



Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers' Forum

ESAFF - UGANDA

2021

IMPACT REPORT

**POSITIONING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS
ESPECIALLY WOMEN, TO INFLUENCE
AGRICULTURE PRACTICES AND
POLICIES THAT PROMOTE
AGROECOLOGY**



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ABOUT ESAFF UGANDA

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) was formed in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Agriculture which was being held in Johannesburg, South Africa by small-scale farmers. The main aim was to make small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk, who are central to sustainable natural resource management and development more visible. Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) was operationalised in Uganda in 2008 as a direct response to the need to create a regional Forum to bring together small-scale farmers into a farmer-led advocacy movement to influence policies and practices at global, continental, regional, national and local levels.

ESAFF Uganda is a small-scale farmer-led advocacy movement formed to facilitate processes through which small scale farmers' development concerns can

be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through policies and programs. ESAFF Uganda focuses on advancing economic empowerment, agroecology and food sovereignty. ESAFF Uganda is currently having a membership of 12,543 farmer groups with 384,056 individual small-scale farmers of which 64 per cent are women in 54 districts (under the administration of 30 historical districts' forums). ESAFF Uganda is also part of a bigger network of small-scale farmers in the other 15 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa including South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, DR Congo, Madagascar, Seychelles and Mozambique.



Our Mission

To nurture the participation of small-scale farmers in sustainable development processes, for self-reliance through advocacy, capacity building and institutional development.



Our Vision

Empowered self-reliant small-scale farmers



Strategic Goal

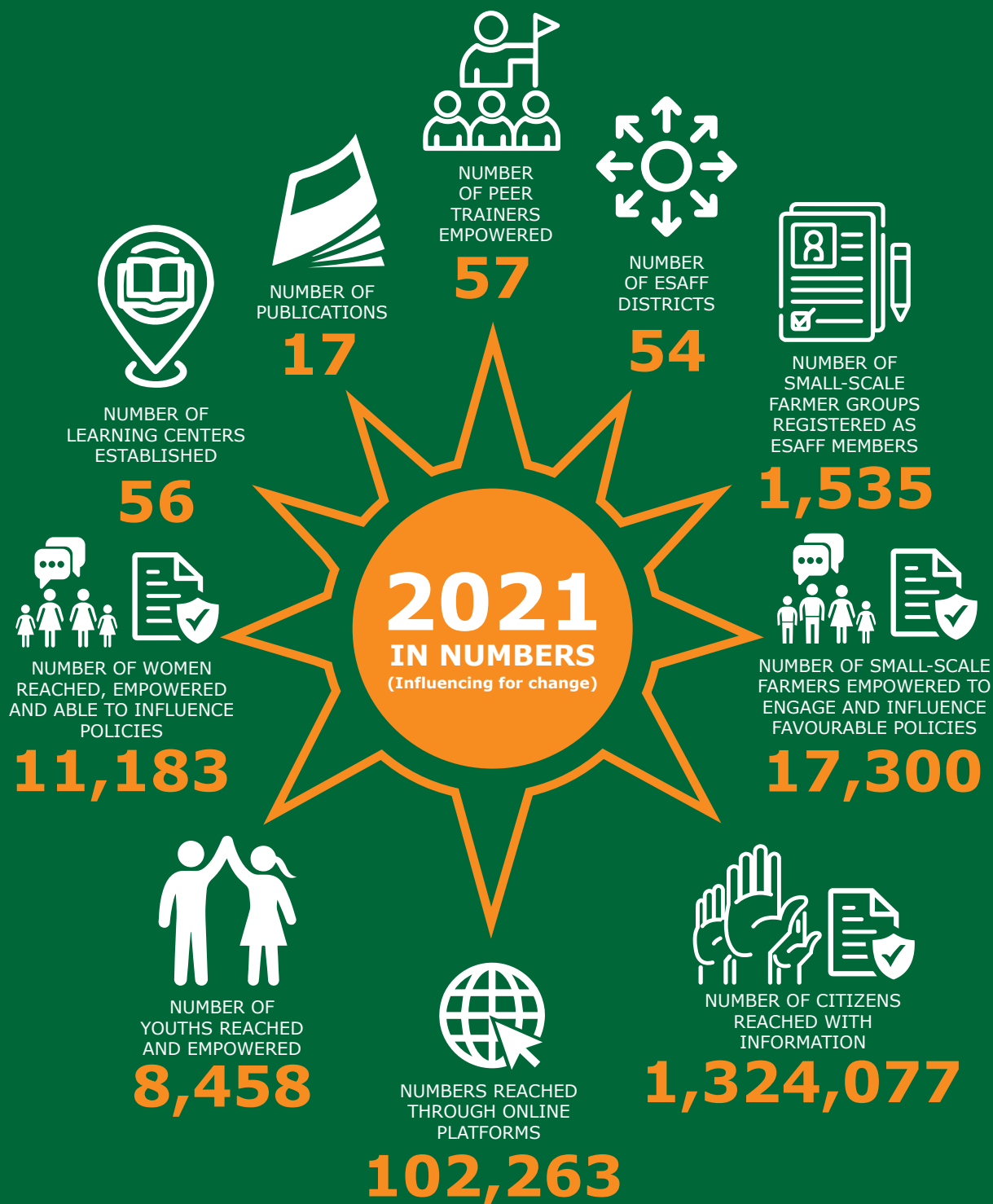
A strong small-scale farmer-led advocacy movement actively contributing to improved livelihoods, food sovereignty and favourable agriculture policies.



Strategic Objectives

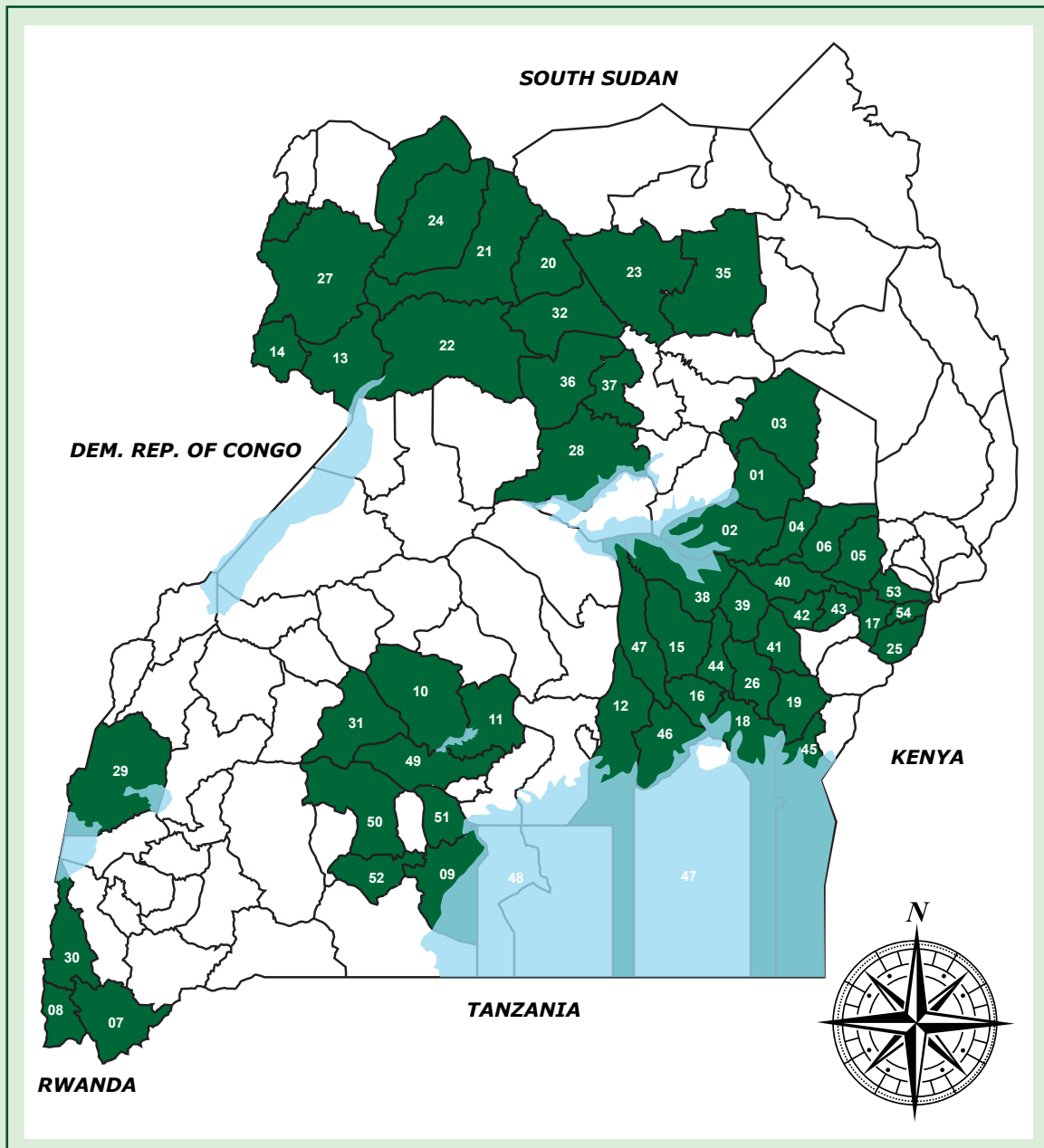
ESAFF Uganda has three strategic objectives;

1. Promoting and protecting the principles of food sovereignty especially agroecology system and indigenous approaches
2. Empowering small-scale farmers especially women to achieve improvement in livelihood
3. Building a strong small-scale farmer-led movement that actively influences for favourable agriculture policies



Our Footprint

Map of Uganda Showing the Membership Districts



- | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Soroti | 11. Mityana | 21. Amuru | 31. Kassanda | 41. Namutumba | 51. Kalungu |
| 2. Serere | 12. Mukono | 22. Nwoya | 32. Omoro | 42. Kibuku | 52. Lwengo |
| 3. Amuria | 13. Nebbi | 23. Pader | 33. Maracha | 43. Budaka | 53. Sironko |
| 4. Ngora | 14. Zombo | 24. Adjumani | 34. Moyo | 44. Luuka | 54. Bududa |
| 5. Bukedea | 15. Kamuli | 25. Manafwa | 35. Agago | 45. Namayingo | |
| 6. Kumi | 16. Jinja | 26. Iganga | 36. Oyam | 46. Buikwe | |
| 7. Kabale | 17. Mbale | 27. Arua | 37. Kole | 47. Buvuma | |
| 8. Kisoro | 18. Mayuge | 28. Apac | 38. Buyende | 48. Kalangala | |
| 9. Masaka | 19. Bugiri | 29. Kasese | 39. Kaliro | 49. Gomba | |
| 10. Mubende | 20. Gulu | 30. Kanungu | 40. Pallisa | 50. Bukomansimbi | |

Message

FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

Dear Friends,

We have come to the end of another fruitful year. The year 2021 was the third year of implementation of our 5year strategic plan.

As we recovered from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, we small-scale farmers continued to hold the flag high so as to amplify our voice in policy processes at local, national, regional, and global levels.

During the year 2021, there were many opportunities for growth that presented themselves; we continued to focus on strengthening the capacity of small-scale farmers to integrate ICT use in the marketing of their organic produce through the KilimoMart marketing application. After the realization of the importance of indigenous foods in ensuring food security and building immunity of all individuals of all ages, there was an emphasis on the multiplication and preservation of Neglected and Underutilised Species.

What we achieved in 2021 was remarkable and we would not have achieved it without the generous support of our friends and partners. We are deeply grateful to Oxfam, GIZ-RGIL, La Via Campesina, ESAFF Regional, African Women's Collaborative for Healthy Food Systems, and SDC/BioVision Africa Trust for the financial support. We also thank the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development for always working together with us for the improvement of farmers' livelihoods. We also thank the District Local Governments of the districts where our members are for always working together with us and supporting us in the communities.

As we predicted the year 2021 was the year of Shining for the Small-Scale Farmer (SSF), we strengthened our work on agroecology and Climate Change as well as built stronger partnerships. We therefore built a stronger movement of small-scale farmers that challenged policies that affected SSFs rights and livelihoods at all levels. Some of the notable events that were organized in 2021 included the Women in Agriculture Conference, the EAC Agriculture Budget Summit, National Tree Planting Campaign, National Organic Week among others.

As the Chairperson, I am humbled by the efforts of all the staff towards building this strong small-scale farmers' movement; the Board of Directors as well who tirelessly give their best and finally the members in all the districts for their commitment to feeding the nation with highly nutritious organic foods.

Yours in Service,



Hakim Baliraine,
National Chairperson

Message

FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Dear Friends and Partners,

2021 was an eventful year in which communities and the nation at large began the recovery journey from the effects of the restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The enormous successes of 2021 documented in this impact report are proof that Small scale farmers are able to bounce back from adversity. The tenacious hold of the farmers on strengthening the food systems as a way to improve food security, health, and nutrition security is note-worthy.

The year 2021 is celebrated for being the springboard for a deepened focus on the role of agroecology in securing Climate Justice and strengthening Africa's Food systems; positioning small-scale farmers to preserve the ecosystems and consequently continually feed the world amidst several crises. ESAFF Uganda, therefore, continued on the path of promotion of transition from other food systems to agroecology and supporting farmers in all ways to take the leap.

It was a year where more Community Seed Banks were constructed, Agroecology Schools formed for information sharing, and Agroecology Clubs were revived as schools resumed. In addition, there was a deliberate effort to elevate the position of women and youth small-scale farmers by addressing the barriers to their economic growth through addressing issues that hinder their profiting in farming as a business.

The voices of the small-scale farmers were heard on several platforms as they participated in budget tracking in their communities, participated in events on Agroecology for Climate Justice, and gave input into national programs like the Parish Development Model. I thank the ESAFF Uganda National Board for their support in steering the organization forward availing themselves for service amidst competing demands. Special thanks to all the ESAFF Uganda staff who work selflessly towards empowered, self-reliant small-scale farmers.

The contribution of ESAFF Uganda to national development would not be far-reaching without the donors and partners; who trusted us with their resources, both financial and non-financial to ensure that the wellbeing of small-scale farmers is elevated. We are grateful for your generosity and continue to count on your support.

Let us continue to walk this journey together, to see the self-reliant, empowered farmer.

Yours Truly,



Nancy W. Mugimba,
National Coordinator

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA ONE: FARMER-LED ADVOCACY MOVEMENT BUILDING

Under this strategic area, ESAFF Uganda set out to strengthen the Forum from the sub-county level to the national level through building capacity, networking with like-minded organizations, recruiting more members, and strengthening knowledge management hence building a robust small-scale farmer-led advocacy movement. This year, ESAFF Uganda implemented the following activities;



Strengthened Governance and Management Team of the Forum from District to National Level.

ESAFF Uganda held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) that brought together different members of ESAFF Uganda to share experiences and develop strategies for the development of ESAFF Uganda. The AGM was attended by 51 Small-Scale Farmers from the 30 member districts. ESAFF Uganda also held three national board meetings. These board meetings were organized every after three months. These governance and management meetings ensured the proper running of the organization at all levels.

In addition, the members of the board and management visited 21 districts in the different regions across the country during the annual board of directors' monitoring visit. Throughout these visits, Small-Scale Farmers interacted with members of the board and shared key experiences on programs, membership, and fundraising for a stronger Forum.



Members of the board visiting a potato garden for Mungujakisa F.G in Zombo District

Created Seed Rights Advocacy Platforms at the district level and built stronger networks and partnerships with like-minded organizations and institutions.

ESAFF Uganda had engagements with District Local Government officials from Adjumani, Apac, Nebbi, Amuria, and Omoro districts in a bid to formalize the Farmer Field School Network and the NUS Networks. There was special appreciation of the FFS approach among the Local Government officials. This then followed with the process of the registration of FFS networks with the District Local Governments and Community Development Office and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the FFS Network and District Local Governments.

ESAFF Uganda conducted leadership training for the Farmer Field School (FFS) Network. This led to building a stronger movement of Small-Scale Farmers (plant breeders) to push for Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB). It also strengthened small-scale farmers' participation in Participatory Plant Breeding. The training was attended by 14 Small-Scale Farmers (6 men, 8 women, and 6 youths) from Amuria, Adjumani and Apac districts.



Farmer field school Network leaders during the leadership and group management training in Lira

Throughout this year, ESAFF Uganda strengthened its working relationship with different key stakeholders in the agriculture sector. ESAFF Uganda has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCCRI) while one with National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI) is in progress. Together with other partners, ESAFF Uganda is working towards developing a guideline for the National Farmer Field School Network in Uganda.



Adongo Philimena engaging with members of the NUS network

CASE STORY 1

The Role of NUS Networks.

"People expect you to have a lot of seeds to give out as the chairperson of the NUS Networks" Adongo notes. Adongo Philimena is the Chairperson of the Women NUS networks, Apac District. The NUS network mainly creates awareness through information sharing on the Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS). *"However, through various community engagements, I was able to persuade my community that the seed is with them, and also*

shared how they can use their indigenous seeds to address seed insecurity". In the network, we involve older women in different activities together with the youth to share indigenous knowledge about the various local food. Many young people now have their own plots of local food plants and are encouraged to share seeds. This has increased the varieties of local food plants in communities, many of which are more resistant to the effects of climate change.



Akello Hellen a FFS facilitator in Amuria District

CASE STORY 2

Making a Difference as a Woman FFS Facilitator: Akello Hellen, Amuria District.

Being selected as Farmer Field School facilitator in participatory plant breeding has provided me with a unique experience. Apart from enhancing my knowledge on the role I can play as a farmer in plant breeding, it has created an opportunity for me to interact with different individuals in the community especially men who sometimes were a bit intimidating to join the regular FFS activities. However I did not give up and pushed harder; gladly many of them have solidified their existence in the groups and working together with the women to achieve the field school major objectives. I become an agent of change especially to many women in my community that have become Farmer Field School chairpersons, sub group leaders, recorders but most importantly they have taken initiative to take lead on identifying and deciding crop varieties that can meet their desired needs.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA TWO: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Under this strategic area, ESAFF Uganda at the highest level possible set out to uphold and protect the principles of Food Sovereignty by protecting the rights of small-scale farmers, especially women to control the Food Systems, including; markets, ecological resources, food cultures, and production modes. With a key focus on promoting agroecology and the joint conservation of natural resources. This year, ESAFF Uganda implemented the following activities;



Protected Land Rights of farming communities especially women through awareness creation and agriculture investment tracking.

ESAFF Uganda conducted awareness-raising for affected land users using the Community Engagement Tool (CET). The trainings were held in Mityana, Kassanda, and Mubende districts and were attended by 115 affected land users (46 women and 69 men). The affected land users later formed the Large-Scale Land-Based Investment (LSLBI) teams to champion the meaningful engagement with investors for Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI).



Small-scale farmers from Mityana district pose for a group photo after the Awareness Raising Training using the CET

ESAFF Uganda simplified, translated, and illustrated the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and Committee on World Food Security's Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture (CFS-RAI) frameworks for learning amongst the small-scale farmers, leaders, and investors in the quest to realize RAI. These materials were shared with over 5197 small-scale farmers.

ESAFF Uganda also participated in the Conference on Land Policy in Africa that was held under the theme: "Land governance for safeguarding art, culture, and heritage towards the Africa We Want". ESAFF Uganda and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) developed and presented a paper on 'Tackling the Issue of Land Rights as a Pathway to Food Security in Uganda using the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) Methodology in Land Rights Model. This paper highlighted the need to integrate community methodologies like GALS Methodology in addressing land rights related challenges in communities.

ESAFF Uganda while working with GIZ developed the Investor Compliance Monitoring Tool aimed at tracking the compliance of investments in communities by Small-Scale Farmers and other stakeholders in line with the RAI guidelines and principles.



Community awareness raising during the LAW in Butooloo sub county Mubende District

ESAFF Uganda with partners organized the Land Awareness Week (LAW) 2021 in the central region (Mityana, Mubende, Nakaseke and Kassanda district) under the theme "Understanding Land Rights and Obligations for Sustainable Community Development". The key activities included community dialogues, radio talk shows, Legal Aid Clinics, and the distribution of IEC materials on land governance and management. These events were attended by 1231 participants including representatives from the Civil Society Organizations, Local Government officials, officials from the Ministry of Land Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD), local leaders, land lawyers, Cultural and Religious Leaders, Small-Scale Farmers and media.

ESAFF Uganda supported 15 women small-scale farmers to participate in the online Women Land Rights (WLR) Conference 2021 on 1st December 2021. The conference created space for women to voice their concerns and proposals on land rights. The event made a case for protecting women's land rights.

With the decreasing Civic Space in Uganda, ESAFF Uganda adopted TIMBY to help groups report, investigations, and share information about complex and sensitive issues in an efficient and secure way.

Ensured seed and food security in communities using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach and Community Seed Banks (CSB).

ESAFF Uganda also organized a refresher training for the 20 FFS facilitators from Amuria, Apac, and Adjumani districts. The training aimed at strengthening the capacities of the FFS facilitators to understand the FFS approach to Participatory Plant Breeding and effectively manage FFS in the districts. ESAFF Uganda established new Farmer Field Schools (FFS) on Participatory Plant Breeding

(PPB) in 2021 and continued to support the 18 FFS established in 2019/20. 15 new FFS in Adjumani and Apac districts were created making a total of 33 Farmer field schools. The FFS have a membership of 810 Small-Scale Farmers (301 males and 506 females). These FFS are conducting Participatory Plant Breeding on 57 varieties of 8 crops i.e. maize, cassava, sim sim, millet, groundnuts, beans, soya beans, and rice. This has strengthened seed security and access to genetic materials.

Throughout the planting season, ESAFF Uganda organized monitoring and support visits to all the 31 FFS in 3 districts to assess the performance and enhance the technical capacities of FFS in Participatory Plant Breeding.



Members of Enapakinos FFS, Ogongora sub-county, Amuria district pose for a photo after monitoring their FFS garden

Furthermore, ESAFF Uganda has also established 11 new FFS and continued supporting 10 FFS on neglected and underutilized plants/species (NUS) in Apac, Amuria, and Adjumani districts. ESAFF Uganda conducted cluster Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops for the established NUS FFS, 669 small-scale farmers were involved. 21 facilitators were guided on the documentation of the FFS activities and proceedings during their implementation. This has increased the food and nutrition security in communities, especially during periods of food scarcity. ESAFF Uganda continuously conducted follow-up visits to the NUS FFS in Amuria, Apac, and Adjumani districts aimed at tracking small-scale farmers' understanding of the FFS approach to local food plants and nutrition.

To support the documentation of Farmer Field School (FFS) experiences and impact, ESAFF Uganda conducted training of FFS facilitators on data collection using the Agro-Ecological System Analysis (AESA) form and the KoBoTool collect tool. 21 FFS facilitators (10 males and 11 females) from Adjumani, Amuria, and Apac districts were supported to use the AESA form and the KoBoTool.



FFS facilitators from Apac, Nebbi, Adjumani, Omoro, Amuria and during the end of season evaluation workshop that was held in Lira.

In order to strengthen the performance of the established FFS, ESAFF Uganda conducted training on FFS evaluation in the three districts of Adjumani, Apac, and Amuria. Further still, ESAFF Uganda conducted a national evaluation with the different implementing partners. The national evaluation provided a platform for FFS facilitators to share their experiences, and challenges and find common solutions since they were able to compare the objectives, functioning, and work of the different FFS groups and learned from each other through experience sharing. These were able to identify gaps that needed urgent solutions and areas of improvement while implementing the FFS activities in the cycles to come. ESAFF Uganda also documented farmers' voices in Amuria, Apac, and Adjumani districts. Through these stories, Small-Scale Farmers shared their experience on seed and utilising Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS).

In 2021, ESAFF Uganda supported the completion of two Community Seed Banks located in the Apac and Adjumani districts. These Community Seed Banks would host over 340 seed and plant varieties adding to the already existing two Community Seed Banks in Amuria and Omoro districts. These Community Seed Banks are linked to the already existing FFS and are intended to support farmer seed businesses in the future.



Together with partners, ESAFF Uganda organized a special side event during the Africa Agriculture Extension Week (AAEW) 2021 convened by African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) under the theme "Effective Agricultural Extension Systems for Sustainable Agri-preneurship in Africa". This side event was attended by 30 participants and justified the need for the institutionalization of FFS and PPB in the extension services to solve the current challenges with the extension services. A comprehensive statement on the institutionalization of FFS was developed and shared with stakeholders.



Small-scale farmers serve NUS food during the cookery demonstrations in Ofua sub-county, Adjumani district.

ESAFF Uganda conducted a Cookery Demonstration and Food Fair in Adjumani district. This aimed at showcasing the different methods of preparing local food plants and creating awareness of the importance and usage of the different local food plants. Over 30 local dishes were prepared and over 40 local food plants displayed. These led to increased appreciation and intake of local food plants, especially by the youths in the communities.

ESAFF Uganda supported 8 Small-Scale Farmers from Apac, Amuria, and Adjumani districts to participate in the 3rd Annual Indigenous Food and Seed Fair where they showcased over 53 varieties of indigenous seed, and Value-Added products such as wine, okra powder, dried vegetables, local curry powder among others. As a result of the food and seed fairs, Small-Scale Farmers were able to learn from each other and appreciated the diverse varieties of local food plants across the country.

ESAFF Uganda conducted Intergeneration Dialogues in the districts of Apac and Amuria where 80 participants, 44 females and 36 Male attended. These aimed at changing people's perceptions, especially the youths from referring to NUS as poor man's food but appreciating their contribution to food security and addressing malnutrition. The dialogues equipped the youths with knowledge about the NUS that would be useful in sustaining the local food plants in the communities.

Learnings and partnerships for Strengthening and Upscaling Farmer Field School (FFS) Approach.

ESAFF Uganda organized a field visit for stakeholders to the FFS in Amuria and Soroti districts. After the field visit, the participants attended a brainstorming and strategizing session focusing on the Institutionalization of PPB/FFS. This was attended by 12 participants including representatives from PELUM Uganda, Oxfam in Uganda, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), National Agricultural Research Organisation-Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NARO-PGRC), and African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS). An action plan was later developed for institutionalization of PPB/FFS in Uganda.



Otim Daniel a member of Ogalai FFS in Amuria district explaining to a group of partner organizations from FAO, AFAAS, NARO-PGRC, PELUM and OXFAM some of the activities under the farmer field school approach.

ESAFF Uganda supported 2 Small-Scale Farmers from Adjumani and Amuria districts to participate in one of the webinars organized by East Africa Field School (EAFS) Hub. During the webinar, Small-Scale Farmers shared their experiences with the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach, especially on Participatory Plant Breeding.

ESAFF Uganda developed and distributed 500 learning posters on Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) in FFS for use by small-scale farmers. These posters have contributed to Small-Scale Farmers and during different strategic events to improve their understanding of Participatory Plant Breeding.

ESAFF Uganda conducted the second phase of the Nutrition and Local Food Plants Survey in Adjumani, Apac, and Pader districts to assess the nutrition and coping strategy of communities during the food scarcity period and the contribution of FFS in the communities. A report on the same is available.

Promoted the transition of our Food Systems to Agroecology.

ESAFF Uganda organized the third Annual National Organic Week (NOW) under the theme "Go Organic, It's Only Natural". The week-long celebration was attended by 331 participants (176 men, 155 women among whom 94 were youth) including small-scale farmers, policymakers, civil society organizations, and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF) and Uganda Organic Certification Limited (UGOCERT). The events took place in the districts of Mukono, Masaka, Jinja, Mayuge, Manafwa, Kumi and Kampala. The activities included tree planting, cookery demonstrations, national dialogue, and radio talk shows. The NOW led to the further appreciation of organic foods, the distribution of 5,000 trees, and increased knowledge of organic certification.



Showcasing the organic products at the National dialogue on Organic Farming and Products during the National Organic Week (NOW) 2021 in Kampala.

ESAFF Uganda facilitated 23 small-scale farmers for training on water harvesting, irrigation and Value Addition of pineapples and coffee at St. Jude Family Farm in Masaka district. The training exposed Small-Scale Farmers to new profitable ventures which do not require so much capital to start.

ESAFF Uganda conducted refresher training on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) practices for management of pineapples and coffee for 15 TOTs in Mukono and Masaka. This training increased knowledge and further strengthened the Capacity of the TOTs in Ecological Organic Agriculture Practices who later trained 20 Small-Scale Farmers each. ESAFF Uganda together with partners organized a dissemination workshop for the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) 2019 in Mukono district. 25 (15 women and 10men) Small-Scale Farmers took part in the workshop. This workshop created a clear understanding of the NOAP and added their voices to the upcoming NOAP Bill.



Organic farmers from Masaka and Mukono taking part in a training on the value addition of organic pineapple in Masaka.

ESAFF Uganda launched the first-ever Online Agroecology School for Journalists and Communicators. The launch was attended by 24 journalists and communicators. This school aims at building a network of journalists and communicators around Uganda and Africa working with Small-Scale Farmers to contribute to the national and continental transition to agroecology through disseminating information.



ESAFF Uganda board members, staff and partners during the launch of the online school for journalists and communicators

ESAFF Uganda supported 10 Small-Scale Farmers to participate in the third National Agroecology Actors Symposium (NAAS 2021) that was organised under the theme *"Transforming Uganda's Food systems through agroecology"*. NAAS was attended by 64 participants including 40 men and 24 women including a wide range of stakeholders. During the NAAS, ESAFF Uganda showcased the KilimoMart Application with an aim to of appreciating the technological innovations in providing markets for organic products. The Actors appreciated the importance of agroecology in addressing the current agriculture challenges in Uganda and the need for an urgent transition of our food systems to agroecology.

ESAFF Uganda and partners organized a small-scale farmers' dialogue at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Kampala under the theme *"small-scale farmers', peasants and fisherfolks must be at the heart of the global climate crisis negotiations"*. This dialogue was attended by 36 participants including 19 males, 17 females, and 14 youths. The participants included representatives from the government ministries, CSOs, and the media. Small-Scale Farmers developed a position to the Conference of Parties (COP) 26 highlighting the importance of agroecology. One small-scale farmer later participated in The Conference of Parties (COP) 26 which took place in the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow, UK.



Women small-scale farmers make their contribution to the small-scale farmer position paper on climate justice

ESAFF Uganda also developed a documentary highlighting the plights of Small-Scale Farmers in the face of Climate Change; the roles and contributions of Small-Scale Farmers and other different actors towards addressing Climate Change and the need to transition to Agroecology.

ESAFF Uganda organized a national press conference under the theme Agroecology for Climate Justice. This press conference was attended by 36 journalists from different media houses in Uganda. It gave citizens an understanding of the need to transition to Agroecology to address Climate Change and achieve Climate Justice. A press release was developed and shared with the media as well as different stakeholders.



Small-scale farmer leaders from ESAFF Uganda districts presenting small-scale farmer issues during the Conference of Parties (COP) 26 press conference in Kampala.

In commemoration of the International Day for Desertification on 17th June, ESAFF Uganda conducted a women's community meeting in Adjumani District. This community event that was attended by 20 women Small-Scale Farmers created awareness of the presence of desertification and drought and presented agroecology as the main solution to preventing desertification and recovering from drought.

ESAFF Uganda also organized consultative meetings with Small-Scale Farmers from different areas to gather ideas and proposals for enhancing Food Sovereignty. The consultative meetings increased awareness of the opportunities and strength of Food Sovereignty as an alternative to the neo-liberal agricultural policies and spaces for small-scale farmers to influence governments. Small-scale farmers then consolidated the proposals and ideas gathered into actions for the Food Sovereignty Plan during a two-day workshop in Kampala.



Members of the board pose for a group photo after the development of Food sovereignty Action Plan



CASE STORY 3

Embracing Organic Farming Inputs

Kamukama Patricia is the chairperson of Kulubbi Women's Group in Ntenjeru sub county, Mukono district who started growing coffee when she got married to her husband. She explained that during earlier years they never sprayed their coffee but embarked on traditional methods such as mulches available to boost soil fertility. However, all this changed as years went by which included the introduction of spraying using chemicals which has destroyed majority of the coffee plantations in her area. She said that she got many health complications such as chest pain after using synthetic chemicals to spray the coffee. *"My husband and I were among the bandwagon in using chemicals as a result of their advertisement but we realized earlier enough through the training on organic farming that was held in July 2020 that spraying is very dangerous to our environment and health. We resorted to embracing natural and organic inputs such as liquid manure and animal dung as well as using our local knowledge to grow organic coffee"* says Kamukama. With this their coffee yields have since increased as well as improvement in the quality of the coffee. Kamukama is now a treasurer of a savings group in Mukono district and has taken up the initiative to advise her members to embrace organic farming.



Mr. Nsubuga the former CP Myanzi Subcounty

CASE STORY 4

Political Appreciation for Project Interventions

"Communities are great protectors and the ultimate best managers of natural resources, but corrupt individuals and investors are destroying the resources, grabbing land, illegally obstructing water resources, destroying water catchment areas, and disenfranchising the very vulnerable and marginalized among various communities whose survival and livelihoods are directly dependent on these natural resources; thus, the Responsible Governance of Investment in Land project is timely; it has helped communities work and relate with investors well for the development of the community."
Nsubuga Joseph Mary the former Chairperson LCIII, Myanzi Sub County, Kassanda District during the project inception meeting.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA THREE: INFLUENCING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGRICULTURE FINANCING

It is predicted that public financing and investment in the agricultural sector can not only address hunger and malnutrition but also other challenges such as poverty, and Climate Change among others. Under this strategic area, ESAFF Uganda focuses on increasing Citizens' Participation in influencing Agriculture Financing by both the public and the private sector in Uganda as well as influencing regional and continental agriculture development targets hence enhancing investment finance in agriculture, ending hunger, halving poverty through inclusive agriculture growth and transformation; enhancing resilience in livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other shocks. This year, ESAFF Uganda implemented the following activities;



Empowered Small-Scale Farmers to understand and influence taxation in Uganda.

ESAFF Uganda together with partners trained 12 Trainers of Trainees (TOTs) on tax justice, accountability, and budget influencing. The TOTs developed roadmaps for operations. This was to ensure that small-scale farmers' needs and interests are considered in the National Budget policy planning and implementation processes.

Amplified small-scale farmers' voices in influencing national and regional agriculture programs.

ESAFF Uganda together with partners organized a workshop/meeting together with partners to develop a position on Parish Development Model (PDM). The workshop/meeting was attended by 34 participants (21 males, 13 females, and 17 youth) participants. Proposals were developed including the need to increase financing for the PDM and ensure accountability.

To further ensure accountability, ESAFF Uganda has empowered Small-Scale Farmers to be part of the PDM committees in their respective parishes. So far 13 ESAFF Uganda district chapters have reported having members (small-scale farmers) as part of the PDM committees in their respective parishes.



ESAFF Uganda Members of the Board pose for a photo with Mubende DLG Officials

ESAFF Uganda participated in a webinar on Agroecology for Climate Justice organized by ESAFF Regional and brought together 293 participants including African small-holder farmers from across the continent and international funders as well as other civil society organizations. ESAFF Uganda used this webinar to challenge national and regional governments to fund the Small-Scale Farmers who are upholding the food systems through agroecology.

Influenced agriculture financing in the National Budget

2021 witnessed the transition from Sector budgeting to Program-Based Budgeting as per the National Development Plan (NDP). ESAFF Uganda took part in the Agro-Industrialization Program Annual Review 2021 organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). ESAFF Uganda together with other partners presented a position paper that also called for the increase in financing to the agriculture sector to at least 10 percent of the National Budget. Throughout 2021, ESAFF Uganda continued working with PETS Teams/Committees in the districts of Kumi, Serere, Bukedea, and Ngora to track government expenditure in the agriculture sector and as well participate in budget processes at the local government level. Through different budget events, Small-Scale Farmers have continued to challenge the government to allocate finances to the agriculture sector in accordance with the AU Malabo Declaration of 2014.

To further ensure that small-scale farmers' voices are amplified in budget-related processes, ESAFF Uganda simplified budget information to support the engagements of Small-Scale Farmers in the formulation and implementation of budget policies at the local and national levels. Information simplified for small-scale farmers' usage includes CSO position papers and the local government budget cycle



Gloria Acen who acquired property from her husband

CASE STORY 5

From Being a Property to Owning One

Gloria Acen a small-scale farmer from Oyeyo parish, Nyapea sub county, Zombo district notes that in Alur customs, girls are largely considered their fathers' property – until they become husbands' property. I and my children are lucky that in 2021, one day, after returning from his errands, my husband, got up, motioned for me and our children to follow him, walked down the hill and waved to a modest piece of land. *"This land belongs to you and your children" he said. I couldn't believe it "the land came from God and I wanted to thank the heavens"*. I later on, learnt that my husband Mr. Ewinya Charles had recently participated in a Gender Actions Learning systems (GALs) training by ESAFF Uganda where it emphasized that women too should own land despite cultural beliefs and customs. Even with this achievement, I still have a challenge, until I find resources and critically understand the process of Land registration, I am afraid this land may not belong to me forever especially in the event that my husband passed on, his relatives would claim it on grounds that it is family land.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA FOUR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Under this Strategic Area, ESAFF Uganda set out to skill Small-Scale Farmers especially women and youths, and empower them in overcoming economic challenges by promoting entrepreneur skills, financial resource access and management and green growth. ESAFF Uganda would work to ensure livelihoods are resilient and profitable by supporting small-scale farmers' (especially youth and women) economic productivity and profitability. This year, ESAFF Uganda implemented the following activities;



Women SSFs during the Women in Agriculture Conference

ESAFF Uganda mapped and profiled farmer groups practicing Farming as a Business (FAAB) and with potentially viable enterprises for support in the West Nile region along with the coffee and horticultural value chains. ESAFF Uganda has so far profiled 30 farmer groups from 3 districts of Arua, Zombo, Nebbi.

ESAFF Uganda is part of the National Horticulture Platform through the Uganda Agribusiness Alliance which is leading the discussions on market and policy frameworks to streamline and make value chains development sustainable for small-scale farmers. Through this platform, small-scale farmers' voices on agriculture markets are being elevated.

Empowered women Small-Scale Farmers in Farming As A Business.

ESAFF Uganda organized the 3rd Women in Agriculture (WiA) conference took place in Kampala under the theme "Tracking progress of women Small scale Farmers in Farming As A business (FAAB) and its Implication to National Economic Transformation". Discussions at the conference focused on key issues like the creation of a platform for discussion and sharing of agricultural business opportunities and constraints of grassroots small-scale women farmers, generate commitment towards increasing women small-scale farmers' participation in Farming As A Business and policy influencing for women in Agriculture. The 2021 WiA conference, a hybrid meeting was attended by a total of 70 participants (43 women and 27 men) physically and 24 participants online including the small-scale farmers, government officials, and media. The conference celebrated the role of women farming in farming as a business and recognized the involvement of women in Value Addition.

Strengthened Market Access capacity for Small-Scale Farmers using the KilimoMart Application.

ESAFF Uganda trained Community Facilitators of Action for Community Development (AFCE) on utilising the KilimoMart Application to support small-scale farmers in the coffee sector to market their products. The training was attended by 15 participants (9 men and 6 women). ESAFF Uganda organised a field support visit to the communities to demonstrate the effectiveness of the KilimoMart Application. 25 participants were involved in this engagement in Nebbi and Zombo district.

Throughout the year, ESAFF Uganda hosted marketing sessions for the KilimoMart Application during different events and ceremonies including the Women in Agriculture Conference, National Agroecology Actors' Symposium (NAAS), 11th Annual

Indigenous Food and Seed Fair. During the different marketing sessions for the KilimoMart Application, ESAFF Uganda distributed 500 Flyers, 150 T-Shirts, 242 Pens, 180 Caps and 257 Face Masks. ESAFF Uganda documented 6 Small-Scale Farmers in Uganda from 3 districts, and 3 Small-Scale Farmers from Kenya who shared their market access experiences including lessons, challenges, and success stories in using the KilimoMart application.

This further justified the need to support Small-Scale Farmers, especially women to use online platforms like the KilimoMart Application to access market opportunities.



Dr. Antonio Querido FAO Country Representative interacts with David Oming a staff of ESAFF Uganda on the contribution of KilimoMart App an online platform in promoting markets for Agroecological products during the National Agroecology Actors Symposium (NAAS) in Kampala.

Highlighted strategies for addressing the barriers to Women's Economic Empowerment.

ESAFF Uganda hosted a Twitter Chat for small-scale women farmers to share experiences on the impact of Violence Against Women on Economic Empowerment. This was organized as part of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. During the Twitter Chat, 4 small-scale women farmers shared their experiences with violence against women, and its impact on society and also shared some proposals for addressing the violence against women in the communities. The Twitter Chat reached over 45,000 people.

Prior to the Twitter Chat, ESAFF Uganda hosted four women Small-Scale Farmers on the panel to discuss their experience with Gender-Based Violence in their communities. This video was recorded and later broadcasted in communities and shared with different stakeholders.



Angua Jennifer addressing fellow community members about indigenous seed

CASE STORY 6

Increased Knowledge and Appreciation for Indigenous Seeds

Angua Jennifer, a facilitator of the Urebadriku Farmer Field School in Adjumani district Ofua Subcounty, has always been curious and willing to learn new things, especially those that help with resolving livelihood challenges. Jennifer was keen to learn more about indigenous seeds and food plants before venturing into commercial production of the same. Because most farmers prefer hybrid seeds, we are having trouble getting access to indigenous inputs, particularly seeds. Communities are losing some of their knowledge on how to use, store, and maintain these native seeds, Jennifer observes. Some of these indigenous seeds, along with the knowledge of how to use, store, and manage them, are disappearing from communities, Jennifer observes. Once in the market, the neglected species are more expensive than our usual foods. "Fortunately, my farmer group, which is a part of the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) - Uganda, has received training on how to conserve, domesticate, and use Neglected and Underutilized species (NUS), boosting our knowledge," Jennifer says. In our FFS, we realised that kerekede (hibiscus) is on high demand in the communities so we are now venturing into seed production and value addition and so far this has boosted our incomes and kept the group together.

As one of the NUS facilitators, I have acquired more Knowledge and skills on indigenous crops and plants such as Opio sunga, Lonjokobi, Millet, Songo, Enuga, and kerekede as we commonly refer to them among others. This knowledge has helped me to fully utilize the local food plants in improving my family nutrition, food security and increase our household income as we sell off the surplus. As a Farmer Field School, we are working towards restoring the lost local food plants within our communities; these are later sent to the Community Seed Bank for multiplication and made available to communities. I strongly believe that the Community Seed Bank will help us to conserve some of the varieties that were depleting from communities yet are very nutritious and resilient to most of the impacts of climate change.



MAKE AN IMPACT

Support small scale farmers achieve lasting improved livelihoods through influencing favorable policies at all levels.



Donate

We can do more through your partnership and generous contribution. Write to Mrs Nancy M Walimbwa for any inquires and more information.

Email: coordinator@esaffuganda.org

Website: www.esaffuganda.org



Amplify

Help us spread the smallscale farmers' voices through social media. Share our publications, positions and views with others.

Follow, Like and subscribe to our channel.

Twitter: @ESAFFUG

Facebook: ESAFF Uganda

YouTube: ESAFF Uganda TV

Instagram: esaff_agroecology

Anchor:

<https://anchor.fm/esaff-uganda>



Advocate

Create campaigns related to what we are doing at ESAFF Uganda. We are stronger with your voice added to our campaign on improving livelihoods, agroecology, agriculture financing, seed and food sovereignty.

PARTNERS

We did all this and more because partners like you believed we could make a difference, and we did. We are grateful for your gifts and for the confidence you place in ESAFF Uganda. We take care to ensure that every shilling you donate to us goes into achieving our vision.



OXFAM

Oxfam in Uganda

Oxfam in Uganda and ESAFF Uganda share a passion for improving the livelihood of small-scale farmers especially women. With support from Oxfam, ESAFF Uganda implemented the Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security (SD=HS) program and the Power of Voices Project (PVP).



La Via Campesina

ESAFF Uganda has over the year worked with La Via Campesina the largest peasant movement in the World to advance women and youth small scale farmer's voice at national, regional and international platforms to influence policy



AFRICAN WOMEN'S COLLABORATIVE

Advancing Healthy Food Systems

African Women Collaborative Health Systems

The support rendered by the African Women Collaborative Health Systems to Women small scale farmer groups in promoting food security and women rights through documentation.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Biovision
Africa
Trust

SDC supported by BVAT

The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) - Initiative project has been financed by SDC and supported by BioVision Africa Trust (BVAT) to mainstream EOA into national agricultural production systems in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GIZ

For the year 2021 GIZ has worked with ESAFF Uganda to promote Responsible Governance of Investments in Land in the Central region under the RGIL project. A number of small scale farmers have benefited from the Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism process.



LUND
UNIVERSITY

LUND University

ESAFF Uganda in partnership with Lund university and other PhD researchers are working on a research project titled Farmers Organization Movement for Political Opportunities, this is because research and collaboration forms a vital part of the Advocacy component of the organization.



Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers' Forum
REGIONAL

ESAFF Regional

ESAFF Regional supported the engagement of small-scale farmers in policy advocacy at both national and regional levels. These policy events included agriculture budget advocacy and campaigns for agroecology.

Anonymous

ESAFF Uganda works with partners who prefer to be anonymous. These partners have supported our work that directly impacts on the livelihood of small scale farmers.



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

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