**UGANDA FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION PATHWAYS**

The presentation of Uganda’s Food Systems Transformation Pathways is guided by the questions provided in the guidance note and outcomes from the food systems dialogues held in the country.

1. **Appreciation of the Purpose of Current Food Systems**
   1. *What purpose do food systems serve in Uganda*?

Food systems in Uganda are complex and involve entities and stakeholders that affect the way food is produced, stored, processed, distributed and utilized in the diet for optimal nutrition, health, and sustainable development in all its forms. Therefore, food systems are central to ensuring optimal nutrition and overall wellbeing of most Ugandans.

* 1. *Who do the food systems serve?*

The food systems in Uganda serve all value chain actors right from input dealers, farmers, producers, industrialists, technologists, aggregators, transporters, processors, traders, distributors, consumers, and scientists/researchers, among others. The food systems also affect the environments where the actors operate.

* 1. *Do the food systems enable all people to access safe and nutritious food, and respond to their specific needs?*

Uganda is considered to be one of the countries with a high potential to achieve food security for its people and beyond due to a favourable climate and agro-ecological condition. However due to internal and external constraints, food insecurity affects an estimated 10 million of 44 million Ugandans are food insecure, with 2.3 million of these are in acute food insecurity. This is exacerbated by low productivity levels, by climate variability that reduces the volume and quality of food.

Currently in Uganda, 33% of annual deaths are attributed to the five leading NCDs; notably cardiovascular diseases, Cancers, Diabetes and Trauma.[[1]](#footnote-1) In some populations, raised blood pressure in adults is at 24% while 7% have raised cholesterol levels; precursors for cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Majority of food producers in Uganda are smallholder subsistence farmers with about 39% not accessing the market economy. Shocks and stressors such as Covid-19, disasters especially landslides, droughts, pests and diseases, refugee’s influx and internal displacement among others, continue to adversely affect the food system in the country.

1. **Expectations of National Food Systems in the Coming Decade in Uganda**
   1. *How will the food systems contribute to the good health and nutrition of everyone in Uganda?*

It is expected that the Food Systems Summit outcomes will facilitate:

* + 1. Increased access of smallholder farmers to food systems-sensitive agricultural extension services and skilling to transition them from subsistence to the money economy.
    2. Scaling up nutrition-sensitive interventions and research such as in areas of fortification, preservation and enterprise diversification among smallholder farmers who are the majority of producers in the country.
    3. Provision of quality agro-inputs (seeds, technologies, herbicides, pesticides, etc.).
    4. Enhanced and sustainable agronomic practices that are climate smart to maximize productivity and resilience along the value chains.
    5. Organized farmer groups and other special interest such as women, youth, persons with disabilities and other value chain actors, to benefit from opportunities for access to bigger markets and credit.
    6. Increased nutrition and quality awareness, consumer protection, and enhanced preservation, multiplication and promotion of indigenous nutritious foods.
    7. Improved food systems infrastructure especially efficient transport networks, technology, energy supply and agro-industrialization machinery supporting food system value chains.
    8. Improved post-harvest handling knowledge and practices for enhanced value addition, competitiveness, quality improvement and minimization of food loss and food waste.
    9. Improved trade and marketing of safe and nutritious food to guarantee healthy diets.
    10. Strengthened implementation and compliance to the right standards and certification.
    11. Enhanced employment opportunities and socio-protection mechanisms that reduce vulnerability and inequalities.
    12. Enhanced private-sector participation and investment in food systems.
    13. Strengthened policy and legal frameworks, partnerships, collaborations and coordination of all stakeholders in the food systems value chains.
    14. Holistic multi-partner development financing of food systems transformation.
    15. Sustained peace, security and good governance for the stability of food systems.
  1. *How will the food systems contribute to the well-being of women, youth and children?*

1. Increased women’s and youth access to financial services through capitalisation of parish-based women and youth groups and associations.
2. Entrenched gender equality in governance, policy and practice.
3. Promotion of universal access to food, reproductive and maternal health services.
4. Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) will be redesigned to support organised Parish Based Women and Youth Enterprises (PBWYE) for improved food systems and livelihoods.
5. Women and the rest of the population will be sensitized to change their mind sets on negative and regressive cultural norms and practices that constrain access and control over resources.
6. Increased male involvement and support towards enhancing women participation in food systems and overall development.
7. Prioritization of social protection, contingency and disaster management capabilities at all levels to strengthen resilience against vulnerability, shocks and stress to the food systems.
   1. *How will the food systems contribute to regeneration of natural ecosystems and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions?*

The Food Systems Summit and its outcomes will support:

* 1. Increased adoption and promotion of climate smart agriculture.
  2. Accelerated use of improved and sustainable land use management practices.
  3. Improvement in compliance to environment protection policies and legislation especially on wetland use and management and regulated use of agro-chemicals among others.
  4. Establishment of mechanisms to prevent food loss and sustainable manage food waste and other by-products from the food system value chains.
  5. Increased access to affordable and green energy in the different processes of the food system.
  6. Increased green cover through reforestation and afforestation among others.

1. **Identification of Decisions and Modifications for Food Systems in the Next Three Years**

*Considering the challenges that Uganda is experiencing, what is needed for national food systems to meet the defined expectations by 2030?*

* + 1. Sustained peace, security and good governance for the stability of food systems.
    2. Prioritization of small holder farmers’ organization to enable access to support services and economies of scale to transition from subsistence to the money economy.
    3. Implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) to enhance service delivery in key areas of the food system especially that the grassroots parish level.
    4. Increase efficiency of quality assured and nutrition-sensitive extension services to narrow the extension to farmers’ ratio to the desired 1:500.
    5. Infrastructure improvement especially efficient transport networks, water for production, irrigation, technologies, affordable and clean energy supply and appropriate machinery supporting food system value chains.
    6. Fast-tracking industrial parks development, skilling, incubation and MSMEs support to enable agro-industrialization.
    7. Enforce responsible trade and marketing of safe and nutritious food and standards compliance to guarantee healthy food environments and consumption patterns.
    8. Scale-up socio-protection mechanisms that reduce vulnerability and inequalities.
    9. Increase domestic budgeting and access to affordable credit financing for food systems.
    10. Develop and fast-track relevant policy and legal frameworks that support food systems transformation at the various levels of the food chain.

1. **Stakeholder Participation for Collective Action**

Collective action should draw on strong foundations of science and traditional knowledge and sharing of policy choices and practices that contribute to sustainable food systems. Based on similarities in function, common goals and joint action around innovation activities, 10 (ten) major stakeholder groups: policy (agriculture, health, trade, social development, local government, water and education ministries among others), research and academia, credit, extension and information, inputs-processing-outputs marketing, farmer organizations and farmers, private sector, development partners and Civil society are identified for the transformation of Ugandan Food Systems.

Uganda will utilize science, technology and innovation to transform food systems. The farmers’ actors in the food system will depend on innovative technologies to address the needs of the population. The food system transformation processes will also strengthen the link between research, production, marketing, consumption and development.

1. **Reinforced Connections between the Pathway and other Planning Documents**

The food systems transformation process in Uganda will be supported by the following national legislations and policy frameworks:

***Legislations***

* + 1. 1995 Constitution of Uganda provides in Objective XXII that the State shall promote food production, establish food reserves and advance nutritional awareness to improve food security and nutrition.
    2. Food and Drug Act (CAP 278 of 1959)
    3. Public Health Act (CAP 281 of 1939)
    4. UNBS Act (CAP 327, 1989)
    5. Fisheries Act (CAP 157, 2000)
    6. Dairy Industry Act (CAP 85, 2000)
    7. NAADS Act 2001.
    8. Agriculture Chemical (Control) Act 2006.
    9. Adulteration of Produce Act (CAP 27, 1901).

However, most of the existing legal frameworks are obsolete and need to be reviewed in alignment with the food systems and SDG agenda.

***Key policy frameworks***

1. The Uganda Vision 2040 highlighted improving the nutrition status of the population especially for young children and women of reproductive age as a health improvement strategy. In addition, it recommends a school feeding policy.
2. The Third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020/21-2024/25, has five of its 18 programmes speak to food systems transformation and these include; human capital development, Agro-industrialisation, Natural Resources Management, Regional Development and Community Mobilization and Mind-set Change which are all central to achieve the food systems transformation and nutrition-related goals.
3. Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II (UNAP II) 2020/21-2024/25
4. Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy (2003)
5. Nationally Agriculture Policy (2014)
6. National Agriculture Extension Policy (2016)
7. 2nd National Health Policy 2010
8. National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (2016)
9. National Social Protection Policy (2015)
10. National Strategy towards Zero Hunger 2020-2030
11. Multisectoral Nutrition Policy (yet to be approved).
12. Towards Zero Hunger Strategy 2020-2030
13. Food Security Action Plan.
14. Food Safety Action Plan.
15. Intended Nationally determined Contributions (INDCs) Plan for Uganda.
16. **Key Milestones Along the Timeline of the Pathway**
    * + 1. Government commits to establish a food systems multi-stakeholder working Group representing players from government, private sector, farmers, government, Civil societies and development partners to represent the different voices.
        2. Constitution of an inter-ministerial committee to ensure implementation of the recommendations from the Food Systems Summit
        3. Creation of a food systems addendum to the 3rd National Development Plan (NDPIII)
        4. Mid-term review of the NDPIII using a food systems lens.
        5. Increased investment in Agricultural processing by both government and private sector. Through UDC and other agencies
        6. Supportive infrastructure is being improved across the country. Including, improvement of the road network, irrigation infrastructure, increased rural electrification, development of sub-national and cross-border markets, supporting digitalization and e-commerce.
        7. An enabling policy environment exists and SDGs have been fully integrated in national development.
        8. The Government will increase investment in research as a critical enabler to resilient, sustainable food systems development.
        9. The Government of Uganda is committed to taking bold and accelerated steps to fast-track implementation of resolutions and plan of actions from the Summit.
        10. Strengthening partnerships, collaboration and coordination between producers, traders and consumers.

1. WHO. (2018). *Non-communicable diseases country profile – Uganda*. Geneva: World Health Organization. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Uganda Ministry of Health. (2014). *Non-Communicable Risk Baseline Survey Report*. Kampala: Ministry of Health. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)