



EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE ON THE OCCASION OF EUROPE DAY 2018

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"Gender and Agriculture"

On 9 May, the Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU) to the United Republic of Tanzania and the East African Community, H.E. Ambassador Roeland van de Geer, together with the Heads of Mission of the Member States of the European Union in Dar es Salaam, hosted the Europe Day reception at the Tanzania National Museum and House of Culture.

On 9 May, the European Union celebrates Europe Day; the day in 1950 on which the Schuman Declaration was issued. This Declaration contained Robert Schuman's proposals for a united Europe, intended to bring lasting peace and prosperity to the continent. This year, the Delegation in Tanzania together with the Member States of the European Union celebrated Europe Day in Dar es Salaam with a reception and an exhibition with the theme "*Gender and Agriculture*".

In his welcoming remarks EU Ambassador Roeland van de Geer said:

"Women have a fundamental role to play in the agriculture sector in Tanzania. However, women face persistent challenges, such as unequal access to capital, labour, knowledge and business networks. These challenges should be met by raising awareness and addressing the gender imbalance in the agriculture sector and in society at large."

The event provided an overview of support by the European Union to the agriculture sector in Tanzania, with displays by implementing partners, including the World Food programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), VSO Tanzania, HELVETAS Swiss and the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA).

Agriculture is one of the European Union's key sectors of support in Tanzania with 140 million Euro, (386.5 billion Tanzanian Shillings) allocated between 2014 and 2020. In Tanzania, the majority of the rural population is employed in the agriculture sector, with many self-employed on their own farms and with women smallholder farmers making up 65% of the total labour force in agriculture. Men tend to have access to more opportunities than women, including to paid employment outside the farm, while most women work as unpaid family workers without an extra income. Through its past and current support to the agriculture sector, the European Union has contributed to gender inequalities being identified and addressed, to ensure that women are able to contribute to the development of the sector while addressing the wellbeing of themselves and their families. The European Union will continue to support women, given their role as key social and economic drivers in the agriculture sector. Specifically, programmes will assist women as key value chain actors and as entrepreneurs.

Tanzania has made significant progress on gender issues in the agriculture sector. Major national agriculture development initiatives such as Kilimo Kwanza (Agriculture First), the Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS), the Agricultural Sector Development Program (CAADP) and the Southern Agricultural Corridor of Tanzania (SAGGOT) promote specific gender equity indicators. Tanzania has adopted a Women and Gender Development Policy (2000) and a Strategy for Gender Development (2005).

Gender equality is promoted in all sector policies and programmes and Tanzania has also introduced a mechanism for enhancing gender mainstreaming in the national planning and budgeting process.

Gender is a key cross cutting priority both for the European Union and Tanzania and the event in Dar es Salaam on 9 May showed the European Union's support to gender equality and for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agenda forms the basis for the EU's development cooperation which has one goal (SDG 5) specifically dedicated to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

The European Union will also commemorate Europe Day with events in Tanzania's capital Dodoma on 17 May and in Arusha, with the East African Community, on 23 May.

More information:

- Please find attached programme for more information on the EU Month of May events
- Programme of the European Scholarship Fair 2018

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