



MAAIF
Ministry of Agriculture,
Animal Industry and Fisheries



Agriculture Ministerial
Conference - 2023



PRESS RELEASE

**HON. FRED BWINO KYAKULAGA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (MAAIF)
UGANDA**

**ON UGANDA'S HOSTING OF THE ASARECA AGRICULTURE MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE (AAMC-2023)**

**The ASARECA Executive Director
ASARECA technical staff,
The MAAIF technical staff,
The Media,**

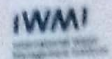
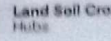
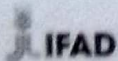
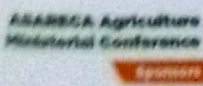
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I greet you all on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and welcome you to this press briefing.

We have convened here today with the main objective of sharing information with the general public about the planned **ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference (AAMC)**, which will take place at **Speke Resort, Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, on 17th – 19th May 2023.**

The theme of the Conference is: Building Resilient Food Systems to Feed Africa for Generations.

This Conference is organized by Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF), in conjunction with the Association for



Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa, and the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO).

ASARECA is a sub-regional Intergovernmental Organization of the National Agricultural Research Systems of 14 member countries, which include: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

As you can see from the list, ASARECA brings together researchers from 14 member countries to share and promote knowledge and innovations to solve common challenges facing agriculture.

In Uganda, ASARECA works with the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Agricultural universities and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to improve agricultural based livelihoods. Since inception in 1994, ASARECA has invested **USD 17.2 million** to catalyze agricultural transformation in Uganda and registered achievements such as:

- Supporting scientists to fight Cassava Brown Streak Disease that damaged the cassava crop, causing loses to our farmers.
- Establishing cassava and potato standards for East African Community states, hereby promoting value addition and regional trade in quality cassava products.
- Controlling Banana Xanthomonas Wilt in Uganda by promoting proven and cost-effective measures against the disease that threatened to wipe out banana crop in the districts of Bushenyi, Ntungamo and Mbarara.
- Promoting Quality Protein Maize in Lira and Gulu districts to address acute malnutrition following the Lord's Resistance Army war.

- Fighting the Striga weed through research efforts leading to the release of four lines of striga-resistant sorghum varieties with mechanical barriers to striga in Sudan, which were also shared with Uganda.
- Coordinating the formation of the Cassava Centre of Excellence at NaCRRI in Uganda.
- Coordinating the generation of research solutions to trans-boundary diseases like Maize Lethal Necrosis Virus and Fall Army Warm.

Because ASARECA is a membership body, the Members meet as a General Assembly and as A Council of Patron Ministers (CPM) after every two years to discuss issues of common interest. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is the host of ASARECA Secretariat and currently the Chair for the ASARECA Council of Patron Ministers.

To ensure that ASARECA delivers its mandate to member countries, the Governments and interested stakeholders ensured that ASARECA is governed through four Constitutional Organs namely: The Council of Patron Ministers, the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, and the Secretariat.

The main purpose of this Conference, therefore, is to enable the Council of Patron Ministers, the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, and the Secretariat to discuss pertinent issues that affect the local farmers, including ensuring the flow of knowledge and information to farmers to enhance adoption of innovations that increase Agricultural productivity and commercialisation.

I call upon all Ugandans to welcome the ministers and their delegations from the 14 member countries as they come into the country and accord them the Ugandan hospitality as they stay with us for the rest of the week.

Allow me to thank the organizing committee for the **ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference (AAMC)**, comprising staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, ASARECA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) for putting together arrangements for this Conference.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY