

# Report For The 1<sup>st</sup> Women in Agriculture (WiA) Conference **2019**

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Hotel Africana  
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# About **The Conference**

## Background and objective

Women in Uganda comprise more than 70 percent of the agriculture labor force with a major contribution to national GDP estimated at 22% yet the resultant profits are hardly aggregated and accountable for their wellbeing. Women despite providing the largest labor force in the agriculture sector, are not equal beneficiaries from their production, most of the food produced by women is consumed at home while the remainder is often traded by men who take most of the proceeds. Rural women face greater constraints than men in accessing land, technology, markets, infrastructure and services. Evidence presented by FAO shows that when rural women have the same access as men to productive resources, services and economic opportunities there is a significant increase in agricultural output and immediate and long term social and economic gains, all contributing to the reduction in the number of poor and hungry people.

Studies have shown that women in rural areas who are engaged in agriculture earn lower wages for the same type of job compared to men and have limited access to land. Further studies by World Bank (2014) have found that plots managed by women farmers produce 13% less per acre than men s, or those managed jointly while only 24 % of women compared to 33 % of men, use improved seeds. Only 18.6% have access to extension advisory services compared to 81.4 % of men. Gender equality and women's empowerment is powerful in achieving food security for all, improving agricultural productivity and ensuring the full participation of rural people in decision-making processes. The question remains; Is it an issue of poor policies or not implementing available policies?

In Uganda, the government has long been committed to improving the Ugandan women and narrowing "gender gaps" in their lives. The National Development Plan (NDP) recognized the existing gender differences in various sectors, including Agriculture, hence the need to promote gender equality and transform mind-set, attitudes, cultural practices and perceptions. Therefore, it is for this reason as to why ESAFF Uganda with support from Trust Africa organized the first Women in Agriculture Conference 2019 to discuss avenues of supporting rural women in agriculture. The Women in Agriculture Conference 2019 was organized under the theme Making policies and programs work for rural women in agriculture.

### *The objectives included;*

- 1. Celebrating small scale women farmers in rural areas**
- 2. Identifying constraints women face in generating income through small-scale rural agriculture and suggest potential solutions.**

## Conference participants

The Women in Agriculture Conference 2019 was attended by 83 participants who included women smallholder farmers, government officials, Members of Parliament from EALA and Parliament of Uganda, academic institutions, Farmers and Civil Society Organizations and media. The attendance list for the WiA 2019 conference can be availed on request.

## Conference methodology

To achieve the objective of the conference, different methodologies were employed including plenary discussions with small scale farmers, private sectors, development Partners and government representatives; moderated discussions; focus groups discussions and PowerPoint presentations. These methodologies ensured useful interactive and brainstorming sessions.

## Sponsorship

ESAFF Uganda is grateful for the financial support received from TrustAfrica Foundation that made this Conference a reality.

# Conference Proceedings

## Opening Session And Presentations

### National Anthem, Opening Prayer and Self Introduction

The national anthem was led by Jane Timbiti, a small scale farmer from Manafwa district meanwhile Kizza Mariah who was the moderator of the day said the opening prayer for the conference. Participants then introduced themselves by name, district, organisation and designation.

### Welcome remarks by ESAFF Uganda National Chairperson

Mr. Hakim Baliraine, the National Chairperson ESAFF Uganda welcomed everyone and said that women play a vital role in Uganda's rural agricultural sector and contributes to a higher average share of crop labour in the region making up more than half of Uganda's agricultural workforce, a higher proportion of women than men work in farming with 76% versus 62%. According to him, women have a major contribution to national GDP estimated at 22% yet the resultant profits are hardly aggregated and accountable for their wellbeing and they also constitute 43% of agricultural workers in much of the developing world. Women despite providing the largest labor force in the sector are not equal beneficiaries from their production; most of the food produced by women is consumed at home while the remainder is often traded by men.

The National Chairperson informed the participants of the ESAFF Uganda works to support women through developing an organization gender policy that empowers women in agriculture, building capacities of women in using Gender Action Learning System (GALS) to break gender inequalities, promoting women in Farming as a Business, protecting women and girls land rights. He said that ESAFF Uganda has also promoted women participation in national budget processes and social accountability, influencing policy and practice change using media engagements, promotion of women meaningful engagement towards win-win scenarios for all stakeholders in Large Scale Land Based Investment in agriculture, building capacities of women in accessing seed rights and addressing climate change, organizing many dialogues to discuss issues affecting women and learning visits for policy makers and women in agriculture. He finalized on that by saying that ESAFF Uganda has also printed and shared IECS on women in agriculture. The National Chairperson pointed out the challenges faced by women that limit their development in the rural areas which included limited access to productive inputs for example seeds, water, and fertilizer, lack of access to land, financial services, new agricultural

practices, limited market for farm products, inequality in labor conditions and access to work opportunities.

The National Chairperson concluded by suggesting possible interventions that are needed to increase women opportunities in agriculture across the region including: the equal application of the law, the provision of productive opportunities for women, the development of leadership abilities in women, the importance of granting access to productive assets and the importance of linking rural women to value chains but said that the most critical issue is the need to transform old cultural and socio-economic norms and patterns. He also said that public policies that are favourable to women are needed, transparency and accurate implementation, new extension services, better education and labour markets are also needed but the most is to recognize that women and men are equal, they deserve and have the same rights when it comes to government programs, access to agricultural inputs, access to financial services to support them.

### Key note by Hon. Persis Namuganza, Minister of State, Lands from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

Hon. Persis Namuganza started by thanking ESAFF Uganda for the opportunity she was granted to have engagement with the rural women in agriculture since they play a critical role in the survival and progress of countries when it comes to food and food security and supporting their families. Hon. Persis Namuganza said that every Ugandan by law need to protect women from abuse and said it is the role of government to ensure that the implementation of the policies and laws and benefits rural women since they work so hard and earns very little out of the toiling. Law enforcement is still low and it needs immediate addressing for rural women in agriculture to be protected. She demonstrated the context of how government can tackle the problems of rural women by giving the categories of women. She said rural women are dynamic in that they are active and effective of which if they are mobilized well in modern agriculture they can be productive. According to Hon. Persis Namuganza, there exist ordinary women in the community who carries babies on their back, produce so many children, gets family income through digging using hand hoe, produce very little and use it to feed, educate and dress the children. She said that all those categories of rural women if mobilized can be productive.

Hon. Persis Namuganza put it clear that the major key in the production is land and without it nothing can be done. She testified that rural women need to own land but in most cases they are given a small piece of land of which in the same garden all crops are grown (peas, beans, groundnuts and others) beyond the intercropping in addition to their husbands and relatives infringing on their rights to own land. She continued that women needs

to be supported with advice on what to plant, sell some and use the money to buy what they don't have. She also testified that the rights of dynamic women to access land is not effective but the African culture shows that women should not own land of which people are going away from that and women have come up to help others make a world a better place. Hon. Persis Namuganza mentioned that government have put in place government programs to help rural women in agriculture for example Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) that supports women by giving them agriculture inputs and further said that the OWC program is not yielding because government is not present in the garden where farming takes place but only available at the sub-county headquarters and does not feel and share the challenges farmers are facing. She also mentioned that the focus is more on youth through youth programs like Youth Cooperation into Agriculture and other categories but not women. She appreciated the ESAFF Uganda for thinking for rural women in agriculture that needs attention to produce productively.

Hon. Persis Namuganza suggested that to help rural women in agriculture, government should ensure access to agriculture and land related information, focus on agricultural mobilization into rural agriculture to empower rural women to do what is good, promote education for women, exposure to technology like the internet and smart phones, support women to register their land and obtain customary land ownership certificates citing an example were certificates of customary land ownership for 195 hectares of land in Nwoya district were issued. Hon. Persis Namuganza committed herself to helping the women in agriculture to have certificate of customary land ownership that will help in the mobilization and sensitization of other women to do the same.

Hon. Persis Namuganza concluded by thanking development partners like ESAFF Uganda, Trust Africa and other partners for changing from their original thinking that used to be against the government. Hon. Persis Namuganza said there is need to incooperate the community and the government in interventions done by the development partners in order to bring out the best out of rural women in agriculture. She also said that there is need to love and support rural women in agriculture, reduce unpaid workers that are mostly women in agriculture. She applauded this event for bringing women in agriculture together to share ideas and challenges.

## Experience sharing by women farmers on the role of women in agriculture and constraints related to it

### **Christine Nabwami, Chairperson ESAFF Mityana**

Christine Nabwami, the chairperson of ESAFF Mityana thanked Hon. Persis Namuganza for the wonderful discussion with women small scale farmers and welcomed the opportunity to discuss the gender roles in connection to agriculture. She said that they are the dynamic women who always try to put agriculture on top of everything and added that the challenges that women face have not stopped them from practicing agriculture since it is part of their obligation. She urged the participants to be supportive to women in agriculture and ended by saluting all fellow women who are doing wonders in Uganda.

### **Vicky Lokwiya, Chairperson ESAFF Gulu**

Vicky Lokwiya, the chairperson of ESAFF Gulu district also shared her experiences and said that rural women need access to seed because seed is life because without food there is no life. To her without seed there is nothing to grow on the land. Vicky Lokwiya manifested that in Gulu district ESAFF Uganda and Oxfam supported women small scale farmers in protecting Farmer Managed Seed System (FMSS). She said that farmers multiplied, exchanged and sold some seeds but testified the challenge of fake seeds in the area. Vicky Lokwiya also said that they have their own seed bank at the sub-county with 70 seed varieties. She also said that she is having her own seed bank in the house that she can plant during the planting season not buying seeds from the market. On the challenges, Vicky Lokwiya said that women farmers face the problem of poor quality seeds with no specifications. She advised women to have seeds in the house not buying fake seeds from the market. Vicky Lokwiya concluded by demanding the government to put legal framework to regulate FMSS since it has been tested and it is a success.

### **Ms. Florence Amagoro, Chairperson ESAFF Kumi**

Ms. Florence Amagoro, a small scale farmer and chairperson ESAFF Uganda Kumi district said that she practices mixed farming but said that there is no land for women because culture doesn't give control rights to women either at her father's or husband's place. She testified that a woman one time planted her sweet potatoes at man's place and the man harvested and sold everything not giving the money to the wife and still no one came to help the poor woman and her children but they had nothing to eat and the worst thing the man that sold the potatoes could also come home to look for food to eat from the poor woman's place. Ms. Florence Amagoro concluded by saying that the woman did not know her land rights and requested that policies should be written in local languages, adult civic education should be given to the rural women in the communities for them to be empowered and defeat their rights.

### **Ms. Masudio Margaret, Chairperson ESAFF Uganda Adjumani district**

Ms. Masudio Margaret said that she practices agroecology growing soya beans, sweet potatoes, rice, cassava among others as well as rearing goats and local chicken. She said that women face a lot of issues on land where they are chased from the husband's place and sometimes parents also chase them to go back leaving them with nowhere to go. Ms. Masudio Margaret said that when a woman dies in their village, she is always buried at the boundary since they have no land. She called for the need of implementation of land laws and policies to support access to land by rural women. Ms. Masudio Margaret also further explained that in Adjumani, they have a methodology called Gender Action Learning System (GALS) that has a lot of tools for identifying their problems and solutions for example in land rights they use the Challenge Action Tree, Vision Tool, Income and Expenditure Tool, Gender Middle Tree, Market Research Tree. She continued to explain all those tools and how they can be used to address women land rights issues and other gender challenges.

# Panel Discussion: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges

## Making national policies and programs work for rural women in agriculture: A policy environment that works for rural women in agriculture

### Panelists from CSOs, Media and Academia;

1. Ms. Agnes Kirabo, Food Rights Alliance (FRA)
2. Ms. Dorcas Loga Okello, Makerere University
3. Ms. Nieke Westerik, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam
4. Mr. Grace Musimami, Farmers Media Uganda

#### Ms. Agnes Kirabo from Food Rights Alliance (FRA)

In her presentation started by thanking ESAFF Uganda for the venture of discussing challenges that women face despite the fact that they make great contributions and need to change completely. She said that experiences/struggles have two great challenges: Policies and programs are done in a rush and ends up failing because the timing is improper to reach out to 40 million Ugandans and they are implemented at regional levels not at every level. Another challenge is that policies are being sponsored by donors just like projects that have time frame and it is always short. Ms. Agnes Kirabo said that it is time to generate the local resources to fund policies not depending on donor funds. Ms. Agnes Kirabo concluded by calling upon people to fight for issues that affect them and small-scale farmers should also focus on policies that are appropriate and favourable to them and that can speak for them.

#### Dorcas Loga Okello from Makerere University

In her presentation said that agricultural Sector employs 65% of the African population and 71% of the Ugandan Population of which women contribute 76% to the agricultural sector in Uganda and an overall contribution of approximately 26% to the GDP. She also presented the National Policy Reforms in Uganda that included: The Economic Recovery Program (ERP) in 1987-1992 with the IMF/World bank that resulted in the liberalization policy that led to deregulation of exchange rate controls and liberalization of trade including agricultural inputs and outputs, Public Enterprise reform and Divestiture Act of 1993 (privatization policy) that led to privatization of state owned enterprises, merging of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with Ministry of Animal industry and Fisheries – Forming MAAIF. There was also Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) from 1997 to 2007 leading to planning framework for accelerating growth, reducing

poverty and promoting sustainable development, focus on areas that would enhance rural incomes such as agriculture, rural roads, education and health and the introduction of the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) which resulted into NAADS. Another policy reform that she gave was National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) in 2001. Dorcas Loga Okello said that NAADS is a 25-year donor funded extension services and input subsidy delivery program as the focal extension service which is the core of discussions around capacity and modernization of farming techniques in Uganda of which management is recently placed under the military after complaints of corruption and inefficiency became overwhelming.

Dorcas Loga Okello also outlined other Policies in Uganda like Agriculture on the School Curriculum in 2008, Rice Protectionism where there is a 75% tax on imported rice protecting local rice production, Export Promotion on agriculture, Public Expenditure on Agriculture. On this she said Uganda is bound by the Maputo Declaration of 2003, Rural Road Network Infrastructure Development, Land Policy Reforms of equal access to land by both men and women, Agriculture Credit Facilities where government mandated banks to provide agricultural loans however, collateral is still a challenge for rural farmers, Biotechnology Bill also known as GMO which was recently approved. To her all these are the initiatives to help the rural farmers engaged in agriculture. Dorcas Loga Okello concluded her presentation by saying that policy reforms influence women in agriculture either directly or indirectly in that women need to harness their potential to strategically benefit from the changing policies to enhance their benefits from engaging in agriculture and adoption of grouping as a tool for organizing women to ensure maximum benefits through bulking and quality assurance, land Consolidation to enable mechanization in agriculture.

#### Ms. Nieke Westerik from Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam presented

On the global perspective and noted that there is decreasing farmland per capita and non-farm income is the best driver to agricultural growth as monetary income reduces household vulnerability and allows purchase of inputs to improve agricultural yields. She presented a case study on locally produced probiotic yoghurt that leads to stimulation of the local milk-market, increased

employment and income, access to an affordable healthy product, reduction of spoilage and spillage of milk of which is employing 704 people in Uganda. She discussed lack of education, knowledge and business skills, low mobility of women versus availability of inputs, no access to milk from family farm, no access to finance for start-up capital, not being able to use profits to re-invest, due to household demands and un-achievable certification as some of the constraints faced in the production of yoghurt. She also mentioned that women have been successful through working in groups leading to more confidence, access to larger financial means, more likely to be allowed by husbands to move (increased mobility), sharing of knowledge and experiences, greater self esteem, more active in public life, dependence on ties with women who grew up in the community. Ms. Nieke Westerik also pointed out how favourable policies can stimulate women to economically develop. Ms. Nieke Westerik concluded by saying that locally produced probiotic yoghurt has proven to be a good example of how occupational diversification can help rural women to obtain monetary income, independence and confidence. She called for the need of general infrastructure such as access to education, finance and inputs will help women to conduct more successful business and urged private sectors to advocate for more friendly policies to certify rural and small-scale businesses.

Grace Musimami from Farmers Media Uganda said that if women can strike and put down their hoes not going to the garden, Uganda can suffer. He urged women not to wait for policies because they will not be helped if they don't make men and other people to understand the laws and policies that protect women from gender based violence. He also proposed the inclusion of men who are champions in the house for next year's women in agriculture conference and not to call the CSOs as Non-State Actors because the state thinks they don't have ideas and a say on state issues. Grace Musimami said that the media can help in the translation of policies and said that policies should not be put in isolation. He further stated that media can help in the sensitization and education of the public on how to follow the policies and the benefit that the policies bring to the country if well implemented. He also said that there is need of forming district local government Forum to discuss policies continuously and the discussion on the domestication of those policies.

## Questions, comments and reactions

Participants asked about the marketing process at Yoba and value addition; Operations Wealth Creation program; pending land cases in the courts. There was a recommendation on issues of to have a formalized court for lands and women should be involved in policy engagement. Ms. Agnes Kirabo said that for the financial year 2019/20 national budget, OWC budget was cut 220bn to 92bn. She said that farmers need to have access to agricultural extension services and marketing of farm products. Ms. Nieke Westerik also explained the marketing techniques for the Yoba as well as their partnership with community women.

## Panelist from development partners and government official;

1. **Mr. Dennis Obbo, Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development**
2. **Dr. Bethule Nyamambi, Trust Africa Foundation**
3. **Dr. Mary Teddy Asio, Ministry of EAC Affairs**
4. **Ms. Harriet Mbabazi, Oxfam in Uganda**

**Mr. Dennis Obbo from Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development** stressed the importance of every rural woman in agriculture to have a National Identity Card as it is a requirement in the processing of land titles and said that the ministry is now registering family lands. He also encouraged women in agriculture to get organized and form rural groups so that it will be easy for them to be helped cited examples of women in Pader and Nwoya districts. Women were also advised to get land forms for customary land registration. Mr. Denis Obbo said that there is need for a move to take action and proposed for collaboration with ESAFF Uganda and help ESAFF district farmers to register their land. He concluded by saying that government policies are cooperative, lenient and good. He committed to making a move to support rural women who wish to register their land.

**Dr. Bethule Nyamambi from Trust Africa** said that at Trust Africa, informed the conference that there is an idea of building the idea of citizens, organizations and women that are actively informed and they believe in empowering women and recognizing their active labour force. She continued that there are central programs already in place to empower women for example in getting land certificates. According to her, there are social norms that affect women but stressed that through implementation of policies and laws, women will be helped and said that historically women were tasked with the responsibilities of farmer managed seed system where they grow and keep for planting. She urged ESAFF Uganda to ensure that there is data involving women in value chain, making decisions about agricultural production, crop production, leadership and income. She concluded that there is need to promote a much stronger agricultural inclusive gender initiative which can only be done if women speak for themselves.

**Ms. Harriet Mbabazi from Oxfam in Uganda** said that small-scale farmers often lack resources to improve productivity, most affected by weather shocks and climate change. She said that women are often responsible for gathering and producing food, collecting water and sourcing fuel for heating and cooking and further noted that with climate change, these tasks are becoming more difficult. Extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have a greater impact on the poor and most vulnerable women. Harriet Mbabazi also suggested that development partners and government should lead in conducting research and studies to identify policy gaps to inform policy reviews, piloting and testing models for scalability and uptake hence contributing to promoting favourable agriculture policies that work for rural women. In addition, Harriet Mbabazi also gave challenges faced by development partners as being disjointed implementation of programs by development partners and government, paradigm shift in funding and financing architecture, transition from donor to mutual partnership, linking local initiatives to regional and global

initiatives and vice versa, shrinking civic space, sustainability of actions and impact making it hard to help the farmers.

**Dr. Mary Teddy Asio from Ministry of EAC Affairs** discussed about the regional issues where she said that SSFs can benefit from EAC Affairs in terms of marketing, food security and poverty eradication if well mobilized. She said that there are a lot of policies that have helped women in agriculture for example on extension services, government programs like NAADS, NUSAF, agriculture cluster development where farmers are given E-vouchers, water for irrigation. Dr. Mary Teddy Asio noted that the only challenge is quality of produce that can make SSFs not to compete regionally; SSFs cannot manage production shocks like drought, pest and diseases, price fluctuation and gender gap that need to be addressed. Dr. Mary Teddy Asio urged government and development partners to enforce policies and programs, getting into partnerships, plan for continuity and sustainability of programs, management of shocks. Women were reminded to demand for services and land ownership and property adding that women should be co-owners not witnesses in land ownership..



## Questions, comments and reactions

Participants commented on land access by women by saying that women need to be empowered through policies being implemented, sensitization and guidance; questioned about land policies if women have right to land or it is upto their husbands to make them own land; commented on the extension workers that ask for lunch and transport allowances from women asking if it is really realistic for them to do so.

**Mr. Obbo Denis** informed participants that in Soroti district MLHUD is implementing a program of giving certificates of customary land ownership and added that the opinion of women should be considered when it comes to land issues. Ms. Harriet Mbabazi said that development partners should educate women, simplify laws and put them in local languages and do mapping for all policies and programs. Dr. Teddy Mary Asio noted that the issue of extension workers demanding for fuel and lunch is not realistic. Dr. Bethule Nyamambi encouraged ESAFF Uganda and women to gather issues and make it stronger like on rights.

### Vote of thanks by Mugisha Lydia

Ms. Mugisha Lydia thanked the panelists saying they came with the issues for the minister to address which has really helped and she was so grateful especially for the land issue since widows suffers from it so much. She also appreciated ESAFF and the National Chairperson, government for the arrangement and called for more conferences.





# Moderated Discussion in Focus Groups on Action by Different Stakeholders

*During the group discussion, participants were put in groups and they came up with the following ideas on the actions to be taken by different stakeholders on enhancing rural women involvement in agriculture;*

## **Actions for government**

- **Government should create awareness on different policies that are relevant for farmers and its planning should be from bottom to top not from top to bottom.**
- **Government should also simplify the policies and translate in local languages and disseminate it for every small scale farmer in agriculture to understand and enforcing policies up to the grass root.**
- **Government should also increase agricultural budget allocation to 10% to fund value addition and agroecological farming**
- **Government should strengthen women farmer groups and cooperatives to market their produce.**
- **Government should come up with a separate court to handle land issues and find a way of stopping corruption in the courts of law.**
- **Parliament to facilitate women Member of Parliament to sensitize constituencies on laws and policies that are made.**
- **Government should make agriculture as a compulsory subject in schools especially in rural schools and sensitize teachers to make it more practical.**
- **Government should assist women in registration of customary land and acquiring certificates of customary land ownership.**

## **Actions for media**

- **The media should provide space for women to deliberate on their rights and on policies affecting them through disseminating the information about SSFs.**

## **Actions for development partners**

- **Development partners should initiate projects that are sustainable and roll it to every district so that everyone can benefit from the project.**
- **Development partners should also work in partnership with other like minded organizations, engage men in all programs and organize exchange visits for small scale farmers.**

## **Actions for CSO/FO**

- **CSO/FO should sensitize ordinary and dynamic women in agriculture to demand for their rights.**
- **CSO/FO should lobby and advocate for SSFs especially on land rights**

# Closing session

## Speech from the Chairperson Women Chapter ESAFF Uganda

The chairperson appreciated partner organizations, ESAFF Uganda and women small scale farmers for making the conference a success and urged fellow women not to keep the information to themselves but to disseminate it through radio stations so that the rest can also get the information. She also advised women to organize themselves to be in groups in order to benefit from government programs for example combine harvesters, getting funds from local government and financial institutions.

## General remarks by Dr. Bethule Nyamambi

Dr. Bethule Nyamambi thanked everybody and recognized the presence of Hon. Mathias Kasamba who is a farmer ally and reacts to issues for the benefit the small-scale farmers. She encouraged that women farmers should continue articulating and specifying their needs as the conference was the first of its kind. She committed that TrustAfrica will continue working together with the rural women in agriculture to ensure that women are helped to do more for the community that they come from.

## General remarks from National Chairperson ESAFF Uganda

Mr. Hakim Baliraine called for the need for working together and said as an advocacy organization; there is need for change and actions in relation to favourable policies. He called for partners and allies to be behind the 10% budget campaign by ESAFF Uganda. He concluded by saying that when women should speak for themselves because it impacts a lot.

## Official closing remarks by Hon. Kasamba Mathias

Hon. Mathias Kasamba appreciated the 1st Women in Agriculture (WiA) Conference 2019 and said that it will help women small-scale farmers a lot. Hon. Mathias Kasamba called for the women small-scale farmers to be organized in groups in order to benefit from government programs. He commended the networking that small-scale farmers are having and called for the need to support programs around value addition, signing partnership in post-harvest handling. He also highlighted the need to work together as sometimes government officials forget some priority issues for women small-scale farmers. He also urged small-scale farmers to make simple innovations like planting vegetables that takes only 21 days. Hon.

Mathias Kasamba also said that government will procure 170 tractors and other simple technologies like garden-boda-boda that will be distributed to organized group of farmers to liberate them with focus on women. Hon. Mathias Kasamba also called for liberation of women small-scale farmers saying that there is no way that a mother can take children to school when there is no food at home, food comes first. He said that there is need for transformational agriculture for example growing of jack fruits as it earns income, provide nutritious food, saves environment and protects nature. He called for people to nurture nature that nurtured them. He concluded by promising to the participants that he stands with women small-scale farmers at all stages and informed the participants that the demand for the 10% budget allocation will resume in March 2019. Hon. Mathias Kasamba then declared the 1st WiA Conference closed.

### **ABOUT ESAFF UGANDA**

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda exists to create a platform to bring together small scale farmers into a farmer-led advocacy movement to influence policies and practices at local and national level and contribute through ESAFF to policies and practices at regional, continental and global 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 1359 farmer groups with 48210 individual small-scale farmers of which 64 per cent are women in 54 districts (under the administration of 30 historical districts' forums).

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Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum

## ESAFF - UGANDA

*"Small Scale Farmers Speaking For Themselves"*

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