

Policies to promote sustainable agriculture in Uganda

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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Existing Policies to support Sustainable Agriculture in Uganda
- Policy and Institutional Gaps
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

Background

- The Principals of sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) were articulated in the den Bosch Declaration (FAO, 1996) as constituting the foundation for achieving food security in Africa. The main aim is increasing food production in a sustainable way and entails production for markets, employment and income generation to alleviate poverty.
- The priority must be maintaining and improving the capacity of the higher agricultural lands to support a growing population while at the same time, conserving and rehabilitating the natural resources on the lower lands. Given the nature of our resources and the increasing demand for agricultural products, sustainability is very paramount (Bachmann, Kersting and Kiguli, 2017)
- Uganda is committed to the principles of green growth as one of the means to attain sustainable agricultural development (Uganda green growth development strategy, 2018)

Policies that support Sustainable Agriculture in Uganda

- Under Objective XI (ii) of the Constitution, the state is mandated to adopt appropriate Policies and enact enabling Legislation. This role is delegated to the various line ministries including MAAIF. According to Mugagga et al., 2018, Uganda's agriculture is guided by a rich policy framework.
- The key policies include; The Comprehensive National Development Planning Framework Policy; the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), The National Development Plan II and The Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP). Other policies based on the delivery of key services within the sector e.g. The National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP), The National Fertilizer Policy (2016), The National Seed Policy (2014), The Draft Irrigation Policy and National Irrigation Master Plan or Uganda (2010 – 2035), The National Agricultural Advisory Services Act, 2001-15, The National Agricultural Research Organization Act 2005-16 and The Uganda National Land Policy 2013-17.

The comprehensive National development planning framework policy

- Aims at transforming Uganda from a peasant, low income country to a middle income country through agric. Dev't
- Comprised of five main elements namely;
 - ❖ The 30 year national vision (2040),
 - ❖ 10 year national development plan,
 - ❖ The 5 year national development plans,
 - ❖ Annual plans and
 - ❖ Budgets
- The policy has a responsibility to strategic planning, overall coordination and capacity to achieve sustainable agriculture

The National development Plan

- The National Development Plan (NDP) was to guide national level plans as well as sectoral policies and implementation plans.
- The National Development Plan II (2015/16 – 2019/20) was also advanced and currently being implemented in the series of six, five-year Plans all aimed at achieving Uganda's Vision 2040.
- Emphasizes sustainable wealth creation, employment and inclusive growth. NDP II has provision of commercialization of agriculture to increase production and productivity along the value chains.
- Clearly spells out that every household should be empowered to engage in sustainable agriculture to achieve sustainable wealth creation. NDP III will focus on Agro-industrialisation

National Agriculture policy

- Approved in 2013 by the MAAIF to;
 - ❖ Achieve food and nutrition security
 - ❖ Improve household incomes
 - ❖ Promote trade in agric. Products
 - ❖ Ensures sustainable use of resources
 - ❖ Develop human resources for this sector
- How?
 - ❖ Coordinated sustainable agricultural productivity and value addition,
 - ❖ Better employment opportunities
 - ❖ Promoting domestic and international trade
- Principles
 - ❖ Ensure food and nutrition security for all
 - ❖ Increase incomes of farming households
 - ❖ Promote specialization and value addition
- Emphasizes sustainable agriculture on the principles of sustainable use and management of agricultural resources
- Forms the basis for all the other five principles

The agriculture sector strategic plan

- Launched as a fulfillment of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
- The DSIP had sought to improve household incomes and food security through
 - ❖ Increased productivity through sustainable intensification
 - ❖ Increased access to markets and value addition
 - ❖ Create a suitable environment for investment in agriculture
- Emphasizes on increasing agricultural productivity through supplying fertilizers and ensuring correct usage of recommended quantities to protect the land and water resources

National agriculture extension policy

- The NAEP was approved in 2016 along with the National Agricultural Extension Strategy (NAES) 2016/17- 2020/21
- NAEP is expected to improve nutrition/food security , household incomes and promote access for all farmers and other value chain actors to appropriate information
- Focuses on the dissemination of information and improved adoption of technologies with high potential for improving productivity including those specific to sustainable agriculture

The national fertilizer policy

- The National Fertilizer Policy of Uganda (2016) was designed in line with the Vision 2040 and the NDP II to ensure that smallholder farmers obtain affordable and accessible fertilizers, which increase agricultural productivity and farm incomes.
- The policy aims to strengthen the capacity of farmers to engage in safe, profitable and sustainable fertilizer use; and
- It also enhances regulatory and institutional capacity to ensure quality, environmentally safe supply and use of fertilizers to achieve sustainable productivity and production.

The National Seed Policy (2014)

- Approved in 2013 to ensure the availability of adequate, high quality and safe seed and planting material to smallholders to increase agricultural production and productivity that guarantees food security and improved incomes.
- The objective is to foster a competitive, profitable and sustainable market-led, regulated and coordinated seed industry, where smallholders access affordable quality seed and planting materials vital for agricultural intensification.
- Pays attention to biodiversity conservation and other indigenous seed resources

The irrigation policy and national irrigation masterplan

- The draft Irrigation Policy's (2010-2035) main objectives are "Poverty Alleviation and Economic Growth"
- Achieved through the sustainable realization of the country's irrigation potential mitigating the effects of climate change and contributing to the transformation of Uganda society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous society"
- Irrigation is also one of the strategies being employed in the green growth agenda being adopted by the government of Uganda

National Organic Policy

- According to International Federation of Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), the global market for organic foods and drinks is currently estimated to be around US\$50 billion, and increases by 10- 20 per cent annually.
- Uganda has the 13th-largest land area under organic agriculture production and the most in Africa with over 350,000 hectares of land. This however covers only 2% of agricultural land in the country.
- Though Uganda is leading on the African continent with 190,552 certified organic farmers, it is still far below the level needed to harness maximum benefits from the global market for organic products worth over USD 100 billion.

National Organic Agric Policy (Cont')

- This Policy was passed in August, 2019 to guide and support investment in the entire organic agriculture value chain for inclusiveness, enhanced livelihoods, production and environmental sustainability
- Harnessing the country's organic agricultural potential through enhanced promotion and Regulation of the sector for national development

The national agricultural research organization (NARO)act 2005

- This Act provides for the development of an agricultural research system for Uganda for the purpose of improving agricultural research services delivery, financing and management;
- This Act provides for the establishment of NARO with its governing council and a body corporate to serve as the apex body for guidance and coordination of all agricultural research activities in the national agricultural research system.
- The research carried out are geared towards sustainable agriculture

The Uganda national land policy

- This policy envisions a transformed Ugandan society through optimal use and management of land resources for a prosperous and industrialized economy with a developed services sector.
- Its overall goal is to ensure an efficient, equitable and optimal utilization and management of Uganda's land resources for poverty reduction, wealth creation and overall socio-economic development.
- Emphasis on the sustainable use of the land resources land being a fixed factor of production

National Environmental Management Authority

- Several regulations in place for environmental protection including the National Environmental act, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, water act etc
- They specify for compliance with national environmental management standards, resource use regulations, penalties for non compliance among others
- The National Environment Management Policy (2009); Is cognizant of the need to curtail exposure to industrial chemical pollutants and instead investing in sustainable options that enhance environmental health.

Gaps

- Most Policies lack regulations (Law) e.g Extension Policy (midterm Review in Sept. 2020 but the draft principals of the bill were deferred by Cabinet for research; Seed policy, Organic Policy
- Limited dissemination of policies and Laws affects implementation
- Most Policies lack implementation Plans
- Many Policies are pending (Livestock identification and traceability Bill; Animal feeds Bill; Apiculture Policy, Sericulture Policy, Tsetse fly eradication Policy among others)
- Weak Link between MAAIF and Local Governments- poor interpretation of the different roles
- Sector wide Co-ordination is still a challenge

Gaps (Cont'd)

- Some aspects of sustainable agriculture requires some technologies that are available and affordable by the rural farmers who are the majority
- Inadequate level of awareness of the majority of the stakeholders on the key principles and benefits of sustainable agriculture
- Limitations in addressing emerging threats such as Climate change; High Population growth and discovery of Oil
- Limited access to agricultural credit and Insurance

Recommendations

- Ensure that every Policy has a law and a costed plan of for implementation
- Expedite the passing of pending Policies, Bills and regulations
- Fostering the implementation of policies already in place and continuous monitoring through the government structures
- Reorientation of policies towards the guiding principles of sustainable agriculture

Recommendations

- Capacity building especially for the relevant government structures on sustainable development
- Development of technologies that trigger the adoption of sustainable agriculture strategies and principles
- Strengthen the Agriculture service delivery system with optimal structures and capacities at all levels (ration of extension worker 1: 1800 vs 1: 500)
- Establish a strong Sector Secretariat with specialised staff (with a sector Development fund) like in JLOS
- Strengthen efforts towards Agricultural Credit and Insurance

Conclusion

- Beautiful policies are existent but the challenge has been implementation (may be we need a policy on implementation to achieve implementation)
- The country has got a green light to the concept of sustainable development through its commitment to the green growth strategy
- Proactive engagement of all the stakeholders is vital for the adoption of the principles

Thank you for listening



God Bless You All