

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8TH ANNUAL INDIGENOUS & TRADITIONAL FOOD FAIR



**HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER 2018 AT
UMA CONFERENCE HALL AND PARKING SPACE**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CMSSM	Community Managed Seed Security Model
CRAEM	Climate Resilient Agro Ecosystems Model (CRAEM
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
JASAR	Joint Agriculture Sector Annual Review
MPFED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
MPs	Members of Parliament
NAADs	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
OWC	Operation Wealth Creation
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PGRC	Plant Genetic Resources Center
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
YARD	Youth Association for Rural Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organizing annual indigenous and traditional food fairs is part of PELUM Uganda's efforts to revamp the indigenous and traditional food systems in Uganda. Since 2008, PELUM Uganda has embarked on a campaign to restore the utilization and conservation of Indigenous and traditional foods among communities in Uganda. Several activities have been undertaken to this effect including national and regional food fairs, documentation of indigenous and traditional foods in Uganda as well as implementing projects to revamp indigenous food and seeds. Particularly, Indigenous food fairs have consistently been held at the national level on an annual basis since 2012.

On 19th October 2018, PELUM Uganda held its 8th annual indigenous and traditional food fair at the UMA conference hall and parking space. This was done in an effort to exhibit the rich and diverse food heritage from all around the country. The theme for the day was ***Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems, preserving agricultural biodiversity, ending hunger***. This theme was aligned with the World Food Day 2018 theme: *"Working for Zero Hunger"* and the International Day for Biological Diversity 2018. The theme was also in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. It contributes to targets on maintaining genetic diversity of seeds and plants.

Over 42 organisations (22 of which were PELUM Uganda member organisations) showcased their indigenous and traditional foods and drinks. Parallel to the exhibitions were presentations made by representatives from; Youth Association for Rural Development (YARD), Bioversity International and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD). A total of 317 people (113 women and 214 men) participated in the event.

The food fair was officiated by Mr. Stephen Biribonwa who represented the Hon. Christopher Kibazanga, State Minister for Agriculture. In his speech, he said Agriculture remains Uganda's main foreign exchange earner, contributing almost 52% of our total export and is dominated by smallholder farmers, practicing subsistence farming. He noted that Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems greatly contribute to conservation of agriculture biodiversity and provide diverse and nutritious foods for rural communities. *He added that* strengthening smallholder's capacity to produce quality seeds would improve farm production and productivity of traditional foods.

The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. Elizabeth Balyejusa Kizito, the Head of Department, Agricultural and Biological Sciences at Uganda Christian University. In her address, Dr. Kizito appreciated PELUM Uganda for organizing an event that celebrates indigenous and traditional foods and bringing together people from all walks of life to showcase their indigenous and traditional knowledge. She mentioned that although Uganda had over 120 species of indigenous foods and seeds, 2011 and 2016 statistics indicate that 29% children were still stunted. This called for more efforts in promoted the nutritional and medicinal value of these foods.

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL FOOD FAIR

Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems are inextricably linked to agricultural biodiversity and food security. For millennia, Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems have preserved and maintained agriculture biodiversity as they are the main source of diverse germplasm which broaden the genetic base of production with multiple crop species and varieties adapted to specific production systems and microclimates. These diverse varieties, crop species and systems underpin food security and provide insurance against future threats and ecological changes (Mulvany et al., 2002). Indigenous and traditional seed systems contain immense biodiversity essential to the conservation of agriculture biodiversity and critical for the production of a diversity of foods to ensure dietary diversity in smallholder communities. Furthermore, the agricultural biodiversity within these food and seed systems contributes to food and nutrition security, improved financial situations, and for combating 'hidden hunger' caused by micronutrient (vitamin and mineral) deficiencies.

Agro-biodiversity is at risk with the expansion of industrial agriculture all over the world. Locally varied food production systems including local knowledge and the culture and skills of women and men farmers are under threat. With the disappearance of harvested species, varieties and breeds a wide range of unharvested species also disappear. According to FAO (1990), roughly 75% of plant genetic diversity has been lost worldwide since the 1990s. Farmers have left their local varieties and land races for genetically improved and high yielding varieties which undermines food security. Conservation of agro-biodiversity is important as it is the genetic materials for food, agriculture, source of human nutrition and climate resilient farming systems.

It is against this background that PELUM Uganda organized the 8th Annual Indigenous and traditional food fair 2018 to showcase the socio-economic and cultural value of indigenous and traditional food and seed systems as well as their potential to preserve agrobiodiversity and combat hunger. The theme for the food fair was; ***Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems, preserving agricultural biodiversity, ending hunger.*** This food fair theme was in support of the World Food Day 2018 theme, "*Working for Zero Hunger*" and the International Day for Biological Diversity 2018. The theme was also in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. It contributes to targets on maintaining genetic diversity of seeds and plants.

1.1 Objectives of the food fair

The major objective was to showcase the innate socio-economic and ecological value of indigenous and traditional foods and seeds and highlight the significant contribution of these systems to conservation of agricultural biodiversity and attainment of food security.

Specific Objectives

1. To showcase different indigenous and traditional foods and seeds from different Ugandan societies, their preservation, preparation, innovation/ value addition and consumption.
2. To create awareness on the value of indigenous/ traditional food systems, farmer managed seed systems and their contribution to food security and community resilience

3. To provide a platform for dialogue and experience sharing on the policy frameworks, benefits, current threats and challenges faced by indigenous/ traditional food and farmer managed seed systems.

2.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE EVENT

This report presents proceedings of the 8th indigenous and traditional food fair that was held on October 19th 2018 at UMA Conference hall and parking space from 8:00am to 5:00pm. The event was attended by farmers, private sector, cultural leaders, PELUM Uganda members, Members of Parliament, government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and students among others.

2.1 Welcome Remarks



Stella G. Lutalo, the Country Coordinator of PELUM Uganda makes her welcome remarks

Stella G. Lutalo, the Country Coordinator of PELUM Uganda gave the welcome remarks. She thanked all new and past participants for taking time off to attend the event. She introduced the different categories of people present including Members of Parliament from the Agriculture Committee, representatives from government, representatives from cultural institutions, research and academic institutions, private sector, farmers, civil society organisation and PELUM Uganda members, Board members and staff.

In her brief about PELUM Uganda and its work she mentioned that PELUM Association had been having indigenous and traditional food fair campaigns for about 12 years. These campaigns were borne out of the threat of GMOs that necessitated conservation of indigenous foods and seeds. Uniquely, in 2018, PELUM Uganda organized the first regional food fairs in the Rwenzori, Acholi, West Nile and Teso sub-regions. The fairs, both regional and national, exhibit the rich diversity of Uganda and how farmers are trying to preserve it.

2.2 Opening Remarks



Ms. Harriet N. Ssempebwa, the Ag. PELUM Uganda Country Board Chairperson makes her opening remarks

Harriet Ndagire Ssempebwa, the Acting Country Board Chairperson of PELUM Uganda gave the opening remarks. She too welcomed participants to the event and thanked them for always responding to PELUM Uganda's invitations. She reminded participants that the food fair was a celebration of Uganda's indigenous and traditional seeds and foods and encouraged them to share views during plenary sessions and while interacting with the exhibitors.

She informed participants that without promoting indigenous and traditional foods, Uganda's cultural, social and economic identity was at risk. Therefore, there was need for more joint efforts in ensuring that

the indigenous and traditional foods' value chains are revived and/or developed to save them from extinction.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS MADE DURING THE FOOD FAIR

3.1 Youth Involvement in Preservation of Bio-Diversity



This presentation was made by Ms. Edith Sifuna of Youth Association for Rural Development (YARD).

Ms. Sifuna shared that YARD works with 1,803 smallholder farmers of which 427 were youths, 608 men and 728 are women. The organisations puts a lot of emphasis on building areas of expertise for the youth from which they can earn money for a living and also builds their capacity to train others.

Through PELUM Uganda, 7 YARD staff and 6 lead farmers were trained, exposed and had their capacity built in the production, preservation, storage, marketing and value addition of different indigenous crops



Ms. Edith Sifuna of YARD

with emphasis on indigenous knowledge, bio-diversity and Agro-ecology. One of the trained staff- Wanjala Jerry had taken on the role of building the capacity of farmers and youths in Agro-ecology and indigenous knowledge. He was also leading the Centre of Excellence supported by PELUM Uganda to preserve bio-diversity and promote indigenous food and knowledge.

In addition, Ms. Sifuna commented that, with the capacity building from PELUM Uganda on Knowledge Management, YARD had embarked on the process of documenting the different indigenous and traditional crop varieties within their areas of operations crops such as climbing yams, bananas and

vegetables with the aim of sharing the information with others.

Following Ms. Sifuna's presentation, four farmers affiliated to YARD (Christine Timesalyamisa, Miriam Kyofuna, Namusisi Madrine and Kamyia David) shared their testimonies on

how involvement in preservation of biodiversity had impacted their livelihoods. Specifically, the farmers shared testimonies on traditional vegetable seed production and preservation, production and growth of agro-forestry trees and construction of energy saving stoves. **(See Annex 1 for their testimonies)**

Ms. Sifuna noted that enabling and empowering the youth to get involved in the preservation of biodiversity is not an easy road to take but requires a lot of creativity and patience. She therefore noted the following as key issues to put into consideration;

- Visioning is key in enabling youth to get involved in farming as a business because it allows them to reflect on their past, present and future and then come up with goals to be realized (*Visioning was adopted from the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology passed on by PELUM Uganda*).
- Allow youth to engage in enterprise selection, specialization and diversification based on preference as this will ensure success. This should however be done alongside continuous sensitization about indigenous and traditional food crops with much emphasis on their nutritional and monetary values. This will allow for maximum investment in different enterprises.
- We should always allow for diversification of the indigenous crops and how they can support each other during growth, preserve the natural resource base and the individual farmer.
- Emphasize the economic advantages of the indigenous / traditional crops as compared to the new and improved crops. Advantages such as limited or no use of chemicals, ability to store the seed and maintain viability, allowance for intercropping and others should be fronted in order to attract youth into engaging in preservation of biodiversity.
- Marketing and enterprise development is very important because it brings out the monetary value of any activity and also encourages hard work. This should be complimented with exposure visits to facilitate further learning and acquiring of new knowledge and skills.

3.2 Building Open Source Seed Systems: A Review of Paths and Practices in East Africa



**Dr. Gloria Otieno from
Bioversity International**

Dr. Gloria Otieno, a Genetic Resources and Food Security Policy Specialist from Bioversity International made this presentation. She noted that Bioversity International was engaged in documentation to enhance conservation and that they work with policy makers to ensure farmers' access to a wide range of services.

She further noted that some of the challenges that smallholder farmers face was a lack of access to seed from both the formal and farmer managed seed systems with the latter lacking support for the majority of seeds in use. As Bioversity International, they believe in, *"The importance of access to diverse and ecologically adapted seeds to farmers and consumers; and the need to prevent exclusive rights on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and knowledge on its use."*

She shared that Open Source Seed Systems were a necessary innovation to ensure a competitive seed industry with more companies entering the market and farmers having many different varieties to choose

from. The hope for an East African open source seed system is to (re)create seed commons in order to ensure access to diverse seeds; innovation capacity (selection, breeding) and freedom to save, sell and use genetic material – protecting the boundaries of seed commons,” Dr. Otieno shared.

Biodiversity International had conducted research in which 40,000 farmers had access to diverse seeds, 1,000 farmers selected new climate resilient varieties of millets and beans and spaces were created and utilised to engage actors and policy makers on issues related to freedom to use genetic material.

Going forward, Dr. Otieno mentioned that Bioversity International’s promotion of Open Source Seed Systems would require documentation through Community Biodiversity Registers (provide a basis for knowing what really belongs to the communities) and community Bio Protocols (spells out guidelines, requirements or obligations to be met before and after accessing genetic resources from communities). Additionally, there are calls for any resultant material bred to be in the Open access, that is, may be having agreements between breeder and community and/or Licensing or pledging.

3.3 Women’s Role in Conserving Agro-Biodiversity

This presentation was made by Ms. Eunice Tumwebaze, the Assistant Commissioner in charge of Culture who represented Ms. Juliana Naumo, the Commissioner, Culture and Family Affairs at Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MoGLSD). Ms. Tumwebaze shared that women’s contribution to agriculture and food production was immense and this was mainly through identifying and preparing land, selecting and managing seed, being in-charge of food habits, preferences and preparation methods, adding value and contributing to the socioeconomic significance attached to certain crops.



**Ms. Eunice Tumwebaze,
Assistant Commissioner in
charge of Culture, MoGLSD**

“Women are expected to know the food habits of their families to inform food preparation and consumption. Mothers know what their children eat and their consumption habits. In all this, women play a vital role in conserving indigenous varieties since they make the final decision in selecting the best varieties-be it crops or small remnants and have highly specialized knowledge on wild plants used for food, fodder and medicine,” she shared.

However, despite their critical role, women still face many challenges in conserving agro-biodiversity with many of their roles these roles still misunderstood, unrecognised, and ignored by policy makers and development planners at the national level. They are never given special attention to improve on their skills. Limited gender studies have been conducted in relation to biodiversity management and food security in Uganda. More so, the changing agro-ecosystem including emerging market opportunities or occurrences of natural calamities and the existing norms and values that define women's participation in the dynamics of local society are making matters worse.

She noted that MoGLSD had various programmes to further enhance women’s role in conserving agro-biodiversity. Among them was Functional Adult Literacy programmes which could be used to access information and strengthen women’s voices.

She recommended provision of institutional support to the informal networks of farmers including women, supporting government agencies for local agro-biodiversity conservation initiatives, providing methods of adding value to women's indigenous knowledge on increasing diversity in crop species and varieties, strengthen women's networks which would serve as their voice, research and development workers working together with policy makers and donors to better understand the contributions that women make as agro-biodiversity managers and building an information base on gender dimensions in agro-biodiversity management, local knowledge systems to strengthen Agricultural and rural development.

3.4 Plenary and Discussion on the Three Presentations

Our indigenous seeds are being outcompeted in the market because they are fetching low prices. Farmers are being forced into buying hybrid seed. I urge farmers to do more to promote the value chain.

(Mwesigye Ram, Kamwenge Maize Farmers' Association- also affiliated to SATNET)

I urge members to be ambassadors within the community in regards to preserving agro-biodiversity through conserving indigenous and traditional foods and seeds.

(Nakuya Mary Gorretti, SARD-Net)

Question	Responses
What is the policy framework that protects smallholder farmers? <i>Stephen (SARD-Net)</i>	MoGLSD has a strategy to document all indigenous knowledge including seed, food, cultural practices etc. <i>(Ms. Tumwebaze MoGLSD)</i> For the past 5 or so years, we have been working with MAAIF and Plant Genetic Resources Center on the National Plant Genetic Resources Policy and the National Seed Policy and PELUM Uganda has been actively involved in the drafting process. The 2 policies are key in protecting farmers' seed rights. Plans are in place in East Africa to develop a policy on protecting farmers' seed rights <i>(Dr. Gloria Otieno, Bioversity International)</i>
What is your position on the current GMO bill? <i>(Francis, Lira district)</i>	We are for diversity in the food and seed systems. There is no way we can be pro-GMOs because it does not promote sustainable use and management <i>(Dr. Gloria Otieno, Bioversity International)</i>
Seed bank system was more project based. How is it being done to ensure sustainability <i>(Moses Mitalo, NECFARM Uganda)</i>	There is a success story of a seed bank established by National Agricultural Research Organization in partnership with Bioversity International. The farmers have already registered the seed bank as a seed cooperative and table banking. We hope to replicate it in other parts of Uganda <i>(Dr. Gloria Otieno, Bioversity International)</i>
It is true that women are being marginalized? What happened to the Functional Adult Literacy programme that MoGLSD used to	I will follow up with the department concerned. I will take your contact so that the department can get in touch with you. You can also utilize the Uganda Women

<p>offer? It is not functional in Katakwi district. Women used to access a lot of information from this programme</p> <p>What is MoGLSD doing to strengthen the existing women's groups? We are always relying on NGOs</p> <p><i>Farmer, Katakwi district</i></p>	<p>Entrepreneurship Programme and the Youth Livelihood programme to support all your activities.</p> <p><i>(Ms. Tumwebaze MoGLSD)</i></p>
<p>PELUM Uganda, do you have a business model to outscale what the youth at YARD are doing to multiply seed? Look at Dr. Onyago of Kenya who demonstrated that <i>Ensugga</i> is better than cabbage and this has been exhibited by the increased sell of the product on the market.</p> <p><i>Martin Ssemakula, Media consultant</i></p>	<p>We built the capacity of YARD in our Community Managed Seed Security Model (CMSSM) that is why they are able to testify</p> <p><i>(Stella Lutalo, PELUM Uganda)</i></p> <p>Youth always do visioning looking at their past and current situations and future prospects. They then look at available opportunities and potential challenges before setting objectives and activities. We encourage collective actions. We do farmer-led M&E and mentorship to help build the capacity of farmers.</p> <p><i>(Edith Sifuna, YARD)</i></p>
<p>How do you preserve nutrients in the food?</p> <p><i>Flavia Namboze, African Rural University</i></p>	<p>We promote preservation of nutrients in the soil which is the first step in preserving nutrients in the food. Our Climate Resilient Agro Ecosystems Model (CRAEM) promotes technologies and practices such as composting that promote growth of nutritious food stuff. We also encourage proper postharvest handling methods that ensure efficient drying and storage that preserve the nutrients.</p> <p><i>(Harriet N. Ssempebwa, Ag. PELUM Uganda CB Chairperson)</i></p> <p>PELUM Uganda is in the process of developing a recipe book that we hope to launch in the next food fair. It will contain healthy recipes that ensure preservation of nutrients within food.</p> <p><i>(Stella Lutalo, PELUM Uganda)</i></p>

4.0 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL FOOD AND SEED SYSTEMS; PRESERVING AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY, ENDING HUNGER



Dr. Elizabeth B. Kizito, Head of Department, Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Uganda Christina

This was made by Dr. Elizabeth Balyejusa Kizito, the Head of Department, Agricultural and Biological Sciences at Uganda Christian University. She started by sharing the status of hunger in world with over 800 million people in 83 low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDC) reported to be chronically hungry/ suffering from malnutrition. In Uganda, Karamoja, West Nile and Western regions were the most affected by malnutrition.

She challenged participants that in the face of sustained malnutrition in thw world, they needed to ask themselves, *Is it really that the world cannot produce enough food to feed everyone?*The problem remained that many people still did not have sufficient income to purchase (or land to grow) enough food or access nutritious food.

In Uganda, a study conducted by Sseremba et al. (2017)¹ identified about 129 species of African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs) distributed throughout the country. These were closely associated with traditions, knowledge, habits, and occurrences of the human population. Dr. Kizito

mentioned that she had however seen new vegetable varieties exhibited by farmers during the fair indicatingthat there were more to be found within the country.

Dr. Kizito noted that in order for indigenous Food & Seed Systems to be harnessed for preserved agricultural biodiversity and ending hunger, there needed to be physical availability of food, economic and physical access to food, food utilization and the stability of these dimensions over time.

Plenary and discussion

Question	Responses by Dr. Kizito
Does your curriculum at UCU address issues of nutrition and part of what you have presented? <i>Smallholder farmer</i>	Yes, the UCU Agriculture curriculum incorporates courses on all issues including; climate change, Agricultural resilient systems among others.
Does UCU have any collaborations or partnerships you work with in helping small-holder farmers to overcome the changes in the climate and in the fight against hunger? <i>Martin Ssemakula, Media consultant</i>	Yes. We have collaborated with Jomo Kenyatta University and RUFORUM for strengthening agricultural research and training For partnerships money is needed, we have had radio shows about nutrition issues and ways on how to improve consumption.

¹Sseremba et al., (2017). Diversity and distribution of African indigenous vegetable species in Uganda. International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation.

5.0 INSPECTION OF STALLS BY THE CHIEF GUEST AND OTHER KEY INVITED GUESTS

The Chief Guest and other key invited guests were accompanied by PELUM Uganda Country Board members and management to inspect the exhibition stalls. Below are some of the pictures from their inspection



Some of the seed varieties exhibited during the 8th Annual Indigenous and Traditional food fair



Participants visit an exhibition stall by COU TEDDO



A female exhibitor shows judges the local method of grinding millet



Mr. Stephen Biribonwa(blue suit)is accompanied by the Plant Genetic Resources Center (PGRC) and PELUM Uganda Country Board members and Country Coordinator to visit the various exhibition stalls



The Best exhibitors – Church of Uganda TEDDO jubilate after receiving their award



Agency for Integrated Rural Development (AFIRD) emerged as the 1st runners up

6.0 REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE



**Hon. Vincent Woboya, MP,
Budadiri East, Sironko District**

Hellen Kasujja the session moderator introduced Hon. Vincent Woboya, the MP of Budadiri East from Sironko to make remarks on behalf of the Chairperson of the Committee of Agriculture who was unable to attend to event. Hon, Obwoya thanked PELUM Uganda for organizing the food fair and all participants for gracing the occasion.

He shared that as Members of Parliament, they were concerned about the slow growth of the agriculture sector and they were working hard to ensure that government allocates more resources to it. He further mentioned that in 2017, the sector had grown by 3.2% but he was hoping that it grows better than that in the coming years. *“Reliance on nature is still a big challenge and as such climate change is affecting so many people. Take an example of the recent landslides in Bududa that killed many. I appeal to PELUM Uganda to increase its efforts in sensitizing people on issues related to disaster risk reduction,”* commented Hon. Woboya.

The Honourable further re-echoed the importance of preserving indigenous and traditional foods and seed because of their numerous benefits. He encouraged people that even when growing these food varieties, they should grow enough for consumption and sale. He argued that it was wrong to say that with indigenous and traditional food and seed varieties, we could not have enough food.

In regards to policy influencing, Hon. Woboya requested PELUM Uganda to organise meetings with other Members of Parliament to further discuss how to support the agriculture sector. He also noted the need for more research and collaboration in order to support local knowledge with new techniques and to build farmers' capacity in post-harvest handling. He noted an improvement in the management of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC). For instance, OWC had requested different districts to come up with nurseries instead of buying seedlings from one area and distributing it to another. This way, spread of pest and diseases was minimized.

He concluded by thanking PELUM Uganda for inviting Parliament and assured the participants that some of them would not settle until change was realized within the community.

Comments

Qn: I expected to hear a lot of solutions to the many challenges that were shared in your remarks but there were none. What are policy makers doing to support smallholder farmers?

Response: Regarding the Bududa landslides, Parliament was in plans to discuss a resettlement plan for the people. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED) had set aside funds to manage the resettlement. However, disaster risk reduction was a joint effort

Qn: Uganda's agriculture budget has been low. What lobbying capacity do we need to improve it?

Response: MPs do a lot of legislation even though some of them may not be very popular. During the Joint Agriculture Sector Annual Review (JASAR), they made a lot of recommendations such as revamping of the animal stock farms in Njeru and Kayunga districts.

Qn: Do MPs and members of the Agriculture committee take time to evaluate Government programmes that fail in order to avoid future failures?

Response: NAADs and OWC are both still operational. The difference is in the roles played by each.

7.0 SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOR



The Guest of Honor to the Indigenous Food fair was Hon. Christopher Kibazanga, the State Minister for Agriculture who was represented by Mr. Stephen Biribonwa.

See his detailed speech in (Annex 2)

***Mr. Stephen Biribonwa, Principal
Agricultural Officer, MAAIF***

8.0 AWARDING OF TROPHIES AND CERTIFICATES TO EXHIBITORS

The moderator, Harriet NdagireSsempebwa invited Jumba Francis from IDP who led a team of 5 judges in inspecting the exhibition stalls. The 4 judges included;

1. Jumba Francis from IDP
2. Joyce Adokorach from Plant Genetic Resources Center
3. Dr. Gloria Othieno from Bioversity International
4. Florence Nasimba from Uganda Martyr University
5. Josephine Akia from PELUM Uganda

Mr. Jumba appreciated all exhibitors for showcasing Uganda's food and seed diversity. He noted that they had visited 36 stalls and that judging had been an interesting and transparent process. In their assessment, the team looked at different aspects including; the extent of biodiversity among the exhibited items, adherence to the day's theme, how knowledgeable the exhibitors were, how well the exhibitors explained the importance of their items, the quality of what was exhibited and evidence of value addition. Judge Florence Nasimaba further added that the exhibitions were excellent, they expressed a lot of knowledge about their exhibition and showed keen interest in the diversity of their regions. The cultural attachment given to the diversity was impressive. However, few exhibitors had showcased value addition.

Below were the results.

1. Church of Uganda TEDDO (scored 31.6 out of 40) **Best Exhibitor**
2. Agency for Integrated Rural Development –AFIRD (scored 31.1 out of 30) **1st runners up**
3. Kichwamba Women Twimuke Savings and Credit Farmers Association (scored 29.5 out of 40) **2nd runners up**
4. Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale farmers' Forum - ESAFF Uganda (scored 28.1 out of 40)
5. Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Network - SARD-Net Lamwo (scored 28 out of 40)
6. KulikaUganda (scored 27.6 out of 40)
7. IIRR (scored 27.4 out of 40)
8. SARD-Net Kibaale (scored 26.7 out of 40)
9. Nkokonjeru Area Cooperative Uganda Limited, Mityana (scored 26.5 out of 40)
10. Youth Association for Rural Development (YARD) (scored 26.4 out of 40)
11. SOCADIDO (scored 26.4 out of 40)

The best exhibitors per region were as follows;

1. Church of Uganda TEDDO– **Eastern Region**
2. Agency for Integrated Rural Development (AFIRD) – **Central Region**
3. Kichwamba Women Savings and Credit Association– **Western Region**
4. Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Network - SARD-Net Lamwo - **Northern Region**

9.0 CLOSING REMARKS AND DEPARTURE

The closing remarks were made by Ms. Stella Lutalo, the PELUM Uganda Country Coordinator. She thanked all presenters, key guests and exhibitors for attending the event and the PELUM Uganda staff for the efforts put in organizing the event. She also thanked Trocaire and appreciated its support to the food fair. She concluded by inviting participants to the 9th indigenous and traditional food fair that would take in 2019. She closed the meeting at 6:00pm



ANNEXES

Annex 1: Youth Involvement in preserving biodiversity: Testimonies from farmers affiliated to YARD

Mukisa Farmers' Group has been working with YARD since 2013 under the Development of Agriculture economy programme. The group is composed of 20 members (3 men, 7 youth and 10 women). The group deals in production, preservation and marketing of traditional vegetables and their seeds.

32-year old Christine Timesa is one of the group members. She is a mother of 3 married to a carpenter. After getting married at an early age, she realized that they (husband and wife) needed to supplement the income got from her husband's carpentry work. She decided to join Mukisa farmers' group which was located within her village. As a member of the group, she benefited from trainings in vegetable production and seed processing. Currently, she is a farmer facilitator on behalf of YARD and continues to build the capacity of other farmers within her group in the area of production, preservation, processing and marketing of traditional vegetables and seeds.





The vegetable seeds packaged in sachets

Once the group started production, preservation and marketing of traditional vegetables and their seeds, they faced challenges in marketing the seed but they intensified efforts in finding markets. The group attended the Jinja agriculture show, where they were able to find market for their seed through Simlaw and East Africa seed company. However, although the company bought seed from the group, it did not buy all of it. As a member of the group

marketing committee, Christine continued to look for more market for their produce within neighboring communities and other interested parties and she was successful.

The group currently sells its vegetable seeds in 1-kilogram sachets. The seeds cost Ugx 1,000 – Ugx 5,000 and Ugx 15,000 – Ugx 30,000 depending on the variety. With these sales, Christine is able to earn at least Ugx 150,000 per month with good weather conditions and Ugx 50,000 – Ugx 70,000 during the dry season.

Kamya David is a farmer and a member of Suubi farmers' group in Nkokonjeru Town council. He specializes in raising seedlings of different traditional trees that are environmentally friendly but also medicinal and income generating. David has raised seedlings of 'omukibu', a traditional tree that is used for making boats but also very nitrogenous; *Ficus* - a very traditional tree that is very good in making backcloth, a good agro forestry tree which supports the growth of especially bananas and climbing yams and its leaves are used for feeding goats. He has gone ahead to raise seedlings of 'mwambalabutonya' a tree used for treating cough and flu, a good shade tree and at the same time providing hard wood. He sells these seedlings to different people/farmers making them accessible but also reviving their growth within communities. Apart from raising traditional tree seedlings he also raises grafted passion fruit seedlings.



David tends his vegetable nursery

22-year old Miriam Kyofuna and 21-year old Madrine Namusisi are members of Tulibumu farmer group located in n Zitwe village Ssi sub-county, Buikwedistrict. The group is comprised of 15 members of which 6 are youths. After completing their Secondary education, they had no money to fund further studies and so when YARD started working in their Parish, they joined the farmer group within their village. The two youth are actively involved in group activities and are members of the marketing and monitoring committees. They are also knowledgeable and skilled farmer facilitators who train others in different agriculture practices. The ladies specialize in planting, multiplication and preservation of trees through construction of energy saving stoves.

In Buikwe district, Ssi sub-county was one of the most forested areas but that is no longer the case due to massive tree cutting for charcoal, timber and firewood. With the passion to protect and preserve diversity, the two ladies have been very key in sensitizing and enabling group members and other community members to plant trees and construct energy saving stoves.



They have been able to construct stoves in their homes and for other farmers. Their services have been extended to other community members at a cost of between Ugx 10,000 to Ugx 35,000. This is aimed at reducing tree cutting for firewood most especially for cooking which has destroyed the natural environment. In addition, they are also involved in the growing of traditional bananas which had disappeared in this sub-county to the introduction of "fia" variety an improved banana variety and growing of vegetables and climbing yams.

22-year old Miriam Kyofuna cooks using one of the energy saving stoves (PHOTOS by YARD)

Annex 2:Speech by the Guest of Honor

TALKING NOTES

Honorable Members of Parliament present,

The Development Partners present,

Private Sector,

Civil Society Representatives,

Academia,

Farmer representatives,

Exhibitors

The media,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It gives me great pleasure to officiate on this 8th Annual Indigenous and Traditional Food Fair under the theme ***Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems; preserving agricultural biodiversity, ending hunger***
2. Agriculture remains Uganda's main foreign exchange earner, contributing almost 52% of our total export, 23% of Growth Domestic Product (GDP) and employing more than 70% of Ugandans.
3. Agriculture in Uganda is dominated by smallholder farmers, practicing subsistence farming with 5.2 million Farming households out of 7.2 million households directly engaged in Agriculture.
4. The government of Uganda pursues agricultural development policies and strategies that mobilize farmers and increase investments in agriculture. Investments in the sector are guided by priority and strategic commodities in which Uganda has a competitive advantage.
5. In addition, the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan under objective 2 "Enhancing production and consumption of diverse diets" mandates the agriculture sector to promote production and consumption of diverse diets.
6. Today's theme ***Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems; preserving agricultural biodiversity, ending hunger*** is in line with that of the World Food Day 2018; "Working for Zero Hunger" and this augers well with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
7. Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems greatly contribute to conservation of agriculture biodiversity and provide diverse and nutritious foods for rural communities
8. Most traditional food systems provide highly nutritious and diverse source of natural food. Such systems promote sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of agricultural biodiversity and increase resilience to climate change.
9. Strengthening smallholder's capacity to produce quality seeds will improve farm production and productivity of traditional foods hence enhancing household food and nutrition security, health and livelihoods of communities.
10. Government will continue to work with all stakeholders including private sector, Development Partners and farmers to ensure safe, diverse and inclusive food systems.

13. I wish to applaud Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda towards promoting Indigenous and Traditional food systems and improving livelihoods of small-scale farmers.

I congratulate the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda for having consistently held these food fairs at National level for the past 7 years.

14. I therefore call upon all stakeholders to embrace this initiative and further develop the country.

15. I now wish to take this opportunity to officially thank you all.

Honorable Christopher Kibazanga

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Annex 3:Assessment Criteria for the 2018 Indigenous and Traditional Food Fair Exhibition

Exhibiting Organization/

Individual

Name(s) of Exhibitor(s)

-
1.
2.
3.
4.

Stall No:

.....

Name of Judge

.....

	Assessment Guiding Criteria	Score (1-5) 1= very poor 5= very good	Comments
1.	Diversity (Variety of indigenous and traditional foods and seed exhibited including endangered and underutilized varieties)		
2.	Knowledge and documentation of food sovereignty, indigenous and traditional foods and seed exhibited		
3.	Presentation: attractiveness of the stall and presentation skills of the exhibitor(s)		
4.	Multiple importance of indigenous and traditional foods and seed exhibited: food and nutrition security, socio-economic value, cultural and medicinal significance		

5.	Relevance of exhibition to the 2018 indigenous and traditional food fair theme: <i>"Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems, preserving agricultural biodiversity, ending hunger"</i>		
6.	Quality of exhibited materials (physical purity, uniformity and quality control standards)		
	TOTAL SCORE (out of 30)		

Annex 4:Program for the 8thAnnual Indigenous and Traditional food fair

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
8.00 am- 9.00 am	Arrival, Registration & final preparations of exhibition stalls	PELUM/Exhibitors
9.00 am - 9.15 am	Welcome remarks	Stella Lutalo, Country Coordinator, PELUM Uganda
9.15 am - 9.30 am	Opening remarks	Harriet Ndagire, Country Board chairperson, PELUM Uganda
9.30 am -9.50 am	Sharing farmers' perspectives on indigenous and traditional foods	Youth Association For Rural Development (YARD)
9.50 am - 10.10 am	Open seed systems and agro-biodiversity	Dr. Gloria Otieno, Genetic Resources and Food Security Policy Specialist, Bioversity International
10.10 – 10.30 am	Women's role in conserving agro-biodiversity	Ms. Juliana Naumo – Commissioner, Culture and Family Affairs, MGLSD
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Plenary and discussion	Moderator
11.00 am - 11.30 am	Health break - Traditional Entertainment on-going	All
11.30 – 12.00 am	Keynote address: Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems; preserving agricultural biodiversity, ending hunger	Dr. Elizabeth Kizito, Head of department, Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Uganda Christian university
12.00 pm – 1.00 pm	Plenary and discussion	Moderator
1.00 pm - 2.00 pm	Lunch break	All
2.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Inspection of stalls by chief guest and other key invited guests	Moderator
3.00 pm - 3.20 pm	Remarks from representatives of Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture	Parliamentary Committee representatives
3.20 pm – 3.30 pm	Remarks from PGRC	Dr. John Mulumba, Director Plant Genetic Resources Centre

3.30 pm - 3.50 pm	Speech by the Chief Guest	Hon. Christopher Kibanzanga. State Minister for Agriculture
3.50 pm - 4.20 pm	Awarding of trophies and certificates to exhibitors	Chief Guest and other key guests
4.20 pm - 4.30 pm	Closing remarks and departure	PELUM