



**Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers' Forum
ESAFF - UGANDA**



"Making Voices of Small Scale Farmers be Heard"



BACKGROUND OF ESAFF

The formation of ESAFF in 2002 was a direct response to the need to create a forum where Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) are able to facilitate processes through which farmers' development concerns. The forum was established to bring together small scale farmers into a social movement to build common aspirations, learning and linkages.

ESAFF Uganda is a small scale farmer (SSF) initiated and farmer-led advocacy movement which works to enhance the SSFs ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes at local, national, regional and global levels. ESAFF Uganda is a member of La Via Campesina (LVC) the largest peasant movement in the world.

Our Vision: Empowered self-reliant small scale farmers.

Our Mission: To nurture the participation of small scale farmers in sustainable development processes, for self-reliance through advocacy, capacity building and institutional development.

Our Values:

ESAFF Uganda stands on five values:

1. **Integrity:** ESAFF Uganda stands for truthfulness.
2. **Mutual trust:** The forum recognizes every person's worth.
3. **Transparency:** ESAFF Uganda believes in clarity and accountability.
4. **Respect:** ESAFF Uganda holds everyone in high esteem regardless of who they are.
5. **Equity:** The forum stands for fairness, impartiality and justice.



ESAFF COUNTRIES

ESAFF Uganda is part of a larger movement of small scale farmers in other countries including Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Seychelles and Mozambique

DISTRICTS WITH MEMBERSHIP

ESAFF Uganda is a membership organization with members in 30 districts including Soroti, Serere, Amuria, Ngora, Bukedea, Kumi, Kabale, Kisoro, Masaka, Mubende, Mityana, Mukono, Nebbi, Zombo, Kamuli, Jinja, Mbale, Mayuge, Bugiri, Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya, Pader, Adjumani, Manafwa, Iganga, Arua, Apac, Kasese and Kanungu.

Strategic Goal

Our goal is to build a strong small scale farmer led movement actively contributing to improved incomes, environmental sustainability and favourable policies.

ESAFF UGANDA STRUCTURE

The ultimate governing body of ESAFF Uganda is the Annual General Assembly. The Annual General Assembly elects the National Board of 9 members which works with the secretariat to implement programmes approved by the General Assembly. At the district level, there are district farmer forums that are governed by the district executive committees. The district farmer forums are made up of farmer groups all with various specializations.



MODE OF OPERATION

Capacity building

It is important to have the right information and the capacity to relay it to the right forum. Therefore ESAFF Uganda develops capacities of her members to achieve the strategic goal of the organization.

Advocacy

ESAFF Uganda increases the meaningful participation of small scale farmers in policy formulation and implementation at local, national, regional and global levels by availing information on policies and processes, policy analysis and research hence ensuring that policies are coherent and address the typical issues that affect small scale farmers.

Building networks

ESAFF Uganda believes that working with/through networks to influence policy creates more impact. ESAFF Uganda has built networks with likeminded organizations to influence policies jointly. ESAFF Uganda is a member of many networks, alliances, forums and coalitions of organizations pushing for small scale farmers' views at national, regional and global levels.

STRATEGIC COMPONENTS

Research and policy engagement

Since there is a need to strengthen small scale farmers engagement in policy processes, ESAFF Uganda creates regular fora and platforms for small scale farmers to influence policies and processes that directly impact on their livelihood. ESAFF Uganda also engages in fundamental studies that are useful in policy engagement.

Economic sustainability

ESAFF Uganda acknowledges the need for small scale farmers to exploit investment opportunities at all levels that would bring economic development and also influence government policies at all levels to reduce exploitation of small scale farmers and increase incomes for improved livelihood.

Environmental sustainability

Many small scale farmers have lost property including crops, animals, houses as a result of climate change related disasters and a degraded environment and therefore living undesirable lives. ESAFF Uganda focuses on empowering small scale farmers to protect and preserve the environment.

Institutional development

The strength of ESAFF Uganda depends on the strength of its members from the grass root to the national and the regional level. Institutional development has been a very important aspect in the growth and development of ESAFF Uganda. ESAFF Uganda focuses on mobilization and strengthening of ESAFF membership from grassroots to national levels as well as develop governance and management policies and systems for the smooth running of the organization.

CURRENT INTERVENTIONS

Addressing climate change challenges; ESAFF Uganda addresses climate change effects by building farmers' capacity, availing information on Climate Change and introducing adaptation technologies suited to the small scale farmers to increase their adaptability to the seasonal changes and disastrous effects of Climate Change.

Addressing gender inequalities in the households and value chain; ESAFF Uganda uses the gender action learning system (GALS methodology) a community led methodology which focuses particularly on working with women and men to develop their visions for change, appreciate their strengths and achievements and analyze and address gender inequalities within the family and community as challenges which prevent them from achieving their vision.

Reducing land grabbing, conflicts and ensuring women land rights; ESAFF Uganda uses land rights sensitisations to address land grabbing cases mostly for women who are oppressed as a result of cultural factors. ESAFF Uganda also builds farmers confidence to

participate in active advocacy on land issues, ability to know how to handle issues pertaining to land and land disputes and also proper land uses.

Influencing policy processes; ESAFF Uganda organizes and participates in regular fora and platforms for small scale farmers to influence policies, change in laws and legislations. ESAFF Uganda has been involved in different campaigns including land rights, agriculture budget, seeds, biotechnology and biosafety, climate change, gender equality among others.

Increasing SSFs incomes through practising farming as a business; To achieve economic sustainability ESAFF Uganda strengthens the capacity of farmers in doing farming as a business and also engaging in collective marketing.

Public social accountability; ESAFF Uganda uses the Public Social Accountability Mechanism (PSAM) to hold government accountable. ESAFF Uganda builds the capacity of farmers to take part in budgeting processes, track public expenditures and engage in dialogue with local and national leaders.



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