

# **African Civil Society demand for inclusion of food sovereignty and rights to food in the Germany G7 Presidency agenda**

Abdallah Ramadhani  
Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity  
On behalf of AFSA

# Introduction

- The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) is a Pan African platform representing small holder farmers, pastoralists, hunter/gatherers, indigenous peoples, citizens and environmentalists from Africa who possess a strong voice that shapes policy on the continent in the area of community rights, family farming, promotion of traditional knowledge and knowledge systems, the environment and natural resource management.

# Implication of G8/7

## **1) Implications of the G8 New Alliance on Food Sovereignty**

- The G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition was launched in 2012 by the eight most industrialised countries to mobilize private capital for investment in African agriculture.
- almost US\$8 billion has been committed

# Implication of G8/7

- To be accepted into the programme, African governments are required to make important changes to their land tenure and seed laws in order to protect the investors.
- **1.1) The G8 Privatising Seed in Africa**
- The changes to seed policy being promoted by the G8 New Alliance refer to neither farmer-based seed systems nor farmers' rights

# Implication of G8/7

- Africa is awash with PVP legal frameworks (UPOV compliant at the national and regional levels).
- **1.2 Privatising Land in Africa**
- The G8 New Alliance for Food Security framework is pushing countries through bilateral trade agreements to change or adopt national land laws to suit private sector investments.

# Key demands

- **Key Demands to the Germany G7 Agenda**
  - **G7 should support meaningful agrarian reforms in Africa to safeguard Community Land Rights.**
  - **The G7 should identify with and echo the European Parliament joint motion for a resolution on Tanzania,** notably the issue of land grabbing - 2015/2604 (RSP)
  - **G7 should provide policy support for farmer-managed seed and knowledge systems,**

- **G7 should exert its influence in redirecting resources** that have been committed from the EU, DfID, SIDA, USAID and others for the harmonisation of seed trade regulations as advanced by COMESA/ACTESA towards a policy and action plan supportive of public sector Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB)

- **G7 should exert its influence in redirecting resources** committed from UPOV Secretariat, the US patent and trademark Office (USPTO), the EU the WIPO, GNIS for the development of centralized PVP laws meant for REC in Africa towards making information available to African governments on alternative *Sui generis* PVP systems



- **G7 should condemn COMESA Biotechnology and Biosafety policy** in its totality and exert its influence for stringent and robust biosafety regulations for Africa based on the precautionary principle.