



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Policy Forum has decided to dedicate this month's debate to the issue of Agriculture Budgeting in Tanzania. The debate is titled "**Agriculture Budgeting in Tanzania: Does it work for the small holder?**"

The Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) in Tanzania is a Sector Programme largely implemented at the district level through the District Agricultural Development Plans (DADPs) as an integral part of the District Development Plan (DDP). The government through the Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs) initiated implementation of ASDP through basket funding (BF) since 2006/2007.

Despite the basket funding mechanism, agricultural sector is publicly funded through General Budget Support (GBS) and project-wise. But this rises some concerns as why the government prefers the GBS and BF funding approach as opposed to project funding approach?.

Through ASDP, the government commits to spend 75% of the basket funds by supporting local initiatives – which means only 25% of sector budget through ASDP could be spent at national level. Imperatively, agricultural sector funds are mainly spent at district level (community) where agriculture activities take place, whereas the national level engage in issues such as fertilizer subsidies and large irrigation schemes, regulation and coordination as well as quality assurance. Thus, the district Councils are responsible for the preparation and implementation of DADPs while the ASLMs are charged with the responsibility to ensure the quality of DADPs design and implementation.

DADP grants are meant to support participatory and community project/interventions focusing on agriculture. Projects funded by DADP funds can be either community and or groups owned. These projects are supposed to be informed by obstacle and Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (O&OD exercise that is consultative and assumed to involve wide stakeholders (institutional and gender representation). The types of interventions funded are expected to contribute to addressing food insecurity, increase in production and productivity thereby reducing hunger and poverty.

Agriculture contributes 24.7% of GDP but receives around 7% of national budget compared to European Union (EU) which spends 50% of the budget despite contributing 1.7% of GDP. In the most recent years, the contribution of agriculture to GDP is declining while the sector growth is stagnant. With these, will the government achieve its goal of "good life to everybody" without resolving constraints facing the sector that employs the majority of people – agriculture?

These issues, together with developing formal policies on agriculture sector will feature as part of the discussion during the Breakfast Debate on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Invited participants at the meeting include representatives of Government, private sector, civil society, donors, the media and concerned citizens. The discussions are held over light breakfast and enable participants to reflect and debate the issues.

The 7:30 People and Policy Debates are held on the last Friday of every month and the venue will be the BRITISH COUNCIL along **Ohio Street**, from 0730 to 0930. Their main purpose is to examine and debate the extent to which policies serve ordinary people, and identify imaginative questions and solutions.

The main presentations will be made by Dr Damian Gabagambi, the lecturer of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), and Audax Rukonge , Executive Secretary of ANSAF and also Policy forum Board chairperson .

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Signed for Policy Forum