

### INTRODUCTION

Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS) is a forum that brings together a wide range of actors involved in Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) in Uganda, which include; the Public, Academia, Private, Civil Society, Farmer Organization, Donor Community and the Media. UFAAS was launched in May 2011 and officially registered in Uganda in 2013 as a Country Chapter of the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), which is also the host institution of the forum in Uganda. AFAAS is the umbrella network organisation for AEAS in Africa, with the mandate for extension under the African Union. AFAAS itself is the Continental Forum for the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)

UFAAS has a strategic direction aimed at promoting an effective, efficient and innovative AEAS system through; advocacy, capacity development, information sharing and increased professional development among AEAS actors in Uganda. The details can be found at <http://www.ufaas-ugandacf.org/strategic-plan-final.pdf>.

UFAAS is governed by a board of Directors, chaired by Mr Nsereko, the Manager of VEDCO (a Civil Society Organization). UFAAS has a network of over 300 AEAS actors. To-date there are 56 paid-up organisations from all agricultural sectors (11 Academia, 10 civil Society, 8 Farmers Organizations, 2 Media, 7 Public sector and 18 private sector). These are represented by 56 (20 F, 36M) members on the General Assembly.

With support from different Development Partners and its members, during the year 2016, UFAAS was able to make several strides including:

- ✓ Strengthening and sustaining its membership, governance and management structures by mobilizing and sensitizing new members, electing a new substantive board, completing the financial manual and auditing its books of accounts.
- ✓ Initiating and implementing activities of Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Extension Services (INGENAES) in Uganda. (*see more overleaf*)
- ✓ Participating in the GFRAS Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) of regional networks and Country Fora.
- ✓ Attending the GFRAS Annual Meeting in Cameroon (*see more overleaf*)
- ✓ Participating in the formulation and commissioning of the National Agricultural Extension Policy.



Members of UFAAS who attended the Annual General meeting in April 2016 at Hotel Africana

The e-Omulimisa proprietor explaining the process at the 24th Jinja Agricultural Show in July 2016



- ✓ Developing a partnership with the Ministry of Agricultural, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). MOU ready for signing.
- ✓ Exhibiting of AFAAS/ UFAAS at the 24th Source of the Nile National Agricultural Show.
- ✓ Supporting innovative extension approaches through AFAAS sub grant to CF members. M-Omulimisa won the grant and currently implementing.
- ✓ Providing an input into Sasakawa Global 2000 Visioning process.
- ✓ Continuing to support the Gayaza School Agricultural Innovation Platform (G-SAIP).
- ✓ And participating in the Non-State Actors (NSA) activities which were mainly advocating for AEAS at policy level.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2016

- \* **New Board:** UFAAS General Assembly elected a new Board of Directors with a representation from all sectors of the Public, Private, NGOs, Academia, Farmers Organizations and the Media.
- \* **New Members:** 13 AEAS actors (5 private, 4 NGOs, 2 Academia, 1 Farmers Organization and 1 Media) became paid up members.
- \* **New Funding:** UFAAS signed an MOU, in September 2016, with the University of Illinois to implement the INGENAES project. A sub-grant of \$ 154,761 was approved for 1 1/2 years and the project was launched in the same month.
- \* **Sub-granting:** UFAAS was advanced with a sub grant of \$5,000 to strengthen the e-Omulimisa Extension Approach.
- \* **New members co-opted on the board:** Mr. Perez Kawuni (UNFFE), Mr. Grace Musimaami (Farmers Media) to strengthen Farmer Organizations and Media representation at the national level.
- \* **MOU with MAAIF:** UFAAS drafted, discussed and submitted an MOU for a collaboration related to the regulation and improvement of extension services provided by the range of service providers under the pluralistic extension system.



**INGENAES CoP members discussing genders and nutrition during the 2nd meeting at Grand Global Hotel**

**Some of the GFRAS Participants on a Field Visit in Limbe suburbs-Cameroon**



### THE GFRAS MEETING

The Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services held its 7th Annual Meeting in Limbe Cameroon, from 3rd -7th October 2016. About 200 participants from all-over the world attended and UFAAS was represented by the Focal Person (Ms. Beatrice Luzobe) The theme of the meeting was "The Role of Rural Advisory Services for Inclusive Agripreneurship"

#### Key learnings brought home:

- ◆ The new approach of looking at Agripreneurship from Rural Advisory Services (RAS) point of view at the different levels (policy, organizations and individuals). The change should start with the mind-set of the RAS organization and individuals.
- ◆ The FAO Gender and Rural Advisory Services Tool (GRAST)
- ◆ The Organizational Capacity assessment (skills and template)
- ◆ The "New Extensionist" Learning Tool.

#### Good things to integrate into UFAAS work:

- ◆ Sensitization of the members and partner organizations on the "New Extensionist Concept" and Agripreneurship.
- ◆ Commitments to lobby and work with the Ministry of Agriculture on the Ethics and Standards of the Extension system.
- ◆ Use of mobile projector by Access Agriculture into the work with partner organization.
- ◆ Advocate for and encourage organizational capacity assessment among UFAAS member organisations.

#### For more information contact:

**Beatrice Luzobe (Focal Person)** C/o P. O. Box 25607, Kampala, Uganda,  
Tel: +256 312 313424, Mob: +256 776 801 091  
[ufaas2013@gmail.com](mailto:ufaas2013@gmail.com) , <http://www.ufaas-ugandacf.org>

### THE INGENAES

UFAAS agreed to work together with the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC) to implement the project that is "Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) in Uganda. The objectives of the project are:

1. To integrate gender and nutrition within private sector extension organizations.
2. To support Public sector extension strategy in the area of gender and nutrition.
3. To develop a robust Community of Practice (CoP) for sharing and learning around gender and nutrition
4. To build the capacity of students and young professionals on gender and nutrition through the INGENAES/UFAAS Fellowship Program.

#### So far:

- ✓ 45 (16 Females & 29 Males) leaders from 30 Farmer Based Organizations and 20 Districts in Uganda, were trained in Gender and Nutrition Responsive Agro- Enterprise Development.
- ✓ A community of practice around gender and nutrition integration in extension was created . So far about 70 members have met twice and a number of them are active on the two e-platforms (Whatsapp and Gender and Nutrition discussion page on the AFAAS Virtual Networking platform.
- ✓ Eleven University Fellows (3PhDs and 8 MSCs) supported with tuition and research funds, capacity building in gender and nutrition plus offering them an opportunity to share experiences and networking.

#### PLANS FOR 2017

- ⇒ **UFAAS STRENGTHENING:** Profiling members, 4 Regional meetings, a Stakeholder workshop and Annual General Meeting (AGM), review of the strategic plan and resource mobilization.
- ⇒ **INFORMATION SHARING AND NETWORKING:** Maintaining the UFAAS Website, activating the Mobile Functionality on the VSNP, participating in national AEAS events (e.g. Agricultural shows) and engaging the media.
- ⇒ **INTEGRATING GENDER AND NUTRITION WITHIN EXTENSION-INGENAES IN UGANDA:** Follow up on the FBO training, engage MAAIF on Gender and Nutrition, sustaining the CoP and continue with the support to the selected fellows at the selected Universities.
- ⇒ **ENSURING A CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR EXTENSION:** Development of an advocacy strategy, conducting a study to identify advocacy issue and conducting a national dialogue.
- ⇒ **PLANNING MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING:** Board Meetings, field monitoring, auditing, external travel for sharing and learning.