



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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**The National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), are undertaking an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the activities to take place in Uganda under the AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND ADVISORY SERVICES PROJECT (ATAS).**

**The ESMF is currently under review by the approving agency; the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The statement is summarized here below.**

**The full statements are available at the offices of the Executive Director, NAADS and the Director General, NARO, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and on the NEMA website.**

**The public is invited to review the statements and forward their comments to the District Environment Offices for onward transmission to NEMA.**

## Summary of the ESMF Statement- Draft

### BACKGROUND

Agriculture is one of the key sectors of the Ugandan economy and features prominently amongst the top five priority areas for public sector investment in the country's new five year strategic framework for economic development, the National Development Plan (NDP). It is also the centerpiece in the Prosperity for All (PFA) program, the vision driving the NDP based on the political manifesto of the NRM. The sector contributes nearly 20 percent of GDP, accounts for 48 percent of exports and provides a large proportion of the raw materials for industry. Food processing alone accounts for 40 per cent of total manufacturing. It employs 73 percent of the population aged 10 years and older.

In the past, the World Bank has supported agricultural research and advisory services through two parastatals, the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), given their critical contribution to pro-poor agricultural growth in Uganda. Both agricultural research and NAADS were key pillars of the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA), the strategic framework for the sector since 2001. Both areas are also core functions and mandates of MAAIF under the proposed DSIP, and are projected to absorb more than 50 percent of total sector budget over the next five years. Despite the critical role of these "supply side" interventions, it is increasingly recognized by GoU, other stakeholders and the Development Partners (DPs) that, other core public functions which are core mandates of MAAIF under the proposed DSIP such as animal and plant disease control, regulatory services, water for agricultural production, sector statistics and monitoring and evaluation, etc. need to be also supported to ensure enduring agricultural growth, including the desired impact of research and advisory services.

### THE ATAS PROJECT

The ATAS project will build on the accomplishments of the completed Second Agricultural Research and Training Project (ARTP II) and the nearly completed National Agricultural Advisory Service Project (NAADS). Both programs are rated as satisfactory in achieving their PDOs. Significant institutional development progress has been achieved under these projects, including:

- the establishment of a decentralized, demand driven and pluralistic advisory services through the NAADS Act in 2000;
- the building up of NARO since 1992 and then the reform of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) through the NARS Act in 2005;
- innovative designs of both NARO and NAADS and building basic capacities for enhanced and effective service delivery; and
- strengthened stakeholder-driven NARO and NAADS governing entities at the national and zonal levels.

There is considerable evidence of impact at the farm level in terms of technology dissemination and adoption, household incomes and other outcome measures. The next phase would consolidate the achievements of the previous projects by further strengthening the institutions, deepening their effectiveness and outreach, and move the agenda forward under a unified framework for substantive

research and service delivery. NARO and NAADS are now well-positioned to exploit synergies and deliver increased results for the sector.

## **ATAS COMPONENTS**

The project will be implemented through two main sub-components namely:

**Component 1: Supporting the National Agricultural Research System.** This component will focus on supporting agricultural research in Uganda through three sets of activities. It will have three sub-components, namely: (i) technology development and adaptation; (ii) outreach and technology dissemination; and (iii) institutional strengthening of the research system.

**Component 2: Strengthening the Agricultural Advisory Services.** This component will support the delivery of quality agricultural advisory services. It will have four sub-components: (i) advisory and information services to farmers; (ii) agribusiness and market linkages; (iii) quality assurance – regulations and technical auditing of service providers; and (iv) program management and monitoring. This component will build on core principles of the current NAADS program.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS**

### **Positive Impacts of the ATAS**

Anticipated positive impacts of the project can be summarized as:

- Empowerment of vulnerable Groups especially women
- Re-orientation of mode of service delivery
- Re-organization of Farmers Institutions through:
  - Mass mobilization and sensitization;
  - Group formation and development;
  - Farmer fora formation and development; and
  - Enterprise selection and development.
- Impacts on production and productivity
- Creation of Better Marketing Opportunities
- Contribution to Improved GDP
- Improved Environmental and Natural Resources Management
- Promotion of Public-Private Partnership
- Institutional Capacity Building

- Enhanced Regional Collaboration in Agricultural Research
- Standardization of Service Providers

## **Negative Impacts**

By and large, there are likely to be no potential large-scale, significant or irreversible adverse environmental impacts associated with ATAS Project implementation. However, there are potential risks or negative impacts that could arise from its implementation and their mitigation measures have been proposed in the ESMF

## **THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

The objective of the ESMF is to provide an Environmental and social screening for the planned projects. It is intended to be used as a practical tool during project implementation. It explicitly describes the environmental steps to be undertaken in the implementation of the planned subprojects under ATAS Project activities. The ESMF is to ensure that the implementation of the ATAS projects activities will be carried out in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.

It also provides a framework to enable communities/beneficiaries screen sub-projects and institutional measures to address adverse environmental and social impacts. In order to ensure sustainability of the ATAS activities, the ESMF is expected to cover the environmental unknowns, to help in the Environmental Screening, and to recommend appropriate mitigation measures. The screening and review process will determine how and when a particular subproject will trigger a given safeguard policy, and what mitigation measures need to be put in place. Ideally, the screening and review process will also ensure that, subsequent sub-projects with potentially significant impacts will require further environmental studies whose scale will be appropriate to the planned activities.

The ESMF is to stipulate among others, the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) together with its mitigation measures, monitoring indicators as well as, institutional responsibilities which have to be integrated into the formulation, and the implementation and operation of the Project's activities to minimize any adverse environmental and social impacts of the Project. Such a framework is what is important at this preparatory stage of the Project as the exact details and location of the component activities are not yet confirmed with certainty. The Social Safeguard Policies also require that, the ESMF must be disclosed as a separate and stand alone by the Government as a condition for Bank Appraisal of the ATAS.

## **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Taking into consideration the need for environmental and social compliance for the ATAS activities, an effective and efficient institutional and management structure is a critical foundation for the implementation of the project and the eventual achievement of the planned project development strategies. The overall coordination of ATAS will be entrusted in the Coordination Unit to be housed in NARO which will be responsible for the projects activities and related programmes while MAAIF will maintain policy oversight over the implementation of the project.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING PROCESS

The screening process is designed to determine which projects require a full EIA process and which do not. Screening is done with the aid of EIA « Screening Forms ». The screening process ensures objectivity and transparency.

***Not all development projects may necessarily cause adverse effects on the environment due to differences in scale and types of activities to be undertaken during their implementation and their location. This therefore implies that, not all proposed projects requiring Environmental Assessments shall undergo full scale EIA process,***

The objective of the screening phase therefore is to determine if a proposed project **does/or does not** have significant environmental and impacts. If it is determined not to have potential to cause significant environmental impacts, it shall be categorically excluded from further environmental impact assessment, and an appropriate decision shall be made to approve and implement the project, with, where appropriate, recommendations to the developer, for sound environmental management of the project.

If it is not exempt, and is found to have potential significant environmental impacts, further screening is conducted to determine if mitigation measures can readily be identified through further Environmental Impact Review (EIR) or a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS) shall be required. If in conducting the EIR adequate mitigation measures are incorporated for the identified impacts, the environmental aspects of the project can be approved.

The screening process, therefore, assists in determining whether a proposed sub-project clearly does not require EIA i.e.; exempt category, has significant environmental impacts for which mitigation measures can readily be identified either directly or through environmental impact review, or has significant environmental impacts whose mitigation measures cannot readily be identified, hence requiring a detailed Environmental Impact Study.

If a decision is made at the screening stage to exempt a project, or to approve its environmental aspects on the basis of identified mitigation measures, such a decision shall be contained in a **Certificate of Approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment** issued by the Executive Director of the National Environment Management Authority.

If, however, after screening, it is determined that the project requires a detailed Environmental Impact Study (EIS), such a certificate shall only be issued after approval of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) done subsequently.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHECKLISTS

The environmental and social check lists have been compiled and will be completed by the developers or where need be and depending on the availability of resources, an external consultant may be hired to provide such services. Details of the checklists have been worked out and can readily be used.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND FOLLOW UP

Environmental monitoring aimed at checking the effectiveness and relevance of the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. In order to assess the efficiency of ATAS sub-project activities, there will be need to provide monitoring indicators to benchmark the activities. Monitoring will act as a check balance between environment and development i.e. to determine whether the mitigation measures have been successful in such a way that the pre-program environmental and social conditions have been restored, improved upon or worse than before and to determine what further mitigation measures may be required. The responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of the mitigation measures is assigned at two different levels i.e. the local and national level.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

It is envisaged that, effective implementation of this ESMF will require adequate capacity enhancement within the collaborating institutions and other stakeholders. In light of this, ATAS has provided for a capacity building component through which, the capacity of key stakeholder institutions will be strengthened through tailor-made training programmes whose focus, emphasis, mode of delivery including the content will be in line with the capacity needs of such entities. The training will also address the implementation needs of the ESMF as well as, the technical aspects relevant to the ATAS. Training on ESMF will be undertaken in three levels namely, the local communities (farmers), NARO and NAADS technical staff and the ELU staff in the collaborating sector ministries and institutions.



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