

Mainstreaming SLM Practices in extension system in Uganda

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Presentation outline

1. The problem: Land degradation
2. SLM defined, Importance Contextualized
3. SLM Practices Delivery Mechanisms -Extension platform
4. Uganda's Agricultural Extension- a historical perspective
 - ▶ Highlights of Uganda's current pluralistic single spine agricultural Extension
 - ▶ How SLM can be mainstreamed into the current Extension
5. Tapping into other enabling policy environment frameworks
6. Strategic direction for SLM Mainstreaming
 - Mechanisms to support SLM mainstreaming
 - Engaging AEAS and other stakeholders towards SLM Mainstreaming
7. Conclusion

THE PROBLEM: Glaring Land degradation country wide

PRESSURE on Land resources -base for Agriculture

- Reduced land cover through widespread deforestation and continuous cultivation
- Bush burning
- Poor land management on fragile landscapes



SOME IMPACTS OF LAND DEGRADATION

FLOODS, CROP FAILURE & SOIL HARD PAN



SLM defined

- ▶ Sustainable Land Management (SLM); “the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions”
- ▶ SLM practice can be either
- ▶ an SLM Technology (a physical practice that controls land degradation and/ or enhances productivity, consisting of one or several measures)
- ▶ or an SLM Approach (ways and means used to implement one or several SLM Technologies, including technical and material support, stakeholder engagement, and other).

Some good photos-



SLM Contextualised

- SLM is relevant to global, international and regional Agreements, Protocols and Conventions
- Relevant to at least **10 SDGs & Specifically goal 2 of zero hunger (soils, food production and healthy living)**
- Fits in the Context of the African Union Agenda 2063- the Africa we **want & Abuja declaration 2006-(ISFM)**
- ▶ At national level,
- ▶ Sustainable Land Management Strategic Investment Framework in (2010) **aiming at scaling-up and mainstreaming SLM into national development agendas.**
- ▶ National Development Plan III (NDPIII) 2020/21-2024/25 (**sustainable land use and soil management**)
- ▶ The National Adaptation Plan for the Agricultural Sector 2018

Agricultural Extension in Uganda- a historical perspective

Agricultural Extension in Uganda has been in existence for 122 years

- 1) **Colonial period** (coercive approaches)
- 2) After independence (Demonstration Effects, Educational and Methods Approaches)
- 3) Training and Visit and Unified Extension approach
- 4) 2001 to 2014: NAADS period- demand driven
- 5) Since 2015: New approach- Public sector-led extension & Pluralistic and single spine, agribusiness led

Opportunities in the pluralistic Agricultural Extension system for SLM Mainstreaming

- ▶ Existence of supportive policies and guidelines.
- ▶ Presence of a network of committed extension workers countrywide.
- ▶ Well organized farmers' organizations at different levels.
- ▶ Increasing participation of the private sector offers an opportunity for increased investment in SLM activities.
- ▶ Widespread Media coverage for information sharing and dissemination.
- ▶ Revamped Research-Extension-Farmer Linkage
- ▶ SLM technologies have been documented and disseminated (ULN86 SLM practices, published 39 and 41 are under review, WOCAT 50 SLM practices have been uploaded-partnerships are important)
- ▶

Entry points for SLM Mainstreaming into extension

- ▶ Existing departments of extension and Infrastructure, Water for Agricultural Production & Mechanisation
- ▶ Existing Multi-stakeholder Innovation Platforms
- ▶ Decentralised structures with staff at district and subcounty level
- ▶ Knowledge management and advisory hubs
- ▶ Interactive radio programmes leveraging on FM networks
- ▶ Farmer groups countrywide
- ▶ Zonal agricultural learning centres

Strategic Direction for SLM Mainstreaming

- ▶ Prioritize SLM into the National Agricultural Extension System (Public and Private)
- ▶ Include SLM into the curriculum of the relevant Agricultural Training institutions
- ▶ Strengthen research-extension-farmer-Market linkage
- ▶ Harmonise, coordinate and operationalise relevant policies on SLM that are currently scattered in different MDAs
- ▶ Capacity building of extension workers
- ▶ Deploy SLM Specialists at zonal level (ACDP,¹¹

Mechanisms Identified to support SLM

- ▶ Government led mobilisation of funds for SLM activities
- ▶ SLM-related institutional innovations for strengthening research-extension-farmer-industry linkages
- ▶ ICT innovations that can enhance SLM technology uptake
- ▶ Climate-smart Agricultural technologies and
- ▶ Mechanisms for PPP partnerships for scaling up SLM and other agricultural programmes.
- ▶ Multi-sector/Multi stakeholder participation is critical for SLM mainstreaming to succeed.

Government Commitment to Mainstream SLM

- ▶ Fast tracking the extension bill
- ▶ Joint forum comprised of diverse stakeholders to integrate and promote SLM chaired by the Directorate of Agricultural Extension to lead the process
- ▶ Streamlined reporting on SLM by all actors to track the level of inclusion in the extension system
- ▶ Integrated budget/cost centre for continuity compared to the current project mode

Conclusion

There exists enormous opportunity for mainstreaming SLM into AEAS;

- i. The LG Extension staff require adequate support (financial & capacity building) in order to meaningfully contribute towards scaling up and mainstreaming SLM.
- ii. The National Agricultural Extension leadership is highly energetic, proactive, always ready and willing to dialogue on scaling up and mainstreaming SLM.
- iii. Under the leadership of DAES, a task force should be established to promote, track and report on the operationalisation of SLM among the diverse actors.

Thank you