



Seed Related Policies and Laws in Uganda

A civil Society Advocacy Guide

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List of Acronyms

ABN	African Biodiversity Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CONSENT	Consumer Education Trust
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
ESSAF	Eastern and Southern Africa small scale farmers' forum
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FRA	Food Rights Alliance
GMO's	Genetically Modified Organisms
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Stack
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IP	Intellectual Property
IPRs	Intellectual Property Rights
ITPGR	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
LDC's	Least Developed Countries
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MUZARDI	Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
NOGAMU	National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PVP	Plant Variety Protection
R&D	Research and Development
SEATINI	Southern and Eastern African Trade, Information and Negotiations Institute
TRIPS	Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights
UEPB	Uganda Export Promotions Board
UIRI	Uganda Industrial Research Institute
ULA	Uganda Land Alliance
UNSCT	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
UNFF	Uganda National Farmers' Federation
VEDCO	Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns
WTO	World Trade Organization





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Executive Summary

The development of Uganda's seed laws is an effort to catch up with the international seed laws' development process such as the COMESA seed trade laws and the ARIPO PVP law. Uganda like many other African countries is rich in plant genetic resources, however, the current seed and plant protection efforts being undertaken through the enactment of various seed related policies do not respond to her actual seed related law and Policy frameworks' needs. Furthermore, advocates of farmers' rights have concerns over the very strict nature of plant and seed protection laws that are being enacted; they argue that these enhance the rights of breeders and rich seed companies while undermining the rights of small scale farmers.

The process of developing laws and policies to govern the seed sector also lacks a systematic approach and the end result has been a multitude of provisions that are both contradictory and inconsistent. Worse still, the absence of a clear guide to seed and seed related policy analysis and advocacy over the years has greatly limited civil society and small scale farmers' effective engagement in the policy development process. This has resulted into ad hoc engagements and made it difficult for civil society organizations to effectively influence the outcomes of seed related policies.

It is against this background that SEATINI – Uganda with support from ActionAid International Uganda under the project “Enhancing CSO capacity to influence seed related policies at local, national and regional level” commissioned a study on Uganda's seed related policies in relation to farmers' rights. This study provides an impetus for Civil Society Organizations' planning and undertaking of advocacy activities. It also provides a summary analysis of the laws and policies governing the agricultural seed sector as well as the gaps in these frame works and lists the relevant stakeholders that civil society can target for advocacy purposes.

The study has established that: some Policies and laws do not adequately protect the rights of small scale farmers; important policies and laws such as the national seed policy and national indigenous knowledge policy remain in draft form and quite a long way from approval. The study also highlights the fact that the laws and policies developed have been inconsistent and contradictory, making it hard for stakeholders to have a uniform agenda for the agricultural sector. There is also inadequate documentation of indigenous knowledge hence creating a barrier to its transmission and yet there is an urgent need to protect Indigenous Knowledge as it disappears when its custodians die or migrate. Some Acts are also found to be unnecessarily restrictive in as far as requiring all seeds offered for sale to be properly labeled and sealed. This makes it illegal for farmers to sell farm saved seed to their neighbors and inhibits free trade of seeds among farmers.

Key recommendations of the study include: Building the advocacy capacity of farmers and communities; Campaigning for policy change in seed policy in order to accommodate farmers' and community rights; Policy monitoring by civil society groups; Legal advocacy to protect social and economic rights of farmers and communities; and a human rights based campaign targeting the specific rights affected by the weak legal and policy framework on seed





SECTION ONE

Background and Introduction

1.1 Background

The structure of seed related policies has evolved over time. This has mainly been influenced by the liberalization and privatization reforms that emerged through the structural adjustment programmes introduced by the IMF and World Bank. Currently, there are ongoing reforms of seed laws and policies at national and regional levels to align them with the various international instruments including the Cartagena Protocol and the WTO TRIPS agreement among others. These reforms have however, generated serious debates on the likely impact that they will have on social welfare and human rights, especially on farmers' and community rights to use, save, exchange and share seed for purposes of food and commerce.

At the national level, Uganda has come up with a number of seed related legal and policy frameworks such as the Plant Variety Protection Act, 2014, the National Seed and Plant Act, the Bio-safety and Biotechnology Bill, 2012, and the draft National Seed policy among others. The development of these legislations has largely been influenced by forces of globalization which today continue to take centre stage in many aspects of human life and development. The national development strategy which considers a private sector led economy has paved way for the private sector which is increasingly playing a critical role in today's global world with the desire to control everything profitable. As such, they are using both the international systems and rules under the World Trade Organization (WTO) to influence trends of liberalization and

privatization in developing countries through governments.

In a report compiled by the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society, it is noted that when framing seed policy and legislation, the needs of the informal seed sector should be the starting point. Uganda being a least developed country, it is not required to implement the WTO-TRIPS requirements until 21st July 2021. The legislations being developed in Uganda however go beyond the WTO TRIPS provisions for LDC states as they seek to grant exclusive rights for control over seeds, and other genetic resources through patents, plant variety protection and use of new technology like genetic engineering to plant breeders. Most communities however, view this protection of life forms like seed as unethical and completely unacceptable. Given the importance of seed in the agricultural sector, private control over these plant varieties is not only likely to lead to loss of biodiversity but will also have a tremendous implication on the nature of farming and livelihoods of most small-scale farmers and local communities.

Against this background, SEATINI – Uganda with support from ActionAid International Uganda under the project “Promoting Pro-development seed related policies at national level” whose main aim is to enhance the capacity of stakeholders to influence seed related policies and farmers' rights commissioned a study to undertake an analysis of Uganda's seed related policies to establish the status and gaps therein and identify issues of concern for advocacy and name actors to be targeted.





1.2 Introduction

The guiding legislation for the seed industry in Uganda has progressed over the years but still remains a bewildering patchwork of imperfect and incomplete Acts, Bills and policies¹. A Plant Variety Protection Act 2014 was recently passed without much consultation from farmers, being the major stakeholders and disregard of civil society recommendations. A Seed and Plant Act was passed in 2006 but Regulations to operationalize it are still stuck in Parliament as are other draft bills on Plant Protection & Health; Food and Nutrition; and Biotechnology and Biosafety. The Seed Board, instituted under the 2006 Act to advise the Minister, has never met.

Furthermore, the laws developed do not adequately provide for the agricultural needs of small scale farmers in particular and Uganda's agriculture sector in general such as high cost of farm inputs, inadequate infrastructure as well as land tenure systems. Instead, emphasis has shifted to enforcing plant variety protection through affecting strict Intellectual Property legislations which limit farmers' and community participation in using their farm saved seed for agriculture production and trade. The discussions have therefore centered on the extent to which the laws protect the small scale farmers as well as indigenous/ traditional methods of plant breeding. The need to protect traditional farmers and their varieties from extortion and enable them to claim exclusive rights over the plant varieties they cultivate traditionally cannot be over emphasized. Furthermore, in order to enhance technology transfer and thus development within the agriculture sector, there is need for intellectual property legal frameworks that balance between protection of farmers' rights and the interests of plant breeders.

Given the importance of Agriculture in Uganda, private control over plant varieties is not only likely to lead to loss of bio-diversity but will have adverse effects on farmer's livelihoods in terms of food insecurity. More still, most of the laws on seed are commercial while others are sector

based laws leading to fragmentation of efforts and failure to adopt policy priorities.

There is an urgent need therefore for action from Civil Society Organizations to develop a uniform agenda to protect the communities and most especially small scale farmers and their varieties from the adverse effects of a poorly regulated sector as well as harmonizing the contradictions in the approaches taken in the agricultural sector.

As the country advances in legal reform, a number of gaps have been identified that need to be addressed like:

- There is no framework to govern the proliferation of genetically modified seeds
- The laws do not provide for compensation to small scale farmers in case their farms are contaminated by genetically modified crops
- The laws do not address exploitation of farmers by multinational profit-driven companies to introduce seeds that farmers must eventually buy to survive;
- The laws do not prioritize protection of naturally organic agricultural harvests or the rights of small scale farmers to cultivate indigenous plant species in perpetuity;
- The laws do not distinguish between small breeders who create hybrid plants using different varieties of the same plant and big commercial plant breeders that employ biotechnology to create genetically modified seeds; and
- The balance between commercialization of seed sector *visa vis* constitutional obligations on right to food and health.

1.3 Objectives of the study:

The main objective of the report is to analyze the some of the key seed related policies and laws in Uganda and establish a national level status, name the actors involved and give an analysis of the gaps in the country's seed related policies and their effects on access to seed and farmers' rights. The report will further determine benchmarks for target setting for seed policy advocacy within Uganda; identify key issues/

¹ Political Economy of Seed Reform in Uganda





concerns for advocacy on these issues within the country; and identify key strategies for civil society and stakeholders to undertake and the institutions to target in the advocacy work for pro development seed policies in Uganda.

The specific objectives of the analysis are:

- To establish the current status of the country's various seed related policies and laws
- To give an analysis of the gaps in the various national seed related legal frameworks
- To identify key areas/issues of concern which need to be addressed under these various documents (it is on these issues that civil society will base their analysis, consultation and advocacy)
- To name key actors/stakeholders involved in ensuring that the outcomes of these seed policies are pro development and contribute to protection of farmers' and community rights of access to seed.

1.4 Scope of the study

The analysis was carried out at national level where the findings were consolidated to establish a country understanding of the effect of the current seed policy trends in Uganda on future access to seed and protection of farmers' and community rights across the country. This guide therefore aims at identifying the emerging issues in some of Uganda's agricultural related policies and laws which include:

1. The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
2. The Plant Variety Protection Act 2014
3. The Plant Protection and Health Act 2013
4. The Plant and Seed Act 2006
5. The National Environment Act Cap 153
6. The Geographical Indications Act 2013
7. The Industrial Property Act 2014
8. The National Biotechnology and Bio-safety Bill 2012
9. The National Biotechnology and Bio-safety Policy 2009
10. The National Food and Nutrition Bill 2009

11. The draft National Seed Policy 2014
12. The Draft National Agricultural Policy 2011
13. Draft National Indigenous Knowledge Policy of Uganda 2004
14. The Food and Nutrition Policy 2003

1.5 Methodology

This study summarizes the findings and conclusions of a desk research which collected, considered and analyzed the seed related laws and policies in Uganda. The research centered on data collected from both official and independent sources, including published and unpublished reports, policy briefs and information guides.





SECTION TWO

Review of the Legal and Policy Framework

2.1 Introduction

Uganda's legal framework can be traced from the 1995 Constitution which provides for the utilization of natural resources including agricultural resources. The seed related laws can also be traced from the Agricultural Plants and Seeds statute of 1994 as well as the Plant Protection Act Cap 31.

As already indicated, Uganda has come up with a number of laws and policies to govern the seed sub sector. However these legal frameworks reveal a seed related policy trend that could adversely impact on the future attainment of food security, food sovereignty and the development of Uganda's agriculture sector in general. Some of these legal frameworks include:

- The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
- The Plant Variety Protection Act 2014
- The Plant Protection and Health Act 2014
- The Plant and Seed Act 2006
- The National Environment Act Cap 153
- The Geographical Indications Act 2013
- The Industrial Property Act 2013
- The National Biotechnology and Bio-safety Bill 2012
- The National Biotechnology and Bio-safety policy 2009
- The National Food and Nutrition Bill 2009
- The draft National Seed Policy 2014
- The Draft National Agricultural Policy 2011
- The National Indigenous Knowledge policy 2004
- The Food and Nutrition Policy 2003
- The key seed related issues which need

to be addressed under these documents include:

- The conflict between farmers' and community rights and Plant breeders rights;
- Procedure and duration of protection of Plant Breeders rights;
- Role of women in generation, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- Protection of indigenous breeds developed from traditional/customary practices
- Promotion of food security, food sovereignty and biological diversity in the face of Plant variety protection;
- Protection of indigenous plant varieties from contamination by genetically modified crops;
- Protection of small scale farmers from exploitation by commercial breeders;
- Contribution of the laws to the attainment of Uganda's sustainable economic development;
- Environmental sustainability, protection of biodiversity and ecological enhancement;
- Domestication of the WTO TRIPS flexibilities in the various laws;
- The regulations governing seed certification, importation and exportation;
- Safeguards on safety and health of the population.
- Promotion of traditional food systems and protection of small scale farmers' rights;
- Inclusive policy making processes/ effective stakeholder engagement





2.2 Key Policies and Instruments

2.2.1 Draft National Seed Policy 2014

The Policy was formulated to address concerns of the seed industry under the vision “competitive, profitable and sustainable market led, regulated and co-ordinated seed industry.” The objective of the policy is to ensure the availability of adequate, high quality and safe seed on the market in order to increase agricultural production and productivity for improved standards of living and food security through high quality seed.

The draft policy recognizes the presence of multi-stakeholder divergent seed interests and observes a need to have a regulated, coordinated and monitored seed industry as an entry point for ensuring sustainable food and agricultural production in the country. It considers seed as a national strategic agricultural input that can contribute to sustainable food supply and security.

To achieve its mission, the policy lays down a number of objectives which include:

- To guide the production, processing and distribution of high quality seed;
- To protect plant breeders and users rights;
- To support conservation and sustainable use of national plant genetic resources;
- To strengthen partnerships amongst public, private sector and civil society;
- To guide the transformation of the informal seed sector into a formal seed sector, including use of quality declared seed;
- To regulate the trans-boundary movement, of seed, including genetically modified seeds;
- To provide mechanisms for establishment and operation of strategic seed reserves;
- To provide for harmonization of national positions with regional and international conventions and protocols on seed trade.

Emerging issues and areas for advocacy:

Much as the draft seed policy talks of protecting local germ plasm and biodiversity, it does not clearly elaborate the strategies that will be put in place to ensure effective protection of local seed varieties and genes amidst a pretty fast growing biotechnology industry.

This Draft Policy does not seek to protect the rights of small scale farmers. The rights of plant breeders and those of small scale farmers should equally be observed and protected without discrimination.

Small scale farmers are the custodians of the indigenous seeds and therefore their knowledge should be sought, explored and protected as well.

The policy is still in draft form and quite a long way from approval. Even then, the policy should strive to address protection of farmers and communities that are affected by genetically modified seeds but instead aims at protecting plant breeders’ rights and does not put in place mechanisms to deal with the adverse effects of genetically modified varieties.

The policy provides that the farmers will only be allowed to sale or exchange own seed up to a time when they can access certified seed from merchants. The policy aims at putting control of seed trade into the hands of the private sector.

2.2.2 National Biotechnology and Bio-safety Policy 2009

The National Biotechnology and Bio-safety policy provides a framework for safe application of Biotechnology in order to contribute to Uganda’s economic growth and transformation. The policy is in line with the aspirations of the various stakeholders in Uganda and is consistent with the principles laid out in the National Environment Act as well as the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety that commits parties including Uganda to put in place measures for ensuring the safe transfer and handling of GMO’s.





The policy states that enhancement of biotechnology application should augment government efforts to develop and modernize the economy.

The policy lays down the importance of modern biotechnology to development to include; offering robust options for addressing current challenges to sustainable development especially in regard to agriculture, environment and industry. The changing climate, environment damage, ecosystem deterioration, declining food production amidst rising population and increasing demand for food call for new and innovative approaches that can cope up with the demand for environment services.

The policy envisages that biotechnology will be a means of ensuring sustainable food security for the growing population, play a vital role in the development and manufacture of pharmaceuticals and create a conducive environment for the effective utilization of bio-resources.

The policy outlines a number of challenges facing biotechnology development to include the limited public awareness in biotechnology research and development and misinformation with regard to techniques, basic applications and safety of new and emerging technologies; lack of a code of ethics in biotechnology research in Uganda and the inadequate funding for biotechnology innovation and development. The little funding available is mainly from foreign sources whose research agendas may not necessarily reflect national priorities for development. All these challenges highlighted in the policy indicate how the limited public awareness could affect the small farmer's engagement.

The Policy further lays down its objectives which include: promoting the utilization of biotechnology products and processes as tools for national development; providing for a regulatory and institutional framework for safe and sustainable biotechnology development and application and promoting ethical standards in biotechnology research and development. If well

implemented, these objectives would go a long way in ensuring the inclusion of the small scale farmer's needs into the policy implementation. Indeed, the policy proposes a number of actions that the Government undertakes to pursue and these include:

- A strong emphasis will be placed on biotechnology and bio-safety R&D in priority areas of food and agriculture, health, industry, environment and natural resources development;
- Strategies to be put in place to increase public understanding and participation in biotechnology and bio-safety development;
- Putting in place mechanisms to develop and apply biotechnology in accordance with acceptable societal morals and national and international norms and standards;
- Integration of indigenous knowledge in the development and application of modern biotechnology; and
- Putting in place strategic partnerships for fostering synergistic linkages among public and private research institutions, civil society as well as the international community in the implementation of this policy.

While the policy statement as stipulated under this policy mirrors a bright future of community inclusion into the Biotechnology and safety issues, the gap has always been in implementation of policies and this will be the point of departure.

The objectives laid down in the policy are yet to be implemented and this is a disadvantage to the development of sound biotechnology systems that adequately cater for small scale farmer's rights.

As an area for advocacy, civil society should look at engaging the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology towards implementation of the objectives set out in the biotechnology policy.

The policy also lacks clear strategies that can lead to the parallel promotion of agriculture based on biotechnology alongside the conventional one to offer a menu of choices for





the producers and consumers of agricultural products and services.

2.2.3 Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy 2003

In order to improve the nutritional status of the population, the Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) formulated the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy (UFNP) to complement, in part, the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture whose components do not directly address food and nutrition security.

The overall objective of the policy is to promote the nutritional status of the people of Uganda through multi-sectoral and coordinated interventions that focus on food security, improved nutrition and increased incomes.

The policy emphasizes the need to look beyond increasing agricultural production to find solutions to the large number of undernourished children by promoting in accordance with the Constitution, the nutritional status of all the people of Uganda through multi-sectoral and coordinated interventions that focus on food security, improved nutrition, and increased incomes.

Other objectives of the policy include:

- To ensure availability, accessibility, affordability of food in the quantities and qualities sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals sustainably;
- To promote good nutrition of all the population
- To incorporate food and nutrition issues in the national, district, sub-county and sectoral development plans;
- To ensure that nutrition education and training is incorporated in formal and informal training in order to improve the knowledge and attitudes for behavioural change of communities in food and nutrition-related matters;
- To ensure food and income security at household, sub-county, district and national levels for improving the nutrition as well as

the socio-economic status of the population;

- To monitor the food and nutrition situation in the country

The policy identified challenges to food and nutrition in Uganda to include: Food supply and accessibility; Food processing and preservation; Food storage, marketing and distribution; and Food standards and quality control.

The policy also spells out the multi-sectoral character of any effort to address under nutrition effectively. It reiterates that the implementation of the policy should be undertaken in a multi-sectoral manner for which there will be a need for an autonomous coordinating body at national level. This coordinating body should be linked with relevant multi-sectoral committees dealing with food and nutrition at local government levels.

The policy proposes a couple of strategies to implement its objectives and these include:

- Creating a mechanism to ensure that the entire food chain, from food production to consumption, is efficiently managed within the overall development strategy; through building capacities at all levels (households, communities, local councils, sub-counties, district levels) for adequate action to improve household food security;
- Establishing the Uganda Food and Nutrition Council (UFNC) as a statutory body that will co-ordinate food and nutrition programmes at the national level;
- Integrating food and nutrition issues at local governments and lower administrative units;
- Developing appropriate nutrition curricula and training materials for the education and training of different development workers in formal institutions and at the local level;
- Mobilizing resources to support food and nutrition programmes at the national and local levels;
- Enforcing regulations that safeguard the health of personnel handling agricultural inputs and by-products, as well as third parties likely to be affected;
- Enforcing environmental protection regulations that apply to the food chain;
- Supporting, promoting and guiding the





- establishment of national food reserves;
- Formulating and/or reviewing policies, guidelines, legislation, regulations and standards relating to food and nutrition;
- Establishing a national food and nutrition training centre;
- Developing human resources that will provide professional guidance in food and nutrition at the centre and throughout the districts
- Collaborating with line ministries and government departments, local and international Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and the private sector in the implementation of the policy
- Supporting research into GM products.

Emerging Issues for Advocacy:

The government has come up with the food and nutrition bill as one of the mechanisms for implementing the above strategies, however, as an area for advocacy, civil society should look at advocating for implementation of the above strategies, to date, the food and nutrition council has never been set up. Collaboration with NGO's and other departments has been minimal and implementation of the strategies has stalled.

As part of ensuring access to safe and nutritious foods, advocacy groups need to ensure that they engage government on discouraging controversial genetically-modified (GM) food, seeds or livestock, which are still controversial. This is critical for mitigating unknown effects on agriculture, health and the environment. This should be followed by promoting the availability of recommended high-yielding seeds.

2.2.4 National Agricultural Policy 2011

The policy was developed to guide all actors in the agricultural sector to make investments that will increase agricultural incomes, reduce poverty and improve household food and nutrition security, create employment and stimulate overall economic growth. The policy lays down the challenges facing the agricultural sector to include:

- Low production and productivity caused by limited use of productivity enhancing inputs such as improved seed, fertilizers as well as stocking material.
- Limited post harvest handling and value addition to agricultural products leading to high post harvest losses, this is caused by lack of access to affordable technology (know-how and machinery), as well as the medium to long term financing for this type of investment;
- Weak policy and regulatory environment: there have been shortfalls in some of these, especially maintaining consistence around agricultural policies in the last ten years. Existence of multiple initiatives does not help the agricultural sector. In fact it has created policy uncertainty for different stakeholders.

The policy sets objectives for grappling with the challenges facing the sector and these include:

- To promote food and nutrition security and household incomes through coordinated interventions that focus on enhancing sustainable agricultural productivity and value addition, providing employment opportunities, and promoting domestic and international trade.
- Ensure household and national food and nutrition security for all Ugandans
- Increase incomes of farming households from crops, livestock, fisheries and all other agricultural related activities
- Promote specialization in strategic, profitable and viable enterprises and value addition through agro-zoning
- Promote domestic, regional and international trade in agricultural products.
- Ensure sustainable use and management of agricultural resources
- Develop human resources for agricultural development

The policy sets down strategies to implement the stated objectives, and civil society advocacy should focus on pushing for ministry implementations of these strategies. They include:

- Promote agricultural enterprises that enable households to earn daily, periodic and long-





term incomes to support food purchases.

- Develop and improve food handling, marketing and distribution systems and linkages to local and export markets.
- Support the establishment of a strategic food reserve system at all levels.
- Support the development of a well coordinated system for collecting, collating and disseminating information on food and nutrition security to households and communities.
- Encourage and support local governments to enact and enforce by-laws and ordinances regarding household food security
- Facilitate farmers to organize themselves into production and marketing groups or cooperatives to increase their bargaining power and better service delivery.
- Strengthen capacity for pest, weed, disease, vermin and vector control at all levels.
- Generate, demonstrate and disseminate appropriate, safe and cost-effective agricultural technologies and research services
- Establish and enforce standards and quality assurance for agricultural products to compete in domestic, regional and international markets.
- Develop and expand nationwide a sustainable market information system that is accessible to all the stakeholders.
- Develop and implement a policy and regulatory framework for biotechnology in agriculture.

Emerging issues and areas for advocacy

The policy focuses on improved seed as a way of enhancing productivity but does not look at the challenges posed by this action. As such, it's critical that advocacy efforts are put towards ensuring that a comprehensive approach is adopted to promote sustainable agriculture and propose alternatives to "enhancing" inputs.

The policy also highlights the fact that the laws and policies have been inconsistent and contradictory making it hard for stakeholders to have a uniform agenda for the agricultural sector. It is thus important that harmony in laws

and policies is advocated for if this policy is to achieve its set objectives.

The policy objectives are talking points which civil society can focus their advocacy and monitoring programs.

The policy also lays down strategies for the implementation of its objectives most of which have not been implemented, civil society can advocate for implementation of these strategies to protect small scale farmers from advanced effects of Genetic modification.

2.2.5 The Draft National Indigenous Knowledge Policy for Uganda (2004)

Indigenous knowledge (IK) is an important resource that contributes to social and economic needs, community sustainability and sustainable development. IK holders use it to exploit, manage and conserve their environments. In Uganda, a wide diversity of IK exists such as that associated with traditional medicine. However, IK is undergoing rapid change and is weakening because of factors that include the outside influence of western cultures and inadequate documentation.

Indigenous knowledge is a strategic technology for national development and most especially within the agriculture sector. For generations, smallholder farmers have contributed to the development of the seed sub sector in particular and the agriculture sector in general through the use of indigenous knowledge.

Indigenous Knowledge is defined in the draft policy as 'a pool of beliefs, values, and, institutional and technological practices developed by individuals and or communities for their problems, and making sense of the world through rituals, rules, and a kind of ready beconer of do's and don'ts in the wake of uncertainties'.

The draft Indigenous Knowledge Policy recognizes the importance of Indigenous





Knowledge in the agricultural sector by observing that the sector has been sustained by indigenous farming systems like agro forestry/ intercropping, pest management, soil fertility and conservation management, and post harvest technologies.

The vision of the policy is 'a Uganda that is fully utilizing Indigenous Knowledge for socio-economic development and advancement of mankind'. It aims to integrate Indigenous Knowledge into the social, political, and economic development processes in Uganda, and to promote the application of Indigenous Knowledge as an important development tool in development.

Objectives of the Draft IK policy, 2004

- To build capacity at national, regional and local level to document, disseminate, add value, convert innovations and IK into enterprises and protect IPRs of the knowledge holders.
- To build a national register of innovations and IK so that people-to-people learning can be promoted.
- To build national and regional technology networks around specific problem areas such as malaria control, or sustainable plant protection, stemming soil erosion, developing farm machinery for effective land utilization.
- To strengthen capacity of local communities to build local IK stock registers at village level or regional level.
- To encourage use of ICTs in achieving various goals of IK policy so that asymmetry in knowledge, information and skills can be overcome.
- To integrate IKS in educational curricula as well as pedagogy at different levels so that future leaders of society will grow with better and more positive outlook towards IK.
- To establish a National Innovation and Traditional Knowledge Augmentation Foundation (NIKAF) supported by UNCST to achieve the above objectives.
- To develop appropriate legal and regulatory framework that regulates, protects and

fosters cooperation among various stakeholders at national and international level.

However, the draft policy does not indicate any examples of documented IK in Agriculture.

Considering the multi-sectoral nature and demand for IK, the institutional framework for policy implementation presented is lacking.

Whereas UNCST may take the lead in coordination of policy implementation, the various sectors and their roles need to be identified and outlined respectively.

Emerging Advocacy Issues:

Indigenous Knowledge comprises knowledge which has been developed by local communities over generations, but which still continues to be developed. It is not static, it evolves and generates new information as a result of improvements and adaptation to changing circumstances.

Indigenous knowledge (IK) has a role to play for households and community well-being in Uganda. However, IK is undergoing significant change and is on the decline in Uganda because of factors such as acculturation or the loss of IK through exposure to external cultures

The need to protect IK as it relates to food and agriculture arises from the recognition that current IPR regimes in particular plant breeders' rights do not recognize and reward the local communities and farmers whose knowledge, innovations and practices have preserved the indigenous seed for generation.

These play an important role in nurturing and making available plant genetic resources which are the basis of modern plant breeding. Other concerns include the rapid loss of Indigenous knowledge and the need to promote such knowledge in ensuring conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. The protection of Indigenous Knowledge is therefore a critical element in the equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of plant genetic





resources for food and agriculture.

There is inadequate documentation of indigenous knowledge hence creating a barrier to its transmission and yet there is an urgent need to protect IK as it disappears when its custodians die or migrate.

In 1998, UNCST made a formal declaration in which it recognized the role of IK in improving and sustaining the lives of Ugandans and therefore called for the promotion of the IK systems of local communities to improve their social and economic statuses. UNCST also works to ensure that IK custodians share benefits with counterparts interested in developing products using IK. There is need to follow up on this declaration with UNSCT as a major stakeholder in seed related laws and policies in Uganda.

A good institutional and legal framework to support IK exists in Uganda. What is missing at present is a focused and coordinated plan of action to conserve and promote IK. There is also a need, however, to demonstrate that IK can contribute to national development using local resources and skills.

There is also a need to raise awareness, through dissemination among the community, of the most appropriate knowledge and technologies, and the benefits of adopting them.

Cases of the identified IK/Innovations in Uganda need to be indicated in the background of the policy to emphasize the importance of IK.

The various stakeholders (including civil society) to implement the policy and their roles need to be identified and elaborated.

The sectors where IK is useful like agriculture need to be tasked in this policy to spearhead integration and promotion of IK in their respective operational jurisdictions.

2.2.6 Agriculture Development strategy and Investment plan 2010

Like the National Agriculture policy, the Agriculture development strategy and investment plan looks at the performance of the agricultural sector and its contribution to the national economy in terms of poverty reduction, food and nutrition security as well as employment.

The strategy also looks at the challenges to agricultural performance as well as the institutions concerned with development of the agricultural sector. It then lays down the investment plans and development strategies for the agricultural sector. The plans and strategies are broad and inclusive of all aspects of the agricultural sector. However, for purposes of this advocacy guide, the research will focus on the strategies in relation to the seed sector.

The Investment plan provides for the strengthening of the regulatory framework for input businesses by addressing the constraints that limit entry and effective participation in the inputs market is essential to improve competitiveness and efficiency.

The plan states that despite the fact that the whole country relies on this market, it is inefficient with high costs and low margins.

Activities to address this will include:

- · Review and strengthen the regulations for agricultural inputs;
- · Build capacity and will for enforcing regulations;
- · Enhance the capacity of the responsible institutions to effectively and efficiently carry out regulation by training and equipping inspectors;
- · Register agricultural input dealers and carry post-registration surveillance to verify the quality of inputs in the market;
- · Improve infrastructure for agricultural input quality control including the Namalere pesticide analytical laboratory and seed laboratory at Kawanda (this will involve





staff training as well as procurement and installation of equipment);

- · Encourage an increase in the certification of seed. Farmers need to be able to trust the seed they are buying and government can assist with this by supporting a reliable seed certification process under which a given seed is declared officially “certified” if it can be shown to have been grown from a proven, tested and recognized genetic source and if it has the stipulated germination percentage, purity, health and moisture content.
- · Improve enforcement of the rules. Without this, the inputs market will not develop because emerging suppliers and agri-input dealers cannot be protected from unscrupulous traders who disseminate counterfeit seed varieties, for example, undermining farmer confidence and snatching market share; and
- · Review the business model of NSCS. Eventually it must become an autonomous regulatory body capable of imposing fines, contracting out inspection services to the private sector, and retaining revenues from inspection fees and variety testing services. Seed companies have expressed willingness to pay higher fees for inspection if inspection services are timely and reliable. Such financial and operational autonomy would enable NSCS to maintain staff quality, improve inspection services, upgrade laboratory facilities to a level necessary to retain OECD and ISTA certification, and ensure final seed quality. It would also allow NSCS to expand services to meet the growing needs of the industry in the long term

As an investment program, the plan is to provide seed companies with access to foundation seed (and/or breeder seed) from public sources, at a cost

- · Support commercial input businesses by encouraging government institutions including LGs, development partners and humanitarian agencies, to procure agricultural inputs through the networks of input dealers;
- · Establish incentives for input dealers to invest in producing, distributing and

importing inputs by: making seed businesses eligible for support under SME programmes and Consider tax and other incentives to encourage investment in production facilities.

2.2.7 Vision 2040

Over the last 30 years, Uganda’s planning frameworks have focused on short to medium term horizons. However, experience shows that long term planning is a key factor in propelling socioeconomic development and equitable distribution of wealth in many countries all over the world. The vision sets out the constraints to Uganda’s development and these include: poor infrastructure, low and inappropriate skills, weak financial markets, high incidence of corruption among others.

The vision looks at agriculture as one of the opportunities for spurring national development. Agricultural production in Uganda is mainly dominated by smallholder farmers engaged in food and industrial crops, forestry, horticulture, fishing and livestock farming. The country is one of the leading producers of coffee and bananas in the World.

It is also a major producer of tea, cotton, tobacco, cereals, and livestock and fishing products among many others. The opportunity for value addition through agro processing is enormous. This will enhance Uganda’s competitiveness on the world market, boost foreign exchange earnings and employment.

It can also reduce wastage, enhance food security, improve livelihoods for low-income groups and empower disadvantaged groups of society like rural women, youth and the disabled.

With the agricultural sector projected as one of the major opportunities for achieving vision 2040, there is need to ensure an efficient legal and regulatory framework to promote sustainable agriculture.





2.3 The Laws

2.3.1 Introduction

The laws were formulated to provide for implementation of the policies, however, most of the policies are still in draft form and yet the laws have been passed by Parliament. The research looked into the constitutionality of the laws as well as weaknesses in promoting the growth of the seed sector as well as sustainable agriculture.

2.3.2 The 1995 Constitution (As Amended) of the Republic of Uganda

The Constitution of The Republic of Uganda came into force in 1995 and later amended in 2005.

Objective xxvii provides for the utilization of natural resources of Uganda which shall be managed in such a way as to meet the development and environmental needs of present and future generations of Ugandans. It also provides for the rational use of natural resources so as to safeguard and protect the bio-diversity of Uganda.

From the foregoing, it can be seen that the need to protect and safeguard the bio-diversity of Uganda is pertinent in the country's primary law of which seed and plant related policies form a big part.

Objective XIV which provides for General social and economic objectives under the constitution provides that the State shall endeavor to fulfill the fundamental rights of all Ugandans to social justice and economic development and shall, in particular, ensure that—(a) all developmental efforts are directed at ensuring the maximum social and cultural well-being of the people; and (b) all Ugandans enjoy rights and opportunities and access to education, health services, clean and safe water, work, decent shelter, adequate clothing, food security and pension and retirement benefits.

Article 1 (1) of the Constitution provides that all power belongs to the people who shall exercise their sovereignty in accordance with the Constitution. Therefore laws made in Uganda should take into consideration the sovereign interests of the people of Uganda.

Article 2(1) of the Constitution provides that the Constitution is the supreme law of Uganda with binding authority on all persons and authorities. Any law that is inconsistent with the constitution is null and void to the extent of the inconsistency. Chapter 4 of the constitution provides for fundamental human rights and much as the right to food is not specifically provided, Article 45 provides that the rights mentioned in chapter 4 shall not be regarded as excluding those not mentioned. Article 39, specifically provides for the right to a clean and healthy environment. XXVIII objective on Foreign policy of the constitution provides for promotion of national interests of Uganda. Article 8A under clause 2 of the constitution provides that parliament shall make relevant laws for the purpose of giving full effect to clause 1 which provides that Uganda shall be governed based on principles of national interest and common good enshrined in the national objectives and directive principles of state policy.

2.3.3 Seeds and Plant Act 2006

The Seeds and Plant Act 2006, was assented to by the President on 30th January 2006 and commenced on 29th June 2007. The Act was enacted to provide for the promotion, regulation and control of plant breeding and variety release, multiplication, conditioning, marketing, importing and quality assurance of seeds and other planting materials. The Act though a strategy in the seed policy was enacted while the policy is still in draft form.

The Act simply lays down a list of institutions charged with regulation and control of plant breeding and variety release. Section 3 of the Plant and Seeds Act 2006 establishes the National Seed Board whose function shall be to advise the minister on national seed





policy, advise the minister on seed production and maintenance and giving advice to plant breeding organizations on market and farmer's requirements among others.

Section 6 of the Act provides for a committee whose primary function is to approve new varieties. Section 8 provides for the seed certification service whose main function is to receive and test new varieties intended for release including accredit and license as well as seed sampling and seed testing in laboratories as well as carrying out variety trials.

Emerging issues and areas for advocacy

Article 12(1) of the Act is unnecessarily restrictive in as far as it requires all seeds offered for sale to be properly labeled and sealed making it illegal for farmers to sell seeds to their neighbors. This inhibits free trade of seeds among farmers. Civil society advocacy should focus on amendment of such restrictions that inhibit trade among farmers.

In addition, the National Food and Medicines Authority should be included on the list of regulatory authorities identified for regulating GM seeds under article 12(5).

The Act generally complies with the constitution; however areas that violate farmer's rights need to be ironed out.

2.3.4 Plant Protection and Health Bill 2010

This Bill currently tabled before parliament is proposed to consolidate and reform the law relating to protection of plants against destructive diseases, pests and weeds, to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms that may adversely affect Uganda's agriculture and regulate export and import of plant and plant products so as to protect and enhance international reputation of Uganda's agricultural products.

Clause 5 of the Bill states that the Bill seeks to repeal and replace the Plant Protection Act

Cap 96. Clause 3 of the Bill provides for a phyto-sanitation and inspection service in the department responsible for crop protection and shall be responsible for the protection of the agricultural resources of Uganda from harmful organisms that exist or could be introduced in the country. Clause 11 of the Bill gives an inspector powers to enter any land or building at all reasonable hours for the purpose of discovering harmful organisms or diseases in any plant products.

Under Clause 14 of the Bill prohibits the importation of harmful plant products or organism into Uganda except under conditions specified and these include situations where a permit has been issued or where the products are imported through a point of entry specified under the Act. Clause 15 of the Bill provides for importation of otherwise prohibited products for research purposes where the minister is satisfied that the importation will not cause a significant threat to the agriculture industry in Uganda.

Emerging issues and areas for advocacy

It should be noted that much as the bill seeks to protect farmers from contamination by genetically modified crops, the bill does not specifically provide for compensation incase their farms are contaminated by genetically modified crops.

This Bill provides for the establishment of the National Plant Protection Authority to oversee and coordinate efforts aimed at preventing and controlling the spread of pests and diseases in the sector. It is apparent that there is inability to deal with issues of plant protection, disease and pest identification, and implementation of an early warning system for pests and diseases. There is need to ensure that the proposal of the Authority is followed by the establishment of control points at all entry points in the country.

2.3.5 Biotechnology and Bio-safety Bill 2012

In 1993, Uganda ratified the convention on Biological Diversity and subsequently, the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety in November





2001. Article 17 of the Cartagena Protocol requires Uganda to provide for emergency measures to deal with unintentional release of GMO's, hence the Biotechnology and Bio-safety Bill.

It is stated in the preamble that the object of the Bill is to provide a regulatory framework that facilitates the safe development and application of biotechnology where biotechnology is defined to mean any technique that uses living organisms or substances from living organisms to make or modify a product, improve plant animal breeds or micro-organisms for specific purposes and Bio-safety is defined to mean the safe development, transfer and application of biotechnology products.

The framers of the Bill argue that the use of modern biotechnology which involves the use of genetic engineering techniques to transfer useful characteristics like disease resistance or drought tolerance will create opportunities for modernization of agriculture, protection of the environment and enhance public health and industrialization.

Clause 6 designates the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology as the competent Authority for biotechnology and bio-safety. The Bill proposes to give the council specific functions relating to regulating the development and use of biotechnology including the approval of research and development of genetically modified organisms as well as safety of biotechnology to human health and the environment during, development, testing and use of GMOs.

Clause 29 emphasizes safety in using biotechnology by providing for measures to be taken to minimize or avoid risk to human health or the environment arising from actual or potential contact with a Genetically Modified Organism (GMO).

In its current form, the biotechnology and bio-safety bill like the Plant Variety Protection Act is aligned towards the interests of multinational companies as opposed to the interests of

Ugandan small holder farmers and the public at large. The Bill seeks to promote massive introduction of genetically modified seeds which will increase farmer's dependency on the agro-industry. Small scale farmers will be obliged to buy costly patented seeds as well as expensive "TOXIC" pesticides and fertilizers.

The Bill can be applauded for its clauses specifying penalties for a range of crimes committed by those involved in research of genetically modified crops, however, compared to the adverse effects, the penalties are not stringent enough. 120 currency points, the equivalent of Two Million Ugandan shillings is not deterrent enough for the effect the crimes will have on the environment as well as health. The bill is informed from the Biotechnology and bio-safety policy.

Emerging issues and areas for advocacy

While the development of a biotechnology and bio-safety Bill may be good for the country, institutional mechanisms should be in place to guide the science and mitigate potential impacts. There are reports that the country is already engaging in GM activities i.e. GMO trials without the appropriate scientific and technological capacity which may have adverse effects on the communities. There is a general lack of transparency and public participation in the process of coming up with a legal and policy framework for biotechnology and bio-safety.

The bill in its form promotes private sector driven technology that ultimately increases the cost of agriculture. The Bill also provides for risk assessment however it is still inadequate as the risk assessment procedures required by the bill focus on the products and ignore the process leaving the environment at a risk.² It is also important to highlight that designating the UNCST as the competent authority in charge for bio-safety and biotechnology is unrealistic.

Other key concerns that warrant advocacy include: the need for an expedited review; making mention of precautionary principle;

2 ACODE (2008): Uganda and the biotechnology revolution, update and emerging issues. Info sheet No.5 of 2008





integrating mechanisms for public participation; providing details on liability in case of leakages and also including provisions for compensations to be made to farmers whose indigenous varieties are contaminated by GM activities.

2.3.6 Plant Variety Protection Act 2014

The Plant Variety Protection Act 2014 was assented to by the President of Uganda on the 21st June 2014 but currently does not have a commencement date. The preamble states that the Act is meant to provide for promotion and development of new plant varieties and their protection as a means of enhancing breeders innovations and rewards through granting of plant breeders rights and other related matters.

Section 2 of the Act specifically provides that the purpose of the Act is to recognize and protect the rights of breeders over the varieties developed by them, provide institutional mechanisms for the effective implementation and enforcement of the rights of breeders, promote the supply of good quality seed or planting materials to farmers in order to strengthen the food security of the nation among others. Section 15 provides for exemptions to plant breeders rights but this is only in situations where the varieties are not used for commercial purposes.

Section 13 of the Act provides for rights of Plant breeders which include the right to sell and export plant varieties, the exclusive rights to produce and license other persons to produce reproductive materials of plants of that variety. It is worth noting that though the Act specifically provides for Plant breeders rights, it does not outline farmers rights, albeit the persons adversely affected by Intellectual Property protection of Plant varieties.

Section 19 provides for terms of protection for plant breeders rights for a period of twenty years for annual crops and twenty five years for perennials, these are long periods of time for commercial plant breeders to dominate

the agricultural market and exploit small scale farmers for commercial gain.

Section 20 and 29 of the Act provide for testing of plant breeds brought into the country. It is worth noting that the testing is only aimed at finding out if the breeds have the qualities they claim to have and not necessarily to ascertain if the breeds are safe and will not contaminate indigenous breeds in Uganda.

Perhaps a ray of light in this one sided law can be seen in section 17 which provides for restriction of plant breeders rights in public interest as well as situations where national food security is threatened among others.

Emerging issues and areas for advocacy

From the foregoing, it can be seen that the framers of the Act were more interested in protecting plant breeders as opposed to indigenous small scale farmers., The Act entrenches the rights of breeders and multinational companies while curtailing the rights of small scale farmers to exchange, save and breed new varieties using hybrid seeds for a period of twenty to twenty five years beyond the TRIPS flexibilities for least developed countries.

The Act does not protect or recognize traditional knowledge as a form of Intellectual Property that needs to be protected.

The provisions further grant plant breeders the exclusive rights to control the supply of new plant varieties. By granting exclusive rights to control the supply of new plants varieties, the clauses in effect place control of the country's agriculture sector in general and food supply in particular in the hands of a few private sector individuals/ companies whose major objective is profit maximization.

Furthermore, the Act does not balance the generous favours it offers the breeder with the legitimate interests and rights of the small scale farmers and communities that use the seeds for their contribution to plant genetic diversity. There is no effort to reward farmers for their





contribution to plant genetic diversity by not protecting them from extortion and harassment when they save and plant or exchange seeds from prior purchases.

The Act does not protect traditional knowledge on traditional varieties or the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the use of traditional varieties³. This may also threaten the preservation of traditional knowledge in agricultural practices. This follows the fact that those claiming IPRs in plant genetic resources and plant varieties often utilize such knowledge without adequately acknowledging the contributions of the communities that possess it.

The Act does not protect the right of farmers to participate in making decisions at the national level on matters connected to sustainable use of plant varieties.

The Act also leaves out the communities, as direct custodians of traditional plant varieties, their right to collectively benefit from the use of their plant varieties; and their technologies, knowledge, innovations and practices acquired through generations is not mentioned in the Act. The failure of the Act to recognize and protect farmers' and community rights will erode the efforts of farmers and their communities to enrich and sustainably manage agricultural biodiversity which is the basis of agricultural production and livelihoods for many Ugandans.

Without recognizing and protecting farmers' and community rights, instead of promoting "sustainability of cropping systems" and strengthening national food security as some of its major intended objectives, the proposed plant variety protection legislation not only threatens to compromise household and national food security, but could also endanger the country's national food security.

A number of plant varieties have been developed using government resources or combination of both government and private sector funds. Technology developed using government

resources is publicly owned and as such should be available for the general public use.

2.4 Other seed related policies and legal frameworks

2.4.1 The National Environment Act Cap 153 (1998)

The National Environment Act (NEA) is an act to provide for sustainable management of the environment; to establish an authority as a coordinating, monitoring and supervisory body for the purpose; and for other matters incidental to or connected with the foregoing.

The act defines environment as the physical factors of the surroundings of human beings, including land, water, atmosphere, climate, sound, odour, taste, the biological factors of animals and plants and the social factors of aesthetics and includes both the natural and the built environment.

The Act has several provisions for conservation of natural resources including land upon which Sustainable Agriculture depends. It begins by appealing to all stakeholders of the environment to participate in its protection and conservation. For instance, it provides the principles for environment management, Article 2 clause b) the act provides that these are:

- To encourage the maximum participation of the people of Uganda in the development of policies, plans, and processes for the management of the environment';
- To use and conserve the environment and natural resources for Uganda equitably and for the benefit of both present and future generations, taking into account the rate of population growth and the productivity of the available resources';
- To maintain stable functioning relations between the living and non-living parts of the environment through preserving biological diversity and respecting the principle of Optimum Sustainable yield in the use of natural resources'; and

3 SEATINI, (2010): Uganda's Analysis on Plant Variety Protection Bill 2010, where are the farmers and community rights





- To reclaim lost ecosystems where possible and to reverse the degradation of natural resources’.

The Act also has regulations, the National Environment (access to genetic resources and benefit sharing regulations 2005) these regulations apply to access to genetic resources or parts of genetic resources whether naturally occurring or naturalized including genetic resources bred for commercial purposes within Uganda or for export, whether in-situ conditions or ex-situ conditions. The regulations however do not apply to the exchange of genetic resources where the exchange is done by a local community among themselves and for their own consumption; or where the exchange is certified to be purely for food or other consumptive purposes as prescribed by the relevant laws. They also do not apply to the transit of genetic resources through Uganda; to access to genetic resources derived from plant breeders as defined by the laws relating to plant breeding and plant variety; to human genetic resources.

Section 1(3) on the right to a decent environment provides that every person has a right to a healthy environment and the act further provides for the establishment of local environment committees and mandates them to act against any person whose activities or omissions have or are likely to have a significant impact on the environment. In the third schedule on projects to be considered for environmental impact assessment under the National Environmental Act, large-scale agriculture; use of new pesticides; introduction of new crops and animals; and use of fertilizers, are listed under agriculture .

Emerging issues for advocacy:

The compensation referred to under Article 76 of the Act on compensation for environmental easement only refers to land and yet the environment goes beyond land and may include indigenous plants and animals that could be contaminated by GMO and thus require compensation to be made to the owner.

The third schedule should include research and development as one of the projects to be considered for impact assessment. This

will ensure that research and technological development being undertaken in plants and animals for new varieties is assessed to avoid possible risks to human life and biodiversity.

2.4.2 The Food and Nutrition Bill 2009

The Bill which is currently before parliament was drafted from the food and nutrition policy 2003. It is proposed to provide for the enjoyment of the right to food, to establish a food and nutrition council as well as food and nutrition committees at the county and sub-county level and their functions. Section 3 of the proposed Act outlines the purpose to include: recognizing, promoting, protecting and fulfilling the right to food as a fundamental human right. The Bill also seeks to provide a legal basis for implementing the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy and to guide the planning, budging and implementing the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy using rights -based approach and to ensure the participation of rights holders and the accountability of duty bearers. The other objectives of the Policy include: ensuring the integration of the needs of the vulnerable in food and nutrition strategies; promoting public education and sensitization on food and nutrition especially in rural areas to enhance the impact on food and nutrition security; and promoting the drawing up of strategies to respond to food and nutrition concerns at all levels of Government.

Section 5 provides that everyone has a right to food and be free from hunger and under nutrition and places the duty to fulfill this right on the state. Section 7 of the Bill prohibits any activities that may affect the enjoyment of the right to food or activities that are detrimental to ones nutrition status and this can include any acts that affect the seed sovereignty of Ugandans.

Emerging issues and key areas for advocacy

The Bill proposes a fine of twelve currency points for persons who engage in activities that infringe on the right to food. This punishment is not deterrent enough to stop activities of multinational companies engaged





in plant genetic modification that may affect the availability of food. The Bill provides for responsibilities of the head of household under section 8 but does not provide for responsibilities of Government in protecting and enhancing the right to food.

The Bill under section 38 mandates the Council to ensure that a person suffering from hunger or under nutrition or who is at risk of suffering from hunger or under nutrition is provided with a minimum amount of food, but does not specify who will provide the food.

The Bill gives no reference to measures to be undertaken to ensure that the country is food sovereign. The concept of food and nutrition security cannot be discussed or achieved without giving consideration to food sovereignty. Food sovereignty is a mechanism that guarantees the rights of people, communities and countries to define their own food, agriculture, fishing and land policies and systems that are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances.

2.4.3. Geographical Indications Act 2013

This Act was assented to on 1st October 2013 and a commencement date is yet to be communicated. The Act was enacted to provide for the protection and registration of geographical indications. The rationale for the Act was that countries were taking advantage of the fact that there is no legal framework in the country governing geographical indications to take on Ugandan products as their own. The position of Uganda is sympathetic to the cause of developing countries to the effect that registered products should be protected by all WTO members including the non-participating ones. The Act aims at supporting this position.

Proponents of the law argued that viable Geographical indications essentially build a legally protected brand and a reputation in the marketplace. They are not easy to achieve and

also not easy to erode because they depend less on common factors of competition in the field of agricultural food production such as costs of production⁴.

Geographical indications are necessary for quality controls; they have helped customer confidence and quality in the products as such. Geographical Indications protection is a “tool of sustainable development” capable of protecting traditional knowledge and promoting local community production.

It was also argued that geographical branding of agricultural products will enable small scale farmers and producers to leverage the commercial value of their products and enhance rural livelihoods⁵.

Section 4 prohibits the use of a geographical indication in the presentation of goods where the designation or presentation suggests that the goods originate in a geographical area other than the true place of origin, where the use constitutes an act of unfair competition. The section also prohibits the use of misleading indications, indications meant to cause confusion with competitors as well as using a generic name.

Section 5 provides for indications that are excluded from protection and these include, an indication that does not comply with the definition of geographical indication, an indication contrary to public order or morality, an indication contrary to public interest, an indication which ceases to be protected in its country of origin as well as an indication which misleads or deceives the public as to the characteristic and nature, quality, place of production, place of origin of the product or its use.

Emerging issues for consideration and areas for advocacy

The key aspect to note from a seeds perspective

- 4 Uganda Law Reform Commission workshop report, advocacy workshop for the Western Region securities Bill No.12 Of 2009 and the Geographical Indications Bill No.3 of 2008
- 5 Mpeirwe, A. (2003): WTO Negotiations on Geographical Indications; A case for non-discrimination of products of interest to developing countries, ACODE policy briefing paper No. 1.





is that linking a Geographical Indicator to a specific variety, breed or sub-species as a response to productivity and market demands may marginalize other genetic resources that are biologically and culturally relevant. This calls for deliberate efforts into the Act to protect biological and cultural aspects.

Formal and well distributed knowledge and information about biological resources and cultural practices with Geographical indications potential is lacking in developing countries. It is also common that smallholder farmers cannot produce surpluses to participate in market-oriented activities such as Geographical indications development as such provisions that enhance the small scale farmers participation are critical.

Smallholder farmers are vulnerable in national and export markets for economic and scale reasons which cannot be addressed solely with Geographical indications differentiation. Although evidence of economic benefits from Geographical indications protection can be found in Uganda, the distribution of benefits within value chains is unclear and several cases point to concentration of power in transporters and distributors.

Employment generated by Geographical indications may contribute to the rural economy but not necessarily generate benefits for biodiversity conservation and small scale farmers. In fact, in the absence of democratic governance structures the value addition of Geographical indications monopoly may not be capitalized by regional interests or smallholder farmers.

Differentiation of production processes, qualities and markets will be difficult to achieve without operating governance structures that are respectful of local culture. As such, market segmentation that attends only to high end niches may generate economic exclusions or inhibit access to nutritious and culturally valuable resources by local or low income populations.

Formal definitions of quality imposed by external

stakeholders tend to provoke exclusions of legitimate but culturally different producers. In almost similar terms, ownership of culturally sensitive Geographical indications by the state may lead to conflicts with indigenous peoples.

Complying with labeling, safety and traceability regulations requires significant organization and technical effort which is challenging to small organizations.

Lastly, Geographical indications especially where they are related to rural agriculture, may not succeed if their development is isolated from complementary agricultural and rural development policies including economic support.

2.4.4 The Industrial Property Act 2014

The Act was assented to by the President on 6th January 2014. It was enacted to provide for promotion of inventive and innovative activities, to facilitate the acquisition of technology through the grant and regulation of patents among others.

The Act provides for patentability and sets down conditions that an invention must fulfill before it can qualify for protection as a patent. The invention must be new, involve an inventive step, be industrially applicable and should not have been anticipated by prior art.

Emerging issues for advocacy

The Act, under section 13 provides that plant varieties are not patentable. This clearly means that Uganda Plant Varieties cannot be protected under the patent system. This provision is critical as it indicates the dimension that Uganda has chosen to take on protecting plant varieties under its own legal system (the Plant Variety Act). As such, the rules of patents do not apply to Uganda's plant varieties wholesomely.

2.4.5 National Development Plan 2011-2015

The National Development Plan stipulates the country's medium term strategic direction,





development priorities and implementation strategies. The plan developed under the theme “Growth, Employment and social economic transformation for prosperity” was formulated and launched with a vision of transforming Uganda from a peasant society to a modern and prosperous country over the next 5 years”. It also details Uganda’s current development status, challenges and opportunities. The basis of the National Development Plan is socio-economic transformation by improved employment levels, higher per capita income, improved labor force distribution, improved human development as well as gender equality. The plan is aimed at transforming Uganda’s society from peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years.

The Plan intends to address the structural bottle necks in the economy in order to accelerate socio-economic transformation for development.

Emerging issues and areas for advocacy

The Plan aims at facilitating availability and access to critical production inputs in agriculture and industry. The plan identifies agriculture as a key sector contributing to exports, employment and food security. In line with agriculture development, the plan focuses on increasing the availability of high yielding seed varieties as well as agricultural inputs for farmers to maximize profit.

National Development Plan lays down objectives of increasing household incomes, food and nutrition security, employment and agriculture is identified as one of the primary sources of growth in the economy.

This plan indicates the priority development components of the government of Uganda. Indeed one can conclude that Uganda is prioritizing transforming from peasantry agriculture into commercial agriculture. What is not clear however is how this plan will guide or safeguard small scale farmers in this transformation including questions of seed sovereignty.





SECTION THREE

Potential Stakeholders

3.1 Introduction

This survey would not be complete if the stakeholders in the area of seed related policies in Uganda were not identified. This section therefore provides a review of the actors important for CSO engagement in seed related policy advocacy in Uganda. These are mainly Government ministries, departments and agencies, and research organizations.

3.2 Government ministries and Institutions

a) Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

The ministry of agriculture derives its functions from the constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The role of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is to create an enabling environment in the Agricultural Sector by enhancing crop production and productivity, in a sustainable and environmentally safe manner, for improved food and nutrition security, employment, widened export base and improved incomes of the farmers. The key functions of this Ministry include:

- Formulate, review and implement national policies, plans, strategies, regulations and standards and enforce laws, regulations and standards along the value chain of crops, livestock and fisheries;
- Control and manage epidemics and disasters, and support the control of sporadic and endemic diseases, pests and vectors;
- Regulate the use of agricultural chemicals,

veterinary drugs, biological, planting and stocking materials as well as other inputs;

- Monitor, inspect, evaluate and harmonize activities in the agricultural sector including local governments;

The ministry is composed of directorates i.e.; the directorate of crop resources; animal and fisheries resources. The Directorate of Crop Resources which is directly responsible to seeds has three departments including: Farm Development; Crop Protection; and Crop Production and Marketing. The Directorate is basically to support sustainable, market oriented crop production, pest and disease control, quality and safety of plants/plant products; for improved food security and household income. The Directorate also aims to support sustainable, market oriented crop production, pest and disease control, quality and safety of plants and plant products; for improved food security and household income.

Key Functions of the directorate

1. Provide technical guidance for formulation, review and implementation of policies, legislation, standards, plans and strategies in the areas of crop production and marketing, crop protection and on quality and safety of plants/plant products;
2. Coordinate the monitoring, inspection, evaluation and harmonization of national programs and projects in the sub sector;
3. Advocate and mobilize resources for the sub sector;
4. Provide technical guidance for human and institutional capacity enhancement for delivery of services in the sub sector;
5. Develop and promote collaborative





mechanisms nationally, regionally and internationally on issues pertaining to the sub sector;

6. Provide guidance on the generation, dissemination and application of appropriate technologies and the provision of advisory services for the development of value chains in the sub sector.

The ministry has a crop protection department which is in charge of all matters related to plant health, including issuance of import and export phyto-sanitary certificates for live plant material and horticultural crops, as well as for plant pest prevention or eradication programmes. The department is also responsible for enforcing regulations on registration and the use of pesticides and other agrochemicals. The department is divided into 5 structures all aimed at control of crop and pest diseases, assessing compliance of agricultural exports and imports with international standards.

The ministry is also charged with creating the Plant variety protection office which will receive the applications for protection from plant breeders and assess the same before granting a certificate. Another critical Directorate in the Ministry is the Directorate for Policy, Planning and Support Services. This Directorate is responsible for improving the development and coordination of the sector policies, plans, programmes and projects geared towards enhancing a conducive and enabling environment necessary for the sector to operate effectively. It does this through the departments of: Agricultural Planning; Agribusiness; Agricultural Infrastructure and Water for Agricultural Production.

The ministry is therefore a critical partner that civil society needs to work with for protection of farmers' rights as well as indigenous plant varieties in Uganda.

b) Ministry of Trade and Co-operatives

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is a Government Ministry responsible for promoting trade, industry and cooperatives for the development of the country. This

Ministry is charged with ensuring expansion and diversification of trade, cooperatives, environmentally sustainable industrialization, appropriate technology, conservation and preservation of other tradable national products. These roles are targeted at generating wealth to benefit the country socially and economically.

The mandate of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives includes: Promoting External and Internal trade; Formulating policies and regulations for sustainable development of, trade, industrialization and technology, and co-operative; Overseeing and facilitate implementation of strategies and programmes aimed at trade, industry and cooperatives development in Uganda; Inspecting, monitoring and evaluating the progress, standards, state and efficiency of the various sectors, under the trade, industry and cooperatives; and Conducting studies and evaluating the impact of the policies of this sector in regard to advancement of the diversification, effect on the poverty eradication programs.

As the ministry responsible for ensuring sustainable development of trade, industrialization and technology, the ministry of trade and co-operatives is key in implementing sustainable biotechnology activities involving production and testing of genetically modified seeds. This makes it critical for civil society engagement to ensure the biotechnology process is in line with sustainable development. Uganda enjoys a diversity of both plants and animal varieties and has as such continued to enjoy access to a number of markets globally, for example in the EU market. Her organic agriculture produce has maintained the country with a high competitive and comparative advantage compared to her counterparts.

Unfortunately, this could all be lost if the country's Bio-safety and Biotechnology Bill, 2012 is developed to facilitate entry of GMOs into the country. It should be noted that increasingly, many countries are banning GM crops and animals, a decision which could ultimately affect Uganda's agriculture exports if GMOs are adopted in the country.





c) Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda is charged with the responsibility of projecting, protecting and advancing the national interests in a competitive environment.

The Ministry's vision is of a secure Uganda with prosperous people while its mission Statement is to promote and protect Uganda's national interests. Its mandate is to ensure maximum benefits from the harmonization of Uganda's foreign and domestic objectives.

In relation to seed related laws and policies, the ministry is important for advancing national interests in the face of increased promotion of genetically modified seed varieties.

d) Ministry of Finance, planning and Economic Development

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is a Uganda government ministry which plays an important role to ensure mobilization of public resources for the whole government. The ministry is charged to oversee how these resources are accounted for as they target to benefit all Ugandans. The ministry has the mandate to carry out the following:

- Develop and monitor appropriate policies and strategies that guide annual and medium term expenditure
- Prepare the annual budget and medium term expenditure allocations
- Formulate, review and appraise projects and programs in liaison with line ministries and institutions.
- Review and update of the public investment plan
- Execute and monitor the annual national budget
- Prepare medium and long term development plans in association with the National Planning Authority.

In relation to seed related policies, the ministry of finance is in charge of the national biotechnology and bio-safety law and policy and hence a critical stakeholder for civil society advocacy.

e) National Agricultural Advisory Services NAADS

The National Agricultural Advisory Services Organization is a semi - autonomous public agency within the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), responsible for public agricultural advisory/extension services. The National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) Programme was created in 2001 by an Act of Parliament to specifically address constraints of lack of access to agricultural information, knowledge and improved technology among rural poor farmers in the country.

NAADS is currently being implemented in all Districts, Municipalities and Sub counties of Uganda. The organization is mandated to provide agricultural advisory services by an Act of Parliament, the NAADS Act 2001.

NAADS has the following objectives:

- To promote food security, nutrition and household incomes through increased productivity and market oriented farming
- To empower all farmers to access and utilize contracted agricultural advisory services
- To promote farmer groups to develop capacity to manage farming enterprises.
- To create options for financing and delivery of agricultural advice for the different types of farmers.
- To catalyze the participation of the private sector to fund agricultural advisory services.

Due to its importance in the agricultural sector in Uganda as well as its widespread coverage of rural areas, NAADS is an important stakeholder in promoting public awareness of the different aspects of seed trade and best practices to small scale farmers in Uganda.

f) Cabinet Secretariat

The Cabinet Secretariat is a Department within the Office of the President and is responsible for providing support to the President, Cabinet and its Committees as well as line Ministries in the Management of Policy work and spearheading the development of Policy capacity within





Government in recognition of the centrality of the policy function for effective service delivery. The secretariat carries out the following functions:

- Conduct and maintain the central decision making processes of executing government;
- Managing the Cabinet Agenda;
- Recording all decisions taken during Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings;
- Spearheading the development of policy capacity across Government policy

As the body in charge of policy management at the cabinet level, the secretariat is an important stakeholder in policy monitoring of seed related policies.

g) Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI)

UIRI was formally established by an Act of Parliament in 2002. It is a progeny of the East African Industrial Research Organization (ESIRO) of the defunct East African Community (EAC). UIRI's Vision is to be the model institution and regional center of excellence, for incubation of industry and pioneering industrial Research and Development activities that could elevate the level of technology in Uganda and the region. UIRI's mission is on two fronts: to improve capacity and competence of indigenous entrepreneurs in undertaking viable industrial production processes and in their ability to produce high quality marketable products and to provide demand driven Scientific and Industrial Research and Development and Internationally competitive technical services that will lead to rapid industrialization for the benefit of Ugandan people.

Food Science and Technology: UIRI undertakes research in industrial processes and technology for adding value to food products. The division is responsible for running pilot plants for processing dairy, meat, bakery, fruits and vegetable products. Although the products from the pilot plants are available for sale to the public, the cardinal role of the pilot plants is to train entrepreneurs and others from tertiary and university institutions. UIRI is critical partner that civil society should engage in the aspects of seeds that go through scientific research.

h) Uganda National Council of Science and Technology

The Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) is a Government of Uganda Agency, established by CAP 209, under the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development. The Council is mandated to facilitate and coordinate the development and implementation of policies and strategies for integrating Science and Technology (S&T) into the national development process.

The council has a specific mission to provide effective and innovative leadership in the development, promotion and application of Science and Technology and its integration in sustainable national development.

Under the proposed Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, UNSCT is given the specific mandate of approving and testing GMO's in Uganda, ensuring the safety of biotechnology to human health and environment during development, testing and use of GMO's as well as coming up with measures to avoid adverse effects of GMO's on human health, socio-conditions and biological diversity. This makes it a critical partner in Civil Society efforts to monitor the effective implementation of the biotechnology and bio-safety policy.

i) The Uganda National Bureau of Standards – UNBS

UNBS was established as a semi-autonomous body by an Act of Parliament in 1983. It has a National Standards Council (NSC) as its policy making body. The Executive Director together with the management team is charged with the administrative and operational responsibilities. The UNBS mandate is provided through the Act of Parliament that established it and is given as to develop and promote standardization; quality assurance; laboratory testing; and metrology to enhance the competitiveness of local industry, to strengthen Uganda's economy and promote quality, safety and fair trade. The vision of UNBS is to be a leading institution of international repute in the provision of standardization services. UNBS' mission is to enhance national





development through the application of standards in trade, industry to encourage fair competition and protect consumers.

The UNBS services to the public are both regulatory and supportive to trade in nature. They are regulatory in as far as ensuring of fairness in trade and protection of the consumers against substandard, shoddy, and hazardous products is concerned; and are supportive to trade through the development and implementation of standards for the various sectors of the economy and carrying out conformity assessments of products to standards. These activities ensure that manufacturers produce quality products that are competitive both locally and internationally. UNBS is a Trade Support; and Regulatory Institution.

UNBS plays a critical role of ensuring that the seeds that come to the country comply with the standards that are perfect for the farmers in Uganda. It is thus a critical institution which the Civil Society should work with the fight substandard seeds that could be imported into the country.

j) Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB)

UEPB was created by Statute no. 2 of 1996 and mandated to coordinate all activities that would lead to export growth on sustainable basis. Its current form, functions and activities are fully governed and guided by this statute. UEPB is sensitive to the needs of the private sector, as a demonstration of Government's commitment to the establishment of a free market economy, in which the private sector is the engine of growth. The functions of the Board can be divided into Market and Product Development and Trade Promotion Services. Under Market and Product Development, the Board continuously undertakes market research, selection and entry strategies and activities. It also undertakes resource mapping, product selection, development and adaptation to target market requirements. The results are then disseminated on a regular basis to the export community through the Board's information systems. From the Trade Promotion

Services perspective, the activities undertaken under this function are primarily aimed at creating awareness about Uganda's exports and export trade potential, as well as matching Ugandan and overseas business enterprises, through trade fairs, exhibitions, trade missions etc.

This Board would be critical in promoting the export of Ugandan made seeds to other countries. This is critical as it introduces the commercial aspect to the current small agriculture and directly or indirectly leads to market access to farmers.

k) Ministry of Water and Environment

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) has the responsibility for setting national policies and standards, managing and regulating water resources and determining priorities for water development and management. It also monitors and evaluates sector development programmes to keep track of their performance, efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. MWE has three directorates: Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM), Directorate of Water Development (DWD) and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

The ministry is also charged with protecting the environment under the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), considering the likely impact of biotechnology activities on the environment, this ministry is an important partner in carrying out advocacy to protect human health and environment from the adverse effects of biotechnology activities.

l) Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is a Government Ministry to ensure that Uganda as a country upholds the rule of law, good governance take charge of the legal due process for all citizens and residents. This Ministry is also mandated to provide legal advice and legal services to Government, its allied institutions and to the general public and to support the machinery that provides the legal framework for





good governance.

This Ministry has a long term mission to promote and facilitate efficient and effective machinery capable of providing laws for good governance and delivery of legal advice to all bodies related to Government and the public.

The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is empowered to among other functions: represent Government in civil suits for and against Government; carry out legal advisory services and that is to drafting, perusal and clearance of contracts, treaties, provision of legal opinion on Government borrowing; draft bills and statutory instruments; and to regulate the legal profession and legal education.

Given its mandate to draft Bills and statutory instruments, the ministry of justice is an important partner in advocating for legal reform in order to address the issues emerging out of seed related laws and policies. This is also the key ministry for the drafting of any emerging regulations under the laws discussed above.

m) The Uganda Law Reform Commission

The Uganda Law Reform Commission is a constitutional body established under Article 248(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda to study and keep under constant review the Acts and all other laws comprising the laws of Uganda with a view to making recommendations for their systematic improvement, development, modernization and reform.

The Commission's current policy and priority activities are guided by a number of principles including: Contributing to a legal system that supports the principles in the Constitution, national policies and plans, and international commitments entered into by Uganda; Ensuring a participatory law making process with laws acceptable to the people of Uganda; Developing proposals for modern laws for the people of Uganda; and Sustaining an effective and efficient institution that provides a legal framework for good governance, delivery of

advice and service to Government and the general public on legislative reform and revision.

According to Section 11 of the ULRC Act, the Commission has powers to among other things receive, review and consider any proposals for the reform of the law, which may be referred to it by any person or authority; Prepare and submit to the Attorney General, from time to time, for approval, programmes for the study and examination of any branch of the law with a view to making recommendations for its improvement, modernization, and reform; Undertake, pursuant to any such recommendation approved by the Attorney General, the formulation of drafts in form of bills or other instruments for consideration by the Government and Parliament; and Encourage and promote public participation in the process of lawmaking and educate and sensitize the public on lawmaking through seminars, publications, and mass media; and Given that some of the laws affecting seed policies in Uganda are still in form of Bills, the Uganda Law Reform Commission will be a critical partner in promoting public participation in the law making process as well as making recommendations to Parliament on what changes are necessary in the law in order to protect farmers and the public. The Civil Society groups can also petition the law reform commission for any legal reforms they may want to engage government with.

n) Uganda Registration Services Bureau

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau is an autonomous statutory body established by Chapter 210 Laws of Uganda in 1998. The Bureau was created to take over the functions of the Registrar General's Office under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. URSB's vision is to be an organization that is efficient, effective, self sustaining and customer focused in service delivery and its mission is to promote, protect and register; business enterprises, intellectual property rights, civil matters, act as Official Receiver and collect Non tax Revenue through an effective records management system.





URBS has a number of functions provided for under Section 4(2) of URBS Act. These functions include among others: Carrying out all registrations required under the relevant laws; Maintaining registers, data and records on registrations affected by the bureau and to act as a clearing house for information and data on those registrations; Evaluating from time to time the practicability and efficacy of the relevant laws and advise the Government accordingly; and Carrying on research and also disseminate research findings in the fields covered by the relevant laws through seminars, workshops, publications or other means and to recommend to the Government any improvements in the relevant laws appearing to the Bureau to be required as a result.

URSB is critical because it registers all the companies and businesses that relate to seeds in Uganda. It is also charged with dealing with other intellectual property aspects of seeds and other agricultural aspects. As such, this could be a critical partner that CSOs would want to engage in business and intellectual property related aspects of seeds.

3.3 The parliament of the republic of Uganda

Parliament is provided for under Article 77 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. Article 78 provides for the constitution of parliament to include members directly elected to represent constituencies, women representatives as well as representatives of special groups. The function of Parliament of Uganda are set down in Article 79 of the constitution to include the power to make laws on any matters for the peace, order, development and good governance of Uganda.

3.3.1 Composition of Parliament

Article 78 of the 1995 Constitution provides for composition of Parliament to include members directly elected to represent constituencies, one woman representative for every district, such

numbers of representatives of the army, youth, workers, persons with disabilities and other groups as Parliament may determine; and the Vice President and Ministers, who, if not already elected members of Parliament, shall be ex officio members of Parliament without the right to vote on any issue requiring a vote in Parliament. Members of Parliament are voted directly on a multi-party basis.

3.3.2 Office of the Speaker of Parliament

This is established under Article 82 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The office of the speaker is composed of a speaker and deputy speaker who are elected by members of parliament. The duty of the speaker is to preside over and take part in the proceedings of parliament. The functions of the Speaker include: opening, suspending and closing sittings; ensuring observance of the EALA Rules of Procedure; maintaining order in the House; calling upon members to participate in the proceedings; closing debates; putting matters to vote and announcing the results of votes; and referring to Committees any business that concern them. This office is another very critical office which CSOs needs to engage in order to advocate for farmers rights as well as seed related policies in Uganda.

3.3.3 Office of the Clerk to Parliament

The Office of the Clerk to Parliament was established after a comprehensive organizational review of the Parliamentary Service carried out in 2003. This office is comprised of Clerk to the House and two Deputy Clerks; one in-charge of Legislature Services and the other in-charge of Administrative Services. This office is responsible for providing a vision and leadership to the Parliamentary Service and for initiating the strategies to achieve that vision. It provides advice and guidance to the Speaker with respect to the rules, procedures and protocol of Parliament and directs the internal management of the Service. The Clerk to Parliament is the de-facto Chief Executive Officer of the Parliamentary Service.





This is a very important office which CSOs much engage because it, among other functions, oversees the activities of Parliamentary Affairs Directorate comprising of the five Departments; The Parliamentary Budget Office, Department of the Clerks, Department of Legislative and Legal Services, Department of Official Report, Department of Research Services. The office also handles the corporate affairs of Parliament including the communications and public affairs.

3.3.4 Committee on Agriculture, animal industry and fisheries

The sessional committee on Agriculture, animal industry and fisheries is mandated by parliament to oversee the activities of the ministry of agriculture. The committee on agriculture is critical to CSO's because it discusses all the Bills that affect agriculture before the same are tabled before parliament for discussion and gives recommendations on appropriate changes to be made in the interest of the general public.

3.3.5 Committee on science and technology

The Standing Committee on Science and technology comprises of 20 Members designated by Party Whips. This mandated to among other duties: review, discuss and make recommendations on scientific and technological content of all Bills laid before Parliament; initiate Bills on strategic issues of science and technology for national development. This committee also has the duty to continuously monitor, evaluate and assess activities in public institutions and any other bodies engaged in national science and technology development. It further examines and carries out research on the performance of the National Science and Technology sub-sector, and also examines, recommends and oversees adequate national budgetary provisions for the development of Science and Technology. This committee is critical as it considers all the laws that involve innovations and these may be on seed aspects.

3.3.6 Committee on tourism, trade and industry

The Sessional Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry is comprised of 20 Members selected from among Members of Parliament on the basis of the parties or organizations represented in Parliament. This committee is mandated by Parliament to oversee the activities of the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. Other departments and parastatal institutions under its jurisdiction including: the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS); the Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) and The Uganda Export Promotions Board (UEPB) which are presented in the earlier parts of this paper. Since this committee deals with critical institutions for the seed industry, it is important that CSOs target it in their advocacy.

3.3.7 Committee on National Economy

The Committee on National Economy is standing committee comprised of 20 members designated by Party Whips on basis of proportional Party Membership in the House taking into consideration the interests of Independent Members. The Committee is provided for under Rule No.152 of the Rules of the Procedure. It is mandated to review, consider, and scrutinize all matters relating to national economy generally, finance and any other matter referred to it by the House. In particular, the Committee on National Economy is required to examine and monitor the state of the national economy, to examine and make recommendations to the House on all loan agreements required to be authorized or approved by the House under Article 159 of the Constitution, and explore means of improving the national economy. Since agriculture and seed issues are at the core of the national economy, they fall under the ambits of this committee. As such, the CSOs should work closely with this committee on seed and agricultural issues.





3.3.8 Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights

The Committee of Human Rights of Parliament of Uganda is mandated to track and report on human rights concerns in all business handled by Parliament, monitor government compliance with national and international human rights instruments to which Uganda is party and follow up on government periodic reports to international human rights monitoring bodies; examine the recommendations in the reports of the Uganda Human Rights Commission and ensure that government is held accountable; inquire into any matter relating to human rights in Uganda. As the committee charged with promotion with human rights agenda in parliament, it becomes an important stakeholder in promoting farmer's rights in seed related laws and policies.

3.4 Research Organizations

a) National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)

The National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) is the apex body for guidance and coordination of all agricultural research activities in the national agricultural research system in Uganda. NARO is a Public Institution established by an act of Parliament, which was enacted on 21st November 2005.

The functions of the National Agricultural Research Organization are to:

- Provide strategic direction for publicly funded agricultural research in Uganda and act as a forum for agricultural researchers in Uganda;
- Coordinate and oversee, in collaboration with the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and other lead agencies, the development, consolidation and implementation of agricultural research policy and national research strategies, plans and budgets relating to publicly funded agricultural research;

- Set national priorities and harmonize agricultural research activities of the national agricultural research system, constituent institutions and public agricultural research institutes, civil society organization, private sectors and farmer organizations and promote delivery of quality and efficient agricultural research services;

NARO has two laboratories, the National Agricultural Resources Laboratories Institute (Kawanda) and the National Crop Resources Research Institute (Namulonge). The main areas of research at these laboratories include gene identification for various useful traits of crops. They also carry out molecular characterization for crop genetic diversity, molecular diagnostics for crop diseases, genetic modification and improved resistance. These laboratories carry out tests to assess the suitability of plant varieties for the Ugandan environment and are therefore essential in collecting empirical and scientific evidence to support CSO's in advocacy against dangerous GMO's.

b) Academia

As the centers for research studies in Uganda, higher institutions of learning are important stakeholders in seed related policies. For example, the department at Makerere University that is directly involved in seed and agricultural production is the department of crop science. It was recently involved in the improvement of banana, for disease resistance and tolerance to abiotic stress such as drought.

The same university also has a department of biochemistry involved in the screening of extremophilic bacteria to identify species processing genes, encoding enzymes that might be of industrial value.

c) Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MUZARDI)

Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Mukono ZARDI) is one of the nine Public Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institutes (ZARDIs) which were established through the NARS Act of 2005. The





Institute is responsible for carrying out applied and adaptive research in the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone. It covers 21 districts of Central Uganda which include: Mubende, Mityana, Luwero, Kyankwanzi, Mukono, Kayunga, Nakasongola, Nakaseke, Masaka, Kalangala, Buikwe, Kalungu, Lwengo, Mpigi, Kampala, Bukomansimbi, Gomba, Butambala, Buvuma, Wakiso and Kiboga. Mukono ZARDI had a successful transition from a DFI to ARDC and it is now a semi-autonomous zonal Institute.

MUZARDI's Specific Functions

1. Understanding the farming systems of the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone.
2. Participatory identification of priority and market oriented agricultural research needs.
3. Sourcing, refining, adapting and disseminating appropriate agricultural technologies and innovations.
4. Building capacity of farmers in adaptive Research and technology transfer.
5. Supporting farmers' linkages to markets

3.5 Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)

Uganda Human Rights Commission was established under the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda as a permanent body to monitor the human rights situation in the country. The functions of the Uganda Human Rights Commission are laid down in Article 52(1) of the Constitution and include: To establish a continuing programme of education, research and information to enhance respect of human rights; To monitor government's compliance with international treaties and convention obligations on human rights.

The laws and policies that affect seeds in Uganda in turn affect agricultural production as well as food security. As discussed above, this ultimately has an impact on the right to food. UHRC is important as a partner in this advocacy because of its overall responsibility of monitoring

human rights in Uganda.

3.6 Media

The media has never been more influential than it is now. It can make or break a campaign so its importance in advocacy cannot be underestimated. Media is vital in raising awareness about seed related policies as well as help the general public understand the issue at hand. Dailies like the New Vision and Daily Monitor have magazine pull outs that deal with agriculture and farming issues, these have proved influential in addressing farmers' concerns on genetically modified plant varieties. Civil society organizations can engage the media through the African Center for Media Excellence (ACME), which aims at media literacy training as well as encouraging research, monitoring and advocacy.

Civil society organizations can engage media through the community media networks to engage in sensitization to enable media outlets to disseminate knowledge and information of seed related policies to the public from an informed point of view.

3.7. Development Partners in Uganda

a) World Bank

The World Bank is a United Nations financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for capital programs. The World Bank is a member of the United Nations Development group. The World Bank's official goal is the [reduction of poverty](#). According to its Articles of Agreement, all its decisions must be guided by a commitment to the promotion of [foreign investment](#) and [international trade](#) and to the facilitation of [capital](#) investment.

The World Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030, end extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living





on less than \$1.25 a day to no more than 3% and promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credits, and grants to developing countries. These support a wide array of investments in such areas as education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management and hence cannot be left out in civil society advocacy for seed related policies.

b) United States Agency for International Development USAID

USAID is the lead US Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable democratic societies to realize their potential. Among its broad objectives, USAID aims at advancing food security and agriculture.

USAID efforts work to transform subsistence farms into more commercial operations. USAID also works to increase farmers' skills in improved production, post-harvest handling and storage technologies. Agricultural programs include researching and promoting biotechnology products aimed at improving the productivity and disease resistance of key food and cash crops.

USAID programs focus on creating trade linkages and on making Ugandan products more competitive in national, regional and international markets. USAID training for farmers and agriculture dealers develop their business skills and technical capacity to increase their participation in national and regional trade. They also provide expertise to expand agricultural production, extension services to farmer associations, bulk marketing techniques, and nutrition counseling to communities.





SECTION FOUR

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

4.1 Introduction

The advocacy strategies to be analyzed in this chapter are aimed at creating change in policies and laws that affect people's lives. The advocacy is generally directed at policy makers including politicians, government officials and public servants, but also private sector leaders whose decisions impact upon people's lives, as well as those whose opinions and actions influence policy makers, such as journalists and the media, development agencies and large NGOs

The strategies and approaches needed for effective implementation of seed related policies include:

4.2 Proper and timely implementation of the legal and policy framework

Proper policy formulation processes i.e. Policy first, Bills follow as well as implementation within a reasonable period of time.

a) Passing draft policies

A National Agricultural Seed Policy was developed with stakeholders' participation but has not been approved. By the ministry's own admission (MAAIF, 2012a), there are major inconsistencies in the draft. For example, the first two paragraphs of Chapter 3 (MAAIF 2012a) suggest that Uganda's private seed

companies will take all their varieties from public research. With NARO in the state that it is, this will never be a basis for a modern seed industry. Seed companies will want to source most of their new varieties from foreign breeding and foreign partner companies as well as taking new varieties from NARO. MAAIF (2012) calls for the policy to allow this although whether there is an impartial public process within MAAIF capable of redrafting the policy is open to question. The absence of a Seed Policy and the consequent absence of a reliable database, market information or national plans to guide the private sector in developing their production plans leaves small scale farmers at the risk of exploitation.

b) Passing draft regulations

The Draft Seeds and Plant Act Regulations 2011 have not passed Cabinet either. They seem to put up more barriers to private companies trying to set up and do business (to bring in varieties, enter the market, and export seeds, among other activities). Some of the proposed controls on variety introduction (Part II) would block cultivar introduction, with consequences for farmers, consumers, and processors and agricultural production in general. The absence of these regulations has permitted the growth of the counterfeit trade and other illegal activities prohibited by the Act. At the moment, when perpetrators are apprehended they cannot be easily prosecuted due to the lack of any legal framework to effect punitive measures.



4.3 Human Rights based Campaign

Seed related policies are linked to a number of human rights, most especially the right to food as well as economic, social and cultural rights and the right to a healthy environment.

As seen above, The Food and Nutrition Bill provides for and protects the right to food. The right to food is a human right protecting the right for people to feed themselves in dignity. It protects the right of all human beings to be free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The right is derived from the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights which has 160 state parties as of May 2012. States that sign the covenant agree to take steps to the maximum of their available resources to achieve progressively the full realization of the right to adequate food, both nationally and internationally. In a total of 106 countries the right to food is applicable either via constitutional arrangements of various forms or via direct applicability in law of various international treaties in which the right to food is protected.

The right to food has three dimensions providing for availability, accessibility and adequacy. Adequacy basically implies that the food must be safe and adequate protective measures by both public and private means must be taken to prevent contamination of foodstuffs through adulteration and/or through bad environmental hygiene or inappropriate handling at different stages throughout the food chain; care must also be taken to identify and avoid or destroy naturally occurring toxins.

The process of making different plant varieties through genetic modification involves the use of toxins, some of which could be harmful to soils as well as human health. It is reported that most of the soils in Kenya are dead as a result of harmful agricultural practices which threaten agricultural production as well as food security. Civil society organizations should therefore

engage in a human rights based campaign targeting the specific rights affected by the weak legal and policy framework on seeds.

4.4 Legal Advocacy

The advocacy strategy in this instance would be a suit against the Attorney General under Article 137(3) of the 1995 Constitution to have the sections in the seed related laws that infringe on the right to food and food security declared null and void.

Legal advocacy can also be used to protect social and economic rights of farmers and communities protected under the International Convention on Social, Economic and Cultural rights to which Uganda is a party.

Another legal advocacy strategy would be to come up with an alternative bill as a proposal for a law to protect farmer's rights in light of Plant Variety Protection as well as increased biotechnology activities in the agricultural sector.

4.5 Policy Monitoring

The ministry of agriculture has come up with a biotechnology and bio-safety policy as well as a draft seed policy that is waiting for cabinet approval. The objective of this strategy is to observe and monitor the effectiveness of policies already in place and write reports on their effectiveness. Governments and public bodies, especially in democratic societies, are sensitive to critical reports, and more so when these are based on robust evidence and analysis, come from a credible source, and are widely published and disseminated. Policy monitoring by civil society groups may be in the form of one-off investigation into a particular area of interest; it may consist of a baseline study, perhaps at the commencement of a new policy, and a follow-up study later to establish what results were achieved; or it may be a periodic monitoring report, such as an annual review.





4.6 Campaigns for policy change and legal reform to accommodate farmers' and community rights

Another advocacy strategy would be campaigning for policy change in seed policy or legal reform in the Plant Variety Protection Act in order to accommodate farmers' and community rights.

Civil society campaigns for policy change rarely achieve rapid results. They require patience, tenacity, courage and conviction. There is no blueprint for success, but there are common denominators to almost all successful advocacy campaigns. It is essential, for instance, to maintain clarity in communications: goals should be clear and achievable; messages should be compelling for those to whom they are intended; calls to action should be specific and concise. Policy campaigning is goal-oriented advocacy in which civil society groups and coalitions aim to set the policy agenda rather than simply to monitor or respond to government policy making. It involves taking action and initiative. It can be exciting and empowering for those involved, but it can also be hard work, frustrating, and ultimately unsuccessful.

Before adopting a campaigning orientation it is worth asking whether the goals could be better achieved by dialogue or quiet negotiation. Campaigns for policy change draw on a wide range of tools and tactics, including public demonstrations, protests, letter writing, lobbying, use of media and the internet. Campaigning is often confrontational in nature. After all, a campaign would not be needed if the government or private company was receptive to the policies being advocated. Conversely, it is often the dynamic of conflict that gives a campaign momentum, spurring media attention and recruiting public support.

4.7 Training and building advocacy capacity of stakeholder groups

Building the advocacy capacity of self-help groups of farmers and of communities is important. Effective advocacy must include strategies likely to lead to an increase in the voice and influence of the underprivileged sections of society. This may include, for example, strengthening the communications capacity of disadvantaged people's organizations and support for development of grassroots communication initiatives like community radio. Such strategies can be effective in enabling people who are disadvantaged and marginalized to speak out directly on the issues that affect their lives and livelihoods.





Annex 1: Summary of the Stakeholders

Stake holder	Mandate	Specific links with seed related policies	Interest in the proposed guide	Impact and Influence
Ministry of Agriculture, animal industries and fisheries	Initiating, receiving and submitting recommendations to the committee of parliament and forwarding of bills to Parliament, the initiation of studies and research related to, and the implementation of seed related laws and policies	The functions of the ministry relate to regulating the use of agricultural chemicals as well as formulating, reviewing and implementing national policies and regulations along the value chain of crops.	In implementing policies and making recommendations to parliament on the Bills related to seed policies the ministry requires CSO input, this survey therefore becomes of interest	Positive influence in the effective implementation of laws and policies relating to seeds as well as farmers and community rights with specific regard to sustainable agriculture.
Parliament of the Republic of Uganda.	To Enact laws and legislations, performing an over sight function over all government departments.	The tenor of seed related legislation and the direction and impact which the Legislation will have on farmers and communities is determined by Parliament in the legislating process.	Parliament's mandate as a legislating Organ requires that legislators stay abreast and are aware of the latest trends and best practices as they formulate and amend laws. As such this survey serves as an eye opener for members of Parliament on the latest trends and best practices in the way of Legislating on seed related laws vis a vis farmers' rights.	Legislation that strikes a fair balance between all the major actors in the agricultural industry in Uganda.
Ministry of Trade and Cooperatives	As the ministry in charge of trade, it has the specific mandate to ensure environmentally sustainable industrialization.	Trade in seed varieties is regulated by the ministry of trade and it has the mandate to ensure that Uganda complies with international standards and treaties governing the seed sector.	As the ministry mandated to ensure sustainable industrialization, this survey, is useful in identifying the gaps in the legal framework that may have adverse effects on trade in agricultural products.	To monitor agricultural activities to ensure the promotion of trade in agricultural products in Uganda, being the lead export in the country.





Stake holder	Mandate	Specific links with seed related policies	Interest in the proposed guide	Impact and Influence
Ministry of water and environment	To protect the environment and set standards for managing and regulating water resources.	Activities aimed at plant breeding as well as biotechnology agricultural activities may have adverse effects on the environment and bio-diversity conservation. Ministry of environment has the mandate to ensure that seed tests and other activities are not harmful to the environment.	Survey is useful in identifying the likely impact of GMO activities on the environment.	Mitigating the impact of agricultural related activities especially variety testing on the environment and human health
Ministry of East African Affairs	Responsible for Co-ordinating the country's affairs with those of the region	Plant variety modification involves import and export of plant varieties within the region, there is need for regional effort to harmonize standards and regulate seed import and export.	The survey guides the ministry in coming up with a policy for minimum standard for quality of seeds Imported across the region	Develop regional policies to protect the region from harmful organisms and agricultural practices.
Uganda Law Reform Commission	To study and keep under constant review the Acts and all other laws comprising laws of Uganda.	The functions of the commission relate to improvement of the laws hence making it important in analyzing seed related laws and making recommendations to parliament on law reform	The commission is mandated to review the laws relating to seeds, hence the recommendations from the survey will be used to carry out legal reform.	Reforming the existing laws as well as making recommendations for bills pending in parliament.





Stake holder	Mandate	Specific links with seed related policies	Interest in the proposed guide	Impact and Influence
National Council of Science and Technology	Facilitate and co-ordinate the development and implementation of policies and strategies for integrating science and technology into the national development process.	The council is mandated to implement the biotechnology and bio safety policy. It is also the competent authority with powers to carry out laboratory tests of GMO's to ensure they carry the required characteristics that they are said to possess.	Survey guides the council in coming up with mechanisms to ensure the different stakeholders in the seed sector are protected from the harmful effects of GMO related activities	Effective implementation of the biotechnology and bio-safety policy.
Research Organizations	Carrying out agricultural research activities	Monitoring and ensuring delivery of quality and efficient agriculture research in quality seeds	Survey is useful in identifying key areas for agricultural research	Come up with research outcomes to improve the agricultural seed sector and viable solutions for small scale farmers.
Civil Society Organizations	Carry out advocacy aimed at positive change on behalf of marginalized groups in this case, farmers and communities affected by seed related policies	Carry out advocacy to protect farmers and community rights vis a vis plant breeders rights in seed activities.	Survey is useful in identifying the key areas for advocacy as well as emerging issues from the seed sector.	Carry out effective advocacy to enhance protection of farmers and community rights in light of the legal framework and policy in place





Annex 2: Summary of Key Instruments

BILL/POLICY/ INSTRUMENT	EMERGING ISSUES	CURRENT STATUS	POSSIBLE CIVIL SOCIETY INTERVENTIONS	TARGET PEOPLE/ INSTITUTIONS TO TARGET
Draft National Seed Policy	Policy formulated to address concerns of the seed industry and to ensure the availability of adequate high quality seed.	Waiting for cabinet approval	Lobbying for its approval and implementation.	The ministry of Agriculture, animal industry and fisheries, ministry of trade, Industry and Cooperatives, National seed board, SEATINI, ministry of East African Community Affairs, NARO, MUZARDI,
National Biotechnology and bio-safety policy	provides a framework for safe application of biotechnology	Approved by cabinet	Monitoring implementation and effectiveness	UNSCT, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of water and environment, NARO, MUZARDI
Plant Variety Protection Act	Provides for promotion of development of new plant varieties and their protection, provides for plant breeder's rights at the expense of farmer's rights	The Act was assented to by the President but is Awaiting a commencement date from the minister	Legal reform to provide for protection of farmers as well as communities	Ministry of Agriculture, animal industry and fisheries, Uganda Law Reform Commission, Parliament of Uganda, Cabinet secretariat
Seed and Plant Act 2006	Provides for promotion, regulation and control of plant breeding and variety release. It also regulates the marketing, importing and quality assurance of seeds and plant materials. It sets down unnecessarily costly procedures that edge farmers out of the crop market.	The Act was assented to by the president and commenced on 29 th June 2007.	Lobbying the ministry of agriculture as well as parliament and ULRC for regulations to implement the Act	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of East African affairs, Parliament of Uganda, Cabinet secretariat





BILL/POLICY/ INSTRUMENT	EMERGING ISSUES	CURRENT STATUS	POSSIBLE CIVIL SOCIETY INTERVENTIONS	TARGET PEOPLE/ INSTITUTIONS TO TARGET
Geographical Indications Act 2013	The Act is aimed at enabling small scale farmers and producers to leverage the commercial value of their products so as to enhance rural livelihoods. However, formal and well distributed knowledge and information about biological resources about cultural practices with geographical indication potential is lacking.	The Act was assented to on 1 st October 2013 but is yet to get a commencement date from the minister.	Stakeholder sensitization on the benefits of the provisions under the Act.	Ministry of Agriculture, URSB, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of East African affairs, Parliament of Uganda, Cabinet secretariat
Plant Protection and Health Bill	Aimed at protection of plants against diseases as well as preventing the introduction and spread of harmful organisms that may adversely affect Uganda's agriculture.	The Bill has been drafted and presented before parliament. It is now before the parliamentary committee for consultation.	Engaging the parliament as well as relevant ministries in coming up with recommendations to be included in the Act so as to protect plans as well as human health.	Ministry of Agriculture, ministry of Trade, Parliament of the Republic of Uganda
Biotechnology and Bio-safety Bill	Provides a regulatory framework that facilitates the safe development and application of biotechnology products. However, institutional mechanisms to mitigate the impact of these activities are currently not in place.	The Bill is currently before parliament but has not been discussed.	Lobbying the ministry of agriculture and UNSCT to ensure concerns on health, food security and bio-diversity conservation are fully addressed under the bill.	Parliamentary committee on agriculture, ministry of agriculture, ministry of water and environment, UNSCT, African Bio-diversity network, National Bio-safety Committee





BILL/POLICY/ INSTRUMENT	EMERGING ISSUES	CURRENT STATUS	POSSIBLE CIVIL SOCIETY INTERVENTIONS	TARGET PEOPLE/ INSTITUTIONS TO TARGET
National Food and Nutrition Bill	Provides a national legal framework for protection of the right to food and adequate nutrition.	The Bill has been drafted, however consultations are still ongoing.	This can be used as a tool by civil society to advocate for the right to food and government action in promoting nutritional standards as well as access to food in the country.	Parliament of Uganda, ministry of justice and constitutional affairs, ULRC, Parliament of Uganda, Cabinet secretariat





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