



### THE UGANDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK (UGNAEW2024)

**Theme:** Making extension count for robust, resilient and competitive agri-food systems

**Proposed Dates:** 28<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**Location:** Kampala (Venue to be communicated)

#### Background

Agriculture is a key sector of Uganda's economy, contributing about 23% of the GDP and 33% of exports as well as employing more than 70% of the National Labour force, most of whom are women and youths located in rural areas. Hence, the sector is crucial in achieving Uganda's vision 2040 of transforming from a predominantly peasant to a middle-income economy. One of the strategic areas of focus in National Development Plan (NDP) IV is agro-industrialisation as the dominant source of livelihood for the majority of Ugandans. To achieve this, there is need to revamp the Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) in the country.

Since 2013, the Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS), in partnership with the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS); the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF); and other partners, have been organizing annual National Agricultural Extension events. These events have consistently facilitated deliberation of strategic issues in agricultural extension and advisory services (AEAS) in Uganda. These have also been a unique avenue for sharing experiences and learning amongst professionals from different backgrounds, strengthening interactions with policy-makers and investors, and developing fruitful partnerships. The last National Extension Week 2023 (UGNAEW2023) was held from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023, with a theme of "Unveiling innovative pluralistic AEAS approaches: Actors' resilience and competitiveness for food security and commercialized agriculture". The both physical and virtual event was attended by 342 participants (106W, 236M) of which, 202 (77 Females, 125 Males) attended the main event in Kampala physically. The event hosted synergetic presentations, discussions, and partners' side events, among others. UGNAEW2023 was preceded by 4 pre-workshops that were held from 10<sup>th</sup> April-18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, in the Central, Northern, West Nile, and Southern regional hubs.

Currently, the Uganda National Extension Week 2024 (UGNAEW2024), is being organised, to be held from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 in Kampala (venue to be communicated soon). This will be preceded by regional workshops held alongside other events like agricultural shows and others related to agriculture. The objectives of UGNAEW2024 are:

- a. To deliberate on the critical issues that enable the AEAS align with and support a dynamic, market-oriented agricultural sector.
- b. To promote innovative practices that strengthen resilience and inclusiveness of the different value chain beneficiaries along agricultural value chains.
- c. To underscore the crucial role of AEAS in addressing issues concerning food safety and agro-export trade
- d. To deliberate on the role of Private Sector Agricultural Extension Services (PSAES) in enhancing the efficiency, coverage and sustainability of AEAS provision
- e. To showcase digital technologies which improve women's and youth's access to agricultural knowledge that enhance agricultural productivity and resilience to climatic and socio-economic shocks.

The main theme of the UGNAEW2024 is: **Making Extension Count for Robust, Resilient and Competitive Agri-Food Systems**. This theme has been broken into five sub-themes as outlined below:

- a. Valuable AEAS within a dynamic market-oriented agricultural sector
- b. Resilience and inclusivity along agricultural value chains
- c. Challenges in food safety and agro-export trade: The role of AEAS
- d. Private Sector Agricultural Extension Services (PSAES)
- e. Women and youth in agriculture within the emerging technological advancement

The 5-day NAEW 2024 event will host; regional workshops, a plenary focussed on the keynote address, presentations in specific thematic areas, dialogues, discussions in breakaway sessions and field visits. 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. For more details, please see the Concept Note here

Authors are invited to submit abstracts for papers or posters responding to the theme and any of the five sub-themes above. Submissions should conform to **“Guidelines to authors and presenters”** in this call. A poster session/exhibitions will be organised where presenters will share their research, innovations, case studies and success stories.

### Guidelines to presenters

1. Submissions should be in English and will be accepted from academic institutions, civil society organizations/Non-Governmental Originations, farmers' organizations, agro-industry experts, private sectors, individuals, representatives of women and youth groups and the wider public.
2. Abstracts and summaries for oral, poster, or other presentations should be aligned to any of the sub-themes of the conference and submitted in Times New Roman; font size 12 in single spacing, not exceeding 500 words.
3. The abstract or summary must clearly indicate the title, sub-theme, author(s), institutional affiliation, contact details and the preferred mode of presentation; Oral (Physical, Virtual, recorded, video) or Poster. In addition, abstract should include brief background, statement of the problem, objectives, methodology, key findings, conclusion and recommendations.
4. Students and youth extension actors are particularly encouraged to submit.
5. Submissions should be sent through the link below: <https://forms.gle/yfC57wGha7ba74qG6>
6. The editors reserve the right to reject papers deemed inconsistent with the guidelines outlined in this call for abstracts.
7. Any inquiries can be made via email to [ufaas2013@gmail.com](mailto:ufaas2013@gmail.com) , copied to [tamubula@gmail.com](mailto:tamubula@gmail.com)

### Important dates and deadlines

Date	Activity
15 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Call for abstracts opens
5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Deadline for submission of abstracts
20 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Notification of Presenters and request for full papers

30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Deadline for submission of full papers, posters (PDF), recorded oral/video presentations.
28 <sup>th</sup> October-1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	National Agricultural Extension Week