



Awakening the Sleeping Giant: Making Grain Markets Work for Smallholder Farmers and Consumers in Eastern and Southern Africa

Sponsored by
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, CAADP Programme
Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa

10 May, 2010
Lusaka, Zambia

Topics:

- What will it take to feed the region's growing urban and rural populations?
- How can public and private investments be mobilized to achieve sustainable agricultural development?
- How can food supply and price instability be effectively managed?
- What are the main barriers to domestic and regional trade in the region?
- What are smallholder farmers saying about their access to markets?
- Who is going to finance the needed investments to promote productivity growth for smallholder farmers?

Participants: The COMESA/ACTESA-sponsored conference brings together the private sector, commercial banks, international and local analysts, development partners, and officials of national governments and regional economic consortia.

Objectives: This one-day event will provide perspectives and guidance on what is needed to achieve rapid progress in the development of food markets and trade in the region.

Outcomes: The policy and investment options around which general consensus emerge will be identified for inclusion in the frameworks of national CAADP Pillars II and III as well as regional policy hubs. Investment options will also be included in ACTESA programming, and policy recommendations will be presented to COMESA Ministers of Agriculture, and other relevant policy organs.

Financial support for this conference is provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Guiding Investments in Sustainable Markets in Africa program (GISAMA), jointly implemented by COMESA and Michigan State University.