

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

Stories Inside

▶ **FAO urges bold and urgent action to safeguard plant health**

▶ **Key actors in Ecuador's cocoa value chain receive training on traceability and EUDR**

International

FAO urges bold and urgent action to safeguard plant health as global body convenes in Rome

At Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-19) in Rome, the FAO called for innovation and digital solutions to strengthen phytosanitary measures, safeguard global trade, and address plant pests and diseases. The focus is on protecting human, animal, and environmental health.

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Euro Coop Joins Call to Stop Deregulation of New GMOs

Euro Coop, Greenpeace, and others urge European policymakers to protect small and medium-sized breeders, farmers, and the organic sector from deregulation of new GMOs.

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FAO warns of the spreading H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza

FAO highlights urgent need for better biosecurity, monitoring, and rapid response as H5N1 spreads, impacting hundreds of millions of poultry, with spillovers into mammals. This has significant implications for food security, nutrition, and poultry market stability.

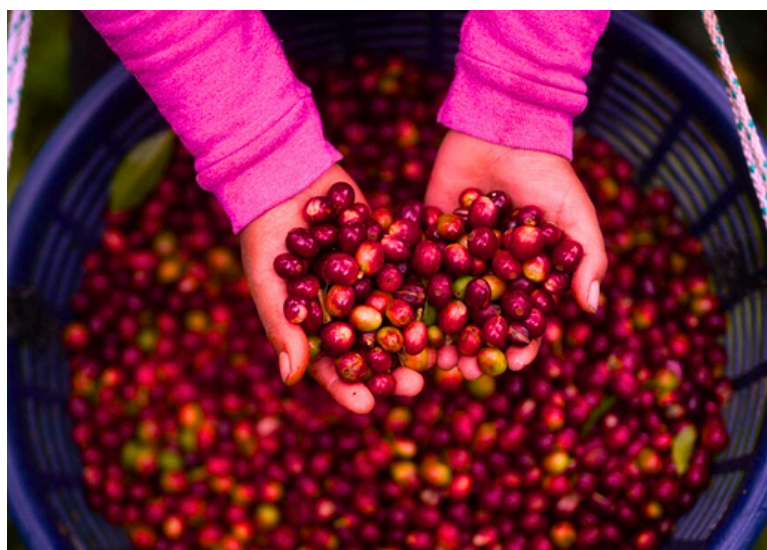
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Adverse climatic conditions drive coffee prices to highest level in years

FAO reports global coffee prices rose by 38.8% in 2024 due to supply disruptions caused by poor weather in major producing countries. Arabica prices rose by 58%, and Robusta surged by 70%, causing significant market shifts.

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FAO welcomes UN Biodiversity COP16.2, highlights agrifood systems as key to achieving global biodiversity goals

FAO calls for action to transform agrifood systems to support global biodiversity goals and highlights the importance of agrifood systems in National Biodiversity strategies and Action Plans.

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Continental

South Africa's People's Tribunal exposes agrochemical industry

Farm workers and community members testify at the People's Tribunal on Agro Toxins, accusing the South African government and agribusiness of failing to protect vulnerable communities from highly hazardous pesticides like Terbufos, linked to child fatalities in 2024.

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WAGA introduces blockchain to Ethiopia's coffee trade

Ethiopian startup WAGA will pilot a blockchain-powered platform for the coffee supply chain by mid-2025 to improve transparency, reduce intermediaries, and financially empower farmers. Initially considered Uganda but shifted to Ethiopia due to its coffee sector potential.

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Africa coffee exports jump 7.1% in January 2025

African coffee exports grow by 7.1%, led by Ivory Coast and Uganda, marking the fourteenth consecutive month of growth. The latest report from the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) reveals that, in January 2025, exports of all forms of coffee from Africa increased by 7.1 percent, rising to 1.1 million bags from 1.03 million bags in January 2024.

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National

MPs urge government to review co-funding for major irrigation programme

MPs on the Budget Committee describe the 25% co-funding requirement for the Micro-Scale Irrigation Programme as unrealistic and unaffordable for the majority of farmers. The programme, designed to mitigate the impacts of climate change, particularly drought, stipulates that farmers must contribute 25 percent of the total cost to access irrigation systems or equipment, while the government covers the remaining 75 percent, with a maximum contribution of Shs 7.2 million per acre.

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Deforestation law: Tayebwa pledges to push for lifting of restrictions on export of crops to EU

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Thomas Tayebwa will begin his duty as President of the Organisation of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States Joint Parliamentary Assembly (OACPS) with mediations aimed at lifting restriction of export of specific crops to the European Union (EU) market.

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Campaign against malnutrition launched in Adjumani

Nutrition champions, including refugees and host community members, launched a campaign to fight malnutrition and improve water and sanitation in Adjumani, where malnutrition in refugee settlements stands at 7.1%. Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office through Action Against Hunger.

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