



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

UGANDA AND FAO

FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BETTER LIVELIHOODS

FAO's current efforts in Uganda focus on improving agricultural productivity, engaging youth in agriculture and tackling environmental degradation and climate change, all of which are key to building self-reliance. Special emphasis is given to interventions in the region of Karamoja, where FAO is supporting the restoration of ecosystem services and providing support to refugee and host communities. The aim is to integrate refugee populations in medium and long-term development planning.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN
UGANDA

Established in 1979, the FAO Representation in Uganda is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Refugee response

Uganda is the largest refugee host country in Africa, with about 1.5 million refugees, mainly from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and Somalia. FAO is implementing agricultural projects to help both refugees and host communities protect their assets and produce their own food to help diversify their income sources, thus reinforcing the Government's progressive refugee policies. Responding to the South Sudanese refugee crisis, FAO has increased crop and animal production and productivity for over 45 000 vulnerable refugee and host community households in Midwestern and Northern Uganda. Fast maturing vegetable, grain and legume seeds and Kuroilers chicks for poultry production were distributed, and beneficiaries received training in general crop agronomic practices, post-harvest handling, vegetable production, household nutrition and poultry production and management.

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Matching FAO's expertise to Uganda's development priorities

FAO assistance in Uganda is shaped by the **2015-2019 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on three priority areas.

- ➔ **Production and productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries commodities**
- ➔ **Increasing access to agricultural knowledge and information**
- ➔ **Resilience to livelihood threats, with an emphasis on climate change**

Jointly developed with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the **National Development Plan II (2015/16-2019/20)** and the **Agriculture Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP)**. The CPF is fully aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Uganda.



■ Boosting production and productivity

Uganda has the potential to produce sufficient food to meet its own consumption needs and a surplus to export to other countries. FAO has partnered with key ministries, institutions, research organizations, the private sector and academic institutions to address production constraints, including low productivity levels characterized by small acreages and yields, limited access to improved inputs and technologies and poor harvests.

Global knowledge transfer

Working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), FAO has supported the establishment of sustainable practices and technologies in horticulture, cereals production, aquaculture, livestock and agribusiness. Since 2012, a team of 47 Chinese agricultural experts and technicians has worked within the framework of South-South Cooperation (SSC) to address knowledge and skills gaps along specific crop, livestock and fisheries value chains. With a focus on capacity building for national planners, researchers, agricultural extension officers and farmers, this support sought to increase agricultural production and food security through improvements in specific farm-level activities.

The outcome of these SSC initiatives includes: the establishment of 20 demonstration farms, ten trade and investment linkages, three business models for sustainable production of hybrid rice, fox tail millet and sweet potato processing, and the creation of 12 farmer cooperatives to strengthen linkages between small actors and buyers in the roots and tubers sector. SSC has also resulted in the successful transfer of 25 new technologies, 17 new crop varieties and four types of medium-sized agricultural equipment.

Promoting sustainable development

Through the European Union (EU)-funded Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) Project, now in its third phase, FAO is helping to increase the incomes of rural populations through commercial tree planting by small, medium and large-scale businesses and local communities. FAO is providing conditional and retrospective financial grants as incentives to private entities interested in commercial forestry. The aim is to establish 25 000 ha of forest plantations.

The Organization is also distributing tree seedlings (targeting 7 million by 2020) to communities and institutions, including schools, to establish fuel wood plantations of 4 000 ha and 2 500 ha, respectively. Beneficiaries are also receiving comprehensive training in various aspects of forest establishment and management.

As a result of the population's heavy reliance on forest wood for fuel, Uganda's natural forest cover has been declining. To counter this trend, FAO has supported the establishment of 87 ha of bio-energy plantations through the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) project.

These demonstration wood lots have allowed community tree growers to improve their own forestry management skills and inspired many communities to plant their own trees, thus resulting in the establishment of an additional 600 hectares of commercial fuel wood plantations.

Through the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF), 38 aquaculture value chain organizations have been supported, with 490 youths benefiting from the establishment of seven commercial fish hatcheries, four

small-scale fish feed mills, two post-harvest training centres and the installation of 49 fish cages. Through public and private partnerships, 14 nuclear fish farms have been established, some of which support feeding programmes for schools and vulnerable children.

"There is an intrinsic link between peace and food security, and between hunger and conflict."

FAO Director-General

■ Livestock disease management

Livestock disease management is of paramount importance in Uganda, especially in the "Cattle Corridor", which runs from the south of the country to Karamoja in the northeast. Here livestock are the major source of livelihood. FAO interventions, carried out in partnership with MAAIF and partners like the Karamoja Livestock Development Forum, primarily focus on technical and logistical support. In 2014 and 2015, for instance, when Uganda experienced outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), which spread across 33 districts, FAO responded through its Crisis Management Centre, applying a "smart vaccination" strategy, starting with the vaccination of 280 000 heads of cattle against FMD.

Adding to the Government's efforts to monitor, respond to and prevent high impact infectious and zoonotic diseases, FAO has recently launched the Surveillance Evaluation Tool. This evaluation tool for animal health surveillance capacity and performance will allow for a comprehensive baseline evaluation of national animal health surveillance systems and the provision of capacity building support tailored to the needs of the National Veterinary Services. Additionally, FAO is supporting an ongoing campaign in Karamoja to control and prevent contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia, contagious caprine pleuro-pneumonia and *peste des petits ruminants*.

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