



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,  
ANIMAL INDUSTRY &  
FISHERIES



## 6<sup>TH</sup> JOINT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ANNUAL REVIEW

*'Enhancing Agricultural Productivity for Job Creation'*

### COMMUNIQUE OF THE SIDE EVENT ON DEEPENING GENDER INVOLVEMENT IN VALUE CHAINS AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

#### Presenter Group Data

Members: Oxfam in Uganda; Uganda Youth Network; Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF); Youth, Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship (YADEN); CEFORD; Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM); Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFOR); Members of Parliament, Selected CSOs.

*Session Chair:* Joseph Ssuuna, ED, CDRN

*Secretary:* Harriet Mbabazi, Oxfam in Uganda

#### Introduction

Oxfam in Uganda and her partners have been promoting two interventions; the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS), a household Methodology aimed at balancing gender issues to bring about gender justice and women empowerment, and 'Cool Farming', a youth focused agribusiness livelihood concept that makes farming accessible, gainful and attractive to young people.

This side event set out to enhance debate, deepen understanding of women and youth involvement in the agricultural sector, collectively share challenges and suggest strategies to counter mentioned challenges. Most importantly, this session illustrated how the GALS methodology has helped women and youth increase their agricultural production and employment. It was also aimed at engaging government partners for policy reforms and investments in the agricultural sector, focusing on women and youth.

#### Key Policy Issues

- Unpaid care work; many, including Government do not seem to appreciate the contribution of women in care giving and feeding the family.
- Unfavourable market conditions; these favour men and leave women out, yet women produce much of the food produced and consumed.
- Limited control over resources like land for women is still a challenge; women cultivate about 80 percent of the land and yet own about only one percent of it. They have no security for even the few plots they own.
- Access to financial resources; the Youth livelihood Programmes and Operation Wealth Creation may exist but sensitisation on availability and access is still low.
- Poor infrastructure; transportation and logistics to assist women get their products to markets in time poses a challenge.





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- Access to new farming technology and to government programmes for women and youth is still a challenge; Government programmes seem to target men more than women and youth and as a result women and youth lack confidence and knowledge to use his technology.
- Climate change is still an issue; the recent climate Change Fund benefits were not felt and many women and youth still grapple with resultant challenges

### Key Recommendations

- MAAIF together with other related government MDAs should integrate GALS as one of the strategies to empower vulnerable communities to address gender and other related social injustices at community.
- Enhance inter – sectoral coordination between MAAIF and MGLSD to ensure that some of the allocation to the Women Fund benefits women small holder farmers who compromise majority of the farming community.
- There should be allocation of funds towards gender mainstreaming activities and this should be clearly articulated within the sector and be a stand-alone budget.
- MAAIF should promote public awareness on agriculture as a business so as to promote women and youth in businesses along the agricultural value chains
- The GALS approach should be incorporated in the current agricultural extension reforms
- The GALS approach should be used to guide operations and standard operating procedures of the Operation Wealth Creation, the Youth Livelihood Fund, and the Women Entrepreneurship programme. It could help to streamline targeting and generation of gender and youth segregation data of beneficiaries and to assess the impact of these interventions.
- Since GALS is a multi-faceted approach, we see it as having potential or reducing GBV in the agricultural sectors and recommend its use to streamline the roles of women, youth and other actors in the value chain.
- MAAIF should develop and fast track a Youth in Agriculture Policy and Strategy and support grass roots women and youth entrepreneurs for agri-business.
- Government should promote demand driven agricultural services and promote the removal of structural imbalances.
- MAAIF should put in place agricultural and vocational training centres for rural women and youth.
- Government should promote climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies.

