

- Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) conducted authorised inspector training of 13 agriculture extension officers from the SAGCOT Corridor, to increase compliance and accessibility to agricultural extension services.
- SCL conducted a strategic learning journey to Ihemi cluster for Tanzanian Members of Parliament, in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture. This trip provided better understanding of the SAGCOT Initiative and the legislative needs of the agricultural value chains in the area.
- SCL participated in the Parliament Budgetary session to evaluate the submitted agriculture sector policy reforms proposals, through the Partnership Accountability Group (PAG). And as a result, the proposed reform from SCL partners on exemption of VAT on animal feeds inputs i.e. seed cake for livestock feed, has been granted and waiting Presidential assent to the finance bill.
- SCL partnered with the Partnership Accountability Group (PAG) and conducted a seminar, educating Tanzanian Members of Parliament on the SAGCOT Initiative, and its role in the implementation of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme 2 (ASDP II). ASDP II is a government plan to address critical challenges to the agriculture sector performance. And speed up agriculture contribution to the economy, and improve growth of smallholder incomes and ensure food security by 2025.

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CONTACT

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WHAT IS SAGCOT CENTRE LTD (SCL)?

The core role of the SCL is to facilitate partners to deliver an inclusive, sustainable and commercially viable agricultural value chain in the SAGCOT Corridor. This visibility of, and connection to, stakeholders in the ecosystem defines the Centre's role to:

- 1 inform private and public investment about partnership opportunities as well as priority policy reforms to achieve the SAGCOT objectives;
- 2 track progress of partnerships, through monitoring and evaluation of partner commitments and progress towards encourage and facilitate active participation of the private sector in promoting a cohesive partnership;
- 3 encourage and facilitate active participation of the private sector in promoting a cohesive partnership;
- 4 promote policy and regulatory reforms necessary to achieve SAGCOT objectives;
- 5 derive lessons, adopt approaches to cluster planning and partnership facilitation, and to communicate on behalf of the SAGCOT Partnership; and
- 6 promote the SAGCOT partnership, and its opportunities, to a broader audience regionally and with international partners.

HOW DOES SCL WORK?

Due to the size of the SAGCOT Corridor, SCL operations in the SAGCOT corridor are divided into geographical zones known as clusters. A cluster is a geographic concentration of interconnected companies, specialised suppliers, service providers and associated institutions. Each cluster is active in production, processing, marketing, the supply of inputs and services and further supports institutions; connecting investments to benefit smallholders, and medium to large-scale farmers. Due to economies of scale, farmers, agribusinesses and service providers work successfully through value chains and thematic strategic partnerships to unlock the potential of the region.

But in order for these clusters to work effectively, it is essential that a strong foundation is set through progressive legislation and policy. And a clear streamlining of government ministries and agencies to avoid duplication of roles; this is what the SCL Policy department does.

SCL POLICY DEPARTMENT

The SCL Policy department coordinates partners in the public sector and facilitates conversations amongst all government agencies, legislators and ministries to improve legislation, policies and infrastructure. This process provides a solid foundation on which the agricultural value chains can effectively build their operations. This further encourages government to streamline its services and develop clear and straightforward framework and legislations which supports a more robust and productive agricultural sector.

HOW THE SCL POLICY DEPARTMENT WORKS

In 2017, the SCL Policy department brokered the establishment of the SCL Policy Network made up of public and private partners, to collate and work towards resolving policy, regulatory and infrastructural concerns, that constrain the performance of farmers, businesses and investors in the agricultural value chain and agricultural thematic partnerships. SCL has successfully established strategic policy partnerships (SPPs) with 17 organizations and have 17 focal persons (FPs) appointed from each organization.

KEY POLICY ISSUES SCL POLICY NETWORK WILL TACKLE IN 2018

- I Increase public sector investment in agriculture: focus area - Road infrastructure
- II Improving regulators capacity to ensure alignment among themselves and improve quality of service: focus area - Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institutes (TOSCI), Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and Tanzania Foods and Drugs Authority (TFDA)
- III Improve accessibility of fertilizer for small holder farmers

HOW DID WE DEFINE THESE THREE POLICY AREAS?

In 2017, the SCL Policy department conducted 3 studies in the areas of agri-inputs, land and road infrastructure and local content. Information gathered in the three studies together with information gathered from the Partnership Accountability Committee (PAC) and Policy Analysis Group (PAG) members in 2018 helped the department establish a baseline of private sector policy concerns to be discussed and validated for prioritization in 2018. In February 2018, the Policy department convened its public and private sector partners who collectively prioritized these three policy issues to be addressed in 2018.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Roads in the Ihemi cluster, in Iringa and Njombe regions, were prioritized and scheduled for development by the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA). For the first time, there was government interagency cooperation which brought together a team of 20 experts spanning Government agencies from: President Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), Ministry of Finance and Planning (MOFP), Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication (MOWTC), Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) Regional Offices, Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) HQ and Regional Offices and Regional Secretariats of Iringa and Njombe
- Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) conducted specialised pesticides trainings and certification of 271 participants in Iringa and Mbeya. This will increase compliance to the laws on pesticides, and improve the quality and accessibility of pesticides services. The training was a result of the SAGCOT coordinated activity regarding misalignment among regulators conducted in March 2018.