



# 2017

## Annual Report



celebrating 15 year

## **TABLE OF CONTENT**

BACKGROUND OF ESAFF .....	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	3
SECURING SEED RIGHTS TO REALIZE THE RIGHT TO FOOD .....	4
INFLUENCING POLICIES FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL FINANCING .....	7
INFLUENCING LARGE SCALE BASED INVESTMENTS USING THE MECOT TOOL .....	10
PROTECTING WOMEN LAND RIGHTS.....	12
CHALLENGING CLIMATE CHANGE BY PROMOTING AGROECOLOGY AND CLIMATE RESILIENT AGROECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS .....	15
PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS.....	17

## BACKGROUND OF ESAFF UGANDA

The formation of Eastern and Southern African small scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) in 2002 was a direct response to the need to create a forum where Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) are able to deliberate on and voice their concerns. ESAFF Uganda is a part of a the regional small scale farmers coalition that started during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa in 2002. The forum was established to bring together small scale farmers into a social movement to build common aspirations, learning and linkages. It brings together small scale crop farmers, pastoralists and traditional fisher folks. ESAFF Uganda is a small scale farmer-led movement formed to facilitate processes through which smallholder farmers' development concerns can be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through local and national policies and programmes. ESAFF Uganda works to enhance the SSFs ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes through capacity building, advocacy, research and institutional development.

**Vision:** Empowered self-reliant small scale farmers; **Mission Statement:** To nurture the participation of small scale farmers in sustainable development processes, for self-reliance through advocacy, capacity building and institutional development.

### STRATEGIC GOAL

A strong small scale farmer' forum effectively engaging its membership at all levels for effective representation and self-reliance.

### MEMBER COUNTRIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

ESAFF Uganda is part of a wider regional forum of small scale farmers that operates in several other countries in Eastern and Southern Africa including; Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, Madagascar, Seychelles and Mozambique.

ESAFF Uganda is currently having membership in 30 districts including Soroti, Serere, Amuria, Ngora, Bukedea, Kumi, Kabale, Kisoro, Masaka, Mubende, Mityana, Mukono, Nebbi, Zombo, Kamuli, Jinja, Mbale, Mayuge, Bugiri, Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya, Pader, Adjumani, Manafwa, Iganga, Arua, Apac, Kasese and Kanugu

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2017 has been a remarkable year for ESAFF Uganda as an organization as we celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> year since our establishment and therefore this annual report covers the progress made of the different activities that were implemented by the organization under each strategic components.

ESAFF Uganda efforts of enhancing active participation and influencing on policies hindering the agricultural sector development have gradually improved through creating regular platforms that have stimulated collective participation and strategizing of small scale farmer women in different policy processes both at local and national levels.

In the realm of capacity building and empowerment ESAFF Uganda trained and strengthened small scale farmers in different themes including seed rights, protecting women land rights, climate change, LSLBI among others as elaborated in the report. This gave farmers an opportunity to attain knowledge and skills on how to succumb the different challenges they were facing as well as recognizing their importance in ensuring environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation as the key stakeholders in agricultural development.

As a small-scale farmer organization that is geared towards continuous quality improvement ESAFF Uganda organizes Annual general meetings (AGM), quarterly review meetings and regular board meetings that give its mandate to develop and maintain its structures.

As we continue for the following years we would like to thank everyone our development partners, civil society organizations and friends who support and believe in the farmer-led advocacy movement.





## SECURING SEED RIGHTS TO REALIZE THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Seed is the most fundamental resource for any farmer as it ensures continuity season after another and therefore key to ensuring improved livelihoods of smallholder farmers. However accessing good quality seed among small scale farmers has become a challenge due to the high costs of seed and supply of fake seeds in the market, effects of climate change, poor farming methods to produce good quality seed etc., therefore ESAFF Uganda found it imperative for farmers to understand the need to exercise their seed rights in order to promote seed security in their communities.

### **Building capacity of small scale farmers in community managed seed security**

ESAFF Uganda built the capacities of 10 farmer groups in Gulu district in 4 sub counties (Laroo, Unyama, Onagako and Bungatira) in multiplying, saving and sharing of seed. The farmer groups established multiplication gardens of various seeds i.e. Soya beans, Cassava, millet, okra, lapena (pigeon peas), on top of the gardens all the 3 sub counties have established community seed banks where they preserve different varieties of seed as well as developed ways on sharing the seed amongst themselves thus reducing on the financial burden that comes with buying seed from the market and sometimes with uncertainty. Farmers now have access to quality indigenous seed. This has also inspired many other farmers in the neighboring communities to start up their own seed multiplication gardens reducing the vulnerability of farmers depending on government provided seeds.

### **Campaigning for farmer managed seed security systems**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017, ESAFF Uganda organized a seed dialogue in Gulu district. The dialogue attracted over 80 participants from Kampala, Gulu, Amuru, Apac, Adjumani, Nwoya and Pader district and it majorly aimed at creating discussions between district leaders and small scale farmers on creating strategies on how to promote seed rights among communities as well as supporting women to secure their interests and assert their views in relation to land and seed rights. By the end of the activity leaders committed to support the goal of addressing seed rights starting with urgency of the preservation of the local seed varieties that are disappearing from the communities

### **Empowering small-scale farmers and local leaders through learning routes**

In order to further strengthen the capacity of small scale farmers in the need to promote seed rights, 10 farmers from the different farmer groups took part in a learning route in Kiziba community seed bank in Sheema district. Farmers were able to learn from the communities already multiplying seed, identify gaps with their own communities and adopt some of the techniques used by this community in preserve their own seed. This also helped farmers build and strengthen collaborations with community seed for continued technical support and engagements.

ESAFF Uganda also organized learning routes for local policy makers and district technical officials in order to build consensus between farmers and local policy makers and district technical officials from Gulu district i.e. district agriculture officer (DAO), Secretary Production, Residential District Officer (RDC), district councilors, sub county leaders. During this learning route farmers were able to share with their leaders some of the success of multiplying their own seed and cautioned them to support the farmers through looking for market for their

produce as well as sharing their achievements at the national level and other areas so that people can be able to learn from.

### **Documenting community managed seed systems through IECs**

In order to ensure informed advocacy and lobbying of policy makers and leaders, materials inform T-shirts, posters and brochures were published and shared amongst small scale farmers for education purposes and at times used as campaign materials for advocacy. These IECs carried information on how important community managed seed systems are to improving access and control over seed.

### **Promoting community managed seed security systems through media engagements**

People around the world recognize that media interventions play a vital role in influencing practice and policy change therefore ESAFF Uganda empowers small scale farmers through availing media platforms for engagements through radio and TV programs. In Gulu district, 12 farmers represented fellow farmers on Mega FM during different talk shows discussing the challenges farmers face in accessing good quality seed. Through the media farmers have been able to change perceptions of other farmers, influence local policy makers on the need for protection and preservation of indigenous seeds





## INFLUENCING POLICIES FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL FINANCING

### **Building capacity of small-scale farmers in Public Expenditure Tracking (PETS)**

60 small-scale farmers from Jinja and Manafwa districts were trained on public expenditure tracking (PETS). The trainings took a community based approach aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of small scale farmers to track and collect budget information as well as increasing their vigilance in playing their role as responsible citizens. From the training a number of key issues such as the absence of information at the grass root in regards to the budget process and some of the challenges farmers face while trying to obtain budget information from local district officials including intimidation and denial. After the training, small-scale farmers were supported to carry out budget tracking and develop a report that was shared with district leaders.



### **Campaigning for increased public expenditures in the agriculture sector**

Farmers were also able to participate in Pre-post dialogues and post-budget dialogues that were organized in consortium with other organisations. 42 small scale farmers (12male, 30 female) from Kabale, Mayuge, Jinja and Manafwa participated in these dialogues. These dialogues created a platform to understand the government roadmap detailing its intension to achieve agriculture transformation in FY 2016/17 this gave farmers a platform to table their opinions some of which included the demand for a gender responsive budget and better service delivery for the agriculture sector.

Small-scale farmers also participated in the national agriculture finance day (the Agfin Day) that took place on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 coordinated by Uganda Agribusiness Alliance and Civil society Budget advocacy group (CSBAG) on the sidelines of the Agriculture Show in Jinja district. ESAFF Uganda was represented by 16 (6males and 10females) small scale farmers. The day included a number of activities such as media engagements, exhibitions and a policy dialogue. Participants were able to come up with recommendations addressed to government to benefit the welfare of the agriculture sector such as the need to revitalize cooperatives, promoting participatory planning, developing value chains in which many smallholders operate, funding agriculture extension among other.

During these engagements, small-scale farmers also contributed to position papers and communiques that were calling on government to prioritize the agriculture sector and invest in small-scale farmers given their contribution to the economy.

### **Using the media to promote social accountability**

Media engagements included radio 3 talk shows which aimed at creating awareness on the budget processes taking place in the country and calling upon farmer to take part in the budget processes. During these programs farmers shared their dissatisfaction especially on their less engagement in the budget processes both at the grassroots and national levels because of being isolated by officials/leaders. They also used the talk shows to demand for a platform for engagement at the respective district especially in tracking government programs and holding their leaders accountable incase of lack of transparency.

### **Taking part in the Joint Agriculture Sector Annual Review (JASAR) Meetings**

The annual meeting was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fisheries with collaboration with Non Sector Actors (NSA) including ESAFF Uganda under the theme “Towards transformation of agriculture from subsistence to commercial agriculture” the review meetings gave a platform for annual performance assessment of the agricultural sector and also inform the ministerial policy statements that set out the sector priorities for planning and financing for

the financial year 2018/2019. During this meeting ESAFF Uganda was represented by 12 farmers from Mayuge, Gulu, Amuria and Amuru district.

#### **Development of campaign posters**

Posters which had information on the national and local budget process were developed and shared during budget dialogues and other activities. Some of the information shared was the guidelines on accessing agriculture services and resources.



## **INFLUENCING LARGE SCALE BASED INVESTMENTS USING THE MECOT TOOL**

Assessments by the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) of the African Union, African Development Bank and United Nations Economic Community for Africa (UNECA) in 2013 pointed that large scale land based investments (LSLBI) are dispossessing smallholder farmers of their land rights and transferring these holdings and rights to large scale investors. This is justified by the continuous dispossessions in the oil rich Albertine districts of Bullisa and Hoima in western Uganda, Mubende and the contested districts of Nwoya and Amuru in the Acholi region. The mounting pressure coupled with gaps of customary land tenure systems across the regions have negatively affected smallholder farmers particularly women consequently resulting into low production and productivity, food insecurity, and household poverty.

### **Building small-scale farmers' capacity in Meaningful Community engagement Tool (MECoT) in Large Scale Land Based Investments (LSLBI)**

ESAFF Uganda carried out a pilot exercise of the gendered tool on meaningful community engagement in Large Scale Land Based Investments (LSLBI) in Agriculture in Pabbo, Lamogi and Amuru sub counties, Amuru district, ESAFF Uganda was able to empower communities in Amuria district with particular focus to women to secure their interests and assert their views in relation to Large Scale Land Based Investments (LSLBI. In Amuru district over 300 (211 Female and 89 Male) farmers have taken part in the MECoT in LSLBI processes which has doubled their efforts in fighting against land grabbing by large scale investors in their districts. Farmers have also engaged their traditional leaders especially Area land committees, local leaders in the whole processes. The community in Amuru sub-county appointed a group of 10 member to track investment in the district. There were different community meetings held as well as engagement with local leaders. As a result of these engagements, local leaders in Amuru sub county appreciate the role of small-scale farmers in approving large scale investment and small-scale farmers also know how to negotiate for their rights in case of any investment in their community.





## PROTECTING WOMEN LAND RIGHTS

ESAFF Uganda recognizes the ability of women and girls to exercise and protect their rights to access, control and ownership of land despite the discriminative cultural traditions, religious beliefs, policy and regulatory frameworks in communities.

### **Building capacity of small-scale farmers especially women in land rights**

Small scale farmers in Amuria, serere and Amuru district were trained to understand their legal rights and create awareness on land right issues in their communities. During these trainings ESAFF Uganda invited different leaders and Area Land Committee members from the district to land rights issues in their areas and create an avenue for farmers to ask and seek guidance on matters related to land. By the end of the training small scale farmers had understood some of the key concepts when it comes to land such as Land registrations, legal documents, certificate

of customary ownership and the relevant institutions responsible for addressing land disputes. A total of 125 (80 female and 45 male) farmers participated in these trainings.

### **Challenging gender inequality using the Gender Action learning system (GALS)**

In order to promote secure land rights in ways that gives most benefit to women, ESAFF Uganda opted to use the GALS methodology as one of the techniques to bridge the gaps in gender exclusiveness in communities. The GALS which is a community-led empowerment methodology gives women as well as men more control over their lives and catalyze and support a sustainable movement for gender justice. The methodology helps farmers identify possible actors that help them in fighting the challenges identified while using the vision road journey. This tool has been adopted in districts of Adjumani, Zombo, Nebbi, Gulu, Amuru, and Amuria with over 3500 small scale farmers are up scaling the tool in their communities.

### **Organizing land rights dialogues**

ESAFF Uganda organized 3 dialogues (including community and national) in northern Uganda bringing together over 320 participants from various districts of Pader, Gulu, Amuru, Adjumani, Zombo, Apac and Nwoya. The dialogues created a platform of small scale farmers especially women to engage with local and national leaders on issues related to land rights. Women also got an opportunity to express themselves in front of local leaders and men to pressure for practice change. During the community dialogues, ESAFF Uganda also organized legal clinics where over 16 land related cases were registered and 10 were referred.

### **Participation in the land awareness week**

The one week activity took place in Amuru district on 14<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017. The activity included several stakeholders, government officials, NGOS, small farmers and the general public; it involved a number of activities such as sensitization at parish levels, music exhibitions on land rights, media engagements through radio talk shows and mobile legal clinics. All these activities aimed at providing platforms for massive community awareness raising and community capacity strengthening on land rights, land governance, administration and land laws for effective and improved delivery and accountability in the land services in the district.

### **Publishing and sharing IECS on certificate of customary ownership**

ESAFF Uganda published 5000 posters with information on the procedure for obtaining a certificate of customary ownership (CCO). These posters were translated into the local language and shared widely in over 10 districts in Uganda. The posters were also given to local leaders during meetings and dialogues.

**Organizing radio talk show on land rights**

Engaging the media is one of the most appropriate ways to create awareness on matters relating to women land rights and land grabbing affecting communities all over the country therefore ESAFF Uganda organized various radio talk shows in Soroti district on ETOP Radio and Mega FM in Gulu district. These talk shows have been used by small scale farmers to advocate for the change in practices in promote women discrimination and abuse of rights through shaping the public opinion on women rights which in turn exerts pressure on the public and leaders to champion the women's cause.





## **CHALLENGING CLIMATE CHANGE BY PROMOTING AGROECOLOGY AND CLIMATE RESILIENT AGROECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS**

Climate change is one of the major challenges small scale farmers are facing today associated with tremendous losses to the agricultural sector at almost all levels of production process, right from planting, post harvest handling, selling for consumption. Such losses have and are continuing to cause abject poverty and extreme cases of malnutrition in the country and in most cases the most affected are the small scale farmers who are the major producers of food in the country.

### **Training small-scale farmers in climate resilient agro ecological systems**

ESAFF Uganda organized trainings of small scale farmers in Serere, Amuru, Amuria and Gulu district to build their capacity in small-scale adaptation techniques such as better water



harvesting technologies, good farming practices. During the monitoring process it was noticed that most of the farmers that attained the training have been able to practice some of these technologies in their households especially with the jerry can water harvesting technique, kitchen gardens that they have used to grow vegetables.

### **Promoting Agro ecology by strengthening agro ecology practice**

During the 2015 National Agro ecology Symposium, Small-scale farmers established the Family Farmers' Agrology Movement (FFAM) that has so far trained small-scale farmers on skills to apply and adopt the various agro-ecology best practices. The Movement also strengthened peer learning structures and other similar farmer- led learning mechanisms such as farmer field schools being piloted in Amuria district. ESAFF Uganda also organized community experience sharing sessions in Amuru and Gulu district where over 125 participants took part and these gave opportunity for farmers to share their views and experiences on practicing agro ecology.

With a bid to promote agro ecology, ESAFF Uganda is building and strengthening linkages with other likeminded institutions like Alliance for food sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), GRAIN and PELUM Uganda with the same agenda of promoting agro ecology.



## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

### World Food Day celebrations

World Food Day celebrated globally every year as declared by the UN General Assembly to heighten public awareness of world food problems and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Small scale farmers are mostly family farmers and are the major custodians of food; they feed a great percentage of Uganda's population therefore are key stakeholders at the World Food Day Celebration 2017 under the theme "change the future of migration; invest in food security and rural development" ESAFF Uganda joined the rest of the world to celebrate this remarkable day and eight farmers from Kabale and Kasese district represented the rest of the small scale farmers. Farmers used the event to showcase indigenous seed and advocate against GMOs.

### World Environment Day celebrations

Small scale farmers participated in this year's World Environment Day celebration held in Ibanda District for their commitment towards Environmental sustainability through positive actions. 12 small scale farmers from Masaka districts attended and showcased various items

including different types of eco-friendly tree species like mangoes, Avocado and oranges in addition to showcasing the GALS methodology which aims at encourages men and women to work together for sustainable economic development

### **International Women's Day**

To celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women small-scale farmers and especially their contribution to food production in the country. ESAFF Uganda joined the rest of the world to commemorate women's day in Dokolo district on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Dokolo Technical School. During the event women small-scale farmers were able to showcase some of the model such as the community managed seed security model and the gender action learning system (GALS) to different stakeholder including government, development partners and wider public.





## CONTACT US

**Office:** Plot 266, Muvule Avenue, Buye, Ntinda, Kampala

**P.O BOX** 34420 Kampala, Uganda

**Telephone:** +256-414-533 764

**Email:** [esaffuganda@yahoo.com](mailto:esaffuganda@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [www.esaffuganda.org](http://www.esaffuganda.org)

**Facebook:** ESAFF Uganda

**Twitter:** @ESAFFUG