



Strengthening Agribusiness Ethic, Quality Standards and ICT Usage in Uganda's Value Chains - Agri-Quest Uganda

Consortium Members

Strengthening
Agribusiness Ethics,
Quality Standards,
& ICT Usage in
Uganda's Value Chains

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Project description

Problem statement: There is a considerable lack of attention to these two issues in agribusiness value chains in Uganda: (i) Ethical behaviour, & (ii) Quality standards with respect to accelerating transformation, competitiveness, & sustainability of a vibrant food security program and agri-business.

Purpose: AGRI-QUEST aims at addressing a fundamental question: How can we have a better business climate in Uganda that fosters a permanent and positive gradual change in practices & attitudes in agribusiness towards ethical behaviour and quality standards in food security and agri-business initiatives?

Research methodology: AGRI-QUEST uses these engagement processes: capacity building of farmers/value chain players, wide consultations & stakeholder engagement to ensure buy-in, uptake of research outcomes and knowledge exchanges.

| Impact Activities | Preliminary Results |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generated 7 Research Briefs, & 5 Policy Brief Series (available at F&BKP website) 2. Facilitated student exchange with VU University and MUBS (1 Intern, 7 master students) to finish their research guided by AGRI-QUEST methodologies 3. Facilitated, present & participate in various agribusiness Stakeholder engagement workshops organised by AgriProFocus Uganda & other agric. networks. 4. Compiled a Fact Finding Mission Report (FFMR) that shows the state of the issues we are researching about. 5. Developed online change facilitation platforms (developed website: www.agriquestuganda.com; and, Social Media, - Facebook and LinkedIn) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) With the exception of UNBS which is the standards body in Uganda, most of the Stakeholders interacted with (AgriProFocus, Netherlands Embassy, Directorate for Ethics and Integrity, NOGAMU, etc.), have an idea of agricultural related standards (though not necessarily by their technical names). However, they have never thought of defining ethical practices in the context of the value chains we are researching on. 2) Promising though, the Agribusiness & Value Chain players interacted with so far (in Butaleja, Bugiri, Kapchorwa, Mbale, Pallisa, Sironko, - all being some of the districts in Uganda targeted by AGRI-QUEST), feel that it is important to have ethical agricultural practices and voluntary in 'house quality standards' E.g., how to store rice & keep it safe from Rats habitation., How to dry maize and beans without stepping in them, etc. 3) Most agribusinesses & VC players at the lower levels of value chains studied, are not aware that they are part of the international food and agriculture ValueChains. 4) Some farmer groups in the districts we target, had contributed to the sharing and learning of good agricultural practices, though the farmers did not follow them. |

Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities:

- 1) An increasing need in Uganda to popularize ethical business behaviour
- 2) The knowledge platforms (esp. AgriProFocus Uganda) are very receptive i.e., over engaging AGRI-QUEST.
- 3) AGRI-QUEST intervention is seen as a breakthrough in to the neglected aspects of agribusiness (ethical practices).
- 4) A sensitization drive of AGRI-QUEST aims and objectives with the stakeholders has proved necessary so as to expedite their full engagement and a clearing understanding of expectations

Challenges:

- 1) Time allocated (budgeted) for the field visits to collect data, interact with project targeted audiences has proved inadequate especially in parts which are far from the project head office.
- 2) Most stakeholders and project targeted respondents, expect AGRI-QUEST to meet their costs incurred for participating in our research project, E.g., for giving us data, Transport them to workshops, buy for them airtime, buying seed drying materials (for quality improvement) like mats, racks, etc. Failure by AGRI-QUEST to meet these blocks window for other upcoming innovation projects; buy for them mobile phones that are internet enabled especially ahead of our ICT App and Farmer-to-buyer platform to be developed
- 3) Language barrier since we gather data from a variety of districts in Uganda, which places we have to visit again for dissemination of results.
- 4) Farmers don't see the short and medium term value of committing ethical practices.
- 5) Prevalence of Corruption which impacts heavily on Integrity and Transparency in value chains



Rice packaging as a family business in Bugiri



Workers in Mbale District drying rice while directly stepping in it



Cassava being dried by the Road side in Butaleja District



AGRI-QUEST members participating in one of the AgriProFocus - Ugandastakeholder workshops