



**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA SMALL SCALE FARMERS' FORUM
ESAFF – UGANDA**



**Interactive CAADP Meeting Report, Feb 2012, Between Farmers
and Policy Makers in UGANDA**

Prepared by:

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1. Introduction

The formation of ESAFF Uganda in 2002 was a direct response to the need to create a forum where Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) in Uganda would be able to deliberate on and voice their concerns. ESAFF Uganda operates in an environment where agriculture is the mainstay of rural development and small scale farmers are responsible for 95% of the agriculture production in Uganda which is enough to feed the population of Uganda and therefore must be recognized as key actors in development.

ESAFF Uganda is therefore a small scale farmer-led movement formed to facilitate processes through which smallholder farmers' development concerns can be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through local and national policies and programmes.

2. Brief information about CAADP

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was endorsed by African Heads of State and Governments as a vision for the restoration of agricultural growth, food and nutrition security, and rural development in Africa. A specific goal of CAADP is to attain an average annual growth rate of 6 percent in agriculture. CAADP is an Africa owned and Africa led initiative, a programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Overall, CAADP's goal is to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty through agriculture. The NEPAD vision for Africa holds that, by 2015, Africa should: Attain food security; Improve agricultural productivity to attain a 6 percent annual growth rate; Develop dynamic regional and sub-regional agricultural markets; Integrate farmers into a market economy; and Achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth.

CAADP seeks to add value to various current programmes by bringing about fundamental qualitative changes in the way agricultural policies are made and implemented by African countries. To achieve these goals, CAADP aims to stimulate agriculture-led development around four technical objectives:

- Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems;
- Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access;
- Increasing food supply, reducing hunger and improving responses to food emergency crises; and
- Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption.

Some of the key principles of CAADP are the building of partnerships, dialogue, peer review, and mutual accountability at all levels, and exploitation of regional complementarities.

3. Background of the meeting

From the initiation of CAADP at regional level and even at national level, ESAFF Uganda picks very keen interest since it was having the issues of the small scale farmers in its interest. ESAFF Uganda then analyzed the CAADP and the DISP to find avenues through which some CAADP activities can be

incorporated into its own. ESAFF Uganda wrote a policy brief on CAADP which brought out issues that had the views of the small scale farmers

The birth of this meeting then came as a response to the urgent need of small scale farmer to engage with policy markers on issues related to the CAADP since it was realized that despite the fact that there were very many inputs in the CAADP, many small scale farmers never understood the issues broadly, ESAFF Uganda found it very important to have small scale farmers interpret the CAADP in their respective hence leading to this meeting



Figure 1: Farmers appreciating Mr. Obong for the deliberations



Figure 2: A farmer from Mityana explaining about fertilizers to fellow farmers

ESAFF Uganda held an half day interactive meeting between ESAFF Uganda small scale farmers and CAADP focal person at Hotel Africana in Kampala with an objective of broadening the smallholder farmers' understanding of CAADP and possible ways on how they can best position themselves to benefit from CAADP at the grass root in their districts. Farmer representative came from ESAFF Uganda operating districts of Kamuli, Jinja, Bugiri, Mayuge, Mukono, Nebbi/Zombo, Gulu, Mubende, Mityana, Kabale and Amuria. During the meeting Media was also represented with national news paper and television station like New vision and UBC TV who covered the progress of the meeting

4. Presentation by the ESAFF Uganda Chairperson

The chairperson of ESAFF Uganda Mr. Hakim Baliraine opened the meeting and his speech is summarized as below:

The chairperson started his communication by briefing those who attended about the background of ESAFF, vision and mission, core values and activities that ESAFF Uganda has so far gotten involved in.

He then presented about the CAADP and DSIP where he stated that the performance and growth of the agricultural sector is deplorable and way below the NDP recommendation or the Maputo declaration of 5.6-5.9 and 6 percent respectively. The performance in the financial year 2010/11 when the DSIP was first implemented was less than one percent. This slow growth has been attributed to the decline in the performance of cash crops sub-sector which registered a negative 15 percent growth rate (MFPED, 2011). He also noted that in Uganda the budget process is organized

around the MTEF that sets the ceiling for different sectors budgets within the means of the resource envelop. The DSIP likewise is operationalized through the MTEF which provides 3-year budget ceilings for the sector and for some of the agencies and sub-sectors within it. In the 2010/11 Budget Call Circular, the MTEF for agriculture was set at UGX311.53 billion and revised to UGX 342.2 billion. Under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget, allocations are spread more evenly across the four programmes, with 58 per cent of the budget going to the Production and Productivity programme, 31 per cent to the Market Access and Value Addition programme, 5.4 per cent to the Enabling Environment programme and 5.9 per cent to the Institutional Strengthening programme



Figure 4: Mr. Obong taking part in the DISP strategies



Figure 3: Mr. Obong answering a question from a farmer

He also brought in the issue of budget allocation where he said the budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector over the last ten years (2001/02 to 2011/12) have fluctuated between 3 and 5 percent. The allocation declined from 5.1 per cent in 2001/02 to the least value of 3.2 per cent in 2003/04. From 2004/05 to 2009/10, the allocation marginally increased from 3.4 and 4.4 per cent reaching 5 per cent in 2010/11. It is evident that the proportion allocated to the sector is still low and far from the Maputo declaration proportion of 10 percent. The expectation is that this proportion should have started increasing towards the 10 percent of the CAADP commitments.

5. Presentation by CAADP focal person

The CAADP focal person from Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) was Mr. Peter OBONG (Crop production and Marketing) who represented Mr. Okasaai OPOLOT (Director of Crop Resources)

His presentation is summarized below:

He started his presentation by introducing the Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP) and elaborating the vision, mission, principles and objectives of DSIP where he stated that the National Development Plan (NDP) recognises agriculture as a key productive sector driving the economy: growth and employment. The Agricultural Sector Development Strategy and Investment

Plan (DSIP) are aligned to the CAADP principles and goals. He stated that the vision for the sector is “A Competitive, Profitable and Sustainable Agricultural Sector” while the mission is to “Transform subsistence farming to commercial agriculture”. The DSIP development objectives include Increase rural incomes and livelihoods, Improve household food and nutrition security, Immediate objectives, Enhance factor productivity (land, labor, capital, knowledge) in a sustainable manner and Develop sustainable domestic and external markets for primary and secondary agricultural products, Develop favorable legal, policy and institutional frameworks that facilitate private sector investment and increased profitability along the entire agricultural value chain and Reform MAAIF and Agencies so that they function as modern, client-oriented organizations within an innovative, accountable, support environment



Figure 5: Mr. Obong of MAAIF making a point during his presentation



Figure 6: Mr. Mario from Zombo asking a question

He stated that the principles of DSIP include Private sector led and export oriented economy, Sector investments to be guided by agricultural production zones, Support will be provided to all farmer categories and all enterprises, Support selected strategic commodity interventions, through public-private partnerships to address value chain constraints, Decentralized service delivery through local governments, Growth and equity to guide agricultural investment and Interventions to take into account gender needs and differences

He then discussed the targets of the DSIP were he stated the it's to Increase agricultural sector growth rate from 2.1 percent (2009/10) to at least 6.0 percent per annum by 2015 and Facilitate farming households to earn a gross income of at least Sh. 20 million per year – increase productivity and enterprise mix . He also elaborated on the investment programs of the DSIP for the next five year, on this point he stated that the DSIP invests in Enhancing agricultural production and productivity, Improving market access and value addition, Creating an the enabling environment for investment in agriculture and Institutional Strengthening in the sector, he discussed these investment program in detail for easy understanding

He then presented the DSIP budget to the farmers, he stated that the Total DSIP budget in 5 years = Sh 2,732 billion (or US\$ 1.37 billion), DSIP represents what MAAIF would achieve *if* it had the above funds, MTEF funding projection over 5 years is Sh 2,089 billion (US\$ 1.04 billion) or 76.5% of the DSIP budget projection, The funding gap over 5 years is Sh. 643 billion (US\$ 320 million)

And lastly he discussed the Institutional Set Up for DSIP Implementation, he stated that it involves all relevant sector institutions including both the public and private actors, Political leadership provided by the President; the Cabinet; Ministers and Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, High level policy oversight and guidance by MAAIF TPM, supported by a TPM Technical Committee, Technical leadership and coordination by the agriculture sector working group (ASWG) and Strengthening coordination between MAAIF and agencies, MAAIF and other sectors and MAAIF with Local governments

6. Reaction on the presentation

The presentation created so many questions in the mind of the small scale farmers and all these questions and responses by Mr. Peter OBONG are recorded below:

Mr. Hakim Baliraine questioned the support that is given to large scale farmers by the ministry of finance which isn't given to the small scale farmers as well which is a very big problem and in response to this Mr. Obong Peter said he will report to the concerned authorities since he never had a conclusive response



Figure 7: Mrs. Mulumba from Mityana answering for clarification from Mr. Obong Peter



Figure 8: Mr. Obong Peter explaining to ESAFF Uganda the need for partnership

On the issue of poor relation between MAAIF and the ministry of finance, Mr. Obong Peter said that he will also report that since he could not make complete reaction on that but said that they also have suggestions on that issue like getting money from other entities to support the activities of MAAIF to bring out CAADP output

On the issue of agriculture research that was raised by the chairperson, Mr. Obong Peter said that the research of small scale farmers isn't being left out but for them they just add on what the farmer has come up with and he also stated that the ministry is also doing different research on agricultural

Farmers also raised a question on pest and diseases and the government's position of the issue, Mr. Obong Peter noted that it's a big issues which determine the output from the farm but said there is

massive need for sensitization of small scale farmers and he promised to forward the issue to the ministry of agriculture who he hopes will make them reach the president since the citizen listen more to their leaders more than any other person

Farmers questioned the role of Uganda National Bureau of Standard (UNBS) in ensuring the quality of output of agricultural products where Mr. Obong Peter responded by saying farmers should work collectively with the UNBS to ensure quality of their output

On the issue raised by Mr. Hakim Balinaire on involvement of CSOs in the DSIP process, Mr. Obong Peter said he was to consult on the issue but noted that the DISP is still in the planning process and there is still room for improvement and since CSOs are stakeholders then their involvement will be very important

On issue raised by Twayaga Beatrice from Kabale district on farmer support through agriculture programs which was noted from the presentation, the CAADP focal person said that government finds it difficult to support individual farmers but works with groups and it supports farmers in all categories and stated that government doesn't directly support the large scale farmers as small scale farmers always assume

Mrs. Twayaga also questioned the policy of government support of group marketing by small scale farmers where Mr. Obong responded by saying it's important to do that and encouraged ESAFF Uganda to spearhead such activities at the grassroots to help government implement such policies since the ministry may not have sufficient funds for that activity

On the issue raised by Katsigazi Beatrice from Mubende district of involvement of small scale farmers in the development of agricultural policies such as the DSIP or CAADP, Mr. Obong said he would forward this concern to the ministry to take action

On seed issues raised by Irene Nakijoba a farmer from Mukono in relation to the CAADP objective of ensuring food security, Mr. Obong stated that the seed is a problem noted at all levels and stated that seed maintenance is very expensive and funds are not enough to do that.

On the issue of value addition which was being raised by almost all the participants, Mr. Obong Peter said that there is need for value addition one thing that farmers can no longer do without since value addition increases the earning of the small scale farmers and challenged farmers to start their own warehouses rather than being exploited by other officials who own the warehouses in their local areas

7. Results

ESAFF Uganda farmers got to understand in detail the different issues in the DSIP in relation to the CAADP and this opened the minds of the small scale farmers

ESAFF Uganda identified positions of involvement in the CAADP implementation process from the grass root and farmers were also enlighten on their position of involvement in the CAADP process this really addressed the objective of the meeting

ESAFF Uganda staff got points of advocacy in relation to the implementation of the CAADP depending on the DISP

8. Recommendations

To ESAFF Uganda

There is need for effective training of farmers on how to conduct lobbying meetings with the policy makers since in some cases farmers end up attacking policy makers rather than lobbying for good policies from these policies makers, with this, there is likely to be improvement in the output from the lobbying meetings

ESAFF Uganda needs to follow up the questions and responses made in the different forums that are attended by farmers to avoid repented issues that end up being raised during every meeting, this gives a wring picture about the output made by the different forums organized for farmers to voice out their issues

There is also great need for further funding of ESAFF Uganda to advocate for proper farmer positions in the CAADP since it requires a lot of engagements at local and national levels

On CAADP/DSIP Process

The 10 per cent allocation to enable the envisaged 6 percent growth in the agricultural sector in Uganda must be ensured. ESAFF Uganda requests that the government honors the Maputo declaration commitment despite the challenges in the process.

Uganda has large scale farmers who exist along Small Scale Farmers (SSF). The Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) framework focused in subsistence producers, which does not seem to be the case with the DSIP. ESAFF Uganda considers budget allocation between these two categories of farmers to be stream lined to ensure that SSF are not left behind.



Figure 10: Farmer listening carefully to the closing remarks



Figure 9: Mr. Hakim Baliraine closing the meeting

Given the intractable problem regarding land access and use, ESAFF Uganda considers land issues as so critical since this determines investment into the land. In addition issues of soil fertility and environmental health of the resource base should be taken on since it is the SSF who are normally relegated to marginal lands that need a lot inputs to realize output.

Infrastructure for post harvest handling remain a challenge to SSF who are under paid by middlemen and make a lot of losses during the harvest season especially when bumper harvest occur. Rural producers especially the smallholders face challenges because of the use of rudimentary technologies and also lack appropriate post-harvest technologies. ESAFF Uganda recommends that government identifies low cost methodologies that can be adopted to ensure efficient production and reliable access to markets if we are to achieve pillar 2 of the CAADP.

ESAFF Uganda proposes for access to and use of improved input and output markets as a pre-condition for the transformation of the agricultural sector. Rural financing needs to be revisited in a pragmatic way different from past failed credit schemes which have been politicized. Like establishment of an agricultural bank for farmers.

9. Action points

Small scale farmers agreed to go and disseminate the information got from the meeting to the different farmer groups that they are coming from with an aim of creating awareness on the issues related to the CAADP and DISP

ESAFF Uganda secretariat was requested to follow up with the different issues that the CAADP focal person noted for further consultation and later share the information

ESAFF Uganda is to get strategic entry points into the implementation of the DISP and CAADP at national level with a bid to push the view of the small scale farmers

ESAFF Uganda secretariat should lobby for more engagements with policy makers even at regional level in Uganda to further get the views of the small scale farmers to the policy makers

10. Appendix

List of attendance

No	Name of Participate	Designation	District
01	Enyetu Peter	General Secretary	Amuria
02	Mungu-Acel Mario	Board Member	Nebbi/Zombo
03	Twayaga Beatrice	Vice Chairperson	Kabale
04	Harriet Mulumba	National Treasurer	Mityana
05	Jaramogi Patrick	New vision	Reporter
06	Katsigazi Beatrice	Publicity Secretary	Mubende
07	Katalya Richard	Board member	Kamuli
08	Vicky A. Lokwiya	Board member	Gulu
09	Kaganga John	Vice Chairperson – Mityana	Mityana
10	Helen Nuiza Gabriella	UBC TV	Kampala
11	Robert Bwaita	UBC TV	Kampala
12	Nakijoba Irene	ESAFF Mukono	Mukono
13	Baliraine Hakim	ESAFF Mayuge	Mayuge
14	Herbert Wamagale	Program Assistant	Kampala
15	Yvette Ampaire	Program Assistant	Kampala
16	Chris Laker	Program Assistant	Kampala
17	Andrew G. Adem	Program Assistant	Kampala

Program for the meeting

1. Opening prayer
2. Self introduction
3. Remarks from the ESAFF Uganda chairperson
4. Presentation from the CAADP focal person (Mr. Akasaai Opolot from MAAIF)
5. Matters arising, Question and Answer session
6. Closure