

## **Prime Minister Majaliwa Champions Action-Oriented Agricultural Policy at the 10th AAPC**

On April 17, 2024, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa (MP), officially opened the 10th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC) in Dodoma, reaffirming the government's unwavering dedication to the progress of the agricultural sector.

**Advocating Tangible Actions in Policy Discourse:** The premier emphasized that while Tanzania has made significant strides with numerous reforms, it remains imperative to continue on this trajectory, particularly in areas such as agriculture financing and other necessary reforms. He underscored the importance of policy dialogue as a crucial tool for addressing these ongoing challenges and ensuring sustained progress.

Premier Majaliwa fervently advocated a paradigm shift towards tangible actions in policy discourse. He stressed the importance of policies that directly benefit Tanzanian farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers, emphasising collaboration as pivotal for unlocking Tanzania's agricultural potential and securing a brighter future for all.

**Government Initiatives and Commitment:** Highlighting plans for increased budgetary allocations, policy reforms, and initiatives like ASDP II, Majaliwa underscored the nationwide extension of Building Better Tomorrow (BBT), backed by President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango, and the entire government's dedication to agriculture, livestock and fisheries sector progress.

### **Ministerial Support and Infrastructure Development**

Minister of Agriculture Honorable Hussein Bashe reiterated the government's unwavering dedication to improving agricultural infrastructure, particularly in advancing irrigation systems. Encouraging the active involvement of the private sector in boosting production, he emphasised the importance of leveraging the government's support. Minister Bashe also voiced the government's eagerness for heightened direct assistance from development partners to enhance irrigation infrastructure.

### **Commitment to Enhance Agricultural Productivity:**

The minister said Tanzania has its borders open for exporting agricultural produce. The move aims to bolster investment in efficiency measures to increase production and offset production costs by adding value to crops and emphasising the government's dedication to improving the agricultural sector. He stated, "The Tanzanian government will not close its borders to export produce. We will continue to invest in efficiency to increase production and offset production costs by adding value to crops and conducting trade, so our farmers can benefit from their hard work and labour." The declaration underscores the government's commitment to supporting farmers and promoting agricultural growth in the country. It reflects a strategy to stimulate economic development through enhanced agricultural productivity and trade.

Ms. Elizabeth Missokia, Executive Director of the Agricultural Transformation Office (ATO), provided a concise overview of the upcoming Agriculture Transformation Masterplan. In her presentation, she outlined the key objectives, emphasizing its focus on enhancing productivity, promoting sustainability, and fostering inclusivity within Tanzania's agricultural landscape.

### **SAGCOT's Vision for Agricultural Development**

Tulalumba Mloge, Principal Executive Assistant to the SAGCOT CEO, passionately addressed the meeting, highlighting SAGCOT's eagerness for the upcoming AGCOT rollout and its unwavering dedication to leveraging the corridor approach to propel Tanzania's agricultural sector to new heights. This approach, rooted in collaboration and strategic planning, promises to unlock immense potential within Tanzania'.

**AGCOT and Transformative Change:** Mloge underscored the importance of the corridor approach in driving holistic growth across Tanzania's agricultural value chain. SAGCOT believes AGCOT will catalyse transformative change by optimising resources and fostering stakeholder collaboration. Through shared vision and collective action, SAGCOT is committed to ensuring that Tanzania is well-equipped to seize opportunities and overcome challenges in the agricultural sector.

**AAPC as a Premier Platform for Policy Discourse:** AAPC is a premier platform for high-level policy discussions orchestrated by Tanzania's Policy Analysis Group (PAG). The

three-day conference, taking place at the Mabeyo Hall in Dodoma, brings together various stakeholders in agriculture from both domestic and international arenas. It aims to serve as a forum for deliberation within the sector, reflecting on the past decade of policy reforms in the country. Participants will discuss frameworks and challenges and propose areas for strengthening sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems and policies.

**Theme: A Decade of Impactful Policy Reforms:** The Conference (April 17 to 19th, 2024) theme is "A Decade of Impactful Policy Reforms: Driving Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Food Systems." This influential gathering is hosting experts, policymakers, and stakeholders across the agricultural sector to review a decade of reforms and carve a path for future policies that ensure the sustainability and resilience of food systems in Tanzania and beyond.