

# 2018 IMPACT Report



” Small scale farmers speaking for themselves.



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# Message from the National Chairperson

## Renewing our focus

In 2018, ESAFF Uganda went through a dynamic process to evaluate the previous strategic plan and as well develop a new five years strategic plan ending in 2023. The new strategy is very ambitious, but feasible. This strategising process strengthened our vision of empowering small-scale farmers for self-reliance.

ESAFF Uganda is a leading small-scale farmer-led advocacy organisation dedicated to fighting for the rights of small-scale farmers especially women. More than 16 years now, we are still empowering small-scale farmers and creating spaces for them to demand favourable policies and laws that increase incomes, reduce poverty and income inequality. Our focus on women come from a belief that empowerment of women benefits the whole community.

These are challenging times. The civic space is shrinking yet the agriculture sector is facing more challenges than ever before. ESAFF Uganda continues to be agile and adaptive, proactive rather than just reactive, particularly when it comes to the fundamental areas of accountability and transparency.

This report highlights our policy influencing work at local and national levels in Uganda as well as our regional and global advocacy efforts. Despite the challenges, this year we made a tremendous contribution to protecting women land rights, promoting agroecology, influencing adequate budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector, protecting seed and food sovereignty and ensuring financial accountability at local government among others.

However, the truth is that this impact report cannot capture some of the most difficult and inspirational everyday realities of ESAFF Uganda. There is a lot of work done to ensure that the voices of small-scale farmers are heard in national and international policy discussions.

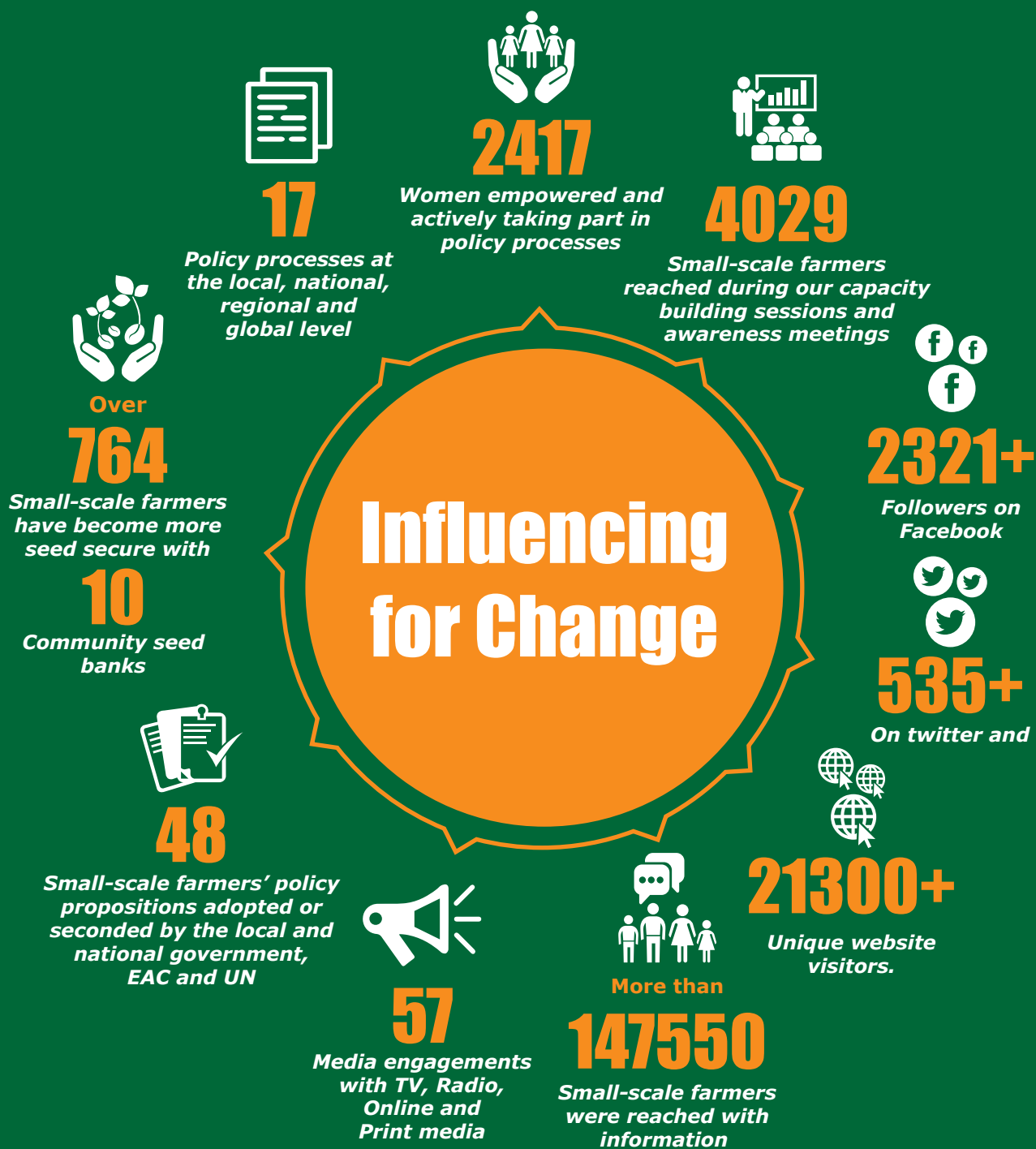
As Chairperson, I have had the extraordinary privilege of seeing first-hand the dedication and professionalism of all our staff. We are truly grateful for your commitment to the vision of ESAFF Uganda. On behalf of our membership and the board of directors, I would like to sincerely thank our friends, partners and allies who believe that small-scale farmers can speak for themselves and influence favourable policy change. Thank you for making our work possible.

ESAFF Uganda looks forward to strengthening existing and building new partnerships and alliances.

In Service,

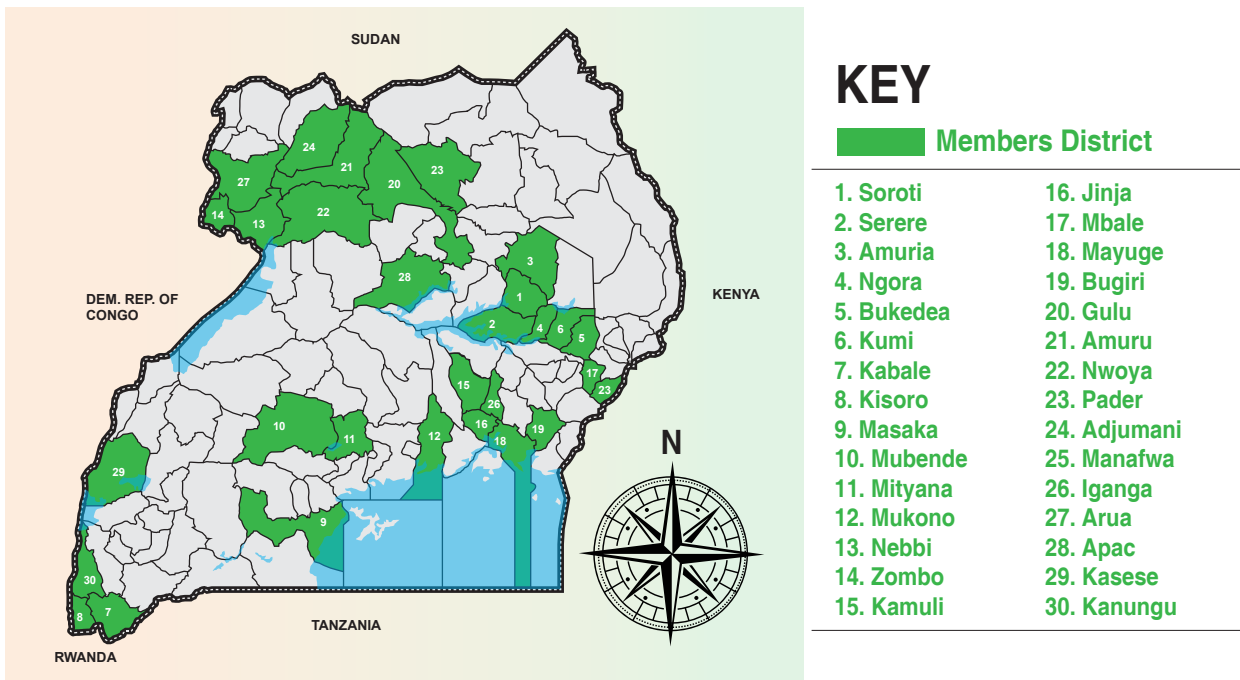
**Hakim Baliraine**  
*Board Chairperson*





# Our Identity

## Map of Uganda showing the 30 member districts



### Vision

Empowered self-reliant small scale farmers.



### Mission

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



### Strategic Focus

- Farmer-led Advocacy Movement Building
- Food Sovereignty
- Agriculture Financing
- Economic Empowerment



### Values

- Integrity
- Mutual trust
- Transparency
- Respect
- Equity

## Governance and Management Structure

ESAFF Uganda has nine members (small-scale farmers) on the National Board of Directors who report directly to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Management Team reports to the National Board of Directors.

### Board of Directors

Hakim Baliraine, <b>Chairperson</b> ESAFF Mayuge	Ronald Reagan Nyeko, <b>Member</b> ESAFF Amuru
Peter Enyetu, <b>Vice Chairperson</b> ESAFF Amuria	Beatrice Pangani, <b>Member</b> ESAFF Kasese
Emmanuel Tumushime, <b>General Secretary</b> ESAFF Kisoro	Christine Nabwami, <b>Member</b> ESAFF Mityana
Beatrice Katsigazi, <b>Treasurer</b> ESAFF Mubende	Irene Nakijoba, <b>Member</b> ESAFF Mukono
Margaret Masudio, <b>Publicity Secretary</b> ESAFF Adjumani	

### Management Team

Nancy M. Walimbwa <b>National Coordinator</b>
Andrew Adem <b>Programs Manager</b>
Cissy Nabukenya <b>Finance and Administration</b>





## Influencing United Nations

### UN Declaration on Peasants Rights and those working in rural areas adopted

In June 2018, ESAFF Uganda organised La Via Campesina (LVC) Consultative Conference on the UN Declaration on Peasants Rights and those working in rural areas to collect views from LVC members from East and Southern Africa. 32 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Cameroon (Germany) and Senegal attended. For a long time ESAFF

Uganda together with other farmers organisations under the leadership of LVC have campaigned for the adoption of this declaration that would better protect the rights of all rural populations including peasants, fisherfolks, nomads, agricultural workers and indigenous peoples and to improve living conditions, as well as to strengthen food sovereignty, the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity. UN Human Rights Council (HRC) during its 39<sup>th</sup> session on 28th of September 2018 adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. This is a fundamental step towards addressing discrimination and re-emphasising the obligation of the state in protecting the rights of small-scale farmers.







## Social Accountability

### Tracking public expenditure at local government

Lack of involvement in policy development processes has led to the development of poor policies as well as the poor implementation of policies hence affecting livelihood development of small-scale farmers. In 2018, ESAFF Uganda conducted capacity building training in Kamuli, Masaka and Mityana districts, focusing on building the capacity of women and youths small scale farmers in agriculture service delivery tracking and influencing using a rights-based approach. About 86 small scale farmers acquired skills in local government budgeting and processes, projects and resource tracking and monitoring using the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) tools where nine PETS teams were established and actively participated in tracking government projects.

Women and youths smallholder farmers are empowered to monitor government programs given their deep understanding of public finance practices and processes mostly at the local level. PETS teams in the different districts tracked nine projects and identified loopholes that were shared in a report. This process informed the participation of small-scale farmers in the budget cycle of 2019/20 budget formation.

### Petitioning National and Regional government on the Malabo Declaration

In 2014, the government of Uganda and others in the East African Community (EAC) signed the Malabo Declaration with commitments to develop the agriculture sector. Small-scale farmers innovated a petition to Heads of State challenging them to honour their 2014 commitment in Malabo. Small-scale farmers from 32 districts in Uganda joined other farmers from the EAC region and collected over 940,000 signatures petitioning the government of Uganda and other EAC member states to allocate the 10% budget to the

agriculture. ESAFF Uganda organised press conferences at regional and national level to amplify the cause of small scale farmers. This petition was presented by small-scale farmers to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Speaker in November 2018 for further discussion.

This process increased small-scale farmers' confidence in influencing national and regional policies. There is also an increase in awareness of small-scale farmers' power in causing a change in the country. Further, this process exposed more political will from national and regional leaders towards the farmers' call.

### Influencing Budget Decisions and Processes

ESAFF Uganda collected small-scale farmer's voices that were inputted in the analysis of the National Budget framework paper (NBFP FY2018/19) and produced Agriculture and Lands sector position papers. With the approval of the budget FY 2018/19, 25% of the 12 CSO alternative budget proposals submitted to the Parliamentary committee of agriculture FY 2018/19 were adopted by the sectoral committee. ESAFF Uganda together with other stakeholders engaged policymakers to sell small-scale farmers' views through budget analysis workshops, budget dialogues and conferences.

ESAFF Uganda together with other partners including ESAFF HQ in close partnership with the EALA Committee on Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) convened the 3rd Agriculture Budget Summit in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2018 where 125 people participated. This strengthened the participation of small-scale farmers in the national and EAC Budgeting Processes with specific reference to the agriculture investment. There is a strong relationship built between the small-scale farmers and EALA ATNR given their drive to transform the agriculture sector in the region but specifically in Uganda.

ESAFF Uganda while working with other organisations developed a position paper that was presented at the regional and national Joint Sector Review of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal





Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) held in August 2018. ESAFF Uganda also presented policy propositions that would build resilience to climate change effect to enhance agriculture productivity.

Small-scale farmers used this event to call on the government to consider investing more than 10% of the national budget to the agriculture sector.







# Advancing Agroecology

## Protecting Food and Seed Sovereignty

Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) have been misunderstood by policymakers and other promoters of what is referred to as the formal seed system. ESAFF Uganda in partnership with Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and GRAIN conducted a study on FMSS which showed the enormous contribution of FMSS to seed sovereignty and food security in Uganda. ESAFF Uganda's study contributed to the Africa report that was published under the title "The Real Seed Producers".

Protecting the seed sovereignty of small-scale farmers especially women is key in the achievement of food sovereignty and livelihood development. ESAFF Uganda trained 144 small-scale farmers from Gulu, Amuru and Amuria districts in Community Managed Seed Security (CMSS) model and the Farmer Field School in Plant Genetic Resources model. As a result, an estimated 365 small-scale farmers accessed good quality seeds through CMSS and FFS models from 10 seed banks.

ESAFF Uganda organised a seed dialogue in December 2018 in Gulu district. The dialogue attracted over 88 participants from the northern region including small-scale farmers, media, local leaders among others. The dialogue created awareness on seed rights in communities hence pushing for fair seed systems especially for farmer managed seed systems.

ESAFF Uganda also organised a learning visit for local leaders to two seed gardens and community seed banks developed by small-scale farmers in Gulu district in November 2018. Local leaders openly showed support for the community-led initiatives by small-scale farmers acknowledging that it would reduce small-scale farmers' dependence on seed companies or government seed programs.

ESAFF Uganda together with our like-minded organisations pushed for the maintenance of the safety and strict liability clauses in the Genetic Engineering Regulatory Act 2018 which was passed by Parliament. In addition to the liability clauses, many other proposals by ESAFF Uganda and other CSOs were adopted by Parliament.

Despite the passing of this Act, ESAFF Uganda will actively continue to oppose the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in our food system.

ESAFF Uganda is part of farmer and civil society organisations across East Africa who are actively opposing the process through which the East African Community (EAC) is developing the EAC Seed and Plant Varieties Bill 2018. Letters and position papers have been sent to the Chairperson Council of Ministers and Members of Parliament challenging the Bill.

ESAFF Uganda used the 8<sup>th</sup> Indigenous and Traditional Food Fair which was organised by PELUM Uganda in October 2018 to showcase the need to preserve indigenous and traditional foods because of their contribution to agricultural biodiversity and ending hunger. Currently, indigenous and traditional foods are under threat from the new technologies. Members from northern and central region showcased different indigenous foods and seeds as well as cooked some foods during the fair; farmers also showcased some products like kipoli. This being a public event, over 500,000 people participated.

ESAFF Uganda also used the World Food Day Celebrations held at Nabuin, Karamoja region on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to highlight the need for preserving indigenous and traditional foods and seeds as well as appreciate their contribution to our food sovereignty. There is a sense of appreciation for the indigenous and traditional foods and seeds despite the challenges that they are facing from the promoters of new technology.

## Strengthening Agroecology actors engagement platforms

Agroecology integrates ecological and social concepts in the design and management of agricultural production and food systems while optimising interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment hence addressing the social aspects of a sustainable and fair food system. ESAFF Uganda with a partnership with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management





(PELUM) Uganda organised the Regional Agroecology Actor's Symposium in Gulu district in December 2018 attended by 63 different actors from 9 districts. The event created a multi-stakeholder response towards scaling agroecology in the northern region with a developed regional roadmap. ESAFF Uganda also launched a study report on farmer managed seed system titled **"Challenging seed industrialisation in Uganda"** which was conducted with support from Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and GRAIN.

ESAFF Uganda also continued building the Family Farmers' Agroecology Movement (FFAM) which was formed in 2016 to amplify family farmers' voices on agroecology and ensuring learning and sharing. ESAFF Uganda continued supporting farmers to participate in different events that promote agroecology as well as sharing agroecology information with farmers.

## Building climate resilience and adaptation

ESAFF Uganda organised a training of trainers on the Climate Resilient Agroecosystems Model (CRAEM) for 35 smallholder farmers in northern

Uganda. Currently, over 225 small-scale farmers accessed and adopted at least a resilience practice promoted within the model. The practices farmers adopted are soil and water conservation technologies, micro/drip irrigation, runoff water harvesting technologies (polythene lined), agroforestry, mulching, enterprise diversification for crops and livestock and planting of drought tolerant and fast maturing varieties. Small-scale farmers have also reported improved yields even out of season.

## Promoting Organic Agriculture

Uganda is currently recognised as the second largest exporter of organic food. ESAFF Uganda added small-scale farmers' issues in the National Organic Agriculture Policy by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) which would contribute to increased investment in organic agriculture hence contributing to the increase in organic farming and its benefit to small-scale farmers and the population. ESAFF Uganda participated in the analysis and validation of the policy with a drive to influence the cabinet to pass the policy without delay.







## CASE STORIES

### **Women can also demarcate Land**

*"After the training I immediately went home and shared with my children our first step which was demarcating our land, I was able to engage some clan leaders who were so hesitant but with the zeal I had they could not break my spirit because at the back of my mind I was fighting for my children who had me to provide food and school fees and this land was the only opportunity. Using sisal plants, we drew boundaries from the other members of the family and are glad the feud over the land came to an end just with drawing boundaries."* **Aduto Matilda**

Since 2016, along with other group members of Ataimasi women's group, Aduto Matilda has been part of capacity building training of using Gender Action learning system (GALS) in land rights in Serere district. Members use the tools in the methodology to vision their future, identify challenges that can prohibit them using the Vision road journey and find solution and opportunities using the challenge Action Tree and the Social empowerment Map. With this methodology, Matilda identified land demarcation as a significant issue in her family due to the constant conflicts with her family members over the land left to her by her husband thus she used the tools to find solutions to her problem.

### **Ensuring seed security through multiplication and community seed banks**

*"We have been so worried about whether or not we are going to have seeds to plant because many of us have been so dependent on Operation Wealth Creation(OWC) seeds, but in most cases they do not germinate thus we ensure lots of losses, sometimes they are given past the growing season which makes it very difficult for farmers to plant in time but with using the CMSS model has been of great help because members in my group have understood the importance of having farmer managed seed hence we are sure of the variety of seed we are growing and how far it can grow plus its benefits. We have also started collecting different varieties in our seed bank. In this, we hope to increase our incomes because we believe other farmers will come to buy our seed in the near future."* **Says Kisembo.**



## Protecting women land rights

### Women taking part in large scale land-based investment negotiations

Well knowing that most large scale land based investor come with intention of grabbing land from the community. ESAFF Uganda through the Large Scale Land Based Investments (LSLBI) tool rollout in Amuria district supported the establishment and functionality of a 15 member LSLBI focal team including the chairperson, Security organs, Iteso Cultural Union (ICU) etc. The LSLBI team conducted community sensitisation on women land rights and investments reaching over 697 small-scale farmers. As a result of previous efforts in Amuru district, the Ajee community reached by the Amuru LSLBI focal team engaged Eden Group of Companies a developer intending to invest on 24 hectares of land on their investment process and obligation to the community especially women. Further, as a result of these engagements, local leaders in Amuru and Amuria districts appreciated the role the LSLBI tool helping women small-scale farmers in getting prepared to negotiate with any large scale investor in agriculture as well as helping women in some communities to engage meaningfully in investment processes in their communities. The LSLBI tool prepares small-scale farmers to track any investor in their community even if it's just a rumour.

### Land Awareness Week 2018

ESAFF Uganda together with other partners including the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) organised the 2018 Land Awareness Week (LAW) in Iteso region. The main event was held in Soroti district. These events created awareness on land rights as per the laws of Uganda. ESAFF Uganda held three community awareness events in Amuria district which attracted over 2,851 people. During the event, radio stations were used to sensitise small-scale farmers on land rights. Over 634 community members received counselling and legal aid. ESAFF Uganda published and distributed 5000 posters with information on Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO). As a result, small-scale farmers

were empowered to stand for their rights while others got inspired to document their land to secure it.

### Small-scale farmers using community dialogues to defend land rights

ESAFF Uganda organised community land dialogues in Amuru districts in three sub-counties were 567 small-scale farmers, community-based organisations and local leaders participated. These community land dialogues brought land related information and services closer to the people. Women had the opportunity to engage with legal aid teams who gave them legal advice and well as shared their views during the dialogues which inspired some other women to talk about their land rights challenges in their communities. Many men became change agents against cultural norms that deprive women their land rights.

### Amplifying women issues in the Apaa land conflict

In Apaa, northern Uganda, there have been clashes between the two communities since July 2010 when Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) started boundary demarcation of the East Madi Game Reserve among other initiatives. There have also been significant human rights violations such as physical assault, burning of houses and destruction of foodstuff were witnessed which displaced more than 7000 people. ESAFF Uganda together with other Civil Society Organisations (CSO) condemned the numerous incidents of land conflicts and grabs in the country. Throughout the year, the Coalition organised sensitisation and dialogue meetings, fact-finding missions and released statements sharing ideas with policymakers, government and community members. ESAFF Uganda put specific interest on women and girls given the fact that they suffer





most during such conflicts. Through our work, religious and cultural institutions joined the fight to save the lives of the people in Apaa. Our actions also led the President to visit the region and even set up a committee to further investigate the conflict. The Speaker of Parliament also directed the Prime Minister's office to aid victims of the Apaa conflict.

## Save Article 26 Campaign

The government had proposed to table the Constitution (Amendment) Bill No. 13/2017 seeking to amend article 26 of the Uganda Constitution which expressly provides for the right to property and exceptions to it. This amendment

would allow the government to possess land before prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation in case the landowner disputes the amount awarded. ESAFF Uganda together with other CSO campaigned for the rejection of the amendment through organising radio talk shows, collecting small-scale farmers' voices, meeting the Members of Parliament, press releases and conducting studies. After too much pressure, the government dropped the proposed Constitution (Amendment) Bill No. 13/2017 hence small-scale farmers and the general population maintained their exclusive right to their property.







## Movement Building

### Annual General Meeting

ESAFF Uganda envisions a strengthened farmer movement built from sub-county level to national level through building capacity, networking with like-minded organisations, recruiting more members and strengthening knowledge management. After district Annual General Meetings (AGM) in 29 districts between January and June 2018, ESAFF Uganda organised the National AGM in September 2018 which registered attendance of 86 delegates from membership districts. During the AGM, a new Country Board of Directors was elected to serve for three years.

developed several information materials. These materials generated were on Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS), Peasant Rights Declaration, Malabo Declaration 2014 and a guide to Local Government process. These materials were crucial in our sensitisation drives of farmers to actively participate in the FY 2019/20 budget development processes at both local and national levels as well as challenging and demanding rights to food sovereignty. Our sample assessment shows that 53% of our information recipients mentioned that it has helped improve their knowledge and supported their influencing work. The materials were distributed during different engagements at the local, national and regional level.

### Information, Communication and Education

As part of being more effective in our advocacy work as farmers' movement, ESAFF Uganda

ESAFF Uganda has also improved the use of online platforms to empower communities and influence policies. ESAFF Uganda has continued to build her following on Twitter and Facebook as well as improving website.





# MAKE AN IMPACT

Help ESAFF Uganda deliver lasting change in the livelihood of small-scale farmers through influencing favourable policies.



## Donate

We can do more through your partnership and generous giving. Write to our National Coordinator, Mrs Nancy M. Walimbwa for any inquiries or more information. Email: [coordinator@esaffuganda.org](mailto:coordinator@esaffuganda.org) Website: [www.esaffuganda.org](http://www.esaffuganda.org)



## Amplify

Help us spread the small scale farmers' voices through social media. Share our publications, positions and views with others. Follow, Like and Subscribe to our channel. Twitter: @ESAFFUG Facebook: ESAFF Uganda YouTube: ESAFF Uganda



## Advocate

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

# PARTNERS

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



**ESAFF HQ**  
ESAFF Headquarter (HQ) have supported ESAFF Uganda for many years. In 2018, ESAFF HQ supported small-scale farmer engagement in policy processes at the EAC region level.



### Oxfam

**Oxfam in Uganda**  
Oxfam in Uganda and ESAFF Uganda share a passion for improving the livelihood of small scale farmers especially women. Oxfam in Uganda has been working with ESAFF Uganda since 2010 and has built our structures from the ground. In 2018, Oxfam in Uganda supported the Right to Food Project and MECOT Project in Northern Uganda.



### TrustAfrica

ESAFF Uganda took a long time building relationship with TrustAfrica Foundation until 2018 when TrustAfrica committed funds to support a program for rural women to engage in policy processes, especially the budget formation processes. Previously TrustAfrica had supported ESAFF Uganda through ESAFF HQ



### Oxfam

**Oxfam Pan-African Programme**  
Oxfam PAP started supporting ESAFF Uganda program in 2018. Oxfam PAP supported a project that empowers communities especially women and prepares them for any large scale land-based investment negotiation processes.

### Anonymous

ESAFF Uganda works with some partners who prefer to be Anonymous. These partners have supported our campaign on policies influencing at the international level that directly impact on the livelihood of small-scale farmers in our local villages.

## About ESAFF Uganda

The formation of ESAFF in 2002 was a direct response to the need to create a forum where Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) can deliberate on and voice their concerns. The Forum was established to bring together small scale farmers into a social movement to build common aspirations, learning and linkages. ESAFF Uganda is a small scale farmer-led movement formed to facilitate processes through which small scale farmers' development concerns can be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through local, national and regional policies and programs. ESAFF Uganda works to enhance the SSFs ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes. ESAFF Uganda is having memberships in 30 districts and is part of a bigger network of small scale farmers in other 14 countries in eastern and southern Africa.

**More about us: [www.esaffuganda.org](http://www.esaffuganda.org)**



**Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda**

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