



# **Smallholders' Involvement in Commercial Agriculture / Horticulture in ESA Region**

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# **Proportion of smallholders' horticultural production**

- 1. 37,000 formal jobs (30,000 in fruit and vegetables)**
- 2. number of households involved in horticulture is unknown**
- 3. farm is < 2 ha., all crops including fruits and vegetables**
- 4. Over 75% workforce is female**
- 5. domestic market is growing by 33,000 - 55,000 mt/year**
- 6. Fruits vegetables, vanilla, cocoa, papain and spices**

# **Constraints regarding smallholders' involvement in horticultural production in Uganda**

- 1. Limited access to land for the youth and women**
- 2. Insecure Seed Systems**
- 3. Poor Input Distribution System**
  - 1. Underdeveloped Irrigation Systems**
  - 2. Low Farm Level Organisation and Links to The Outside**
  - 3. Low Access to Financial Services**
  - 4. Poor Logistical Arrangements for Marketing**
  - 5. Complicated Market Access Requirements**

# **Present policies and policy management for smallholders' involvement**

- 1. Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP)**
- 2. Plan For Modernization Of Agriculture (PMA)**
- 3. Prosperity For All (PFA)**
- 4. Environment protection policy**
- 5. Decentralization Policy**
- 6. Trade liberalization policy**
- 7. Product standards such as the pineapple and avocado standards.**
- 8. Donor, NGO interventions**
- 9. Sustainability is needed**

# On-going strategy at regional level

1. Horticulture prioritized under the CAADP Compact of Uganda.
  - Private companies in Uganda and Rwanda in discussion of joint venture partnerships in the sector under CAADP
2. African Seed and Biotechnology Program under the EAC
3. ASARECA program to address the issue of variable requirements across seed systems of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania
4. Information flow and networking promoted by the World Bank through GlobalHort

# Recommendations

- 1. Collective actions should be promoted all along the value chains**
  - emphasis at farm level but also at Apex Organization level
  - Kilimo Trust in the lead on apex organisations development
- 2. Capacity building for all levels of organization, not just the farmer-run ones**
- 3. Farm management and technical skills development**
  - Also required at PMOs for maintenance of facilities like pack houses and wholesale markets
- 4. Water for production should be developed faster**

# Recommendations cont'd

5. **Processes and procedures for accessing rural financial services should be modernized.**
6. **Farmers should be protected from unscrupulous seed suppliers**
  - **Government should set up strong regulation on seeds**
  - **Interstate seed regulations should be harmonized**
7. **Producers should work within a protected physical environment**
  - **UgandaGAP implementation**
  - **safer peri-urban horticulture production**
8. **Coordination of smallholder producers at the regional level should be done by the East African Community (ECA) and COMESA**