



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

COMMON GROUND DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

We, Representatives from civil society, private sector and farmers' organisations, gathered in Kampala on October 17th and 18th, 2023 for the Regional Common Ground Dialogue on Sustainable Agriculture, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) of the Republic of Uganda, in collaboration with the Association for Strengthening Agriculture Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

On this day 18th of October 2023, we recognize:

Past Strides and Current Challenges:

While acknowledging past strides towards increasing agricultural production and productivity, we cannot ignore their detrimental impact on land health. Soil fertility depleted, landscape degradation, above ground biodiversity loss, underground flora and fauna destroyed, and lives disrupted by extreme events – these challenges are not isolated but interconnected threats weakening the fabric of the farming systems. Rampant deforestation, construction in swamps, environmental pollution, and indiscriminate use of agrochemicals further exacerbate our situation, eroding the resilience and long-term viability of the farming systems and livelihood.

Past and Current Gaps, Barriers, and Drivers:

The dialogue uncovered critical gaps and barriers. Disconnection between agriculture and conservation sectors often seem to hamper collaboration and partnership. Additionally, the lack of methods to monitor land health impeded the understanding of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) within the agriculture sector.



Areas of convergence and agreed implementation while acknowledging the critical nexus between healthy food systems and healthy landscapes.

1. endeavor to proceed with Common Ground Dialogues, bridging together agriculture and conservation sectors, with a view to advocate for ambitious commitments at international events, including Rio Conventions and WCC2025.
2. resolve to bridge the gap between agriculture and conservation sectors for integrated landscape restoration approaches, contributing to UNFCCC Paris Agreement, AFR100 Bonn Challenge, CAADP, GBF and UNCCD land degradation neutrality targets among others.
3. pledge to integrate sustainable agriculture, including agroecological approaches, into our diverse country contexts, to achieve the SDG 1, 2, 13 and 15.
4. recognize the significance of agriculture within and around conserved or protected areas, bridging CAADP and CBD 30x30 post 2020 Global Biodiversity target.
5. commit to engage further to jointly reach out to agriculture sector and conservation stakeholders, demonstrating the shared benefits of transitioning to sustainable agriculture.
6. commit to build a community of practice sharing evidence-based practices, enhance multidisciplinary research guidance on NbS mainstreaming, and enhancing soil biodiversity on sustainable agriculture for land health,
7. encourage Eastern and Southern African countries to adopt enabling policy frameworks and strategies to support sustainable agriculture, including Agroecology.





8. commit to approach public and private financial partners to develop and fund a joint programme of work.
9. Commit to nominate Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Fred BWINO KYAKULAAGA Minister of State of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, to be the campion and ambassador.

The participants committed to these resolutions, driven by the conviction that a sustainable future lies in the harmonious coexistence of agriculture and conservation. Agreed that the Kampala Regional Common Ground dialogue serves as a beacon guiding their shared journey toward a resilient and sustainable agricultural landscape.

Signed on this day18th Oct 2023.....

Mr Charles Oluchina
Regional Programme Coordinator IUCN

Enock WARINDA, PhD
Executive Director, ASARECA

Representative of other participants

Stephen A. Ruvige, TUVWATA

The Republic of Uganda

Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Fred BWINO KYAKULAAGA
Minister of State of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries