



# CAPCA

Central Archdiocesan Province Caritas Association



**“PREVALENCE OF SUBSTANDARD AGRO-INPUTS, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?”**

**REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FARMERS' FORUM**

**ORGANIZED BY CAPCA AT CARITAS KAMPALA-HEAD OFFICE**



**CAPCA Publication**

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## List of Acronyms

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| CAPCA –  | Central Archdiocesan Province Caritas Association     |
| CIDI –   | Community Integrated Development Initiatives          |
| COMESA - | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa         |
| CSO –    | Civil Society Organization                            |
| EADEN -  | Eastern Archdiocesan Development Network              |
| MAAIF –  | Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries |
| MADDO -  | Masaka Diocesan Development Organisation              |
| MC –     | Master of Ceremonies                                  |
| MP –     | Member of Parliament                                  |
| NAADS -  | National Agricultural Advisory Services               |
| NARO -   | National Agricultural Research Organisation           |
| NDA –    | National Drug Authority                               |
| NESCO -  | Nalweyo Seed Company                                  |
| TIU –    | Transparency International Uganda                     |

## 1.0 Introduction:

On the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 CAPCA agencies alongside other stakeholders from government and civil society organizations convened at Caritas Kampala head offices for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the annual farmer's forum. The forum was premised on the theme; **“Prevalence of poor and substandard agro-inputs, what have you done?”**

The event was opened by the forum Chairperson- Fr. Alfred Ddumba of Kasana Luwero. The MC, Mrs. Lumala Florence from Caritas Lugazi reminded farmers that the farmer's forum provides an opportunity for them to raise their issues and get responses from the duty bearers. Each year, a new theme is selected depending on the prevailing situation in the agricultural sector for instance the preceding forum was focused on GMO's.



*The MC of the day Mrs. Lumala Florence engaging participants during the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the farmer's forum*

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This year's forum was attended by 300 farmers representing 27 farmers' associations, comprising about 7,000 households. The forum was also graced by MAAIF, members of parliament (2), representatives from Transparency International, National Drug Authority, Directors, Caritas MADDU, Caritas Kiyinda Mityana, Caritas Kasanaesis,



Caritas Lugazi, CIDI Rakai and Tusubira Women's, Group), national agro – inputs dealers (Bukoola Chemical Industries Limited and NESCO (Nalweyo Seed Company). This gave a balanced representation of the right holders and duty bearers both public (primary) and private (secondary).



*Cross section of dignitaries who graced the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of farmer's forum*

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## **2.0 Communication from the CAPCA Liaison Officer**

The Liaison Officer for CAPCA Mr. Bukenya Joseph welcomed and thanked members for participating in this year's farmer's forum. He noted that CAPCA started way back in the year 2000 with an aim of empowering communities for sustainable livelihoods thus the gains that have been achieved were as a result of the continuous capacity building by CAPCA of farmers especially through advocating / demanding for their services. He went ahead to point out that over the years, health in homes has improved and noted that CAPCA strongly puts aspects of gender into consideration in executing her mandate. The liaison officer welcomed all participants in this year's forum; including; All the farmers, Fr. Ddumba-Assistant Caritas Director – Kasana Luweero diocese, who was the Chairman for the day, Fr. Byansi-Caritas Director-Kampala Archdiocese, Fr. Simon Peter-Assistant Caritas Director – Kiyinda Mityana Diocese, Hon. Bbadda (Member of Parliament-Kalangala district), Mr. Mukiibi who represented Honorable Byandala (M.P of Luwero), the Liaison Officer and all CAPCA staff. CSOs

were also represented by EADEN, CIDI Rakai, CIDI Kampala and Soroti and Transparency International and ESSAF. Government was represented by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and National Drug Authority. He concluded his remarks by appreciating government for the cooperation and support rendered to Caritas and CAPCA to execute their mandate.



**CAPCA Liaison Officer, Mr. Joseph Bukenya delivering his message**

### **3.0 Presentations of Issues by the Farmers**

The issues on the quality of agricultural inputs were read out by farmers supported by CAPCA from 9 districts under the following areas of operation; Caritas Kampala operating in Mpigi and Butambala districts, Caritas MADDO operating in Bukomansimbi district, Caritas Kiyinda-Mityana operating in Mubende district, Caritas Kasanaensis operating in Luweero and Nakaseke districts, Caritas Lugazi operating in Mukono district CIDI operating in Rakai district and Tusubira Women Development Agency operating in Wakiso district. Farmers noted that on the market there are quite a big number of fake products which have led many farmers in making losses and failing to benefit. The farmers have pointed out some of the fake and substandard inputs that they had to deal with. These range from seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, pumps and hoes. Specifically on seeds, they experience low yields.

The report highlighted some specific examples of farmers who have been victims of substandard agricultural inputs. In some cases farmers give testimonies on how they have been affected by the fake agricultural inputs.

Mr. Mande Vincent of Kituntu Sub County in Mpigi bought 20 liters of weed master from Container village each at Shs. 12,000/- but the product could not tame the weeds.

Mr. Matovu from Kalamba Sub County, bought three liters of agrosate at Shs. 11,000/- each and two liters of 24D Amite at Shs. 1300 each, both products failed to function as anticipated.

Mr. Kimbowa from Kituntu bought fungicide to spray tomatoes but it never functioned. He found out that sellers mix the pesticides with soya flour as pointed out by Mr. Nyumbaire from Kituntu who bought Dithane with soya flour.

On fake seeds, Mr. Buyungo Joseph Mary of Mutubagumu bought five bags each weighing 10kgs of maize seed but the germination was so irregular that he had to buy more seeds.

Kyokisa Monica of Kikyusa Farmers' Association bought 10Kgs of maize seeds labeled longe "6" at shs. 60,000/-. With these, she had projected to harvest a minimum of three tones of harvest but in the end managed to realize only 200 kgs. With this, she made a loss of shs. 900,000/- because the quality of the seed was very poor.

Mr. Bamulwana Lawrence bought herbicides for weeding pineapples. The herbicide ended up killing everything including the pineapples. This resulted into a loss amounting to Shs. 12.0 Million.

Mr. Matia Mulonzi a farmer of Kapeeka who bought weed master. He followed all the instructions in using the chemical. Instead the weeds became yellow in the leaves and after sometime, the leaves of weed became greener and healthier. This caused a loss to him since he had to plant a month late because he had to clear the bushes first.

Mr. Makubuya bought the so called "improved seeds" in anticipation of high yields. He planted two acres and harvested 1,400 kgs. But when it came to eating the beans, the family members developed serious stomach upsets. The people who bought from him also complained about the beans.

Ssebuyungo Robert and colleagues bought 10 kgs. of H10 but 1½ kgs was broken. The rest of unbroken seed did not germinate well. What seemed to germinate instead of yielding the anticipated 1 ½ tones, less than one tone was harvested.

The other cases pointed out include; Fertilizers like DAP put on maize has not proven effective.

Mrs. Kalyango Christine in Mende bought fake tinned Sukuma Wiiki and Spinach seedlings with a label of Safari Seed Company. When the seeds were planted, they failed to germinate.

James Kiggundu bought maize and bean seeds which failed to germinate as well as weed master which failed to kill the weeds but instead made them healthier.

Farmers; Ms. Rose Nabbanja, Livingstone Ndawula, Nakibuule Lovinsa and Ssali Damasco claim of having been given sub-standard inputs from the NAADS programme ranging from seeds which failed to germinate and chemicals that did not work. This is in addition to the poor quality hoes, machetes and inputs bought from container village.

In 2013, Kasirye of Wakiso bought fake acaricide that failed to kill the ticks on cattle. He got 10 pieces of EFT, spent Shs. 1,200,000/- in treatment but two heifers worth Shs. 5,000,000/- died. In addition, he bought an ineffective gumboro vaccine which he used to vaccinate a flock of 3,000 layers. The birds were affected by gumboro disease with a 50% mortality rate that caused financial loss of Shs. 7,500,000/- to this particular farmer.

### ***Resolutions / Appeal by the Farmers***

- Provide and publish the list of all certified seed and inputs dealers who are accountable to both government and all stakeholders in the sector.
- To carry out routine check – ups for all inputs dealers especially through the departments of land protection and Uganda National Bureau of Standards and punish such culprits if found on the market.
- Continuously publish newly researched, approved and recommended seed varieties by NARO in various media.
- They appealed to the policy makers to listen to the farmer's voice and establish ways of addressing the challenges related to use of sub – standard and counterfeit agro – inputs on the market.
- Farmers appealed to their MPs to help in strengthening the laws on fake agricultural inputs.
- Government should strengthen regulation of sellers of agricultural inputs, focus on regulating prices in the markets and widening the markets.

## **4.0 Briefs from the Members of Parliament**

Hon. Badda from Kalangala district represented the chairman of the agriculture committee in parliament, Hon. Kasamba (MP. for Kakuuto sub-county). He reported that the committee formed policies that monitor drugs and chemicals i.e. seed act 2006. He further mentioned that the committee is responsible for forming policies,



monitoring and budgeting for them. He added that pre-shipment inspection law was also formed to monitor and evaluate those who import/sell drugs. He, however, said that implementing such a policy is still a challenge.

Mr. Mulani Mukiibi who was representing Honorable Byandala said that such forums continue training farmers to know where/how to go about the drugs and tools used in agriculture. "More training is however still needed for farmers". Mr. Mulani further advised that the dishonesty among traders should stop i.e. duplicating labels. He further



mentioned that more stock centers should be created or formed in the different zones. He requested that National Drug Authority should improvise the transportation of those staff working upcountry. "At least they should be provided with motor bikes" he remarked!

*Hon. Bbadda M.P from Kalangala making his presentation during the farmer's forum*

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*Mr. Mulani the political assistant to Luwero M.P Hon Byandala delivers a message to the farmers*

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## **5.0 Presentation from Transparency International Uganda**

Transparency International (TIU) had commissioned a research on counterfeit and sub standard agro -inputs. One of the representatives from TIU, Ms. Catherine, informed the participants that TIU had put in place a call centre tasked with collecting information that will aid in development of interventions tailored to the nature of the problem. The calls will support the fight against counterfeits through bringing it to the attention of duty bearers. Key highlights are outlined as below;

- ❖ Over 150 calls have been received at TIU offices claiming/reporting about the fake agro-inputs, the price, quantity and quality of products among other issues.
- ❖ Almost 65% of the callers were complaining about the poor agricultural in-puts i.e. poor seeds, pesticides among others.
- ❖ About 65% of the callers complained about weed master being of poor quality.
- ❖ During the research, TIU discovered that most of the agricultural products are just imported thus by the time they reach the farmers, they are already substandard.
- ❖ The research indicated that what normally drives the farmers to buy sub standard is pursuance of low cost inputs which in the long run becomes expensive.
- ❖ 1/10 of farmers know where they bought their inputs from.
- ❖ 1/10 of farmers know the manufacturer of the products they buy.

In her concluding remarks, the presenter advised farmers to be keen and mindful about the packaging and date of manufacture beyond the pricing. She further informed the farmers to always take note of the shop/store name/suppliers and transaction documentation like receipts. This will provide reference/evidence in case of any complaints. TIU offered a toll free line to the farmers in case of any agro – inputs challenges they want to register (0800 - 280 - 280). Additionally other actors need to intensify farmer sensitization and create awareness about the various agro – inputs.



*Catherine from TIU shared findings from a research earlier conducted*

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## **6.0 Presentation by National Drug Authority**

Mr. Vincent Kayizzi Magembe from the animal drugs department made a presentation on behalf of National Drug Authority. He informed the participants that NDA was formed way back in 1993 by the Ministry of Health with the mandate of managing both human and animal drugs in the country. NDA is headquartered in Kampala and regional offices in Mbarara, Jinja and Lira to serve the respective regions. He went ahead to share with the farmers some of the roles NDA play which encompass; quality checks, availing of information, inspection and monitoring of drugs entering and manufactured in Uganda. NDA periodically inspects (4 – 5 years) all sellers of drugs in Uganda and those found selling fake products are heavily punished. Vincent further informed members that assessment and registration is also carried by NDA. This is performed through focusing on the records about the drugs. After assessing and the results turn out to be positive, then permission is availed to those who wish to sell the drugs.

The NDA representative further informed the farmers that the earlier proposed tax on agro – inputs had been scrapped but tax on kerosene will be maintained. On increment of the agricultural vote in the national budget, he urged the farmers to engage their leaders like M.P's, for instance Hon. Kasamba who happens to be the Chairperson of the agricultural committee to continuously lobby government.

The NDA has a responsibility of providing drug information, this is done by use of the media so as to keep the public in know about any information on board. The media houses in this case include radio stations, televisions stations, among others however,

before any information is passed on through the above media houses, they are still first assessed by NDA.

He advised the farmers to seek for knowledge about a particular drug before they can put it to use. In addition, it is important to change drugs not stick on one type for instance cow sprays are proving to be ineffective due to the fact that ticks are getting resistant coupled with wrong usage of the said drugs.

The NDA representative highlighted that Uganda has got a rich legal framework that would ably curb the challenge of fake inputs. For example the agricultural policy, policy on drug and chemical monitoring of 2006, the seed act and the inspection law. The major undoing has been on implementation and enforcement of such hence the continuity of fakes on the market. His advice was on farmers to put to task the District staff in the agricultural department to support in enforcing such policies.

Amidst all these challenges, there is need to critically think about zoning verses liberalization. However, some of these decisions can only be addressed by policy makers. As NDA, they have tried to maintain standards but usage of the drugs still poses a very big challenge.

In his closing remarks, he advised the farmers to always ask for telephone contacts from the drug sellers and call on those numbers before leaving the shops, this will enable follow up in case of any misgivings. However, MAAIF has plans of boosting this system of calling by providing toll free lines from where the culprits can be reported. He expressed his gratitude to CAPCA for inviting NDA as well as organizing such a forum that brought together actors across the agricultural sector. NDA is committed to honoring subsequent invitations to such forums if invited.





*Mr. Vincent Magembe making a presentation during the forum on behalf of NDA*

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## **7.0 Presentation from MAAIF**

Mr. Deus Muhwezi the Ag. Director/Commissioner for agro – business under MAAIF, thanked CAPCA for inviting him to the forum. He said that Uganda is currently secure as far as food is concerned in light of the estimated population of 34 million people. He further mentioned that a National Agricultural policy was passed by parliament. He thanked Caritas and CAPCA for working closely with government and other stakeholders to empower communities in agricultural activities. He added that it is the responsibility of government to ensure that people have food and income on a daily basis. Regarding the theme for the day, Mr. Muhwezi said that having fake seeds/chemicals in the country is a challenge which is not only in the agricultural sector but instead it's cross-cutting. "That is why the government has come up to promote over 20 seed companies". He pointed out that the products in the market are certified and supervised. Mr. Muhwezi added that government, through research under NARO, has embraced zonal research centers thus research will be performed near the gardens of individuals/people.

Regarding over-coming fake in-puts such as seeds, needs support of different stakeholders, e.g. UNADA and other organizations. These are few in the market due to the introduction of chemical/ seed policies. Enforcement at the centre in the ministry of Agriculture, Animal husbandry and fisheries, local governments such as on the water

bodies lakes, for example, has been fronted. He still mentioned that in the animal and fisheries sectors, 23 inspectors have been brought on board though these are still few. He further mentioned that an agricultural police was introduced thus the recruited Officers will work hand in hand with the Uganda police and MAAIF. Muhwezi still mentioned that Certification and quality assurance is headed by Makomayombi who ensures that fake inputs are avoided though this is still a challenge. He added that Commodity platforms have been put in place thus Farmers were advised to converge on their own and discuss issues that will lead to improvement in the agricultural sector in over 10 commodities such as coffee, tea among others.

Pertaining to the operations of NAADS's services, many citizens had a lot of complaints about the poor services such as giving fake seeds among others. It was also mentioned that the government was going to streamline NAADs and that there is hope that services are going to be improved so as to promote the level of farming. Thus the government is doing a lot to ensure that agricultural in-puts are prioritized through increasing production and productivity.



*The Commissioner for agri – business in MAAIF drives his point home during the farmer's forum*

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## 8.0 Emerging questions and responses from the presentations

| National Drug Authority   |  |
|---|--|
| Question  | Response   |
| Fr. Ddumba asked about the safety of drugs especially after they have been purchased. "How should they be kept"?  | Vincent from NDA responded that it should be kept in a cool dry place. He also informed participants that it should be kept using key and lock so that it's not tampered by anyone else especially the ignorant and kids.  |
| Claudia Nagawa Bukenya from CIDI Rakai expressed her concern about the so-called doctors who attend to other duties other than their official ones. They instead employ unqualified doctors in their clinics. The said unqualified people do not bother advising farmers about the use of drugs they sell. Why can't NDA allow the people who are not qualified but at least have drug related knowledge to continue rendering them services? | In responding to this particular question, he pointed out that NDA can only ascertain the quality of the people providing the service through qualifications thus it is not within his mandate to sanction such. Hence, he advised all farmers to work with certified doctors only.                |
| Mr. Kalanzi Godfrey from Caritas MADD0 asked why NDA makes follow-ups/monitoring after 4-5 years  | Regarding monitoring of drugs between 4-5 years, this is now a continuous process especially with the drugs manufactured from home (Uganda) however those imported, they are first tested from laboratories in Mulago. Physical monitoring abroad is the one made during the above period of time. |
| Another participant asked why are the confiscated drugs from the shop operators not burnt immediately by NDA  | Vincent responded that these are taken to the NDA offices. NDA expects the owner to present him/herself to the head office who is then asked for money to burn the drugs. In case 6 months elapse without hearing from the culprit, the government goes ahead to burn the drugs at                 |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Nakasongola.   |
| <b>Transparency International</b>  |  |
| Sserunkuma Mark from Caritas MADDO wanted to find out how they can tell the difference between fake and original labels? And how they can deal with the fake labels?   | <p>Catherine from Transparency international responded that fake labels are made through mimicking packaging. This is done through making slight small changes and that is the reason as to why farmers are advised to buy any agro-inputs from the certified agro-sellers. She added that they can go ahead and make inquiries from different shops while observing labels so that they identify the fakes and those that are not. Catherine updated farmers that weed master was one of the drugs that is mostly faked/forged in the market.</p> <p>She still urged farmers to avoid buying products from sellers who do not issue receipts. Thus the receipts should as well have serial numbers.</p> |
| Vincent Kyobe from Kasana Luwero reported that a fellow farmer from his village bought seeds worth 400 kilogram's and made harvests less than 200 kilograms. He still reported that another farmer from his village bought weed master that all yellowed down. He added that another farmer bought a panga which was not even used for a single season. It got worn out because at the moment, it just cuts jack fruits. Based on this testimony, Mr. Kyobe requested staffs from Transparency International to publicize those who were identified as fake service providers during the time they carried the research. He still advised Transparency International to publish the seeds that should be bought from the market. | Regarding Mr., Kyobe's issues, from Kasana Luwero, Catherine asked him to tell the farmers who faced the challenges reported above to report to Transparency International using the toll free lines. In other words she wanted the farmers to report for themselves but not through anyone else.  |

| MAAIF and MP's   |   |
|--|---|
| One of the farmers asked Mr. Muhwezi to ensure that the former NAADS staffs are brought back on board as soon as possible because the offices have been closed for quite a long time yet the pests in the gardens are increasing.  | On the other in regard to the NAADS issue of not finding extension workers in office, Mr. Muhwezi answered that the government has recruited veterinary officers who are going to be brought on board as soon as possible. He added that NAADS is now going to work with the ministry of Finance in regard to the loans for purchasing in-puts and seeds. |
| Another famer known as Namakula from Caritas Lugazi asked Honorable Bbada to respond as to why taxes and boda-bodas, plus fishnets of the people at the grass root are the only ones confiscated yet those of the Honorable Members of Parliament like him are retained. | About the taxes, boda bodas and poor fishnets, honorable Badda responded that it's not so easy to run such businesses regularly. It's not true that a Member of Parliament can compete with his/her voters.   |

## 9.0 Resolutions from the duty bearers

Following the submissions by the farmers and the resolutions they have made, it was critical to get the stakeholders' commitment on the emerging issues from the farmers' forum. The following are the key actions highlighted as below;

- Honorable Badda asked the ministry of Agriculture to present a report of what has been done at least after every year i.e. show cases of the culprits gotten and how they have been dealt with.
- Mr. Muhwezi said that the appeal had been taken positively and thus asked CAPCA to send the farmers forum report to MAAIF, MP.s and other stakeholders present in order to follow up on the actions.
- NDA Officer asked the participants to deal with drug shops that have licenses of NDA and follow instructions from their doctors.
- Mr. Muhwezi cautioned members to always give feedback about the fake drugs to their doctors.
- NDA contact was read out to the farmers so that they raise their complaints directly to the drug information office **0414-344-052**. He further urged the farmers to report any issues about drugs to NDA, action will be taken as well as utilize the District offices. Going forward NDA will actively participate in the subsequent forums and take up the farmer issues raised.



## 10.0 Speech by the Chief Guest

The forum was graced by the Archbishop of Kampala, Dr. Cyprian K. Lwanga, as the Chief Guest.

He welcomed all participants to the farmers' forum. He re –echoed the significance of the forum that this year's event was to enable Small Holder Farmers, Members of Parliament, ministries, statutory bodies, departments, civil society Organizations and agencies to deliberate on the growing problem of poor and substandard agro-inputs facing the agricultural sector."

He appreciated the efforts of government rendered by NAADS programme. However, he entreated the farmers to love CAPCA more because it is their own.

Focusing on the turn of events during the farmer's forum, the Archbishop suggested a number of resolutions worth putting into consideration. Some of those are outlined as below;

- ❖ Members of Parliament to pass laws that promote quality and health agro-inputs while outlawing poor, counterfeit and substandard agro-inputs in Uganda.
- ❖ He urged farmers to produce quality products so as to achieve good harvests.
- ❖ He urged the government to increase the agriculture budget so that it caters for the 70% of the population who survive on the agricultural sector.

The Archbishop ended his presentation by wishing all the participants God's blessings in whatever they do and journey mercies. Thereafter, he officially closed the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the farmer's forum. The closing prayer was offered by Fr. Kiganda from Caritas Kiyinda Mityana.



*Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga was the Chief Guest during  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the farmer's forum*

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## **11.0 Conclusions and recommendations**

- There is need for CAPCA to support farmers in profiling the genuine suppliers of agro – inputs and sensitize them on proper storage and usage of the products.
- The regulatory agencies like NDA, MAAIF and CSO actors like Transparency International need to support farmers in curbing and addressing the challenge of fake agro – inputs on the market.
- In the subsequent forums time management should be put into consideration such that more time can be availed for deliberations.
- The media is a very key component of publicizing the farmers forum, hence a need to bring them on board as well.

## **12.0 Annex (Pictorials)**









