



## Activity brief (December 2014)

### Capacity Building Support to the East African Community (EAC) in the Implementation of the EAC

#### Food Security Action Plan

1 February 2013 – 31 October 2014



**Background:** East African countries are frequently affected by food shortages and drought, but the region as a whole has the potential to produce enough food for regional consumption and even a surplus for export.

Individual countries cannot achieve this goal on their own. It will require policies that free up the movement of food commodities within the region and help to address agricultural issues that cross national boundaries – pests and diseases and coordinated management of transboundary water resources, just to name a few. Such issues fall under the remit of Africa's regional economic communities, such as the East African Community (EAC).

In collaboration with key stakeholders from EAC partner states, food security experts developed the EAC Food Security Action Plan 2011-2015 ('the Action Plan'). The 9<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State adopted the Action Plan in Dar es Salaam on 19 April 2011.

**Objective:** The activity's purpose was to enhance the capacity of the EAC Secretariat's Department of Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development to deliver on its mandate to implement the Action Plan.

**Activity description:** The activity supported the EAC Secretariat to deliver on its mandate with regard to the agriculture and food security sector, and provided efficient and effective resources to progress EAC priorities. AAPF adviser Bernard (Ben) Shija began working with the Secretariat in February 2013 to help develop a 'roadmap' for the implementation of the Action Plan; support the Secretariat to coordinate donors around the priorities of the Plan; and facilitate links with relevant Australian institutions and expertise.

Ben is a Tanzanian national and an alumnus of the Australian Government's Australia Awards scholarships program. He undertook a Master of Rural Systems management at the University of Queensland from January 2007 to July 2008.

**Sector:** Agriculture and food security

**Outcomes:** Outcomes of AAPF support to the EAC included:

- the improved ability of the EAC Secretariat to deliver on the Action Plan priorities; and
- enhanced sustainable agricultural development in the EAC region.

The AAPF support to the EAC assisted with the development of the Food Security Action Plan for the region, with particular emphasis on using Australian expertise in livestock identification schemes (especially the Australian National Livestock Identification System) and pastoral livestock production systems.

The activity contributed towards boosting economic activity, promoting more stable markets for staple foods and increasing incomes for smallholder farm families. It also underscored Australia's commitment to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, an African-led initiative.

The activity contributed to the AAPF's development objective by responding to a key strategic priority of a regional approach to food security in East Africa. It contributed to the AAPF's relationship objective by promoting relationship building – between the EAC Secretariat and the Australian Government, and at a technical level among relevant stakeholders.

The activity also contributed to the AAPF's partnership objective by establishing long-term relationships between the EAC and Australian institutions that provided technical and mentoring support during the activity.

<b>Date approved:</b>	29/05/2012
<b>Implementation partner:</b>	East African Community
<b>Total cost:</b>	AUD 475 240