



**MAAIF**  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Animal Industry and Fisheries

# Regional Farm Service Centers (RFSCs) as new enablers of Innovative Extension in the New Normal

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# What is a RFSC?

- Each region is unique and has unique challenges which require unique solutions
- A Regional Farm Service Centre (RFSC) is a government regulated one stop-shop that provides all the essential certified farm inputs & services required by various value chain actors operating in a specific region. These may include; seed, agrochemicals, fertilizers, farm machinery, **extension services**, agriculture credit services, agriculture insurance services, disease control services, tailored trainings on input application, machinery operations, and business skills. A RFSC may also play the role of organising farmers for collective action in production and produce aggregation for off-take by the agro-industrial parks.
- Organisation, Ownership, Operations, Sustainability of the RFSCs



# RFSCs...



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



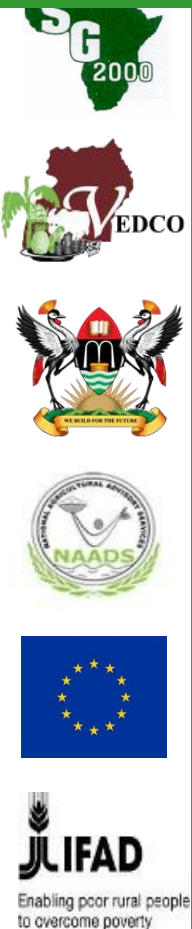
## REGIONAL FARM SERVICE CENTRE **RfSC**



# Disruptions and shocks of the natural calamities

## COVID 19, Locusts, Floods, Landslides

- **Lockdowns froze business operations of the RFSC and its partners**
- **Restrictions in movements meant that:**
  - a) agro-input dealers, manufacturers, suppliers could no longer replenish stocks at the RFSC**
  - b) Service providers (credit agencies, trainers, machine operators, repairers) could not operate**
  - c) value chain actors could not access services**





# Coping strategies adopted- Digitalization



# Coping strategies adopted to ensure continuity

- **Going e (An integrated FSC-Information Mgt System has been developed in partnership with MICT&NG) –Multi-Modular**
- **Farmer self enrollment/ registration module enabled with USSD code and linked with NIRA API for NIN registration – parameters (GPS, Acreage by enterprise, input needs, market-link through aggregation for the Agro-industrial park**
- **On-line ordering of agro-inputs and services (including **Extension Services**)**
- **Last-mile delivery using field mobile van service**
- **We have also automated: agro-input dealer registration, agro-input stocking and selling, machinery hire system, credit system, agro-input marketing & promotion system, **stakeholder training system, M&E system****



# New opportunities manifesting out of the disruption

- **Distance matters! RFSCs are closer to the people and provide the unique solutions needed by the specific regions- This circumvents movement restrictions to a certain extent**
- **Digitalization of business processes and functions hugely enhances efficiency and reduces transaction costs**



## Recommendations for priority changes within the new normal

- Let each regional agro-industrial park complex have within it a Regional Farm Service Center to provide the required agro-inputs and services to the surrounding value chain actors so that they can produce and supply to the agro-industrial park through collective action
- This is important in building a well regulated decentralized last-mile agro-input distribution system and **extension service provision system** that will cause impact on a transformational scale







# Seeing is believing





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# Presidential endorsement

