



## THE PLACE OF AGRICULTURE IN UGANDA'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' MANIFESTOS 2021 - 2026

### 1.0 Background

The political processes are some of the most interactive and all-embracing social activities of any democratic society, also attracts the interests of farmers. The political environment in which agriculture operates IS CONSTANTLY changing and these changes should provide options for the various stakeholders to engage into profitable agriculture activities along the value chain. Notably these changes have significant implications in shaping the future of the agriculture sector. Now that the Ugandan electoral commission nominated candidates, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working with farmers in the promotion of the agriculture have played a very instrumental role in guiding farmers to position themselves and make demands that will improve the agricultural environment.

Political parties and independent candidates have outlined the agriculture they wish to see and the associated agricultural policy environment for the next 5 years once elected in office. The campaign to raise SHFs from peasantry is still significant since the agriculture sector in Uganda engages more than 85% of the total population and its contribution to GDP is over 24%, while 70% of the population engaged in it are smallholder and yet it continues to shape the economic and social aspects of life of the countryside and the natural environment (UBoS, 2014)<sup>1</sup>. There is no doubt that there is need for an enabling policy environment for the sector to continue contributing effectively to GDP and livelihood of the population. This brief therefore provides a quick overview of the parties' and candidates commitments on agriculture, with a focus on the interventions that make agriculture work for all in a more economical and sustainable as well as viable alternative source of livelihood.

### 1.1 Introduction

Agriculture has been and continues to be the most important sector in Uganda's economy because it employs the largest proportion, almost 70 percent in 2019 of the population aged 10 years and older (UBoS, 2020)<sup>2</sup>. In 2018/19, the sector accounted for 24 percent of total GDP and accounting for 54% of the country's export earnings (UBoS, 2019)<sup>3</sup>. 78% of the Ugandan population lives in "rural" areas where farming is the predominant economic activity (UBoS, 2019)<sup>4</sup>. At the same time, agro-processing is the backbone of the manufacturing sector accounting for approximately 60 per cent of its total output (UBoS, 2020)<sup>5</sup>. Being the largest employer, the

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<sup>1</sup> UBoS (2014). National Housing and Population Census Report,

<sup>2</sup> UBoS (2020). Annual Agricultural Survey Calendar Statistical

<sup>3</sup> UBoS (2019). Statistical Abstract 2019

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> UBoS (2020). Agriculture production 2020

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majority of women (90 percent) are employed in agriculture as primary producers (UBoS, 2020)<sup>6</sup>. The failure of economic transformation characterized by lack of increased production, productivity and household incomes is a manifestation of inadequate investments in agriculture and rural development. The challenges faced by Smallholder farmers (SHFs) include: poor land tenure systems, lack of regulation for input providers, inadequate agricultural finance, poor post-harvest handling and marketing, inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies), limited agricultural research and extension services, and poor conservation of the environment. The stakeholders in the agriculture sector are interested in knowing the extent to which candidates' promises are aligned presented in the *Farmers' Manifesto 2021 – 2026* and how they will be addressed in the 2021-2026 political term.

### 1.2 Brief backgrounds of the political parties/ presidential candidates

#### **The National Resistance Movement (NRM)**

The NRM is the current ruling party having won the last elections with Yoweri Kaguta Tibahabura Museveni as its presidential flag bearer with 60.6%. (Electoral Commission of Uganda, 2016)<sup>7</sup> The NRM is a social-democratic liberation movement which has led Uganda for 35 years now. In these years, the NRM has embarked of a number of policy reforms which have encouraged economic recovery (especially in the earlier years of the regime) following the past regimes of civil wars and economic decline. The interaction between the NRM and other national players created a benign environment for development with structural adjustment policies that involved changes in macro-economic management. These included the removal of price distortions on foreign exchange, capital and essential commodities, improved fiscal and financial discipline, reduction of marketing monopolies and state controls. Most importantly, the NRM set up participatory political structures at national and local levels that were meant to enable local citizens participate in policy processes affecting them at lowest level possible<sup>8</sup>. These changes have over the time affected the agriculture sector significantly. Going into the 2021 presidential elections, the NRM have provided a detailed manifesto with promises in the agriculture sector high up on the agenda.

#### **The National Unity Platform (NUP)**

The National Unity Platform (NUP), formerly the National Unity, Reconciliation and Development Party (NURP), is a social-liberal and progressive political party in

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<sup>6</sup> UBoS (2020). Annual Agricultural Survey Calendar Statistical

<sup>7</sup> Uganda Electoral Commission (2016): 2016 Election Results

<sup>8</sup> Prof. Severin Rugumamu (2013): Studies in reconstruction and capacity building in post-conflict countries in Africa: Some lessons of experience from Uganda

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Uganda that is represented by Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu as its presidential candidate in the January 2021 Ugandan presidential elections. NUP is fronting a presidential candidate for the first time and having stayed defunct since its inception in 2004. The NUP has emerged as a significant contender for the highest office having identified with the youths who form well over 60% of total population. NUP believes economic and social services are a right and are enforceable and that all citizens are entitled to dignity. The manifesto of NUP party is geared towards basic needs like improving access to healthcare, education, clean water, agriculture and justice<sup>9</sup>.

### **The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)**

The FDC founded on 16 December 2004, is a liberal conservatism and one of biggest opposition parties in Uganda. It was founded as an umbrella body called Reform Agenda, mostly for disenchanting former members and followers of NRM and its chairman President Yoweri Museveni. FDC is fronting Patrick Oboi Amuriat for the 2021 presidential elections. FDC has been one of the greatest challengers to the NRM Party in the 2006, 2011, and 2016 presidential and parliamentary elections. The mission of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) is to work for a socially, economically and politically transformed Uganda where Ugandan citizens: men, women, youth and children live a life of dignity, have access to equal opportunity and become masters of their destiny<sup>10</sup>. This mission is rooted in our ideological conviction and belief that leadership is a service and those who are called to serve must do it with humility, dignity and with the uttermost respect for individual freedoms and liberties as enshrined in our national constitution and international covenants.

### **The Alliance for National Transformation (ANT)**

ANT is quite a recent party having been approved in 2019 by the Uganda electoral Commission. It was formed in 2018 when the November 2017 election of Patrick Amuriat split the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party into two camps, one that supported a confrontational and defiance approach to the regime led by Gen. Yoweri Museveni (supported by Amuriat) and the other that supported non-confrontational institutional approach (supported by Mugisha Muntu)<sup>11</sup>. ANT believed that adopting a non-confrontational institutional approach would allow the party to build grass-roots party structures, encourage more members to run for parliamentary seats and in local elections as well as working in coalition with likeminded opposition forces with the aim of putting forward a single joint candidate to compete in the 2021 presidential elections to replace the incumbent President Yoweri Kaguta Tibahabura Museveni.

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<sup>9</sup> The National Unity Platform (2020): Party Manifesto 2021-2027

<sup>10</sup> The Forum for Democratic Change (2020): Party Manifesto 2021-2026

<sup>11</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance\\_for\\_National\\_Transformation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance_for_National_Transformation)

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### **The Democratic Party (DP)**

The DP is a moderate conservative political party in Uganda that is being represented by Norbert Mao in the 2021 presidential elections. The DP is one of the earliest political parties in Africa and was founded on October 6, 1954 by seven revolutionary Catholics to fight for Uganda's Independence and National Unity<sup>12</sup>. The DP was formed out of the religious and economic demographics that began to model politics in Uganda before Uganda's independence. Despite failing to win any presidential elections, the DP is the only party which has been changing its leadership democratically. It has stuck to its motto of Truth and Justice. The DP has on recent been involved in internal power struggles which some political commentators have believed to be state sponsored to weaken the party<sup>13</sup>. This has seen a number strong DP members of parliament abandon the party. Nevertheless, the party has fielded a presidential candidate and a number of MP candidates in selected constituencies and is hoping to win the elections to serve Ugandans.

### **Kabuleta Kiiza Joseph (Independent)**

Mr. Kabuleta Kiiza Joseph is an independent presidential candidate for the 2021 presidential elections and flag bearer for the Reclaim Our Country and Kin (ROCK) Revolution. Born on 17 March 1972 in Kampala to a Ugandan father and a Kenyan mother, Joseph is qualified as a Civil Engineer and journalist and has practiced the latter for over 15 years. For the last 6 years, he has been teaching the end time and Bible prophecy, preparing the Church for the soon return of our Lord, Jesus Christ under the ministry, The Watchman Ministries. His pursuit for justice and good governance has seen him actively oppose unjust laws and policies like The National Religious Faith-based Organisations Policy that was being pushed in parliament to regulate the practice of religious organizations. He was vocal in opposing this policy; organizing conferences to sensitize religious leaders on its consequences and under the watchman ministries, he introduced a petition called "Stop Religious Oppression" to garner support against the bill<sup>14</sup>. He further challenged it in court as being an infringement on the fundamental freedom of worship of the citizens of Uganda, hence unconstitutional.

### **Tumukunde Henry (Independent)**

Lt Gen. Henry Tumukunde is a politician and retired senior military officer of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). He was born on 28 February 1959 in Rukungiri District in the Western Region of Uganda. He graduated from Makerere University with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1981. He obtained a Diploma in Legal

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<sup>12</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic\\_Party\\_\(Uganda\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(Uganda))

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.independent.co.ug/60-years-democratic-party/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://josephkabuleta.com/key-issues/>

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Practice awarded by the Law Development Centre in 2010. He also holds an Executive Masters in Oil and Gas Management, awarded by the Graduate Institute of Geneva in 2013. Having fought in the guerilla war that brought NRM in power in 1986, he has served as the UPDF's chief of personnel and administration, chief of military intelligence as well as serving as the commanding officer of the UPDF Fourth Division, based in Gulu in the Northern Region of Uganda. He has also served as the director general of the Internal Security Organisation (ISO). Lt Gen. Henry Tumukunde previously served as a Member of Parliament representing the Army in the Parliament of Uganda between 1995 and 2005. His most recent position was the Minister of National Security in the Cabinet of Uganda, appointed to that position on 6 June 2016 a position he served until 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018 when he was relieved of his duties in an unexpected cabinet reshuffle<sup>15</sup>. On 3 May 2020, he declared his ambition to become President of Uganda officially and was subsequently nominated by Uganda electoral commission as an independent candidate.

### **Fred Mwesigye**

Pastor Fred Mwesigye is a 38-year old male, born-again Christian born and raised in Entebbe, in Uganda. Pastor Fred Mwesigye is a non-partisan politician. He neither belongs to the ruling party (NRM) nor the opposition. He stands as an independent with a godly mandate to make a difference through the political sphere. This will in turn have a positive impact and effect on Uganda and on Africa as a whole. Pastor Fred Mwesigye undertakes to establish a value and ethics-based government that will in turn inspire citizens' adoption and adherence of and to the same. This is geared at promoting service above self. He intends to promote values that will influence efficiency in service delivery. He promises to establish a government that seeks to support and empower the poor and unprivileged so that they can attain middle-income status which, based on the current basic standards and cost of living, should be a minimum wage of between Ugx.800,000 and Ugx.1,000,000 per month<sup>16</sup>. It is only through love based on the fear of God that we will solve many of this country's challenges like corruption and spur development at a rate we have never imagined. This success will lead to the East African community realizing the great dream of the East African Federation which is essential for our political, economic and social freedom. This will further inspire consolidated African unity, a dream which many have deeply yearned for.

On the other hand, the remaining presidential candidates, Ms. Nancy Kalembe, Mr. John Katumba and Mr. Willy Mayambala have not documented nor articulated their agriculture agenda for the 2021-2026.

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<sup>15</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Tumukunde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Tumukunde)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fredmwesigye.com/index.php/manifesto/chapter-five>

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### 1.3 A matrix illustrating syntheses of agriculture promises of the different presidential candidates for 2021-2026 political term

<b>1. The National Resistance Movement (NRM)</b>			
<b>Perceived challenges</b>	<b>Proposed interventions</b>	<b>Issues Proposed in the Farmers Manifesto</b>	<b>Missing Links</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited commercialization of agriculture sector (Subsistence mindset)</li> <li>• Limited value addition</li> <li>• Backward technology for postharvest handling</li> <li>• Dubious middlemen</li> <li>• Limited mechanization</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agriculture credit</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community sensitization mindset change</li> <li>• To revive the over 35 traditional co-operatives and fully support them to re-establish full operations. NRM will also encourage and support the setting up of new co-operatives.</li> <li>• Establishing new and expanding existing agro-industries for processing</li> <li>• Acquire appropriate technology and physical infrastructure for post-harvest handling of various commodities</li> <li>• To work with the private sector to tackle agriculture mechanization (e.g. establish a tractor assembly plant to avail affordable and user-friendly tractors)</li> <li>• To establish new bulk water systems for production. These will include 500 private valley tanks, 120 communal valley tanks and new small, medium and large-scale irrigation schemes.</li> <li>• Support an agricultural SACCO at each parish with a supervisory SACCO at</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>• Limited knowledge of practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> <li>• Inadequate agricultural finance</li> <li>• Poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Limited and unguided marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies)</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agricultural research</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Poor conservation of the environment</li> </ul>	<p>One extension service officer at every sub county is not sufficient to effectively reach out to all farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No promises to support organic agriculture despite the passing of National Organic Agriculture Policy</li> <li>• No promises to fight the agro inputs counterfeit that are currently flooding the market</li> <li>• NRM is silent about the household energy consumption interventions that affect conservation of the environment</li> <li>• The manifesto does not address poor land tenure systems in some parts of the country</li> <li>• Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>• Proposed efforts to modernize and mechanize agriculture hinge on establishing a tractor assembly plant which does not favour smallholder farmers who averagely own labour 4acres of land</li> </ul>

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	<p>each Sub County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To have extension service officers (agriculture, veterinary and fisheries officers) at every sub county</li> </ul>		
<b>2. The National Unity Platform (NUP)</b>			
<p><b>Perceived challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited knowledge in the practices of sustainable agriculture</li> <li>Inadequate agro inputs</li> <li>Poor technology for postharvest handling</li> <li>Limited agriculture commodity marketing</li> <li>Inadequate water for production</li> <li>Limited agriculture credit</li> <li>Inadequate extension services</li> <li>Limited agriculture research</li> </ul>	<p><b>Proposed interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation through farmer training.</li> <li>To increase capacity for local production of farm inputs and to promote investigations into vermiculture and other ecofriendly substitutes</li> <li>To revive cooperative movement and organize farmers under them</li> <li>To support these cooperatives to tackle marketing, provide post-harvest technology and assist in dissemination and adoption of research based recommendations.</li> <li>To promote agriculture research and farmer adoption of recommendations</li> <li>To improve farmers' access to favourable credit by addressing the legal deficits existing in the Agricultural Credit Facility.</li> <li>To achieve seed self-reliance by promoting common seed varieties with a promise to rehabilitate the national seed testing laboratory</li> <li>To increase the availability of agricultural</li> </ul>	<p><b>Issues Proposed in the Farmers Manifesto</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>Limited knowledge of practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> <li>Inadequate agricultural finance</li> <li>Poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>Limited and unguided marketing</li> <li>Inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies)</li> <li>Inadequate water for production</li> <li>Limited agricultural research</li> <li>Inadequate extension services</li> <li>Poor conservation of the environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Missing Links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited value addition and agro processing</li> <li>Inadequate agriculture mechanization</li> <li>Household energy consumption interventions that affect conservation of the environment</li> <li>How tackle poor land tenure systems</li> <li>NUP does not make concrete promises to tackle the problem of water for production</li> <li>No promised to handle the unfavourable land tenure systems affecting agriculture production in some parts of the country</li> </ul>

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	extension services to support SHFs		
<b>3. The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)</b>			
<p><b>Perceived challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited sector funding</li> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Inadequate agro inputs</li> <li>• Limited agriculture commodity marketing</li> <li>• Limited agriculture credit</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Proposed interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the overall agriculture budget to 10 percent within the first three years</li> <li>• To improve land tenure security by accelerating titling and registration of land with a target of registering at least 3 million parcels in their first term of office</li> <li>• To establish and fully capitalize a National Bank for Agricultural (NBA) as the epicenter for agricultural finance delivery</li> <li>• To reviving and strengthening agricultural co-operatives as fully owned citizens' organizations.</li> <li>• To use cooperatives to assist in the delivery of agro inputs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Issues Proposed in the Farmers Manifesto</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>• Limited knowledge of practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> <li>• Inadequate agricultural finance</li> <li>• Poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Limited and unguided marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies)</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agricultural research</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Poor conservation of the environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Missing Links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No deliberate efforts for environmental conservation</li> <li>• Limited value addition and agro processing</li> <li>• No promise to address water for production problem</li> <li>• Silent about poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Interventions regarding limited conducting and adoption of agricultural research recommendations</li> <li>• No direct promise on the poor extension services and fight against counterfeit inputs</li> </ul>



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<b>4. The Alliance for National Transformation (ANT)</b>			
<p><b>Perceived challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate agro inputs</li> <li>• Poor technology for postharvest handling</li> <li>• Limited commodity marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agriculture credit</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Limited agriculture research</li> <li>• Limited value addition</li> <li>• Poor technology for postharvest handling</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agriculture credit</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Proposed interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish cooperative societies to improve mobilization of farmers, strengthen the capabilities of the community and ease the design and delivery of interventions</li> <li>• To provide inputs like equipment, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides</li> <li>• To invest heavily in comprehensive agricultural research to enable delivery of new technologies that can serve as the next drivers of productivity and growth</li> <li>• To reform extension services to integrate modern communication technologies and increase focus on the endpoint – the farmer-rather than processes.</li> <li>• To provide localized extension services to specific crops, livestock and the communities by integrating it into local cooperatives</li> <li>• To invest in water for production by harnessing the excess flood water and redistributing to drought prone areas</li> </ul>	<p><b>Issues Proposed in the Farmers Manifesto</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>• Limited knowledge of practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> <li>• Inadequate agricultural finance</li> <li>• Poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Limited and unguided marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies)</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agricultural research</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Poor conservation of the environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Missing Links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No deliberate efforts for environmental conservation</li> <li>• Limited value addition and agro processing</li> <li>• Inadequate agriculture mechanization</li> <li>• How tackle poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• How to address unfavourable land tenure systems</li> <li>• No promises to address agriculture financing</li> </ul>

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<b>5. The Democratic Party (DP)</b>			
<b>Perceived challenges</b>	<b>Proposed interventions</b>	<b>Issues Proposed in the Farmers Manifesto</b>	<b>Missing Links</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited sector funding</li> <li>• Inadequate agriculture financing</li> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Inadequate agro inputs</li> <li>• Limited agriculture commodity marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish a National Commercial bank that will extended banking services (including credit) to rural SHFs in their farming communities.</li> <li>• To increase the overall agriculture funding to match its contribution to the national economy</li> <li>• To revive the defunct and establish new cooperative societies to organize and help farmers</li> <li>• To support the cooperatives to handle marketing and bridge the input gap</li> <li>• To revitalize the agriculture extension services and ensure that they reach up to the SHFs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>• Limited knowledge of practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> <li>• Inadequate agricultural finance</li> <li>• Poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Limited and unguided marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies)</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agricultural research</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Poor conservation of the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No deliberate efforts for environmental conservation</li> <li>• Limited value addition and agro processing</li> <li>• Promises about agriculture mechanization and modernization to improve productivity are missing</li> <li>• There are no direct promises to handle agriculture research and adoption of recommendations</li> <li>• Post-harvest handling and agro processing are largely missing in the DP manifesto</li> <li>• The DP candidate has not illustrated on how communities will be helped regarding water for domestic and production uses.</li> <li>• No promises to promote and popularize practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> </ul>

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<b>6. Kabuleta Kiiza Joseph (Independent)</b>			
<b>Perceived challenges</b>	<b>Proposed interventions</b>	<b>Issues Proposed in the Farmers Manifesto</b>	<b>Missing Links</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited production and productivity</li> <li>• Limited commercialization of agriculture sector</li> <li>• Poor technology for postharvest handling</li> <li>• Poor land use practices and patterns</li> <li>• Limited commodity marketing</li> <li>• Poor technology for postharvest handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratification of the country into Economic Regions specializing in agricultural enterprises where they have comparative advantage to optimize the resource</li> <li>• To re-prioritise land use (Operation <i>Mayumba Kumi</i>) where HHs will be encouraged and incentivized to set aside at least 1 to 2 acres for commercial purposes depending on their total land holding</li> <li>• To revive of cooperatives and mobilize the many small-holder farmers into more integrated commercial enterprises</li> <li>• To support these cooperatives to tap tapping into the larger and lucrative markets in both the domestic and export markets.</li> <li>• To invest in post-harvest handling particularly in food drying and storage technologies and facilities which can extend the shelf life of agricultural commodities for even up to 20 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>• Limited knowledge of practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> <li>• Inadequate agricultural finance</li> <li>• Poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Limited and unguided marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies)</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agricultural research</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Poor conservation of the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land use proposed does not address the poor land tenure systems in some parts of the country</li> <li>• No deliberate efforts for environmental conservation</li> <li>• Efforts to address inadequate agriculture mechanization</li> <li>• How tackle challenges associated with water for production for SHFs</li> <li>• No direct promise to address limited extension services</li> <li>• No promises for meaningful value addition</li> <li>• Manifesto fails to address small scale favourable agriculture financing to suit SFH production</li> <li>• No proposed interventions towards agriculture research</li> </ul>

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<b>7. Tumukunde Henry (Independent)</b>			
<p><b>Perceived challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor agriculture technology</li> <li>• Limited agriculture technology</li> <li>• Deteriorating environment due to poor agricultural practices like deforestation</li> <li>• Poor prices for farmers</li> <li>• Limited and unfavourable credit facilities for farmers</li> <li>• Poor land systems in some communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Proposed interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerating modernization of agriculture to increase agriculture productivity and incomes</li> <li>• Providing renewable energy to conserve the environment</li> <li>• To introduce cooperatives to organize farmers for government services</li> <li>• To establish favourable credit facilities for rural people like smallholder holder farmers and a proper channel through which the people will access this credit</li> <li>• To end informal settlements and promote proper land use</li> </ul>	<p><b>Issues Proposed in the Farmers Manifesto</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>• Limited knowledge of practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> <li>• Inadequate agricultural finance</li> <li>• Poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Limited and unguided marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies)</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agricultural research</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Poor conservation of the environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Missing Links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Tumukunde promises are devoid of the extension services</li> <li>• The manifesto is silent about the regulation of agricultural inputs</li> <li>• No deliberate efforts to increase water for production</li> <li>• The candidate has been largely silent about agricultural research</li> <li>• Efforts to address inadequate agriculture mechanization</li> <li>• No promises for meaningful value addition and post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Manifesto fails to comprehensively address the problem of poor land tenure systems in some of the areas</li> <li>• No proposed interventions towards agriculture research and adoption of recommendations</li> </ul>

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<b>8. Fred Mwesigye</b>			
<b>Perceived challenges</b>	<b>Proposed interventions</b>	<b>Issues Proposed in the Farmers Manifesto</b>	<b>Missing Links</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited commercialization, industrialization and mechanization</li> <li>• Limited value addition</li> <li>• Backward technology for postharvest handling</li> <li>• Unfavourable marketing systems</li> <li>• Limited agriculture credit</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Inadequate agro inputs</li> <li>• Poor flow of agriculture information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate 15% of the national budget to the agriculture sector from the current 3.75% which cannot spur agricultural development.</li> <li>• Establish an agricultural focused National Television channel to sensitize and inform the public about the best agricultural practices.</li> <li>• Provide free and safe fertilizers and pesticides, seed varieties and animal breeds.</li> <li>• Re-introduce and promote co-operative unions.</li> <li>• Establish a co-operative bank to provide low interest loans to farmers through their unions.</li> <li>• Promote commercial and mechanized irrigation to reduce dependence on rain-based agriculture. This will in turn boost agro-production because farming will not depend on the weather seasons.</li> <li>• Establish and maintain government silos in every district to promote food security and quality storage.</li> <li>• Regulate prices of agricultural products through quantity and quality control mechanisms in the market.</li> <li>• Sensitize farmers through seminars, workshops, and fairs on best agricultural</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor land tenure systems</li> <li>• Lack of regulation for input providers</li> <li>• Limited knowledge of practices in sustainable agriculture practices</li> <li>• Inadequate agricultural finance</li> <li>• Poor post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Limited and unguided marketing</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructural (feeder roads and water harvesting technologies)</li> <li>• Inadequate water for production</li> <li>• Limited agricultural research</li> <li>• Inadequate extension services</li> <li>• Poor conservation of the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He fails to promise about organic agriculture and organic sustainable practices</li> <li>• No promises to handle the unfavourable land tenure systems affecting agriculture production in some parts of the country</li> </ul>

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	<p>practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote commercialization, industrialization and mechanization of agriculture.</li> <li>• Develop economic infrastructure, especially roads, to increase access to markets. At a minimum, all murrum roads will be well maintained.</li> <li>• Establish treaties with countries like Israel, Denmark, to mention but a few, in order to promote modernized agriculture and increased access to international markets for our agricultural exports.</li> </ul>		
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## 1.4 Conclusions

The NRM certainly contains lots of good promises to the farmers. Its promise to adopt a science-led parish model to reach subsistence homesteads - in the moneyless economy sounds very good to rural SHFs. Accordingly, this model is going to be the vehicle for data gathering, area-based enterprise selection and development, co-operatives and financial services development, community mobilisation and mindset change. However, a pledge to have extension service officers (agriculture, veterinary and fisheries officers) at every sub county is not sufficient to effectively reach out to all farmers. And with the launch of NOAP, there is a lease of hope to support organic agriculture an area many SHFs are largely dependent. The manifesto does not clearly address the issue of access to quality agro inputs especially fighting the counterfeit.

On the other hand, the NUP tackles the prime element of promotion of sustainable agriculture practices amongst SHFs to reduce the reliance on conventional agro inputs most of which have been found to be counterfeit and damaging. Although NUP promises to complete the stalled irrigation schemes, there is no promise or illustration of SHFs access to water for production at the HH level. ANT promises seem to generally cover the challenges faced in the agriculture sector, thorough analysis of the whole ANT's agriculture policy suggests that emphasis will be put on somewhat bigger commercial farms to have a quick impact on the aspect of agriculture productivity and yet many farmers are smallholders. Another catch eyeing promise is Mr. Kabuleta Joseph's government to pursue a four-pronged strategic approach to tackle issues affecting agriculture, which he hopes it will particularly increase on agriculture production and commercialization at HH level through stratifying the country into economic regions, re-prioritization of land use, revival of co-operatives and investing in proper post-harvest handling technologies. For the rest of candidates, not much novel commitments have been drawn.

## 1.5 Recommendation

Agricultural production in Uganda has been constrained by institutional difficulties. Farmers' excitement perhaps isn't totally justified as there are only a few novel, interesting commitments in these manifestos. The absence or vague presentation of sustainable farming in most of promises from the candidates / parties presents ever a bigger challenge to SHF agriculture whose practices dwell much on sustainable concepts. Whereas, some manifestos were comprehensive, they have not presented relevant aspects of agriculture pertinent to SHFs, while the rest have many positive sounding aspects that are rather vague statements. The key to improving productivity and livelihoods of the SHFs through agriculture will not only be in developing effective policies and measures but also following on the implementation. The farmers have to wait until after 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to know the winning candidate /

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political party that they can plan to engage on the promises as they put to task the government to deliver on the promises. Achieving these promises will depend on how the winning candidate will translate their promises into institutional policies and implementable projects. Farmers and CSOs need to have a strong collective will and creativity to advocate for new institutional governance arrangements that can generate and implement agricultural policies. These agricultural policies should prioritize the small-scale farm and their challenges as summarized up in the matrix.



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