



Agroecology can reduce the impact of climate change

Agriculture is the significant economic activity for over 68 per cent of the households in Uganda, most of whom are family farmers. All forms of farming are highly dependent on the climate. Climate change is a major challenge that our food system is facing today and is very likely to affect food security because it can disrupt food availability, reduce access to food, and affect food quality.



Studies have shown that;

- Higher levels of carbon dioxide can affect crop yields.
- Extreme temperature can cause soils to become drier hence prevent most crops from growing.
- Warmer temperatures, wetter climates, and increased carbon dioxide levels present good thriving condition for weeds and pests leading to diseases.

- Increased heat waves threaten livestock as it leads to reduced pasture and feed supplies.
- Climate change increases the prevalence of parasites, pests and diseases that affect livestock hence increasing the use of parasiticides and other animal health treatments to maintain livestock health.

- Extinction of many aquatic species that can't find areas of streams and lakes to live.
- Some species may move to other areas.
- Some fish disease outbreaks have been linked with changing the climate.
- Changes in temperature and seasons can affect the timing of reproduction and migration.



Agroecology can change this because;

Agroecology is the only approach that brings small-scale farmers closer to solving this challenge mainly because it encourages the interaction between crops, animals and the environment hence benefiting small-scale farmers, the population and the earth's ecosystems. Agroecology allows efficient resource use, reduces harmful external inputs and improves soil health.

- **Agroecology enhances the recycling of biomass and optimising nutrient availability and balancing nutrient flow.**
- **Agroecology secures favourable soil conditions for plant growth, particularly by managing the organic matter and enhancing soil biotic activity**
- **Agroecology minimises losses due to flows of solar radiation, air and water by way of microclimate management, water harvesting and soil management through increased soil cover.**
- **Agroecology ensures species and genetic diversification of the agroecosystem in time and space at the field and landscape level.**
- **Agroecology enhances positive biological interactions and synergisms among agrobiodiversity components, thus resulting in the promotion of critical ecological processes and services.**
- **Agroecology prioritises the needs and interests of small-scale farmers especially women who supply the majority of the food**

What should we do;

We need to take pro-active actions to re-instate agroecology in our farming system

- **Join small-scale farmers in disseminating information about the impact of agroecology on climate change and food security and create a movement that defends agroecology.**
- **Collect evidence through research and agroecological practice documentation to guide in learning and policy advocacy towards de-emphasising the interests of large industrial food and agricultural systems**
- **Advocate for the development and adoption of policies at the national and regional level that would up-scale agroecology as well as de-campaigning any law or policies that criminalises any agroecological practice.**



ABOUT US:

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda

is a small scale farmer initiated and farmer-led movement formed to facilitate processes through which small-scale farmers' development concerns can be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through local, national, regional and international policies and programmes.

CONTACT US:

Plot 266, Muvule Avenue, Buye – Ntinda, Kampala | P.O Box 34420 Kampala – UGANDA

Telephone: **+256-414-699623** | Email: **coordinator@esaffuganda.org**

Facebook: **ESAFF Uganda** | Twitter: **@ESAFFUG** | YouTube Channel: **ESAFF Uganda**

Website: **www.esaffuganda.org**