



Distribution of Inputs by NAADS/Operation Wealth Creation: What are some of the benefits to farmers?

Overview

The National Agricultural Advisory Services/Operation Wealth Creation (NAADS/OWC) is a Government programme aimed at enhancing effectiveness in delivery of agricultural extension services in Uganda. The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) through the NAADS Secretariat that was established under the NAADS Act of June 2001.

The programme’s development goal is to enhance rural livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity and profitability in a sustainable manner. This is done through provision and distribution of agricultural inputs such as seeds, planting and breeding materials, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, agricultural equipment and tractors as premised in the first objective of the second National Development Plan (NDPII) 2015/16 – 2019/20.

Over the years, agricultural inputs and technologies have been procured and distributed to farming households and civilian veterans in all local Governments in Uganda.

This policy brief examines the benefits and emerging challenges that have been encountered in the distribution of agricultural inputs. The paper is based on primary and secondary data collected by the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU) from FY2013/14 to FY2016/17.

Introduction

The Government of Uganda (GoU) has been implementing the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) since 2001 to increase farmer’s access to agricultural information, knowledge and technology. The programme was restructured in FY 2014/15 to deliver the new mandate of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) intervention. The OWC mandate focuses on procurement and distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers to support interventions

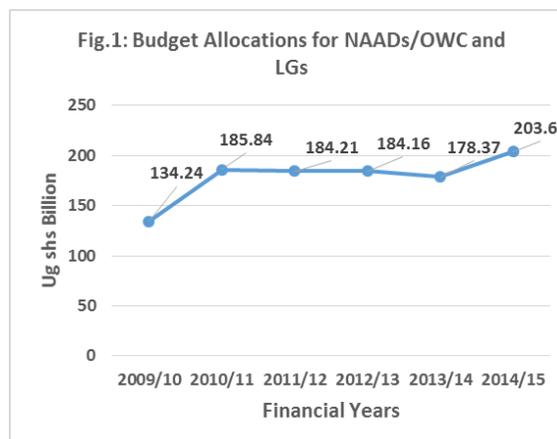
Key Issues

- Low survival of crop enterprises
- Untimely/late delivery of inputs
- Poor quality of planting materials
- Loss and theft of inputs
- Inadequate supervision and monitoring of the input distribution processes
- Pests and diseases

across the value chain - from production and value addition to agri-business development and marketing. The outcome target is to raise household incomes to a minimum of Ug shs 20million per household per year.

Budget allocations to the NAADS/OWC Programme

There was a declining trend of allocations between FY2011/12 and FY2013/14; but an increase in allocation after the restructuring of NAADS in FY 2014/15 (Fig 1). This was to enhance performance of the OWC and also cater for the gratuity of the former NAADS staff.



Source: MFPED Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure; Various Years



Inputs distributed to farmers

From FY 2014/15, the Government has been distributing inputs to all districts, sub-counties and municipalities in Uganda through the NAADS/OWC programme. Inputs are distributed to individual farmers, farmer groups and other interested groups twice a year in the two rain seasons, against the planned targets.

Table 1 summarizes the inputs distributed to 18 districts (Mpigi, Mbale, Kayunga, Mbarara, Kanungu, Kisoro, Luwero, Gulu, Buvuma, Lira, Pader, Kalangala, Mityana, Kyegegwa, Mukono, Budaka, Mubende and Kabale) by half year FY 2016/17. The farmers received 96.5% of the total planned inputs; however, there was poor outcome in crop establishment and high mortality.

Table 1: NAADS/OWC Inputs Distributed to Farmers by 31st December, 2016

Out put	Annual Planned Quantity or Target	Cum. Achieved Quantity	Physical performance Score (%)
Maize seeds (kg)	360635	355035.5	100
Bean seeds (kg)	153430	195845	99.84
Citrus seedlings	1500000	1719900	92.9
Mango seedlings	1145000	826176	89.05
Tea plantlets	30600000	57828878	99.58
Apple seedlings	200500	30000	100
Cocoa seedlings	1550000	1469360	100
Cassava (bags)	4279	2724	100
Irish Potatoes (bags)	1230	1362	100
Banana Suckers	155800	84700	89.94
Passion fruits	18150479	18150479	100
Pineapple	4015661	4000000	99.61
Dairy Heifers	342	318	93.03
Poultry birds	70560	2210	3.13
Chick duck mash	58800	15000	25.5
Total		86.22222222	96.50%

Source: Field findings

Benefits to farmers

- Adoption of improved production practices and technologies:** The increased awareness on and access to improved methods of farming by farmers has led to increased demand and use of

new or improved technologies. For instance, in FY2013/14, a commercial farmer in Kabale Municipality benefited from a juice extractor from NAADS that was used to add value to his fruits. In FY 2014/15, farmers in Jinja, Kamuli, Kyenjojo, Lira, Luwero, Wakiso, Mubende and Masindi districts adopted hybrid seeds of maize and beans, elite coffee seedlings, fertilizers, citrus and mangoes, banana suckers and new varieties of cassava. In FY 2016/17, improved dairy heifers were adopted by farmers in Lira and Gulu districts; pesticide use and non-traditional crops such as apples, cocoa, Irish potatoes and pineapple were adopted in Mbale, Mityana, Mukono, Kisoro and Kyegegwa districts.

- Food and nutrition security improved:** The NAADS/OWC program has supported food and nutrition security hence contributing to the reduction of food scarcity. For example, Ms Babirye Caroline of Kitayungwa Sub-County in Kamuli District had received hybrid maize seed from OWC programme by 21st July, 2015; she appreciated the quality of seed as the crop was highly productive. The produce was used for food which enabled her family have two meals per day compared in the past when the household had one meal per day.

Similarly, Mrs. Joyce Seviiri of Najjemba Village, Kassengejje Parish in Wakiso Town Council received 1Kg of beans that was planted and harvesting was still ongoing by July 2015. She appreciated the quality of seeds and kept some for the next planting season.

- Changing farmers' mindset to practice agriculture as a business:** The NAADS programme has registered success in orienting farmers to take farming as a business, resulting in improvement of standard of living. For example, Mr. Okum Richard of Abyi Village, Agwayab Parish, Lamuog Sub-County in Amuru District was producing food mainly for home consumption. However, in FY 2016/17, when he received 4kgs of sunflower and 30kgs of soya bean from NAADS/OWC programme which he planted on four acres of land, he harvested 975kgs of sunflower and 800kgs of soya bean. He sold



his harvest at Ug shs 1,000 and Ug shs 1,500 per kg respectively and used the returns to build a house and open more land for commercial agriculture. Similarly, Mr. Christopher Lubega & Nkabwe Peter of Kakuuto Sub-County in Rakai District received 1Kg each of rice in July 2014, in addition to the 7kgs they already had. They planted on three quarters of an acre, from which they harvested 500kgs. The 460kgs were taken to the mill to remove the husks, while 20kgs were unhusked.

high productivity, hence an increased output than was expected.

Challenges to effective achievement of the benefits

Although a number of benefits have been registered by farmers from the NAADS/OWC, there is evidence of poor performance of the programme and reduced benefits to farmers in some areas. For example, during FY 2016/17 half year monitoring, many farmers registered low production and survival of crop enterprises. Based on a sample 35 randomly selected farmers in the four regions of Uganda, the survival rates of crops under the NAADS/OWC were: coffee (27.04%); mangoes (60.84%); passion fruits (100%); oranges (37.50%) and bananas (46.40%).

The following are some of the key challenges that have led to a reduction in the benefits derived from NAADS/OWC by farmers.

1. Untimely/Late delivery of inputs: In some areas, inputs/planting materials were delivered late at the onset of the dry season which led to delayed planting and low production at farm level. In FY2016/17 half year, farmers in Mubende District abandoned some crop enterprises that were delivered late during the drought season; similarly 5,000 OWC tea seedlings were abandoned by Mr. Kalamagi in Miseebe Village Bulera Sub-County in Mityana District.

2. Loss and theft of inputs: Lack of transparency by the local government officials during the input distribution process leading to theft and misappropriation of inputs. The planting materials in some instances do not reach the intended beneficiaries as was the case in Mukono district in Q2 FY2014/15, distribution of cocoa seedlings was poor and beneficiaries received less quantity than what they were supposed to get as most of the seedlings were stolen.

3. Poor quality of planting materials distributed and low germination rates: This was worsened by the small volumes and poor quality of seeds distributed to farmers by the NAADS/OWC programme. For example in FY 2014/15, Mr. and Mrs. Katumba Muhammad of Kasengeje Village, Wakiso Town Council in Wakiso District received

- 4. Increased income:** The programme has led to increased household incomes and improved welfare. In FY2016/17, Mr. Yusuf Lubale of Buluba Zone, Bugeya Parish, Butansi Sub-County District received improved soya seeds in September 2016 which he planted on an acre of land, from which he harvested 300Kgs which was a very good harvest. The improved varieties with high productivity has enabled him raise more money to pay school fees for his children, farm and meet the basic home needs conveniently.

Similarly, in 2015 Lugazi Prisons in Lugazi II Village, Kiteza Sub-County in Buikwe district, planted cassava and harvested it for food security. They collected 12 bags of cassava cuttings that were sold/supplied to the NAADS Secretariat/OWC in FY2015/16; this has increased the prison's income.

- 5. Increased productivity:** Due to provision of improved seeds/planting materials, the performance of the OWC programme in FY2014/15 and FY2015/16 in several districts like Bushenyi, Buikwe and Kabarole among others was excellent, especially in regard to improvement in bean yields. In FY 2013/14, Mr. Lawrence Mayanja of Kabingo 1 Village, Masaka Ward in Kamwenge District a Food Security Farmer (FSF) received 50 banana suckers and 10kg of hybrid beans, and he harvested 150kgs of beans, part of which he sold. Similarly, Mr. Kivumbi Emmanuel of Kawolo Division in Buikwe district, received 20Kgs of beans and 10Kgs of maize that he planted on 0.7 and 1 acre respectively in November 2015. He harvested 2bags of beans of 240Kgs which he said were of



1Kg of beans and 5Kgs of maize. They expressed dissatisfaction with the small quantity of planting materials provided and poor quality of seeds that had a low germination rate. Similarly, Mr. Balimaino Francis of Kyabatega Village, Pakanyi Sub-County in Masindi district accessed 20kg of Longe 7H maize seed from the OWC programme in FY2015/16. The farmer expressed dissatisfaction with the maize variety that had a low germination and growth rate, resulting in low output. This challenge was attributed to inadequate verification of inputs at source by MAAIF, inadequate involvement of district officials in the input quality assurance processes and damage of planting materials during transportation by service providers.

4. Pests and diseases: The high prevalence of pests and diseases due to the distribution of diseased planting materials to farmers was a major challenge. For instance, all the cassava cuttings distributed to Nabirumba I Bwooko Zone, Nabirumba Parish, Nabwigulu Sub-County in Kamuli District during FY2014/15 were affected by the mosaic disease which spread in many parts of the district. This hindered farmers from reaping from the distributed inputs, especially as farmers lacked knowledge on how to control the pests and diseases.

5. Gender inequalities in input distribution: There were gender inequalities in access to inputs with males being the dominant recipients due to a number of reasons. The OWC programme lacked appropriate mechanisms for dealing with gender inequalities which were associated with: limited access to land and advisory services by women; male dominance in decision making in the use of family land; long distances to collection centers and inadequate access to information by the vulnerable groups and disability. Youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), poor women and the elderly had limited access to inputs in all the districts,

By December 2015 (FY2014/15)

- Out of 78 farmers who benefitted from maize seeds in Nakalama Sub-County in Iganga District, 56 (72%) were male and 22 (28%) were female.

- Out of 180 farmers in Butagaya Sub-County in Jinja District that benefitted from cocoa seedlings, 146 (81%) were male and 34 (19%) female.
- In Lukhonge Sub-County, Mbale District, out of 203 farmers that benefitted from coffee seedlings, 188 (93%) were male and 15 (7%) female.

Conclusion

The NAADS/OWC has enabled improvement in rural livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity, farmer incomes and household food security. There are, however, challenges that constrain the full achievement of the intended benefits from the programme such as pests and diseases, late delivery of inputs, and gender inequality that still persist and require redress.

Policy Recommendations

- The NAADS Secretariat should ensure timely delivery of inputs to farmers by the suppliers. For the two seasons, the inputs should be supplied in February and July.
- The MAAIF, NAADS Secretariat and Local Governments should improve verification and quality assurance of inputs at source, during transportation and on delivery; and facilitate supervision and monitoring of the input distribution processes.
- The MAAIF/NAADS Secretariat and Office of the President should enhance affirmative action for the excluded groups through integrating gender equality in the OWC Standing Orders.
- The MAAIF should support multiplication of planting materials in nurseries within the district to avoid importation of diseases from other districts.

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