

1.0 Introduction

The 10th JASAR of 2020 marks the 6th Non-State Actors (NSA) active participation in the JASAR processes. It however, comes in at the point where the agriculture sector is starting the implementation of the new ASSP III in the context of National Development Plan (NDP) III where the sector is significantly expected to contribute to the programme of agro industrialization. Further, more when the sector is faced with two emergent challenges of Corona Virus Disease – 19 (COVID 19) and Desert locusts on top of the now constant challenges like climate change. It therefore necessitates to not only look at the sector performance for the year 2019/20 but also reflecting on the sector readiness to tackle emergencies as and when they arise. This NSA Statement therefore, is multi-faceted, it provides for the sector performance for the Financial Year (FY) 2019/20 as part of the broader performance of the sector for the concluding Uganda National Agriculture Investment Plan of 2015/16 – 2019/20. The NSA Statement further provides a snapshot of the sector performance on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) commitments as detailed within the various indicators designed in the Malabo framework and on specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, it presents a snapshot of the sector readiness towards building resilience of all actors in the sector towards emergencies. The key issues and recommendations provided in this statement focus on the agriculture sector in the next Agriculture Sector Development Plan (ASSP) III and not necessarily the next FY as it has been in the previous years.

2.0 Background and context

The agriculture sector remains central to the economy of Uganda. The sector employs majority of the population estimated at 65% according to the Uganda National House Hold Survey, (2016/17); with more women engaged in agriculture at 71% compared to men at 59%. The agriculture sector according to the NDP II was identified as one of the priority development sectors needed to achieve a "Transformed Uganda Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years." The NDP III 2020/21 – 2024/25 focuses on, "Sustainable Industrialization for inclusive growth, employment and wealth creation", which is hinged on the need for rapid industrialization based on increased productivity and production in agriculture employing a programmatic approach.

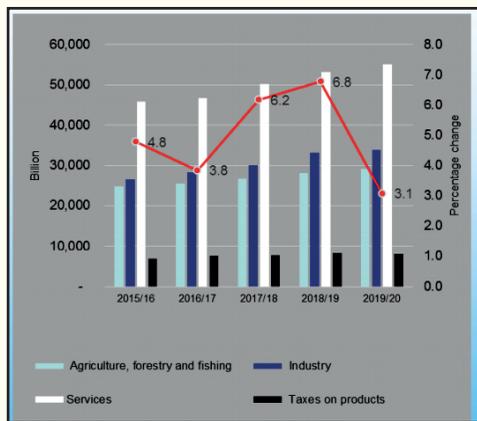


Figure 1. GDP sector performance. Source: UBOS, 2020.

According to UBOS, 2020, until July, 2020 Uganda's economy expanded by 3.1, despite this being lower than 6.8 in 2018/19, the size of the economy in real terms, has increased to Uganda Shillings 126,258 Billion in 2019/2020 from Uganda Shillings 122,494 billion in 2018/19. The services sector still contributes the largest portion at over 70%, followed by the industrial sector at over 40% and Agriculture sector at above 35%. The agriculture sector's contribution to GDP growth as shown below has for years registered a slight but insignificant increase. See Figure 1 for details.

3.0 NSA Statement on Annual Performance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF)

A) Applauding the key achievements during the FY 2019/20

The NSA recognize the Government efforts, through MAAIFs, Partners and Stakeholders for the various achievements during the Financial Year, 2019/20. The following are some of the most outstanding sector achievements:

- Launching of the MAAIF data center;
- Launching of the platform for registration and profiling of extension workers in collaboration with Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services.
- Launching of the national climate change strategy
- Increase in number of extension workers from 2,792 extension workers in FY 2017/18 to 3,800.
- Approval of the National Coffee Act, 2019.
- Approval of the National Organic Agriculture Policy, 2019 for Uganda.

B) Key emerging issues in the Agriculture Sector

The following are some of the emerging key challenges for agricultural sector during the financial year, 2019/20:

- The COVID - 19 pandemic, locusts and other pests like the Army Fall Warm increased cases of malnutrition and food insecurity in some parts of the country especially the Urban centers of Arua, Gulu, Hoima, Jinja, Kasese, Lira, Masaka, Mbale, Mukono classified as phase 3 while Fort portal, Wakiso, Mbarara being classified phase 2. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sector performance and continued services delivery at different levels was evident with respect to food security and nutrition.
- Inadequate human resources capacity, especially at the Local Government level compromises of overall service delivery through agriculture extension. Besides, a new set of skills is required by extension workers to support the implementation of the NDP III - one program approach towards agro-industrialization.
- Delay in processes targeted at enactment of the National Agricultural Extension Act, which was due in YF 2017/18 to support the implementation of National Agricultural Extension Policy.
- The agricultural sector is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts based on the fact that Uganda is still natural resources dependent. Some of the key impacts such as: prolonged droughts, floods due to raising water levels, landslides, increased pests & diseases infestation are much more prevalent in various parts of the country. These certainly impact on productivity and

associated economic activities at different scales. Much as agriculture at a global scale is reported to account for 10-12% of total global anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, it also presents opportunities for avoided emissions of GHGs and carbon storage in the soil through climate smart agriculture management practices and technologies.

- Low budget performance; according to the Agriculture Sector Semi-annual Budget Monitoring Report of the financial year 2019/20, the approved budget for the DAES sub-program for FY 2019/20 was Uganda Shillings 0.795 billion, whereas that of National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) was Uganda Shillings 79.7 billion. The overall semi-annual performance of the Agricultural Research Program during FY 2019/20 was ranked at 76% whereas that of DAES was ranked at 48%. This rating was mainly attributed to delays in the funds requisition process within the departments.
- Persistent, weak research and extension linkages; the traditional technology transfer model continues to characterize the agricultural system, thereby limiting its innovative capacity.
- Use of digital technologies in the provision of agriculture extension and building farmer research linkages; various Information Communication and Technology models of provision of extension services and engaging youth and other vulnerable groups have been developed by various actors in a bid to bridge the low extension to farmer ratio of 1:1800. However, these models are still being implemented at a low scale and there are often implemented with minimum integration.
- Recurrent occurrences of diseases such as the foot and mouth disease among other traditional vectors such as ticks, have not prompted prioritization of their control and management on the Agricultural transformation agenda. There is inadequate funding and establishment of mechanisms for early detection of pests and diseases and rapid response e.g. in FY 2017/18, availability and distribution of foot and mouth disease vaccine and related livestock controls had a funding gap of 4 billion Uganda Shillings, emergency control of tsetse flies and Nagana in Karamoja and other 20 districts and routine surveillance in tsetse fly prone districts had a funding gap of 8.2 billion Uganda Shillings.
- The Banana Bacterial Wilt control (BBW) strategy was not reviewed, and as such there is resurgence of the disease across the country. Similarly, failure to complete the development and operationalization of Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) control strategy is leading to escalation of CBSD spread to all districts across the country.
- Outdated legislation relevant to pests, vector and disease control, including Animal Disease control act (2000), Hides and Skins Act (2000) and Cattle Traders' Act (2000); the reviews were not completed, consequently this has led to lawlessness, as penalties under these acts are no longer deterrent enough. Thus, the Animals Prevention of Cruelty Act; Animals traying Act, and Rabies Act,) have not been completed; however, the Ministry was able to conduct gap analysis for all the enacted bills.
- Failure to adopt, apply and conform to minimum quality and standards aspects at all levels has impeded the competitiveness, access, retention and satisfaction of national, regional and international markets by our agricultural products.
- Whereas the Government, through the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) has invested resources in Value addition infrastructure, most of the agro-processing industries are operating below installed capacity, (Coffee-40%; Fish-30%; Dairy-57%; Tea-60%; Beef-20% and Maize mills-46%). This is largely due to limited efforts in prioritising the preparing and integrating small holder farmers in the value addition drive, resulting into insufficient supply of raw materials to the value addition factories.
- The unfavourable trade policies have also resulted into an increase in the country's import bill for Agricultural products (such as fish, potatoes, fresh chilled, tomatoes, fresh or chilled, onions, shallots, garlic, leeks, cabbages and mushrooms) which are and can easily be produced in abundance by small-holder farmers and MSMEs

C) General recommendations by the NSA for consideration towards improvement of the Agriculture sector performance

- The Office of the President should initiate and maintain an interagency forum to address areas consistently identified as bottlenecks and causes of delay in loan utilization. For example, OP may need to work with the Ministry of Finance, planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA), and development partners to fasten processes, while maintaining all required procedures, the process of approval, procurement and identify necessary support to avoid unnecessary delays in implementing different project activities.
- The agricultural sector is the only renewable sector. It is therefore significant to the micro and macro-economic transformation of the country leading to the future of industrialization, job creation and shared prosperity. Particular attention should be paid to investment in food crops due to their double-edged contribution to household and national food security/ income and their exhibited contribution to GDP.
- The effort by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) and Partners is appreciated in respect to advancement in Agro-Industrialization. However, it's important to strengthen coordination and related decision making between MAAIF, Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Local Governments for avoidance of contradictions in respective policies and programs interests/priorities implementation through the Program Approach within agricultural landscapes/zones, so that the overall National aspirations in respect to sustainable development as described in the National Development Plan III and Vision 2040 are not compromised. Take for instance, cases of conversion of gazetted land for forestry activities into arable land for production of agricultural commercial crops such as sugarcane, oil palm.
- Advancing the development and

implementation of the Agriculture sector Corona Virus Disease -19 (Covid-19) Pandemic recovery plan (by MAAIF, Partners and Stakeholders), targeted at addressing the various impacts of COVID 19 on the sector performance and that of the several smallholder farmers across the country. This should be integrated across the board because COVID-19 is not about to go, we must learn and adapt to leave it while doing business.

- Strengthening partnerships towards provision of a combination of credit guarantees for participating financial institutions, so that they can target under-served segments with higher systemic risk such as new borrowers, women, the youth, smallholder farmers and agri-MSMEs. In this regard, Government can partner with guarantee schemes, such as aBi Finance and USAID's DCA (Development Credit Authority) guarantee schemes, etc., to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of credit guarantees in the Ugandan agricultural industry.
- Increase investment of publicity, exposure and awareness of the existing quality infrastructure plus the over 1000 compulsory standards related to food, feed and machinery are publicized, simplified, localized and translated to increase awareness, adoption and implementation to facilitate trade, consumer, animal and environment protection mandatory application requirement due to nature of impact health and safety of human, animals and the environment.
- Through strategic partnerships widen the scope of accreditation and mutually recognized of laboratories to address the gap in products testing services.
- Increased investment in skilled human capital development in the priority thematic areas and commodities especially the extension service providers, inspection, enforcement and certification.
- The DAES in MAAIF should integrate standards, guidelines, operating procedures and codes into their extension packages and ensure compliance and traceability. Train and equip the recruited extension workers on these regulations, standards and certification processes.
- MAAIF and Partners should support Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) to fast track the standards and certification process for MSMEs and also raise awareness and train SMEs about standards compliance while promoting and operationalizing the grading of Ugandan products.
- MAAIF and Partners should support UNBS to harmonize national standards with regional ones to facilitate access of Ugandan products in regional markets.
- MAAIF and Partners should put in place a legal framework and mechanisms that bans certification/importation? and use of harmful pesticides like glyphosates in Agricultural production.
- Government through MAAIF to establish National and regional Food Reserves in the country that target families mostly and Food Emergency Preparedness system.
- Government to establish a vulnerability country register to aid and guide other distribution processes.
- Government to transform the division of Food and Nutrition into a department and facilitate the development and operations of the relevant Food and Nutrition Committees at National and in Local Government Level.
- In as much as the government is promoting the improved varieties (through MAAIF, NARO and Partners), there is also a need to promote the indigenous varieties. Thus, more awareness by agricultural extension workers about indigenous foods should be created among farming communities and households.

D) Specific recommendations by the NSA for consideration towards improvement of the Agriculture Sub-sectors performance

Agriculture financing and Insurance:

- In order to sustain positive growth in the Fisheries sub-sector at the end of the ASSP II, additional investments in the fisheries resources, aquaculture, enforcement and standardization should be pursued by MAAIF and Partners.
- Although the livestock sub sector sluggishly grew, the growth in urbanization and middle class is anticipated to double the consumption of livestock products within and outside the country. Therefore, investment attention should be paid to sustaining the livestock subsector, value addition and integration of the crop and livestock sector.
- Scaling up the Uganda Agricultural Insurance Scheme (UAIS) from a pilot to cushion farmers from risks associated with losses arising from natural disasters and also attracting financing to agriculture.

Agro-processing and marketing:

- MAAIF should build cohesion with Ministry of Trade through the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) to prioritize investment in zonal common user facilities to support start-up Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Agro-processing and value addition.
- MAAIF should engage Uganda Development Corporation and Uganda Development Bank to subsidize on the cost of food-grade machinery and packaging materials such as glass, plastic bottles and boxes to enable Agro-processing MSMEs meet quality both at processing and post-processing stages.
- MAAIF should put in place strategies to link farmers with value addition factories currently established by the UDC so as to ensure sufficient supply of raw materials to the factories currently performing below targeted capacity.
- The relevant policies and agreements should explicitly prioritize agro-processing through budgetary allocation and providing a conducive environment to support the growth of (MSMEs) in Agro-processing.
- MAAIF through the Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) should work with Ministry of Trade to design and implementation of the Trade Remedies Act, which limits importation of otherwise locally produced agro-produce. This will lead to sustainable production and consumption of Ugandan products with welfare enhancement to farmers and survival of private sector who have invested along agricultural value chains.
- Negotiate trade and investment agreements that promote transfer of appropriate technology to boost Agro-processing.
- Buy Uganda Build Uganda initiative should be supported and popularised to boost and strengthen Small and Medium Enterprises.

Pests, Vectors and Disease Control:

- Government should reintroduce routine vaccination and communal vector management undertaken by government officials, coupled with massive awareness creation to increase community vigilance against non-compliance and promote high detection. On another note, government should at least allocate UGX 20 billion for severance, early response mechanism, including routine vaccination and communal management procedures.
- Fast track outstanding draft bills and regulations (Animal Grazing Act, Animal Diseases Act, Animal Trade Act, Hide, Skin & Leather Trade Act, Rabies Act and Veterinary and para veterinary Act.) and make new ones where they do not exist.

Research and Extension:

- MAAIF and Partners should expedite the passing of the Extension Bill for supporting institutionalization and implementation of Agricultural Extension Services policies and regulatory standards. Furthermore, the lessons and experiences from the Agricultural Technology and Agribusiness Advisory Services Project should be upscaled to address the existing gap between research and extension.
- There's need to rethink the expenditures of the Kampala Capital City Authority vote in agriculture and explore means of strengthening the use of such resources to address the research and extension needs that are responsive to the vulnerability fragility of agriculture in the urban areas and food and nutrition needs. Likewise, the newly established cities (i.e. Arua, Gulu, Jinja, Mbarara, Fort Portal, Masaka and Mbale) should be supported (both technically and financially) to promote urban agriculture within the cities to deliver food and nutrition security for the urban population.
- MAAIF and Partners should pursue continuous retooling of extension workers to ensure that their knowledge and skills are all round and set in line with emerging sector demands including market-oriented production and agro-industrialization.

Food security and Nutrition:

- The development and launch of the Standard Operating Procedure for school Demonstration Gardens, as a means of addressing food security and nutrition in schools and institutions.
- There is need for training up to 300 extension workers in over 30 districts on nutrition sensitive investments and awareness in agriculture programs, postharvest handling, aflatoxin prevention and control.
- There is need for prioritizing budgeting of Food and Nutrition in eight sector ministries to ensure that they provide Food and Nutrition in their sectors.
- The Food and Nutrition Security Division at MAAIF should be up graded into a full department under the directorate of extension as a means to improve coordination and efficiency of its operations.

Climate change:

The NSA therefore, call upon MAAIF and Development Partners to urgently consider the following strategies for implementation to ensure that food systems become more resilient in the face of increasing climate variability and change:

- Develop a special programme for supporting climate resilience of smallholder farmers.
- Institutionalize the implementation of the Agricultural Priorities in Nationally Determined Contributions for climate change Adaptation and Mitigation. These priorities should be reflected in the sector annual plans and well-costed with performance targets.
- Undertake an assessment of implementation of Agricultural adaptation and mitigation actions in the Costed Implementation Strategy of the National Climate Change Policy, 2015.
- Fast-tracking the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan for the agriculture sector for purposes of building resilience of smallholder farming systems (through adaptation), which are greatly impacted by climate change and variability.
- Fast-track the implementation of the National Climate Smart Agriculture program to augment the contribution of the agriculture sector to climate change mitigation through promotion of agricultural practices, which promote carbon sequestration and storage in soil, but also avoid release of greenhouse gases from the farming systems and landscapes. This will certainly contribute to achievement of the National Determined Contributions under the agriculture sector.

4.0 Conclusions

The Agriculture sector through leadership of MAAIF and working in collaboration with the Development Partners; Line Ministries, Departments and Authorities; Non-State Actors; Private Sector and the Farmers made several achievements in respect to the set sector priorities and commitments as described in the overarching policies, plans and programs, despite the various challenges faced by the sector players. As the NSA, we pledge our continued support through structured collaboration with MAAIF and other key sector players towards improved performance and better service delivery of the sector to all Ugandans – in light of the aspirations in the NDP III through the One programme approach of agro-industrialization.

5.0 About the NSA that contributed to this Statement

The process of generation, preparation and development of this NSA Statement on the performance of MAAIF for the FY 2019/20, involved active participation of NSAs in the preparation and conducting JASAR activities at regional (Western, Eastern, Northern and Central Uganda) and National level, which generated a wealth of information and experiences that are the basis for the NSA Statement. Besides, several NSAs and Development Partners such as; OXFAM, Trocaire, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung provided financial support and technical backstopping on this initiative. Much appreciation is extended to different Non-State Actors for taking part in the analysis, drafting of this statement and actual participation in the preparation of the JASAR events. They include: Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA); Food Rights Alliance (FRA); Participatory Ecological Land Use Management – Uganda (PELUM-Ug); Southern and Eastern Africa Trade and Negotiation Institute – Uganda (SEATINI-Ug); Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG); CARITAS-Uganda; Uganda Farmer's Common Voice Platform (UFCVP); The Hunger project Uganda; Community integrated development initiative (CIDI); Self-help Africa; Uganda National Farmer's Federation (UNFFE); Kabarole Resource Center (KRC); Uganda Youth Biodiversity Network; Slow foods – Uganda; Consumer Education Trust (CONSENT) and Environmental Alert.

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture Animal industry and Fisheries for organizing this Annual Joint Sector Review as obliged by the CAADP Malabo commitments. We further appreciate the space provided to NSAs to take active participation in organizing the JASAR events as well as contributing to the development of the sector.

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