

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 March, 2026. Additionally, it also tracks the current status of agrarian and related bills in the Ugandan parliament within the same period.

Stories Inside

- ▶ Feed cost surge from Iran war deepens pain for China's pig farmers
- ▶ How sugarcane waste is driving clean energy shift

International

Instant coffee likely to be added to EU deforestation rules

Reports indicate that the European Commission is considering amending the regulation to include instant coffee, given its sizeable global market share and the potential risk of deforestation linked to its supply chain.

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War in Iran threatens fresh food-price shock across developing world

Disrupted fertilizer shipments and soaring energy prices from the war in Iran are threatening to unleash a fresh food-price surge across vulnerable nations, risking a years-long setback just as many were recovering from successive global shocks.

Developing countries were strengthening - and attracting investment - after the global pandemic and the Ukraine war sent food, fuel and financial markets into turmoil. Now the Iran conflict threatens to unravel those gains and leave households struggling to feed families.

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Feed cost surge from Iran war deepens pain for China's pig farmers

Rising grain prices fuelled by the Iran war are lifting animal feed costs in China, the world's biggest pig market, piling pressure on producers already hit by weak demand and hog prices at 16-year lows. Since the start of the war on February 28, futures for soymeal and corn - two key feed ingredients - have climbed to multi-month highs on the Dalian exchange, driven in part by the oil price rally, higher freight rates and rising fertilizer costs, two analysts said.

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Complying with EUDR: Brazil launches digital tool to map coffee production areas

Brazil's National Supply Company [CONAB] has introduced the Plataforma Parque Cafeeiro (Coffee Park Platform), a digital solution aimed at ensuring supply chain traceability and certifying that Brazilian coffee is produced in a deforestation-free manner.

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Global avocado demand rises

The global avocado market has expanded significantly over the past decade and could accelerate further by 2030. Consumption is now well established in high income markets such as the European Union (EU), supported by its nutritional benefits and culinary versatility.

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- ▶ World food prices rebound in February, United Nations' FAO says

Cattle disease spreads in Russia amid scepticism over diagnosis

Cattle diseases officially identified as pasteurellosis or rabies have spread across Russia, affecting at least 10 regions as of Wednesday, but some farmers and scientists are questioning the diagnosis and the sweeping culls ordered by authorities.

Officials on Wednesday imposed a cattle quarantine in part of the Chuvashia region in the Volga, more than 2,500 km (1,500 miles) west of Siberia's Novosibirsk region, where a state of emergency has been declared.

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World food prices rebound in February, United Nations' FAO says

World food prices rose in February after falling for five straight months, as higher cereal, meat and most vegetable oil prices outweighed declines in cheese and sugar, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization said on Friday. The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in a basket of internationally traded food commodities, averaged 125.3 points in February, up from a revised 124.2 in January.

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Continental

Cameroon's cocoa prices down by as much as 75%

Demand is also weakened. High cocoa prices in 2024 is said to have prompted chocolate manufacturers to reduce bar sizes, increase the proportion of non-cocoa ingredients such as wafers and nuts, and substitute cocoa butter with alternatives fats. Global grinding volumes fell by roughly 5% as a result, shrinking the market for raw beans.

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South Africa still battling FMD in cattle, mass vaccination campaign launched

The outbreak, which started intensifying late last year and has rapidly spread across the country's livestock industry, has already affected more than 297,000 cattle and resulted in over 120,000 animals being culled as farmers try to contain the spread. The outbreak threatens mass shortages of meat, job losses and millions of dollars in lost revenue as countries including China and Zambia ban South African meat exports.

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Cocoa beans rot in Ivory Coast after commodity crash

A sharp fall in cocoa prices over the past year has left beans rotting in some West African warehouses, while global chocolate makers scramble for supplies and consumers seek their fix. Ivory Coast, the world's leading cocoa producer, had to purchase an excess supply of cocoa beans from farmers in January and this week slashed the price by more than half for 2026. Agricultural workers unions in west Africa say some authorities were not prepared for a crash of this scale.

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- ▶ Ethiopia's successful wheat irrigation scheme model for other African Nations, says expert at WFP
- ▶ Cameroon targets 25 tons per hectare of locally produced cassava

New irrigation financing aims to improve food security

The government of Rwanda is launching a revamped irrigation equipment loan scheme aimed at helping smallholder farmers expand irrigated land, boost crop yields and strengthen food security across the country. Under NST2 (2024-2029), the country plans to increase irrigated land from 71,549 hectares in 2024 to 132,171 hectares by 2029, a move expected to improve food security, enhance agricultural productivity and protect farmers from climate related shocks such as prolonged dry spells.

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Kenya launches electronic warehouse receipt system to cut post-harvest losses and unlock finance for smallholder farmers

Kenya has officially launched the Electronic Warehouse Receipt System Central Registry [eWRS-CR], a landmark digital platform designed to modernize agricultural commodity trade, reduce post-harvest losses, and expand access to structured markets and financing for farmers and agribusinesses across the country.

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- ▶ Over 100 Veterinary Officers Trained on Reducing Antibiotic Overuse in Livestock
- ▶ Mystery disease threatens Uganda's banana heartland

East Africa syncs policy to modernize agrifood systems

The East Africa Regional Innovation Workshop, backed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), marked a decisive move towards harmonizing technological initiatives in a sector that employs over 70 percent of the sub region's population. As climate variability and low productivity continue to squeeze national economies, the shift from subsistence traditionalism to data driven precision is being positioned as an urgent economic necessity.

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Food security concerns mount as Iran war hurts fertilizer trade

Farmers in Port Sudan, a port city on the Red Sea coast in eastern Sudan, are facing mounting uncertainty. With fertilizer prices rising and supplies tightening, many may be forced to cut back on planting. That could mean smaller harvests in the months ahead, and greater pressure on already fragile food systems.

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National

Government Introduces Cost-Sharing Policy for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccination

The government has introduced a new cost sharing policy requiring farmers to contribute financially to the vaccination of livestock against foot and mouth disease, a move aimed at strengthening long term disease control efforts.

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How sugarcane waste is driving clean energy shift

For decades, sugarcane has been synonymous with sweeteners on dining tables and raw material for the food and beverage industries. But across Uganda's sugar belt, the crop is quietly powering a different kind of transformation- turning waste into electricity that lights homes and drives industrial growth.

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Mystery disease threatens Uganda's banana heartland

Banana farmers in Rwampara District are confronting a troubling and as yet unidentified disease that is damaging plantations and casting a shadow over harvests in one of the Ankole sub region's most productive matooke growing areas.

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Over 100 Veterinary Officers Trained on Reducing Antibiotic Overuse in Livestock

More than 100 veterinary officers in Uganda have completed a six-month training program to improve livestock management practices and reduce excessive use of antibiotics, equipping them to guide farmers on safer and more sustainable animal health strategies.

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Sugar sector faces test as CN Sugar Factory awaits licensing decision

Uganda's sugar sector faces a fresh test as regulators prepare to decide whether to grant an opening license to CN sugar factory, a move that has sharply divided farmers and established millers in the Busoga sub region. The Uganda sugar industry stakeholders' council, the statutory body mandated to regulate the sector and approve new investments, is expected to announce its decision after reviewing a verification report on the proposed factory in Namayingo District.

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- ▶ Farmers to benefit from instant financing in AMAC-TGCU partnership

- ▶ Northern Uganda farmers urged to embrace research-driven technologies



Farmers to benefit from instant financing in AMAC-TGCU partnership

A groundbreaking partnership between Africa Mega Agri Corp PLC (AMAC) and The Grain Council Union of Uganda is set to transform Uganda's agricultural sector by eliminating distress selling and unlocking instant financing for farmers.

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Northern Uganda farmers urged to embrace research-driven technologies

Farmers in Northern Uganda have been urged to embrace research-driven agricultural technologies as a pathway to increased productivity and household incomes.

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