

THE
10TH



JASAR 2020

**JOINT AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR ANNUAL REVIEW**

SECTOR PERFORMANCE

Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan
2019-2020/2021 at a glance

CSO PERSPECTIVE

THE 10TH



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CSO PERSPECTIVE

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Further appreciation goes to all NSAs mentioned at the back of this booklet whose work in various parts of the country provided inspirations that informed the process of writing this document.

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LIST OF **ACRONYMS**

NSAS	NON STATE ACTORS
CAADP	COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
MAAIF	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES
MOLHUD	MINISTRY OF LANDS HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OWC	OPERATION WEALTH CREATION
NDP II	NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN II
ASSP	AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN
UNBS	UGANDA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
NAADS	NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

1.0

BACKGROUND

Since 2011 the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) has been organizing Joint Agriculture Sector Annual Review(s) (JASARs), this followed the signing of the CAADP Compact in 2010 and subsequent adoption of the Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP) as the First National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP). The broad objective of the JASAR as speculated in the CAADP review guidelines is to collectively and mutually review the performance of the agricultural sector. The previous financial year is reviewed against targets, actions and indicators set out in the Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS). Specifically; the JASAR aims at;

- i. Creating a platform for stakeholders in the agriculture sector including; political leaders, sector institutions, decentralized structures, private sector, civil society and development partners to discuss and review the performance of the agriculture sector, as well as its associated policies and programs;
- ii. Assessing the trends in overall sector performance based on relevant Sustainable Development Goals, CAADP, the National Development Plan (NDP II) and the Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) indicators;
- iii. Assessing the progress of implementation of sector priorities for the year under review as set out in the Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) and sector Budget Framework Paper (BFP);
- iv. Assessing sector public and private financing for the year under review;
- v. Assess progress made towards the agreed actions in the previous JASAR 2019 and other performance guidelines such as; the cabinet

retreat for the Government Annual Performance Report (GAPR) for FY 2018/19, the Presidential Directives and ruling party Manifestos.

The JASARs therefore are set to promote horizontal accountability and therefore all sector stakeholders (private sector, civil society, farmers' organizations, Development Partners, Local Governments, and Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies) must take active and competent participation. The JASAR process has evolved since and new innovations have been added all aiming at strengthening participation and accountability. These include; undertaking Regional JASARs since 2017 in central Region i.e. 2017 in Northern Region, 2018 in Eastern Region and the currently concluded in Western, Eastern, Northern and Central Uganda Regions. An inclusive technical working group was constituted allowing a representation of all stakeholders in organizing the JASAR activities.

The National JASAR is preceded by a pre JASAR which allows stakeholders to pretest the methodology and conclude the preparations. A post JASAR has also been conducted in the previous 2 years to synthesize the JASAR discussions and identify recommendations to be integrated in the following FY planning and budgeting frameworks. This evolution has not only aroused participation but also collective ownership of the processes and leveraging on financial and technical human resources for conducting the reviews.

The participation of Non-State Actors (NSAs) hasn't not been active and competent until 2015, NSAs especially civil society were taking a passive role and invitations would be extended to a few to attend as observers. However, since 2015 NSAs have been accorded equal space as State Actors. They have prepared and presented own independent assessments, made financial contributions to meet process costs, financed own participation and participation of their beneficiaries and provided technical input in the conceptualization and implementation of the events.

2.0

INTRODUCTION

The 10th JASAR of 2020 marks the 6th NSA active participation in the JASAR processes. It however falls at the point where the agriculture sector is starting implementation of the new ASSP in the context of NDP III where the sector is significantly expected to contribute to the programme area of Agro Industrialization. Further, the sector is faced with two emergence challenges of COVID 19 and Desert locusts on top of the protracted challenges like climate change. It therefore necessitates to not only look at the sector performance for the year 2019/20 but also reflecting on the sector readiness to tackle emergencies as and when they arise. This NSA paper therefore is multi-faceted, it provides for the sector performance for the FY 2019/20 as part of the broader performance of the sector for the concluding National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) of 2015/16 – 2019/20.

The paper further provides a snapshot of the sector performance on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) commitments as detailed within the various indicators designed in the Malabo framework and on specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The paper also provides a snapshot of the sector readiness towards building resilience of all actors in the sector towards emergencies. The recommendations provided in this paper are focusing on the agriculture sector in the next ASSP II and not necessarily the next FY as it has been in the previous years.

3.0

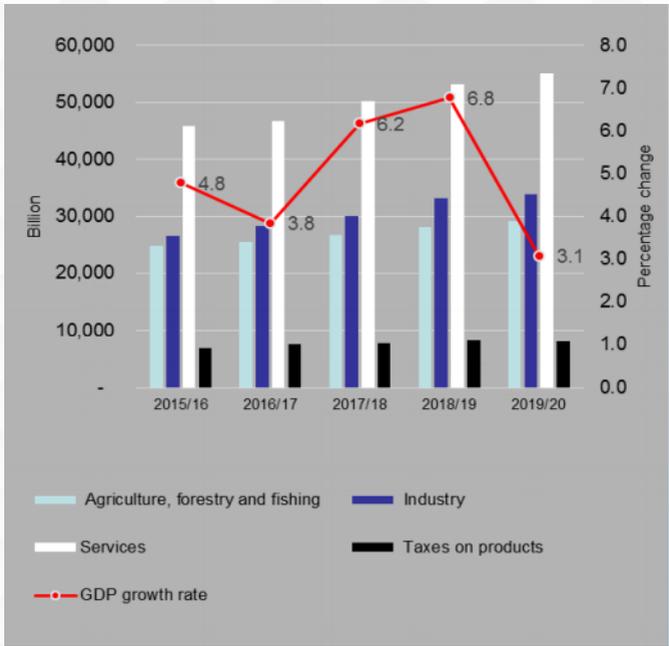
MACRO-ECONOMIC SECTOR PERFORMANCE

The agriculture sector remains central to the economy of Uganda. The sector employs majority of the population estimated at 64.6% according to the Uganda National House Hold Survey (UNHS 2016/17); with more women engaged in agriculture at 70.5% compared to men at 58.5%. The agriculture sector according to the NDP II was identified as one of the priority development sectors needed to achieve a “Transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years.” The NDP III 2020/21 – 2024/25 on “Sustainable Industrialization for inclusive growth, employment and wealth creation” is hinged on the need for rapid industrialization based on increased productivity and production in agriculture. This section therefore, provides an assessment of the agriculture sector, within the broader context of Uganda’s economy, sector growth, public financing against the ASSP costing, budget performance of the sector, human resource, agriculture financing and insurance and the status of production and productivity.

3.1 Agriculture sector and Uganda’s economy

According to UBOS, 2020, until July, 2020 Uganda’s economy expanded by 3.1, despite this being lower than 6.8 in 2018/19. The size of the economy in real terms, has increased to Uganda Shillings 126,258 Billion in 2019/2020 from Uganda Shillings 122,494 Billion in 2018/19. The services sector still contributes the largest portion at over 70%, followed by the industrial sector at over 40% and Agriculture sector at above 35%. The agriculture sector’s contribution to GDP growth as shown in Figure 1 below has for years registered a slight but insignificant increase.

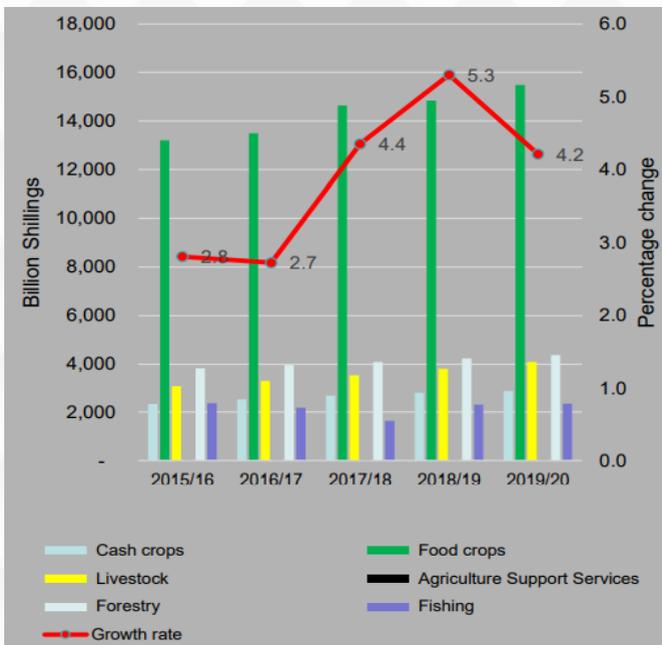
Fig. 1. GDP sector performance



Source: UBOS, 2020

Food crops contributed the largest to the country's GDP for the FYs 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 as shown in the Figure 11 below. Other agriculture items that had a tangible contribution to GDP in FYs 2016/17 and 2017/18 included cash crops, livestock, forestry, and fishing. However, the NDP111 and so the ASSP11 needs to pay particular attention to food crops for their duo purpose for food and income security;

Fig. 2: sector contribution to GDP FY2015/16 – 2019/20



3.2 Agriculture Sector contribution to foreign exchange earning

Uganda’s export trade and foreign earning has over the years been dominated by agricultural merchandise. Whereas in presentation by BOU, coffee is separated from other non-coffee, significantly representing a growth range above 15% of the years, the figure below presents beans as an export merchandise of significant importance of the agriculture sector that the country needs to pay attention too. Whereas coffee between May 2019 and May 2020 presented a 15.0% Psh and Psh products presented 44.6% and beans presented 101.6%.

We commend government for prioritizing beans in the ASSP II. Figure 111 below however suggests that government decisions on investment in bean production should go beyond household and nutrition security to export earning in order to balance the demand for beans in the country and the export market.

Table I. Merchandise exports by product, million US\$

	May-19	Apr-20	May-20	May 20 Vs May 19 percent change	May 20 Vs April 20 percent change
Total Exports	349.61	207.15	290.93	-16.8%	40.4%
1. Coffee (Value)	33.27	36.93	42.48	27.7%	15.0%
Coffee (60 kg bags)	348,632	359,973	437,597	25.5%	21.6%
Av. unit value	1.59	1.71	1.62	1.7%	-5.4%
2. Non-Coffee formal exports	276.59	169.26	247.86	-10.4%	46.4%
o/w Base Metals & Products	10.40	5.50	9.20	-11.6%	67.2%
Tea	8.36	6.14	6.49	-22.4%	5.6%
Tobacco	4.81	2.59	1.61	-66.6%	-38.1%
Fish & its prod. (excl. regional)	16.71	6.76	9.78	-41.5%	44.6%
Maize	2.62	6.18	3.55	35.6%	-42.6%
Beans	0.54	0.60	1.21	123.2%	101.6%
3. ICBT Exports	39.74	0.97	0.59	-98.5%	-38.7%

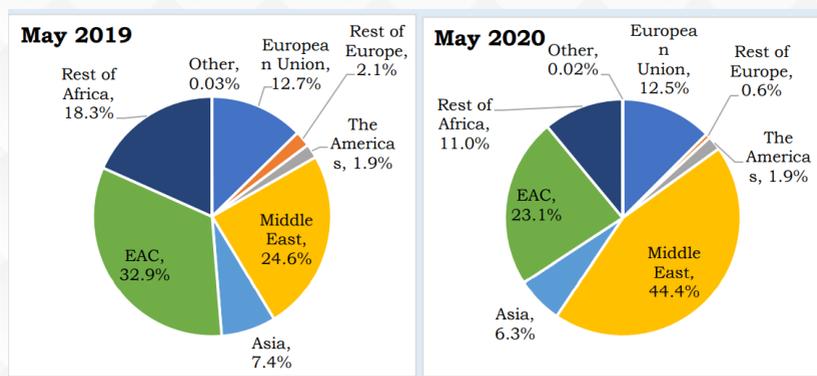
Source: BOU, 2020 Monthly economic performance

3.3. The Agriculture Sector and Uganda's Export destination

In terms of export destination, it's imperative for the agricultural sector, charged with increasing production and productivity for both export and industry to reflect on the major export destinations for Uganda's products. Market requirements as defined by the product destination are a very important piece of information in investment and production decision making. Between 2017 and 2018, the major destination of Uganda's agricultural exports was EAC followed by Middle East and other parts of Africa among others. The figure below indicates a significant decline in EAC as a major export destination but a significant increase of the same by the Middle East. Attracting investment and organizing production along the production lines required both in EAC and the Middle East should then become a priority of the agricultural sector.

The Sector needs to study the circumstances behind the decline of the country share in the EAC region. Uganda is regarded the regional food basket. The country is endowed with natural resource base needed to feed Africa. Why shift from the region as the major Country's export destination?

Fig. 3 Merchandise exports by destination



Source: BOU, 2020, monthly economic performance

3.4 Agricultural sector growth

The agriculture sector growth for a better part of the last five years has been below 4%. Generally, it oscillated between 1.6% and 3.8% for the period FY 2015/16 - FY 2018/19, far below the CAADP commitment of 6% and the concluded ASSP projections of 5.7% as detailed in the table below.

Table II: Agricultural sector growth FY2014/15 - FY 2018/19

	NDPII Growth Estimates	Sector Performance Growth Rate
FY2014/15	5.3%	2.3%
FY2015/16	5.8%	3.2%
FY2016/17	6.4%	1.3%
FY2017/18		3.8%
FY2018/19		3.8%

Data Sources: NDP III and Budget speeches

In terms of Real GDP growth across the ASSP II, all subsectors except agriculture support services experienced a turbulent growth rate. However, by the FY 2018/19, Fisheries had registered the highest growth rate of 11.3% followed by support services at 7.3%, cash crops at 5.3% and food

crops at 4%. The forestry and livestock sub sectors registered the least growth rates of 2.6% and 1.8% respectively.

This growth rate has a significant contribution to the status of hunger, malnutrition and poverty where poverty is estimated at 21.7% and malnutrition at 27% (SOFI REPORT 2019).

3.5 Sector Public Financing against ASSP I Costing

This section presents an analysis of the public financing for the agriculture sector against the ASSP costing and estimates as well as a critical review of performance of the sector against the inspirations of the Plan. According to the ASSP 2015/16-2019/20, a total of UGX 4,626.50 trillion was the proposed amount to be invested in the sector over the period. However actual allocations towards the sector fell short by UGX 1,543.89 trillion representing a deficit of 33%. Although this may appear insignificant, it represents UGX 1,543.89 trillion in real terms an amount significant enough to support the provision of agricultural extension for two FYs.

Table III. ASSP COST and budgetary allocations to the sector over the ASSP period

FY	ASSP Costing (bn)	Budget allocation (bn)	Variance	%
2015/16	480.0	510.4	30.4	6.0
2016/17	782.5	823.4	40.9	5.0
2017/18	875.7	846.7	29.0	-3.3
2018/19	1,080.0	901.1	178.9	-16.6
2019/20	1,408.3	1,011.4	396.9	-28.2

From table III, above it is observed that throughout the ASSP period, budget allocations to the sector have largely fallen below the ASSP costings save for the first two financial years thus FY 2015/16 and FY 2016/17.

3.6 Performance of Select Co-Funded Agricultural Development Loans

Between 2013 and 2018 the Government of Uganda undertook to co-fund four agricultural development loans according to the arrangement presented in the table IV below;

Name of the project	Funder	Project Period	Loan amount from Govt (USD)	Loan amount from funder(USD)	Budget/ funding performance
Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVCP)	Africa Development Bank	5 years	5.291M	40.71M	9.68% of the total allocated budget in 2019/2020
Enhancing National Food Security through Increased Rice Production (ENRP) project	Islamic Development Bank	4 years		71.2M	As of Mar. 2020, 97% has been spent mostly on capital inputs
National Oil Palm Project (NOPP)	IFAD	10 years	1.21M	75.82M	As of Sept. 2020, 18% expenditure of the approved budget
Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP)	International Development Association	6 years	98M	150M	By the end of the 2 nd yr, spent only 32.09 million US\$ yet would have spent should have spent US\$ 63.26 million

Source: OP, Sept. 2020, Issue paper, Performance of Select Co-Funded Agricultural Development Loans

These projects were designed to meet different challenges faced in several agricultural sectors in different regions of the country. However, an analysis of the budget/funding performance of the projects, reveals that; AVCP did not have a delay between the time the project loan was approved to the time when the initial disbursement was released i.e. only 3 months

wait. The project spent and committed up to 9.68% of the total allocated budget in 2019/2020 which is still low.

ENRP has had significant underperformance against the approved budget. As of 31st December 2018, the project had received 1% disbursement and had spent 81% with the remaining 19% committed. As of March 2020, the project had received a total of only 3% of the funds promised and of this, 97% has been spent mostly on capital inputs.

Under **NOPP**, there was a delay in the initial funds' transfer as a result of miscommunication between IFAD and the Project Management Unit (PMU). PMU needed to submit original copies of the account opening to IFAD but had submitted duplicates, and this was brought to their attention by the bank months later which resulted in delays. This partly accounts for the delay in the release of funds from the time the project was signed in November 2018 to the time the first disbursement was made in late September 2019. The projects current budget performance is standing at 18% expenditure of the approved budget for the year, and at 33% if commitments are included.

By the end of the second year, **ACDP** should have spent US\$ 63.26 million, however, they had spent only 32.09 million US\$. This was attributed to the slow implementation of project activities by the different stakeholders. The project, however, had failed to quantify outputs for some expenditures which was attributed to the nature of the project (some activities could not be determined beforehand). This made it hard to determine if the money was spent according to plan or not, and as well it was difficult to establish individual costs for each planned output according to the report of the auditor general. The lengthy procurement process was also cited as another cause for underperformance against the budget. The auditor general also noted that in its second year of operations, there were delays in approving the budget by 3 months and accordingly there were delays in implementing project activities. In addition, much as the districts had prepared and submitted work plans on time to the center, project funds were disbursed late to the districts for activities implementation.

Recommendation

Establishment of an interagency loan management mechanism: This is relevant to initiate and maintain a forum to address areas consistently identified as bottlenecks and causes of delay in loan utilization. For example, OPM may need to work with the Ministry of Finance, planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA), and development partners to fasten the process, while maintaining all required procedures, the process of approval, procurement and identify necessary support to avoid unnecessary delays in implementing different project activities.

Stakeholder Annual Reflection on the performance of all projects on Loan in the sector: Annually as part of the sector reviews, particular attention should be paid on the performance of all such projects in the sector on loans. This is important to ensure value for money as loans are paid with interest.

3.7 Human resources

The sector continues to grapple with human resources challenges. The Auditor General in his 2019 report states that; Out of 875 approved staff positions, only 580 (66%) had been filled leaving 295 (34%) vacant. Major sectors singled out contributing to this variance include; Dairy Development Authority (DDA), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and NAGRIC as detailed below;

Table V: Staff gaps in the agriculture sector

Agency	Approved Posts	Filled Positions	Vacant posts	%ge gap
DDA	140	65	75	55
NARO	995	873	112	12
NAGRIC	175	86	90	51
Total	1,310	1,024	277	

Source: OAG report 2019

This staffing challenge is equally experienced at local governments, the service delivery mechanism for the agriculture sector.

Recommendations

The agricultural sector is the only renewable sector. It is therefore significant to the micro and macro-economic transformation of the country leading to the future of industrialization, job creation and shared prosperity. We therefore recommend that; MAAIF gets restructured in order to harmonize the skills needs of the sector and the new demands of the NDP II and ASSP III, this process should be expedited.

4.0

AGRICULTURE FINANCING AND INSURANCE

As government transitions from the sectoral based planning to programme based planning, we commend government for funding the Agro-Industrialization programme. This section assesses government funding to agro-industrialization programme with a focus on both agriculture and trade related interventions that promote the agro-industrialization value chain.

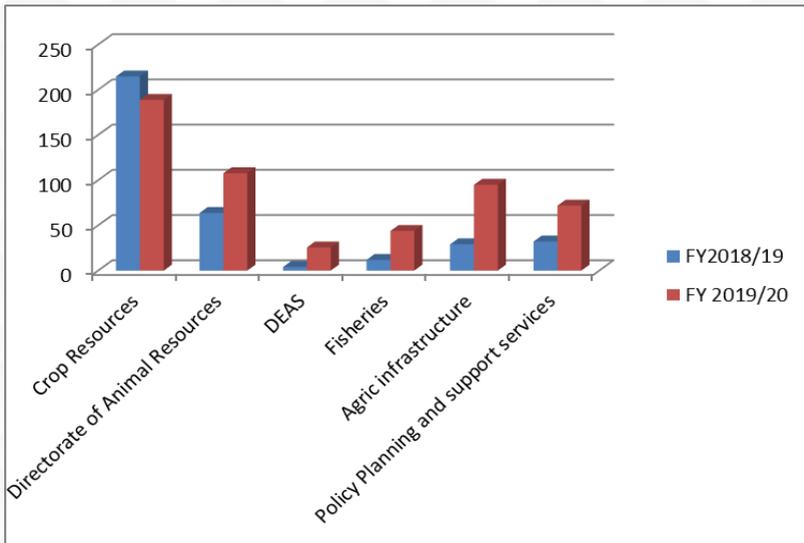
With the Pght against the COVID – 19 pandemics, we commend government for the strategic effort taken to fund the agriculture sector citing its importance in livelihood and income generation for development.

Table VI. ASSP Cost and budgetary allocations to the sector over the ASSP period.

FY	ASSP Costing (bn)	Budget allocation (bn)	Variance	%
2015/16	480.0	510.4	30.4	6.0
2016/17	782.5	823.4	40.9	5.0
2017/18	875.7	846.7	29.0	-3.3
2018/19	1,080.0	901.1	178.9	-16.6
2019/20	1,408.3	1,011.4	396.9	-28.2

Whereas the agricultural sector has experienced an upward trend in allocations, the table above reveals that throughout the ASSP period, budget allocations to the sector have largely fallen below the ASSP costings save for the Prst two Pnancial years thus FY 2015/16 and FY 2016/17. Although the sector allocations have continued being lower than the demand and expectations from the sector, deep reBection is required on how these funds are internally allocated. A close look at the internal allocations of the

MAAIF vote as illustrated in the Figure below indicate that; the agricultural extension receives the least of the vote allocation despite the fact that it supports four of the vote functions, namely, Fisheries, crop, infrastructure and animal resources.



Source: Approved Budget Estimated, FY 2019/20 and 2020/21

a. Underfunding and limited products for Agricultural Insurance

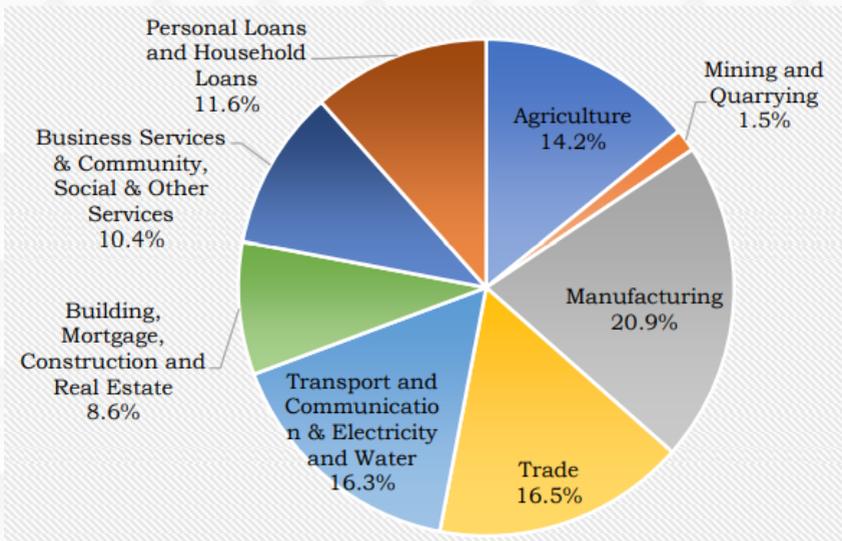
The insurance encourages commercial banks to lend to the agriculture sector given that the risk associated with agriculture is mitigated through appropriate insurance cover, which ideally should improve access to agriculture loans. The agriculture insurance scheme started in FY 2016/17 has remained a pilot. Currently, the scheme is receiving a subsidy of UGX 50 B per year which is also considered not adequate. Further the scheme is more accessible mainly to those closer to urban and peri-urban centers. We therefore recommend;

Scaling up the Uganda Agricultural Insurance Scheme (UAIS) from a pilot to cushion farmers from risks associated with losses arising from natural disasters and also attracting financing to agriculture. This pilot should be scaled up to a fully fledged scheme.

New products, like weather indexed insurance that do not cater for some who have been left out at the moment should also be introduced as opposed to focusing on specific crops, livestock and disaster prone areas.

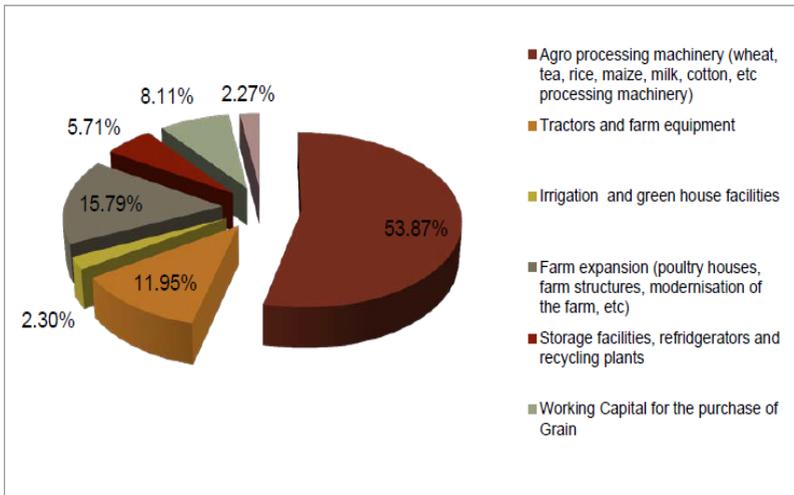
b. Farmers’ access to credit facilities

Access to credit due to supply and demand side constraints has remained one of the biggest limitations of enhancing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector to contribute to agro industrialization and addressing the balance of payment. For instance in May 2020, private sector credit to agriculture was only 14.2% compared to that of trade, building mortgages and real estate both at 25.1% followed by manufacturing at 20.9% as illustrated in the Figure 4 below;



Source: Performance of the economy report June 2020

The agriculture credit facility, created in 2009 to increase access to credit in the agriculture sector has also remained operating with multiple challenges especially to small holder farmers. The bulk of the facility is enjoyed by actors at the up ends of the value chain and less at the production level as illustrated in the Figure 5 below;



Agro processing account for 53.87 percent of the funds allocation which is consistent with one of the scheme's key objective of value addition.

c. Capitalization of UDB

For a long time, government has been talking about capitalising UDB. Currently Cabinet has approved a paltry UGX 500 Million to the bank. Although this is still not enough, not much interest has been shown in applying for credit from the facility.

We recommend that;

Allocation to UDB be increased to at least UGX 1.04 Trillion. This is the negotiated and proposed amount in the draft agriculture finance policy under review.

Scaling up of the Agricultural Credit Facility to at least UGX 100 Billion, to cater for more borrowers. The facility is now crowded with applications from commercial banks who initially have not been aggressive to offer the facility to actors in the Agriculture sector. This influx has been experienced after Covid evasion.

Rationalise and render more effective the role of other public sector agricultural finance initiatives and mechanisms (such as the mentioned ACF and the Warehouse Receipts pilots led by the Warehouse Receipt System Authority). This is important to leverage the complementary role they play if the facility is to be effective and loans do not become delinquent.

Make the demand side ready and bankable to absorb financing: through business development services, technical assistance can be offered as part of the lending package, as assurance of the best and maximum utilization of the borrowed funds, for maximum benefit. This is the process of providing targeted support to an organization with a development need. This could for example be through private extension services, quality control, post-harvest handling, elementary processing/value addition/cottage industry, etc.

Establish credit guarantee schemes: Partnerships can be built to provide a combination of credit guarantees to provide comfort to participating financial institutions, so that they can target under-served segments with higher systemic risk such as new borrowers, women, the youth, smallholder farmers and agri-MSMEs. In this regard, Government can partner with guarantee schemes, such as aBi Finance and USAID's DCA (Development Credit Authority) guarantee schemes, etc., to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of credit guarantees in the Ugandan agricultural industry.

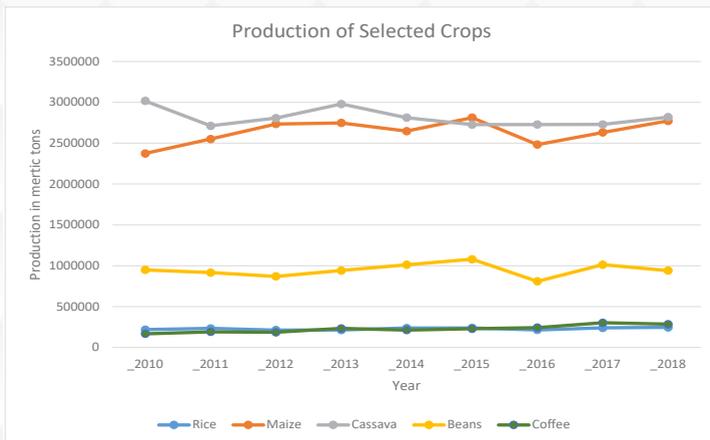
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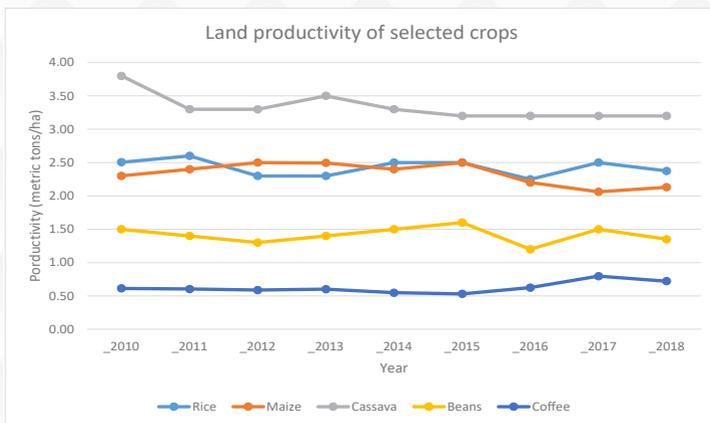
INCREASING PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY

For over a decade now the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries have been destined to increase production and productivity. From the Prst generation NAIP= The development Strategy and Investment Plan to the Prst ASSP and now the Second ASSP, increasing production and productivity has remained a priority Investment area.

Other stakeholders including Donors, NGOS, cultural institutions, Faith based Organizations, private sector among others have equally immensely invested in the same.

However, it is established that not significant change has been realized. The images below on production and productivity of selected enterprises (they have remained priority enterprises until now) neither their production nor their productivity has significantly change in the spell of the last 8 years. Even when figures for 2019 are not available, nothing much is expected away from the trend.





Source: Performance of the economy report June 2020

The two graphs on production and productivity above suggest that there is something significantly wrong either with how interventions are designed or targeted to increase production and productivity.

We therefore recommend that a comprehensive review and assessment of the interventions on increasing production and productivity is undertaken. With these trends uninterrupted, the agricultural sector cannot industrialize and shall therefore fail the entire country to attain its inspiration of the NDP111.

6.0

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

The priorities and commitments for agricultural technology development and uptake are detailed in the agricultural sector policy and strategic documents including National Agricultural Extension policy (NAEP), the National Agricultural Strategy (NAES) and the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) 2015/16-2019/20.

The ASSP ending this Financial Year 2019/20 noted that uptake of improved technologies generated by National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO) was still low, and that yield gaps between the on-station and on-farm outputs remained significantly wide. It was thus the goal of the ASSP to raise the uptake rate of generated improved technologies from 30% in 2014 to 40%; and increase the percentage change in on-farm yields for priority and strategic commodities from 30% in 2014 to 35% by the FY 2019/20 (National Budget Framework Paper FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24).

The ASSP also observed that farmers continued to grapple with the effects of climate change characterized by erratic weather patterns which impact on agricultural production and productivity. This review also takes cognizance of the emerging shocks such as COVID 19 in addition to the above mentioned climate related challenges that still remain an important threat to the resilience of agro-food systems in Uganda despite previous efforts, given our highly climate dependent agricultural system.

As we conclude this five-year planning/implementation period, it is therefore important that we seriously reflect on whether the current pace of producing outputs from research and extension are adequate enough to bring about the much anticipated resilience that will ensure that the development goals of today and the future are on track.

The key strategies (broad result areas) directly related to research and extension (under the direct responsibility of NARO and Directorate of Agriculture Extension Services (DAES) to increase agricultural production and productivity included; Strengthening ecologically sound agricultural research and climate change resilient technologies and practices- NARO and Implement a Single Spine Agricultural Extension system while promoting gendered innovation in agricultural research centers and extension services - DAES.

In this regard, we commend government for having achieved significant infrastructural outputs to drive technology development and uptake, these included;

Launching of the MAAIF data center, launching of the platform for registration and profiling of extension workers in collaboration with UFAAS, Launching of the national climate change strategy and Increase in number of extension workers from 2,792 extension workers in FY 2017/18 to 3,800.

We have however observed that;

Low budget performance; according to the Agriculture Sector Semi-annual Budget Monitoring Report of the financial year 2019/20, the approved budget for the DAES sub-program for FY 2019/20 was UGX 0.795 billion, whereas that of NARO was UGX 79.661 billion. The overall semi-annual performance of the Agricultural Research Program during FY 2019/20 was ranked at 76.40% whereas that of DAES was ranked at 47.74%. This rating was mainly attributed to delays in the funds requisition process within the department.

Absence of a legal framework to fully institutionalize delivery of agriculture extension; Enactment of the National Agricultural Extension Act which was due in FY 2017/18 to support the implementation of NAEP is still pending. This is despite the fact that the said law was priority number one of government upon taking office in 2016, (refer to 1st presidential address).

There is therefore need to fast track the enactment of the Extension Bill so as to institutionalize and support the implementation of AES policies and regulatory standards.

Building resilience of Uganda's agricultural farming system; the resilience path of Uganda's agricultural system and development agenda continues to be seriously threatened by low uptake of CSA technologies and practices, coupled with a weak coordination framework. There's therefore need for an integrated alternative production system such as Agro Ecology, as part of CSA implementation framework for effective coordination of stakeholders in order to scale-up and out appropriate CSA technologies and practices.

Persistent, weak research and extension linkages; the traditional technology transfer model continue to characterize the agricultural system, thereby limiting its innovation capacity. There's need to fast track lessons and experiences of ATAAS programme and quickly bridged the gap between research and extension while the sector explores opportunities and approaches that facilitate effective stakeholder engagement in innovation processes for scaling up and out technological innovations and build the capacity of research and extension in driving such processes.

The strength of research and extension in urban agriculture; the importance of urban agriculture is often obscured by the competing urban activities making its research and extension services programs less prominent compared to the rural services. However, COVID 19 highlighted the importance of urban agriculture in boosting food sovereignty for the urban dwellers who are now more receptive to interventions. There's need to rethink the expenditures of the KCAA vote in agriculture and explore means of strengthening the use of such resources to address the research and extension needs that are responsive to the vulnerability fragility of agriculture in the urban areas and food and nutrition needs.

Use of digital technologies in the provision of agriculture extension and building farmer research linkages; various ICT models of provision of extension services and engaging youth and other vulnerable groups have

been developed by various actors in a bid to bridge the low extension to farmer ratio of 1:1800. However, these models are still being implemented at a low scale and there are often implemented with minimum integration. Retooling of extension workers should priorities the market oriented production.

7.0

PESTS, VECTORS AND DISEASE CONTROL

Agricultural pests, vectors and diseases are the greatest risk to Ugandan agriculture (sector review report, 2020) and, unless addressed, the ASSP objectives are at risk. Losses due to pests and diseases are estimated at: 10-20% (pre- harvest); 20-30% (post-harvest); and up to 100% for perishables and export crops. Annual losses in the priority crops suffering the highest monetary loss due to pests are estimated at: US\$ 35-200 million (bananas), US\$60-80 million (cassava), US\$10 million (cotton) and US\$8 million (coffee). Similarly, annual losses in priority livestock due livestock pests and disease are enormous. The agriculture Minister Vincent Ssempijja in 2017 as quoted by reliefweb said that the impact of the fall army worm infestation could be responsible for the loss of at least 450,000 tonnes of maize or \$192.8 million worth of maize exports.

We commend government through MAAIF for; a) drafting of plant protection health regulations which are awaiting stake holder consultation; (b) Developing national strategy for control of Fall armyworm (FAW) and produced a training manual which is awaiting printing and dissemination ; and as a re result of this there has been effective control and reduced damage by the FAW across the country; (c) Developing a Training Manual for maize Lethal Necrosis Disease and printed 2000 copies and disseminated them to stakeholders; This helped in building capacity of the extension staff who have played a significant role in containing the disease spread; (d) developing a strategy for up scaling plant clinics across the country, but it is still waiting approval.

We further commend government for the procurement of some equipment for the plant diagnostic lab at Namalere, However, the laboratory lacks the required human capacity to be fully functional. In addition, 15 crop mini labs

were constructed in 15 districts; they are however not functional because of lack of appropriate equipment. Consequently, there is inadequate support to carry out timely and accurate crop pests and disease diagnosis in the country. This has led to pest spread and impacted on production.

Pesticides analytical lab was supposed to have been equipped which was not done without pesticide analytical laboratories it very difficult to fight counterfeit pesticides.

We are however concerned that Recent outbreaks of pests such as the fall army worm in 2017 and recurrent occurrences of diseases such as the foot and mouth disease among other traditional vectors such as ticks, have not prompted prioritization of their control and management on the Agricultural transformation agenda that would have prepared the country better to respond to emergencies like the desert locusts. There is inadequate funding and establishment of mechanisms for early detection and response e.g. in FY 2017/18, availability and distribution of foot and mouth disease vaccine and related livestock controls had a funding gap of 4B Shs, emergency control of tsetse flies and Nagana in Karamoja and other 20 district and routine surveillance in tsetse fly prone districts had a funding gap of 8.2B.. In addition, private and individual management of diseases and vectors among animals - for instance with limited technical guidance and knowledge- has caused rampant spread and resistance.

CASE STUDY

Management of Coffee Pests and diseases (BCTB, C LR, CWD, CBD):

- Through training of 514 Extension workers out of the planned 800, in integrated management of coffee pests and diseases, and carrying out Surveillance for major coffee pests and diseases in 40 districts, there was reduction in pest incidences in 2018 unlike in 2019 where not much capacity building was done.
- The effort invested in characterizing MLN disease virus, optimizing protocols for seed and plant testing and tools for MLN testing in the field, and training of 187 extension workers out of the 400 planned, and other stakeholders staff trained on MLN, and 789 out of the 1000 planned extension staff trained on FAW management countrywide is resulting in containing of spread MLN in eastern Uganda. There need to train staff from other regions to identify and control the disease. Similarly there is reduction of FAW damage across the country
- 6 FFV growers and exporters supported with 6 greenhouses fitted with drip irrigation for all year production of pest free this is going to further reduction of fresh produce interceptions due to harmful organism. Nevertheless, the review also indicated that although 259 out of the 600 planned extension staff trained on management of False Codling moth (FCM) and other key pests of FFVs in 18 districts in eastern, central and western Uganda, there was an increase in horticultural export interceptions.

We are further concerned that;

- The Banana Bacterial Wilt control (BBW) strategy was not reviewed, and as such there is resurgence of the disease across the country. Similarly, failure to complete development and operationalization of Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) control strategy is leading to escalation of CBSD spread to all districts across the country
- Outdated legislation relevant to pests, vector and disease control, including Animal Disease control act (2000), Hides and Skins Act (2000) and Cattle Traders' Act (2000); the reviews were not completed, consequently this has led to lawlessness, as penalties under these acts are no longer deterrent enough The Animals Prevention of Cruelty

Act; Animals straying Act, and Rabies Act,) has not been completed; the Ministry was able to conduct gap analysis for all the enacted bills.

- Absence of enacted laws has led to weak regulation of animal and product movement, pests, vectors and disease control. Similarly, the ministry was supposed to fast-track approval of already drafted policies which included National Policy on the Control of Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases; Policy on Control of Tsetse Flies and Trypanosomiasis; and Hides, Skins and Leather Development Policy; These policies have not been approved, they are all under review. Regarding formulating New policies and guidelines, the Ministry has drafted two new policies (National Veterinary Laboratory policy, and National Veterinary Medicines policy) and 6 strategies (National PPR Control and eradication strategy, National -Rabies strategy, NADDEC laboratory strategy, FMD Control strategy, Acaricide zoning strategy and a strategy to manage increase of animal disease outbreaks in the country) and 6 strategies. The strategies are still in draft form.

We thus recommend;

- Government should reintroduce routine vaccination and communal vector management undertaken by government officials, coupled with massive awareness creation to increase community vigilance against non-compliance and promote high detection.
 - a. Fast track the development of an action plan to avert the ban of fresh fruits and vegetables exports to EU and a national pesticide residue monitoring plan for fresh produce in Uganda to maintain the natural quality of our products and avert anticipated losses especially in the foreign markets.
 - b. Invest in research to explore organic approaches to control pests that will reduce overreliance on convention approaches with their associated health hazards.
 - c. Scale out across to the country plant clinics and train and equip more staff to run these clinics
 - d. Fast track outstanding draft bills and policies (Animal Grazing Act, Animal Diseases Act, Animal Trade Act, Hide, Skin & Leather Trade Act, Rabies Act and Veterinary and para veterinary Act,) and make new ones where they do not exist.

8.0

QUALITY AND STANDARDS

Whilst the agricultural sector remains the mainstay of Uganda's economy providing the bulk of food, feed and raw materials for local markets, it is challenged by failure to fully adopt and implement quality and standards (goods and services) aspects.

The agricultural sector is challenged in every aspect by the wanting adoption, implementation and investment in the minimum quality and standards requirements of every value chain from production to consumption.

Impeding the full realization of the respective MAAIF (and national) plans, strategies and programs that focus on industrialization, competitiveness, job and wealth creation, commercialization, improved livelihoods, food and nutrition security.

Further, the failure to adopt, apply and conform to minimum quality and standards aspects at all levels has impeded the competitiveness, access, retention and satisfaction of national, regional and international markets by our agricultural products.

This has resulted into the loss of businesses due to rejects of agricultural products and national resources, environmental degradation, increase in burden of food borne diseases, loss of market - consumer confidence and trust, food and nutrition insecurity, food loss and wastes and the Uganda brand among others.

We commend GOU for recognizing and acting on the premise that quality and standards are relevant and touch all aspects of our lives, society and contribute to sustainable production and consumption. Further, that

quality and standards provides the engine for sustainable growth and development and economic transformation. Through the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)S in partnership with MDAs, private sector, academia, Development Partners, CSOs and consumers for development of standards, adoption of international codes, protocols and guidelines as a measure of setting the minimum infrastructure required for compliance.

We commend, GOU and in particular MAAIF for joining hands other MDAs and stakeholders in developing the quality infrastructure (QI) to development and implementation of numerous policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework to realize the National Development Plan II, ASSP, Vision 2040, Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs) and strategies. MAAIF chairs a number of Standards Development Technical Committees of Food and Agriculture among others. Currently, all priority commodities, have got existing quality and safety standards, codes and regulations (there are over 1000 food and feed standards although not implemented and enforced).

We observe that the recommendations to challenges in the BMAU reports of FY 2018/19 and 2019/20 were not implemented as they still feature in the top stakeholder concerns in particular farmers, businesses and consumers with regards quality and standards products and services. We are however concerned that quality and standards aspects do not feature in the aspects impeding the sector performance in crop, animal industry and fisheries.

We urge GOU to prioritize investments in the quality and standards infrastructure and implementation as a pre-requisite in order to achieve competitiveness of the agriculture products. This can be through building, promoting and incorporating a quality culture throughout the agriculture sector value chains. Holistic and target quality improvement interventions involving all stakeholders in the sector should be integrated in the sector interventions.

We urge MAAIF to prioritize investments in the quality and standards culture and implement it in all directorates, departments, divisions, units

and projects.

We recommend the increase in investment of publicity, exposure and awareness of the existing quality infrastructure plus the over 1000 compulsory standards related to food, feed and machinery are publicized, simplified, localized and translated to increase awareness, adoption and implementation to facilitate trade, consumer, animal and environment protection mandatory application requirement due to nature of impact health and safety of human, animals and the environment,

We recommend through strategic partnerships widen the scope of accreditation and mutually recognized of laboratories to address the gap in products testing services.

We recommend the increased investment in skilled human capital development in the priority thematic areas and commodities especially the extension service providers, inspection, enforcement and certification.

9.0

AGRO-PROCESSING AND MARKETING

The nexus between agro-processing and market penetration in driving Uganda's economic growth and development cannot be overstated. The two variables are interdependent. Agro-processing occupies a central place in the agricultural value chain by creating employment (for actors along the value chain) and adding value to small and medium farmer's produce through backward and forward linkages between the farm and the market, subsequently contributing to increased income and revenue at household and national level.

Agro processing constitutes a dismal 39.3% of the country's total manufacturing output and accounts for average 50% of Uganda's export earnings. Agro processing can also contribute towards reduction in food loss and waste, hence enhancing food security, improve livelihoods for low-income groups and empower disadvantaged groups of society like rural women, youth and the disabled.

Through increased trade in value added exports, Agro-processing has the potential to offset Uganda's ever increasing trade deficit (reported at USD 185.44 million in July 2020), youth unemployment, and public debt (projected to hit US\$150.267 trillion in the Financial Year 2020/2021). It can also help increase on Uganda's utilization of domestic and foreign markets. Indeed, under the Export Development Strategy 2017, the Government of Uganda (GoU) aims at promoting the value and share of Uganda's products at local, regional and international markets, key of those products being Agricultural.

Therefore, given its potential, under the third National Development Plan (NDP III), the Government of Uganda commits to: improve agro-processing and value addition; improve post-harvest handling and storage;

and increase market access and competitiveness of Uganda's agricultural products in domestic, regional and international markets. The COVID-19 Pandemic has triggered Government's policy towards Agro-processing for market penetration, so as to reduce the country's dependence on foreign manufactured commodities, through implementation of an Import Substitution and export promotion strategy. In order to achieve this, the National Budget for the FY2020/21 is hinged upon production and agro-processing as Government's measure to jumpstart the economy post COVID-19.

We commend GoU for recognizing the significant role agro processing and value addition plays in transforming the agriculture sector as seen through its prioritized commitments in policies and initiatives at national, regional and international levels (COVID-19 Economic stimulus package; Vision 2040, NDP III, ASSP; EAC; COMESA; CAADP; Malabo Declaration; UN-SDGs among others) which all seek to promote domestic, regional and international trade in agricultural products through coordinated interventions focusing on agricultural productivity and value addition. However, in order to jumpstart the economy post-COVID-19, achieve self-reliance through import substitution and export promotion strategy, achieve structural transformation through Agro-processing for market penetration, a number of policies and practices require reforming.

This section provides for an assessment of the Agricultural sector under Agro-processing and value addition and measures for improvement so as to achieve the set objectives under the Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan (2020-2025).

a. Inadequate capacities for Value addition in the country

Agro processing is critical in improving competitiveness and increasing shelf life of agricultural produce in domestic, regional and international markets and subsequently increasing returns to Agriculture value chain actors. However, the current status of agro-processing in Uganda does not render the country's exports competitive. Whereas the government, through the Uganda Development Corporation has set aside funds for Value addition, most of the agro-processing industries are operating below

installed capacity (Coffee-40%; Fish-30%; Dairy-57%; Tea-60%; Beef-20% and Maize mills-46.3%).

This is largely due to limited efforts in preparing and integrating small holder farmers in the value addition drive, resulting into insufficient supply of raw materials to the value addition factories.

Furthermore, Micro and Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) continue to be left out of the value This is due to a number of factors including: high cost of food-grade infrastructure (machinery and packaging materials); lack of access to viable finance (especially start-up MSMEs) to afford such machinery; limited investment by government in common-user facilities to facilitate MSMEs in value addition while complying to standards; including; competition from cheap imported agro-processed products especially (cereals, juices and dairy products) among others.

Unfavorable trade policies have also resulted into an increase in the country's import bill for Agricultural products (such as Psh, potatoes, tomatoes, fresh or chilled, onions, shallots, garlic, leeks, cabbages and mushrooms) which are and can easily be produced in abundance by small-holder farmers and their value improved by MSMEs.

All these factors have resulted into limited levels of value addition, leading to raw commodity exports of about 80% to regional markets.

Product Import value (USD) in 2019

Fruits and Vegetables	18 Million
Fish	13 Million

Therefore, whereas value addition is important for agricultural and rural transformation and in jumpstarting the country's economic recovery post COVID-19, there is a need to rethink the existing policy enabling environment, support MSMEs to be competitive among others.

Recommendations

- Prioritize investment in zonal common user facilities: MAAIF should build cohesion with Ministry of Trade to ensure that Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) prioritize investment in zonal

common user facilities. These will go a long way to support start-up Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Agro-processing and value addition.

- Subsidizing the cost of food-grade machinery and packaging materials : Agriculture Sector Actors (State and Non State) should engage Uganda Development Corporation and Uganda Development Bank to subsidize the cost of food-grade machinery and packaging materials such as glass, plastic bottles and boxes to enable Agro-processing MSMEs meet quality both at processing..
- MAAIF through the Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) should work with Ministry of Trade to design and implementation of the Trade Remedies Act, which limits importation of otherwise locally produced agro-produce.
- Negotiate trade and investment agreements that promote transfer of appropriate technology to boost Agro-processing.

b. Limited Compliance to Standards

In order to increase market access and competitiveness of agro-industry products, the country under the NDP III, commits to among other intervention: strengthen enforcement and adherence to product quality requirements including; food safety, social and environmental standards. This is very critical for Uganda to sustain and increase its market share both at national, regional and global level,

One the documented main challenges to agro processing as a means of boosting Uganda's share of trade in domestic and regional market is due to poor product standards as a result of limited compliance to specific product standards and market requirements (private standards).

The country is still challenged with reducing the proliferation of sub-standard products in the Ugandan markets at 54%. This high rate has not only resulted into rejection of Ugandan exports in major markets but also, if not addressed, will result into suspension from accessing these markets. Whereas MAAIF has put in place programs such as the National Action Plan and Strategy for aBatoxin control in Uganda in order to improve market access for Uganda's products, it is important to support Agro-processors

especially MSMEs to comply to standards and certify their products. This is more critical as it comes at a time when the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has instituted a mandatory product certification for all products on the Ugandan markets. This is intended to ensure that all products on shelves have a distinctive quality mark.

UNBS as major standard body, has decentralized its operations to support its service delivery to adherence to standards. In this regard, the body has extended registration and training services to regional levels in Gulu, Mbale, Mbarara and Wakiso districts. NSAs have also partnered with UNBS to develop 1300 compulsory standards including those of Maize and Sesame among others. This has also involved simplification and translation of Standards of major products including avocado, rice, pineapple and shea butter.

Recommendations

- Integrate standards, guidelines, operating procedures and codes into the Agriculture extension packages and ensure compliance. Train and equip the recruited extension workers on these regulations, standards and certification processes.
- Raising Awareness on existing standards: MAAIF should support Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) to raise awareness and train SMEs about standards compliance while promoting and operationalizing the grading of Ugandan products.
- Harmonize national standards with regional Standards: MAAIF should support UNBS to harmonize national standards with regional ones to facilitate access of Ugandan products in regional markets.
- Develop a legal framework that bans use of harmful pesticides: MAAIF should put in place a legal framework that bans use of harmful pesticides like glyphosates in Agricultural production. This is critical in ensuring on-farm quality of raw exports like vegetables.

c. Markets and Market Information

We commend the Government of Uganda for negotiating markets at regional, continental and international levels. Uganda's exports to the EAC grew by to \$109m in March 2019 and \$23m with rest of Africa. The

Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB) also continues to train and support exporters (potential and existing) to develop products that meet end-user standards especially in export markets through provision of market information and training. UEPB has further established a database of exporters to improve linkages between them and local industries and deepen domestic supply chains for export competitive.

However, the recently released African Union bi-annual report on 30th January 2019 in Addis Ababa, Uganda was found not to be on track on tripling intra-African trade for agricultural commodities and services . This short coming is also reported by the Auditor general's report which notes that the export sector has to a large extent not performed to its full potential because of a number of weaknesses such as inadequate coordination among stakeholders, insufficient trade and market information, inadequate review of existing policies and strategies and failure to build capacity of exporters.

Further, the GoU mandates District Commercial Officers (DCOs) to promote trade through enterprise development, creating market linkages, improve product standards, and promote consumption of locally produced goods. Between 2014 and 2016, the GoU was implementing a project on DICOSS that facilitated commercial extension services at 40 Local Governments, provision of market research, projection and analysis.

However, since the closure of this project in 2016, these functions of the DCOs were stalled (GAPR 2018- 19) and have never been enrolled in other districts and municipal Local Governments.

We therefore recommend that these functions be integrated in the deliverables of Agri-business Unit and be rolled down in the structure of DEAS.

d. Promote Private Sector Investment in Value Addition through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)

The government under the NDP III and ASSP 2020-2025 commits to promote PPP approach as modality to promote value addition. PPPs can play a big role in supporting value addition and agro-processing. However, in order to achieve this, involvement of various stakeholders including public and private bodies and farmer organizations to enable collaboration in addressing and mitigating challenges along the value chain is critical. The promotion of the PPPs should therefore take into consideration the MSMEs, farmers in their groups or Associations so that they are not left behind.

10.0

ACCESS TO CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Overview of inputs sub sector

Agricultural inputs remain an essential factor that would positively transform production and productivity within the agriculture sector. Access to critical agricultural inputs still remains salient and is one of the priority areas in the agriculture sector as highlighted in the NDPIII. Some of the agriculture inputs that have been prioritized by the ministry in the financial year under review include: agricultural machinery, quality seeds and planting materials, water for agricultural production and fertilizers to contribute to national wealth creation and improved employment along agricultural value chains.

We commend government for prioritizing critical agricultural inputs; however there are more agricultural inputs that the sector needs to include on the priority list including animal feeds, fingerlings, semen and agro chemicals to boost production of many priority commodities like fish and beef to attain the goal of agro industrialization. Trade in agricultural inputs and products is crucial for economic growth in Uganda through production of quality and competitive products that conforms to required minimum standards at national, regional and international markets.

a. Quality seeds and planting materials

Government through the Operation Wealth Creation(OWC) program has continued to avail farmers with seeds and planting materials for example by 31st December 2019, the following inputs were delivered to farmers and special interest groups: 2.434 Mt maize, 632,187 banana tissue cultured planting materials, 4,080 bags of seed potato and 166,695 Cashew nut seedlings. Although some districts received the inputs a challenge of

inadequate inputs being distributed by farmers was highlighted in the Semi Annual budget performance report of FY2019/2020. This challenge was further worsened by the lock down as a result of COVID 19 pandemic that broke down the agro input distribution systems. With a lockdown and other impacts of COVID 19, more farmers needed seed aid and other planting materials since it has been estimated by FAO during this pandemic that food insecurity could double in Africa.

We commend government for the efforts made in distribution based on both national priority commodities and zonal district specific priority commodities for particular agro ecological zones and for highlighting wastage of inputs due to late deliveries and lack of oversight on supplies made through Members of Parliament made as a challenge that need to be addressed. It's important to note that planting materials distributed to farmers have over time revealed a lot of challenges including: late distribution against rain pattern, outcomes not monitored to determine success/failures and preparation of recipient farmers not adequately done among other challenges.

Recommendations

- We recommend that the agriculture sector puts in place a well elaborated and articulated agricultural input distribution system that does not focus on distribution of free inputs but a system that is linked to agricultural extension, agricultural financing and insurance with strong market linkages.
- Government should strengthen local content in sourcing for inputs - planting materials and animals locally for traceability, agro ecological concerns, building capacity of local input suppliers & economic empowerment

b. Fertilizers

Whereas the Abuja Declaration of 2006 implored all African States to increase the use of fertilizers to at least 50kgs on nutrients per hectare per year by 2015, Uganda's average fertilizer usage is estimated at 1kg per hectare. This is as a result of the limited access and availability of fertilizers to farmers, erroneous perceptions about the fertility of soils, limited access

to soil education and technologies for testing and limited information on soil fertility management.

We commend government for including fertilizers among the critical farm inputs that can boost agricultural production and for approving the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) 2019, the policy that provides for use of organic fertilizers and research on organic agriculture to boost crop production and soil health.

Recommendations

We recommend that with the passing of NOAP with its implementation plan, government through MAAIF prioritizes research on organic agriculture innovations like use of organic fertilizers to realize soil health and boost crop production.

c. Water for Agricultural Production

Uganda's agriculture has remained significantly rain-fed and this has remained a major challenge for the development of the sector despite being the main source of livelihood for majority Ugandans. The sector is largely dominated by over 89% smallholder farmers who practice smallholder farming on pieces of land averaging 1.5 hectares and sustain 98% of Uganda's agricultural production.

However, those farmers do not have access to appropriate technologies especially appropriate irrigation technologies has remained a challenge as major focus is given to large scale irrigation schemes that can only serve farmers in proximity.

With the massive resource potential for irrigation of 3,000,000 ha and 15% of Uganda's total surface area being covered by fresh water resources, only a tiny fraction of that is developed to date as only 77,000 ha (equivalent to 2.6%) is equipped. Most of the area currently irrigated is under informal irrigation (61,000 ha) mainly in the fringe of swamps where small holder farmers usually carry out rice production. The remaining area is under formal irrigation, of which the large part (12,000 ha) under commercial irrigation and the remaining (4,000 ha) across nine public irrigation schemes.

The low utilization of water for agricultural production and the recent changes in weather the country such as occurrence of droughts and floods is progressively contributing to a decline in agricultural production and productivity.

We commend Government of Uganda through MAAIF and MoWE for harmonizing the National Irrigation Policy (NIP) in March 2019 aimed at promoting irrigation development and management to enhance water use efficiency for increased sustainable agricultural production and profitability to ensure food security and wealthy creation. The policy framework streamlines specific roles between the two core sectors and directs adequate investment for water for production.

We are however, concerned that the process of developing the National Irrigation Master Plan (NIMP) as an overall framework to guide planning and implementation of the NIP interventions has dragged on from the previous NDP11 to NDP 11 implementation timeframe. The absence of the NIMP and an Implementation Strategy has failed proper planning for the available water resources especially during climate stressed seasons.

We commend the Government of Uganda for the investment in water for production especially the large irrigation schemes that have been completed in the life of ASSP II including construction of six (6) irrigation schemes of Wadelai (1,000 ha) in Nebbi/Pakwach Districts, Torchi (500 ha) in Oyam, Mobuku II (480ha) in Kasese, Doho II in Butaleja (1,178 ha), Ngenge (880ha) in Kween District and Rwengaaju (116ha) Kabarole district., however, there has been limited access and uptake of appropriate water for agricultural production technologies by the majority small holder farmers . These large scale irrigation schemes do not favor most small scale farmers who are the majority in the sector.

We further commend Government for commends for the increased investments in small scale irrigation schemes with an allocation of 49.597bn for the FY 2020/2021 as one of the pathways to commercialization of agriculture and wealth creation.

We are however concerned that whereas government has made commendable efforts to invest in water for agricultural production infrastructure to support irrigation and multiple uses, it should be noted that some of the irrigation schemes are not functioning at full capacity yet the sector has no enough resources for rehabilitation.

We recommend that government;

- Expedites the development of the irrigation master plan to guide the implementation of the National Irrigation Policy and realize Uganda's prospects towards enhancing agricultural productivity through irrigation.
- While preparing annual plans, focus be paid on enhancing the utilization of existing irrigation schemes in a sustainable manner, utilize excessive rainwater and floods for increased agricultural production, develop new irrigation schemes that can be equitably accessed by small holder farmers.
- Establishes easily accessible and affordable water for agricultural production facilities and simple irrigation technologies for users within the production systems especially in water stressed areas. There is need to adopt a functional extension system that enhances effective service delivery and technology uptake. In order to attain national development targets, there is need to respond to the public outcry by establishing.
- Strengthens operation, maintenance and management of WfAP infrastructure through working closely with WUAs to take direct the responsibility. This will require development of Water User Operation guidelines and training programs to capacitate them with necessary skills to operate and maintain the infrastructure.
- Concerned Ministries of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and Water and Environment (MoWE) should strengthen the existing institutional framework to promote, regulate, maintain and research on efficient use of water for irrigation. Efforts should be made in building the technical capacity of local governments on investment in small irrigation infrastructures develop a sustainable irrigation system.

11.0

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

The state of food security at national and household level is a key determinant of national security, economic and social stability. Therefore it is imperative to ensure that food is available, accessible in stable supply and adequately eaten by all without any form of discrimination. Food and nutrition is therefore at the core of the national ambition of attaining middle income status and therefore should be at the heart and soul of all interventions on accelerating agricultural transformation. This led member states under the African union committed to CAADP to oblige themselves under the performance area on ending hunger, performance category of food nutrition and security to promote initiatives to improve nutrition, eliminate hunger and child nourishment in Africa by bringing down child underweight, stunting and nourishment and improving dietary diversity. Member states are obliged to perform and report on a series of indicators. Despite this commitment, according to the 2019 State of Food security and Nutrition Report Uganda is placed amongst East African countries that have suffered an increase in food crisis by almost 20%. It shows that prevalence of undernourishment increased from 24.1% to 41% in 2018. This translates into increase in the number of malnourished people from 6.9 million to 17.6 million in 2018.

Similarly, the recently launched IPC, 2020 report indicates that factors like the Covid 19 pandemic, locusts and other pests like the Army Fall Wurm increased cases of malnutrition and food insecurity in some parts of the country especially the urban centers of Arua, Gulu, Hoima, Jinja, Kasese, Lira, Masaka, Mbale, Mukono classified as phase 3 while Fort portal, Wakiso, Mbarara being classified phase 2. Further the report noted that 51,758 persons in Karamoja were acutely malnourished with 27% of its population in phase 3 situation except Amudat and Karenga districts in phase 2 situation. These forced families to reduce the number of meals

they feed on per day, affected the quality and quantity of food produced hence making it difficult to access nutritious foods for the citizens. During the lock down, only 12% of the population benefited from the public food assistance distributed by the government and these were only in Kampala and Wakiso districts.

We commend GOU for;

- The development and launch of the Standard Operating Procedure for school Demonstration Gardens, as a means of addressing food security and nutrition in schools.
- Training up to 300 extension workers in over 30 districts on nutrition sensitive investments and awareness in agriculture programs, postharvest handling, aflatoxin prevention and control
- Prioritizing budgeting of Food and Nutrition in eight sector ministries to ensure that they provide Food and Nutrition in their sectors.
- Recommending the Food and Nutrition security division up graded into a full department under the DAES as a means to improve coordination and efficiency of its operations.

We are concerned however that despite of this, for the next 5 years (FY 2020-25), the NDP III has pegged agro-Industrialization as a key development strategy to its successful implementation. Specifically, the agro-industrialization Program aims to increase commercialization and competitiveness of agricultural production and agro processing. However, as we advance the agriculture sector towards Agro industrialization, caution should be taken on addressing hunger and malnutrition in its physical and invisible forms. Failure to take action is detrimental to achieving this goal as well as the macro-economic goal set in NDPIII. Moreover, this will be against the directives during the recent budget speech of 2019/20 and follow up political pronouncements at the highest national level where hunger and malnutrition have been clearly pointed out as key challenges for the entire economy.

We thus recommend that;

- MAAIF rethink the institutional architecture for food and nutrition within the ministry. Adopt the Auditor General and Ministry of public service recommendation to transform the division of Food and Nutrition into a department and facilitate the development and operations of the relevant Food and Nutrition Committees at National and in LG Level.
- Reposes and or establish National Food Reserves in the country that target families mostly and Food Emergency Preparedness system.
- Establish a vulnerability country register to aid and guide food distribution processes under circumstances where the most vulnerable to hunger are to be supplied with food supplies.
- Integrate the strategies and interventions laid down in the national Nutrition Action Plan 11 in the next Action plan that informs the National Budget framework Paper FY 20

NSA CONTRIBUTORS STATEMENT

1.	Africa Forum on Agricultural Advisory Services	
2.	CARITAS Uganda	
3.	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group	
4.	Coalition of Pastoralist Civil Society Organizations	
5.	Food Rights Alliance	
6.	Oxfam	
7.	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management	
8.	Southern and Eastern African Trade, Information and Negotiations Institute	
9.	Uganda Agribusiness Alliance	

10.	Advocacy Coalition for sustainable Development	
11.	Uganda farmers Common Voice Platform	
12.	Trocaire	
13.	Central Archdiocesan Province CARITAS Association	
14.	Kikandwa Environmental Association	
15.	The hunger project	
16.	Community Integrated Development Initiative - CIDI	
17.	Self Help Africa	
18.	Uganda National Farmers' Federation	

19	Kabarole Recourse Centre (KRC)	
20.	Uganda youth Biodiversity network	
21.	Slow Food Uganda	
22.	Environmental Alert	

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