



MAAIF
Ministry of Agriculture,
Animal Industry and Fisheries



THE WORLD BANK

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE INSIGHT

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Paving the way for Uganda's agricultural transformation



Welcome to this special edition of the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) Newsletter! In this issue, we reflect on our milestones and explore our collaborative strides toward a climate-resilient, inclusive, and productive agricultural future. From national-level strategic missions to grassroots empowerment, UCSATP is delivering on its promise to transform agriculture across Uganda's 69 beneficiary districts. Thank you for being part of this transformative journey.



Message from the Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

I extend my warm regards and commend the UCSATP team, our esteemed development partners, particularly the World Bank and all stakeholders across the country for the exceptional progress and unwavering commitment demonstrated thus far. The UCSATP reflects our national aspiration to modernize agriculture, enhance food and nutrition security, and build the resilience of Uganda's farming communities. With a six-year implementation period and wide-reaching coverage across 69 districts, the project is deliberately designed to address the dual challenge of increasing agricultural productivity while adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.

UCSATP is more than just a project; it is a bold step toward transforming Uganda's agricultural sector into one that is climate-smart, inclusive, and commercially oriented. By strengthening farmer institutions, supporting the adoption of sustainable land and water management practices, and enhancing access to markets and agro-inputs, the project is laying a solid foundation for long-term growth and resilience.

This initiative aligns seamlessly with Uganda's Vision 2040, the National Development Plan III, and the broader global climate action agenda. It also builds on the successes and lessons of past and ongoing programs, ensuring continuity, sustainability, and scalability of interventions.

As a Ministry, we reaffirm our full support and commitment to UCSATP's success. We urge all stakeholders national and local, public, and private to embrace this shared vision. Together, we can ensure that Uganda's agriculture thrives despite climate challenges, delivering food security, increased incomes, and improved livelihoods for generations to come.

Let this be our collective legacy: sustainable agriculture that uplifts every farmer, every household, and every community.

Maj. Gen. David Kasura-Kyomukama
Permanent Secretary, MAAIF



Message from the National Project Coordinator

Dear Partners & Stakeholders,
Welcome to this milestone issue of the UCSATP Newsletter! To say we are excited is an understatement. Just close to a year ago, this project was declared effective, 25th June 2024 to be exact ushering in a new chapter in the transformation of the agricultural sector in Uganda. This is not just our first newsletter; it is a vibrant testament to the incredible journey we have embarked upon together, building a future where Uganda's agricultural transformation thrives, resilient against the vagaries of a changing climate.

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride at the progress we have made. We laid a crucial foundation, forged vital partnerships, and most importantly, we have begun to see the tangible enthusiasm and potential in our smallholder farmers, the very heart of this project. Their eagerness to embrace Climate-smart practices, Innovations and Management practices is our greatest motivator and a powerful indicator of the transformative impact UCSATP will have.

This newsletter is designed to be your window into the world of UCSATP. In each issue, we shall share updates on our progress, highlight success stories from the field, introduce you to the dedicated teams making this happen, and keep you informed about key milestones and upcoming initiatives. Consider it your essential guide to how we are working collectively to enhance productivity, increase resilience, and reduce the carbon footprint of Ugandan agriculture.

The journey ahead is exciting, filled with opportunities to innovate, collaborate, and empower. We invite you to join us in celebrating every step of this progress. Together, we are not just implementing a project; we are cultivating a sustainable and prosperous future for generations of Ugandan farmers.

Thank you for your steadfast support and commitment to this vital mission.

Eng. Okanya Boniface
Commissioner for Agricultural Infrastructure, Mechanization, and Water for
Agricultural Production, MAAIF & National Project Coordinator-UCSATP

Editorial Note



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Climate Smart Agriculture Insight*, the official newsletter of the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP).

This publication is a platform to share the milestones, progress, and personal stories that define UCSATP's drive toward a more resilient, inclusive, and climate-adaptive agricultural sector in Uganda. Through these pages, we highlight the collective efforts being made to strengthen farming systems, promote sustainable practices, and improve livelihoods in the face of a changing climate.

Each edition will take you on a journey across Uganda from the heart of rural farming communities to the behind-the-scenes work of technical teams and implementing partners. You will find real-world results, inspiring stakeholder voices, and key lessons learned along the way.

Our hope is that Climate Smart Agriculture Insight will not only inform and engage, but also inspire collective action toward transforming Uganda's agricultural future. Thank you for joining us on this transformative journey.

Warm regards,

Suzanne Bukenya-Nabukeera

Communications & Public Relations Officer
(NAGRC&DB)

Acayo Consolata

Assistant Commissioner, Knowledge
& Communication - (MAAIF)

Contributors:

- Alex Asiimwe, Deputy National Project Coordinator, UCSATP
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BACKGROUND

Setting the Stage for Transformation

Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) Laying the Foundation for a Climate Resilient and Market Driven Agriculture Sector

The Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) is a flagship six year initiative of the Government of Uganda, implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) with funding from the World Bank and the Government of Uganda. It is designed to accelerate Uganda's transition to a climate smart, resilient, and market oriented agricultural system that enhances productivity, strengthens livelihoods, and improves food security across the country.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda's economy, yet it is increasingly threatened by the growing impacts of climate change ranging from erratic rainfall and prolonged droughts to pests and disease outbreaks. Through the promotion and adoption of climate smart agricultural (CSA) practices, UCSATP aims to build resilience at all levels from research institutions and markets to farmers and rural communities.

UCSATP takes a comprehensive value chain approach that spans research, production, mechanization, post harvest handling, and market linkages, with particular focus on empowering youth, women, and refugee hosting districts. The project is currently active in *69 districts across 13 agro ecological zones*, including seven districts hosting refugee populations.

Key Implementing Partners

- Implementation is spearheaded by **MAAIF** in collaboration with specialized agencies and departments:
- **National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)** – spearheading climate resilient research, technologies, and innovations.
- **National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Data Bank (NAGRC&DB)** – advancing animal breeding, livestock development, and genetic improvement services.
- **Department of Meteorological Services (DMS), Under the Ministry of Water and Environment** – providing timely agro climatic information and early warning systems to support planning and resilience building.

Project Development Objective (PDO)

To increase productivity, market access and resilience of select value chains in the project area and to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency

Project Components

UCSATP is structured into five key components:

1. **Component 1:** Strengthening Climate Smart Agricultural Research, Seed, and Agro Climatic Information Systems. Development and dissemination of climate smart technologies, improved seed systems, and enhanced climate risk management
2. **Component 2:** Promoting Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices. Supports sustainable land and water management, CSA adoption, and emissions reduction to enhance productivity and resilience
3. **Component 3:** Market Development and Linkages for Selected Value Chains. Improves market access through investment in post harvest handling, value addition, infrastructure, and private sector linkages
4. **Component 4:** Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC). A zero cost component providing rapid support during climate or conflict related emergencies
5. **Component 5:** Project Management, Coordination, and Implementation. Ensures efficient project oversight, monitoring and evaluation, and communication

Fast Facts & Strategic Alignment

- World Bank Approval: 22 -Dec- 2022
- Effectiveness Date: 25- Jun- 2024
- Project closure: 31- Dec - 2028
- **Triple Climate Smart Goals:**
 - Increase production & productivity
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Boost community adaptation & resilience

Alignment with National & Global Frameworks

MAAIF Strategic Focus	Seed & stocking material systems, disease control, mechanization & irrigation, farmer education, partnerships with large landowners, fisheries interventions
National Development Plan III & IV	Agro industrialization: competitive CSA value chains, regional development, equitable growth including refugee hosting areas, climate & environment, sustainable land and water use practices
Parish Development Model	<p>Pillar 1: Climate smart production, storage & marketing</p> <p>Pillar 2: Rural infrastructure for market access</p> <p>Pillar 3: Financial inclusion via cooperative support</p> <p>Pillar 5: Mindset change and cross-cutting issues</p> <p>Pillar 6: Parish-based management information system</p> <p>Pillar 7: Governance and administration</p>
NRM Manifesto 2021- 26	Commercialization, mechanization centres, irrigation, post harvest solutions
Presidential Directives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seed production, multiplication, distribution and certification 2. Disease control 3. Agricultural mechanization and irrigation 4. Farmer education and mobilization 5. Partnership with large scale farmers 6. Interventions in the fisheries subsector
Agricultural Value Chain Development Strategy (2021-26)	End to end value chain approach from enterprise selection to market integration
UN SDGs	<p>SDG1: No poverty</p> <p>SDG2: Zero hunger</p> <p>SDG13: Climate action</p>

Our Journey in Themes & Milestones

1

Igniting the Spark: Training of Project Implementation Team - PIT (Nov 5–8, 2024)



From 5th to 8th November 2024, the National Project Coordinating Unit conducted a **PIT workshop** held at the Nile Resort Hotel, Jinja for **127 participants** including **representatives from MAAIF, NARO, NAGRC&DB, DOM, and the World Bank**. The objective was to build the PIT's capacity on UCSATP content and implementation modalities across value chains.

The training aimed to:

- Present the scope of all project components
- Familiarize PIT members with key project content
- Prepare them to train zonal, regional, and district stakeholders

The workshop utilized presentations, interactive discussions, and Q&A sessions to clarify project expectations and strategies. Presentations covered fisheries, crops, livestock, beneficial insects, mechanization, environment and social safeguards, refugee frameworks, meteorology, and sustainable land management.

Key outcomes included:

- Agreed action points on improving clarity in manuals, integrating Q&A feedback, stakeholder coordination, mainstreaming youth and women, and clarifying roles in refugee areas
- Commitments to address challenges like feed access, traceability systems, pest control, and inclusion of climate-smart solutions
- Clear guidance on financial procedures, M&E frameworks, infrastructure assessments, and aligning mechanization investments with project goals
- The workshop laid a solid foundation for effective project roll-out and stakeholder engagement across all UCSATP focus areas

2

Strategic Synergies: 1st World Bank Implementation Support Mission (Nov 12–18, 2024)



Participants pose for a group photo

Held at Kampala Nile Resort, Namanve, the first World Bank Implementation Support Mission gathered 127 stakeholders to shape the implementation roadmap.

Focus:

Post-effectiveness priorities, operational readiness, and disbursement conditions

Highlights:

- Value chain presentations covering crops, livestock, fisheries, mechanization, beneficial insects, and environmental safeguards
- Coordination with key agencies (NARO, NAGRC&DB, DOM)
- Robust monitoring frameworks with MIS integration

Key Recommendations:

- Accelerate procurement and disbursement processes
- Finalize manuals for e-voucher systems, SLM, and artificial insemination
- Develop inclusive communication strategies and synchronize value chains



Media house participants pose for photo after media training on UCSATP



Mr. Odongo Kizito from the Department of crop production making his presentation during the World Bank mission for UCSATP



Group Discussions ongoing at the workshop led by Ms. Connie Acayo-Assistant Commissioner Information & Communication MAAIF



Presentations during the workshop



Presentations during the workshop

3

Shaping Vision: National Stakeholders Workshop



Stakeholders posing with Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries (MAAIF), Hon. Frank Tumwebaze

The UCSATP National Stakeholders Workshop held at Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort from November 19 to 21, 2024, brought together over 640 participants, including representatives from 69 implementing districts, government ministries, development partners, and research institutions. The workshop was a cornerstone event aimed at aligning strategies, strengthening collaboration, and catalyzing climate-smart agricultural transformation across Uganda.

Workshop Objectives

- Present UCSATP’s implementation strategy and value chain priorities
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of national and district-level actors
- Foster stakeholder collaboration and inclusive planning
- Share experiences and strategies on adopting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices

Key Highlights

- **Implementation Updates:** Stakeholders received detailed briefings on project progress, including CSA technologies, livestock and crop value chain preparedness, infrastructure rollouts, and environmental safeguards.
- **Inclusive Dialogue:** Voices from districts, civil society, and technical experts provided practical insights on issues such as land access, farmer group eligibility, and youth and women participation.
- **Environmental Focus:** The role of sustainable land management and accurate weather data in building resilience was emphasized.
- **Actionable Outcomes:** Clear resolutions were made, including launching district-level stakeholder engagements, enhancing monitoring and evaluation systems, and promoting awareness through local tv and radio campaigns, new print, workshops and social media



Participants attentively listening to the proceedings.



MAAIF Permanent Secretary represented by the Under Secretary Mr. Ronald Gyagenda



Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries(MAAIF), Frank Tumwebaze; addressing stakeholders at the National Stakeholders Workshop



National Project Coordinator giving opening remarks at the National Stakeholders Workshop



Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries, Frank Tumwebaze signing the project implementation manual



World Bank team posing with the Hon. MAAIF Minister



Pushina Kunda Ng'andwe - Task Team Leader, UCSATP

4

District Stakeholder Engagements

The Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) has made significant strides in preparing for implementation through the completion of district stakeholder engagement workshops in all 69 beneficiary districts. These workshops represent a significant step in the project's rollout and have been instrumental in fostering collaboration and buy-in from key stakeholders.

- Stakeholder Alignment:** Over 8,000 stakeholders participated, including district and sub-county technical staff, political leaders, community members, and representatives from farmer groups. This broad participation ensures that the project's implementation is informed by diverse perspectives and aligned with local needs
- Value Chain Prioritization:** Sub-counties have been selected for specific value chains, including crops (coffee, soybean, cocoa etc...), livestock (dairy, beef), fisheries, and beneficial insects (apiculture, black soldier fly), based on criteria that consider regional suitability and market potential
- Roadmap for Action:** A detailed roadmap for the next three months was established, focusing on sub-county preparation, farmer group mobilization, capacity building, community sensitization, and infrastructure assessment. This clear plan of action ensured that the project moves swiftly into the implementation phase
- Capacity Building:** The project is addressing capacity gaps by providing training to district extension staff and farmer groups on climate-smart agriculture practices, value chain development, and environmental and social safeguards

These milestones demonstrate UCSATP's commitment to a participatory approach, setting a strong foundation for achieving its objectives of increased agricultural productivity, enhanced market access, and improved climate resilience, contributing to the Government of Uganda's goals for agricultural transformation

Key Achievements:

- District-specific action plans developed
- 40% female participation in trainings
- Focus on sustainable practices: agroforestry, biogas, pest management
- Selection of value chains: Crops (coffee, soybean, cocoa), Livestock (dairy, beef), Fisheries, and Beneficial insects (apiculture, black soldier fly)



The Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Mr. Opolot Deogracious making his presentation at Kaberamaido district leadership engagement



UCSATP Deputy Project Coordinator Alex Asiimwe in Kyegegwa giving project brief to the district leaders

Engagements with district officials in Karamoja district



UCSATP team in Buyende district



UCSATP district engagements with leaders

Karamoja district engagements

5 Media Engagements across the Sub-Regions

- As part of its grassroots rollout, the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) conducted extensive media outreach across **13 sub-regions** to raise awareness and ensure inclusive participation
- A **total of 106 media engagements** were conducted during the stakeholder engagements including:


 40 Radio
 Talk Shows


 47 News Bytes
 & Social Media Posts


 13 Newspaper
 Articles


 6 Television
 News Features

This media outreach played a key role in communicating UCSATP's objectives, implementation roadmap, and opportunities for community involvement. Below is a visual summary of media activities per region:

Region	Radio	TV	News paper	Social Media	News Bytes	Featured Media Outlets
Teso	4	1	2	3	8	Etop Radio, NBS TV, Mama Bukedea, Joshua FM, Continental FM
Elgon	2	0	0	3	0	Trinity Radio, Mosan Media
West Nile	1	2	2	1	-	Radio Paidha, Daily Monitor
Lango	1	0	0	1	-	Radio Devine FM, Radio Pacis
Karamoja	2	0	0	1	-	Ateker Radio, UBC Radio
Acholi	3	0	1	1	-	Rapa Rackoko FM, Jambo FM
Kigezi	3	0	0	1	-	Radio Kigezi FM, Kisoro FM
Busoga	3	0	0	2	0	Mayuge FM, Apex Radio, KBS FM
Bunyoro	5	0	0	1	3	Karuguuza FM, Liberty FM
Rwenzori	3	1	3	1	4	Hits FM, TV West, NBS
Bukedi	1	2	2	1	-	Rock City Radio, New Vision
Ankole	1	0	0	1	-	Kiruhura FM
Buganda	11	2	3	5	12	CBS FM, BBS TV, Akaboozi

Did You Know?

- UCSATP's use of regional radio talk shows helped reach remote communities, creating an inclusive platform for listener feedback. Listener inquiries focused on input access, co-funding expectations, and value chain selection
- Stay tuned for the next edition as we bring you stories from the farmer groups mobilized under UCSATP and how climate-smart agriculture is transforming livelihoods across Uganda

Busoga Sub-Region

(L-R)



- UCSATP Team leader Geoffrey Dheyongera with the district focal person Mr. Moiti Eriya on Apex 103.5 FM Iganga district; talk show organized by the RDC Mr. Sadala Wandera Apex FM extensive reach to (Iganga, Buyende, Mayuge, Kamuli, Kaliro, Bugiri) Elgon-region, Buikwe, Kayunga, Bugweri, Namayingo and Namatumba)
- Ms. Birungi Rose, RDC Kamuli district on KBS FM
- Mr. Geoffrey on a radio talk show on Mayuge FM with the District Production Officer of Buyende on KBS 105.9 FM that covers: Buyende, Kaliro, Kamuli, Mayuge, Luuka, Jinja & across Serere, Karamoja, Luwero, Kayunga, Nakasongola districts

Bukedi Sub-Region

Buganda Sub-Region



UCSATP team during a radio talk show at Rock City FM in Tororo district radio reach to Budaka, Pallisa, Butaleja and Kibuku districts



UCSATP team at Voice of Kyankwanzi district



Talk show at Miracle FM in Sembabule district

Bunyoro Sub-Region

Kigezi Sub-Region



Talk shows in Kakumiro district



Various talk shows in Kisoro, Kabale, Rubanda and Rukungiri districts



6 Laying the Foundation: Farmer Verification Exercise (Jan–Feb 2025)

As part of UCSATP’s commitment to accountability and effective delivery, MAAIF conducted a comprehensive Farmer Verification Exercise across all 69 project districts. This critical activity authenticated over 12,769 farmer groups from 5315 parishes and 944 sub counties, forming the basis for profiling, input delivery, training, and infrastructure support.

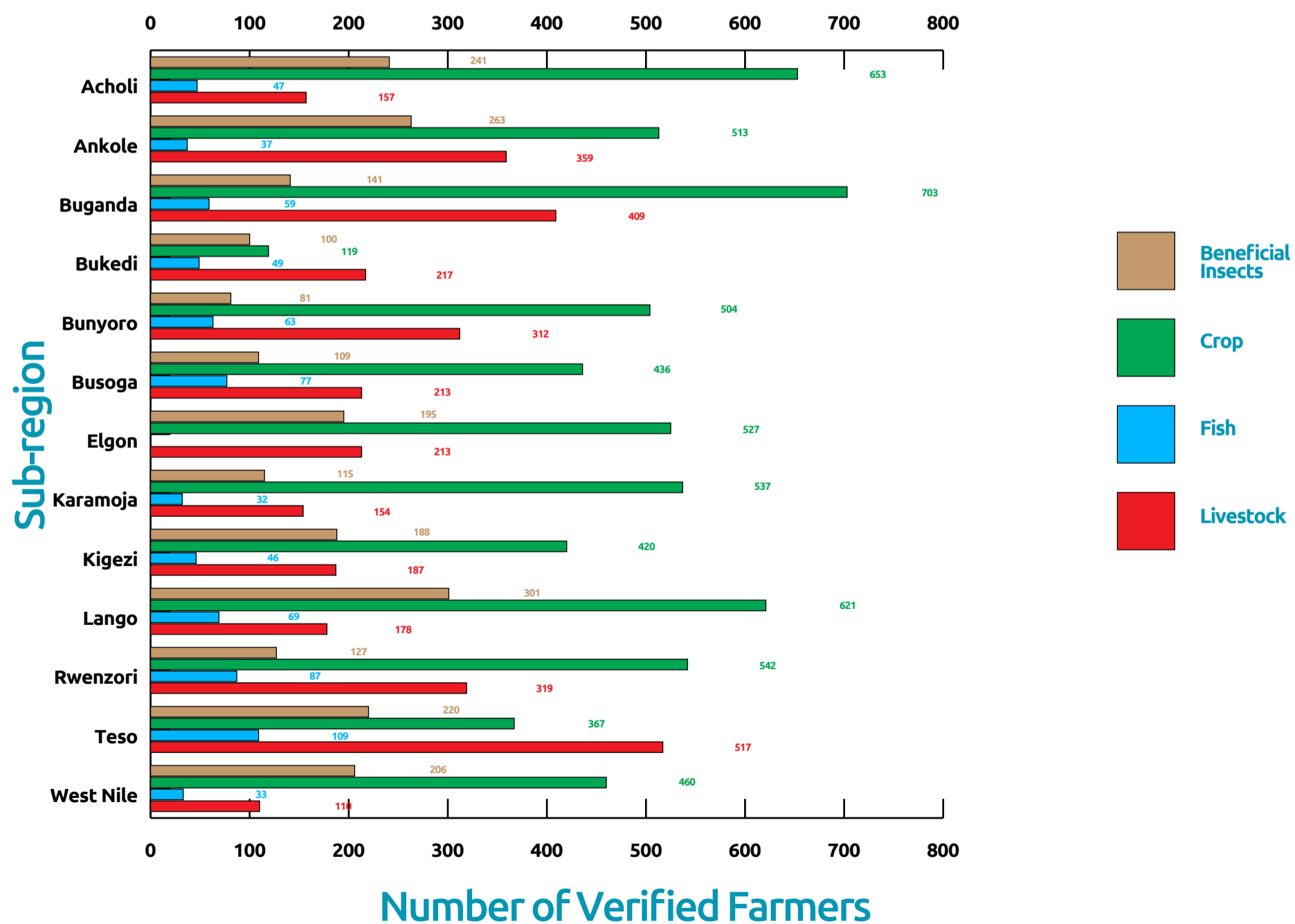
Key Objectives:

- Validate the existence, composition, and eligibility of farmer groups
- Confirm compliance with value chain criteria across crops, livestock, fisheries, and beneficial insects
- Generate accurate data to inform planning, targeting, and delivery of climate-smart interventions
- Enhance transparency and accountability in the beneficiary selection process

Highlights of the Exercise:

- Joint field verification by trained Project Implementation Teams and district technical staff
- Use of digital tools with GPS capabilities and photographic evidence to verify group locations
- Gender and youth inclusion assessments were emphasized across all groups
- Real-time coordination between regional and central technical teams

Verification Summary



Impacts and Achievements:

Strengthened Beneficiary Targeting:

Creation of a credible group database for transparent input and service delivery

Enhanced Community Ownership:

Engaged local leaders and farmers, increasing project trust and visibility.

Informed Planning:

Verified data now supports mechanization plans, group profiling, and needs assessments.

Foundation for Rollout:

Identified challenges for tailored training and institution development of farmer groups.

Next Steps:

- Finalizing verification reports and dashboards
- Launching group profiling and institutional development
- Needs assessment for climate-smart technologies and services
- Continued sensitization and mobilization for smooth intervention rollout

World Bank specialised support mission

Objectives.

Following the farmers' verification exercise, the joint WorldBank–MAAIF team set out to Ankole, Kigezi, Busoga, Karamoja, Teso, Lango, Acholi sub regions:

- To verify how far the farmer groups verification rollout progressed; community awareness, selection of sub counties/parishes mobilisation
- To ground truth the demand and readiness for key infrastructure investments such as laboratories, water harvesting dams, feeder road chokes and animal holding grounds

Findings.

Farmers and district leaders across multiple sub-regions have shown strong commitment, with land already allocated for the planned infrastructure. Laboratory buildings are largely in place, presenting a solid foundation for equipping them with modern tools and skilled personnel. There is an opportunity to enhance the criteria for selecting beneficiary groups at the sub-county and parish levels, alongside strengthening communication of the project's objectives to ensure shared understanding among stakeholders. Progress on finalizing parish listings and profiling farmer groups is ongoing, with efforts being made to streamline related processes. Capacity strengthening is particularly needed in areas such as entomology and livestock extension. To accelerate impact, the mission recommended channeling support through cooperative-based farmer groups at the parish level, fast-tracking the procurement of equipment, and prioritizing staff training and development.



World Bank implementation specialised mission team tracking progress of farmer groups verification exercise -Kitgum district meeting with beef farmer groups



Away farmer group selected for capture fisheries in Agwata town council Dokolo district



World Bank team meeting Noteber farmer group selected for Soybeans investments in Dokolo district



World Bank team interacting with selected farmer group for beef in Pader district

7

Voices From The Field | Impact Beyond Numbers

As UCSATP rolls out climate-smart interventions across Uganda, the stories from our beneficiaries and partners tell of real, visible change—right at the heart of communities.



Asekenye Catherine- District Focal Point person, UCSATP-Kiruhura District

"This project aligns well with the district vision. We already have organized farmer groups and cooperatives for beef and dairy. My team is ready to receive inputs. With real-time data and verified farmer groups, UCSATP is no longer planning in the dark. We now have the clarity needed to deliver the right technologies to the right people, tailored to their agro-ecological realities."

Kawuzi Emmanuel, District Focal Point Person, UCSATP – Mayuge District

"This is one of the best-designed projects, bringing together all sectors within the district and fostering close collaboration among colleagues something we did not have before. Importantly, it tackles the biggest challenge we face today: climate change. I strongly encourage fast-tracking its implementation so that our farmers can start benefiting as soon as possible."



Dulson Okello, District Production and Marketing Officer, Amolatar

"With the support from the UCSATP, we're not just improving our roads and water sources, we are building resilience. Our farmers can now access markets more easily, manage pests and diseases better, and adopt climate-smart practices that secure their livelihoods for a better future"

Eriya Moiti-District Focal point person, UCSATP, Iganga District

"The UCSATP has brought renewed coordination and purpose to agricultural development in Iganga. With over 115 farmer groups mobilized and strategic infrastructure sites identified, we're laying the foundation for lasting impact. What we now need is timely alignment with seasonal farming cycles and streamlined fund processing to unlock the full potential of this transformative project."



 **Testimonials**

District Focal Person, Kabarole District, Rwenzori Sub Region

"For Kabarole, confirming 156 groups each geo located and gender inclusive; means the Rwenzori sub region can plan with precision. With clear evidence of strong crop and livestock clusters, UCSATP can tailor technologies that boost yields while safeguarding our mountain ecosystems. Verification has moved us from assumptions to actionable insight."

Dr. Oscar Burton Okengo, District Focal Person, UCSATP, Abim district-Karamoja Sub-Region

"Through GPS mapping and face-to-face engagement, we not only verified farmer groups but also built trust and ownership among communities. This transparent process has given farmers confidence that the project is for them, and with them."

**Fredrick Kabbale
District Production Officer, Buyende district.**

"This training gave me clarity on my role in helping farmers access climate-smart technologies. I now feel prepared and confident."

Partner Spotlight

Commitment to a Climate-Smart Future

Building Resilience Through Strong Partnerships

At the heart of the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) is the power of partnership. UCSATP thrives on collaboration with institutions that share a deep commitment to promoting climate resilience and sustainable agriculture across the country.

The **Government of Uganda** and **The World Bank** remain key financial and technical partners, offering steadfast support to UCSATP's transformative agenda. This collaboration extends to the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)** and its implementing agencies—the **National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Data Bank (NAGRC&DB)**, the **National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)**, and the **Department of Meteorological Services under the Ministry of Water and Environment**.

Together, these partnerships are driving progress toward a more climate-smart and food-secure Uganda.



"The success of the project is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders. Everyone must play their part to ensure its success. For us at the World Bank, we pledge to provide unwavering support to ensure it delivers transformative impact for Uganda's agricultural sector."

Pushina Kunda Ng'andwe – Task Team Leader, UCSATP



"MAAIF has previously implemented other World Bank funded projects, and it's important to draw lessons from those experiences to avoid repeating past mistakes. With funds now available, there should be no reason for further delays in implementation. I believe that if MAAIF steps out of its comfort zone and fully utilizes the remaining time, this project has the potential to deliver significant impact, exceeding community expectations."

Azizah Nabitato- Principal Economist Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development.



"The farmer verification exercise has laid a strong foundation for inclusive and accountable implementation. By identifying over 12,000 active farmer groups across the country, UCSATP is ensuring that support reaches the right people; those ready to drive climate-smart transformation at the grassroots."

Dr John Ilukor, World Bank Economist



From the national level, **Consolata Acayo, Assistant Commissioner Information and Communications at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)**, emphasized the project's alignment with national priorities:

"UCSATP aligns with Uganda's Vision 2040 and our agricultural strategy. It's about building climate resilience while ensuring farmers are more productive, profitable, and protected. We see it as a cornerstone of sustainable rural development."



"Through the UCSATP, we are bridging the gap between science and the farm by ensuring that climate-resilient breeding stock reaches the very hands that need it most; our farmers. By improving access to quality animal seed and applying advanced reproductive technologies such as artificial insemination, we are not only strengthening Uganda's livestock systems but also securing the future of livestock farming under changing climatic conditions."

Dr. Katali Benda, Assistant Manager – Satellite Stations & Breeder Associations, NAGRC&DB



“At the heart of UCSATP is a commitment to science that serves the people. Our research is not just about generating data; it’s about translating that data into climate-smart innovations that transform livelihoods. By grounding our work in rigorous national impact studies, we ensure that every intervention under UCSATP contributes meaningfully to Uganda’s agricultural resilience and long-term food security.”

Dr. Damalie Akwango-Aliu, Principal Research Officer, NARO & Focal Person, UCSATP



“Reliable, real time weather information is now as essential to our farmers as seed and soil. By expanding and modernising Uganda’s agro climatic monitoring network through UCSATP, we are putting actionable data in the hands of every grower—so they can plant, harvest, and market with confidence despite a changing climate.”

Mr. Milton Michael Waiswa
Value Chain Lead – Agro Climatic Monitoring & Assistant Commissioner, Weather Station Networks and Observations, Department of Meteorological Services

8 Did You Know?

Climate-Smart Agriculture Corner

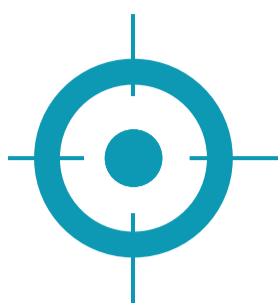
Climate-smart agriculture (CSA)

is an approach to agriculture that aims to increase agricultural productivity and incomes while adapting to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The principles of CSA include:

1. **Sustainable productivity growth:** Increase crop and animal productivity to meet the world's growing food demands.
2. **Sustainable productivity growth** - Increase crop and animal productivity to meet the world's growing food demands
3. **Climate change adaptation:** Identify and implement practices that help farmers adapt to climate change, such as drought-tolerant crops and agroforestry
4. **Climate change mitigation:** Implement practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, such as conservation agriculture and integrated soil fertility management
5. **Enhanced resilience:** Support farmers in managing climate-related risks and uncertainties
6. **Integration:** Integrate CSA principles into agricultural development plans, policies, and programs
7. **Inclusiveness:** Ensure that CSA benefits are accessible to all farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups
8. **Evidence-based decision-making:** Use data and research to inform CSA decision-making and policy development

By following these principles, CSA can help farmers and agricultural communities adapt to climate change, improve their livelihoods, and contribute to a more sustainable food system



project targets

- 69 districts, including 7 refugee-hosting districts
- 3.9 million direct beneficiaries, including 60,000 refugee households
- 9.5 million indirect beneficiaries
- 40% participation by women
- A cost-sharing model where beneficiaries contribute 20%, with 80% subsidized by government and donor funding.
- By promoting climate-smart agriculture (CSA), UCSATP seeks to increase productivity sustainably, enhance resilience to climate shocks, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Cross-Cutting Roles in UCSATP



Capacity Building:

Targeted trainings continue for extension workers, grant officers, and community liaisons to ensure readiness and sustainability



Gender and Inclusivity

Gender parity and youth engagement benchmarks have been established. Manuals and communication tools are now being tailored for accessibility.



Digital and Local Communication

Outreach includes radio, TV, and print, with added focus on materials in local languages and simplified guides for rural farmers.



Monitoring & Evaluation:

GEMs and MRV systems are being refined for integration, tracking impact across land use, value chain productivity, and climate resilience



Mechanization, Irrigation, and Infrastructure

Are the “enablers” that let every other UCSATP component deliver impact at scale.

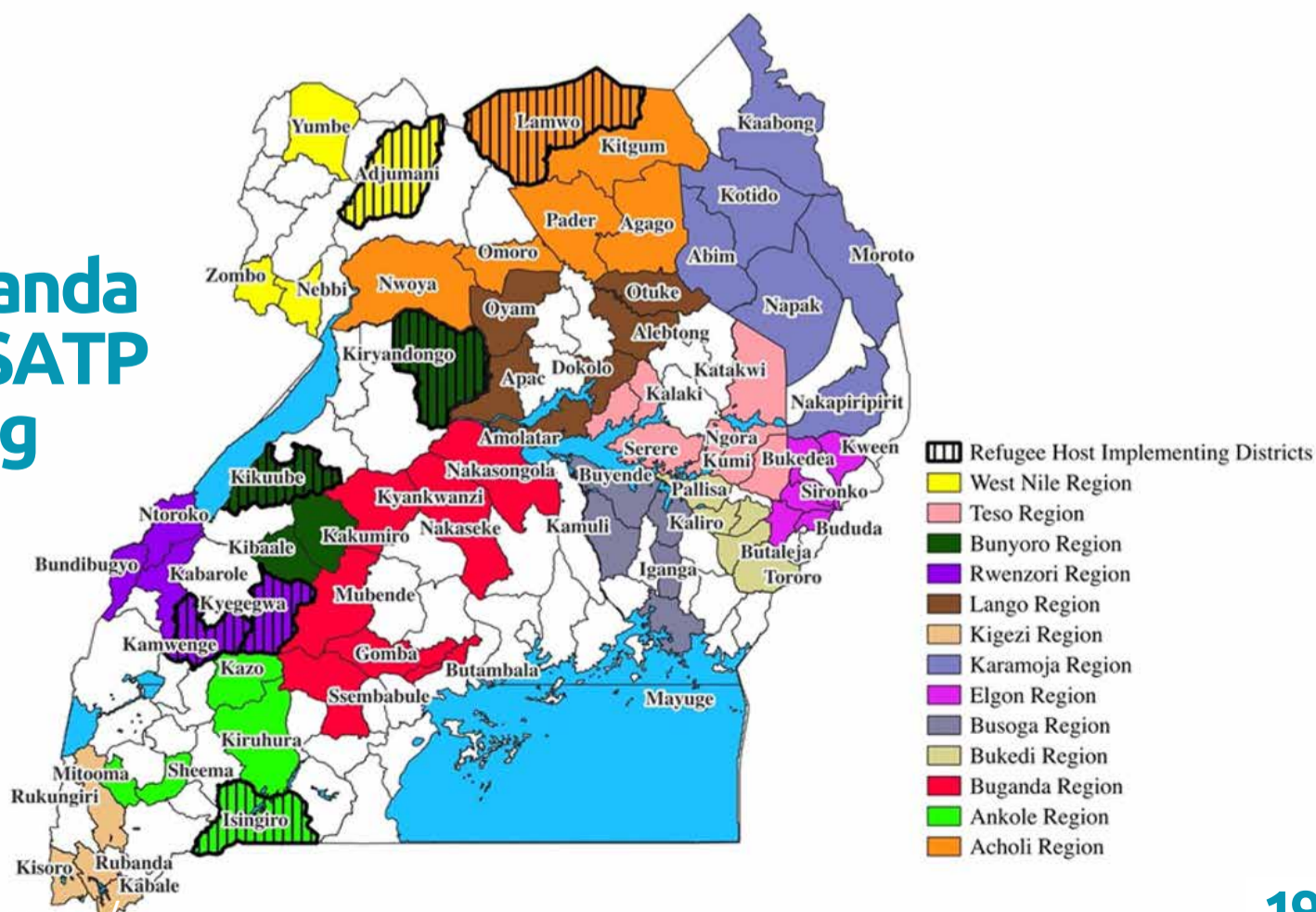
- Unlock productivity,
- Strengthens climate resilience
- Fuel market access & value addition
- Drive inclusion & scale up
- Create data rich feedback loops



e-Voucher System: GEMS and MRV

Work underway on digital infrastructure to support grant disbursement and farmer engagement with market-driven incentives

A Map of Uganda Showing UCSATP implementing districts



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Refugee Sub-Component

The Refugee Sub-Component of the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP), funded by the World Bank, is a transformative, fully grant-funded initiative aimed at empowering refugee households through sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices. It is dedicated to enhancing food security, improving nutrition, and fostering income self-reliance among refugee communities thereby supporting their overall socio-economic well-being.

Target Areas and Beneficiaries

This sub-component directly targets 60,000 refugee households across eight major settlements situated in seven refugee-hosting districts of Uganda. These include:

- **Districts:** Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Adjumani, and Lamwo
- **Settlements:** Nakivale, Oruchinga, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Kiryandongo, Adjumani, and Palabek

Strategic Investments and Interventions

The initiative adopts a multi-dimensional approach to strengthen agricultural productivity and build resilience within refugee communities. It prioritizes interventions across three key value chains:

1. Crop Value Chain

- Promotion of food, nutrition and income security crops

2. Livestock Value Chain

- Promotion of piggery and poultry to diversify household nutrition and income sources

3. Beneficial Insects Value Chain

- Promotion of Black Soldier Fly farming to provide affordable, sustainable livestock feed and support organic waste management

Special Focus Areas

To maximize impact and inclusivity, the sub-component emphasizes:

- Empowering women and youth-led groups through tailored training and support
- Facilitating land access for block farming to boost efficiency and production
- Promoting mechanization and irrigation for organized farmer groups
- Strengthening post-harvest handling and improving market access
- Providing financial literacy training and enhancing access to financial services
- Promoting sustainable land management to restore and protect degraded landscapes

Collaborative Implementation and Partnerships

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF) leads the implementation of this sub-component in close partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister – Department of Refugees, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, relevant district local government departments, and the livelihood sector working groups at both national and district levels.

This coordinated and collaborative framework ensures efficient resource utilization, strengthens technical support, and enhances the resilience of refugee communities across Uganda.

A Pathway to Resilience and Self-Reliance

The UCSATP refugee sub-component represents a critical step in advancing the resilience, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihoods of refugee populations in Uganda ensuring they are not just surviving, but thriving.



Adjumani district rapid assessment sessions to validate value chains



Kentomi village men's focus group discussion in Kyangwali settlement, Kikuube district



Bukinda village women's focus group discussion in Kyangwali settlement, Kikuube district

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**Driving Results Through Collaboration
UCSATP's 2nd World Bank Implementation Support Mission**



UCSATP continues to gain momentum as a catalytic force for rural transformation, resilience, and sustainable agricultural growth. From May 19th to 23rd, 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), together with the World Bank, conducted the Second Implementation Support Mission a key milestone aimed at assessing project progress since the last mission held in November 2024.

This mission brought together MAAIF officials, World Bank representatives, local government authorities, and technical staff to conduct extensive field visits in **Kiruhura, Kyegegwa, Serere, and Kumi districts**. The team reviewed project components and progress, focusing on procurement, financial management, and environmental and social safeguards etc., while engaging directly with grassroots beneficiaries.

Farmers in Kiruhura and Kyegegwa count on UCSATP for a better future

Farmers in Kiruhura and Kyegegwa districts, among the early beneficiaries of the UCSATP, expressed strong ownership and optimism. In Nyakishara Sub-County, Kiruhura, the Bwijukye Abesigana Farmers Group, engaged in the dairy value chain, welcomed the project's support for improved pasture and livestock breeds.

"We've been averaging 5 litres of milk per cow due to poor breeds and limited pastures. With UCSATP, we hope to improve up to 25 litres per day," said Mr. Michael Karegyesa, the host farmer.

"We're also expecting modern milk handling equipment like milk cans to replace jerry cans," added Group Chairperson Mr. Yoram Bakhuta.

In Kyegegwa, Mr. Michael Akora Birungi, chairperson of the Kigambo Coffee Farmers Association, shared similar optimism: "We look forward to expanding our market access and receiving training in value addition for our coffee. We are already organized and ready to implement the project."

Even less common enterprises like fish farming are being energized by UCSATP. In Nyakasahasha Sub-County (Kiruhura), the Bwara Aqua Farm Group is targeting expansion to benefit the local community through increased employment and production.

"We currently operate three ponds producing about 4,000 kg. With UCSATP's help, we want to improve output through access to cages, preservation equipment, and training," explained Ms. Zam Nakiganda, the group chairperson.

Climate-Smart Agriculture Gains Ground in Serere and Kumi

In Serere District, officials visited the Kyere Okungoro – “Omikidi Fish Farming Project”, which has faced declining productivity in recent years. Group leader-Opolot Moses shared their struggles: “In 2021, we earned Shs 3.6 million, followed by Shs 3.2 million in 2022, but last year our income dropped to Shs 2.1 million. We are requesting both financial support and technical training to help us recover.”

Kumi District Focal Point Person, Oogol Rajab said, **“Our agriculture department operates at just 28% staffing. Extension workers lack transport to reach remote areas. We need more support from MAAIF.”**

Despite the challenges highlighted during the World Bank support mission, various farmer groups and local leaders in Serere and Kumi districts expressed strong interest in the opportunities UCSATP offers.

In Kumi, communities welcomed the project’s focus on feeder roads and input distribution, viewing these as vital to their agricultural success. The upcoming rollout of the e-voucher system is particularly awaited, with many farmers already preparing to access subsidized inputs.

“The project is timely. Once roads are worked on and inputs become accessible, it will be easier for us to reach markets and reduce losses,” said a local farmer in Kumi.

In Serere, the fish farming community remains hopeful that the technical training and post-harvest handling facilities promised under UCSATP will reverse the decline in productivity. **“We’ve seen what poor storage and lack of access to markets can do to a good harvest. Now we are ready to work with the project to turn things around,”** a fish farmer noted during the visit.

The district leaders in both areas underscored their commitment to mobilizing farmers and ensuring proper implementation, despite constraints in staffing and logistics. Farmers’ enthusiasm and willingness to organize in groups reflect a strong foundation for impact.

Leadership Perspectives: Reinforcing Implementation & Accountability

Ms. Pushina Kunda Ng'andwe, the World Bank Task Team Leader for UCSATP, reaffirmed the Bank’s commitment to timely implementation: “The Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project focuses on boosting agricultural productivity, building climate resilience, and improving market access for smallholder farmers. Implementation involves collaboration with MAAIF to verify farmer readiness through field assessments. Key interventions include upgrading rural roads, investing in storage and processing infrastructure, and addressing post-harvest losses to create a sustainable and efficient agricultural system.”

Dr. Henry Nakelet Opolot, MAAIF’s Commissioner for Agricultural Extension and Skills Management, reminded farmers of the 20% co-funding requirement, noting that it strengthens their stake in the project’s outcomes.

“When you co-fund, you own. Let’s take this opportunity seriously and transform our lives through committed participation,” he emphasized.

“The project is now left with two and a half years of implementation. It is critical that farmers, local governments, and stakeholders prepare adequately to fully benefit from the interventions being rolled out.”

Dr. John Ilukor, Economist, World Bank

The Second Implementation Support Mission not only provided valuable insights into the project’s progress but also reinforced the importance of continuous engagement between government, development partners, and farming communities. It showcased UCSATP’s deliberate commitment to delivering practical solutions for Uganda’s agriculture sector.

As Uganda continues to confront the impacts of climate change, UCSATP stands as a beacon of resilience and innovation empowering farmers, building markets, and strengthening agricultural systems for generations to come. With strong leadership, community buy-in, and targeted investments, the project is steadily transforming the country’s agricultural landscape into one that is smart, sustainable, and inclusive.

Field mission pictorial



Chokes between Kumi & Katakwi districts



Chokes: Over one hour canoe ride to access Katakwi from Kumi district



Kumi district: Mission team meet with the Tisai dairy farmers association



Serere district: Meeting with district officials, NASARRI technical team

Serere district: Focal Person Vincent Ogiro presents status report

Serere: Handover of FID guides to district officials



Serere District: Kyere Okungoro – Omikidi fish farming group



Kumi District: Dr John Ilukor addressing district officials

Kumi district officials receive Farmer Institutional Development (FID) guides



Kiruhura District: Mission team meeting with Chief Administration Officer & district officials

Kiruhura site visits for laboratory and plant clinics in need of rehabilitation and stocking of equipment



Kiruhura: Dairy farmer groups visited 20 members including 4 women



Kiruhura district: Fish farming group enthusiastic and eager to start with the project

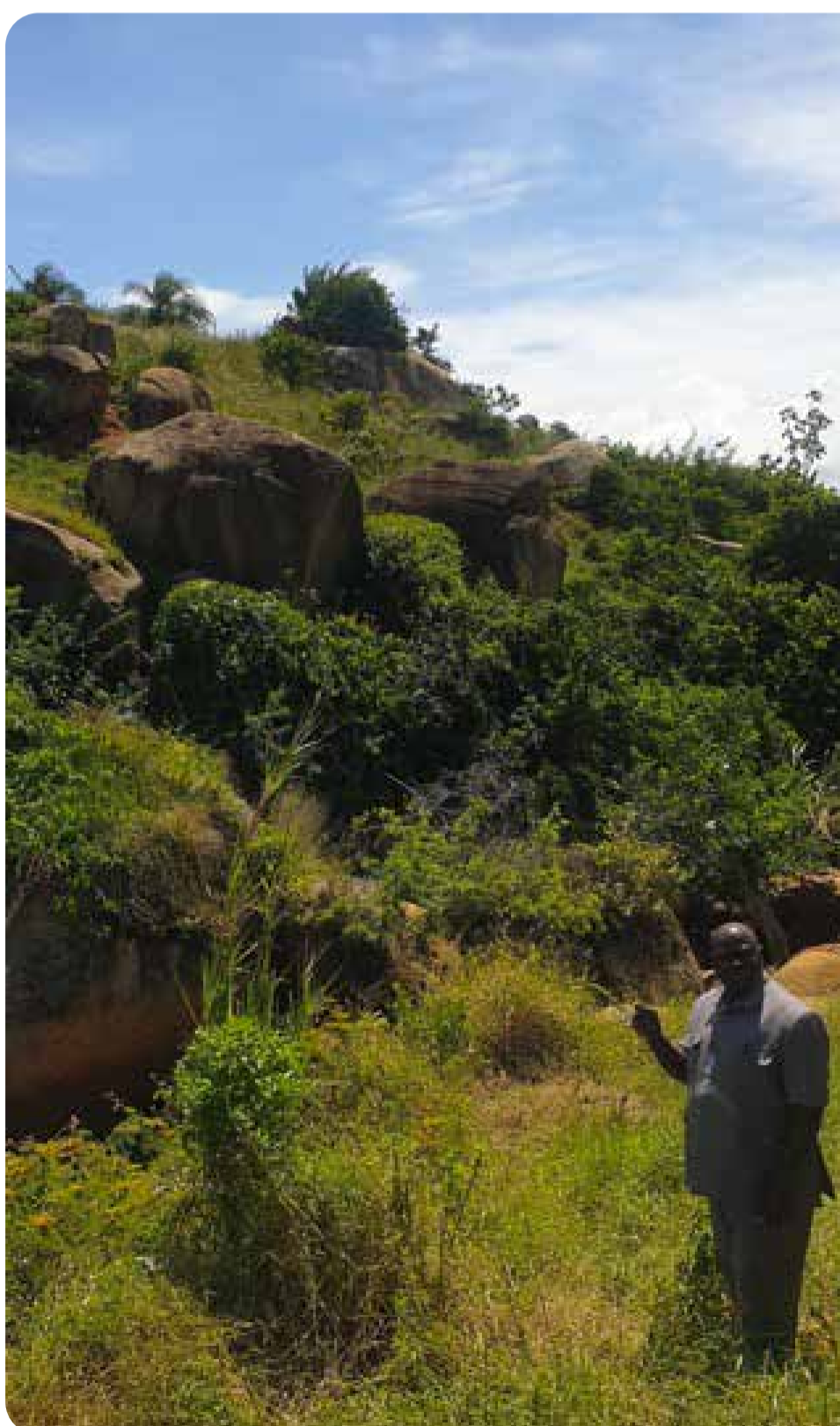


World Bank Task Team Lead addressing district officials

World Bank Mission Team



Kyegegwa District: Very eager & ready dairy farmer group



Kyegegwa district: Road chokes



Impassable roads in Kyegegwa district

11 UCSATP Team Spotlight

At the heart of UCSATP’s success is a dynamic, passionate team dedicated to driving sustainable agricultural transformation across Uganda. Meet the leaders making it happen!

1. Leadership and Coordination

Eng. Okanya Boniface-National Project Coordinator
“Leading Uganda’s Agricultural Transformation”



Eng. Okanya Boniface is the Commissioner for Agricultural Infrastructure, Mechanization, and Water for Agricultural Production at MAAIF. He also serves as the National Project Coordinator for the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP). In his role, Eng. Okanya provides strategic direction, ensuring effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of UCSATP activities. He coordinates between the government, development partners, and implementing agencies, overseeing procurement, financial management, and compliance with regulations.

A Registered Professional Engineer, Eng. Okanya holds a Master of Science in Technology Innovation and Industrial Development from Makerere University and a Bachelor’s in Automotive and Power Engineering from Kyambogo University. His leadership is central to driving Uganda’s climate-smart agricultural future.

Asiimwe Alex J – Deputy Project Coordinator
“Ensuring timely delivery of project outputs and strategic oversight.”

As the Deputy Project Coordinator and Assistant Commissioner for Monitoring & Evaluation in MAAIF, Alex plays a crucial role in ensuring the timely and effective delivery of UCSATP activities. He brings extensive expertise in monitoring agricultural policies and sector performance, providing strategic support to the National Project Coordinator. Alex’s focus is on maximizing impact through rigorous oversight, ensuring that all project outputs meet their objectives



2. Core Team Members



Opolot Deogracious – Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
“Driving evidence-based planning and results-oriented management.”

Opolot is an Agricultural Economist with a deep focus on results-based management. His expertise in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, food security analysis and disaster risk reduction strengthens accountability and data-driven decision-making within UCSATP. He leads research initiatives that impact the transformation of Uganda’s agricultural sector.

- Holds an MSc in Agricultural Economics (Makerere University)

Moses Anguria – Senior Social Development Officer

“Building strong community engagement and managing social impacts.”



Moses is passionate about managing the social impacts of the project. He’s responsible for interpreting social frameworks and ensuring that UCSATP’s activities are inclusive, sustainable, and mindful of the local communities. His extensive experience in social development allows him to navigate social challenges with finesse.

- Manages social risks and ensures compliance with World Bank and GOU policies
- Leads on social impact assessments, resettlement planning, and grievance mechanisms
- Designs actionable plans based on the Project Appraisal Document and safeguard frameworks
- Focuses on stakeholder consultations, gender, labour management, and HIV/AIDS interventions

Barbra Clara Khayongo – Senior Environment, Health and Safety Officer

“Championing a safe, resilient, and healthy working environment for all.”



Barbra brings over 20 years of expertise in environmental health and safety to the UCSATP team. With her commitment to safe working environments and climate-resilient practices, Barbra is leading the charge in enforcing health and safety standards, contributing to the project’s sustainable development goals.

- Certified Environmental Impact Assessor (NEBOSH certified)
- Specialist in safeguards development and implementation for World Bank projects
- Holds a Master’s Degree in Public Health Leadership

Aber Stella – Senior Refugee Livelihoods Officer

“Fostering resilient livelihoods for refugees and host communities.”



Stella is the heart behind UCSATP’s refugee livelihood initiatives. Through her leadership, she has championed the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices among refugee and host communities. Her work focuses on building resilient, sustainable livelihoods, ensuring that no one is left behind in Uganda’s agricultural transformation.

Odeng Emmanuel Robert - Senior Sustainable Land Management Officer

Emmanuel’s expertise in land management, soil conservation, and agroforestry is pivotal to the successful implementation of UCSATP’s sustainable land management strategies. His technical leadership helps communities adopt climate-resilient land use practices that safeguard Uganda’s natural resources.



Mr. Ronnie Kacwa - Senior Procurement Officer

Ronnie’s expertise in procurement ensures that UCSATP acquires quality goods and services, helping the project meet its milestones. His work guarantees that all project resources are sourced efficiently and in alignment with the project’s objectives



Peace Anna Auyat - Finance Officer

As a Certified Chartered Accountant, Peace ensures that UCSATP’s financial operations are efficient, transparent, and compliant. With years of experience in financial management across multiple sectors, she plays an essential role in keeping the project financially stable and accountable.



Mr. Fredrick Muhanguzi works as Senior Grants Officer with UCSATP.

He is a seasoned Agricultural Economist with vast experience in building and strengthening farmer organizations. He is also highly knowledgeable and deeply involved in the implementation of agricultural input subsidy programs in Uganda. He is driven by the desire to cause transformative and lasting change in farming communities while serving above self.



Mike Okello is the Senior Finance Officer for UCSATP,

leveraging 20+years in financial management. He oversees budgeting, reporting, and donor funded disbursements, strengthens internal controls, mentors the finance team, and drives digital accounting upgrades all to ensure UCSATP’s funds are used transparently and effectively.



3. Specialized Value Chain Leads & Focal point persons from the MAAIF implementing Agencies



Dr. Henry Nakelet Opolot - Value Chain Lead for Crops

Dr. Opolot is a Commissioner for Agricultural Extension and Skills Management and key architect of the UCSATP project, overseeing the crop value chain and agricultural extension services. His experience in improving on-farm productivity through agriculture-focused extension services is invaluable, and his leadership continues to shape the direction of agricultural innovations in Uganda.



Dr. Kakungulu James - Value Chain Lead for Livestock

Dr. Kakungulu is Assistant Commissioner, Veterinary Regulation and Enforcement at MAAIF, he is central to UCSATP's livestock value chain, where his work in livestock health, productivity, and market access ensures that Uganda's farmers benefit from better cattle breeds, improved AI services, and sustainable livestock practices.



Mr. Dheyongera Geoffrey - Value Chain Lead for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Dheyongera plays a pivotal role in transforming Uganda's fisheries sector. With over 20 years of experience, he leads initiatives aimed at increasing fish productivity in Uganda, from fish pond construction to the management of aquatic environments. His efforts focus on enhancing the sustainability of the fisheries sector through climate-smart practices.



Mr. Julius Mugonza: - Value Chain Lead for Beneficial Insects

Julius is a seasoned entomologist who focuses on bees and black soldier flies as valuable assets to Uganda's agricultural ecosystem. His work promotes climate-smart practices that improve crop pollination and reduce organic waste, contributing to sustainable agricultural growth across the project's districts.



Dr. Katali K. Benda: Team Lead - Animal Seed and Focal Person, NAGRC&DB

Dr. Benda is Assistant Manager-Satellite Stations & Breeder Associations at NAGRC&DB. His role in the UCSATP is to spearhead the efforts to improve access to animal seed in Uganda, ensuring that farmers in the UCSATP districts benefit from climate-resilient breeding stock. With expertise in artificial insemination and animal breeding, Dr. Benda plays a critical role in enhancing the quality and availability of livestock for Ugandan farmers.



Mr. Milton Michael Waiswa - Value Chain Lead Agroclimatic Monitoring

Milton Michael Waiswa is the Assistant Commissioner for Weather Station Networks and Observations/ Department of Meteorological Services under the Ministry of Water and Environment, he ensures that high-quality weather data is available to farmers across Uganda. His leadership in strengthening agro-climatic monitoring systems plays a critical role in guiding farmers to make informed decisions, especially in times of climate change. In the UCSATP; he serves as the Value Chain Leader who strengthens Agroclimatic Monitoring and Information Systems in the beneficiary districts while coordinating all the activities under the value chain.



Dr. Damalie Akwango-Aliu - Focal Person, NARO

Damalie is Principal Research Officer at NARO, she leads NARO's efforts in conducting national impact studies and driving climate-smart agricultural innovations. With a PhD in Agricultural Rural Innovations, Damalie is dedicated to ensuring that UCSATP's research initiatives yield tangible, actionable insights that directly benefit Uganda's agricultural development.

12 Photo Highlights



Ms. Daisy Oyella Aciro Commissioner Fisheries Resources giving her submissions during the World Bank mission for Uganda Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project in Namanve



Deputy Project Coordinator, Mr. Alex Asimwe making presentation on the objectives of Uganda Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project to Journalists in Namanve Kampala



Journalists listening to the Deputy Project Coordinator during his presentation in Namanve



National Stakeholders Workshop- 19th -21st Nov 2024 Munyonyo



Breakaway group discussions during district engagement in Buyende District



Weather station site inspection



National Project Coordinator of Uganda Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project, Mr. Boniface Okanya addressing stakeholders at the Project's National stakeholders meeting in Munyonyo.



Journalists listening to the Deputy Project Coordinator during his presentation in Namanve



UCSATP engineering team visit & tours NAGRC&DB.



Break-away group discussions during district engagements and selection of sub-counties



District engagements with leaders



UCSATP Refugee stakeholders consultative meeting 26th-28th Feb



UCSATP Farmer group verification exercise



UCSATP engineering team visit & tours NAGRC&DB.



Break-away group discussions during district engagements and selection of sub-counties



Rapid Assessment Report on value chains refugee settlements



UCSATP Farmers group verification exercise



Mayuge District engagements: UCSATP engineering site inspection for possible laboratory setup



Mayuge District engagements: UCSATP engineering site inspection for possible laboratory setup



UCSATP team in Mayuge for District engagements

UCSTAP Partner-World Bank Economist Dr John Ilukor addressing Project Implementation Team



Buyende district: UCSATP Site inspection of a newly constructed veterinary laboratory; assessed for diagnostic equipment

Breakaway group discussions during district engagement in Buyende District

In Conclusion

UCSATP's path is one of learning, adaptation, and resilience. With each milestone, we renew our commitment to climate-smart agriculture that empowers communities, builds sustainability, and improves livelihoods. We invite all stakeholders to stay engaged, provide feedback, and collaborate with us in turning Uganda's agricultural transformation into a shared success.



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MAAIF

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