



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Are Agriculture Sector Policies and Interventions in Uganda Gender Sensitive and Responsive?

Overview

Gender: The attainment of gender equality in access to and control over resources is a prerequisite for accelerated agriculture and national development. *Gender refers to socially and culturally shaped roles, attributes and expectations assigned to women, men, girls and boys.*

Laws and Policies: It is a constitutional requirement {National Objectives Article XIV and Chapter Four Article 32 (1)} that all Ugandans, irrespective of sex, gender, age, status and location enjoy rights, opportunities and access to basic services including agriculture. The state is required to take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age and disability to address imbalances (GoU, 1995).

The constitutional provisions are operationalised through the Vision 2040, National Development Plan (NDPII), Uganda Gender Policy 2007 and Public Finance Management Act 2015 that require all sectors, ministries and local governments to mainstream gender in policies, plans, programmes and budgets.

This **Briefing Paper** examines the extent to which the agriculture sector policies are gender sensitive and where the interventions are gender responsive to the key issues.

Methodology: Qualitative data is drawn from agriculture sector plans, policies and programmes; and Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU) reports for FY2014/15 and FY2015/16. The assessment was done at two levels: a) Gender sensitivity of five policies/plans b) Gender responsiveness of four selected programmes.

Key Issues

- The agriculture sector policies are gender sensitive as some issues affecting men and women are elaborated.
- The policies and interventions are not gender responsive as very inadequate mechanisms are in place to address the gender inequalities.
- There is inequitable gender access to agricultural inputs and services. Most agricultural programmes and services are predominantly accessed by male farmers.

Key Concepts

- **Gender issue:** a point of gender inequality that is undesirable and requires intervention.
- **Gender Inequality:** When roles, responsibilities, power, resources and opportunities are differentially allocated between men and women, one gender becomes more socially privileged than the other.
- **Gender sensitivity:** Being consciously aware of and analyzing the differing situations and needs of women and men.
- **Gender responsiveness:** Designing and implementing appropriate mechanisms for addressing inequalities, intending to be transformative and resulting into equitable redistribution of power and resources between men and women.

Gender Issues in the Agricultural Sector

- The sector employs 72% of Uganda's labour force, the majority (77%) of whom are women mainly engaged in food crop production and keeping small ruminants in the livestock sub-sector.
- Many rural women are over worked for 12-18 hours/day compared to 8-10 hours per/day for men.
- Women's land rights are limited
- Women have less access to agricultural extension services
- Limited access to labour saving technologies for food production for women farmers and other vulnerable groups
- Unequal access to agricultural credit facilities for appropriate agro-processing.

Source: NDP II 2015/16-2019/20

Gender Sensitivity:

There is a high level of gender sensitivity in the agriculture sector policies and plans. The different situations affecting men and women in agriculture were identified in four out of the five policies/plans. However, the responses to the gender issues were too generic, not providing ample guidance on how the concerns were to be addressed (Table 1).

Table 1: Extent of integration of gender issues in the agriculture sector policies and plans

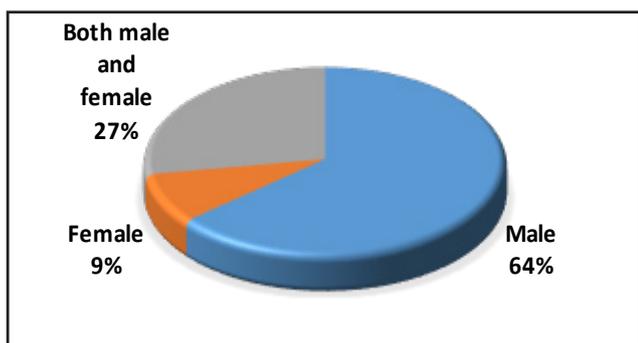
Plan/policy	Gender Issues identified	Strategies
National Agricultural Policy 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable households {women and children headed, elderly, the poor, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and ill health} are less productive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equity and affirmative action in provision of agricultural services • Agricultural interventions should be balanced across regions and between genders
National Coffee Policy 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low yields and adoption of improved technologies due to limited participation of youth; dominance of aged farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream gender equity in provision of coffee development services and the entire value chain; with special emphasis on women and youth.
Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women produce most of the food; but have no control over food resources • Malnutrition especially among children and women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitize men to appreciate women as partners in decision making • Promote gender responsive technologies and programmes • The needs of men, women and children addressed in all the interventions
Operation Wealth Creation Standing Orders of Procedure (SOPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues were identified hence the SOPs are gender insensitive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary beneficiaries to include vulnerable groups (women, youth, PWDs, child headed households, widows)
MAAIF Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (DSIP) 2010/11-2014/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher proportion of women in agriculture than men • Low access to inputs and extension by women & youth • Limited participation of women in commercial agriculture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting labour saving technologies to reduce the time burden of women • Increased access to improved technologies by women and youth • Sensitizing men on importance of women as partners in commercial agriculture.

Source: Various agriculture sector policies and plans

Gender Responsiveness:

The assessment considered the extent to which appropriate mechanisms were designed and implemented to address persistent gender inequalities in four sample programmes as presented below.

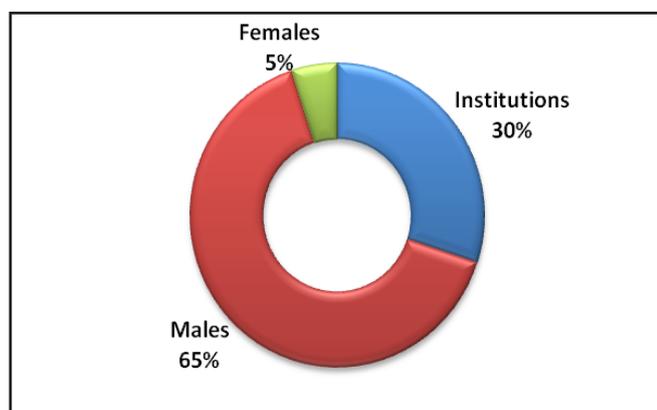
Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF)



Source: Computed from BoU financial records

The ACF is a GoU loaning scheme set up in 2009 to facilitate provision of subsidized credit to farmers. By 30th June 2015, 318 projects had cumulatively been financed since project inception at a cost of Ug shs 188.6 billion. An analysis of the 62 farms/firms that benefitted from ACF in FY2014/15 showed that the majority of borrowers were male (Figure 1). The ACF had no mechanisms to address the key constraints limiting women's access to credit including: lack of collateral, long distances to financial institutions and low literacy and access to financial information.

Labour Saving Technologies and Mechanization project



Source: MAAIF data

Implemented during FY2011/12 and FY 2014/15, the Labour Saving project aimed at improving farm incomes through efficient farm operations. Three sets of heavy earth moving equipment were hired out at subsidized costs to farmers to excavate water for production facilities. By 30th June 2015, 131 farmers/institutions had accessed and used the equipment, the majority being males (Fig 2).

The project lacked appropriate mechanisms to deal with gender inequalities facing female farmers: a) Inability to pay the equipment lease rates and fuel due to lack of income generating sources b) Limited ownership/access to large acreages where the machines could be used. c) Most workshops where information was disseminated about the machines were attended by men; women lacked time to attend the seminars due to the reproductive roles including child care. The women lacked transport money to go to the remote towns where meetings were held.

Operation Wealth Creation (OWC)

The OWC focuses on provision of strategic interventions (planting and stocking materials, tractors, value addition) and streamlining output markets. During FY2014/15, Ug shs 104.897 billion was spent on input procurement and distribution to farmers in all districts. Generally, there were gender inequalities in access to inputs with males being the dominant recipients. For example by 31st December 2015:

- Out of 78 farmers who benefitted from maize seeds in Nakalama sub county Iganga district, 56 (72%) were male and 22 (28%) were female.
- Out of 180 farmers in Butagaya sub county Jinja district that benefitted from cocoa seedlings, 146 (81%) were male and 34 (19%) were female.
- In Lukhonge sub county Mbale district, out of 203 farmers who benefitted from coffee seedlings, 188 (93%) were male and 15 (7%) were female.

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The OWC programme lacked appropriate mechanisms for dealing with the gender inequalities: limited access to land and advisory services by women; male dominance in decision making in the use of family land; long distances to collection centres; inadequate access to information by vulnerable groups and disability.

Uganda Coffee development Authority (UCDA)

The UCDA promotes and oversees the development of coffee industry in Uganda. During July to December 2015, 65.8 million coffee seedlings and 3.7MT of Arabica and 11.7 MT of Robusta seeds were produced and distributed to farmers and nursery operators. A total of 264 training sessions were carried out involving 27,699 farmers. The UCDA invited both gender to participate actively in coffee production, processing and marketing.

However, men dominated in setting up coffee nurseries as a source of income and accessing trainings and inputs. For example, the majority of coffee nursery operators in Bushenyi sub region were male (42 or 54%) and institutional based (23 or 29%). The female nursery operators were 13 (23%). Most training sessions were attended by men (80%) with the rest being women, youth and persons with disabilities (20%).

The key constraints to female participation were: a) Limited ownership of land to produce perennial crops like coffee b) Lack of capital c) The reproductive roles that left little time for engaging in coffee growing d) Limited incentive to grow coffee commercially as most decisions about marketing, sales and use of proceeds are made by men e) Limited access to information about the timing and venues of training sessions. There were no appropriate measures within the UCDA interventions to deal with some of these constraints that are within the sector mandate.

Conclusion

The agricultural sector policies and interventions in Uganda are:

- **Highly gender sensitive:** In the policies and plans, the Government analyzes and presents the gender concerns and broadly

prescribes that the needs of women, men and children should be addressed in sector interventions.

- **Gender responsive to a limited extent due to inadequate strategies:** At implementation stage, the interventions largely lack appropriate mechanisms for ensuring equitable distribution of services between men and women and affirmative action for disadvantaged groups.

Recommendations

The MAAIF and agencies should integrate affirmative action in all the sector interventions to address constraints that limit access to services by women, youth, elderly, PWDS and other disadvantaged groups.

References:

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