

CONCEPT NOTE

Agri-food Systems Transformation Multi-stakeholder Workshop in Tanzania

12 - 13 February 2024 || Venue TBC

Introduction

Transformation towards sustainable, resilient, equitable, and inclusive agri-food systems in Africa is one of the most important challenges of our times. It contributes to reducing poverty and unemployment, and achieving food and nutrition security in rural, peri-urban, and urban communities. Therefore, research focusing on the transformation of food systems in South Africa and other countries in the region, including Tanzania and Zambia, is an important part of the HSRC's research agenda. The HSRC's Africa Institute of South Africa has embarked on a study focusing on food systems transformation through leveraging digital and climate-smart agriculture technologies. Researchers have started data collection in Zambia, and will also visit Tanzania and South Africa this year. To prepare for fieldwork in Tanzania, a multi-stakeholder consultative workshop will be held ahead of the field data collection process. Such a workshop will allow the team to understand the perspectives, needs, and concerns of various stakeholders involved in the agri-food system. This can help shape the research objectives and methodology to ensure they are relevant and beneficial to those directly affected by the food system. The workshop will provide an opportunity to build relationships and trust with stakeholders, facilitating better cooperation and participation during the fieldwork. More importantly, this consultative workshop will help identify potential challenges or barriers that might arise during the research project and allow for proactive planning to address these issues.

Goal:

- Undertake high-level multi-stakeholder engagement dialogues with diplomats, local and national government officials, the private sector, the research community, and civil society groups regarding food systems transformation in Tanzania to enhance policy advocacy and institutional visibility.

Objectives of the workshop

- To map and establish collaborative networks with stakeholders such as the Mzumbe University, the government, the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), and others for research purposes.
- To prepare for study site selection and finalising data collection instruments for the implementation of the agri-food systems transformation study in Tanzania
- To strengthen engagement for the development of an MOU/MOA with partners such as the Sokoine University of Agriculture and the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)
- To enhance HSRC/AISA visibility and footprint in research and development in Tanzania for continued sustainable research collaboration beyond the current study.
- To build awareness and community trust with key stakeholders involved in agriculture, food security issues, and local governance to facilitate easy community entry during the implementation of the study.
- To develop networks and contacts with key informants such as policymakers, food safety experts, market regulators, and other key stakeholders in the food supply chain for possible interviews.