

The Small-scale Farmers'
MANIFESTO
2021 - 2026

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THE CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

It is no secret that small-scale farmers produce over 80 percent of the food in Uganda and have been the custodian of seed plus all germ psalm. Small-scale farmers make up the largest proportion for the population of Uganda. This means that the voices of small-scale farmers in governance matters need to be heard, respected and considered by all stakeholders in Uganda as Uganda goes for the 6th national election under the 1995 Constitution that gave citizen the power to decide who and how they are governed. ESAFF Uganda, while working with other partners engaged members across the country to share their crucial issue that they feel the next Government should focus on. This has been presented as the Scale-scale Farmers' Manifesto 2021/26.

The process of developing the Scale-scale Farmers' Manifesto 2021/26 started in December last year with consultations at different levels. This process was shortly halted because of COVID-19 but later resumed to completion. At ESAFF Uganda, we used our broad membership, including youths and women in 54 districts to collect very many issues and compress them into ten key issues. It is an exciting opportunity to present to you the Scale-scale Farmers' Manifesto 2021/26, which highlight the ten vital issues that small-scale farmers ask the next Government to focus on. These fundamental issues include;

1. Domesticate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas
2. Increase Public Investment Financing and Access to Agriculture Insurance and Credit.
3. Improve Extension Service Delivery
4. Protect Small Scale Farmers' Land Rights and also domesticate the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible Governance of Tenure on Land, fisheries and forests.
5. Protect Small Scale Farmers' Seed Rights
6. Enhance Resilience to Climate Variability
7. Harness the Internet for Agriculture
8. Promote Public Accountability
9. Boost Profitable Trade in Agricultural Products and Services
10. Increase Agriculture Mechanization

We know that it won't be easy to engage all the political parties. Still, as a small-scale farmers' movement, we are determined to make sure that the voices of small-scale farmers are reflected in the political direction of our next leaders. ESAFF Uganda will continue empowering small-scale farmers, especially women, to engage the different political players.

To further ensure that small-scale farmers' voices are listened to during this electoral process, we will go ahead to review and analysis the manifestos of all political parties and aspirants concerning our Scale-scale Farmers' Manifesto 2021/26. After the elections, we will continue to monitor progress on our ten key issues and engage in influencing policy issues that will contribute to the implementation of issues in this Manifesto 2021/26.

It's my great pleasure and honour to present to you the Scale-scale Farmers' Manifesto 2021/26.



Hakim Baliraine
National Chairperson

ABOUT THE SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' MOVEMENT

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 the 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).

ESAFF Uganda currently focuses on four strategic focus areas:

1. Farmer-led advocacy movement-building,
2. Agriculture financing,
3. Promoting food sovereignty,
4. Economic Empowerment

ESAFF Uganda appreciates that agriculture and food security policy frameworks at the global, continental and regional level have direct linkages to agriculture development policies at the national level. ESAFF Uganda focuses on widening the policy engagement scope to make sure that voices of small-scale farmers, especially women and youths, are reflected in all policy process. ESAFF Uganda is targeting empowering more than 1,560,000 small scale farmers, especially women and youth in the next five years to be self-reliant through nurturing their participation in sustainable development processes.

To learn more about our work, please visit www.esaffuganda.org

BRIEF ABOUT THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Uganda has rich, fertile soil and ample rainfall. The agriculture sector is vital for the development of Uganda. The sector is a significant economic activity for over 64% of the households in Uganda, 7 per cent in industry, and 25 per cent in services. Meanwhile, 25 per cent of GDP comes from agriculture, 20 per cent from industry, and 47 per cent from services (World Bank 2019). Women small scale farmers play a significant role in the sector with over 75%¹. The sector is critical to the achievement of the National Development Plan (NDP) III and Vision 2040. The sector contributes over 45% of foreign exchange earnings and expected to continue contributing to wealth creation and employment opportunities. The sector, however, is growing at a slow pace of 3.8%² – below the 6% target under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) commitment to creating the wealth needed for rural communities and households to prosper. It is further noted that Uganda is experiencing a population growth rate of 3.4% per annum which should be of great concern to all stakeholders for a sector that is at the heart of the economy and livelihoods of the majority of Ugandans.

CONTEXT OF THE SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' MANIFESTO 2021 - 2026

Small-scale farmers have for so long engaged with elected, and appointed policymakers from local to national levels. For some policymakers getting their attention toward small-scale farmers' issues while still in the office take a lot of efforts because the policy issues usually are new and not aligned with their manifestos. As the country prepares for the 2021 general elections, Small-scale farmers innovated a Small-scale Farmers' Manifesto as a tool to engage political aspirants and call

policymakers to action when voted or appointed in offices. This will make the collective voice of small-scale farmers to be heard in political discussions and hold leaders accountable before and after the 2021 general elections. This manifesto targets both individual politicians and political parties.

The small-scale farmers' manifesto is inspired by and aligned to realize several international, regional and national conventions, objectives and policies as described hereunder. The realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Ending poverty; Ending hunger; Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation; combating climate change and its impacts. The implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a growth-oriented agricultural development plan of the African Union (AU) aimed at increasing agriculture growth rates to 6% per year. The tool is further inspired by the realization of Uganda's Vision 2040 as well as the operationalization of the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and Operation Wealth Creation (OWC).

later a final review and strategizing webinar workshop was held in April 2020.

Small-scale farmer leaders then approved the content of the draft Small-scale Farmers' Manifesto as representative of their policy views and concerns. To further evaluate the progress and impact of this manifesto after the 2021 general election, small-scale farmers will be organizing community and district meetings to engage political leaders as well as to measure their achievements.

METHODOLOGY

The development of the Small-scale Farmers' Manifesto started in November 2019 with the consultation of small-scale farmers for significant policy issues in their communities. Over 48,210 Small-scale farmers from over 54 districts contributed policy issues that were later analyzed and then reduced to 20 key issues. During a national consultation meeting with representatives of farmer leaders that was held in March 2020 in Mukono, Uganda, small-scale farmers further analyzed and reduced the critical policy issues to 10 issues that make this manifesto. The draft Small-scale Farmers' Manifesto was shared with small-scale farmers for a review then

THE TEN (10) SMALL SCALE FARMERS' KEY ISSUES

Domesticate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)

Approximately 84 per cent of Ugandans live in rural communities and rely on agriculture for food and their livelihoods. Approximately 21 per cent of Ugandans do not have access to clean water, which impedes people's ability to stay hydrated, avoid disease and cook meals. Small-scale farmers in rural areas are one of the most strongly affected by poverty and hunger despite their contribution to feeding the entire nation. This is mostly because of some adverse government laws and policies in issues of production and commercialization. These policies subject small-scale farmers, especially women, to poor working conditions, evictions from their lands and territories and sometimes becoming victims of criminalization and murder for standing for their rights.

On 17th December 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations formally adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). This Declaration guarantees that human rights apply to all people and provides a global framework for national legislation and policies that improve the protection of the rights of small-scale farmers, strengthening food sovereignty and bringing social justice.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government should develop and implement a national strategy aimed at

domesticating the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) to ensure dignity and justice for small-scale farmers who produce food sovereignty for all citizens in Uganda.

2. Government should work with other members states in the East African Community (EAC) to develop and implement a regional strategy aimed at domesticating the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)

Increase Public Investment Financing and Access to Agriculture Insurance and Credit

Agricultural financing is a significant challenge by small scale farmers because it is mainly focused on credit provision, tied to cash and majorly expected to be provided by the private sector. Financing to the agriculture sector has generally remained below 4% of the National Budget despite Government's reaffirmed Malabo (AU) commitment to allocate 10% of the national budget to agriculture, Uganda received a **"not on track"** on **"Enhancing Investment Financing in Agriculture"**, scoring a total of 3.8% out of 10%³. This has resulted in persistent challenges small scale farmers face such as; limited or no access to finances, unfavorable loan conditions and inadequate advisory and extension services, among others.

Agriculture insurance is also expensive and not affordable by many SSFs in Uganda. The current insurance products are not favorable to the SSFs because they all consider a one size fits all approach which is never ideal. Despite the introduction of different credit facilities, many small-scale farmers have not enjoyed such facilities because of information imbalance, unbearable terms and conditions, that don't favor most small-scale farmers, especially women and youth. Further, the function of

the National Agricultural Research System is hampered by the inadequate funding that has consistently been below 2% of the sector budget for more than five years. Funding limitations opens the research function to external agenda more often creating a mismatch between research products, small scale farmers' rights, market demands and environmental sustainability.

This limited public investment finance and inaccessibility to credit facilities has resulted into persistent challenges small scale farmers face such as limited or no access to finances, unfavorable loan conditions and inadequate advisory and extension services among others. These challenges have profoundly contributed to low production and productivity amongst small scale farmers.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government should revive the farmers' cooperatives and create an agriculture bank for affordable access to financial services and credit. This will reduce duplication, rationalize operational costs and outcomes.
2. Government develops a progressive plan that will ensure the allocation of at least 10% of the annual budget to the agriculture sector for the speedy realization of the AU Malabo Declaration 2014.
3. Government should develop and promote appropriate insurance products for small-scale farmers, especially women and youth.
4. Government support national agricultural research as per the 2014 Malabo Declaration commitment of investing at least 1% of the annual budget to protect the country's food sovereignty.
5. Government should provide a stimulant budget package for small scale farmers as a response to mitigating the projected long-term impact of COVID-19 of small-scale farmers' livelihoods.

Improve Extension Service Delivery

Agricultural extension is a mechanism used to assist small scale farmers in adopting and implementing new technologies such as agronomic and irrigation techniques among others. It is however unfortunate small-scale farmers are facing difficulties in adopting the new technologies disseminated by NARO due to shortage of extension workers. Currently, extension workers' recruitment stands at 3,827 out of the targeted 5,000; representing 1:1800 against the recommended ratio of 1:500⁴. This requires the Government to recruit 12,000 extension staff. Further, the 5000-extension staff was for 112 districts in 2015/16. It is further noted that the recruited extension workers have not effectively reached out to small scale farmers as anticipated due to inadequate non-wage and supervision. Currently, only 1061 motorcycles have been procured against the 3,820 extension workers so far recruited⁵. Further, the extension system focuses on promoting new modern agriculture technologies and practices rather than agroecological farming techniques that focus on promoting resilient seeds and food sovereignty.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government operationalize the developed extension Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to equip and manage the performance of the recruited workers.
2. Government should recruit 12600 extension workers and equip them with motorcycles, fuel, extension SOP kits and protective gears to reach all small-scale farmers.
3. Equip extension service providers with knowledge and skills on agroecology system of production.
4. Government should empower small scale farmers in business, agro-processing, post-harvest handling and nutrition.

5. Government should address gender-based constraints in the provision of extension services identified and addressed to realize the full potential of both women and men effectively.
6. Extension services on soil fertility testing should be prioritized so that small-scale farmers can select the suitable fertilizers for their soils to maximize the productivity of their land.

Protect Small-scale Farmers' Land Rights and Domesticate the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land on Land, Fisheries and Forests.

In a country where 70% of the population depends on agriculture, secure access to productive land and natural resources must be an unassailable right for all. But that is far from the case, as demand for land is increasing, land-related disputes and conflicts are on the rise, affecting small-scale farmers' agriculture production and productivity. Land grabs by investors have been associated with multiple human rights abuses and social injustices, with thousands of communities, forcibly evicted and left destitute. This is as a result of most communities not having titled land as a form of security in most of the regions where land is much under the customary system of governance and with limited knowledge of land and investment processes. Further, the National Land Policy 2013 and other regulations recognize the collective rights of all women and men overland. Still, ownership and control of customary land by women who constitute 51% of the occupants is vested in the hands of male and clan heads⁶, primarily due to the existence of cultural beliefs and institutions. These expose women small scale farmers to discrimination in matters relating to land use and ownership which

range from limited or no decision-making power over land use and domestic violence.

Though the Voluntary guidelines on responsible guidelines, fisheries and forests were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 11th May 2012. Its objectives were to improve the governance tenure of land fisheries and forests. This was to benefit all with emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people with the goal of food security and progressive realization of the right adequate food, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihood, social stability, housing, security, rural development, environmental development, and sustainable social and economic development.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government should protect land tenure security and ensure the promotion of land-based investment in agriculture. The Government should adopt a proven tool entitled "**Enabling voices, Demanding Rights**" which is a guide to gender-sensitive community engagement in large scale land-based investment in agriculture and extractives.
2. Government should uphold the principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent as informed in Article 26 and 226 of land acquisition that will guarantee land rights of both men and women.
3. Government increase funding to the land sector to strengthen land governance and administration at all levels to guarantee small-scale farmers' land tenure security.
4. Government create a mechanism that will specifically focus on highlighting women land rights issues from grassroots to the national level for women to understand their rights to access and control productive resources, and where to claim them.

5. Government should mainstream the voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the land policy framework, such that the rights of people are not abused deliberately more so the vulnerable women and youth

Protect Small-scale Farmers' Seed Rights

Small-scale farmers are the custodians of seeds and other planting materials. They collect, plant, select and exchange seeds increasing their production and productivity, biodiversity and ensuring food and nutrition security for their communities. The seed is about culture, tradition, spirituality, cooperation, diversity and survival. The right to healthy and sustainably produced food is at the heart of food sovereignty. Yet without access to quality, affordable seeds and the legal right to save, select and share seeds, no farmer or consumer can fully achieve this sovereignty. The commercialization of the seed sector has increased monopoly by private big seed companies based on property rights through seed patenting. This has turned small scale farmers' seeds into a global commodity for industrial farming at the expense of ecosystems conservation; small scale farmers' seed sovereignty and disappearance of landraces resulting into seed insecurity yet small-scale farmers control more than 85% of seeds in the country under Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS). Further, the plan to introduce GMO seeds in the seed system will impact on the seed sovereignty of small-scale farmers affecting food health and quality.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government should develop and implement laws and policies that protect farmer-managed seed systems to strengthen Farmers' Rights in the wake of increasing pressure to attach intellectual property rights to small-scale

farmer owned seeds by multinational corporations, researchers and private sector actors.

2. Government should support the construction of community seed banks at the village level.
3. Government should support small scale farmers technically and financially to organize themselves to be able to exchange knowledge and experiences and strengthen their organizational capacity in managing and promoting farmer-managed seed systems.
4. Government should desist from appending its signature on foreign policies, treaties or declarations which are detrimental to national policies and seed sovereignty of the small-scale farmers, for example, the Arusha protocol which endorses the UOPV of 1992 while Uganda we are still using that of 1972 which allows in-situ

Enhance Resilience to Climate Variability

Small-scale farmers are highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture, with only about 0.1% of production from irrigation⁷. This implies that small scale farmers' production systems are vulnerable to climate variability and increased intensity and frequency of natural hazards. Because of the low water use in production, the level of production remains at 30% of the national potential. The current irrigation coverage of 2.7% is too low compared with the National irrigation master plan target of increasing irrigation service delivery by 6.5% per year by 2030. Relatedly, there is an absence of smaller irrigation schemes yet observed to have better performance over large schemes in the face of small-scale farming⁸.

The costs and losses associated with the changing climate in Uganda over the last ten years have been estimated at US\$ 200 million with small scale farming being the most affected⁹. Significantly, effects have

been in the form of food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and death, among others. In 2010, drought accounted for 38% and 36% loss in production for beans and maize respectively. The country registered UGX2.8 trillion (8%) loss of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 87% loss to agro-industries¹⁰.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government should deliberately invest in water for agriculture production like solar-powered irrigation system, valley dams at various scales, tanks that are affordable and accessible to sustain agro-industrialization and maintain competitiveness amongst small scale farmers.
2. Government should adopt and promote Agroecological technologies and practices which have been established with proven ability to increase productivity, climate resilience and food sovereignty.
3. Government should recruit and train more small-scale irrigation engineers and be deployed at the sub-county level than more of water engineers.
4. Government should develop and enforce stringent environmental laws, i.e. ordinances aimed at protecting the environment like cutting down of trees for charcoal burning.
5. Government through the Local Government should help small-scale farmers in enforcing water harvesting and provide containers at a subsidized amount.

Harness the Internet for Agriculture

Whereas research has proven that internet is a considerable boost in the agriculture sector through information, communication and technology (ICT) as it helps farmers to access information on a range of things like

seeds, technology, markets and prices for their produces, its accessibility is limited due to connectivity and affordability.

On the fiber front, though there is around 12000 km of fiber in the country, most of the fiber routes are duplicated, thus effectively reducing the net fiber coverage to less than 2100 km. Out of the 612 sub-counties with 3G coverage, 384 of them do not have any fiber to support data backhaul, implying limited or constrained access speeds. The penetration of fiber optic network in rural areas is also relatively weak. More than 60 districts do not have fiber on their land. The prices of the internet are very high for an ordinary farmer. This is coupled by a weak network system, high electricity prices, Over the Top (OTT) tax and higher illiteracy levels by some sections of the farmers.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government should subsidize the price of the internet to ensure that it is cheaper and affordable for small scale farmers.
2. Government should remove the Over the Top (OTT) tax commonly referred to as "social media" tax levied on the use of social media to create a favourable or enabling environment where small scale farmers can market their products using the internet.
3. Government should optimize usage and increase the efficiency of broadband infrastructure utilization in the country to ensure that all parts of the country are connected to broadband and not only urban areas.
4. Government should integrate digital literacy/education in all agricultural programs to equip small scale farmers with essential digital competencies on the use of ICT devices.
5. Government should fund farmers' organizations to deliver government information to small scale farmers.

6. Government should strengthen Public-Private Partnership (PPP) not to be selective but cutting across all stakeholders, especially the farmers' organizations and CSO working with small scale farmers.

Promote Public Accountability

Government has a responsibility to implement policy and deliver products and services to their citizens. The decisions made and actions taken in fulfilling these ambitions should be undertaken in the public interest. Therefore, accountability becomes inevitable as per the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) 2015 and objective 6 of the Public Finance Reforms Strategy which emphasizes enhancing public accountability to increase demand for transparency and accountability by citizens for improved public spending and service delivery performance but also highlights the importance of monitoring as a critical component of good governance¹¹. Cognizant of the importance of Small-scale farmers participation in public accountability, the application and success have suffered from endemic corruption, limited access and re-use of public sector information, opaqueness in operations, multiple fragmented actors, and limited inclusion of citizens more especially small-scale farmers in government project monitoring. This has brought to light a persistent growth of misallocations, wrong prioritization, abuse and mismanagement of public funds- posing a tremendous challenge for the efficiency and effectiveness of development interventions and poverty reduction in the country. Small scale farmers' participation in accountability mechanisms such as participatory budgeting, social audits, citizen report cards and community scorecards all involve farmers and other citizens in the oversight of Government and proven necessary for improved governance, increased development effectiveness for better service delivery and empowerment. Small scale farmers' participation in accountability is

equally crucial in policymaking as an in-service provision.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. The Government should create a functional mechanism that provides small scale farmers with an opportunity to access government information and be consulted, i.e. internal performance reviews and reports as pronounced in the Access to Information Act (2005) to promote small scale farmers participation in public accountability processes, openness and feedback in public governance and management.
2. Government should financially and technically strengthen all anti-graft bodies such as the IGG, Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA), Anti-corruption Unit and Auditor-Generals' Office should be further strengthened by way of being adequately staffed, equipped and funded to make them more effective institutional mechanisms for fighting corruption. Furthermore, other law enforcement agencies, notably the police, should be strengthened to build their capacity to detect, investigate, prosecute and even deter or prevent corruption.
3. Government should institute a more open method of declaring assets of public servants to allow small scale farmers to scrutinize and report any incorrectly declared assets to the appropriate authorities.
4. Government should adopt tested methods of public expenditure tracking and monitoring such as Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) and Public Social Accounting Methods (PSAM) tools used by small scale farming communities.

Boost Profitable Trade in Agricultural Products and Services

Although the opening of borders through the East African Common Market protocol might have posed significant opportunities for the agricultural sector with linkages to bigger and better markets, the emerging opportunities are taken up from small scale farmers. This is mostly due to inadequate physical infrastructure from their farming communities, inadequate post-harvest handling facilities that accounts for over 30% loss of production for perishables, storage facilities and climate change effects¹².

Uganda's value addition sub-sector is still in its infant stage of scope and breadth. Coffee, for instance, one of the country's leading export earner, Uganda exported 3.2 million bags of coffee- earning the country US\$ 266million. However, if 20% of the exported coffee had undergone the full value addition process, it would earn the country \$443 million. Uganda loses almost 40% of what it would have earned in trading internationally due to poor storage practices for their produce. Uganda is producing close to 2 Metric tons of maize annually, but only 550 Metric Tons are correctly stored. In 2013, the World Food Programme (WFP) cancelled USD6m (about UGX15Bn) worth of contracts with Ugandan grain traders because their products did not meet the required standards. Such factors have been consistently identified hampering small-scale farmers' growth into commercialization. Lack of value addition coupled with exploitative middlemen in rural areas, rural farmers are forced to sell to middlemen at low prices.

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government should strengthen the aflatoxin control departments/units in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and other Ministries. These should fast track the implementation of the National Action Plan and Strategy for aflatoxin

control in Uganda.

2. Government should adopt and upscale online platforms that create markets for small scale farmers' products like the KilimoMart Application.
3. Government should establish storage facilities, cold chains and processing plants targeting major crops grown by small scale farmers at sub-county level. This will reduce post-harvest loses and increase small-scale farmers' earnings as well as reduce exploitation by market speculators.
4. Government should endeavor to improve on the existing national food reserves and also construct more others at least in each region of Uganda.

Increase Agriculture Mechanization

Mechanization has become one of the critical pillars of agricultural transformation and modernization. Besides improving production efficiency, mechanization encourages the quality of farm produce. Through the Office of the Prime Minister, the Government procured and distributed over 15,000 hand hoes, over 300 ox-ploughs, over 100 tractors and seven walking tractors for women and youth groups. Despite the efforts, small scale farmers representing 75% of the country's labour force in the sector, 95.8% use rudimentary and obsolete technologies in farming.

Mechanized operations are primarily limited to land preparation where 8% utilize draught animal power and 2% use tractors without addressing the complete value chain to markets, which is a disincentive to mechanized farming. This is further hampered by small scale farmers' limited access to efficient and economically viable machinery and equipment, limited access to financial services to purchase improved farm machinery and inadequate knowledge base of farmers in mechanized farming.

These are contributing factors to low utilization of small-scale farmers' land area. As the country moves towards agro industrialization, more efforts should be put in place towards agriculture mechanization

Small-scale Farmers' Call

1. Government should fast track the development and implementation of the Agriculture Mechanization Policy, 2017.
2. Government should purchase and distribute labor-saving technologies like tractors at village level and ox-ploughs for each farming household. These should include incentivizing schemes for acquisition and maintenance of mechanization equipment.
3. Government should establish and strengthen the existing mechanization institutions at the district level in the country to build capacity for technical training operators, mechanics, technicians and small-scale farmers.

CONCLUSIONS

This is the Small-scale Farmers' Manifesto 2021 – 2026 as a call to action to political aspirants and political parties on the key issues that have been identified by small-scale farmers. The response to these critical issues by any political leader or political party will determine their contributions towards empowerment of small-scale farmers and the development of the agriculture sector in response to continental and international commitments such as the Malabo Commitments 2014 – 2025, Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

For God and My Country

ENDORSEMENT

As a political aspirant/political party, I/We endorse The Small-scale Farmers' Manifesto 2021 – 2026 and do take the ten critical issues raised by small-scale farmers in this manifesto seriously. I/We are promising to act on these policy issues when elected or appointed in office.



Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum

ESAFF - UGANDA

"Small Scale Farmers Speaking For Themselves"

@ | coordinator@esaffuganda.org |  | +256 414 699 623



| www.esaffuganda.org |



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