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## **Farmers Position Paper from the Ten years Misereor Impact Survey Report.**

Sustainable Agriculture has been promoted in Uganda since 1991 by different Civil Society organizations and a lot has been achieved ranging from improving food security to increased household incomes among small holder farmers. Misereor has been supporting this kind of work in Uganda for the last 20 years, with its first impact study conducted in 2005.

After a period of 10 years, another study was conducted in July to September 2015 in 5 organisations promoting SA. The objective was to provide for an opportunity to all concerned partners and Misereor to analyse the progress of projects in the field of sustainable agriculture made in the last 10 years. Where possible some conclusions for the 20 year period shall be drawn. The study shall review the work in Uganda and provide guiding lessons on how projects targeting sustainable agriculture and rural development can be promoted in the future.

Given the current debate of focusing on private sector, tea out grower farmers were included to compare SA activities with private sector support systems. This to show to what extent private sector support to farmers creates impacts. The expectation was to see whether the findings of the study could be used to guide current programmes and provide new insights for the lobbying work in Germany and Uganda.

The interim findings were first validated in December and a dissemination workshop done in July 2016 to embrace national partners in public and private sector.

The purpose of this paper is to summarise the key findings, highlight the policy implications and spell out the required interventions that partner organisations will prioritise in their advocacy work. This is summarised in the table below:

## Reflection on Implication of Impact Survey Findings on the Agrarian Policies

Study Area	Findings	Policy implication	Required Intervention
<p><b>Land</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining holding size /acreage per family</li> <li>• Decline in soil fertility</li> <li>• Rise in land disputes and land grabbing</li> <li>• High population growth rate</li> </ul> <p>As a result, women and youth have been victims here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absentee land lords hold big chunks of land not utilized</li> <li>• Renting of land is very limited</li> </ul>	<p><b>Government provisions :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the land policy 2013, it provides for Government to come up with alternative ways to relieve pressure on arable land by promoting a vibrant service sector, expanding industrial sector</li> <li>• Ministry of Health is implementing many programs on family planning</li> <li>• Constitution recognises land ownership by women and land policy is elaborate on it(sec.4.10), however, practice is still on cultural grounds</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Policy statement in sec 4.10: Govt shall by legislation, protect the right to inheritance and ownership of land for women and children</i></b></p> <p>(Land policy section 4.16 strategy b(iv)provides for long term- benefit sharing arrangements) in areas where land has been allocated to investors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government has developed fertilizer policy, needs to be popularised</li> <li>• Government conserving vital ecosystems but this results into conflicts</li> <li>• Bylaws on land ownership/security. <b><i>NAP obj.5 viii &amp; ix)provides for LGs to formalte these by laws to manage natural resources</i></b></li> </ul> <p>To support farmers test their soils(NAP:Obj 2 strategy xiii&amp;Obj 5,touches here and there but not explicit <b><i>.(Is it implied)</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the land policy 2013,(sec 4.4 provides for negotiations on ground rent and sales at the subcounty where the land is located. It being private land)</li> <li>• land policy provides for titling land(objvs ii,iv and v; principle 1;). Property rights and land development have been explained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize annual farm planning reviews to optimize land utilisation permanently</li> <li>• Encourage more agroforestry trees for improved soil fertility</li> <li>• Empower famers for their farming rights.</li> <li>• Assist to acquire land titles, provide discussion fora and legal support if needed</li> <li>• Government should Introduce or strengthen family planning services and advocate smaller families to reduce long term land pressure</li> </ul> <p><b>From the dialogue meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural leaders and LGs should Sensitize on ownership of land, land tenure systems, and titling of land as provided for in the land policy</li> <li>• <b>FDIs benefits should be shared fairly with small holders on land ownership</b></li> <li>• Local governments should promote bylaws to manage land challenges, sales,ownership</li> <li>• The ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries should invest in research and soil testing for proper fertilizers application. Support farmers to link up with MUK soil science Dept.</li> <li>• Popularise fertilizer policy and promote use(NAP&amp;ASSDP)</li> <li>• Waiver taxes on fertilizers(fertilizer policy)</li> <li>• Local governments should Sensitize on ownership of land, land tenure systems, and titling of land(sec 4.3) as provided for in the land policy</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Amendment of land act 2010 criminalising evictions is provided for</li> <li>• Institutions are in place to tackle land conflicts but they are overstretched in terms of capacity and budget</li> </ul>	
Labour issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour is divided between farm and off-farm activities. The youths are more engaged in off-farm activities deemed to be more profitable.</li> <li>• Labour requirements for SA are higher at initial stages but keeps reducing with time</li> <li>• Due to high labour requirements, some farmers are using conventional herbicides contrary to SA principles</li> <li>• Youth are less involved in agriculture.</li> <li>• Farmers have come up with innovations such as group work to reduce on labour requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAP, 2013 and ASSDP provide for research, development and promotion of appropriate technologies</li> <li>• The Agriculture Sector Strategy and Development Plan adopted a commodity approach to develop Agriculture</li> <li>• In the Employment Act 2006 says there is no permit requirement for one to recruit a domestic worker, therefore there is also no provision in the labour laws and constitution on minimum wage. What was set in 1984 has never been revised(10,000=)</li> <li>• Government is encouraging farmers to form SACCOs in order to benefit from its support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government should promote technologies to reduce drudgery(NAP is elaborate obj.1&amp;2)</li> <li>• Government should make agriculture more profitable</li> <li>• Value chain approach should be promoted(NAP &amp;ASSDP)</li> <li>• Government should recognise and promote SA as an alternative for conventional Agriculture which tends to be very costly</li> <li>• Government should expedite the process of setting a minimum wage</li> <li>• Government should increase group support with financing and technologies</li> </ul>
Crops and Agro-forestry and food security NAP ASSDP Commodity approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining soil fertility</li> <li>• Increased pests and diseases</li> <li>• Increased cropping risks due to climate change</li> <li>• Increased usage of agro chemicals.</li> <li>• Food security trends declining</li> <li>• Traditional varieties phasing out</li> <li>• Banana yields declining due to wilt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture research is ongoing</li> <li>• Government is entering into partnerships with private companies to promote fertilizer use. Attracting investments to establish fertilizer factories in the country</li> <li>• Research on tolerant resistant and high yielding varieties is ongoing, information dissemination and training is being done in LGs</li> </ul> <p>Government has included climate change in the Agriculture sector development plan (priority 1 strategy 3; and priority 2 strategies 4) but allocation of resources and coordination issues remain a challenge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage more farmer-led research towards solving soil fertility, disease and other cropping related problems. Encourage more collaboration with research stations</li> <li>• Indigenous varieties should be preserved and do research to improve their yielding and resistance to pests and diseases while maintaining taste</li> <li>• Extension staff should be recruited and facilitated to train and support farmers on how to manage pests and diseases</li> <li>• High priority must be given to key principles of sustainable agriculture: trenches, agro forestry, organic manure, integrated pest management, intercropping and crop rotation and livestock integration</li> <li>• The focus on more diversity and food security must be</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fake seeds given to farmers</li> </ul>	<p>However, there are challenges of Inadequate data on climate, hydrology, land use, and ecosystem impacts No national strategy for mitigation or adaptation and Unclear and weak institutional arrangements for coordination action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ministry has an inspection and certification unit which is understaffed that works with Agro-input dealers</li> </ul>	<p>held up firmly in particular for farms with very little land. The key principle is to produce for the farm household first and only once this is satisfied to sell surpluses. Bigger farms can specialize moderately with the land exceeding the needs for food security on a variety of crops with good marketing opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make regular use of clean planting materials notably for matooke and root crops. Investigate possibilities for planting materials from tissue culture.</li> <li>• Crop diversification and in particular more varieties of crops should be promoted by building and preserving farmers traditional varieties (bogoya &amp; cavendish) which are phasing out first. Farmers should be sensitized on the many benefits of traditional varieties. In addition, farmers should be trained to experiment also with new improved varieties. These new varieties should help to raise productivity.</li> <li>• Partners should experiment with different ways of introducing new varieties and encourage the best options of seed storage on farm or on community level by also taking options for seed banks into account</li> <li>• MAAIF should recruit more staff to monitor and supervise agro input dealers. MAAIF and relevant institutions should punish the culprits by withdrawing their certificates</li> </ul>
<p>Agro forestry □</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decline in forest species/woodlots</li> <li>• Low level uptake of agro forestry species</li> <li>• Farmers perceive their land as too small to allocate land for trees</li> <li>• Indigenous varieties of trees disappearing</li> <li>• Eucalyptus more popular(for construction industry) than species for adding value to soil</li> </ul>	<p>Within the overall framework of the Constitution of Uganda (1995), the policy framework for the management and development of the water and environment sector in Uganda is anchored on these important documents: The National Environmental Management Policy (1994), Uganda Water Action Plan (1995), National Water Policy (1999) and more recently the Climate Change Policy (2012, draft).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The department of Environment (forest subsector support services dept)with two( NEMA and NFA) are key</li> <li>• <b>Department of Meteorology (DOM)</b> - The mandate of DOM is to monitor weather and climate, analyse the data and provide advisories for safe and economic air navigation,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research should be promoted for both indigenous and local varieties</li> <li>• NFA promote replanting of indigenous species</li> <li>• Regulation of nursery operators in districts and Education of farmers is needed</li> <li>• Farmers perceive their land as too small to allocate land to trees Farmers need to be sensitized more on the many benefits of trees and their role in recycling nutrients from deeper soils layers.</li> <li>• Promoting local seed collection of trees.</li> <li>• Partners should try keeping closer ties with the national forestry department and see how to ensure a constant production of required seed and planting materials.</li> </ul>

		<p>agricultural planning, water resource management, early warning and natural disaster management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy objective: Improve the ability of forests and trees to provide increased economic, social and environmental benefits for all people especially the poor and vulnerable, now and in future generations.</li> </ul> <p>However, they have policy and capacity gaps in that the dept is weak and fragmented with underfunding, conflicting roles between NEMA and DEA, governance challenge to enforce laws and regulations seem to interfere with economic growth</p>	
<p>Livestock □□</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortage of pasture area and loss of communal grazing areas</li> <li>• Slow long term decline of ruminants</li> </ul> <p>Intensive farming is on the increase because of innovations of by products like biogas.</p> <p>theft issues among others</p> <p>urban centres are doing more intensive livestock farming</p> <p>labour</p> <p>spread of diseases</p>	<p><b>Sec. 4.9 in the land policy spells out protecting such land but also adds to develop projects for adaptation and reclamation of such land for improved livelihoods Should Government Gazette more land for grazing to avoid depletion of big ruminant animals?</b></p>	<p>Zero-grazing should be promoted in areas with land and pasture shortage. Fodder grasses and legumes should be promoted together with livestock.</p> <p>Animal promotion (both small and big) should be scaled up as it complements organic farming. Distribution should be to all farmers including women and poor families</p> <p>Farmers should be supported to develop a plan to keep more livestock over several years to build up herds continuously. This should go hand in hand with farm planning, and fodder production from grasses, legumes and fodder trees.</p> <p>Livestock should not only be kept for short term income, but as a means of saving and a way to prepare investment in acquiring land.</p> <p>Promote high yielding species but at the same time preserve indigenous species</p> <p>Veterinary services should be available, affordable and accessible</p> <p>Climate change issues addressed to reduce costs of feed water</p> <p>Sensitization of enterprise selection for profitability</p> <p>Government should strengthen its supervisory role on the sale of</p>

			<p>quality feed and drugs</p> <p>Policy on grain sales to preserve feed for animals</p> <p>AI services to be promoted</p> <p>Quarantine measures strengthened, movement</p> <p>Training of farmers and zoning should be done on Proper use of chemicals/acaricides according to required measurements and instructions.</p>
<p>Extension</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension education services still low</li> <li>• Coverage of farmers is small</li> <li>• Adoption levels still low</li> <li>• Keeping farmers updated with new trends and knowledge</li> <li>• Seasonal extension services depending on prices among commercial farmers</li> <li>• Media doing extension-what is the quality?</li> </ul>	<p>Govt has established a full directorate on extension</p>	<p>The extension work should be continued with a strong presence of staff (numbers and frequency)in the field. Close interaction and frequent visits to enhance farmers' capacities.</p> <p>Support staff to acquire specific subject matter specialist knowledge to complement each other better and to act as better resource persons to farmers.</p> <p>In addition to core staff, farmers that are good practitioners should be used as additional farmer trainers or models and facilitated to establish demonstrations to train fellow farmers</p> <p>The work so far was very gender sensitive. These strengths should be maintained and if possible even expanded further.</p> <p>Staff should make regular use of the extension database for this purpose.</p> <p>Organize farmers into groups,build capacity to progress towards officially registered cooperatives that also take a bigger role in marketing, information sharing through appropriate channels and technologies-give reliable information</p> <p>Collaboration should also be closer with Government and in particular research institutions to bring in more "improved" varieties that can be tested together with farmers to enrich available biodiversity on farms.</p>

			<p>Farmers should be trained to evolve towards farmer-researchers that can invent their own trials and experiments.</p> <p>Government should Regulate and certify sources giving extension messages, the media among other sources  Veterinary scouts, CSO ,para vets be revived accredited and certified to fill the staff gaps</p> <p>Professionalize agric  Recognize role of extension  Induction and refresher courses</p> <p>Government should avoid Disharmony in approaches –e.g wealth creation versus NAADS and extension</p>
Food security	<p>-Harvest and Post harvest losses are high</p> <p>-Facilities for storage lacking</p> <p>Poor harvest methods, spray chemicals to quicken ripening, drying among others. Coffee, maize potatoes etc</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By laws, ordinances to curb post harvest handling losses</li> <li>• Revive food reserves(silos) for food security,good price and quality produce</li> <li>• Revive cooperatives</li> <li>• Develop Measures to curb contamination</li> </ul>
<b>Marketing, Farm Planning and Incomes</b>	<p>The percentage of farmers in marketing groups is still low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption levels of trainings was lowest in food processing</li> <li>• Sales are mainly at farm gates</li> <li>• Group sales minimal, group work in marketing-commercial farmers are mainly men <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of trust to maintain group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Incomes(on farm incomes higher, off-farm incomes lower)</li> </ul> <p>Farm planning issues-  Farmers are investing the incomes in education</p>		<p>Income levels of farmers could be improved, but in particular the poorer farmers need to be assisted more???????</p> <p>Food security must be prioritized. Marketing should only be done when there is the real surplus. <b>Can government provide alternatives?</b></p> <p>Improve Productivity from cropping and livestock so that there is surplus for sale.</p> <p>Promote Marketing groups to improve prices received.</p> <p>Farmers need to do more to own marketing research to know when and what to sell to whom. Therefore partners should provide continued guidance on viable enterprises and marketing information. Partners can also assist to formalize groups with registration and other ways (e.g. improved storage) to improve the performance of the value chain. Elements of proper value chain analysis should be studied.</p>

	<p>Buying assets Majority are below poverty line</p>		<p>Farmers need to invest more into farming inputs. As far as possible they need to save more and also spend their money wiser</p> <p>Better organisation of farmers to plan production more closely in line with known market demands can help to improve productivity and income. This can be assisted by specialisation on some crops with demand.</p> <p>Agro processing is another niche for some additional value added. This niche should be used further. It is important to cut on processing costs, to make it more competitive. Improving on the quality and quantity of the produce is also important.</p>
Gender and Hygiene	<p>Gender relations are still far from ideal.</p> <p>The gender programmes were effective in reaching out to farmers and promoting improved gender and hygiene practices.</p> <p>There are less men in groups</p>	<p>Government has developed a Uganda Gender Policy</p>	<p>Energy conservation(stoves) promoted</p> <p>A closer focus must be on family planning to help reduce the size of families in the medium term to reduce pressure from the land for future generations.</p> <p>Continued dialogue and sensitization is needed to improve gender relations further and help men to develop more productive participation in all household chores and income related activities</p>
Food processing	<p>Numbers are still low Certification low Complicated standards required</p>	<p>The ministry of Agriculture has prioritized a commodity approach to Agric devt Trade of recent is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAP</li> <li>• ASSDP</li> <li>• Trade policy</li> </ul>	<p>Promote sale local products</p> <p>Branding should be strengthened</p> <p>Affiliation to bigger institutions Markets</p>