



MAAIF
Ministry of Agriculture
Animal Industry and Fisheries

CONCEPT NOTE

FOR THE UGANDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK (UGNAEW2023)

Theme: “Unveiling innovative pluralistic AEAS approaches: Building actors’ resilience and competitiveness for food security and commercialized agriculture”

Dates: 23rd to 26th May 2023

Location: Kabira Country Club, Bukoto, Kampala (Uganda)

1. BACKGROUND

Agriculture remains the key sector of the Uganda’s economy, it contributes up to 23% of the GDP and it employs up to 70% of the National Labour force, most of whom are women located in rural areas. The agricultural sector is envisaged to play a role in achieving Ugandans vision 2040 of transforming from peasant to middle income economy. Under the agro-industrialization agenda of the National development plan 111, Quality products and services are expected to contribute to commercialization of agriculture and ensuring food security. The pursuit of these three strategic goals, requires an effective, efficient and an inclusive agricultural extension and advisory system. In its National Agricultural extension policy of 2016, Government of Uganda adopted a pluralistic agricultural extension approach. This approach recognizes the complementary role and relationships between state and non-state actors in the provision and delivery of AEAS to all players and processes in the agri-food system.

Agricultural extension services have been traditionally focused on increasing production and productivity. The needs of the macro- economic transformation agenda have expanded the role of agricultural extension beyond primary production to include; market participation, commercialized farming, agro-industrialization, food security, food safety and nutrition.

Furthermore, the sector continues to experience a number of structural challenges and shocks (Climate change, Trade, economic, health, political) that calls for innovations in design and delivery of AEAS to build resilience and the competitiveness of the agri-food system.

Since 2013, the Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS), in partnership with the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS); the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF); and other partners, have been organizing annual National Agricultural Extension events. The purpose of these events has always been to stimulate visibility, innovation, and learning in agricultural extension and advisory services provision. This has been achieved through creating a platform for knowledge sharing, exchange and networking among AEAS and agricultural value chain actors.

It is against that background, that a National Agricultural Extension Week in Uganda (UG-NAEW 2023) has been organized under the theme: “**Unveiling innovative pluralistic AEAS approaches: Actors’ resilience and competitiveness for food security and commercialized agriculture**”. The UG-NAEW 2023 will take place from 22nd -26th May 2023, at Kabira Country Club Hotel, Bukoto, Kampala. This will be preceded by regional level workshops

2. THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EXTENSION WEEK 2023

The purpose of the UGNAEW2023 is to equip Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) actors with knowledge on how to build resilience and competitiveness for food security and commercialized agriculture.

1. To identify and highlight the various innovative pluralistic AEAS approaches that are building actors' resilience and competitiveness
2. To deliberate on the resilience and competitiveness capacity gaps and strategies among the different value chain actors.
3. To motivate/stimulate different participating value chain actors and beneficiaries towards greater resilience and competitive actions for food security and commercialization.
4. To raise priority AEAS policy and practice recommendations for building actors' resilience and competitive-ness.

3. SUB THEMES

1) AEAS interventions and support mechanisms for addressing resilience and competitiveness

The National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP 2016) recognizes a pluralistic AEAS system where innovative approaches and support mechanisms by different actors are promoted to address resilience and competitiveness of AEAS actors for food security and commercialized agriculture. Multiple innovative AEAS models including digital extension, village agent models, market-oriented agriculture, the Farmer Field School among others, that innovatively enable agri-food systems to function well, and meet the income, food, nutrition and climate smart farming objectives while building social and natural resilience of systems are being promoted in this pluralistic space.

This sub theme will focus on pluralistic innovative AEAS models that are enabling farmers achieve their livelihood goals (income, food, nutrition) inclusively (gender-responsive) while fostering resilience to climate change, emerging crises and shocks.

2) Women and Youth engagement and opportunities in the agricultural value chain as actors and beneficiaries

Africa, with the youngest population globally and 50% of the agricultural labour force provided by women, continues to grapple with unemployment and/or underemployment. It also grapples with the issue of gender responsiveness as well as youth inclusion and benefit in development programs. Efforts by governments and other actors to viable employment opportunities for the youth and women through "agripreneurship¹", are hampered by inadequate extension services and low capacity on how to work with these key stakeholder groups. Nevertheless, there is a growing body of experience among government, civil society and private sector actors on how to conduct effective, efficient and innovative gender-responsive, women-focused, special needs sensitive and youth-inclusive agricultural advisory and extension services provision.

This theme therefore will focus on: AEAS approaches that integrate that have successfully reached the women, been gender responsive, youth inclusive, special needs responsive building resilience to all sorts of shocks faced in the agricultural space. Additionally, models that have contributed to making the women, men, youth, special needs clients operate profitable and resilient and accessible will be shared. Success and failure factors will also be identified for learning and utilization.

¹ Agripreneurship is a sustainable, community orientated, directly marketed agriculture.

3) Leveraging on and strengthening public programmes and projects

Guided by the third National Development Plan, the Government of Uganda has invested heavily in the agricultural sector, including through its publicly funded decentralization local government-based agricultural service system that reaches farmers across all 138 districts. In this sub-theme the UGNAEW2023 will focus on getting to know the key models being used by government programs and projects anchored in the Ministries of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, Water and Environment, and Local Government through which extension services are provided. Programs like the Cotton Development Organization, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority, the National Agricultural Advisory Services and Operation Wealth Creation, The National Agricultural Research Organization, the Dairy Development Authority to mention a few. The government also has key projects that are also reinforcing its effort to reach its farmers, for example the Agricultural Cluster Development Project, the National Oil Palm Project, the Irrigation for climate resilience project, the Village Agent Model, the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project and the Promotion of Rice Development Project Phase II among others. Of recent is a government effort towards Agro-industrialization, and to reach those in the subsistence economy through the Parish Development Project. All of these government agricultural programs services have creative agricultural extension and advisory service models. The programs and projects have addressed issues of market-oriented and commercialization farming, resilience to climate change, health epidemics, and financial shocks. These programs have engendered great achievements that are in line with the theme and subthemes. They also have aspects that in the public eye need clarification.

This sub-theme focuses on all these government programs and projects to showcase to the AEAS models they have used, and how they meet the main theme as well as some of the sub themes. It also focuses on identifying ways of how other AEAS and value chain actors can leverage on them, and areas where they need be strengthened.

4) Viable Business development and support services for farmers and other users of AEAS services

Farming in Uganda is increasingly becoming a business-focused endeavor and actor capacity in this area is very critical. Business development services are needed by members of the agricultural value chain, and this entails professional advisory services. Several public but mainly private organizations are presently engaged in providing these agribusiness development services supported with extension and advisory systems. These BDS services are being delivered in the midst of shocks such as climate change, COVID-19, price increases and pest attacks. Innovative BDS services are being offered that AEAS actors need to know, learn from, and deploy in their areas of operation. This UGNAEW of 2023 recognizes the importance of BDS as a key area of extension and advisory services provision and is inviting BDS service providers that have succeeded in supporting individual farmers, farmer's organizations and value chain actors to share their experiences. Key aspects of business development focus on access to financial services, business planning, agricultural insurance, market participation, government regulatory and business compliance systems, human resource development, governance and management systems, and management and information systems. Innovations and successful models in agri-BDS that have made a difference among value chain actors need to be made visible, and marketed through sharing them in an event like the UGNAEW2023. This sub-theme focuses on the above issues and invites AEAS presentations and exhibitions in these areas. What models, and strategies have been used, what success stories exist, what has been learned of what works and does not work, and how have these BDS AEAS services helped contribute to climate-smart, economic and other forms of resilience among agricultural value chain actors?

5) Digitalized AEAS in Agriculture as a driver for agricultural growth

E-extension, or digital extension, refers to the use of digital technologies, such as mobile phones, computers, and the internet, to provide agricultural extension services to farmers. In Africa and Uganda e-extension is becoming increasingly important as a means of improving agricultural productivity, enhancing food security and reducing poverty. This is critical given the high extension-to-farmer ratio (1:1800) which is making extension provision for all a challenge. Digitalized agricultural extension is important for overcoming

limited physical access to the many smallholder farmers who live in remote areas and have limited access to extension services. E-extension can overcome this barrier as agricultural information and services can be accessed by farmers wherever they are in real time when that information needs to be used.

The subtheme is calling upon AEAS actors especially those that are using digital and electronic means to reach farmers to share:

- ↗ How they have managed to breakthrough with this form of service provision.
- ↗ How they been able to ensure cost-effectiveness, gender responsiveness, youth inclusion, agro-technology uptake, the use of Artificial Intelligence, farmer acceptability, responsiveness and continued use of these digital services
- ↗ How they managed to get agro-technology adoption, market access, access to business development services and changed farmers' and actors' income and wellbeing
- ↗ How are the digital extension services generally contributing to resilience to climate and other shocks, reducing greenhouse emissions, and to agricultural growth in the country.

4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Outputs

- a. Experiences on AEAS interventions and support mechanisms for actors' resilience building and competitiveness shared.
- b. Papers and case stories on strengthened AEAS service delivery mechanisms, digitalization of AEAS services and viable business development models presented and published on the relevant platforms
- c. A policy brief and or a communique on the current AEAS strategies addressing resilience and competitiveness capacity gaps among the AEAS actors' thematic areas and use of e-platforms
- d. Platform (s) for networking and information sharing among the participants created.
- e. Best case studies on engaging and current opportunities for women and youth in the agricultural value chain documented

Outcomes:

- i. Increased recognition of AEAS as a critical service among policy actors and sector stakeholders
- ii. Improved visibility of AEAS professionals by sector stakeholders
- iii. Increased production, productivity, market participation and resilience among farmers and other actors due to improved AEAS models and approaches

5. PARTICIPANTS.

The event is expected to bring together about 400 participants in over 10 regional workshops and 200 at the national level conference in Kampala. The participants will be public and non-state AEAS actors and stakeholders from; Ministries, departments and agencies, policy makers from parliament, Ministries, Local Governments, Development partners, Missions, Head of missions, UN agencies, Academic institutions, researchers, Private sector; civil society, professional bodies, farmer and farmer organizations, AEAS professionals and practitioners, students from tertiary institutions and media

6. METHODOLOGY AND CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

In order to reach out to a broader range of AEAS actors and stakeholders the event will take a hybrid form of both physical and online. The Extension Week will be conducted using a rich and broad range of participatory and inclusive methodologies in three phases

Preparatory or Preliminary phase:

- Mobilization of resources, partners, participants, presenters, and exhibitors;
- Identification of sites for field visits
- Media Adverts /Promotions/ Media engagements
- Launch of the event
- preparation for regional events

All this will be done by the National Organizing Committee (NOC)-*see appendix of proposed NOC* and sub-committee's members.

Pre-events Phase: This will involve regional events in form of workshop organized by AEAS actors and champions in partnership with Zonal agricultural research and development Institutes (ZARDIs) in the Sub-regions of Uganda.

Week Phase: This will involve:

- Plenary sessions offering keynote addresses and thematic based presentations, panel discussions and question and answer sessions.
- Dialogue on the Status of Agricultural Extension in Uganda
- Workshops, in form of parallel sessions and side events, focused on each of the Sub-Themes
- These will be complimented with other activities, field visits, exhibitions, awarding exemplary AEAS actors and networking. Guidelines will be available for the field visits and awarding ceremony
- ● Lastly, UFAAS AGM on the last day

Post-Events: Dissemination of the communique and follow up on commitments

8. HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

To participate you register as a participant or an exhibitor or an Event Side Convenerat: <https://bit.ly/3MGO19y> . This will be hybrid event, accommodating both virtual and physical participants. Registered participants and exhibitors are required to pay registration fees categorized as follows:

	Item	Ugx	USD
1	Registration Fees (individual)	150,000	42
2	Exhibition Space (small-big Exhibitors)	500,000-750,000	100-200
3	Side Events	1,800,000	500

Payment modalities

There are three modalities of payment below:

1. Flutterwave: <https://flutterwave.com/pay/akzwwfne5uow> (You can use a visa/ credit card or mobile money)
2. Airtel Money: Code is 4300025 in the names of Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
3. Depositing the money on the UFAAS bank account (details below), scanning and sending a soft copy to UFAAS email.
 - Name: Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
 - Account: 01063501318146
 - Bank: DFCU- Acacia Branch, Kampala
4. Cash at the UFAAS Office in Ntinda, Kigobe Rd (AFAAS Secretariat)

Please note that the first three payment modalities are preferred.

APPENDIX: PROPOSED NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (NOC)

Name	Organization	Phone	email
A. Chairing			
1) Adeline Muheebwa (Overall)	UFAAS	0772415029	ademuheebwa@gmail.com
2) Connie Achayo (Protocol)	MAAIF	0772562459	pismaaif@gmail.com
3) Dr. Richard Miiro (Technical)	UFAAS/MAK	0772378185	rfmiiro@gmail.com
4) Samuel Mpira (Regional)	UFAAS/LG	0772683455	smpiira@gmail.com
B. Secretariat Sub-Committee			
5) Beatrice Luzobe (Head)	UFAAS	0776801091	
6) Esther Michala (logistics)	AFAAS	0774837225	emichaala@afaas-africa.org
7) Scovia Ojoru	UFAAS	0758777831	scovialindyway44@gmail.com
8) Maurice Egessa	AFAAS	0703035480	megesa@afaas-africa.org
9) Jackie Ikee (logistics)	AFAAS	0751604534	jikee@afaas-africa.org
C. Technical Sub-Committee			
10) Dr. Robert Mulebeke (Head)		0772517024	rmulebeke@gmail.com
11) Dr. Jolly Kabirizi	Kyakuwa Farm	0777912716	jmkabirizi@gmail.com
12) Omongot David (+Regional)	Kalangala-LG	0704237114	omongotdavid@gmail.com
13) Choice Agaba	NARO	0782793579	choiceagaba@gmail.com
14) Henry Galiwango	Kilimo Trust	0773982840	galiwangohenry2005@gmail.com
15) Catherin Adowa	Ripple Effect	0776282689	Catherine.Adowa@rippleeffect.org
16) Agnes Kirabo	Food Rights Alliance		agneskirabo@frauganda.org
17) Jerry Egessa	AFAAS	0782590449	jegessa@afaas-africa.org
D. Finance Sub-Committee			
18) Godfery Mayambala (Head)	UFAAS/ ZAABTA	0782393753	mayambalagodfrey256@gmail.com
19) Dr. Patience Rwamigisa	MAAIF/ UFAAS	0772457842	rwamigisa@gmail.com
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21) Ande Okiror	SAA	0755609016	okiror@saa-safe.org
22) Bashir Benbela	AFAAS		bbenbela@afaas-africa.org
E. Publicity Sub-Committee			
23) Grace Musimami (Head)		0782383504	gmusimami@gmail.com
24) Elizabeth Asiimwe	UFAAS/ MAK	0774123865	alizeff@yahoo.com
25) Sharon Ibenu	AFAAS	0700994741	sibenu@afaas-africa.org
26) Ecaat Stephen	FRI	0776676959	estephen@farmradio.org
27) Gerald Tuyisenge	UFAAS Youth	0702654051	tuyisengegerald51@gmail.com
F. Exhibition/ field Visits/Awards			
28) Harrison Kaziro	AMEA	0703614431	
29) Prudence Ayebare-UNFFE	UNNFE/UFAAS	0782252840	prudayebare@gmail.com
30) Gerald Kasiita-UFAAS	V/Generations/ UFAAS	0787042628	kasiita12gerald@gmail.com
31) Annet Babirye (+ Secretariat)	UFAAS	0774536906	anniebabirye@gmail.com
32) Sarah Katusabe	World Vision	0703005898	Sarah_Katusabe@wvi.org
G. Regional Sub-Committee			
33) Dr. Waiswa David	Gulu University	0772481812	cdwaiswa@gmail.com
34) Samuel Mpiira	Buvuma LG/ UFAAS	0772683455	smpiira@gmail.com
35) Caroline Ijuka	CARE-Uganda		carolyne.aijuka@care.org
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H. Interested Partners			
38) C/o Christabel Tumwebaze	USAID-FtF	0772609726	christabel.tumwebaze@ftfugandaiss.com
39) Andrew Atinyi	FAO -	0772304620	Andrew.Atingi@fao.org
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