Lake Victoria and associated river basins (e.g., the Nile basin); (3) Interaction between agriculture and productive and catchment forests (forest conservation and land-use interactions); (4) Agroforestry and natural resource management in ASAL (Arid and Semi Arid Lands) through tree domestication and improved land management; and (5) Agroforestry technologies and innovations for urban and peri-urban agricultural and landscape management systems.

The six research themes and projects of the Network are:

- Enterprise development and marketing of tree products for income generation;
- Domestication of agroforestry species and production of high-value trees and non-wood products;
- Promotion and dissemination of demand-driven agroforestry technologies and innovations for increased impact on livelihoods and the environment;
- Regional coordination and networking, policy and institutions;
- Regional capacity building for agroforestry; and
- Participatory sustainable forest & tree resources management

### *Governance*

The highest policy-making organ of TOFNET is the Committee of Directors of ASARECA. TOFNET's day-to-day operations are guided in terms of policy and technical direction by the Regional Steering Committee, which comprises of representatives from key stakeholder institutions. The Regional Coordination Unit, headed by the Regional Coordinator, executes TOFNET's programmatic activities.

## Capacity-building

TOFNET seeks to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to conduct research and development in agroforestry, and ultimately to be able to develop agroforestry interventions, innovations and practices for improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability of agricultural systems and environment in the region. TOFNET intends to support and promote links for sustainable networking mechanism among scientists and institutions within and outside the region to enhance capacity.

## Expected outputs

- Demand driven agroforestry technologies / innovations utilized in the region;
- Enabling regional policy environment for agroforestry as relates to agricultural transformation in ECA region facilitated;
- Performance-driven institutional arrangements for agroforestry promoted; and
- Enhanced utilisation of information for regional agroforestry research for development realised.

## Funding

The initial funding support for TOFNET has been provided by the European Union as the main donor. Complementary support is also availed by the national programmes of the member countries.

## Member countries

The ASARECA member countries constitute Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Eritrea,

***For more information about TOFNET, please contact***

The Regional Coordinator,
Trees on Farm Network (TOFNET) of ASARECA,
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF),
P O Box 30677 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 - 20 - 524215
Email: d.nyamai@cgiar.org

Trees on Farm Network (TOFNET) of ASARECA

***"Mitigating poverty, land and environmental degradation through Agroforestry for sustainable development"***

Association for Strenthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa

World Agroforestry Centre
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES

## Backgound

Problems in the eastern and central Africa region include abject poverty. In Kenya, for instance, not less than 56% of its people are living below the poverty line set by the Kenyan government. Reports are also indicating that poverty in the region (in line with the general trend in Africa) is increasing. 60% of Ethiopians are living below the poverty line set by the United Nations Development Programme.

Another problem is chronic food insecurity, a situation that is underscored by the current state of food insecurity and famine in Kenya.

Degradation of the land and the environment and the attendant loss of biodiversity are other problems that the countries share in general. These problems become more poignant when one considers that an explosive mix of burgeoning populations and reducing land regenerative abilities has resulted in greater vulnerability of the region's peoples to the vagaries of climate change.

These problems are worsened by the absence of coherent policies that can result in the region's governments mobilizing their resources, both jointly and individually, in combating the problems.

## About TOFNET

The Trees on Farm Network (TOFNET) is one of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa's (ASARECA) natural resource management (NRM) thematic networks designed to promote and support agroforestry and tree crops research and development within the ASARECA region. TOFNET is developed as a transformation of the previous Agroforestry Research Network for Africa (AFRENA) programme for eastern and central Africa (ECA) but is structured on the framework of ASARECA networks with expanded technical mandate to promote agroforestry for products and services with emphasis on tree crops targeting economic trees.

TOFNET aims at supporting the cultivation of trees and tree crops on farms.

## Core problem

The core problem that TOFNET is addressing arises from an appreciation of the relationship between low, declining land productivity and poverty. This was identified through various stakeholders' consultative forums. The problem is recognized by all the member countries and institutions as being top priority, as it threatens food and wood security, human welfare and environmental sustainability.

## Vision

TOFNET's vision is to promote agroforestry technologies and innovations as vehicle and catalyst for improved land management and rural development, thereby contributing towards poverty alleviation, social equity and enhancement of the environmental quality in the Eastern and Central Africa region.

## Mission statement

The mission of TOFNET is to contribute to the productivity, profitability and sustainability of agricultural systems and conservation of natural resources in eastern and central Africa, through dissemination of demand-driven agroforestry practices in farming and related land-use systems in the region.

## Goal

To transform our mission statement into practical goals, TOFNET envisions its goal as enhanced farm productivity, value added and competitiveness of the agroforestry systems in the eastern and central Africa sub-region.

## Purpose

The purpose of TOFNET is to generate and promote the utilization of demand driven agroforestry technologies and innovations in the ECA region.

## Objectives

The network's purpose will be achieved through the fulfillment of its primary objectives as follows:

- Develop and disseminating productive and environment-friendly agroforestry interventions for the ECA region;
- Contribute to the development of an enabling regional policy environment for agroforestry
- Promote and support information exchange capacity for regional agroforestry research for development
- Support and strengthening national and regional capacity for agroforestry research by fostering networking and partnerships among stakeholders
- Promote processing and marketing of agroforestry products to increase income and livelihood opportunities
- Support capacity building and institutional strengthening for agroforestry research for development

## Modus operandi and structure

### *Problem domains and research themes*

TOFNET's agenda is carried out against the backdrop of identified problem domains (PDs). The five PDs are: (1) Productivity and sustainability of smallholder agriculture in high potential highlands, humid and sub-humid lowlands; (2) Relationship of land use systems and environmental problems of