



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

"Making Voices of Small Scale Farmers be Heard"



**EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS
FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Empowering Women and Girls for Social and Economic Development

Women in Uganda comprise more than 70 percent of the agriculture labor force with a major contribution to national GDP estimated at 22% yet the resultant profits are hardly aggregated and accountable for their wellbeing. Women despite providing the largest labor force in the agriculture sector, are not equal beneficiaries from their production, most of the food produced by women is consumed at home while the remainder is often traded by men who take most of the proceeds. In ESAFF Uganda, women form over 67% of the membership in the different districts hence calling for interventions that address key issues hindering their social and economic development. In all our interventions, we look at women having diversified economic options and greater decision making power in household and community. ESAFF Uganda has played a big role in empowering women in the different membership district.

This report presents a brief about the different programs ESAFF Uganda is implementing to empower women and girls mostly in rural areas for social and economic development;

Positioning women as drivers of their own development using the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS)

In order to improve livelihoods in ways that gives most benefit to women, there is always a need to establish multi stakeholder consensus on the cultural and business imperatives of promoting gender justice and prioritizing the needs and interests of the weakest and most vulnerable parts of the chain. ESAFF Uganda uses the GALS methodology as one of the techniques to bridge the gaps in gender exclusiveness in communities. This community-led empowerment methodology gives women as well as men more control over their lives and catalyze and support a sustainable movement for gender justice. ESAFF Uganda has empowered over 1255 women across 5 districts in Uganda.

Promoting women in Farming as a Business (FaB)

Using the FaB methodology, ESAFF Uganda promotes women small scale farmers in business through providing oriented techniques like building their capacities in business planning and management, market analysis, basic accounting, use of ICT among others to help them attain better and sustainable livelihoods. ESAFF Uganda has so far built the capacities of over 670 women farmers and more women led groups in northern Uganda have started running as a business.

Protecting women and girls land rights

ESAFF Uganda recognizes the ability of women and girls to exercise and protect their rights to access and control of land despite the discriminative cultural norms therefore the organisation builds capacities of women to understand their legal rights and create awareness on land right issues in communities. Through lobby meeting and dialogues, ESAFF Uganda creates platforms for women and girls to engage with local, national and regional leaders on issues related to land rights. Over 60 percent of the women who have ever participated in these engagements understand their land rights and can loudly speak about them, though many women and girls aren't fully enjoying these rights.



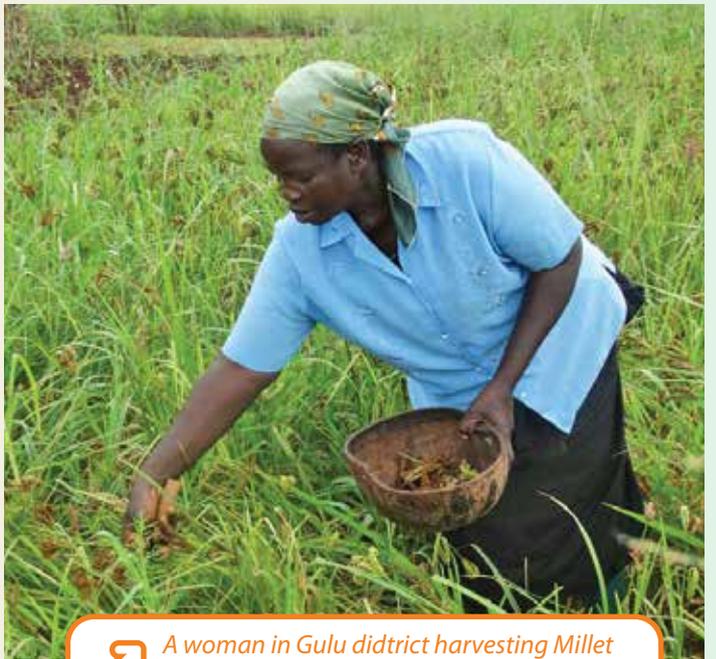
 Training session on women' land rights in Amuria District



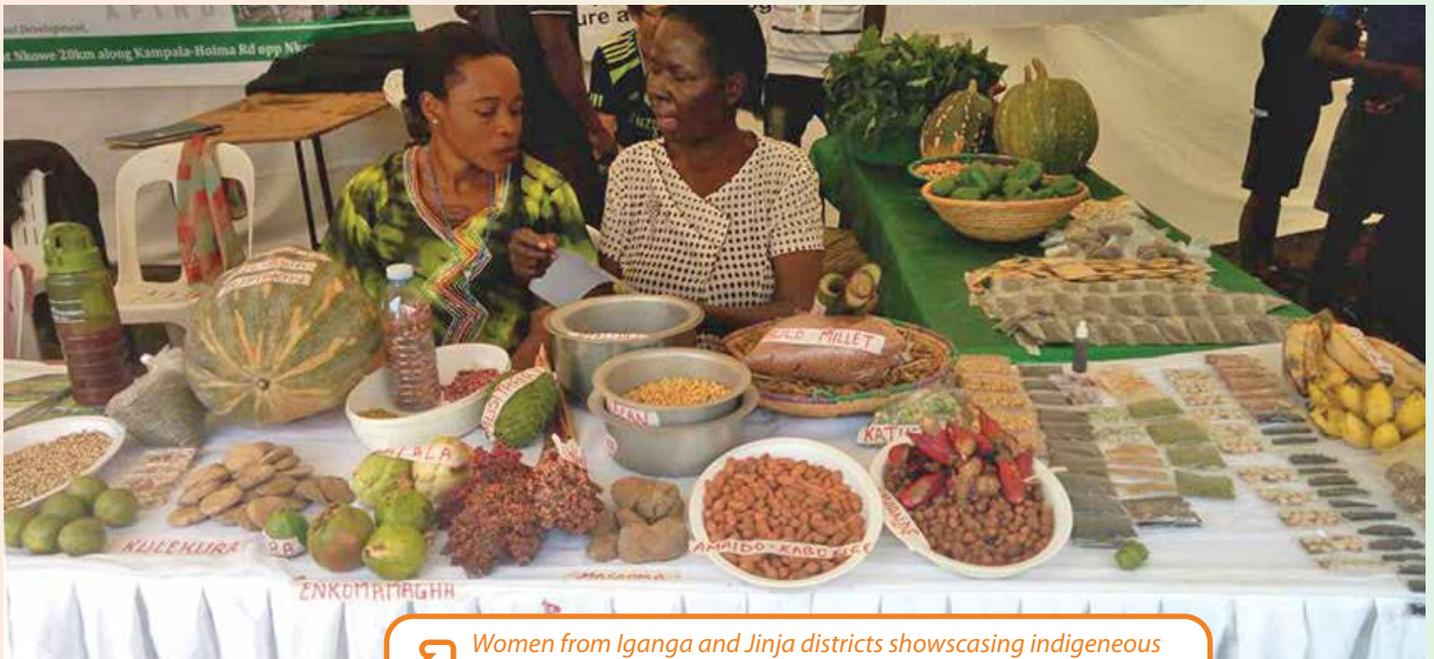
 Women farmers from Kabale district attending a EAC regional budget dialogue in Entebbe, Uganda



 A man in Soroti district helping out wife with kitchen work



 A woman in Gulu didtrict harvesting Millet from her garden



Women from Iganga and Jinja districts showcasing indigenous seeds during National Agriculture Show in Jinja



Farmer to farmer experience sharing among women farmers



A farmer from Kasese district showcasing thier products during the green action week



A woman in Gulu District selling her produce on the road side



A Girl in Soroti district preparing a meal



The challenge action tree used in identifying different challaenges and how to over come them



A vision road journey for Akonye Kena Farmers Group in Gulu District

Improving and protecting women seed security

Accessing good quality seed among farming communities has become a challenge, women in most cases suffer the biggest challenge of poor quality and inadequate seed. ESAFF Uganda ought the need to build capacities of women in multiplying saving and distributing good quality seed as well as generating experiences for strengthening the informal seed sector. Women groups in Gulu district have established seed multiplication gardens and seed banks which they use to multiple and share seed among themselves. This has reduced the financial burden that comes with buying seed from the market and sometimes with uncertainty.

Promoting women participation in national budgeting processes and social accountability

Few women in rural areas knew that they had a right to hold government accountable. Using the PETS/PSAM model, ESAFF Uganda builds the capacity of women in public expenditure tracking and encourages women to take part in budget processes from village to national level. This process has built confidence of women to engage with local leaders and hold them accountable. Women from Jinja, Manafwa, Kabale and Mayuge Districts are tracking public expenditure on services that particularly affect them like agriculture and related services.

Building women's resilience to climate change

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges women small scale farmers face since it affects agricultural production therefore ESAFF Uganda promotes and builds capacities of women in small scale climate adaptation technologies such as drip irrigation, water harvesting to enable women farmers address some of the effects of the changes in climate. About 18 women groups in 6 districts have planted over 120 trees and currently encouraging women and men to protect the environment. ESAFF Uganda has built the capacity of over 230 women in 6 districts and has seen a changed mindset towards protecting the environment and tackling climate change

Promoting women's meaningful engagement towards win-win scenarios for all stakeholders in large scale land based investment in agriculture

Due to the increasing trend of land dispossession from small scale farmers mostly women by private and public large-scale land investors in the northern region. ESAFF Uganda is implementing a practical-innovative tool to help women in rural areas position themselves to engage meaningfully throughout the investment processes and stages for a win-win engagements that will protect rural women from exploitation, land grabs and unfair settlements. 148 women small scale farmers have so far been trained in Meaningful Community Engagement (MECoT) in Large Scale Land Based Investment (LSLBI) in Amuru district and more women are still being trained in other districts.

Women using media to influence policy and practice change

Women recognize that media interventions potentially play a major role in influencing practice and policy change. ESAFF Uganda empowers women through availing media platforms for engagement like radio and TV programs that women small scale farmers use to set the agenda for the press, the public, and policymakers through highlighting what issues are newsworthy at a particular time. Women have also used the media to influence policymakers through shaping public opinion on women's rights, which in turn, exerts pressure on policymakers at local and national level to respond.

Women in leadership

The participation of women in leadership and decision making continues to be limited, yet it remains a top priority and critical in achieving gender equality. ESAFF Uganda has played a significant role in empowering women for leadership both in ESAFF Uganda structures and beyond because women recognize that only when they have full access to decision making positions will laws, policies, and budgets reflect the needs of women. Some rural women have used Esaff district structures to elevate to political offices in the sub counties. Currently about 50 percent of ESAFF district leaders are women while 5 out of the 9 national board of directors' members are women farmers.

Men engaging men on women land right

The goal of promoting gender equality has been on the agenda of the ESAFF Uganda since its birth in 2002, members of ESAFF Uganda understand the role of men and boys in promoting gender equality and this led to the initiative of Men Engaging Men (MEM) on women land right. ESAFF Uganda organizes men-community meetings were men with changed mindsets talk to other fellow men who don't appreciate women rights. Over 40 men in northern Uganda have become change agents for promotion of women rights. Most of the oppression brought on women by men are hidden under culture norms and practices, Men Engaging Men (MEM) activities help in highlighting such oppressive norms and practices and create discussion among men themselves. Through this initiative, some men now support their wives and girl children.

Brief about us

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda is a small scale farmer-led advocacy movement which is part of a regional Forum of small scale farmers that jointly advances issues affecting the small scale farmers at different levels. ESAFF Uganda was established to bring together small scale farmers into a social movement to build common aspirations, learning and linkages and able to deliberate on and voice their concerns. The Forum has membership in 30 districts of Uganda as well as several other countries in eastern and southern Africa including; Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, Madagascar and Seychelles. ESAFF Uganda works to enhance the SSFs ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes through capacity building, advocacy, research and institutional development.

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



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