

**“African Climate Resilient
Infrastructure Summit; Addis Ababa”**
**Presentation on Policies for
Enhancing Food Security in Sub
Saharan Africa.**

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Background of UNFFE

- Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) is the largest Non-Governmental Farmer Organisation in Uganda. It was founded in January 1992 as Uganda national Farmers Association (UNFA) and turned into a Federation in 2002.
- UNFFE is non-profit, non-religious and non-political. It is for all Ugandan farmers.
- **Legal Status;** A limited company by Guarantee. Registered with the NGO Board of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Background Cont....

- **Vision:** Empowered farmers for sustainable development
- **Mission;** To organize, advocate for favorable policies and transform farmers into prosperous communities.
- **Overall goal;** To contribute to improved farmers' livelihoods and general agricultural development in Uganda.
- **Mottos;** "Farming is Honourable and Dignifying"

Introduction

- More than 1 billion people in the world live in absolute poverty.
- 925 million people do not have enough food in order to sustain life and work. The great majority of these people live in the rural areas, and most of them are farmers.
- Agriculture Continues to employ the rural majority in Sub Saharan Africa

At the same time the world faces new challenges;

- The resources of productive land and water is shrinking
- Increased constraints on production of food in parts of the world due to climate change and the extreme events that come with it

Example of effects of Climate change in Uganda



Introduction Cont....

- The world population is expected to increase from seven to nine billion by 2050 meaning an increase in the demand for food.
- FAO estimates that the world food production has to rise with 70% by 2050.

Introduction on Food Security

Food Security is defined as a status that obtains when all people have access to adequate food all the time for a normal active life. The food must be safe and culturally acceptable.

The major elements in food security include:

- Availability: - i.e. how readily available is the food so that it can easily be accessed by an individual.
- Accessibility: - How does one access the food? Is it through production on the farm or by buying from the market or through donation (Food Aid).
- Stability of Supply: How stable is the supply side? Do people suffer from cyclic food insecurity which tends to be common in communities whose agricultural activities depend on rainfall

Cont....

- Utilization and Nutritive value of food: - This is very important if we have to achieve food and nutrition security. An individual must be healthy for the body to fully utilize the food.

How food security can be achieved

- Through Production: This is the major method through which people who live in rural areas where agricultural production is the major economic activity attain food security.
- Through Purchase: - This method of accessing food is mainly found in urban areas whereby wage-earners entirely depend on food purchased from the market.
- Through Food Aid: - In case of vulnerable segments of the society, eg the elderly, displaced people including refugees, access to food is through food aid.
- Food Imports: At national level,. Many countries ensure food security through importation. This calls for adequate funding.

Causes of Food Insecurity:

- Drought whose impact continues to worsen because of the effects of climate change.
- Flooding which is also becoming more common due to climate change.
- Diseases and pests which are ravaging crops like cassava brown, streak disease and the banana bacterial wilt disease for Uganda.
- Poverty which is rampant among the vulnerable groups and the urban poor.
- Rural-Urban migration whereby the energetic portion of the population is abandoning the villages and leaving food production in the hands of the elderly – hence low levels of production.

Causes Cont....

- Poor on farm storage
- Limited access to credit.
- Limited access to agricultural inputs.
- Limited access to agricultural extension services.
- Limited access to agricultural land.
- High post-harvest losses.
- Low levels of Government expenditure on the agricultural sector.

Policies for Enhancing Food Security:

Policies for enhancing food security should essentially focus on addressing the major constraints to increased agricultural production. These will include policies that promote Farmers access to productivity enhancing technologies such as improved seeds, planting and stoking materials, agrochemicals, fertilizers and climate smart agriculture technologies. These policies should therefore address the following areas;

Policies Cont...

- Farmers access to farm mechanization including value addition/agro-processing.
- Farmers' access to water for production e.g. through small scale irrigation.
- Farmers access to affordable Farm credit to access farm inputs.
- Policies that Investment by the public authorities, international institutions and the donor community in essential rural infrastructure especially roads and electricity
- Policies that address on farm storage and post-harvest losses which studies have shown that they are as high as 30% for grains like maize.

Policies Cont....

- Policies that create employment to cater for the urban poor whose access to food is through market.
- Policies that reduce post-harvest losses and food waste.
- Policy that establishes strategic grain /food reserves. These help to stabilize food prices and enhance accessibility by the urban poor. The food reserves also help Governments to readily respond to food shortage shocks in the country, thus preventing food shortages from deteriorating in to famine.
- Policies that put in place safety nets to address the vulnerable groups.

Policies Cont...

Policies that promote climate resilient rural communities, including policies that

- ***Build capacity of farmer organisations;*** to deliver services to the farmers such as knowledge dissemination, programme and project management, to establish partnerships and linkages with different institutions.
- ***Strengthen key support institutions;*** such as meteorological departments, agricultural technical departments among others to effectively provide services to farmers which would enable them to reduce their vulnerability to the risks.

Policies Cont...

- ***Promote the use of resistant crop varieties and livestock breeds;*** by training farmers to identify and use appropriate resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds, these can be resilient to drought, floods and pests and diseases among others.
- ***Promote Water management technologies;*** by training farmers to use appropriate water management practices including irrigation, water harvesting and storage this will ensure that farmers are less reliant on weather for their production thus making them less susceptible to weather related risks.
- ***Soil management technologies:*** encourage and train farmers to use appropriate soil management practices including conservation agriculture; cover crops, mulching, crop rotation, agro-forestry among others

Conclusion

Food Security is the pride of every Nation. A country which has policies that promote Food Security of its citizens remains stable. It is, however, important to note that the bottom line for all the policies is proper implementation.

So whichever policies a country puts in place, there should be mechanisms in place to ensure that all sections of population benefit.

The additional challenge today is not only to achieve food security but to achieve it in away which also contribute to environment and climate change objectives. This is an enormous global challenge which calls for solidarity and strong international policy co-ordination.

**I thank you very much for your very
kind attention , Asanteni San.**