapidated, roads are poor and access to market is hampered by several impediments (financial, physical and political) which chock trade opportunities. In some traditional export commodities the farm-gate price is as low as 15% of the export price (contrary to the policy of at least 65%). Facilities for adding value (agro-processing) are either challenged by power outages or non-availability of electric infrastructures in rural areas. The frequent power outages, exacerbates the situation and impacts on development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which is instrumental for rural agro-processing plants. Apart from acquiring land, very few private companies are seriously involved in agribusiness from production level. The desire to transform the sector into a market-based economy cannot be successful in the absence of such key actors while the government regulates the business environment.

The policy arena in Tanzania remains largely a government-donor endeavor. The structures for engagement (policy dialogue) are not fully exploited often actors beyond government and donors are not effectively involved. Consequently civil society and the private sector involvement is significantly more on service delivery than on policy dialogue levels. The isolated effort between the government (on the one side) and civil society organizations and private sector (on the other side) results in un-coordinated effort, duplication of effort and limit cross-learning opportunities.

With low level involvement of private sector, the performance of agriculture (productivity as well as forward linkages with other sectors) might continue to be low. Incentive packages through taxes and other mechanisms might be useful in enticing the private institutions to seize the opportunities in domestic, regional and international markets for agricultural products (crops, livestock, fishery and agro-forestry) and services.

Apart from the victims of poor policy implementations, smallholders are weakly organized and it becomes too difficult for them to be heard when they raise their voices (interest and views). Moreover, the spaces to articulate the concerns from wider actors remain very limited but to the elite. This limits their level of engagement at local (village and district) and national levels. Smallholders remain the recipients of policies and directives but not active players in decision making but yet they remain strong players at production level. Despite this general situation, there are some incidences where

farmers have organized themselves under such umbrellas like MVIWATA and addressed their issues with the government.

3.0 ANSAF Program Activities and Advocacy Work

Having stalled activities for almost the whole of first half of the year 2011, implementation began from the month of August onwards. Nonetheless during the first six month field visits were done to collect DADP information and backstopping based on previous training. In the same period, national level involvement was on roundtables with development partners and NSA; Africa regional multi-stakeholder meeting on aid effectiveness in the context of agriculture and rural development; and review of previous strategic plan.

Capacity enhancement of ANSAF members was essentially conducted through training them and other stakeholders on SAM in selected districts. Although the Ulimwengu wa Mkulima Magazine was registered during the first half of the year, the first edition came out in late November. Meeting on New Strategic Plan (2012-2016) development with Secretariat and other members was also done during the last-half of the year, whereas two pieces of research work (analysis of budget allocation and links to regional poverty levels and Gender Implications in agricultural Sector interventions) were conducted during the year.

Budget Analysis and Social Accountability work

Budget is an important part of sector performance. Although ANSAF advocates for increased public budget allocation to agriculture, we are also very much concern on how allocations are made within the sector and how it is being spent. Widely acknowledged that the sector budget increase to 10% will never bring the desired result of sector growth of 6%, nor can it contribute to poverty reduction and addressing food insecurity. This understanding has been fueled by the donors' critique in the agricultural sector working group on whether the budget increase without proper priorities would lead to increased sector performance.

Based on research findings from various districts (14³ districts) ANSAF aimed at building the capacity of its members as part of creating critical mass and ensuring grounded evidence and sustainability at local level. Specific foci were on public resources, planning and allocation, participatory decision-making at local level, expenditure management, oversight function and conducting public expenditure tracking studies to analyze the proportion of sector budget to smallholder agriculture. Furthermore, ANSAF analyzed the TAMISEMI budget for 2009/10 in the realm of regional poverty levels.

³ These districts were previously selected based on members' readiness to cooperate with the Secretariat to implement the Smallholder agriculture and Public Expenditure and Budget Tracking. Out of these districts only 8 were visited and out of the 8 visited, data from five (5) districts were seen to be consistent and easy to analyze.

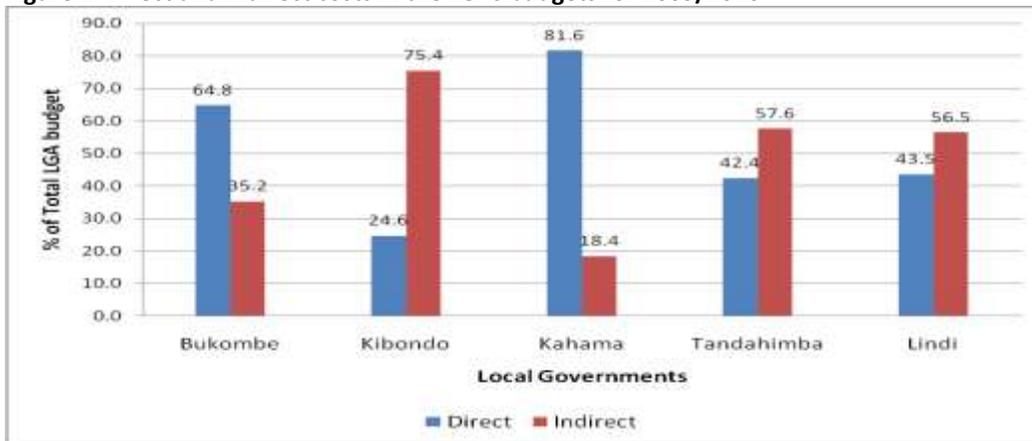
Findings from BA and SAM activities at local level

Budget Analysis (BA)

The budget analysis report is based on five districts⁴. Apart from the traditional budget dichotomy (recurrent and development budget), the development component of the budget include Capacity building (CB), Extension (EB) block and investment (DADG) components. ANSAF classified the CB, EB and DADG components into indirect and direct costs⁵. Some of findings include

- A relatively good share of the investment component for almost all LGAs. However the some LGAs have allocated more than 60%, no single LGA had allocated to 60% of the funds to investment component. Furthermore under the investment (DADG) components there were elements of indirect costs. Interestingly the same DADG component included some indirect costs in different levels as the picture below indicates

Figure 1: Direct and indirect costs in the LGAs budgets for 2009/2010



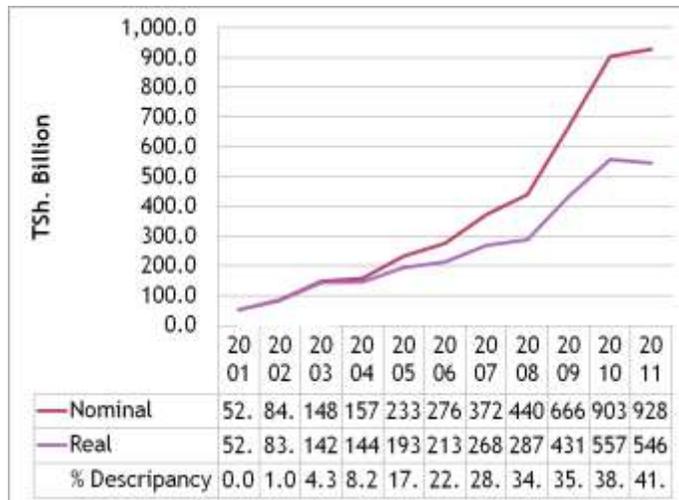
Source: ANSAF (2011) DADPs Local Level Priorities Report

- Only Kahama district council (DC) of all LGAs did not set funds from their own sources to support agricultural interventions. This is contrary to the spirit of Kilimo Kwanza Resolve. For two consecutive years, Kahama DC had allocated 7.2% and 7.6% of their budget for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 respectively
- At national level, based on 2007 Household Budget Survey, for the agricultural sector budget (2009/10) very poor regions received only 15.1% of the budget, whereas economically better regions received 44.3%. Furthermore, of six food basket regions, Kigoma received the least allocation, far below other regions that are not considered agriculturally potential. Such kind of allocations might not provide the impetus needed to reduce poverty in such regions and address food insecurity.

⁴ These districts include Bukombe, Lindi, Tandahimba, Kibondo and Kahama.

⁵ **Direct costs** are expenditures whose implementations have obvious and direct outcomes to the farm activities. They include buying equipment and machinery, construction of feeder roads, buying inputs, and expenditures of investment nature. Indirect costs include expenditures such as per-diems, allowances for project staff, fuel, computer, office refurbishment, and travels/stationeries.

Figure 2: Direct and indirect costs in the LGAs budgets for 2009/2010



- The effect of inflation is not given enough consideration. Although in nominal terms the budget is said to increase in greater percent, in real terms the 2011/12 budget has been reduced compared to the 2010/11 as the figure below depicts.

Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM)

Social Accountability Monitoring has been introduced in five districts⁶ councils. Only Ulanga and Karagwe DC have analyzed their data and shared the findings. Based on SAM reports from both DCs, the following were the key findings:-

- LGAs have a lot of 'priorities' whose implementation cannot entirely depend on public/government money (i.e without involving other actors such as CSOs and private companies). There is mismatch between DC Strategic Plan and agricultural sector priorities. It is difficult to understand which document supports the other.
- Although DADP projects are approved and the DCs can change projects before they start implementation without informing the beneficiary groups. Case in point is Karagwe district which continued report on Charcoal Dam construction development after feasibility study was made, the funds were diverted to construct rural road in a different community.
- Karagwe district did not reinvest some resources gained from crop levy. The district had collected over Tzs 1.3billion in 2008/09 as a result of crop levy but did not allocate any fund from own source. Local revenues (mostly from agricultural produce levy) was allocated for administrative costs
- In terms of strategic plan, agriculture (crop component) was the first priority compared to Cooperatives and livestock components in Karagwe DC. However crop component receive just 10% of the budget compared to 77% and 13% which were allocated for livestock and cooperatives components respectively.
- Mismatch between the CAG and DADP performance reports. The CAG report would indicate lower performance rate (less than 50%) whereas the DC report indicated 100%. Performance report by Ulanga district indicates about 100% (received and spent) whereas the Controller

⁶ The training was offered to SAM teams in Korogwe, Tandahimba, Singida (r) as well as Karagwe and Ulanga LGAs. Only two districts teams had collected data and analyzed the information by December 2011. The results on SAM presented in this report covers Karagwe and Ulanga DCs through KADERES and CEMDO ANSAF members respectively.

Auditor General (CAG) reports on the respective year (2009/10) indicate over Tzs 200millions (out of Tzs 530million) were not spent

- Although the DADP guidelines demand for consultation, involvement of private service providers (CSOs, companies and others), there is little evidence (Ulanga and Karagwe) that indicate actors beyond the government do actually participate
- Inconsistency in the way documents are organized within different years. This is also observed across LGAs and there is doubt whether the DADP guidelines are comprehended and followed
- Although completed, cattle dip project is not being in use after investing a lot of resources⁷. The DC did not consider the other users and plan to provide pathway for livestock.

Outcomes based on BA and SAM at local level

The above findings and associated activities involved a range of actors and feedback was provided to local councilors, district management teams (Karagwe) as well as communities. Although the BA and SAM is an ongoing process, the following are some of outcomes:

- Strengthened capacity (advocacy and data analysis) for ANSAF members working in LGAs
- Increased collaboration and trust between LGA executives and ANSAF members at local level.
- Increased confidence of the community members, that they can question and follow-up progress on development project. They can hold the office bearers to account their performance
- Councilors and communities have been able to understand their role and how to supervise the executives. *“I wish to have attended this SAM training several months earlier. I should have not approved LGA agricultural budget”*, one of the ward councilors was quoted saying
- Stakeholders, particularly smallholder farmers were able to see the link between SAM, accountability and increased transparency
- ANSAF members involved in SAM and BA have gained credibility. *“There is increase in number communities coming to our offices to seek for guidance on various issues,” KADERES Manager.* Some ANSAF members involved in SAM and BA are about to enter into new partnership with potential supporters.

Media Training and News Spots – Media Advertisements

Although agricultural issues continue to feature on media, the breadth and width of coverage remains a challenge. City based media gurus who attend conferences on agriculture continue to report issues raised by guests of honor. As a follow up to the 2010 Annual Learning and Sharing Platform, ANSAF conducted training to media houses (selected journalists) on agriculture and rural development. The main focus on the training was on policy processes and governance. Out of 16 journalist trained, nine

⁷ Point in case is Ulanga DC, Itete village cattle dip project, which did not consider livestock path when it was identified. Crop farmers resisted to give way to livestock to use the facility which was already constructed.

(9) were able to write articles on agriculture and rural development, and out of the nine only 5 wrote more than two articles.

Two News spots were developed and broadcasted through electronic media. One of the News Spots was focusing on participatory planning processes and efficiency in allocating resources; and the second one aimed at promoting value chain concept focusing on the importance of rural infrastructures.

Key issues emerging from Media engagement and News Spots

- There is a need to establish baseline on the level of reporting on agriculture and rural development issues. This will assist in tracking changes based on ANSAF and other actors' work
- The role of media remains important not only in reporting what they see but also providing opportunities for people to engage through talk-shows and live programmes
- Through ANSAF trained journalist there is evidence that coverage on agriculture is relatively improving. This cannot be attributed to ANSAF's work alone.

Table 1: ANSAF TV & RADIO NEWS SPOT

A	STATION	DAY	PROGRAM	DURATION
	ITV	SUNDAY	MID NEWS	45"
	STAR TV	WEDNESDAY	MID NEWS	45"
	TBC	THURSDAY	POST NEWS	45"
	EATV	TUESDAY	WANAWAKE LIVE	45"
	ITV	WEDNESDAY	INDIA LOVE STORY	45"
	ITV	FRIDAY	KIPIMA JOTO	45"
	ITV	MONDAY	DK45	45"

RADIO STATIONS

B	STATION	DAY	PROGRAM	DURATION
	RADIO ONE	TUESDAY	MID NEWS	45"
	RFA	FRIDAY	PRE NEWS	45"
	TBC TAIFA	SATURDAY	MID NEWS	45"

- News spots have double effect; they deliver the messages and used to advertise the organization thus, raised awareness on ANSAF through news spots

- Skills on the sector is very important, media people have limited knowledge in agricultural reporting
- In some cases government censorship and interference on political interest issues might distort the information and dictate the news selection based on Chief Editor's preference.

Roundtables with Stakeholders

Several issues emerged from the 2010 Annual Learning and Sharing Platform. ANSAF has traditionally been holding roundtables with various stakeholders. We use this opportunity to pass on information and advocate for policy and practice changes. The 2010 annual learning event theme focused on various chain developments and how to activate effective local markets. The two roundtables were organized in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma involving NSA and parliamentarians (Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture Livestock and Water) respectively. The aim of the roundtable were to share the key issues and recommendations drawn from value chain activation participants who attended the 2010 annual learning and experience sharing forum. Some of the key issues that were discussed during the roundtable included:

- Value chain approach is one of the ways forward in speeding up poverty eradication process in Tanzania particularly in rural areas
- The current planning process and approaches do not give enough attention into development of specific commodities for value chain purposes. This is also evident in the way projects are identified where the civil servant do not necessarily involve the private sector actors
- Governance in value chains and what it entails is critical in value chain development. There should be a governing system where value chain actors can address their complaints and the system should also provide the necessary checks and balances
- Pricing is a sensitive issue in contract farming. An effective framework should not only look at the prices but also lay out how to agree on the margins, since prices are determined by the market and the capacity of firms to influence the price is limited.
- Value chain actors should have a platform to meet at the same level regardless of their position in the chain so that they enter into mutually satisfactory agreements. The government should be a referee rather than controlling and managing the chain.
- Smallholder farmers and contracting firms should design memoranda that provide measures to deal with contract violations (such as side-selling or offering lower prices). It is important that such memoranda outline the ethics of doing business and ensure the transparency of any reward system.

Research on Public Investment in Agriculture & Annual Learning Platform

The 2011 Annual Learning event theme focused on Public Interventions in Agriculture: With What Gender Implications? ANSAF members and non members from Tanzania and beyond⁸ indicated interest to make presentations based on their own experience. ANSAF conducted a research to be used as a Lead paper presentation during the learning event. The research focused on mechanization, irrigation and input subsidies and data were collected from three districts of Kongwa, Kilombero and Kilolo.

The aim was to generate relevant data that shall facilitate better understanding on to what extent interventions in Agriculture considered the gender aspect to ensure equal participation of women, men, youth and other marginalized groups in the process. The study was also designed to find out what are the key implications so far in the researched areas as far as gender mainstreaming is concerned to inform policy makers and public at large. The focus was on irrigation infrastructure improvement, subsidization of Agriculture inputs-promotion of fertilizer use and improved seeds; and agriculture mechanization.

Key findings

- *'Low level of awareness'* on policies and procedures pertaining the governing of inputs subsidy, agro-machineries and irrigation infrastructure improvement among local stakeholder including leaders.
- *'Delays'* in delivery of inputs to farmers, therefore missing the season of production.
- *'High price'* of 'subsidized inputs'. Most of beneficiaries are not able to afford the subsidized price in turn rich suppliers (agents) do give money to farmers to buy the subsidized inputs i.e seeds and fertilizers and then sell back to farmers in a higher price.
- *'Out-of-sight-out of-mind'* and *'classes'* development. Remote villages do access inputs at higher price because of the infrastructure complexity. Those accessing the services like loans for agro machines and irrigation equipments as well as subsidized inputs like fertilizers and seeds are relatively capable financially.
- *"Poor governance"* of the input subsidy. The bidding processes of getting input subsidy suppliers are marred by malpractices and what seem to be corruption incidents.
- A *'one-size fits all approach?'*- Challenge of standardizing requirements. A question of which fertilizer is suitable for what type of soil and crop. Also promotion of 50 power tiller for each LGA each year
- *'Widows, youth and women'* who are mainly poor in rural areas cannot raise matching grant to buy subsidized inputs. There are no affirmative measures to ensure that those who cannot pay, can still access the inputs.
- In patriarchal systems, young people are hardly featuring in these interventions. For example inputs subsidy is focusing on the head of households. This does not only undermine women,

⁸ International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) and CARE International

but young people too as they are not considered as head of households. Young women do face double discrimination as they are expected to get married at some point and access the services through their husbands as head of households.

- Irrigation schemes are owned by few members (groups) in the villages, mainly men who occupied the plots since 1970s. Mtandika Village in Kilolo and Kilombero districts are case in point.
- '*Limited access to productive services*' such as land and credit for women and youth. There are no tangible effort and deliberate action to consider these groups in accessing credit- they commonly lack ownership rights in land or property to serve as collateral.

Key outcomes from 2011 Annual Learning and Sharing Platform

- Strengthened link on local and national level engagement on issues of gender, particularly focusing on women and youth
- Collaboration with other stakeholders such as the ICRW as a way of cross-country knowledge and information sharing.

Ulimwengu wa Mkulima Magazine (Farmers World Magazine)

Through partners, ANSAF used to support the development, printing and distribution of Outreach Magazine. In early 2011, the decision was made by the board to establish its own magazine, christened '*Ulimwengu wa Mkulima*'. The Secretariat developed all necessary documentations and finally the Magazine was registered by July 2011. The Ulimwengu wa Mkulima Magazine has its own editorial team. The first edition was released in late November 2011.

Ulimwengu wa Mkulima is a quarterly Magazine that aims at providing relevant information to stakeholders, smallholder farmers in particular. Also ANSAF uses the Magazine as meeting point for government, traders, processors and other interested individuals on pertinent agricultural issues. The Magazine is produced in Kiswahili and English languages.

Key outcomes

- More link with non-traditional agricultural organizations such as banks. The idea is to have their advertisement in the Magazine to complement distribution cost
- ANSAF private company members (SMEs) have used the Magazine to inform stakeholders on how standard products can be made using simple facilities
- Over 140 institutions (including LGAs) have received the Magazine and ordered more in the coming editions. This means the information provided is relevant and from credible sources
- ANSAF members' work is widely communicated beyond their working areas, and it provides opportunity for collaboration without the support of ANSAF Secretariat

National & International Level Engagement with Government and Development Partners

We have continued to work with government, development partners and other actors on a number of fronts at national level to influence policy processes. ANSAF represents NSAs in national dialogue on agricultural issues. Although previously participation in national level dialogue was assumed to be the responsibility of the Secretariat, slowly the members have been developing interest to attend and make contributions at ministry and national level forums. During the year, ANSAF represented NSAs in the CAADP Task Force and Tanzania Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (TAFSIP). We have tirelessly provided inputs and alternative views on a number of issues during the dialogues.

In collaboration with Policy Forum, ANSAF was able to undertake a presentation on Budget and local priorities – the agricultural sector perspective. This attracted a number of national level stakeholders who encouraged further engagement and organization of such talks where actors could discuss and trash issues of concern in the sector

Based on the work that was produced in 2010 by one of our members (Concern Worldwide on Aid Effectiveness: The Question of Democratic Ownership in the Context of Agricultural Sector in Tanzania), ANSAF was contacted by the People’s Coalition of Food Sovereignty (PCFS) to organize a Regional Multi-Stakeholders Conference. The focus was on aid effectiveness in the context of agricultural and rural development. Several international donors (donors’ platform) attended the workshop which was held in April in Dar es Salaam. Other participants were from African and Asian 19 countries such Philippines, Kenya, The Gambia, Pakistan, India, Sierra Leon, Lesotho, Ethiopia, e.t.c. Tanzanian government officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA) were invited to make presentations on issues related to democratic ownership in the context of Accra Agenda for Actions (AAA). It is for this reason that ANSAF was considered as one of the serious organizations that represented CSOs on Aid during the Fourth High Level Forum (4HLF) in Busan Korea.

ANSAF was asked to make a presentation during the 4HLF in Busan Korea on Country Democratic Ownership in the context of Agriculture and Rural development (A&RD). This was a side meeting that involved researchers, donor representatives and CSOs across the globe.

Key outcomes from National and International level engagement

- Knowledge of CSOs as allies and not adversaries within the government
- Contribution of NSAs in the TAFSIP was acknowledged by various stakeholders
- ANSAF has gained an international and national image

Research on *Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)* Cotton and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

As a member-led network, ANSAF members noted that the Tanzanian government was planning to introduce Bt cotton on a large scale level. This raised alarm among members who wanted to embark on advocacy. Dues to short of concrete information, there was no way the members could engage. A Task Force was formed to develop ToRs and recruit the consultant who could undertake a desk review on Bt cotton and Wema Maize project. The desk study focused on the social, environmental, health and economic effect of Bt Cotton and GMO Maize products to smallholder farmers in Tanzania. The main objective of the research was to inform ANSAF members on what are the current experiences (if any) and what would be the effect when such products (Bt Cotton and Maize seeds) are introduced in Tanzania. What would be the effect (social, economic and health) to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers? What would be the effect to the environmental and the whole ecosystem where such products are introduced? Some of the recommendations made were for ANSAF through its members to:

- Ensure that appropriate bio safety regulations are followed during evaluation and, if necessary, adoption of GM crops.
- Be included in consultation stages both with WEMA and the Tanzania Cotton Board, both to increase members' knowledge of the proposed technologies and to ensure that deployment of GMO crops takes ANSAF's concerns into consideration.
- Strengthen ANSAF capacity to make informed decisions, ANSAF website should keep members up to date on the positive and negative consequences of GM agriculture.
- Demand that any evaluations of risks – especially of WEMA maize – follow the strict guidelines outlined under the Cartagena protocol.
- Learn as much information from experiences in Kenya and Uganda to ensure that there is complete transparency and risk assessments knowledge

East Africa Grain Council & Cereal and Other Produce Board

Tanzanian government introduced Cereals and Other Produce Board Act (2009). Its implementation is supposed to see the government back into business. FAO office in Tanzania has been collaborating with other stakeholders to advocate for better policies, and ANSAF was asked to be the convener for the Policy Working Group. ANSAF as a convener of the policy working group (PWG) supported by FAO, participated and coordinated a stakeholder's workshop where they presented the working group concerns of the Cereals and Other Produce Act (2009). Some of the issues in the Act included government intervention in the purchase and processing of cereal and other commodities. The PWG plans to share the findings with other stakeholders in the sector such as the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water, Ministry etc.

ANSAF has been invited by the MAFC to present the issues that require amendments in the act so they are taken into consideration. An in depth analysis of the Act is now going in collaboration with the group participants. Once the review is ready it will be shared with ANSAF Members and stakeholders.

The Act in its current state impacts negatively on emerging small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), smallholder farmers; it discourages business thinking among producers, promotes state monopoly on cereal sector and discourages cross-border trade. It also reduces competition and puts the government back into doing business by supporting producers, purchasing produce, stocking it, processing it and releasing the produce into the market.

4.0 Organizational and Staff Development

Recruitment and Organizational Development

In a view to expand ANSAF's reach and deepen engagement with stakeholder two more staff joined the Secretariat toward the end of 2011. Alawiya Mohammed joined ANSAF as a Communication and Advocacy Officer (September 2011) while George Mboje joined us in December 2011 as a Coordinator Policy and Budget Analyst. Alawiya was previously working with technobrain limited and George was previously employed by East Africa Grain Council as a country representative.

Plans are underway to move out from our current premises under the managing agent. This implies pending vacancies (such as accountant and office assistant) based on our staff establishment plan will have to be filled in early 2012.

ANSAF 2011 Audit Accounts

ANSAF has conducted its audit for the year 2010 with Howarth International under partner agreement with Concern Worldwide who is currently the managing agent.

Strategic Plan Review and Development

The 2009-2011 Strategic Plan was reviewed in mid 2011. ANSAF was mainly assessed on Advocacy rating Scale (developed by VSO). Table 2 presents the key findings. It was obvious that during the previous SP ANSAF Secretariat and its members in general have been able to deliver on a number of issues as the table depicts.

Based on the 1-6⁹ scale ranging developed by VSO the review of previous Strategic Plan indicated an overall 4.1 mark, -which is equivalent to 68.3%. Despite the overall mark ranking, the review report indicated that there is low involvement of ANSAF at local level, and a recommendation was obvious that our level of engagement especially at local level need to be strengthened through members.

⁹ In this scale, 6 is the highest whereas 1 is the lowest rank

Figure 3: ANSAF PROGRESS RATING 2009 -2011

Recommendation	Directed to				Progress Rating
	Central Gov't	LGAs	Donors	CSOs	
Government and DADPs					
Policy					
Government urged to review land use planning and land tenure legislation	?				4
Improve training of front line staff on policy and guidelines	?	?			6
Planning – Participation					
Build the capacity of front line staff in participatory methodology in order to better capture the views of resource-poor farmers and the prioritization of proposed projects	?	?			5
Ensure adequate representation of smallholder farmers and marginalized groups (including women)		?			4
Broaden the composition of planning teams to include Non-Governmental Organisations, the private sector and farmers' networks	?	?			4
Planning – DADP's and the 3-year rolling DDP's					
LGAs should be encouraged to make regular reference to medium term plans, MTEF and DDPs in particular, when planning / prioritizing DADPs		?			5
Planning – Prioritization					
Contextual analysis would facilitate priority setting. This could include, for example, opportunities, strengths, weaknesses, bottlenecks in smallholder agriculture differentiated to Zone or District level	?	?			5
Guidance on prioritization should be developed at Zonal and/or District level	?	?			2
Coordination					
Central Government should identify and address bottlenecks in the system of development and dissemination of guidelines	?				4
Guidelines and budget ceilings should be with LGAs by 30 th October each year	?				5
Central Government and LGAs need to work more closely together to address weaknesses in administration	?	?			2
The roles of the various agencies should be clarified and shared with farmers and other stakeholders	?	?			2
DADP guidelines require review and revision to improve clarity and consistency	?				7
Central Government must ensure that guidelines are consistent, preferably by passing all guidelines through one coordinating body	?				5
Timely release of information in the manner and form that can be consumed by users, and supervision on resource transfer and resource use at all levels and in particular at the grassroots	?	?			4
The capacity of front line services					
Continued emphasis on strengthening extension services and technical capacity within LGAs	?	?			5
Contract technical expertise on to decision-making committees, including engineers and other specialists	?	?			4
Linkages formed with research institutions, technical organizations, PSOs and CSOs	?	?			4
Increased investment in training institutes and research centers	?		?		4
Train LGAs in contracting services from PSOs	?	?			6
Increase use of PSOs and CSOs in planning, implementation and service provision	?	?			4
Ward, District and village facilitation teams should have a clearer understanding of DADPs, local priorities and what is required during the implementation stage		?			5

5.0 Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

- Late disbursement of funds to the secretariat hindered implementation of ANSAF during the first quarter of the year
- Limited number of staff working at the secretariat during the first half of the year also delayed implementation of ANSAF activities
- Increased stakeholder demand to work with Secretariat on various sectoral issues
- Managing a growing membership with varying expectations in the network
- Ensuring professionalism and good quality of work with members at local level

Lessons Learned

- Collaboration among actors/stakeholders has more impact in pushing the agenda forward
- Best practices from members field experience creates wider knowledge sharing and brokering among stakeholders
- The government listens, and the approaches differ from one department to another.
- Citizens, smallholder farmers and SMEs in particular have ability to take matters in hand when it comes to engaging with government, they need information and guidance.