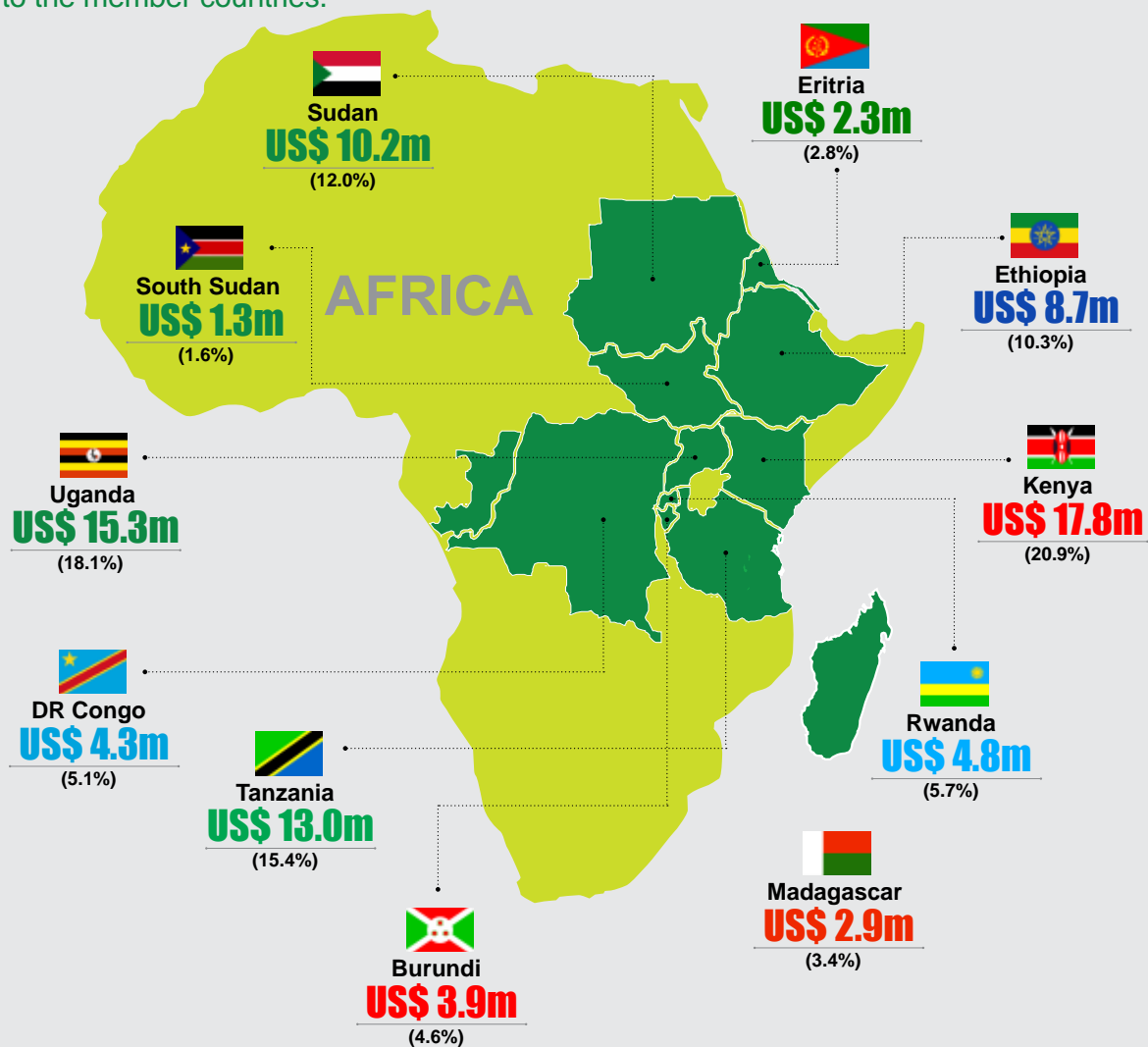


Contribution to Member Countries & RECs

Since inception in 1994, ASARECA has worked with National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of its twelve member countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Between 1994 and 2018, ASARECA mobilized **US\$ 131 million** to implement Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives in the countries. In addition, ASARECA coordinated the EAAPP programme in five member countries. Below are snapshots of ASARECA contribution to the member countries.



ASARECA work with the RECs (COMESA & EAC)

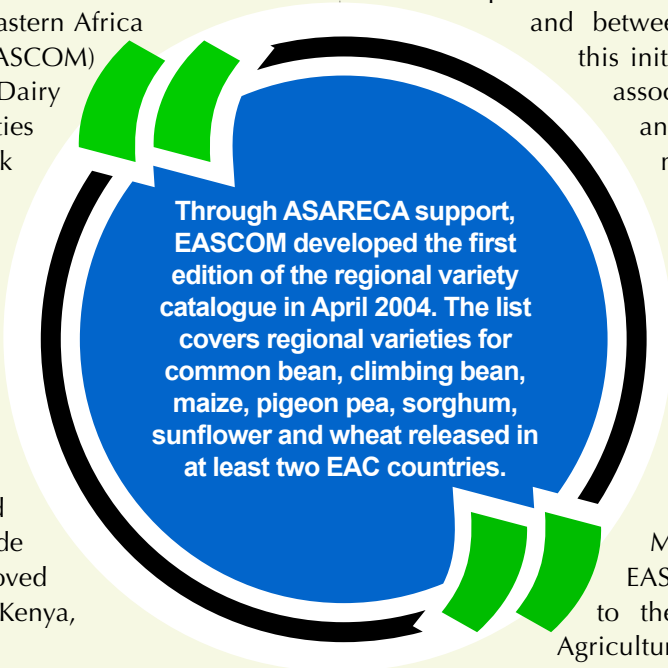
ASARECA's relationship with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) dates back to 1999 when ASARECA started joint initiatives with the RECs to rationalize and harmonize policies, laws, regulations and procedures for key agricultural sectors mainly in COMESA and the EAC. Initiatives on seed policy started in 1999; engagements on dairy policy and biosafety work was initiated in 2004; while work on commodity standards started in 2006 and continued through to 2013. Some of the key flagship projects are highlighted below:

Rationalization and Harmonization of Policies, Laws, Regulations and Procedures for Key Agricultural Sectors in ECA Project

Under the policy Rationalization and Harmonization initiative, ASARECA established several platforms including the Eastern Africa Seed Committee (EASCOM) and the Eastern Africa Dairy Regulatory Authorities Council (EADRAC) to work with the East African Community to rationalize and harmonize policies, laws and regulations in the dairy, seed and root crops sectors in the Eastern and Central Africa region (ECA). By 2002, the technical agreement spearheaded by EASCOM on seed trade policy had been approved at EAC level between Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Other ASARECA member countries later acceded to the agreement in principle. The agreement specified policy reforms, which included changes in law, procedures or institutions in the areas of variety

evaluation and release, plant variety protection, phytosanitary measures, export and import procedures and documentation, and seed certification. The agreement has informed revision of national seed laws and regulation in the region, which has improved the flow of seed to farmers within and between countries. As part of this initiative, national seed trade associations were established and/or strengthened as a mechanism for enhancing the role of private seed companies in shaping seed policy and trade.



Through ASARECA support, EASCOM developed the first edition of the regional variety catalogue in April 2004. The list covers regional varieties for common bean, climbing bean, maize, pigeon pea, sorghum, sunflower and wheat released in at least two EAC countries.

COMESA Seed Trade Harmonization Regulations

Milestones achieved under EASCOM were presented to the COMESA Ministers of Agriculture in Victoria Mahe, Seychelles in 2009. The meeting resolved that "COMESA member countries commit to harmonise seed policy within two years". As a result, COMESA formed the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) in 2009

to lead the process of enacting a harmonised seed policy regulation for COMESA.

ASARECA provided technical backstopping in development of analytical papers on the position of its member countries to the stakeholder consultative processes. The regulation, which takes into cognizance the provisions of the ASARECA seed policy agreement, was approved in September 2013 during the Joint Meeting of the COMESA Ministers of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment.

Regional Variety Catalogue

Through ASARECA support, EASCOM developed the first edition of the regional variety catalogue in April 2004. The list covers regional varieties for common bean, climbing bean, maize, pigeon pea, sorghum, sunflower and wheat released in at least two EAC countries. Since 2004, EAC and other ASARECA member countries have updated their national variety lists, providing the rationale for updating the current regional variety list. The updated regional variety list with approved varieties for commercial production and trade in more than one EASCOM country covers Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The list also provides sources and suitable agro-ecological zones.

As a result of this effort, several varieties have been released in additional ECA countries following only one season testing. The harmonisation agreement on seed provides for a shortened release and registration period for foreign varieties onto national catalogues. Uganda evoked this provision in 2008 to release two hybrid maize varieties (Yara 41 and Yara 42) from Kenya onto the Uganda market after only one season of tests. On 29th March 2012, Kenya released 3 potato varieties (Asante, Sherekea, Tigoni) from Tanzania and the Victoria variety from Uganda. The varieties are now under commercial production, signifying improved farmer access to high yielding varieties and heightened space for trade in the region.

Regional Seed Potato Standards

ASARECA partnered with the bureaux of standards in EAC partner states to initiate the process of mainstreaming the regionally approved seed standards into the EAC with the development of the East African standards for cassava, seed potato, potato and related products. As a result, 23 rationalized and harmonized standards for cassava, potato and sweet potato were approved by the EAC in 2010, hence opening up space for structured trade and industrialization of the commodities.

In 2013, ASARECA embarked on a follow on project to facilitate awareness of and implementation of the EAC standards and to enhance regulatory capacities for monitoring compliance to standards among value chain actors in the region. This pilot phase focused on implementation of 13 of the 23 standards. Three sentinel sites were chosen in each country (Tanzania and Uganda for cassava; Kenya and Rwanda for potato) and five “value chain champions” selected per site. The standards were re-written as training manuals and have formed the basis for training of the value chain champions in standards implementation. These are expected to act as the springboard for a critical mass of value chain actors who are not only aware but also have the requisite skills for standards implementation.

Roadmap for Dairy Policy Harmonisation Finalised for Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

As part of the Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (EAAPP), ASARECA undertook analysis to identify key policy reforms needed to enhance performance and improve productivity in the sector. A technical agreement on options for dairy policy reform was generated in five key areas including animal feeds and forages; animal registration and breed performance evaluation; delivery of Artificial Insemination services; procedures for movement of heifers and germplasm; standards for and; regulations for inspection of dairy premises; and standards for dairy processing.



Draft policies in response to the agreement were developed including: the Kenya animal breeding policy; Kenya animal breeding rules, Tanzania Regulations for compounded animal feeds and forages and over 35 dairy standards were formulated and approved in Ethiopia.

The Regional Approach to Biotechnology and Biosafety in Eastern and Southern Africa (RABESA)

Cognizant of the lack of biosafety capacity in COMESA member countries, the porosity of trade borders and the lack of a unified position among

member countries on how to treat GMOs in relation to trade, transit and commercial planting, COMESA commissioned ASARECA to undertake analysis to inform policy action. The analysis focused on the: opportunities and challenges related to biotechnology and biosafety; the likely impacts of GMO crops on farm incomes in the COMESA region; the potential commercial export risks associated with planting GMO crops in the COMESA region; the impact of restrictive GMO policies on access to emergency food aid in the COMESA region.

The evidence led into the development of the COMESA Biosafety policy on commercial planting of GMOs, trade in GM products and access to emergency food

aid with GM content, which was approved in the 5th Joint COMESA Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, 16-20 September 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Besides the policy, ASARECA also developed a Communication Strategy to create awareness about the COMESA biosafety harmonization agenda; a biosafety capacity building roadmap to support countries establish and implement functional biosafety systems.

Facilitating Generation and Adoption of Appropriate Policy Options for a Regional Response to the Food Crisis

The 2007 food crisis awakened the need to periodically monitor food price movement across markets within the region to promote trade between surplus and deficit areas. In 2008 ASARECA in collaboration with the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (ReSAKSS) and the Alliance of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CG Alliance) produced a report on the regional food price crisis.

Evidence from the report for the Head of States urged the need to embrace regional trade, provide safety nets for the most food insecure and vulnerable, and foster agricultural supply response. This was inline within the Common Framework for East African Food Security Strategy, which was ratified by the member states leading to a project in 2010 to develop a framework for forecasting future price changes in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Impact of Non-Tariff Barriers on Cross-Border Trade in Eastern Africa

On March 2, 2004, the member states of the East African Community signed a protocol for the establishment of the East African Community Customs Union and committed to eliminate non-tariff barriers (NTBs). In 2005, a study by the East

African Business Council on trade impediments in the region ranked NTBs in decreasing levels of severity as: (i) administration of duties/taxes, (ii) corruption, (iii) customs administration, (iv) transiting checks, (v) police checks, (vi) immigration procedures, and (vii) licensing procedures. While the EABC study was very useful in highlighting these trade impediments in the EAC, the quantitative effects of the NTBs on regional trade were largely unknown.

ASARECA in collaboration with ReSAKSS, undertook research to quantify the effects of the NTBs on regional trade for two key tradable commodities in the region: maize and beef. This work helped inform the reduction in the number of road blocks in Kenya and the strengthening of the EAC NTB monitoring mechanism.

Dairy Policy Harmonisation

Aware that informal milk trade accounts for over 85% of total milk trade in the region and contributes significantly to employment and livelihoods, ASARECA supported the development of training manuals to enhance the quality of milk traded informally. Over 100 business development service providers in Arusha and Mwanza were trained to assist the Tanzania Dairy Board to train and certify informal milk traders.

Besides, ASARECA established the East Africa Dairy Regulatory Authorities Council (EADRAC) in 2004 to provide a platform for leaders of dairy regulatory authorities to share lessons on ways to rationalize and harmonize policies and standards in the region. As part of these efforts, the Kenya dairy policy, which recognizes the role of the informal dairy sector, and supports its integration into the formal value chain, was approved by the cabinet. Rwanda became an active participant in the Eastern Africa Dairy Regulatory Council (EADRAC) and a private sector led platform for dairy industry policy regulation was established.