



## THE 3<sup>rd</sup> UGANDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK (UGNAEW2025) 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS/CASE STORIES

#### Background

Uganda's goal to become a middle-income country, is focused on raising income by in part emphasizing a sustainable increase in production, productivity and value addition in agriculture. This underscores the deepening of commercialised, market-oriented agriculture and agro-industrialisation. Further, the Parish Development Model aims at uplifting 39% of the poor to participate in the market economy with agriculture as the key breakthrough sector. The agriculture sector, however, is faced with several challenges such as ensuring food security for a highly growing population, climate change, economic shocks, a rise of digitalisation, a surge in refugee population, and other disruptions. These strategic directions and challenges demand a rethinking of how Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) should be delivered and supported. Recognising the importance and urgency of these matters, the Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS), a body that brings together professionals and practitioners from the public and private sector into the agricultural extension and advisory landscape is organising the 3<sup>rd</sup> Uganda National Agricultural Extension week (UGNAEW2026). This week will bring different actors and stakeholders, from all over Uganda, to showcase AEAS models, approaches and partnerships that are contributing to achieving the aforementioned strategic objectives and addressing the challenges. UFAAS is organising the UGNAEW2026 in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services and other partners. The main theme of the event will be: **Unlocking Uganda's agricultural potential: Multi-actor agricultural extension and advisory services for resilient, digital and market-oriented food systems**. The fundamental question to be addresses is: **How should extension and advisory services be organised and delivered given the aforementioned strategic directions and the disruptions in the agri-food system?**

The planned UGNAEW2026 is proposed to be held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026 in Kampala. This will be preceded by regional workshops held alongside other events like agricultural shows, agricultural and extension policy dialogues, and other events related to agricultural extension and advisory services provision.

The objectives of UGNAEW2026 are:

1. To identify and promote scalable AEAS models that have successfully worked under multi-actor coalitions, leveraged domestic and international markets, while ensuring youth inclusion, gender responsiveness, food and nutrition security, refuge integration, digitalization and resilient agricultural systems

2. To identify and promote successful market-oriented AEAS models for the poultry, livestock, insect farming incl. apiculture, and aquaculture sub-sectors in Uganda
3. To showcase AEAS models that are promoting climate-smart agricultural systems, technologies, innovations, and management practices that enhance agricultural productivity, resilience, and environmental stewardship of agri-food systems in Uganda
4. To identify and advocate for effective strategies that have the potential to institutionalise professionalism in AEAS among the diverse service providers in Uganda.

## Sub-themes

UGNAEW2026 will be organised under the following sub-themes:

### 1. Scalable and market-driven AEAS delivery and business models

The focus on agro-industrialization and market participation among the 39% the poor population in the country under the Parish Development Model has created a challenge for agricultural extension and advisory services to demonstrate the strategies they are using in a highly market-focused era. The sub-theme is focused on scalable and market-driven models for AEAS used for knowledge transfer to enhance productivity, climate resilience, and livelihoods, especially for smallholder farmers. There is a lack of concrete knowledge of which AEAS models promoting market-oriented agriculture exist. Further, current extension models are not effectively reaching the vast and geographically scattered smallholders, including refugee communities, all of whom are being encouraged to engage in market-oriented agriculture. Relying solely on public funding is often inadequate and unsustainable. Hence, there has been a shift towards pluralistic and/or market-driven AEAS models that are inclusive, tech-enabled, and financially sustainable. These include among others AEAS digital tools, public-private partnerships, multi-actor platforms, village agents/lead farmer networks, integration of agribusiness services in value chains, and Market Information Systems. In addition, there are a number of market-driven AEAS models using diverse financing mechanisms such as fee-for-service, and bundled services in use.

We are calling upon presenters to share extended abstracts on successful extension and advisory service models, lessons learned, and innovative strategies that demonstrate how extension is organized when promoting market-oriented agriculture. Models that show how to effectively leverage technology and utilise diverse partnerships to deliver AEAS in a scalable, market-responsive, and ultimately transformative manner for farmers, including refugees are acceptable. Scientific papers with empirical research results that have tested the efficacy of these models are welcome. This will enable us to identify the strengths, challenges, and practical solutions for building sustainable and impactful AEAS ecosystems in Uganda that enhance market participation

### 2. Sustainable and economically viable Livestock, Apiculture, and Aquaculture Extension

The livestock, apiculture, and aquaculture sub-sectors contribute significantly to the country's GDP. They provide income, employment opportunities for many rural households, contribute to food and nutrition security; and they contribute to Uganda's economic growth. Whilst these sub-sectors are critical to the national economy and food and nutrition security their AEAS system is not well coordinated, facilitated and recognised. The sub-sector's potential is hindered by inadequate extension services especially by government, limited

access to markets, and unsustainable practices. The private sector extension models for livestock sub-sector, however, exist.

Many farmers and producers lack access to quality extension services, hindering their ability to adopt best practices and improve productivity. The sub-sectors often rely on traditional practices, limiting their potential for growth and development. Unsustainable practices, such as overfishing and deforestation, can harm the environment and undermine the long-term viability of the sub-sector.

We are firstly inviting submission of extended abstracts on innovative AEAS models and approaches that are being used in livestock, apiculture, edible insect farming and aquaculture sub-sectors. Secondly, we are calling for extended abstracts on empirical research work on the efficacy of the extension and advisory service models and approaches, including factors that explain the sustainability and productivity of livestock, apiculture, edible insect farming and aquaculture in Uganda. Presentations case stories with lessons learned for these enterprises that demonstrate market participation of the youth, gender inclusiveness, refugee reach, climate action, digitalization, nutrition impact, and value addition are particularly sort.

### **3. Scaling resilient and climate-smart agricultural systems and practices**

Uganda's agricultural systems frequently face disruptions from climate-related events, including unpredictable rainfall, prolonged droughts, floods, pests, and diseases, which significantly impact productivity and food security. Consequently, there is a growing imperative to promote, scale, and mainstream resilient and climate-smart agricultural (CSA) technologies, innovations and management practices (TIMPs) across the agricultural sector. This sub-theme centres around AEAS models that promote climate-smart agriculture TIMPs that enhance agricultural productivity, build resilience to climate variability, and foster regeneration of degraded production systems.

We invite presenters to submit case stories, lessons learned, and innovative approaches from their experiences in implementing resilient and climate-smart TIMPs, particularly in the context of smallholder agriculture and market participation. Empirical scientific studies addressing the effectiveness of AEAS models for climate responsiveness and uptake of those technologies, innovations and management practices are welcome. Presentations should where possible highlight how partnerships have played a role in such models. The purpose is to identify and promote scalable approaches and innovations that build climate resilience of agri-food systems. Presentations that demonstrate market participation of youths, gender inclusiveness, refugee reach, nutrition impact, leverage of information technology and Artificial Intelligence as well as value addition in climate-smart agricultural systems are also acceptable.

### **4. Professionalisation of the agricultural extension workforce**

The AEAS landscape in Uganda continues to evolve in complexity due to multiple service providers and the surge in use of internet and mobile phone communication platforms. This has created a challenge in quality assurance, regulation and accountability of AEAS services. AEAS requires a workforce that is not only technically competent but also professionally grounded, values driven, and engages in continuous capacity development to match with the changing environment. With government's focus on agro-industrialisation, market participation, and the Parish Development Model, the need for AEAS is going to surge, further

constraining the extension worker given the low extension worker to farmer ratio (1:1800). At the same time more unqualified and unregulated AEAS actors are likely to emerge.

AEAS has suffered from limited investment in workforce development. This has resulted in fragmented, underperforming, and poorly coordinated service provision. This is compounded by weak institutional linkages between training institutions and employers, inadequate career progression mechanisms, and absence of formal certification and regulation. Consequently, many extension actors lack the competencies and support needed to deliver quality and demand-driven services, and the profession remains unattractive to many, particularly youth and women. This calls for a strategy to promote, mainstream and enforce professionalism of AEAS service delivery

This sub-theme seeks to identify institutional and policy frameworks necessary for professionalizing AEAS in Uganda. Papers and proposals for developing and implementing, human resource development strategies that address the above challenges at organisational, local government, and national level are invited. Additionally, the sub-theme invites universities, AEAS service providers and other training institutions to show case models that are building capacity, promoting professionalism and ensuring quality service delivery among students and AEAS employees. AEAS service providers with such innovations are welcomed to share their professional quality assurance models. Presentations on how the dignity, visibility, and attractiveness of agricultural extension profession within both public and private extension systems has been promoted are also invited. Abstracts that cover policy updates and direction, empirical work, the relevance of extension to policy makers, and proposals to deal, regulate and hold accountable emerging AEAS providers. Presentations can also show how information technology and artificial intelligence are leveraged.

## Modus operandi

The NAEW 2026 will host; regional workshops, and a 5-day national event, where a keynote address, presentations in specific thematic areas, policy dialogues, multi-actor panel discussions, side events, youth forums, media appearances, capacity building, job fairs, and urgent future client-driven research outlooks, discussions in breakaway sessions and field visits will be held. There will be also be workshops focused on each of the Sub-themes. These will be complimented with co-creation activities of fundable ideas that address the key gaps in the indicated subthemes, such as World Café/shift and share, exhibitions, and networking.

To this end, 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/exhibition will be organised where presenters will share their research, innovations, case studies and success stories.

The National Agriculture Extension Week serves as a platform to showcase successful models, including digital approaches, through the exchange of experiences, lessons, knowledge, technologies, and proven innovations. It further provides an opportunity to collectively identify and explore solutions to the multifaceted challenges facing agricultural extension, particularly in relation to assured markets and building resilience to multiple shocks.

## Guidelines to presenters

1. Submissions should be in English and will be accepted from policy makers, local government, civil society organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations, farmers’

- organizations, agro-industry experts, private sectors, academic institutions, 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, an 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 by email to: **ufaascf@afaas-africa.org**
  6. If you wish to make any corrections to an already submitted abstract, you can use your personal access code BUT this can only be made before the deadline
  7. The subject of the email should be titled: SUBMISSION-UGNAEW 2026 (Insert title of article)
  8. The editors reserve the right to reject papers deemed inconsistent with the guidelines outlined in this call for abstracts.
  9. Accepted abstracts/summaries will be published in a book of abstracts, innovations/case stories and peer-reviewed proceedings.
  10. Any enquiries can be made via email to **ufaas2013@gmail.com**, and copy in **tamubula@gmail.com**

### Important dates and deadlines.

Date(s)	Activity
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	Call for abstracts opens
31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	Deadline for submission of abstracts
1 <sup>st</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Vetting and selection of abstracts and case stories
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Notification of Presenters and request for full papers
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Deadline for submission of full papers, posters (PDF), recorded oral/video presentations.
20 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	National Agricultural Extension Week

**Note: Venue will be communicated**