Minutes of the meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries held on Wednesday 20/02/08 starting at 5.45 p.m.

Agenda

1. Brief program from Director NaFORRI to the guests
2. Communication from the Chairperson NaFORRI Management Committee
3. Introductions from NaFORRI staff
4. Introduction from the Committee Members
5. Communication from the committee
6. Presentations from NaFORRI
7. Tour of the institute and other activities
8. Closing Remark
9. Refreshments and departure at leisure

List of Members of Parliament on the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

No	Name	Organization	Tel. Contact
1	Ojok B'Leo	Parliament	0752-427 542
2	Kassiano E. Wadri	-do-	0772-501 324
3	Ssalabaya H	-do-	0782-342 024
4	Kasaija Stephen Kagwera	-do-	0772-498 594
5	Bikwasizehi K Deus	-do-	0772-543 819
6	Wonekha Oliver	-do-	0772-443 858
7	Sabila Herbert	-do-	0772-837 758
8	Ssekitoleko K Juliet	-do-	0772-683 684
9	Nalugo Ssekiziyivu	-do-	0752-437 492
10	Nayiga Ssekabira	-do-	0772-314 558
11	Ngobye Edward	-do-	0772-392 329
12	Ssentumbwe J J	-do-	0772-427 898
13	Aceng F. Winu	-do-	0712-245 502
14	Sandra Oder	GoU/EU HRGGP	0772-523 909
15	Arinaitwe Emmy	Committee Rapporteur	0712-398 189
16	Akangasira Gideon	Senior Planner/Parliament	0714-407 856
17	Robert Anguzu	Public Relations Officer, NARO Secretariat	0772-409 975
18	Bamuwamye James	Video Editor-Parliament	0775-311 878
19	Magembe Robert	Documentation	0772-643 939
20	Joseph Obua	Chairperson, NaFORRI MC	0772-444 492

In attendance (NaFORRI)		Designation		
1.	J F Esegu	Director	-	Chairman
2.	Paul Balitta	Research Asst.		
3.	Nakayenze Beatrice	Support Staff		
4.	Asiimwe Annet	Finance Officer		
5.	Nazziwa Annet	Accounts Asst.		
6.	Abigaba Grace	Research Officer		
7.	Martha Kasumba	Sen. Accts. Asst./Audit		
8.	Luwagga Fred	Sen. Accts. Asst.		
9.	Basoga Moses	Technician		
10.	Nabbuto Sempala Sarah	Admin. Asst.		
11.	Ameja Stella	Ag. Proc. Asst.		
12.	Mulo Shaban	Volunteer		
13.	Ibwala Opolot Vincent	Research Asst.		
14.	Kiyingi Isaac	Research Officer		
15.	Alice Namono	Office Attendant		
16.	Jude Mike Mudoma	Sen. Res. Techn.		
17.	Namakanda Slivia	Office Attendant		
18.	Richard L. Akope	Volunteer		
19.	Christine Saru	Administrative Asst./Secretary		
20.	Kakayi Rose Mary	Lab. Attendant		
21.	Agaba Hillary	Research Officer		
22.	Mujuni Denis Byabashaija	Research Officer		
23.	Dr David Hafashimana	Senior Research Officer		
24.	Sam Gwali	Research Officer		
25.	Katumba Balikitenda	Research Asst./Student		
26.	Magomu Kidiya Jecko	Technician		
27.	Mukwasibwe Deus	Security Guard		
28.	Kasaamu Aloysius.L	Security Guard		
29.	Ntege Sarah	Telephone Operator		
30.	Gito George	Security Guard		
31.	Mukoya George	Technician (Carpentry)		
32.	Kiwuso Peter	Senior Research Officer		
33.	Oling George	Carpenter		
34.	Gidudu Rogers	Driver		
35.	Kabatangare Paul*	Security Guard		
36.	Kato Ssempijja	Driver		
37.	Moses Owacigiu	Driver		
38.	Odagar	Driver		
39.	Suzan Kebirungi	Office Attendant		
40.	Nagawa Florence	Administrative Asst./Secretary - Reporting		

Min.01/02/08: Brief program from Director NaFORRI to the guests

The Director NaFORRI welcomed the guests to NaFORRI and after signing the visitor's book in the Board Room then they proceeded to the Dr Aluma Information Centre. The Director welcomed the members of committee and introduced the Chairperson of NaFORRI Management Committee. He informed them that the background information, brochure, the presentations and notebooks were all in the folders prepared for them. He also informed them that if they had enough time they would have toured/visited the forest, the ecotourism centre and also some of NaFORRI's farmers to see what really NaFORRI is actually doing on the ground. He requested them to come and visit the institute at any time convenient for them individually or in groups. Thereafter he invited the Chairperson NaFORRI Management Committee to officially welcome the Honorable MPs to NaFORRI and make his opening remarks.

Min.02/02/08:Communication from the Chairperson NaFORRI Management Committee

The chairperson started by greeting all parties who were in the conference room. He outlined the major activities and the roles of the NaFORRI Management Committee and highlighted what the committee has so far undertaken including the following:

a) They were fully involved in the Research Priority Setting and commissioning of NaFORRI.
b) Hold roundtable discussions, dissemination of information and reviewing of activities.
c) Participate in recruitment of staff and performance from the top most staff like Director and other levels.
d) They also put emphasis on team work and sharing of information.
e) They provide technical support and guidance to NaFORRI in the delivery of research services.
f) The Chairman attends to the Forum for the Director on the answer time which the Question and Answer time for Director and NaFORRI staff which is held once a month to discuss issues pertaining to the Institute. Here the chairperson recommended that other institutes adopt this idea to promote transparency.
g) He informed the members that they are in the process of forming the Management Committee Chairpersons Forum for sharing experiences and that the idea has already been suggested/sold to NARO and approval is already in the process.
h) He also informed members that they work jointly with research institutions like lecturing students from research and supervising them and gave an example of a PhD student he is supervising from NaFORRI.
i) They provide capacity building to the institute for development of competence and acquire new skills.
j) Ended up by welcoming them and requested them to come back to the Institute any time they feel free.
k) Lastly he introduced himself as being Head of Forest Biology and Ecosystems Management and a Professor at Makerere University, and also as supervisor of one of the scientists here in NaFORRI on PhD. programme at MUK.

Min. 03/02/08: Introductions from NaFORRI staff

The Director of the institute requested staff members to introduce themselves one by one so that the guests get to know them for purposes of interaction.

Min.04/02/08: Introductions from Parliamentary Committee Members

After introductions of the NaFORRI staff, the members of Parliament also introduced themselves starting with the Chairperson of the Committee. Interestingly there was one MP from Terego who informed members that he is the chief whip of the opposition party FDC.

Min.05/02/08: Communication from the committee

The chairperson informed members of their mission and objectives as following:

1. To assess the implementation and performance of Government projects under ARTP1 and ARTP11 in the various research institutes under the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) in the country.

2. To establish whether there has been achievement of sustainable increases in economic, social and environmental benefits from agricultural research services and products by all the people of Uganda.

3. To determine whether the Public Agricultural Research Institutes (PARIs) have been market responsive and client oriented, national agricultural research system that generates knowledge and information, and disseminates demand driven problem solving, profitable and environmentally sound technologies on a sustainable basis.

4. To establish whether the PARIs have created options for financing and delivery of agricultural research services appropriate for the different categories of farmers and market needs of Uganda.

5. To determine whether, PARIs facilitated the involvement of the private sector, Universities, the Civil Society and others in the governance, financing, management and conduct of agricultural research.

6. To establish whether innovative mechanisms were provided for allocation and execution of agricultural research contracts including devolution of responsibilities for contracting of agricultural research to client-led organs and the provisions of agricultural research services to the most competent agricultural research service providers.

7. To establish whether there has been coordinated implementation of agricultural research activities either singly or jointly, with one or more agricultural research service providers.

8. To establish whether there has been linkages, partnerships and collaboration among various categories of agricultural research service providers whether public, private, local, regional or international in the conduct, financing and development of agricultural research in the country.

9. To establish whether there has been provision of sustainable institutional arrangements for the governance, financing, management and conduct of agricultural research in Uganda.

Min.06/02/08: Presentations from NaFORRI

The Director presented the NaFORRI's briefs on the mandate, focus areas, the research projects, objectives, mission, vision, the human resource, successes and achievements obtained like the physical infrastructure, the eco-tourist site, openness in recruiting staff through advertisements and many others plus the challenges faced.

He was followed by the Responsibility Leader (Theme 1,2 and 5) Mr Agaba Hillary who gave the highlights on activities, achievements, challenges for themes 1, 2 and 5 and the way forwards. He also gave a brief on the Hydrogel application trials in degraded dryland conditions and where the field trials have been established e.g. Kiruhura, Nakasongola, Mubende and Mpigi districts. He also informed members about the Hydrogel trials in the Green-house conditions.

The Responsibility Leader (Theme 3) Mr Mujuni Denis gave a background on the theme 3 activities, achievements and challenges including forest management activities like the constraints they are facing e.g. forest degradation, soil erosion, nutrient mining, water and air pollution, deforestation and biodiversity loss etc. on the achievements so far established he informed members they have established Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) in Kasagala woodland forest in Nakasongola district, assessment of plant species diversity in Kifu carried out etc.

The Responsibility Leader (Theme 4) Mr Kiwuso Peter gave the highlights on theme 4 activities, achievements and challenges including the identification and establishment of distribution, damage levels and host resistance of two new forest insect pests i.e. *Cinara pinivora* on pines and *Leptocybe invasa* on Eucalyptus. He informed members of the developed forest pest management approaches that affect the quality of forests and forest products. He informed them they have identified the Biological control of cypress aphid *Cinara cupressi* using a parastoid *Pausesia juniperorum* and also introduced the biological control of pine woolly aphid *Pineus boereneri* using a predator *Tetraphleps raoi*. He also gave highlights of the development of options for sustainable utilization and management of medicinal plants and so far they have identified 40 endangered medicinal plants. He informed the members that they have identified average population of *Acacia Senegal* for gum Arabic production in Nakicumet and Nabilatuk in Karamoja, and the performance of *Artemisia ssp.* in the various agro-ecological zones for the control of malaria. Evaluations have been established and our indigenous *Artemisia* from Mt. Elgon is being evaluated with the other introduced spp and varieties.

After presentations from both parties the Director, NaFORRI invited the Chairperson NaFORRI to open up the question and answer time between the members of parliament and the NaFORRI staff. The following issues were raised by the Honourable MPs:

Questions:

- One member was concerned on the vision and mission and asked whether there are linkages with farmers to market tree and forest products like eucalyptus, moringa and various products.
- He raised concern on Neem trees, pine which is heavily grown in West Nile and whether there are steps taken to link them to appropriate markets.
- Whether there are practical methods to share with the nation on markets for forest products.
- Also raised an issue on disease control and treatment that were challenges on Forest Products.
- Eucalyptus vs consumes a lot of water

Below were some of the responses from the scientists:

An example was basically on Eucalyptus that gives the best transmission poles which are on high demand by UMEME and Uganda Posts and Telecommunications. The Director informed the members that the best way to win market from the buyers is to prepare good products on a sustainable basis, maintain good quality and quantity in order to compete with standards required at the market e.g. the farmer is required to cut poles, dry them and transport them to UMEME who buys them immediately also by not forgetting to keep their required measurements..

On the issue of controlling agents, Mr Kiwuso informed members that Biological Control method is a slow process to get out results immediately.

What has been done so far in terms of marketing is that:

- ✓ Farmers have been trained in grafting in order to get skills to develop them for themselves and then sell.
- ✓ Researchers carried out forest farmers needs assessment.
- ✓ Fodder shrubs to increase milk thus putting money in their pockets.
- ✓ Linkage of products: There are challenges faced in linking up with various NGOs, Farmer groups and all forestry related technologies.
- ✓ The Director informed members there is also a big challenge of disseminating forestry technologies.

Collaboration with other Government Institutes

- ✓ On the UWA-Dr Hafashimana informed the guests that NaFORRI is already collaborating with this institution and that they are already in process of developing MOU for research activities in Kibale National Park and other parks.
- ✓ Collaborative Forest Management (CFM): He also informed members that there was good experience on case studies for CFM in various types of forests and ecosystems.

On Prunus Africana

- ✓ He also informed the members that surveys have been conducted on the marketing of *Prunus Africana* and it is well known for curing Prostate Cancer, High Blood Pressure and

- ✓ for giving general energy.
- ✓ *Prunus* produces high quality heavy timber which could be used for constructing Bridges etc.
- ✓ He also informed members that *Prunus* is on high demand internationally.
- ✓ He mentioned that farmers were in position to cut down *Prunus* into charcoal and timber but some measurements were put in place to limit such activities by the farmers.
- ✓ Informed the group that 8tons of *Prunus* is exported monthly on this issue farmers are required to sign a Declaration Form together with LCs and DFOs according to the International Law.
- ✓ On NARS ACT: Members were informed that the NARS ACT is concerned with the dissemination of technologies by research.

Eucalyptus vs consume a lot of water the following were some of the responses from Basoga:

- ✓ Eucalyptus grows very fast.
- ✓ Generates income very fast.
- ✓ Not given time to recycle nutrients through humus as it is frequently cut.
- ✓ Many factors affect the water table more especially human activities e.g. cultivation.
- ✓ Rice could be affecting the water table more seriously than Eucalyptus.

On Hydrogel:

- ✓ The response was that they are targeting degraded areas.
- ✓ He informed members that when hydrogel is applied to trees enhances tree growth and survival in dry areas and hydrogel remains intact for 4 years.
- ✓ He also informed members that 1 Kg of Hydrogel costs less than $1.

Min.07/02/08: Tour of the institute and other activities

After the presentations the visitors were taken to tour the institute to see for themselves what's happening on the ground. The places were the nurseries, Labs, Green houses and planting of a tree by the Chairperson and after which they came back for refreshments.

Min.08/02/08: Closing Remark

Hon. Nayiga on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee thanked the Chairperson, Director and all the NaFORRI staff for a good job well done and commended us on the management of the institute and promised to come back.

Min.09/02/08: AOB

There being no other business the meeting closed at Leisure.

J F O Esegu
Chairman

F Nagawa
Secretary