



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY & FISHERIES QUATERLY E-BULLETIN:

"yes we CAN"!

MAAIF HOST H. E. THE PRESIDENT OF UGANDA TWICE IN A WEEK



It was the Agriculture Week! Twice in a week the Hon Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries, Mr. Ssempijja Vincent Bamulangaki had the full attention of H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni when he was hosted to the Agricultural Events marking the 10th Anniversary of the South to South Cooperation Program on the theme: *"Inspiration, Inclusion and Innovation"* and Triangular Cooperation of Africa-China poverty Reduction & development conference on the theme: *"Partnership for transformation in Africa"* where over 200 delegates from over 40 countries participated. Twenty ministers of Agriculture attended. While addressing the conference at Speke Resort Munyonyo, the President highlighted the major sectors of the economy that will address the problem of poverty as commercial agriculture, Industries, services and Information Communication Technologies (ICTs).

"When I think about poverty eradication the one sector I think about is agriculture," President Museveni noted

LAUNCHING MAAIF DATA CENTER AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

In embracing innovative approaches to move to the Knowledge driven agricultural revolution, MAAIF launched the state-of-the-Art data centre in Entebbe. The Center generates high quality



statistical data on agriculture to support and drive

evidence based policy and investment analysis, planning and decision

making for the sustainable development of the Agricultural sector in Uganda. H. E. the American Ambassador to Uganda, Deborah R. Malac and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries, represented by the Minister of State for Animal Industry, Joy Kabatsi launched the data Centre that was donated by American Government through USAID-Feed-the-future.

Also launched on the same day was the Climate change strategy which was developed with support from Feed-the-future—USAID. The strategy which is a response to Government commitments to realise a climate –resilient and low-carbon development path for sustainable development in Uganda, is in line with the Uganda National Climate Change policy and its corresponding implementation strategy 2015. This strategy intends to galvanise efforts to empower stakeholders to take measures towards the reduction of the negative impact of climate change and variability on agriculture.

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY



Pius Wakabi Kasajja
PERMANENT SECRETARY

I am happy that the communication team is bringing out a Ministry e-Bulletin. This bulletin will definitely help to showcase the activities that are happening in the ministry and help in building up teamwork among staff. You will agree with me that we are in a digital, technological competitive age that I see this bulletin

will provide a platform for exposing the merits and achievements made. As a ministry we, also need to improve on our reading and documentation culture and this would definitely create an impact in the minds of readers, by way of providing larger visibility and dimension to the ministry.

Most of the positions of the communication structure has now been filled and I want to encourage the team to continue with this new found culture of releasing MAAIF e-bulletin forever and maybe in future it should be produced monthly.

In the past few days there have been some changes in our political leadership as you may all be aware, I therefore would like to appreciate very much the support and guidance we received from our out-going Ministers – Hon. Christopher Kibanza, the State Minister for Agriculture and Hon. Joy Kabatsi the State Minister for Animal Industry. In the same vein, I also wish to welcome the incoming ministers – Hon. Aggre Bagire, State minister for Agriculture; Hon. Bright Rwa-mirama, State Minister for Animal Industry; and Hon. Hellen Adoa, State Minister for Fisheries (a position that has been vacant for a while) .

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2020!

Vision: “A competitive, profitable and sustainable agricultural sector “

Mission: “Transforming the sector from Subsistence Farming to Commercial Agriculture”.

EDITORIAL



Ms. Consolata Acayo
Editor

A thought that has been enduring in mind when it becomes real, it is truly an interesting and exciting experience. Welcome to our first edition of MAAIF E-Bulletin, Volume.1, Issue.1! It is great that the Ministry is making efforts to produce an online publication aimed at providing a vibrant, timely, accurate and engaging information. We are starting as a quarterly, however our aim is to have a monthly issues in the future, and for this we seek your support. This bulletin will serve to reinforce and allow for increased awareness, improved interaction and integration among all of us in the ministry and that make time to read it outside the ministry.

I therefore, appeal to all ministry staff to support this cause by the communication team. You will agree with me that proper communication plays a vital role in any institution's development. Most times we fail to appreciate the good deeds of many people and activities that happen around us as we are engaged in irrelevant talks and assumptions. This could all change all that if we just pause to think of what our contribution to the sector and society is from which we have been gifted with this blessed life. Sometimes our achievements mainly depends on people who are working behind the scenes, overtime round the clock planning things to the smallest.

This bulletin could be a medium to provide proper acknowledgement and respect to

all these efforts and its results. We appreciate your support and are happy to have you as a reader. Please, send us your feedback on how you think this bulletin can be improved to achieve our objectives -

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all **Merry Christmas and a Happy New year 2020!**

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“Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom”

MOBILE PLANT CLINIC OPERATIONS

Crop pests, diseases and weeds are identified as the greatest risk to Uganda's agricultural sector. At pre-harvest losses are estimated at 10 – 20%, at post-harvest 20 – 30% and up to 100% in perishable and export crops. Some of the key pests and diseases that are seriously constraining increase in agricultural production for priority commodities include Black Coffee Twig Borer, Banana Bacterial Wilt, Fall armyworm, Cassava Brown Streak Disease, fruit flies, invasive weeds, Citrus Angular leaf & fruit spot, Mango Black Bacterial Spot disease among others.

When farmers are faced with crop production challenges such as pests and diseases, soil fertility problems they seek for reliable sources of advice to manage these challenges. Farmers get the advice from agricultural extension staff, agro-input dealers, fellow farmers and other sources. However, access to quality advice is often hampered by low extension to farmer ratio which is currently at 1:1,800.

This calls for innovative ways of reaching farmers with timely, relevant and quality advice. Mobile plant clinics approach comes in handy to bridge the extension-farmer gap and provide timely quality advice on plant health problems.

Mobile plant clinics are operated by agricultural extension staff trained as 'plant doctors'. These plant doctors after training in plant clinic operations are equipped to run the clinics at designated public places such as the district and sub-county agricultural offices, village centers or markets. At the clinic, farmers bring samples of their diseased crops, diagnosis is made and prescription for management of the problems are provided by the plant doctor.

At the plant clinic, diseased crop samples are used for diagnosis and disposed-off safely after the clinic session to avoid disease spread. Data on pests, diseases and other plant health problems captured during clinic sessions is important in planning pest management programs. Since the inception of this approach in 2005, MAAIF through the Crop Protection department together with partners has trained 654 extension staff as plant doctors and established 368 mobile plant clinics in 96 district local governments across the country. Plans are underway to have all agricultural extension staff trained in plant clinic operations and establish mobile plant clinics at sub-county level in all districts of Uganda.

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Plant doctors attending to the Plants

AGRI-BUSINESS MATCH MAKING EXPO

The Agri-business Match making Expo was held at Nabooke National stadium, Kampala, Uganda. The aim was to link Farmer organisations with equipment suppliers. The objective of the Expo was to support investments by Producer Organisations at community-level in post-harvest management and for value addition.

The instrument for this support is a Matching Grants mechanism, in which government finances 67% of the investments in equipment, facilities, and services for selected business plans prepared by farmer organisations, and the Farmers' organisations finance 33%.

The Expo unveiled One hundred and twenty-three (123) business plans which were selected and recommended for grant awards. The list of investments includes: processing machines, shelter for machinery, storage facilities, Energy accessories (computers, moisture meters, weighing scales, thematic bags, tarpaulins, packaging materials, and aflatoxin kits, transport facilities, training and capacity building for effective management of the business investments.



Dummy cheque worth UGX30 billion presented to the farmer organizations by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture; the World Bank Country Manager and the PS MAAIF.

The grant given to the producer organisations was worth thirty billion Uganda shillings. The event was graced by high level staff from the World Bank, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Members of National Project Steering Committee, the media and other agricultural stakeholders. Other Farmer organisations were called upon to develop business plans and submit for co-funding.

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DISRUPTIVE AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES (DATS)- INNOVATION CHALLENGE

The DATs innovation challenge, held on the 19th November at Speke Resort Munyonyo was designed to discover and link Disruptive Agricultural Technology solutions to challenges faced by the e-Voucher system. The e-Voucher system is the instrument for providing a time-bound, partial, and diminishing matching grant for the purchase of key farm inputs. Farmers contribute towards the purchase of key inputs needed to intensify production of one of the prioritized commodities, on one acre of their farms and improve post-harvest handling through investing in farm-level storage.

Eligible farm households receive an e-Voucher that covers part of the expense involved in the purchase of a group of inputs (fertilizer, seed, on-farm storage, access to technical and market information) Each farm household chooses the specific combination of inputs purchased through the e-Voucher system from the menu of eligible inputs through ICT tools including mobile phones).

The main objective of the e-Voucher system is to manage and track project beneficiaries and subsidy use. Specifically, the e-Voucher system ensures that a farmer receives input subsidy support, receives vital and relevant agro information as a result, a farmer becomes visible to:

- ◆ Farm inputs supply chain
- ◆ Financial system and the
- ◆ Agricultural extension system

The Innovation Challenge catered to ACDP four challenge areas – (i) agricultural productivity, (ii) market linkages, (iii) financial inclusion and (iv) data analytics. The process began with an advert for expression of interest, to which 80 applicants responded. This was followed by a boot camp organised in partnership with the Innovation Village where 15 short listed applicants pitched their solutions with guidance from technical experts from MAAIF and ACDP. From the boot camp, 12 applicants made it for the Innovation conference.

Four winners selected after a rigorous process of evaluation from each category were:

Financial Inclusion- M-Cash Uganda Limited

- ◆ Advisory and Information for Agricultural Productivity- M-Omulimisa
- ◆ Market Linkages- AkelloBanker
- ◆ Data - Datacare (U) Limited

These four finalists will be expected to work with MAAIF to resolve a number of e- related challenges and innovations.

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EDUCATIONAL FARMER FIELD DAY IN KIRYANDONGO DISTRICT

The educational farmers' field day held on 22nd November, 2019 at Maga- maga Youth Centre, Bweyale Town Council, Kiryandongo district, was organized by Save the Children international with funding from European Union Trust Fund in partnership with Kiryandongo District Local Government, Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR. The theme for day was **"Unlocking farmers' creativity for better livelihoods"**. The objectives were to:

-Provide an avenue for farmers to showcase the different technologies, innovations and best practices to impact on local farmers;

-To factor in the aspect of climate smart agricultural activities like tree planting in relation to adaptation and usage of energy saving stoves as a way of protecting the environment;

-To give an opportunity for the innovation committee to identify gaps, give possible areas for investigations and suggest possible long-term recommendation for sustainability;

-To link the farmers to the different private sectors to promote private public partnership during their production cycle.

Save the Children has supported Kiryandongo district for 3 years introducing successful farmers-to-farmer learning . 204 farmers supported on livelihood groups - 50% from the host community and 50% from the refugee camps. They linked farmers to private sector and financial services to improve on activities.

The UNHCR also participated and pledged to continue supporting the district in making Refugees become self-reliant and the farmer field day to become an annual event. The District Production Coordina-

tor requested the central Government to include the Refugee population to the original population of the district and use that figure in the allocation of resources.

Te Chief guest, Ms. Gorreth Naluvuye informed the gathering of the key Policy Goals of the government which includes Transformation of agri-



culture from subsistence to commercial farming; Production of globally competitive agricultural products for export where agriculture contributes an average of 54% to total exports; and ensuring that national food and nutrition security and increased household incomes. She outlined the new extension approach being implemented to include; Pluralistic with mixture of demand-driven and supply-driven approaches; private sector mediated with options of contracting service providers; providing broad services but with a focus on priority enterprises; strengthened linkages through MOUs with research and educational institutions; farmer centred in planning and implementation; harmonized system for development of extension materials. With the capacity where 3,827 extension officers across the country, The government expect to see achievements in production and productivity.

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Gorreth Naluvuye

The Uganda Multisectoral Food Security & nutrition project implemented in 15 district local governments of Namutumba, Iganga, Bugiri, Kabale, Ntungamo, Isingiro, Bushenyi, Kasese, Kabarole, Kyenjojo, Kiryandongo, Nebbi, Arua, Maracha, Yumbe by MAAIF, MOH and MOES. The Objective is 'to increase Production and Consumption of Micronutrient –Rich foods and utilization of Community Based Nutrition Services in smallholder households in project areas'.

The activities cover households and communities with government primary schools as entry points totalling 1500 UPE schools in project districts. In each of these schools, project implementation structures have been established as; School Nutrition Committees, Community Procurement Committees, Parent Groups, Lead Farmers and Lead Mothers.

The use of Music, Dance and Drama (MDD) is one of the approaches to be adopted using traditional medium for communication, provides effective entry points into the community with interventions that focus on awareness creation, information dissemination and behaviour change. The activities under MDD will include competitions in Poems, drama, songs (original composition), speeches, dances and essay writings.

This is to increase awareness on the production and consumption of Micro Nutrient Rich crops, importance of a balanced diet, community uptake of health and nutrition services in line with the project through the provided themes. The approach aimed at establishing positive learning through creation of a desired atmosphere with participation of the learners. Learners gain important life skills as they learn the value of critical feedback, both positive and constructive.

Music Dance and Drama provide avenue for developing cognitive abilities that complement learning. MDD activities help focus concentration, increase attention and improve conceptualization of the issues at hand both by learners and the community. They facilitate a multisensory learning experience and enhance imagination. They provide inspiration and motivation for learning as they add an element of fun and also accentuate theme oriented units. Communications between peers is accelerated as learners are exposed to group activities. This experience also provides opportunity for learners to display cultural leadership qualities. Vital media for accessing parents and the community for the desired change.



Drama and the performing arts serve to generate a rich array of shared benefits for both learners and the community. Activities engage with the creative side of the brain hence providing an ideal balance in learners' patterns of study and helping in achieving a balanced education, while reinforcing the appreciation of the project activities and interventions at school and community levels.

Ministry of Health Dr. Jane Ruth Acheng conducted a guided monitoring and supervision activity to project beneficiary schools, communities and farmer groups under. Accompanied

by the Project coordinator Mr. Julius Twinamasiko, the project focal point for the Health ministry Ms. Sarah Ngalombi, the district project coordinator Mr. Byenkya Issa and the district project assistant Mr. Tebandeke Ronald. The delegation visited school demonstration gardens, health facilities and also were treated to levels of community absorption such as preparation of highly nutritious food commonly known as 'ekitobero' among others.

In Kiryandongo district, the project is being implemented in 75 UPE schools, each school works with two parent/ farmer groups of 30 members each and having a school and Community Demonstration gardens. The primary beneficiaries of this project are children below 2 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers, therefore the primary schools act as an entry point to reach the communities and specifically to the primary beneficiaries.

The farmers in the organized groups are also supported through the provision of seed and other planting materials for iron-rich beans and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes in addition to locally available vegetables. The minister was impressed by the project progress and recommend inclusion of animals to supplement the nutritious foods.



Hon Minister of Health, Dr. Acheng Jane Ruth conducting a guided monitoring and supervision activity to project beneficiary schools, communities and farmer groups in Kiryandongo district.

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Music Dance and Drama provide avenue for developing cognitive abilities that complement learning.

AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION MATERIALS FOR YOU!

Achievements in production of Agricultural information materials under the able guidance and leadership of Beatrice B. Byarugaba, Director Agricultural Extension Services.



Policies, strategies, manuals and user guides produced and disseminated:

- National Agricultural Extension Policy
- National Agricultural Extension Strategy
- Principles for the National Agricultural Extension Bill Submitted for Cabinet approval.
- Agricultural Extension Guidelines and Standards
- Ethical code of conduct for both Public and Private Service Providers.
- Process for Registration and Accreditation of the Agricultural Extension and Advisory service Providers
- Strategy for the Youth Employment in Agriculture, along the Value Chain
- Strategy for Agriculture Sector Knowledge Management and Communication
- Strategy for Agro Processing, Value Addition and Marketing



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DEVELOPING A MARKET – ORIENTED AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE BEEF MEAT INDUSTRY

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is implementing the “Developing a Market-Orientated and Environmentally Sustainable Beef Meat Industry in Uganda (MOBIP).” The five-year project is funded by Government of Uganda and European Union. The project is implemented in Disease Control Zone 1 and Disease Control Zone 2. The project operates through Multi-Annual Operational Programme Estimate which was endorsed by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and by the European Union in 2018.

The objective of the project is to contribute to a competitive, profitable, job-intensive, gender responsive and environmentally-sustainable agricultural sector in Uganda to alleviate poverty and improve food and nutrition security.

Specifically the project uses a holistic value chain approach in the targeted geographical areas, to leverage an increase in the overall performance (in terms of production volume, quality, value addition, increased employment and environmental sustainability) of the Ugandan meat value-chain.

The project is meant to support both the public and the private sector, with a focus on smallholders and small beef-related agribusiness, to work together towards promotion of an environmentally-sustainable, climate-resilient, low-emission, local and regional meat industry - which respects as far as possible animal welfare practices and is responsive to the different needs of women and men.

The project targets include: the policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework, including standards, guidelines and best practices along the beef value chain are reviewed, updated and enforced. A particular focus will be set on women's empowerment and on mitigation of climate change/environmental impacts

Beef meat production, productivity and quality assurance in the targeted areas to be enhanced, giving priority to climate smart, environmentally sustainable, locally developed practices including small-

holder agriculture and attention to rural livelihoods and formation of producer groups, including women's groups. Improved marketing, transportation and value addition for beef meat from the targeted area: aiming to promote local meat consumption to stimulate the market, stimulating demand for processed meat products, increasing safer meat processing and ensuring animal welfare practices during transportation.

Identification for review and update of the legislative and policy frameworks of standards and of the operational guidelines used along the beef value chain that is support the draft/finalization, review and update seven relevant legislative, policy frameworks and master and investment plans

The Components of the Project

Policy and Legislation: This will ensure that policy is up to date, relevant to current standards and norms and is enforced to ensure compliance.

Animal Health: Ensure improved animal performance and meeting international standards on disease control.

Animal Breeding: Ensure optimal type according to location and production system, use of indigenous, exotic and cross breeds to optimise animal performance.

Nutrition, water, pasture and rangelands climate change: To maximise growth rates and minimize beef sector methane emissions, which contribute to climate change; To ensure access to improved pastures and sufficient water to optimise the growth performance of beef cattle; Transport, Marketing, Processing, value addition and food safety; To ensure meat handling and consumer protection best practice will be promoted to support meat marketing and consumption.

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The resilience of a household depends primarily on the options available for making a living. This includes its access to assets, income-generating activities, public services and social safety nets. Livelihood resilience under Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP is defined as: (i) increased access to sustainably managed water and land resources for pastoral and agro pastoral communities (ii) developed and strengthened market infrastructure and market information systems at national and regional levels (iii) increased pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood options; and iv) reduced vulnerability to risks due to drought and conflicts related to access to natural resources.

In all pastoral communities Livestock farming is an important factor in the livelihoods of pastoral communities. Prior to the RPLRP, livestock farmers were grappling with issues such as long drought spell, lack of pasture and several livestock diseases among others. However, with support from the World Bank funded project that is being implemented under the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) framework, the livestock farming industry in the Far East and North Eastern region of the country has taken a positive turn.

To transform the lives of the farmers in the project area, 8,947 households have been trained in enterprise management, sustainable rangeland management, community livestock health care trainings and water user committee trainings. So far the project has supplied 1800 Gala and Boer goats and 360 Sahiwal Bulls to the 12 districts. One thousand eight hundred and sixty three (1,863) households have benefited from livelihood enterprises and 3,320 households from livestock breeding.

Under Livestock Production and Health, the project financed

region-wide and internal district harmonized vaccination campaigns for priority diseases such as Peste des petits ruminants (PPR,) Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP). This is one of the contributing factors to reduced death rate and increased birth rate of livestock. "The percentage death rate declined from 5% to 2% is attributed to project interventions in the livestock health services and systems," Dr. Joseph Eladu the District Veterinary Officer of Kaabong District says.

Farmers in the project areas have also benefitted from the market information dissemination and capacity building of the district commercial officers. This has led to an increase in the volumes of livestock traded as a farmer can easily access market prices through the Livestock Market Information System www.lmis.agriculture.go.ug or through an SMS to **0780910171**. This has led to an increase in the volume of cattle traded.



Market before



Market After

As opposed to the past when most farmers were grappling with poor water and market infrastructure, RPLRP has set up improved structures to improve livestock trade that includes 12 modern livestock markets, 12 slaughter slabs, 72 community crashes, 4 holding grounds, 7 quarantine stations and border checks in all the twelve districts of operations.



Slaughter shade in Moroto District Market

To address the critical issue of drought in the project area, the Ministry has constructed livestock watering infrastructure consisting of 104 boreholes 7 valley tanks and 1 dam in all the project districts. The water infrastructure is meant to directly support the livestock since the areas are drought prone. The project is endeavouring to ensure that Infrastructure for improved access to water resources for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities are realized and sustainably managed.

A number of water infrastructures along cross-border migration routes have been rehabilitated and new ones constructed.



Omunga Valley Tank under construction in Abim District

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the project has supplied 1800 Gala and Boer goats and 360 Sahiwal Bulls to the 12 districts. One thousand eight hundred and sixty three (1,863) households have benefited from livelihood enterprises and 3,320 households from livestock

The Vegetable Oil Development project has enabled smallholder farmers to acquire and adopt a new crop and new technologies in crop production and management. The project encourages land owners and tenants to register with Kalangala Oil growers Trust as smallholder farmers and empowers them through the formation of unit and block committees, and membership in the Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Association. In the units and blocks, farmers are given skills in group dynamics, leadership, business management, project planning and management, monitoring and evaluation, financial management and credit and saving training. Through such organizations farmers learnt how to elect their leaders, conduct meetings and make reports.

As a result of these activities, there has been increased incomes that has enabled household farmers to educate their children in good schools. In Kalangala, 83% of the households could not educate their children before the project. It has been established that the oil palm project equipped farmers with the capacity to educate their children in good schools. Kalangala has 22 primary schools (18 Government aided, one private and 3 community schools), 3 secondary schools and 2 tertiary institutions. Despite the presence of these schools, some farmers send their children to neighboring districts like Kampala and Masaka which are known to be of a higher standard than those in Kalangala district. Farmers are now able to meet medical expenses and in oil palm a clinic was set up at Bwendero to provide health services.

In Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Association, the smallholder farmers hold annual general meetings and elect their leaders every two years. Women make at least one third of the Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Association leadership. Some of the oil palm farmers have taken up political leadership at different administrative levels because of the capacity that has been developed. Increased agricultural productivity is one of the remarkable achievements of the project. Farmers have shifted from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture production for income.

The smallholder farmers have been linked to the two only commercial banks on the island through which they receive their loans from KOPGT and their earnings from oil palm sales. This has exposed them to the use of financial services in volumes that have attracted a second financial institution in Kalangala district.



Money saved is being used to buy physical assets like land, vehicles, building permanent houses and setting up businesses such as wholesale and retail shops. The improved road network especially to the oil palm farms has helped farmers in marketing their produce and merchandise.

One of the female project beneficiaries in Kalangala called Euralia Nab-bosa said

“Before the Oil Palm project, I was just a house wife. My husband was a fisher man and I cultivated a small plot of land for some food. If my husband didn’t give me money, then I could not buy salt or soap.



When the LCs came to teach us about growing oil palm, my husband said he would continue fishing and he didn’t want to be a farmer. So, I registered and decided to become a farmer. I now have a garden of 10 acres for myself and 3 acres for my children.

I have been able to move from the wooden house in which we used to live and now I have built this house here. You can see I have put a garage because I also want to buy a car. My plans are to buy a plot on the mainland in Masaka, so that I can put up rental houses. So far, I have bought one plot in the trading center in Kalangala. I also want to get more farm land. I want to be a land lord and be able to give my children school fees to go to the best schools.

I am now a useful woman, I have built the house in which we live, I pay my workers, have bought cash two motor cycles and I am so happy that I am a farmer of oil palm.”

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Oil palm project equipped farmers with the capacity to educate their children in good schools. Kalangala now has 22 primary schools (18 Government aided, one private and 3 community schools), 3 secondary schools and 2 tertiary institutions.

Fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is an insect pest native to tropical and subtropical regions of Americas. It is new to Africa and was first detected in Nigeria in January 2016 and in Uganda in June 2016 with a serious outbreak in the first season of 2017. The pest quickly spread to over 31 countries in sub-Saharan Africa by August 2017 and the entire African continent and parts of Asia by end of 2018.

FAW is polyphagous infesting on more than 100 plant species with preference for maize and other plants in the grass family (cereals) as primary hosts. In Uganda the outbreak is a threat to food security and livelihoods of over 3.6 million households that depend on maize and other cereals for food and incomes.

In response to the outbreak, Government through MAAIF and partners intensified efforts to address the problem through formation of the National Taskforce to coordinate and guide all interventions for sustainable management of Fall army worm outbreak in Uganda. The Taskforce comprised of members from MAAIF directorates of crop, animal and fisheries resources, MAAIF agencies NARO, NAADS/OWC, other stakeholders like the Ministry of Water and Environment, and Ministry of Justice. Private sector agencies like Farmers' federation, Seed Trade Association, and Agro-input dealers.



Research by NARO is ongoing on safe approaches for managing fall army worm such as use of biological control agents, biopesticides, botanicals and transgenic Bt maize to reduce on use of toxic and hazardous chemical pesticides.



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The team developed a strategic plan with interventions for management of the fall army worm outbreak in the short, medium and long term. The interventions in short term include, emergency procurement and distribution of tested and approved pesticide and spray pumps for demonstration to farmers on control of the pest across the country, information dissemination through radio, newspaper inserts, training of extension staff and farmers on pest identification and management.

In the medium and long term, government continues to build capacity of agricultural extension staff and other stakeholders on pest identification and management, safe use and handling of pesticides, testing and evaluating of safer control alternatives (biological agents, bio pesticides and botanicals), and putting in place a pest monitoring and early warning system.

Since 2017 over 1,300 agricultural extension staff from districts across the country have been trained and MAAIF continues to train more staff on fall army worm management, safe pesticide use and handling during fall army worm control. For information dissemination, over 5,000 posters and 20,000 brochures on fall army worm management have been printed and disseminated to all districts across the country, more than 100 Radio talk shows have been conducted across the country where information on fall army worm management has been disseminated to an estimated 5 million farmers. All these interventions have saved over 2.8 million Metric tons of maize from destruction by the fall army worm in 2018 alone.

over 5,000 posters and 20,000 brochures on fall army worm management have been printed and disseminated to all districts across the coun-

After decades of neglect, agricultural extension and rural advisory services are at the center of global conversations about sustainable agriculture, resilient livelihoods, and Inclusive growth. Whether the discussion is on reaching farmers at scale, covering the last mile, transforming smallholder systems, or digitizing public service delivery, the extension systems has a role to play.

While attending the conference in Washington DC on novel practices in extension and the measurement of their impact to chart a course for the future of extension based on both innovation and evidence.

Dr. Patience Rwamigisa shared the Ugandan experience of the new extension system approaches used to address challenges of reaching large numbers of farmers to include having in place

ments is a key factor.

The meeting proposed that research areas should look at efficient input delivery models and Institutional innovations that can strengthen research-extension-farmer and industry linkages.

While sharing his presentation, Dr. Patience pointed out that, "Proven models will be integrated in the curricular for higher institutions of learning"

Other research areas include ICT innovations that can increase technology uptake, Climate smart agricultural technologies and the potential of Producer Public Private Partnerships in scaling agricultural programs.



Multi-stakeholder Innovations Platforms, Knowledge Management and Advisory hubs, Interactive radio programs leveraging on the available FM radio networks, Video-mediated learnings, Zonal Agricultural Learning Centers such as e-learning for informal education and mass skilling of farmers and value chain actors, and collaboration with research organizations in improving extension.

Other innovative approaches used to scaling technology uptake that he also shared were: traditional commodity farmer group approaches; Farmer to farmer extension approach; Parish Model farmer approach: Use of progressive farmers (Presidential initiative), Nuclear farmer models, Village Agent Model (Private Sector Driven) as well as Farmer Field Schools.

While discussing on the implications for implementation, evidence-based recommendations were highlighted on issues of scaling up extension such as consensus building for reform was absolutely essential. Intensive consultation, also involving those who are criticizing the reform, real-time implementation, windows of opportunity for ensuring political support are limited. Ownership of local govern-



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Agriculture changes the landscape more than anything else we do. It alters the composition of species. We don't realize it when we sit down to eat, but that is our most profound engagement with the rest of nature.

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