



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO AT WORK IN UGANDA

Fostering sustainable development and livelihoods through food, nutrition and income security

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Uganda have enjoyed a long history of cooperation, starting in 1959 with technical assistance in aquaculture development and livestock disease control. In 1979, the Government of Uganda and FAO reached an agreement to formally establish FAO in country, and FAO subsequently launched interventions in national climate change adaptation and resilience among small holder farmers, job creation through commercial forestry, youth empowerment in agriculture and value addition among rural producers.



Matching FAO's expertise to Uganda's development priorities

FAO's work is guided by the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2015-2019, developed jointly with the Government of Uganda and other partners. The CPF is endorsed by the Ministries of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and Water and Environment (MWE). It is fully aligned with national, regional and continental development priorities, including the National Development (NDP) II and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

CPF PRIORITY AREAS:

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Production and productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries commodities

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Increasing access to agricultural knowledge and information

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Resilience to livelihood threats, with an emphasis on climate change.

Priority area 1: Production and productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries commodities

Uganda has the potential to produce enough food to meet the country's consumption needs and export any surplus. FAO partners with key ministries, institutions, research organizations, the private sector and academic institutions to address production constraints, including low production levels characterized by low acreages and yields, limited access to improved inputs and technologies and poor harvests.

Enhancing agriculture production and productivity

Since 2011, FAO has been working with the Government of Uganda through MAAIF, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and other partners to develop and strengthen value chains for the priority commodities of dairy, rice, potatoes and fruits such as mangoes and pineapples. Working to address all nodes of these value chains, FAO has used the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Farm Business School approaches to train more than 4 500 farmers in best practices in value chains and technical skills with other trainings covering Training of Trainers (ToT) on potato crisps production, modern beehive management, integrated pest management (IPM) and digital tools to improve cooperative management. Furthermore, FAO is working to ensure that farmers are organized into cooperatives to enhance their negotiating capacity with buyers as well as

facilitate knowledge exchange, supporting the creation and registration of 28 new cooperatives and two district-level small, medium enterprise (SME) associations.

Seeking to bridge the gap between farmers and the market, FAO has facilitated the establishment of a National Potato Stakeholders' Platform for networking as well as the marketing of potatoes and potato products; linked farmers with buyers and buyers associations, generating 15 Memorandums of Understanding; provided enhanced access to market and weather information through subscriptions to InfoTrade Uganda; supported the formation of business-oriented farmers associations and Village Savings Loan Associations (VSLAs) and linked farmers cooperatives to financial institutions like FINCA Uganda and the Microfinance Support Centre.



FAO has also facilitated South-South Cooperation between China and Uganda. With a focus on capacity building for national planners, researchers, agricultural extension officers and farmers, a team of 47 Chinese agricultural experts and technicians have sought to increase agricultural production and food security through improvements in specific farm-level activities and value chains. As a result, FAO helped establish 20 demonstration farms in the four regional hubs of Central, Western, Eastern and Northern Uganda. The project team also successfully transferred 25 new technologies and introduced 17 new crop varieties and four types of medium-sized agricultural equipment.

Sustainable development and improved livelihoods through commercial forestry and aquaculture

Forestry

FAO is helping increase the incomes of rural populations through commercial tree planting by small, medium and large-scale businesses and local communities. Through conditional and retrospective financial grants to the private sector, FAO is helping incentivize the commercial forestry sector to establish a target of 23 000 hectares of forest plantations. FAO is also distributing tree seedlings (targeting 7 million by 2020) to communities and institutions, such as schools, to establish fuel wood plantations of 4 000 hectares and 2 500 hectares, respectively. Beneficiaries also receive comprehensive training in various aspects of forest establishment and management as well as on-site technical advice.

Recognizing the decline in natural forest cover in Uganda due to heavy reliance on fuel wood, FAO supported the establishment of 87 hectares of bio-energy plantations to serve as demonstration woodlots. These have allowed community tree growers to improve their own standards and inspired many communities to plant their own trees, resulting in the establishment of an additional 600 hectares of commercial fuel wood plantations.

FAO is supporting Uganda to increase its responsiveness to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) by providing technical support towards the construction of Uganda's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for REDD+ and a National Forestry Monitoring System (NFMS). The NFMS enables monitoring, measuring and reporting of emissions, mitigation actions, adaptation actions and other benefits that are associated with implementing REDD+ in a transparent and verifiable manner.



Aquaculture

FAO has provided consistent technical and financial support to the Directorate of Fisheries Resources (DiFR) within MAAIF and the private sector in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, supporting improvements in fingerling quality and quantity for aquaculture farmers by establishing seven modern hatcheries as well as in formulated fish feeds and fish post-harvest handling and market linkages. This support was complemented by capacity building for technical workers in the aquaculture sub-sector and the provision of field tools and equipment to extension and hatchery staff as well as assistance with the formulation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2018.

Continuing to build on these achievements, FAO will work with MAAIF to diversify the livelihoods of fishing communities around Lake Victoria, particularly for youth and women and to enhance the capacity of extension services to reduce the risk of emerging Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) by strengthening aquaculture biosecurity governance, knowledge and capacities as well as facilitating knowledge exchange and networking in support of aquaculture biosecurity and Aquatic Animal Health (AAH) management among tilapia producing countries.

Animal health and pest management



Animal health

Livestock disease management is of paramount importance in Uganda, especially in the “Cattle Corridor”, which stretches from the south of the country to Karamoja in the northeast, where livestock are the major source of livelihood. FAO’s interventions, carried out in partnership with MAAIF and partners like the Karamoja Livestock Development Forum, primarily focus on technical and logistical support. In 2014 and 2015, when Uganda experienced outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), which spread across 33 districts, FAO responded through its Crisis Management Centre, applying a ‘smart vaccination’ strategy to inoculate 280 000 heads of cattle against FMD.

FAO also supports the Government to monitor, respond to and prevent high impact infectious and zoonotic diseases (transmissible from animals to humans) with specific emphasis on Anthrax, Brucellosis,

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF), Trypanosomiasis, Plague and Rabies. In 2018, FAO launched the Surveillance Evaluation Tool (SET) – a standardized evaluation tool for animal health surveillance capacity and performance – in Uganda. The SET will allow for a comprehensive baseline evaluation of national animal health surveillance

FOCUS AREA: ANIMAL HEALTH IN KARAMOJA

In Karamoja, FAO works to strengthen the adaptive capacity of agro-pastoral communities and the local government to reduce the impact of climate risk on livelihoods. As part of FAO’s resilience strategy, over two million livestock were vaccinated against common transboundary diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), African Swine Fever (ASF), East Coast Fever (ECF), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in Karamoja. Additionally, more than 70 community animal health workers were trained and equipped with skills on sample collection, storage, submission and laboratory diagnostics.

FOCUS AREA: ENHANCING EXTENSION THROUGH THE FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS (FFS) APPROACH

FAO uses Farmer Field Schools (FFS) as an extension approach to deliver its programmes to farmers at community level. FFS is an innovative, participatory and interactive learning methodology that emphasizes problem solving and discovery-based learning. Organized into small groups of approximately 30 farmers, FFS participants work together to identify and solve problems, analyze their own production systems and learn about and adopt the improved agricultural production techniques most relevant to their own farming systems.

This approach has also been adapted to various beneficiary situations including emergency and rehabilitation contexts, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, resettled communities in Northern Uganda and children orphaned by war and/or affected by HIV/AIDS. Currently, over 5 000 FFS have been established in Uganda, benefiting about 170 000 households across multiple sectors. Additionally, this methodology was formally adopted as a tool to operationalize the National Agriculture Extension Policy.

systems and the provision of capacity building support more tailored to the needs of the National Veterinary Services. Additionally, FAO is supporting an on-going campaign in Karamoja to control and prevent contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), contagious caprine pleura-pneumonia (CCPP) and Peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

In collaboration with the Zoonotic Disease Control Office (ZDCO) and MAAIF, FAO-ECTAD has supported the development of national surveillance and control strategies for brucellosis, anthrax, HPAI and rabies as well as the One Health Training Manual. This manual supports coordinated response to outbreaks of zoonotic diseases in Uganda and is complemented by the One Health Information Exchange Protocol to facilitate quick reporting and information flow for rapid, multi-sector control of priority zoonotic diseases.

These mechanisms and FAO's support were an essential part of the Government's efficient response to outbreaks of HPAI in January 2017.



Pest Management – Fall Armyworm

Uganda is affected by the Fall Armyworm (FAW), *Spodoptera frugiperda*, an insect pest native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas. The pest was first reported in June 2016 in Kayunga, Kasese and Bukedea districts and by the end of 2017, it had spread nationwide. Considering the importance of maize crop production to household food and nutrition security and income, FAW is a major concern. In Uganda, maize is the third most important food crop in terms of production, with 4 million metric tonnes produced by about 3.6 million farmers.

FAO is supporting the Government of Uganda to establish an integrated surveillance and monitoring early warning system – including the launch of a phone application to support community-based monitoring – and improve public awareness of FAW as well as strengthen the institutional coordination framework and the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for FAW control.

Priority Area 2: Increasing access to agricultural knowledge and information

During its current Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2015-2019, FAO, working through its Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment project, supported the formulation of the National Agricultural Extension Policy, guiding the design of the youth engagement strategy and ensuring the inclusion of youth as implementers of the policy. In addition, FAO's FFS approach was adopted as a tool to operationalize the policy. Working with MAAIF, the ICA team also supported the development of the National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture (NSYEA), which aims to guide youth engagement and facilitate the creation of decent and gainful employment in the agriculture sector.





Through its flagship policy project “Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST),” FAO is providing technical and financial support to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, which includes reviewing and updating policy implementation tools such as the Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, Regulations and SOPs. This will contribute significantly to improving a fragmented and uncoordinated policy and regulatory environment as well as specifically address challenges of the fisheries and aquaculture sector like overfishing, poor safety and quality of fish products and depletion of fisheries resources. FIRST is also supporting the revision of the Veterinary Drug Policy as well as the integration of its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Malabo Declaration commitments into the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) and the National Agriculture and Investment Plan (NAIP).

FOCUS AREA: SUPPORT TO REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Uganda hosts about 1.4 million refugees from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and South Sudan, among others.

Since 2015, FAO has supported the stabilization of agricultural livelihoods to promote self-reliance and food and nutrition security among more than 223 000 refugee and 78 000 host community households. FAO has supported increases in agriculture production and productivity through the provision of fast maturing vegetable, grain and legume seeds distributed to refugee and host community households; the distribution of Kuroiler chicks to support increased consumption of animal-based protein and income opportunities for persons with specific needs (PSN) households; and trained beneficiary households on good agriculture practices for crop production, post-harvest handling, vegetable production, household nutrition and poultry production and management. Guided by its Refugee and Host Community Response Roadmap (Roadmap), FAO works across the humanitarian-development nexus, including with DLGs to integrate refugees within district-level development plans.

For more information, please refer to the FAO Refugee and host community response roadmap.



Priority Area 3: Resilience to livelihood threats, with an emphasis on climate change

Climate Change has been recognized as a major threat to agriculture and food security. Rising temperatures, pest and disease incidents, water shortages, extreme weather events and loss of biodiversity all directly impact agriculture through reduced crop productivity, threatening food and income security and increasing the vulnerability of communities.

FAO's response is multi-dimensional, including adaptation-focused interventions that are complemented by mitigation activities and policy-making support. These include:

- Promotion of drought tolerant crops
- Small and large scale investments in water supply (ranging from household to community level)
- Pasture conservation
- Dry season feeding of livestock
- A special regional focus on Karamoja

In terms of mitigation, FAO is also supporting the establishment of woodlots to reduce the risk of deforestation and promote sustainable forestry as well as distributing energy efficient cook stoves and promoting

the use of bio gas. Livelihood diversification also plays an important role in FAO's field work, with a focus on introducing cultivation methods and crops that are more optimally suited to local conditions. This has included support for mushroom production, piggery, cattle production and vegetable production.

In support of policy capacity building, FAO assisted the Government of Uganda to mainstream climate change into its National Development Plan II (2015/16–2019/20), as well as with the development and validation of its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), which was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015.

Building on this sectoral support, FAO established and equipped the first ever National Climate Change Resource Centre – a one-stop resource for data and information on climate change in Uganda housed in the Climate Change Department of MWE. Through MAAIF, FAO also equipped four National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) regional research stations to enhance their capacity to address climate-change-related challenges.



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FOCUS AREA: ACCESS TO WATER

Recognizing the importance of reliable water sources for optimizing agricultural production as well as the resilience of agro-pastoral livelihoods, FAO has worked with MWE to support the construction and/or rehabilitation of 77 water infrastructure sites, including 41 valley tanks; three solar-powered, multipurpose water facilities (water for irrigation, livestock and domestic use); 14 subsurface dams and one rock catchment in the districts of Nakaseke, Luwero, Mubende, Kiboga, Nakasongola and Sembabule as well as throughout the region of Karamoja. In addition, FAO supported three small scale irrigation networks in Luwero, Nakasekke and Nakasongola districts making over 220 000 cubic metres of water available to pastoralists, benefiting over 40 000 heads of cattle during critical dry months.

FAO's CPF 2015-2019 is implemented in partnership with the Government of Uganda, European Union, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), People's Republic of China, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, World Bank, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNREDD, UNHCR and World Food Programme as well as the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the Kingdom of Norway.

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