



THE UGANDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK (UGNAEW2024)

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

Proposed Dates: 28th October to 1st November 2024

Location: Kampala (Venue to be communicated)

1. 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 National Extension Week 2023 (UGNAEW2023) was held from 23rd to 26th 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 physically. The event hosted synergetic presentations, discussions, and partners' side events, among others. The UGNAEW2023 was preceded by 4 pre-workshops that were held from 10th April-18th May 2023, in the Central, Northern, West Nile, and Southern regional hubs.

The planned Uganda National Extension Week 2024 (UGNAEW2024), is being organised to be held from 28th October to 1st November 2024 at Silver Springs Hotel. This will be preceded by regional pre-workshops organised by AEAS partners and actors within the concerned areas. The main theme of the event will be: **Making Extension Count for Robust, Resilient and Competitive Agri-Food Systems.**

2. RATIONALE

The Uganda National Extension Week 2024 (UGNAEW2024) purposes to bring together AEAS actors and stakeholders to present and deliberate on issues that can effectively and efficiently contribute to competitiveness, resilience and inclusiveness for sustained agri-food systems. AEAS provision requires re-strategizing and rebranding so as to remain relevant, taking into account the paradigm shift that is greatly affecting the way their targeted beneficiaries ought to live, understand and approach the challenges along agricultural value chains. The challenges are posed by the advancing digital technology, disruptions and shocks of natural calamities, economic fluctuations and resource constraints, that affect agriculture and food systems in the country. Notably, only a limited number of AEAS actors, both organizations and individuals, are adequately equipped to tackle these diverse challenges. The UGNAEW2024 will provide an opportunity for the AEAS actors and stakeholders to interact, share experiences and come up with recommendations on how best they can strategically position themselves to remain robust and relevant.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE EXTENSION WEEK 2024

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.

4. SUB-THEMES

I. Valuable AEAS within a dynamic market-oriented agricultural sector

Developing a sustainable market-oriented agricultural sector has been an area of focus in NDPs over the years. In particular, the fourth National Development Plan underscores the need for sustainably increasing agricultural production, productivity and value addition. This necessitates increasing access to information on quality inputs, innovative financing, markets and value addition by farmers and other actors in agricultural value chains. On that account, AEAS play a critical role in developing a market-oriented agricultural sector since it enables actors in agricultural value chains to access latest advancements, techniques, and innovations to increase their resilience.

During the UGNAEW2023, it was noted that there was a declining appreciation of the relevance of agricultural extension to national development, as demonstrated by the reduced investment in the sector; failure to recruit adequate numbers of extension agents; and perceptions of agricultural extension as useless. It was also noted that despite the efforts to coordinate and regulate a pluralistic AEAS system, there is still weak enforcement of the set standards and guidelines. Addressing the aforementioned challenges ought to be a continuous effort, hence the need for catalyzing and rebuilding a valuable AEAS within Uganda's dynamic agricultural sector. This requires a multifaceted approach that addresses institutional, capacity, technological, and sustainability challenges. Hence, collaboration between government agencies, Civil Society Organizations, and the private sector entities in provision of AEAS is essential.

This sub-theme will focus on presenting, discussing and sharing the continued and new efforts on how to bring back the value of AEAS and build its capacity so that it can be relevant to the changing needs and conditions in agricultural production and markets.

II. Resilience and inclusivity along agricultural value chains

Globally, the Agri-food system is full of vulnerabilities, uncertainties, complexities, adversities and diverse situations which manifest themselves in terms of natural and human-induced shocks and technological disruptions. In Uganda, the natural resource environment and production systems are facing a lot of pressure due to high population, increased urbanization, increased demand for food resulting from the high population as well as adaptation to the shifting dietary patterns. Climate change is exerting unprecedented pressure on agricultural systems, impacting crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries. Arable lands have been urbanized, forested areas and wetlands cleared for agricultural production and for setting up of industrial complexes. In pursuit of modernization many unsustainable approaches are being used to meet immediate demands, but end up straining natural resources and compromising the livelihood of future generations. Further, highly capitalized and extensive farming systems have created gender and youth gaps and inequalities, despite the economic and social importance of each of these gender groups.

There is therefore, need for resilient agricultural systems that strengthen the ability of the agricultural value chain beneficiaries, especially the farming communities, to withstand, recover, and adapt to various stresses, shocks, and changes. This may include approaches and practices that promote resilience, such as Agro-ecology, Regenerative Agriculture, Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Soil Fertility Management, Integrated Water for production management, Nutrition based Agriculture, and organic farming among others. Furthermore, such systems need to be inclusive and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances, have equal access to resources, opportunities in, and benefits from agriculture. This necessitates addressing gender-specific needs and constraints, promoting women empowerment; and involving, supporting, and mentoring youths to address their unique challenges, as well as ensuring that differently-abled people have access to productive resources and other support services. In addition, it is crucial that affordable financial services, insurance products, and fair prices are offered. It is also important to regularly identify and address inclusivity gaps in agricultural programmes.

This sub-theme will focus on the different initiatives approaches and practices, that build capacity of the AEAS actors to enhance the resilience of agricultural value chain beneficiaries, especially the farming communities, in an inclusive manner. Systems that build sustainable, equitable, and food-secure communities that can thrive in the face of challenges will also be of interest under this sub-theme.

III. Challenges in food safety and agro-export trade: The role of AEAS

Most Ugandans rely on agriculture as a major source of food and agriculture accounts for more than 30% of export earnings. Food safety is therefore crucial to ensure public health, consumer confidence and foreign exchange earnings from agricultural exports. Food safety involves the handling, preparation, and storage of food in a way that prevents contamination and ensures that the food is safe for consumption in order to protect consumers from foodborne illnesses, which can be caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, chemical and physical contaminants. Ensuring food safety requires a multi-faceted approach that involves among others government regulations and enforcement; industry compliance and best practices; consumer education and awareness; research and development of new technologies; and international cooperation and collaboration.

Agro-export trade which refers to the export of agricultural products, plays a crucial role in global food systems, economies, and sustainable development. It involves growing, harvesting, and processing agricultural products; packaging, labeling, and preparing products for international trade; transporting products to ports, airports, or border crossings; complying with regulations, obtaining certifications, and clearing customs; promoting and selling products in international markets. It enhances economic growth, job creation, foreign exchange earnings, increased food availability and access, improved agricultural productivity and efficiency, and competitiveness and market access.

Currently, both the public and private sectors grapple with aspects such as training and capacity building, technology adoption, traceability systems and certification, and quality control. Robust and inclusive AEAS are needed to equip different actors in agricultural value chains with skills, knowledge, and resources to boost agricultural productivity, meet international food safety standards, and improve global market reputation and competitiveness.

This sub-theme focuses on how AEAS contributes to addressing challenges of food safety and agro-export trade. AEAS should be well equipped and positioned to ensure a safe and efficient food supply chain that meets international trade requirements.

IV. Private Sector Agricultural Extension Services (PSAES)

Private sector agricultural extension services (PSAES) refer to the delivery of agricultural advisory and support services by private, for-profit entities rather than a public good by government and civil society organizations. PSAES may include offering services at a fee in: agricultural-related research; agribusiness model development, service packaging, marketing and promotion, capacity building, quality control and assurance, and more. It may also encompass establishing business partnerships and collaborations and/or social agro-enterprises.

Uganda's agricultural sector is growing, and farmers continuously need access to quality extension services. However, the public extension system faces numerous constraints that make it difficult to reach all farmers. Therefore, encouraging private sector investment in extension services can help fill the funding gap by being more efficient and effective due to competition and market pressures. Private extension services can be more sustainable as they are driven by market demand and revenue generation. This would complement and support public services, ensuring comprehensive coverage. They can also improve farmers' adoption and uptake of technologies; introduce innovative approaches, such as digital extension and precision agriculture; tailor services to meet specific farmer needs and demands; create employment opportunities for agricultural professionals, especially youth; enhance private sector investment in agriculture; promote sustainable agriculture practices; and contribute to the overall economic growth.

This sub-theme will focus on initiatives and approaches that promote the delivery of agricultural advisory and support services by private actors for profit. What is their role in complementing the public good extension services? What are their current challenges in reaching out to the value chain beneficiaries, including farmers?

V. Women and youth in agriculture within the emerging technological advancement

Digital innovations such as drones, mobile phone apps for weather, detecting pest damage and diseases, use of sensors in irrigation technology, and the use of ICTs in marketing are rapidly reshaping agricultural practices, interventions, and outcomes. These technologies offer both opportunities and challenges that impact farmers, especially women and youth. Promoting women and youth, who form a significant proportion of the agricultural workforce, within the emerging digital technological advancements is crucial for ensuring inclusive sustainable agriculture, increasing rural incomes, and enhancing food security.

Gender-sensitive digital technologies can enable women and youth to improve their access to knowledge, inputs, and markets. However, most youth and women farmers have limited access to even basic digital technologies such as smartphones and the internet. They also have limited opportunities for digital training and skills development; limited access to data and analytical tools to inform decision-making, and limited exposure to innovative practices and technologies. Further, women and youth have limited access to credit and finance, agricultural extension services and training, markets and market information, and limited access and ownership of production resources and services. The newest technological challenge is how to utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI), which has the potential to transform agriculture, making it more efficient, sustainable, and productive. The emerging technological changes have exacerbated the aforementioned challenges of women and youth. Generally, women and youth usually have difficulty in adopting new technologies due to a lack of knowledge, resources, and support, which alludes to developing effective and efficient AEAS.

Addressing the aforesaid challenges in an integrated manner can empower women and youth in agriculture and can lead to increased agricultural productivity and improved food security. Access to digital technologies can enhance women and youth's contributions to agriculture in terms of scale, productivity, and output. There is therefore need to develop digital technologies that meet the needs and priorities of women and youth farmers; offer targeted training and capacity-building programs for women and youth; establish policies and programs that support women's and youth's participation in agriculture, and ensure equal access to technologies, and resources by women and youth. This would close the gap in digital literacy and technology adoption between men and women, and older and younger farmers; enable women and youth to make informed decisions about technology adoption and farm management; challenge and address socio-cultural norms and biases that hinder women's and youth's participation; and develop and promote affordable, user-friendly technologies that meet the needs of smallholder farmers.

This sub-theme will focus on sharing experiences on digital technology-related approaches and initiatives that target and empower women and youth in agriculture. Of particular interest is how those approaches and initiatives enhance women's and youth's access to new agricultural technologies that boost production, especially those that build resilience to climatic and socio-economic shocks.

5. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Outputs

The expected outputs of the **UGNAEW2024** will be:

- a. Presentations, discussions, and showcasing of:
 - The continued and new efforts on how to bring back the value of AEAS and build its capacity
 - The initiatives and approaches that build the capacity of the AEAS actors to enhance the resilience in agriculture
 - The challenges in food safety and agro-export trade with reference to AEAS and how they can be addressed
 - The initiatives and approaches that promote the delivery of agricultural advisory and support services by private actors
- b. A policy brief on how to make extension count for resilient agri-food systems and stakeholders.
- c. Recommendations on how to foster partnerships that facilitate broader adoption and scaling up made.
- d. Networking and information sharing strategies among the participants enhanced
- e. Digital technology-related approaches and initiatives that target and empower women and youth in agriculture.

Outcomes

- Valuable, resilient, and sustainable agricultural systems that benefit both the communities and the environment.
- Improved preparedness of farming communities and individuals to respond to crises of climate change and other unexpected disasters.
- Equitable and enhanced productivity among the women and youth.
- Private sector complementing the public and civil society agricultural extension services
- Utilization of digital technologies to empower women and youth to increase resilience and agricultural productivity.

6. PARTICIPANTS

About 500 AEAS actors and stakeholders will be mobilized to attend physical and online sessions from within and outside Uganda. The participants will be public and non-state AEAS actors and stakeholders. These will either be self-sponsored or sponsored by their organizations/Institutions to participate.

7. METHODOLOGY AND CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

In order to reach out to a broader range of AEAS actors and stakeholders, the event will be conducted using a rich and broad range of participatory and inclusive methodologies in three phases. Most of the pre and main-event sessions will be a hybrid (physical and online) form, to facilitate engagement of a broader range of AEAS actors and stakeholders.

To ensure smooth organization and conducting of the event, a Technical Working Team (TWT) has been put in place. The members have different competencies and are committed to availing their time and mental intellect into the whole process on a more regular basis (see Appendix 1). These are working in close consultation with the National Advisory Committee (NAC) that convenes on a monthly, to review the progress of the TWT and advise accordingly.

The phases of the organizing and conducting the UGNAEW include:

Preparatory or Preliminary phase (up to August):

- Call for papers and identification of facilitators and speakers.
- Mobilization of resources, partners, participants, presenters, and exhibitors;
- Mobilization/ Fundraising breakfast meeting;
- Preliminary Media Adverts /Promotions/ Media engagements;
- Preparation for regional events;

Preparation Phase (September-25th October)

- Paper submission,
- Identification of sites for field visits
- All-media adverts and discussions
- Pre-events (September)
- Launch of the event (October)
- Final Preparations by Sub-Committees

Extension Week Phase:

- Plenary sessions offering keynote addresses and thematic-based presentations, panel discussions, and question and answer sessions.
- Dialogue on the Status of Agricultural Extension in Uganda
- Workshops, in the form of parallel sessions and side events, focused on each of the Sub-Themes
- These will be complemented with other activities, field visits, exhibitions, awarding exemplary AEAS actors and networking. Guidelines will be available for the field visits and awarding ceremony
- The UFAAS AGM on the last day

Post-Events:

Dissemination of the report and policy briefs, plus following up on commitments and recommendations

8. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

To participate in the event, you register as a participant or an exhibitor or an Event Side Convener at:

<https://forms.gle/e8BFfRYVqFW1PnBv8>. See details of the Call for papers and Case stories [here](#):

Please note that your registration will be considered as an expression of interest, and the deadline for payment will be 10th October 2024 to enable the organisers effectively prepare for you. The registration caters for both online and virtual participation.

See **Annex 1 and 2** on guidelines for side events and exhibitions.

9. CATEGORISED FEES

	Item	Access to	Ugx	USD
1	Registration Fees (individual)	All meals and sessions	150,000	40
2	Exhibition Space 1mx1m -2mx1m (small-big Exhibitors)	Exhibition space, free entry for 1-2 exhibitors accessing all conference sessions with meals, internet	500,000-1,000,000	135-270
3	Side Events (hosting about 40 participants)	Conference room, free entry for 3 facilitators/organisers accessing all conference sessions with meals, and internet	3,700,000	1,000

Payment modalities

There are three modalities of payment below:

1. Airtel Money: Code is 4300025 in the names of Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
 2. Depositing the money on the UFAAS bank account (details below), scanning and sending a soft copy to UFAAS email.
 - Name: Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
 - Account: 01063501318146 (UGX) or 02063501318164 (USD)
 - Bank: DFCU- Acacia Branch, Kampala
 3. Cash at the UFAAS Office in Ntinda, Kigobe Rd (AFAAS Secretariat)
- Please note that the first two payment modalities are preferred.**

For more information on UFAAS and the Event, please contact us at the:

AFAAS Secretariat, Kigobe Road (road to Kyambogo), Ntinda, (below Chaze Foods);

Email : ufaas2013@gmail.com and copy ufaascf@afaas-africa.org; Website: www.ufaas-ugandacf.org;

Or call +256 751547234 / 312313400 / 78574163 (Inquiries); +256776801091 (CEO-UFAAS)

ANNEX 1: GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZERS OF SIDE EVENTS DURING THE UGNAEW2024

In order to provide a smooth coordination and co-organization of the event, the side events' organizers will follow the guidelines below:

1. All side events are required to be in line with the main theme and a sub-theme of focus.
2. **Prior Registration:** All side events should have registered the UFAAS registration link indicated in section 8 above and paid as directed
3. **Payments:** Side event organizers must be willing to pay a fee indicated in section 8 above to facilitate preparations, room hire, meals for participants for the day and other related activities as may be defined by the committee. Side event fee payment also entitles the concerned organization to free entry for 3 facilitators/organizers with meals and attendance to all conference sessions:
4. **Room and Internet connectivity:** All side events have been planned to take place in different rooms with internet connectivity. However, it may be necessary to have additional internet connectivity at the cost of the organizers. This implies that as an organizer (company/individual) carries their own internet gadgets to enable streaming (online) of the presentation.
5. **Equipment:** Side event organizers should make requests for the needed equipment and services for the event. If the equipment or service is not covered as a complementary support, the host organization or institution must be prepared to cover all such costs. Such equipment may include (a) Public Address Systems; (b) Projectors; among others.
6. **Interpretation:** Organizers should plan to hold the event in English or make their own interpretation arrangements (if required), as interpretation services will not be available for side events.
7. **Publicizing the Side Event:** Once registered, the side event will be publicized by host organizers as part of the main event. However, side event organizers are encouraged to do further wide publicity to reach their specific audience. They are expected to produce their own materials.
8. **Event Summaries:** Organizers are requested to document their proceedings and provide a synopsis of their events (description, outcomes, commitments, and/or policy recommendations) as per the reporting template that will be provided. The statement at the end of each side event will support the development of the declaration.

Pertinent Questions

1. What enables the Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) to support a dynamic, market-oriented agricultural sector?
2. What are the innovative practices that strengthen the resilience and inclusiveness of the different value chain beneficiaries along agricultural value chains, and how can they be promoted?
3. What is the role of AEAS in addressing issues concerning food safety and agro-export trade?
4. What is the role of Private Sector Agricultural Extension Services in enhancing the efficiency, coverage and sustainability of AEAS provision?
5. How can digital technologies be harnessed to improve women's and youth's access to agricultural knowledge in order to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience to climatic and socio-economic shocks?

One or more questions can be directed to and/or answered while sharing experiences during the side events by among others:

- i. Academia (Training, Innovation, Service provision)
- ii. Government (Policy direction, Quality Assurance, Service provision)
- iii. Development Partners (Funding, Service provision)
- iv. Civil Society actors (Service Provision, Advocacy, Funding)

v. Private Sector actors (Investment, Innovation)

ANNEX 2: GUIDE TO FOR ORGANIZERS OF EXHIBITIONS DURING THE UGNAEW2024

RELEVANCY TO THE NAEW 2024

- All exhibits are required to demonstrate and/ or facilitate learning related to the main theme of **Making Extension Count for Robust, Resilient, and Competitive Agri-Food Systems** and the sub-themes
- Exhibitors should promote/ showcase innovation and creativity; featuring new and exciting agricultural extension approaches, tools, and knowledge products. Preferably innovations and technologies that highlight the significance of AEAS in sustaining robust, resilient and competitive agri-food systems.
- *Exhibitors* must match quality, creativity, technical know-how, and high performance

Use of exhibition space

- The exhibition space will only accommodate hanging exhibits (pictures, posters, portraits and banners, products), table display, stand-alone exhibits, and small display cases and will be limited to space dimensions paid for. There will be no room for big machinery.
- The exhibitor languages will be English and other local languages where needed.
- Exhibitions are supposed to have at least one person present during lunch and coffee breaks in order to present the demonstrations/products to attendees

Payments and related costs

- Exhibitors must be willing to pay a fee indicated in section 8 above, to facilitate preparations and other related activities as may be defined by the committee
- Exhibition fee payment entitle the exhibiting organisation that pays:
 - Ugx. 500,000 to an exhibition space (1mx1m), free entry for 1 Exhibitor with meals and attendance to all conference sessions.
 - Ugx. 1,000,000 to an exhibition space (2mx1m), free entry for 2 Exhibitors with meals and attendance to all conference sessions.

Marketing and branding

- Marketing, branding, and promotion materials are to demonstrate and/ or facilitate learning related to the main theme and one or more sub-themes
- All exhibitors will be required to comply with the branding requirement
- Interested exhibitors should indicate while registering

APPENDIX 1: THE TECHNICAL WORKING TEAM (TWT)

Note: These are members of UFAAS who have been selected on the basis of technical experience and availability.

Name	Organization	Phone	email
A. Secretariat/ Overall Coordination Sub-Team			
1. Beatrice Luzobe (Head)	UFAAS	0776801091	ufaas2013@gmail.com
2. Esther Michaala (logistics)	AFAAS	0774837225	emichaala@afaas-africa.org
3. Scovia Ojoru	UFAAS	0758777831	scovialindyway44@gmail.com
4. Annet Babirye	UFAAS	0774536906	anniebabirye@gmail.com
5. Jackie Ikee (logistics)	AFAAS	0751604534	jikee@afaas-africa.org
B. Technical Sub-Team			
6. Dr Irene Tamubula B. (Head)	Kyambogo University	0772620129	tamubula@gmail.com
7. Jerry Egessa	AFAAS	0782590449	jegessa@afaas-africa.org
8. Frank Mufuruki	Makerere University	0756094400	mufurukifrank@gmail.com
9. Choice Agaba	NARO	0782793579	choiceagaba@gmail.com
10. Irene Ariokot	Freelance	0702372906	ariokot424@gmail.com
C. Publicity Sub-Team			
11. Elizabeth Asimwe (Head)	UFAAS/ MAK	0774123865	alizeff@yahoo.com
12. Grace Musimami	AFAAS	0782383504	gmusimami@gmail.com
13. Brenda Mugwisagye	Freelance	0772367110	mugwisagye@gmail.com
14. Samuel Muyinda	Dostrim Ltd	0785595505	muyisag@gmail.com
D. Regional Sub-Team			
15. Ruth Mugisha (Head)	UFAAS	0773938570	ruthmugisha0@gmail.com
16. Isaac Awany	UFAAS/ Northern	0773712843	awaisaac86@gmail.com
17. Lydia Adongo	UFAAS/ Upper East	0783227441	adongolydia2012@gmail.com
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20. Gerald Kasiita	UFAAS/ Central	0787042628	kasiita12gerald@gmail.com
21. Jennifer Hire	UFAAS/ Lower East	0772486005	balukajennifer@gmail.com
22. Saverino Nuwasiima	Lower West	0776880441	n.saverino@yahoo.com