IN-COUNTRY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP
FOR TANZANIA FANRPAN NODE

PROCEEDINGS OF
THE FIRST NATIONAL
CONSULTATIVE MEETING
FOR IN-COUNTRY
STAKEHOLDERS IN
TANZANIA

Funding of this publication was made possible by USAID

Morogoro Hotel, Tanzania
April 2000
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING FOR IN-COUNTRY STAKEHOLDERS IN TANZANIA

FANRPAN
Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

Proceedings of the First National Consultative Meeting for In-Country Stakeholders
Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

The origins of the Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Network (FANRPAN) for Southern Africa can be traced to the first Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of Eastern and Southern Africa held in Harare in April 1994. At the meeting Ministers agreed to support the establishment of a regional agricultural policy network to enhance the capacity for policy formulation and analysis in the region.

While the original understanding of the geographic coverage of the network was the whole of Eastern and Southern Africa, a subsequent meeting proposed to establish separate networks for Eastern and for Southern Africa. At a follow-up of a meeting held in July 1994, SADC Ministers of Agriculture approved the establishment of an agricultural policy network for Southern Africa. FANRPAN was then launched in July 1997.

FANRPAN’s mission is to co-ordinate, influence and facilitate policy research, analysis and dialogue at the national, regional and global levels in order to develop the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources sector through networking, capacity building and generation of information for the benefit of all stakeholders in the SADC region.

The FANRPAN objectives are to:

- Promote appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty, increase food security and enhance sustainable agricultural development in the SADC region.
- Improve policy analysis, research and formulation of priority SADC agricultural research themes.
- Develop human and institutional capacity for co-ordinated dialogue among stakeholders.
- Improve policy decision-making through the generation, exchange and use of policy related information.
Foreword

The FANRPAN network operates its program of action through in-country nodes. The country nodes implement in-country stakeholders consultation meetings to define agenda, policy research and analysis, advocacy and training. Specifically, the functions of the nodes are to: Coordinate the regional network agenda at national level through organizing national stakeholder dialogue forums; Manage action-oriented research activities in the country; Coordinate advocacy activities; Manage training, information exchange and communication at national level. The nodes have initially been established in eight SADC countries of Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

FANRPAN nodes held in-country stakeholder consultations to define the research agenda. Participants to the stakeholder consultations were drawn from the Ministries of Agriculture, Non-governmental organisations, farmer organizations, parastatals, agricultural institutions, universities, research institutions and extension and private sector representatives. Funding of the in-country stakeholder consultation was made possible by USAID through a World Bank facility, SPAAR.

The First FANRPAN Tanzania node consultative meeting organised by the Tanzania node, Economic Social Research Foundation (ESRF) was held on 8 April, 2000 at Morogoro Hotel. About forty participants representing key stakeholders with a common interest in agricultural policy research and analysis, formulation and evaluation in Tanzania attended the meeting. The consultative workshop gave birth to the stakeholder forum under the name, TAPANET (Tanzania Agricultural Policy Network). TAPANET believes in learning from other similar initiatives and aims to produce policy briefs in the languages that are easy to understand for the stakeholders. This stakeholder forum endeavoured to build capacity among research and policy analysts and conduct collaborative research activities. The workshop agreed that policies and interventions should be geared towards creating conditions that encourage specialisation. The workshop observed that the problems that hinder commercialisation and food security such as efficiency, equity, conservation and sustainability were the major stumbling block against the exploration of comparative advantages of enterprises and commodities. Research was required in the areas of infrastructure development, size of smallholder markets and the impact of urban migration on farm labour availability.

The Tanzanian node acknowledges the assistance of the following: Professor Haidairi Amani, node coordinator; Dr. Haji Sembonja, Dr. A. Kashuliza, Dr. Wilbert Maro, Dr. Festus Limbu, Dr. N. Hatibu, Professor H. P. B. Moshi, Professor Adolph Mascarenhas, Dr. Mbiha, Dr. Kimati from the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operative, Professor Mlambiti, Professor S. M. Mbilinyi (Member of the Parliament), and other stakeholders who made this consultation a success.

Mabel Hungwe
FANRPAN Communications Specialist
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<tr>
<td>AGRES</td>
<td>Agricultural Economic Society of Tanzania</td>
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<td>ECAPAPA</td>
<td>Eastern and Central Africa Programme for Agricultural Policy Analysis</td>
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<td>ESRF</td>
<td>Economic Social Research Foundation</td>
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<td>FANRPAN</td>
<td>Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Network</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>IFPRI</td>
<td>International Food Policy Research Institute</td>
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<td>MFI</td>
<td>Micro-Finance Institutions</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>OXFAM</td>
<td>Oxford Committee for Famine Relief</td>
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<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community</td>
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<td>TAPANET</td>
<td>Tanzania Agricultural Policy Network</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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Section One

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND AN OPENING ADDRESS
Introductory Remarks and an Opening Address

Prof. H. K. R. Amani (Agricultural Economist from the University of Dar es Salaam and FANRPAN Tanzania node Coordinator) welcomed all the invited participants to the consultative FANRPAN meeting held at Morogoro Hotel on 8 April, 2000. The meeting was attended by 40 participants. Participants were drawn from diverse backgrounds representing key stakeholders with common interest in agricultural policy research and analysis, formulation, monitoring and evaluation in Tanzania. Participants included representatives from the academia, farmers union, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives and private sector organization.

During the first part of the meeting, there were suggestions with regard to the proper name of the network that could be easily pronounced by all stakeholders. It was finally suggested that TAPANET (Tanzania Agricultural Policy Network) would be the most appropriate name of the network. Participants were briefed that the formation of TAPANET was a result of combined efforts to address the agricultural sector constraints in Tanzania. These efforts derive their origin from both the internal and external policy initiatives. Internally, such initiatives were linked to Agricultural and Livestock Policy of 1997, institutional reforms within the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives coupled with a series of initiatives by His Excellency, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania to redress the agricultural sector’s constraints. Externally, TAPANET builds on policy initiatives steered by ECAPAPA, IFPRI, and FARNPAN-SADC as well as other stakeholders’ initiatives.

An opening address was delivered by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives who encouraged the formation of TAPANET. The Permanent Secretary particularly noted that as the Network began the long journey towards assisting agricultural policy formulation and implementation in the country, it needed to learn from other organisations in the region having similar objectives in fostering agricultural policy analysis. The Network therefore needed to produce policy briefs using simple languages to be understood by all stakeholders.

The opening address was followed by the background information on the objectives of the Network and the stakeholders meeting. Dr. H. Semboja, the country team leader for the Network explained that the main objectives of TAPANET were initiation of collaborative research activities, strengthening the capacity building for policy research analysis and improving documentation and dissemination. For all these to bear the intended results, the major task of TAPANET would be to identify potential local consultants to carry out training programs for policy analysts as well as pertinent researchable issues.
It was emphasised that the underlying objective of TAPANET In-country stakeholders meeting was to deliberate on researchable issues as outlined earlier by the TAPANET technical proposal. The meeting selected a common position on thematic issues through dialogue from various players - the government, private sector, academicians and farmers.
Section Two

PAPER PRESENTATIONS
Theme 1: Agriculture Markets And Support Services

This theme was presented by two experts i.e., Dr. Wilberd Maro and Dr. A. Kashuliza from the University of Dar es Salaam and Sokoine University of Agriculture respectively. Dr. Maro presented sub themes 1.1 and 1.2 while Dr. Kashuliza presented sub-theme 1.3.

SUB THEME 1.1 INPUTS AND OUTPUT MARKETS AND MARKETING

Research Topic 1.2.1: Structure Conduct and Performance of Input and Output Markets

This research topic covered specific areas such as; market structure, market conduct/behaviour and market Performance. The three components were central in the analysis of a marketing system. The latter is a complex pattern of institutions and physical facilities which relate both to human beings and things in the transfer of goods and services. Therefore, one aspect of market analysis in this kind of setting, tends to focus on the question of how various kinds of market structures influence the competitive behaviour of marketing firms with respect to output, pricing and other decisions.

Research Topic 1.2.2: Competitiveness of Tanzanian Agriculture:

The Tanzanian agriculture is supposed to be competitive under the condition of market liberalization. Competition is an aspect that has to be viewed from both internal and external trade. Hence certain factors/variables have to be looked into:

(a) Internal Competition:

From production, one has to investigate issues such as: land-use and ownership, supply of inputs and chemicals, price levels of inputs and chemicals, technological change and use over time, levels of product diversification and outputs, quality of output and production cost. From the marketing side it was necessary to observe how the earlier components of a marketing system i.e. structure, conduct and performance relate to Tanzanian agriculture; costs of Marketing (transportation, storage i.e. all transaction costs), prices of outputs, costs of Transaction, levels of entry/barriers, consumers prices, export prices and/or costs, variety of goods, quality of packaging, health standards of goods, have to be determined so as to be able to determine the competitiveness of Tanzanian Agriculture relative to neighbouring countries and abroad.
**SUB THEME 1.2 RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Research Topic 1.2.1:** Constraints and Prospects in Irrigation

Delegates noted that a well functioning irrigation infrastructure was an important element in increasing agricultural production for own consumption and market surplus. Rainfed agriculture was not adequate given the changes in climatical conditions. Thus, potential areas for research would revolve on: water sources and availability, capacity of local communities to contribute to water schemes, capacity of local Government/councils to contribute to the development of Irrigation Schemes, management of water sources and irrigation canals, formation of water-user groups, training on water management, capacity to analyse the environmental impact of irrigation schemes, formulation of relevant environmental assessment and planning, formulation of environmental legislation and irrigation policies, establishment of water rights, legislation and appropriate institutional arrangements for the management of water and the irrigation schemes.

Furthermore, it was agreed that there were still some prospects for the development of irrigation infrastructure if the following issues were considered; sensitization and awareness among the local communities on the importance of irrigation, project designs to be undertaken using the participatory approach methods so that it becomes clear on who owns the irrigation schemes. This would ensure sustainability of project. To ensure effectiveness, central government and/or local Government support was required in areas such as; construction although this was viewed as being very expensive and not affordable by local communities; training, maintenance, policy and legislation formulation, application of geographical information systems to agriculture and water resources development, identification of different farming systems, determination of crop and irrigation water requirement, asset management for public and private irrigation infrastructure, development of performance indicators for irrigation schemes, identification of technological capacity for irrigation schemes in the rural areas (for easy replacement, rehabilitation and maintenance).

**Research Topic 1.2.2:** The relationship between agricultural development and rural infrastructure.

A reasonably good rural infrastructure was key to the development of agriculture. Services such as public utilities i.e. power, telecommunication, water schemes, sanitation, drainage, roads, bridges, storage facilities were necessary. Research
was needed in the following major areas, taking stock of infrastructural facilities in major agricultural production areas in terms of:

- Numbers (and road length).
- Adequacy/distribution.
- Quality/durability.
- Ownership (private, communal, public).
- Rehabilitation and maintenance requirements.
- Demand versus supply.
- Levels of Accessibility.
- Investment costs.

In addition, agricultural production for different crops in terms of: volume, quality, marketability/marketable surpluses, prices (both farm gate and consumer prices), cost of production, demand/supply situation, exports and export prices, seasonality, inputs costs and distribution, agro-processing facilities, storage capacity needed to be researched on.

**SUB THEME 1.3 MICRO FINANCE SERVICES IN TANZANIA (MFI): CHALLENGE FOR RESEARCH**

It was reported that the *Bank and Institution Act* of 1991 had actually ushered major reforms in Tanzania's financial system such as free entry of private banking and deregulation of the interest rate. Despite the reforms, micro finance institutions (MFI) have been slow to develop especially in rural areas. More specifically, the impact of banking reforms such as the closure of the banks' branches had actually reduced service available to the low-income people to the rural areas. Similarly, reforms that were are taking place in co-operatives had worsened the state of credits and other financial services available to the rural sector. Worse still, the performance of most MFIs in Tanzania in working with the rural sector had been characterized by the problems of credit targeting, high administrative costs, poor loan recovery, unco-ordinated efforts (linkages) among institutions, & NGOs involved with micro finance (even when operating in the same area), poor skills and information system of clientele and appropriate enabling environment (i.e. supportive legal and regulatory framework). Thus, the challenges for micro finance research include: the appropriate pricing (interest rates) for both savers and borrowers, the methods of delinquency control and loan recovery, evolving appropriate techniques of reaching the poor and providing needed products, gender considerations and on setting up and operating MFIs, evolving sound governing structures and financial accountability and management, available information management and utilization, forging links
among MFIs and the clientele, creation of enabling environment in terms of legal and regulatory framework, and/or financial and physical infrastructure.

Discussion on Theme 1

Research on competitiveness of agricultural market should also be approached from the liberalization context. More specifically, research was needed on the impact of market liberalization on production of cash crops such as tobacco, prices of inputs, quality of packaging and health standards. Furthermore, research on the impact of liberalization on access to international markets needed special attention. It was generally argued that market liberalization had brought drastic disastrous effects on participation of domestic producers of tradable goods to the global market. Consequently, future research agenda should try as much as possible to investigate realistic alternatives and/or means that might help in opening up markets for domestic tradable goods. On the same theme of "the competitiveness of agricultural commodities", Professor Mabele noted that in Tanzania there was no policy that guided competition. As a result, Trans-National Corporations tended to control domestic producers of exportable commodities. One participant also argued out that lack of knowledge base on international trade was one of the major hindering factors on accessibility to the international market. Thus, future research might also dwell on information availability.

On support services, it was argued that delays in establishing a health standard bureau for agricultural produces had seriously hampered agricultural production as most products were regarded to be unhygienic for humans. Accordingly, further research might also be directed at exploring the impact of late delays in the establishment of a health standard bureau for agricultural produces.

In Tanzania roads were classified at different levels; national, regional, district and village. While national roads were accorded the top priority, roads at regional, district and village levels were not given the required paramount weight. Thus, research was needed in this area to provide more options on how to enable district councils to mobilise resources to finance roads and other communication infrastructure necessary for developing rural areas.
Theme 2: Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Conservation

The theme on Agricultural productivity was presented by Dr. N. Hatibu from Sokoine University of Agriculture. The central focus of this theme was on the improvement of agricultural productivity compatible with sustainable management of natural resource base.

**SUB THEME 2.1 DUAL MODEL OF PRODUCTION**

**Research Topic 2.1.1: Changing from Subsistence to Commercial Agriculture**

In Tanzania, more than 50% of the rural people live in object poverty and the level of poverty found in rural communities is closely linked with smallholder subsistence farming. This is apart from social, political, ecological, environmental effects and major macro-economic consequences. For example, the minuscule peasant income has led to low demand for private consumption, inadequate development of domestic markets and hence prevented the emergence of local industries. Thus the poverty found in the rural areas of Tanzania is self-sustaining.

*What needs to done?* - The delegates addressed on the types of policies and interventions that were needed towards creating conditions of encouraging specialization in farming as this was an important pre-requisite to commercialization. It was noted that the development of effective and functioning markets was vital to this, since people would not specialize unless they were sure of obtaining good results from the market. Changing the nature of infrastructure in the country was seen as important to the development of viable and reliable markets. Further, the liberalized markets for crops and other agricultural products, appeared to have reflected negatively on farmers and there was need for research to address this.

**Research Topic 2.1.2: Comparative Advantage of Enterprises and Commodities**

The problem of food security and other problems hindering commercialization such as efficiency, equity, conservation of the resource base and sustainability was seen to be the major stumbling block against the exploitation of comparative advantages of enterprises and commodities.
**Recommendations** -

It was suggested that commercialization of production would enable an effective exploitation of comparative advantage of enterprises and commodities. However, shifting the source of food security from individual production to the market was seen to be the key to improved exploitation of comparative advantages resulting from resource endowment and demands of the market.

**Research Topic 2.1.3: Factors Affecting Input Use**

The main problem which was seen facing the use of these inputs (fertilizer, machinery, pesticides and improved seed) was linked with the poor supply chain, which had led to poor availability and high prices of inputs. The supply chain included manufacturing, importation, distribution, dealership (for agricultural machinery) and repair, maintenance and after sales service.

It was further noted that the problem facing the input supply chain was the size of the market caused by the very low purchasing power of smallholders farmers. This problem coupled with the high cost of transporting the inputs, made it impossible to have a viable commercial operation in inputs supply.

**Recommendations**

The most important issues needed to be addressed so as to ensure sustainable supply and use of inputs included the following:

- Fair pricing.
- Balanced and efficiency supply.
- A viable financing mechanism to be developed to support both farmers and private suppliers.
- Efficiency and effectiveness of utilization of inputs to maximize benefit.

**SUB THEME 2.2 TOTAL FACTOR PRODUCTIVITY**

**Research Topic 2.2.1: Assessment of Agricultural Technology Development packages**

It was pointed out that there were technological packages, which had been shown to improve agricultural productivity around the world. However, there was a lot of debate on how growth in agricultural productivity could be attained in Tanzania and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
The Problem Area

(a) Plant Nutrition and Water

In many parts of Tanzania productivity of land was limited by shortage of soil-nutrients and water. Additionally, the agricultural potential was limited in most parts of the country by a combination of:

- Low soil fertility.
- Low and erratic rainfall where only 22% of the land receive 570 mm or more of rainfall in nine years out of ten.
- High evaporation rates, where nearly throughout the country, the potential evapotranspiration exceeded rainfall during more than nine months of the year.
- Tsetse infestation.
- Pests and diseases - The workshop agreed that the pest problem was of particular importance, as in many cases storage pests led to loss of produce. However, high incidence of pests and diseases at all levels of production and after harvest was seen to account for more than 50% of the loss of produce. The high levels of losses might therefore be the main contributing factor to the low productivity of agriculture.
- Lack of Agricultural Mechanization for Purposes of Improving Labour Productivity - The agricultural census data published in 1996 showed that most households used Human Power Technology for crop and livestock production and post-harvest operations. This was mainly due to poverty.

However, the utilization of mechanical sources of power was seen to be constrained by economic and financial viability due to the size of the agricultural enterprises. Where they would be viable technically and economically, constraints against their wide use and adaptability included:

- High capital investment required.
- Poor availability due to inadequate importation, distribution and dealership.
- Poor management of machinery due to inadequate training and extension for owners, managers and operators.
- Poor supply of spare parts, repair and maintenance services.
- Poor transportation and communication infrastructure.
- Low return on investment due to low utilization of machinery and low efficiency of operations and poor farm gate prices of produce.
Research Topic 2.2.2: Impact of urban migration on farm labour availability

The migration of young energetic people from rural to urban areas had an impact on labour available for agriculture. However, the impact was low due to the fact that 30% of those living in urban areas considered agriculture as the main source of household income (Human Resources Development Survey, 1993 Statistics).

The migration of rural to urban was as a result of the following factors:

- Poor services of rural areas, forcing people to reside in urban areas so as to access relatively better social service, while maintaining their rural links and involvement in agriculture.
- Poor performance of the service and industrial sectors in the urban areas leading to high unemployment rates. Due to absence of social security, those unemployed resorted to agriculture for survival.

Recommendations

- Improving the conditions of life in rural areas as well as profitability of agriculture so as to attract the young and educated to invest and work in agriculture.
- Establishing viable rural market towns to serve as centers for marketing, agro-processing and supply of inputs to the agricultural sector. These towns would also assist in supply of non-farm consumer goods.

SUB THEME 2.3 LAND HUSBANDRY

The participants chose the term land husbandry because land and water conservation had been found to be very narrow in definition and in many cases efforts have been targeted at protecting the land rather than helping people to achieve effective and profitable utilization of land. Land husbandry approaches required that land use should have in-built mechanisms for repairing and conserving the land.

Recommendations

The following policy was suggested to promote production methods with in-build sustainable land husbandry:

(a) Pricing Policy: Where farmers would be attracted to invest on land conservation measures if producer prices adequately cover all production costs.

(b) Subsidies: These were seen as necessary where the community and private interests in land conservation tended to diverge.
(c) Fiscal Policy: Tax allowances would be used to encourage investment in land conservation measures.

**Land Law**

It was pointed out that the land laws in Tanzania had been radically improved by two legislations made in 1999 namely the Land Act and the Village Land Act. The most significant aspect was the recognition in the laws that land had value and could be traded. It was suggested that there was need for research to develop instruments for ensuring that the land law was effective in promoting sustainable land husbandry.

**Land Use Planning**

Land use planning was also seen to be an important tool for ensuring high agricultural productivity and sustainable land husbandry. Due to its central role, it was suggested that land use planning be given high priority in the agricultural policy and programs. There was need to adopt and use modern technologies to establish the necessary database required in land use planning.
**Theme 3 : Policy and Institutional Framework (Governance)**

Theme 3 was presented by Prof. H.P.B. Moshi of the University of Dar es Salaam. Under this theme, it was pointed out that failure to give sufficient priority to agriculture and rural development constituted one of the most serious errors in development strategy committed by a large number of African nations, including Tanzania. As a result, this key sector of the economy had been denied the necessary level of long-term public investment that would have allowed it to grow at an adequate rate and thereby contribute to overall economic development.

Therefore, there was need to urgently revitalize agriculture with a view to address poverty, employment, food security, productivity and competitiveness.

**SUB-THEME 3.1 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY**

Political instability, poor governance and inappropriate macroeconomic policies have a direct and significant impact on agricultural production and productivity. Poor governance inhibits and discourages production and trade.

Corruption and the absence of equitable, well-established governance structures create an unpredictable, costly and even hostile environment for economic actors including farmers, traders and processors of agricultural products.

The importance of a stable and predictable macroeconomic environment to overall economic growth is well known. An adverse policy environment has been a major constraint to the performance of agriculture. Since the mid-1980s, the Tanzanian economy has undergone gradual but fundamental transformation that has redefined the role of the government and the private sector. Under the new policy environment most of the production, processing and marketing functions have been assigned to the private sector while the government has retained regulatory and public support functions. The macro changes continue to have a profound impact on the agricultural sector in which, already agricultural inputs and output prices have been decontrolled, subsidies have been removed and monopolies of co-operatives and marketing boards have been eliminated. One broad research question under this sub-theme: The impact of the new policy on agriculture in terms of output, markets, prices, quality of products and on extension services.
**SUB-THEME 3.2 LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

Poor governance in terms of complex regulatory systems, licensing and permit-issuing procedures create opportunities for rent seeking and result in delays and general bureaucratic inefficiencies. These further increase the cost of doing business, as there is a reduction in transparent and impartial judicial system. A number of efforts have been undertaken to improve this framework. The following research questions still remain pertinent:

- Which laws and regulations still inhibit agricultural development?
- How appropriate or inappropriate is the fiscal regime in promoting agriculture both in terms of investments and trade?
- How adequate or inadequate is the regulatory framework under the trade liberalization policy?
- To what extent has the new land law improved the security of tenure?

**SUB-THEME 3.3 THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS**

There is now a broad consensus that economic recovery and growth are much more likely to be significant and sustainable where policy reforms are accompanied by the strengthening and restructuring of relevant institutions. Weaknesses in the structure and capacities of rural and related institutions are part of the reasons why economic policy reforms have failed to achieve the desired increase in aggregate agricultural output. As Tanzania embraces a market orientation, there is need to create and/or strengthen certain institutions and adopt an economic governance framework that best suits the present policy environment. Areas for research under this sub-heading would include the following:

- Which institutions in agriculture are serving farmers and how adequate and sustainable are they?
- What is the role of cooperatives in the new policy environment?
- What role could be played by other rural institutions which direct producers as active agents, as owners and managers?
- What role could decentralization play in promoting agriculture in the context of good governance and democracy? How can the capacity of local government be enhanced?
- How adequate is the structure and capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation in carrying out its mission.
Theme 4: Food Security and Rural Incomes

This theme was presented by Professor Adolph Mascarenhas from the University of Dar es Salaam (IRA/Africa LINK). The theme was sub-divided into three sub-themes:

- Household food and nutrition security.
- Post-harvest and value added processing.
- Rural income and employment generating activities.

SUB THEME 4.1 HOUSEHOLD FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Participants felt that household food security was not only about agriculture, but fundamentally about income and distribution of resources and the ways in which people use these resources to feed themselves. Resources were viewed as cash but included land and also knowledge.

Research Topic 4.1.1: Determinants of Household Food Security and Nutrition

The following were pointed out to be the determinants of Household Food Security and Nutrition:

- Ecological, Social Demographic and Economic Factors
  These were addressed to be the major determinants of household food security. It was stressed that although there was a tendency to look at each of these factors as discrete entities, in most cases they were inter-twined. Research should focus on:

- Cultural Norms - It was noted that traditional sanctions against the consumption of certain foods, their restrictions to women during pregnancy, the consumption of food by culturally determined succession, male heads of household has a big impact on household food security and nutrition. Therefore it was suggested that there was need while examining the cultural norms in food and security research, to focus on the basic causes rather than the symptoms. It was further noted that the basic problems are gendered in nature whereby women in most of the rural areas have little or no access to land and traditional norms deny them any ownership rights.

- Institutions - Institutions were seen to have an impact on household food security and nutrition. The workshop considered the role of other institutions
such as UNICEF who has been major actors in the food and nutrition of more than a third of the districts of Tanzania. WFP through NGO’s such as OXFAM, works with people who have been struck by disasters, such as floods, droughts, etc. It was suggested that the influence of various institutions in agriculture was significant. The question on who monitored and coordinated these various activities was dealt with and suggestions were made on whether it should be the Prime Minister’s Office, the Vice President’s Office or the Treasury. Other participants questioned why it was even necessary to remove this role from the Ministry of Agriculture.

- **Survival Strategies in Vulnerable Groups Especially in Areas of Food insecurity** - The single largest area of food insecurity in Tanzania was mainly in the arid and semi-arid parts of Tanzania whereby the main livelihoods of the people were pastoralism and agro-pastoralism.

- **Gender** - The different roles of gender had an impact on food security and nutrition. This was due to the fact that without the labour of women in the production, processing and allocation of food to the rest of the family, many communities in Africa would simply cease to exist. The general impression obtained was that food security at the household level was heavily gender biased. As long as food was consumed in the household it was a women’s responsibility. Should the crop begin to take a cash crop status, the orientation shifted to be a male responsibility.

### SUB THEME 4.2 POST HARVEST AND VALUE ADDED PROCESSING

Post harvest losses identified included those caused by vermin and animal pests, and losses brought about by atrocious prices offered to primary producers. It was further noted that in a number of areas in Tanzania, grain was no longer stored in storage huts, silos due to cases of theft and vandalism. Grain was now stored inside the home and because few homes were rodent proofed, in addition to losses, diseases also occurred.

**Research Topic 4.2.1: Mechanisms to cope with the problem of post harvest losses**

The following mechanisms were addressed to cope with problems of post harvest losses in averting food crisis:
Use of traditional techniques such as drying, salting, smoking, burying, etc.
Use of affordable food technology such as radiation and lethal pesticides.
Improving performance of local food agro-industries.

**SUB THEME 4.3 RURAL INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATING ACTIVITIES**

Most of the employment in the rural areas was viewed as informal, seasonal and therefore assumed to be low paying.

**Research Topic 4.3.1: Source of income generation in rural areas**

It was pointed out that on farm employment was still important but no longer enjoyed the monopoly it once had due to the fact that trading and services had become the major employment outlets as goods had to be transported from one area to another.

**Research Topic 4.3.2: Relation between returns to agriculture and rural urban migration.**

It was presented that the critical factors that had contributed significantly to the tremendous decline in agricultural production in rural areas were; population pressure, shortage of good agricultural land and low income opportunities. This had in turn created a continuous influx of young and energetic people to urban areas with fewer and unproductive people being left in rural areas. Thus, there was an urgent need to do research to find out the best ways of increasing returns to agriculture so as to make people more attracted to remain in rural areas rather than migrate to urban areas.
Theme 5: Agricultural Trade

Under this theme, the focus of research should be on the quantitative assessment of the role played by agricultural related institutions in either promoting or inhibiting agricultural sector prosperity. Harmonization of entry and exit procedures within and between the Southern Africa region also deserved special attention. Other important areas that needed to be researched on were; market liberalization, information dissemination, domestic resource cost analysis within the Southern African region, the impact of exports bans and finally the political pronouncements implications on fostering free flow of agricultural produces. This would enable quick generation of empirical information on the cost alternative that forbid farmers from engaging in export of grains which were the most important source of income in rural based communities. It was argued that this kind of analysis was vital in formulating trade policies.

General Discussions

The general discussion was moderated by Dr. Mbiha from the Sokoine University of Agriculture. This session consisted of Dr. Kimati from the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Prof. Mlambiti from the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Prof. S. M. Mbilinyi (Member of the Parliament, TAPANET team member and a progressive farmer), and Mr. Kalanje from the private sector. Mr. Kalanje insisted on the continued emphasis to research on private sector participation in the agricultural sector. Dr. Kimati in particular threw challenges to the Network to research on irrigation development. He argued that while the size of irrigable land in Tanzania was vast, it was disappointing that the actual investment in irrigation was still much lower. Prof. Mbilinyi called upon the researchers to redefine Tanzanian agriculture. A renewed emphasis on the role-played by different stakeholders needed to be emphasised. Prof. Msambichaka insisted that the type of research that TAPANET must forcefully address ought to be those that are in line with Vision 2025 for Food and Agriculture. Specifically, researches ought to dwell on production, marketing, rural institution and rural infrastructure.

An assessment on whether the government had the required capacity on legal and regulatory framework such as those of attracting private sector involvement required special attention. It was noted that while the contribution of the agricultural sector to the national GDP was well above 50%, the actual investments into this sector was about 2.4%. Some participants argued that the agricultural sector was unfairly mistreated. However, participants were reminded that investments in Agriculture should not only be approached from the actual investment that goes on land, but an assessment of other resources that are also directed in the rural sector in the form of health facilities, water supplies, education and rural transport. It was felt that these must be included in modelling agrarian investments.
Section Three

FUTURE FLOW OF ACTIVITIES & CLOSING OF THE MEETING
Future Flow of Activities

The TAPANET was tasked to meet with AGRES (Agricultural Economic Society of Tanzania) to deliberate on the logistics of an annual conference. TAPANET was also asked to arrange a workshop for the capacity building program.

Closing of The Meeting

The meeting was closed by the Honourable Prof. Simon Mbilinyi (Member of the Parliament for Peramiho constituent) on behalf of the Regional Commissioner for Morogoro Region.
Section Four

ANNEX
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