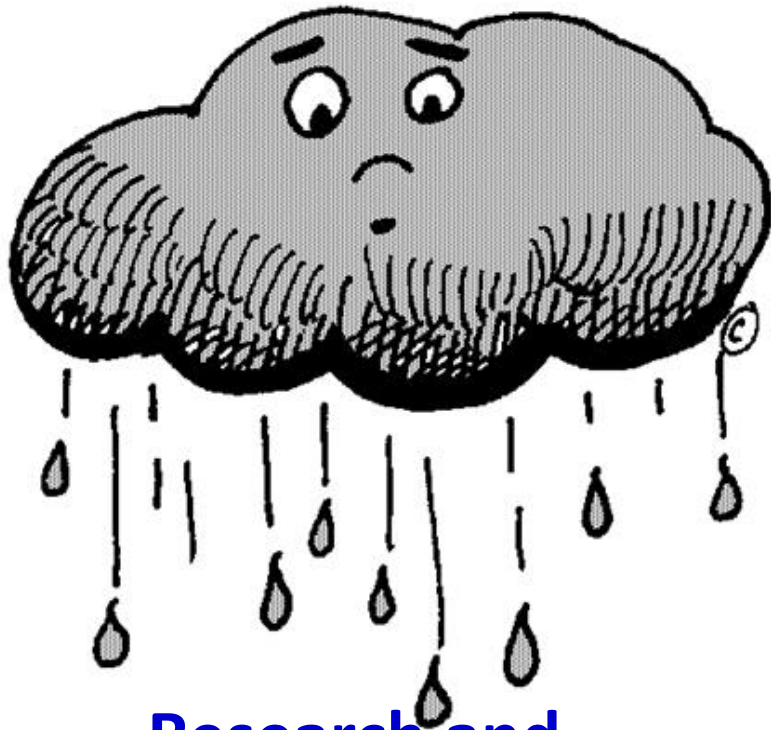




# Overview of Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS) as a Professional Network for Agricultural Extension

*By  
Beatrice Luzobé (CEO-UFAAS)*

# Why the Agri-Extension Fora/networks?



**Research and  
Academia outputs**

## Problem of the broken Pipe

- No organization
- No networking and information sharing
- New emerging issues
- Less opportunities



- Low capacity, performance, value, no respect and recognition, etc

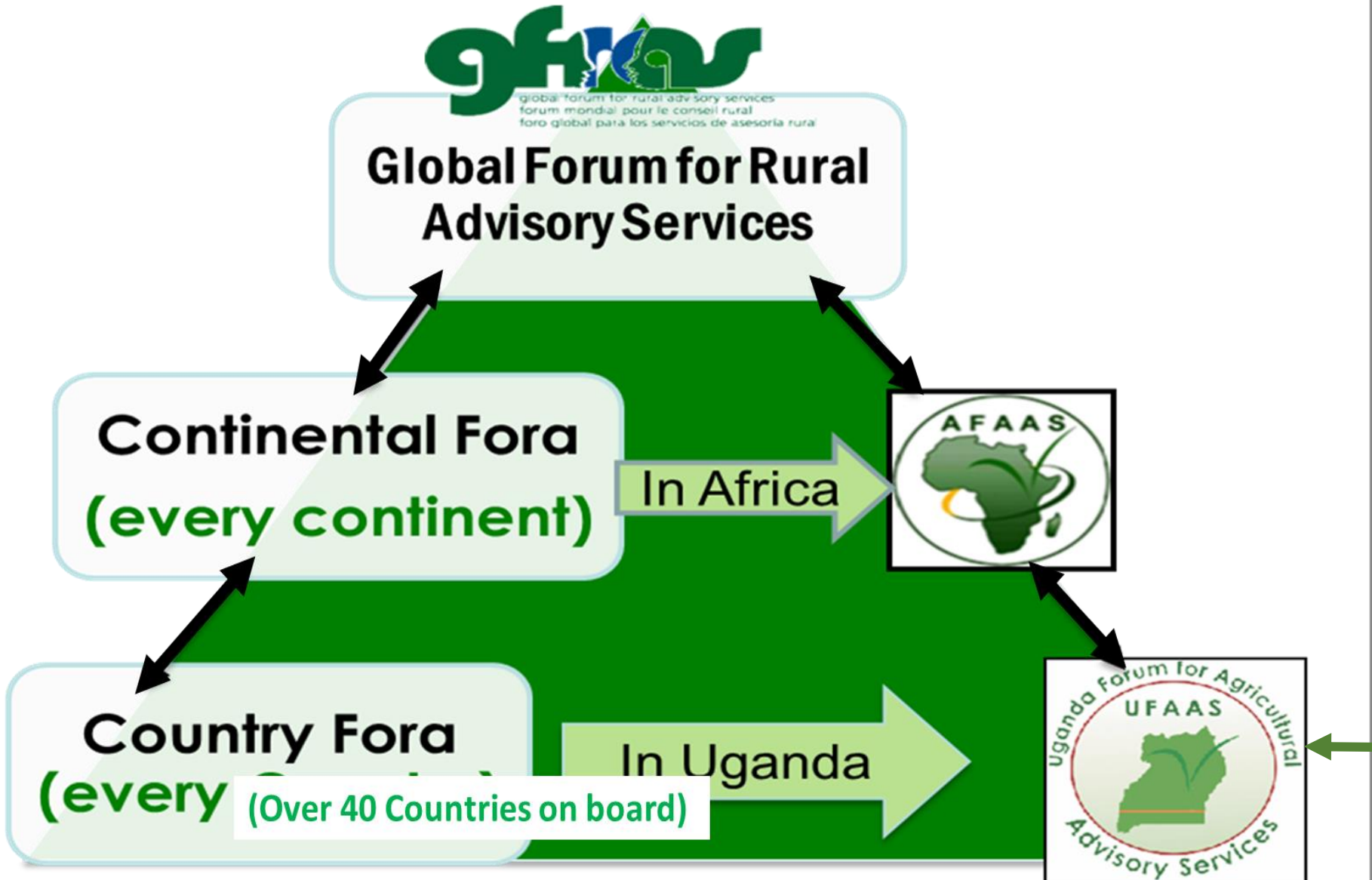
## Extension



**VC Beneficiaries**



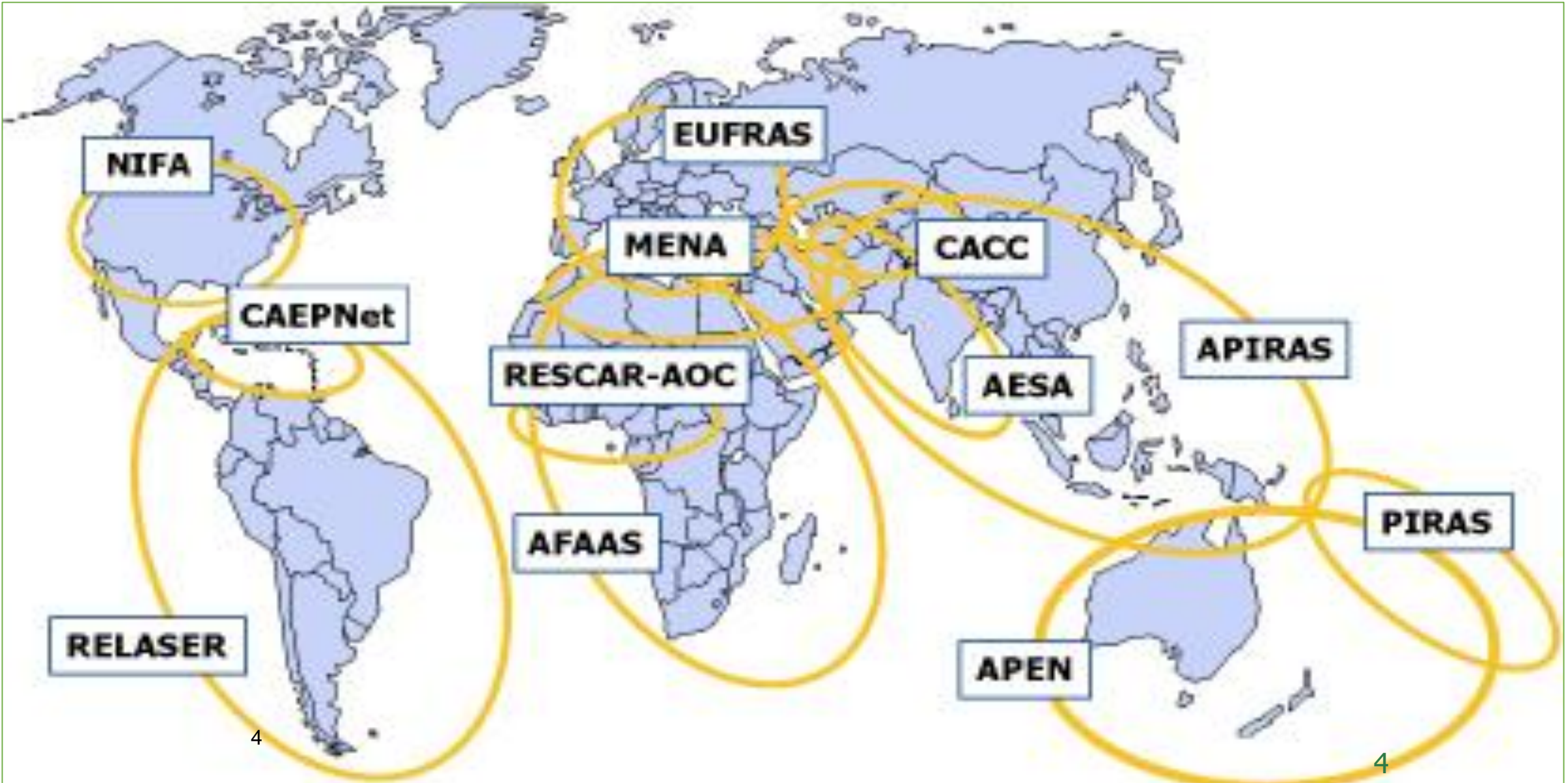
# The Broader perspective of Extension Fora



Regional Hubs
Central
Lower East
Upper East
North
Lower West
In Pipeline: W/Nile, upper west



# The Global Networks

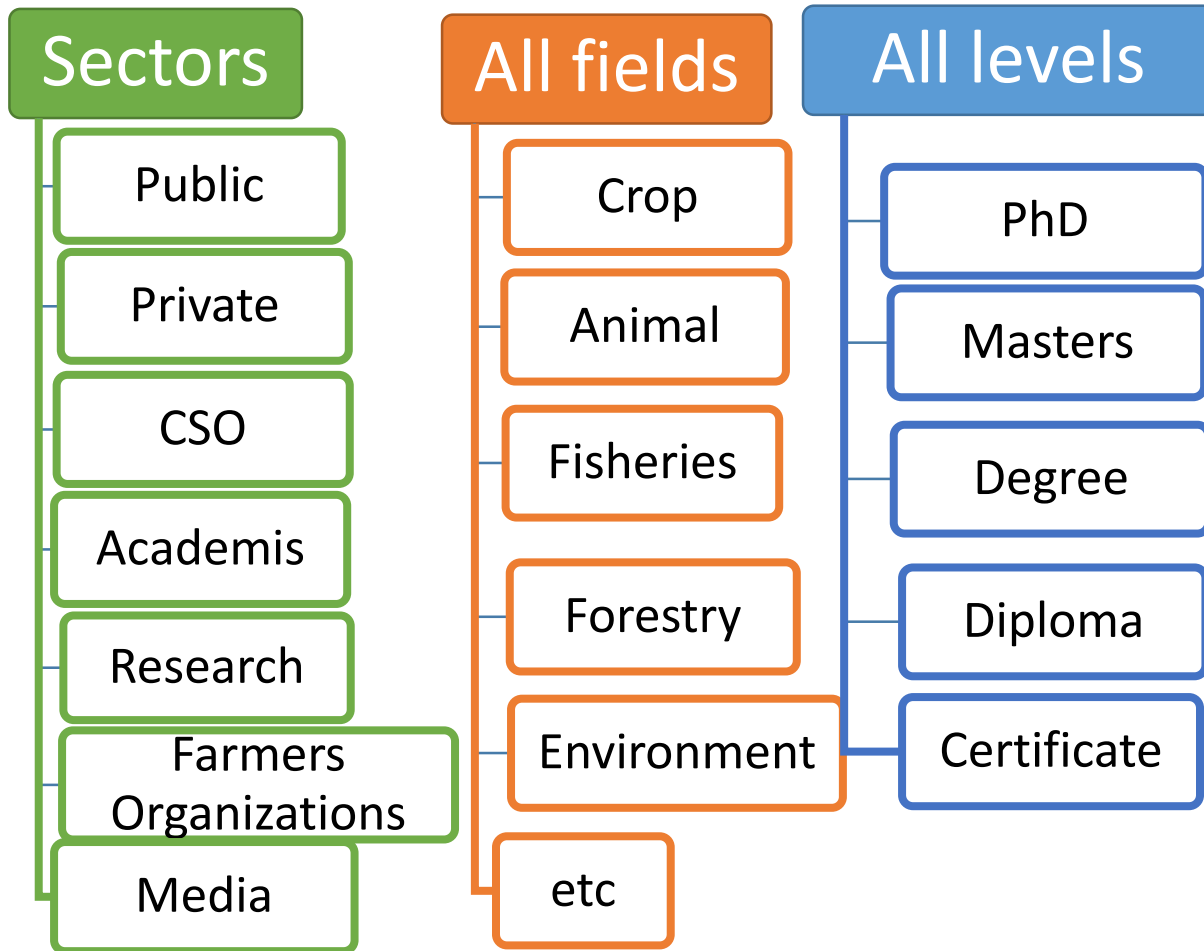


# What is UFAAS?

A National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) Forum

Formed in 2011 by AEAS actors and legally registered in 2013

Brings together agricultural extension and advisory services (AEAS) actors from:



## Paid-Up Membership to date

- The 279 paid-up members make the general Assembly,
  - 247 (86F, 161M) are individuals
  - 32 are organisations
  - Out of the 247 individuals, 54% are youth and 37% of the youth are female.

**However, the overall UFAAS reach is over 1,000 AEAS actors nationally and internationally.**



# CURRENT PARTNERS AND MEMBERS



## Partners and Donors



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FEED THE FUTURE The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## Members





# Benefits areas for members/ partners

- ⇒ Being linked to national, continental and global AEAS networks
- ⇒ Linked to regional hubs for engagement of AEAS actors at the last mile
- ⇒ Accessing both the UFAAS members' and National database
- ⇒ Organising/ participating in physical and virtual AEAS events for professional interaction and capacity building
- ⇒ Volunteer and consultancy engagements in professional activities, like studies and assessments (when opportunities arise)
- ⇒ Link to professionals to partner with, or engage., for example research assistants
- ⇒ Internship opportunities, for example the current one with Bixter
- ⇒ Mentee and mentoring opportunities
- ⇒ Part of the events and processes that advocate for a conducive environment for AEAS. Eg dialogues, formulations of communiques and policy brief, etc

# UFAAS Strategic Direction

## VISION

- ***“Quality AEAS effectively contributing to agricultural development in Uganda”***

## MISSION

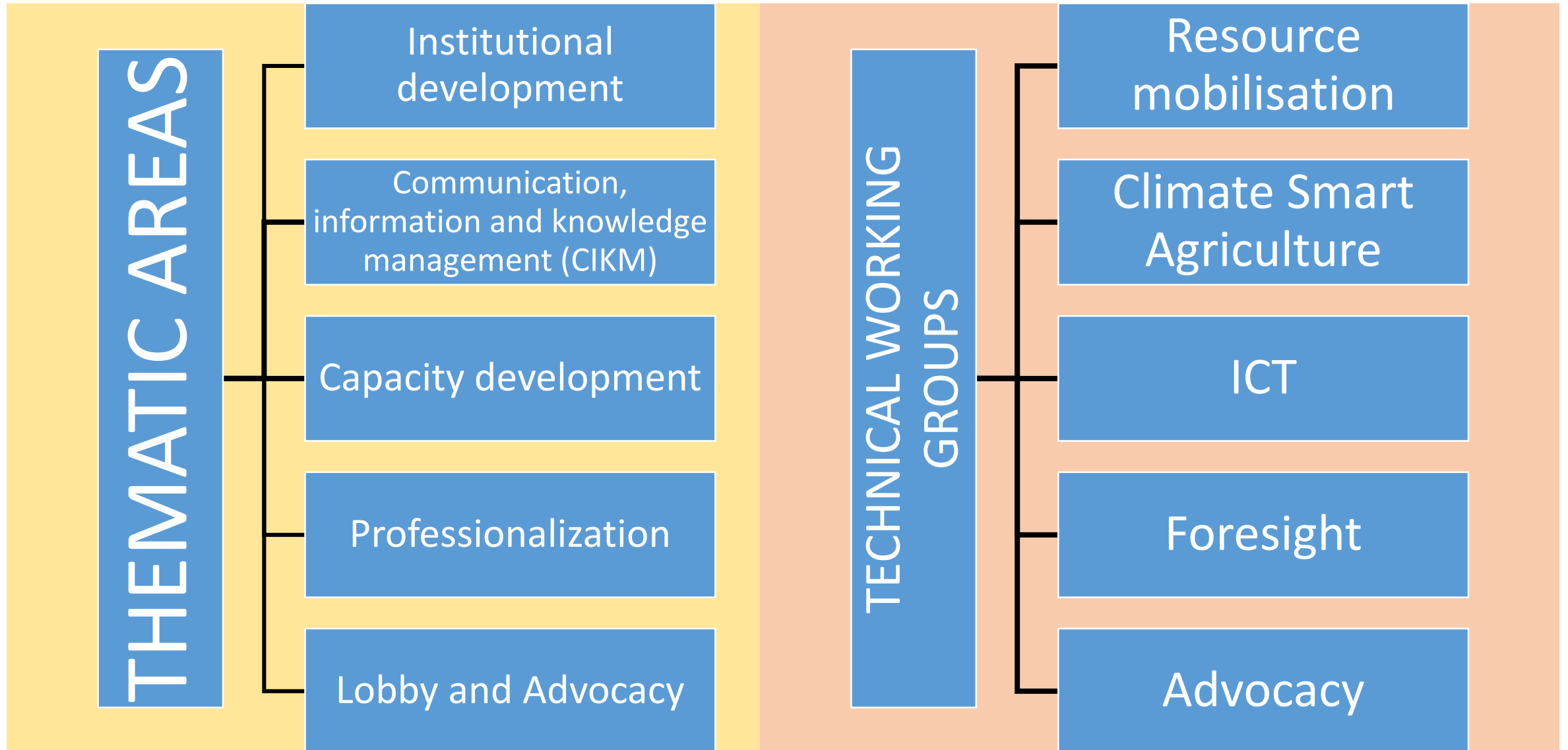
- ***“To promote an effective, efficient and innovative AEAS system through strategic partnerships, advocacy, capacity building, information sharing and interaction among AEAS actors in Uganda.”***

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen and sustain an effective platform for pluralistic agricultural Advisory Agricultural Services in Uganda
- To support information sharing and networking among AEAS actors
- To develop capacity of Agricultural Advisory Services systems to provide innovative and business-orientated services along the agricultural value chains
- To enhance professionalism and ethical conduct in AEAS systems in Uganda.
- To lobby and advocate for a conducive environment for business oriented inclusive AEAS in Uganda



# Implementation



# GENERAL ACTIVITIES –SUMMARY

1. Strengthening of its the governance and management structure;  
Registration (2013), SP1 &2, Financial Manual, Audits, etc.

2. Continuous National and Regional mobilization and sensitization of AEAS actors

3. Networking and sharing information with AEAS actors using different fora;  
eg. Website, CoP meetings, Social Media discussions, physical events

4. Enhance the capacity of AEAS actors at different levels  
Trainings, Advisory, Support to local AEAS Innovations

5. Advocacy and lobbying (Dialogues, Stakeholder meeting on topical issues, policy briefs)

6. Participate at National Planning and policy implementation level (part of the TWG)

## 6. Supporting MAAIF in the process of professionalizing the AEAS system in Uganda

(under an MOU signed in 2016)

- ⇒ Guidelines and Standards for the AEAS system in Uganda,
  - ⇒ Ethical Code of Conduct for AEAS providers
  - ⇒ Procedures for Registration and Accreditation of AEAS providers.
  - ⇒ e-Registration Application for of all AEAS actors (Professionals, Para-professionals and practitioners)-  
**Commissioned in 2020 by MAAIF**
- ⇒ Sensitized and trained on the value of a professional AEAS system and actors (200 (Public and NSA) actors from 38 USAID FtF districts Creating and coordinating a Community of Practice (CoP) for AEAS actors





# Recent past engagements with other partners



Analyzing and prioritizing climate change-related capacities and needs of national and sub-national extension actors in Uganda (for FAO through AFAAS)

Organising for the national events-Gulu Agricultural Show, National Extension Symposium, Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2022

The 5<sup>th</sup> All Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week (AAEW), 2021 with MAAIF and AFAAS

Assessing alignment with national priorities of competitive commercialization and agro-industrialization (for FAO Rome)

Youth Engagement in Private Sector Extension and Advisory Services: Lessons from Rwanda and Uganda (for DLEC-USAID)

Participating in the 28<sup>th</sup> National Agricultural show/ organizing 9 members to co-exhibit under the UFAAS Extension Tent

Case Study / Assessment of the Sasakawa Agricultural Fund for Education (SAFE) Programme (for SG2000)

# Current work/engagements



▶ Continuous mobilization of members under the regional hubs

▶ Profiling of all UFAAS members (individuals and organisation) to create a useful database  
⇒ Already ongoing

▶ E-Registration of members and other AEAS actors to create a National Database with MAAIF  
⇒ Launch of the rolling down to the districts was in Buvuma District on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022

▶ Project: AFAAS Digital Connectors as accelerators of sustainable agriculture extension services in farming communities in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda under the FARA-ASARECA-EAFF consortium

▶ Implementing the AFAAS Hackathon and digitalization of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) under the CAADP XP4 project.

▶ Assessing the training needs on climate change adaptation in Nakasongola and Mbarara livestock cattle corridor districts of Uganda

▶▶ Planning the Annual National Ag-Extension Symposium (planning March 2023) see brief at  
⇒ <https://drive.google.com/drive/my-drive>



- Identifying areas of common interest, for example in the current focus on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), youth in agriculture, digitalization of Ag-Extension, etc
- The e-registration process
  - In districts where the partner or member works
  - Joining us at the launch in Buvuma District next month
- Mobilization of members from within and outside the organization within the sector(s) and at regional level
- Engaging/ working with the regional hubs within your areas of operations
- Planning of the Annual National Ag-Extension Symposium 2022 in November. Participate in planning, Direct financial support, workshops and side events.
- Opportunities for agric-related consultancies (assessments, studies, evaluations, etc) that come up within the organisations
- UFAAS can link/ recommend ag-professionals of different levels (from consultants-research assistants), to the member or partners
- And more



# For More information on UFAAS

- **Websites**
  - **UFAAS** (<https://ufaas-ugandacf.org> )
  - **AFAAS** ([www.afaas-africa.org](http://www.afaas-africa.org))
- **Social Networks( Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, u-tube)**
- **UFAAS Brochure** <https://ufaas-ugandacf.org/sites/default/files/documents/UFAAS%20%20BROCHURE-2020.pdf>
- **UAAS Six Years of Growth** (<https://ufaas-ugandacf.org/sites/default/files/documents>)
- **Annual Updates and Reports**
- **Case Stories** packaged into different knowledge products
- **Or ask our partners and Members**