



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

"Agriculture for Food and Income Security"

WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF 54TH INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS-9TH OCTOBER 2016



**H E. GEN. YOWERI
KAGUTA MUSEVENI**
President of the Republic of
Uganda



**HON. VINCENT
SSEMPIIJA
BAMULANGAKI**
Minister for Agriculture



HON. JOY KABATSI
State Minister for
Animal Industry



**HON. CHRISTOPHER
KIBAZANGA**
State Minister for
Agriculture



MR. VINCENT RUBAREMA
Permanent Secretary



OKAASAI OPOLOT
Director Crop Resources



DR. KAUTA NICHOLAS
Director Animal Resources



BEATRICE BYARUGABA
Ag. Director Agricultural
Extension Services



DR. EDWARD RUKUNYA
Ag. Director Fisheries Resources

On this historic occasion when we celebrate the 54th Independence Day Anniversary, the leadership and entire Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries wish to extend their warm congratulations and support to His Excellency General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, the entire Cabinet, Parliament and the people of Uganda.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries will continue to play the supportive role by providing a favourable environment for Private Sector Investments in the agriculture sector through targeted public sector investments and undertaking appropriate policy reforms. In line with the NRM Manifesto 2016-21 that has put transformation of Agriculture at the forefront of Socio-economic transformation, under the Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan, the Agricultural sector's **Vision** is: 'A competitive, profitable and sustainable sector'

Its **Mission** is: 'Transforming the sector from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture'. The envisaged transformation will help create employment opportunities, especially for the youth and for women, and increase household incomes, while ensuring household food and nutrition security along the entire commodity value chain of production, processing and marketing.

The overriding government objective is to transform the country from the current low income to a middle income status by 2020. The agricultural sector is expected to play a predominant role in view of the fact that more than 75% of the population derive their livelihoods from agriculture; and of which, 68% are still outside the money economy. The target of the agricultural sector is: 'To achieve an average growth rate of 6% per year over the next 5 years which is expected to translate into a 10% poverty reduction per annum. This development and growth of the Agricultural sector is anchored in strengthening the national agricultural extension services as articulated in the NRM Manifesto 2016-2021. The Ministry will therefore, undertake strategic investment in the national agricultural extension services as follows:

1. Government will ensure that all implementing organizations have adequate human resources matching present and future demands in terms of numbers, knowledge, skill and experience, as well as their strategic deployment. In order to retain highly qualified human resources and optimize their performance, a personnel management system that ensures staff motivation, supervision, facilitation and access to operational logistics is in place.
2. The agricultural extension service will work closely with the other Operation Wealth Creation actors to ensure optimal utilization of agricultural inputs by farmers. The low survival rates of seeds, seedlings, livestock and other planting materials experienced in recent times has largely been attributed to absence of technical personnel at field level to provide extension services. Over the past year, the staffing levels have improved dramatically raising from about 10% in 2014 to 44% by June 2016 and are expected to reach 70% by end of this Financial Year. This increment accompanied by increased access to operational logistics will go a long way to improve utilization of the agricultural inputs by the farmers. Research has demonstrated that investments in agricultural extension alone can increase input utilization by about 66%. The extension services will train farmers and expose them through demonstrations on fertilizer use as a means of increasing productivity of the inputs. Fertilizer use in Uganda is extremely low estimated at 2kg/ha compared to international standard of 200kg/ha.
3. The Ministry will build the capacity of farmers' institutions to effectively participate and benefit from agricultural extension services. To realize farmer empowerment, the thrust of the new Agricultural Extension Policy direction is to mobilize farmers into viable institutions, equip them with requisite skills and link to appropriate support services such as financial services and markets. The process of registering farmers, farmer groups and cooperatives and identifying their capacity needs to undertake commercial agriculture is underway. Farmers and other value chain actors shall be supported to access agribusiness services, markets, and other services to enable them make

profitable agricultural investments. To improve access to markets, value addition and strengthening the quality of agricultural commodities, production of export strategic commodities will be promoted. These include bananas, cassava, maize, rice, beans, tea, coffee, fruits and vegetables, dairy, fish, livestock (meat). The physical agricultural storage and marketing infrastructure will be improved; and promotion of appropriate technologies and practices for minimizing post-harvest losses along the entire commodity value chain will be undertaken.

4. The Ministry will establish systematic procedures for regulation of extension services provided by the range of service providers as espoused in the new policy to ensure that farmers and other beneficiaries access quality services. It will also collaborate with all relevant actors to develop, source, package and disseminate appropriate extension materials, and information targeted at all nodes of agricultural value chains (from production to consumption).
5. Special emphasis will be put on strengthening linkages and flow of technologies from research to farmers. The Ministry will establish a knowledge base management and information system that will facilitate the flow of information and technologies from research centers to farmers and other value chain actors. The Ministry will also establish a decentralized one-stop-centre for agriculture extension knowledge and information that is comprehensive and meets the needs of the users using information and communication technologies (ICT).
6. Investments will also be provided to ensure that the extension services support the farmers in prevention and control of pests vectors and diseases of crops and livestock. Pests and diseases like Banana Bacterial Wilt (BBW), Coffee Black Twig Borer (CBTB), fruit flies, tsetse flies and trypanosomiasis, ticks and tick borne diseases have caused severe economic losses to farmers. Tick resistance to acaricides for example, has been evolving for the last decade and a half and was noticed only when it was in advanced stages due to lack of adequate agricultural extension staff at field level. (The NAADS Programme was not targeting pest and disease control).
7. The investment in agricultural extension services over the next 5 years is projected to contribute to the decline in the levels of malnutrition by providing nutrition education. It is estimated that households in Uganda loose about Shs 1.8 trillion annually due to malnutrition which is 5.6% of the GDP. One in every three children in Uganda is stunted. This is more pronounced in western and central regions of the country.
8. The Ministry through the extension system shall take measures to attract and support youth, women and other vulnerable groups to access agricultural services by deliberately addressing constraints that have limited their effective participation and equitably benefiting from them. The youth are encouraged to engage in agricultural development and will be supported to form groups, associations, cooperatives and private companies; train them in livelihoods and business skills development to be able to undertake agro-enterprise development along the different commodity value chains. Mechanization of agriculture is one of the areas identified for young people. The Ministry will innovatively support use of mechanized tools in a way that helps youth to engage in agricultural production and value addition.

Agricultural extension is and remains the "Heart and Soul" of the knowledge base of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; and is one of the most important elements needed in the envisaged socio-economic transformation processes from low to middle income status. The investments in the extension system that is putting the smallholder farmer at the center are expected to significantly improve production efficiency, competitiveness and foster commercialization.

As a Ministry, we count on the visionary leadership and support of His Excellency The President of the Republic of Uganda to revolutionize Agriculture and achieve prosperity for all.

Long Live your Excellency, Long Live NRM Government
Long Live the people of Uganda

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

V. R. Rubarema

**PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL
INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**