

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AFRICAN FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES (AFAAS) UGANDA COUNTRY CHAPTER MEETING



**Held at Hotel Africana, Kampala
9th September, 2008**

AFRICAN FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES





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ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|--|
| AAS | Agricultural Advisory Services |
| AADSO | Agricultural Advisory Services Officer |
| ASUPA | Association for Uganda Professional Agriculturalists |
| ASARECA | Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa |
| APEP | Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Programme |
| AFAAS | African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services |
| AO | Agricultural Officer |
| NI | Neuchâtel Initiative |
| CA | Coordination Assistant |
| CAADP | Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme |
| CBO | Community Based Organization |
| DPO | District Production Officer |
| DNC | District NAADS Coordinator |
| DFT | District Focal Teams |
| DPMO | District Production and Marketing Officer |
| ESA | Engineering Services Assistant |
| EA | Executive Assistant |
| ED | Executive Director |
| FAAP | Framework for African Agricultural Productivity |
| FAM | Finance and Administration Manager |
| FARA | Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa |
| FPs | Focal Persons |
| ICT | Information and communications technology |
| ICC | Interim Coordination Committee |
| LG | Local Government |
| MAAIF | Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries |
| MPAIS | Market Place for Agricultural Information Services |
| NAADS | National Agricultural Advisory Services |

| | |
|--------|--|
| NARO | National Agricultural Research Organization |
| NEPAD | New Partnership for African Development |
| NGO | Non-governmental Organization |
| NIDA | Nkola Institutional of Development Associates |
| NUCAFE | National Union of Coffee Agribusiness and Farm Enterprises |
| PDOs | Partnership Desk Officers |
| PMEM | Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager |
| PMEO | Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer |
| PRA | Public Relations Assistant |
| PS | Permanent Secretary |
| RIU | Research Into Use |
| RFO | Regional Farmer Organizations |
| ROs | Regional Organizations |
| SNC | Sub-county NAADS Coordinator |
| SHF | Small Holder Farmers |
| SP | Service Provider |
| SROs | Sub-regional Organizations |
| TUNADO | The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation |
| TSM | Technical Services Manager |
| ToRs | Terms of Reference |
| TWG | Technical Working Group |
| UNFFE | Uganda National Farmers Federation |



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), a not-for-profit continental body was conceptualized for the promotion of efficient and effective Agricultural Advisory Services (AAS) in Africa. The continental body is to provide a central platform to facilitate lesson learning and information sharing amongst African countries to develop a pool of best fit knowledge, skills, technologies and experiences for easy access by users with the overall aim of improving rural livelihoods.

AFAAS was launched in October 2004 during a symposium in Kampala, Uganda, which is also the host country for its Secretariat. Current membership includes 14 countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. As a further step to operationalize AFAAS, each member country establishes a Country Chapter. Accordingly, the Uganda Country Chapter was launched on 9th September 2008.

1.2 Objectives of the meeting

The objectives of the meeting included:

1. Put in place AFAAS Uganda Country Chapter
2. Establish a committee to draft by-laws for the Uganda Country Chapter in line with AFAAS guiding principles and FAAP principles
3. Present a tool for diagnosing capacity needs of AAS providers
4. Agree on strategies for identifying country level AAS priorities and fostering ownership of the Country Chapter
5. Discuss the AFAAS-FARA-NI-RFO consultation questions

1.3 Approach and methodology

The meeting was participatory in nature-after each presentation, participants' reactions were solicited. In order to accomplish the fifth objective, participants were randomly divided into four groups for discussions on the following topics; (i) pooling competencies and strengthen capacities; (ii) exchange platforms; (iii) joint advocacy; and (iv) a changing AAS environment. At the end of the meeting, a way forward was agreed upon. Dr. David Kazungu, the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of NAADS, gave the closing remarks.

1.4 Participants

The Chief Guest, the Permanent Secretary (PS) Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) was represented by Commissioner for Production and Marketing, MAAIF. Other key participants included the former Chairman NAADS Board, the Executive Director of NAADS, who is also the Interim Chairperson of AFAAS. Other participant categories included NAADS Management, Academic Institutions, DNCs, SNCs, PDOs, NGO representatives, Private Service Providers, Farmers Associations, journalists, and academicians. A detailed list of all participants is provided in the Annex.

1.5 Opening remarks

In the brief opening, the representative of the chief guest observed that AFAAS was not the first African Forum to be established in Uganda. A forum concerned with collection of raw materials for industrial use in Africa had been recently established. He therefore urged participants to carry on with such optimism so as to make AFAAS a great success. He also drew participations' attention to the need to create awareness of AFAAS throughout the country as well as to mobilize political support for AFAAS.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Overview and progress on AFAAS

By Dr. Silim Nahdy

2.1.1 African framework for development

- Africa's leaders provided a framework for development through the New Partnership for Development (NEPAD)
 - NEPAD aims to increase agricultural output by 6% per year by 2015
- The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the NEPAD programme for agriculture
 - CAADP has set out 4 pillars to promote interventions that best respond to the widely recognized crisis situation of African agriculture.

2.1.2 CAADP pillar IV

- CAADP Pillar IV: agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption
- Under the CAADP, the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) was developed to guide the design of interventions in agricultural research, technology dissemination & adoption within national, sub-regional and continental level
- The implementation of the FAAP is by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- AFAAS was conceptualized in line with FAAP principles

2.1.3 The FAAP agenda

- Purpose of FAAP: to guide and assist stakeholders in African agricultural research and development to meet the objectives of CAADP Pillar IV and the African growth agenda. This requires significant changes in and approaches to:
 1. Strengthening Africa's capacity to build human and institutional capacity, both public and private.

2. Empowering farmers , livestock producers and their organizations; and
3. Strengthening agricultural support services.

2.1.4 Roles

Farmers: Have knowledge, skills and inputs for undertaking productive, profitable and sustainable enterprises

AAS Providers: Have knowledge and skills for advising farmers on productive, profitable and sustainable enterprises.

2.1.5 AFAAS strategy

African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services is a not- for- profit continental body for the promotion of efficient and effective Agricultural Advisory Services (AAS) in Africa.

- Launched in October 2004, during a symposium in Kampala Uganda
- Current membership; Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia
- Start up phase - Membership mobilization drive to cover all African countries.
- **Vision:** Agricultural advisory services that efficiently and effectively contribute to sustained growth and transformation of agriculture
- **Mission:** promote lesson learning and add value to initiatives in AAS through sharing of information and increased professional interaction
- **Goal:** Enhancement of rural livelihoods through improved provision of Agricultural Advisory Services.

2.1.6 AFAAS guiding principles

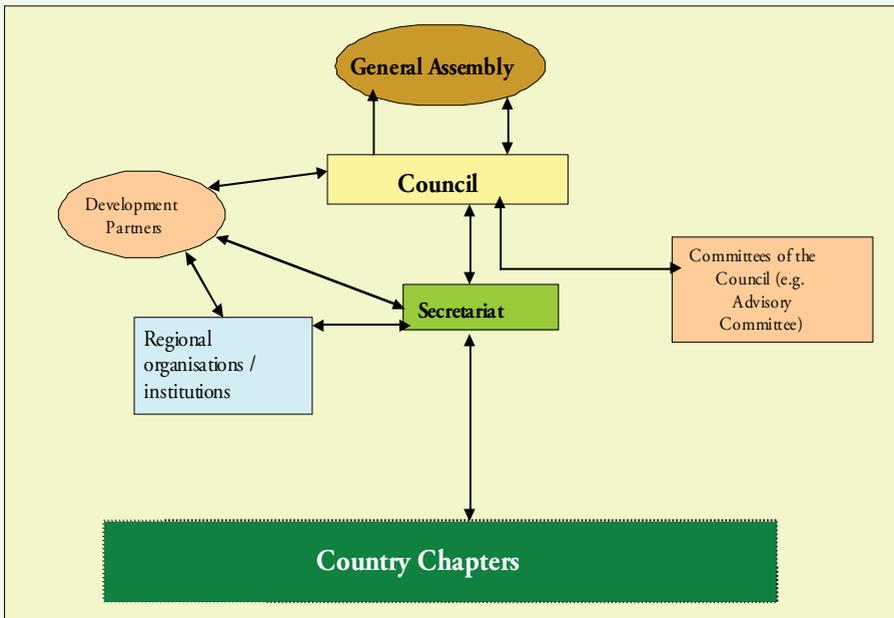
- Information Sharing
- Continental focus
- Quality assurance of agricultural extension
- Accountability
- Partnerships; public-private
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Innovativeness- adoption of innovation tools and methods
- Market orientation/ Commercialization.

- Promoting participation of private sector, civil society and farmers
- Subsidiarity

2.1.7 Main functions of AFAAS

- Agricultural knowledge and Information Management hub for Africa
- Capacity building and technical backstopping, on request, for National AAS through Country Chapters
- Promotion of lesson learning for the identification of best fits
- Represent, advocate, and promote the interests of members at regional and international levels and influence policy at these levels
- Enhancing farmer-research-extension-market linkages
- Action research on AAS
- Facilitate impact and performance assessments of national AAS
- Fund raising and management of funds for regional activities

2.1.8 Organizational structure



2.1.9 AFAAS main start up features

- Threshold institutional capability developed and mainstream programme designed to support continental and regional partnerships and initiatives in the provision of agricultural advisory services for improved rural livelihoods
- More relevant AAS provided in member countries through improved performance of continental, regional and national partnerships
- Agricultural knowledge management systems developed and operational at continental, regional and national levels which are compliant with existing and emerging systems

2.1.10 Benefits of regional collaboration

1. Reduced costs of achieving mutual objectives
2. Sharing of lessons
3. Economies of scope and scale
4. Reduced duplication of effort
5. Increased feasibility of achieving objectives
6. Improved visibility
7. Improved interaction with sources of knowledge and technologies
8. Fundraising advantages
9. Increased institutional pluralism in tech development

2.1.11 AFAAS - ROs and SROs

The benefits of Regional Organizations and Sub-regional Organizations (SROs) are:

- Strategic partnerships at different levels of implementation would enhance awareness and adoption of R&D outputs
- Improved access to technology, information, capital and marketing arrangements, which can in turn enable farmers to be competitive
- Joint funding of ex-change visits / conferences for lesson-learning and experience sharing

2.1.12 Strategic activities

- Facilitation of enabling environment for commercialization of small-holder farmers (SHF) through improved policy, institutional and incentive systems
- Capacity building of AAS stakeholders in Africa
- Partnerships and strategic alliances

- Facilitating the establishment of a communication strategy for all the emerging continental representatives of private sector, NGOs, farmers' organizations
- Facilitation of platforms for interaction and make use of existing platform to strengthen the AAS dimension

2.1.13 Emerging issues

- A participant requested to know what the major impediments to an African Network for extension prior to AFAAS were. The responses included;
 - The institutional and organizational structures for research are better placed compared to those for extension
 - Professionalism in AAS is very limited compared to that of research
 - Wrong perception that researchers are also responsible for extension yet ideally the two are separate but interlinked
 - Over expectations on AAS to produce results in a short time without paying adequate attention to other concomitant factors e.g. development of agricultural rural credit schemes. This portrays AAS as passive and is therefore less appreciated.
 - A net work for extension was once created in Africa but there was no leadership and guidance. Stakeholders did not own it.

Other general observations included the following:

- Some sub regional organizations such as ASARECA have funds for both research and extension but the funds for extension were never put to their rightful use. Follow-up and advocacy were suggested.
- There is need for further work on policies to guide AAS and to protect it from unrealistic political expectations.
- Successes of AAS reflect its relevance and importance, therefore in order to promote AAS, efforts must be geared at producing the desirable output and add value to existing initiatives.
- It was a challenge to establish the AFAAS Secretariat in Uganda. Nevertheless, the Technical Working Group (TWG) has done commendable work in guiding the interim Secretariat, moreover on voluntary basis.

2.2 Formation of Country Chapters

By Dr. Juliet Sentumbwe

2.2.1 Roles of Country Chapters

- Fostering ownership of AFAAS by national stakeholders
- Determining national AAS priorities
- Undertaking AAS research and evaluation
- Elect a country representative to the General Assembly
- Coordinate and monitor all in-country AFAAS activities
- Ensure that AFAAS activities are in line with national priorities
- Linking with other national support service providers such as research, markets and input dealers, etc.
- Providing a national forum for debate, sharing experiences & lesson learning

NB: Country Chapters are also free to operate at sub regional, regional /or continental levels in promoting AAS

2.2.2 Funding for Country Chapters

Members shall be responsible for raising their own funds for day-to-day management of Country Chapters

2.2.3 Start-up process of Country Chapter

- Get an inventory of all organisations, private partners and other stakeholders involved in AAS in the country
- Sensitisation meetings
- Formation of a committee
- Identification of a contact person / office for day-to-day running of AFAAS country chapter activities, and liaison with other country chapters and the AFAAS Secretariat
- Formulation of bye-laws by each Country Chapter to guide their operations

2.2.4 Emerging issues

Definition of the Country Chapter

- In the definition of a country chapter, “An association of Agricultural Advisory Service (AAS) providers....,” the word “provider” should be replaced with a more embracing term such as “professionals”.



Roles of the Country Chapters

- “Ensuring that AFAAS activities are in line with national priorities” should be changed to “ensuring that AFAAS activities contribute to national priorities” because AFAAS’ priorities may not necessarily be in line with national objectives.
- Study/training benefits should also be added to the roles

Composition of the Country Chapter

Also professional associations e.g. ASUPA, Uganda Veterinary Association, etc

Start up process of Country Chapter

- An inventory of extension workers should also be made. However, this is a policy issue which must be first discussed and agreed upon by the authorities concerned

Funding for Country Chapters

- A strategy to lobby for funds from the Ugandan government to support AFAAS Uganda Chapter should be included

2.3 Framework for diagnosing capacity needs of agricultural advisory service providers

By Mr. Francis Alacho

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2.3.1 Rationale for framework

- Enable better response to the changing global trends in demands for AAS.
- Promote lesson learning and add value to initiatives in AAS.
- Sharing information and increased professional interactions.

2.3.2 Study tasks

- Analyse existing AAS delivery systems in selected AFAAS pilot countries (Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi).
- Develop an appropriate and sustainable methodological framework including methods, tools and procedures for identifying and validating capacity constraints of AAS providers.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in relation to capacities of AFAAS and pilot areas for implementing the framework.
- Design methods for analysis of information.
- Set criteria for selecting pilot areas.

2.3.3 Study team

The study team included three technical advisors. The following were consulted: AFAAS Technical Working Group, NIDA, and a broad range of stakeholders in the agricultural innovation systems of Tanzania, Malawi and Uganda.

2.3.4 Study tools

- Venn diagramming
- Participatory timelines
- SWOT analyses
- Brain storming
- Matrices
- Interview checklists
- Literature reviews

2.3.5 Data collected

- Coverage
- Organizational structure
- Coordination
- Internal cost structure
- Ownership and accountability
- Financial and organizational sustainability
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Training and capacity building

2.3.6 Context of capacity issues

- Sustainability of pluralistic extension
- Building capacity of AAS providers to function as resilient, strategic and autonomous entities
- Meet complex demand patterns
- Reduce poverty
- Capacity as the combined ability of organizations, individuals, and the national system to transform research knowledge into successful pro-poor innovation
- Focus on partnerships and networks, in addition to isolated capacities

2.3.7 Categories of capacities

- Individual capacity: Skills, knowledge and attitudes of individuals.
- Organisational capacity: Infrastructural facilities, management skills and processes, and strategic and relational competencies
- Network capacity: Partnerships and consortia nourished by personal contact, high levels of trust and informality
- Institutional capacity: Management and extension approaches, ways in which individuals and organisations work with each other within the national system

2.3.8 Conceptual framework to diagnose AAS capacity development

Consist of three phases:

- Community assembly (parish/village)
- District forum
- National /international symposium

2.3.8.1 Phase 1: Community assembly

Actors: Different social groups; District/SC facilitation teams from AAS focal points; Other stakeholders

2.3.8.2 Community level (Phase 1) outputs

- Key producer issues
- Rich picture of farmer context & whole chain of interrelated current issues.
- Draft farmer strategies to address above issues.

2.3.8.3 Phase 2: District forum

Actors: Farmer representatives from phase 1; District Focal Teams (DFTs); Agricultural Advisory Service providers; Other stakeholders

2.3.8.4 Phase 2: Methods/tools

- Document review of phase 1
- Consultations to enrich phase 1 document
- In-house meetings & reflections
- Cross checking & triangulation
- SWOT analysis
- Reviews
- Joint action planning

2.3.8.5 District forum (Phase 2) outputs

Within specific roles, missions & mandates of actors in the entire agricultural innovation system, both individually & collectively; were grouped & ranked using:

- Refined farmer strategies
- Prioritized & categorized AAS capacity development needs
- AAS provider action plans
- Databases.

2.3.8.6 Phase 3: National/international symposium

Actors: Farmer representatives; District Focal Teams (DFTs); Central Government focal points; Development partners; AFAAS Secretariat; and AAS focal points.

2.3.8.7 National /international methods /tools

- ICT & media
- Checklists
- Mobilize resources
- Validation & enrichment
- Prioritize capacity development needs
- Aggregation of findings from phases I and II for discussion
- Campaigning, advocacy & lobbying

2.3.8.8 Phase 3 Outputs

- Improved Capacity of AAS providers to deliver pro-poor extension services
- National Focal Persons database of all the AAS providers and their capacity development needs
- International database of AAS providers and their capacity development needs shall be held at the AFAAS Secretariat

2.3.9 Risks of framework

- Challenges of consolidating outputs from phases I and II;
- Possible bias of the District Focal Team around certain subject matter;
- Difficulties involved in ensuring broad-based participation;
- Low level commitment and competency of individual Focal Persons;
- Low institutional memory when staff turnover is high;
- Inherent problems of measuring the impact of extension make it difficult to champion the need for increased resources;
- There is a perception that capacity revolves solely around tangible resources such as funding and working equipments which neglects intangible capacities such as leadership skills and information management systems; and
- The process may create expectations that cannot be met.

2.3.10 Strengths of framework

- Clear policies and guidelines in place that would guide agricultural advisory providers in undertaking various responsibilities
- There exists a common purpose to provide efficient and quality advisory services
- Government recognizes the importance and need to collect information on capacity strengthening needs
- Government has some capacity development funds that could be tapped into

- Major efforts to develop qualified and professional staff in terms of trainings (on-the-job, long and short courses, and study tours) either underway or planned that could be used to strengthen the framework
- Various demand articulation structures already in place supported by public funding that are to be used by the framework
- Clear organizational structure of the public system that ensure roles and responsibilities are clear to practitioners.
- Information is available via the internet and in different documents although it depends on individuals' motivation to seek it
- Myriad of various non-state actors present in target areas that could support utilization of the framework and improve quality of the information
- Development partners willing to support extension initiatives, particularly those related to building capacity of providers to undertake their roles
- State withdrawal and decentralization provide farmers' organizations with both opportunities (e.g. in terms of coverage and reach of different farmer households)

2.3.11 Weaknesses of framework

- AAS providers are sometimes unknown to other players and lack coordination.
- Inadequate resources.
- Dilapidated infrastructure, poor internet access, lack of transport.
- Weak human resources at lower levels is resulting in challenges to the delivery of appropriate outputs.
- A number of extension workers have never taken an extension course.
- Weak organizational support systems means that not everyone is well informed on what needs to be done, or understand the strategic direction
- Lack of transparency in operations due to the diversity of backgrounds, objectives, philosophies and different donor constituencies
- High dependence on donor funding makes farmer organizations vulnerable to donor's conditions and poses a threat to long-term financial sustainability.
- Lack of accurate district-level- data management and comprehensive baseline studies extremely time-consuming and costly.

2.3.12 Criteria for selecting site to test the framework

1. Level of implementation of reforms.
 - demand-driven approaches
 - empowerment of farmers
 - pluralism of delivery methodologies
 - publicly-funded privately-delivered
 - decentralization
 - participatory approaches
 - diversity of extension
2. Level of social capital
3. Scale of farming
4. Degree of commercialization
5. Level of service provision

2.3.13 Emerging issues

The following issues were raised:

- Limited capacity is still a big challenge
- The out puts of the framework should be related to the framework objectives
- Attitude of graduates towards extension work: it was observed that unlike diploma holders, most graduates in extension have a tendency of assuming the role of backstopping other lower level extension workers. Those posted in remote areas, take it as punishment hence affecting their performance. *It was agreed that though professionalism should involve attitude change, the matter should not be taken for granted. Therefore the framework should also include orientation of graduates to the extension profession as well as means of identifying performance parameters.*
- There is need to discuss the wide range of extension approaches as well as to harmonize their usage for maximum gains, including avoiding duplication of efforts and harmonizing funding.

2.3.14 Way forward

The desk officer of AFAAS, Mr. Max Olupot, reported that testing of the framework was on going in Tanzania and Malawi and that Research Into Use (RIU) had provided funds. He affirmed that the testing would be over in a month's time and a report would be issued in the next AFAAS meeting.

2.4 FARA – AFAAS – RFO – NI Consultation 2008

2.4.1 Background

By Dr. Joseph Oryokot & Mr. Max Olupot

The discussion to explore opportunities for future collaboration in AAS was tabled. Neuchâtel Initiative (NI), which is an umbrella of professionals, is committed to putting extension to its place in agricultural development. NI was exploring the experiences in regional and sub regional AAS networks. Consultation has been the main avenue for developing the proposal for future collaboration of NI with others, identifying potential collaborators as well as identifying ways of how NI can improve performance of AAS systems. From recent workshops, work had been done to decide on the definition of AAS and its vision. However, more consultative work was needed to identify more opportunities for collaboration. Against this background, participants were guided into discussion on key questions to AAS institutions encircling the following topics:

- Topic 1: Pooling Competencies and Strengthen Capacities
- Topic 2: Exchange Platform
- Topic 3: Joint Advocacy
- Topic 4: A changing AAS Environment

2.4 .2 Outputs of the group discussions

By Dr. Joseph Oryokot & Mrs. Agnes A. Obua-Ogwal

2.4.2.1 Pooling competencies and strengths

| <i>Organizations consulted</i> | <i>Expertise Rating</i> | <i>Capacity Rating</i> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Nakasongola District Farmer Forum, | High | Low |
| • Sasakawa Global 2000 | High | Medium |
| • Local Governments | High | Low |
| • NAADS | High | Low |

All organizations were active in providing AAS

Functions: Farmer institutional development, Quality Assurance for local governments, and Enterprise development

Other key capacities linked to AAS include: Exposure, Farmer institution development, and Positive attitudes

Main clients: Farmers and some agribusiness organizations

Matching services with clients' expectations: By more sensitization because farmers' expectations do not match with the organizations expectations

Engagement of farmers: Mobilization into farmer groups, Participatory planning, and Advisory service provision

Organizations in collaboration: National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Private sector, Agro processors, Local Governments, Farmer organizations, Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Programme (APEP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Areas of collaboration: Through training farmers, Marketing, Input supply, and Adaptive research

Pooling expertise with other organizations, through: Quality Assurance, Consultations, and Partnerships

Future Vision of the organizations for engagement in AAS: Efficient privately provided Agricultural services to commercial oriented farmers

Benefits of a continental body: ● Improvement of competencies and capacity, ● Sharing lessons learnt, ● Strong advocacy, ● Avoiding re-inventing the wheel, ● Harmonizing donor interests

Institutional support required: Manpower development, Quality Assurance, Research and technology development, and Diagnostic studies

2.4.2.2 Exchange platform

Platforms and networks for harmonization of AAS in Uganda

- The online market place for Agricultural information (www.MP4ISUganda.com) operated by NIDA
- Uganda National Farmers' Federation
- National Farmers Fora
- Planning and review meetings,
- Professional Associations such as Uganda Veterinary Association
- Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment
- Farmer Field Schools Networks

Institutions/Actors that participate in the platforms

- Service providers
- Professionals such as Agriculturalists and Veterinary Doctors
- Farmers
- Policy makers
- Donors
- Researchers

Roles of the organizations in the platforms

- Advocacy for favorable policies
- Information gathering and intermediaries
- Donors



How coordination of the networks is achieved

- Through consultative meetings with stakeholders
- Automated e-mails to the stakeholders
- Monitoring and evaluation visits
- Feed back mechanisms in form of reports to different stakeholders
- Inventory of the participants in the networks

Outcomes of the networks

- Improved service delivery in the short term
- increased production in the long term
- Increased awareness of the existence of various interventions
- Improved working relations
- Also increased access to new technologies and ideologies

Suggested improvement mechanisms

- Short mobile messages that are tailored
- Frequent meetings/seminars
- A national forum as an umbrella for all networks

Benefits of a continental platform

- Facilitation of alignment and harmonization
- Facilitating the sharing of information and experiences
- Strengthening the country institutions through training,
- Exchange visits,
- Setting up of minimum standards for AAS
- Fundraising
- Advocacy for the country chapters

Institutional support required

- Organizing the various networks to work under one umbrella
- Capacity building of the various institutions within the networks
- Liaising and strengthening the public-private partnerships
- Facilitating sharing fora at district levels and linkages to inter and intra continental plat forms

2.4.2.3 Joint advocacy

Organizations consulted involved in advocacy

- UNFFE
- NAADS
- Local Governments
- Heifer International
- Private service providers

Forms of advocacy

- Farmer institutional development
- Staff deployment and farmer groups to benefit from local government development programmes

- Improved breeding programs
- Better facilitation of the AAS providers
- Quality assurance

Other organizations involved in AAS advocacy

- Anti Corruption Coalition for Transparency
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries advocates for policy formulation, increased funding, harmonization of all extension services, guidance to AAS, quality assurance and coordination
- NUCAFE for quality of AAS
- NGOs
- Farmer institutions such as TUNADO

Most important issues for advocacy

- Increased funding
- Staffing
- Capacity building
- Infrastructure development
- Standardization of AAS
- Harmonization of programme
- Clear policy making
- Implementation
- M&E frameworks

Advocacy strategies required for increased public investment in the future in AAS

- Local governments mobilizing for more co-funding
- Broadening the tax base
- Sensitization of the stakeholders to gain political will for more funding

Advocacy strategies required to promote institutional reform or better practices in the future

- Documentation of impacts of AAS
- Research of impacts of funding
- Strengthening focal points
- Setting fora for discussions at various levels
- Strengthening linkages
- Setting a regulatory framework to guide AAS

Appropriate actors in the strategies: NGOs, Politicians, Farmer institutions, and Government at different levels

Main challenges to advocacy

- Policy inconsistency
- Lack of knowledge and skills in advocacy
- Limited funding for advocacy
- Lack of harmonization of actors in the sector (multiplicity of actors)
- Inadequate information in the sector with little monitoring, evaluation and research in advocacy issues

Benefits of a continental platform

- Strengthening advocacy through lesson and experience sharing,
- Pooling resources
- Capacity building
- Building credibility

Institutional support required

- A secretariat with an advocacy focal person
- A national forum to discuss AAS advocacy issues
- Capacity building of institutions
- Standard setting at the national level
- A policy council for advocacy of strategic issues

2.4.2.4 A changing AAS environment

Public extension workers

a) Strengths

- They are skilled
- Have good information on farm gate prices (commodity chain development)
- Have capacity to analyze consequences and appropriate responses

b) Limitations

- Lack of adequate resource
- Poor flow of information
- Weak linkages between research and extension,
- Limited policy inputs
- Little involvement in value chain development
- Lack of well streamlined financing models for public extension

The private sector

a) Strengths

- Highly specialized for better results in commodity chain development
- Strong participation in policy dialogue and formulation
- Accessing direct funding

b) Limitations

- Limited coverage due to specialization
- Low sustainability
- Profit making interest

CBOs /NGOs

- Have direct funding
- Tend to specialize for better results in commodity chain development especially in enterprise development

Farmers' organizations, cooperatives and associations

a) *Strengths*

- Have strong memberships hence are in good position to contribute to policy dialogue and formulation

b) *Limitation*

- Limited funding

Recommendations for improvement of the AAS environment

- Better information dissemination mechanisms
- Strengthening public-private partnerships
- Streamlining funding of public AAS
- Improved coverage

2.4.5 General conclusions drawn

- The ideas obtained provided a rich base of information
- It was noted that there were many net works nationally and internationally but these needed to be substantiated
- There is strong need to advocate for advisory services
- Care should always be taken not to involve so many organizations and people at the planning phase that may delay the planning phase because of divergent issues

2.5 Roles and composition of the interim steering committee of AFAAS Uganda Country Chapter

By Dr. Francis Byekwaso

2.5.1 Roles of the interim steering committee

The roles for the interim steering committee were presented to the participants who made their contributions as well. The following were finally agreed on as the roles of the AFAAS interim steering committee:

1. Provide a forum for all institutions involved in AAS provision in the country
2. Advocate for AFAAS support in country
3. Provide the linkage with other AFAAS Country Chapters, sub-regional, regional, and international bodies
4. Guide the identification and implementation of the national AAS priorities
5. Coordinate and monitor all the AFAAS Uganda Country Chapter activities
6. Facilitate the linkage of other support services to AAS e.g. research, input and output markets,
7. Elect the second country representative to the General Assembly of AFAAS



8. Draft the bye laws for the AFAAS Uganda Country Chapter
9. Identify one focal person from the Interim Steering Committee to link with the AFAAS Secretariat
10. Decide the location of the AFAAS Uganda Country Chapter (NAADS currently houses AFAAS Secretariat)

2.5.2 Composition of the Interim Steering Committee

It was also agreed that the interim steering committee would consist of members from the following categories:

1. Head of AAS in country as Chair (as in AFAAS constitution)
2. Farmers organizations
3. Educational institutions-Universities and agricultural colleges
4. AAS providers – Private & public
5. LG agricultural leadership
6. AAS coordinators
7. Government agencies
8. International development and research agencies
9. Professional Associations
10. NGOs
11. Secretariat representative

3.0 WAY FORWARD

1. Workshop report to be circulated in 4 weeks
2. Finalizing of the ToRs for the National Steering Committee and invitation of selected agencies to nominate members to be done in 8 weeks
3. The AFAAS Uganda Country Chapter Constitution to be formulated in 12 weeks
4. Capacity needs assessment to be done by February 2009
5. A follow up meeting/workshop to be held by February 2009.



4.0 CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. David Kazungu thanked the NAADS Secretariat, most especially the Executive Director, Dr. Silim Nahdy, for the exceptional work in spearheading the activities that preceded the meeting. He observed that in the past, meetings of international nature had been held but had not succeeded in creating enough awareness and understanding of what AFAAS was all about. He added that though many interventions, such as provision of extension services and inputs had been made, farming in Africa had persistently remained poor. He therefore suggested that there was still need to change farmers' attitudes towards farming as a business. He underlined that the meeting was a major breakthrough in bringing Agricultural Advisory Service professionals together to set new precedence so as to effect change. He pointed out the need for further advocacy and cited unrealistic expectations for quick impact in agriculture as having had adverse effects on programmes and needed to be checked. In addition, he appealed to organizations in the country especially those in international missions to appreciate the AFAAS vision so as to create harmony. In conclusion, he urged all participants to work hard to promote AFAAS for the empowerment of farmers.

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