

UGANDA PARLIAMENT SPEAKER KADAGA VISITS FORT PORTAL TO DRUM SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION—RECIEVES LEADERS PETITION

RWENZORI REGION PETITION TO THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT AT THE 4TH RWENZORI REGION CLIMATE CHANGE WEEK

FORT PORTAL 29TH JULY 2016
Right Hon Speaker

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the 4th Climate Change Week in the Rwenzori Region builds into a sustained climate change campaign started in 2011 by Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), and Broederlijk Delen(BD), working closely with Smallholder Farmers, stakeholders in the public, social and private sectors. The climate change week was organized by Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC) in partnership with ZARDI and Kabarole District Local Government in July 2016 and majorly supported by Broedelikh Delen (BD) and TRIAS Uganda under the two year (2015-2016) Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Synergy Project funded by Belgian Government in Uganda. The Week was organized Under the theme: *"Coping with effects of climate change; Potentials and Opportunities for Adaptation"*.

AND WHEREAS KRC has conducted researches on small holder farmers' knowledge on climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as mapping the climate change vulnerable communities in Rwenzori region. In spite of the several efforts to increase adaptation, many communities are exposed to vagaries of weather and have not utilized the existing opportunities and resources thus they have remained vulnerable due to low adaptive capacity. The climate change week brought together development actors, policy makers, famers, institutions of learning among others who reflected on the challenge and also came up with commitments and calls for change. These actions were reflected through the petition made to the Speaker of Parliament as well as local leadership commitments

IN COGNIZANCE that Uganda has strong institutional and policy framework like National Climate Change Policy 2015 to regulate and enforce the management of natural resources to protect the environment and different planning frameworks like Vision 2040, National Development Plan (NDP), District Development Plans (DDP), Sub county Development Plans (SCDP) which clearly outline the objectives and interventions on natural resource management like conservation of forests and wetlands.

NOW THEREFORE we the hundreds of participants including Members of Parliament, LC5 Chairpersons, RDCs, CAOs, Cultural leaders, Environment Officers, Natural Resource Officers, Religious leaders, CSO leaders, farmers, entrepreneurs, teachers and students from the Districts of Kabarole, Bundibugyo,

Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Kasese and Ntoroko gathered here at Boma Grounds to mark the climax of the Climate Change Week, on this 29th Day of July 2016 hereby present to you our petition as hereunder;



A cross section of Leaders during roundtable discussions on Food systems at the Peoples Summit on Food in April 2016

Funding and Budget Allocation:

1. That Parliament advocates and increases budget allocation to Agriculture to 10%, Natural resources and Environment sectors by 5% of the national budget which are key to adaptation and mitigation of Climate Change.
2. That government provides funds to promote Alternative energy sources at household level to reduce pressure on forests
3. That government provides agriculture subsidies on irrigation kits, post harvest equipments, value addition technologies and agriculture mechanization
4. That Government establishes a farmers bank to enhance access to agricultural finance at farmer friendly interest rates
5. That Government provides specific funding for women farmers to deal with women specific labour and time saving technologies in production, harvesting, post harvest handling and value addition to enhance efficiency.
6. That farmers be supported to access high-yielding and drought resistant crop varieties. There is need to increase support to research in high-yielding and drought resistant varieties of crops –and make them more accessible to smallholder farmers to increase their adaptive capacity. NARO has invented many varieties but such varieties cannot be traced at small holder farmer level
7. That Government establishes silos/warehouses especially in each District of Rwenzori Region as well as the whole country and buys excess produce during bumper harvests, redistribute it to areas of scarcity in the country to stabilize prices of agricultural products and as well

enhance food security for its citizens.

Legislation, Enforcement and Oversight:

8. That Parliament passes and enforces Laws to support Water for production and irrigation systems for the farmers in water stressed regions especially in some parts of Ntoroko, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa and Kasese. Amidst these sporadic climate changes, our farmers need support to establish community valley dams and water harvesting at Household level for irrigation so as to continue growing crops –even during dry spells.
9. That government passes and supports a policy to rejuvenate granaries at household level to cater for changing seasons, since farmers cannot keep/preserve food produced during bumper harvests, so as to have enough food to eat during seasons of meager harvest due to weather changes
10. That parliament enforces the laws on Conservation of Natural Resources like wetlands and forest reserves, since it has been observed that wetlands and forestry resources continue to be depleted in spite of the existence of NEMA, NFA, Forestry and environment offices in Districts. Communities should be supported to establish community tree nurseries and plant trees by availing the necessary right tree seedlings for environment conservation. This is in line with the carbon trading that is enshrined in the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Declaration which compel first world countries-which ostensibly contribute the greatest percentage of greenhouse emissions (from their hundreds of industries) to provide financial support to communities who preserve existing forests –and also grow more trees.
11. That parliament enforces the laws banning the manufacture of polythene
12. That parliament quickly enforces laws on counterfeit seeds and other agricultural inputs.

Information and Extension:

13. That government translates and disseminates information on National Climate Change Policy 2015 and other relevant laws and policies
14. That government provides critical information on effective and cautionary usage of agriculture chemicals
15. That government includes extension and advisory services in the implementation of Operation Wealth Creation

Madam Speaker, the above prayers face constraints and we call for your intervention in advocating for budget allocation, policy formulation, implementation and enforcement.

Right Hon. Speaker, it our humble prayer that our petition is accorded your utmost attention and

consideration.

We your humble petitioners.

Presented by Hon. Richard Rwabuhinga, LC5
Chairperson-Kabarole District



Speaker Kadaga handing over a maize sheller to Iruhua Farmers. The maize sheller locally produced in Mayuge by Munyegera agro-machinery was donated to the farmers by KRC and USAID-Feed the Future Program to ease their post-harvest handling of maize

WORKING WITH FORT PORTAL MUNICIPALITY TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF STREET FOOD VENDORS

While it is now widely known that Uganda's population will continue to grow as one of the fastest in the world, what is often not said is that this population growth will be urban. The rate of urbanization in Uganda is among the highest in the world, at 4.8 per cent. Although the urbanization level is currently still low, at 12 percent, by 2030, it is projected to reach 30 percent, with an urban population exceeding 20 million people (Cities Alliance, 2010: 1).

KRC -Uganda, one of Uganda's leading NGOs headquartered in Fort Portal, in partnership with its international partners Hivos and IIED, have for the past one year worked with Fort Portal Municipality-through the Change Labs approach to study this growing pattern in light of food diets in this growing population. Fort-Portal town was taken as a case study. As a city in the making, there is need to draw the attention of the urban authorities to the topic of food systems for the urban poor and invoke their interest and appreciation to bring it into mainstream planning at the early stages of transition.

The team set out to conduct research that begun with evidence gathering on food consumption of the urban poor in Fort-Portal municipality through interviews

and group discussions with the urban food vendors, different consumer segments (Boda-boda riders, mechanics, students etc) and the urban authorities. This was later followed up with rural side of evidence gathering where investigations were done on food and nutritional aspects of rural households and the positive links between Fort-Portal growth and its rural hinterland.

The research revealed that there is a growing urban population of low income earners who are causing the demand for affordable food to soar. Observed from a supplier end, the emergence and rapid growth of the street food is a direct response to a growing urban population of low income earners. Pioneers of street food trade in Fort-Portal confirmed that street food in its current form was first observed in 2006 with about six vendors along Bundibugyo road. In the same period, there were about 4 street based chapatti makers and sellers in the whole of Fort-Portal town. Currently, there are about 280 food vendors operating on 4 major streets/locations in the main town.

The efforts of the team were later to culminate into the first ever People's Summit Food in Uganda, organized in Fort Portal in April 2016. The Summit that took place from 20-21 April 2016, was hosted by the municipality of Fort Portal in partnership with Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), IIED and Hivos-as well as local citizens, who were at the centre of lively discussion and debate on how the region's food system can bring available, affordable and nutritious food, create sustainable jobs and drive green and inclusive growth.

The Summit brought together stakeholders from across the globe who committed (live on KRC's radio station, KRC 102 FM The Farmers' Voice) to inter alia; provide street vendors with suitable space and infrastructure – such as water points – to operate effectively. The government also pledged to enact a bi-law to ensure that the 1935 Public Health Act – which outlaws street food vending – is amended to reflect the new realities of emerging food systems. The National Planning Authority committed to ensuring that the Nutrition Action Plan being developed by the NPA is adjusted to the local context and realities that the Peoples' Summit made visible. Kabarole District and the Municipal authorities to provide a case study of how to integrate the food system within the planning system, and the Street vendors pledged to improve hygiene when using plates, cutlery and other food handling equipment in efforts to improve consumer confidence and increase business, Local authorities agreed to improve working conditions for street vendors such as the provision of lighting, water points and toilets