THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

# PRESENTATION ON PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO IDENTIFYING NEEDS AND ACCESSING MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY, INCLUDING SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES


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# Presentation outline

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# Introduction

- Uganda's agriculture contributes 24% of GDP, employs 67–70% of the labour force, generates 40% of export earnings, and supports livelihoods of 75% of households.
- Uganda's **agricultural systems are highly climate-vulnerable**, over 95% of cultivated land is rainfed, compounded by low productivity, limited mechanisation, inadequate extension services(approximately 1:1800), , and weak value-chain integration.
- **Smallholder farmers** constitute 80% of producers and **face limited adaptive capacity** to cope with climate shocks.
- **Debt servicing is the largest government expenditure**, consuming more than one-third of total public spending, this restricts resources available for climate action and agricultural development.

# Uganda's experience in identifying needs and /or accessing means of implementation for climate action in Agriculture and food security

**Strengthened Climate Planning & Needs identification:**

- (i) Mainstreamed agriculture in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, and National Climate Change Act (2021);
- (ii) Developed sector specific frameworks- the NAP-Ag and the Agriculture Sector Long-Term Climate Resilient and Low-Carbon Strategy to guide long term climate action.

**Technology Needs Identified:**

- (i) Completed Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) and Technology Action Plans (TAPs);
- (ii) identified priority climate-resilient agricultural technologies including: Drought-tolerant crop varieties, Irrigation and water harvesting, Agroforestry and conservation agriculture, Sustainable livestock systems, Post-harvest management technologies.
- **Gender disparities in access to technologies** and **services** remain a challenge.

## Uganda's experience in identifying needs and /or accessing means of implementation for climate action in Agriculture and food security

**Enhanced Access to Climate Finance:**

- (i) Established key climate finance frameworks, institutions and mechanisms for climate finance including the National Climate Change Financing Framework, Climate Finance Unit, and a National Climate Change Fund.
- (ii)Mobilized grants from LDCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund (AF), and GCF, and concessional loans from multilateral development banks e.g the WB, AfDB etc. to increase investment in climate-smart agriculture and resilience-building initiatives.
- (iii) Increased access to finance of smallholder farmers using the Parish Development Model.
- **Significant adaptation finance gaps persist**.

**Strengthened Capacity Building:**

- **(i) Expanded digital and hybrid agricultural solutions** to improve farmers' access to climate information, advisory services, finance, markets, and extension support.
- (ii) Expanded training in climate-smart agriculture, adaptation planning, and climate finance.
- Persistent gaps exist in local institutional capacity, climate finance readiness, technology adoption, extension services, and monitoring systems.

# Uganda's Challenges, in relations to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action in Agriculture and food security

- **Limited access to finance, technology, and capacity-building** support for smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups.
- **Complex accreditation, fiduciary, and compliance requirements** of major climate funds (GCF, GEF, AF) continue to delay access to resources
- **High public debt servicing burden** significantly constrains fiscal space for investments in agriculture, climate action, and food security
- **Increasingly declining and conditional grant based** and concessional finance for agriculture from developed countries
- **Weak institutional and technical capacity** to develop bankable projects, coupled with inadequate project preparation financing and weak inter sectoral coordination.
- **High costs and limited availability of climate-smart technologies**, post-harvest, mechanization, agro-processing and value addition hinder large-scale adoption.
- **Persistent data and knowledge gaps** weaken evidence-based planning, prioritization, and investment decisions
- **Structural vulnerabilities**—including **dependence on rain-fed agriculture**, poverty, unequal access to productive resources, and **high technology import costs** due to Uganda's **landlocked location**—continue to heighten climate risks and adaptation needs

# Opportunities in relations to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action in Agriculture and food security

## 1. Identifying needs

- NAPs, NDCs and LTS that integrate Agriculture and food security
- GGA indicators on Agriculture
- Available support for TNA and Action Planning
- Existence of Multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms linking (agriculture, environment, finance, and planning ministries & Agencies)
- Participatory engagement with smallholder farmers, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples as well as with agribusinesses, financial institutions, and technology providers to identify investments, capacity and technology needs for agriculture and food security climate action.
- AI & digital agriculture platforms, services and information

## 2. Accessing means of implementation

- Increasing recognition of agriculture and food security as priority sectors for climate action.
- Expanding support to agroecology and climate-smart agriculture
- SS Online Portal a matchmaking platform
- South -South and Triangular cooperation initiatives for technology transfer and knowledge exchange.
- Increasing integration of Agriculture and food security climate action by CB & operating entities of Financing Mechanism and international organisations:
- Available grant-based adaptation finance:
- Debt-for-climate and debt-for-nature swaps initiatives
- COP decisions on simplifying climate finance processes

# Best practices Uganda and other LDC Countries related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action in Agriculture and food security

- **Best Practice 1: Create dedicated climate finance coordination units** within governments. Bangladesh, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Uganda established National Climate Finance Units and Coordination Platforms;
- **Best Practice 2:** Uganda developed the **National Adaptation Plan for the Agricultural Sector (NAP-Ag),** which identifies climate risks, adaptation priorities, investment needs, and implementation pathways across crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and natural resources. The NAP-Ag was developed through broad stakeholder consultations involving government agencies, farmers' organizations, academia, civil society, and development partners.
- **Best Practice 3: Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) prioritizing Agricultural Technologies:** Uganda, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Ethiopia undertook Technology Needs Assessments and identify priority technologies, barriers, and implementation pathways. Priority agricultural technologies identified include: Drought-tolerant crops, Irrigation technologies, Water harvesting systems, Early warning systems, Climate information services and Post-harvest technologies.

## Recommendations

- COP decisions on simplifying climate finance access should be urgently addressed by responsible entities.
- Call upon developed countries to **increase fund allocation to agriculture** and food security and **agree to create a dedicated fund for agriculture**
- **Constituted bodies and operating entities of the financial mechanism** should ensure **meaningful participation of smallholder farmers**, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples and **address the barriers hampering their access to means of implementation** for agriculture and food security climate action.
- The **UNFCCC Secretariat should** (i) **fully operationalize the SS online portal**, include a **matchmaking mechanism** linking identified needs and proposals with available funding, technical, and implementation partners; and (ii) **include information on relevant calls for proposals**, funding opportunities, technical assistance, innovation grants, and capacity-building programs relevant to agriculture and food security climate action.

## Conclusion

Significant **progress has been made in identifying needs** for MoI but **serious gaps still exist in accessing MoI. Inadequate access to climate finance is the primary limiting factor** for governments and stakeholders to engage meaningfully in agriculture and food security climate action. This is compounded by **the high public debt servicing burden** shrinking national budget support to agriculture and food security climate action in most LDC countries.

# I thank you