



National Workshop on Enabling Farmers, Pastoralists and Fishers to Access Regional Markets

National Policy Positions of the Tanzania National Committee for Family Farmers (TANCOFF)

Dodoma, 29 July 2025

Occasion: National Workshop for the Inauguration of the National Action Plan (NAP) of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF 2019–2028)

We, family farmers of Tanzania, organized under the Tanzania National Committee for Family Farmers (TANCOFF), with SHIWAKUTA serving as Secretariat, and in collaboration with MVIWAARUSHA, met in Dodoma on 29 July 2025 during the National Workshop convened to inaugurate Tanzania's National Action Plan (NAP) for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF 2019–2028).

Guided by our lived experiences as farmers, pastoralists, and fishers; informed by evidence from grassroots practice and research; and driven by our shared commitment to sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems, we hereby present the following national policy positions and calls to action.

1. Family Farming as the Foundation of Tanzania's Food System

We affirm that family farming constitutes the backbone of Tanzania's food security, rural livelihoods, employment, and national development. Family farmers play a central role in food production, natural resource stewardship, and local economic development.

We call upon the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to formally recognize family farming as a foundational pillar within national agricultural, food system, rural development, and climate strategies. This recognition should be reflected in policy frameworks, planning instruments, and public investment priorities at national and sub-national levels.

2. Institutionalization and Financing of the UNDF National Action Plan

We commit to actively supporting the implementation of Tanzania's National Action Plan (NAP) for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028). We call on the Government, development partners, and United Nations agencies to ensure the full institutionalization of the NAP, supported by adequate, predictable, and sustained public financing.



We further call for alignment of the NAP with national development frameworks, including the forthcoming Vision 2050, sectoral strategies, and decentralization processes, to ensure coherence, accountability, and long-term impact.

3. Inclusive and coordinated governance for family farming

We recognize the importance of coordinated and inclusive governance arrangements for advancing family farming. We position TANCOFF as a national multi-stakeholder coordination platform that brings together family farmers, civil society, government institutions, research bodies, and development partners.

We call for strengthened inter-ministerial collaboration and structured engagement mechanisms that place family farmers and their representative organizations at the center of policy dialogue, planning, implementation, and monitoring processes related to agriculture, markets, climate, and rural development.

4. Recognition and empowerment of farmer-led organizations

We commit to strengthening democratic, inclusive, and accountable farmer-led organizations as vehicles for collective action, representation, and service delivery. Strong farmer organizations are essential for improving market access, policy influence, and resilience at local and national levels.

We call upon public institutions to formally recognize and engage farmer-led organizations as legitimate and strategic partners in policy formulation, programme design, implementation, and oversight, ensuring that grassroots voices meaningfully shape decisions that affect rural livelihoods.

5. Gender equality and youth leadership in family farming

We reaffirm our commitment to gender equality and youth inclusion as core principles of family farming systems. Women and young people are central actors in food production, processing, marketing, and innovation, yet continue to face structural barriers to resources, decision-making, and opportunities.

We call on relevant authorities to adopt and adequately finance targeted policies and programmes that promote women's leadership, secure equitable access to land, finance, markets, and services, and make family farming a dignified, viable, and attractive livelihood option for young people.

6. Agroecology as a pathway to resilient and sustainable food systems

We affirm agroecology as a strategic pathway for building resilient, climate-adaptive, and locally rooted family farming systems. Agroecological practices enhance biodiversity, soil health, food sovereignty, and resilience to climate shocks while reducing dependence on external inputs.



We call upon the Government to mainstream agroecology within agricultural extension services, research agendas, education systems, market development initiatives, and climate adaptation strategies, while protecting indigenous knowledge systems and farmer-managed biodiversity.

7. Fair, inclusive, and territorial markets for family farmers

We call for the development of fair, inclusive, and territorially grounded markets that respond to the realities of family farmers, pastoralists, and fishers. This includes improved market infrastructure, reduced structural and regulatory barriers, and coherent trade and food safety policies.

We further call for supportive domestic and regional trade frameworks that enhance family farmers' incomes, protect small-scale producers, and facilitate equitable participation in territorial and cross-border markets, including within the East African Community.

Conclusion

These policy positions reflect the collective voice and priorities of family farmers in Tanzania. We call upon the Government, Parliament, development partners, and regional institutions to engage with TANCOFF and its members in translating these commitments into concrete policy actions, investments, and accountability mechanisms that enable family farmers, pastoralists, and fishers to thrive and to contribute fully to sustainable national and regional food systems.