

AGRARIAN

POLICY ISSUE TRACKER



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ABOUT ACSA

Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) is a legally registered national network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which work with small holder farmers (SHFs) and promote Sustainable Agriculture, Agricultural market development, Environmental conservation, Research and Advocacy. This is aimed at increasing farmer's understanding of policy issues affecting small holder farmers in Uganda. ACSA's mandate is "Advocating for the agrarian policy environment for small holder farmers in Uganda". With a membership of 29 CSOs (8 Caritas organizations, 3 Networks, 5 Farmers' Associations and 13 Non-Government Organizations - NGOs) spread countrywide in 46 districts, ACSA's Mission is "to Empower civil society organizations working with smallholder farmers to advocate for favorable agrarian policy environment for sustainable communities" and the Vision of "Smallholder farmers living in a Sustainable Environment", all of which contribute to the overall Goal of: "Relevant agriculture policies and services for Small Holder Farmers (SHFs) are implemented to foster profitable sustainable agriculture enterprises".

ACSA's key focus areas are; Advocacy and Lobbying, Research and Documentation, Capacity building of member organisations, Capacity building of ACSA secretariat, Networking and Partnership building.

Rationale

The agriculture sector is very sensitive to emerging issues that may be social, economic, cultural and environmental, which are often overlooked in planning and implementation processes by stakeholders at different levels, and yet they heavily impact on food security as well as sustainability livelihood options. Through the objective of "ACSA Member Organizations (MOs) and smallholder farmers influencing the agrarian policy and budgeting processes at different levels", ACSA will continuously identify and popularize the emerging agrarian policy issues for dissemination among MOs and other stakeholders to inform advocacy initiatives towards improved legislation, resource allocation and service delivery.

This publication tracks key agrarian policy issues from the period of May, 2025. Additionally, it also tracks the current status of agrarian and related bills in the Ugandan parliament within the same period.

Stories Inside

▶ EU to blacklist just four countries under deforestation

▶ Agricultural lubricant market to reach US\$73.8 million by 2034

FAO warns: Enhanced awareness and action needed amid foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in Europe and the Near East

“FAO is recommending urgent biosecurity measures and enhanced surveillance following the recent detection of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) serotype SAT1 in Iraq and Bahrain. This serotype is exotic to the Near East and West Eurasia regions, raising serious concerns about the potential spread of the virus,” FAO said in an alert.

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Brazil raised forecast for coffee production

Brazil has upped its forecast for the country’s 2025 coffee output despite the year being in the low part of the typical production cycle. The biennial cycle of production of arabica coffee sees output alternates between years of low and high output.

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Agricultural lubricant market to reach US\$73.8 million by 2034

The global demand for agricultural lubricants is projected to surge at a steady CAGR of 5.5% from 2024 to 2034, reaching an estimated market value of US\$873.8 million by the end of the forecast period.

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- ▶ Investing in agriculture reduces poverty and inequality: Economic model
- ▶ Agricultural cooperatives boost farmers’ incomes in Senegal

EU to blacklist just four countries under deforestation

EU to blacklist just four countries under deforestation. The European Union [EU] is preparing to label just four countries as high risk for deforestation – sparing major commodity exporters like Brazil and Indonesia – in a long-awaited move under its anti-deforestation law, reports Euractiv. Brussels.

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Pain now, jobs later? Farmers wait

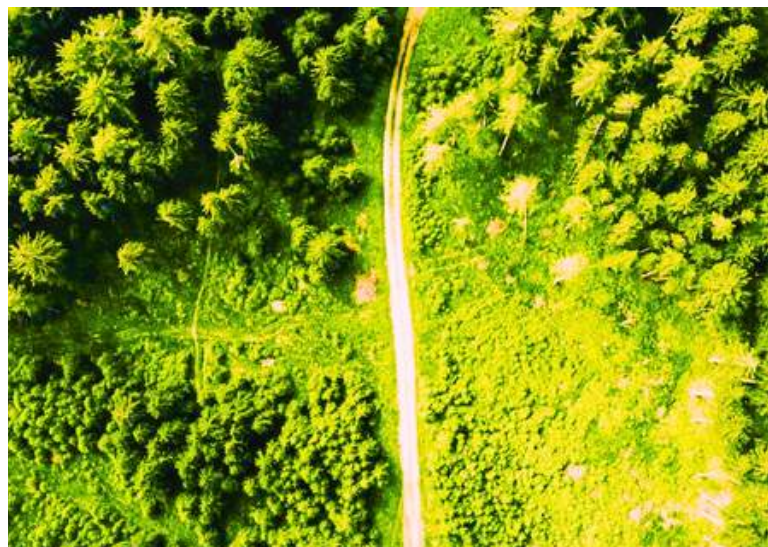
In a perfect world, tariffs would help U.S. farmers in the long run by creating more jobs and more trade deals. However, higher tariffs on China hinder profits because that nation is the largest export market for U.S. soybeans says Ragland.

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European Commission publishes first list of Country Benchmarks under the EUDR

The European Commission [EC] has released its long-awaited first list of country risk classifications under the EU Deforestation Regulation [EUDR], marking a critical milestone in the road towards the regulation’s implementation.

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Continental

Africa's pastoralists hold the key to sustainable livestock and environmental balance

Across Africa, pastoralists and livestock keepers sustain herding systems which are closely bound up with our landscapes and crucial to nationwide food security, economic growth and ecological balance.

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African Union launches the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026 - 2035 and the CAADP Kampala Declaration

The African Union launched the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026 – 2035), which aims to mobilize \$100 billion, lift agrifood output by 45 per cent, triple intra-African trade in farm goods, and cut post-harvest losses in half.

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Agricultural cooperatives boost farmers' incomes in Senegal

In Lompoul-sur-Mer, a town on Senegal's Grande Côte north of Dakar, farmers say they are witnessing the benefits of joining formal cooperatives, with improved access to quality inputs, technical support, and markets.

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Why agri-food systems policy in the EAC must embrace its youth to empower the next generation

The agri-food systems value chain remains the backbone of the East African Community (EAC) Partner states economies providing livelihoods and driving regional growth. However, to unlock its full potential and achieve sustainable food security, the sector must engage and empower its most dynamic asset: the youth.

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Investing in agriculture reduces poverty and inequality: Economic model finds the best funding mix for 10 African countries

In a recent study we analysed how different ways of funding agricultural investment would affect inclusive growth and the wider economy in 10 African countries. Raising taxes, cutting budgets and external support were the different funding options explored.

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▶ More than 50 million in West and Central Africa at risk of hunger

▶ Africa urged on transformation in use of agro chemicals, fertilisers

More than 50 million in West and Central Africa at risk of hunger

More than 36 million are struggling to meet their basic food needs, which is projected to rise to over 52 million during the lean season from June to August, latest analysis reveals.

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The role and future of sustainability for grain farmers in South Africa

'The sustainability of South African farms is essential not only for environmental protection, but for securing long term agricultural yields and consequently, South Africa's food security,' explains Gert Breet.

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Senegal and Africa Food Systems Forum Launch 2025 Summit Preparations with Youth-Focused Legacy Programme

Senegal launches its Community Agricultural Cooperative (CAC) during Africa Food Systems Forum 2025 launch event, setting the stage for community-led agricultural transformation.

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Africa urged on transformation in use of agro chemicals, fertilisers

Prof Boga highlighted the urgent need for better soil testing infrastructure, noting that in his experience, only a small percentage of farmers utilized such services leading to generic and potentially harmful application of fertilizers.

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World Bee Day 2025: Africa honey production has highest global growth rate

Nearly 90 percent of the world's flowering plants depend on pollinators, as do 75 percent of the world's most important crops that provide fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds for human consumption.

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Globally, honey production reached 1,894 thousand tonnes in 2023, with Africa having the highest growth rate.

Climate change threatens agriculture in Nigeria

Farmers in Nigeria are finding it increasingly difficult to get enough water for their crops. Riverbeds have started to run dry leading some to have no choice but to pump for groundwater.

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▶ Sustainable school feeding takes centre stage at E.A regional workshop

▶ Government bans over 50 harmful pesticide brands, eyes pyrethrum expansion

East Africa

Regional stakeholders meet in Nairobi to boost cross-border trade in agro ecological products

The meeting highlighted the potential benefits of promoting agro ecological produce across EAC member states, with the overarching goal of increasing visibility for such products while strengthening food security, food sovereignty, and environmentally sustainable farming practices.

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Why agri-food systems policy in the EAC must embrace its youth to empower the next generation

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Sustainable school feeding takes centre stage at E.A regional workshop

Key stakeholders from across East Africa gathered in Kampala for a three day regional visioning workshop aimed at transforming school feeding systems in the region. The workshop aimed to boost collective impact through coordinated action, with discussions centred on four key areas.

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Busia County: Gov't distributes 400,000 free Robusta seedlings to revamp coffee farms

The Government of Kenya has issued 400,000 free coffee robusta seedlings to boost coffee farming and production in Busia County. Cabinet Secretary [CS]Wycliffe Oparanya stated while distributing the seedlings that the move will encourage more farmers to venture into coffee farming and restore the country's former glory in coffee production.

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Government bans over 50 harmful pesticide brands, eyes pyrethrum expansion

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has announced a ban on more than 50 pesticide brands, particularly those prohibited in their countries of origin. As part of this effort, he unveiled an ambitious plan to expand pyrethrum farming from the current 10,000 acres to over 70,000 acres nationwide.

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▶ CSOs call for alternative coffee market as EU deadline nears

▶ Africa's coffee exports rose 36.3 percent in March 2025 - report

National

Small-Scale Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems building farmers' resilience in Katakwi and Kaberamaido Districts

As the impacts of climate change intensify, smallholder farmers have faced increasing challenges linked to erratic rainfall patterns and prolonged dry spells. Through the establishment of solar-powered micro-irrigation systems, farmers organized in Farmer Field Schools (FFS) across Magoro Subcounty in Katakwi District are now able to produce crops year-round, securing food and incomes for their families.

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African leaders urged to use new CAADP plan to tackle agricultural threats

African leaders and stakeholders in the agriculture sector have been urged to make use of the newly launched Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) strategy and Action Plan 2025-2036 to develop holistic systems that address challenges facing food production on the continent.

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CSOs call for alternative coffee market as EU deadline nears

Civil society organizations in Uganda have urged the government, through the Ministry of Trade and Cooperatives, to identify alternative markets for Uganda's coffee in a bid to reduce over reliance on European markets.

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- ▶ **SACCOs urge government to introduce subsidised agricultural insurance to tackle climate change**

NaSARRI to revamp cotton growing with new varieties

Uganda could soon witness a revitalization of cotton production & export after years of stagnation. This is after the National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI) secured a collaborative research partnership with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development [CIRAD], which has pledged funding for the development of new cotton varieties. These varieties will be distributed to farmers following successful trials.

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UFAAS and NaSARRI Join Forces to Promote Agricultural Technologies

The Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS) has partnered with the National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI) to promote modern agricultural technologies, particularly in Uganda's semi-arid regions.

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Africa's coffee exports rose 36.3 percent in March 2025 - report

Ethiopia and Uganda were the two main drivers of the region's growth in March 2025, with exports rising by 65.8 percent and 72.9 percent, respectively, to 0.63 million bags and 0.57 million bags.

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How Ugandan women are taking control of the coffee business

Meridah Nandudu envisioned a coffee sisterhood in Uganda, and the strategy for expanding it was simple: Pay a higher price per kilogram when a female grower took the beans to a collection point. It worked. More and more men who typically made the deliveries allowed their wives to go instead.

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SACCOs urge government to introduce subsidised agricultural insurance to tackle climate change

Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations [SACCOs] in western Uganda have appealed to the government to introduce affordable agricultural insurance and climate finance support to help smallholder farmers mitigate the devastating effects of climate change.

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Uganda aims to register 2.8 million coffee farmers ahead of EUDR deadline

Uganda has revised its target to register 2.8 million coffee farmers, more than double its initial projection, as it intensifies efforts to comply with the European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EUDR), which comes into effect on 1 January 2026.

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Experts push for increased solar funding to power agricultural growth

A cross section of experts in the environment, energy and agriculture sectors have called on the government to increase funding for solar technology to make it more accessible and affordable for farmers, especially smallholders who dominated Uganda's agricultural sector.

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Government investigates 14 banned pesticides

The Ministry of Agriculture has said it will soon present a report on its ongoing investigation into 14 pesticides that the European Union (EU) has listed for withdrawal.

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Contact Information

Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA)

P.O Box 21556, Kampala - Uganda

Tel: +256 414670400 / 772463220

Email: info@acsa-ug.org

Website: www.acsa-ug.org