



# THE AGRICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



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## The Ministry adopts a Local Investment Approach: Farmer's contribution hits 8.4 billion!

*"...When the e-Voucher subsidy scheme was introduced, farmers did not understand it and were reluctant to join! but now this co-financing mechanism has created a lot of ownership and farmers are really appreciative...."*

*Mr Isiko, the District Production & Marketing officer, Bugiri district.*

The Agriculture Cluster Development Project aims to work with 300 Area-based Commodity Cooperative Enterprises, representing about 3,000 Rural Producer Organizations, and 30,000 Farmer groups. These rural producer organisations represent about 450,000 farming households, of which 180,000 are producers of maize and (50 percent of these also produce beans), 95,000 are producers of beans, 40,000 are producers of rain fed upland and rain fed lowland rice, 110,000 are producers of Robusta and Arabica coffee, and 25,000 are producers of cassava. Through these farmer groups, demand and use of quality production agro-inputs has been greatly stimulated to improve crop production and productivity through the e-Voucher subsidy scheme. The e-Voucher subsidy scheme targets farmers, farmers Associations or Cooperatives and other stakeholders along the value chain.

### How do farm households participate in the e-Voucher subsidy scheme?

For farm households, support to participate in the e-Voucher scheme takes the form of a time-bound partial and diminishing matching grant (subsidy) to assist in the financing and purchase of key inputs and on-farm storage. Participating households pay for a portion of the cost of the inputs and use the subsidy to pay for the remaining portion. For each participating household, this support is provided for three consecutive crop cycles.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Crop cycle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Crop cycle	3 <sup>rd</sup> Crop cycle
Overall investment (UGX)	450,000	450,000 (50%)	450,000 (33%)
Farmer contribution (UGX)	148,500 (67%)	225,000 (50%)	301,500 (33%)
GoU/Project Contribution (UGX)	301,500 (33%)	225,000 (50%)	148,500 (67%)

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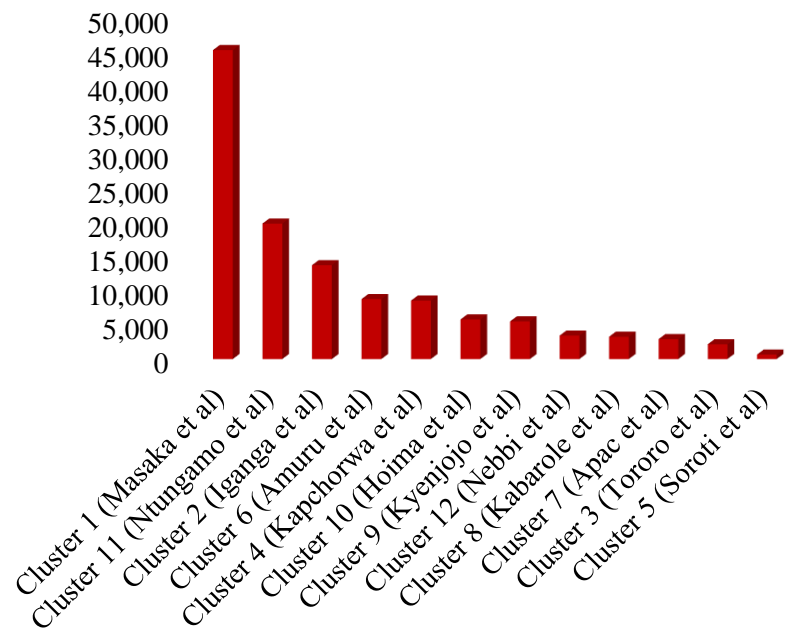
# MAAIF adopts a Local Investment Approach...continued

After enrolment, a farmer is required to pay a commitment fee of 20,000 UGX which is a portion of the contribution required of the farmer for that season. The farmer deposits this fee on his/her e-voucher account and this is automatically reflected. The subsequent payments towards the matching grant has to be completed within a specified time. All this happens before government through the Ministry of Agriculture loads its matching grant to the farmer's e-Voucher account.

The instrument for providing the time-bound, partial, and diminishing matching grant for the purchase of key farm inputs is an e-Voucher. Eligible farm households receive an e-Voucher that covers part of the expense involved in the purchase of a group of specified inputs. Each farm household is free to choose the specific combination of inputs purchased from the menu of eligible inputs. On confirmation of the transaction, an e-Voucher allows instant electronic payment to the Agro-dealer's online account for the inputs redeemed by the farmer. The e-Voucher system also allows the approved Agro-input dealer be able to maintain their stock (Agricultural inputs).

This system was deployed in November 2018 and as of 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, 139,101 farmers had been enrolled to the e-Voucher. The total value of redemptions now stands at UGX 25.3 billion with a government contribution of 16.9 billion and the farmer's contribution of UGX 8.4 billion.

## Enrollment status in the e-Voucher system by Cluster-Season 2020A



## Value of Redemptions by Farmers and Governments' contribution

Type of Input	Sum redeemed Qty.	Sum redeemed Farmer payment	Sum redeemed Govt subsidy	Sum redeemed Total cost
Agrochemical Fumigants	3,224	15,966,450	32,393,550	48,360,000
Agrochemical Fungicide	162	2,281,950	4,633,050	6,915,000
Agrochemical Herbicides	102,372	615,536,870	1,240,912,130	1,856,449,000
Agrochemical Insecticides	22,752	289,270,005	582,648,495	871,918,500
Bean Seeds	345,089	649,305,171	1,313,530,118	1,962,835,288
Cassava Cuttings	7,177	80,453,401	161,944,499	242,397,900
Fertilizers	90,456	3,932,401,124	7,903,856,888	11,836,258,011
Hermetic bags	43,266	143,794,313	288,356,938	432,151,250
Maize Seeds	166,718	438,143,532	885,837,244	1,323,980,734
Pangas	18,326	38,902,323	77,094,848	115,991,250
Post-harvest Materials	2,709	21,949,581	43,837,506	65,786,250
Rice Seeds	17,215	28,336,110	56,680,890	85,017,000
Tarpaulins	55,561	2,142,094,235	4,296,328,425	6,438,422,620
Tractor Hire Services	543	17,953,000	36,347,000	54,300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>875,570</b>	<b>8,416,388,065</b>	<b>16,924,401,581</b>	<b>25,340,782,803</b>

## ACDP Enhances Traceability in the Input Market



The input supplier (Green Firm Africa), Ag. DPO, Ag. DAO, Cluster 11 Coordinator, sub-county extension worker visit the affected bean garden of Francis Asimwe (Right),- Ikamiro Parish, Matakara village, Rubanda district.



Assessing the rate of germination for the farmers who complained about poor quality bean seed: Ven Joshua Owoyesiga from Muko subcounty, Rubanda district.

One of the Grievances that the project anticipated to arise during the process of implementation was the supply of poor quality of inputs, delays in delivery of inputs, high cost of inputs, wrong input varieties among other complaints. Indeed, in April, verbal reports reaching the Project Coordination office, indicated that a cross section of beneficiary farmers in Muko Sub-county, Rubanda district had received poor germinating bean seeds redeemed under the e-Voucher program. To validate the complaints a response team quickly visited the aggrieved farmers to make an assessment. The team was comprised of MAAIF Cluster 11 Co-ordinator, the supplier (Green Firm Africa), Acting District Production Officer, Acting DAO and the sub-county extension worker for the affected area. The team interacted with nine affected farmers and sampled four gardens and this is what they found out;

- A total of 63 farmers all hailing from Muko sub-county in Rubanda district had received a batch of bean seed whose germination rate was very poor.
- Overall percentage germination ranged between 40 to 60%

Upon conceding the germination challenge, the supplier who was part of the monitoring team, has been able to compensate each of the affected farmers with 15Kgs of bean seed in the presence of the extension officer for Muko sub-county. The sub-county extension officer has also been in constant touch with each of the 63 affected farmers and communicated to them the agreed compensation rate.

All the farmers who were visited by this team were excited and have commended ACDP/MAAIF for taking such an initiative of “compensation” to those affected as a result of receiving a less viable batch of bean seed. The affected beneficiaries were thrilled and humbled, after they received verbal apologies from the Executive Director of the company who had supplied the bean seed.

They testified that they had never received such an extraordinary follow up service from any government Agency and most of them vowed to continue enrolling and supporting activities of ACDP. This has now become a tradition for all agro-input suppliers to provide quality inputs as they become aware of the project traceability mechanism.

# The ACDP Grievance Redress Mechanism Operationalized

**G**rievance Redress Mechanisms are institutions, instruments, methods, and processes through which resolutions to grievances are sought and provided. It is a mechanism for addressing complaints arising out of the project interventions. The objective of a Grievance Redress Mechanism is to support all processes that are aimed at preventing, timely identification and resolving of project grievances.

Examples of Grievances that are likely to arise include;

- *Supply of poor quality inputs, delays in delivery of inputs, high cost of inputs, wrong input varieties, missing names in the farmer register, intermittent network, electronic fraud and abuse, counterfeit inputs.*
- *Biased selection of trainees, illiteracy, language barrier.*
- *Lack or inadequate agro-input supplier agents, stock outs, sharing of input packages.*
- *For the Farm access roads and choke points at community level, the likely grievances may be pollution, health and safety of workers, accidents, attachment on cultural resources, sexual harassment, labour exploitation, child abuse, corruption, HIV/AIDS, child labour, domestic violence, issues related to compensation and restoration of barrow pits, location of community access roads and farm road.*
- *For Agricultural water management investments, likely grievances may be competing land use like loss of grazing land, fishing land, damage on people's agricultural activities. Conflicts over land communal access grazing, watering animals, harvesting papyrus for making mats, fishing etc*

## What has been undertaken to date

In order to capture and provide timely redress to complaints arising during the implementation of the project, Grievance Redress Committees were established at the district level, sub-county and farmer groups in the 24 districts, the same exercise is ongoing in the 33 rollout districts. 1,950 GRM guideline books, 1,500 registration form booklets and 1,500 logbooks have been developed, printed and are being disseminated to Grievance Redress Committees in the 57 districts.

## Composition of the Grievance Redress Committees

**At the district**, the GRC is composed of seven members, the Chief Administrative officer, District Community Development officer, Secretary for Production, District Production and Marketing Officer, District Project Focal Person, District Environment Officer, and District Commercial Officer. **At the sub-county level**, the committee is composed of five members, Sub-county Chief, Community Development Officer, Secretary for Production, A representative of vulnerable groups (women etc.), and Agriculture extension officer. **The farmer group and infrastructure site GRCs** are each composed of five members, Chairperson, Secretary, and three farmer group members and the infrastructure committees is composed of three members of the community.

## Tools developed for Management of Grievances

**The Paper tools:** Some of the tools that have been developed to ease reporting and management of grievances include, logbooks, complaint registration forms, referral forms, and guidelines. All committees have been equipped with these tools.

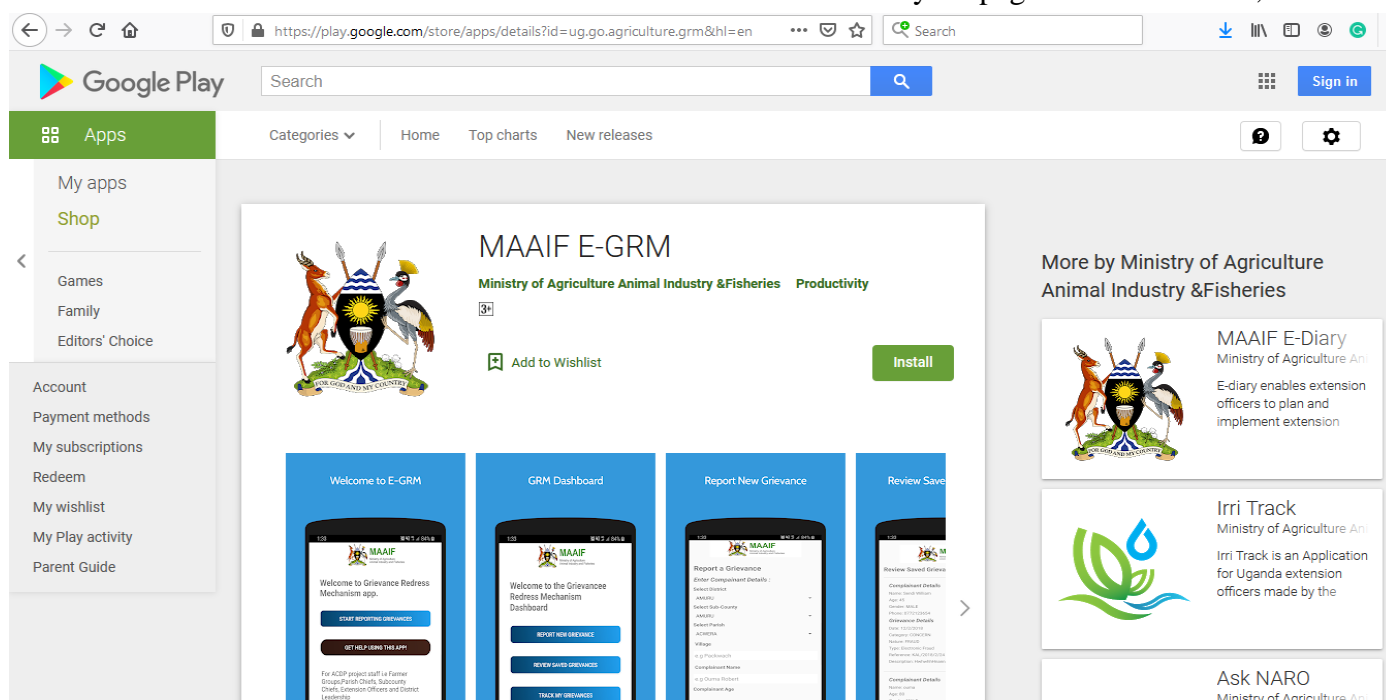


# The ACDP Grievance Redress Mechanism... continued

**The Toll free number:** To ensure that there is ease of communication, a toll-free number **08001000030** is operational during working days/hours (8:00am-5:00pm) has been installed at the project coordination office in Entebbe.

**The e-electronic GRM mobile application:** To make the GRM more proficient, an electronic mobile application has been developed.

This application will make reporting and tracking resolution trends easier and it will also hold a database of grievances. The e-GRM is an Android based application that can be downloaded on a smart phone, a tablet, a laptop, or a desktop. To download the application, in your web browser, you type “*maarif e-grm*” and you will find the different versions of the application that suits your device. For example, if you chose the google play version, below is how your page should look like;



A guide has been developed on how to use the e-GRM. This mobile application is for farmers and all project stakeholders, while the web-portal will mainly be used by the district focal persons, agricultural extension officers and the district Community Development officers. The application has also been integrated as part of e-diary and its functionality has a provision to provide reports, and capture the number of GRCs at all levels.

For more information on the ACDP Grievance Redress Mechanism, please visit:

<https://www.agriculture.go.ug/the-agriculture-cluster-development-project-acdp/>

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES AGRICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (ACDP)						
GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM						
No.	Date Received	Mode of Receipt	Name of Complainant	Description of Complaint	Type of Complaint	Action Taken
	04/02/20		0772621413 Lutsaya Jasin	-Byakabanda sub-county has never been served at all.		
	05/02/20		0772621413 Lutsaya Jasin	-Suppliers (Ago inputs) dealers distribution program does not match with that of farmers seasonal activity calendar.		
	06/02/20		Chrispus 0756752333	-farmers are lacking good markets of their crops, due to the fact that they are exploited by the middle men who want to buy for example a kilogram of coffee at 2500 and yet they spend a lot of money		

## Integration of Sustainable Land Management practices



*Bonyo Sam of Namanyonyi subcounty in Mbale district integrates SLM on his longe 10 maize field.*

In February 2020, ACDP SLM Coordinators trained 51 field extension workers from the 12 coffee pilot districts. These officers were skilled in the integration of sustainable land management and Integrated soil fertility management practices. The training also focused on how to lay out functional field demonstration gardens and local seed multiplication plots.

The SLM technologies covered in the training included climate smart agriculture technologies and practices, approaches for scaling up of SLM Technologies, research evidence on SLM and CSA by NARO, engaging youth in agriculture, soil and water conservation, success story writing, coffee agronomy, Agroforestry technologies, fertilizers use and calculations, field soil sampling and testing. At field level, the effects of integrating SLM practices are becoming more evident as shown in the pictorials above.

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) strategies and practices enable farmers and communities to adapt, as well as become more resilient, to climate change.



*Rhoda of Busoba Women's Farmer group. This is how her field looks 35 days after planting with NPK 20:20:18 and top dressed with UREA*

by increasing food production, conserving soil and water, enhancing food security and restoring productive natural resources. SLM refers to the adoption of land use systems that, through appropriate management practices, enables land users to maximize economic and social benefits from the land while maintaining or enhancing ecological support functions of land resources.

In most of the agricultural production zones, the soils are old with little mineral nutrient reserves. In many cases where phosphorus, potassium and calcium, are below critical levels, it means that there is

- a decrease in fallow periods due to increased pressure on land.
- those under 'fallow' are in poor state, abandoned rather than deliberate fallow.
- continuous cultivation without fertility enhancement.
- increased nutrient mining with low inputs and
- limited use of sustainable land management practices

The Uganda Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land management (2010-2020) targets four land degradation hotspots or agro-ecological zones, the Southwestern and Eastern highlands, Lake Victoria crescent region, the cattle corridor, Eastern and Northern Uganda. These are also the zones where some of the 57 ACDP districts are geographically located and therefore the need for SLM.

## GIS Web based Agriculture Water Management Information System planned for the Sector

The Ministry through the Agriculture Cluster Development project is in the process of developing a GIS web based Agriculture Water Management Information System (AWMIS). This AWMIS forms part of the overall integrated Web-based Agricultural Management Information System (AMIS). The aim of the Agricultural Water Management Information system will be to provide a platform for the visualization of spatial distribution of Agricultural water data and information to improve service delivery through timely provision of accurate data, to support evidence based decision making on agricultural water management.

It is foreseen that a GIS Web-based agricultural water management information system will enable integration of multi sectoral data like climate data, water use data and soil data. This will provide a basis for establishment of spatial relationships, distribution and prioritization of future infrastructure investments.

In addition, use of remote sensing data is increasingly becoming the most suitable option for obtaining information on cropping patterns, planting and harvest time and on area under irrigation coverage.

Currently agriculture water data is scattered in various documents and across different databases, using a number of software, formats, and maintained by different agencies. Operationalizing water use regulation through water rights and water permits will require data that is better managed in an information management system. Designing of a distribution management system with procedures for routine use, irrigation scheduling, water rights, water allocation, water availability, is key for proper farmer managed irrigation systems. An Agriculture Water Management Information System is one of the basic requirements for the development of Infrastructure and use of water for agricultural production along livestock, crop and fisheries value chains. Through ACDP, this GIS web-based AWMIS will streamline agriculture water data.

### News Brief – Ntungamo Cluster



*Ntungamo Cluster - Multi-stakeholder meeting chaired by the CAO Ntungamo, in attendance are district Chairpersons, DAOs, DPMO and other stakeholders.*



*RDC Ntungamo district giving closing remarks at Ntungamo Cluster multi-stakeholder meeting.*

## News brief continued.....Ntungamo cluster



Site meeting with members of the DCT & the political leadership to assess post-harvest infrastructure building works progress- Bufundi Development Association.



Site meeting with the contractor- Kashate group, Ntungamo district.

## Cluster News Brief – Nebbi Cluster



Construction works of store and machine house at Abongo women's group, Nyabang village, Alwi subcounty, Pakwach district.



Machine shade construction works at ACTs Draijini subcounty- Yumbe district



Training of farmers on production of cassava, sesame, sunflower on Radio Ribat, Yumbe town.



DAO supervising construction works at BInagoro women's group, Midigo Sub county, Yumbe district

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## Media brief

Minister of State for Agriculture Hon. Henry Aggrey Bagiire and Senior Principal Agric. Officer Ms Beatrice Namaloba hosted on Bukedde FM



The radio talk-show was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June to raise awareness about the Ministry's strategy for Food Security Post COVID19, through some of its projects like ACDP. Below are some of the questions from the public;

- ◆ What strategies has MAAIF put in place to handle issues of Food Security post COVID 19?
- ◆ Which districts are covered by ACDP? And how does one join the project?
- ◆ Why are the inputs so expensive?
- ◆ What is MAAIF doing about the issue of fake inputs?
- ◆ Will pesticides also be distributed?
- ◆ Why give "elite" instead of cuttings when distributing coffee seedlings?
- ◆ What is MAAIF doing about our maize that is attacked by worms?
- ◆ How is the "Cluster" helping the Youth?

ACDP Deputy Project Coordinator Mr Stephen Ojangole and Asst. Commissioner Agri-business Mr Yafesi Ogwang hosted on Spectrum program- Radio one



This radio talk-show was on "Post-harvest Management infrastructure and facilities acquired through Matching Grants". Questions from the public included;

- ◆ What parameters were used to map out the project areas?
- ◆ What are the short and long term linkages?
- ◆ Does the project form partnerships with businesses?
- ◆ What do you have in place for fruit farmers? What happened to the factory in Soroti?
- ◆ Most of the agricultural areas do not have enough water what are you doing about this?
- ◆ What value are you adding to Cassava? and what can I do to supply cassava cuttings?
- ◆ I am currently a member of ACDP, first season farmer, my maize is doing well because of fertiliser, what are you doing to improve community access roads?