



**A COMMUNIQUE DEVELOPED DURING THE SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' BUDGET DIALOGUE
ORGANIZED BY EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA SMALL SCALE FARMERS FORUM (ESAFF)
UGANDA ON TUESDAY 25th JUNE 2019 AT ESAFF UGANDA SECRETARIAT IN KAMPALA**

On the 25th June 2019, 34 small scale farmers from 30 districts in Uganda including Masaka, Nebbi, Apac, Pader, Mubende, Mityana, Gulu, Bukedea, Soroti, Serere, Kumi, Iganga, Jinja, Ngora, Mayuge, Amuria, Amuru, Adjumani, Kisoro, Kabale, Nwoya, Kasese, Mbale, Arua, Kamuli, Bugiri, Mukono, Zombo and Manafwa districts convened in Kampala to discuss and analyse the budget allocated to the agriculture sector for FY2019/20 as well as identifying critical areas for expenditure tracking in the financial year and brainstorm on the investment priorities.

Recalling that the government on 13th June 2019 read the national budget for financial year 2019/20 which was recorded at 40.4 trillion of which the total nominal budget allocation to agriculture sector UGX 1.05 trillion in FY2019/20 accounting for 2.6 percent of the national budget which is an increase from UGX 893 Billion in FY2018/19. The agriculture sector budget focuses on extension service provision, agro industrialization and value addition, water for production, agriculture research and development, access to finance and insurance, animal, vector and disease control.

Further recalling in June 2014 in Equatorial Guinea the government of Uganda in the Malabo Declaration committed to the principles and values of CAADP process, enhance investment finance in Agriculture, ending hunger, halving poverty, boosting intra-African Trade in agriculture commodities and services, enhancing resilience in livelihood and production systems to climate variability and other shocks and to promote mutual accountability to actions and results.

Despite governments' intentions to harness opportunities for growth through promoting agro-industrialization for job-creation and shared prosperity, agriculture sector contributed only 22% to the GDP meaning it grew by 3.8% yet government made a commitment of 6% meaning the sector and small scale farmers especially women are still facing challenges like inadequate extension services, inaccessible irrigation schemes and technologies, fake agricultural inputs, exploitative market, limited storage facilities, post-harvest loses, low capacity for value addition among others.

Acknowledging that the FY2019/20 Budget didn't allocate adequate funds on irrigation to combat drought where 100.55 billion was required and 61.04 billion was allocated creating a gap of 39.51 billion, promotion of agroecological farming techniques, management of pests and diseases, provision of post-harvest handling technologies, poor allocation to local government where implementation is realized.

Small-scale farmers ***committed*** to;

1. Ensure that a just and fair budget is allocated to the sector to support small-scale farmers especially the youth and women at grassroots level
2. Enforcing transparency and mutual accountability through budget implementation monitoring and tracking in their native districts
3. Involvement in budget development processes right from the local levels to national levels.
4. Implement the actions in the National Agriculture Budget Advocacy Plan for tracking expenditure in the FY2019/20 budget and influencing FY2020/21 budget

Small scale farmers ***call upon government*** to;

1. Embrace the commitments in the Malabo Declarations
2. Ensure full participation of small-scale farmers especially women in the budget development processes at local and national level
3. Promote agroecological farming by investing in up-scaling farming techniques
4. Recruit agricultural extension workers and fully facilitate them to provide extension services to small-scale farmers
5. Provide irrigation equipment to address the challenges of drought, soil infertility and low farm production to enhance production and productivity of key strategic commodities

For more information;

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