



**Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock and Fisheries**



European Union



THE FIRST NATIONAL CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

MAY 10TH - 11TH AT SAFARI PARK HOTEL

RESOLUTIONS

There are four (4) major resolutions that were reached after deliberations with all key stakeholders in attendance. They are highlighted below:

1. INSTITUTIONALIZING CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

a) Policy level/Upstream interventions

- Formation of a National Conservation Agriculture Secretariat with representation from all stakeholder institutions and organizations to spearhead the institutionalization of CA in Kenya.
- Reviewing national policies and laws with a view of identifying constraints, barriers and policy gaps.
- Identifying the conservation agriculture (CA) issues at national, county and grass roots and see how the policies and laws respond to the needs.
- Developing policy implementation guidelines

b) Programme-related interventions

- Establishing organizations/institutions within the identified value chains to foster CA adoption. For instance establishment of farmer cooperatives which provide farmers with the much needed credit facilities to enhance the adoption of CA.
- Capacity-building of the newly established and already existing institutions.
- Setting up resource centres and knowledge portals to enhance information and knowledge sharing among stakeholders. This would also address information asymmetries. Exchange

and mentorship programmes, trade fairs and regional conferences are equally important catalyzers.

2. IMPROVING COMEERCIALIZATION IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

a) Policy level/Upstream interventions

- Linking smallholder farmers to high value supply chains. This means supporting farmers to attain international trade certification.
- Ensuring that agricultural research is informed by the needs and preferences of end-users of the technologies/farmers.
- Coming up with policy incentives for farmers to enable them compete in international markets. For instance provision of farm subsidies and having fair tax systems that benefit smallholder farmers.
- Mainstreaming CA in county planning and budgeting processes

b) Programme-related interventions

- Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in CA programme design, development and implementation.
- Coming up with a coordination mechanism for all actors in the CA value chain
- Having functional feedback mechanisms between agricultural research, extension systems and farmers. This will also entails building the capacity of extension personnel on CA principles.
- Providing legal support to farmers during signing of contractual agreements with buyers of their farm produce to protect the farmers' interests.

3. INCREASING NUMBER OF YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE FOR EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND FOOD SECURITY

a) Policy level/Upstream interventions

- Making agriculture lucrative for the youth. This means debunking the myth that farming is for the poor. For instance coming up with youth agriculture conferences, programmes, and talk shows on “farming as a business” where successful young agricultural entrepreneurs can share their experiences.
- Ensuring that the interests of youths in agriculture are advanced during national and sub-national level deliberations. This means that the youth must be well represented in such forums.

- Setting up youth agricultural enterprise funds at county level to enable the youth engage in agribusiness.
- Building the capacity of youth engaging in agribusiness (entrepreneurship skills, agricultural technical skills, etc.)

b) Programme-related interventions

- Setting up and maintaining an up to date database of youth farmers at national and county level. This is useful for follow-up actions and support:
 - ✓ Modernizing CA extension services through training and exposure to modern practices.
 - ✓ Engaging the youth in the design of financial instruments aimed at supporting farmers

4. NEED TO INTEGRATE CROSS-CUTTING THEMES SUCH AS GENDER, YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN TO CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE POLICY DIALOGUES AND DELIBERATIONS.