



Communiqué of the First National Small Scale Farmers Symposium on Agroecology 2016

Preamble

We the small scale farmers from thirty districts of Uganda including Jinja, Kamuli, Iganga, Mayuge, Mbale, Manafwa, Kumi, Bukedea, Ngora, Soroti, amuria, Mukono, Mubende, Masaka, Mityana, kabale, kisoro, kanungu, Kasese, Nebbi, Zombo, Arua, Pader, Gulu, Adjumani, Nwoya, Amuru, Apac convening at Colline Hotel in Mukono district over two days to discuss issues and concerns affecting agroecology in Uganda under the theme **“Enhancing farmer-to-farmer knowledge, information and experience sharing of agro ecological approaches”** with objectives of suggesting policy strategies to increase agroecology practices in Uganda, promoting the use of agro ecology practices among small scale farmers to increase agricultural sustainability and strengthening the movement of small scale farmers on promoting agroecology in Uganda. As a result we present this communiqué.

We recognize that agroecology provides the foundations of peoples’ nutrition, incomes, economies, environmental sustainability and culture. But despite their role in future potential for meeting human needs and sustaining diverse ecosystems, locally determined food systems and the local organizations that govern them are largely ignored, neglected or actively undermined by government and corporations therefore calling for the reshaping of the agricultural agenda and discussions.

We acknowledge that almost a half of the food grown in developing countries never makes it to the market or consumed. We also recognize that the more we use antimicrobials (eg pesticides, fertilizers) the less effective they will be farm hygiene, disease prevention must be first line of defense. We strongly believe that to correct the current challenges in our food system, agroecology should be promoted at all levels.

We therefore recommend that:

Government and other stakeholders should support the movement of small scale farmers on agroecology to ensure that more farmers practice agroecology and small scale farmers can active hold government accountable.

Integrating agroecology in government policies related to the agriculture sector since it has been identified as a solution to food sovereignty.

A lot of efforts should be directed to popularizing agroecology at community, local, national and regional level

Call to action:

Government will increase public investment in financing agriculture practices related to agroecology at community level so as to increase the number of small scale farmers who are fully practicing agroecology.

Small scale farmers from 30 districts would integrate agroecology in their farming systems hence improving the food sovereignty at all levels.

Government should support small scale farmers' experimentation that improve soil management, seeds, water management and farming systems; and maximizes the use of local resources and knowledge, but integrating useful new practices as well.

Institutionalise the National Agroecology Movement that would strengthen farmer-to-farmer sharing of successful agroecology practices and strengthen local organizations to manage and involve in policy processes related to agroecology.

Parliamentary committee on agriculture and food security should institute collaboration and dialogue framework with small scale farmers' movement on agroecology to increase the participation of small scale farmers in policy processes and share experiences on agroecology.

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries should increase responsiveness to the small scale farmers in planning, implementation and monitoring of development actions to ensure the promotion of agroecology.