Kenya National Policy Dialogue

21 November 2022 Nairobi, Kenya

Background

Climate change continues to disrupt maize production and the supply chain in Kenya through changing rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. Maize as staple food meets about 65% of total food calories consumed by Kenyan households and is produced in 40% of the total crop area, mainly by smallholders, constituting the backbone of agriculture, as well as food and income security in the country. Therefore, improving the resilience of maize is crucial, and so is increasing production for Kenya to feed its growing population and turn from the region's biggest maize importer to a nation self-reliant in staple food.

To address the knowledge and coordination gaps related to these problems and foster an enabling policy and investment environment, FANRPAN working with Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), the node hosting institution in Kenya and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) convened national policy dialogue Nairobi, Kenya, on the 21st of November 2022. The policy dialogue held at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Campus, was attended by over 45 participants including government representatives, funding partners, researchers, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, farmers, and the media. The main objective of the dialogue was to discuss how Kenya's agriculture and related policies, strategies and programmes can enable diversification for resilient agri-food systems and discuss pathways to improve the

enabling environment for maize intensification, diversification, agribusiness, and trade in Kenya.

Mr. Joshua Laichena the Policy Analyst at KIPPRA & FANRPAN Node Coordinator presented the draft results of the actor and Policy Mapping Exercise that was conducted for Kenya. The stakeholders present were given an opportunity to review the policy scan and highlight gaps and opportunities that Ukama Ustawi should address or leverage. The following interventions were recommended for effective development of the agricultural sector in Kenya:

- Review and influence the budget allocation for the agriculture sector by government
- Prioritization of national markets and produce by local farmers
- Develop markets standards that take into consideration the production constrains in Kenya
- Policies should be aligned to increasing productivity of farmers
- Revision of policies should be Farmers focused
- Policies at hand are all good and well, there need for focused implementation
- Digitization of the agriculture is the way to go but there is need to loop in more youth into producing
- Digitization of policies for agriculture
- Agriculture is a not profitable for small holders' farmers, there is need to subsidize struggling farmers
- There is need for evidence-based research and science to feed into policies in Kenya
- The ministries should work together on issues of food production and food security as they are issues that cut-across multi-ministries
- Create market driven strategies that target growth through access of better inputs and improved market
- Manage agricultural transformation across national and county level: adopt fact-based change.
- Build a highly capable workforce of change makers
- Mobilize more resources from development partners and private sector.

Ukama Ustawi is a three-year project launched in March 2022 and involves several CGIAR organizations (IWMI, CIAT, CIMMYT, ILRI, IFPRI, IITA, and WorldFish) and regional partners including FANRPAN. It seeks to enable 50,000 value chain actors in East and Southern Africa (ESA) to adopt climate-smart intensification and diversification practices and provide one million with access to digital agro-advisory. Emphasizing the role of the private sector in driving such transformation, it aims to support at least 30 start-ups and SMEs, in addition to providing policy support to governments.