

DELIVERY OF CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION IN UGANDA: INCORPORATING GENDER & NUTRITION, ICT AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE *A Progressive assessment of the critical Elements*



Beatrice Luzobe, Adeline Muheebwa,

The Forum



- A country Forum of AFAAS in Uganda that brings together agricultural extension and advisory services actors (AEAS) from:

- **Public sector,**
- **Private sector,**
- **Academia, including schools**
- **NGOs/civil society,**
- **Farmer Organizations,**
- **Media**

- A legally registered Non-State Actor that closely works with the Ministry and other development partners and AEAS actors
- Over 200 participating AEAS actors
 - 86 Paid-up members ➡ General Assembly (22 organizations, 64 (23F, 41M) individuals)
- Leadership: Representation of all sectors
- Focuses on:
 - Networking, information sharing
 - Capacity strengthening
 - Professionalism and professional development
 - Advocacy for an enabling environment for AEAS

Policy Context

- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and fisheries (MAAIF)
↓
- Department on Agricultural Extension Services (DAES)
↓
- The National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) 2016 recognizes:
 - that access to quality extension and advisory services as a critical to farmers and other value chain actors.
 - extension services are currently pluralistic (no longer public sector alone)
↓
- MAAIF working with various partners including UFAAS to unpack and implement the NAEP



Rationale for Inclusive Climate Smart Extension

- Much as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)
 - transforms and reorients agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate
- There is an urgent need for more inclusive AEAS that further integrate in
 - Gender Responsive and Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture (GRENSA);
 - Youths in Agriculture (YinAg)
 - and ICT innovations for Agriculture (ICT4Ag).
- **However**, the concepts, challenges, dynamics and interaction within an integrative system like this are not yet well understood by the policy makers and implementers.
- **Hence**, the need to capture issues of integrating gender and Nutrition, youths and ICT within a changing climate.

Methodology- How we captured the information

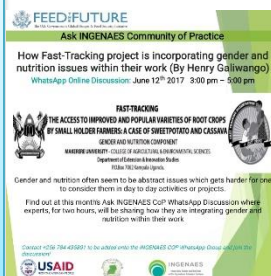
- ❑ Training of members/ champions on the targeted topics



- ❑ 7-day National Agric Show
 - Staged world cafes (30 pple daily)
 - Visited and dialogued at relevant stalls



- ❑ Web-based Virtual platform and social media (WhatsApp)



- ❑ Field Visits and capturing of success stories



- ❑ Regional sensitization Meetings
 - 4 (Central, East, North and West)



- Write-shop to Concretize all issues
 - Summarized the Best practices, Challenges and Recommendations



Summary of Findings –Best practices/ approaches

Best on Climate change

- Relevant policies in place.
- Awareness creation and education on the effects of climate change
- Practicing improved farming methods that enhance mitigation and adaptation to CC, eg.
 - Planting trees, soil and water conservation bands, use of simple irrigation methods, Water harvesting, Waste recycling to prevent land pollution and blockage, etc



Conservation farming is about reducing climate risks and improving yields



Summary of Findings –Best practices/ approaches

Best practices that enhance Gender and Nutrition

The Climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies and approaches favour women and improved nutrition. For example:

- Promotion of backyard / kitchen gardens,
- Sack gardening by the peri-urban,
- Food preservation eg. Solar drying of fruits and vegetables /smoking fish and meat
- food value addition
- use of pics bags for storage
- Water harvesting
- Energy conservation



Summary of Findings –Best practices/ approaches

Best Practices that encourage Youth in agriculture

- Some of the sustainable intensification practices developed are very favourable to youths because they require:
 - small pieces of land to maximize returns
 - more labour which the youths ably provide, and they get employed
- **ICT for Agriculture-Advantages**
 - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) offers an excellent opportunity for improved coordination, sharing information and creation of knowledge sharing platforms especially on issues of climate change
 - There numerous approaches that have integrated mobile phone use that is currently wide spread even in rural areas
 - The above has also scaled-up capacity development and employment



Summary of Findings- General Challenges

- The critical components being addressed are:
 - are placed under different Ministries and **policy frameworks**
 - **Usually implemented as separate programmes**
 - **Limited/ poor integration and mainstreaming**

Extension



Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

Nutrition



Ministry of Health
and Directorate of
Crop Science

Gender and Youth



Ministry of Gender and
Community
Development

Climate Change



Ministry of Water and
Environment

ICT



Ministry of
Technology

Summary of Findings-Challenges

- **Climate Change-General Challenges**
 - Lack of enough knowledge about climate changes among local farmer
 - Complicated terms that cannot be translated well at the grassroots
 - Some of the technologies are too expensive to be scaled adapted or out. For example irrigation
 - Failure to implement law on environmental protection -Penalties only apply on the poor leaving the rich and policy makers to abuse the environment
- **Challenges that affect women participation and Nutrition**
 - Most of the interventions **do not challenge the strategic issues** of gender and nutrition
 - Lack of knowledge especially by women because of their low literacy levels and limited access to extension and advisory services
 - **Low crop yields resulting in sale of the high value nutrient dense foods.**

Summary of Findings-Challenges

Challenges that affect women participation and Nutrition...

- **Lack of resources** to promote mitigation measures, for example land, mobile phones, credit, etc.
- Some recommended farming practices are **labour intensive**, such as the soil water harvesting technologies like the trenches.
- Majority of **trainings on nutrition are conducted by health workers** on treatment of nutritional deficiencies and these do not handle production issues where CC strategies could be integrated
- Most of the **kitchen gardens promoted were not nutrition-sensitive**. For example most of them are for leafy

Summary of Findings-Challenges

Youth in agriculture-challenges

- The majority of **youths who are in the rural areas who miss out on trainings** leading to limited knowledge and information on climate change and the strategies
- **Quick returns mind-set** push youths into practices that aggravate CC instead. For example Charcoal burning
- They are usually They have **limited financial resources for high input technologies** (like irrigation systems, green houses, etc) and
- Inadequate financial support to youth-led climate action projects
- There are almost **no youth role models practicing agriculture.**
- **Lack of strategies to target female youths** who are considered as adult women once they marry and/or produce

Summary of Findings-Challenges

- ICT for Agriculture-challenges
- Limited knowledge and skills in use of ICT
- High initial costs of ICT equipment have limited the use of ICT in the prediction and provision of climate and weather related information and predictions.
- There is limited use of e-agriculture by the AEAS actors and clients especially on climate information which requires to be disseminated quickly (real time).
- Low levels of infrastructure especially the internet connectivity and highly expensive subscription fees for such messages aggravate the problem further.

General Recommendations

- Lobby for facilitation of integration and mainstreaming of the critical elements within the different frameworks and programmes
- Strategic linking of the AEAS actors to relevant/ concerned bodies and platforms
- Establishment of platforms for engagement on the issues
- All round capacity building / strengthening of the AEAS actors/ providers
- Promote, support, strengthen and scale-up and out approaches that integrate the critical elements
- Continuous harvesting of lessons and case stories from the good approaches

Specific Recommendations

- **General on Climate Change**
 - Need to simplify the CC /CSA terminologies to a layman's language
 - Intensify capacity building at all levels to address CC challenges
 - Encourage community based interventions to address climate change
 - Tough laws/ penalties required for the rich and policy makers who abuse the environment
- **Gender and Nutrition within extension and CC**
 - Integrate Gender and nutrition within all the mitigation and adaptation initiatives and vice versa
 - Scale-up sensitization and training at all levels, including refreshing extension provider
 - Support Strengthening and scaling-up of the good practices

Specific Recommendations

- **Youth in Agriculture- and CC**
 - Support and scale-up CC mitigation measures, technologies and approaches that are youths friendly and attractive
 - Roll out sensitization and trainings to rural areas and encourage youths participation
 - Provide credit to facilitate youths access some of the high value inputs and technologies
- **ICT for Agriculture- and CC**
 - Support and scale-up ICT technologies, approaches and structures in order to increase use and access to critical information on CC, GAN and Youths in Agriculture

What UFAAS has done so far

- Share information through own and other networks
- Supporting and working with the Ministry to integrate some of the sub-themes within the AEAS system in Uganda
- Advocating for the integration/ strengthening of the concepts within agricultural extension through Policy briefs/ Communiques
- Supporting some of the innovation approaches/ initiatives that mitigate CC and integrate issues of GAN, Youths and ICT for Agriculture

Examples of UFAAS Integration Efforts with Partners

Scaling up/out the Nokia Youth initiative with ZAABTA



The School Agricultural Innovation Platform (SAIP) of with Gayaza High School



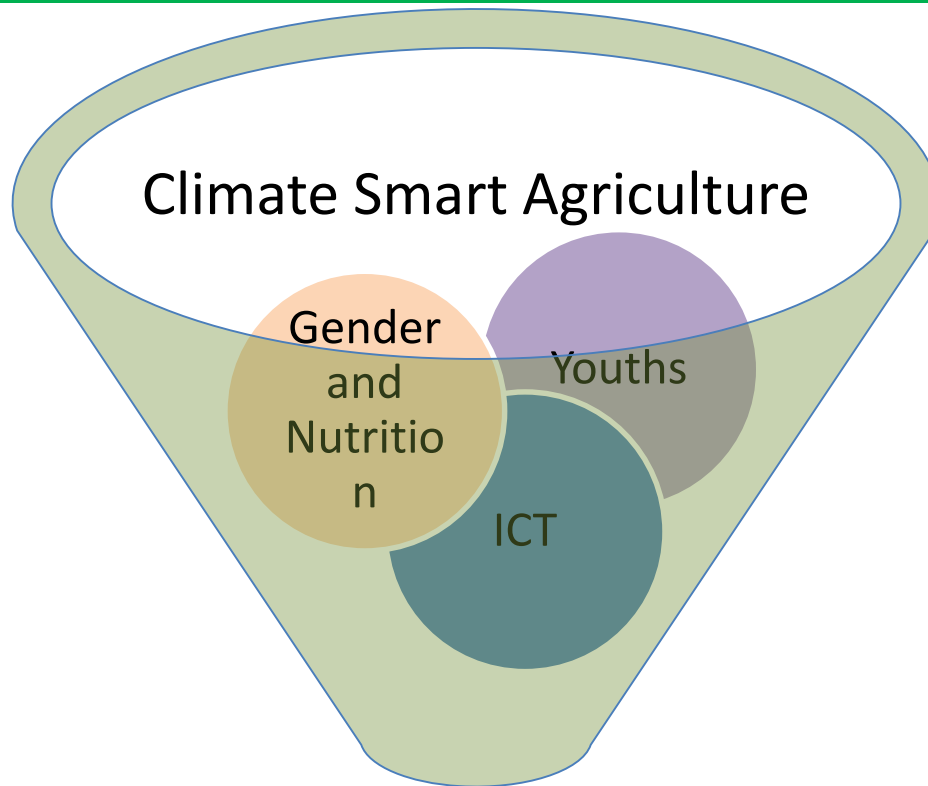
Revolutionizing the Kitchen Gardening in Tororo with TODIFA



Climate Fruit Farming in Teso dry regions with TEFCO



Let us integrate



☺ *Thank you very much* ☺

😊 *Thank you very much* 😊