



# foodfirst

## NEWS

A quarterly FRA Publication

ISSUE 1



INDEPENDENT  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

*A world free from hunger and malnutrition*



## Healthy Soils FOR A Healthy Life

The 68th UN General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS)

The IYS 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions.

Specifically, the IYS aims at;

- Raising full awareness among civil society and decision makers about the profound importance of soil for human life;
- Educating the public about
- the crucial role soil plays in food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- Supporting effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources;
- Promoting investment in sustainable soil management activities to develop and main-

*Cont. to page 3*



2015 Declared the International Year of Soils

1

# Word from the Chief Editor

I take this opportunity to congratulate you upon having received and taken off time to read this first issue of *Food First News*.

Readers of *Food First News* should be expecting FRA, her members and friends to be sharing real life experiences of how they are supporting humanity to enjoy the only right described as fundamental- the Right to Food

The Right to food is the right to feed oneself in dignity, rather than the right to be fed. The right to food is inalienable since food is essential to life. The Right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights. It is also inseparable from social justice requiring the adoption of appropriate policies oriented towards the eradication of poverty and fulfilment of the other human rights for all.

It is in this regard that FRA holds food not just as a basic need but as a right. At this moment in time when food is treated as a commodity in a market place, there is need for decision-makers to be reminded of the role food plays in the social, cultural, political and economic fabric of society and the country. They should then evoke the power entrusted to them and protect this right for all the people within the territorial boundaries of their authority.



## THAT FOOD FIRST, EVERYTHING ELSE LATER

Through the legal and policy discourses, leaders should ensure that private and public parties refrain from abusing and violating this right directly and indirectly while dealing with resources through which food is produced, managed and eaten.

As FRA we believe that Food is the most precious item every human being should have in life. We believe that life begins and ends with food. That food is important just as means of its production, handling and eating it are. That food should be treated with honesty, respect and dignity including means through which it is produced, prepared and eaten.

We wish to dedicate our first issue of *Food First News* to the farming communities in Uganda and in the world. We therefore call upon you to reflect on this category of people comprising of the majority in developing countries including Uganda. They top the world's most poor and malnourished. They are vulnerable to shocks and associated with risks when it comes to access to financial resources and partnerships for investment. Regardless of all this they have fed the world and continue to invest without making profit.

**Agnes Kirabo**  
Executive Director FRA





*Cont. from page 1*

# Healthy soils for a healthy life

tain healthy soils for different land users and population groups;

- Strengthening initiatives in connection with the SDG process (Sustainable Development Goals) and Post-2015 agenda and;
- Advocating for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national).

Soils are regarded the most profound allies of food. According to Food and Agricultural

Organization of the United Nations, Soil is a finite resource, meaning its loss and degradation is not recoverable within a human lifespan. It is the core component of land resources, agricultural development and ecological sustainability; and therefore the basis for food, feed, fuel and fiber production and for many critical ecosystem services.

In this regard, soil should be regarded a highly valuable natural resource and never should it be overlooked. As we mark 2015 the IYS, we should take

note that productive soils are getting limited every other day. It is under pressure to feed the growing population, more often induced to produce crops, care for animals, wild life inclusive, forestry and settlement for the mushrooming urban centers. Soils need to be recognized and valued for their productive capacities as well as their contribution to food security and the maintenance of key ecosystem services. Soil is a non-renewable resource. Its preservation is essential for food security and our sustainable future.

## You LOVE Food? YOU must then LOVE soils.

Feed the soils adequately and soils will adequately feed you. Keep your soils safe, they will produce safe food in return.

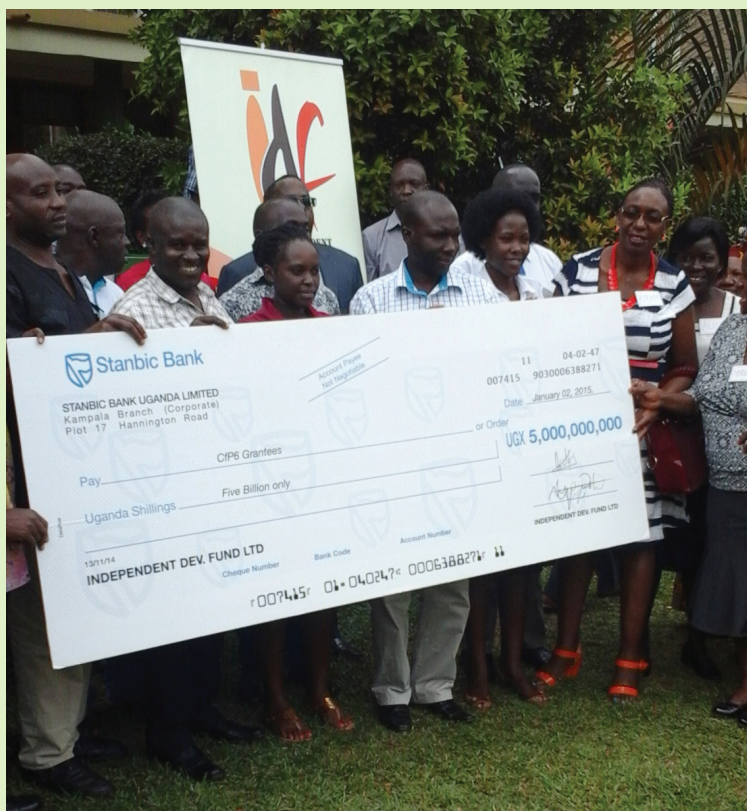


# Promoting the right to food

## as a measure of reducing vulnerability to child trafficking.

Many people in Uganda, regardless of whether they are rights holders or duty bearers, have limited appreciation and knowledge of the right to food as an entitlement with duties and responsibilities but also the consequences of its abuse.

In the promotion of human rights and good governance, it is evident that hungry populations are vulnerable to a number of shocks and their resilience is minimal and therefore they can't actively participate in pursuing other human rights. The studies conducted about human trafficking in Uganda reveal that trafficking is gravely prevalent and that child trafficking is the most common and worst form of violence against children especially the girl child



that exposes them to all forms of vulnerabilities and abuse. It is a very serious human rights and development issue that is affecting children in many parts of Uganda although it's worse in vulnerable post conflict areas. Children are trafficked primarily because of their vulnerability caused by the rampant poverty but also famine that increases the number of school drop-outs in these areas.

In many studies carried out in Uganda, it has been proved that the major factor which makes children vulnerable culprits of child trafficking is the prevalence of high levels of poverty amongst the households. Much as poverty constitutes of numerous aspects, it has been further established that

lack of adequate diet is one of the major factors, which forces parents and children alike into vulnerability to child trafficking. Limited food makes it difficult for children to concentrate in school. It also forces poor parents into surrendering their children to potential traffickers who are in most cases better off compared to the vulnerable families. The state, process and

*Cont. to page 5*





# Promoting the right to food

*Cont. from page 4*

motivating factors for child trafficking vary from one place to another depending on the level of vulnerability.

Against this back drop, with support from Independent Development Fund (IDF) Food Rights Alliance and her member

War on Want Northern Ireland is implementing an 18 months project aimed at promoting the realization of the right to food as a measure of ending child trafficking in Katakwi and Soroti district. . The project is testing a model of addressing the abuse

of other rights through the promotion of another right as a foundation.

In the subsequent issues of Food First News, we shall be sharing with you experiences generated from the implementation of this particular project.

## Reconnaissance visits to lower local governments in Soroti, Ngora, Katakwi and Amuria districts



LCV Soroti welcomes FRA and WoNI Team in Soroti

In February this year, FRA secretariat staff and WoWNI conducted reconnaissance visits to introduce FRA to the district leadership in Ngora, Amuria, Katakwi and Soroti. During the visits, meetings were held with

the district leadership in the technical, political and security wings. In all the four districts, the team met with District Administrative Officers, LCV chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners, District security

Officers and District production units.

FRA was commended for the practice of bringing on board district leadership before engaging communities with project activities. During the meetings, the district leadership together with the FRA team worked out plans of introducing the projects to the wider stakeholders in the districts.

In Amuria and Ngora, the visits were held with financial support from Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung while in Katakwi and Soroti districts, the visits were funded by IDF.



# Project inception meetings in Amuria and Ngora districts

FRA is implementing a project on enhancing resilience of women to shocks of Exclusion and traumatic stressors of hunger and malnutrition in Ngora and Amuria districts. The

project is funded by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung. Stakeholder inception meetings were held in February to bring on board wider stakeholders to the implementation of the project.

The major outcome of the meeting is how districts are engaging FRA to integrate the project interventions in the district development plans being developed.



RDC Amuria inception meeting







A woman participating during inception meeting in Amuria

## Community broad casting – Linking grass-root farmers to duty bearers and technical advisors.

In her effort to enhance household food production and food security, FRA together with WOWNI, SORUDA and Kyoga Vertas Radio staff visited Ajepe-totu Farmers' Groups, Amoru Farmers' Group in Asuret and Gweri sub-counties respectively in Soroti district. The major objective was to collect first hand information pertaining farmers' conditions of food production, share it on air and relay it to duty bearers who were invited for the radio programme to ad-

dress the issues raised by the farmers. The approach gives farmers and local communities an opportunity to participate in broadcasting and communicating their issues. Un edited. These community broadcasting sessions became a platform for communities to unearth the agony they are going through in their effort to produce food. These among others included; counterfeit inputs such as seeds, pesticides lack of extension services.

The other important issue that arose during the discussions was child trafficking in the two sub-counties particularly in Gweri sub-county. During the sessions the project team was approached by a group of six women whose children had been trafficked and some of them sacrificed. The IDF project will provide an opportunity to correlate these two variables (child trafficking and household food security and gladly share the findings.



# Our work on Seed security

Together with the working group on seed security, a comprehensive position paper on the Bio technology and Biosafety Bill 2012 was produced. This was shared with members of Parliament at a Breakfast meeting in Kampala. A copy of the position Paper can be found on the FRA face book page and at [www.fra.ug](http://www.fra.ug).



(A snapshot of the open letter)

## UP-COMING EVENTS

**FRA Annual  
General Assembly  
- April 2015**

**Interministerial  
meeting  
- December 2015**

## Quotes of the period

“When I produce good quality maize, what will the market reward me with” farmer in Mubende during a quality control dialogue by SEATINI Uganda

“Who actually pays for the subsidies EU and USA pays to their farmers?” participant during the regional dialogue in Nairobi organized by SEATINI Kenya and Kenya Human Rights Commission.

“What would happen if everyone ate lots and lots of fresh organic food which are minimally processed? I think we would have an EPIDEMIC OF HEALTH” Dr. Andrew Saul-Food Matters.



PO Box: 5796 Kampala Tel: +256 414695518 Website: [www.fra.ug](http://www.fra.ug)  
Email: [frauganda@gmail.com](mailto:frauganda@gmail.com) Facebook: [foodrightsalliance](https://www.facebook.com/foodrightsalliance)

Publication of this Newsletter was made possible by support from

