

AGRARIAN

POLICY ISSUE TRACKER



AUGUST, 2025

Issue No. 29, 2025

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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 July, 2025. Additionally, it also tracks the current status of agrarian and related bills in the Ugandan parliament within the same period.

Stories Inside

- ▶ More Changes to the EUDR Considered Likely Before Implementation
- ▶ Scientists say warming climate is putting bees at risk

International

European Parliament pushes for repeal of deforestation law

Debate is still alive in the European Union [EU] about the incoming ban on goods linked to deforestation, with the European Parliament pushing for a repeal of the system which is set to come into place at the end of this year.

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Traders rush to import Brazilian coffee ahead of Trump's 50 percent tariff

Commodities traders are scrambling to bring Brazilian coffee into the United States before a new 50 percent tariff on Brazilian goods, announced by the Trump administration, takes effect on 1 August 2025.

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Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory begins to take concrete shape to protect life below ground

Expanding efforts to measure, monitor and protect soil biodiversity around the world will intensify further with the establishment of the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory, to be led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and serving as a global reference for scientific collaboration and policy design.

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Scientists say warming climate is putting bees at risk

It's an important question because the bees are critical to the fruit, vegetables, nuts and other foods that humans need. Generally, most bees are heat-tolerant, but as the climate warms, some experts think their ability to fend off disease and gather food might become harder.

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More Changes to the EUDR Considered Likely Before Implementation

The European Commission is planning a call for evidence on an environmental omnibus proposal, which is expected to result in an environmental omnibus simplification package in the fall.

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- ▶ What do we know about the future of food systems?
- ▶ Brazil Launches National Pesticide Reduction Program (Pronara) to Promote Sustainable Farming



Brazil Launches National Pesticide Reduction Program (Pronara) to Promote Sustainable Farming

Pronara aims to significantly reduce the use of chemical pesticides while promoting the sustainable cultivation of healthy food through family farming.

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What do we know about the future of food systems?

We ask a lot of our food systems. We want them to feed and nourish a growing global population, support farmers' livelihoods, adapt to climate change, preserve the environment, and make our food affordable. Is all of that possible, and if not, why?

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Low-income countries hit hardest by global food price inflation

The sustained increase in global food prices has had a profound impact on food security and nutrition, particularly in low-income countries where households spend a larger share of their income on food.

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U.S. Tariffs on India: Agricultural and Processed Food Exports Worth Over \$5.8 Billion at Risk.

The recent announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump imposing a 25% tariff on Indian goods starting August 1 is expected to significantly impact India's agricultural and processed food exports.

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Continental

Empowering youth in agriculture could boost global economy, FAO report says

A new UN report says young people across the globe could be critical agents of change for the future of food security, economic growth, and climate resilience. But coordinated global action is needed to unlock their potential.

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ADF supports climate-resilient rice value chains across West Africa

Funded through ADF's Climate Action Window, the project will support rice producers and processors in 13 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

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Benin: AfDB approves over US\$ 30mIn to protect farmers from climate shocks and food insecurity.

This initiative will protect 150,000 smallholder farmers against climate shocks in a country where agriculture employs seven out of ten people but remains at the mercy of an increasingly unpredictable climate.

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Hunger declines globally, but rises in Africa and western Asia: UN report

An estimated 8.2 percent of the global population, or about 673 million people, experienced hunger in 2024, down from 8.5 percent in 2023 and 8.7 percent in 2022. However, progress was not consistent across the globe, as hunger continued to rise in most subregions of Africa and western Asia.

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World Cassava Day 2025: Propelling Nigeria and Africa towards agricultural transformation.

In Nigeria and across Africa, cassava is more than just a staple crop, it is a powerhouse of potential, silently yet profoundly driving food security, alleviating poverty, fostering sustainable livelihoods, and fueling an emerging entrepreneurial and industrial revolution.

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Morocco's oases struggle to survive amid growing desertification

Farmers who have long relied on the oasis are scrambling to find new ways to access water and protect their crops from the relentless heat.

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In Burkina Faso, cashew cultivation is a lever for sustainable and inclusive rural development

The project combined poverty reduction, ecological transition and the empowerment of women and young people, achieving a remarkable implementation rate of 95 percent.

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FAO at UNFSS+4: Time to accelerate the agrifood systems transformation

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, called for bold action, scaled-up investment, and stronger partnerships to accelerate global agrifood systems transformation.

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Unlocking aquaculture's potential: Northern Ghana stakeholders co-design sustainable fish farming models.

With marine fish stocks declining and rural livelihoods under strain, small reservoirs in northern Ghana are emerging as promising alternatives for aquaculture-based food and income security.

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- ▶ Cocoa is under pressure while East African economy is on the rise
- ▶ Radio and mobile voices cultivate climate-smart farming changes in Ethiopia

Togo Taps Regional Hub in promoting soil health and boosting farm productivity

A regional initiative is helping smallholder farmers in Togo farm fertile ground again. The Regional Hub in West Africa and the Sahel is driving a fresh initiative to improve fertility and soil health by promoting efficient fertilizer use in Togo.

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Radio and mobile voices cultivate climate-smart farming changes in Ethiopia.

As climate change intensifies, Ethiopia's vital livestock sector, a cornerstone of livelihoods for millions, faces escalating pressure.

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East Africa

COMESA Launches Regional Seed Certification and Labelling System

COMESA, through its Specialized Agency, the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa [ACTESA], recently launched the Regional Seed Certification and Labelling System in its efforts to combat counterfeit seed, improve access to quality and boost regional agricultural trade.

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Farmers urged to embrace dairy farming to enhance food security

Farmers in Kenya's Kericho County have been encouraged to embrace dairy farming as a sustainable means of increasing milk production, boosting household incomes, and strengthening food security in the region.

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Cocoa is under pressure while East African economy is on the rise {Business Africa}

West Africa produces nearly 70% of the world's cocoa, yet smallholder farmers in countries like Nigeria, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire continue to face chronic underpayment, volatile markets, and limited access to financing.

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▶ Uganda's annual coffee exports earn Shs 8 trillion

▶ MAAIF launches nationwide crackdown on fake agricultural inputs

National

Government moves to update climate action plan amid rising environmental threats

Uganda has launched a process to update its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, as part of an intensified government strategy to tackle climate change impacts driven by human activity and natural causes.

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Uganda loses Shs 3.8trn annually to ticks – NARO

The National Agricultural Research Organization [NARO] has revealed that Uganda loses approximately Shs 3.8 trillion each year due to the treatment of livestock affected by ticks. In response to the escalating impact, NARO officials announced the development of a new anti-tick vaccine, which is set to be rolled out to livestock farmers across the country in the coming weeks.

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IFAD and GCF partner in US\$ 358mln climate programme for East Africa's dairy sector.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development [IFAD] and the Green Climate Fund [GCF] signed an agreement for a US\$150 million contribution from GCF to the US\$ 358 million Dairy Interventions for Mitigation and Adaptation [DaIMA] program in East Africa, reaching 2.5 million rural people in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.

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Uganda's annual coffee exports earn Shs 8 trillion

In June 2025 alone, Uganda exported 1,014,062 bags of coffee, generating US\$ 289.60 million. This reflects an increase of 51.90 percent in quantity and 78.09 percent in value compared to the same month last year," says MAAIF.

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MAAIF launches nationwide crackdown on fake agricultural inputs

The crackdown follows a surge in the circulation of substandard seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other farm inputs, which have caused significant losses to farmers.

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► **Bunyoro and Tooro sugarcane farmers unite to boost bargaining power**

► **Experts in Teso advise farmers on fighting Fall Armyworms**

Masindi farmers equipped with skills in coffee and cocoa value chains

Over 100 farmers in Masindi district have been equipped with essential knowledge and skills in the coffee and cocoa value chains, aimed at helping them reap greater benefits from their farming efforts.

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Experts in Teso advise farmers on fighting Fall Armyworms

Agricultural experts in the Teso sub-region are urging farmers to adopt best practices for managing the Fall Armyworms [FAW], a destructive pest that commonly affects crops such as maize, sorghum, and rice, particularly during the dry season.

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Bunyoro and Tooro sugarcane farmers unite to boost bargaining power

Sugarcane farmers from the Bunyoro and Tooro subregions have formed a joint body, the Bunyoro Tooro Sugarcane Farmers Association [BUTOS], in a move aimed at strengthening their bargaining power with sugar manufacturers.

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