



FROM THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE

As the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) approaches its fortieth year of operations in Uganda, we are pleased to share the FAO Uganda newsletter.

Looking to the future, we hope to use this platform to provide frequent updates. Improving agricultural productivity, engaging youth in agriculture and tackling environmental degradation and climate change are key to self-reliance and development. In this edition, you will read about recently launched projects as well as our work in crop farming, livestock, fisheries and forestry. Our interventions in the region of Karamoja as well as with refugee and host communities have taken on particular importance.

You will also find an out-going interview with the former FAO Representative to Uganda, Alhaji Jallow, who retired from international civil service at the beginning of 2018 after six years in Uganda.

Happy reading!



Priya Gujadhur
Deputy FAO Representative
Representative ai

Knowledge generation: FAO supported the development of a research report on the problem of **ticks and tick borne diseases**. Validated at a workshop held from the 20th to the 21st of June 2018, the findings suggest that **Integrated Tick Management** is the most efficient way forward. Discussions have already been held with the Minister of State for Animal Industry and Fisheries.

DID YOU KNOW?

95% of refugees in Uganda and 97% of host community residents are engaged in agriculture.

- FAO/OPM RIMA 2018



Protecting children from pesticides and empowering youth

As part of its efforts to improve occupational safety and health in the agricultural sector in Uganda, particularly for young workers, FAO is raising awareness and building capacity to protect children and young workers from the direct exposure to pesticides used in farming by empowering local communities to become part of the solution.

After an FAO training, Ms Gertrude Badaru, the District Agricultural Officer from the Arua district became an awareness raising champion, spearheading a radio broadcast on the dangers of pesticide use that led the public to demand more information and the government to strengthen its own outreach, particularly to schools. Gertrude's work relied heavily on materials produced by youth partners in partnership with FAO as part of the country's office's **Integrated Country Approach (ICA)** to promoting rural youth employment.

▶ [Read more](#) about Gertrude and [watch the video about](#) FAO's ICA.

Recent FAO publications



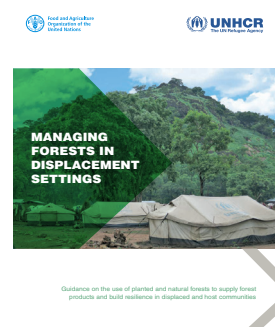
Integrated management of the Fall Armyworm on maize: A guide for Farmer Field Schools in Africa

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Protect children from pesticides! Visual facilitator's guide

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FAO and UNHCR: Managing forests in displacement settings

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FAO receives funding from the Government of Japan for South Sudanese refugees in Yumbe and Moyo

FAO received US\$ 500 000 from the Government of Japan to support livelihood systems for South Sudanese refugees in Yumbe and Moyo districts as part of a larger US\$ 6 million Japanese contribution to the UN system in Uganda. With these resources, FAO will contribute to increasing household income, creating more on-farm employment opportunities and introducing climate-smart agricultural practices in host communities and refugee settlements with the aim of enhancing the resilience of the host community and refugees as well as improving household food security and nutrition.

The project is expected to directly benefit 290 host community households and 590 refugee households in these districts. Host communities will benefit from the introduction of fast-maturing, high value crops (such as fortified beans, sweet potatoes and maize), improved irrigation systems and diversified farming practices for the effective use of land, while the refugees will be supported to establish small vegetable gardens and poultry units to increase income and nutrition from the consumption of animal protein and fresh vegetables.

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Policy-making support: The FAO-EU Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Project assisted the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the MAAIF to formulate the **National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2018**, which was approved by Parliament in February 2018. Currently, the FIRST Project is supporting the formulation of the **Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill** – the Principles have been approved by the Cabinet and the drafting instructions for legal drafting have been issued. Consultations on the draft bill are on-going.

FAO, Government of Uganda launch a new surveillance tool to support government in prevention and control of zoonotic diseases

Working in partnership with the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), FAO launched the Surveillance Evaluation Tool (SET) – a standardized evaluation tool for animal health surveillance capacity and performance in Uganda – with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The SET is part of a group of FAO tools that National Veterinary Services and Ministries of member countries use to facilitate the prevention and control of animal diseases and threats, including zoonoses, or diseases originating in animals that can spread to people. It allows for a comprehensive baseline evaluation of national animal health surveillance systems. This tool is of particular value in Uganda, which has one of the highest incidence rates of zoonotic diseases in the world.

[Read more](#)



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Highlights: Sawlog Production Grant Scheme Phase III (SPGS III) Project

SPGS III is providing grants and technical support to establish 25 000 hectares (ha) of commercial forest plantations by individuals and private entities, 4 000 ha by communities and 2 500 ha by public and private institutions by 2020.

Boosting commercial forestry in the semi-arid Karamoja region

- Thanks to an affirmative action policy, 36 successful applicants (grantees) from the Karamoja region have signed Grant Support Agreements with FAO and will plant 1 000 ha of land. Grantees are establishing timber plantations during the current May to August planting season and have also received practical, field-based training, including field visits to established commercial firms to observe best practices for quality tree plantations.

Community support and SPGS III grant enable establishment of forest plantation

- As part of its effort to enable private sector development, the project provided Soroti Joint Medical Services Limited with a grant to establish forest plots on 34 ha. The company has overseen the planting of 60 000 trees and also engaged extensively with the community through trainings and outreach to increase acceptance of private forestry.

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Farmers in Uganda to benefit from a new FAO project addressing Fall Armyworm (FAW) outbreak

- FAO launched a two-year technical cooperation project with the Government of Uganda, which seeks to address the Fall Armyworm (FAW) threat affecting several maize farms since 2016. Contributing US\$ 483 000 to the fight against FAW, the FAO funded project "Support to Enhance National Capacity for the Management of Fall Armyworm (FAW) in Uganda" aligns with other ongoing efforts designed to protect the livelihoods and food security of maize-dependent communities.

- Speaking at the launch of the project, Dr. Charles Owach, the Assistant FAO Representative in charge of programmes in Uganda emphasized that "This project has been formulated with the understanding that the most effective and sustainable option for the management of this transboundary pest, is community based integrated pest management (IPM) – an approach that embraces the synergetic use of a combination of effective, economic and safe options. Dr. Owach added that the project will focus on community level capacity building where surveillance, monitoring and timely reporting are crucial to strengthening the overall response.

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FAW Larva

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FAO launches mobile application to support fight against Fall Armyworm in Africa

- As part of its broader work to combat FAW in Africa, where more than 80 percent of countries had reported infestations as of early 2018, FAO has launched a mobile application to enable farmers, agricultural workers and other partners at the frontline to identify, report infestation levels, and map the spread of this destructive insect, as well as to describe the pest's natural enemies and the response measures that are most effective for managing its spread.

- The Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) mobile app provides valuable insights on how the insect changes over time and space to improve knowledge of its behavior in Africa and guide response using best practices. Initially implemented in Madagascar and Zambia, the app is now being rolled out across all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa affected by the invasive pest through the FAO-supported Farmer Field Schools as well as other community-based forums leading the fight against FAW.

- FAO Uganda is finalizing efforts to roll out the application to farmers in affected districts.

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Support to refugees and host communities

Uganda is one of the largest refugee hosting countries in Africa, home to approximately 1.4 million refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and Somalia, among others. The ongoing crisis in South Sudan has created significant population displacement and a massive influx of refugees to Uganda.

Targeting both refugees and host communities, FAO's response dates to 2011. Some of its recent achievements, supported by the Government of Austria, include the registration of 21 320 refugee and 9 160 host community households, procuring 4 000 hand hoes for distribution to 2 000 households, distributing 114 MT of maize, bean, cowpea and eggplant seeds to refugees and host community households and distributing 500 energy-saving cook stoves to persons with special needs (PSN) households.



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FAO launches Eastern Africa Farmer Field Schools (FFS) Support Hub with key partners in Uganda

FAO, in coordination with key partners, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, officially launched the [Eastern Africa Field Schools Support Hub](#) in Entebbe, Uganda on 30 May 2018.

The hub is designed to support the up-scaling and institutionalization of the FFS methodology as well as facilitate policy dialogue and advocacy, while also enhancing the quality of the FFS learning process and knowledge sharing and dissemination among its 11 member countries: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Accrediting and validating trainers, the hub will also promote partnerships, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation of FFS activities.

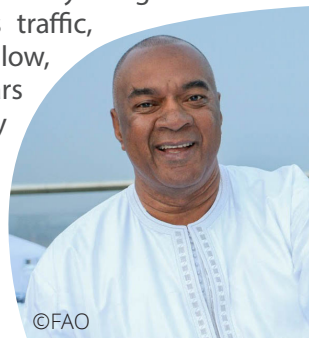
[▶ Read more](#)

Delivering results through value-chain technical cooperation with the Government of Uganda

Over 450 small holder pineapple, rice and mushrooms farmers in Buluguyi and Buwunga sub-counties in Bugiri district as well as 425 pineapple and mushroom farmers in Maziba, Kaharo, southern and northern divisions, in Kabale District now have regular access to market information through their mobile phones. This technical cooperation project also links beneficiaries to reliable financial institutions as well as trainings on cottage processing.

Farewell interview: FAO Representative Alhaji Jallow retires from international civil service

While he admits he will not miss the daily dangers of boda bodas or Kampala's infamous traffic, former FAO Representative Alhaji Jallow, who retired in early 2018 after six years with FAO in Uganda, reflects fondly on his time in the country where he was impressed by the warmth of the country's people as well as the kindness and professionalism of his colleagues – and of course by its diverse supply of fruit!



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"I was pleased to have Uganda as my assignment country because I was aware of the potential of the country in terms of agriculture. Uganda has two rainy seasons and is right at the equator, with a very favorable climate. I therefore believed that agriculture had to be at the forefront of development. Despite the various challenges in Uganda, I was not disappointed. On a personal level, I liked Ugandan food so much, I am taking my Ugandan cook back with me to my home country of the Gambia."

One of Mr. Jallow's proudest achievements was the office's focus on young people. FAO Uganda worked with the MAAIF to develop a national strategy for youth employment in agriculture, which was launched in October 2017. FAO and MAAIF also identified 25 youth, who are involved in agriculture and making a big difference in their communities, as agriculture champions. These individuals have been given a platform to share their experiences with peers and motivate them to participate in agriculture. FAO's youth agriculture champions are leading a variety of encouraging initiatives with the potential to change the face of agriculture in Uganda. I hope that these efforts continue long after my departure.

Plans for retirement? "I'm going to do many things and very few of them conform to the notion of retirement as a time of waiting for the inevitable end. I am going to travel to places I have always wanted to go to but never got the chance. I am going to read books that have been on my 'must read' list for years. I will tend my small lawn with the few fruit trees around the house, learn new skills, visit relatives, and enjoy being around friends. In short, I plan to live!"



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