



**MAAIF**  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Animal Industry and Fisheries

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
AND FISHERIES**

**STATEMENT ON  
THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
SHOW**

**BY:**

**HON. FRED BWINO KYAKULAGA  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE**

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Ministry of Agriculture  
Animal Industry and Fisheries

The Director, Agriculture Extension Services

Colleagues from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

Colleagues from the Ministry of Education and Sports

Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE)

Friends in the Media Fraternity

*Good morning to You All*

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 I am happy and honored to be with you today to inform you about the first ever Agriculture Education show that shall be held at the Jinja National Agriculture Show grounds from 08<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 under the theme “**Farming for a prosperous future**”.
- 1.2 The average age of Ugandan commercial farmers is 55 years, with very few youths participating in this sector.
- 1.3 The interests of youths and young farmers are very unique and different from those of adult farmers.
- 1.4 Uganda has one of the youngest and most rapidly growing population in the world according to the Uganda Population Council, with 77% of its population being under 25 years of age. There are 7,310,386 youth from the ages of 15–24 years of age living in Uganda.
- 1.5 A very young population represents a major challenge for Uganda in the short and medium term. The need to have entry



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of young people in the agricultural sector is now than never before.

- 1.6 The quality of education remains low characterized by the low levels of literacy and numeracy, coupled with the high rate of school dropout. Although primary school dropout rate has reduced from 50.9 percent to 38.5 percent over the last 14 years, it still remains a problem.
- 1.7 This has led to an increase in the number of unskilled Ugandans joining the labor market and there is no deliberate effort yet by government to trace and retrain the school dropouts with the necessary skills as per the labor market demand.
- 1.8 Youth un-employment is one of the major socio-economic policy challenges facing Uganda's economic growth and development today. Unless this problem is amicably addressed, it will peg back Uganda's ambition to reduce poverty and attain a middle-income status by 2030.
- 1.9 Over 92% of the youth in employment are poor and they represent some of the biggest cohorts when it comes to extreme poverty. Three quarters (3/4) of working youth are in vulnerable employment where they are not in decision making positions, cannot negotiate own wages and most do not hold own bank accounts.
- 1.10 They contribute prevalently to unpaid family labor force in households mostly practicing subsistence farming. A low skill set has seen very slow progression in the employment of youth in other stages of the agricultural value chain (especially at post-harvest handling, processing and agri-business).
- 1.11 Aware of this challenge, Government under the Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan III (NDPIII) and now the Parish Development model has put in place strategies to expand the





country's productive base and reduce unemployment and poverty among the youth.

## **2.0 Why the National Agriculture Education Show?**

- 2.1 In Uganda, education is structured around formal instruction which brings out graduates who are more inclined to formal employment. As a result, the youth view jobs in the formal wage sector as the more secure and the best alternative.
- 2.2 The old curriculum could not equip the learners with thorough skills and knowledge to become innovative in order to create jobs but rather teaches them more theoretical work than practical skills and that explains the high levels of unemployment in Uganda.
- 2.3 The resulting turn away from agriculture due to lack of skills or the idea of "higher aspirations" is also supported by general societal expectations that education presents a tool to enable one's movement away from the garden. If the learners are not exposed to the actual practice in these subjects, it defeats the purpose for which the curriculum was reviewed.
- 2.4 The SDG 16 emphasizes the inclusive approach to development that is particularly beneficial for young people. This platform shall offer opportunities in advocacy for youth-sensitive national and local SDG indicators, in addition to age disaggregation, as a critical avenue for ensuring development progress, making data sources youth-friendly and fostering young people's role in generating data on the goals.
- 2.5 The creation and implementation of strong and effective youth policies require a whole of government approach, drawing in different line ministries and multiple stakeholders to ensure that policy development and implementation are robust and reflective of the whole of youth. Such a platform provides an important



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opportunity to strengthen youth main-streaming and youth policy implementation at all levels.

3.0 The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries together with the Ministry of Education and Sports have partnered with UNFFE tapping into their 30 years' experience in supporting the farming fraternity, its extensive participation in agriculture policy making processes, and its mandate to mobilize, organize and empower farmers in Uganda has triggered the design of this platform titled the **National Agriculture Education show** which shall contribute to attracting, retaining and promoting young people below the age of 39 years in Agriculture.

#### 4.0 The platform will achieve specific following objectives

- i. Provide a platform for continuous knowledge transfer and skilling of young people through practical demonstrations, practical training, youth innovation competitions, debates and youth in agriculture-oriented policy dialogues
- ii. Provide a coordinated platform for harnessing the interest and use of ICT based innovative digital tools by young people to influence their participation in Agriculture value chains.
- iii. Provide platform for promoting multi stakeholder partnerships and interventions that support young people in Agriculture through organizing fora for MDAs, private sector, NGOs to share relevant information about their work with youth, mobilize and empower youth to participate in their interventions.
- iv. Providing a platform for other stakeholders such as research and academia, Agriculture value chain players such finance, input supply, technology and innovations and others to show case their work with to youth.



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- v. Provide a platform for identification and award of exceptional young budding achievers in agriculture
- vi. Provide a platform for promotion family farm succession

### **Appeal**

As important stakeholders **I appeal to you all to join us** in supporting young people in Uganda, and as well invite you to the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Agriculture Education show that shall be held at the Jinja National Agriculture Show grounds from 08<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 under the theme ***“Farming for a prosperous future”***.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**



**Hon. Fred Bwino Kyakulaga**

**MINISTER OF STATE AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (AGRICULTURE)**