

# CLIMATE ACTION DIGEST



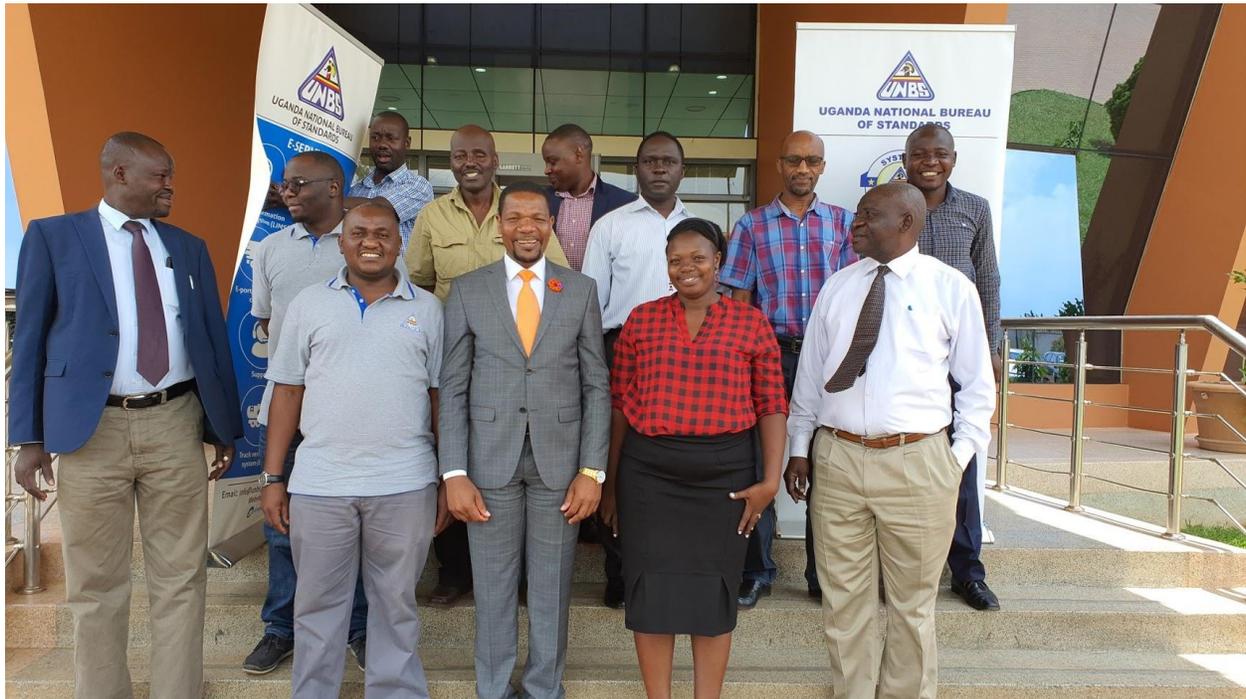
## UGANDA UPDATES

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## UGANDA UPDATES: INNOVATIVE VOLUNTEERISM INSPIRING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE ACTION IN UGANDA

Climate change threatens to affect most economies in Africa. It is projected to erode equity and incomes in the continent by a massive 75%. Uganda, the pearl of Africa, is not immune to this climate change driven devastation. Uganda is ranked the 15th most vulnerable country to climate change and the 49th least ready country to respond to this looming climate change risk. A risk whose impacts can already be felt in the country. Whether talking about prolonged droughts in the north, or landslides in the east, and devastating floods. The urgency to confront these challenges is palpable globally.

Devising incentives to power adaptation and mitigation actions is imperative. It is against this back drop that the meeting with the Uganda Bureau of Standards was held to evaluate feedback on the integration of climate and environmental benchmarks market incentives for the cassava value chain called "EBAFOSA Compliance Market Incentives for Agro-industrialization Guide", to inspire and mobilize actions in a way that drives low emissions development



*Group photo of the Uganda Bureau of Standards (UNBS) , UNEP, EBAFOSA Uganda and Country Stakeholders from the Ministries , NGOs, CSOs AND Private Sector actors after a successful discussion on the progress with the implementation of the EBAFOSA Compliance Market Incentives for Agro-industrialization Guide and recalibration*

The actions discussed at the meeting demonstrated the practical aspect of implementation. They tackled how Uganda can produce more food, without compromising the environment. They tackled how they can add value and create enterprises without compromising the environment. They also tackled how Uganda can expand earnings along its value chains, without compromising the environment and how to do so without re-inventing the wheel, but rather leveraging what

they already have which is leveraging on its people skills, talents, passion and their enterprising resourcefulness in engaging value chains. Leveraging on the locally available raw materials and most importantly, leverage on the existing standards and benchmarks of UNBS.



*Stakeholders at Uganda Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and UNEP EBAFOSA Uganda and Country Stakeholders from the Ministries, NGOs, CSOs AND Private Sector actors discussing*

Developing the cassava value chain in Uganda will add value and pave way for an opportunity to commercialize Uganda's cassava value chain, to save the country up to \$300 million per year in wheat importation. Focussing on avenues to commercialize the cassava value chain will generate feedback, that will enhance the marketability and popularity of these benchmarks. Feedback that will position these existing standards and benchmarks, as practical tools to enhance Uganda's response to climate change, through incentivising climate resilient enterprises.



*Dr Richard Munang and continental EBAFOSA president Mr Patrick Luganda inspecting a food display booth showcasing products made from cassava flour, Uganda*

This guide had been developed earlier by UNEP in collaboration with the UNBS. EBAFOSA has been leading UN Environment work with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) to restructure implementation of Uganda's National Standards to ensure they incentivise enterprises to take up climate actions. The result was adoption by the UNBS, of a guide to inform this restructuring. This guide was then to be test run among ground actors to establish gaps and make recommendations to ensure smooth uptake of climate and environmental benchmarks in maximising productivity of Uganda's cassava value chain. Specifically, benchmarks that were tested were the use of nature-based Ecosystems Based Adaptation (EBA) approaches to cultivate cassava in a manner that ensures the health of ecosystems as well as that of consumers. The other benchmark was on value addition, the use of clean energy to power various levels of cassava processing.

Solar dryers were applied in drying cassava in readiness for processing and cassava by-products, the peelings were recovered and used to manufacture fuel briquettes which are easy and affordable to make. This was done in the two weeks training program that was facilitated and coordinated through the Africa Youth Agro-Industrialisation Academy (AYAIA) to use local materials cassava peeling & other material to make briquettes. The training has been instrumental to showcase the value of cassava and thus provided lessons on the various benefits of the product. Technical actors from the National Cassava Programme were engaged to validate results and compile feedback to inform revisions of existing benchmarks by UNBS towards integrating these climate and environmental aspects.



*Group photo of UNEP, EBAFOSA Uganda Innovative volunteerism actors driving the implementation of the the EBAFOSA Compliance Market Incentives for Agro-industrialization Guide*



*Kabaka Ronald Mutebi II of Buganda kingdom being accompanied by Mr Charles Peter Mayiga the Katikkiro of Buganda kingdom inspecting the solar dryers*

The discussions yielded the following results; expand test runs and collating more test results, for sharing with stakeholders along the cassava value chain across Uganda. UN Environment will continue and expand engagement of ground actors along the entire cassava value chain continuum on adoption of climate resilient approaches and collect more feed-back to enrich recommendations as these guidelines continue to be rolled out. This will be from upstream on-farm actions; to midstream processing & value addition; and on to downstream product promotion and connection to markets. This ground information will form a permanent feedback loop for UNBS to inform relevant revisions and refinements of the standards to optimise implementation for climate action.



*Innovative volunteers' actors fabricating solar dryers through guidance from trainers (Left). EBAFOSA continental president Mr Patrick Luganda inspecting a completed solar dryer. (Right)*

Expanding ground actions through enterprise actions in all the test areas on-farm production by expanding collaborating with the NCP to provide better planting materials and lessons; expanding fabrication of clean energy solutions using locally available material and linking these to farmers affordably. Using the clean energy solutions to create multiple cassava-derivative product lines that can be sold at a premium to local consumers; Through these, expand use of these approaches and hence demand for the relevant UNBS specifications. The need to work with the engaged actors who are now expanding their enterprises, to certify all their fresh and clean energy processed produce with the UNBS. Cassava can be processed into up to 300 diverse products and the aim is to have these enterprises produce in all these product lines. Ensuring each product passes through UNBS certification. There is also the need to guide to become a national benchmark that will help Uganda implement their standards sustainably. Specifically, the guide will be adopted into the standards template of UNBS and become the benchmark to drive agro-value chain sustainability focusing on cassava value chain.





*EBAFOSA Uganda youth from the Innovative volunteerism programme showing a pack of neatly packed cassava flour that has been processed from its raw form.*

EBAFOSA shall therefore work with UNBS to organise future stakeholder meetings aimed at discussing the expanded test results from the decisions arrived at the meeting, to accelerate uptake and expand the lessons to other agro-value chains.

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Join our continental platform of agro-industry actors and fill your GAP at : [Registration link to join MeBAFOSA \(Click\)](#)



# EBAFOSA

Ecosystem Based Adaptation for  
Food Security Assembly



# CLIMATE ACTION DIGEST

Email: [info@ebafosa.org](mailto:info@ebafosa.org)

[www.ebafosa.org](http://www.ebafosa.org)