



MONITORING LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETS AND AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES IN UGANDA

**BUDGET MONITORING REPORT
QUARTER 1 FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18**

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ACODE Policy Briefing Paper Series No.59, 2020

Published by ACODE

P. O. Box 29836, Kampala

Email: library@acode-u.org; acode@acode-u.org

Website: <http://www.acode-u.org>

Citation

Kisaame, E., K., Ayesigwa, R., and Okiira, J. (2020). *Monitoring Local Government Budgets and Agricultural Extension Services in Uganda: Budget Monitoring Report Quarter One Financial Year 2017/18*, Kampala, ACODE Policy Briefing Paper Series No.59.

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ISBN 978 9970 56 726 3

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACODE is making a contribution towards enhancing transparency and accountability in service delivery and building the capacities of citizens to demand for service. This work could not be possible without the generous support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation towards the ACODE Centre for Budget and Economic Governance (CBEG). We are also grateful to the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) for providing core funding that makes it possible for ACODE to extend the reach of its operations and programs. In a special way, we acknowledge Dr. Susan Kavuma and George Bogere for their guidance during the writing and review of this report. We are equally grateful for the contributions made by the ACODE Budget Champions' Network in collecting the data analysed in this report.

While various people contributed to this work, any errors and/or omissions, and views expressed are the sole responsibility of the authors. We hope this study will contribute to the policy discourse on links between financing and service delivery, community initiatives fostering transparency and accountability, and bringing to light the numerous constraints and expected solutions to agricultural extension.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
BCN	Budget Champions Network
BSDME	Budget and Service Delivery Monitoring Exercise
BTI	Budget Transparency Initiative
CBEG	Centre for Budget and Economic Governance
IPA	Innovation for Poverty Action
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
ODI	Overseas Development institute

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the Budget and Service Delivery Monitoring Exercise (BSDME) undertaken by the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) and its partners under the Budget Champions Network (BCN). The monitoring exercise was undertaken in the first quarter of Financial Year (FY) 2017/18, between the 21st September, 2017 and 5th October, 2017. It focuses on three main aspects: Display of information on grants; timeliness of the transfer of funds to districts and sub-counties; and assessing capabilities for service delivery in agricultural extension services. The monitoring exercise was undertaken in 27 districts across Uganda, namely: Agago, Amuru, Bududa, Buliisa, Gulu, Hoima, Jinja, Kabarole, Kamuli, Lira, Luweero, Mbale, Mbarara, Mpigi, Mukono, Nakapiripirit, Nebbi, Ntungamo, Rukungiri, Soroti, Tororo, Amuria, Moyo, Moroto, Wakiso, Masindi and Kanungu. Data was collected by the Budget Champions Network using observation and semi-structured questionnaires.

The findings of this edition of the budget monitoring cycle indicate a decline in observing the requirement of displaying information at district and sub-county headquarters. This change is in relation to the previous round of budget monitoring undertaken in the 3rd quarter of FY 2016/17. Compliance with the requirement of payroll information display at sub-county headquarters declined from 56% to 52% of the 135 sub-counties visited. Regarding the grant transfer time-lines, there was a significant lag between the beginning of the quarter and when district and sub-counties received funds. It took an average of seven (7) weeks for most grants to reach the intended/targeted district/sub-county. Finally, regarding agricultural extension, the main challenges reported by both farmers and extension workers included limited extension coverage (most districts had less than 20% coverage) because of inadequate facilitation. Other notable challenges were weather vagaries, pests and diseases.

Against such findings, this report recommends the following:

1. The MoFPED needs to set distinct guidelines for display of information on payroll and transfers. The guidelines should specify the information to be displayed, the level of detail, the period for which information ought to be displayed, and where the information should be displayed. Where districts and other units have websites, it is proper that the information is also posted there.
2. Additionally, MoFPED should ensure that the budget website (www.budget.go.ug) contains all the necessary information from all Local Governments; in order to fill some of the information gaps at Local Government level. At the moment, the budget website does not contain some information such as quarterly progress reports for many Local Governments.
3. MAAIF and NAADS need to ensure better quality inputs are distributed to farmers by strengthening the quality assurance (regulation) and

procurement processes. This will lead to improved quality and quantity of yields and ultimately improve agricultural production.

4. Regarding the types of inputs distributed, MAAIF needs to increase the procurement and distribution of cash crops such as coffee which is Uganda's leading export commodity. This will increase the amount of exports and contribute significantly to Uganda's GDP. Currently, the majority (about 80%) of the inputs are food crops in nature.
5. MAAIF, NAADS and Operation Wealth Creation need to improve the timeliness of delivering inputs to farmers. The prevailing delays associated with the delivery of inputs sometimes lead to wastage of inputs and finances used to procure them as they cannot be planted in mid-season.
6. MAAIF and MoFPED should consider increasing on the budget allocation to the Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services for the purpose of recruiting more and facilitating them to undertake their jobs. This will address the current predicament of one extension worker serving an average of 1800 farmers.
7. The Government, through MAAIF and Ministry of Water and Environment should improve the availability of water for production to limit the effects of erratic weather patterns in agriculture.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents findings of the fifth Budget Monitoring and Service Delivery Exercise (BSDME) carried out in 27 districts where the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) operates.¹ The Exercise was undertaken by ACODE and its partners. Budget Monitoring fits within the goal of the ACODE Centre for Budget and Economic Governance (CBEG) that aims at bridging the gap between the demand and supply sides of accountability. Budget Monitoring is also part of ACODE's obligations cited under the Budget Transparency Initiative (BTI). The Initiative is a partnership between Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA), the Budget Strengthening Initiative of the Overseas Development institute (BSI-ODI) and ACODE. The main objective of the BTI is to promote budget transparency and accountability in Uganda through dissemination of budget information to citizens and soliciting feedback on service delivery levels from citizens to which government officials must be held accountable. ACODE and partners under the Budget Champions Network (BCN) undertook data collection for the exercise. The BCN aims at strengthening the demand for accountability through translation and dissemination of budget information to citizens, and soliciting and relaying citizens' views on service delivery to government. The BSDME for Q1 FY 2017/18 focused on three aspects namely:

1. Display of information on grants and timeliness of transfers at on district and Sub-county noticeboards.
2. Capacities for service delivery in agriculture extension.
3. Perspectives of farmers about agricultural inputs and challenges faced by farmers.

Previous budget monitoring exercises showed that there had been some improvement in compliance with the requirement to display information on transfers by service delivery units. The level of conformity of sub-county and district headquarters, however, is still low, despite the several rounds of monitoring that have raised the same issue. Compliance with the more nascent requirement of displaying information on the payroll was also very low across all service delivery institutions that were covered in the previous monitoring exercises. Compared to the previous Budget and Service Delivery Monitoring Exercise (BSDME), this round reveals that the level of conformity by district and sub-county headquarters in displaying information on transfers and payroll information has slightly declined from 65% to 58%.

1.1 Overview of agriculture sector

Agriculture was selected in this round of BSDME because as the back bone of Uganda's economy, it is critical to the achievement of the NDP II goal of

¹ Agago, Amuru, Bududa, Buliisa, Gulu, Hoima, Jinja, Kabarole, Kamuli, Lira, Luweero, Mbale, Mbarara, Mpigi, Mukono, Nakapiripirit, Nebbi, Ntungamo, Rukungiri, Soroti, Tororo, Amuria, Moyo, Moroto, Wakiso, Masindi and Kanungu.

propelling the country toward middle income status with a per capita income US \$ 1,033 by 2020 (MAAIF, 2017/18). The Agriculture Sector employs 72% of Uganda's labour force (both formal and informal), 77% of these are women, and 63% youth, habitually residing in the rural areas (NPA, 2015). The Sector contributes a significant 25.3% of Gross Domestic Product (UBOS Q1 2017/18 Statistics ²⁾ with coffee as the major export commodity - contributing the largest percentage of 15% to the country's exports (UCDA, 2018 ³⁾).

The budget for the Agricultural Sector has immensely increased nominally even though it has been decreasing as a proportion of the national budget. The approved budget for the Agriculture Sector for FY 2017/18 including external support amounted to UGX 828.51Bn which represents 4% of the National budget. The Local Government were allocated UGX. 51.62Bn as production and marketing grant meant to implement decentralisation functions in the Sector that includes provision of agricultural extension services.

Sector Priorities for 2017/18

According to the FY 2017/18 Agriculture Sector Ministerial Policy Statement, agriculture budget allocation is aimed at increasing agricultural production, productivity and guaranteeing food security, as well as enhancing strategic exports identified in the National Export Development Strategy. One of the key priority investment areas for the Sector is ensuring availability of inputs at farm level. This was assessed in this round of BSDME. Other key areas that were not assessed in this exercise but have been prioritized include: strengthening of agricultural research and climate change resilient technologies and practices by MAAIF, strengthening extension services through continued implementation of the single spine extension systems and promotion of water for agricultural production.

1.2 Methodology

Similar to the preceding ones, this round of the BSDME has adopted the use of quantitative methods of data collection and analysis. Structured questionnaires were developed at ACODE and administered in the 27 districts by Budget Champions in these districts. Five sub-counties were randomly selected from each district; one extension worker and two farmers were also randomly selected from each sub-county. In total, 27 districts, 134 sub-counties, 96 male and 33 female extension workers as well as 125 male and 111 female farmers were visited and interviewed.⁴

The criterion for choosing the selected districts was based on regional

2 https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/03_20182017_Statistical_Abstract.pdf

3 https://ugandacoffee.go.ug/sites/default/files/Resource_center/Uganda%20Country%20Coffee%20Profile_1.pdf

4 Owing to poor data quality and missing data, 1 Sub-County, 34 farmers and 6 extension workers' questioners were dropped from the analysis.

representation and districts where ACODE had undertaken previous rounds of the budget monitoring exercise. The continued monitoring of these local governments is aimed at tracking progress in budget transparency and accountability in these districts over time. Data was entered in epi-data and exported to Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) where it was cleaned and analysed. The monitoring exercise was carried out between 21st September, 2017 and 5th October, 2017 representing the first quarter of 2017/2018 (1st July, 2017 to 30th September, 2017).

2.0 FINDINGS

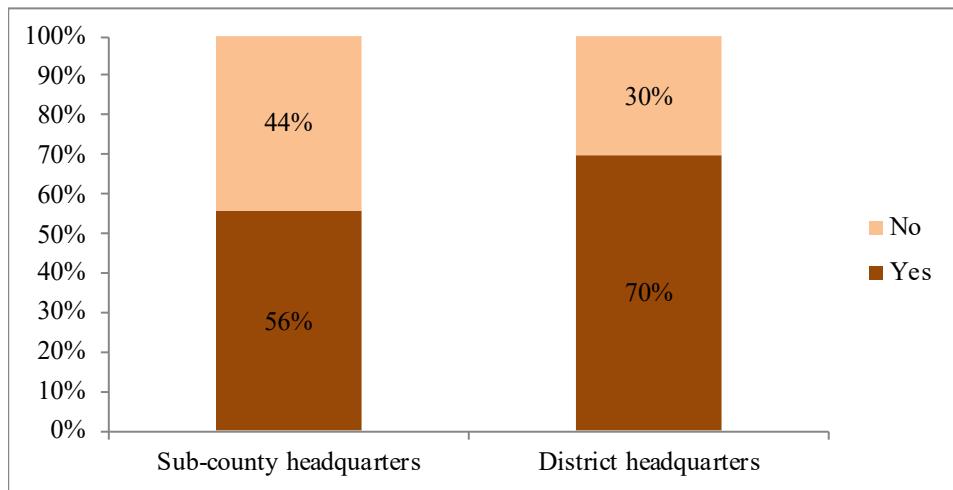
This section presents result from Quarter 1 FY 2017/18 budget monitoring conducted in 27 districts. It articulates findings on display of information at district and sub-county headquarters; access to agricultural extension services by farmers and agricultural inputs received/distributed to farmers by extension workers.

2.1 Display of information

Local Government and service delivery units are required by the Access to Information Act (2005), to display information on transfer of funds from Central Government to Local Government. This practice is aimed at fostering transparency and accountability. With the right information, the general public can hold their leaders to account hence increasing demand for accountability by the general public.

2.1.1 Display of Information on Transfers at District and Sub-County

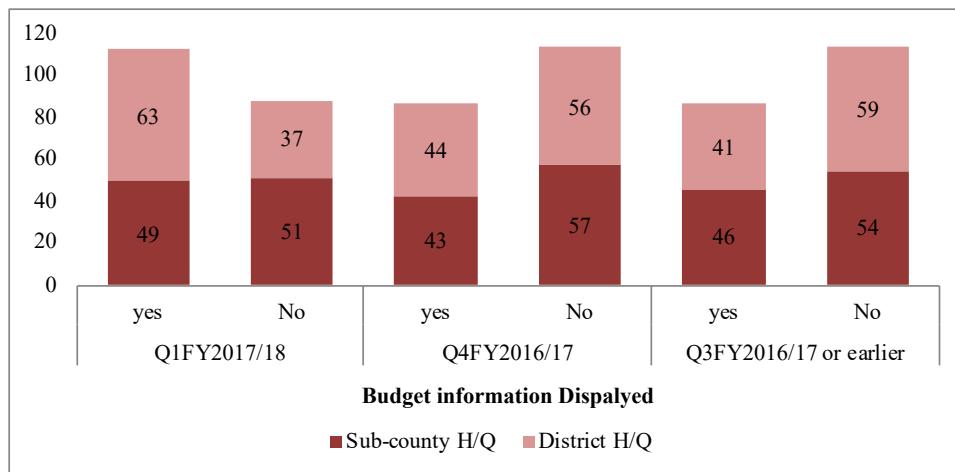
In the 1st quarter of the FY 2017/18 period under review, a decline in transparency and accountability was registered. This is reflected by the increase in non-compliance to the requirement to display information on Central Government transfers to Local Government at district and Sub Counties headquarters. In this round of budget monitoring, 42 % of districts and Sub-Counties covered barely had information on Central Government to Local Government funds displayed in contrast to 35% in the 3rd Quarter of the FY 2016/17. Sub-County headquarters were the worst at adhering to this requirement given that only 56% of the Sub-counties had information displayed compared to 70% for district headquarters.

Figure 1: Service Delivery Conformity to Display of Information on Transfers

Source: BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

2.1.2 Relevance of Information Displayed

For the information to be relevant and significant, it must be current and accurate. Citizens armed with the right information can demand real-time services in accordance with the resource envelope and hold their leaders accountable for delivery of services. However, more than half of the Sub-county visited (51%) did not have information on transfers of the current quarter (Quarter 1 FY 2017/18) displayed. This could be attributed to the time lag between the release of funds and the time they take to reach the district or sub-county. It is also important to note that timely display of information had generally improved from 28% in the 3rd Quarter 2016/17 to 52% in the 1st Quarter in the FY 207/18.

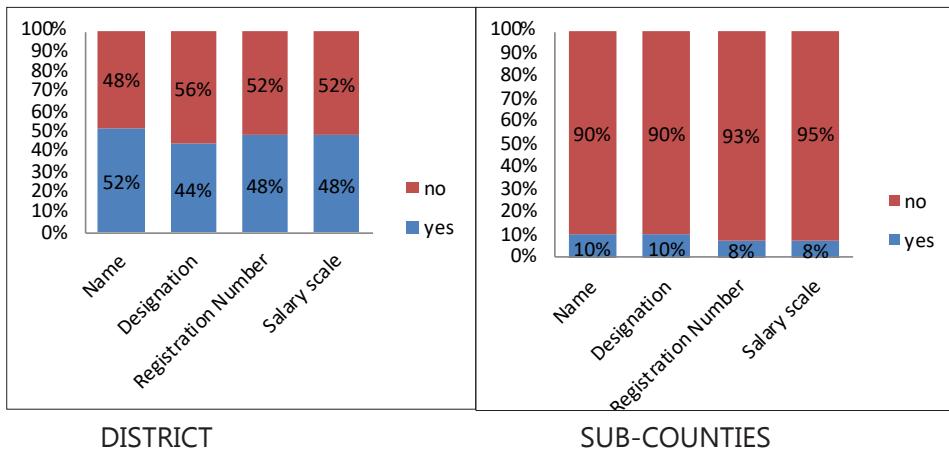
Figure 2: Period for which Information is displayed

Source: BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

2.1.3 Display of Payroll Information by Service Delivery Units

Overall, display of payroll information is barely implemented at sub-county headquarters. The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) instructed Local Government units to display payroll information at district; Sub-county and service deliver units as a means to clean up Uganda's payroll system. The system had civil servants who had died or left to join the private sector and were still being paid. This was done such that citizens can easily point out civil servants not belonging to the district or Sub-county and report to district officials or public service commission. Information on display of payroll was obtained through observation method. Budget champions looked at the district and sub-county headquarters for displayed information on payroll.

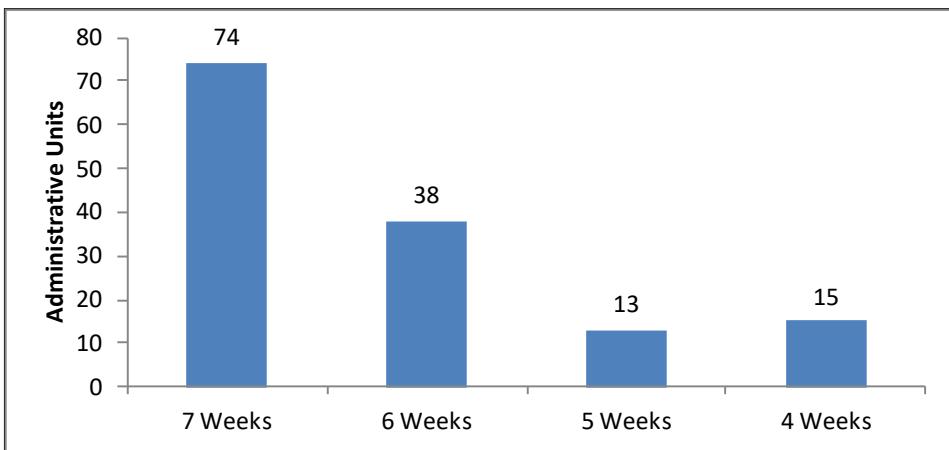
Among the details on display, most of the districts visited had displayed the names of civil servants (52%) while civil servants' designations were the least displayed (44%). The biggest percentage (90%) of the sub-counties did not have any information on payrolls displayed. Relative to Quarter 3 FY 2016/17, display of payroll information at sub-county headquarters had reduced by 6% from 16% in Quarter 3 FY 2016/17 to 10% in Quarter 1 FY 2017/18.

Figure 3: Payroll information displayed at district and sub-county headquarters

Source: BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

2.1.4 Timeliness in the Receipt of Funds to District and Sub-County Headquarters

Timely release of funds is one of the challenges the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has been grappling with and working to develop systems aimed at improving disbursement of funds. However, it has remained the major challenge for many districts and sub-counties. Majority of the these administrative units visited received funds within an average period of seven weeks – which is a long time, given that the quarter has only 12 weeks. Funds are expected to reach the delivery units within the first week of July after reading the national budget. Delayed disbursement leads to low absorption rate of funds and poor/delayed service delivery.

Figure 4: Average time taken to receive transferred grants

Source: BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

Districts and sub-counties received the District Discretionary Development and Equalization grant within a minimum of one week and a maximum 17 weeks. Some districts such as Nakapiripirit reported receiving most of the Quarter 1 grants within a period of 17 weeks. This means that the Quarter 1 funds were actually received in Quarter 2. The Health Transitional Development grant took the least amount of time (4 weeks) to reach all the intended administrative units. These time-lines imply that there had been a decline in the timely disbursement of funds to the districts and sub-county headquarters. It took a maximum of 12 weeks for funds to reach all the intended service delivery units in Quarter 3 FY 2016/17 as indicated in the Quarter 3 FY 2016/17 budget monitoring report compared to 17 weeks in Quarter 1 FY 2016/17.

Table 1: Timeliness in the receipt of funds at district and sub-county head quarters

Type of Grant	Minimum transfer time (in weeks)	Maximum Transfer time (in weeks)	Mode Number of weeks
District Discretionary Development and Equalization Grant (DDEG)	0	17	7
Production and Marketing non-wage grant	2	17	6
Education non-wage grant	2	6	4.5
Education Development grant	2	17	6
Education Transitional grant	2	5	4
Works and Transport non-wage grant	2	5	4
Works and Development (RTI) grant	2	13	6
Health non-wage grant	2	11	7
Health Development grant	5	6	5
Health Transitional Development grant	4	4	4

Source: BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

2.1.5 Challenges with the New Grants System under the Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer System

According to the Local Government Finance Commission, concerns were raised by Local Government about the Conditional, Unconditional and Equalization grants not serving the purpose for which they were created. To address the challenges, government developed and implemented a new intergovernmental fiscal transfer system that allowed Local Governments to improve service delivery by giving Local Governments more capacity to plan for themselves as well as mobilising and managing the resources to implement these plans.

The main objective of the system was to improve the adequacy and equity of fiscal transfers and fiscal management of resources by Local Governments. However, most (59%) of the civil servants consulted at Sub-county and district headquarters indicated that delayed disbursement of funds was still their major challenge. This was further compounded by poor Internet connection in some districts. The system works on-line.

Table 2: Reported challenges with the new intergovernmental fiscal transfer system

Challenges	Percentage Distribution
Delayed release of funds	59
Limited discretion	6
Limited funds disbursed	10
Limited knowledge on how to use the system	3
No notification received to show release of funds	4
The system does not allow transparency.	5
Unreliable Internet in some districts	11

Source: BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

Delayed release of funds to district and sub-county headquarters were cited as the major challenge (59%) which is consistent with the findings in Figure 4 where most of the districts and Sub-counties reported receiving the funds with in an average of 7 weeks. In addition, limited funding (10%) remains challenge to service delivery. There were reported gains of the new grant system for the period it had been operational, notwithstanding concerns of unreliable Internet in districts such as Kanungu, Nebbi, Ntungamo, and Mbale. Some of the district staff also indicated that the system limited transparency due to the technical difficulties faced in its use.

2.2 Distribution of Agricultural Inputs

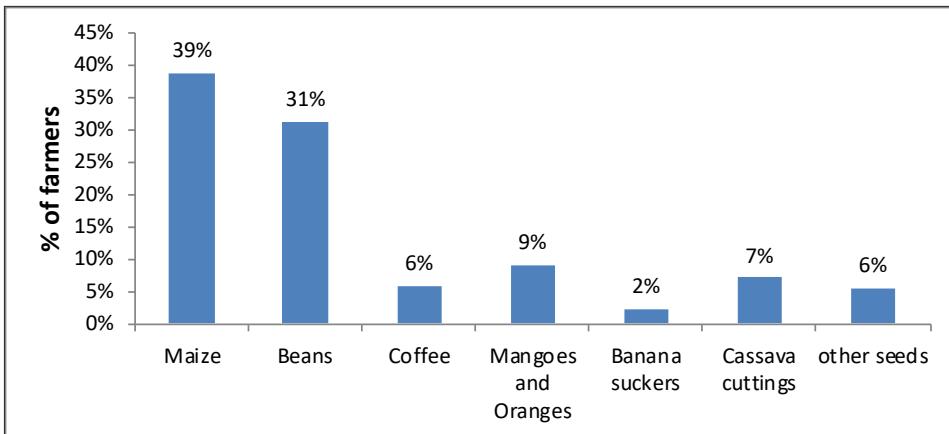
From the monitoring exercise carried out, a total of 236 farmers were spoken to, 77% of whom said they had received inputs. Consequently, 23% of them reported that they had not received any inputs in the last six months of distribution. The inputs received as indicated by the farmers mostly included planting materials, pesticides, and fertilisers. The subsequent sub-sections delve into the findings against the different types of inputs received by the farmers. Additionally, the information was compared and contrasted with information obtained from agricultural extension workers with whom similar discussions were held. This comparison or contrast tested for consistency in the information acquired. Ultimately, the findings were reconciled with background information from government documents on public expenditure to minimise the effects of subjective responses to the conclusions drawn in the report.

2.2.1 Types of Planting Materials Received

In agricultural production, agricultural inputs like planting materials, pesticides, fertilizers among others are vital to a farmer in ensuring high agricultural outputs. In financial year 2016/17, various agricultural planting materials were procured and distributed to farmers and these consisted of bean seeds, apple seedlings, banana suckers, cassava cuttings, Irish potato, citrus and maize seeds as the most distributed inputs with an acreage of 248,489 in 82 districts(MoFPED, 2017).

In a sample of 27 districts that made up the quarter 1 FY 2017/18 budget monitoring exercise, it was found that the majority of the farmers received maize and beans for planting as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 5: Planting materials received by farmers



Source: ACODE BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

This report is consistent with what the extension workers received to distribute and what the farmers received. Maize (42%) and beans (32%) were received by extension workers for distribution to farmers. Among other planting materials distributed to farmers were cabbage, pumpkins, sorghum, spinach, sweet potatoes, passion fruits, sunflower, soya beans, cocoa, tea and cow-peas.

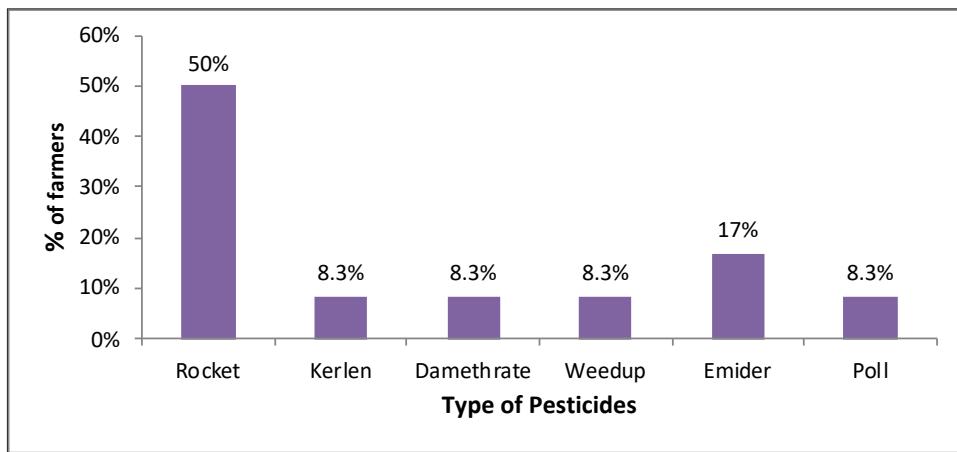
Given the composition of the planting materials received by farmers, the low proportion of coffee planting materials distributed to farmers does not bond well with government's objective of increasing coffee production. In FY 2016/17, Government launched the coffee 2020 road-map with an objective of increasing coffee production to 20 million 60 -kilogram bags annually(MOFPED, 2017). This objective is likely to remain unattainable with only 6% of coffee seedlings distributed to farmers.

2.2.2 Pesticides

Pesticides form an integral part of agricultural input as they are used to control various pests and disease carriers leading to increased output and

profits to farmers (Aktar, Sengupta, & Chowdhury, 2009). This round of budget monitoring found that only 5% of the 236 farmers interviewed had received pesticides. The pesticides distributed to farmers included rocket, Kerlen, Damathrate, Weed-up, Emider and poll. Majority (50%) of the farmers received Rocket in quarter one FY 2017/18. This is consistent with what the extension workers reported to have received for distribution. The few farmers receiving pesticides are attributed to the quantity of pesticides received by extension workers for distribution. However, the low numbers (only 5% of 236 famers) of farmers receiving pesticides is likely to lead to low agricultural yield and profits for the farmers (Aktar et al., 2009). In the period leading up to this round of budget monitoring the army worm in maize was one of the major reasons behind the low levels of production as many farmers had no pesticides to deal with it. (MoFPED, 2017).

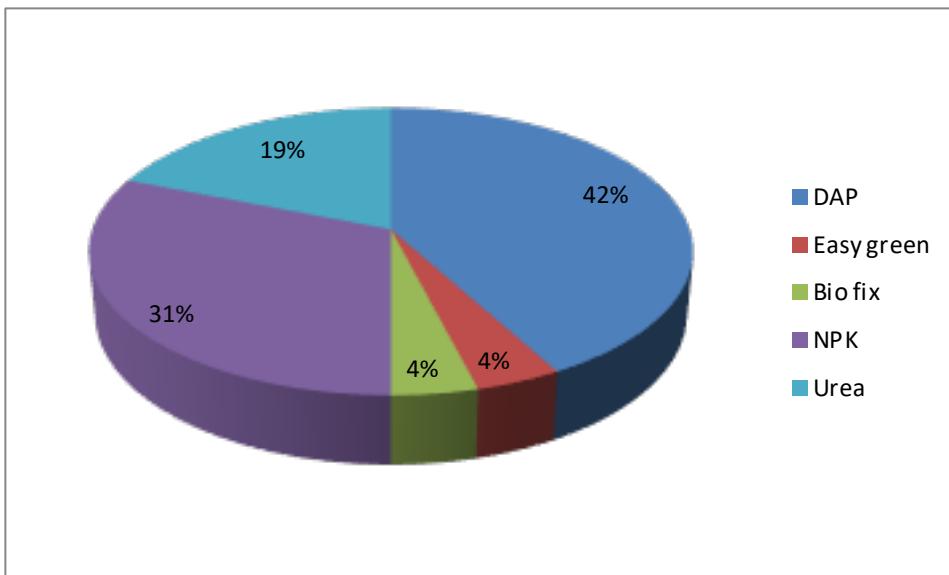
Figure 6: Pesticides received by farmers



Source: ACODE BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

2.2.3 Fertilizers.

Results from the budget monitoring exercise carried out indicate that out of the total of 236 farmers interviewed, only 3% of the farmers reported to have received fertilizers. Of those, majority (37%) received DAP and the least (13%) received falcon. This is consistent with what most of the extension workers received for distribution in the 1st quarter FY2017/18. Table 1 below shows the details of the fertilizers received by extension workers for distribution.

Figure 7: Fertilizers received by extension workers

Source: ACODE BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

2.2.4 Other inputs

Farmers received a number of other inputs besides seeds, pesticides and fertilizers and these included pick axes, spades, cows, oxen and ox ploughs. Up to 45.5% of the farmers received cows and 27% oxen and ox ploughs. The rest of the other inputs pick axes and spades were each received by only one farmer in the total sample of 236 farmers that were interviewed. From the total of 27 districts, only 7 districts received some other inputs as indicated below.

Table 3: Other inputs received by farmers

District	Pick axe	Spade	Cow	Oxen & Ox plough
Gulu	0	0	0	1
Lira	0	0	0	2
Rukungiri	0	0	1	0
Moroto	2	1	0	0
Nakapiripiriti	0	0	2	0
Wakiso	0	0	1	0
Kabarole	0	0	1	0

Source: ACODE BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

2.2.5 Sources of Inputs Received

The inputs were mostly provided by Government, private (NGO/Charity

Organisations) and friends. Up to 92.7% of the inputs were provided by Government, 11% by private (NGO/Charity Organisations) and only 1% by friends. The findings also indicate that none of the farmers received inputs from more than one source which echoed an improvement in the levels of coordination between Government and other actors. That is one of the major aims of the National Agricultural Extension Policy launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal, Industry and fisheries in 2016.

2.2.6 Challenges faced by farmers

Responses from farmers spoken to in this round of budget monitoring exercise show that agriculture continues to face numerous challenges that include: bad weather changes, poor access to markets, inadequate inputs and lack of advisory services, land related issues, pests and diseases, delayed delivery of inputs, limited finances and poor quality inputs. These challenges greatly affected agricultural production and productivity. Most of the farmers (26.7%) were mainly affected by weather vagaries followed by pests and diseases (24%) as shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: Challenges faced by farmers

Challenge	Percentage Distribution
Weather vagaries	27
Market challenges	9
Inadequate input and advisory services	14
Land related challenges	9
Pests and diseases	24
Delayed delivery of inputs	6
Limited finances	6
Poor quality inputs	5

Source: ACODE BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

In the FY2016/17, the Government of Uganda, as directed by National Bureau of Standards (NBS) introduced the mobile phone powered e-verification programme to help farmers in distinguishing fake farm inputs from genuine ones (MoFPED, 2017). Despite such efforts, poor quality of inputs still remained a challenge to farmers in the country. This coupled with weather variations like long periods of drought; flooding and landslides had a great economic impact on the country. These challenges affected the country's farm production and productivity.

2.2.7 Recommendations on How to Improve Agricultural Production

From the budget monitoring exercise, the farmers highlighted a number of interventions that could be undertaken to improve agricultural production.

The suggestions raised by farmers included:

1. Setting up irrigation schemes and programmes to enable them carryout agriculture throughout the year.
2. Improving the quantity, quality and timely delivery of inputs including planting materials and pesticides supplied by Government.
3. Making Improvements in regulation to minimise counterfeit agricultural inputs.
4. Government facilitating extension workers in terms of transport to expedite their extension services in the rural areas, open up markets for a better profit margin to selling to wholesalers or even directly selling to consumers.
5. Government opening up financial institutions (agro-financing) to multiply access to credit in times of need.
6. Holding training sessions and boot-camps to equip farmers and farmer groups with improved agricultural practices and skills to foster agricultural production.

2.3 Access to Agricultural Extension Services by farmers

In FY 2016/17, Government launched the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) providing direction to implement the single spine agricultural extension system with one of its objectives as seeking to build institutional capacity for effective delivery of agricultural extension services.

However, Government has not achieved this objective because a few farmers were reported to have access to extension services through the consultations with the extension workers. A case in point is Northern Uganda, Patiko Sub-county, Gulu District, with over 3,172 households that carry out subsistence farming (UBOS, 2015) and following the consultations with extension workers, it was revealed that ONLY half of this number (1600 farmers)⁵ received the accrued extension services.

⁵ To compute the proportion of farmers accessing extension services, we took each farmer as a proxy for a household.

Table 5: Farmers that had access to extension services in the districts (sum of visited sub-counties)**

District	No. of farmers/ households that received extension services in all sub-counties visited	No. of farming households in visited sub-counties practicing subsistence farming (as per the 2014 population census)	Farmers that received extension services as a proportion to the Number of households practicing subsistence Farming in the visited Sub-Counties
Agago	2,450	12,137	20.2%
Amuria	2,075	13,133	15.8%
Amuru	155	31,625	0.5%
Bududa	1,383	8,632	16.0%
Buliisa	793	10,576	7.5%
Gulu	4,400	19,279	22.8%
Hoima	1,908	18,370	10.4%
Jinja	413	25,974	1.6%
Kabarole	700	13,272	5.3%
Kamuli	1,273	19,714	6.5%
Kanungu	9,840	12,521	78.6%
Lira	800	28,142	2.8%
Luwero	1,558	29,295	5.3%
Masindi	90	32,959	0.3%
Mbale	1,025	18,974	5.4%
Mbarara	1,316	16,453	8.0%
Moyo	1,640	14,876	11.0%
Mpigi	957	26,640	3.6%
Mukono	1,293	28,762	4.5%
Nakapiripirit	2,182	15,744	13.9%
Nebbi	378	22,258	1.7%
Ntungamo	935	27,822	3.4%
Rukungiri	333	25,512	1.3%
Soroti	2,454	18,045	13.6%
Tororo	1,221	25,762	4.7%
Wakiso	1,812	18,763	9.7%

Source: ACODE BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18 ** Data on the number of households practicing agriculture was not available for the Sub-counties visited in Moroto.

Analysis from the 1st quarter budget monitoring exercise revealed that access to agricultural extension services by farmers in most of the districts still remaining a challenge. Kanungu stood as one of the districts with big proportions of agricultural extension service coverage in the visited sub-counties with 78.6%. The majority of the districts had less than 10% proportions of agricultural households reached by extension workers.

2.3.1 Challenges Faced in Agricultural Extension Delivery

The National Agricultural Extension Policy 2016 indicates that, the coverage of the extension system is narrow, estimated at 22%. This is partly a result of the downsizing of technical manpower that occurred during the restructuring of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the 1990's which by 2014 had increased the ratio of extension staff to farmers to over 1:5000 in contrast to the endorsed ratio of 1:500. This caused many challenges for the extension workers in their quest to deliver extension services. The extension workers reported many challenges as presented in this sub-section.

Majority (62%) of the extension workers interviewed in the different districts, reported under facilitation as the greatest hindrance to their extension service work. The extension workers noted that limited transport facilities and unavailability of necessary equipment disabled them from doing their work. Complementary services from other actors like Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) also inadvertently paused as challenge to extension services provision. These non-state actors provided incentives like refreshments during the training sessions whereas the Government extension workers were not able to provide such incentives to the farmers resulting into low turn out to their outreach activities. The extension workers are discouraged by the low attendance levels when training sessions are scheduled in the sub-counties.

In addition, extension service is done by few extension personnel. As of June 2017, the Extension Worker: Farmer ratio stood at 1:1800 (Kuteesa et al, 2018) which implies that an extension worker had very many farmers to handle in a very limited period of time. This had resulted in some sub-counties getting limited access to extension services. Other challenges that extension workers face include, limited training, and delayed delivery of inputs, bad weather that makes roads impassable, poor governance, terrains that don't support technology and poverty among farmers. (See table 2 for details).

Table 6: Challenges faced by extension workers

Challenges faced by extension workers	Percentage Distribution
Limited facilitation	62%
Few extension workers	13%
Limited technologies for distribution	4%
Limited training acquired by extension workers	5%

Challenges faced by extension workers	Percentage Distribution
Delayed delivery of inputs by government	2%
Weather challenges that make roads impassable	2%
Governance challenges(left in the dark about what is happening)	7%
Poor terrains that don't support technology	3%
Poverty among farmers	3%

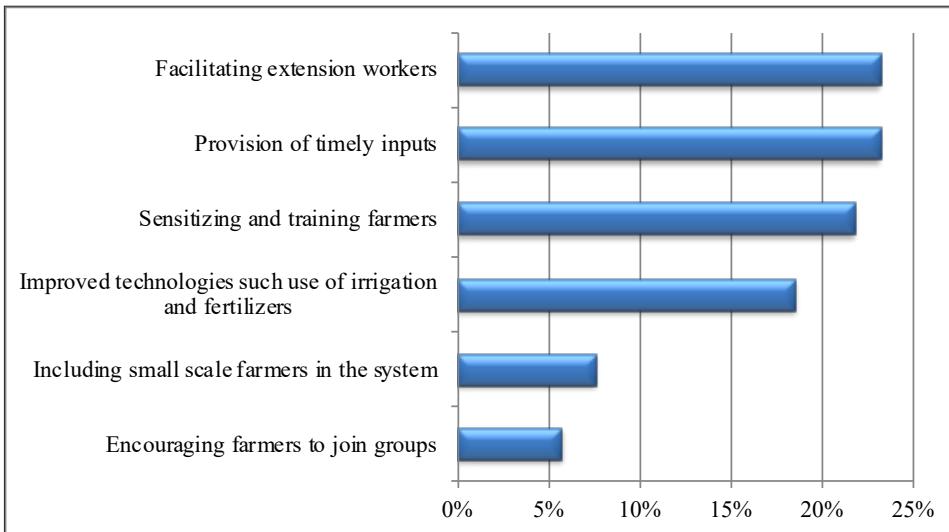
Source: ACODE BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

2.3.2 Suggested measures to improve agricultural production.

The extension workers interviewed proposed some ways on how agricultural production could be improved with 23% suggesting designating facilitation for extension workers/personnel and timely delivery of inputs as the major solutions. These were in response to the biggest challenges the extension workers faced. The extension workers also suggested they be facilitated to sensitize and train farmers in the use of new technologies.

Other recommendations suggested were, use of improved technologies such as irrigation and fertilizers to boost crop growth, both for small and large scale farmers and encouraging farmers to join groups as illustrated in figure 8.

Figure 8: Recommendations on how to improve agricultural production



Source: ACODE BSDME Q1 FY 2017/18

3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Evidence from Quarter 1 FY 2017/18 round of budget monitoring shows that the requirement of display of information at district and sub-county headquarters had declined with 42 % of districts and sub-counties covered having no information on Central Government transfers to Local Government displayed. This has risen from 35% of the visited districts and sub-counties which had not displayed grant transfer information in Quarter 3 FY 2016/17. Sub-County headquarters were the worst at adhering to this requirement. Only 56% of the sub-counties had information displayed; compared to 70% for district headquarters. The requirement to display payroll information was the worst adhered to especially by sub-county headquarters.

Although the information given was not corresponded with bank statements, the information received from district and sub-county headquarters suggested delays of up to seventeen weeks in receipt of funds (from the beginning of Quarter 1 FY2017/18) in some areas which is far higher than the ten days target of Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development.

Regarding agricultural extension, most farmers (77 percent) received inputs that included: fertilizers, planting materials and pesticides. It was reported that maize and beans were the major planting materials received by farmers. Of the 236 farmers interviewed during the monitoring exercise, only 5% and 3% of farmers received pesticides and fertilizers respectively.

The key recommendations from this round of BSDME are that:

1. MoFPED sets distinct guidelines for display of information on payroll and transfers. The guidelines should specify the information to be displayed, the level of detail, the period for which information ought to be displayed, and where the information should be displayed. Where districts and other units have websites, it is proper that the information is also posted there.
2. MoFPED should ensure that the budget website (www.budget.go.ug) contains all the necessary information from all Local Governments; in order to fill some of the information gaps at Local Government level. At the moment, the budget website does not contain some information such as quarterly progress reports for many Local Governments.
3. MAAIF and NAADS should ensure that better quality inputs are distributed to farmers by strengthening the quality assurance (regulation) and procurement processes. This would lead to improved quality and quantity of yields and ultimately improve agricultural production.
4. MAAIF should increase the procurement and distribution of cash crops such as coffee which is Uganda's leading export commodity. This would increase the amount of exports and contribute significantly to Uganda's GDP. Under review, majority (about 80%) of the inputs in supply are food crops in nature.

5. MAAIF, NAADS and Operation Wealth Creation should improve the timeliness of delivering inputs to farmers. The prevailing delays associated with the delivery of inputs sometimes lead to wastage of inputs and finances used to procure them as they cannot be planted in mid-season.
6. MAAIF and MoFPED should consider increasing on the budget allocation to the Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services for the purpose of recruiting more and facilitating them to undertake their jobs. This would address the current predicament of one extension worker serving an average of 1800 farmers.
7. MAAIF and Ministry of Water and Environment should improve the availability of water for production to limit the effects of erratic weather patterns in agriculture.

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ABOUT ACODE

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) is an independent public policy research and advocacy think tank based in Uganda. ACODE's work focuses on four programme areas: Economic Governance; Environment and Natural Resources Governance; Democracy, Peace and Security; Science, Technology and Innovation. For the last eight consecutive years, ACODE has been ranked as the best think tank in Uganda and one of the top 100 think tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa and globally in the Global Think Tanks Index Report published by the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP).



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