Partnerships and Policies for Improved Market Access in Southern Africa

Reducing poverty amongst women and the youth

35% Agriculture contributes 35% of the GDP of the SADC region
70% of the SADC population depend on agriculture
At least half the agricultural labor force is women

ICT for Markets

80% 80% of women smallholder farmers sell their produce at their local markets only, without access to larger markets.

Female farmers only received 5% of all agricultural extensions in 2018 across the 4 countries.

High levels of illiteracy, patriarchal systems and lack of proper organisation hinder smallholder farmers from accessing training and extension services, especially women and youth.

Policies for Markets

National and regional governments must collaborate with non-state actors to develop and implement policies that promote cross border trade for smallholder farmers.

Capacity for Markets

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Urgent Need

- Regional Economic Communities (AU, SADC, COMESA) to advance policies that support smallholder farmers, especially women and youth.
- Policies and programmes that prioritize economically active group of women and youth (25 - 54 years).
- Build the capacity of smallholder farmers, including women and youth to enable them to engage and influence the business environment.

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