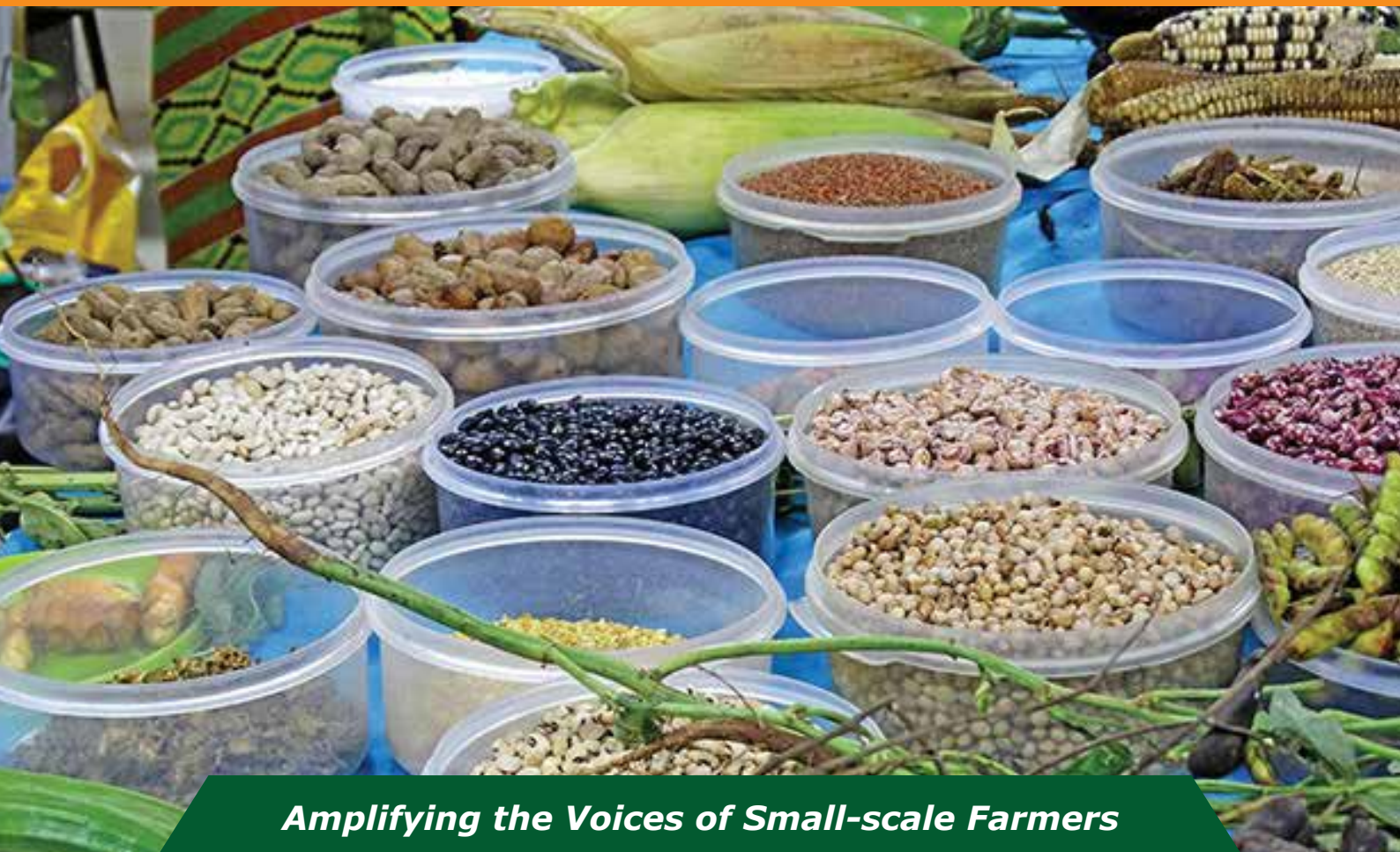




# IMPACT REPORT

2019



*Amplifying the Voices of Small-scale Farmers*



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# About

## Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) was formed in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Agriculture which was being held in Johannesburg, South Africa by small-scale farmers. The main aim was to make small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk, who are central to sustainable natural resource management and development more visible. Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) was operationalised in Uganda in 2008 as a direct response to the need to create a regional Forum to bring together small scale farmers into a farmer-led advocacy movement to influence policies and practices at global, continental, regional, national and local 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 is also part of a bigger network of small scale farmers in the other 15 countries in eastern and southern Africa including South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, DR Congo, Madagascar, Seychelles and Mozambique.



### Our Mission

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



### Our Vision

Empowered self-reliant small scale farmers



### Our Values

- **Integrity:** ESAFF Uganda stands for truthfulness, being honest and having strong moral principles.
- **Mutual trust:** The Forum recognizes that every persons should be reliable, feeling safe and confident with each other.
- **Transparency:** ESAFF Uganda believes that each person should establish themselves as an honest, credible person in the eyes of others and being accountability.
- **Respect:** ESAFF Uganda holds everyone in high due regard for their feelings, wishes, or rights.
- **Equity:** The Forum stands for Fairness, impartiality and justice.



# 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

NO.	NAME	TITLE	REGION
1.	Hakim Baliraine	Chairperson	ESAFF Mayuge
2.	Peter Enyetu	Vice Chairperson	ESAFF Amuria
3.	Tumushime Emmanuel	General Secretary	ESAFF Kisoro
4.	Beatrice Katsigazi	Treasurer	ESAFF Mubende
5.	Masudio Margaret	Publicity Secretary	ESAFF Adjumani
6.	Nyeko Ronald Reagan	Member	ESAFF Amuru
7.	Pangani Beatrice	Member	ESAFF Kasese
8.	Nabwami Christine	Member	ESAFF Mityana
9.	Nakijoba Irene	Member	ESAFF Mukono

### Management Team

NO.	NAME	TITLE
1.	Nancy M. Walimbwa	National Coordinator
2.	Andrew Adem	Programs Manager
3.	Cissy Nabukenya	Finance and Administration



# Chairperson's Note

## Strengthening Partnerships and Alliances

We have come to the end of another fruitful year. This year 2019 is the first year of implementation of our new strategic plan which runs up to 2023. We have continued to add small-scale farmers' voices in policy processes at local, national, regional and global levels despite the shrinking civic space.

In 2019 we focused on strengthening the capacity of women small-scale farmers and promoting agroecology in all policy platforms. Our works directly impacted on the lives of 9,678 small-scale farmers all over Uganda and we organized and participated in 125 advocacy events and have seen over 16,784 small-scale farmers, majority of them women taking part in policy processes at local, national, regional and global levels.

We have supported the construction of 2 new community seed banks and have continued to strengthen the old community seed banks. Our seed work has improved access to quality seed and seed sovereignty of small-scale farmers. This year, we continued advocating for land laws and policies that protect the rights of small-scale farmers and we have seen more women taking lead in openly challenging cultural norms that defile their rights.

We have done a lot this year despite the challenges. We achieved much this year and we couldn't do all we did without the generous support of our friends and partners. We are deeply grateful to Oxfam, TrustAfrica, IIDEA GIZ, La Via Campesina and EOA/Biovision Africa Trust for the essential financial and technical support.

Looking forward, we have predicted the year 2020 as the year of influence. At all levels, we are going to build a stronger movement of small-scale farmers that will challenge policies that affect their rights and livelihoods at all levels. We are going to strengthen our work on agroecology and climate change as well as build more strong partnerships. Some of the notable events that we are organizing in 2020 include the small-scale farmers' manifesto, Women in Agriculture Conference, the EAC Agriculture Summit, National Organic Week, KilimoMart Application among other.

As the Chairperson, I am humbled by the efforts of the all staff towards building a strong small-scale farmers' advocacy movement, the members of the Board of Directors as well who tirelessly give their best and finally I appreciate our members in all the districts for their faith toward influencing policies and transforming their livelihood.

In Service,



**Hakim Baliraine**  
Board Chairperson

# 2019 in Numbers



\* Small-scale farmers directly reached: **9,678**

\* Agroecology Learning Centres in communities: **4**



\* Policy events at all levels: **125**

\* Followers on all our social media platforms: **4,558+**



\* Policy proposition adopted or seconded at all levels: **77**

\* Citizen reached through all medias including publications: **4,567,900**



\* Schools with Agroecology Clubs: **4**

\* Budget Advocacy Forums (BAFs) created: **30**



\* Women involved in advocacy: **5,438**

\* Small-scale farmers taking part in advocacy all levels: **16,784**



# 05 Impact





## ➔ Influencing Policy Processes and Practices

### Campaigning for domestication of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas:

The year 2019 marks one year since the passing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas which ESAFF Uganda actively campaigned for its passing and adoption. ESAFF Uganda used the 1st year anniversary celebrations that

were held on 15th October 2019 on the International Day for the Rural Women to launch a campaign targeting the government of Uganda to domesticate the declaration. Print out copies of the declaration were distributed to small-scale farmers and policy makers.

### Building a vibrant small-scale farmers' budget advocacy voice at the EAC Level:

ESAFF Uganda in partnership with other organizations created spaces for small-scale farmers to engage in policy processes at the East African Community (EAC) level. On 6th March 2019, small-scale farmers held a meeting with Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) Committee of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in Zanzibar, Tanzania to lobby for their active participation in the consultative sector budgetary enhancement meetings in the Partner States. On 22nd March 2019, During the Budgetary Enhancement Consultation Meeting organized by ATNR in Kampala,

Uganda, small-scale farmers made a presentation on their agriculture budget policy issues at the EAC. A total of 21 (10 men and 11 women) took part in these meetings which attracted 119 participants. On 10th May 2019 ESAFF Uganda and partners organized the EAC Agriculture Budget Summit in Arusha, Tanzania where 49 (21 men and 28 women) participants took part. These different engagements promoted inclusiveness of small-scale farmers in policy processes at the EAC as small-scale farmers were acknowledged by EALA as central to policy development processes at the EAC.



## Small-scale farmers advocating for increased national budget allocation to the agriculture sector:

The government of Uganda committed in the Malabo Declaration to invest 10% of the national budget to the agriculture sector to support the development of the sector. In 2019, small-scale farmers used different engagements to campaign for increased financing for agriculture and land sectors. This contributed to making Government commit more funding to the sector from UGX893 Billion in FY2018/19 to UGX1.05 Trillion in FY2019/20. Besides the budgetary increment, ESAFF Uganda is also glad to report that more than 8 of the alternative budget proposals submitted by ESAFF Uganda and partners were adopted by Parliament. This was achieved through continuous engagement with the respective Parliamentary Committees in January and April 2019.

ESAFF Uganda while working with other likeminded organization developed a policy paper on agriculture financing in Uganda that was presented and shared during the Joint Agriculture Sector Annual Review (JASAR) workshop. From 29th to 30th August 2019 in

Kampala, Uganda, ESAFF Uganda supported 5 small scale farmers (2 women and 3 men) as part of over 250 participants at the JASAR workshop. 13 of the 37 recommendation that were presented were adopted by government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

Furthermore, small-scale farmers from Gulu and Amuru district petitioned their local leaders challenging the poor budget allocation and performance of the production department in their respective districts. One of the key issues was the absence of an Entomologist in their districts. This was as result of strategic meeting between small-scale farmers and their leaders that took place from 18th to 21st September 2019 with more than 320 small-scale farmers from Amuru and Gulu districts. As a result of these engagements, both Gulu and Amuru district local governments made commitments and as well developed a joint road map to champion grassroots advocacy.

## Increased participation of small-scale farmers' in holding local leaders accountable at district level:

In 2019, there was exceptional increase in small scale farmers' interest in how government utilizes resources allocated to the agriculture sector. On 25th June 2019, ESAFF Uganda organized a budget workshop in Kampala, Uganda which was attended by small-scale farmers from 29 districts who discussed strategies of social accountability. Throughout the year small-scale farmers developed advocacy plans that guided social accountability engagement at district level in all the 29

districts. Small-scale farmers were actively involved in tracking government expenditures in agriculture sector to ensure efficiency of the minimum resources allocated to the sector at local government. To continue influencing budget and promoting accountability, small-scale farmers formed Budget Advocacy Forums (BAFs) in each of the member districts.

## Adding small-scale farmers' voices in the National Development Plan (NDP) III and the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) II:

Earlier in 2019, ESAFF Uganda collected views from small-scale farmers on the strategic direction of the country and the agriculture that they envisioned. These views were later shared on 2nd May 2019, during a strategic meeting organized in Kampala, Uganda together

with other CSOs to contribute to the development of the NDP III and ASSP II. The process further continues to the next year with more engagement expected.

## Women in Agriculture (WiA) Conference:

ESAFF Uganda organized the first ever WiA Conference on 8th February 2019 in Kampala, Uganda under the theme making policies and programs work for rural women in agriculture. The conference which was attended by 83 participants including women small-scale farmers, policy makers among other stakeholders mainly discussed issues of women land rights. Honorable Persis Namuganza, Minister of State, Lands from the Ministry of

Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) pledged to support women small-scale farmers in their land rights campaign. MLHUD started working with ESAFF Uganda to access different models to be used in protecting the rights of women small-scale farmers.

## Reshaping land governance policies:

ESAFF Uganda together with other land actors actively engaged the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) on the 3rd Draft Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy and Land Acquisition Bill. On 27th August 2019 in Kampala, Uganda, small-scale farmers contributed to the position papers that was developed and shared with the MLHUD

and the first Parliamentary Council. ESAFF Uganda intends to protect Article 26 of the constitution of the Republic of Uganda and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles before land rights dispossession.

## Challenging seed sector corporate capture:

During 2019, small-scale farmers continued challenging the introduction of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds in the country's seed system by adding voice against the unpopular Genetic Engineering Regulatory Act 2018. ESAFF Uganda also added voices of small-scale

farmers against the EAC Seed and Plant Varieties Bill that is currently under development at EAC. ESAFF Uganda continued promoting farmer managed seed systems by challenging all laws and policies that abuse the sovereign rights of small scale farmers.







## **Protection of Women Land Rights**

### **Creating awareness on women land rights:**

Women land rights are still under threat because of unfavorable cultural norms and poor implementation of policies. From 13th to 17th May 2019, ESAFF Uganda with other land actors in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) held the 3rd Land Awareness Week (LAW) in Karamoja region that reached over 8,855 community members. The LAW 2019 provided a platform for dialogue and massive community awareness on land governance policies and laws, mining and extractives, access to justice to enhance effectiveness and accountability in the delivery of land services leading to securitization of women land rights.

ESAFF Uganda also rolled out Enabling Voices, Demanding Rights tool in Omoro district to empower rural women to build readiness to engage meaningfully in land

related investments in their communities. As a result, a 15-member team was instituted to champion the promotion of land registration and participation in the land rights conflict resolution committees, engaging district and community leaders on land issues, referring land related cases to the informal and formal land administration bodies such as Area Land Committee (ALC).

In order to increase access to information on land rights, ESAFF Uganda printed and distributed over 3545 posters on land related issues. These posters were distributed to over 25 districts in Uganda. ESAFF Uganda as well produced 5 videos on land related issues and uploaded on YouTube Channel.



## Strengthening collaboration with Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) for adoption of sustainable land management tool:

ESAFF Uganda worked with MLHUD strategically in shaping land management in the country through adopting sustainable land management tools. As a result of continuous engagement with MLHUD like the orientation meeting with officials from MLHUD on 29th January 2019 at the ministry office in Kampala, Uganda and from 11th to 13th February 2019, a field visit with officials from the ministry to LSLBI Tool piloting communities in Amuru district. MLHUD appreciated the Enabling Voices, Demanding Rights tool that empowers

farming communities more so women and youth to engage meaningfully in LSLBI processes. A road map was developed where a number of initiatives were taken including making the partnership between ESAFF Uganda and MLHUD and introducing the tools to others districts as requested by the ministry. Further, the ministry appreciated that the tool can spur debate for respecting the FPIC principles, operationalization of the National Physical Development Plan and the National Land Policy.

## Land use and environmental protection through supporting ordinances at district level:

Land degradation and reckless tree cutting for charcoal burning is one of the major catalysts of climate change and the most vices persistent in Amuru district. As part of developing and promoting progressive laws and policies for climate justice, ESAFF Uganda in partnership with PELUM Uganda recommended to Amuru District Local Government to develop a land use and environmental protection ordinance. The gesture received resounding

political will amongst Amuru district leadership. On 23rd July 2019, the district council of Amuru District Local Government organized a strategizing meeting on the ordinance development. The draft Bill was developed pending presentation before the district lawyer, district executive and consultations. An additional result is the strengthened partnership and collaboration between ESAFF Uganda and the Amuru District Local Government.

## Sharing our work with the world during the Land Learning Journey:

ESAFF Uganda recognize that working on land means working on big changes in a broader governance system with multiple socio-political, economic and environmental interests. From 18th to 22nd November 2019, ESAFF Uganda hosted 50 participants from 11 countries in Amuria district for land learning journey organized by Oxfam in Uganda with emphasis on property rights, land tenure security and sustainable land use management in

the context of climate change. This learning journey provided a great opportunity to advance a collective reflection on social-inclusion, environmentally-sound, economically-viable and politically-feasible tenure arrangements and land use management amongst small scale farmers in shifting climates and changing landscapes.





## Making a Case for Agroecology

### Advancing multi-stakeholder responsiveness towards scaling-up of agroecology:

ESAFF Uganda recognizes the potential that agroecology has towards sustainably feeding Uganda's fast-growing population while restoring the degraded agricultural ecosystems and biodiversity loss. ESAFF Uganda organized a side session during the 2 days National Agroecology Actors Symposium (NAAS) organized by PELUM Uganda from 30th to 31st May 2019 in Kampala,

Uganda which was attended by 69 people (41 males and 28 females) under the theme "**Securing resource rights for small-holder farmers in Uganda**". The participants developed strategies to protect and promote the resource rights of small-scale farmers hence facilitating the up scaling of agroecology in Uganda.

### Agroecology and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

ESAFF Uganda appreciates the contribution agroecology to the attainment of multiple SDG goals. ESAFF Uganda developed a video that illustrates the likely contribution of agroecology to achieving over 10 SDGs if governments invested in agroecology. Please click the link to find the

Agroecology and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) video on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hf3C3RZ0JUg>



## Celebrating Organic Farming and Products:

ESAFF Uganda believes organic agriculture plays a crucial role in protecting food sovereignty and improving livelihoods of small-scale farmers especially women in rural areas. From 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, ESAFF Uganda and partners successfully organized the first National Organic Week (NOW) in different districts. NOW involved events like press conferences, radio talk shows, Women Community Dialogues on Organic Agriculture,

National Dialogue on Organic Agriculture and Organic Food Fair, School Quizzes and Public Awareness on Organic Farming practices. The week celebrated and popularized organic foods, products and services as well as dialoguing on the challenges impacting organic farming for a multi-stakeholder responsiveness for scaling up organic agriculture. The events in the NOW reached over 8,735 participants.

## Agroecology Clubs in schools:

With a drive to upscale agroecology, small-scale farmers innovated Agroecology Clubs in schools that their children attend. Currently ESAFF Uganda is running Agroecology Clubs in 4 districts of Amuria, Amuru, Gulu and Kasese.

These Agroecology Clubs give children an opportunity to learn a lot about agroecology given the current curriculum that highly promotes conventional agriculture. The Clubs have membership of over 478 members.

## Promoting and strengthening community seed banking:

ESAFF Uganda has continued facilitating learning for small-scale farmers on seed multiplication and banking. ESAFF Uganda facilitated more than 26 community seed bank leaders to 7 learning opportunities in Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Senegal and Kenya organized by different likeminded partners. These events have created a vibrant movement small-scale farmers promoting Farmer Managed Seed Systems. The currently

operational 10 community seed banks with over 52 local seed varieties have ensured quality seed access to over 1367 small-scale farmers. Furthermore, to popularize the community seed banking, ESAFF Uganda organized 5 community seed fairs and gave opportunity to small-scale farmers to showcase their seeds to the public and policy makers.

## Conserving Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) for food security:

ESAFF Uganda acknowledges the overwhelming impact of NUS on food security, fighting poverty and malnutrition in communities. To ensure that NUS are no longer ignored by researchers and in the market, ESAFF Uganda focused on mobilizing small-scale farmers to conserve the NUS. The focus is also on changing the perceptions on NUS as unimportant 'poor man's food'. Farmers organized NUS cookery on World Food Day in Gulu and Omoro districts where small-scale farmers cooked and showcased

different varieties of NUS. ESAFF Uganda also used different platforms like the National Dialogue on Organic Agriculture organized in Gulu district and the National Annual Agroecology Symposium organized in Kampala to bring to the attention of policy makers the importance of conserving NUS.







## **Movement Building**

### **Boosted leadership capacity of farmer leaders and staff:**

ESAFF Uganda's Board of Directors (BoD) held 4 quarterly meeting and some committee meeting to give proper direction to the organization. To further improve leadership capacity of BoD which is very essential to the successful movement governance, ESAFF Uganda with technical support from PELUM Uganda held a leadership training for farmer leaders. These engagements improved

the technical capacity of board members in program and financial governance as well as accountability. Some staff members with management roles have also had an opportunity of being trained in leadership and management. This has greatly boosted leadership capacity of farmer leaders and staff.

### **Development and review of plans, strategies, policies and manual:**

ESAFF Uganda has reviewed most of the policies, strategies and manuals including Fundraising Policy, Finance Manual, Human Resource Policy, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) Strategy, Advocacy and Communication Strategy. ESAFF Uganda is in the final stages of developing new policies and plans including

Safeguarding policy, Anti-Harassment and Abuse Policy, Youth and Women Engagement Policy, Membership Policy, Privacy and Information Protection Policy, Sustainability and Succession Plan. These policies, plans, strategies and manuals will likely be passed in the next Annual General Meeting (AGM).



## Membership Survey:

ESAFF Uganda conducted a membership survey to ascertain the number of members, background characteristics and economic activities among others. The survey results showed that 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 including old and new district though ESAFF Uganda operates with only 30 original districts. This showed that some district executive committees are governing more than one district.

## Updating the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with district local governments:

Of all the 30 districts with membership, ESAFF Uganda has successfully updated the MoUs with 25 districts. In the case of the districts chapters, the respective district ESAFF chapters in all the 30 districts also

registered with Community Based Organization (CBO) certificates. This was in adherence to the NGO Act 2016 provision.







## **Knowledge Sharing**

### **Enhancing Online Presence:**

ESAFF Uganda launched a new website after carryout an online assessment. Small-scale farmers wish to showcase their work to the world as well as reach policy makers and citizens hence the need to enhance the online presence on ESAFF Uganda using website and social media. ESAFF Uganda has active media accounts on Facebook, Twitter,

Youtube, SoundCloud and Instagram. Small-scale farmers are also having different WhatsApp accounts that support the quick sharing of information. Please visit all our websites and social media pages and then share your experience.

### **Developing and sharing information:**

ESAFF Uganda produced numerous knowledge products such as brief notes, flyers, posters and other visibility materials on agroecology, large scale land based investment tool, organic farming, seed and land awareness campaign materials among others. These

materials ably shaped farmers' debate and opinions. Access to simplified agricultural related information has not only promoted small-scale farmers' participation but also improved the quality of discussions.



## Media

ESAFF Uganda mostly used local radios in the respective districts to share information and build campaigns from the ground. ESAFF Uganda had media campaigns on seed rights, popularizing large scale land based investment tool, promoting organic agriculture and agriculture budget campaigns. In Gulu district, small scale farmers are given free radio airtime. As a result of these radio

programs, ESAFF Uganda managed to reach an estimated 4,567,900 radio listeners with information throughout the year hence increased citizen interest and engagement in policy processes. More small-scale farmers are also empowered as a result of engaging in the media campaigns.



# Make An Impact

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



## Donate

We can do more through your partnership and generous giving. Learn more about our work on [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 channels.



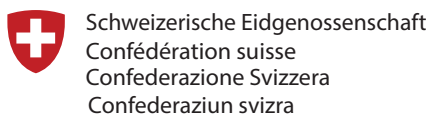
## Advocate

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

**For inquiries about partnership;**  
Please write to the National Coordinator  
**Ms. Nancy M. Walimbwa**  
Email: [coordinator@esaffuganda.org](mailto:coordinator@esaffuganda.org)

# Thank You Partners

ESAFF Uganda take this opportunity to thank the following partners for their great generosity! We greatly appreciate your donation, and your sacrifice. Through your support we have been able to influence favourable policies and practices at all levels and impact on the lives of small-scale farmers especially women in Uganda.



Implemented by:







For More Information:



Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum

**ESAFF - UGANDA**

*"Small Scale Farmers Speaking For Themselves"*

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