

Profile of Farmer organizations

*Summary of strengths,
weaknesses, opportunities and
threats*

<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership driven FOs in terms of leadership and funding • Committed leadership • Having written constitutions to guide operations • Enabling policy environment • Available support (technical and financial) from government and donors • Functional secretariats with capable management and technical staff • Extensive networking and linkages among farmer organizations • Dealing with key crops and products – thereby having opportunity to influence policy/operating environment and increase incomes of members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited financial resources and funding base/sources • Donor dependence • Poor and limited communication systems • Some of the organizations do not have offices • Inadequate human capacity at leadership and secretariat levels • Lack of skills on leadership, advocacy and lobbying • Lack of own assets • Low investment levels for the members of the farmer organization • Dependent on domestic market • Lack of adequate accounting systems
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with key crops and products in the economy • Trade liberalization leading to existence of domestic, regional and international markets • Tremendous untapped membership • Increasing Donor support to social economic development • Availability of support structures such as government research stations, extension and training institutions • Favorable policy environment supporting farmer organizations • conducive operating environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor and unstable macroeconomic climate • Trade liberalization • Changes in the government policy • Poor infrastructure (roads, hospitals, electricity and schools) • HIV/AIDS • Non payment of registration and annual subscription • Lack of adequate support from donors and government • High levels of insecurity • Poor research and extension services • Proliferation of competition among FO

recommendations

- a) Identification of key FOs in each country**
- b) Conducting specific needs assessments on the identified FOs**
- c) Facilitate harmonization of roles and responsibilities of FOs**
- d) Facilitate formation of lead or apex FO**
- e) Support capacity building in policy awareness and analysis (national and regional policies), advocacy and lobbying skills and leadership**

recommendations

- f) Facilitate enhanced networking and linkages among FOs in the region**
- g) Support improvement of communication between FOs and members and among FOs**
- h) Assist in raising funds to support operations of lead FOs**