



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Inception Workshop on Mainstreaming food loss reduction initiatives for smallholders in food deficit areas in Uganda: Kabira Country Club Hotel

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Remarks by Mr. Alhaji M. Jallow,

FAO Representative in Uganda

Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocol observed, I want to sincerely welcome you all to this inception workshop of the project on Mainstreaming food loss reduction Initiatives for smallholders in Food Deficit Areas. The focus for this particular project is the fact that every year an estimated one-third of all food produced is lost or wasted. This results in loss in food and income security of small holder farmers, and is one of the leading causes of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed current loss levels estimated at 30% of cereals, 20% oilseeds, meat and dairy and 30% on fish and 40-50% of root crops are unacceptably high.

From the onset allow me to reiterate the AU Malabo Declaration which aims at reducing by half the current levels of food losses by 2025 and the importance for all stakeholders to join effort in the Development of a Strategy and roadmap, and implementation of post-harvest loss reduction initiatives in Uganda in order to achieve this objective.

This is especially since these represent significant portions of food which is produced and not utilized. In spite of this there is an increasing demand for food to feed the ever increasing population which means that more people must survive from food from even smaller land resources.

Thus to address these challenges the three UN agencies; IFAD, FAO and WFP are launching the activities of this project to be implemented in Uganda. It is important to note that in Uganda, small scale farmers are the main producers in the maize, beans and sunflower value chains. This makes them critical

beneficiaries of project interventions for development of the value chains of these commodities.

The three commodities ensure food security and incomes especially for the resource poor farmers. This project provides a unique opportunity for the three UN agencies to collect more information on the causes of the losses and solutions to these. The project will provide an opportunity for synergies especially on efforts to improve farmer livelihoods in Uganda. We expect to learn from the different stakeholders, and get feedback about on-going efforts to reduce postharvest losses.

Current efforts for example by FAO in Northern Uganda include efforts to address food security concerns in war displaced areas in Adjumani, and reduce losses in Acholi and Karamoja region. Our partner agencies WFP are implementing large scale efforts to reduce postharvest losses at household level and increase market access for grains such as maize in over 20 districts in Northern and Eastern Uganda. IFAD is spearheading oil seed development sector to enhance incomes of farmers in the country, for example through the Vegetable oil Development project (VODP phase II) and Project for Restoration of Livelihoods in Northern Uganda (PRELNOR).

It is important to stress the need to enhance synergies through this project, for better impact, especially on food security and income status of households of beneficiaries. With more focused efforts in post-harvest loss reduction, we shall ensure that the gains obtained through increased production and better market arrangements will not be lost due to poor postharvest handling and food waste along the maize, bean and sunflower value chains. This project thus presents a unique opportunity for the three agencies to attain this important goal.

I want to conclude by again welcoming you to this important workshop and on behalf of the three UN agencies I want to express our keen interest in seeing that the objectives of this project is achieved through collaborative efforts of all stakeholders for improved welfare of the people and development of the country.

I thank you for your kind attention.