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Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second issue of the FAO - Uganda Information Bulletin in 2010.

Farmer Field Schools have proven to be an effective farmer-led extension methodology in Uganda. In 2006, FAO adapted the methodology to the northern Uganda situation as one of the strategies to facilitate the resettlement process in order to revive agricultural productivity. The FFS has also been successful elsewhere, like in the case of fighting the Banana Bacterial Wilt disease in 2008. Owing to this success His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda called for its countrywide adoption. In this regard, FAO trained frontline district extension officials from 15 districts in northern Uganda in the methodology. In this issue, you will read about the training and what is expected of these Master Trainers.

You will also read about several FAO implemented projects including the new projects that will (1) support the production and updating of the dairy sector strategy, improve the (2) supply of "Mukene" fish and (3) the quality, accessibility, relevance and reliability of national statistics on food and agriculture.

This issue also highlights FAO's efforts in addressing the two devastating cassava diseases - Cassava Brown Streak Disease and Cassava Mosaic Disease and how the Agricultural Livelihood and Recovery Project is facilitating the resettlement process and improving livelihoods in Northern Uganda.

Your comments and contributions are always welcome at:
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FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



East Africa's Food Balance in Sorry State

Reduced cereal production amidst growing dependence on imports

According to a paper released by FAO's Sub Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Ethiopia, East Africa's food balance is in a sorry state. The Paper – *Eastern Africa's Worsening Cereal Deficits and Growing Dependence on Food Aid and Commercial Imports: Is there an exit?*, reveals that production cannot meet consumption demand and over the years, reliance on imports and charitable international food grow inexorably. Projections are that from current net imports (including food aid) of some 6.5 million tonnes a year, by 2020, the subregion will have annual deficits of over 12 million tonnes. Between the early 1970s and early 2000s, the sub-region's self-sufficiency ratio in cereal foods has declined from 95.2 per cent to 81.4 per cent, while its import dependency ratio has grown from 6.2 per cent to about 20 per cent.

With reference to each country's own position in the 1960s, the report says it is a matter for concern that the best performer (Tanzania) has improved its self-sufficiency by only 3 percent; the rest have a worsened position and the worst change (Kenya) refers to a decline of nearly a third (some 27 percent) over the period. Uganda registered a modest reduction - decline of 11 percent.

The paper reveals that in Eastern Africa as is the case with most Sub Saharan African countries, the fundamental challenge has been the inability to raise unit productivity of farming. The policy neglect of the smallholder sub-sector (comprising about 70 to 90 per cent of farmers and who produce up to 95 per cent of cereal food staples), has rendered productivity of most agriculture in Eastern Africa low. Since the 1970s, cereal yield has stagnated at little over 1 tonne per hectare,

with negative growth rates in the 1990s and early 2000s. As a result, the sub-region became a net deficit zone by the 1980s. For cereals in general, Eastern African countries generally harvest less than 2 tonnes per hectare while the average for developing countries is around 3.5 tonnes.

The resulting persistently low productive capacity has to a large extent undermined performance of both domestic food security and global as well as sub-regional export trade, which is largely agricultural commodity dominated. By contrast, imports are surging ahead: by now, the sub-regional countries spend in excess of US\$1 billion each year to import about five million tonnes of basic cereal food commodities (additionally, the sub-region receives about 1.5 million tonnes of cereal food aid). Less than three per cent of the import bill is on cereals imported from within the Eastern Africa sub-region. More worrying is the fact that the Eastern Africa cereal deficit is not only chronic but is growing rapidly: the cereal food deficit of 0.15 million tonnes in 1980 had grown to 3.83 million tonnes at the start of the new millennium; it is projected to be six million tonnes in the year 2010, then nine million tonnes in the year 2015, and 12.3 million tonnes by the year 2020, with prospects becoming even more alarming beyond that.

In order to reverse this situation, the paper calls for productivity enhancement in the cereals sub-sector and containment of abuses of subsidised food access to domestic markets. It also calls for fostering of intra-regional trade in cereal grains and products and taking control of food aid pipeline management to make it less potentially dislocative of local production.

Key Features of Eastern Africa's Import-Dependence

- Eastern Africa imports all three cereals. For the period 2003-7 on average, in value terms wheat represented 74%; maize in 2001-8; rice 15%; and maize 6%; total SFE exports are worth only about 8 percent of its imports and that intra-trade within the subregion has averaged only 2.7 percent of the subregion's imports from the rest of the world;
- Eastern Africa imports largely from outside its own region – for 2001-8, the US alone supplied about 21% and Australia nearly 17% of the three cereals combined. For wheat, the dominant import, the US and Australia each supplied about a quarter; for rice, Pakistan and India each supply about a third; and for maize, South Africa supplied nearly 38%, with Uganda nearly 16%;
- Of over \$1 billion annual subregional imports, intra-subregional imports are on average under three per cent;
- Eastern African imports are dominated by Sudan (29% of all three cereals in 2001-8) and Ethiopia (22%) – both being largely wheat dependent;
- At the sub-regional level, the main suppliers of cereals were Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya while the main importers in the period 2001-07 were Kenya, Sudan and Rwanda;
- The imports from the rest of the world are growing in a steady and stable manner; relative to base year 2003, they rose by nearly a third in only five years to 2007;
- By contrast, intra-subregion's imports were not just low but unpredictable: from the 2003 baseline they rose by 70 percent in five years but in between they fell by 40 per cent in 2006. This may be evidence of (i) "filler" trade – resorted to when normal supply sources have not performed so well, or (ii) they may represent "triangular food aid" – purchases by aid agencies from one country for free distribution to other countries within the sub-region;
- The value of Eastern African exports to the rest of the world are only eight per cent of its imports from the world – they too show no steady direction but fluctuate instead;
- If nothing is done about enhancing productivity, the total Eastern African deficit on the three main cereals (maize, rice and wheat) which used to be 0.15 million tonnes in 1980 and grew to 3.83 million tonnes in 2000 will reach the projected 12.3 million tonnes in 2020.

Extension services in Northern Uganda boosted

District agricultural extension staff trained in Farmer Field School methodology

Extension services in Northern Uganda have been boosted with the training and passing out of 21 front line agricultural extension staff in Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology. The course was a response to the pronouncement by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on 8th August 2008 at a national farmer field day in Mbarara district urging the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to ensure that the approach is adopted countrywide, especially in the implementation of the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS).

The FFS methodology entails groups of 20 to 30 farmers who undergo a season long comprehensive learning curriculum tailored to the local production and livelihood setting. The approach offers farmers opportunities that enhance learning by doing; getting involved in experimentation, problem solving, discussion and decision making.

The 21 Master Trainers were drawn from the district local governments of Adjumani, Moyo, Kitgum, Pader, Gulu, Amuru, Oyam, Lira, Apac and Kaberamaido. Others were from Amuria, Katakwi, Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripirit. In addition, two participants came from Burundi. The trainees are expected to train FFS facilitators whose responsibility is to guide the formation of the FFS groups in the community.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the FAO Representative in Uganda, Mr. Percy Misika said the new pool of Master Trainers will bolster the existing requisite human resource which had for long time been overstretched. Despite the FFS programme in Uganda being a model in the region the country has been having only three practicing Master Trainers available to meet the demand and upsurge in the interest towards the approach from a number of institutions.

In his message to the trainees, Mr. Misika said “we hope this course has reinforced your extension skills to induce change of attitude and practices among farmers that will translate into building food secure and prosperous communities” he said.

Mr. Misika said FAO is committed to supporting government efforts of modernizing the country’s agriculture and will continue to work closely with the Ministry of

Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to mainstream the FFS approach within the national extension delivery services.

The Chief Guest and Minister of State for Fisheries, Hon Fred Mukisa thanked FAO for supporting and being in line with the development goals of Uganda’s poverty eradication through agriculture. “FAO through its FFS Master Trainers course will aid in the implementation of NAADS in areas to do with provision of

agricultural inputs, skills development as well as provision of investment grants for income generating activities. I pray and hope that after this long intensive practical and theoretical training, the participants will be able to mainstream the FFS methodology into their respective district extension services” he said.

Since the FFS approach was introduced into Uganda in 1999, FAO has supported the establishment of over 2, 300 FFS directly benefiting over 400,000 individual households. FAO has also built the capacity of over 200 extension staff across the country and over 400 staff drawn from 23 local and international NGOs.

See Interview on page 6-8

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Master Trainers in the Field



FAO Representative-Mr. Misika (middle) and the Minister of State for Fisheries - Hon. Fred Mukisa (Right) awarding certificates

Hands on training

The Master Trainers' Harvest

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Onions

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Maize

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



Beans

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



Egg plant

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



Tomatoes

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



Potatoes

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



Cabbages

Institutionalizing the FFS Methodology

In this interview, the National Programme Manager for the Emergency and Rehabilitation, Coordination Unit in FAO Uganda talks about the Master Trainers' course

James Okoth ►



FAO/2010/R. NANDELENGA

What are FFS Master Trainers?

A Farmer Field School Master Trainer is an FFS practitioner who has undergone a season-long training course for FFS facilitators and subsequently implemented FFS programmes successfully. S/he must have excellent facilitation skills and be in position to mentor upcoming facilitators. Most importantly, s/he should be capable of designing, managing and providing technical backstopping to an FFS programme. FFS Master Trainers are primarily meant to conduct training of trainers' courses for FFS facilitators and not the direct implementation of the FFS. They are expected to support with the design and supervision of FFS programmes.

Why upscale now?

Since 1999 when the FFS approach was introduced to Uganda, FAO has continuously supported a number of FFS initiatives and worked very closely with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, National Agricultural Research Organization, the National Agricultural Advisory Services, the Faculty of Agriculture at Makerere University, various District Local Government and NGOs. By the end of 2009 FAO had built the capacity of over 200 extension staff across the country and over 400 staff drawn from 23 local and international NGOs and supported the establishment of slightly more than 2300 FFS directly benefiting close to 414,000 individuals under different contexts including Integrated Production and Pest Management, Land and Water Management, Disease Control (e.g. Banana bacterial wilt, late blight of potato etc), Food Security, Promoting Farmer Innovations, and recently Rehabilitation of Agriculture in communities recovering from displacement in northern Uganda.

All through, FAO has adopted a flexible and iterative implementation strategy with modifications to ensure that the FFS approach blends into the existing extension service provision mechanisms and not as a stand-alone parallel initiative. As a result, the approach has successfully been adapted from a mono-crop rice production system characteristic of South East Asia where it originated

to the more complex and diverse small holder farming systems predominant in Africa. It's only now that we can upscale building upon the vast lessons and best practices that have emerged in the past decade.

The implementation of the FFS programmes requires a whole set up of training, coordination and the human resources that come with it. The country had less than four practicing Master Trainers available that could not meet the demand and upsurge in the interest towards the approach from a number of institutions. Thus there was an expressed need for a capacity building programme to increase on the number of competent Master Trainers to ensure that quality is not compromised.

How will you monitor the effectiveness of the Master Trainers?

Apparently, the participants were drawn from regions where FAO has ongoing activities. As a follow up to the course and mentoring process, the Master Trainers in company of experienced colleagues will be co-opted as facilitators in the subsequent short FFS Training of Trainers envisaged. This will form the first line of monitoring in the short run. By the end of the course, each participant had developed a simple framework to mainstream the approach in their day to day service provision. We will also be keen to assess the level of influence they will be making towards institutionalizing the approach in their respective production departments.

What do you anticipate to be the impact of this group of Master Trainers?

There are a number of partners interested in integrating the FFS approach as the main extension delivery mechanism and some have been tempted to use mediocre facilitators at the expense of quality. Any attempt to up scale or institutionalize the FFS approach should not undermine the inherent core principle. This new pool of competent Master Trainers will bolster the existing requisite human resource which had for a long time been over stretched.

Two participants came from Burundi; what's expected of them when they return?

Over the years, the FFS programme in Uganda has evolved and become a model in the region. Despite the limited number of experience Master Trainers, the programme has helped initiate three National FFS programmes in Sierra Leon, Mozambique and the Gambia. It has also been involved in numerous backstopping missions to various countries. It was on the request of FAO Burundi that the two participants attended the course. The two are expected to support the FFS programme in Burundi which is still in its infancy. They were the first Master Trainers in Burundi to undergo such a comprehensive season-long training. Their performance was exemplary and we are quite optimistic that they will do a good job.

How will you keep them in the loop?

Globally, all interested FFS practitioners are linked through a web-based FFSNet platform at www.farmerfield-school.info. It is a discussion forum where FFS stakeholders exchange experiences and have quick access to resource and training materials. Whenever we carry out trainings we register all interested participants with functional email addresses and once they activate their accounts they receive instantly begin receiving the ongoing discussion and information to their respective addresses.

Apart from Uganda, what other countries have adopted and successfully used the FFS methodology?

The first wave of FFS was conducted in 1989 in the rice fields of Indonesia. Today, an overview of the global status of FFSs is difficult to obtain since many different organizations have implemented FFS in over 87 different countries. A global survey carried out in 2005 estimated that by the end of 2008 close to 10 - 20 million farmers would have graduated from Farmer Field Schools globally. At least all the countries neighboring Uganda have ongoing FFS programmes though at different stages of

evolution.

Did you have a blessing from Government?

FAO has had excellent collaboration with the Government of Uganda and all its support has always been in line with existing development frameworks. This particular course was commissioned in response to the pronouncement of His Excellency the President on 8th August 2008 at a national Farmer Field School field day held at Kanyantura Primary School in Mbarara district urging the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to ensure that the approach is adopted countrywide especially in the NAADS implementation. As part of FAO's support to the PRDP, the course targeted frontline agricultural extension staff drawn from the production departments of selected District Local Governments including; Adjumani, Moyo, Kitgum, Pader, Gulu, Amuru, Oyam, Lira, Apac, Kaberamaido, Amuria, Katakwi, Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripirit.

Who is mandated to train Master Trainers?

Over the last decade and half, FAO has been at the forefront of promoting the FFS methodology and building the requisite capacities for various countries and institutions. Quality assurance is one of the non-negotiable aspects within any credible FFS programme. A comprehensive FFS Master Trainers' Course should preferably be facilitated by a multi-disciplinary core team of competent FFS practitioners who themselves should have undergone a similar season long training and subsequently been involved in direct designing and implementation of FFS programmes. Depending on the planned studies and technology focus, Scientist from the National Agricultural Research Systems, Universities and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGAIR) centres are usually involved in conducting sessions for specific technologies or concepts and in designing the season long comparative studies.

Cont'd next page ►



How long did the course take and why?

This was a 5 month residential course and was the second of the kind that FAO has conducted in Uganda, the first one having been conducted in 1999. It was conducted at Ngetta Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute in Lira. Unlike conventional extension approaches that are designed to disseminate crop specific messages, the FFS approach is particularly adapted to field learning activities that require practical hands-on management skills and conceptual understanding. The facilitators therefore must be technically strong to demystify science by unpacking and simplifying the underlying basic concepts to enable the farmers understand the “how and why” of a situation in a given context.

A typical FFS simulation training approach cascaded with a comprehensive outreach programme in the neighboring community was adopted to expose participants to the various hands-on aspects embedded in the methodology for subsequent application. The training was intensive, comprising practical sessions (65%), theory (25%) and outreach (10%). Season-long experimental and validation studies for the common cereals, pulses, oil crops root crops and vegetables were established on a four acre field within the training center. This was to give the participants more in-depth hands on understanding of the crops. As part of the outreach programme, four demonstrational Farmer Field Schools were established in the neighborhood of the training center to enable them develop an understanding of experiential learning and use of adult learning concepts and methods in service provision and equip them with the basic skills to organize and facilitate season long FFS in the communities. Two separate open days on 22nd and 29th January attended by close to 1,400 farmers and collaborating institution from the Lango and Acholi sub-region were held to show case some of the studies and technologies that were being validated by the trainees.

What was the course content?

To ensure synergy and complement the mainstream extension delivery mechanisms, the course design and content was informed by existing strategic frameworks like the Development and Strategic Investment Plan (DSIP), Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP), the Prosperity for All and the Farmer Institutional Development and Technology Development components of the NAADS programme.

The course was tailored to equip participants not only with the concepts on the FFS methodology but also delved into the technical good agricultural practices and innovative adaptations to climate change. They were systematically taken through various concepts and tools with emphasis on relating applicability to their own local context. Broadly, the course curriculum covered four thematic areas:

FFS methodology and process – background; basic

concepts and the non-negotiable fundamental elements; the concept of experiential learning in adult non formal education; organization and management of the FFS process; documentation and records system; the learning process; setting up studies and experiments in a FFS and agro ecosystem analysis; group dynamics and leadership; FFS networks

Good agricultural practices - basic agronomy following crop phenologies; integrated soils management; principles of integrated production and pest management; insect ecology; disease ecology; handling and safe use of common agro-chemicals; basics of poultry husbandry; Small ruminants' husbandry; bio-intensive gardening

Livelihoods and business orientation – farming as a business (enterprise selection, profitability analysis, farm budgets, enterprise planning and enterprise records); savings and credit and participatory market chain approach (PMCA)

Cross cutting special topics - Disaster Risk Management (DRM); Gender mainstreaming in the FFS including the use of SEAGA tools; gender Based Violence; and conservation of medicinal plants.

What is the value added with FFS methodology as opposed to other approaches?

The inherent attributes of the FFS approach centre on the enhancement of all the livelihood capitals. Unlike other approaches, the learning process is systematic and guided by situation specific but holistic curricular that follow natural cycles of the enterprise. The approach is dynamic and can be tailored for dissemination of skills or technologies to varying categories of communities empowering them to become self-reliant in a shorter time and thus paving way for more comprehensive development programme.

Under the recovery setting in Northern Uganda, preliminary outcomes indicate that in a highly diverse smallholder farming system that is emerging from civil strife, the FFS offer an excellent platform for transition from emergency to recovery and development activities whereby farmers are empowered to make their own crop management decisions and adapt new technologies to changing situations.

Any future plans regarding FFS methodology in Uganda?

The ultimate goal is to have the FFS approach institutionalized. This of course requires a critical mass of the requisite human resource. FAO is committed to supporting government efforts of modernizing the country's agriculture and will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to mainstream the approach within the national extension delivery services while safeguarding the inherent quality assurance by providing the necessary capacity building in the form of training and expertise.

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Countries that sign the CAADP Compact are expected to achieve six percent growth in the agriculture sector of their economies and allocate at least 10 percent of the national budget to agriculture.



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Uganda signs CAADP Compact

The Republic of Uganda signed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact on 31 March 2010. Countries that sign the CAADP Compact are expected to achieve six percent growth in the agriculture sector of their economies and allocate at least 10 percent of the national budget to agriculture. The signing is quite a big boost to Ugandan farmers taking into account that the current share of agriculture in the national budget is only four per cent.

Speaking on behalf of President Yoweri Museveni, third Deputy Prime Minister Haji Kirunda Kivejinja, said the vision of CAADP is in line with Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) which was recently approved by the government. The Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hope Mwesi-gye promised that this was not a signed paper that will be put on the shelves. She promised to call stakeholders to draw a roadmap for implementation.

FAO support boosts Uganda's dairy sector

The dairy industry in Uganda contributes 50 percent of livestock Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employs 800,000 households directly keeping cattle and thousands more along the value chain.

However, considerable technical gaps exist in milk production, processing and marketing which hinder the development of the industry. Comprehensive technical interventions and policies which embrace the needs of all stakeholders in the dairy industry – especially targeting the welfare and livelihoods of the large numbers of poor producers and consumers of dairy products, whilst at the same time promoting sector

growth, generating employment and creating government revenue are needed.

It is against this background that FAO launched an 18 months \$ 460,000 project – *“Development of an updated national strategy for the dairy sector and dairy value chain development”* whose implementation commenced in October 2009. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries through the Dairy Development Authority.

The major objective of the project is to produce an updated national dairy strategy that will guide the address-

ing of all issues affecting the dairy industry. The project will also assist in increasing technical and managerial capacity along the dairy value chain. The targeted beneficiaries of the project are milk producers, processors, traders and consumers.

The outputs of the project will be a reviewed and updated national dairy strategy to be endorsed by all parties, an information sharing network for stakeholders at Dairy Development Authority and an updated national dairy sector status report. The project will also produce training packages for the targeted beneficiaries and contribute to equipping the Entebbe Dairy Training School.



UN Secretary General - Ban Ki-Moon to Visit Uganda

The United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, will visit Uganda on May 30, to preside over the International Criminal Court (ICC) review conference in Kampala. During the meet, member states will reflect on the achievements of the ICC and reaffirm their commitments to combat impunity for serious atrocities. The Secretary General's office is the convener of the review conference that will start on May 31 and end on June 11. Ki-moon's predecessor Kofi Annan and former South African president Thabo Mbeki will also attend the meeting.

United States funds Vaccination

FAO has secured funds from the United States Official Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) department to vaccinate an additional 128 000 cattle and 270 000 small ruminants in the Karamoja region. This support will contribute to raising the coverage level to approximately 80%; a level considered to be a safe sero-conversion state to ensure long-time immunity.

This follows another vaccination campaign in 2008/9 that covered 77 percent for Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) out of the estimated 1,367,000 sheep and goats and 62 percent out of the estimated 878,000 heads of cattle against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBBP).

Seeds for Karamoja

Following a poor crop harvests in Karamoja in 2009, FAO has launched a project to support 11 000 households in Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts with 99 MT of seed for this year's cropping season. This intervention has been funded by the RockFeller Foundation.

A similar intervention in 2008 was funded by ECHO, FAO provided over 700 MT of crop seeds to 800 000 (80% of the population) food insecure households that were depending on food aid.

Mushrooms for food and medicine

Mushroom cultivation is a source of economic, nutritional and medicinal value, providing direct benefits to livelihoods. While extra caution is necessary in distinguishing between species that can be consumed as food and those that are lethal, their benefits cannot be overestimated.

Today, mushrooms are increasingly considered as fair substitutes for meat, with a protein content ranging from 19 and 35 percent. Additionally, their nutritional value is comparable with many vegetables: they are a good source of vitamins B, C and D – includ-

ing niacin, riboflavin, thiamine and folate – and contain various minerals such as potassium, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, iron and copper. Mushrooms also provide energy, yet are low in fat. Moreover, the high water content of fresh mushrooms (about 90 percent) makes prolonging their shelf life and preserving their flavor and nutrients simple (through drying). In addition to all essential amino acids, some mushrooms have the medicinal benefits of certain polysaccharides, believed to boost the immune system. *(Make Money by growing Mushrooms. FAO Diversification Booklet 7. FAO Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division)*

Every day, one billion people eat just the bare minimum of food needed to stay alive. Every night, they go to bed not certain whether there will be enough food to eat tomorrow. This uncertainty about where the next meal will come from is called 'food insecurity'.

Under investment in Agriculture, core problem in Africa's Food Security

The FAO Director General Jacques Diouf has said underinvestment in agriculture is the core reason for African hunger and malnutrition. Only nine countries allocated at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture, as pleaded by heads of state and governments at the African Union Summit in Maputo in 2003. Uganda's allocation is 6 percent.

The Director General was speaking at the Ministerial Segment of the 26th session of FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Luanda, Angola on May 6th 2010.

Uganda's Development Plan Launched

On 19th April 2010 a Shs54 trillion National Development Plan (NDP) for Uganda was launched by H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri, Kaguta Museveni. The major objective of the plan is to transform Uganda from a predominantly peasant society to a middle income country by 2015.

It replaces the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) and will guide the country's development programmes over the next five years. Its successful implementation will ensure that on average, every Ugandan earns at least Shs1.8 million (\$900), up from the current Shs1 million (\$506), per year. During the period, the proportion of people living below the poverty line is expected to decline from 31 per cent in 2005/6 to about 25 per cent by 2015, slightly below the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target of 28 per cent.

Number of Hungry above 800 million over 40 years

The number of hungry people in the world has remained above 800 million for over the last 40 years. FAO estimates that 1.02 billion people are undernourished worldwide with 256 million of these in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is the highest number since 1970. FAO attributes this to the current global economic slowdown – following soaring food prices in 2006-2008.

It has reduced incomes and employment opportunities of the poor and significantly lowered their access to food. Yet longer-term chronic hunger symptomatic of poverty is at the core of the problem. This reveals that fragility of the present food system. In order to fight hunger, a twin-track approach remains key, involving both measures to immediate relief and more fundamental structural changes. (www.fao.org/hunger/en/)

Nutritious Caterpillar

Many edible insects such as caterpillars are important sources of protein and should be considered an alternative in efforts to increase food security in Central African countries. According to a study published by FAO, edible insects must be reconsidered as an important source of protein in Central Africa.

Caterpillars are already an important food intake for many in Central Africa, according to the FAO study. For every 100g of dried caterpillars, there are about 53g of protein, about 15 percent of fat and about 17 percent of carbohydrates. Their energy value amounts to around 430 kilocalories per 100g. The insects are also believed to have a higher proportion of protein and fat than beef and fish with a high energy value. Depending on the source, caterpillars are rich in important minerals such as potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, phosphorous and iron as well as various vitamins, the FAO study revealed.

Because of caterpillars' high nutritional value, in some regions flour made from caterpillars is mixed to prepare pulp given to children to counter malnutrition. Forests Economics, Policy and Products Division, Forestry Department, FAO



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FAO and implementing partners in Uganda are multiplying 300 hectares of cassava varieties

Restoring Cassava for Food Security

European Union funded Project targets former IDPs

Cassava is a popular food security crop among small scale farmers in Uganda and in the Great Lakes region because of its numerous advantages such as flexible harvest period due to long ground storage, ability to grow on poor soils and to tolerant drought. It is both a food and cash crop in many farming communities. In Uganda, cassava is one of the most important root crops grown majorly in central, eastern and northern.

Despite its importance, cassava production is under serious threat from viral diseases that are ravaging the crop. The continuing spread of Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD), especially the virulent form EACMV-Ug variant, and the recent spread of Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) have had devastating effects on cassava production by the small holder farmers. The spread of CBSD was blown out of proportion due to unregulated movement of planting materials in the country. In severe cases, root yield losses are very high. In the areas hardest hit by the diseases, cassava production has been drastically reduced and as a consequence there is a shortage of cassava products in the local markets. It is within this context that the FAO with support from the European Union launched a Regional Cassava project - ***Regional Cassava Initiative in support of vulnerable smallholders in Central and Eastern Africa.***

The major aim of the project is to restore cassava yields by reinforcing

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A cassava Field. FAO and implementing partners in Uganda are multiplying 300 hectares of cassava

ing the capacity of the most food insecure subsistence farmers to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to cassava-related diseases in the Acholi sub region. The project is also being implemented in seven countries - Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The results of the project will be pegged on three outputs: Improved cassava varieties widely available to vulnerable subsistence farmers; Preventive capacity and interventions are enhanced through availability of cassava disease surveillance information to Government authorities, NGOs etc; and Regulation of movement of cassava planting material through operational Cassava Commission.

Through this project FAO and implementing partners in Uganda are multiplying 300 hectares of cassava varieties (MH97/2961 and MM96/4271) resistant to Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) and tolerant to Cassava Brown Streak Disease

(CBSD) for distribution to vulnerable small holder farmers in the Acholi sub region. The population in this region is resettling following a two decade displacement due to armed conflict and is still vulnerable to food insecurity. In the first year, the project will be covering Kitgum / Lamwo and Pader Districts and later will roll out to other districts.

At least 7,500 households will be targeted per year through re-distribution of cuttings. In collaboration with the National Crops Resources Research Institute of NARO, FAO will be establishing three block mother gardens and over 30 nuclei multiplication sites with farmer groups in Kitgum/Lamwo and Pader this year.

FAO will also be working closely with ASARECA, District Local Governments and the Civil Society to carry out a large scale disease awareness campaign. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, a functional cassava coordination platform shall be established.

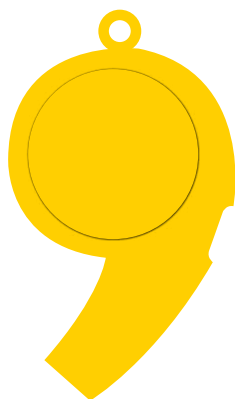
FAO launches anti-hunger campaign

‘aims to blow whistle on hunger’

“

“Let’s blow the whistle to stop the hunger, and may the noise you make be deafening.”

www.1billionhungry.org



**SIGN THE PETITION
TO END HUNGER**

A major campaign on behalf of the world’s 1 billion people living in chronic hunger is now up and running. “The 1billionhungry project” was launched in a ceremony at FAO headquarters and through other events in cities across the world on 11th May 2010.

The campaign is targeting at least one million signatures on a petition urging national and international leaders to move hunger to the top of the political agenda. Director-General Jacques Diouf told the Rome ceremony that it was everyone’s “duty” to help eradicate hunger. “One child is dying every six seconds and 5 million children every year,” he said. “I am appalled that human beings continue to suffer like this. I urge you to express this indignation. We must have the boldness to hope, and we have the duty to help.”

Guests at headquarters included FAO Goodwill Ambassador and Olympic athlete Carl Lewis, as well as representatives of the European Professional Football League (EPFL) which is supporting the campaign. Lewis said that gathering a million or more signatures to tackle chronic hunger would put his own sporting achievements into perspective. “I’ve broken a lot of records in my career at the Olympics and championships around the world,” he said. “But the record we want to break now will mean so much more.”

Meanwhile French international footballer Patrick Vieira lent his backing to the campaign, as he was appointed a FAO Goodwill Amba-

sador. Speaking in French, he said: “When FAO asked me to join its ranks, I didn’t hesitate for a second. I hope the initiative will increase awareness of the importance of the fight against hunger and of everyone getting involved.”

The ceremony heard that a football “Match Day against Hunger” in October, in 200 stadiums and at least 16 countries, will also help to highlight the campaign. The main feature of “The 1billionhungry project” is a virtual counter that increases each time a new name is added to the petition. “Signatures” can be added via the project’s website, physical signatures collected at live events, SMS messages and in other ways. In late October 2010, the results of the petition will be presented to world leaders during the World Food Day observance at UN headquarters in New York. The yellow whistle is the icon of the project, and represents blowing the whistle on world hunger once and for all. Events to support the launch were also organized in cities around the world.

“This is only the beginning of a campaign that needs to be pursued ruthlessly, don’t lose a second, sign the appeal on your computer and spread the message,” said Diouf. “Let’s blow the whistle to stop the hunger, and may the noise you make be deafening.”

You can support “The 1billionhungry project” by visiting www.1billionhungry.org and signing the petition, and asking friends and family to do the same.

FAO Uganda Marks Staff Day



FAO/2010/M. MUGISHA

On 20th April, FAO Uganda staff joined the rest of their colleagues around the world to mark the first - ever staff day.

Speaking at the ceremony at the Head office in Kampala, the FAO Representative in Uganda, Mr. Percy Misika applauded staff for the improved visibility and portfolio of FAO in Uganda.

He said five years ago, many people in Uganda did not know or understand what FAO does. But right now, our visibility had greatly improved. "Most people know what FAO is and what it does and doesn't do. We couldn't have achieved this without your efforts", he said.

He also said FAO's portfolio in Uganda had grown. For the regular programmes, it grew from \$486,000 in 2004 to \$5.3 million in 2008/9. The emergency and rehabilitation portfolio also grew from \$1.3 million

to \$16.7 million in the same period. "This is a great achievement. I hope you can maintain the same momentum in order for us to achieve more, he said.

The FAOR also reminded staff that they were here to serve people who are hungry and poor. "As we celebrate this staff day, let's remember that there are people who can't afford food. What can we do to make them afford at least a meal or two a day? That's the question we should ask each other, he said.

The FAO Director General Jacques Diouf stressed that FAO's greatest asset was its staff. "You are the foundation on which success can be achieved. Each contribution matters, large and small. Staff day is a united and collective recognition of our work. It is a continuation of the process towards a renewed FAO", he said.

Statistics project for Uganda to be launched

A country statistics information system to improve the quality, accessibility, relevance and reliability of national statistics on food and agriculture is to be launched in Uganda. The CountrySTAT project is part of an FAO initiative supported by a US\$5.6 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to improve the quality, accessibility, relevance and reliability of food and agriculture statistics in 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

CountrySTAT is a data dissemination tool loaded on a website where

users will be able to access data on agriculture by themes, country, regions and districts within countries. Most of this data has been collected through various sources. In Uganda, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) plays the leading role in data collection and dissemination; the reason it was chosen to be the implementing agency.

According to Mr. Seth Mayinza - the National Project Coordinator, CountrySTAT will focus on a number of themes in agricultural statistics such as production, export and import

trade, population and climate. It will involve a number of stakeholders such as policy makers and implementers, Non Governmental Organizations, research organizations and scientists, investors and farmers.

The FAO Representative in Uganda, Mr. Percy Misika said this dissemination tool will assist in realizing its paramount objective of bringing about accelerated reduction in hunger and poverty through more productive and sustainable agriculture which is sub-Saharan Africa's economic mainstay.



A feeder road under rehabilitation in Pader district.

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA

Facilitating Resettlement, Improving Livelihoods in Northern Uganda

One of the factors affecting the people's choice to leave the camps in Northern Uganda for safer areas or their original homes is the availability of basic infrastructure and a livelihood source. Yet, at the commencement of the return process in 2007, most of the support was mainly in the form of humanitarian assistance, with limited support to recovery and development interventions. FAO therefore implored ways of testing innovative approaches that could address the immediate and longer-term needs of returned and resettled IDPs. One of the approaches is the \$3,800,000 Agricultural Livelihood Recovery Project (ALREP).

Through this three-year European Commission funded project, the returning IDPs are engaged in infrastructure rehabilitation. The infrastructure should be for the common good of the community, should create an enabling environment for agricultural production, be labour intensive and within the district and Sub County plans. In return, the par-

ticipants are paid in form of vouchers which they redeem for agricultural inputs including improved seeds, agrochemicals, equipment, tools and livestock.

The vouchers are redeemed at designated Uganda National Agro-input Dealers' Association (UNADA) stockist shops or through seed and livestock fairs organized by implementing partners - Caritas, Gulu District Farmers' Association, ACTED and ZOA.

All the participants of the public works also benefit from agricultural extension services from Appropriate Technology (AT) Uganda.

Initial results of the project reveal that the rehabilitated infrastructure is paving way for safe return of the IDPs while at the same time stimulating agricultural production and market opportunities.

A single mother of three, Mary Labo returned from the camp to find her original home in Atanga Sub County

Provided - UGSH 2.5 Billion through vouchers, 1.2MT of crop seeds, 350 cattle, 3,000 goats, 800 chicken

Rehabilitated - 500km of feeder roads, 5 spring wells, 6 local markets

Trained - 41,000 households

Set up - 1,000 demonstration gardens

and feeder roads grown into a bush. Fearing to venture alone, Mary first stayed with a friend at the periphery of Gulu town until she heard about the ALREP. She was happy to participate in the rehabilitation of a feeder road and water spring in her Sub County, not just for the anticipated inputs but because the infrastructure would make her return more comfortable. "After we worked on this road, more people have returned home and it makes the area safe for us. Mary says she is now able to market her surplus produce, access the clinic and her children can walk safely to school. She has also been provided with assorted crop seeds and is looking forward to her third harvest since she returned to her home.

Food Security and Livelihood approaches

Responding to Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS

Despite relative calm in Northern Uganda that has gradually led to former IDPs to return to their areas of origin, HIV AIDS and Gender Based Violence (GBV) remain some of the many challenges to meaningful recovery. Recognizant of this fact, FAO is progressively integrating interventions to address these social problems. As part of its HIV mitigation package, FAO approaches GBV through a gender lens and as such works with all groups in a community (including men) to understand the level of the problems, its roots and how to go about addressing its impacts on households and their livelihoods.

An assessment carried out by FAO in 2008 conducted in Apac and Gulu districts established that gender inequalities, GBV, HIV/AIDS and food insecurity interact in intricate ways to influence livelihood outcomes the communities. It was apparent that those most at risk include People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and women. This formed the basis for developing a broader strategy that spans beyond input provision to supporting short and medium term food security and livelihood options to address the negative impacts of social factors on livelihood outcomes.

The guiding is to **enhance the capacity of the concerned population to prevent and mitigate the adverse effect of HIV/AIDS and GBV through an integrated livelihood approach.**

By providing early recovery and livelihood support to vulnerable households, the risk of harmful coping mechanisms is minimized while



A man and woman digging in Abim. Gender inequalities, GBV, HIV/AIDS and food insecurity interact in intricate ways to influence livelihood outcomes the communities.

FAO/2009/R. NANDELENGA

enhancing safe and sustainable self-reliance. In this sense, livelihoods are both a prevention and response intervention. To reshape the social roles towards gender equality and strengthening women's and men's productive capacities, the Social Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) tools developed by FAO are used to make decisions on the appropriate interventions.

SEAGA is an approach to development based on an analysis of socio-economic patterns and participatory identification of women's and men's priorities. The objective of the SEAGA approach is to close the gaps between what people need and what development delivers. The core questions to be answered relate to how do people earn a living? What risky livelihoods are they engaged in because of GBV/ HIV AIDS and or Food Insecurity? The SEAGA approach allows for an analysis of what influences people's livelihoods and development options. In particular, it examines the environment within which individuals and households negotiate survival and factors that

influence livelihoods. Besides investigating livelihoods, the SEAGA tools are used to assess how individuals and institutions respond to GBV.

Over the last two years, three projects focused on affirmatively addressing GBV and HIV/AIDS have been implemented Adjumani, Amuru, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Abim and Kitgum. In collaboration with the Church of Uganda Teso Dioceses Planning and Development Office, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Danish Refugee Council and Lutheran World Federation close to 200 Farmer Field and Life Schools (FFLS) and Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) benefiting over 5,000 households and 30,000 beneficiaries.

There has been close collaboration with the line ministries, district local governments, civil society and other UN agencies. Finally, the shift towards joint programmes on HIV and AIDS, Gender, and GBV among others has enhanced coordination and provide opportunity for more tangible results.

From aid dependency to Dignity...

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“We studied the whole growth cycle of the crops looking at aspects like land preparation, seed selection, germinability tests, and seedling and fertilizer issues”

Anyone who hasn't visited Northern Uganda in the last 25 years would probably think the people in this region only show suffering and despair. This is not far fetched because for over two decades, close to two million people were forced into Internally Displaced People's Camps (IDPs) where they were dependant on humanitarian assistance. For the case of Apac district, the people who were displaced ended up living with relatives either in or at the periphery of Apac town.

But suffering and despair is not what one will find in Atong Otem Farmer Field School in Chawente Sub County, Atong Tidi Parish in Apac district. Two years after the people in this community settled in their homes, I was greeted with ululations and singing from men, women and children whose excitement stemmed from the new empowerment gained from the Farmer Field School. The group's six acre piece of land was lush with beautiful tomatoes, cassava, groundnuts and maize. Part

of the group's first harvest was displayed along the path as streams of people including the district local government officials made their way to the garden during the group's field day.

“When we resettled, we didn't find anything in this community to help us start life normally. The feeder roads were in bad shape and the fields were overgrown with bush. People could not even tell the boundaries of their land. We used to sell our labour for food in the neighboring town centre” said Scovia Okwir.

Thanks to funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in 2008, the community was mobilized by an international Non Governmental Organization – CESVI to form a group through which they could get assistance to start their own food production. After going through group formation formalities using the Farmer Field School methodology, the group members were provided

with assorted crop and vegetable seeds, 70 pangas, 70 hoes, 35 female goats, and an investment grant of USD500. They were also given four oxen and two ox ploughs to facilitate land opening.

After receiving the tools the members embarked on massive land opening. “We used to open land collectively. We started with our six acre piece of land that was donated to the group by St. Philis Church of Uganda. After that, we opened the members' land until all the 35 members had cultivatable land. It was a total of about 60 acres opened in one month, said Emmanuel Otim, one of the members.

In the group's study plot, they planted cassava, tomatoes groundnuts and maize, as per the Farmer Field School approach. “We studied the whole growth cycle of the crops looking at aspects like land preparation, seed selection, germinability tests, and seedling and fertilizer issues”. This allowed use of the crop as a teacher, and ensured that farm-

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ers immediately use and practice what was being learned.

Just after one season, most of the members attest to improved crop yields, thanks to the new technologies and improved practices such as making and application of compost manure to their fields, regular observation of pests and diseases and planting of high yielding and drought tolerant varieties of crops. Eunice Auma says from the same plot of land where she used to harvest 100kg of maize, she now harvests between 180kg and 200kg. In addition, the group is grateful for the comprehensive training package that tackles crosscutting issues like HIV/AIDS, gender, nutrition, hygiene and environmental protection. “Through this training, we have learnt that we need to grow the right crops, eat the right food, maintain hygiene, manage our environment and live in harmony at home. All these issues contribute to the attainment of food security, said Emmanuel Otim. The long-term plan of the FFS group

members is to turn their study plot into an agricultural research and production “station”. The other plan is to venture into food processing and establish links with Southern Sudan where they can sell their produce. Atong FFS has joined other FFS in Apac district to form a FFS network. This network is performing coordination responsibilities with the major focus on bulking the farmers’ produce and creating market linkages.

Besides the food production, the group is operating a savings and credit scheme where every member saves \$1 per week. These savings form the pool of funds from which members borrow to meet their urgent and investment needs and repay with a 10 percent interest. From just \$400, the group fund has now accumulated to \$3, 000 over the last two years. For example, Bentina Akullu borrowed \$60, which he invested in making pancakes. From this investment, she got a profit of \$80 in a period of two months. Bentina has managed to pay back

the loan and also pays her children’s school fees in time. “My children are no longer sent back home for school fees”, she says.

Atong Otem FFS groups is just part of the transformation taking place in Northern Uganda where over 1 500 FFS groups comprising about 45,000 households have been supported. The groups are facilitated with farm inputs, seeds, investment grants and farming knowledge. The FFS methodology has been adopted by the Food Security and Agricultural Livelihood (FSAL) cluster as one of the recovery initiatives for reviving food production and economically empowering the people in the region. A typical FFS comprises a group of people who come together with a common interest/problem which they want to solve together. Members meet on a regular basis to study the “how and why” of a given situation under the guidance of a trained facilitator.

By Rachel Nandelenga

Disaster and Drought Risk Reduction

ECHO funds Horn of Africa Programme in Karamoja



The ECHO funded project aims at helping these communities to prepare for the increasingly frequent failure of rains through a broad range of livelihood- based responses in Karamoja

FAO is implementing a one year Regional Drought Decision (RDD) programme for the Horn of Africa valued at Euro 800,000. The project is funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

It is designed to strengthen the response to drought in the affected countries of the Greater Horn of Africa including Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya. It is estimated that over 14 million nomadic, semi-nomadic pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are at risk from drought in the Greater Horn of Africa. The areas of intervention are north-eastern Uganda (Karamoja), northern Kenya as well as Kajiado district in southern Kenya, and southern and eastern Ethiopia. These areas are arid and semi-arid with pastoralism and agro-pastoralism as the primary source of livelihood.

The project aims at helping these communities to prepare for the increasingly frequent failure of rains

through a broad range of livelihood- based responses. In Uganda's Karamoja region, communities are being supported to build water infrastructures which will provide water through dry seasons, support to animal health through training of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), and establishment of drug stores and Pastoral Field Schools.

The project in Uganda is being implemented by VsF-Belgium, OXFAM GB, Danish Church Aid (DCA) (working with Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, Karamoja Agro pastoral Development Programme and Cooperation and Development) and FAO whose role is coordination and provision of technical support to partners and stakeholders in Karamoja through training, creating linkages and support to the Local Government especially the production department.

This project has facilitated and continues to support the Food Security Working Groups' meeting chaired by

the office of the Production and Marketing Coordinators in all the districts in Karamoja. The outputs are shared with the district Disaster Management Committees for action. This is the forum that coordinates all Food and Agricultural Livelihood issues including technical discussions.

This project has also provided and continues to support the training of stakeholders in new approaches like Agro Pastoral Field Schools, Pastoral Field Schools, Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) and water harvesting technologies in Karamoja. Some of these approaches are being expanded in the region because of their successful implementation here in Uganda.

Lastly, the project has enabled the mapping of all the water sources and livestock migratory routes in Karamoja. These have formed very useful planning tools that are being used by partners and stakeholders in the region.

Climate change threat to Africa

Adaptation a priority



FAO/2009/R. NANDELENGA

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“Climate Change Implications for Food Security and Natural Resources Management in Africa,”

Rome - Climate change can significantly reverse the progress towards poverty reduction and food security in Africa, according to a paper presented to the FAO regional Conference for Africa that was held in Luanda, Angola in the first week of May 2010.

The main consequence of higher temperatures and more unpredictable weather was a likely reduction in crop yields – 6.9 percent in the case of maize, an important staple – and a heightened risk of food insecurity.

The paper, **“Climate Change Implications for Food Security and Natural Resources Management in Africa,”** warned that business as usual was no longer an option and urged African governments to “prioritize and implement measures to develop agriculture and sustainable natural resource management”.

One-third of the African population

lives in drought-prone areas. Six of the ten largest cities in Africa are located on the coast. These are both areas susceptible to climate change. Climate change will affect poorer African countries disproportionately. The poorest people in those countries will suffer the greatest consequences. The African subsistence farmer is among the most vulnerable. Those least able to cope will be hit the hardest. Adaptation to climate change through sustainable practices, including the promotion and protection of traditional and local foods and agricultural knowledge should be a priority, the paper said.

Since climate change would affect the poorest, development policies targetting vulnerable groups, particularly women, were needed. The work-load on women would increase as a result of impacts on water and land resources.

There was also an urgent need to promote and build capacity for FAO’s Sustainable Land Management (SLM) initiative in Africa. This uses know-how to mitigate the impacts of climate change by integrating land, water, biodiversity and environmental management.

There was also increasing potential, the paper noted, for African countries to benefit from carbon and international market instruments such as the Clean Development Mechanism. Strategies to reduce carbon emissions through community afforestation and reforestation projects had the potential to create synergies for increased smallholder food production.

The five-day meeting among other issues, considered the effects of high food prices on African food security and the challenges and opportunities for biofuels production.



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"The issue of governance is central. Identifying and defining the appropriate role of government, in its broadest sense, is the cornerstone on which future development of the livestock sector must build."

Towards a more sustainable livestock sector

Analyzing the rapidly changing global livestock production

Rome - according to the **State of Food and Agriculture** (SOFA) report released by FAO, urgent investments, major agricultural research efforts and robust governance are required to ensure that the world's livestock sector responds to a growing demand for animal products and at the same time contributes to poverty reduction, food security, environmental sustainability and human health.

The report stresses that livestock is essential to the livelihoods of around one billion poor people. Livestock provides income, high-quality food, fuel, draught power, building material and fertilizer, thus contributing to food security and nutrition. For many small-scale farmers, livestock also provides an important safety net in times of need.

But the FAO stressed the need for substantial investments and stronger institutions at global, regional, national and local levels, to ensure that continued growth of the livestock sector contributes to livelihoods, meets growing consumer demand and mitigates environmental and health concerns.

"The rapid transition of the livestock sector has been taking place in an institutional void," said FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf in the foreword of the report. "The issue of governance is central. Identifying and defining the appropriate role of government, in its broadest sense, is the cornerstone on which future development of the livestock sector must build." Efforts are needed to ensure that this rapidly growing sector contributes fully to food security and poverty reduction, moving to-



FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA

Important livelihood: The livestock sector is one of the fastest growing parts of the agricultural economy

wards a 'more responsible livestock sector', Diouf said.

The livestock sector is one of the fastest growing parts of the agricultural economy, the FAO report underlines. Livestock contributes 40 percent of the global value of agricultural production and supports the livelihoods and food security of almost one billion people. Globally, livestock contributes 15 percent of total food energy and 25 percent of dietary protein. Products from livestock provide essential micronutrients that are not easily obtained from other plant food products.

Rising incomes, population growth and urbanization are the driving forces behind a growing demand for meat products in developing countries - and they will continue to be important. To meet rising demand, global annual meat production is expected to expand from 228 currently to 463 million tonnes by 2050 with the cattle population estimated to grow from 1.5 billion to 2.6 billion

and that of goats and sheep from 1.7 billion to 2.7 billion, according to FAO estimates.

FAO recommends that smallholders should be supported in taking advantage of the opportunities provided by an expanding livestock sector and in managing the risks associated with increasing competition. Broader rural development strategies creating off-farm jobs should help those that may be unable to adapt and compete in a rapidly modernizing sector. "Policy makers also need to recognize and protect livestock's safety-net function for the very poor," according to SOFA.

Animal diseases pose systemic risks that must be addressed, FAO said. Since new pathogenic agents will continue to emerge, investments in national animal-health and food safety infrastructure are required to reduce the risks of animal diseases to humans. Poor livestock keepers need to be more engaged in disease-control efforts.

Improving Livelihoods with Riverbed water harvesting in Karamoja

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The newly trained technicians are expected to facilitate the adoption of the technologies at grass root level in all the districts in Karamoja.

FAO trains Government staff and Development Partners

Inadequate water for crop and livestock production and domestic use is one of the major hindrances to the achievement of food security in the semi arid Karamoja region.

One of the most important needs is to improve water availability to the “manyattas”, a basic unit within the Karimjong social structure and in the fields for crop production.

Resultantly, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has conducted a participatory and on-job training of 22 technical staff of District Local Governments and Development Partners based in Karamoja on Riverbed water harvesting technologies, with emphasis on Sub Surface Dams (SSD). A total of 23 Agro Pastoral Field School (APFS) facilitators were also sensitized on the technologies. The newly trained technicians are expected to facilitate the adoption of the technologies at grass root level in all the districts in Karamoja.

A Sub Surface Dam is built out of either clay or concrete across the riverbed to raise the water table level during the dry season. An associated shallow well in the river bank will ensure water extraction and availability for agriculture and livestock production, as well as domestic use.

The main advantages of the Sub Surface Dam are:

- the almost no maintenance requirement;
- low cost technology using local materials when possible;
- no evaporation;
- It is environment friendly; and
- the water is filtered by the sand of the river bed.

These features provide interesting perspectives in terms of sustainability, drought preparedness and income generation diversification as already proved in neighbouring countries such as Kenya and Tanzania.

FAO supports nutritious “Mukene” fish supply

FAO has extended support to the Government of Uganda to promote alternative and better “Mukene” (*Rastrineobola argentea*) fishing and processing technologies and to support and strengthen management measures and policies. The project also aims at informing stakeholders of the opportunities in improved “Mukene” production, processing and marketing.

It is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries through the Department of Fisheries Resources (DFR).

The fisheries industry is extremely important to the economy of Uganda and provides the much-needed protein towards Ugandan food security on top of direct and indirect employ-

ment. Uganda exports annually about 40,000 tonnes of fishery products which earn about USD140 million annually.

Although the Nile perch fishery is still the major contributor to gross income to fisherfolk, the emerging “Mukene” fishery now contributes 44% to the total catch. Despite this volume, its contribution to fisher’s income is only 8% (NaFIRRI 2006).

The traditional practice to date is that “Mukene” is harvested inshore where other fish breed and much of the harvested Mukene is dried on sandy ground in unhygienic conditions and exposed to animals, birds and insects. Because of these poor processing practices only a small

FAO/2009/E. RUKUNYA



Nutritious “Mukene”: the emerging “Mukene” fishery now contributes 44% to the total fish catch in Uganda

proportion of the “Mukene” fishery is utilized for direct human consumption.

The main project beneficiaries will include fisherfolk, women fish processors, fish meal factories, poultry farmers, boat builders, Department of Fisheries resources, Food Biosciences Research Centre (FBRC) under the National Agricultural Research Laboratories and the Ugandan population in general.

Activities in the field



Drying mukene

FAO/2009/E. RUKUNYA



Crop irrigation

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



A sack mound

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



Disinfecting a nursery bed

FAO/2009/W. NALYONGO

Renowned African musicians join the UN in a song to end poverty by 2015

8 Goals for Africa music video to be screened across South Africa during World Cup

Johannesburg, South Africa - Helen Clark, the chair of the UN Development Group which brings together all UN agencies working in development, has launched *8 Goals for Africa*, a campaign song by eight of Africa's best known musicians, calling for commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals - a set of eight internationally-agreed goals designed to reduce poverty, hunger, disease, and maternal and child deaths by 2015.

8 Goals for Africa features Yvonne Chaka Chaka from South Africa, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Angelique Kidjo from Benin, Oliver Mtukudzi from Zimbabwe, Eric Wainaina from Kenya, Baaba Maal from Senegal, and the Soweto Gospel Choir from South Africa. World renowned jazz musicians Hugh Masekela and Jimmy Dludlu from South Africa are instrumentalists on the track, produced by Arthur Baker from the United States of America.

"There can be no spectators in the fight against poverty," said Helen Clark at the launch. "Everyone has a role to play in scoring the 8 Millennium Development Goals, which if reached would improve the quality of life for many hundreds of millions of people across developing countries."

8 Goals for Africa is also recorded as a music video, which will be screened throughout the World Cup, across all the fan parks and public viewing areas in South Africa.

Music composer Jimmy Dludlu added: "I was inspired by this initiative. We want to help promote the Millennium Development Goals and I am optimistic that the song will convey a message of peace, hope and promise of a better future," said Dludlu.

8 Goals for Africa was composed by Jimmy Dludlu and the lyrics written by Eric Wainaina, and is copyrighted to the United Nations. The song and all related materials, including the music video, ring tone, logo and wallpaper, will be available for free download after the media launch at www.8goalsforafrica.org, from Friday 14 May 2010 at 2.00 PM local/12 Noon GMT. The music video of the song will also be available on YouTube and on Vimeo.com.

Broadcast quality of both the song and video will be available at: www.undp.org/broadcast

Landslides and floods destroy crops and livestock in Eastern Uganda

According to statistics from Bududa district local government, up 800 hectares of sweet potatoes, maize, vegetable and 200 hectares of bananas were destroyed as a result of the heavy rains and landslides that occurred in the district in March 2010. In addition, 176 cows, 50 goats and 2,000 chicken were lost.

In Butaleja District, also in eastern Uganda, floods submerged crop fields and vital infrastructure, including roads, schools and houses. An inter-agency assessment in March estimated that 33,305 people, mainly from Mazimasa, Himutu, Kachonga and Butaleja rural sub-counties have been affected, largely through loss of crops. Most of the affected villages are situated in a low lying flood prone area close to the banks of River Manafwa.

The assessment also revealed that in the short term, the priority needs



A flooded house and garden in Bududa

FAO/2010/E: IGBOKWE

of the people are emergency food distribution to affected households; supplementary food to children and lactating mothers; validation of numbers; identification of food storage site/facilities; and a nutrition survey. The longer-term priority needs are replanting of damaged crops and restocking.

In Bududa, landslides occurred and buried the three villages of Nametsi, Kubehe and Namangasa in Bukalasi Sub County, on March 1st 2010

following consecutive days of heavy downpours. About 98 people have been confirmed dead while over 300 are still missing and feared dead. Search operations of the dead led by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) continue in the three villages.

The UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has deployed more effective earth moving equipment in the operations.



Destroyed, maize plantations

FAO/2010/E: IGBOKWE



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