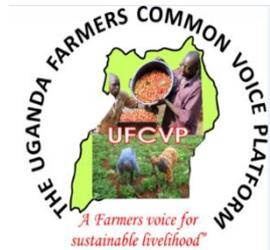




# THE UGANDA FARMERS COMMON VOICE PLATFORM



## ANNUAL REFELCTION PLENARY MEETING



**By:**  
**Ms. Betty Rose Aguti**



# **The Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation Program (UGOPAP)**

- **The UGOPAP is a joint Caritas Denmark/ DANIDA supported programme**
- **It is implemented by four partners namely; CU, CAPCA, EADEN and CIDI-Soroti.**
- **Each of the 4 partners above has its thematic areas of participation in the consortium**
- **CU is specifically charged with a mandate and responsibility of championing advocacy at local, national and international levels.**
- **One of the strategies to achieve all the above was the creation of a platform of Farmers and CSOs working on agriculture; later named "THE UGANDA FARMERS COMMON VOICE PLATFORM by the members.**

# UGANDA FARMERS COMMON VOICE PLATFORM (UFCVP)

- The platform is a coalition of like-minded Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and farmers working on the critical issues affecting farmers in Uganda
- Supported by Caritas Denmark, DANIDA , and membership contributions through Caritas Uganda
- The platform formed (2012) to influence policy and legislative issues for the benefit of farmers and Ugandans as a whole.
- The platform has been at the forefront of advocating for farmer-friendly policies at local, national, and international levels.

- The platform has four (4) regional chapters in the North, East, West, and Central
- All the regional chapters have a 7 member steering committee that act as a think tank

### **Vision:**

A Poverty-free and well governed society where farmers rights and aspirations are fulfilled.

### **Mission:**

To be a collective Voice of Farmers and CSOs that Influence decision making for pro-small holder farmer policies

# UFCVP Core values and principles

- Transparency and Accountability
- Respect for human dignity
- Fairness
- Justice
- Nonpartisan
- Impartiality
- Integrity

## UFCVP Objectives

- To improve public and private sector finance for agriculture,
- To improve agriculture research, documentation and dissemination, and
- To influence pro small holder farmer policies at local, national and international levels.

# UFCVP Partnerships & Networks

- Presence of Memorandum of Understanding
- It's a 17 member coalition at national and 4 regional chapter
- Platform is a member of the Agriculture sector working group
- UFCVP is also a member of the different platforms and networks e.g. PELUM Uganda, FRA, Action Aid, ACODE, etc.
- Partnership with different government agencies eg MAAIF, BoU and parliament
- Partnerships at African and East African level (ABN)

## Principles guiding choice of selection of partners.

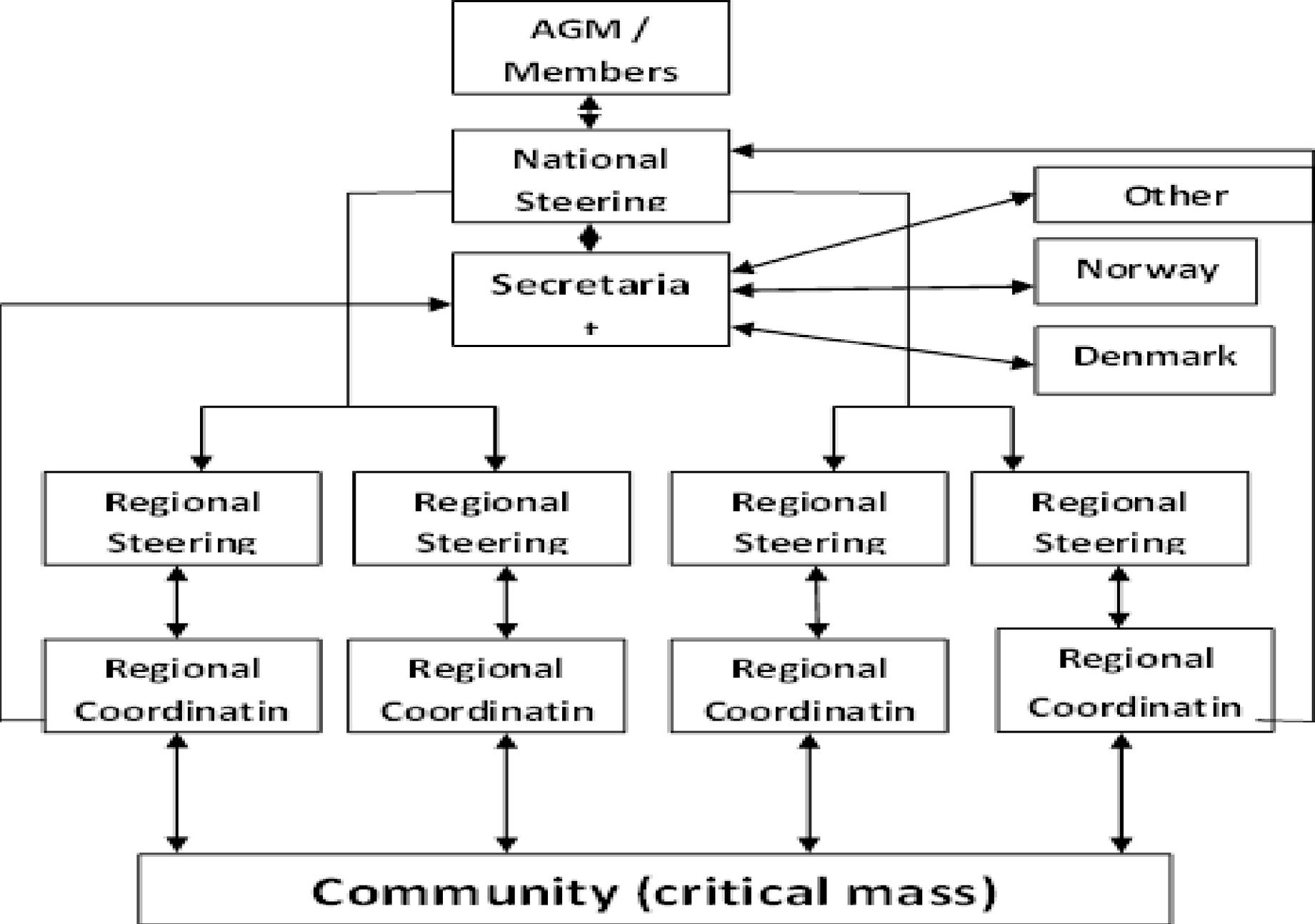
- Option for the poor
- Like-minded civil society.
- Collective responsibility and solidarity.



# What makes the Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform unique?

- It is the only coalition of like-minded Civil Society Organizations and farmers working to address the common concerns of farmers.
- The platform carries out evidence based research to facilitate sensitization, consultative and advocacy engagements.
- The platform has both national and regional presence across the country.
- Farmers in the platform directly participate on decision making and determining the direction of the platform
- Platform has taken civil competencies and advocacy to the rural areas

# UFCVP ORGANOGRAMME



# UFCVP Thematic areas of focus.

- Agriculture Financing
- Sustainable agriculture and food security.
- Climate change
- Institutional capacity development.

# Activities done in 2018

- Orientation sessions for the new regional committee members
- Research documentation and dissemination
- Media Engagements
- Networking and collaboration
- Collaboration and partnerships with like-minded CSOs and other stakeholders to promote the voice of the small holder farmer in Uganda

## **Activities continued**

- **Steering Committee Meeting**
- **Development of UFCVP Governance Documents.**
- **GMO campaign**
- **Membership mobilization.**
- **National level dialogue meetings.**

# Activities continued

- **Regional chapter Farmers parliaments:**
- **Facilitating UFCVP members to participate during national events that put forward farmers' issues.**
- **IEC materials.**

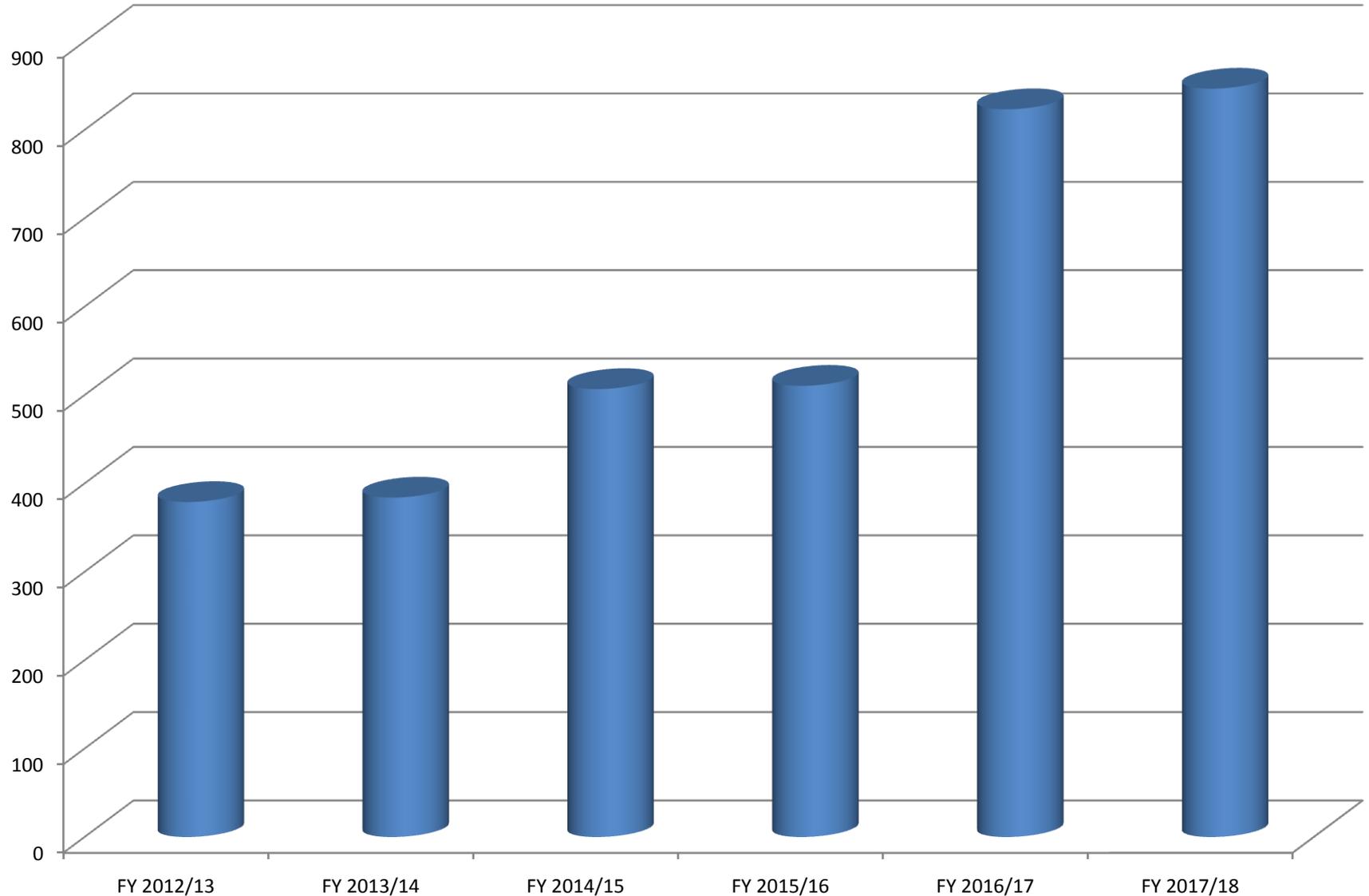
# Achievements/results in summary

- Re-organization of the regional chapters
- Development of the governance documents
- Research, document and dissemination
- Strategic use of media
- Networking and collaboration-  
PELUM, CSBAG, FRA ASWG, ACB,
- Policy influence (GMO, Organic policy, public  
finance allocation eg extension, ACF, meeting  
1st lady,

# Achievements continued

- Inclusion of CSO/Farmers concerns on the Parliamentary report on the BBB
- contribution to national bills and legislative proposals
- UFCVP research informed national debate on issues of agriculture
- Regional chapter members able to engage their leaders (farmers parliaments, data collection on water for production,
- NGEMA passed with CSO proposals

# Trend in agriculture sector budget allocation since 2012 to date



# **APPROACHES USED DURING IMPLEMENTATION**

- Rights based approach whereby small holder farmers are empowered to demand for their rights
- Networking and collaborating with existing networks and key stakeholders.
- Well targeted quality research, analysis, packaging and publication.
- Lobby and advocacy with key stakeholders for the change in the status quo

# Challenges

- Limited resources for engagement.
- Limited civic space for engagement.
- Slow appreciation and acceptance of outcomes and responsibilities that come with Advocacy
- Lack of information sharing especially reports from the different dioceses hinders integration of achievements and challenges at national level.
- Limited understanding of the working of UFCVP by the members

# LESSONS LEARNT

- CSOs in most cases ask and advocate for an ideal situation, while government (the duty bearer) decides according to prevailing circumstances
- There is need for more networking and partnership building to build numbers for advocacy
- There is need for more resources; advocacy is not a one off event but takes a lot of time and money. This is so because there are many interested stakeholders in the issues that we advocate for; leave alone Government interests

# Lessons learnt

- There is need for alternative sources of funding
- Use of non-violent means of advocacy engagement is rewarding
- Farmers participation in the policy making process ensures that pro-people policies are made for the good of all citizen
- Participation also promotes accountability and transparency of the leaders to their actions or inactions

# UFCVP IN PICTURES

**UFCVP Members with technocrats during the water for production national dialogue at Pope Paul Hotel**



# One of the articles in the new vision showing our victory

## Government reviews GMO Bill

By Henry Sekanjako

The Government has introduced new proposals for the amendment of the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Act, 2012, which was rejected by President Yoweri Museveni.

In December last year, the President declined to assent to the Bill, citing lack of protection for consumers, indigenous crops and animals by the Bill.

The Government re-tabled the Bill before Parliament for re-consideration, so that the President's concerns could be addressed.

Presenting the new proposed amendments before the Parliament's committee on science and technology, the Minister of State for Science, Technology and Innovation, Elioda Tumwesigye, said Cabinet, chaired by President Museveni, recently established a cabinet sub-committee to review the Bill.

"A Cabinet sub-committee chaired by the Prime Minister was put in place to discuss the President's concerns, for which we came up with responses and proposals, which the President agreed to," Tumwesigye told the MPs.



Elioda Tumwesigye

In the new amendments, Cabinet resolved to change the title of the Bill, from the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Act, to Genetic Engineering and Biosafety Act.

It should be noted that President Museveni, in one of the grounds for declining to assent to the Act, questioned the Bill's title.

"I am writing in connection with the biosafety law, which in fact means genetic engineering. Why was it not named clearly?" asked the President in his letter to the Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga.

The Cabinet also introduced

### BETWEEN THE LINES:

- The President declined to assent to the GMO Bill citing lack of protection for indigenous crops.
- Cabinet wants the Bill's title changed from National Biotechnology and Biosafety Act to Genetic Engineering and Biosafety Act.

a new clause to the Bill, which states that a person who engages in a genetic engineering activity shall enter into a benefit sharing agreement with the community in which the activity is taking place.

According to the Government, this is in accordance, with the National Environment (Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing regulations 2005, No 30 of 2005).

To distinguish organic and genetically modified agricultural products, the Government wants clause 26 of the Bill amended to add a phrase "contains genetically engineered material" for labelling purposes.

"A person involved in the

research, development, general release, importation, transit or exportation and trade of a genetically engineered material shall ensure that the genetically engineered material or genetically engineered product is clearly labelled," Tumwesigye told MPs.

President Museveni pointed out the labelling of GMO products as one of the concerns the Bill needed to address before he assents to it.

In his letter to Parliament, the President stated that: "The labelling must be clear, and failure to label the GMO products, should attract severe punishment."

To address the President's concerns, Cabinet resolved that GMO products should be labelled, to say: "May contain genetically engineered material or contains genetically engineered material."

The Government also committed that the law provides for measures to ensure the preservation of indigenous materials in accordance with section 16 (2), and that there is need to establish a fully fledged modern national gene bank on a wider scale.

In his letter to Parliament,

Museveni asked the agriculture minister to work out a plan for a Noah's Ark, where all Uganda's indigenous material (plants and animals) will be kept uncontaminated by any GMO, for future use if there is any crisis within the modernisation efforts.

Meanwhile, the committee, chaired by Nakifuma County MP Kafeero Ssekitooleko, told the minister that they would digest the new proposals as they receive more views from different stakeholders.

The committee, which started fresh hearings about the Bill on Friday last week, is set to interact with various stakeholders, such as scientists, farmer groups and civil society organisations.

In October 2017, Parliament passed the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Act 2012, to allow Ugandan farmers access genetically engineered products to boost agriculture biotechnology research.

Before its passage into law, the Bill faced criticism from various stakeholders, who feared it would affect Uganda's organic crop varieties, such as organic bananas.

# UFCVP Members during the Source of the Nile Trade show



# AFTER A MEETING WITH BANK OF UGANDA



# DURING A NATIONAL DIALOGUE MEETING ON AGRICULTURE FINANCING



# One of the researches conducted



## **CARITAS UGANDA** UGANDA FARMERS COMMON VOICE PLATFORM (UFCVP)

### **THE COST OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION TO PERFORMANCE OF KEY PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF UGANDAS ECONOMY BESIDES AGRICULTURE**

**Do Investments in Agricultural extension deliver positive  
benefits to Health, Trade and Industry, Water and Environment**



AUGUST, 2017

# THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VISITS UFCVP EXHIBITION TENT DURING THE 2018 WORLD FOOD DAY CELEBRATIONS IN NABUN ZARDI-NABILATUK DISTRICT



# THE CHAIRPERSON PARLIAMETARY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE IN A JOVIAL MOOD GREETS UFCVP MEMBERS



# CENTRAL REGION CHAPTER DURING A FARMERS PARLIAMENT IN MITYANA





**I THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**