

Webinar on extension education, inputs delivery and farmers perspective

Farmers Perspective on the effect of the current
vulnerabilities

Presented by:

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Introductions

- ▶ Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum in short ESAFF, is a movement initiated, led and owned by small scale farmers in ESA.
- ▶ The purpose for its formation was to enable all SSFs in ESA region to be able to have a united voice, so that our issues, Concerns and recommendations becomes an Integral part of the policies and practice at all level.
- ▶ In Uganda ESAFF is the largest small-scale farmer-led advocacy movement with members across the country. Up-to-date, we have managed to add small-scale farmers' voices in over 587 policies processes at local, national, regional and global levels. We are members of ESAFF and La via Campesina, which is the largest peasants' movement in the world, at regional level ESAFF is a member of. AFSA, EACSO, EOA-I, SADC-CNGO, at global, level WRF and PCFS.

Disruptions and shocks of natural calamities

- ▶ COVID-19 pandemic is one of major existing natural calamities and its impact the on small-scale farming is expanding daily. COVID-19 has negatively impacted the access to agricultural inputs, marketing, the availability of the labor force at critical times of agricultural production and harvesting, and agricultural extension and other necessary services.
- ▶ Extension services play an indispensable role at the frontline of the response to the pandemic in rural areas. COVID-19 pandemic came at the time when some small-scale farming was struggling with desert locusts and also amidst the pandemic, floods destroyed livelihoods of small-scale farmers in Kasese, Kisoro, Mukono and Mayuge among other districts.
- ▶ It should be noted that the hardest hit by the effects of COVID-19 outbreak are the poorest, most vulnerable populations whose household incomes and food security are at risk.

Natural Calamities cont...

- ▶ With a strong focus on extension services, the current calamities have impacted on. extension services as follows;
- ▶ -In this season, few farmers have received support from the extension service provider as some of them fear visiting farmers. There has also been limited coordination between extension service providers.
- ▶ -The focus by the government on addressing COVID-19 pandemic is likely to delay the recruitment of more extension officers.
- ▶ -Some of our members in flood-hit districts have not yet planted, and this further stresses the impact of COVID-19.
- ▶ -As a result of the increase in gender violence in rural areas, women have suffered most as they have been deprived the access to extension service and information given the fact that they don't have direct resources to exchange for such services.
- ▶ -And during the calamity many farmers could not sell their produce and products hence leading to losses or selling at a take way price

Coping and thriving strategies adopted

- ▶ -We launched a campaign of planting five million trees on the world environment day to help mitigate the climate change related calamities.
- ▶ -We have extensively shared approved information about COVID-19 with many of our members all over the country using radios and posters, translated in the language they understand.
- ▶ -We are soon launching a study to assess the COVID-19 impacts on small-scale farming, food security and sovereignty in Uganda

Coping and thriving strategies ado

- ▶ -We as well launched an online market application to be used on phones and website called KILIMOMART it is found both on play store and Website, this was to enable our farmers to access the markets outside their country or districts during and after this difficult periods.
www.KilimoMart.com
- ▶ -We gave out smart phones to some upcountry farmers fully equipped with internet and trained them, which staff started using during COVID 19 for training.
- ▶ -Working with our partners, we are going to support our members in the flood-hit area with resources that they need to jump-start their agriculture including access to extension services

Recommendations for priority changes

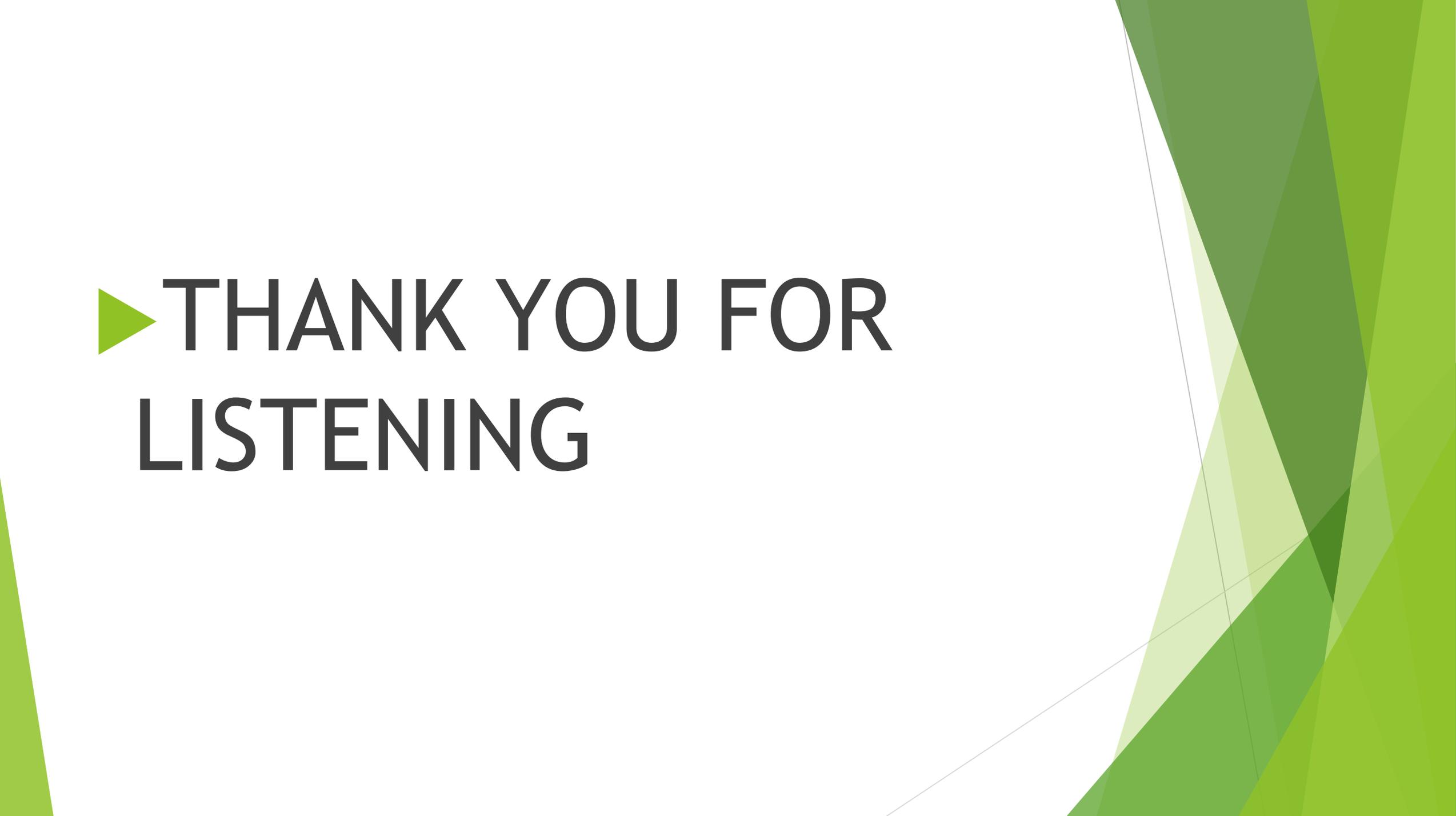
- ▶ - Improve coordination between extension service providers including public, private, NGOs among others to bridge the gap during this crisis
- ▶ - Both government and private sector should be provided digital tools and technologies to enable information flow despite physical distancing and mobility constraints.
- ▶ - Carry out a timely assessment of COVID-19 impacts on small-scale farming and identify the specific challenges, needs of small-scale farmers and make recommendations
- ▶ - Use local government structures to provide adequate and accurate information to small-scale farmers about COVID-19 to reduce fear and stigma.
- ▶ - The government should provide social protection for small-scale farmers and as well build linkages between social protection and insurance schemes

Recommendations

- ▶ - Decentralization of services should be fully implemented in that even at sub county level parishes have extension service providers, because it will take time to get the right required international labour standard of 1:500.
- ▶ - National Metrological Authority should develop a simple whether forecast information APP which can be accessed not only by smart phones.
- ▶ - Govern should improve on its early warning disaster management systems which should be known by everyone.
- ▶ - The government should allocate more than 10 per cent to the agriculture sector and precisely support the recruitment and equipping of extension officer all over the country.

Conclusion

- ▶ Change can only happen when those who usually don't listen are heard by those who usually don't speak



▶ **THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING**