



Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA)



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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1.0 List of Acronyms

ACSA:	Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture
AFIRD:	Agency for Integrated Rural Development
CSBAG:	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
CSOs:	Civil Society Organizations
EMLI	Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement
FG	Farmers' Group
FRA:	Food Rights Alliance
MAAIF:	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
MMUDFA:	Mityana Mubende District Farmers' Association
MOs:	Member Organizations
MP:	Members of Parliament
NOGAMU:	National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda
PELUM:	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
RUCID:	Rural Community In Development

SAP:	Sustainable Agriculture Programme
SODI:	Skills Oriented Development Initiatives
SHFs:	Small Holder Farmers
UNADA:	Uganda National Agro input Dealers Association
UTL:	Uganda Telecom
USAID	

1.1 Vision, Mission, Core Values and Objectives

ACSA Mission

To empower civil society organizations working with small holder farmers to demand for favorable policy environment for sustainable agriculture through advocacy, research, capacity building and information dissemination.

ACSA Vision

An empowered small-holder farmers' community working in a favorable social, economic and political environment.

Core Values;

Accountability
Integrity
Transparency
Equal participation
Non discrimination
Creativity
Excellence
Love and care for the earth.

Objectives

- To improve the capacity of the member organization to advocate for small holder farmer friendly policies and programs that addresses the challenges of their enterprises.
- To support member organizations and their vulnerable groups (women, youth and children) in their efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and market access.
- To develop strategic partnerships with other actors with the aim of promoting and developing members' sustainable agricultural enterprises.
- To promote practices that will assist farmers to adapt to climate change and establish conditions that increase agro ecosystem resilience to stress.

1.2 ACSA Technical Staff



Harriet Nakasi
National Coordinator



James Mutebi
M&E Officer



Nassuuna Florence
Advocacy Officer

1.3 Word from the Chairperson



Dear friends, it has been a great pleasure serving on the board of ACSA for the year 2015, which has been another successful year of our existence.

Since its inception in 2007, ACSA has made strides in a number of areas including policy research, policy dissemination and policy advocacy. Further still, achievements have been realized on institutional growth aspects.

I am glad to note that throughout 2015, our advocacy endeavors have registered results with regards to being more evidence based, involvement of the media, and well as strengthened relationships with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and fisheries. Increased stakeholder and farmer participation in advocacy interventions have also been achieved in 2015. To this end we have registered more visibility as a credible advocacy player. We shall continue to pursue partnerships with likeminded CSOs, farmers and Government for enhanced working relationship and constructive policy engagements.

In 2015, our interventions focused on selected pertinent issues that have continued to be a challenge to the agriculture sector in Uganda. These included Climate change, funding to agriculture and agro-inputs in the collective struggle to address counterfeit in agro-inputs. On the institutional side, ACSA has continued to grow in its membership, funding base and activity base. Pleasant to note is that ACSA finalized its registration process, further increasing its credibility

We are particularly grateful to Misereor, USAID Feed the Future Enabling Environment and Caritas Kampala for the Financial and Technical support provided in 2015.

Finally, all these significant milestones were achieved through selfless contributions from my fellow Board members, ACSA Membership, committed and Professional staff members at the secretariat.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stella Grace Lutalo', written over a dotted line.

Stella Grace Lutalo
ACSA Board Chairperson

1.4 Word from the National Coordinator



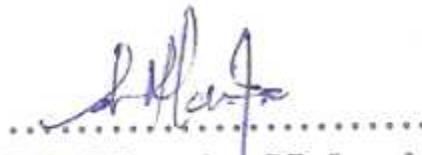
I warmly welcome you to third AGM of ACSA and its with much pleasure that I present to you ACSA annual report 2015 on behalf of the secretariat and the entire membership. the year 2015 has been a special year as we continue to advocate for friendly agrarian policy frame work for the good of the smallholder farmers.

I wish to congratulate all ACSA partners and the CSOs in general for the good work enlisted in (massive awareness on climatic change, agro inputs, the launch of agro input platform , launch of agrifinance platform as well as the active participation in ensuring an all inclusive national agriculture extension policy and engaging ACSA MOs in budget advocacy. This has been achieved in collaboration with our partners namely; MAAIF, CSBAG, USAID and Misereor. ACSA has also registered growth in membership from 18 to 24 spread countrywide as well as increased partnerships and support to ACSA activities both at the secretariat and among her membership. Nevertheless ACSA is making progress and contributing towards a friendly agrarian policy environment in Uganda through the thematic areas of sustainable agriculture, Agricultural market development, research and advocacy with an aim of increasing MOs' and farmers' understanding of policies that affect them.

As we celebrate our achievement with you all in our 2015 Annual report, I would therefore like to thank the government of Uganda and our development partners at national and international levels for supporting the policy development and implementation process. My appreciation also goes to thank ACSA membership for selflessly participating in ACSA activities and we are optimistic that the coming year will yield yet more milestones as we look forward to strengthening both ACSA and MOs institutions to undertake meaningful advocacy for sustainable agriculture.

I pray that the almighty God continues to guide our actions as we all contribute to an enabling environment of farmers in Uganda.

“Collective Voices for Sustainable Agriculture”

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Harriet Nakasi', written over a dotted line.

Harriet Nakasi
Coordinator ACSA.

2.0 Over view of ACSA

Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) is a national network of organizations promoting sustainable agriculture, Agricultural market development, research and advocacy. This aims at increasing understanding of policy issues affecting MOs and small holder farmers in Uganda. The network was established in June 2006 after a study which was conducted by Misereor on agrarian and trade policies among the ACSA core partners including Caritas Kampala, Caritas Masaka Diocese Development Organization (Caritas MADDO), Caritas Kabale, Hoima Caritas Development Organization (HOCADDO), Rural Community In Development (RUCID) Agency For Integrated Development (AFIRD), National Organic Agriculture Movement Of Uganda (NOGAMU) and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM). Over the years the Coalition has grown from the eight founding institutions (Core group members) to more than 24 national, international and local organizations.

2.1 ACSA Institutional Development

ACSA has a well streamlined board of directors who meet at a quarterly basis to review and approve work plans for the next phases and give technical advice accordingly. ACSA has a strong secretariat hosted by Caritas Kampala-Nsambya with qualified technical staffs who are very instrumental in the implementation of the project activities on a daily basis.

On this cause three (3) Board meetings have been convened to Plan for ACSA growth and reviewing the ACSA quarterly work plans and sharing the progress from the secretariat as well as reviewing institutional key Governing documents.



Board Members during quarterly Board meetings

2.2 Board Representatives

1. Mrs. Stella Lutalo	PELUM	Chairperson ACSA
2. Ms. Nakasi Harriet	ACSA Secretariat	Coordinator
3. Mr. Eustace Sajjabi	AFIRD	Member
4. Mr. Karusya Frank	Caritas Kabale	Member
5. Mrs. Allen Matovu	Caritas MADDO	Member
6. Mr. Nyanzi Samuel	RUCID	Member
7. Mr. Mutebi James	ACSA Secretariat (M&E)	Member
8. Ms. Nassuuna Florence	ACSA Secretariat (Advocacy officer)	Secretariat

3.0 ACSA PERFORMANCE ANDS ACHIEVEMENTS

ACSA performance has been enabled by the solidarity that members exhibit through Networking and collaborations through joint activities at National and Regional advocacy workshops. The Partners` forum draws its membership from 24 Member organizations country wide including Misereor partners and other CSOs. They Meet once a year, and makes major decisions regarding the coalition.

3.1 List of membership Organizations in 2015

No.	Name of Organisation	Areas of Operation	Year of joining ACSA
1.	Agency for Integrated Rural Development(AFIRD)	Wakiso	2006
2.	Caritas Jinja	Jjinja	2012
3.	Caritas Hoima	Hoima	2006
4.	Caritas Kabale	Kabale	2006
5.	Caritas Kampala	Kampala and Wakiso	2006
6.	Caritas Kiyinda Mityana diocese	Mityana	2014
7.	Caritas Lugazi	Lugazi	2012
8.	Caritas Masaka Diocesan Development Organization (MADDO)	Central	2006
9.	Mutuba Gumu Mpigi Farmers` Association(MUMPIFA)	Mpigi	2014
10.	Environmental Management and Livelihood Improvement (EMLI).	National	2013
11.	Glory And Honor Is Yours Almighty Farther Forever And Ever Amen(GAHIYAFFAEA)	Luweero	2014
12.	Kakunyu Parents Support Association for Children with Special Needs	Lwengo	2014
13.	Kazo Mixed Farmers` Association(KAMIFA)	Mubende	2013
14.	Mayuge Famers` Association	Buyikwe	2015
15.	Mityana- Mubende District Farmers` Association(MMUDFA)	Mityana and Mubende	2013
16.	National Organic Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU).	National	2006
17.	Nina Olugero Foundation – New Member	Central	2015
18.	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)	National	2006
19.	Rural Community in Development(RUCID)	Mityana and Mubende	2006
20.	Skills Oriented Development Initiatives(SODI)	Mpigi	2011
21.	St. Jude Family Project	Masaka	2010
22.	Sulma Foods	Luweero	2010
23.	Uganda Youth at Risk Development Network – New Member	Buikwe	2014
24.	World Action Fund(WAF) – New member	North	2015

4.0 Strategic Objective 1: Build Capacity of ACSA MOs and farmers in Advocacy.



Regional Capacity building workshops in East and Western Uganda, Hosted by EMLI/UYDNET & Caritas Kabale respectively

4.1 Key High light 1. Regional Capacity building Workshop

4.1.1 Result Area 1: ACSA conducted Two Regional Theme based Workshops in Eastern and Western Parts of Uganda.

ACSA organized the capacity building workshop for small holder farmers, MO staff and other relevant stake holders in both climate change and Agro inputs policy related issues and practices in Eastern and Western region respectively.

A total of 100 stake holders participated in these regional workshops; from ACSA Secretariat , ACSA MOs including Uganda Youth at Risk Development Network, , Caritas Jinja, Caritas Lugazi, EMLI, Africa 2000 Network- Iganga, Mayuge District farmer Association and Caritas Kabale, Caritas Mbarara, local leaders at S/c and district levels and Technical officials of MAAIF. Such capacity building workshops have contributed to the following:

One of the major land marks of the Eastern regional capacity building has been the securing of 8 acres of land for collective production by Buikwe district farmers` association after sensitization. This was secured from one of the members from the group Mr. Steo Masumba.

The workshop enabled stake holders to identify issues for advocacy in their regions. The Poor coordination among government bodies like National Forestry Authority (NFA), NEMA and the district official was evident for failure to ensure environmental conservation. At MO level, such regional capacity building workshops have enabled them reach many farmers and stakeholders with quality capacity building services targeted to solve their regional peculiar issues beyond their planned budgets.

It emphasized the need to decentralize the agricultural police from Kampala to regional level to extend services of prosecuting culprits of counterfeit agro inputs

A need to access the environmental impact assessment for public awareness and education

The outcry that these factories ought to provide employment to the community.

There was a commitment by Local leaders to periodically engage farmers during the budgeting process at the district level in Kabale

Testimonies

“This workshop has enabled me and my farmers not only to know and interact with our district Agricultural officials but also identifying the entry points for policy engagements at district level” Says the Advocacy focal person from Uganda Youth at Risk Development network (UYDNET) - Buikwe district Mr. Kabuye Sam.

4.2 Key Highlight: 2 Policy Research

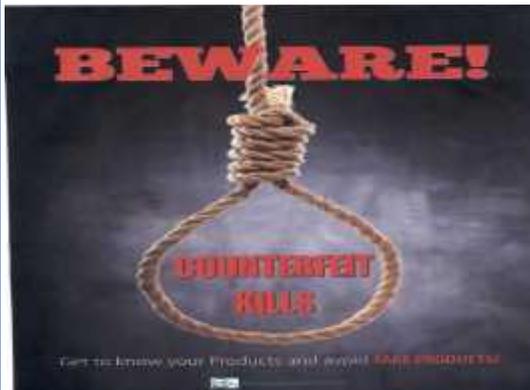
4.2.1 Result Area 2: ACSA Conducted and Validated the Study on the state of Agro inputs in Central region, which will be disseminated to inform advocacy issues affecting stakeholders

A research study was conducted between December 2014 and March 2015, focusing on the central region in the districts of Buikwe, Kampala, Mpigi, Mubende, Mityana, Masaka, Lwengo and Wakiso

Dissemination of these publications for this research will be shared widely among different stake holders to increase and inform their participation in both macro and micro-level advocacy inputs.

The study highlighted the critical areas and gaps with recommendations given to different stakeholders to address the key issues

The publication can as well be accessed on our website at www.acsaug.org



4.3 Key Highlight3: Annual Partners` Forum

4.3.1 Result Area 3: ACSA conducted the Annual Partners` Forum 2015

At the Partners` forum, Chairpersons report and Audited accounts were approved. At the same meeting, the current Board members were re-elected for another term of office.

Major land Mack for 2015 Forum was commissioning ACSA as a legal entity by Mr. Kazungu Apollo, a company lawyer of Kaweesi Kakooza and company advocates who handed over the certificate of incorporation to ACSA chairperson.



ACSA Chairperson delivering her report during Partners` Forum



A lawyer handing over the certificate of ACSA Legal registration to ACSA chairperson during Partners` forum 2015.

5.0 Strategic Objective 2. Influence government support towards building the capacity of smallholder farmers in entrepreneurship skills.

ACSA employs mass media campaigns to create awareness on the prevailing policy issues and practices that affect the small holder farmers. Such approaches include radio talkshows, interactive sms platform, tv and newspaper pull outs. Major issues at hand include, Counterfeit agro inputs, Climate change and markets and information.

5.1 Key Highlight 1: Media Engagement for public awareness creation

5.1.1 Result Area 1: ACSA have conducted 20 Periodic radio programmes on CBS and Kaboozi FM



ACSA staff and MO during radio talk show

ACSA has conducted 20 bi-monthly periodic radio programmes on CBS FM basically on awareness creation against counterfeits in agro inputs in Uganda, Marketing and climate change. It is through such programs that small holder farmers have access to extension services through radio and interactive SMS platforms. This helps them to fill the gaps created after the restructuring of NAADS program.

5.2. Key Highlight 2: Partnerships in SMS Platform with HAMWE

5.2.2 Result Area 2: ACSA in partnership with HAMWE and UTL are implementing an activity of interactive SMS platform.

Under this arrangement, questions and answers are raised during radio programmes to enable farmers to address farming related concerns from an informed point of view. This is done by typing the word **OMULIMI** leave a space write your question/comment and send it to **6565**, and then they are replied. *Note that the setting can either be smart phone or not.*

Through the interactive SMS, it helps us to identify the real problems of farmers basing on the frequency of the questions asked. This will serve as a basis for developing new proposals.

ACSA is encouraging all MOs to integrate the SMS Platform to know the issues of Small holder farmers for increased impact in the communities.

5.2.3 Result Area 3:

ACSA is partnering with UTL- M-Sente wallet to improve on financial management for farmers' VSLA's. This will ensure safety of farmers' savings using mobile collective account as well as enhancing farmers' basic IT skills.



Mr. Mulamata Geoffrey a farmer sharing his experience during radio program

Experience sharing on market access via media.

"I Must say, we're privileged to work with ACSA through AFIRD". "We used to have challenges with access to market of our produce, but when we got the Market information Boards from ACSA, it's now upon us to increase production to reach the desired demand". "Our group is **Magazi Muliro** farmers group Kaliiti-Wakiso dealing in large production of Beans and Sweet potatoes (NASPOT). Market information boards have enhanced our knowledge about available markets in different areas and standards on such markets". "Market information has in turn increased the bargaining power our group, reduced on Middle men ("Maziga gabalimi") who used to exploit us because we were selling individually without access to market information in a broader context".

Advice to fellow farmers;

Select your group enterprises and manage it very well. Do your market research at the beginning of the farm planning. This will help you answer questions like, where to sell?, when?, How Much?, which quality? Among others. Says, **Mr. Mulamata Geoffrey, a farmer affiliated to AFIRD** during experience sharing on Market access at Kaboozi 87.9FM from a farmer perspective.

5.3 Key Highlight 2: Market Access and Value Addition:

5.3.1 Result Area 1: ACSA supported three farmers affiliated to ACSA MOs including, RUCID, GAHIAFAEA and Caritas Kampala (SAP).

ACSA is mandated to Support farmers and MOs in promoting market access initiatives in the community. However this is only possible if they have easy access to adequate and reliable market information for easy penetration of local markets as well as regional and international markets. This has been done through introduction of different ways of market information access like, Agricultural shows, Market information SMS, Radio talk shows to share market related information, and capacity building training on market related themes.



MOs exhibiting their agro processed products during National Agricultural show at Jinja.

Three MOs were supported to participate in the Jinja agricultural show grounds on 6th – 13th July 2015 where RUCID, GAHAYAFAEA and SAP farmers attended.

Supporting MOs to participate in such National agriculture shows has exposed smallholder farmers and MOs to new innovations as well as Linkage to sustainable markets. A case in point is GAHAYAFE who have now opened up several organic agro-input selling points due to the demands they got as a result of exposure in the exhibition. KAMUKAMU farmers group have been able to lobby and start up a weekly market place at wakiso, hence making them relevant in agriculture as a business. The above has been one avenue of improving ACSA`s visibility at national and regional levels. New members like Mayuge farmers Association and Africa 2000 Network in Iganga were encouraged to join the coalition.

On the other hand, National Exhibitions have enabled MOs to show case the public the new innovations like agro inputs like organic fertilizers and herbicide. This has helped to bridge the gap in the organic agro input sector. As a result of the exposure at the show, the demand for these inputs has increased. Engagement of small holder farmers and MOs working with SHFs at regional and national level has enabled farmers to influence and advocate for their rights at different levels. This has been through engagements with relevant local leaders and others stakeholders. The exhibition expanded the Net work base in the eastern region hence facilitating the ease for organizing new members in the eastern regional workshop. Such members include: A2N Iganga, Mayuge district farmers` association, Youth at risk development Network (YDNET), Nina Olugero Foundation and the local leaders.

6.0 Strategic Objective 3: Developing Strategic Alliances and Partnerships

Advocacy requires concerted efforts to build synergies with others partners to achieve the desired goals. Through this objective, ACSA networks with other like minded partners in influencing the nation`s policy environment. This is done through active participation in national policy dialogues to input and reshape the agrarian policies in favour of the small holder farmers.

6.1 Key Highlight 1: Capacity building with like minded partners.

6.1.1 Result Area 1: Various MOs have participated in Capacity building Organised and Supported by USAID Feed the Future EEA in budget advocacy and climate change.

ACSA has strengthened her partnership with USAID Feed the Future Enabling Environment in the area of capacity building of MOs and Staff in advocacy related fields.

In this period, five capacity building workshops in Climate change have been organized and fully supported by USAID EEA. MOs including CAPCA, EMLI, Kazo Mixed Farmers` Association and ACSA Secretariat staff have actively participated in these trainings. These trainings have led to the climate change champions.

These trainings have strengthened not only the capacity of ACSA secretariat staff and MOs to effectively undertake agriculture related advocacy but also MOs active engagement in ACSA and regional activities thereby increasing ACSA visibility at all levels

Worth noting is that USAID EEA has agreed to support ACSA in the areas of institutional capacity strengthening. Capacity building areas include: Policy and Budget Advocacy Training, Member Engagement and Service Delivery, Operational Policies, Procedures, & Systems Review and Strategic Planning.



6.1.2 Result Area 2: ACSA participated in a one week Financial Literacy workshop Organized and supported by GIZ in partnership with Bank of Uganda



ACSA Staff t with other members posing for a group photo

Notably, this training is a massive campaign by bank of Uganda to enable individuals and organizations working with small holder farmers to acquire knowledge and skills in managing finances better and hence reduce on losses, and become financially sustainable.

These holistic approaches will be integrated in ACSA advocacy work Personal financial management, Savings, Loan Management, Investments, Planning for old age, Access to financial institutions and record keeping.

Don't let this chance go,

***Acquire these important skills
in financial Literacy through
ACSA!!!***

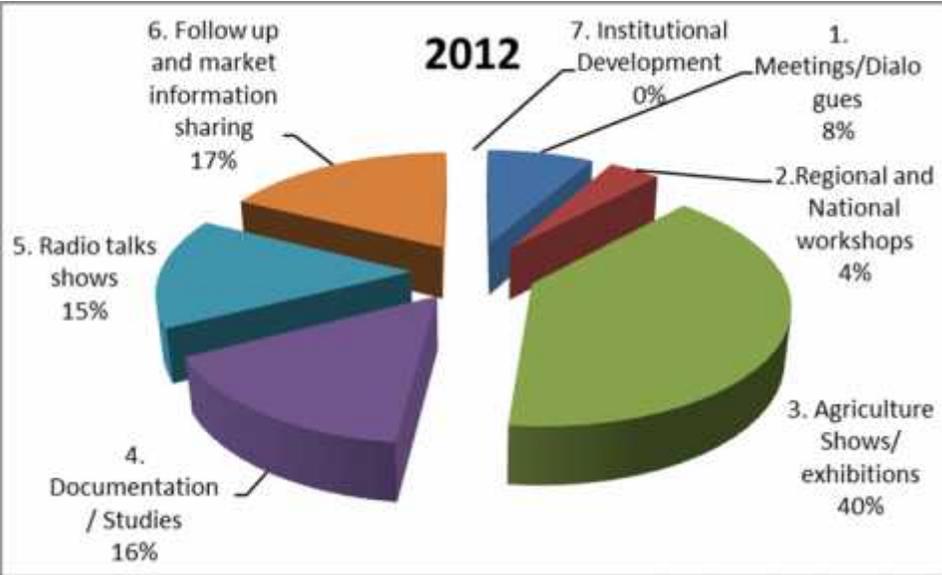
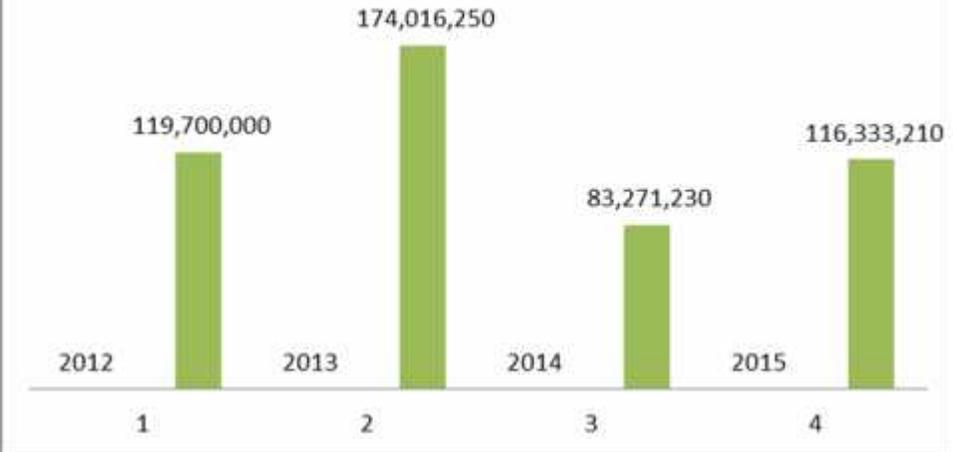
4.0 Development Partners/Donors;

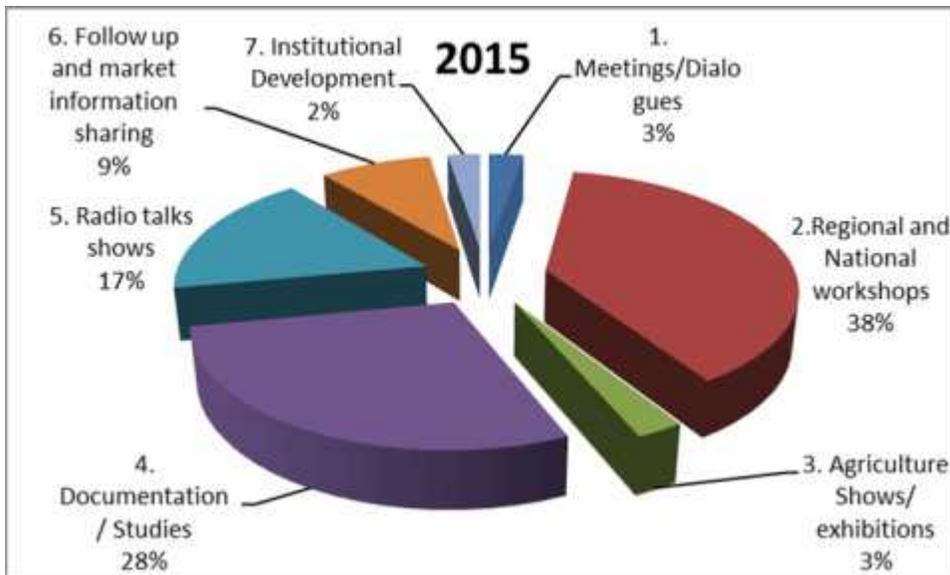
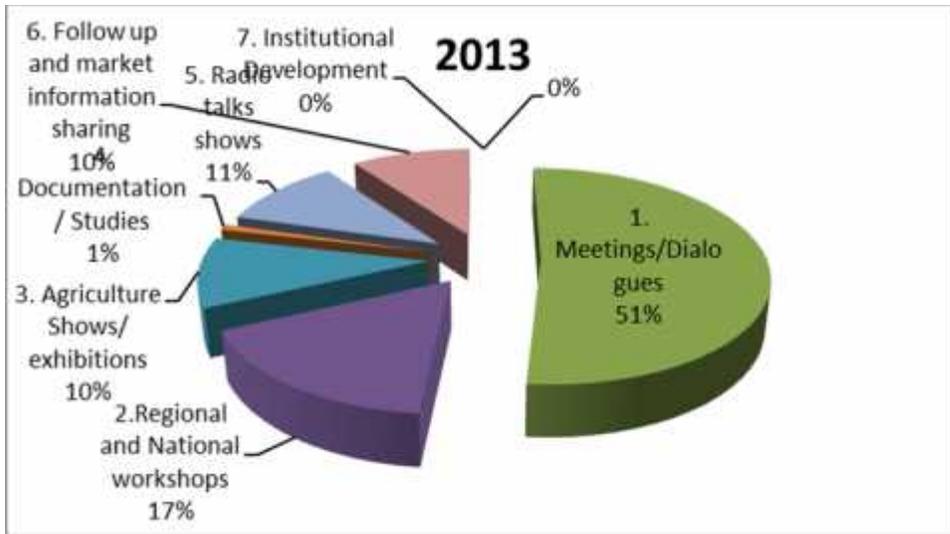
- Misereor (the Project major Donor)
- USAID feed the future Enabling Environment in capacity building.
- UTL
- HAMWE

5.0 ACSA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2012 TO 2015

Project No. 140-002-1269ZG				
Project title: Promoting Organic Products through collective Production and Marketing, Lobby and Advocacy in Uganda				
ACSA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2012 TO 2015				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Receipts				
Balance Carried forward	0	93,370,250	83,271,230	229,906
Grant from Misereor	119,700,000	80,646,000	0	96,103,304
Other Sources / Non Cash Income (USAID)	0	0	0	20,000,000
Total Receipts	119,700,000	174,016,250	83,271,230	116,333,210
Payments				
II. Staff Costs				
1. Salary 1 Advocacy officer	4,800,000	9,600,000	27,010,324	16,806,504
5. Capacity Building and Networking	0	2,800,000	80,000	3,803,500
Subtotal of Pos.II	4,800,000	12,400,000	27,090,324	20,610,004
III. Recurrent Programme Expenditure Project Activities				
1. Meetings/Dialogues	1,359,000	28,638,000	29,536,000	22,850,000
2. Regional and National workshops	655,000	9,277,560	0	21,695,800
3. Agriculture Shows/ exhibitions	6,632,000	5,795,500	100,000	1,458,000
4. Documentation/ Studies	2,612,900	480,000	7,400,000	16,074,000
5. Radio talks shows	2,500,000	5,855,000	10,355,000	9,645,500
6. Follow up and market information sharing	2,930,000	5,584,960	3,000,000	4,800,000
7. Institutional Development	0	0	0	1,400,000
Subtotal of Pos.III	16,688,900	55,631,020	50,391,000	77,923,300
IV. Programme Administration				
1. Fuel costs	3,215,000	6,138,500	4,700,000	8,000,000
2. Stationery/ Office mtc	125,850	3,761,100	860,000	1,350,000
3. Evaluation	0	11,314,400	0	0
4. Audit	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	3,920,000
Subtotal of Pos.IV	4,840,850	22,714,000	5,560,000	13,920,000
Total Payments (II+III+IV+V)	26,329,750	90,745,020	83,041,324	112,453,304
Balance carried forward	93,370,250	83,271,230	229,906	3,879,906

ACSA Funding Trend





Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA).
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