



Policybrief

JULY 2022

EAC FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The East African Community (EAC) adopted the EAC Fruits and Vegetables (F&V) Value Chain Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2031 that aims at providing a regional roadmap to steer the development of the fruits and vegetables sub-sector. The sector plays a significant role in the economic development of EAC Partner States: variably contributing over 20% of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP), supporting employment, providing diversified nutrition and food security and providing opportunities for agro-processing. The exports from the sector grew significantly between 2002 and 2018 with trade volumes increasing by a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12%.

This policy brief highlights **key recommendations** for further support to the sector, which were derived from National Coordination Committee meetings in all EAC Partner States as well as the Regional Steering Committee Meeting with all National Focal Persons, which were all held in June/July 2022:

- ▶ Develop further policies to promote crops with high nutritional value.
- ▶ Further organized markets to be established within the region.
- ▶ Develop more programmes to increase youth employment in the Fruits and Vegetables sector.
- ▶ Create awareness campaigns on diet diversification and the nutritional value of indigenous species including those with medicinal values.
- ▶ Develop actions that support climate smart agriculture and especially look into irrigation and rain-water storage.
- ▶ Invest in bio-production methods that do not affect the safety and quality of products.
- ▶ Strengthen national data management systems as basis for the regional integrated Fruits & Vegetables Market Information System (incl. databases of farmers).
- ▶ Utilize existing R&D organizations like the World Vegetable Centre to support seed development and assist farmer cooperatives in seed production.
- ▶ Create incentives for the local production of F&V packaging material according to international standards.
- ▶ Establish cooling centres for aggregation of products.
- ▶ Support bulking of products for bigger markets.
- ▶ Provide capacity development to farmers and extension agents on international standards and market requirements (mentorship programs).
- ▶ Strengthen F&V capacity building in basic education and vocational training.
- ▶ Establish national platforms and associations, where they don't exist.



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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



East African Community
Fruits and Vegetables Value Chain Strategy
and Action Plan 2021-2031



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October 2022

Illustration and layout: Semeyian Nassei

Supported by GIZ/EAC through GFA Consulting Group GmbH;
GIZ Programme 'Support to the East African Community Integration Process',
EAC Headquarters, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania
(www.giz.de; www.eacgermany.org),

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

