



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

AGRICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (ACDP)

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In this Issue

- 01** High-level policy supervisory & monitoring missions in ACDP pilot ClustersPage 2
- 02** Strengthening Farmer institutions through the Public-private partnership approachPage 4
- 03** GRM Community Engagement Meetings held in the pilot clusters of Kalungu, Ntungamo & Nebbi.....Page 6
- 04** Technical backstopping for Matching Grant beneficiaries.....Page 7
- 05** Progress on rehabilitative works on farm road bottlenecks in the pilot clusters.....Page 8
- 06** Fourth ACDP Technical Committee Meeting held at Source of the Nile Hotel, Namanve.....Page 10
- 07** Geographical distribution of total redemption vis a viz total monetary value of redeemed inputs.....Page 11
- 08** Rainfall forecast for the 7 days..Page 12
- 09** Upcoming Events.....Page 12



High-level Policy supervisory and monitoring missions take place in ACDP pilot Clusters

MAAIF Top policy makers undertook monitoring and supervisory missions to assess the Agriculture Cluster Development project implementation progress in the five pilot clusters. They were joined by stakeholders from the Ministries of Finance, Ministry of Works and Trade; and the Ministry of Local Government. In the field, the teams were received by the respective district technical Officers. Adherence to Standard Operating Procedures from the Ministry of Health to control the spread of COVID-19 virus were observed.

“The Minister applauded ACDP’s project approach of having farmers contribute towards the cost of inputs since this was sustainable, empowered the farmer and increased ownership.”

Since the project inception in 2017, several project activities have been ongoing in the five pilot clusters, and some of these activities include registration and enrollment of farmers in the e-Voucher management system, the redemption of inputs by farmers, establishing and regulating the input supply network, construction of post-harvest infrastructure and facilities acquired through the matching grants and rehabilitative works on farm access road chokes.

In the Iganga cluster, the Team was led by Hon. Henry Bagiire, the Minister of State for Agriculture. The team visited project beneficiaries in Bugweri, Iganga, Namutumba and Bugiri districts.



Hon Minister of State for Agriculture talking to leaders of Busowa Traders & farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd in Bugiri district

The Minister applauded ACDP’s project approach of having farmers contribute towards the cost of inputs since this was sustainable, empowered the farmer and increased ownership. He further said this kind of system eliminates middlemen in the value chain, decreases post-harvest losses while increasing the quality and quantity of produce. He challenged farmers to get more organized, increase production, bulk and add value to their produce. He cited an example of selling maize grain at the current price of 400/- UGX per kg vis a viz selling a kilogram of maize flour at 2000/- UGX per kg. For the Iganga cluster, the target for farmer enrolment is 7500 this financial year 2020/21, he challenged the district technical team to achieve this target.

In Ntungamo Cluster, the Team was led by Hon. Lt. Col. Dr Bright Rwamirama, Minister of State for Animal Industry. The team visited project beneficiaries in Kabale, Rubanda; Rukiga, Ntungamo and Isingiro districts and were hosted to a radio talk show on Peak FM in Kabale district. At the district level, the technical team was led by Chief Administrative Officers, District production office and members of District Coordination Team, while the political team were led by District Chairpersons, Area members of parliament, Resident District Commissioners and members of District Executive. Also present were representatives of grantees, Operation Wealth Commanders and NRM chairpersons.



Hon. Lt. Col. Dr Bright Rwamirama inspecting the Kashate Women Gamba Nokora post-harvest storage facility, Ntungamo district, co-funded under the ACDP matching grant.

The Hon. Minister noted that Ntungamo cluster had made great strides towards the achievement of the project objective. He appealed to the leaders to mobilise farmers to make their contributions to the subsidy program so that they can benefit from the project. The team noted that considerable achievements had been made towards the project development objective; for instance, there was a high number of farmers (23,092) enrolled in the e-Voucher system by June 2020, and cumulatively 27,470 inputs had been redeemed. This cluster had also registered one of the highest numbers of matching grant beneficiaries and road chokes prioritized for rehabilitation.

The team identified challenges like; the need for mindset change by farmers to shift from free inputs to the subsidy approach, thereby necessitating the need for continuous farmer sensitization.

It was also noted that rural and border areas had poor communication network, thus disrupting the enrolment and the supply of inputs using the e-voucher system. This has also caused the e-Voucher system to be slow, was intermittently on and off, thus affecting the enrolment and redemption of inputs. Some inputs like the climbing bean seed and fertilizers were limited in supply.

In Amuru Cluster, the Team was led by Hon. Hellen Adoa, Minister of State for Fisheries. In this cluster, the team visited Amuru, Gulu, Nwoya and Omoro districts. As part of the program, Hon. Adoa accompanied by the Gulu district production officer and the Assistant Commissioner Information and Communication participated in a radio talk show on Mega FM on in Gulu district. The issues discussed focused on the e-Voucher system challenges, the delays in input delivery and the need for tractor hire services, transport and value chain support.



Hon. Hellen Adoa- Minister of State for Fisheries in Gulu district meeting with West Acholi Cooperative Union matching grant beneficiaries.

While the project development objective is to raise on-farm productivity, production and marketable volumes of maize, beans, cassava, rice and coffee in 12 geographical clusters, the project is operationalized through four main project components; (i) Support intensification of on-farm production; (ii) Value Addition and Market Access; (iii) Policy, Regulatory and Institutional Support; (iv) Coordination and Management, and ICT Platform. It is expected that by the end of the project period, 450,000 farmers will have benefited from the project and are fully participating in the agricultural value chain.

Strengthening Farmer institutions through the Public-private partnership approach



Farmer level training by Community Based facilitator in Ntungamo Cluster

Early this year, the Ministry of Agriculture through ACDP signed a contract with the Uganda Cooperative Alliance to build the capacity of 30,000 small farmer groups. The objective of this partnership is to establish and strengthen existing functional farmer groups, rural producer organizations and area commodity cooperative enterprises

that engage in profitable agribusinesses in the 57 project districts.

At the project inception, it was assumed that strong well-structured farmer groups existed at the grassroots and that these groups would fully embrace the e-Voucher scheme.

It was also assumed that the well-structured farmer groups would encourage and support their members to pay for the subscription for the subsidy program. However, this has not been the case, most farmers do not belong to groups and those that are in the groups have very few members subscribing to the scheme, thus the low enrolment numbers to the e-Voucher scheme.

To develop Farmer institutions in the 57 project districts, Uganda Cooperative Alliance, together with ACDP Cluster coordinators and the newly recruited 983 Community-based facilitators are conducting trainings, to increase farmer participation in the groups. In addition, the community-based facilitators will continue to sensitize, mobilize and mentor farmers to understand the project, understand how the e-Voucher scheme works, how to order and redeem inputs using a mobile phone.

Prior to the district and sub-county level farmer group trainings, Uganda Cooperative Alliance conducted multi-level trainings in all the 12 clusters, that started with a national level training for all community-based facilitators. This was cascaded to the district level and was attended by the District local government leaders, Agricultural officers, Community Development officers and Community-based facilitators. It is expected that after all these trainings, the Community based facilitators will be well-grounded to enhance farmer participation in groups and increase farmer enrollment in the e-Voucher scheme. The contents of the training include identifying the core members of the group; defining the group's business idea; researching the feasibility of the groups' business idea and equipping the groups with skills in preparation of business plans. These small farmer groups are each composed of 5 to 15 members.



Kagadi Team Community Based facilitators Team receive their training manuals from the Production department

Grievance Redress Mechanism Community Engagement Meetings held in the pilot clusters of Kalungu, Ntungamo, and Nebbi

To enhance community involvement in the implementation of the ACDP project, the Social safeguards team, has just concluded a series of community engagement meetings in the pilot clusters of Kalungu, Ntungamo, and Nebbi. During these meetings, discussions were held with the District Coordination teams, Agricultural officers, Community based facilitators, and Community based organizations on Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM).

“Currently, there are several ACDP supported community-based projects that include the construction of post-harvest facilities and rehabilitative works on farm access road chokes”

The objective of these engagement meetings was to build and maintain relationships with stakeholders, assess the level of stakeholder involvement in grievance redress and promote inclusive participation of the project beneficiaries. The approach on the community engagements looks into the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that community members can harness from the project.

Such civil and construction works pose various risks at the community level, it was therefore important that communities understood the safety net measures, that can be used to address such risks should they occur. The objective of the GRM is to

- To provide stakeholders with an accessible, transparent and efficient process for voicing, registering and redressing grievances.
- To ensure that corrective actions are effectively implemented and Just compensation provided for any experienced hardship.
- To provide and define clear roles and responsibilities of the various parties handling and resolving grievances.
- To operationalize the provisions on Grievance Management in ACDP's Environmental and Social Safeguards framework.



ACDP Social Scientist engaging with the District coordinating teams, Agricultural officers, Community Based Facilitators, and Community Based Organizations on GRM in Yumbe district.

The ACDP Environmental and Social framework guides the preparation and implementation of detailed site-specific plans for the mitigation of the anticipated adverse effects of the project. Environmental and social safeguards aim to avoid, minimise and mitigate negative effects of a development intervention on people and the environment. For more information on the ACDP GRM can be got at

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



Technical backstopping for Matching Grant beneficiaries

The Ministry in Partnership with Enterprise Uganda is providing technical backstopping to Grantees under the Matching Grants for post-harvest infrastructure and facilities. An assessment of the business capacity of the farmer organizations' revealed that most of the organizations had limited managerial capacity and governance structures, weak capital base, absence of key infrastructure like electricity, water, access to good roads and internet. It was also observed that the readiness of the farmer organizations with their 33% contribution varied, with most having the contribution in kind (land), some of which had no clear documentation of ownership. The low saving and investment growth; and limited knowledge in entrepreneurship and business skills would affect the capacity of the farmers organizations to adequately utilize the grants.

The gaps observed mandated that the capacity of the farmer organizations are brought up to scale. Therefore, Enterprise Uganda was co-opted to strengthen the business capacity and mentor the farmer organizations to become business-oriented entities. So far, the capacity of 1,095 farmer leaders from 219 Farmer organizations have been built in assessment and negotiation skills and better understanding of their businesses.

These skills have enabled the farmer group leaders to engage and negotiate with the different service providers during the Agribusiness matchmaking expos that were held in November 2019 and July 2020 respectively.

Inspection and monitoring visits to the matching grants sites also show compliance with most sites roofed or at roofing stage.


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Farmer organizations have successfully undertaken procurements for services (construction contractors) and goods (construction materials and post-harvest equipment) funded under ACDP matching grants and managing contracts. The Farmer organizations have also been able to identify what can be contributed in kind as part of their 33% contribution thus enhancing ownership of these investments.



Eng. James Tondo (MAAIF) with DCT on monitoring and supervision of Pakwach district- Post-harvest facilities.

Progress on rehabilitative works on farm road bottlenecks in the pilot clusters



Part of the swamp sections filled in at Butende- Ibulanku- Buyede- Idudi Road- Iganga district

Rehabilitative works on bottlenecks (chokes) of farm road access in the five pilot clusters of Ntungamo, Nebbi, Iganga, Amuru and Kalungu commenced in March 2020 just before the COVID19 lockdown was effected. Prior to that several activities like mapping of the high production areas; selection and prioritization of the roads to be rehabilitated; preparation of detailed designs and bills of quantities for selected road chokes were conducted. The purpose of mapping the high production areas was to profile and determine the production levels of ACDP commodities. After that roads linking these areas to the value chain facilities and markets, to enable elimination of road bottlenecks critical for the movement of farm produce to bulking centres and storage facilities were mapped. Cumulatively, physical progress on rehabilitation of the different road works is at 35%, this low progress is attributed to deterioration of roads following heavy rains of Season B 2019 and the COVID 19 lockdown that slowed down most of the works. Considerable progress has been made on the on-going works in the five pilot clusters.

Amuru Cluster road works progress

Amuru cluster has an overall total of 57 kms of roads to be rehabilitated and overall progress on the on-going works is at 35%.

- 1) Parabongo-Gurguru Road (9.6 Kms) in Lamogi sub-county-works are on-going
- 2) State Farm- Okalocwan-Okoyo - Apar (35 Kms) in Pabo sub-county- works on-going
- 3) Amoyokuma - Acodo (8 Kms) in Amuru sub-county – works not yet started
- 4) Muruli - Pacilo (4 Kms) in Atiak sub-county- works not yet started

Ntungamo Cluster road works progress

Ntungamo cluster has an overall total of 54.1 Kms roads to be rehabilitated and physical performance is at 25%.

- 1) Ruzinga-Rwazina-Igorora (7.2 Km) in Nyakyeru sub-county- works on-going

Ntungamo cluster continued..

- 2) Kyenju-Kakanena –Kikoba- Ekitengye-Ikona- Murambi stage 2-Ibaare (15.4 Km) in Rugarama sub-county- Works on bridge construction on-going
- 3) Rwemiriro - Dembe (5.7 Km) in Ruhama East sub county- Works on-going, construction on box culvert completed.
- 4) Nyakariro-kabanda-Kashenyi (5.5 Km) in Ngoma sub county works on-going
- 5) Katokye-Kyenjojo (8.6 Km) in Rwikiniro sub-county- works on-going
- 6) Omungenyi(kakungu ps)-Nyamunuka-Ahamuyaga (4. 8 Km) in Rubaare sub county, box culverts done
- 7) Kikonje-RwandaHC-Bucene Road (5 Km) in Ruhama East sub county. Works on-going

Nebbi Cluster road works progress

Nebbi cluster has an overall total of 54 Kms roads to be rehabilitated. There has been substantial execution of works, currently estimated at 62% with main works on drainage and gravelling remaining.

- 1) Omyer – Atyak Road 5.7 Km in Nebbi sub-county
- 2) Parombo - Anyang - Ossi Road 8 Km in Nebbi sub-county
- 3) Omyer - Koch Road 4.1 Km in Nebbi sub-county
- 4) Kuchwiny - Asili Road 12.5 Km in Kuchwiny sub county
- 5) Pacego - Pagwaya Road 7 Km in Panyango sub county
- 6) Akella - Cikithi - Marama Road 7.3 Km in Pakwach sub-county

Iganga Cluster road works progress

Iganga cluster has an overall total of 59.7 Kms roads to be rehabilitated and the contractor has installed culverts in the Butende- Ibulanku- Buyede- Idudi road and gravelled 80% of the roads and the rest of the roads that have been opened and cleared are at approximately 74%.

- 1) Mwendanfuko- Bukoona Road 7.2 Km
- 2) Nabitende- Mwiira- Nasuti Road 4.9 Km
- 3) Nakirulwe- Bukonko- Mawagala Road 8.7 Km
- 4) Bwanalira- Bubaka- Mawagala Road 8.2 Km
- 5) Butende- Ibulanku- Buyede- Idudi Road 12.5 Km
- 6) Namungalwe- Bukoona Road 9.7 Km
- 7) Nabitende- Buwongo Road 8.5 Km

Kalungu Cluster road works progress

Kalungu cluster has an overall total of 29.3 Kms roads to be rehabilitated and physical performance is at 35%.

- 1) Zzave-Kiggundu Road (3.4Km) in Kyamulibwa sub-county
- 2) Nabutongwa-Kalokero-Kyamusoke-Kiraga-Katogondo (9.95Km) in Kalungu sub- county
- 3) Lusango-Mitete (2.9Km) in Bukulula sub-county
- 4) Kabaale-Buwanda-Kigajju (8.8Km) in Lwabenge sub-county
- 5) Kijomanyi-Namagoma-Bweyo (2.5Km) in Kalungu sub-county
- 6) Kitabona-Namasavu (5.3Km) in Bukulula sub-county

The works are supervised by the respective district engineers and are reinforced by a team of engineers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Works and Transport and Uganda National Road Authority.

Fourth ACDP Technical Committee Meeting held at Source of the Nile Hotel, Namanve- Kampala



ACDP M & E Specialist presents the Project Performance 2019/20 to the Project Technical Committee- Source of the Nile Hotel, Namanve, Kampala.

The 4th Project Technical committee was held in September 2020 and chaired by the Under-Secretary MAAIF, Mr Gyagenda Ssegawa. These committee meetings are held twice a year and are aimed at keeping the Technical team abreast of the project implementation and progress. It is also at these meetings that the technical team proposes ideas for improvement. The meeting was attended by the Technical Committee, composed of MAAIF Commissioners, Top policymakers from NIITA-U, Ministry of Local government and the Project Implementation Team. The team noted that the Project is commendable and strategic thereby, making it very important to the Ministry.

Objectives of the meeting

- Presentation and adoption of ACDP performance 2019/20
- Presentation of highlights of approved Financial year 2020/21 work plan
- Presentation and adoption of Mid-term review

- Presentation of the upcoming Mid-term review and World Bank support mission.

Discussions and deliberations

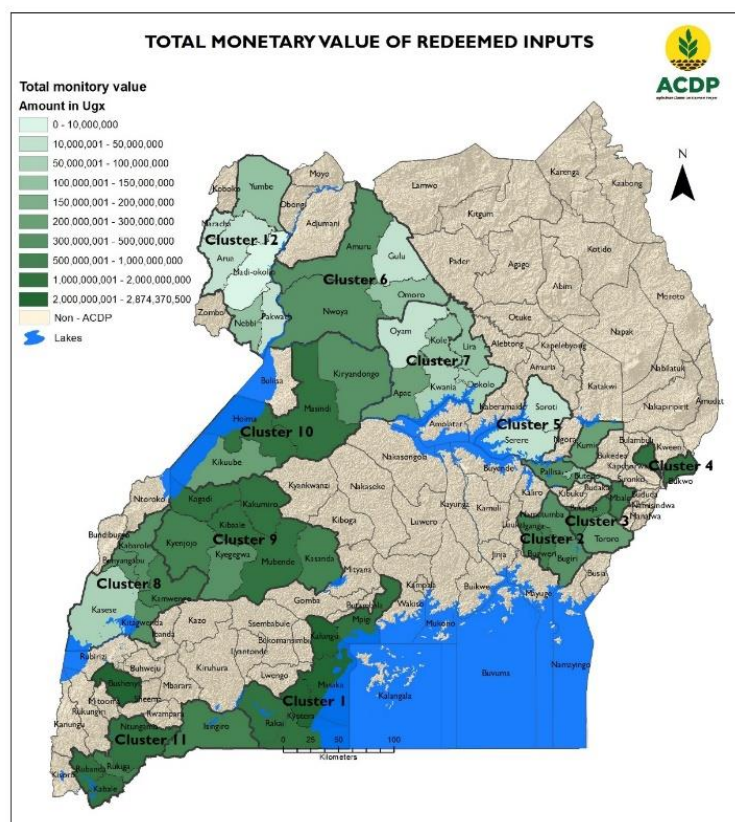
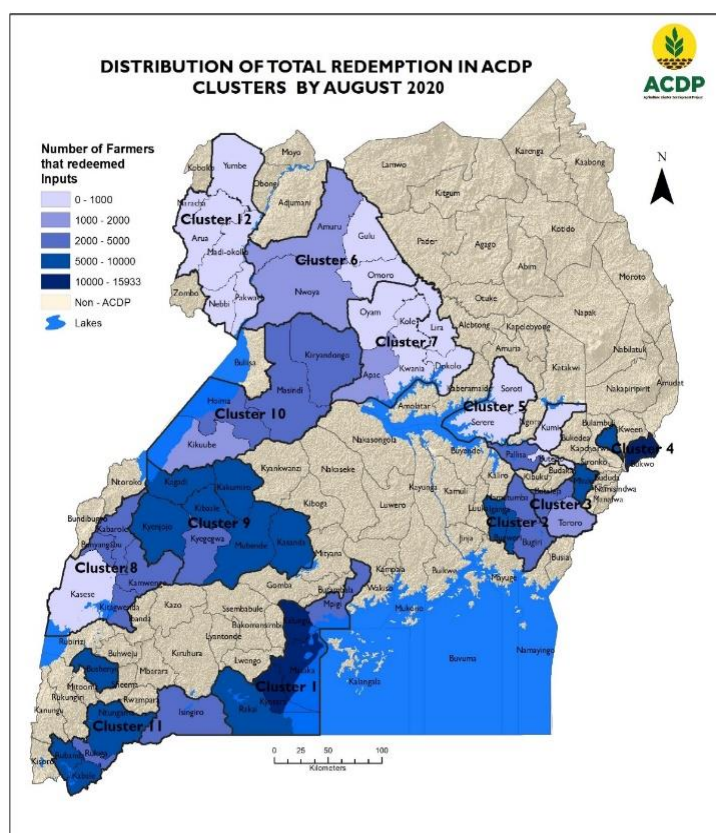
There was a general appreciation of the commendable progress in project implementation which was at 45% with 201,556 farmers enrolled in the e-Voucher Management system out of the targeted 450,000 farmers. In the field, there is a general observation that the five project crops (coffee, maize, beans, rice and cassava) are doing well especially coffee in the Kalungu cluster. The team advised that the project looks into the crops that are not doing well like cassava and transfer the success factors and experiences from the districts that are doing well to the ones that are not doing well.

Other good initiatives noted are the Farmer education, where the project has engaged with the private sector like the Uganda Cooperative Alliance and Enterprise Uganda to increase farmer awareness on the e-Voucher system and enrollment.

The meeting also noted that Farmer responsiveness to the e-Voucher management system is commendable. The project has also managed to have a system of traceability of poor seeds supplied to farmers, like the instance where poor germinating seeds were supplied to farmers in one district and the input supplier, district technical team and Cluster coordinator were able to visit the farmer fields and compensate the affected farmers.

Some challenges noted are the weak market linkages, worsening road conditions and the e-Voucher system issues that affect input redemption by farmers. There is a proposal to bring on board M-Cash to support input redemption by farmers and mitigate some of the challenges faced with the e-Voucher system.

Geographical distribution of total redemption vis a viz total monetary value of redeemed inputs.



The highest total redemptions and monetary value of redeemed inputs by August 2020 were made by Kalungu Cluster, Ntungamo Cluster, Iganga Cluster, Kapchorwa Cluster and Kyenjojo Cluster. There were also more enrolled farmers in the same clusters.

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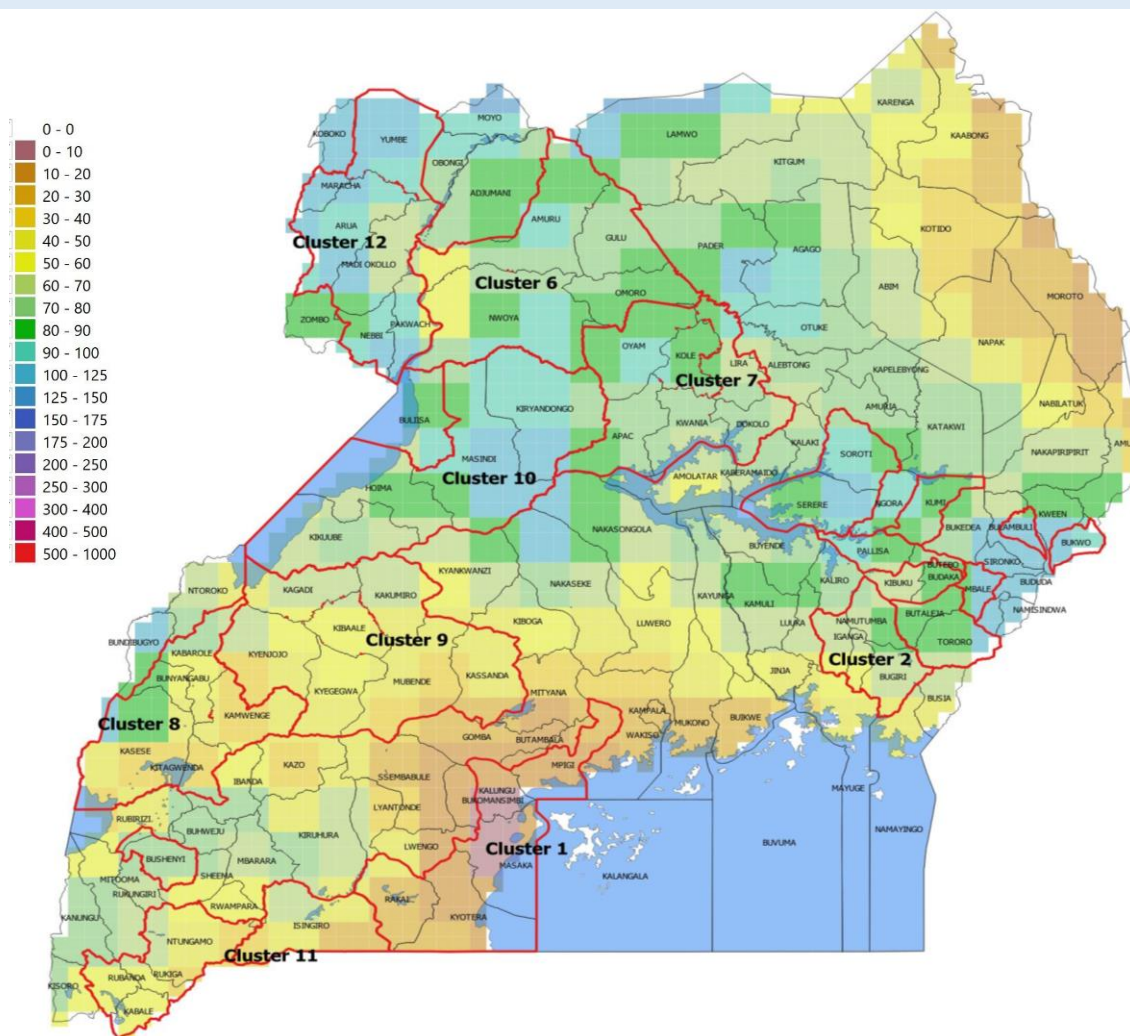
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Rainfall forecast for the next 7 days

(06/09/2020-13/09/2020)



Upcoming Events

- Agriculture Cluster Development project, Mid-term review and World Bank Implementation Support Mission from the 7th to 17th September 2020
- Financial and reporting training for Focal persons, District Commercial Officers, Accountants, internal Audit and Grantees from the five pilot Clusters- 21 September 2020
- Sustainable Land Management training at Mountains of the Moon from the 21st to 25th September 2020