

A Review and Analysis of Agricultural Related Policies that Support Sustainable Agriculture



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Foreword

Although Uganda is well endowed with natural resources, land degradation, high population increases as well as climate change and variability continue to keep not only food and nutrition security at stake, but also livelihoods of majority small scale farmers in the country. Considering the fact that agriculture; a key natural resource based activity, is the mainstay of Uganda, employing over 80% of the population, it is of paramount importance that Sustainable Agriculture is put high on the agricultural development agenda.

It is envisaged that a move towards sustainable agriculture will feed the growing population of Uganda, and do so sustainably – without compromising the needs of the future generations to feed themselves. With Sustainable Agriculture and environmental stewardship, farm profitability as well as prosperous farming communities are assured.

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association (including Uganda), has been involved in promoting and mainstreaming Sustainable Agriculture since its inception in 1995. A lot of efforts have been geared towards capacity building in Sustainable Agriculture, as well as experience sharing and learning at both national and regional levels.

However, with the realization that Sustainable Agricultural development can only be successful if backed by policy support, PELUM Uganda commissioned this review and analysis of Sustainable Agriculture related policies in Uganda. This study not only gives an overview of 15 national policies, 5 pieces of national legislation and 8 international agreements that are related to Sustainable Agriculture, but also a comprehensive analysis of their support to Sustainable Agriculture.

This study also highlights the understanding of Sustainable Agriculture, as well as key recommendations for successful Sustainable Agricultural development.

This publication acts as a valuable source of information for various stakeholders (policy makers, civil society organizations, academia, research institutions, Sustainable Agriculture practitioners in Uganda) on the Sustainable Agriculture related policies, as well as a tool for Sustainable Agriculture policy advocacy.



Stella Grace Lutalo
Country Coordinator
PELUM Uganda

Acronyms

BD	Biological Diversity
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CMWR	Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources
DDT	Dichloro Diphenyl Trichlorethane
DSIP	Development Strategy and Investment Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
MPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
MWLE	Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NDP	National Development Plan
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
NEMP	National Environment Management Policy
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NLUP	National Land Use Policy
NR	Natural Resources
OA	Organic Agriculture
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PMA	Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture
SA	Sustainable Agriculture
SD	Sustainable Development
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCST	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

The management of PELUM Uganda, commissioned a study to review and analyze agriculture related policies in Uganda in order to determine Government support towards Sustainable Agriculture (SA) in the country. The study was carried out mainly through literature review of the national policies, plans, legislation as well as international agreements related to SA. Literature review was supplemented by a rapid survey that used a questionnaire and focus group discussions with selected SA stakeholders. This report presents the findings of the study.

It was generally observed that different promoters of SA in Uganda and indeed the world over, understand the subject, concepts and terms differently, which probably stifles smooth implementation and development of SA.

It was found out that in Uganda the government fairly supports SA and this support is either indirect or direct. Indirectly, several national policies, plans, programs and strategies that favour SA explicitly or implicitly, have been formulated and/or are still in the process of development.

These were:

- The National Environment Management Policy-NEMP (1994),
- The National Land Use Policy - NLUP (2007),
- The Uganda Forestry Policy - UFP(2001),
- The National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetlands Resources - CMWR (1995),
- The National Fisheries Policy - NFP (2004),
- The National Water Policy - NWP (1999),
- The Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy - UFNP (2002),
- The National Bio-technology and Bio-safety Policy - NBBP (2003),
- The Draft Uganda Organic Agriculture Policy - DOAP (2009),
- The Draft National Agricultural Policy - DNAP,

- The Draft National Soils Policy - DNSP,
- The Draft National Indigenous Knowledge Policy for Uganda - DNIKP (2004),
- The Draft National Irrigation Policy - DNIP (Revised Final Edition, 2005),
- The Draft National Seed Policy (2009),
- The MAAIF Development Strategy and Investment Plan - DSIP (2009/10-20013/14).

Related to policies, plans and strategies are laws. The national pieces of legislation that support SA which were reviewed were as follows:

- The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda,
- The National Environment Act-CAP153 (1995),
- The Uganda Land Act (1998),
- The Plant Protection Act - CAP 244 (1964),
- The Agricultural Chemicals (Control) Act (2006),

As part of the requirement, the following selected international agreements that are related to SA were also reviewed:

- The World Charter for Nature (1982),
- Agenda 21, United Nations Convention on Environment and Development (1992)
- The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD,1992),
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 1996),
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC, 1992),
- The Ramsar Convention (1971),
- The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (1968).
- The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program - CAADP

Analysis of these multi-lateral agreements in the context of SA showed that indeed SA is one of the practical avenues for implementing the objectives of sustainable development/ environment management.

An attempt was also made to analyse the direct support to the agricultural sector (in which SA is rooted) by government. It was established that government budgetary support to the sector is pretty low. It is still below the 10% budgetary allocation advocated by CAADP.

Arising from these observations, it was concluded that the government of Uganda supports SA in principle. However, to develop SA in the country, the following recommendations need urgent attention:

1. There is need to standardise the practices/concept of SA in Uganda. Hence, a sustainable agriculture stakeholders' workshop to develop minimum standards, guidelines for SA promotion in the country is required. At this same for roles of different players could be defined.
2. There is need to initiate a separate SA policy if deemed necessary, otherwise, strengthening existing plans, policies/Drafts like NEMP, NLUP, UFNP, OAP, NAP,SP, Seed P with pro-SA strategies may suffice.
3. Strengthening implementation of SA practices is required and . government should facilitate NGOs and other agencies to monitor implementation of SA. Hence, NGOs and other stakeholders need to compile policy briefs for lobbying Government and for advocacy.
4. Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (PM&E) of policies should be adopted and it should include communities.
5. Capacities of relevant Environment/SA institutions needs to be enhanced. Hence, there is need for pro-SA NGOs to lobby for scaling up of staffing and funding. Inclusion of SA subjects in academic curricula of institutions is needed.
6. There is need to review and strengthen most of the laws related to SA like the Environment Act, and the Land Act. All legislators need to be sensitized and lobbied to develop SA specific laws, ordinances, and bye-laws.
7. Promoters of SA led by PELUM, need to compile relevant SA information- that includes but not limited to the DOs and DONTs, publish in simple / "popular versions"; widely disseminate information to the public using all forms of channels in the media.

For a detailed version of this study report, please contact PELUM Uganda at;

Plot 155, Kira Road Kamwokya

P.O. Box 35804,

Kampala, Uganda

Telephone: 256 414 533973

Email: pelumuganda@pelumuganda.org