



Advancing Green and Inclusive Growth in the Agriculture, Animal Industries & Fisheries; and the Local Government Sectors- A case for the Albertine region

An Issues Paper by the ENR-CSO Network

Submitted by: Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society (ENR-CSO) Network Secretariat (hosted at Environmental Alert), on behalf of the ENR-CSO Network.
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1. Introduction

Uganda's economy has grown significantly over recent years, a significant proportion of the country's population, mainly youth, are not benefiting optimally from this growth. Uganda has the world's largest percentage of young people under

the age of 30. Uganda's population growth rate of 3.2% makes it the third fastest growing country in Africa. It is forecasted to see its population double by 2040, reaching 76 million. While this is already putting a strain on natural resources and social services, employment creation is and will be the major challenge. Even with the high rates of economic growth, employment creation has been so far too limited, especially among the youth and women. The current economic model has not delivered the inclusive and sustainable development aspired to by Ugandans, especially by young people. An economic transformation is needed to address the fundamental challenges of employment, worrying environment-related trends to boost sustainable economic development, jobs and social benefits and facilitate emergence of clean and/or innovative sectors, while preserving its natural capital for future generations. Over 80% of Ugandans population largely depends on the environment

and natural resources for their livelihood. However, the country's natural resource base is declining at an alarming rate.

Against this background, an issues paper has been developed by the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) CSO Network with financial support from United Nations Development Programme through the Ministry of Water and Environment under the Inclusive Green Growth for Poverty Reduction framework (IGGPRF). The IGGPRF is implemented under the principle of partnerships and inclusiveness and as such some activities were assigned to the ENR CSOs Network that KANCA implemented with overall output of developing Issuespaper. The ENR - CSO Network is hosted by Kabarole NGOs/CBOs Association (KANCA) at sub national level and brings together organizations working on environment and natural resources issues at sub national level. KANCA is a District Network of Non -Governmental and Community Based Organizations (NGOs/CBOs) operating in Kabarole district western Uganda and was formed to secure, consolidate and expand operational space for civil society and influence governance and development processes.

The issues paper is focusing on recommendations that Local Government, water and environment (MWE), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Gender labour and social development, Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Sectors and other duty bearers should take up in order to create green jobs for youth and women. The views of this issue's papers were generated from several consultations and processes such as green growth dialogue meeting that was held in Fort Portal at Gardens Restaurant 27th -28th June 2019 with **47(12 females and 35 males) district leaders, 10 (4 females and 6males) youth leaders in Albertine regional, media**

and women leaders, CSOs in Albertine and Kampala. In addition, key informant interviews were conducted on selected officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Local Government and Civil Society Organizations in the environment and natural resources sector. This was backed up by extensive literature review of available policies, frameworks, interventions and programmes.

*Further information about the ENR-CSO network is provided in Box 1.
Further information about KANCA is available in Box 2.*

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2. An inclusive low emissions economic growth process that emphasizes effective and efficient use of the country's natural, human, and physical capital while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide for present and future generations.'

The term green growth is defined differently by different stakeholder such as:

World Bank report on inclusive green growth, May 2012, defines Green growth as growth "that is efficient in its use of natural resources, clean in that it minimizes pollution and environmental impacts, and resilient in that it accounts for natural hazards and the role of environmental management and natural capital in preventing physical disasters."

1 Box 3. Definition of Green Growth based on Uganda Green Growth strategy, (2017/18-2030/31)

African Development Bank (AfDB) strategy, 2013 to 2022, Defines green growth as "the promotion and maximization of opportunities for economic growth through building resilience, managing natural assets efficiently and sustainably including enhancing agricultural productivity, and promoting sustainable infrastructure".

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report on green growth, June 2011, defines Green Growth as "fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies."

In line with the key definitions including Uganda's definition in Box 3 green growth is governed by the principles of sustained economic growth; resource use efficiency; climate change response through adaptation and mitigation; creation of decent green jobs; and human wellbeing and social inclusiveness.

Globally, the 2030 Transformative Agenda on Sustainable Development is the guiding framework for green growth and was informed by the Rio+20 Outcome document on the "Future that we want" developed in 2012, which rallied all countries to pursue green growth to sustainable development. This translated into the mainstreaming of sustainable development principles in Uganda's development framework.

The Government of Uganda has demonstrated a commitment towards the principles of green growth and sustainable development and has and or is undertaking a process of establishing a policy and institutional framework that is conducive to green growth as indicated in various legal, policy and planning and institutional frameworks such as The 1995 Uganda Constitution; the National green job strategy and plan; Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP); the Uganda Vision 2040 that acknowledges that green growth is the approach desired for implementation of sustainable development and wealth creation; the second National Development Plan 2015/16-2019/20 (NDP II), and now NDP III that focuses on sustainable industrialization for inclusive growth, employment and wealth and the

Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy 2017/18 to 2030/31 which intends to operationalize the broad green growth principles highlighted in Agenda 2030 as well as being one of the steps towards achieving the envisaged transformation in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

The agricultural sector contributes 21% to GDP, 47% of total export earnings and employs 65.6 % of the entire population (UBOS 2010). Given agriculture's major role in the rural economy, it has significant potential to provide medium-term solutions to the current problems of youth and women unemployment in Uganda (MoFPED 2011). One of the major roles of the Ministry of Local Government is to ensure that Local Governments comply with statutory requirements and adhere to national policies and standards including Green Growth. This role includes domesticating of government laws, policies and standards through development and implementation of by-laws and ordinances and mainstreaming government programmes into District Development Plans. The Ministry of Local Government is particularly crucial in ensuring that Local Governments provide a conducive environment for agriculture to flourish and consequently contribute to job creation for women and youth.

Agriculture is a significant source of green house gas (GHG) emissions. It is estimated that in the absence of further abatement measures, annual global emissions of GHG from agriculture are likely to increase by 30% by 2030 when compared to estimated levels in 2005 (McKinsey and Company, cited in Wreford et al., 2010, p. 80). If steps are not taken to reduce emissions from agriculture or in sectors closely related to agriculture this could pose a challenge for the sector.

The agricultural sector/economy of Uganda is characterized by mainly women and youth in the rural areas

under the different Local Governments. The youth represent approximately 21 percent (close to 7 million) of the population and they comprise about 64 percent of the unemployed persons in Uganda (Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS) 2012). In 2011/12, youth unemployment rate stood at 5.1 percent, above the unemployment rate of 1.9 percent amongst those aged 31-64 years and was even higher among the youth in greater Kampala areas at 15 percent (UBoS 2012). Women on the other hand play a vital role in Uganda's rural agricultural sector and contribute a higher than average share of the labor in East African region. They also make up more than half of Uganda's agricultural workforce 76% compared to 62% for men according to World Bank report July 2015, leveling the field for women farmers in Uganda.

Public expenditure reviews conducted by the BIOFIN project (UNDP and NEMA 2017) indicate that the performance of local government fees, non-tax revenue, subsidies, compliance charges, and resource rents as one of the instrument categories of green growth are neither effective nor efficient. Inadequate resources are collected and often the resources are not used for investment in restoration and sustainable management of natural capital; instead the resources are used in administrative and coordination actions, while the state of the resource declines. Consequently, the revenue streams have also been declining, to the point that they are unable to provide significant contributions to financing of the green economy targets set.

3. Current Initiatives and Opportunities of how Green Growth can lead to Job Creation for Women and Youth

There are several initiatives and opportunities of how green growth can lead to job creation for women and youth as described below:

a) Policy environment and Government Commitment on women and youth development: Green growth being a global issue, several treaties and agreements in relation to green growth, have been agreed on globally such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992, Ramsar Convention, 1971, of which Uganda is a party and has as well-developed policies and strategies in relation to them.

b) Skills Development Initiatives for Youth and Women; Under the inclusive green growth for poverty reduction project, the Ministry of Water and Environment with support from UNDP and working closely with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development have set up an incubation center where youth and women will get hands on skills on green initiatives. At Kampiringisa a rehabilitation center was set up by the government on 100 acres of land. More so, under the same initiative, the government has set up a green job's strategy plan for Uganda and an innovation fund where people with great/smart initiatives will be supported by government.

c) Improvement of the physical infrastructures: The Government of Uganda has been and is still investing in the Rural Electrification programme, new road improvements and developments on both municipal and national roads and multiple modal transport options such as Meter Gauge railway, air transport and water transport.

d) Increasing demand for food and agricultural raw materials; By 2050, Uganda is estimated to be 100 million people (World Bank) and with this, there is need for more manpower both skilled and unskilled to counteract the growing population demand in terms of food and agricultural raw materials.

e) Initiatives by youth and women that promote Green Growth; Green colleges have been set up in the Albertine region (Kasese and Kabarole districts) by sustainable agriculture trainers network (SATNET), an NGO based in Fort Portal. Youth in Mukono are producing maggots for animal feeds from organic matter or waste substrates such as partially decomposed cow dung, pig dung or powdered poultry droppings in trays/basins using the black house flies imported from South Africa. The women and youth are establishing various tree nurseries, and some are involved in briquette making. Under roads and engineering, youth and women have been recruited as road gangs.

f) Agri-Led initiatives seek to transform local government systems to facilitate effective business oriented local development. the initiative aim at improving market access for agro industrial products, leverage the existing expertise and technology to develop the agro –industries and industrial parks in Rwenzori region

4. Challenges that affect Green Growth and Job Creation for Youth & Women

a) Policy Environment for Agricultural Financing

Agriculture finance represents only 12.9% of commercial bank lending in Uganda according Uganda institute of banking and financial services report July 2019 page 3. Government has tried to establish several schemes to address the issues of financing such include the Youth Livelihood Fund; and the Agricultural Credit Financing (ACF) whose financing guidelines have since been constraining to smallholder farmers especially women and youth on grounds such as the minimum loan amount of 30 Million and collateral which type category of people do not have. The agriculture insurance currently managed by the Agriculture Insurance Consortium (AIC) has limited linkages with the Ministry of

agriculture, especially the Directorate of agricultural extension, whose functions provide grounds for the ability of the beneficiaries to access the scheme. In addition, the scheme has remained unpopular in the public domain and yet its services have for long been desired by farmers .

b) Limited access to financial services by youth and women

Some of the agricultural jobs created due to green growth require heavy capital investment and insurance which most of the youth do not have and this affects value addition which would an opportunity for young farmers along the production lines. In addition, formal financial service providers perceive lending to youth as risky because of their weak financial capacity, lack of collateral, poor saving culture, minimal financial track records. In cases where the youth have had an opportunity to access loans from financial institutions especially for agricultural enterprises, they have failed to pay back the loans. Also, agriculture is considered to be risky by financiers due to its high vulnerability to external shocks including extreme weather conditions, pests, and diseases and nature of seasonality.

c) Mindset, negative perception and attitude to agribusiness

Most youth consider agriculture to be unattractive due to the limited access, low returns, no quick gains and lack of a market-led approach in the agricultural sector in addition to agriculture not being emphasized as an academic achievers' priority.

d) Inadequate skills, knowledge and information

Majority of the youth and women engaged in agricultural interventions and those who are not yet engaged but have the interest to, do not have adequate skills, knowledge and information. They have limited access to agricultural training, and technologies and information (if given) is given in a discriminatory

and judgmental way, not taking consideration of their views/opinions and their lifestyles.

e) Limited Access to Land for Agribusiness

According to gender analysis, studies indicate that women and girls have high access to agricultural land but with limited control and ownership including control of the proceedings from the land. This is attributed to several factors such as the cultural norms that hinder women from inheriting and accessing land and the limited financial muscle for the youth to buy land.

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f) Limited Value Addition

The youth and the women are affected by the fact that there is limited value addition to most of the agricultural produce; making it unprofitable. Most agricultural produce is either sold in its raw form in the local markets without further processing and/or without any form of value addition which denies the youth and women more job opportunities along the agricultural value chain and the government or local government more revenue that could be generated from further processing. This is because of limited knowledge, skills and inadequate use of opportunities on how to add value to agricultural products and technologies.

g) Limited Access to markets

The women and the youth have limited access to markets due to; limited access to marketing information, non-conformity to agricultural produce and products standards, inadequate markets and marketing infrastructure and poor post-harvest management. And yet these markets would be avenues creating more jobs for the youth and women in the transportation sector, and market selling sectors.

h) Climate Change and Environmental Management

Climate change has greatly affected the agricultural sector due to limitations in the use of technologies and innovations that enhance women and youth resilience to its adverse effects. Youth and women have very minimal information and education opportunities about climate change and its effects because expert information is hard to interpret from hard language use.

i) Limited Awareness of green growth to most Local Governments

The concept of green growth and how it relates to job creation for youth and women is little known at Local Government levels. The Green Growth Strategy is not yet known to many Local Government Officials and therefore any activities being implemented towards achieving Green Industries, products and markets and creation of jobs for youth and women are implemented unconsciously. Besides there are no specific standard measures yet provided by government to measure progress of local government performance towards green growth and job creation for youth and women.

j) Limited integration of green growth in relation to women and youth in the district development plans. This affects planning as well as the type of interventions to be supported by the District Local Governments.

k) Few bye- laws and ordinances that support green job creation for women and youth at the District Local Government: A few of the bye- laws related to green growth are not explicit on provision and access to green jobs for youth and women.

l) Limited inaccessibility to extension services

Although there have been efforts to recruit extension workers such as agricultural workers in some Local governments at sub-county level, these

are still inadequate compared to the number of youth and women involved in Agriculture. Therefore, ancient skills and knowledge that are not in tandem with the current challenges of climate change, loss of soil fertility and changes in weather patterns are still being applied in agricultural value chains leading to adverse effects on the environment, poor harvests and frustrations among women and youth.

5. Recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries on Green Growth Job Creation for Women and Youth

Basing on the above analysis, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries needs to:

a) Partner with the Ministry of Gender and Local Government needs to conduct an in-depth analysis to understand and close the skills gaps between women and youth and employers in agricultural sector and to gauge which entrepreneurial skills are demanded by the market.

b) Collaborate with and influence the Ministry of Education and sports to integrate relevant skills into educational programmes related to green growth in schools, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, colleges and universities backed up with the establishment of a loan education fund.

c) Take a center stage and play a more active role in the development of the Agricultural Financing Policy so that it can be concluded as soon as possible.

d) Fast track the Bank of Uganda proposed methodology on adopting group lending for agricultural interventions to community groups to work as collateral for youth and women who do not own land and such properties that can be used as collateral.

e) Identify and train youth and women on entrepreneurship and life skills on income generating interventions along the value chain with special attention to all support sectors i.e. vegetable growing, nursery bed establishments among others.

f) Strengthen the collaboration with the meteorology department to disseminate climate information which is in a farmer user language and taking interest in local weather technologies.

g) Support youth and the women in value addition technologies so as to create more job opportunities along the agricultural value chain

h) Adopt SMART agriculture climate change strategies to enhance women and youth resilience to its adverse effects of climate changes.

6. Recommendations to ministry of Local Government on Green Growth Job Creation for Women and Youth

a)Develop capacity building interventions for the district staff on aspects of green growth,agricultural yield production, agro-possessing and development of Markets.

b) Mainstream green growth initiatives or interventions in their District Development Plans and budget framework papers at the national and the district level.

c) Establish a one stop learning center at the district level where youth and women can be mentored and skilled in agricultural businesses as well as supported with capital ventures.

d)Establish Domestic Waste management and innovation centers where collected waste especially from the district municipals and urban centers can be turned into a source of wealth or income such as manure, crafts and briquettes.

e) **Develop ordinances and bye- laws** to support implementation of existing policy reforms, frameworks and development plans on green growth

f) **Promote green cities and towns (including greening zones and public open spaces);** green belts and sustainability of ecosystems as a means of mitigating climate change effects and creation of jobs for youth and women.

g) **Conduct extensive awareness campaigns at the national and district level** on green growth and how it can create jobs and employment opportunities for women and youth.

h) **Conduct learning/exposure visits** for leaders, youth and women relating to green growth economy for purposes of replication and improvement on existing green growth strategies.

i) **Establish industrial parks that are a one stop center** for the youth and women to engage in production and marketing of their products. This shall prepare the youth and women to benefit from the industrialization strategy of our country.

j) **Promote use of clean energy in the design of infrastructure such as roads, markets.** For instance; water harvesting and solar energy technologies for markets and other infrastructure.

7. Conclusion

Unemployment levels for the youth and women in Uganda presents a great risk to the country's development and yet the agriculture sector which employs majority of Ugandans has not attracted the youth. Integration of inclusive green growth framework into the Local government, Agriculture and other departments' sectoral planning and policies, enhances sustainable use of resources to foster social economic development and jobcreation for youth and women.

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Box 1: About the ENR-CSO Network

The ENR-CSO Network was established in 2010. The driving force behind its formation was the need for the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to get organized and formalize their participation in the annual Joint Sector Review process (JSR) under the Ministry of Water and Environment. Since then, it is increasingly becoming evident that the existing critical Environment and Natural Resource (ENR) issues supersede advocacy targets via the annual joint sector review platform but rather a more holistic mechanism of engagement and better internal coordination within the network is paramount. The ENR-CSO Secretariat is hosted by Environment Alert (EA) at its office in Kampala.

Vision, mission and goal of the ENR-CSO Network

Vision: *The Vision of ENR-CSO Network is, 'Uganda's environment and natural resources sustainably managed for (socio-economic) transformation.'*

Mission: *The Mission of ENR-CSO Networks is to, 'Promoting and advocating for good governance of Uganda's environment and natural resources.'*

Goal: *The Goal of ENR-CSO is, 'All ENR-CSO Network members effectively contributing to good governance of Uganda's environment and natural resources by 2029.'*

Network Core values:

Teamwork and Partnership: *ENR CSO Network seeks to preserve ENR through working together as a team with other stakeholders.*

Accountability: *ENR CSO Network seeks to be accountable for all actions and funds received to ensure high levels of members and stakeholder confidence.*

Integrity: *ENR CSO Network seeks to be a network of high level respect and trust from members, government and stakeholders.*

Professionalism: *ENR CSO Network seeks to act in a professional manner in all its engagements.*

Evidence based policy engagements: *ENR CSO Network seeks to conduct research and engage in evidence based advocacy for informed government policy orientation and programming.*

Box 2: About KANCA

Kabarole NGOs/CBOs Association (KANCA) is a District Network of Non -Governmental and Community Based Organization's (NGOs/CBOs) operating in Kabarole district western Uganda. It was formed to secure, consolidate and expand operational space for civil society and enhances the capacity of the sector to influence governance and development processes. Key areas of focus are; human rights & good governance, accountability, capacity building, networking, research, environment and livelihood.

KANCA hosts the sub national ENR - CSO Network and brings together organizations working on environment and natural resources issues in Kabarole district.

KANCA's Vision: A vibrant and sustainable network of civil society organizations delivering quality services to an empowered community.

KANCA's Mission: To strengthen MOs to deliver quality services to the community through information sharing, research documentation, advocacy and networking.

Objectives:

- i. To support wider civil society knowledge basis by sharing /providing well researched and well packaged information and supporting different information sharing events.
- ii. To build a strong civil society with capacity to effectively engage/address development challenges at different levels.
- iii. To strengthen networking and linkages amongst the civil society for partnership building and effective engagement of local leaders.
- iv. To strengthen and support lobbying and advocacy for improved service delivery amongst civil society and other service providers promoting good governance and accountability.



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Kabarole NGOs/CBOs Association (KANCA)

P.O. Box 958 Fort Portal,
Tel: 0782-398822 / 0752-842173
Email: kacbongo@yahoo.co.uk

For Further Information, Contact: Dr. Joshua Zake (PhD), Executive Director-Environmental Alert

Plot 475/523 Sonko Lane, Kabalagala Off Ggaba Road,

P. O. Box 11259 Kampala, Uganda, Tel: 256-414-510547 OR 510215

Email: ed@envalert.org or joszake@gmail.com.

ENR-CSO Network Website: <http://enr-cso.org/> Environmental Alert Website: www.envalert.org