

School of Postgraduate Studies

Module: Agriculture and Rural Development

MA Full Time, Nkozi. 17th October 2005. 3:00-5:00pm

Answer **three** questions. "Question 1" is compulsory.

1. You are now almost through with the module on "Agriculture and Rural Development". Compose your own question that shows that you internalised the module and answer it.
2. "We are not suffering from want; we are suffering from waste!" This is the greatest tragedy that begins from "urban Uganda" to "rural Uganda". Discuss.
3. As the table below shows, the statistics that have to do with agricultural situation in Uganda are not the best. A politician, looking at the statistics, commented: "the poverty and stagnancy in Africa are the greatest tragedies of our times". A philosopher responded to the politician: "it is not the end result that matters, but the processes behind it". Who would be more right than the other? Why?

Agricultural Statistics in Uganda	
Item	Statistics
Rural population	90%
Suitable land for agriculture	85%
Cultivated land	40%
Smallholder farmers	96%
Large-scale farmers	4%
Fertilizer use	Less than 10%
Increase in cotton vol. exports	75.4%
Increase in export cotton value	20.2%
Decline in prices of cotton	31%
Fall in tea export prices	30%

Source: O'Reilly 2003

4. The following argument was advanced in a daily newspaper: "instead of talking about 'eradicating poverty by transforming subsistence agriculture into commercial agriculture', it is high time for Ugandans to talk about 'creating wealth by transforming subsistence agriculture into commercial agriculture'. Comment on the argument.
5. "We are giving fifty billion dollars as overseas aid. There are a billion poor people in the world. Why don't we just find the poor and give them one dollar a week and do nothing else. No questions asked. What they do with the money is not our concern. That would probably do more to relieve poverty than anything else. That is the methodology for any rural intervention!" Comment.
6. "Think global, act global and think local, act local because there is no global in the rural and no rural in the global". What do you think?