

Key note address at the SWITCH Africa Green Regional Sector Meeting on Sustainable Agriculture Nairobi, Kenya 27-28 November 2019 By Dr. Andrew Tuimur Chief Administrative Secretary Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries

Introduction

The agriculture sector is one of the key sectors identified to contribute to the projected annual national economic growth envisioned in the "The Kenya Vision 2030". The sector is expected to ensure food and nutrition security, provide raw materials for agro-industries, create employment opportunities and generate incomes and foreign exchange earnings for the country. Great progress has been made in the sector but a lot still remains to be done for the country to reach full potential.

Climate change impacts resulting to reduced productivity, reduced suitability of agro based enterprises and rising production costs are some of the key hindrances to achieving the sector goals. Inefficiencies production systems and input and resource use resulting to high levels of Greenhouse Gases Emissions (GHGs) also contributing to the climate change problem also need to be addressed.

Policy guidance

The government has developed several policies towards making agriculture more, productive, profitable and resilient to impacts of Climate change in as low carbon pathway as possible.

The **Kenya Constitution 2010** provides for the right to a clean and healthy environment for every Kenyan, which includes the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2011 provides guidance towards achieving good nutrition for optimum health of all Kenyans, increasing food availability, access and affordability;



and using innovative and cost-effective safety nets to protect vulnerable populations.

The Agriculture Sector Transformation and growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029 provides for strengthening of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) across agricultural value chains to increase agricultural output, value addition, incomes and household food resilience for small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks .

The National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP 2018-2022) provides guidance on mechanisms and measures on how to achieve low carbon climate resilient development in the country under the changing climate by targeting key areas too reduce Green House Gases (GHG) emissions and moving towards a resource efficient economy.

Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (GESIP) 2016-2030 underpins Kenya's commitment to undertake a transition to a green economy and resilience building efforts for ensuring less vulnerability of the economy and livelihoods to the risks and challenges of climate change.

The Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy (2017-2026) and the **Climate Smart Implementation Framework (2018-2027)** provide guidance towards reorienting investments, productivity and incomes activities for attainment of food and nutrition security, to focus on building resilience as well as reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the agricultural systems,

Towards achieving the goals of these and other policy frameworks, the Government calls upon all stakeholders to play their respective roles in ensuring successful implementation.

SWITCH Africa Green Sector initiative

The SWITCH Africa Green Programme supporting Kenya and other African countries to achieve sustainable development through sustainable waste management (IWM), tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing are very much in line with the government's food



and nutrition security, environment and general development goals.

In supporting Medium and Small-Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) jobs creation, increased productivity and incomes and the local industry leather SWITCH Africa Green supports the aspirations of two of the **"big four agenda"** the **food and nutrition security** and the **manufacturing**.

Promotion of agricultural practices like organic farming, composting, mulching, permaculture, rangeland management, health certification and standards are some of the climate Smart practices that ensure reduced negative climate and environmental impacts and sustainable agriculture sector in addition to increased agricultural productivity.

Support to green business ventures through energy and water efficiency, not only enhances sustainable trade and businesses but ensures conservation of environment, increased resource efficiency and decreased pollution resulting in cost savings, job creation, improved time efficiency, increased productivity and increased incomes.

In conclusion

I wish to comment the European Union and the UNEP for coming up with the SWITCH Africa Green Programme to support governments and the private sector in African countries to transition to sustainable development based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, while generating growth, creating decent jobs and reducing poverty.

I also recognize and contribution of the partners who have been playing a major role in supporting the program towards achieving



these goals; the **COMESA, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)**, the **Kenya agri-business Alliance (KAAA)**, the **International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)** and the **Leather Development Council** among others.

I trust that Kisumu, Nakuru and Nairobi, Kakamega and other counties in which the program is implemented in Kenya have given the required support its endeavor to ensure that the communities achieve maximum benefits from the program.

I wish to thank organizers for choosing Kenya to be the venue for the **Sustainable Agriculture workshop** this year, which provides a platform for discussing scaling up and replicating successful interventions and advancing enabling environment in the agriculture sector in the region. It is important that the workshop will formulate recommendations to strengthen regional and national mechanisms for uptake of Sustainable Consumption and Production practices in agriculture sector and facilitate promotion of green businesses in Africa.

I urge the participants to take advantage of this opportunity to learn the Sustainable Consumption and Production practices, appropriate and applicable to their circumstances and conditions for implementation. On its part the Ministry of Agriculture, livestock and Fisheries will continue supporting efforts by Switch Africa Green and other stakeholders in advancing green business development in the country.

THANK YOU

