**Feed the Future Advancing Local Leadership, Innovation and Networks (ALL-IN) program**

**Strengthening Women Smallholders’ Resilience to Agricultural Shocks for Enhanced Income Diversification and Empowerment in Uganda**

**National Stakeholder Engagement Meeting**

**Concept note**

**February 2022**

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# Introduction

Makerere University received a grant from USAID Feed the Future Advancing Local Leadership, Innovation and Networks (ALL-IN) program[[1]](#footnote-1) to undertake a research project titled *“Strengthening Women Smallholders’ Resilience to Agricultural Shocks for Enhanced Income Diversification and Empowerment in Uganda*”.The project is premised on the fact that women (especially rural women farmers) are more vulnerable to agricultural shocks[[2]](#footnote-2). This is due to their being largely subsistence-oriented, highly dependent on traditional and less rewarding agronomic practices, using rudimentary inputs and technology to produce less and low-value crops[[3]](#footnote-3). Further, women smallholders face constraints with respect to access to quality inputs and extension services, while also struggling to exploit formal output markets. The project therefore aims at strengthening women smallholders’ capacity to respond effectively to agricultural shocks and improve their household income and asset portfolio for economic empowerment. The three-year research project will rigorously evaluate different intervention packages that can potentially increase women smallholders’ resilience to agricultural shocks. Enhancing women smallholder farmers’ resilience to agricultural shocks and empowerment contributes to policy commitment towards gender equality and women’s empowerment as articulated in Uganda’s Vision 2040, the 2020 third National Development Plan (NDP III) the 2007 Uganda National Gender Policy and the 2013 National Agricultural Policy. This research project therefore offers a window for policy revisions to address women’s vulnerability to agricultural shocks through effective interventions that can increase their agricultural productivity, help diversify their incomes and improve the wellbeing of their families. Achieving these anticipated outcomes require deliberate engagement with strategic stakeholders (persons, groups and entities) at the national and local levels. We envision to engage diverse stakeholders at different levels in targeted meetings, roundtable dialogues, workshops and research symposium. In the initial phase of the project, district and national level stakeholder meetings are planned. During the 2nd and 3rd phase, results of this action research will be shared with decision- and policy-makers, practitioners as well as development partners to maximize impact by promoting scalable and successful interventions to increase women farmers’ resilience, economic empowerment, food security and their general welfare in Uganda.

# About the national stakeholders meeting

In line with the plan for phase 1 of the project, a national stakeholders meeting is to be held. Participation and involvement of different actors and stakeholders within the agricultural and related sectors including policy makers, practitioners and private sector in project planning, implementation and evaluation is very critical to achieving intended project objectives, outputs and outcomes. Project stakeholders can be users (beneficiaries), governance, influencers and providers that can be broadly categorized as affected[[4]](#footnote-4) and or interested[[5]](#footnote-5) persons, groups or entities. Stakeholders have the power/influence and interest at varying levels which could be influential to attaining the project objectives. It is important that interests are harmonized andexpectations clarified right from the start of project interventions. Therefore, the purpose of the planned national stakeholder engagement meeting is to enable a multi-stakeholder dialogue with the aim of increasing project visibility and fostering collaboration for future engagements. The specific objectives are;

1. To introduce the project to the key stakeholders that have a direct or indirect influence on the project implementation and outcomes
2. Ascertain interest among stakeholders and solicit buy in/support at the different phases of project implementation
3. Provide a platform for sharing experiences from various stakeholders and identify strategic partnership for enhancing sustainability
4. Harmonize expectations towards fostering future engagements
5. Launch the project

# Expected participants/target

The national stakeholder event will bring together stakeholders in government (Agriculture and social development sectors), academia, research, agriculture extension and advisory services, development partners, media and local communities in one virtual space to discuss the relevance of the proposed intervention. Specifically, the stakeholders will include officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and its related ministries, departments and agencies; Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD); Uganda Insurers Association, Universities, agricultural research institutions, NGOs/CBOs civil society organizations (CSOs) supporting rural livelihood initiatives, private sector, development partners involved in supporting agriculture sector and media among others (Appendix 1). Representatives from the selected project implementation districts of Isingiro District in Southwestern and Alebtong District in Northern Uganda including LCV chairpersons, CAO, RDC, DCDOs, Sub County Chiefs/ACAOs, CDOs, and women’s organizations will attend the national event. The chief guest will be the Minister of State for Agriculture at MAAIF who will also launch the project.

# Date and venue of the event

The event will be held virtually online via ZOOM on 3rd March 2022 to be hosted by MAAIF. The meeting will be guided by an agenda (Appendix 2) that brings onboard notable speakers. Since this is a public event, we anticipate a wide audience with interest in the research focus for the project.

# Expected output

The key expected output of this national engagement meeting is stakeholders buy-in, support and increased visibility of the project.

# Appendices

Appendix 1: List of invited Participants

Appendix 2: Agenda for the National Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

**Moderator: Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| TIME | ACTIVITY | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
| 8:30-9.00AM | Participants join the meeting Online | Project Coordinator |
| 9.00-9:10AM | Welcome Remarks by the Dean School of Women and Gender Studies | Assoc. Prof. Sarah N. Ssali, Dean School of Women and Gender Studies |
| 9:10-9.20AM | Remarks by the Principal CAES | Prof. Gorretti Nabanoga, Principal CAES |
| 9:20-9:50AM | Project Brief and Plan | Assoc. Prof. Florence Kyoheirwe Muhanguzi, Principal Investigator |
| 9:50-10:10AM | Remarks from Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets Risks and Resilience/International centre for evaluation and development, Nairobi | UCDavis/ICED |
| 10:10-10:25AM | Remarks by Civil Society Representative | Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE) |
| 10:25-10:30AM | Remarks by CEO, Uganda Insurers Association | CEO, Uganda Insurers Association |
| 10:30-11:00AM | Question and Answer | ALL |
| 11:10-11:20PM | Remarks by the Principal, CHUSS | Assoc. Prof. Josephine Ahikire, Principal CHUSS |
| 11:20-11:30PM | Makerere University Vice Chancellor | Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University |
| 11:30-11:55PM | Speech and Launch of the Project by the Guest Honor | Hon Maj (Rtd) Kyakulaga Fred Bwino  State Minister of Agriculture |
| 11:55PM | Departure | Moderator |

1. a collaborative research grant program run by the BASIS Market Risk and Resilience Innovation Lab at University of California - UC-Davis (MRR) and the International Centre for Evaluation and Development, Nairobi [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Quisumbing, A., Meinzen-Dick, R., & Njuki, J. (Eds) (2019). Gender Equality in Rural Africa: From Commitments to Outcomes. ReSAKSS 2019 Annual Trends and Outlook Report. International Food Policy Research Institute: Washington, DC. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2019). The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019. Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns. FAO: Rome; Nakalembe, C., Dempewolf, J., & Justice, C. (2017). Agricultural land use change in Karamoja region, Uganda. Land Use Policy, 62, 2-12. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Any person, group of persons or entity that is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the project activities [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in our project activities [↑](#footnote-ref-5)