



**MAAIF**  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Animal Industry and Fisheries

## CONCEPT NOTE

### FOR THE UGANDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK (UGNAEW2026)

**Theme: Unlocking Uganda's Agricultural Potential: Multi-actor Agricultural Extension and advisory services for resilient, digital and market-oriented food systems**

**Proposed Dates: 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Location: Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi Kampala**

#### Contact Persons:

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#### Background

Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS), in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services and other partners, annually organizes National Agricultural Extension Events that bring together over 500 different actors and stakeholders, from all over Uganda, to deliberate on AEAS issues critical to agricultural development.

The National Extension Week 2024 (UGNAEW2024) was held 28<sup>th</sup> October–1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 at Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi, Kampala. The main Kampala hybrid event was physically attended 270 (87 Females:183 Males) extension actors and stakeholders. The

main UGNAEW2024 was preceded by 4 pre-workshops that were held from 1<sup>st</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October 2024, in the Central, Northern, West Nile, and Southern regional hubs. 180 (47 Females:133 Males) attended the regional pre-events.

### **The Rationale:**

Food production demands have surged and consumption patterns have significantly changed in recent decades (FAO, 2023). Increased incomes have triggered demand for higher-value food products, while urbanization has led to the expansion of retailing. Domestic and international demand for grain, oil seeds, staples, poultry, livestock, horticultural, beverage-coffee, spices, fish and other agricultural produce and products, has expanded driving the shift from subsistence farming to more market-oriented, commercial, and industrialized agriculture. The need for adequate agricultural technologies, advisory services, finance, agribusiness development services, farmer organizations, and functional value chains and agri-food systems support services has also increased. All these, reveal the complexity of the agri-food system, and the urgent need for hard, soft and organizational innovations to address inherent and emerging challenges while coping with human and livestock health, high post-harvest losses, climate change, youth unemployment, displacement, technological, policy, global trade and market disruptions. The actors in the agri-food system are mostly operating in silos constraining the solving of the complex challenges faced in the system. There is a strong direction that all these actors collaborate to co-create solutions in the system and work together to achieve common goals.

A multi-actor agri-food ecosystem operating in guaranteed markets is envisaged to address the complex challenges, including youth unemployment, and improve the overall performance of the agricultural sector. Hence, the need to focus the UGNAEW 2026 on Agricultural Extension and advisory services for resilient, youth-responsive, Multi-actor and Market-oriented food ecosystems.

### **The purpose and objectives**

The main purpose of this event is to deliberate on the critical issues that affect/enable AEAS to align and operate within multi-actor coalitions to support a dynamic, inclusive, resilient, market-oriented, agro-industry-driven agricultural sector. These include but not limited to the different models and practices used, promotion of resilience, digital adoption and the level of professionalism within the AEAS system. In the process, recommendations for priority policy arrangements will be raised to make AEAS delivery more relevant and impactful within the multi-actor, market-oriented, globally aligned, inclusive, and resilient agri-food ecosystem.

The specific objectives for the UGNAEW2026 are:

1. To identify scalable AEAS models that have successfully worked under multi-actor coalitions and assured domestic and international market arrangements, while ensuring youth inclusion, gender responsive, nutrition secure and resilient agricultural systems
2. To examine and prioritize critical factors and practices that enhance the sustainability and productivity of livestock, apiculture, and aquaculture extension services in Uganda

3. Promote resilient and climate-smart agricultural systems and practices that enhance agricultural productivity, resilience, and environmental stewardship within the multi-actor agri-food ecosystems in Uganda.
4. To identify effective strategies that enhance AEAS professionalism to operate in multi-stakeholder partnerships and market arrangements, while promoting youth inclusion, gender responsiveness, nutrition security, and resilient agri-food systems.

**The sub-themes that are:**

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

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. Current public extension models are not effectively reaching the vast and geographically scattered smallholders. Further, 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, public-private partnerships, and bundled services in use.

We are calling upon presenters to share concrete examples, lessons learned, and innovative strategies from their experiences. The focus should be on how to effectively leverage technology and diverse partnerships to deliver AEAS that are scalable, market-responsive, and ultimately transformative for farmers. This will enable us discuss practical solutions for building sustainable and impactful AEAS ecosystems especially in Uganda.

**2. Extension for sustainable high Value Chains (Coffee, Livestock, Aquaculture, Entomoculture, etc)**

In Uganda's agricultural sector, strengthening value chains is key to boosting incomes and food security. High-value chains like coffee, livestock, aquaculture, entomoculture (insect farming) and others, contribute significantly to the country's GDP. They: provide income and employment opportunities for many rural households; contribute to the country's food security; and have the potential to contribute to Uganda's economic growth through increased production, processing, and export. By promoting sustainable practices, improving access to markets, and enhancing the capacity of extension service providers, the value chains contribute to improved livelihoods, food security, environmental sustainability and economic growth in rural Uganda.

Coffee is one of the cornerstones of Uganda's agricultural economy, with both Arabica and Robusta varieties grown across the country. The subsector supports millions of livelihoods, from smallholder farmers to traders and processors. Uganda's coffee is renowned globally for its quality, with key production areas including the central, western, and eastern regions.

Processing methods range from wet to dry, impacting flavor profiles and market positioning. As a major export earner, coffee plays a vital role in Uganda's economic growth and development." Coffee account for about 22% of total exports and 26.1% of GDP (FY 2024/25).

Livestock includes all domesticated animals that are raised on farms or ranches for food, fiber, or other products. The common livestock in Uganda are: cattle (for beef and dairy), goats and sheep (mainly meat), pigs (pork), and poultry-Chickens, ducks, and turkey (meat and eggs). The other livestock are rabbits, bees, fish, edible insects, etc: However, these other livestock are becoming separate and strong sectors on their own. For example: Aquaculture (cultivating aquatic plants and animals in controlled environments, such as ponds, tanks, or cages, for food, recreation, or conservation; Rabbitry upcoming for white meat and bio-inputs production; Entomoculture for insect farming including bees, crickets, grasshoppers, black soldier flies (for food, feed, or other products). However, apiculture (beekeeping for honey, beeswax, and other products) is a stand-alone among the Entomoculture initiatives.

Much as some of the coffee sub-sector actors have tried to establish robust extension systems, generally the potential of most high value chains is hindered by inadequate extension services. Many farmers and producers lack access to quality extension services, hindering their ability to adopt best practices and improve productivity. Some of the 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 sectors. Addressing these extension related challenges and opportunities, can contribute to the scaling up and sustainable development of Uganda's value chains.

This sub-theme will focus on examining and prioritizing critical extension and advisory services factors and practices that enhance the sustainability and productivity of agricultural high value chains in Uganda.

### **3. Resilient and climate-smart agricultural systems and practices**

This sub-theme centres around resilient and climate-smart agricultural systems and practices designed to sustainably enhance agricultural productivity, resilience to climate variability, and environmental stewardship, particularly for smallholder farmers. 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) systems and practices across the agricultural sector.

Effective, resilient, and climate-smart agricultural practices involve an integrated approach, addressing productivity, adaptation, and mitigation objectives simultaneously. Prominent practices include conservation agriculture, drought-tolerant crop varieties, integrated soil fertility management, agroforestry systems, efficient water management technologies (e.g., irrigation and rainwater harvesting), precision farming, and integrated pest management (IPM), among others. Increasingly, digital tools for climate information services and early warning systems are being integrated into AEAS to enhance farmers' preparedness and adaptive capacity.

The discussions from this sub-theme will inform practical strategies for integrating resilience and climate-smart practices into agricultural extension and advisory services (AEAS). Ultimately, this sub-theme aims to identify scalable approaches and innovations that effectively build farmers' resilience, enhance agricultural sustainability, and contribute positively to food security and rural livelihoods in Uganda.

Presenters and participants are therefore invited to submit concrete examples, case stories, lessons learned, and innovative approaches from their experiences implementing resilient and climate-smart practices. Submissions should highlight effective practices and systems that have demonstrated significant results in improving climate resilience, productivity, and environmental outcomes, particularly in the context of smallholder agriculture. Presentations should also emphasize collaborative models, including multi-stakeholder partnerships involving public and private actors, NGOs, farmer organisations, and research institutions.

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

The Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) landscape in Uganda continues to evolve in complexity, requiring a workforce that is not only technically competent but also professionally grounded. As the country moves towards unlocking its agricultural potential through inclusive, resilient, market-oriented, and digitized agri-food systems, the professionalization of the agricultural workforce has become an urgent priority. A well-trained, motivated, and ethically guided extension workforce is essential for facilitating innovation, coordinating multi-actor efforts, and addressing emerging challenges across agricultural value chains.

Over the years, AEAS has suffered from limited investment in workforce development. This has resulted in fragmented and poorly coordinated service provision, weak institutional linkages between training institutions and employers, inadequate career progression mechanisms, and the 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.

Professionalization in this context refers to the formal recognition of AEAS as a distinct and essential profession, supported by a structured framework that includes competency-based training, ethical standards, certification and licensing systems, and clear career pathways. It also involves continuous professional development and strong linkages between academia, regulatory bodies, and service providers. Importantly, it must be inclusive, ensuring that women, youth, and marginalized groups have equitable access to training, employment, and leadership opportunities within the AEAS ecosystem.

This sub-theme will focus on strengthening the institutional and policy frameworks necessary for professionalizing AEAS in Uganda. It will spotlight efforts to develop and implement national certification and licensing systems for extension practitioners, establish coordinated human resource development strategies, and promote performance and ethics in service delivery.

Additionally, the sub-theme will highlight the role of universities and professional bodies in designing responsive training curricula and facilitating continuous learning. Emphasis will also be placed on making AEAS a more attractive and rewarding career path, particularly

for youth by enhancing incentives, visibility, and opportunities for growth within both public and private extension systems.

### **The expected outputs**

The overall output of UGNAEW2026 is a comprehensive communique to inform policy on how to promote and scale up multi-actor AEAS for Market-oriented food ecosystems along the sub-themes. The overarching output will be strengthened capacity among UFAAS members and AEAS stakeholders built in digitalization, inclusiveness, networking, knowledge sharing, coalition building and management within the agri-food system.

The particular expected outputs out of the subthemes will be:

1. A compilation of scalable AEAS models and innovations across crop, livestock, fisheries, insects, and high value value-chains that enhance resilience among actors
2. An outline of key factors, best practices, strategies and recommendations enhancing the sustainability and productivity of livestock, apiculture, and aquaculture extension services in Uganda.
3. Documented case studies, innovative approaches, lessons and strategies of successful implementation of resilient and climate-smart practices for improving climate resilience, productivity, and environmental outcomes in agriculture
4. Strategies to enhance countrywide professionalism, accountability, networking and information sharing as AEAS professionals, practitioners and stakeholders identified.

### **The expected outcomes**

The overarching outcome is an established policy framework and stakeholder support for integrating and scaling up multi-actor Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS), promoting market-oriented food ecosystems and regulating AEAS providers. The specific outcomes towards this are:

- Increased adoption and scaling up of successful AEAS models practices leading to improved climate resilience, productivity, and environmental outcomes.
- Strengthened capacity among UFAAS members and AEAS stakeholders in key areas such as: Digitalization, Inclusiveness: Networking, knowledge sharing, coalition building and management.
- Strengthened AEAS through strategic partnerships with academia and research institutions, driving capacity building, innovation, and evidence-based policy influence
- AEAS positioned as a key player in strengthened coalitions, driving new partnerships and enhancing governance, management, and productivity of existing collaborations
- Strengthened market-oriented food ecosystems that are more responsive to the needs of farmers, consumers, and other stakeholders.
- Professional individuals and organizations within the national AEAs system

## **The methodology**

To achieve the indicated objectives different methodologies will be employed. Those include:  
Mobilization and sensitization of the different AEAS actors and stakeholders to ensure that they facilitate, support and participate in all planned activities

Making arrangements for and conducting pre-events at the regional level to enable the capturing of outputs, as well as publicize the main event at that level. Within the regions at least 2 sub-themes will be discussed. A specific concept has been developed to guide the process.

There will be research and experience presentations for each theme. These will be based key research findings and case stories of field experiences, achievements and lessons learnt across all the themes. A call was put out for two months coupled with intensive follow-up and mobilization of papers, presentations, and other event activities. A vetting committee is in place to guide on the key aspects, that should be covered in order to bring out the desired message in line with the theme.

In addition to presentations there will be: posters or infographics and a variety of other activities that will include: Side events, exhibitions, world café, panel discussions, capacity building events, deal room for pitching innovative AEAS models, storytelling, media events – radio, TV, livestreaming, field visits and a job fair especially for young University and College students.

The proceedings of the event will be done and shared with all participants and stakeholders

## **Possible regional pre-event workshops**

These are being organized in the current UFAAS regional hubs, where members and partners organise themselves and mobilize resources for the workshops. Examples:

- **EASTERN:** 1. Lower East (Busoga Region); 2. Central East (Tororo-Mbale regions);  
3. Upper East (Teso/ Karamoja regions)
- **NORTHERN:** 1. Lango /upper Karamoja region: Acholi region; 2. West Nile
- **WESTERN:** 1. Upper West (Albertine & Rwenzori regions); 2. Mid-West (Ankole region);  
3. Lower West (Kigezi-Kisoro regions)
- **CENTRAL:** 1. Greater Mukono, 2. Greater Masaka; 3. Greater Luwero; 4. Kalangala

**Note:** *The regional partners to determine the venue locations. These may be ZARDI's or regional Universities or other partner spaces.*

Separate concept is provided for these events.

## **Summary Roadmap/ Programme Outline**

<b>Dates /Period</b>	<b>Main Activities</b>	
<b>Preliminary</b>		
July-December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of technical committee</li> <li>• Establishment of National advisory committee-NAC</li> <li>• Mobilise and engagement of partners</li> <li>• Call for papers and case stories</li> <li>• Resource Mobilization (Continuous)</li> <li>• Publicity of the event (Continuous)</li> </ul>	
<b>Final Preparation</b>		
Jan- Mar'26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional pre-event workshops (Continued)</li> <li>• Draft Programme for the main event</li> <li>• Call for exhibitions, side events (October)</li> <li>• Develop and implement an Awards process</li> <li>• Paper and case stories appraisal and selection</li> </ul>	
1st - 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize exhibitions and side events bookings</li> <li>• Finalise and publish programme for the main event</li> <li>• Dry run for presentations</li> <li>• Final meeting for the Committees</li> </ul>	
<b>The National Event</b>		
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr'26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final preparations and setting up of hall and exhibitions</li> </ul>	
Mon. 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr'26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening ceremony</li> <li>• Keynote address (overall and thematic)</li> </ul>	<b>EXHIBITIONS</b>
Tue. 21 <sup>st</sup> Apr'26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenary and Parallel sessions</li> </ul>	
Wed. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr'26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Side events and meetings</li> <li>• Dinner and Awards</li> </ul>	
Thur. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr'26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Visits</li> </ul>	
Fri. 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr'26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Communique</li> <li>• Closing</li> <li>• UFAAS AGM</li> </ul>	
<b>Post-Event</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise the proceedings and communique</li> <li>• Sharing and publication of events results</li> <li>• Advocacy for critical issues</li> </ul>	

### **Registration:**

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/bH7CwMc7BppB86PM6>

**Individual Registration Fees:** Ugx 390,000 **Or** USD 115 per participant

**Side Event Fees:** Ugx 3,500,000 **Or** USD 1,000

**Exhibition Fees:** Ugx 700,000 **Or** USD 200

*For more information on the Week, please:*

Contact us at the AFAAS Secretariat, Kigobe Road, Ntinda, (below/Near ChazeFoods Restaurant);

Email: [ufaascf@afaas-africa.org](mailto:ufaascf@afaas-africa.org) and copy; [ufaas2013@gmail.com](mailto:ufaas2013@gmail.com) , Website: [www.ufaas-ugandacf.org](http://www.ufaas-ugandacf.org);

Or call (when necessary) +256 312313400/ 773 938570 / 774 123865/ 776801091.

## 8. HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

To participate you register as a participant or an exhibitor or an Event Side Convener at: <https://forms.gle/bH7CwMc7BppB86PM6>. The registration will cater for both online and virtual participation.

### Payment modalities

The modalities of payment involve depositing the money on the UFAAS bank account either by **direct deposit at the bank** or **using your phone to deposit, using financial services at MTN or Airtel**.

- Name: Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
- Account: 01063501318146 (UGx) or 02063501318164(USD)
- Bank: DFCU- Acacia Branch, Kampala

Please scan and send a soft copy to UFAAS email ([ufaascf@afaas-africa.org](mailto:ufaascf@afaas-africa.org) copy [ufaas2013@gmail.com](mailto:ufaas2013@gmail.com) ), a receipt will be automatically sent back. Please follow-up if not.