



# FAO policy and capacity building support to Uganda

Providing technical assistance to the Government for a more robust policy-making environment

## Understanding the problem

Defining a 30 year vision for Uganda, the Comprehensive National Development Planning Framework (CNDPF, also known as Vision 40) consists of three ten-year plans, six five-year National Development Plans (NDPs); Sector Investment Plans (SIPs) and Local Government Development Plans (LGDPs). These national-level planning tools align with and reinforce Uganda’s continental commitments under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Malabo Declaration as well as its global ones within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) holds the mandate for agriculture policy formulation, regulation and quality control in collaboration with other key stakeholders. However, its work and the existing agriculture policy and regulatory framework face a set of constraints, including limited financial resources – funding for MAAIF sits around three percent of the Government budget instead of ten as recommended by CAADP/Malabo – and understaffing to the detriment of implementation and monitoring as well as insufficient coordination between line ministries. The policy landscape is characterized by a lack of some subsector policies as well as policies that are not fully implemented such as those for seeds, fertilizer and extension. Still others like the Veterinary Drug Policy and laws are obsolete or outdated. Many existing policies also do not have implementation tools like laws, regulations and standard operating procedures (SOPs).

## FAO’s Response

For decades, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has supported and contributed to different stages of the policy cycle by providing technical and financial support to the Government of Uganda for policy formulation and implementation including tools such as laws, regulations and SOPs as well as plans and strategies.

During its current Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2015-2019, FAO, working through its Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment project, supported the formulation of the National Agricultural Extension Policy, guiding the design of the youth engagement strategy and ensuring the inclusion of youth as implementers of the policy. In addition, FAO’s Farmer Field Schools approach was formally adopted as a tool to operationalize the policy. Working with MAAIF, the ICA team also supported the development of the National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture (NSYEA), which aims to guide youth engagement and facilitate the creation of decent and gainful employment in the agriculture sector.

Through its flagship policy project “Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST),” FAO is providing technical and financial support to the fisheries and aquaculture sector, which includes reviewing and updating the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, and its implementation tools such as the Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, Regulations and SOPs. This will contribute significantly to improving a fragmented and uncoordinated policy and regulatory environment as well as specifically address challenges of the fisheries and aquaculture sector like overfishing, poor safety and quality of fish products and depletion of fisheries resources. FIRST is also supporting the revision of the Veterinary Drug Policy and its implementation tools like the Veterinary Drug Bill as well as the integration of Uganda’s seven CAADP/Malabo commitments into the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) and its monitoring and evaluation framework.



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## KEY FACTS



**Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy approved by the Cabinet, February 2018**



**National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture launched by MAAIF, October 2017**



**USD 450 000 mobilized since 2015\***



**Geographic coverage (districts) Nationwide**



**In partnership with The Government of Uganda and the European Union (EU)**

\*Reporting against the FAO Uganda Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2015-2019

FAO assisted the Government of Uganda to mainstream climate change into its National Development Plan II (2015/16–2019/20) as well as in the development and validation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), which was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

With more than USD 350 000 (300 000 euros) in support from the European Union for the implementation of the FIRST project as well as USD100 000 in FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project support, FAO is working with MAAIF, the National Animal Disease Diagnostics and Epidemiology Center (NADDEC), Uganda Wildlife Authority, Ministry of Health, District Local Governments, Uganda Virus Research Institute/Centers for Disease Control and College of Veterinary Medicine, animal resources and bio-security (COVAB) to build and reinforce the Government's policymaking and enforcement capacities. This work is enriched by collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Bank and World Food Programme (WFP), among others.

## GOING FORWARD

While policy support benefits all of Uganda, it remains an area of intervention that is systematically underfunded and existing support is negatively impacted by relatively short project implementation windows that do not allow for the follow up and long-term commitment needed for catalyzing policy-level change throughout multi-year legislative and policy processes. Coherent programmes implemented over three to five years could greatly enhance efficiency as well as maximize the sustainability of results. Working to address at least part of this challenge, FAO is assisting the Government to translate its policy intentions into workable and implementable investment plans beginning with the current ASSP.

Discussions are underway between FAO and MAAIF to expand the scope of work and streamline policy assistance under FIRST. Once validated by the Government, this could include:

- Developing value chains-based investment profiles that the Government can use to mobilize private sector as well as donor resources for financing the current ASSP and beyond.
- The creation of an agricultural policy coordination platform to improve inter-sectoral coordination, between MAAIF and line ministries and different levels of the Government (central vs local government entities).
- A long-term and comprehensive policy assistance package to address the full breadth of institutional capacity building needs for planning and policy functions, including restructuring and strengthening MAAIF's policy unit and the providing sustained technical trainings.
- Deepening country diagnostics to generate a strong evidence base for future policy interventions under FIRST and beyond.

- For example:
- » Mainstreaming social protection activities into existing agricultural interventions and investments plans to improve food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, especially in rural settings and
  - » Supporting specific policies and strategies that promote access to information technology to boost agricultural investments that support youth employment in rural settings



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