

AGRARIAN

POLICY ISSUE TRACKER



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ABOUT ACSA

The Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) is a legally registered national network of Civil Society Organisations working with smallholder farmers to advance sustainable agriculture, agricultural market development, environmental conservation, research, and policy advocacy. ACSA now has 30 member organisations operating across 52 districts in Uganda. Its mission is to empower Civil Society Organisations, including church and non-church actors, to advocate for a favourable agrarian policy environment for sustainable communities, and its Vision is smallholder farmers living in a sustainable environment. ACSA advances this mandate through advocacy and lobbying, research and documentation, capacity building for member organisations and the Secretariat, and networking and partnership building, to ensure that relevant agricultural policies and services are effectively implemented to foster profitable and sustainable smallholder enterprises.

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

Stories Inside

- ▶ Four key pathways to transform agrifood systems and promote global food security
- ▶ Uganda unveils 10 coffee profiles

International

EU endorses another one-year delay for EUDR implementation

The European Union has voted to postpone implementing a key anti-deforestation law commonly known as the European Union Deforestation Regulation [EUDR] for the second year in a row, citing technical concerns. Critics of the move warn that a delay and other proposed changes will further weaken the law.

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FAO Food Price Index declines in November for third consecutive month

World food commodity prices declined in November, led by lower international quotations for all major staple foods except cereals, according to the benchmark measure released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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Improved bean varieties are taking off – but yields aren't. Why?

Improved bean varieties can increase production, withstand the vagaries of climate change, improve nutrition, and keep pests at bay. Also called modern varieties, or MVs, these beans can keep farmers in business and people well-fed. But a new study shows that despite significant uptake of MVs in four countries, increased production was only found in one.

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- ▶ Expocacer launches coffee platform linking producers and buyers worldwide

Four key pathways to transform agrifood systems and promote global food security

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, urged FAO Members to focus on four key transformational pathways to tackle the pressing challenges affecting global food security and agrifood systems as he addressed the 179th Session of the FAO Council.

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The Quiet Shift at COP30 That Will Shape COP31

COP30 in Belém marked a turning point for how food and land systems are positioned within global climate action. Brazil's COP Presidency placed food systems transformation at the heart of its Presidential Action Agenda.

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What really drives food policy decisions? A new blog series on practical political economy

Globally, 2025 marked a year with some important achievements and notable setbacks in efforts to achieve healthier, sustainable food systems. In one key advance, over 40 governments committed to expanding national school meal programs to improve children's health and nutrition.

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Expocacer launches coffee platform linking producers and buyers worldwide

Expocacer, one of Brazil's leading coffee cooperatives, recently launched Coffee Chain, a groundbreaking digital platform designed to transform how coffee is marketed and sold by producers worldwide. The platform, developed in partnership with Artificial Intelligence Data Digital Asset [AIDDA], integrates blockchain and artificial intelligence to ensure full traceability, transparency, and agility throughout the coffee supply chain, from the farm to the final buyer.

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Continental

Solar-powered irrigation: A pathway to low-carbon farming in sub-Saharan Africa

Introduced at scale, irrigation could double or triple agricultural production on existing agricultural areas and reduce climate-related production risk. Thus, it could support more production of all crops—and in particular riskier, high-value crops such as vegetables and fruits essential to food system transformation and better nutrition.

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Benin: African Development Bank to invest €102m to boost poultry meat production

The programme aims to sustainably increase national poultry meat production in line with required standards by integrating maize, soybean and poultry value chains. Success will strengthen food sovereignty and security in Benin, create jobs and promote inclusive economic development.

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Mainstreaming on-farm verification in CGIAR breeding

CGIAR and national partners have worked together for decades to ensure that new crop varieties are not only high yielding but also relevant to farmers. However, over 80% of the world's 570 million farms are smallholdings of less than two hectares. This means that new varieties must perform well across highly heterogeneous environments – characterized by diverse soils, climatic conditions, farming practices and resources constraints – that are difficult to replicate on research stations.

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- ▶ AI adoption in East Africa agriculture hinges on trust, not just tech

East Africa

EAC Partner States urged to support youth agripreneurs through affordable financing and policy reforms

The East African Community [EAC] Partner States have been called upon to work closely with financial institutions to design affordable, and flexible loan products tailored specifically for young agripreneurs.

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AI adoption in East Africa agriculture hinges on trust, not just tech

The transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in agriculture, particularly for East Africa smallholder farmers, will be unlocked not by sophisticated technology alone, but by trust, ethical data sharing and farmer centric design, according to a high level roundtable held in Nairobi.

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Sugar cane farmers in Kenya set to benefit from Chinese seed variety

A Chinese investor in Kenya is on a mission to improve sugarcane production and offer Kenyan farmers better incomes for their produce.

The investor, Jack Liu, who is working with a team of researchers through a Kenyan-based firm Crevation International Limited is currently developing two new tissue culture sugarcane seed varieties, focusing on early maturation, drought and disease resistance as well as high sugar content to boost farmer income and mitigate climate change effects on agriculture.

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Nakuru steps up fight against destructive potato diseases

The initiative targets Blackleg (*Pectobacterium* spp.) and Soft Rot (*Dickeya* spp.), two bacterial diseases that continue to pose a major threat to Kenya's potato subsector and are estimated to endanger the livelihoods of nearly one million smallholder farmers countrywide.

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- ▶ **Loss of crop diversity threatens Africa's food sovereignty - FAO**

National

Uganda moves to reform agricultural extension as stakeholders decry fragmentation

The dialogue focused on policy reform, financing, coordination of extension actors and the growing role of digital and AI driven solutions in delivering extension services aligned to agro industrialization, climate resilience and the Parish Development Model.

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Loss of crop diversity threatens Africa's food sovereignty - FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations [FAO] has sounded the alarm over the rapid loss of Africa's crop diversity. Yurdi Yasmi, Director of Plant Production and Protection at the FAO, warns that the continent is losing the genetic bedrock of its food security, describing the situation as a "silent crisis".

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Fairtrade International to overhaul its standards by 2028 to serve farmers better

Fairtrade International is initiating a comprehensive update of its standards, aimed at better supporting farmers, workers, and businesses in addressing critical social, environmental, and economic challenges.

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Uganda unveils 10 coffee profiles

Uganda has unveiled its first national regional coffee flavor profiles, a move expected to reshape how the country presents its coffee to global buyers.

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Building water infrastructure: Banks urged to offer affordable loans to dairy cooperatives

Officials from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and Heifer International have called on commercial banks and other financial institutions in Uganda to provide dairy cooperatives with affordable loans to enable them to invest in water infrastructure.

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Bunyoro cane farmers lift supply ban on local sugar company

Sugarcane farmers in Hoima and Kikuube districts in Bunyoro Subregion have lifted their ban on supplying cane to Hoima Sugar Limited. The suspension had been imposed in protest against the company's continued 5% deductions on the value of cane deliveries.

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- ▶ Uganda's coffee exports fetch Shs 8.2 trillion in 12 months

Politics: Gov't sets Shs 125,000 minimum cane price to protect Busoga farmers

Government has intervened in the sugarcane sector, directing millers to pay a minimum of Shs125,000 per tonne following complaints from out-growers over persistently low prices offered by millers operating in Busoga Subregion.

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Uganda, Ethiopia drove Africa's coffee exports in October - ICO report

The Coffee Market Report November 2025, accessed by this reporter, says Africa closed coffee year 2024/25 having shipped 19.69mln bags, the third-largest volume on record, behind the 20.38mln bags and 20.01mln bags exported in coffee years 1973/74 and 1975/76, respectively.

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Serere women reap big from block farming

In Serere district, women who have embraced block farming and the approach has transformed their wellbeing, with many saying they now have money in their pockets.

According to agricultural economists, block farming is a collective agricultural model where smallholder farmers cultivate individual plots within one larger area to achieve economies of scale.

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Onion and garlic farmers urged to embrace value addition to boost profitability

Smallholder farmers in Uganda have been urged to adopt value addition across their agricultural value chains by transforming raw produce such as onions and garlic into processed products. The move is aimed at boosting profitability, reducing post-harvest losses and improving competitiveness in both local and export markets.

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Uganda's coffee exports fetch Shs 8.2 trillion in 12 months

Uganda has recorded one of its strongest coffee export performances in recent years, with shipments over the twelve months from November 2024 to October 2025 reaching 8.4 million bags worth US\$ 2.4 billion [Shs 8.2 trillion]. This marks a significant rise from the 5.8mln bags valued at US\$ 1.3bln [Shs 4.88trn] registered in the previous year.

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Acholi farmers count losses as dry season arrives early

The early arrival of the dry season has left many farmers across the Acholi Subregion counting heavy losses, as acres of maize, groundnuts and beans, wither in their gardens. Typically, second-season rains last until early December. This year, however, the rains disappeared by mid-November, leaving farmers unprepared and their crops exposed.

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