



## THE FOURTH NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYMPOSIUM 2023



**At the Grand Opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> e-Symposium by the Hon. Minister of MAAIF**

### Introduction

Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS), in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and other partners, annually organizes National Agricultural Extension Symposia that bring together over 200 different actors and stakeholders to deliberate on AEAS issues critical to agricultural development.

During 2020, the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Extension symposium was held as an e-event, given the prevailing situation of Covid -19 that year. Due to the stabilized situation, the 4<sup>th</sup> National Extension symposium will be held physically from **28<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. The theme of the event will be **“Unveiling innovative pluralistic AEAS approaches: Actors’ resilience and competitiveness for food security and commercialized agriculture”** The Symposium will host synergetic presentations, discussions, and partners’ side events, among others.

### Purpose

The purpose of the symposium will be to generate extension policy and practice ideas on how Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) can effectively and efficiently contribute to the building of actors’ resilience and competitiveness for food security and commercialized agriculture. This is with reference to the sustained uncertainties and emergence situations such as COVID 19, Locusts, Drought, Price rises, Floods, Ebola confronting national and global agricultural economies. It is also with the understanding that various AEAS actors with in pluralistic extension have developed innovations on how to succeed with their services and businesses while building client resilience and competitiveness despite the ongoing challenges.

### The objectives

The objectives of the Symposium 2023 will be:

1. To identify and highlight the various innovative pluralistic AEAS approaches that are building actors’ resilience and competitiveness
2. To deliberate on the resilience and competitiveness capacity gaps among the different value chain actors.
3. To motivate/stimulate different participating value chain actors and beneficiaries towards greater resilience and competitive actions for food security and commercialization.
4. To raise priority AEAS policy and practice recommendations for building actors’ resilience and competitiveness.

### Sub themes

The Planned Sub Themes that will inform the main theme are:

- 1) AEAS interventions and support mechanisms for addressing resilience and competitiveness
- 2) Leveraging on and strengthening public programmes and projects.
- 3) Viable Business development and support services for farmers and other users of AEAS services.
- 4) Women and Youth engagement and opportunities in the agricultural value chain as actors and beneficiaries.
- 5) Digitalized AEAS in Agriculture as a driver for agricultural growth.

**The subthemes will be presented and discussed in plenary and parallel discussions**

### The expected outputs

The expected outputs of the Symposium will be:

- a. Experiences on AEAS interventions and support mechanisms for actors’ resilience building and competitiveness shared.
- b. Papers on strengthened AEAS service delivery mechanisms, digitalization of AEAS services and viable business development models presented and published on the relevant platforms
- c. At least 1 policy brief and/or a communique on the current AEAS strategies addressing resilience and competitiveness capacity gaps among the AEAS actors thematic areas and use of e-platforms
- d. Networking and information sharing among the participants
- e. Best case studies on engaging and current opportunities for women and youth in the agricultural value chain documented.

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### The methodology

In order to reach out to a broader range of AEAS actors and stakeholders the event will take a hybrid form of both physical and online. The symposium will be conducted using a rich and broad range of participatory and inclusive methodologies in three phases

**Preparatory or Preliminary phase:** Prior media Adverts / Promotions/ Media engagements, field visits that will involve a vast array of stakeholders will be conducted. These will publicize the event, raise resources, and finally call for presentations and side events.

**Symposium Phase:** This will involve plenary sessions offering keynote addresses and thematic based presentations, panel discussions and question and answer sessions. There will be workshops focused on each of the Sub-Themes, these will be complimented with co-creation activities, such as World Café / shift and share, exhibitions and networking.

**Post-Events:** Dissemination of the communique and UFAAS AGM, and follow up on commitments.

### Participation

About 500 AEAS actors and stakeholders will be mobilised to attend physically and online sessions from within and outside Uganda. These will either be sponsored by themselves or their organizations / Institutions, to participate.



### Programme Outline

Date	Activity
<b>Preliminary Activities</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2022-30 <sup>th</sup>	• Establishment of a LOC meetings (including sub committees)
February 2023	• Call for papers and case stories • Mobilisation of resources • Mobilization registration, postings on website (eg former Symposium reports), Orientation/ coordination. Media content development, Paper preparations, etc
<b>Pre-Events</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	• Regional mini-extension symposia • Media Adverts and discussion • Final preparations of the main event
<b>The Final Event</b>	
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Opening, keynote and thematic presentations and discussions
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Thematic parallel sessions and pre-events
16 <sup>th</sup> March	More plenary presentations and discussions,
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Closing of Event, UFAAS AGM
<b>Post-Events</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Evaluation
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Presentation of the communique to MAAIF and other partners

### Registration for the Symposium

A Registration link will be created and shared widely on the various UFAAS platforms (website, face book, twitter, WhatsApp, media (print and electronic), google mails, etc

For more information on UFAAS and the Symposium, please:

Contact us at the AFAAS Secretariat, Kigobe Road (road to Kyambogo), Ntinda, (below/Near The Cradle);

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