THE AGRICULTURAL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN UGANDA AND THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

by

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A R I S LIBRARY

1. Introduction

Agricultural Information is a crucial input (resource) in planning agricultural development activities especially in proper formulation and implementation of agricultural development programmes. Agricultural development has to continuously rely on the availability of RELEVANT, UP-TO-DATE, AND RELIABLE DATA AND INFORMATION.

2. Government Policy on Information

The Uganda Government is pursuing a policy of dynamic agricultural development. Government recognizes the need to develop an information systems which allows easy access to scientific and technical information . Government is currently setting up information centres in various ministries.

3. Establishment of NADIC

NADIC was established in July, 1989 by the Uganda Government with assistance from FAO which contributed $ 127,000 which was used to procure equipment such as the Computer, CD-ROM etc.

4. Achievements made by NADIC since its inception.

a) Establishment and organization of the Agricultural Documentation and Information Service at Kawanda Research Station in response to the immediate users needs.

b) Initiating participation in AGRIS and CARIS information systems.

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c) Identification and re-arranging of national documents.

d) Establishment of the AGRIN and CARIN databases for the local documents and research project respectively.

e) Establishment of ULIST - a union list of periodicals (database) and AGRINF, an inventory of Agricultural Information Resources in Uganda

f) In-service training of staff at NADIC and collaborating Ministries was carried out with the help of FAO Consultants who were fielded at different stages of the Project.

g) Re - equiping the library through book and journal donations from national international organization and individual scientists, FAO, the British Council, CTA are a few of the organizations that have helped, etc.

h) NADIC is now offering current information Services such as:-

- Literature searches on CD-ROM.
- Selective dissemination of information. (S.D.I) through page content
- Document delievery ~~e.g. S.D.I.~~
- Photocopy services.
- Daily and weekly newspapers and Magazines.

i) A proposal for the development of the National Agricultural Information System has been drawn up. We hope to attract donors to sponsor the main phase of the project whose proposal has also been prepared. The Uganda government is committed to the development of the agricultural information and documentation service and will give assistance to ensure its continuity.

5. Facilities Currently Available to NADIC.

a) 1 CD-ROM drive

b) 2 Micro-fiche readers

c) 1 Photocopier

d) Computer and printer

e) 2 Type writters.

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6. Information Resources Available.

a) CD-ROM databases:-

i) AGRIS database - 2 vols for the years 1986-88 and 1989 - Dec. 1990.

ii) AGRICOLA, a database of the American Agricultural Library for the years 1985 - June 1989.

b) Down loaded information

i) 863, documents on Uganda from the AGRICOA database for the years 1970 - July 1990.

ii) Information about the Pan African Development Information System (PADIS)

c) Records in Print form

i) Records from the database of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

ii) Records from the AGRICOLA DATABASE

iii) AGRINDEX - a monthly publication which is a hard copy version of AGRIS on CD-ROM.

d) On Microfiche

i) Cummulative index from AGRIS.

ii) FAO microfiche collection with 342 records on Uganda.

7. Library:

The library collection is gradually being raised through donations currently it consists of 7000 volumes of journals and monographs, in various desplines of agriculture. These have come from various sources;

- 3000 are monographs which have mainly come from the British council.
- 2000 are FAO documents donated by the FAO representative in Kampala.
- 119 runs of Journals from Ohio State University.

We also receive documents such as books, newsletters, reports etc. from organisations like CTA, ICRISAT, ICRAF, IITA etc.

Currently we have only two journals on current subcription.

8. Other Services

a) World processor - word perfect 5.1 is avaialable for users who are already familiar with it.

b) Photocopying services at a norminal fee.

c) NADIC provides daily and weekly newspapers and magazines to the readers.

9. Strategy for the Agricultural Information and Documentation System.

The strategy for the development of a National Agricultural Documentation and Information System is to establish functional links ie a network with other libraries in the agricultural sector Ministries, their parastatals and institutions and adopting common standards and methodologies.

10. Future Developments of NADIC.

NADIC was established to pave way for the National Agricultural Documentation and information system and to act as centre coordinating the activities of this system. The development of the agricultural information system will depend on funding of its activities such as subscription for journals, databases, equipment, staff training and other logistics. The formation of ~~NADIC~~ NARO, a proposed umbrella research organization will give oppotunity for the potential of NADIC to be realized. The Agricultural Information and Documentation System will handle all data covering aspects of crop and livestock farming, forestry, fisheries, food processing technologies, rural development and the environment. The centre will play a big role in enhancing agricultural development.