FOOD AND NUTRITION BILL

Highlights

Rwakakamba Morrison
Uganda National Farmers Federation

rwakakamba@yahoo.co.uk

What is F&N Bill

- F& N bill provides the legal basis for implementing the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy

Objectives of the Bill

- to recognize, promote and protect the right to food as a fundamental human right;
- to use a rights -based approach implementation of the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy and to;
- ensure the participation of rights holders and the accountability of duty bearers
- to ensure that food is treated as a national strategic resource
- to promote education and information services with regard to nutrition especially in rural areas to enhance the impact on food security and nutrition; and

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- to promote the policies on food and nutrition as part and parcel of the overall national development policy
- to emphasize the cross cutting nature of food security and nutrition issues as they affect men, women and children;
- to provide a legal basis for implementing the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy
- to ensure the integration of the needs of the vulnerable in food and nutrition issues
- to promote the drawing up of strategies to respond to food and nutrition concerns at all levels

Principles that will govern implementation of the act

- equity and non discriminatory physical and economic access to food;
- coordinated efforts of government agencies and full participation of all relevant parties;
- accountability of duty bearers and transparency in the food sector particularly emergency food aid, through open access by the public to timely and reliable information on decisions and actions taken;
- people participation in the planning, design, implementation and monitoring and valuation of decisions that affect them.

Right to food

- Every person has a right to food and to be free from hunger and under nutrition.
- The right to food shall be enjoyed without discrimination, exclusion or restriction on the basis of sex, race, colour ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, social or economic standing, political or other opinion, property, disability or other status.
- ***Notwithstanding this section, the State is only responsible for making provision of a minimum amount of food to a person who is identified as vulnerable under this Act, where that person is suffering or is at risk of suffering from hunger or under nutrition***

What does vulnerable mean?

- ***The bill needs to define vulnerability e.g (how about those who don't have enough land, those who have no access to seed, in conflict, physically and mentally hampered etc? This should be clear in the bill, otherwise, all farmers are potential vulnerable-s***
- ***Is it possible to talk about right to food with out talking about right to seed?***

Duties of head of homesteads or households

- provide food for the members of the homestead or household, especially the vulnerable;
- provide feeding for children in primary school as required under the Education Act, 2008;
- ensure that the homestead or household has a food reserve;
- engage in gainful work for the good of the family;
- participate in the maintenance of water sources of the community including springs and wells;
- participate in the formulation and implementation of development plans and programmes which affect his or her community.

- ***A head of a homestead or household who contravenes this section commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine of not less than twelve currency points or a term of imprisonment of six months, or both.***

Composition of the Council

- Chairperson, who shall be a person of distinguished personality with qualifications and experience in food and nutrition matters;
- a public officer not below the rank of Commissioner appointed by the respective Permanent Secretary from each of the following-
- the Office of the Prime Minister;
- the Ministry responsible for agriculture;
- the Ministry responsible for health;
- the Ministry responsible for gender;
- the Ministry responsible for planning;
- the Ministry responsible for disaster preparedness;
- the Ministry responsible for education;
- the Ministry responsible for trade and industry;

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- the Ministry responsible for local governments.
- the Director of the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture Secretariat;
- a representative of universities and other tertiary institutions;
- a representative of the Uganda Human Rights Commission;
- the Director of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards or his or her representative;
- a representative of the civil society organisations dealing with food security;
- a representative of the farmers' associations; and
- a representative of the food processing industry.

Key issues and questions

- **A farmer is represented in the council**
- **There is no mention of farmer representative in Food and Nutrition committees at the district and sub county level! Why? What do you think?**
- **Cant we also have F&N committees at the parish level?**
- **How about woman representative on the District and sub county committees? As farmers we believe in gender**
- **How will feedback from the council be managed? How will they be audited?**

FRA
Food Rights Alliance

Thank you
Asante Saana
Mwebare Munonga
Melsi boquie

.....Farming is honorable and dignifying .....