

# CEFROHT

## Quarterly Newsletter 2024

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### AGROECOLOGY

CEFROHT trains small holder women farmers both in peri-urban and rural areas to produce agroecologically. Many of the trained farmers could not sustainably produce agroecologically due to a number of supply constraints.



### THE NATIONAL AGRO-ECOLOGY STRATEGY (NAS) DEVELOPMENT

A sustainable agri-food system is only possible with Agroecology. CEFROHT uses the Human Rights-Based Approach to promote agroecology. Integrating the Human Rights-Based Approach in the NAS will enable full realization of the benefits of agroecology in Uganda.



*Agroecology actors: CSOs, Farmer organizations, FAO, MAAIF, Local government leaders, Individual Farmers pose for a photo during the two-day retreat to improve the NAS zero draft for Uganda.*

### THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN UGANDA SINCE INDEPENDENCE: POLICY AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE LAST 62 YEARS

According to the 2024 Global Hunger Index, Uganda ranks a score of 27.3, and considered a level of 'serious' food insecurity posing further challenges to the country's ability to achieve SDG 2 on Zero Hunger with 18.5 million Ugandans facing acute food insecurity. Conventional Farming systems coupled with frequent climate shocks: droughts and floods heighten the vulnerability of Uganda's smallholder farmers, in a country reliant on rain-fed agriculture.

# COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM.

## CEFROHT JOINS THE CONTINENT AT THE AGROECOLOGY FUND TRIPARTITE EVENT CONVENING IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE.



*The E.D CEFROHT during one of the interactive sessions in Zimbabwe*



*Break-out sessions during the Agroecology fund African learning Exchange on agroecology economies.*

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With over 100 participants from across the continent, the agroecology partners at the convening shared experiences and ideas on the good practices of promoting agroecology economies with Donor partners, through panel discussions, open spaces, and interactive and reflective sessions. The convening discussed the role enabling policy and legal frameworks play in supporting agroecological approaches and practices, including land rights, seed sovereignty, and territorial market access. Additionally, the convening underscored the need for stronger government engagement at local and national government levels and collaboration to support agroecological initiatives, improve market access, promote value addition, and post-harvest management for agroecological products.

Please find a snapshot of the event via the link:

<https://cefroht.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Agroecology.mp4>

## CEFROHT'S EFFORTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF AGROECOLOGY AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS

CEFROHT trains small holder women farmers both in peri-urban and rural areas to produce agro-ecologically. Many of the trained farmers could not sustainably produce agroecologically due to a number of supply constraints. With support from the Agroecology Fund Business Planning Grant, CEFROHT conducted several meetings with farmers who identified several supply constraints which included: lack of land, organic input issues, limited or no training in the areas of agroecology, limited access to water sources, cultural and social issues, low soil fertility, poor storage facilities, long dry spells, limited access to agri-finances, lack of certification, lack of market information on agroecology agri-food products, among others.

Therefore, CEFROHT working with two women and youth groups, and local governments developed two strategies; that is, an agroecology production sustainability plan and a marketing strategy for farmers' produce in the rural and peri-urban areas in Uganda. The two strategies are based on the identified supply constraints. A production sustainability plan and marketing strategy based on addressing the supply constraints faced by women and youths who are dominant in agroecology are therefore critical pathways to overcome the above-mentioned constraints faced by women and youths in the agroecology sector.

To delve into the developed production sustainability plan and marketing strategy, please visit the links below:

<https://cefroht.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/MARKETING-STRATEGY-SEPTEMBER-2024-1-2.docx>

<https://cefroht.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/PRODUCTION-SUSTAINABILITY-PLAN-SEPTt-2024-1.docx>



*One of the meetings with women and youth agroecology farmers during the development of the production sustainability plan.*



*A meeting with agroecology market actors during development of the marketing strategy of agroecology agri-food products.*

# THE NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY STRATEGY (NAS) DEVELOPMENT



*Commissioner Okiror, MAAIF presenting the NAS zero draft to the agroecology actors for input and foster discussion on the comments from MAAIF Senior Management on the NAS zero draft.*

**A** sustainable agri-food system is only possible with Agroecology. CEFROHT uses the Human Rights-Based Approach to promote agroecology. Integrating the Human Rights-Based Approach in the NAS will enable full realization of the benefits of agroecology in Uganda. CEFROHT is member of the Inner Working Group tasked with developing the Uganda National Agroecology Strategy (NAS), a strategy that is aimed at promoting sustainable and resilient food systems that enhance livelihoods and social inclusion for all by scaling up agroecology principles and practices for increased production, productivity, value addition and market access.

The NAS promotes a Human Rights-Based Approach in accessing equity, social justice for vulnerable groups participating in agroecology as well as interventions that guarantee rights to productive resources. The strategy once approved, will bring actors together to undertake deliberate and strategic actions for mainstreaming agroecology in all relevant policies including Uganda the food and nutritional policy.

The inner working group made final amendments into the NAS, conducted a national multi-stakeholder validation meeting for the NAS aimed at understanding the roles of different sectors and stakeholders, internalize the NAS zero draft and also provide input into a final document that was presented to MAAIF Sector Senior Management meeting for first review. A number of comments and recommendations were made by members of the sector senior management to the NAS zero draft, the inner working group held a 2-day workshop in Kampala to address comments, finalize and have a fair NAS draft that was presented to Sector Senior Management for approval.

It is our appeal as members of the agroecology movement of Uganda that the NAS is approved by MAAIF senior management. By approving the NAS, the country will have started a journey in the right direction that will promote a resilient, sustainable and inclusive food system, conserving the country's resources, and cultural heritage and ultimately promoting adequate living for the Ugandan population.

# THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN UGANDA SINCE INDEPENDENCE: POLICY AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE LAST 62 YEARS

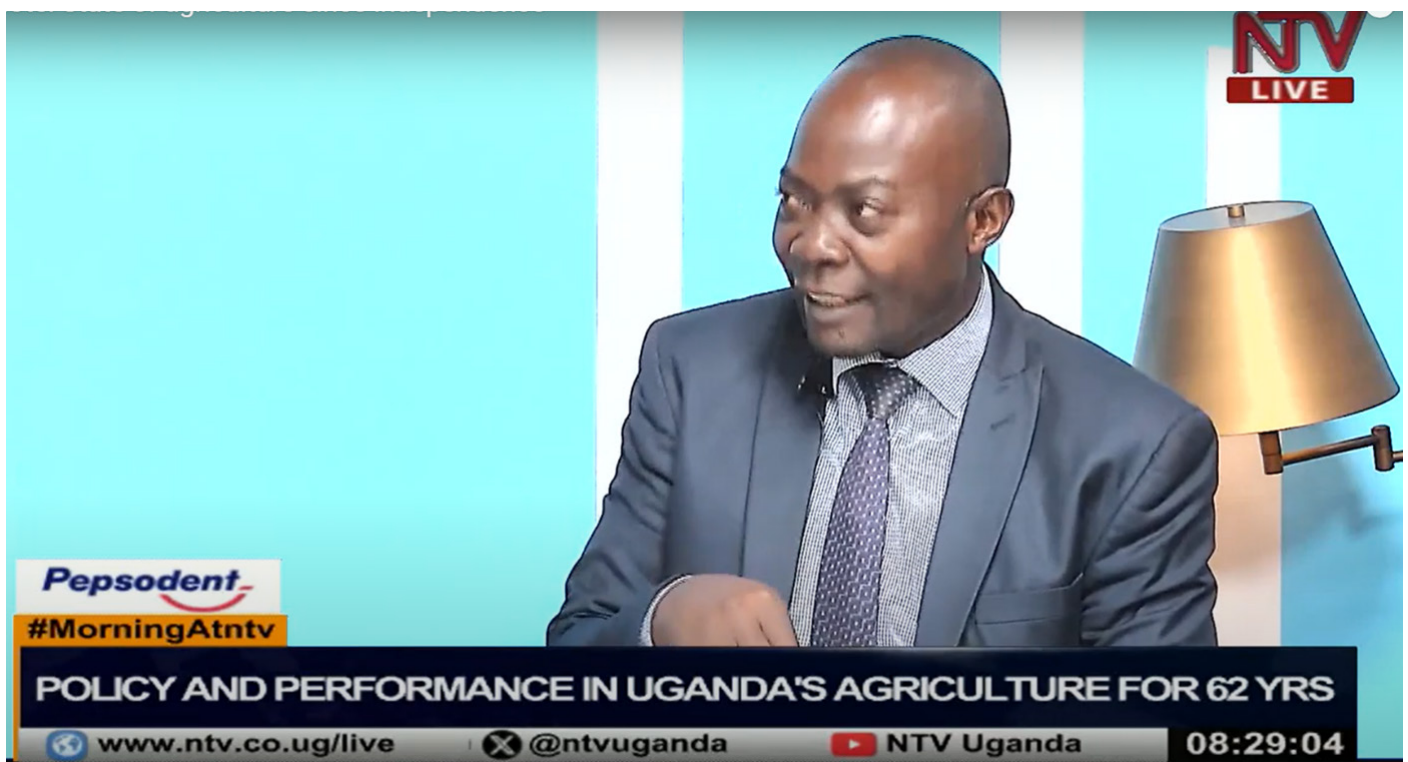
According to the 2024 Global Hunger Index, Uganda ranks a score of 27.3, and considered a level of 'serious' food insecurity posing further challenges to the country's ability to achieve SDG 2 on Zero Hunger with 18.5 million Ugandans facing acute food insecurity. Conventional Farming systems coupled with frequent climate shocks: droughts and floods heighten the vulnerability of Uganda's smallholder farmers, in a country reliant on rain-fed agriculture.

Government support, over the years has been biased towards agricultural systems that are harmful and unsustainable for nature, climate, nutrition and health. The country's reliance on rain-fed agriculture and conventional farming systems fails to address the food insecurity crisis but rather continues to perpetuate poverty, inequality, biodiversity loss and food insecurity, highlighting the need for a paradigm shift towards agroecological farming systems.

The policy makers are failing the vulnerable smallholder farmers at governance level. It is government's mandate to promote and protect the rights of smallholder farmers from manipulation of their food systems, protect environment, conserve natural resources, promote adequate nutrition and ultimately adequate living. To mark this year's national Independence Day, the E.D CEFROHT held a talk show at NTV Uganda that discussed the State of Agriculture since Independence: policy and performance of the agriculture sector. The show highlighted the dire state of food insecurity in Uganda attributed to lack of governance: tools/regulations, and comprehensive model law on food and nutrition and the urgent need for establishment of a framework law and policy on food and agriculture aimed at addressing the current food insecurity crisis in the country.

See attached the full show:

<https://cefroht.org/the-state-of-agriculture-in-uganda-since-independence/>



The E.D CEFROHT during the talk show on NTV Uganda.

## ENHANCING CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY GROUPS (CAGS) ON UTILIZATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT (HREA) CAP 12 FOR SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

CEFROHT promotes sustainable access to justice through legal empowerment. This approach not only bridges the gap between the formal legal system and marginalized populations but also strengthens community resilience against human rights violations in communities. The HREA Cap 12 is a legal enabler that ensures swift access to justice. It allows legal representation in court of any person who has faced human rights violations without a lawyer, use local language in court and it is incumbent on the magistrate to translate the statements in legal terms. CEFROHT works with CAGs in rural communities to promote equal access to justice for the vulnerable groups facing human rights violations.

For sustainable access to justice, CEFROHT has continued to build and enhance the capacity of the CAGs (paralegals) in utilization of the HREA, identification of human rights violations in communities, Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, filing cases under the HREA, and in any case representation of the affected in the magistrates' court. Through legal empowerment of the CAGs and the local communities, CEFROHT ensures continued and sustainable response to human rights violations, local communities have knowledgeable paralegals within their midst and the vulnerable groups are no longer excluded from the formal justice system due to barriers such as language, cost, or lack of awareness.



CEFROHT CAGs, beneficiaries and local council leaders of Kiboga and Kyankwanzi districts during the capacity building training on land rights and the HREA.



On the left, is CEFROHT legal officer addressing the CAGs, beneficiaries, and local council leaders on the HREA and the on the right, Mr. Habib, the Kyankwanzi district CAG raising a vote of thanks to CEFROHT in extending justice to the vulnerable.

# CAPACITY BUILDING OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS ON REALIZATION OF AGROECOLOGY AS A RIGHT AND PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS.

Smallholder farmers are at the heart of the agroecological revolution aimed at promoting sustainable farming practices, safeguarding land rights, promoting social justice, and improving livelihoods. Under the Community Empowerment Program, we have engaged smallholder farmers to build capacity and mobilize their participation in the CEFROHT organic market, a dynamic platform for agroecology produce and organic inputs. The smallholder farmers are trained on agroecological opportunities, legally empowered on their land rights, and the potential of the CEFROHT organic market being established under the program.

The capacity building focuses on practical ways to adopt sustainable farming practices: making organic pesticides and fertilizers, indigenous seed multiplication, soil and water conservation, and governance of local agroecology structures in the communities. These highlight opportunities for farmers to leverage their collective strength while ensuring a constant supply of high-quality organic products through utilization of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for quality assurance of produce.

The CEFROHT organic market stands as a beacon of hope for smallholder agroecology farmers, offering a reliable platform for their produce. By empowering farmers with knowledge, tools, and a collective voice, this initiative is creating a pathway toward economic self-reliance and environmental stewardship. Through continuous capacity building, leadership development, and collaboration, the farmers are well on their way to transforming their communities and contributing to a more sustainable agricultural future.



*The Program Manager during the smallholder farmer capacity building trainings.*

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## Publications

