



CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK UGANDA (CAN-U)

**Comprehensive Desk Review of the Uganda National Climate Change Policy and its
Alignment to the HYCRISTAL Rural Work**

Study Report

September 2019

Acknowledgments

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Background

Climate Action Network Uganda is a member of the HYCRISTAL research consortium; Integrating Hydro-Climate Science into Policy Decisions for Climate Resilient Infrastructure and livelihoods. The consortium describes itself as one that is tackling current uncertainties which exist around climate change projections for the East African region. The consortium looks at availability of water as fundamental for development in the East African region and acknowledges that the water resource is already under stress from land degradation, pollution and overfishing. HYCRISTAL acknowledges that climate change is rapidly exacerbating the problem and greatly increases the vulnerability of the poorest of the poor people.

CAN-U works with the University of Reading under Walker Institute and Practical Action Kenya to connect policy makers with rural communities to support long term decision making with a pilot in Mukono District. This happens through development of new pathways for climate research to support the resilience of rural communities to the rapidly changing climate with an emphasis on sectors of agriculture and fishing and in context of shifts in land use and population dynamics.

In order to promote evidence based decision-making HyCRISTAL employs national and local policy, market systems and value chain analysis to open channels for decision-making in the context of livelihoods adaptations. This comprehensive review of Uganda's national climate change policy and its alignment to the HYCRISTAL rural aims at bridging gaps and knowledge and policy basis upon which local governments and rural folks can develop demand and key decisions that are supported with the national climate change policy and legal framework in relation to agriculture and fishing.

Methodologies

The review looked at the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for Uganda with specific focus on agriculture and rural adaptation; it also looked at the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), the Green Growth Development Strategy (GGDS), National Development Plan II (NDPII), and key sector development plans, policies and strategies. The review is silent on the National Climate Change Bill because it's still in the formulation process and is set for first reading in the Parliament of Uganda speculatively between October and December 2019. The analysis comprehensively sought to understand key Uganda policies, plans and programmes on climate change that relate to the HyCRISTAL rural work and how the findings can help inform advocacy work.

Key Findings

The Nationally Determined Contributions are essentially the backbone of the Paris Agreement, it provides an action and plan going forwards and is very important in tackling climate change at country level. Uganda's NDCs commits to a 22% emission cuts on a business as usual basis by 2030 due to a series of policies and measures in the energy, forestry, wetland sectors complimented by additional measures in agriculture. According to the Overseas Development Institute, 2016 (ODI) Uganda's total expenditure on climate change relevant actions has remained well below 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is much less than 1.6% that the implementation strategy of the 2015, National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) recommends.

The key relationships and linkages between Uganda's climate change policy regime and the HyCRISTAL rural advocacy were revealed as follows work

1. Expansion of Extension Services

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in terms of agriculture and rural livelihoods focuses on expansion of extension services to smallholder farmers. This rhymes with the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP Page 18) which lays a basis for government to support community adaptation strategies through stretched extension services and improved systems for conveying timely climate information to rural populations to enhance the resilience of agricultural systems to the impacts of climate change.

As a specific strategy to pursue the two sectoral policy priorities to agriculture;

- To promote climate change adaptation strategies that enhances resilient, productive and sustainable agriculture systems.
- To promote value addition and improve food storage and management systems in order to ensure food security at all times as a factor of resilience.

On page 96, the National Development Plan II (NDPII) mentions increased investment in rural infrastructure, agriculture research, and extension services and page 111 in order to increase agricultural productivity through focusing on extension services.

The Agriculture extension strategy (2016-2020) budget for five years is valued at 593,470,360,000 Uganda shillings and in the budget framework paper 2019-20 was budgeted at 4.04 billion Uganda Shillings with focus on quality assurance, monitoring and support to extension, climate smart extension services in order to mainstream climate change into agriculture extension at approximately 11,482 Million USD lump sum with other activities.

Further the government of Uganda through the Green Growth Development Strategy (GGDS) focuses on building on Uganda's comparative advantage in agriculture through

improving competitiveness of Ugandan agriculture by supporting agricultural extension and technology services. The GGDS emphasizes provision of support in skills and capacity building programmes for farmers to implement climate smart agriculture.

On Page 28, the Agriculture Strategic sector Investment Plan 2015/2016 – 2019/20 highlights the intention to operationalize a single spine agriculture extension system.

2. Expanding Climate Information and Early Warning Systems

The NDC highlights that there should be key actions on expansion of climate information and early warning systems

The NCCP on page 24 highlights that Uganda aims to strengthen adaptive mechanisms and enhance early warning systems and adequate preparedness for climate change related diseases under policy priority for health.

The NCCP on page 26, states that “Disseminate climate change and early warning information in local languages to improve community disaster preparedness”. As a sector specific strategy for addressing the policy the policy priority

The NCCP on page 27 highlights policy the commitment to improve early warning systems and preparedness to avoid or minimise the adverse impacts of climate change. As a sector specific strategy to ensure disaster mitigation and adequate preparedness for climate change induced risks, hazards and disasters

On page 158, the NDPII highlights the long-term commitment to develop early warning systems to prevent and mitigate shocks affecting food security and nutrition on page 170 – to design and implement early warning systems to produce sector specific early warning products in support of climate change adaptation. On page 205, Uganda commits to establish a national water resources information system for water resources management, early warning and decision making.

The GGDS recognises flood risk management and that it requires development of early warning systems.

On Page 56, the National Adaptation Plan for Agriculture (NAP-Ag) – mentions that the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF), strengthens climate information, early warning system and disaster preparedness budgeted at approximately 6,216,166 USD (2016-2020).

On Page 67, the Agriculture Strategic sector Investment Plan 2015/2016 – 2019/20 highlights that there should be promotion of awareness on food availability, shortages and surplus and on Pg. 68 it emphasizes developing and utilizing early warning systems

3. Expanding and Diversification of Livestock

The NDC highlights expansion and diversification of crops and livestock as a key component in supporting communities to adapt to climate change.

On page 18, the NCCP mentions that the policy will promote and encourage highly adaptive and productive crop varieties and cultivars and drought prone, flood prone, and rain fed crop farming systems. .

On pg 159 of the NDPII it is implied- objective 2 – increased access to critical farm inputs particularly to improved high quality animal breeds, seeds and planting material; Objective 3 improved agriculture markets and value addition for 12 prioritized agriculture commodities.

On page 51 of the NAPAg, action 4 aims to promote and encourage agriculture diversification with a specific Climate Smart Agriculture (CSAP) under the MAAIF.

On page 8, the Agriculture Extension Policy refers to diversifying extension delivery approaches and techniques which might be indirect support.

Page 40-44 of the Agriculture Strategic Sector Investment Plan 2016-2020 refers to improving access to agriculture market and value addition, build capacity in quality standards and market requirements of priority agriculture products or commodities.

4. Expanding value addition, post-harvest handling and storage and access to markets including microfinance

On page 18, the NCCP mentions that the policy will promote and encourage highly adaptive and productive crop varieties and cultivars and drought prone, flood prone, and rain fed crop farming systems.

On page 159, of the NDPII it is implied- objective 2 – increased access to critical farm inputs particularly to improved high quality animal breeds, seeds and planting material; Objective 3 improved agriculture markets and value addition for 12 prioritized agriculture commodities. Strategic intervention-operationalize the commercialization fund for value addition and agro-processing. On Page 159; promote investment in storage infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses; page 144 objective 6, enhance the capacity of cooperatives to compete in domestic regional and international markets.

On page 34, the GGDS refers to strategic intervention, undertake market upgrading for process, product and functional upgrading will focus on product quality and quantity, market diversification, excellence in agro-processing and effective use of knowledge acquired from within the value chain. The value chain upgrade is built within into the Agricultural sector Strategic Plan priority enterprises of bananas, beans, rice, tea, coffee, cassava, fruits and vegetables, fish, cocoa, meat, Irish potato, and oil palm and oil seed crops.

On page 7, the National Agricultural policy 2012, emphasizes promotion and facilitation of the construction of appropriate agro-processing and storage infrastructure at appropriate levels to improve post-harvest management and add value and enhance marketing.

On page 23, the Agriculture Strategic Sector Plan states that MAAIF, local governments, non-state actors will support capacity development of farmers and other value chain actors

in production, agribusiness skills, value addition, and post-harvest handling storage, value addition and processing.

5. Expanding Small Scale Water Infrastructure

Page 19 of the NCCP; Policy response under water; promote and encourage water harvesting and efficient water utilization amongst individuals and households.

Page 184 NDPII; Water for Production subsector objective 1, to increase the provision of water for production facilities; intervention 3; increase private sector involvement in the implementation of water for production facilities.

The GGDS has a specific target for an irrigation strategy starting with 10% of smallholder households in 2020 and cumulatively increasing to at least 60% of smallholder farmers by 2030.

On page 14, the national agricultural policy—the strategy for water agric water production laid out in the policy is based on availability of bulk water which is currently under development.

The Agricultural Extension Policy on page 29 highlights the provision of off farm related services, role of Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with MAAIF. Page 20 also emphasizes the promotion of water for production and processing and the irrigation policy 2016.

6. Expanding research on climate resilient crops and animal breeds

Page 18 of the NCCP, it is stated under agricultural adaptation; promotion and encouraging highly adaptive and productive crop varieties, cultivars and livestock breeds: The research component is not mentioned

On page 159 of the NDPII Objective 4 – strengthen the capacity of MAAIF and public agriculture agencies; intervention 3 to revitalize and strengthen

7. Extend electricity to the rural areas or expanding the use of off-grid solar system to support value addition and irrigation

Page 18, the NCCP promote and encourage agriculture diversification and improved post-harvest handling storage and value addition in order to mitigate climate related rising climate related losses.

On page 10, the National Agricultural Policy under objective 4 promote domestic, regional and international trade in agriculture products ensure the development of infrastructure and utilities that are necessary for agriculture trade including transport infrastructure, reliable access to fuel and electricity.

On page 33, the Agriculture Sector Plan under priority 2 increasing access to critical farm inputs- strategic intervention on promoting agriculture prioritization and priority 3 improving access to agriculture markets and value addition through the commercialization fund.

The Budget for operationalization of the commercialization fund requires 40 Billion Uganda Shillings up to the financial year 2020 and the budget for agriculture mechanization is at 159.84 Billion Uganda Shillings up to the financial year 2020.

Key Policy messages and conclusion

It is evidently visible that Uganda's policy regime has a critically aligned to the key HyCRISTAL research discoveries but falls short on the implementation component. Its therefore important that the HyCRISTAL advocacy work raises the following policy recommendations or messages to policy and decision-makers.

- Call for increased awareness about the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), the Green Growth Development Strategy and available financing for implementing the proposed actions in the national policies and strategies. The relevant ministries, departments and agencies including the Ministry of Water and Environment should make it a priority to inform not only the duty-bearers, but the general public about the above actions to stimulate involvement by different stakeholders.
- Parliament of Uganda, District and lower level councils need to be availed with accurate and timely information to support decision-making in their legislative and monitoring roles. Quite urgently, HyCRISTAL advocacy should inform and support parliament with information to pass the Climate Change Bill into an act of Parliament that clearly states both obligations and priorities.
- HyCRISTAL advocacy work should help and support Mukono District Local Government to develop a local ordinance on Climate Change

References

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- *Ministry of Water and Environment (2015) Uganda's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions*
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- *National Agriculture Policy*
- *Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy*
- *Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries Strategic Sector Development Plan*
- *Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development- National Development Plan II*
- *Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries Agricultural Extension Policy*