



Vi Agroforestry

Irene Baliraine photo: Joy Kivata



TANZANIA NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY POLICY A PRIORITY

There is need of a clear enabling policy environment for adopting and upscaling of agroforestry in Tanzania. Tanzania policies on agriculture, forestry, water and land do not address agroforestry fully. Poverty, climate change impacts, land degradation and food insecurity are endemic challenges existing even with these policies being implemented. Most farmers grow annual crops such as maize beans, rice and cotton under monocropping lacking stable markets (Mbwambo et al., 2013). Human and livestock population is on the rise and resources would continue being under pressure. Several policy-related constraints to agroforestry adoption exist. Examples include insecure land and tree tenure rights, inadequate planting materials, limited training and extension on agroforestry, promotion of monocropping or inorganic fertilizers, failure to recognize and invest in agroforestry. The rationale of developing enabling environment for adoption, investing and scaling up agroforestry include elimination of policy, legal and institutional constraints. The agroforestry policy will create more benefits such as water, biodiversity and carbon stocks as public goods and new markets. These benefits can only be maximized through proper development and coordination of policy, legal and institutional framework. Putting in place an enabling policy environment for agroforestry in Tanzania, will go a long way in promoting its adoption and maximising its benefits – economic, environmental, social.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY BRIEF

The general objective of this document is to instill the need, identify the potentials and facilitate development of the national agroforestry policy in Tanzania. This analysis therefore aims to encourage the government of Tanzania to create a policy in order to manage, guide and control agroforestry development and create a conducive constructive interaction among partners and policy makers on this fast growing sub-sector.

NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY RELATED POLICIES

Tanzania is commended for integrating environmental and natural resources conservation into its national strategy for growth and poverty reduction (2006 -2010). The national strategy for growth and poverty reduction aims at achieving Tanzania's vision 2030. The current national strategy for growth and poverty reduction (2016 – 2020) focuses on environment, natural resources management and climate change aspects which are integrated in relevant sections of the plans related to themes like energy, agriculture, extractives etc. In all the strategies environmental and climate aspects are unevenly integrated in various parts of the documents. In all the documents agroforestry is not mentioned despite its contribution towards environmental conservation natural resources management and sustainable agricultural productivity.

Tanzania is also party to relevant multilateral international agreements and has developed national legislation to promote sustainable use of the country's resources and to protect citizen's health. The ratified multilateral international agreements include the Convention on Climate change, Comprehensive Agreement on Agriculture Development Protocol, and the Convention on Biodiversity. The Environmental Management Act from 2004 sets up the Institutional Framework for environmental management in the country. A new environmental policy was enacted in 2016. Other policies in place include National Agriculture Policy, the National Livestock Policy, the National Forestry Policy and the National Land Policy; all of which deal with various aspects of agroforestry including livestock, land, agriculture and crop production and management of land and the environment. The different

Ministries dealing with the different aspects of agroforestry are however, not in harmony and there is no clear plan or strategy of ensuring that agroforestry shall be practiced.

The Ministry of Environment, which is under the Vice President's Office has the overall coordination role and policy articulation while the National Environment Management Council, NEMC has the responsibility of enforcement. Regional and Local Government Authorities (LGA) oversees village governments that manage village lands. The LGAs also oversee implementation of Environment policy and instruments at local levels. There are regulations for Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism manages the forestry policy and its instruments; it also supervises use and management of forestry resources including trees on farms. In addition, there are sector related legislations that also relate to agriculture, livestock, environment and natural resources management include Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries, Livestock, Water, Energy, Petroleum, Extractives, Land and local government policies. All of these have failed even the basic need to guide farmers and stakeholders on agroforestry practices and to define the terms and provide guiding principles to its growth, governance and development.



POLICY GAPS AND REDRESS

- The current farming and production system in Tanzania is faced with an ever increasing use of chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals that are highly prioritized;
- Inadequate coordination and involvement of various ministries/departments and agencies responsible for water, environment, livestock, land, crops, and seeds
- There is more market affiliated productivity and profit maximization at the cost of the environment, biodiversity and soil sustainability;
- Weak linkages between research and extension; missing voice on responsive investment in agriculture that takes care environmental conservation and;
- Inadequate synergies and coherence in the numerous existing strategies and policies
- Insufficient resource allocation for the implementation of such strategies and policies is also a challenge.



Jane Nekesa Photo by Joy Kivata



At the moment, the ministries are drafting policies and laws to guide investment and actors in their operations in the agricultural sector with little consultation from the stakeholders, Vi Agroforestry Tanzania notwithstanding.

In terms of the environmental policy, the lack of unanimously agreed document/s that coordinates, guide and facilitate interventions in agriculture especially in agroforestry and climate smart agriculture is of great concern. Uncoordinated interventions have contributed to environment problems such as fast-declining biodiversity, soil erosion, productivity loss, and increased demand and overreliance on agrochemicals which are on the increase. There is also lack of coherence among existing policy statements leading to confusion, which is counter-productive in promoting productivity, soil conservation, biodiversity, etc.

Lack of an agroforestry policy has enhanced ineffective and inefficient adoption of agroforestry systems within the agricultural landscapes. The government has numerous sector policies in development, land, water, forestry and agriculture where agroforestry has been embedded, but with quite a few efforts the adoption of agroforestry has not been fully realized. Agroforestry lacks a frame-

work and an enabling environment to provide capacity, resources and governance for adoption. With the population growth, increased demand of resources, fragmentation and land tenure insecurity, food insecurity, energy, water crisis and climate change the livelihoods of communities might be threatened.

The adoption of the national agroforestry policy would create an enabling environment and framework to adopt and implement agroforestry system and practices in the agricultural landscapes. In addition the social, economic and environmental sustainability in the agricultural sector will be enhanced. This will form a platform for the government to create sector policies in the realization of development strategies. Agroforestry policy development will contribute to economic growth, food security, rural employment opportunities, restoration of degraded soils and increased adaptation to climate change. The government is able to institutionalize, allocate and utilize agroforestry resources effectively and efficiently with the adoption of the agroforestry policy. Uncoordinated policy interventions fuel poverty, especially among smallholder farmers, causing overreliance on agrochemicals and resulting to the declining environmental sustainability.



POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF AGROFORESTRY

1. **Agroforestry as a land use system can contribute to achieving at least nine out of the 17 sustainable development goals (SDG):**



2. **Agroforestry is a key tool for both climate mitigation and adaptation**, as trees help store large amounts of carbon and agroforestry practices are a way for farming women and men to increase their resilience to climate-related shocks and erratic weather.
3. **Agroforestry fights poverty and hunger**, as the approach can contribute to higher yields and a more diverse livelihood, which means a multitude of ways to make ends meet for smallholder farmers living in poverty. Agroforestry, if done right, can lead to less reliance on one crop while improving soil fertility, which are important aspects for increasing food security.
4. **Agroforestry can increase biodiversity**, as trees in agroforestry systems provide a habitat for multiple species, provide a "buffer zone" against deforestation and can act as a "green corridor", allowing species to migrate across landscapes which is important for their survival.
5. **Agroforestry can strengthen women control over resources and free up women's time**. An example is that implementing agroforestry means you can spend less time walking long distances looking for firewood in the forests. As this traditionally is looked upon as a woman's job, accessing firewood at the doorstep can increase women's (and men's) personal safety, and provide more time for income-generating activities.
6. **If done right, more women and men can benefit from agroforestry practices**, for instance by contributing to exchange of knowledge about which trees to plant and managing trade-offs such as which density of trees is the optimum for a fully beneficial system.
7. **For agroforestry to reach its full potential, barriers need to be addressed at all levels**. Policy and decision-makers can contribute by making visible and promoting agroforestry projects and policies, for instance by 1) finding ways to adequately identify, classify and report on agroforestry projects, 2) by increasing finance to agroforestry projects and 3) by increasing knowledge and cooperation among key stakeholders, including supporting more demand-driven, participatory research and knowledge exchange.

POLICY EXPECTATIONS

The policy guidelines are expected to successfully overcome institutional hurdles and eventually lead to the wider adoption of agroforestry within Tanzania and East Africa Community. Institutional hurdles perpetuate a string of complexity, interconnected issues not only in the policy sphere but also on the ground. Institutions, Ministries, Departments and Authorities are all designed with a purpose, and as such they have "walls and borders" within which they operate, in reference to issues that their establishment guidelines aimed to address. For instance, no specific institution is legally mandated to be a national, local level or even an implementation level authority for agroforestry research and practice; for the most part, agroforestry is taken to be a component of programs and projects of the governments' agricultural and or forestry departments. As a result, extension workers, trainers and advocates lack capacity in agroforestry development, which further retards growth. Compounding this, is the fact that, the language of agroforestry is not common among either agriculturists or foresters. Agroforestry is often understood simply as just planting trees on agricultural land, as opposed to the context-specific, 'multi-purpose' trees — those that yield multiple products leading to diversified incomes — in integrated farming systems with crops and/or livestock and fisheries, such that farmers achieve optimal benefit and environmental services are maintained. This alone necessitates the need for clear policy guideline.

CONCLUSION

Tanzania's environment and climate related challenges impacts the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups in both rural and urban settings in terms of a) access to water, land and other services from nature for livelihoods and b) impacts on health (air and water pollution). Many ecosystems are being degraded and their resilience is uncertain where critical levels might be approaching for instance in Lake Victoria and its shores. Climate change adds onto existing stresses.

In order to solve current environmental related problems, it requires concerted efforts and action across sectors including modern energy, promotion of alternative livelihoods, education, gender equality, tenure issues, and good governance which cannot be confined to the environmental sphere only. In order to address the challenges, a number of reforms such as institutional, resource use, marketing and administrative reforms need be initiated to complement the speedy implementation of the agriculture policy and its associated Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP). It is therefore strongly recommended that an adoption of a specific national agroforestry policy for Tanzania is of paramount importance. If the agroforestry policy is, to be developed, it would create an enabling environment by enhancing household food security, improving agricultural and forestry productivity, maximizing land profitability, diversify farm incomes and alleviating rural poverty.



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