

Proposal 11: Civil Society Networking and Participation in WTO Negotiations on Agriculture, Food Security and Related Processes in Eastern Africa

Submitting MGs / CSOs	NGO: FATNEA (Food and Trade Network for East Africa)
Countries of Implementation	Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania
Agro-ecological context	Various tropical and semi-arid areas
Duration and Total Budget	3 years, US \$ 354,105

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- NGOs
- Farmers
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women
- Local Authorities

Success indicators:

- No. of disadvantaged stakeholders able to participate effectively in decision making fora that affect their livelihoods

Partners to be engaged:

Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Industry (Dept of External Trade)).

Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Improved awareness of all stakeholders regarding food security challenges faced by small scale farmers so that governments and other actors respond more urgently and positively to the needs of small scale farmers and other disadvantaged groups for improved food security. Impact on MDG 1.

Proposed Objectives and Approaches

- Build capacity of farmers and other stakeholders to participate effectively in current negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) and related processes at different levels and to support governments to represent their views more effectively.
 - Gather information on the effect of World Trade Organization (WTO) policies on food security and on farmers' livelihoods in order to enrich their negotiating positions.
 - Facilitate farmers and civil society actors engagement in WTO's agricultural negotiations.
 - Help small scale farmers to benefit from agricultural trade liberalization by offering them specialized training and trade information to access niche export markets.
- The main approach to be used is participatory training and consultative workshops involving small scale farmers, civil society, researchers and government. Other methods include impact studies, bi-annual workshops, specialized trainings and other forum and special mass media (e.g. radio) programmes.

Building upon Experience

FATNEA has been working with small scale farmers and civil society groups in East Africa since 2001. Senior staff have over 10 years experience working with farmer organizations, international NGOs (such as Oxfam GB-Kenya) and governments (Ministries of Agriculture). Issues and potential programme areas were identified during 3 networking workshops held in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in 2003. Draft Action Plans were prepared in each country covering policy advocacy and training and specialized training for farmers, such as in good agricultural practices.

Major Group Inputs

The main inputs from the MGs are ideas, proposals and experiences in resolving problems of food security and hunger among resource poor communities, especially small scale farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk.