

UGANDA POSITION PAPER

POST-HARVEST and TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY ISSUES in EAST and SOUTHERN AFRICA – VIDEO CONFERENCE

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Present status of topic at national level

- Over all national data: exports mainly fruits, vegetables, spices and starchy foods, 45 exporters, 10% of exporters have refrigerated trucks, there are 5 cold storage stations
- Wholesale markets – lack storage and handling capacity
- Transportation – fresh by air (overseas) and road (regional markets), processed by air, road and sea (limited), inappropriate means of transport and packaging, 2 companies specialized in cold haulage.
- Institutions - MAAIF (Advisory, research, policy), Private sector foundation (liaison), UEPB (market linkages), HPOU (exporter collective action),
- Data - generic, not seasonal, no dissemination
- University - Mountains of Moon, Makerere University teach horticulture (no post harvest logistics)
- Local expertise present - NARO, Universities, NGOs, Consultants

Present status of management of the issues raised

- No national platform, but initiatives on commodity basis e.g. pineapple, banana (proposed)
- One donor – The Royal Netherlands Embassy for WSSD fruit & veg procurement and cool chain
- Draft horticulture policy
- Initiatives to train farmers in production, handling and group marketing exist but isolated and not well documented
- Lack of multi stakeholder platforms

On going strategy at regional level

- COMESA
 - Guidelines on product standards
 - Registering transporters – AMPRP
 - Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA)
- EAC - free movement of goods
- Regional supermarket chains offer opportunity, but are not fully utilized

Prioritized investment opportunities (immediate)

1. Strengthen the modified procurement system - establish export villages with modern farming, standardize produce & handling capacity, appropriate technology cold storage, impose discipline in procurement, reduce postharvest losses (90% to 10%), reduce procurement time (72 to 4 hrs), cost and no. of people handling products (16 to 4).
2. Upgrading rural storage facilities, mobile /passive rechargeable storage, and modern wholesale markets with cold storage.
3. Establish power points at border crossing points and airport .
4. Conduct static cold storage trials to determine parameters for sea transport.
5. Support technical HR - maintenance of cold chain and post harvest handling and logistics professionals.
6. Capacity building for support services for cold storage facilities – repairs, spare parts, servicing.
7. Upgrade the loading/off loading bays at Entebbe with cooling facilities.
8. Institute priority customs clearing procedures at Entebbe airport for fresh produce.

Additional investment opportunities (medium term)

10. Strengthen national statistics capacity - regular seasonal statistics, dissemination.
11. Strengthen research and development in refrigeration, handling and transportation.
12. Standards and regulation of trading units (volume vs weight).
13. Establish multi stakeholder platforms
14. Organize smallholder production and collective marketing