

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2024



Foreword

As global efforts to eliminate hunger remain off track, particularly in Africa, Tanzania's agriculture sector made promising strides in 2024. The year marked a turning point for smallholder producers, driven by increased prioritization of the sector. The government demonstrated its commitment by maintaining and increasing the agriculture budget allocation by 33% from 1.46 trillion in 2023/24 to 1.94 trillion TZS in 2024/25. Simultaneously, the implementation of transformative initiatives such as Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT), increased investment in irrigation, and the inputs subsidy program, alongside active policy reviews and reforms—including the mid-term review of ASDP II—are commendable efforts with the potential to significantly bolster the sector's development.



At ANSAF, we continue to take pride in positively impacting the agriculture sector and smallholder producers through pro-smallholder producers' policies, partnerships, and network expansion. Key 2024 achievements include establishment and hosting of the [Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance \(AMEA\) Tanzania Local Network](#), reflecting our commitment to stakeholder collaboration. We also launched the CASHWIN project, funded by the [Beyond Farming Collective \(BFC\) Project](#), to advance women's economic inclusion through collective cashew processing and marketing. Through evidence-based advocacy, we contributed to significant policy and fiscal reforms, including the increased budget allocation for agriculture, the review and replanning of ASDP II, and the [resumption of Local Government Authorities' 10% loans](#) for marginalized groups. Additionally, we strengthened strategic partnerships, notably signing an MoU with NEEC to enhance agricultural Business Development Services (BDS).

These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our Board of Directors, led by Mr. Edmond Ringo, Chairman of the Board, as well as ANSAF members, donors, and partners. I would like to specifically acknowledge the financial support from Vi-Agroforestry and the EU through the AGRICONNECT project, ActionAid, AGRA, HELVETAS, MEDA, CORUS International, RIKOLTO, CRS, and the Beyond Farming Collective (Bopinc and Apex Agribusiness Academy).

We also extend our gratitude to government institutions, including the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Industry and Trade, PO-RALG, and agencies particularly NEEC, TCDC, TFRA, TARI, the Cashew Board of Tanzania (CBT), Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB), and SIDO for their continued support and collaboration.

While 2024 presented challenges, particularly in resource mobilization and advocacy, we are grateful that these challenges also presented valuable opportunities and lessons. These experiences will fuel our ambition to achieve an even greater impact in 2025. We remain committed to forging stronger partnerships and advancing our mission to ensure a sustainable and inclusive agriculture sector in Tanzania.

On behalf of the ANSAF Secretariat, I invite you to explore our 2024 Annual Report. Your feedback will be invaluable as we continue to strive for excellence.

Thank you!

Honest Mseri

Executive Director, ANSAF.



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List of abbreviations and acronyms

AAA	Africa Agribusiness Academy
AAPC	Annual Agriculture Policy Conference
AGITF	Agricultural Inputs Trust Fund
AMEA	Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance
AMCOS	Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society
ANSAF	Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum
ASDP II	Agricultural Sector Development Plan Phase II
BBT-YIA	Building a Better Tomorrow - Youth Initiative for Agribusiness
BDS	Business Development Services
BFC	Beyond Farming Collective
BRR	Biennial Review Report
CAG	Controller and Auditor General
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CASHWIN	Women's Empowerment Through Collective Cashew Processing and Marketing for Improved Livelihoods in Southern Tanzania
CBT	Cashew nut Board of Tanzania
CODE - P	Smallholders Coffee Development Project
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COPRA	Cereals and Other Produce Regulatory Authority
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EAC	East African Community
EUDR	European Union Deforestation Regulation
FYDP III	Five Years Development Plan III
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
JUWAVITA	Jukwaa la Wazalishaji wa Vijijini Tanzania
LGAs	Local Government Authorities
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MVIWAARUSHA	Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Arusha
NEEC	National Economic Empowerment Council
PAG	Policy Analysis Group
PO-RALG	President's Office–Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities
RCN	Raw Cashew Nuts
SAT	Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania
SHIWAKUTA	Shirikisho la Vyama vya Wakulima Wadogo Tanzania
SIDO	Small Industries Development Organization
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TAFO	Tandahimba Farmers Organization
TAIS	Tanzania Agriculture Insurance Scheme
TaCRI	Tanzania Coffee Research Institute
TCB	Tanzania Coffee Board
TCDC	Tanzania Cooperatives Development Commission
TDV 2050	Tanzania Development Vision 2050
TGNP	Tanzania Gender Networking Programme
TIC	Tanzania Investment Center
TOSCI	Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute
VAT	Value Added Tax
WAKORU	Umoja wa Wabanguji wa Korosho Ruangwa



Overview of the agriculture sector

Global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger, is significantly off track, with persistence of undernourishment and a large percentage of the population facing hunger, particularly in Africa ([FAO 2024](#), [UNDESA 2024](#)). Several challenges including climate change continues to exert significant pressure on global food systems, with extreme weather events disrupting production and intensifying the urgent need to advance sustainable, regenerative, and equitable agrifood systems ([UNFCCC 2024](#)).

In Africa, progress toward achieving the CAADP/ [Malabo Declaration](#) targets remains off track, with many countries scoring below the 3.94 benchmark for meeting 2025 goals. Although, a few countries including Rwanda, Morocco, and Ghana have attained commendable progress in agricultural investments, food security, and trade facilitation, most AU countries are still challenged with weak policy implementation, inadequate financing, climate shocks, poor data systems, residual impacts of the Covid 19 and Russia-Ukraine war as described in the fourth CAADP Biennial Review Report.

Tanzania has made significant strides toward improving food security through various initiatives, including the [Vision 2025](#), [FYDPIII](#), [ASDP II](#), [Agenda 1030](#), and [Food Systems Pathways 2030](#). Public investment in agriculture has increased substantially, from 459.74 billion TZS in 2020/21 to 1.94 trillion TZS in 2024/25. Investments concentrated on improving mechanization, climate resilient agriculture, digital technologies and integration of youth and women into agribusiness through programs such as the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT). Projects under the ASDP II led to expansion of irrigation, increased inputs accessibility and promotion of value chain development. Also, Tanzania increased exports of cash crops particularly cashew nuts, coffee and horticulture highlighted Tanzania's growing competitiveness, while the rising importation of essential commodities underscored the need for strengthened local production capacities.

However, the agriculture sector is facing numerous challenges including limited funding, climate vulnerability, slow adoption of sustainable practices, inefficiencies in subsidized input distribution, and weak cooperatives governance. Despite the sector's contribution to over 65% of the country's employment, 26.5% of the GDP, 65% of the industrial sector's raw resources, and nearly all domestic food requirements, the rate of agriculture growth has been falling short of targets set by the country's development plans ([MoA, 2024](#)).



About ANSAF

The Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum ([ANSAF](#)) is a member-driven platform comprised of farmers umbrella organizations, private sector and non-governmental organizations (national and international) operating in Tanzania. Started as a loose entity with eight members in 2006, ANSAF was formally registered in 2009 as a non-governmental organization that works in all regions of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. Its membership has increased to 90 organizations by 2024. These members are united by a common goal of achieving inclusive agricultural transformation through increased public accountability.

ANSAF advocates for equitable resources and power allocation, pro-smallholder producer's policies and practices, and strengthened engagement platforms to ensure voices of men and women are heard. The Forum, therefore, provides a platform for discussion and learning among agricultural sector players to influence and facilitate transformation to a resilient agriculture sector powered by empowered smallholder producers, and supported by effective policies and robust institutional frameworks. Several approaches including research, roundtables and dialogues, media engagement and capacity development for the members are used to promote change, citizen engagement and accountability.

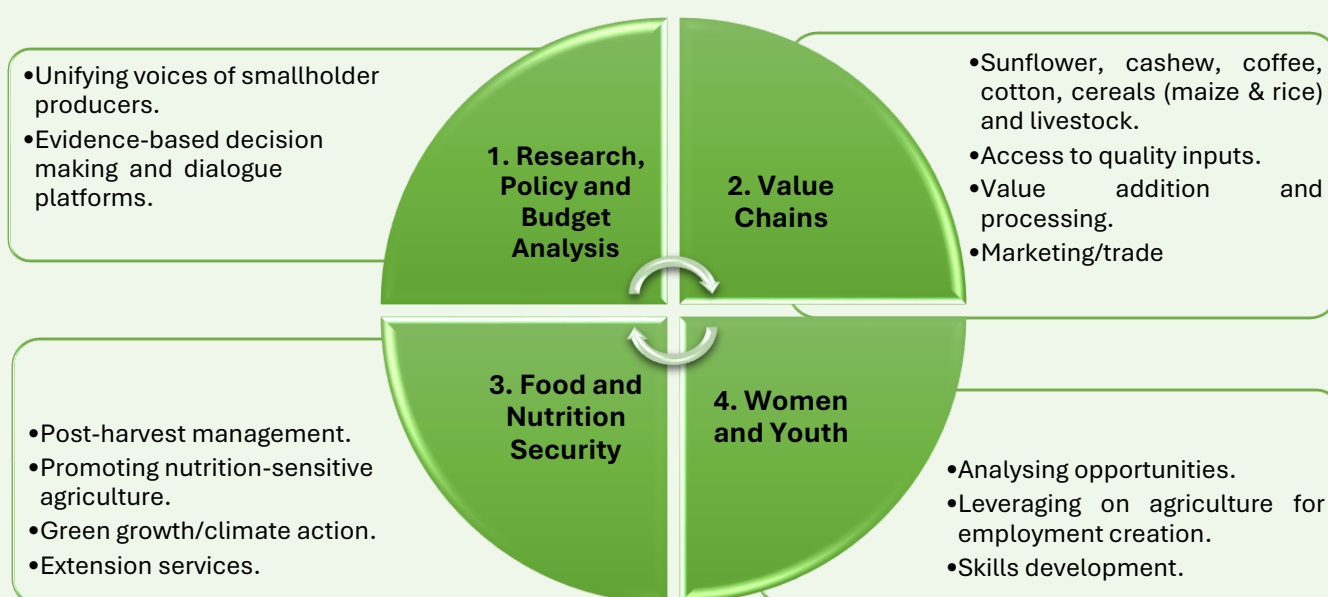
Objectives and Key Focus Areas

ANSAF was established for these four objectives:

1. To share and promote learning among agricultural sector actors on what works does not.
2. To promote proven and innovative practices within the sector for wider uptake and consideration by farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders
3. To develop a shared and common understanding of the challenges, threats, and opportunities that the sector faces.
4. To develop common positions and joint actions toward influencing policies and practices that hinder the development of agricultural sector.

ANSAF Workstreams

ANSAF's interventions aim at achieving a lasting social, structural and economic impact in line with its four workstreams as portrayed below:



2024 Outcomes

2024 was a transformative year for ANSAF, marked by significant strides in policy advocacy, value chains development and capacity building for smallholder producers particularly women and youth as well as agrifood small and medium enterprises. ANSAF continued to actively engage with members and non-members to coordinate collaborative efforts to influence policy and practice changes on critical issues affecting marginalized smallholder producers in accordance to its 2024 Annual Workplan. The following outcomes were met in correspondence to the implemented activities:

Outcome 1: Improved evidence - based decision making that affect smallholder producers.

ANSAF actively contributed to evidence-based decision-making by analyzing key reports and engaging in policy advocacy. This includes, review of the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report and the 2024/25 Agriculture Sector Pre-Budget Analysis that provided actionable insights on resource allocation and policy gaps in agriculture. ANSAF also conducted a study on policy and institutional challenges facing cashew nut processors, especially women in Lindi and Mtwara Regions. ANSAF with support from Helvetas also facilitated a media tour to Katavi to document case studies, and produced media content and policy brief on the use of hermetic bags to reduce post-harvest losses among smallholder producers. These analyses, provided basis for engagement with duty bearers and policy makers, highlighted trends and proposed recommendations to align national agricultural policies with smallholder producer's needs.

Outcome 2: Increased responsiveness by duty bearers to voices of smallholder producers.

ANSAF used evidence produced from research, policy and budget analyses and multi-stakeholders' platforms to facilitate engagement between smallholder producers, duty bearers and policymakers. These include 2024/25 pre-budget dialogue sessions with the Parliamentary Committees and Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries on resource allocation and policy priorities, a national post-harvest management dialogue to advocate for VAT exemptions on post-harvest technologies and dialogues on Business Development Services access and quality in the agriculture sector.

Moreover, ANSAF supported smallholder producers' participation in key national conferences, including the 14th National Coffee Stakeholders' Conference and the General Meeting of Cashew Industry Stakeholders, enabling farmers and processors to advocate for fairer marketing systems and input access. These engagements ensured duty bearers heard and addressed smallholder producers' challenges.

Outcome 3: Strengthened capacities of smallholder producers to operate as profitable entities.

ANSAF supported smallholder producers' businesses in becoming viable by providing technical and financial support to Kitama and WAKORU cashew farmers processors' associations along with ongoing coaching and mentorship to 56 leaders and members (27 men and 29 women). Capacity-building initiatives including provision of business development services (BDS) to WAKORU and Kitama cashew processors associations equipped them with skills in financial management, marketing, and governance.

Furthermore, ANSAF facilitated development of tailored business plans and started renovation of processing facilities at the WAKORU and Kitama associations to strengthen their competitiveness in local and international markets. ANSAF's support for the smallholder producers' enterprises through the CASHWIN project emphasized leadership and business skill enhancement, hence fostering economic independence. Moreover, ANSAF in collaboration with the AMEA Global Network established AMEA Tanzania Local Network to build partnerships that amplify smallholder producers' voices through improving the Business Development Services (BDS) ecosystem in the agriculture sector in Tanzania.

Outcome 4: Increased Capacity of ANSAF to engage with members and other stakeholders.

ANSAF supported agricultural advocacy and stakeholder engagement, through the establishment of the AMEA Tanzania Network, as well as participation and co-organization of several platforms including the Third Research and Cooperative Development Conference, the Tanzania Agriculture Insurance Scheme (TAIS) technical committee meetings, and validation of the National Agriculture Exhibitions Guideline and the National Farmers Field and Business School Guideline to strengthen collaborations and improve service delivery to smallholder producers.

In 2024, ANSAF represented smallholder producers' voices in the review and replanning of the ASDP II as the member of the technical review committee. ANSAF also continued to participate in the meetings of the Tanzania Business Council (TNBC) as the member of the agriculture thematic working group, Policy Analysis Group (PAG) and contributed to the convening of the Annual Agricultural Policy Conference. At the continental level, ANSAF participated and contributed to the development of CAADP Post Malabo Agenda through the EAC block and has continued to collaborate with other NSAs actors in the region. ANSAF also collaborated with its members in Mtwara and Lindi to launch the CASHWIN project to empower women through collective cashew processing and marketing in Lindi and Mtwara.



Figure 1: The AMEA Global Director, Mr. Blackett and the NEEC Executive Secretary, Mrs. Beng'i Issa shaking hands after signing an MoU between the AMEA Tanzania Network and NEEC, on the left is the ANSAF's Executive Director, Mr. Honest Mseri.

Highlight of Implemented Activities

1. Facilitating Establishment and Operationalization of the AMEA Tanzania Network.

ANSAF, in collaboration its strategic partners facilitated the approval and inauguration of Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance (AMEA) Local Network in Tanzania under ANSAF umbrella. This followed a series of consultative meetings and comprehensive deliberations since 2023, which resulted to definition and approval of the role of an AMEA local network within the Tanzanian context, collaborative development and submission of a concept note to the AMEA Global board which was approved in April 2024. ANSAF has signed an MoU with AMEA and has been approved as a new AMEA member, effective from 2024.

The [AMEA Tanzania Network](#) was officially launched in July 2024 by the NEEC Executive Secretary, Mrs. Beng'i Issa, with the aim of enhancing coordination and quality of Business Development Services (BDS) for agri-SMEs and smallholder producers.

2. Development of a Project to Support Women in Cashew Processing and Marketing.

ANSAF successfully secured a two years project (2024-2026) which will contribute to the transformation of the cashew processing sector in Tanzania. The project, named **"Women's Empowerment Through Collective Cashew Processing and Marketing for Improved Livelihoods in Southern Tanzania" (CASHWIN)** is supported by the Beyond Farming Collective (BFC) project with funding from The Gates Foundation.

It is implemented in partnership with Kitama and WAKORU cashew farmers processors associations, TAFO, SIDO, CBT and respective LGAs to empower women in Lindi and Mtwara regions by enhancing technical and business skills in cashew processing and marketing, enabling collectively cashew processing, market access, improved livelihoods and economic independence. The project was officially launched in July 2024 by the Mtwara District Commissioner - Hon. Mwanahamisi Mukunda.



Figure 2: The previous Commissioner of Mtwara District, Hon. Mwanahamisi Mukunda giving a speech during the CASHWIN project launch.

3. Analysis and Dissemination of the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report.

ANSAF conducted a thorough analysis of the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report, released by the African Union in early 2024. The Biennial Review Report (BRR) serves as a tool for countries to evaluate their progress towards agricultural transformation, focusing on key targets such as ending hunger, reducing poverty, enhancing trade, addressing climate change, and achieving the commitment of allocating 10% of the national budget to agriculture. The analysis (accessible [here](#)) specifically examined Tanzania's performance in meeting the Malabo Declaration commitments. The findings were used to engage with duty bearers and policymakers, informing government policy and efforts in agricultural transformation, including budget preparations.

4. 2024/25 Agriculture Sector Pre-Budget Analysis.

As its custom, ANSAF in collaboration with its members through the Policy and Budget Working Group, conducted an in-depth review of the national budget, focusing on its implications for the agricultural sector. The analysis (accessible [here](#)) assessed the implementation of the 2023/24 budget and provided strategic recommendations for the 2024/25 budget, ensuring alignment with major agricultural trends and the needs of smallholder producers.

5. Facilitating CSOs and Farmers Engagements with Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries and Parliamentary Committees on the 4th CAADP BRR and 2024/25 Agriculture Budget.



Figure 3: A member of the Industry, Trade, Agriculture and Livestock Parliamentary Committee, Hon. Prof. Patrick Ndakidemi talking to the farmers and CSOs representatives about the BBT program.

ANSAF facilitated crucial dialogues among farmers and CSOs with the Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries and relevant Parliamentary Committees. Based on the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report and 2024/25 agriculture pre-budget budget analysis findings, the engagements focused on addressing policy gaps and practical challenges faced by smallholder farmers, particularly in relation to resource allocation, strengthening climate resilience, and enhancing market access.

The engagements provided a platform for farmers to voice their concerns and recommendations directly to policymakers, leading to actionable commitments from the Ministries and Parliamentary Committees.

6. Facilitating development and dissemination of coffee district investment profiles.

ANSAF through the Smallholder Coffee Development Project (CODE-P) that had been implemented in Mbeya, Songwe and Ruvuma regions from 2020 to 2024 finalized the development of coffee district investment profiles for six districts namely Mbinga, Nyasa, Ileje, Mbozi, Mbeya and Rungwe and disseminated them. The district coffee investment profiles (accessible [here](#)) highlight potential areas for investment in the coffee value chain in the specific districts which is essential in development of opportunities to farmers, fostering collaborative efforts to enhance the coffee sector's growth and sustainability.

Key achievements

- ✓ Establishment of the Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance (AMEA) local network in Tanzania.
- ✓ Initiation of the “Women's Empowerment Through Collective Cashew Processing and Marketing for Improved Livelihoods in Southern Tanzania” (CASHWIN) project funded by The Gates Foundation through the Beyond Collective Farming Project. CASHWIN has facilitated generation of evidence for advocacy in the cashew industry, provision of business development services (BDS) to WAKORU and Kitama cashew farmers processors associations, and renovation of their processing facilities.
- ✓ Fiscal and policy reforms:
 - Resumption of the Local Government Authorities 10% loans provision to groups of women, youth and persons with disabilities that had been suspended since April 2023 due to shortcomings disclosed in the 2021/ 2022 CAG report.
 - Increased agriculture sector budget allocation from 1.46 trillion TZS (3.3% of the total budget) in 2023/24 to 1.94 trillion TZS (3.9% of the total budget) in 2024/25.
 - Expansion of the Building Better Tomorrow - Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) implementation to LGAs level to reach more youth and increase efficiency.
- ✓ Completion of development and dissemination of district coffee investment profiles for Mbeya, Rungwe, Mbozi, Ileje, Mbinga and Nyasa districts.
- ✓ MoU signing between the newly established AMEA Tanzania Network and NEEC, reinforcing partnership to advance agricultural Business Development Services (BDS) in Tanzania.
- ✓ Contribution to the review and replanning of ASDP II, development of the National Business Development Services Provision Guideline and other policy and regulatory reviews including National Poultry Development Strategy, the National Agriculture Exhibitions Guideline and the National Farmers Field and Business School Guideline.

Implemented Activities (January to December 2024)

1. Improved evidence - based decision making that affect smallholder producers.

1. Analysis of the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report.

ANSAF conducted a thorough analysis of the 4th Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review Report that evaluates the progress of African Union Member States in fulfilling the commitments outlined in the Malabo Declaration. The commitment include Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process, enhancing Investment Financing in Agriculture, Ending Hunger by 2025, Halving Poverty through Agriculture by 2025, Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services, Enhancing Resilience to Climate Variability, and Enhancing Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results .

The 4th CAADP BRR details the alarming challenges facing African countries including Tanzania whose score has dipped by 6% from 6.14 in 2021 to 5.76 in 2023, falling short of the 2021 benchmark of 7.28 due to limited political commitment and awareness among decision makers and communities. The report underscores the need for intensified efforts to ensure all countries stay on course to meet their agricultural development commitments.

2. 2024/25 agriculture sector pre-budget analysis.

With support from AGRA and CODE-P, ANSAF in collaboration with its members and partners conducted a 2024/25 agriculture sector pre-budget analysis with the aim of influencing policies, resource allocation and holding the government accountable for the development commitments. The analysis revealed that despite significant increase from 459.74 billion TZS in 2020/21 to 1.2 trillion TZS in 2022/23 and 1.46 trillion TZS in 2023/24, the share of the agriculture sector budget in the national budget has long remained below 4%, contrary to the Malabo Declaration that mandates signatory members to allocate at least 10% of their national budget to the sector. Also, untimely and insufficient disbursement of development budget remains a major challenge. The proposed recommendations include:

- Increase budget allocation and ensure adequate and timely disbursement accelerate the completion of ongoing development projects.
- Extend BBT implementation to LGAs level for rural youth and women to be allocated land and supported to access inputs at their respective LGAs.
- Increase the allocation of funds on agricultural research and development to foster innovation and improve agricultural practices.
- Review the Irrigation Act, Cooperatives Act, the Coffee Industry Regulations 2013 and Coffee Industry Act, and establishment of Contract farming law, extension services strategy, and post-harvest management regulations to address the challenges faced by farmers and livestock keepers.
- Amend the Local Government Finance Act and add clause to enforce the 20%, 15% and 5% of LGAs agriculture revenue reinvestment to crops, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors respectively.
- Reinstate the import tariffs of 25% and 35% for crude and refined edible oil respectively to protect local industries and empower small holder farmers.
- Reduce Corporate tax from 30% to 10% for agribusiness companies to stimulate investment in the agriculture sector and provide ripple effect in revenue collection through increase in CESS, PAYEE just to mention a few.
- Exempt VAT and import duty on solar water pumping systems, including solar water pumps not more than 3HP (particularly HS Code 8413500000, 8413600000 and 8413700000) to promote irrigation and water accessibility amidst climate change challenges.
- Zero rate VAT for hermetic bags to promoting adoption of post-harvest technologies among smallholder producers.



3. Evidence generation for advocacy in the cashew industry.

ANSAF conducted a study on institutional barriers facing cashew nut processors, particularly in Lindi and Mtwara. The study highlighted key challenges for smallholder farmers and processors, focusing on trade regulations, marketing, tax systems, and specific issues women face in processing, marketing, and financing. These include low quality of product and inefficiency in processing of kernel, limited access to modern processing technologies and value addition, inadequate capital to purchase raw materials (RCN) for processing, lack of branding and trademark for products, just to mention a few.

Based on the findings, ANSAF developed three policy briefs with actionable recommendations to promote sustainable policy reforms in the cashew sector. The research findings and policy briefs will be used as evidence to engage policymakers, stakeholders, and duty bearers in dialogues and meetings, advocating for improvements in the sector and addressing the challenges faced by women cashew processors.

4. Facilitating evidence generation and National Post-Harvest Management Dialogue.

ANSAF in collaboration with Helvetas and SAT, through the “*Evidence-based Scaling of Improved On-Farm Storage among Smallholders*” project phase II (2024-2026) conducted a media tour in Katavi region, to document successful practices of farmers using hermetic bags and gather testimonies to advocate for policy influence regarding VAT exemption.

The field visit was followed by a national post-harvest management dialogue that brought together 41 (18 women and 23 men) key stakeholders including smallholder producers, the government, CSOs and the private sector, to promote the adoption of hermetic bags as an effective post-harvest management (PHM) technology in Tanzania by fostering supportive policies and building collaborative partnerships that reduce post-harvest losses, enhance food security, and increase smallholder farmers' incomes.

The dialogue involved presentation of the field study findings, assessment of the current policy environment and co-designing of policy solutions that enhance the affordability and accessibility of post-harvest management technologies.

The stakeholders proposed VAT exemptions and subsidies on post-harvest management technologies and equipment, deferred payment models and awareness rising to address key challenges in post-harvest management including high costs of technologies and equipment, low awareness, and limited farmers' motivation.

5. Participating in a Media in Policy Advocacy Workshop.

ANSAF participated in a Media in Policy Advocacy Workshop that was organized through the Feed the Future Tanzania Imarisha Sekta Binafsi Project, funded by USAID. The workshop aimed to build capacity to youth agri-entrepreneurs, journalist and CSOs working in the agriculture sector, on utilizing media to promote advocacy work that is done in the agricultural sector.

6. Participating in a CSOs Training on the Impact of Illicit Financial Flows on the National Budget.

As a member of the Policy Forum and its Budget Working Group, ANSAF participated in a CSOs training on the impact of Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) on the national budget which intended to empower and equip the CSOs with in-depth knowledge of the laws, policies and advocacy strategies on illicit financial flows. The training was convened with support of the Thomson Reuters Foundation through its three-year NORAD funded programme called "Expose the Flow: Working together to curb IFFs in sub-Saharan Africa" (2023-2025). It involved comprehensive discussions and analysis of IFFs and their impacts including revenue loss, public services underfunding and poor delivery, increased corruption, and distortion of economic policies.

2. Increased responsiveness by duty bearers to voices of smallholder producers.

1. Farmers and CSOs Engagement with Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries and relevant Parliamentary Committees on the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report and 2024/25 Pre Budget analysis.

With AGRA's support, ANSAF organized two meetings to present and discuss the findings and recommendations



Figure 4: The Director of Policy and Planning Department at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Daudi Mayeji explaining the Ministry's priorities to the farmers and CSOs.

from the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) 4th Biennial Review and the 2024/25 pre-budget analysis.

The first meeting brought together youth and women farmers, CSOs, media, and Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and PO-RALG.

The second meeting convened youth and women farmers, CSOs, media, the Industries, Trade, Agriculture and Livestock Parliamentary Committee, the Water and Environment Parliamentary Committee, and the Land, Natural resources and Tourism Parliamentary Committee.

As a member of the Policy Analysis Group, ANSAF also participated in a technical session to go through Agriculture fiscal reforms proposals from members and make prioritizations which were submitted to the Taskforce for tax reforms under the Ministry of Finance.

Some of the addressed recommendations include:

- Resumption of the Local Government Authorities 10% loans to women, youth and persons with disabilities that had been suspended after the 2021/ 2022 CAG report.
- Increased agriculture sector budget allocation from 1.46 trillion TZS in 2023/24 to 1.94 trillion TZS in 2024/25.
- Review of the Cooperative Societies Act and development of Contract Farming Regulations.
- The expansion of the BBT-YIA program for youth and women agribusiness to LGAs level.
- Increased support to promote inputs accessibility to smallholder farmers.
- Increased efforts to promote the implementation of irrigation schemes to strengthen climate resilience.

Moreover, 10% levy was imposed to exported crude sunflower oil of HS Code 1512.11.00 and sunflower seeds of HS Code 1206.00.00 to promote availability of affordable sunflower oil and to protect local producers, and the Cashew nut Industry Act was amended for 100% of the collected export levy to be remitted to the Cashew nut Board for a period of five years.



Figure 5: Some members of the Parliamentary Committees listening to the presented findings and recommendations.

Furthermore, as a member of the Seed Working Group in Tanzania, ANSAF participated in another meeting between indigenous seeds producers, smallholder producers, and the Parliamentary Committee for Industries,

Trade, Agriculture and Livestock, convened by the Seed Working Group to discuss, exhibit indigenous seeds that are managed by smallholder farmers, and present the Group's recommendations for the 2024/25 Agriculture Sector Budget.

ANSAF also participated in television sessions on the 2024/2025 agriculture sector budget analysis which were aired live through Chanel 10 and TBC. The sessions focused on food systems issues considering the aftermath of COVID-19, the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and climate change.



Figure 6: Some members of the Parliamentary Committee following the discussion.

2. Consultation with the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources of the East Africa Legislative Assembly on GMO seeds.

In February 2024, the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (ATNR) of the East African Legislative Assembly conducted an assessment on policies and laws of the EAC Partner States regarding Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). The aim of the assessment was to make appropriate recommendations to the Council of Ministers regarding Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO).

As one of the crucial agricultural stakeholders in Tanzania, ANSAF was requested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation to present its opinion to the committee regarding the use of GMO seeds. Hence, ANSAF secretariat collected and analyzed opinion and views from the members and partners including the rural producers forum (JUWAVITA) and the Seed Working Group, prepared a representative presentation (accessible [here](#)) and submitted it to the committee during a consultative meeting.

3. Supporting participation of local cashew farmers processors association in the 2024 General Meeting of Cashew Industry Stakeholders.

ANSAF supported participation of the Kitama and WAKORU cashew processors associations in the General Meeting of Cashew Industry Stakeholders, that was organized by the CBT and chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Hussein Bashe (MP). The meeting, held in Dodoma, brought together over 500 cashew stakeholders, including farmers, input suppliers, processors, buyers, exporters, cooperatives, CSOs, financial institutions, the Parliamentary Committee for Industries, Trade, Agriculture and Livestock, and LGAs, regional

commissioners, district commissioners, and members of parliament from cashew-growing regions.

It provided a platform for the cashew processors associations to voice and present their concerns to decision makers, network, share their learnings and learn from other stakeholders. Key issues presented by the processors included access to raw materials for processing and finance. In his directives, the Minister committed to facilitate development of a model or financing system to support cashew processors, and a guidance on raw cashew nuts (RCN) taxes, fees and charges to prevent double taxation within the value chain.



Figure 7: The Minister of Agriculture – Hon. Hussein Bashe (MP) officially opening the meeting.

4. Facilitating of Districts Coffee Stakeholders Platforms meetings in Ileje, Mbozi, Mbeya, Rungwe, Nyasa and Mbinga.

ANSAF facilitated districts coffee stakeholders' platforms meetings in Ileje, Mbozi, Mbeya, Rungwe, Nyasa and Mbinga districts. The meetings provided unique platforms for multi-stakeholders including smallholder producers, private sector, the government, and CSOs to reflect on the district coffee stakeholders' platforms' achievements, identify pending issues for further actions and advocacy, and develop strategies for sustaining them. Among other issues, the meetings highlighted limited resource allocation for agriculture at LGA levels, inadequate extension staffs specialized in coffee, and limited use of central processing units (CPUs) as major challenges to smallholder coffee producers.

5. Documentation for handing over coffee stakeholders' platforms and other policy advocacy engagement.

In finalizing the implementation of the CODE-P activities, ANSAF conducted a workshop to facilitate to documentation of lessons from the project interventions to effective transfer of the knowledge gained from the district coffee platforms and strategizing their sustainability. The workshop involved cross learning from achievements and factors that contributed to success, identification of best approaches, sustainability options, gaps and recommendations to various stakeholders for future policy interventions in the coffee subsector.

Some of the achievements include increased budget allocation to the agriculture sector, fertilizer subsidy since 2022/23 to offset price hike, a one-year duty remission (from 25% to zero) on packaging materials for processed coffee in 2023/2024, establishment of a guideline for quality seedlings production under TOSCI, and improved coffee selling system by the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) allowing direct purchase from AMCOS to enhance competition since 2021/2022.

Furthermore, the CODE-P consortium members (ANSAF, BRAC Maendeleo, Café Africa, TaCRI and Vi-Agroforestry) held a field-based meeting to assess project achievements, gaps and challenges, and discuss future collaborations. The meeting involved presentations on project progress from the co-partners, and a field visit to two cooperative societies namely Kimuli AMCOS in Mbinga district, and Kingerikiti AMCOS in Nyasa district. Among others, the meeting's resolutions include development of a comprehensive project blueprint, harmonization of data, project scaling up, documentation and dissemination of best practices and success stories, and project handover.

6. Supporting District Coffee Platforms to participate and present their issues at the 14th National Coffee Stakeholders' Conference.

ANSAF collaborated with the Tanzania Coffee Board and district cooperative officers to identify representatives (3 women and 12 men) from Mbinga, Nyasa, Ileje, Mbozi, Mbeya and Rungwe District Coffee Platforms and supported them to participate and present their issues at the 14th National Coffee Stakeholders' Conference. Some of the conference resolutions include;

- The Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) to revise the coffee marketing system to allow Arabica ripe cherry, parchment, and green coffee sales through primary societies from 2025/26.
- Commencement of irrigation wells drilling in coffee growing areas for which TCB has already done the design work, and the Board to have ownership deeds for those areas.
- Cooperative societies and coffee farmers to prepare and submit input requirements to TCB to facilitate affordable access and delivery,
- Farmers to be trained on the new conditions for exporting coffee in the European Union market (EUDR), and
- TACRI and TCB to ensure quality control and distribution of coffee seedlings produced by stakeholders.



3. Strengthened capacities of smallholder producers to operate as profitable entities.

1. Launching of the “Women’s Empowerment Through Collective Cashew Processing and Marketing for Improved Livelihoods in Southern Tanzania” (CASHWIN) Project.

ANSAF in collaboration with the Cashew nut Board of Tanzania (CBT) successfully organized official launch of the CASHWIN project, with the aim of raising awareness on the project’s objectives, initiating activities, and fostering stakeholder collaboration. The event brought together 70 participants (50 men and 20 women), representing government authorities and key stakeholders including the BFC (via Apex Agribusiness Academy), CBT, SIDO, TAFO, Kitama and WAKORU farmers processors associations, Mtwara and Lindi Regional Secretariats, LGAs, and journalists.



Figure 8: The previous Mtwara District Commissioner, Hon. Mwanahamisi Munkunda receiving a gift from a cashew processor at the event.

The launch was officiated by the Mtwara District Commissioner - Hon. Mwanahamisi Munkunda, on behalf of the Regional Commissioner of Mtwara who emphasized the government’s commitment to supporting the project’s success and urged prioritization of capacity building to cashew processors associations particularly, on leadership, business and financial management to minimize misunderstandings, enhance product branding and standard, and enhance market access.

The launch was officiated by the Mtwara District Commissioner - Hon. Mwanahamisi Munkunda, on behalf of the Regional Commissioner of Mtwara who emphasized the government’s commitment to supporting the project’s success and urged prioritization of capacity building to cashew processors associations particularly, on leadership, business and financial management to minimize misunderstandings, enhance product branding and standard, and enhance market access.

2. Facilitating participation of a local cashew farmers processors association in the 2024 NaneNane Agricultural Exhibition.



Figure 9: Minister of State, President Office (Special Task), Hon. George Mkuchika (MP) having a conversation with the cashew processors during the exhibitions.

ANSAF, in collaboration with the CBT, facilitated participation of the WAKORU cashew farmers processors association in the NaneNane Agricultural Exhibition in the Southern Tanzania Zone. WAKORU which has 323 members, was provided with an exhibition booth within CBT's building at the Ngongo NaneNane Exhibitions Grounds in Lindi, offering an opportunity to expand market networks, showcase products, and explore new opportunities.

The exhibition increased visibility of the CASHWIN project, and led to establishment of three new market connections for processed cashew nut by WAKORU. However, these are gaps in marketing capacity, particularly networking skills, branding, and pitching among women-led enterprises.

3. Provision of Business Development Services for WAKORU and Kitama cashew farmers processors association.

ANSAF facilitated delivery of Business Development Services (BDS) for the Kitama and WAKORU farmer processors associations, through targeted training, mentorship, and coaching on leadership and governance, operational management, business skills, financial management, and record-keeping.

The trainings, conducted in Tandahimba and Ruangwa districts, engaged 56 participants (27 men and 29 women) representing the two associations, which together have a total of 575 members (323 WAKORU and 252 Kitama). The aim was to strengthen the associations' organizational capacity, business management, marketing, and financial management, helping them become more investment-ready, efficient and competitive.



4. Facilitating Development of Marketing Strategies for the WAKORU and Kitama Cashew Farmers Processors Associations.

ANSAF supported co-creation of customized comprehensive business plans for the Kitama and WAKORU farmer processors associations to enhance market competitiveness. Kitama, with an outdated business plan, required updates, while WAKORU had none. These plans include tailored marketing strategies designed to boost market visibility and competitiveness in local and international markets. Beyond providing strategic direction for the associations, the business plans will also serve as tools to access financial credit from banks. The plans are vital as the CASHWIN project continues to build the associations' capacity, strengthen market and financial linkages, and support technology upgrades.

5. Facilitating renovation of KITAMA and WAKORU cashew processing facilities.

ANSAF in collaboration with SIDO Mtwara is facilitating renovation of Kitama and WAKORU's cashew processing facilities. The process began with a pre-assessment of the facilities for needs identification in collaboration with CBT and LGAs as the technical partners. Procurement of the necessary machines is underway, and the process will be completed in 2025, marking a significant CASHWIN project milestone.

6. Facilitating finalization and dissemination of District Coffee Investment profiles

ANSAF through the Smallholder Coffee Development Project (CODE-P) that had been funded by European Union through AGRICONNECT and implemented in partnership with Vi-Agroforestry, BRAC Maendeleo, Café Africa and

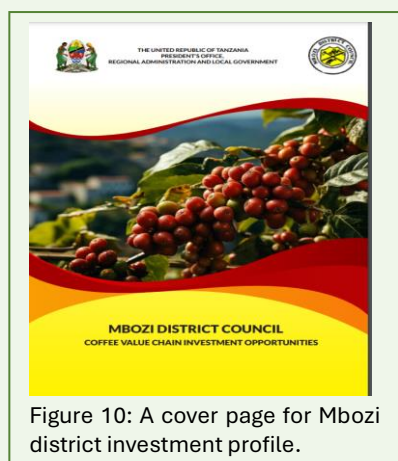


Figure 10: A cover page for Mbozi district investment profile.

TaCRI in Mbeya, Songwe and Ruvuma regions (2020-2024), took an inclusive approach to develop coffee district investment profiles for the six project districts. The process involved multiple workshops and consultations with various coffee actors' stakeholders since 2022.

In 2024, ANSAF facilitated validation of the identified districts strategic investment opportunities the coffee value chain, and finalization of the profiles in collaboration with key stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture, LGAs, TIC, and other coffee actors in the Southern Highlands. The district coffee investment profiles highlight potential areas of investment in the coffee value chain in the specific district. The profiles for [Mbinga](#), [Nyasa](#), [Ileje](#), [Mbozi](#), [Mbeya](#) and [Rungwe](#) are accessible through the links.

7. Championing the establishment of the AMEA Tanzania Network.

As a pivotal platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and coalition-building on agriculture-related matters in Tanzania, ANSAF had been working with relevant partners to champion establishment of the Agribusiness



Figure 11: An ongoing discussion during one of the AMEA and BDS stakeholders' consultative meetings.

Market Ecosystem Alliance (AMEA) local network in Tanzania since 2023. These partners include CORUS International Tanzania, JICA, Sundy Merchants Ltd., TAPBDS, RIKOLTO, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Norges Vel, TechoServe, AMSHA Institute of Rural Development, MatchMakers Association, AAA, 360Connect, AFAP, ACDI/VOCA, Farm Africa, Agriterra, TAHA and SAGCOT.

In 2024, ANSAF held two consultative meetings for comprehensive deliberations which resulted to definition and approval of the role of AMEA local network within the Tanzanian context, jointly development and submission of a concept note for AMEA Tanzania Network establishment to the AMEA Global Board. The concept note was approved in

April 2024. Moreover, ANSAF signed an MoU with AMEA and was approved as a new AMEA member, effective from 2024.

8. Launching of the AMEA Local Network in Tanzania.

Following the AMEA Tanzania Network endorsement, AMEA members, with support from CORUS International and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), organized an official launch event to inaugurate the AMEA Tanzania Local Network - a platform designed to enhance the coordination and quality of Business Development Services (BDS) for agri-SMEs and smallholder producers. The event brought together a total of 51 physical participants (18 women and 33 men) comprising of potential AMEA members and strategic partners including BDS providers and consumers, public institutions, CSOs and journalists.

The [AMEA Tanzania Network](#) was officially launched by the NEEC’s Executive Secretary - Mrs. Beng’i Mazana Issa who called for enhanced coordination among BDS providers to optimize resource allocation and avoid duplication of efforts.



Figure 12: Some of the event’s participants in a group photo.

She also highlighted NEEC’s current collaboration with stakeholders to develop national BDS guidelines as a significant opportunity for the AMEA Tanzania Local Network to collaborate with NEEC in its finalization and implementation, thereby improving BDS coordination, visibility, quality, and affordability.

The event involved discussions on stakeholder engagement and resource mobilization, and signing of an MoU between NEEC and the AMEA Network to advance agricultural BDS delivery.

9. Facilitating development of a strategic roadmap for agriculture-focused Business Development Services in Tanzania.

The AMEA Tanzania Network in collaboration with NEEC, Rikolto, and CORUS International organized a workshop to develop a strategic roadmap for agriculture-focused Business Development Services (BDS) in Tanzania. The workshop brought together 35 partners and stakeholders including BDS providers, producer organizations, the government and CSOs with the primary objectives of identifying key milestones for BDS development, enhancing coordination among stakeholders, and drafting a roadmap to improve the support ecosystem for producer organizations and Agri-SMEs.



Figure 13: Participants in a group discussion during workshop.

Discussions were informed by case studies from Ethiopia, Ghana, and Uganda, showcasing approaches like accreditation schemes, BDS standards, and creating BDS enabling environments. A draft of the roadmap was developed, whereby scalability of BDS, enhanced collaboration among providers, and improved service quality were identified as key priority goals for 2030.

4. Increased capacity of ANSAF to engage with members and other stakeholders.

1. Participating in Technical Level Consultation on next CAADP 10 years Agenda.

ANSAF participated in a technical consultative meeting for Southern and East African countries, including EAC, COMESA, and IGAD, representing CSOs and smallholder producers. The focus was on shaping the post-Malabo CAADP Agenda, set to launch in January 2025 in Kampala. This agenda will cover the next decade, starting in 2025, as part of the Africa 2063 Agenda implementation. Key drivers for the new agenda include sustainable economic recovery, the rise of medium and large-scale farmers, urbanization, globalization, changing diets, the growth of the staples processing sector, increasing demand for animal-source food, and the digitalization of agri-tech. ANSAF advocated for the Kampala Declaration to prioritize small-scale producers and ensure that women and youth are at the forefront, promoting a food system that is secure, resilient, inclusive, and locally controlled.

2. Participating in policy and regulatory reviews.

ANSAF is a part of the technical team led by the Ministry of Agriculture for ASDP II review and replanning, and the Tanzania Agriculture Insurance Scheme (TAIS) technical committee, led by TIRA to develop the National Agriculture Insurance Regulations.

ANSAF also participated in the development of the National Business Development Services (BDS) Guideline, validation of the National Agriculture Exhibitions Guideline and the National Farmers Field and Business School Guideline, review of the draft regulations for implementing the Food Security Act (Cap. 249) and amendments to the Cereals and Other Produce Act (Cap. 274), development of the National Poultry Development Strategy, and review of the National Livestock Strategy.

3. Participating in organizing the 3rd Research and Cooperative Development Conference.

As part of the preparatory committee, ANSAF participated in organizing the Third Research and Cooperative Development Conference. Furthermore, ANSAF facilitated engagement of the media in this pivotal conference for cooperative development. The conference was officiated by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Gerald Mweli.



Figure 14: The Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture during the conference.

It involved officiation of the Cooperative Research Fund (CRF), presentation of cooperative research findings and case studies on various topics related to leadership, investment, and markets, policy discussions and deliberations to improve efficiency and effectiveness of cooperatives.

It provided a forum for cooperative members, leaders and to exchange business and management experiences and practices to improve cooperatives performance. It also facilitated knowledge generation for improving the policy and regulatory framework for cooperatives particularly on governance, market and value chain matters.

4. Participating in the 2024 AMEA Convening.

As the Tanzanian host, ANSAF participated in the 2024 AMEA Convening that brought together AMEA members, partners, and staff in Delft, the Netherlands. The event involved deliberations on the latest trends and best practice, opportunities for Local Network engagement, strategizing on learning initiatives and influencing policy and launching the International Standard 18716:2024. A detailed overview of the event can be accessed [here](#).

5. Participating in the Business Development Services Conference Summit in Tanzania.

ANSAF participated in the Business Development Services (BDS) conference summit that was hosted by RIKOLTO as a part of the AGRICONNECT project. The summit themed “Empowering Smallholder Farmers and Rural Agribusiness through Quality and Affordable Business Development Services” highlighted the need for coordinated efforts and partnerships to create systemic impact.

ANSAF shared key progress including the establishment of the AMEA Tanzania Network and the development of DBS roadmap for the agriculture sector. Discussions involved key initiatives to enhance BDS quality and coordination for smallholder farmers including the newly launched ISO global guideline on Professional Farmers Organizations (ISO 18716) and efforts by NEEC and partners in developing the National Business Development Services Provision Guideline.

6. Participating in the 10th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC).

As a member of the Agriculture Policy Analysis Group (PAG), ANSAF participated in the 10th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference that was held for three days in Dodoma. The conference was officially opened by the Guest of Honor, United Republic of Tanzania’s Prime Minister, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, and was attended by the Ministers of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and the President’s Office – Planning and Investment.



Figure 15: The Prime Minister, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa giving a speech at the 10th AAPC.

It convened a wide range of agriculture stakeholders including leaders and senior staff from public departments, agencies and institutions, CSOs, financial institutions, private companies, researchers and farmers to reflect on ten years of policy transformation in the country, deliberate on systems, challenges and opportunities to improve policies and their implementation toward building resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems.

7. Participating in a 2024/2025 pre-national budget dialogue on financing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, women leadership and citizen driven Tanzania Development Vision 2050.

ANSAF participated in a 2024/25 Pre-National Budget Dialogue to promote gender-responsive policies and equitable resource allocation in alignment with Tanzania's Development Vision 2050. Organized by TGNP, the event gathered a diverse group of stakeholders, including grassroots feminist groups, representatives of marginalized communities, and CSOs. It highlighted successes in public finance management reforms that



Figure 16: A panel discussion during the dialogue.

incorporate gender-oriented approaches while acknowledging the need for continuous efforts to address systemic challenges.

Discussions focused on the 2024/25 budget, addressing gender disparities, and preparing for local government elections and the next phase of the TDV 2050. Through a panel discussions which engaged ANSAF and plenary sessions, participants identified critical issues requiring budgetary attention and shared recommendations for enhancing gender responsiveness and inclusivity in the socio-economic and political landscape.

8. Facilitating a TGNP's Gender Development Seminar Series.

ANSAF facilitated a seminar focusing on "Empowering and Engaging Women and Youth: Ministry of Agriculture's Strategies in the 2024-2025 Budget" which was a part of TGNP's Gender Development Seminar Series. The seminar took place just after the release of the 2024/25 Ministry of Agriculture's Budget Speech. It was held at TGNP's office in Mabibo, Dar es Salaam, and involved participants from the local communities and civil society organizations. Discussions focused on the Ministry's budget priorities and strategies in empowering and engaging women and youth, particularly the BBT-YIA, and subsidies fertilizer and seeds.

9. Review of the 2024/25 Citizens' Budget.

A Citizens' Budget is a simplified, non-technical version of a government's budget document that is designed to be easily understood by the general public. It presents key information about government revenues, expenditures, and macroeconomic policy targets in a clear and straightforward manner, often using plain language and visual aids. Its goal is to enhance transparency, foster public engagement and monitoring, and improve accountability in the Government budget process.

As a member of the Policy Forum and its Budget Working Group, ANSAF participated in a workshop to review and contribute to the 2024 Citizens' Budget draft before finalization, publication and dissemination. Initially, Policy Forum had been leading the production of the Citizens' Budget with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, but recently, the Government through the Ministry has adopted and leads the process. The final Citizen Budget for 2024/25 is accessible [here](#).

10. Preparation of the 2024/25 Post Budget Statement.

As a member and part of the Policy Forum's Budget Working Group, ANSAF participated in a workshop to prepare the Post Budget Statement for the 2024/25 financial year. The statement focused on crosscutting sectors of agriculture, water, education, health, and youth, in collaboration with member organizations. Its objectives were to raise public awareness, create a tool for government engagement, and advocate for public participation in the budget process. Additionally, the statement (accessible [here](#)) aimed to stimulate discussions and urge the government to enhance budget credibility to address challenges and improve service delivery.

11. Participating in the CSO Week 2024.

As part of the steering committee, ANSAF participated in the organization of the 2024 CSO Week that took place from 9th to 13th September 2024, in Arusha, and hosted a session titled **"Vision 2050: Building Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems with Active Youth and Women Participation,"** in partnership with GAIN Tanzania. The session involved of 71 participants (32 men and 39 women) including youth and women working in the food systems, government officials, CSOs engaging in food systems and journalist to facilitate youth and decision-maker interaction, and provide an inclusive space for youth and women to express their perspectives and ideas

on the future of food, contributing to the Vision 2050, focusing on sustainability, innovation, and resilience.

Among other key issues discussed, the session highlighted several opportunities to boost youth and women participation in food systems through post-harvest management, value addition, food waste management, and supportive programs including those by the AGITF, SIDO, NEEC, Women Development Fund and Youth Development Fund.



Figure 17: An ongoing discussion during the CSO Week's session.

12. Participating in GAIN's Food System Youth Leadership Training Programme

ANSAF participated in Training of Trainers organized by Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Tanzania under its Food System Youth Leadership Training Programme. The training aimed at enhancing the trainers' capacity and understanding on food systems pathways concepts relevant to youth context, equipping trainers with practical skills and knowledge on facilitating and planning sessions with young people, and creating a network of youth friendly trainers who can continuously collaborate and commit in delivering youth leadership trainings.

Furthermore, ANSAF participated in a consultation meeting to gather insights and feedback from trainers on its Food Systems Youth Leadership training guide. The meeting also aimed to localize the guide to fit the specific country context and youth context to ensure relevance and effectiveness in addressing local policy processes, local food systems challenges and opportunities.

5. Consultative meetings and networking events

ANSAF engaged in the following consultative meetings and networking events to ensure the promotion of smallholder farmers agenda and development of the agriculture sector in general:

1. 2024 technical level strategic dialogue themed: *"Towards Vision 2050: Accelerating Resilience and Inclusive Development in Times of Uncertainty"* convened by the Ministry of Finance and development partners.
2. ActionAid's national level participatory review reflection process workshop for jointly review of ActionAid's anticipation and achievements, reflection on challenges and missed opportunities for the year 2023 as well as lessons learned to inform future programming and improve the effectiveness and impact of development initiatives.
3. A policy dialogue and validation workshop on assessment of barriers to women's land ownership and Tenure security by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).
4. A stakeholders meeting organized by NEEC to officiate the establishment of the Business Development Services Providers Association.
5. The Annual Agroecology Stakeholders Forum organized the Agroecology Hub Tanzania (AEHT) at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).
6. The 3rd National Farmer-Centered Agroecology Research Conference, organized by the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT).
7. Seed Working Group field visit to Bihawana agroecology demonstration farm in Chamwino, Dodoma.
8. The National Land Forum and 30 Years Anniversary of HakiArdhi in which ANSAF was a panelist on the topic, *"Redefining the inclusion of smallholder farmers in modern value chains: Ambitions, Expectations, Assumptions and Reality."*
9. A learning workshop on implementation of gender transformative approaches in fisheries sector, organized by EMEDO in collaboration with World Fish to review the implementation of the Her+ project, to empower women in small-scale fisheries.
10. A post-harvest management stakeholders meeting convened by HELVETAS to kick start the second phase of HELVETAS post-harvest management project titled *"Evidence-based Scaling of improved On-Farm Storage among Smallholders in Tanzania Phase II"* implemented in Rukwa and Katavi regions.
11. Launching of the "Tanzania Youth in Agribusiness Connect (TYAC)" that was established to connect youth in the agricultural value chain.
12. Launching of the NOURISH Tanzania project, a five-year initiative by SNV in partnership with Farm Africa for empowering smallholder farmer households and MSMEs across Dodoma, Manyara, Singida, Songwe, and Rukwa to enhance market access, food security and climate resilience.
13. Launching of Tanzania Association of Small-Scale Industries and Manufacturers (TASSIM) to celebrate, showcase, and support the vital role of Tanzania's micro and small industries.

14. Validation of findings of a study on agroecology policy framework in Tanzania, that was conducted by CARI in collaboration with MVIWAARUSHA, Islands of Peace and SHIWAKUTA through their “*Kilimo Endelevu Arusha (KEA)*” project.
15. Validation of findings a scoping study on Tax Equity in Tanzania which was undertaken by the International Budget Partnership (IBP).
16. A consultative workshop on a multi-country research study on food systems transformation in Tanzania, organized by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the African Institute for Strategic Agriculture (AISA), as an integral part of their research agenda to foster sustainable, resilient, equitable, and inclusive agri-food systems.
17. A stakeholders consultative meeting on indigenous food value chain programme study convened by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) to review and promote of indigenous foods and value chain in SADC countries.
18. A stakeholders’ consultation meeting convened by the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation (JMKF) to discuss the implementation of its 2023-2030 Strategic Plan.
19. The 4th Regional Dialogue for non-state actors on the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2030), convened by ESAFF to evaluate the progress of the RISDP implementation.
20. A meeting between NGO networks in Tanzania and the office of registrar of NGOs, organized by the Office of the Registrar of NGOs in collaboration with TANGO.
21. Business stakeholders and technical working groups meetings aiming to shape and enhance cross-border trade, agriculture, manufacturing and mining sectors in Tanzania through Liberty Sparks’ Ujirani Mwema Phase 2 Project.
22. A social dialogue workshop organized by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) focusing on compensation benefits related to occupational diseases and accidents.
23. A national CSOs conference that facilitated by the United Nations Association of Tanzania (UNA) and involved launching of CSOs-Sustainable Development Goals Inventory and a preparatory multi-stakeholder’ session for the Summit of the Future to collect CSO inputs towards Pact of the Future.
24. Launching of the Data and Evidence to End Extreme Poverty (DEEP) challenge fund and a workshop on the role of evidence-based policy in advancing Tanzania's poverty eradication efforts.
25. Aid decolonization conversation, organized by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS).
26. A Private Sector Strengthening Activity (PSSA)'s pause and reflect meeting.

6. Capacity building program

1. Leadership and Innovation Academy training.

ANSAF alongside other member led Agri-Food Industry Organizations including the ACT, TAHA, SUGECO, TAMPA, TASUPA, AWFISHNET, Poultry Association of Tanzania (PAT), Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives (TFC), and Tanga Dairies Co-operative Union (TDCU) participated in a leadership and innovation academy that was organized as a part of the “Beyond Farming Collective” project. The academy intended to inspire and enable the organizations leaders and managers to provide stronger and better leadership to their members.

2. “Enhancing Compliance and Technology Integration for NGOs” program.

ANSAF was selected to participate a three month “Enhancing Compliance and Technology Integration for NGOs” program conducted by Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) in collaboration with Tech and Media Convergency (TMC) from January to March 2024. The program intended to facilitate adoption of a more statutory and technology compliance-oriented mindset, technology efficiency and informed information for technology investments and decision-making within the organization as well as improved service delivery by NGOs through technology enhancements, and increased capacity of NGOs to create effective digital project proposals.

7. Media and communication

As a key tool in dissemination of information to stakeholders ANSAF engages with media to raise awareness and disseminate information on key agricultural issues and projects, ensuring broader outreach and impact. In 2024, ANSAF leveraged its social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and its website, to effectively engage with stakeholders in the agricultural sector. These efforts aimed to enhance advocacy work and increase public awareness of the organization's mission. ANSAF's social media presence grew significantly, with follower counts rising across platforms and engagement rates increasing by more than 4.9%. The total reach surpassed 20,000 accounts, with over 2,000 engagements. Notable achievements included an enhanced brand reputation, expanded audience, and active community engagement, particularly through strategic content sharing and discussions.

However, challenges such as poor-quality visuals and limited financial resources for content creation were identified, and plans for improvement, such as professional training and upgrading to high-quality photo equipment, were proposed. Moving forward, ANSAF aims to further expand its audience, enhance its advocacy functions, and streamline content production through in-house design efforts. The social media report is accessible [here](#).

7. Lessons Learnt

1. Collaboration and regular engagement with key stakeholders is essential for effective advocacy. Digital tools have a great potential to effectively mobilize stakeholders and advance initiatives.
2. Data-driven and evidence-based policy discussions and recommendations are more likely to influence positive changes and sustainable practices.
3. Case studies documentation, particularly systematic recording of achievements and challenges is vital for informed future planning.
4. Capacity building is vital to enhance sustainability of agricultural initiatives.
5. Planning for financial sustainability and exploring income-generating activities is crucial for long-term organization operations and impact.

8. Challenges

1. Resource Constraints: The ANSAF secretariat continues to face severe resource limitations, which hinder its ability to effectively serve its members. This led to failure in implementation of activities that are usually funded from the core budget particularly Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM). This also hinders its ability to effectively serve its members; for instance, some members expect support with capacity building and fundraising, but given the current resource constraints, this is not feasible.
2. Staffing Limitations: The organization is currently understaffed, making it impossible to operate at full capacity. Furthermore, retention of existing staff remains a challenge due to inadequate compensation.

9. Way forward

In 2025, ANSAF will continue to leverage its members and strategic partnerships in implementing its annual work plan while optimizing its limited resources for bigger results, secure funding through vertical projects, and build the capacity of members and non-members for continuous engagements in governance and accountability related interventions.