
January, Friday 5th, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

REF: RESTORATION OF DEGRADED LAND AND PEACE BUILDING DIALOGUE

Land security is an issue of human security. Today, 33% of land is moderately to highly degraded due to the erosion, salinization, compaction, acidification and chemical pollution. Most people are much less aware of it than of other critical crises e.g. the climate crisis, natural disasters; floods, drought etc. Each year, large agriculture land is lost, exacerbating existing situations in climate change, water management, availability of food, and ultimately human security. Land degradation is a risk to the future of the food, fibre, forestry, and bioenergy industries. When these industries are threatened and harvest yields on agricultural lands are reduced through land degradation, people are forced to move to find work and food sources. When there is weak governance and socio-economic inequalities, conflict often naturally sets in.

Land restoration, peace building/trust building and proper land 'governance can increase food, income and conserve environment. In order to achieve this in communities the following seven action points are proposed;

- Need for Systems change in many aspects
- Focus on local communities and at Landscape level in order to manage synergies
- Need to move from capacity building to capacity development for people to understand what they are doing
- Need to Involve women and youths in sustainable development as agents of change
- Need for preparedness to disaster management eg drought is predictable, early warning mechanisms/systems to be used
- Need to change the narrative from restoration to investment ie capture; social- economic benefits
- Need to develop value chain approach for proper utilization of resources and also enhance marketing and risks aversion.

Kenya Farmers Dialogue team has a pleasure to invite you to take part in this noble discussion as a speaker on one of the stipulated topics or a delegate. Sharing of your expertise and experience is welcomed. This is a dialogue for Countries representatives of FDI who participated in Land and Security Dialogue at Caux, Switzerland in July 2017 charged with responsibility to pursue the above listed resolutions in their countries and beyond. These are; Kenya, DR Congo, South Sudan and Somali. Uganda and Tanzania teams are involved as neighbours. FDI Coordination team, lofC Kenya and friends /partners from outside Africa are highly welcomed.

The dialogue is to be held at **APPROPRIATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (ARDAP) CENTRE** in Busia County Western Kenya which is along Bumala-Bungoma road, 8km from Bumala town
from 16th to 18th April, 2018.

The dialogue is organized in a way to cover; Land restoration, investment and peace building in order to: share best practices in landscape and ecosystem restoration, explore models and possibilities for investment that align with ecosystems and communities and finally pursue land governance and security for long-term restoration programmes

Each theme is to have sharing by individuals with plenary at the end of the session.

There will be a field visit to practicing sites to enhance participants understanding on the areas discussed.

DIALOGUE PURPOSE

Sustainable ecosystem restoration with local communities by promoting agro socio-economical profitable best practices for improved; soil fertility, food production income generation and ecosystem resilience.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Day 1: **Land restoration**; sharing of best practices in landscape and ecosystem restoration

Day 2: **Investment**; explore models and possibilities for investment that align with ecosystems and communities; **Peace building**; pursue land governance and security for long-term restoration Programmes

Day 3: **Field visit** on ecosystem restoration practices within our communities; **Way forward**

Your presence will be greatly appreciated. Please do confirm your attendance as a speaker or delegate to; Rosemary Namatsi; rosemarynamatsi@gmail.com or farmersdialoguekenya@yahoo.com for travel, programming and accommodation details.

Yours faithfully,



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