CSO POSITION PAPER ON THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR BUDGET FY2018/19

The paper is based on the analysis of the FY 2018/19 Ministerial Policy Statement for the Agriculture Sector FY2018/19

Developed by the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group and Submitted to the Parliament Committee on Agriculture sector.

April 2018

1.0 Background

2018 marks 14 years of consistent civil society engagement on influencing government budget processes. Under the hospice of Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been engaging the budget process at local and national level aiming at ensuring that this central process that determines resource mobilization, allocation and utilization, responds to the actual and felt needs of the people and in return translates into development at macro and micro level.

The agricultural sector has since been a core sector of focus for civil society and holistic engagement on analyzing public financing for this sector, which has been undertaken within the frameworks of the guiding legislation on the budget process. With the frameworks of the Public Finance Management Act (2015) and other commitments at Regional and Continental level such as CAADP, civil society have been undertaking critical analysis of the budget framework papers followed by the comparative analysis of the MPSs, scrutiny of the approved budget, tracking the budget through the financial year, participating in the JASAR and contributing to the Biennial Review as required by CAADP.

The views and opinions expressed in this paper are a result of the analysis of the MPS FY 2018/19 in comparison with CSOs analysis of the NBFP FY 2018/19, the budget committee report, the Auditor General Report and experiences of the participating organizations.

The generation of this paper has been a rigorous participatory process involving various civil society organizations including; Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM-Uganda), Caritas-Uganda, The Hunger Project-Uganda, Central Archdiocesan Province Caritas Association (CAPCA), The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF- Uganda), Teens-Uganda, and World Vision-Uganda, with technical stewardship of CSBAG and, mobilization and coordination by Food Rights Alliance (FRA)

We wish to thank the Government of Uganda through the respective organs along the budget process that have created space for NSAs including Civil Society to actively engage in this process as well as the adoption of these prepositions from time to time. Unlike the NBFP FY 2018/19 that never had details to facilitate our engagement and analysis, we are glad that the MPS has by and large provided details and breakdowns in some instances.

1.1 Introduction

Agriculture has remained a core sector of the economy and the mean source of livelihood of the vast majority of the population. The sector employs about 69% of the labour force, 77% of who are women and 63% are youth, mostly residing in the rural areas.[1] Furthermore, this sector is the biggest earner of export revenues, contributing to 26% of GDP in 2015. The sector was singled out as one of the growth sectors in the NDPII as strategic sectors for the achievements of Vision 2040. Strategic and solid investment in the sector, therefore, is transformational and inclusive, capable of bringing returns on every cent invested. The annual budget plays a pivotal role in guiding this form of financing while specifying the results to be achieved all of which can be consolidated to measure the progress of achieving NDPII and eventually Vision 2040.

In the MPS FY 2018/19, the Government seeks to achieve the transformation of the sector from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture through the following strategic objectives;

1. To increase production and productivity of agricultural commodities and enterprises
2. To improve access to critical farm inputs
3. To improve access to markets and value addition and strengthen the

[1] The Ministerial Policy Statement 2016/17

quality of agricultural commodities; and

4. To strengthen the agricultural services institutions and the enabling environment

It is envisaged that through the four medium-term plans as outcome areas which include**;** increased agricultural production and productivity, increased access to critical farm inputs, improved agricultural markets and value addition for the prioritized commodities, improved service delivery through strengthening the institutional capacity of MAAIF, the transformation of the sector will be achieved.

The MPS further appropriates this transformation and above objectives to key sector institutions under Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) and other semi-autonomous agencies. These include; National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO), National Agriculture Advisory Services (NAADS), Dairy Development Authority (DDA), Cotton Development Organization (CDO), National Animal Genetic Resource Centre & Data Bank (NAGRC&DB) and Coffee Development Authority (CDA) and Local Government

1.2 Compliance with NDPII

The implementation of the NDPII is annually reflected in the National Budget. In this section, we present our analysis of the compliance of the proposed agricultural sector budget and the estimates of the NDPII as well as a critical review of the performance of the sector vis-à-vis the inspirations of the Plan. The MPS FY2018/19 proposes a total budget allocation of **UGX 901.139bn**. This is lower than the NDPII costing of **UGX 1.080trn** by **UGX 175.78bn** and represents 3.1% of the total proposed National budget.

In terms of performance, the sector has consistently been exhibiting poor performance in growth over the last three financial years as illustrated in the table below.

	NDPII Growth Estimates	Sector Performance Growth Rate
FY2014/15	5.3%	2.3%
FY2015/16	5.8%	3.2%
FY2016/17	6.4%	1.3%

Source; Second NDP

This sector growth trajectory and financing remains significantly below the AU Malabo commitment of 6% growth and 10% budget allocation. Further, this inconsistency is contrary to the parliamentary budget committee recommendation of the budget FY 2018/19 that Ministerial Policy Statements for Local Governments, Ministries, and Departments and, Agencies without aligned, strategic plans should not be submitted, to Parliament.

Further analysis of the prioritized interventions in the MPS FY2018/19 reveals inconsistencies in the proposed intervention in the FY and those set the NDPII as laid below.

Table 1: NDP II Planned interventions Vs the NBFP FY 2018/19 agriculture strategic interventions

NDP II agriculture intervention	Agriculture Sector MPS interventions FY 2018/19
Control pests, diseases and vectors	▪ Mentioned under Animal Resources sub sector
Promoting time and labour saving technologies targeting women farmers	▪ Mentioned under Agric Infrastructure, mechanization and water for production
Increase access to agricultural finance services.	▪ Not Mentioned
Improve access to high-quality animal breeds, seeds and planting materials.	▪ Mentioned under NAADS Secretariat
Enhance access to and use of fertilizers by both women and men	▪ No mention
Increase access to water for agricultural production (Irrigation, water for livestock, aquaculture-fish ponds/caging).	▪ Mentioned
Mainstream crosscutting issues (HIV/AIDS, climate change, gender, environment, etc) in planning and budgeting	▪ Mention by all sub-sectors
Strengthen LGs production departments' capacity to deliver extension and other farm support services.	▪ Not mentioned
Build capacities of farmers, traders and processors in quality standards and market requirements.	▪ Not mentioned

Source; NDPII, MPS FY 2018/19

- We recommend parliament to task MAAIF to adhere to the parliamentary budget committee recommendation.
- We further recommend that parliament tasks Ministry of Finance to at least close this finance gap between the proposed allocations and the costing of NDPII or more, towards the Malabo commitment of 10%. The additional resources requested for have specific areas in the section below, were inadequate financing or glaring financial gaps are going to hinder sector performance and the broader national development goals.

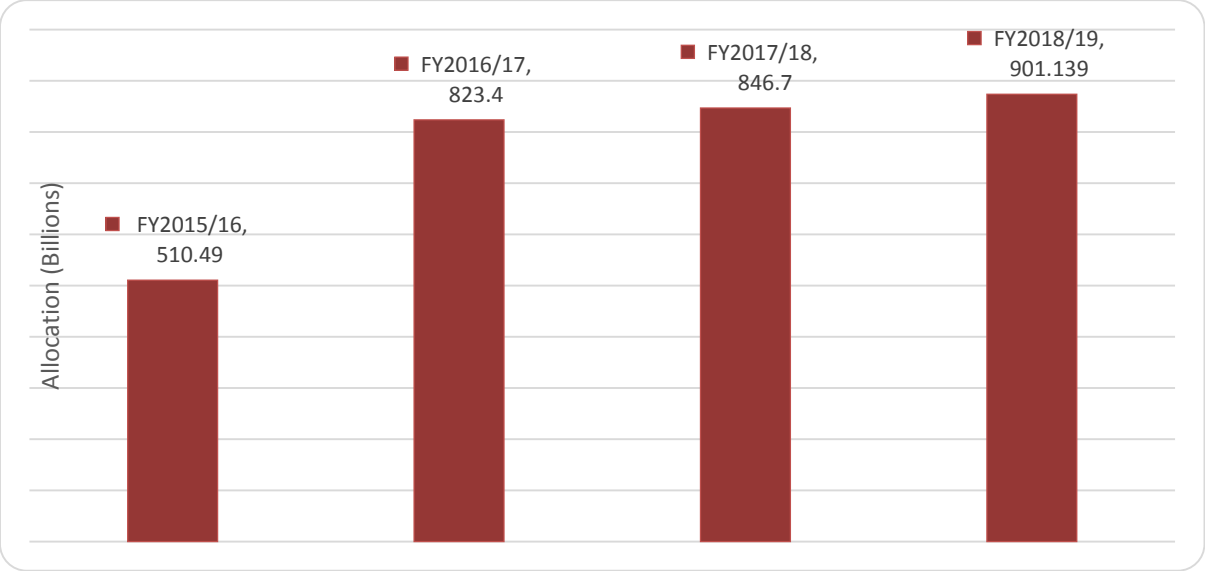
1.3 Sector Budget Allocations, Trends and Performance

This section highlights sector budget allocation, trends and performance; with both financial and physical output aspects.

1.3.1 Agricultural Sector Budget Allocation

The agricultural sector is primarily funded through the national budget, with additional resources from donors in form of project support. Despite Government's reaffirmed Malabo (AU) commitment to allocate 10% of its national budget to agriculture, Uganda received a "not on track" on the CAADP committee of "Enhancing Investment Financing in Agriculture", scoring a total of 3.80% out of 10%[2]. Furthermore, the sector allocations for the last three financial years under NDPII have consistently been staggering below 6%. However, we commend Government for the increased allocation to the sector in terms of volume from FY2016/17 (UGX 735.839bn), FY2017/18(UGX 865.202bn) and now projected to FY2018/19 (UGX 873.589bn) as indicated below.

Figure 1: Agriculture Sector Allocation Trend

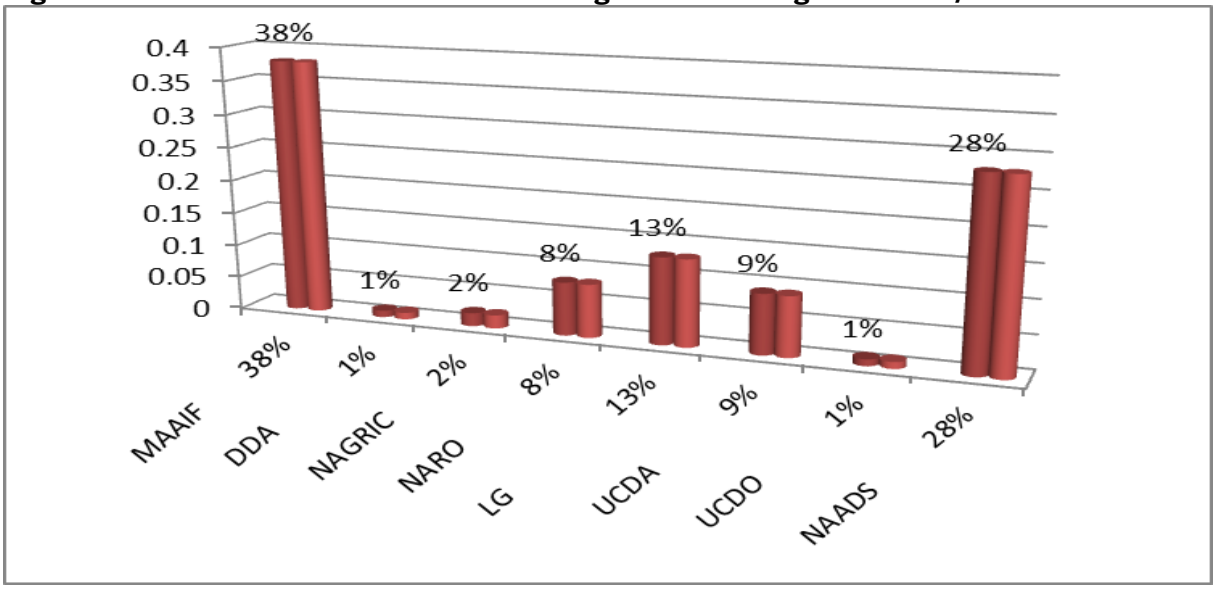


Source: MPS 2018/19

The total projected sector allocation for FY 2018/19 is appropriated to specific departments, agencies and sub-sectors as illustrated below.

[2] Inaugural Biennial Report on the Implementation of the Malabo Declaration Report, January 2018

Figure 1: Intra-sectoral Allocation of the Agriculture Budget FY2018/19



Source; MPS FY 2018/19

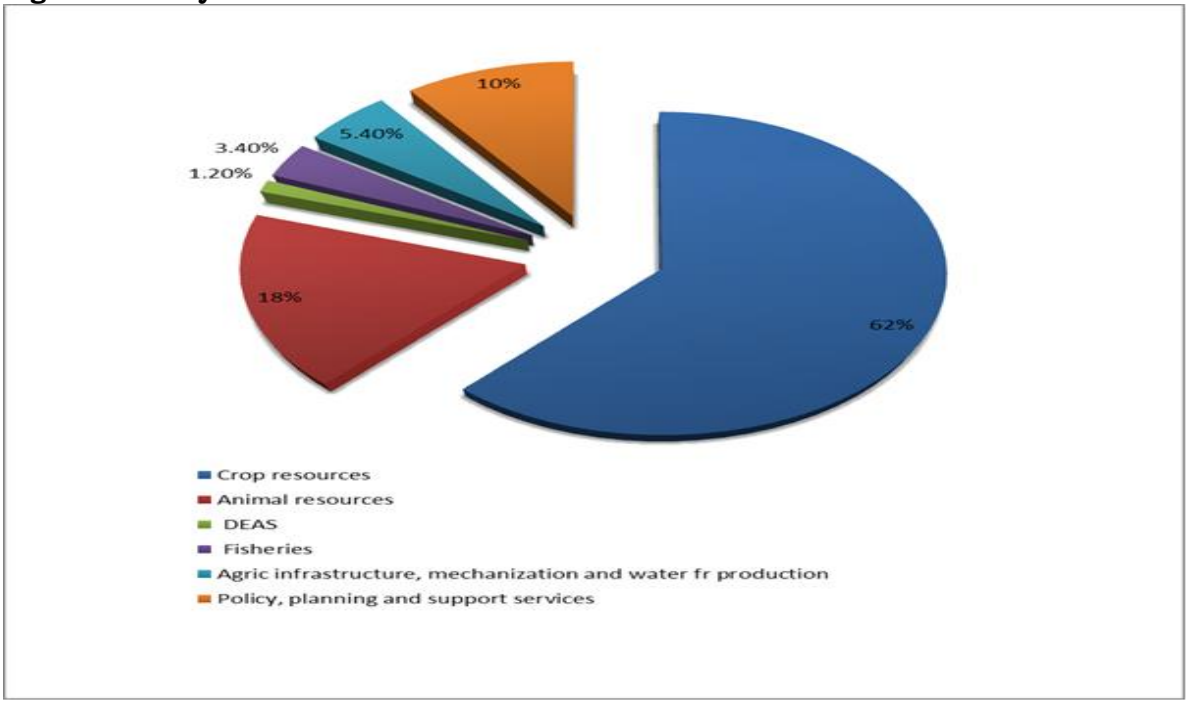
We have observed that the bulk of proposed resources allocated to the sector is appropriated to MAAIF (38%) and NAADs-OWC- (28%). The other functions that remain critical to the emerging challenges and performance in the sector are receiving smaller shares such as Research (8%), NAGRC&DB (2%) and Local Government - the level of service delivery- (13%).

The allocated 38% of the sector allocated to MAAIF, shall be appropriated to the other core subsectors that make up the sector namely-Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries plus support services of Agriculture Mechanization and Water for Production and provision of Agricultural Extension. This compared to allocations proposed to supportive agencies such as NAADs at 28% is, compared to outcomes expected from these sub-sectors and supportive functions. It should be noted that some of the functions performed by these agencies are equally performed by the sub-sectors within the Ministry directorates and departments, for insistence provision of agricultural extension and agricultural inputs to farming communities. This concern is a reaffirmation of the parliamentary budget committee report that recommended that provision of extension services should solely be a preserve of MAAIF.

1.3.2 Inappropriate Allocations to respective functions and sub-sectors in MAAIF

Further analysis of the proposed budget allocation to the sector by vote reveals the inappropriate distribution of the allocation to respective functions in regard to the role they play in revamping the sector and cushioning its performance. For insistence, of the 38% of resources to MAAIF
Crop Resources is proposed to be allocated 62% followed by Animal Resources with 18%, Policy, Planning and Support Services at 10%, Agricultural Infrastructure, Mechanization and Water for Agricultural Production with 5.4%, Fisheries Resources with 3.4%, and Agricultural Extension and Skills Management at 1.2% receiving the least amount as represented in figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Analysis of sub-sectors under this vote



Source; MPS 2018/19

We are concerned that the proposed allocation of 1.2% (UGX4.043bn) to the agricultural extension function will significantly impact on the performance and the anticipated outcomes set by other sub-sectors and the entire sector in totality as the extension is the heart and soul of the agricultural sector.

1.4 A Weak Policy Environment and Planning Function in MAAIF

We commend the government for providing frameworks that guide planning. For insistence the National Development Planning Framework that mandates respective sectors to develop specific sector strategic investment plans against which finances are allocated on an annual basis in the National budget to affect their implementation. We further commend MAAIF for the attempt to comply with this procedure by developing the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) 2015-16, 2019-20 and continuous attempts to develop subsequent sector budget plans and ministerial policy statements to aid its implementation. We are however concerned that the FY 2018/19 will mark the fourth year of its implementation as a draft plan contrary to the National Planning Frameworks.

We have further observed that the sector policy (NAP) 2013 will be in its 5th year of implementation and is increasingly becoming less referenced in many decisions undertaken within the sector and neither has the MPS proposed its review.

The FY 2018/19 as the fourth year of implementation of NDPII kick starts the planning processes for NDPIII and subsequent development and investment planning within the respective sectors. This therefore suggests that reviews of the current plans are undertaken and principle frameworks are developed to guide the planning. We are concerned that the sector MPS FY 2018/19 is silent about this process.

The Government of Uganda through MAAIF is obliged by the commitments of Malabo to plan, measure performance and report against the commitments and specific indicators agreed upon, we are concerned that neither in the planning as laid in the MPS nor during the sector reviews does MAAIF align her efforts to these commitments.

We have further observed duplication of proposed interventions, inconsistencies in defining outcomes and in some cases costing some interventions such as salaries as proposed in the respective Ministry agencies against the know government scales. For insistence staff recruitment plan of Uganda Coffees Development Authority (UCDA)-Vote 160 indicates recruitment of an extension worker while the staff remuneration plan indicates payment scale far above the known government scales, for insistence administrative assistant proposed to receive 4,076,997, marketing and promotion coordinator 10,800,000, regional manager 16,024,917, technical extension manager 5,736,810. This inconsistency in planning indicates poor coordination and leadership in the planning function of MAAIF.

Recommendations

- We recommend that the Top Policy Management (TPM) of MAAIF to resolve that starting the FY2018/19, all agencies' plans and reports should go through the policy and planning unit of the Ministry and the unit should be strengthened to deliver on this function.
- We recommend that parliament halts the approval of the agricultural sector budget of the FY 2018/19 pending approval and publication for public consumption of the ASSP as required by the planning procedures.
- We recommend MAAIF to revise and provide for the development of the ASSP II with clear targets and costs required in the proposed budget for the FY 2018/19

1.5 Observations and Concerns to Specific Areas Emerging from the MPS FY 2018/19

1.5.1 Inadequate budget allocation to pest, diseases and vectors control: A case of the Fall Army Worm and the foot and mouth disease among others

We commend the Government of Uganda for the quick response towards pests, diseases and vectors outbreaks in the country. We congratulate the Ministry on their achievements in addressing this challenge through a number of crop pest and disease interventions including Fall Army Worm and BBW in 112 districts, procuring 100 spray pumps for resistant tick cleansing program that were distributed to southwestern region, launching a resistant tick cleansing exercise in Kiruhura district for three weeks among others (MPS FY 2018/19).

We specifically commend the Ministry for setting performance targets and outputs under Vote 01 (Crop Resources) targeted to support pest and disease control as is in the MPS FY 2018/19. Whereas MAAIF recorded all these achievements, some interventions seem strategically inadequate to come from government and may not fundamentally deal with the pests, disease and vector issues. For insistence, the procurement of 100 spray pumps as a measure of dealing with tick resistance will rather promote the problem. A more systematic and strategic model such as centrally managed interventions on tick resistance like cattle dips are required as tick resistance has largely been attributed to individual mismanagement of chemicals.

We have further observed that in the proposed MPS, glaring funding gaps continue to surface against this function despite emerging outbreaks. Whereas the MTEF predicated UGX 12.5.bn for the financial year, due to pressure from the emerging outbreaks MAAIF requires UGX 54bn but only UGX15.166bn of which UGX10.942bn is allocated to Animal Resources, UGX 3.939bn to Crop Resources and UGX0.285 to Directorate Fisheries, raising a funding gap of UGX 39bn.

It should be noted that according to MAAIF, UGX 12.5bn is required to sustain the fight against the Fall Army Worm and only UGX 2.5bn has been allocated creating spending pressure of UGX 8bn; UGX10bn is required to sustain the testing of various tick resistant cleaning acaricide through NARO and ongoing research in developing acaricides that are suitable for Uganda and MAAIF only has an allocation of UGX 4bn, creating a gap for UGX 6bn; UGX 8bn is required to support the ongoing research in vaccine production for livestock disease control and no allocation is proposed in the

MPS FY 2018/19; UGX 12bn is required assorted animal vaccines to control the spread of livestock diseases and only UGX5bn is allocated creating a funding gap of UGX7bn.

It should be noted that the annual loss in the priority crops due to pests are estimated at; US$ 35-200 million (bananas), US$ 60- 80 million (cassava), US$ 10 million (cotton) and US$ 8 million (coffee) according to the Agricultural Risk Assessment Study by PARM/IFAD (PARM 2016). We, therefore, recommend that an addition of at least UGX 20bn be allocated to MAAIF for this function in order to safeguard the investment in the sector across the sub-sectors.

1.5.2 Inadequate provision of Extension and Advisory Services

The financial year 2018/19 will mark the fourth year of implementation of the Single Spine agricultural extension system. We commend government through the Ministry for the recruitment of extension workers across the country to a tune of 3320 extensionists and the achievement recorded in the MPS of providing assorted training to over 116 extension workers in agronomy. We further commend the government for the wage and non-wage provided for especially starting the FY 2016/17 to the current financial year. We are however concerned that the recruitment exercise has not yet seen all Local Government required positions filled up, to increase access to this critical service. According to the MPS FY 2018/19, MAAIF needs to recruit 1,968 extension workers to achieve the targeted 5,000 extension workers in the District Local Government so as to attain the required extension worker-household ratio of 1:500.

We are further concerned that some of the already recruited extension workers were recruited at retirement. The others still require a lot of orientation and skilling, and MAAIF remains constrained with capacity building resources and largely dependent on donor projects whose targets, timeframes and focus are too limiting, requiring principle support from the government, which is inadequately provided. For insistence in the MPS, MAAIF reports an achievement of provided assorted training to 116 extension workers against the 3320 recruited. The MPS further indicates a provision of UGX 0.625bn of the Agro-Economic impact deepening in the Albertine Basin project vote 1362 under the Directorate of Agricultural Extension and Skills Management, but this is restricted to an outcome of procuring one motor vehicle for the implementation of the project activities.

It should be noted that despite the fourth year of implementation and consolidation of the single spine, there is continuation exhibition of the disintegration of this spine within MAAIF. The extension function has remained scattered among different MAAIF agencies with contradictions in salary scales, targets and outcomes and duplication of services. For insistence, policy, planning and support services, UCDA, and Local Governments have all planned for recruitment of extension workers for FY 2018/19. In relation to contradicting salary scales, UCDA is proposes to recruit an administrative assistant proposed to receive UGX4,076,997, marketing and promotion coordinator UGX10,800,000, regional manager UGX16,024,917, technical extension manager UGX5,736,810.

We therefore recommend;

- That Government expedites and provides UGX 16 billion for the recruitment of 1,968 extension workers to achieve the targeted 5,000 extension workers in the District Local Government. In addition, at least UGX 10bn should be allocated as non-wage to support the newly recruited extension workers and at least UGX3bn to skill the recruited extension workers and safeguard the quality of services provided to farmers.
- Parliament should task MAAIF to harmonize functions and roles, streamlining based on mandates to avoid competition, contradiction, duplication, waste of resources and confusion of farmers. This is a reaffirmation of the budget committee report

1.5.3 Inadequate funding for research and research uptake

We commend Government through MAAIF for prioritizing research as a critical function to realize the objectives of the sector and specifically increasing access to critical farm input to increase production and productivity.

We reaffirm our position of the centrality of the research function to the sector and the consistent inconsistent public financing of this function as a country. For instance, NARO was allocated UGX85.964bn in the FY 2016/17, UGX84.104bn in FY2017/18 and it's proposed to be allocated UGX69.500 in FY 2018/19 to facilitate research in 16 NARO institutions (9 ZARDIs and 7 NARIs). This amount is insufficient to facilitate the research function in the 16 NARO institutions and adequately respond to the needs of the sector in animals, crop, fisheries, entomology and mechanization.

We further observe that the bulk of total resources to this vote function (UGX35.239bn) are proposed to be spent at the "Headquarters", without a breakdown to provide clarity on what exactly the money will be spent on an outcome. In addition, UGX 32.783bn is proposed to be allocated as "Support to NARO" to facilitate the infrastructure, structural and logistical support for research, this implies that only UGX2bn is set aside for the actual research to be shared among the 16 NARO institutions (9 ZARDIs and 7 NARIs). We have observed that resources have been allocated considerably to infrastructure as opposed to actual research, although the infrastructure highlighted isn't to laboratories but to habitable accommodation to staff and guests.

We have further observed that the breakdown of the total NARO vote does not indicate an allocation to the Agricultural Engineering and Appropriate Research Centre (NAMALERE), a research institution with the mandate to undertake research on mechanization, appropriate value addition technologies and irrigation. The inefficiency of this research institution will curtail the functionality and responsiveness of the department of agricultural infrastructure and water for agricultural production under MAAIF and the national drive to mechanize agriculture.

We further observe that the breakdown provided doesn't provide an allocation to the national gene bank, despite the public outcry and presidential concern over the sustainability and efficiency of the gene bank to manage, preserve and conserve the country's genetic resources.

We further observe UGX0.106million has been allocated to national research laboratories for the FY 2018/19. We recommend that MAAIF comments that at least UGX 30m is allocated to the national seed testing laboratory under the national seed certification service which has never been completed to aid its full operation and deliver on providing pesticides and residue analysis. This will curb the influx of inferior and hazardous agrochemicals brought into the country and ensuring that the right quality and the ingredients therein conform to the industrial standards.

We further recommend parliament to task NARO to provide a breakdown of the UGX 35.239bn allocated to "headquarters" as was done to "support to NARO" that is allocated UGX 32.783bn.

1.5.4 Inadequate planning and financing for the fisheries sector

We commend Government through the Directorate of Fisheries for prioritizing the fisheries sector set as key outcome targets to achieve increased production and productivity. We acknowledge the importance of this sector as fish is one of the priority commodities in the agricultural sector strategic plan (ASSP 2016-2020). The importance of this sub-sector is seen in its contribution of 1.2% to national GDP and 5% to agricultural GDP of Uganda. In 2014, fish and fish products accounted for 10% of agricultural export value, second only to coffee. Total fish production in 2014 amounted to 461,726 MT, of which 17,597 MT were exported. This generated US$134,791 million for the country in 2014. This achievement has been realized as a result of increased enforcement on the water bodies, the establishment of Fisheries

Protection Force (FPF) with the support of the President, the establishment of a Fisheries Protection Unit in MAAIF and the training of UPDF Officers in basic fisheries management.

However, we are concerned with the continued decline in the stocks of large commercial fish species especially Nile perch resulting from un-sustained enforcement activities and the continued dependence on the hunting and gathering of fisheries resources in the sub-sector. This dependence is reflected in the sub-sector planning and reporting frameworks including the MPS FY 2018/19. Analysis of the MPS reveals MAAIF's major achievements and concerns centred on enforcement and scouting of water bodies. This implies that the sub-sector investment is largely consumed in enforcement as opposed to targeted production and productivity of resources away from the traditional water bodies.

Despite the potential and already exhibited ability of the sub-sector to contribute to national development, the sub-sector has remained inadequately financed. The MPS FY 2018/19 proposes a total allocation of UGX11.837bn of which UGX4.678bn is distributed among the three Departments and Directorates and the remaining UGX7.2bn is projected (with specific targets, geographical areas and timeframes). Core functions within the sub-sector continue shouldering heavy burdens of budget deficiencies affecting their efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, for insistence MAAIF requires UGX 27 billion but the available funds in the MTEF are UGX 5bn available as funds, thus creating a spending pressure of UGX 22 billion.

Whereas MAAIF through the fisheries sub-sector highlights a number of inspirations towards the right direction, for insistence MAAIF anticipates to promote aquaculture through support to research to ensure the availability of appropriate fish seed, breeds and feed on the market and to rehabilitate and operationalize fish parks among others, they remain uncosted to attract budget location.

1.5.5 Inadequate Planning and Budgeting for Food and Nutrition

Ministry of agriculture is regarded as the centrepiece for food and nutrition in the country. It is by the expectation that the sector is responsible for planning and strategic direction to end hunger and malnutrition. It is observed however that this core function has never found a home and is regarded as a cross-cutting issue. Indeed, an analysis of the MPs FY 2018/19 reveals the word "food" having been mentioned 14 times throughout the document and the bulk of these mentions is reflected in the respective sub-sector departments and agencies mission, statements and objectives. Further analysis of the MPS, reveals that despite reflection in these mission statements and objectives, no specific interventions are planned and cost specifically for food and nutrition.

We commend MAAIF for observing through the MPS the role the Ministry must play in ensuring food safety and standards, however, no particular intervention has been set and cost for the FY 2018/19. We recommend that MAAIF operationalizes the strategy on improving the capacity for quality assurance, regulation, food and safety standards for outputs and products across crops, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors into specific costed interventions with targets and outcomes.

We further recommend parliament to task MAAIF through the TPM to streamline the functions of food and nutrition within the Ministry and create clear targets and outcomes for food and nutrition based on the mandate. This will facilitate the Ministry to respond to the national food and nutrition needs, provide regular statistics to guide planning for food and nutrition and provide strategic direction to mitigate hunger and malnutrition situation in the country.

1.5.6 Inadequate performance and delivery on water for agricultural production

There was overwhelming evidence of animal deaths and crop failure in FY 2016/17 due to the prolonged drought. In responding to

this we commend the government for approving the Irrigation Policy, a framework that will ensure proper and adequate use of water for irrigation in a sustainable manner. We also commend the Government for committing to invest in water for production by constructing and desilting 110 valley tanks/dams, canals and fish ponds in the entire cattle corridor and drought hit districts as indicated in the MPS FY 2018/19. We commend MAAIF for the significant capacity enhancement in the department of mechanization, however, the sector still suffers a significant gap in Human Resource capacity to design and implement mechanization and water for production interventions that serve farmers across the country.

We are however concerned that a review of the MPS reveals an allocation amounting to UGX 19.043 to vote function of which UGX 0.884bn is only allocated to the department of agricultural infrastructure and water for production with the biggest portion being donor funded.

As climate change steadily continues to frustrate the agriculture sector, counter investment in water for production, especially on appropriate technologies and accessible infrastructure by farmers in crop, animals and fisheries across the country remains a systematic and strategic remedy. A review of the MPS FY 2018/19, however, reveals meager planning for this function for its services to be enjoyed by farmers across the country. For insistence of the total UGX 19.043bn proposed to the function, UGX 0.819bn is for a specific project on Irrigation Scheme Development in Central and Eastern Uganda (PISD)-JICA, UGX 17.340bn for the Improving Access and Use of Agricultural Equipment and Mechanization through the use of labour saving technologies and UGX 0.884bn to the Department of Agricultural Infrastructure and Water for Agricultural Production.

We recommend;

- That MAAIF through the TPM systematically coordinates the department of mechanization and DEAS to consolidate the human resource and functionality of water for production, following the massive recruitment agriculture and irrigation engineers to support functionality and service delivery of water for production.
- We recommend that Government harmonize the function of water for production between MAAIF and Ministry of water to realize the efficiency of resources it has spent on this function.
- We recommend the government to allocate funds for the vote function on Agriculture Infrastructure, Mechanization and Water for production guided by the approved Irrigation Policy since the policy is to guide public and private investments in the irrigation sector as highlighted in the MPS FY 2018/19.
- We recommend that appropriate technologies for water for production continued to be tax exempted.
- We recommend that govt financial and facilitating programmes (ACF, OWC) to extend appropriate technologies to farmers even it means cost sharing

1.6 Conclusion

As CSOs, we are raising these pertinent issues which are hindering the full utilisation and exploitation of the agriculture sector in Uganda. The agricultural sector has great potential to contribute to GDP growth, exports, employment and poverty reduction. However adequate investment in the sector continues to fall short of appreciating the severity of the sector's importance nationally, regionally, continentally and globally.

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