



Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers' Forum

ESAFF - UGANDA

IMPACT REPORT 2023



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

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ABOUT 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 **12,543** farmer groups with **384,056** 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.

Amplifying Small-scale Farmers' Voices



Our Vision

Empowered self-reliant small-scale farmers.



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 Strategic Goal

A strong small-scale farmer-led advocacy movement actively contributing to improved livelihoods, food sovereignty and favourable agriculture policies.



Our Four Areas of Focus

1. **Influencing public and private sector agriculture financing for agroecology.**
2. **Protecting and promoting food and seed sovereignty.**
3. **Creating opportunities for economic empowerment.**
4. **Building a strong small-scale farmer-led policy influencing movement.**

WE ARE A MOVEMENT AMPLIFYING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' VOICES IN POLICY PROCESSES - ESPECIALLY WOMEN

OUR MESSAGE TO YOU

We are thrilled to share with you our Impact Report for the year 2023, reflecting the incredible strides we've made over the past year. The year has been highlighted with impactful events but also new challenges for the Movement.

At the heart of our work lies our unwavering commitment to empowering small-scale farmers and amplifying voices. We acknowledge the dynamic challenges that limit our mobilisation and engagement amidst the shrinking civic space, thereby limiting our participation, voice, and influence in key policy and development processes.

Through the ESAFF Uganda components, we have continued to engage with policymakers at all levels, advocating for policies and programmes that prioritise the needs of small-scale farmers and people in rural areas. From supporting women's land rights through the Land Rights Support Centre to advocating for financing for agroecology under the Agriculture Budget Watch to mobilising the media under the Online Agroecology School for Journalists and Communicators, we have been relentless in our pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive agricultural sector and the economy at large.

During the year 2023, we conducted a membership mapping exercise that indicated a significant growth in membership from 8,535 farmer groups in 2021 to 12,588 farmer groups with 384,354 members, of which 231,915 are women, in 2023. We also registered further demand from many communities and districts to join the largest movement of small-scale farmers in Uganda.

We held our National Annual General Meeting, where a new National Board of Directors was elected to govern the Movement from 2023 to 2026. This was preceded by the

district-level Annual General Meetings. We also focused the year on building stronger advocacy groups where small-scale farmer-led policy-influencing structures from the grassroots to the national, regional, and global levels are functional. We also recorded a remarkable growth in the capacity of small-scale farmers to engage in key national and international deliberations. The year 2023 saw the functionalization of the ESAFF Women Forum and the ESAFF Youth Forum, which are unique structures for women and youth to lead in policy-influencing processes.

In all we undertake, promoting agroecology remains the core; we continue to acknowledge the fact that agroecology is equal to climate justice. As we look to the future, we are filled with optimism and determination to continue amplifying voices and making a meaningful difference in the lives of small-scale farmers, especially women and youth.

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to all our friends, partners, and well-wishers who have continuously believed in and supported our work. Your commitment, dedication, and passion for amplifying the voices of small-scale farmers are remarkable.

Here's to another year of impact and amplifying the voice of small-scale farmers.

In solidarity,



Hakim Baliraine,
National Board Chairperson,
Board of Directors

NUMBERS IN 2023



2167 COMMUNITY MEMBERS
EMPOWERED THROUGH THE COMMUNITY AGROECOLOGY SCHOOL



17 SMALL-SCALE FARMER-LED ENTERPRISES
STRENGTHENED THROUGH THE AGROECOLOGY BUSINESS HUB



4560 SMALL-SCALE FARMERS & CITIZENS
ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH THE LAND RIGHTS SUPPORT CENTRE



2448 SMALL-SCALE FARMERS
ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH THE FARMERS' SEED LAB TO ACCESS QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE SEEDS



8610 SMALL-SCALE FARMERS
ARE ACTIVELY INFLUENCING AGRICULTURE FINANCING USING THE AGRICULTURE BUDGET WATCH PLATFORMS

NUMBERS IN 2023



**OVER
6.6**

**MILLION
PEOPLE
RECEIVED
INFORMATION
THROUGH
OUR MEDIA
PROGRAMMES**



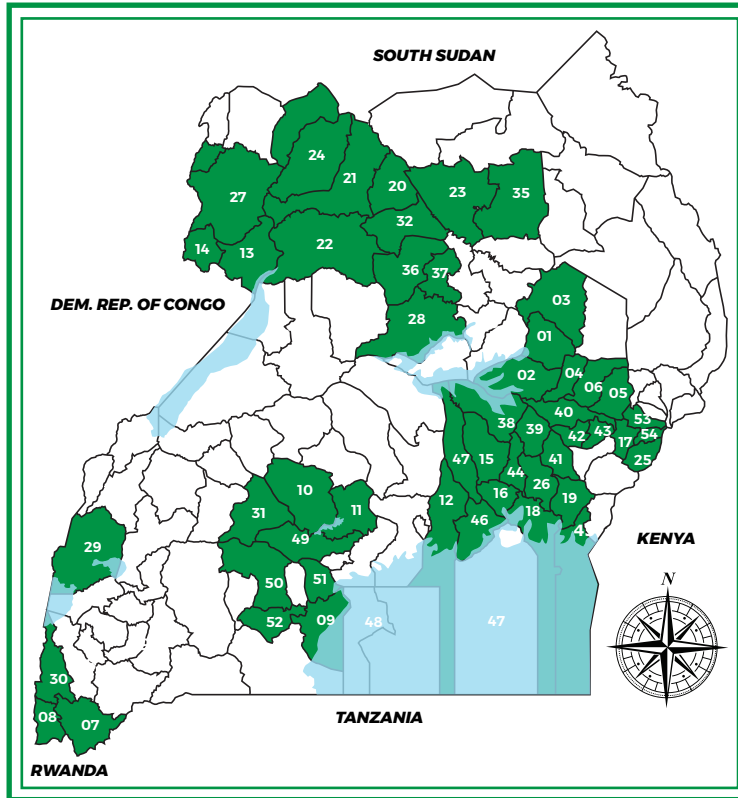
1100 CHILDREN AND
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
ACCESSED INFORMATION AND
TECHNIQUES THROUGH THE
AGROECOLOGY CLUBS



80 JOURNALISTS AND
COMMUNICATORS
REACHED THROUGH THE ONLINE
AGROECOLOGY SCHOOL FOR
JOURNALISTS AND
COMMUNICATORS

OUR FOOTPRINT

Map of Uganda Showing the Membership Districts



- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Soroti | 28. Apac |
| 2. Serere | 29. Kasese |
| 3. Amuria | 30. Kanungu |
| 4. Ngora | 31. Kassanda |
| 5. Bukedea | 32. Omoro |
| 6. Kumi | 33. Maracha |
| 7. Kabale | 34. Moyo |
| 8. Kisoro | 35. Agago |
| 9. Masaka | 36. Oyam |
| 10. Mubende | 37. Kole |
| 11. Mityana | 38. Buyende |
| 12. Mukono | 39. Kaliro |
| 13. Nebbi | 40. Pallisa |
| 14. Zombo | 41. Namutumba |
| 15. Kamuli | 42. Kibuku |
| 16. Jinja | 43. Budaka |
| 17. Mbale | 44. Luuka |
| 18. Mayuge | 45. Namayingo |
| 19. Bugiri | 46. Buikwe |
| 20. Gulu | 47. Buvuma |
| 21. Amuru | 48. Kalangala |
| 22. Nwoya | 49. Gomba |
| 23. Pader | 50. Bukomansimbi |
| 24. Adjumani | 51. Kalungu |
| 25. Manafwa | 52. Lwengo |
| 26. Iganga | 53. Sironko |
| 27. Arua | 54. Bududa |



OUR IMPACT

INFLUENCING PUBLIC FINANCING TO AGROECOLOGY AND TRACKING PROPER EXPENDITURE.

THE AGRICULTURE BUDGET WATCH

Small-scale farmers' participation in the budget process is limited due to inadequate awareness and mobilisation, something that possibly accounts for the limited funding for agroecology.

The Agriculture Budget Watch component therefore seeks to mobilise small-scale farmers and ensure access to budget information as well as meaningful participation and engagement in the budget process. This component operates through small-scale farmer sensitization, creating platforms and opportunities for small-scale farmers to engage as well as supporting their involvement in budget tracking using the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) model.

In 2023, ESAFF Uganda supported 29 small-scale farmers from all the regions of Uganda to discuss the National Agriculture Budget FY 2023-24, with a specific focus on funding for agroecology. Over 840 small-scale farmers participated in the community-level budget conferences. ESAFF Uganda also co-organised the 2023 East African Community Small Scale Farmers Agriculture Budget Summit, in which 62 participants took part. Additionally, 13 PETS committees in different districts were supported to effectively engage duty-bearers.

Small-scale farmers from different districts were familiarised with the local government budgeting cycle and national budget frameworks and highlighted key issues for inclusion in the budget, specifically the agriculture sector and agro-industrialization programme, hence the Small-scale Farmers' Statement on the National Budget FY 2023-24.



ESAFF Chairperson; Mr. Hakim Baliraine giving his remarks during the EAC Agriculture Budget Summit



BUILDING AN INFORMED AND INDEPENDENT AGROECOLOGY MOVEMENT OF JOURNALISTS AND COMMUNICATORS

THE ONLINE AGROECOLOGY SCHOOL FOR JOURNALISTS AND COMMUNICATORS

The transition to agroecology is still faced with a major challenge of communication. The majority of journalists and communicators lack a thorough understanding of the concept of agroecology and its practices and thus fail to recognise its significance in promoting sustainable development and food sovereignty. In order to provide the public with information, building the capacity of journalists and communicators in agroecology is essential. This equips them to advocate for policies and practices that support sustainable food systems.

ESAFF Uganda established the online Agroecology School for Journalists and Communicators in 2022 with the principal objective of building a network of journalists and communicators around Uganda and Africa working with small-scale farmers to contribute to the national and continental transition to agroecology through disseminating the right information. The school operates through four major products, which include the Agroecology Post, the Agroecology Media Grant, the Regional Agroecology Workshops, and the Online Agroecology Course.

In 2023, the school trained and passed out 80 journalists and communicators from five countries in three cohorts and two regional workshops. Four Agroecology Posts have been developed and shared, as well as 28 Agroecology Media Grants awarded. The school has engaged with journalists and communicators from 56 different media houses and organised media pushes at 4 events in 3 countries, working with 10 journalists and communicators to push the agenda for agroecology.

The school has built partnerships with different media houses and regional media platforms, hence widening the pool of

journalists and communicators that are capable of reporting on agroecology at local, regional, and global levels. As a result of undertaking the online agroecology course, there has been a notable change in the story ideas that journalists work on, as well as a keen interest in differentiating between what is for agroecology and what's not, as many journalists acknowledged, generalising agriculture reportedly previously.

Additionally, some of the journalists have since become trainers for small-scale farmers in their districts. The experience gained has also enabled some journalists and communicators to access funding and assignment opportunities with reputable international NGOs and partners that promote agroecology.

The Agroecology Post has increased visibility for journalists' stories on agroecology and given a platform for publishing agroecology stories that have not been published in the mainstream media.

The Agroecology Media Grant has led to an increase in investigative stories on agroecology. These stories have contributed to raising public awareness about the importance of agroecology and its potential to address environmental and social challenges in communities.

The school has bridged the gap between media houses, journalists, and communicators and small-scale farmers, who are the custodians of knowledge and information on agroecology. This has seen a wider participation of journalists and communicators in small-scale farmer-led community events.



Journalists pose for a group photo upon receiving their certificates during the Agroecology experience sharing workshop of the 2nd cohort



After completing this course, I feel like going back and redoing all the stories I did that were promoting conventional and harmful agriculture.”

Susan Achola,

Radio Wang Ooh, Amolatar District,
Regional Agroecology Workshop,
Northern Uganda.



This school has positioned me to be able to write a well-balanced and informative story that can educate the community I am working with and also protect our national food sovereignty.”

David Okema,

Vision Group, Cohort One, Online Agroecology Course

EMPOWERING SMALL-SCALE FARMER-LED BUSINESSES TO PROFITABILITY

THE AGROECOLOGY BUSINESS HUB (ABH)

The Agroecology Business Hub is an initiative by ESAFF Uganda that seeks to address environmental, social, and economic challenges faced by small-scale farmers, especially women, by promoting sustainable practices, community engagement, and innovation, thus creating a more resilient and ecologically sound food system. The ABH supports small-scale farmers through three pillars i.e. business capacity building, access to affordable credit, and access to favourable markets. The Agroecology Business Hub works towards building a case for the economic viability of agroecology.

In 2023, the Agroecology Business Hub held its first small-scale farmers' agroecology business workshop, in which 14 agroecological enterprises took part. 17 small-scale farmer-led enterprises comprising 413 small-scale farmers from 12 districts were supported in the formulation and running of businesses, as well as awarded value-added equipment. Four Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups were also established and supported. 19 small-scale farmers were supported to take part in five different business exhibitions in four different countries.

The ABH has built functional small-scale farmer-led businesses that are formally recognised, hence becoming viable competitors for business opportunities in their localities. This has also increased small-scale farmers' confidence in running businesses.

The support offered to agroecological enterprises has led to improved production capacity and product diversification among the businesses that were supported, hence improving the earnings of small-scale farmers.

The adoption of PGS as an alternative mode of certification has led to increased production of organic food and penetration into profitable organic markets, including the KilimoMart Shop. These profitable market opportunities have led to increased earnings and the improvement of small-scale farmer livelihoods.

There has been increased networking and partnerships between small-scale farmer-led enterprises and other private sector players.



We, as members of Mumbuzi Agroecology School, are grateful to the Agroecology Business Hub for this cassava milling machine. We won't have to travel long distances again to have our cassava milled, and we shall also be sure of the quality since it won't be mixed with other inorganic produce."

Beatrice Pangani,

*Mumbuzi Agroecology School Enterprise,
Chairperson, Kasese District.*



Small-scale farmers' pose for a group photo after the First Small-scale Farmers Agroecology Business Workshop





Mumbuzi Agroecology school enterprise members officially receiving the Cassava grinding machine donated to them.



DEVELOPING AND UPSCALING COURSES ON AGROECOLOGY IN HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS IN UGANDA

AGROECOLOGY IN ACADEMIA (Aia)

Agriculturalists who are trained to continuously engage with small-scale farmers are not well versed in agroecology since they go through the official education system of Uganda, which hardly has courses on agroecology, yet later they are mandated to engage with agroecological farmers.

The education system is usually devoid of on-ground small-scale farmer realities, hence the need to engage with academic institutions in disseminating agroecological knowledge, providing technical support, and building the capacity of future extension workers and agriculturalists.

The Agroecology in Academia component is designed to co-create training programmes and support their implementation in institutions of higher learning. Throughout the year, ESAFF Uganda engaged with three major universities in two countries. These engagements included the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), the design of the agroecology curriculum, and supporting research on agroecology.

As a result of the research, ESAFF Uganda has gained key recognition as one of Lira University's strategic partners and contributed to a pool of knowledge for both academic and policy-influencing purposes through publications, articles, and policy briefs.



It is going to be interesting working with small-scale farmers to develop the agroecology course that will promote agroecological practices in Uganda."

Gad Kwizera,

Senior Lecturer at Lira University.



(L-R) Lira University Representative, ESAFF Uganda National Coordinator and National Chairperson after the signing of the MOU between Lira University and ESAFF Uganda



COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEADING THE TRANSITION OF OUR FARMING SYSTEMS TO AGROECOLOGY

COMMUNITY AGROECOLOGY SCHOOLS

The Community Agroecology Schools are essential for supporting small-scale farmers to come together, share experience and knowledge on agroecological farming practices and natural resource management, and later replicate in their farms, hence the farmer-to-farmer extension approach. The schools support members in building sustainable and resilient communities, promoting food security through the practices of agroecology, preserving biodiversity, fostering environmental and cultural stewardship, and empowering local populations to advocate for the development of laws and policies that suit community members at all levels.

In 2023, ESAFF Uganda established 28 community agroecology schools, making a total of 35 community agroecology schools. Throughout the year, ESAFF Uganda supported the functionalization of the 35 community agroecology schools, including the establishment of nine agroecology gardens in the different member districts, supporting engagements within the schools, organized 3 exchange learning visits. These Community Agroecology Schools have a total of 1129 members with streamlined leadership structures. ESAFF Uganda has developed, reviewed,

and shared different learning curricula for the community agroecology schools.

In the Community Agroecology Schools, there has been increased knowledge and adoption of agroecological farming practices like kitchen gardens, organic manure, and organic pesticide making and usage. The ripple effect of this knowledge is also felt within the community, as witnessed by the increased adoption of practices. Community Agroecology Schools have also established businesses to provide agroecological products to the communities hence increasing earnings of members and solving demand issues in the communities for products like organic pesticides, manures etc.

Through the various engagements with Community Agroecology Schools, there has been increased political support from local leaders and a mindset change among extension workers in favour of agroecology. As a case in point, the leaders of Bukende sub-county in Mbale district offered land to the Community Agroecology School to establish an Agroecology Garden to act as a learning centre for the wider population.



Community Agroecology School is a great initiative that has transformed farming communities through the adoption of agroecological farming practices. We now make our own organic manure and pesticides, which is saving us a lot of money and ensuring quality produce."

Suzan Mabonga,

Chairperson, Bukende Community Agroecology School.



Members of Community Agroecology Schools from Kasese, Mbale and Kamuli districts during a learning visit to Community Association of Rwenzori (RCA) in Kabarole district



TRAINING AGROECOLOGY IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

AGROECOLOGY CLUBS

Agroecology Clubs are a unique learning community within academic institutions where members (students or pupils) attain hands-on knowledge about sustainable food systems. The clubs follow a unique curriculum that focuses on preparing the next generation to value agroecology as a production mechanism that addresses the challenges in the current food systems. This is done through disseminating agroecological knowledge and fostering positive change in agricultural practices among the young generation. The agroecology clubs use models like the schools agroecology gardens, annual poem competitions, climate quizzes, and agroecology libraries in their learning institutions. The Agroecology Clubs support the transition of food systems to agroecology.

In 2023, ESAFF Uganda supported the establishment and running of 11 Agroecology Clubs with 365 members in the 9 districts and established 10 agroecology school gardens to allow learning and adoption of different agroecological farming practices. ESAFF Uganda developed and distributed

3450 informative materials within Agroecology Clubs. ESAFF Uganda also produced the Agroecology Poem Booklets containing Stories from the Annual Agroecology Poem Competitions and awarded six bursaries to the winners of both secondary and primary levels out of the 150 students that participated.

As a result, there has been increased knowledge and appreciation of agroecology among the members of the agroecology clubs, and more pupils and students are expressing interest in joining these clubs. The Agroecology School Gardens have become a community learning centre where community members around the school visit to learn from what pupils and students in the school are doing.

More schools have also expressed interest in hosting agroecology clubs, hence validating the concept of agroecology clubs as a formidable approach to learning and knowledge transfer.



I am now happy that my school fees for this term have been paid in full. This has greatly supported me to stay in school and focus on my education."

Wanyenya Esther,

*Vision High Secondary School - Mbale,
Overall Winner of the Secondary Level,
School Agroecology Poem Writing Competition*

The Chairperson ESAFF Kisoro, Mr. Emmanuel Tumushime awarding certificates to the Schools Agroecology Poem Writing Competition at St. Gertrude Girls' Secondary School in Kisoro District



PROTECTING LAND RIGHTS OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS ESPECIALLY WOMEN

THE LAND RIGHTS SUPPORT CENTRE (LRSC)

In Uganda, there are persistent land rights challenges, including insecure tenure, land grabbing, gender disparities, and unsustainable land practices. These threaten ecosystems, hinder food sovereignty, impede sustainable development, disrupt social harmony, and hinder economic progress. The situation is worsened by insufficient awareness, limited access to land rights information, and unfair judicial systems that limit access to justice for the marginalised.

ESAFF Uganda established the Land Rights Support Centre with the aim of fostering a fair, knowledgeable, and empowered society, enabling small-scale farmers to confidently assert and safeguard their land rights. The centre operates three key products: the information dissemination platform to create a mass of informed small-scale farmers who can ably defend their land rights; the legal aid platform, where a team of legal professionals offers legal support and advice to small-scale farmers; and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADRM) for conflict resolution through mediation. Additionally, the centre utilises tools such as the Investment Compliance tool to monitor compliance of investments on responsible investment frameworks, the Community Engagement Tool to ensure meaningful participation of farming communities in investment processes, and the Timby platform for secured reporting on human rights and environmental abuses by community rights defenders.

“

Discovering vital land rights information through ESAFF Uganda has been a game-changer for me as a small-scale farmer. I can now stand with confidence, armed with knowledge, to protect my land rights and guide others, given that I am a member of the ALC of Bugantira S/C."

Christine Okot, Chairperson, ESAFF Gulu.

In 2023, the Land Rights Support Centre enhanced access to vital land rights information for small-scale farmers and citizens in the country. A total of 1,103 individuals were empowered to defend their legitimate land rights. The centre also established eight local grievance structures, mediated 78 land and investment-related disputes, held 19 radio talk shows, and organised 46 awareness-raising events. Utilising the Timby platform, five cases of human rights violations and environmental abuses were reported. Additionally, the centre trained 10 heads of departments in local government on responsible investments using the Investment Compliance Monitoring tool. Further, the centre donated a computer to the local government and helped with investment data collection, analysis, reporting, and decision-making. 15 local investors are now guided by the local government on national and international standards compliance.

Within the centre, policy briefs on responsible land and investments were crafted using community voices gathered from various radio talk shows, community dialogues, and awareness sessions. These policy notes were then amplified during the national and regional land reform processes led by the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development (MoLHUD). As a result of different engagements at the LRSC, there is increased awareness of the land rights of women in the community. More investors are engaging with community members, resulting in reduced conflict and increased responsible investments.

“

With the support of the ADR committee, I was able to attain justice! The committee's commitment to a just and balanced outcome has not only helped me regain my land that had been encroached on by the investor but has also inspired hope in our community. I'm grateful for the assistance provided by the Madudu Sub-Country Mediation Committee and ESAFF Uganda."

Elina Sebayinzi, Small-scale farmer, Bulamazi, Madudu S/C, Mubende district.



ESAFF Uganda with MoLHUD and Kassanda Local Government Leaders holding a talk show on Responsible Investments at CBS FM





0776892211



Women small-scale farmers receive materials with information on land rights during a community awareness meeting.

UPSCALING THE FARMER-MANAGED SEED SYSTEM IN BOTH POLICY AND PRACTICE

THE FARMERS' SEED LAB

Approximately 80% of Uganda's seeds are sourced from the Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS), which is not prioritised by most policymakers, researchers, and other agricultural actors. The Farmers' Seed LAB is an innovation by ESAFF Uganda geared towards positioning the FMSS. Through the Farmers' Seed Lab, small-scale farmers are able to defend farmers' seed rights to save, use, exchange, and sell seeds. This is done by supporting farmers to develop and test farmers' seed varieties and influence policies.

In the year 2023, ESAFF Uganda equipped and strengthened 4 Community Seed Banks (CSB) in 4 districts and built the capacity of these CSB committees, in addition to publishing the Community Seed Bank guidelines to ensure effective management of the CSB and increasing access to quality seed by small-scale farmers, which has strengthened community resilience. ESAFF Uganda continued to support the 49 farmer field schools (FFS), including 23 FFS on local food plants and nutrition and 26 on PPB.

Through the FFS approach, small-scale farmers have conducted research on 33 varieties from seven main crops, i.e., maize, soybeans, beans, groundnuts, rice, millet, and cassava, through participatory variety selection (PVS) and participatory variety enhancement (PVE). 23 FFS under the Neglected and Underutilised Species have restored over 67 local food plants for increased food and nutrition security. 60 members from the Farmer Field Schools were supported to take part in the

2023 Seed Caravan.

Under the Farmers' Seed Lab, there was continued functionalizing of the National Farmer Field School Networks, which are championing the processes of farmer seed variety registration. The national farmer field network is an umbrella of different district farmer field school networks. This has fostered the restoration of local food plants and knowledge, women's empowerment, youth involvement, and increased food and nutrition security, hence strengthening community resilience.

ESAFF Uganda has supported members of the National Farmer Field Networks to participate in different policy events where strategies towards the development of a regulatory system for the registration and release of farmer seed varieties in Uganda were drafted. Publications to justify the need for the recognition of farmer seed varieties were also developed.

ESAFF Uganda continued to engage with different stakeholders, including local government leaders, production departments, research institutions, the National Gene Bank, and the NARO PGRC, to build support for the FMSS.

The FFS approach has enabled us to appreciate our local biodiversity and improved our seed, food, and nutrition security. Maudio Margaret, Rwofhed FFS, Adjumani District.



Members of Cutuk FFS conducting pairwise evaluation of the groundnut varieties they were working on



PROSPECTS FOR 2024

In 2024, we look forward to working towards achieving an empowered and self-reliant small-scale farmer - especially women. We shall focus on building a stronger farmer-led movement, strengthening our engagement with communities, empowering media and policymakers, and influencing policies and practices at all levels. We shall do all this through our main work components.

Through the Agroecology Club, ESAFF Uganda will continue to support the establishment and running of the Clubs in schools, organise the 2nd Schools Agroecology Poem Writing Competition 2024 and Schools' Climate Quiz for primary and secondary school learners, organise training sessions and exchange learning events, and support the establishment of Agroecology Libraries. Members of the Clubs will also be encouraged to participate in key policy events.

Through the Online Agroecology School for Journalists and Communicators, ESAFF Uganda will focus on building a strong network of journalists and communicators focused on upscaling agroecology not only in Uganda but also on the continent of Africa. ESAFF Uganda will continue training more cohorts of the School, publish the Agroecology Post, fund reporting on agroecology through the Agroecology Media Grant, and organise the first ever Agroecology Media Awards and the Annual Agroecology Conference for Journalists and Communicators.

Through the Community Agroecology Schools (CAS), ESAFF Uganda will support the establishment of new Schools in new communities as well as the running of all Schools. This year, the farmer-to-farmer extension service model will be strengthened to address the gaps observed in the previous

years. Members of the Community Agroecology Schools will engage in different policy processes at all levels to shape the direction of government and private sector programmes in their communities. A lot of emphasis this year will be directed to collecting stories from the ground and building the case for the adoption of the CAS approach in government agriculture programmes.

Through the Agroecology in Academia component, ESAFF Uganda will focus on strengthening the relationship with the selected universities and developing the three courses on agroecology at different levels. ESAFF Uganda also looks forward to shaping research agendas in universities and working with universities to provide scholarships to students interested in studying agroecology.

Through the Agroecology Business Hub (ABH), ESAFF Uganda will continue building the case for small-scale farmer-led agroecological businesses by supporting small-scale farmers to access business development capacity, cheap capital, and profitable markets.

Through the Agriculture Budget Watch component, ESAFF Uganda will continue strengthening the existing budget-influencing structures at village levels through capacity building and engagements. ESAFF Uganda will also invest in budget research and tracking technologies to expose corruption and poor planning tendencies in the government budgeting and implementation systems.

Through the Farmers' Seed Lab component, ESAFF Uganda plans to build a case for farmer-managed seed systems by conducting a study on the legal frameworks of the FMSS and documenting farmers' voices on these frameworks versus

their implementation. ESAFF Uganda will also strengthen the seed structures at the grassroots and support small-scale farmers to influence seed-related policies at different levels. Additionally, more Community Seed Banks are proposed to be constructed and supported. More caravans, barazas, and fairs, among other events, will be organised to showcase the contribution of farmer-managed seed systems to ensuring sustainable food systems.

Through the Land Rights Support Centre (LRSC), ESAFF Uganda will build and support the running of an automated LRSC system that provides real-time information. Uniquely this year, ESAFF Uganda will conduct Land Governance and women land rights Opinion Polls (LGOP) in the country, monitor agriculture investment, and engage in campaigns against land grabs, especially by large-scale land-based investors and some influential or rich people or entities in our societies. Emphasis will be put on strengthening community-based grievances-solving mechanisms and supporting the registration of land to secure land rights in some selected cases. The LRSC will document evidence that will be used for policy influence at different levels. This year should see small-scale farmers, especially women in rural areas, enjoying their secure land rights.

The Agroecology Library for Small Scale Farmers is a new initiative by ESAFF Uganda. Through this component, ESAFF Uganda will aim to provide access to user-friendly information and materials through the identification and collection of a wide range of agroecology information from different sources, including research papers, reports, case studies, and best practices. Translate this information into multiple languages to overcome language barriers and ensure usability for a diverse range of farmers before it is

printed and disseminated at designated centres.

The Agroecology School for Policymakers and Implementers is also a new component. ESAFF Uganda plans to develop a course for policymakers. The School will provide policymakers with customised help to formulate plans for an agroecological transformation by creating and involving frameworks for agroecology. The Agroecology School for Policymakers aims to facilitate the shift of our food systems towards agroecology by empowering policymakers to have an understanding of agroecology as they are developing and executing policies.

WE MAKE AN IMPACT

Support small scale farmers achieve lasting improved livelihoods through influencing favorable policies at all levels



Donate

We can do more through your partnership and generous contribution.

For any inquiries and more information. Write to:

Mrs Nancy M Walimbwa,

Email: coordinator@esaffuganda.org

Website: www.esaffuganda.org



Amplify

Help us spread the smallscale 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 TV**

Instagram: **esaff_agroecology**

Linkedin: **ESAFF Uganda**

Podcast:

<https://anchor.fm/esaffuganda>

Farmers' Voice



Advocate

Create campaigns related to what we are doing at ESAFF Uganda 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 security.

OUR PARTNERS

ESAFF Uganda impacted livelihoods of small-scale farmers including women and youth because of partners like you who believed in us making a difference, ESAFF Uganda is forever grateful for your confidence and generosity towards empowering self-reliant small-scale farmers.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Thousand
Currents



Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers' Forum
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SELECTED PUBLICATION (SCAN THE QR CODES TO READ MORE)




POLICY BRIEF

Women who farm on a small-scale are pushing for a fairer deal. How can we remedy the gender disparities that exist in the agricultural sector?

It is possible to enhance crop yields by as much as 30 percent by providing women farmers with the same access to productive resources like land, technologies, and capital as males in order to help feed a growing population.

March, 2023.

Policy Brief on Gender Inequality in the Agriculture Sector

ARE FARMERS' VARIETIES READY FOR RECOGNITION?

NOVEMBER 2023

Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers Forum
ESAFF - UGANDA

Are Farmers' Varieties ready for recognition?




Transition and Invest in Agroecology for a Just Planet

A STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY 2023

"Unlike industrial agriculture, we strongly believe that agroecology can cool the earth"

Joni Nampala, Small-scale Farmer leader

Small-scale farmers stand firm in acknowledging and leaving governments to respond to the need to deal with planetary emergencies in a holistic and inclusive manner, including in the areas of **soil health and integrated water management, including the optimal use of nutrients, organic fertilizers and enhanced nature management, as important elements of climate-resilient, flexible ecosystems protection, sustainable food production systems that can feed the planet.**

These 10 elements are the core of agroecology and the 13 principles of agroecology as adopted by FAO member states in December 2017 during the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

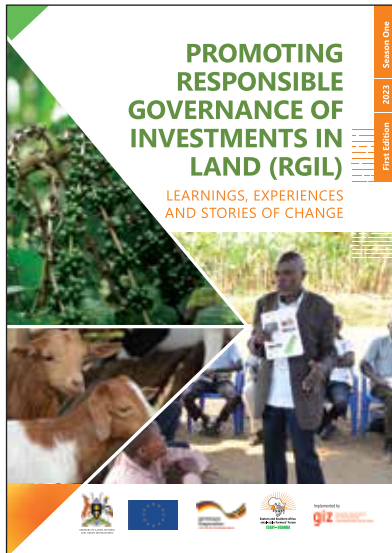
In our efforts to protect the earth, ESAFF Uganda has had several interventions, geared towards building capacities of small-scale farmers to practice sustainable production and resilient livelihoods using a more holistic community-based approach. It is crucial to support agriculture, farming communities through the field as they are being exposed to take a lead role in building their own resilience and co-operatives, realize their own vulnerabilities, and collectively plan and execute their sustained building system. In Agroecology as a sustainable production system.

Policy Brief: International Earth Day

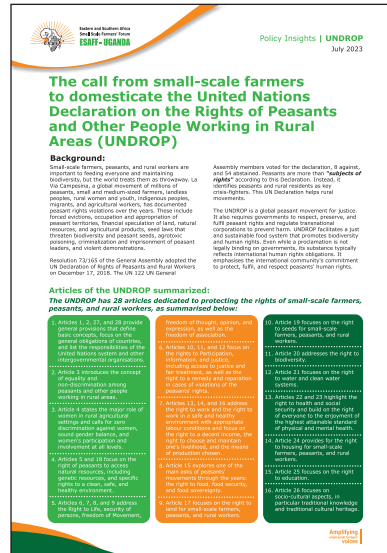




The Agroecology Post



Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land (RGIL)



Policy Insights on UNDROP





Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers' Forum

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