



Agricultural Non State Actors Forum

14TH ANNUAL LEARNING EVENT

POST-AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM (AFSF) 2023: LEVERAGING EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES



22ND - 23RD NOVEMBER 2023
DODOMA



Acronyms and Abbreviations

AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
AFSF	Africa Food Systems Forum
AGRF	Africa Green Revolution Forum
ALE	Annual Learning Event
ANSAF	Agricultural Non – State Actors Forum
BBT – LIFE	Build Better Tomorrow for Livestock and Fisheries Program
BBT – YIA	Building a Better Tomorrow – Youth Initiative for Agribusiness
EAC	East Africa Community
LGAs	Local Government Authorities
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MLF	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
NEEC	National Economic Empowerment Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIDO	Small Industries Development Organisation
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
VETA	Vocational Education and Training Authority

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

ANSAF¹ is a member-led Tanzanian non-governmental organization providing a neutral platform for participatory policy dialogues with the view of building evidence that can be used for advocacy work nationally and internationally. ANSAF Annual Learning Events are among platforms used to provide necessary evidence to trigger changes in policy and practice. ANSAF, in collaboration with its members and strategic partners organized its 14th ALE which took place on 22nd and 23rd November 2023 in Dodoma, with the theme: “**Post-AGRF/AFSF 2023: Leveraging Emerging Opportunities.**”

The Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) formerly known as AGRF, held its 13th annual summit from September 5 to 8, 2023, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The focus of this year’s summit which was the development of Africa’s Food Systems and Food Sovereignty, with youth and women at the heart of it. It involved a diverse range of about 5,400 stakeholders including financial institutions, development partners, donors, governments, researchers, investors, and entrepreneurs from Africa, presenting Tanzania with a prime opportunity that appealed Foreign Direct Investment in the agricultural and agribusiness domains.

The AFSF/AGRF underscored and unlocked Africa’s political, policy, and financial achievements, commitments, and innovations towards realizing productive, nutritious, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems. It stressed on scaling up existing key solutions to advance food systems transformation, redoubling efforts to boost agricultural yields through sustainable agricultural practices per the Nairobi declaration on climate change, renewed political commitment to amplify the roles of women and youth in constructing climate-resilient food systems, defining and adopting political commitments affecting development pathways and investments in food production, markets, and trade, financial mobilization to empower women and youth-led agribusinesses, and taking stock of the achievement made in reshaping and transforming food systems.

The government’s increasing dedication and enthusiasm towards improving the agriculture sector, along with the prestigious AFSF/AGRF, presents a noteworthy opportunity for Tanzania to make significant strides towards realizing its Agenda 10/30 goals. For the country to effectively leverage the opportunities presented by AFSF/AGRF and enhance its food system, it is imperative to undertake collaborative efforts aimed at raising awareness among stakeholders, including smallholder producers, youth, women, and the private sector. Moreover, it is crucial to address any existing gaps that may hinder stakeholders from fully capitalizing on the opportunities arising from this monumental event. In that regard, ANSAF devoted its 14th ALE to provide its members, producers, public sector, private sector enterprises, researchers, development partners, donors, and other key stakeholders with the chance to reflect on the AFSF/AGRF.

¹ www.ansaf.or.tz

1.2 Objectives of the Annual Learning Event

ALE intended to incite focused discussions and deliberations for improved policy and practice within the food system. Specifically,

- ALE analyzed the potential opportunities offered by the AFSF/AGRF, with a specific emphasis on exploring strategies for Tanzania to leverage them.
- ALE facilitated knowledge sharing and capacity building among participants. It encouraged the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices, enabling stakeholders to learn from one another and stay updated on the latest developments and innovations in agriculture.
- ALE's key takeaways and insights will guide advocacy initiatives aimed at influencing policy and practice in the agricultural sector. By providing evidence-based recommendations and actionable insights, ALE contributes to the formulation of informed policies and strategies.

To facilitate in-depth discussions as well as targeted policy recommendations and interventions, ALE theme was branched out into the following three sub-themes as described below:

1. **Emerging opportunities** to assess and increase awareness of the opportunities that have been generated by the AFSF/AGRF.
2. **Women and youths inclusion** to explore the unique opportunities that the AFSF/AGRF has created for the women and youths of Tanzania within the food system.
3. **Missing pieces** to discuss the policy and institutional areas that require attention for the country to fully benefit from the emerging opportunities.



ANSAF member - Ms. Tumpale Mahegema from UWAKORU giving her contribution.

ALE addresses the existing policy and institutional gaps that hinder Tanzania's progress towards its food transformation goals. By evaluating these gaps and developing strategies to overcome them, the event sought to pave the way for more effective and efficient agricultural practices and policies, and contribute to food security, economic development, and the well-being of Tanzanian communities.

2.0 Description of the event

As a pivotal arena for participatory policy dialogues to drive positive change and progress in the agriculture sector in Tanzania, ALE brought together a diverse group of 170 participants (57 female and 113 male) in person from various organizations, including ANSAF members and non-members from farmer and agri-business associations, agriculture sector lead ministries, government agencies, private companies, youth-led organizations, civil society organizations, the academia, research institutions, development partners and the media. The list of participants is accessible [here](#). The conference also engaged with over 250 virtual participants through live stream in [ANSAF YouTube channel](#) and [Voice of Agriculture](#), further expanding the reach and inclusivity of the event.

The event involved plenary sessions featured after presentations papers per sub-theme, primarily centred around pragmatic approaches to address fundamental challenges. The conference consisted of two plenary sessions on the first day and one plenary session on the second day. During these sessions, presentations were delivered, followed by panel discussions that brought together a group of experts in the respective sub-themes. The event also involved exhibition, documentation, and media coverage.



ALE methodology intended to stir active engagement in discussions among the participants, sharing and building upon each other's experiences. At the end of the event, participants collaborated in identifying key takeaways that will guide advocacy initiatives aimed at influencing policy and practice in alignment with the theme as documented in section 4.

ALE 2023 was coordinated by ANSAF and its strategic partners who have a vested interest in food systems in Tanzania. Active collaboration and financial support from organizations and individuals

has been the factor for successful event. This created co-ownership of the event for valuable learning, knowledge sharing, and networking with other stakeholders. The 2023 ALE was sponsored by AGRA, MEDA Tanzania, GAIN Tanzania, Action Aid Tanzania, Beyond Farming Collective (BFC) project under Apex Agribusiness Academy, Voice of Agriculture (VOAG) and Norges Vel Tanzania.

2.1 Welcoming notes



The event facilitator Mr. Obey Nkya made a general introduction and acknowledged all the participants. He then welcomed Mr. Honet Mseri – ANSAF Interim Executive Director for welcoming remarks. Mr. Mseri welcomed the participants and unfolded the objectives of ALE which are described in section 1.2. He highlighted ALE as a vital platform for fostering collaboration, driving positive change, and shaping the future of agriculture in Tanzania. His presentation is accessible [here](#).



The facilitator welcomed Mr. Edmond Ringo – ANSAF Board Chairman who expressed his appreciation to the guest of honour, ANSAF members and other participants for their presence. In his remarks he stressed on the importance of leveraging the available opportunities within the food systems to ensure agriculture sector development and food security particularly through sound policies and active stakeholders' participation. His speech is accessible [here](#).



Then the facilitator welcomed two of the events sponsors for their welcoming remarks. Ms. Lilian Mosha from Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) Tanzania briefly introduced MEDA to the participants and highlighted its role and interventions in the agriculture sector. She emphasized on the importance of collaborative efforts and learning among agriculture stakeholders.



Mr. Saddam Alfani from Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Tanzania described GAIN's role and interventions in eradicating malnutrition. He commended youth participation in ALE urged the youth participants to effectively use ALE platform for networking and learning from the elders and experts.



Following the remarks, the facilitator welcomed Mr. Nyasebwa Chimagu - Director of Crop Development (DCD) at the Ministry of Agriculture to welcome the Guest of Honor. In his remarks, Mr. Nyasebwa Chimagu commended the government for successfully hosting the AGRF/AFSF summit showcasing Tanzania's ability to surpass expectations and stressed on its theme - "Recover, Regenerate, and Act: Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation."

He highlighted the government's commitment to sectoral transformation, encompassing several initiatives including investment in irrigation infrastructure and the Build Better Tomorrow (BBT) programme. He further pointed the importance of fostering credibility, transparency, strategic partnerships, and collaboration within agricultural value chains, and engaging the youth for tapping trading opportunities, ensuring sustainable food systems, and promoting trustworthiness in private sector endeavors. His speech is accessible [here](#).

2.2 Opening Remarks

The Guest of Honor Dr. Daniel Elius Mushi – the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries officiated the event. In his remarks, Dr. Mushi commended ANSAF for dedicating its 14th Annual Learning Event (ALE) to reflect on the 13th AFSF/AGRF summit in 2023 with a special focus on emerging opportunities to explore the country's untapped agricultural potential. He expressed his appreciation to Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan – the President of the United Republic of Tanzania's commitment to ensure development of the agriculture sector through various initiatives including hosting the AFSF/AGRF, increased resource allocation and creation of conducive environment for investment.

Dr. Mushi stressed on the urgent need to increase agricultural production and productivity, improve the quality and consistency exported products, reduce overdependence on imported agricultural inputs, edible oil and wheat, and promote value addition to create more jobs and income through collective actions for commercialization and improved technologies.

He underscored the importance of collaborative efforts, strategic investments, and comprehensive policies to propel Tanzania's agriculture sector towards sustainable food system and economic growth. He then urged the participants to use ALE platform appropriately for providing inputs and recommendations to the government to foster conducive environment for local and foreign investment and facilitate food system transformation.



Dr. Daniel Elius Mushi – the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries giving his speech.

2.3 Vote of thanks

On behalf of ANSAF members, Mr. Hassan Rangi from Mission for Improvement and Boosting Organizational Services to the Community (MIBOS) expressed ANSAF's gratitude to the Guest of Honor Dr. Daniel Elius Mushi – the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for officiating ANSAF's ALE 2023.

3.0 Key Issues, Recommendations and Deliberations

3.1 Lead paper presentation: “Food System Transformation: Tanzania’s Context”.

Dr. Honest Kessy – the Director for National Food Security and Food Systems Convener in Tanzania, gave a detailed overview of the food systems transformation focusing on Tanzania's context. He reiterated the country's overarching goal to achieve a productive, equitable, and resilient food system by 2030 through identified pathways that involve enhancing production, engaging the private sector, leveraging digitalization, and addressing climate change. He acknowledged the country's achievements particularly increased political will and resource allocation and emphasized on the ongoing efforts including coordination frameworks and community engagement.



Dr. Kessy emphasized the vital involvement of non-state actors, such as enterprises, civil society organizations, and communities, and highlighted funding opportunities from various sources, including domestic sources as well as international organizations such as IFAD and the World Bank, given the current absence of a basket funding mechanism of food system transformation.

He called for localization of the food systems to local communities, resource optimization through effective coordination, and prioritization of data quality. His presentation is accessible [here](#).

3.2 Presentations and discussions.

3.2.1 Sub-theme 1: Stock taking: Emerging Opportunities and Commitments made at the AFSF/ AGRF Summit.



The session was moderated by Dr. Sizya Lugeye with presentations on the opportunities emerged from AFSF/AGRF. The first presentation was from Ms. Adella Ng'atingwa – Acting Deputy Director Policy and Planning Division at MoA (accessible [here](#)) and the second presentation was from Ms. Upendo Hamidu – Principal fishery officer from MLF (accessible [here](#)).

It was followed by a panel discussion which involved Mr. Moses Kabogo from Lutheran World Relief in Tanzania, Mr. Jackson Mahenge from DALBERG, and Mr. Mussa Khamis Khamis from Zanzibar Organic Farming Association (OFA/ UHAI), and then a plenary discussion.

The following were the documented achievements and opportunities from the AFSF/ AGRF 2023 as identified during the session:

Crops Sub-sector	Livestock and Fisheries Sub-sector
1. Launching of Tanzania Food System Resilient Programme 2023/2024-2027/2028 worth 300 million USD from the World Bank.	1. High involvement of Livestock and Fisheries stakeholders (about 600 participants) in the summit.
2. Commitments of more than 600 million USD investment for the BBT programme for women and youth from various organizations including CRDB Bank, AfDB, AGRA, IFAD, AATI, USAID, and the World Bank.	2. Commitments of 50 million USD from CRDB Bank to support youth in the livestock and fisheries sector.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture signed a MoU with AGRICOM company for establishing an agricultural mechanization center.	3. New markets and investment opportunities for livestock and fisheries actors who participated in exhibitions (24) and deal rooms (12).
4. The Ministry of Agriculture signed a MoU with the CRDB Bank for establishing farmer insurance in the agriculture value chain	

5. The Ministry of Agriculture signed a MoU with Norway for Research and Development in Agriculture support.	4. MLF reached agreements with 22 development partners in areas of collaboration in livestock and fisheries development
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The session pointed out following issues:

Youth Engagement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opportunities lie in providing support, such as training, access to technology, and creating avenues for youth to participate in decision-making processes in various sectors of agriculture.
Market Opportunities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proximity to neighbouring countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan, and Kenya presents market opportunities for Tanzanian agricultural products. ✓ Minimizing the food import bill, which is currently over 55 billion USD in Africa, is a potential avenue for economic growth.
Quality and quantity consistency:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintaining the quality and quantity of agricultural produce has been identified as a challenge. Opportunities lie in improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products, meeting international standards, and ensuring a steady supply to the export markets.
Utilizing available resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tanzania possesses abundant natural resources including gas that can be used for domestic fertilizer production and thus reducing import dependence. Exploring and utilizing these resources efficiently can contribute to the transformation of the agricultural sector.
Diversification:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There is a call for diversification in agricultural activities, with an emphasis on exploring opportunities beyond traditional cash and food crops. This includes promoting horticulture, fisheries, and livestock farming to create a more resilient and diverse food system. Promoting agroforestry is paramount.
Technology and Innovation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leveraging technology, including Information Technology (IT), offers opportunities for efficiency in the food system. ✓ Supporting agricultural startups, especially those focused on technology can drive innovation and create employment opportunities. ✓ There are number of unexploited opportunities in fisheries, including fish feed production, hatcheries, and addressing challenges like the impact of agricultural activities on fish breeding, presents avenues for growth in this sector.
Financial commitments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understanding how to access funds particularly grants, startups and commitments from agriculture development stakeholders including those made during the AFSF summit and utilizing them for impactful projects is crucial for agricultural development.
Mechanization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The government's initiatives in establishing mechanization centers present opportunities for increased productivity. Efficient mechanization will contribute to higher production volumes and economic growth.
Value Addition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opportunities in value addition including packaging and branding of commodities made in Tanzania. Value addition will enhance competitiveness in the international market.
Collaboration and Partnerships:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration between different sectors, including government agencies, private companies, NGOs, and research institutions, is crucial. Partnerships can lead to comprehensive strategies and effective implementation of policies for sustainable agricultural development.

3.2.2 Integrating Youth and Women in Agricultural Value Chain for Inclusive Food System.

The session was moderated by Mr. Ikunda Teri from Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and involved a presentation (accessible [here](#)) by Dr. Imani Kapinga - Assistant Director of Aquaculture at MLF. It was then followed by a panel discussion Mr. Mkali Mlanzi from MEDA, Ms. Loyce Murusuri from Farm Africa, Ms. Loveness Rugiga from Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA), and Ms. Hajra Abdul from a youth network, and then a plenary discussion.

In her remarks, Dr. Kapinga pinpointed land, water and labour resources, and high market demand within the country, EAC and SADC as potential opportunities among others, for investment in the aquaculture sector. She highlighted key government interventions including re-tooling of extension officers, rehabilitation and expansion aquaculture development centres, establishment of farmers field school (run youth and women groups, provided with starting capital inputs) in every district, zero interest input loans, BBT-LIFE program and aquaculture guideline that is simplified Swahili language (accessible [here](#)), exemption of value added tax (VAT) and import duty for fisheries inputs, free permits from MLF, identification of suitable areas in cage fish farming in major Lakes and establishment of private sector desk at MLF (accessible [here](#)) to connect farmers with financial institutions.

The session pinpointed the following opportunities for enhancing the inclusion of women and youth in the food system:

<p>Effective utilization of the available funding opportunities and programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Building Better Tomorrow - Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) and BBT-LIFE. ✓ Special credit facilities (ECF-IMF Loans) providing zero interest loans for inputs for fish farming, seaweed farming, and fishing boats within the MLF. The loans can be accessed here. ✓ There are several interventions, technologies, and funding support from SIDO, NEEC and VETA programs and funds. ✓ The suspended 10% local government authority free interest loans for women, youth and persons with disabilities which will be revived by January 15, 2024, per the Prime Minister’s directive.
<p>Youths and women mobilization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Establish and strengthen cooperatives and youth and women saving and credit unions to promote accessibility of agriculture inputs and financial services. We can learn from the existing models such as MADIRISHA women cooperative.
<p>A Comprehensive Youth Engagement in the Food System Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ While various public initiatives, such as “Building the Better Tomorrow,” are in place to promote youth engagement in agriculture, there will be a pressing need for a comprehensive strategy. This strategy help the country to effectively maximize the vast opportunities within all subsectors, ensuring coherence, improved coordination, and synergy among them in the future.
<p>Market availability due to high demand for agricultural products.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ High demand for fish feed, which currently stands at 27,000+ MT, and fingerling whose current demand is 35 million. (The MLF target is more than 85 million fingerlings by 2025). ✓ Processing and value addition opportunities including processing of at least 90% of 5,000 MT of seaweed grow-out farms in ponds, cages, and tanks (The MLF target 50,000 MT of fish by 2025 from the current production of 33,525.46 MT).

3.2.3 Sub-theme 3: Creating Enabling Environment for Food system Transformation in Tanzania

The session was moderated by Ms. Judith Valerian from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). It started with a presentation on the needed innovations in policy and governance for inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation from Ms. Aneth Kayombo from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The presentation is accessible [here](#).

It was followed by a panel discussion by Ms. Linda Temba from Island of Peace, Mr. Lawrence Kitogo from Environmental Management and Economic Development Organization (EMEDO), Ms. Rose Lyimo from Tanzania Milk Processors Association (TAMPA) and Mr. Geoffrey Rwiza from the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT), and then a plenary discussion.

The presentation from Ms. Aneth from FAO stressed on the following key issues:

- **Inadequate coordination:** Inadequate coordination among sectors related to agriculture, trade, health, and the environment which impedes a unified and holistic approach.
- **Land access:** Most of land is owned and controlled by men particularly old men in such a way that it limit land access to women and youths.
- **Trade policy biases:** Trade policies favoring raw commodity exports over value-added products limit local processing and disadvantage investment in processing giving an example of sunflower and cashew.
- **Regulatory Impediments:** Bureaucratic hurdles and cumbersome regulations impede investment, trade and adoption of innovative technologies, especially for smallholders and Small and Medium Enterprises.

Proposed options for improving enabling environment:

- **Access to Finance:** Facilitate easier access to finance for businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This can involve creating credit guarantee schemes, supporting alternative financing mechanisms, and improving financial literacy. These includes resuming and strengthening operationalization of Women, Youth and People with Disability funds.
- **Start-up enterprise support:** Develop a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurs and startups. This includes business incubators, mentorship programs, and networking opportunities to help new businesses navigate challenges.
- **Tax Reforms:** Implementation of Blue prints to reduce tax procedures, reduce tax rates, and eliminate unnecessary burdens, fair tax system promotes compliance.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Foster collaboration between the public and private sectors to address shared challenges and create synergies. PPPs can lead to more efficient service delivery and infrastructure development.

4.0 Key Lessons and Recommendations.

4.1 Key lessons learnt.

Importance of collaboration, Information Sharing and Learning: Bringing together diverse actors fosters synergy, shared learning, and the exchange of ideas, experiences, and lessons among participants contributes to continuous improvement and informed decision-making.

Youth and Women Empowerment: The event underscored the pivotal roles of youth and women in driving agricultural transformation. Recognizing and empowering these demographic groups is crucial for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Market Opportunities: Exploring and maximizing market opportunities, both domestically and internationally, is crucial for reducing food import bills, promoting local products, and boosting the agricultural economy.

Quality and Consistency: Ensuring quality, consistency, and volume in agricultural production is vital for meeting market demands. Collective actions and improved inputs are essential for enhancing the overall quality and quantity of produce.

Innovation: ALE highlighted the importance of innovation, technology adoption, and mechanization in improving efficiency across the food system. The establishment of mechanization centres and the promotion of agri-tech startups are key strategies.

Climate-Smart Agriculture: Addressing climate change challenges through climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies including adoption of drought tolerant crop varieties, and sustainable management of water, forests, and land resources is crucial. The event emphasized the need for strengthening climate resilience in the face of climate-related disruptions.

Diversification and Value Addition: Diversifying agricultural products and adding value to existing commodities contribute to a more resilient and competitive sector. This approach can also open new market opportunities.

Government Commitment: ALE emphasized the importance of government commitment to agricultural transformation. The readiness of the government to invest in infrastructure, irrigation, and job creation signals a positive direction for the sector.

Inclusive Policies: The need for inclusive policies that consider the entire value chain, including logistics, trade, and other related sectors, was highlighted. Inclusivity in policy formulation ensures that various stakeholders are considered.

Policy Advocacy: ALE stressed the critical role of policy advocacy in advancing the voice of agricultural stakeholders. Engaging with government agencies and advocating for favourable policies can significantly impact the sector's development.

4.2 Recommendations

1. Despite existing BBT programmes in crops and livestock, and the upcoming initiative for beekeeping, a comprehensive strategy is needed to address youth unemployment and engage them meaningfully in food systems transformation.
2. Increase the agriculture budget significantly to at least 10% of the total budget and ensure timely and adequate disbursements for key areas to achieve a 10% sector growth by 2030.
3. The financial investment should be accompanied by a supportive policy and regulatory environment. This includes expedition on the development of contract farming law, review of the Irrigation and Cooperatives Acts.
4. Support smallholder producers to capitalize on trade opportunities within AfCFTA, SADC, EAC, and beyond by removing trade barriers and reinforcing Farmers' Organizations, Cooperatives, and Agri-SMEs.
5. To establish a sustainable food system and address climate change challenges, it is crucial to promote climate financing and initiatives that are grant-based, locally led, broad-based, gender-responsive, and specifically focus on SHPs.
6. Localize the sustainable food system agenda at the LGA level and enhance extension service delivery. Evidence from M-Kilimo indicates that the traditional extension services delivery system should not be underestimated. Extension officers should be adequately equipped and resourced, with a revision of their roles strictly adhered to.
7. Enhance rural infrastructures, including roads, energy, and storage, to reduce post-harvest losses and enhance food safety. Establishing vital cold chain facilities at ports and airports. Develop and implement a comprehensive post-harvest management strategy.
8. Enhancing small-scale producers' public private partnerships.
9. Investing in available research knowledge, including indigenous technologies, to fast-track food systems transformation.

5.0 Conclusion and Call for Actions

1. The willingness and potential to transform the food system are present. However, it is crucial to address the missing pieces for these opportunities to be capitalized upon.
2. Proper documentation of opportunities arising from AGRF is needed, packaged in a user-friendly format.
3. Responsible ministries should disseminate these opportunities to a broader audience, including local Smallholder Producers (SHPs), women, and youths.
4. Establishing a tracking mechanism is essential for realizing these opportunities and achieving systemic and inclusive food systems transformation.

Annex 1: Key issues and Recommendations.

Area/ Opportunity	Issue(s)	Recommendations
Production and productivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline in soil fertility due to erosion and unsustainable land use. High costs of inputs particularly poultry feed. Insufficient government budget allocation to the agriculture sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving soil testing services. Enhancing extension services and technological capacity. Increasing provision of education and technology to producers. Increasing government budget allocation to agriculture sector to at least 10% of the total share per the Malabo declaration.
Engagement of youth, women, and persons with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low participation of youth, women, and persons with disabilities smallholder farmers in food systems opportunities including the AGRF/ ASFS 2023 due to poor information and financial constraints. Limited accessibility of capital to women, youth and due to unmet loan conditions and empowerment to start ups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening cooperatives and youth and women saving and credit unions. Utilizing the suspended 10% local government authority loans which are expected be revived by January 15, 2024, per the Prime Minister's directive.
Markets and value addition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited market accessibility due to poor engagement and awareness. Low quality of products including poor branding and packaging for rice. High importation costs of products particularly packaging materials and storage bags. Inadequately exploited food systems opportunities particularly those in the livestock subsector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value addition to crops and livestock products before exportation. Suitable policies to protect and promote local investment and industries therefore promoting value addition and job creation.
Accessibility of financial services for business development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited accessibility of information particularly on public sector opportunities including the agricultural inputs trust fund (AGITE) and fisheries loans under MLF. Limited loan accessibility to producers and other value chain actors in the agriculture sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating and promoting empowerment opportunities for small businesses. The financial sector should learn and understand the agriculture sector. Ensuring opportunities for accessing capital reach the lower level. Basket funding for ASDP II.

Area/ Opportunity	Issue(s)	Recommendations
Enabling environment (policies, laws, and regulations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy volatility ie. frequent introduction and removal of taxes, levies, fees, and bans. • There are some outdated or missing policies including the National Agricultural Policy Of 2013. • Ineffective implementation of the policies and inadequate coordination within institutions. • Limited inclusion in formulation and implementation of policies. • Policies are not well known at the lower levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating immutable policies. • Ensuring inclusive processes in policies formulation and implementation. • Awareness raising on policies, programs, and opportunities. • Proper coordination of taxes levied by LGAs. • Strengthening coordination and policy implementation.
Rural infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited transportation services in rural areas and storage of perishable crops due to frequent power outage. • Damaged road infrastructure especially during rainy seasons. • Lack of storage infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in rural transportation and electricity/ energy. • Enabling investment in cold storage systems (cold chain).
Food and nutrition security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low uptake of some food varieties including milk, fish, and meat in the internal/ local market. • Uncertainty in the safety of the food in the local market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigning for nutrition security and food safety to producers and consumers. • Enhance local consumption of livestock products. • Educating producers on food quality standards.



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Gender Equality, Equity and Social Justice



TAHA
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TOAM
Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement

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