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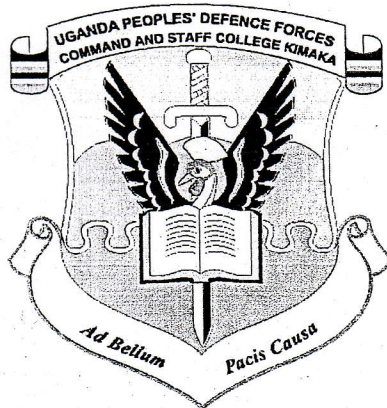
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FOCUS ON FOOD SECURITY IN UGANDA

COMMANDANT'S PAPER

BY

LT GEN C AKANDWANAHU



SENIOR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
KIMAKA, JINJA

24 JUN 05

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FOCUS ON FOOD SECURITY IN UGANDA

Participant :Lt Gen C Akandwanaho

Syndicate One

5 JUL 05

Exercise SW 18(X) Service Paper 3

Grading :B

DS COMMENTS

1. The main body of the text is rich and discusses the subject. The English language is simple and easy to understand. There are signs of good effort in research.

CONTENT

2. a. **Introduction.** A good introduction. It puts the reader in the general picture of the title of the paper. The end of the introduction prepares the reader of what to expect in the main body. The size of the introduction is commensurate to the whole text.
- b. **Aim.** The aim is short, concise and properly worded.
- c. **Main Body.** Generally the paper discusses very salient subject. The ideas advanced are very mature and no doubt sufficient effort was put in to produce the service paper. However the under mentioned comments can be noted:
- (i) Para 10. (Unit measure of temperature (Centigrade or Fahrenheit?) Be clear on this.
 - (ii) Para 10. Repetition of “the regime allowing two planting and harvesting seasons” in the same paragraph.
 - (iii) Para 11 should have a separate sub heading. The text does not fit under the title CLIMATE.
 - (iv) Para 12 (a), (b) The under-lining of the words food security and food insecurity are not necessary. Para (c) The “T” should not be upper case.
 - (v) Define “magendo”, “lejaleja” in English.
 - (vi) Para 37 (c) The underlining is not necessary.
- d. **Conclusion.** The conclusion is too short. It is lacking element of summarization of the text.

- e. **Recommendations.** The recommendations are good but do not answer who and how.

LAYOUT/STYLE

- 3. The layout and style conform to the service writing rules and conventions of the teaching at the Senior Command and Staff College.

SD/SW

- 4. You do not introduce abbreviations correctly. Para 2 (UNDP), Para 4 (AIDS), a few minor SD/SW errors need to be addressed.


ANNEXES

- 5.
 - a. The title in the annexes should be properly written.
 - b. One page documents are not page numbered. Even annexes, it is the same.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

- 6. A very good paper. The issues were presented in a logical manner. It can however be improved to accommodate to comments observed above.

CI/COMDT'S COMMENTS


 Lt Col
 DS
 Date ... 11 July 05

Brig/Maj Gen
 CI/Comdt
 Date

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DS COMMENT SHEET

Participant: Lt Gen C Akandwanaho

Syndicate: One

Date: 24 JUN 05. Exercise.SW 18(X) Service paper 3

Grading: B

DS COMMENTS

CONTENT

1.
 - a. Introduction. Your introduction is well focused and clearly lays a good background and the direction of the paper. The terms of reference and assumptions have all been indicated. It however has advanced issues which could have been appropriately covered in the main body. Eg. Paras 4 and 5 could have been summarised into one leaving the gist for discussion in the main body. The scope of the paper is given out well and prepares the reader for the aim.
 - b. Aim. Your aim is concise and clearly conveys the intent in the paper. It compares well with the title.
 - c. Main Body. Para 9 under natural resources is limited to the plants only leaving out an array of other natural resources that add to the human variety diet. Eg animals, fish, water, and so on. Para 11 should have been dealt with under the heading 'NATURAL RESOURCES' but not 'CLIMATE' as you have done. Your good argument in para 37 should have been followed up with your views leading to the way forward. Otherwise the main body sequentially portrays originality of your thoughts based on your research findings and your practical observations. All these effectively convey the message with good flow, making it easy for one to follow the paper. The paper has covered all relevant aspects of the subject matter,
 - d. Conclusion. The conclusion precisely summarises your findings. All requirements of the terms of reference/problem with relevant arguments have been addressed. It however gives out paragraphs with respective details of your paper which is unconventional.

LAYOUT/STYLE

2. Your paper is well laid out with an easy to read style. The advanced arguments are easy to follow devoid of clichés or rhetoric.

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SD/SW

3. The paper has got several minor SD and SW observations that require your attention. E.g. Grammar - para 1 line 6 'Despite of' ... should be either 'in spite of' ... or 'Regardless' ... or just 'Despite' ... etc. Consecutive use of the word 'Despite' and 'in spite of' ... in paras 1 and 2 constitutes 'tautology'. Avoid this in service writing. Para 19 line one '... many wars and political conflict...' should have the word 'conflict' pluralized. 'conflicts'. The second and third sentences in para 21 require review. In para 22, the fifth sentence should have the word 'conflict' contextualised with food security. In para 25, a comma is missing between the words 'social' and 'political'. Alternatively, it could be substituted with 'socio-political'. In para 32 line 3, '...restricted alleviating ...' to be '...restricted to alleviating ...' Para 36 sub Para c., complete the underline (NAADS) inclusive and put a full stop, then start the sentence. The last sentence of the same para requires fragmentation. In para 36 sub para d., use of the word 'at' requires review for the sentence to flow. Often consult the SWM, SD 2(D) and SW 3(D).

SUMMARY

4. Apart from composition and phraseology that had effect on construction and unity of thought in some areas, your paper is well researched and reflects objectivity. The detailed information and data advanced provide useful basis upon which further inquiry into the issues can be made. You however need to watch out for minor SD and SW. The annexes together with their respective and relevant sources not only augment your work, but also buttress the given information. Your bibliography needs to be review and to follow conventional writing. Otherwise this is good work. Keep up.

Rns
Lt Col 
DS

Date... 04 Jul 05

CI/COMDT'S COMMENTS

Brig/Maj Gen
CI/Comdt

Date.....

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(Blue)

Annex C To
Chapter 4 To
Standing Instrs for DS

DS COMENT SHEET

Student: LT GEN AKANDWANAHO

Syndicate: ONE

Date 14 JUL 05

Exercise: Commandant's Paper

Grading: (A-)

DS COMMENTS

1. The outcome shows that you have put in a commendable effort to produce this essay on Focus on Food Security in Uganda.

2. **Content**

(a) **Introduction.** The introduction brought out the relevant information about the subject. You have shown good figures and percentages regarding the topic. The text of your paper was justified.

(b) **Aim.** The aim was concise and properly worded.

(c) **Main Body.** The main body maintained the aim of the paper. It indicated factors pertaining to causes and relevant data. However in chapter 10 you repeated the last statement. Always read through for correction. Chapter 28 had some recommendations which should have appeared under Recommendation but not the main body. The main body was very informative and does not bore the reader. Nice work.

(d) **Conclusion.** The conclusion of your paper did summarize what has been expressed in the main body and has a persuasive element. The paragraphs from which they were derived are clearly indicated.

(e) **Recommendation.** The document contains rich and good recommendations showing areas concern were highlighted in the main body. Don't forget to indicate paragraphs where you drew recommendations for the reader's perception.

3. **Layout/Style:** Good and simple English observed. Good effort and much improvement shown in your layout except for minor mistakes. In future presentations, the foot-notes should be reflected at the bottom of the pages concerned for the reader's smooth reading and understanding.

4. **SD/SW:** They have shown good practice and the rules and conventions of Service Writing Manual (SWM) except at Annex B, cost of inputs doesn't show the type of currency.

5. **Summary:** The Service Paper showed a clear and well researched and hard work. It was able to present the issues in a properly analyzed and convincing manner. Well done.

KALIF

LT COL KHALID A TIBAMWENDA PSC (CH)
DS

Date: 14 Jul 05

Brig/Maj Gen

CI/Comdt

Date:.....

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CI/COMDT'S COMMENTS

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FOCUS ON FOOD SECURITY IN UGANDAINTRODUCTION

1. Food Security is one of the most complex political, economic and moral problems in Sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda inclusive. Yet, food in a nation is one of the most fitting measurements of development. There can be no development without the creation of sustainable and regenerative food systems for all people. Despite the concerted efforts of governments and non-governmental organizations, many countries especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, are faced with food security crisis. Despite of great attention, particularly in the last three decades, the underlying issues are still very elusive and the situation will be even worse in the new millennium.

2. In Uganda, hunger has become a central issue both at the central and local government after realizing that in spite of its abundant resources, the country is not safe from food insecurity. The UNDP report of 2002 indicated that as of 2002, 4.6 million people in Uganda were underfed. This is further emphasized by the National House-hold Survey of 2002/2003 which indicated that 38% or 8.9 million people live under abject poverty and food insecurity. The same survey highlights the micro-nutrients deficiency levels that are common such as vitamin A deficiency at 5.4%. Iron deficiency which causes anemia is slightly above 50% and that 10% of women are under-nourished.¹

3. These figures are however contradicted by a report of the Economic Policy Analysis Unit (EPAU) and that of Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy which contend that although Uganda as country still suffers from food shortages, it is generally self sufficient in food supplies. These two reports show that, 41 districts are food sufficient, 10 districts including Soroti, Kumi, Tororo, Nebbi, Kabarole, Bushenyi, Masaka, Mpigi and Mubende have transitory food deficiencies while five districts of Moyo, Kotido, Moroto, Luwero and Bundibugyo have chronic deficiencies.² (See Annex A)

4. It is important to note that there is no unified view on the issue of food security in the country. There is the alarmist view that the country is almost endangered and this view always projects figures of malnutrition, underfeeding, AIDS among others. There is the pessimist/opportunist view which says that the situation is so bad that the people have no means of improving their situation. They emphasize what the government and the international community must do for Uganda and not what Ugandans must do for themselves.
5. Lastly, there is the optimist view which argues that Uganda has an immense potential which can be realized if improved agricultural practices are made available and adapted by the farmers. They view Uganda's agricultural sector as just a poorly coordinated and economically restricted sector in thirst of commercialization, intensification, commitment, orientation, appropriate inputs, markets and ignition of funds among other basic requirements. This paper intends to share the optimistic view.
6. These divergent views have, however, caused considerable disagreement in government as to whether Uganda is food secure or not. This inconsistency of opinion within government has resulted in ambivalence on the issue of food security policy that covers production, storage, processing, distribution and marketing. A national assessment and strategy plan needs to be prepared to address the main food security problems in a comprehensive, cross-sectoral and integrated approach. This could involve a much wider range of people in and out of government to develop a food security plan that is not contradictory.
7. The purpose of this paper is to examine the causes of food insecurity in Uganda despite sufficient natural resources. The paper will analyse the causes of food insecurity with specific emphasis on the impact of wars on food security, labour relations, the role of co-operatives, the role of donor aid and food security, the effects of liberalization on food security and government efforts to improve food security.

AIM

8. The aim of this paper is to examine the state of food security in Uganda with a view to making recommendations to enhance the country's capacity to feed its people.

NATURAL RESOURCES

9. Uganda is endowed with a wide diversity of natural resources: soil, climate, water and vegetation enabling it to grow a large number of crops. The total land area of Uganda is 241,000 square kilometers (km²) of which more than 25% is unproductive. These agriculturally unproductive areas include swamps, mountains, national parks, urban centers and open water. Arable land comprises 75% of the total land area, but only 10% can be considered as agriculturally productive land. The remaining land surface is rated as moderate, implying the sort of soils that will support crops under good management. The land area under cultivation is about 4.6 million hectares (ha), with 4.3 million ha cultivated to food crops, while cash crops cover about 0.3 million ha. The agricultural output comes almost exclusively from about 2.5 million small holders, 80% of whom have less than two ha each.³

CLIMATE

10. Uganda enjoys ideal weather conditions ranging from the warmth of the lowland areas to the coolness of the Kigezi Highlands. Uganda is sunny most of the year, with temperatures rarely rising above 29 degrees. The average temperature is about 26 degrees centigrade, with a maximum of 8 to 23 degrees depending on the part of the country. The rain season is from March to May. Light rain season is from September to November. The remaining period receives scattered rains. Rainfall ranges between 500 mm to 2500 mm and the relative humidity is 70% - 100%. The rainfall regime allows two planting and harvesting seasons a year in most parts of the country, without the use of irrigation. The rain season is March to May. Light rain season is September to

November. The remaining period receives scattered rains. Rainfall ranges between 500 mm to 2500 mm and the relative humidity is 70% - 100%. The rainfall regime allows two planting and harvesting seasons a year in most parts of the country, without the use of irrigation.

11. Ugandan soils are divided into six categories according to productivity: very high to high productivity, moderate productivity, fair productivity, low productivity, negligible productivity and nil productivity. Available information indicates that 80% of the soils are fair productivity and above. The remaining can become more productive if properly managed, however according to National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda is faced with a severe depletion of soil nutrients. Soil erosion and land degradation are highly pronounced in the country, particularly in the hilly areas of South Western, Eastern and North-Eastern Uganda. This is caused by deforestation and inappropriate farming methods among other factors. This has led to loss of soil fertility and hence decline in agricultural productivity. The annual economic value of soil nutrient loss is estimated at US\$ 625 million. This calls for intensive agricultural farming methods to be adopted in view of the fact most of our farmers have an average land of two hectares each.⁴

DEFINITIONS

12. Many organizations and academicians have developed definitions and theories on food security. However, the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) definition is used as the standard benchmark. In its 'The State of Food Security and Food Insecurity in the World, 2000', the FAO contrasts food security and food insecurity as below:

- a. Food Security is "a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for active and health life."⁵

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b. Food Insecurity is "a situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. It may be caused by the unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution, or inadequate use of food at the household level. Food insecurity, poor conditions of health and sanitation, inappropriate care and feeding practices are the major causes of poor nutritional status. Food security may be chronic, seasonal or transitory".⁶

c. Ten years ago, The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) developed a vision for the year 2020, "where every person has economic and physical access to sufficient food to sustain a healthy and productive life; where malnutrition is absent, and low cost food and agricultural systems that are compatible with sustainable use and management of natural resources"

FOOD SECURITY IN THE UGANDA CONTEXT

13. According to the government, food insecurity is due to poor production, distribution and accessibility plus low incomes. According to the National Food Strategy of 1996, the issue of food security "is not due to lack of resources, but rather absence of an integrated national food strategy and that the issue of food security should be seen in the wider context of poverty eradication." For instance, they argue that while women in Uganda provide 70% of the agricultural labour and produce 80% of the food, most do not have right or benefit of land control or ownership.⁷ The Land Act No.16 of 1998 provides for the protection of the rights of those who may not be land owners but derive subsistence from the land such as women and children. This is however contradicted by the stalled Domestic Relations Bill which has failed to be passed by parliament. In addition, most of the women use primitive labour of the hoe and low yielding seeds.

14. According to a survey by the Economic Policy Research Centre carried out in Uganda in 1988, (Household food security in Uganda: An Empirical Analysis), the major food concern of a household is to have something to eat, at all times, basically having enough (either in terms of quantity and availability) to feed the household. The issue of quality (nutritional content) is secondary. For example, if a household has a plot of banana, cassava or millet, which forms the main component of the diet and can sustain the household from one season to the next, the household considers itself to be food secure. Yet, from a nutritional point of view, the household could be food insecure because such a diet would be deficient in proteins, oils and vitamins, and other nutrients. This definition, however, is contrary to the internationally accepted definitions of food security.

15. According to the UNDP Human Development Reports of 1993 to 1995, the minimum per capita daily intake requirement for sub-Saharan Africa is 2419 calories. According to World Health Organization (WHO), even for those carrying out only light physical activity, the "critical" minimum intake should not be less than 2200 calories per person per day. As for protein and fat, minimum daily intake levels of 57.6g and 20.3g respectively are recommended.⁸

16. According to "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2004", 19% of the Ugandan population or 4.6 million people were undernourished in 2002 as compared to 24% or 4.2 million in 1992. Hence although many Ugandans are not starving, they are poorly fed. Protein and energy deficiencies in food and inadequate intake of micronutrients are prevalent in all parts of the country and especially so among the poor. At the rural household level, most families do not get adequate supplies of vegetable foods such as beans, groundnuts, and field peas to last from one harvest to the next. To a lesser extent this also applies to the basic staples namely bananas, cassava, sweet potatoes and millet. At the national level the country is producing enough of these foods for own consumption and for the market.

CAUSES OF FOOD INSECURITY IN UGANDA

17. Food insecurity is caused by different factors in different parts of the country. Hence it is important to take into account the peculiarities of the areas while analyzing the food security situation in Uganda. The Presidential Initiative Against Hunger and Poverty which is implementing a program against hunger and poverty in 30 districts on a pilot basis, has identified the following as some of the major causes of food insecurity and poverty in Uganda: Uganda agriculture is almost entirely dependent on the natural environment. Hence any adverse change in weather negatively affects agricultural production. Uganda's climate is increasingly becoming unpredictable making it difficult to plan for agricultural production. The traditional and cultural setting promotes land fragmentation. This has led to increased pressure on the limited land and reduces productivity. Poor extension services have also contributed to decline in agro production. This is because over time farmers have not been able to improve their farming methods and also adapt to new technology.

18. Farmers currently get very low yields partly due to lack of improved planting. Most farmers get less than 50% of the yields they would have got if they had used improved varieties. NARO confirms that if farmers are provided with improved seeds alone, the yield would increase by 20%. (See Annex B). Currently, agricultural sector gets about 5% of the total credit facilities from commercial institutions. Because of the limited resources, therefore, agricultural development is low. The information flow from the relevant government departments to the farmers is very poor at best and in some parts unavailable. This is further complicated by the poor infrastructure. The scourge of AIDS, malaria and other tropical diseases has greatly affected the country depriving it of productive manpower. Investment into agriculture is still unattractive as compared to other sectors of the economy. (See Annex C).

INSECURITY

19. Post-independence Uganda has gone through many wars and political conflict that have adversely affected the economy in general and food security in particular. The longstanding internal political problems between Milton Obote and Buganda, UPC's undemocratic and unconstitutional means of governance, sectarianism both in government and the army, together compounded the political problem of Uganda. Right from the time of independence, Uganda experienced instabilities and conflicts, crystallizing a breakdown in systems, military coups and armed conflicts. The Obote politics of 'move to the left', the 'common man's charter' and the 1971 coup drastically affected the national economy. Several multinational investors in the industrial and agricultural sector withdrew their capital. The Uganda Agricultural sector began to shrink; unemployment crept in; earnings declined and inflation began to rise. All these have an impact on consumption levels and hence food insecurity.

20. The events that followed the 1971 coup were disastrous. Many people were murdered, the majority of whom were in the prime productive age bracket. Those that remained were held in a perpetual frenzy of fear. The so-called Economic War plunged the country into further economic rot. The Asians and Europeans who were the aorta of the national economy were expelled. Industries and agricultural enterprises were drastically run down. Unemployment increased and inflation set in. New economic relations, particularly in the field of consumption and distribution, came in. *Magendo*, a term used for black-marketeering became the order of the day. Many young men moved from villages to towns to look for easy money. Smuggling on the nation borders replaced the official trade. The aggregate effect of all this was reflected in the decline in production levels of both industrial and agricultural products.

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21. The 1978 liberation war caused a lot of apprehension and insecurity, more especially in West Nile. Thousands of people moved into exile in the then Zaire (DRC), ahead of the advancing UNLA forces. The locals in Zaire and Sudan were herded into refugee settlement camps where they fed on UNHCR handouts. Those that remained could not till the land because of rampant rebel activities and UNLA harassment. The five-year gruesome guerilla war in Luwero Triangle that pitted the UPC government against the NRA caused a lot of suffering to people in Luwero. Thousands of people were killed, others migrated to safe districts and what used to be known as a bastion of food in Buganda region was reduced to a ravaged area.

22. The Allied Democratic Front (ADF) banditry activities in Western Uganda indeed caused a lot of suffering and starvation. In 1995 to 1996, there was food shortage in the Rwenzori areas as most people were in camps. In Bundibugyo, the situation was alarming. The local people abandoned their fields and homes to seek shelter in towns and other safer areas. It is, therefore, not surprising that all districts considered to be chronically food insecure have experienced conflict or are currently experiencing conflicts. Although the people of Kabarole, Kaseese and Bundibugyo have recovered, they are not fully food sufficient as they used to be.

LABOUR

23. According to the 2002/2003 labor force survey, 68% (16.7 million people) are employed in agriculture. However, the majority of them are under-employed as they work for an average of only three hours per day. These low level workers are poorly paid. This has caused shortage of farm hands. This has caused decline in production and many young people have given up agriculture and opted for '*leja leja*' jobs like hawking, petty trade, stone crushing, digging sand and spending most of their time playing cards. This is where they get quick money. This is a hangover from Amin's days of '*magendo*'. The country has not given incentives to these youths to go back to the land and form co-operatives and engage them in tangible production. Local communities should be given

the opportunity to prepare their own strategies for self sufficiency in food security. Enabling environment will allow people in the communities to express their views on the issues, defining their needs and aspirations, and formulating a plan for sustainable food security. To attain food security is a matter of responsible behaviour by individuals and groups. Responsible behaviour is likely only when people have full control over their lives and access to resources they require. Thus, community action is the ultimate basis for national and global food security.

24. Agricultural production in Uganda is almost entirely organic at the subsistence level, and there is limited agro-chemical application by the commercial farmers, which makes Uganda's food products risk free for human consumption and very competitive at the international level. The best example is Uganda's coffee, which is believed to be the only organic coffee in the world but still fetches the same or lower price than the heavily chemicalized coffee from Brazil. This is because the Brazilian government has made it a priority to add value to its coffee. Budgetary problems are always sighted but entrepreneurial prudence is lacking. Recognizing the perishability of the agricultural products, it is important that policies be put in place to promote and encourage agro-processing as a means of adding value to the products and lengthen their shelf life. This would bring in more income, create employment and be more competitive in the local and world markets. It is sad to note that only 10 percent of the 900 million litres of milk produced countrywide in 2001 was processed and preserved. 'Diary Development Authority (DDA 2002)'.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

25. The co-operative movement in Uganda started in 1910s. Unlike many other countries where co-operatives are for purely economic reasons, in Uganda they had multi dimensional purposes encompassing social political and economical objectives. The co-operative movement had a four-tier organization structure comprising the National Umbrella organizations, the sub-regional organizations/unions, district societies and grass

root co-operatives. Through this structure, the co-operatives were able to mobilize and organize the membership and resources. Because of the importance of the co-operatives, government created a Ministry of Co-operatives and Marketing to oversee its operations.

ROLE OF CO-OPERATIVES

26. The co-operatives at all levels of operation played a significant social economic development role in the country. They offered services to their members, including agricultural extension services, bulk purchases of agro-inputs, offered subsidized retail prices, education, collective bargaining and marketing services, transport and collective ownership of real estate properties, processing and storage facilities. In addition, the co-operative movement was the second biggest formal employer after the conventional public service.

27. The co-operative movement grew to its peak in the early 1970s and had substantial assets throughout the country. The role of the co-operatives movement began declining from the mid-1970s due to internal and external factors. The most common internal factors were: mismanagement, embezzlement, corruption, lack of transparency, dishonesty, low caliber staff and lack of internal democracy. The external factors included: government interference, political instability, declining economy and more recently liberalization. However, the above named causes for the collapse of the co-operatives were also experienced in other sectors of the economy. Hence there is no way the co-operatives could have been an island in a grossly mismanaged and corrupt situation that existed at the time.

28. The collapse of the co-operative movement led to the loss of the following: Agricultural extension services, business education, collective bargaining power resulting in higher prices of inputs, credit services, employment and transport services. Since most of the co-operatives were agro based, their collapse led to a very big decline in agricultural production and still poses a big challenge to the food security status in

Uganda today. The production of food crops has been declining since the 1970s. For the bananas which is the major food crop for the central and the western part of the country, production fell by 31% from 1991 to 2000. Cereal production fell by 34% while root crop production fell by 7.6% in the same period. However, the population on the other hand increased by 36.5%. It is important to revitalize the co-operative movement which would bring farmers into viable economic groups through which services in (a) above can be easily provided. Farmers should take advantage of the existing movement structures to form bottom up groups that can be gradually built into viable co-operative societies, or affiliate themselves to existing co-operative societies/unions. Alternatively, a special policy may be developed to revitalize the existing but inactive co-operative societies and unions by writing off their debts and giving them minimum working capital loans at low interests. Whichever of the two strategies is used, deliberate measures must be put in place to ensure that the societies and unions are democratic, transparent and well managed. (See Annex D).

THE CASE FOR NORTHERN UGANDA

29. Food insecurity is most felt in the northern part of the country which has experienced political insurgency for the last 19 years. This prolonged insurgency has significantly disrupted the people's settlement patterns, because they have been forced to live in Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps. It has limited their access to land for production purposes as well as carrying out other productive livelihood activities to sustain themselves.

30. The situation worsened after March 2002, when the government intensified its offensive on the rebels, causing increased influx of people into the Internally Displaced People's camps, which were already congested and with little land for production. As a result, the overall displaced people's population in Acholi sub region is estimated to have increased from 500,000 people to more than 800,000 people, of which at least 350,000-400,000 are in Gulu District, representing about 80% of the total population of the

district. This has posed a serious humanitarian need, which UN Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has rated among the worst in the entire Great Lakes region.⁹ (See Annex E).

31. This situation, has continued to increase the frequency and complexity of household food insecurity in the various districts of Northern Uganda, mainly Gulu, Kitgum and Pader. There have also been disruptions in Apac and Lira, and many IDPs have had to leave the Acholi region to settle in other parts of the country. The major factor causing food insecurity for the population of north and north east is the continuation of the civil war. Other constraints mentioned below are secondary but very important.

(a) Access to land has remained another constraint to the household both within the camp neighborhood, where the security radius has reduced, and in their former villages as well. There has been increased pressure on the host population for land and other social assistance due to increasing camp population.

(b) Failure by government and other stakeholders to devise means to produce food under duress. Camps could be organized and protected for production as was the case in the Malay campaign. This would reduce dependency on foreign aid and produce foods that are culturally acceptable and balanced in diet.

DONOR AID AND FOOD IMPORTS

32. Uganda has received food aid during times of man made and natural disasters such as droughts, civil strife, and food shortages. This is not sustainable in the long run. Food aid should be restricted alleviating emergency food needs otherwise it could lead to dependency on external sources. In addition, the ready assistance of donor intervention has created an attitude of a fall back position in cases of food shortages, making the government and farmers to sort of relax in tackling the pertinent issues of food security. In addition, the food aid always has conditionalities which are not conducive to long term

planning for food security in the country. This food aid has, in some instances, impacted negatively to our domestic production a case in point is the wheat growing project which BADEA (Bank Arab for Development and Reconstruction) had started supporting in the late 1970s but collapsed due to cheap wheat imports subsidized by donors. Currently the oil production sector is suffering the same fate due to cheap imported donor subsidized oils. Donor aid may be a temporary relief to food shortages but has many weaknesses. In Northern Uganda, all the people in Internally Displaced Camps (IPDs) over 1.5 million are totally dependent on donor food. This leads to a negative attitude on the affected people and creates a dependency syndrome. The World Food Program has projected food requirements for 2005 at 244,645 tones valued at US\$ 128.6 million. (See Annex F). Why can't 10% of this money be invested in production of food locally?

EFFECTS OF LIBERALISATION ON FOOD SECURITY

33. The following are some of the outstanding effects of liberalization on food security: The impact of trade liberalization over the past twenty years since the introduction of structural adjustment programmers in the early 1980s, and especially since the setting up of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, has become one of the most hotly contested debates in international economic policymaking. A UNICEF paper by Jan Vandemoortele - "the seriousness of the impact of trade liberalization and related factors" points out that, "the fruits of liberalization and globalization are not reaching the table of the poor. Disparities are on the rise around the world; a new face of 'apartheid' seems to be spreading across the globe as millions of people live in wretched conditions side-by-side those who enjoy unprecedented prosperity". In 1987, the government initiated a liberalization policy that promised to revitalize agricultural production and bring prosperity (better incomes) to rural people. The principle components of the policy were the liberalization of the exchange rate and trade in agricultural inputs and products and control of inflation. The expected outcomes of this liberalization policy package would be increased agricultural production and incomes to farmers and a better food security situation.

34. According to a study by Nyangabyaki Bazaara, "Impact of liberalization on agriculture and food security in Uganda" final report 2001, Uganda has learnt that: liberalization led to increased production of some crops such as coffee when the prices were higher than the cost of production. However, the real decisive factors responsible for increases were non-price factors such as government and NGO interventions. In general, however, the increase in agricultural production was largely a result of state programmes for example, the promotion of clonal coffee by government and NGO's.

35. Farmers were paid cash for their produce, however, due to increased production, prices were low resulting in lower incomes while on the other hand inputs prices were at best constant or rose. The occurrence of food shortages and famines in the liberalization period has led to some people raising questions as to the relationship between liberalization and food security.¹⁰ In Uganda, for example, serious food shortages were experienced in 1992/93 and 1997 when liberalization had just been implemented.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

36. Among the interventions that the government has introduced as measures to sustain improved food security are the following:

- a. The Poverty Eradication Action Programme (PEAP) Government has put in place policies to fight hunger and poverty and increase production. In 1996, the Government of Uganda made poverty eradication a key development strategy to achieving Government's ultimate aim of wiping out mass poverty in Uganda by 2017, by reducing the incidence of absolute poverty to 10%. The achievements of PEAP have been significant in infrastructure development and service delivery sectors but weak in increasing agricultural production and household incomes for the poor.

b. Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA). The Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) is a comprehensive government strategy and operational framework for the eradication of poverty through transformation from subsistence to commercial production. PMA has its roots in the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP).

c. The National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) is a semi-autonomous statutory body that was set up for the provision of efficient and effective farmer driven and farmer controlled advisory services. NAADS is a programme with new approaches for extension delivery conceived under the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA), to redress past short comings and incorporate best practice features to make extension deliver more efficiently and effectively. It is designed in accordance with the overall government of decentralization, liberalization, and privatization, empowerment of the people in decision making for development processes, and increasing public sector co-ordination and accountability.

d. The Presidential Initiative Against Hunger and Poverty. The vision of the Initiative is 'to end hunger in a sustainable way' while the mission is 'to generate employment and adequate income for the people of Uganda through profitable farming.' The main objectives of the initiative is to promote food security for the poor and also ensure that they have income generating activities within their agro-activities which can earn them not less than 20 million per annum per household. The Presidential Initiative has so far intervened in 32 districts at the programme is constantly moving into new districts on the instruction of the President. Over 10,000 direct beneficiary households and 50,000 secondary beneficiary households have been reached (over 300,000 people).

e. Research Institutions. Research institutions have been established by the government as a measure for food security improvement.

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They include The National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) which was established with a mandate to undertake, promote and co-ordinate research in all aspects of crops, fisheries, forestry and livestock, and ensuring dissemination and application of research results. NARO has a number of research institutes, Agricultural Engineering and Appropriate Technology Research Institute (AEATRI), Coffee Research Institute (CORI), Fisheries Resources Research Institute (FIRRI), Food Science and Technology Research Institute (FOSRI), Forestry Resources Research Institute (FORRI), Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Namulonge Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Livestock Research Institute (LIRI), Serere Agricultural Research Institute (SARI).

37. A lot of research has been generated by the above institutions however, the results and findings have not been disseminated to the farmers and hence no direct impact on production.. All the above government efforts and interventions have had mixed reception by different implementers due to their divergent views on food security. One school of thought is of the view that the policies are good and would be effective if well implemented. Others think the policies are donor designed and they do not address the real issues facing the country. They add that little or no consultation is made with the prime stakeholders (the farmers) when the policies are being designed. Yet another one is that government should completely divorce itself from these interventions and strictly liberalize the sector. These conflicting views indicate that there is still room to improve on the design, implementation and delivery mechanisms of food security and poverty policies.

CONCLUSION

38. From the above, food insecurity in Uganda is caused by different factors in different parts of the country (para 16, 17). However, wars and insecurity have been identified as the biggest cause (para 18, 19, 20 and 21). Additionally labour and production relations (para 22), the role of the co-operative movement (para 25, 26, 27),

the influence of donor aid (para-31) and effects of liberalization (para 32, 33 and 34) have an important effect on the subject. Government efforts are lauded but not enough (para 36). Lastly, there is need for a comprehensive, cross sectoral and integrated approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

39. Further studies should be carried out on this enormous subject but in the meantime, the following recommendations are offered:

a. There is need for the different stakeholders to harmonize their views on the different causes of food insecurity so that an integrated, comprehensive and cross sector approach is adopted. *DWC*

b. Previously war affected areas need to be re-energized to catch up with the rest of the country under a special programme. *PRDP & LRDP*

c. Labour being our most abundant resource should be mobilized, given incentives and oriented towards intensive agriculture. *NAPIL*

d. The c-operative movement should be revitalized as a service delivery vehicle to the farmer. *UNFFE, UCA & UCSCU.*

e. Donor aid should be redirected towards production rather than consumption. *USAID, EU, IFAD, WFP, FAO
- ETC -*

C Akandwanaho

C AKANDWANAHO
LT GEN
PARTICIPANT

END NOTES

- ¹ Uganda Demographic and Household Survey (UDHS), 2000/01.
- ² Economic Policy Analysis Unit (EPAU) Report, 2001/02.
- ³ Ministry of Agriculture, Animals and Fisheries (MAAIF) Structural Report, 2000/01.
- ⁴ National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) lecture by Mr Akol to Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka.
- ⁵ State of Food Security and Insecurity in the World , 2000.
- ⁶ State of Food Security and Insecurity in the World, 2000.
- ⁷ Uganda National Food and Nutrition Policy.
- ⁸ State of Food Security and Insecurity in the World, 2004.
- ⁹ World Food Programme (WFP) Report, 2002/3
- ¹⁰ VECO-UGANDA, SNV and Oxygen Uganda (1998) Effects of Agricultural Liberalisation Policies on Food Security.

PREVALENCE OF UNDER-NOURISHMENT IN SELECTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

DEVELOPING WORLD	Total Production			Number of people malnourished			Proportion of undernourished in total production		
	1990- 1992	1995- 1997	2000- 2002	1990- 1992	1995- 1997	2000- 2002	1990- 1992	1995- 1997	2000- 2002
Region/subregion/country (undernourishment category)	millions			millions			millions		
DEVELOPING WORLD	4058.7	4431.1	4796.7	823.8	796.7	814.6	20	18	17
ASIA & THE PACIFIC	2815.2	3039.5	3256.1	569.2	509.5		20	17	16
East Asia	1241.5	1307.2	1364.5	198.8	155.1	151.7	16	12	11
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	477.3	546.4	620.0	170.4	197.4	203.5	36	36	33
Central Africa	63.4	73.6	82.0	22.7	38.8	45.2	36	53	55
East Africa	167.8	190.8	217.7	76.4	88.7	86.2	46	46	40
Burundi	5.7	6.1	6.4	2.7	3.8	4.4	48	63	68
Eritrea	N/A	3.3	3.9	N/A	2.2	2.8	N/A	68	73
Ethiopia	N/A	59.0	67.3	N/A	35.8	31.3	N/A	61	46
Kenya	24.4	28.1	31.1	10.7	10.8	10.3	44	38	33
Rwanda	6.4	5.5	8.0	2.8	2.8	3.0	44	52	37
Sudan	25.5	28.7	32.2	8.0	6.6	8.5	32	23	27
Uganda	17.9	20.9	24.2	4.2	5.4	4.6	24	26	19
United Rep. of Tanzania	27.0	31.7	35.6	9.9	15.8	15.6	37	50	44
Southern Africa	71.0	80.6	90.1	34.1	36.5	35.7	48	45	40
Malawi	9.6	10.3	11.6	4.8	4.1	3.8	50	40	33
Mauritius	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	6	6	6
Zambia	8.4	9.6	10.6	4.0	4.6	5.2	48	48	49
Zimbabwe	10.7	11.9	12.7	4.9	5.6	5.6	45	47	44
West Africa	175.1	201.4	230.3	37.2	33.5	36.4	21	17	16
Burkina Faso	9.2	10.6	12.3	1.9	2.0	2.3	21	19	19
Ghana	15.7	17.9	20.0	5.8	3.2	2.5	37	18	13
Mauritania	2.1	2.4	2.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	15	11	10
Nigeria	88.7	102.7	117.8	11.8	8.9	11.0	13	9	9

Source: Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Statistics, 2001

YIELD FARMERS COULD GET IF THEY USE IMPROVED PLANTING MATERIALS.

Item	Inputs required for 1 acre	Cost of inputs	Days to maturity	Least yield in 1 season	Annual output
Maize (Longe 4H)	10 Kgs	25,000	120 days	1,000 Kgs	2.0 – 4.0 tons
Beans (K131)	10 Kgs	15,000	90 days	1,000 Kgs	2.5 – 3.0 tons
Soya (Nam soy)	20 Kgs	24,000	110 days	1,000 Kgs	2.5 – 3.0 tons
Ground nuts (Serere nut 1)	25 Kgs	37,500	100 – 140 days	1,000 Kgs	3.0 tons
Millet	3 Kgs	2,400	75 days	1,000 Kgs	-
Sorghum (Igola)	3 Kgs	3,600	100 days	1,500 Kgs	4.0 – 5.0 tons
Banana (Mpologoma)	450 stems	-	540 days	-	1.4 tons; 1 st harvest
Cassava (PME 14)	8 bags of cuttings	120,000	210 days	-	6 tons
Upland rice (Naric II)	30-40 Kgs	60,000	90 – 105 days	1,000 Kgs	3.0 tons
Sweet potatoes Nastop 5	8 bags of vines	80,000	150 days	7,000 Kgs	7.0 tons

Source : National Agriculture Research Organisation (NARO)

COMMERCIAL BANKS OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES

Broad Sector	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Value (billion Shs)					
Agriculture	63.16	45.55	35.38	35.75	53.88
Crop finance	53.99	38.05	25.35	22.40	33.22
Production	9.17	7.5	1.03	13.35	20.66
Trade & Commerce	231.13	244.77	250.96	276.28	369.40
Manufacturing	156.15	158.54	179.55	159.61	166.48
Utilities 1	21.27	28.04	32.48	23.32	48.16
Building & Construction	25.67	23.37	22.52	17.93	23.05
Balancing items	0.05	0.2	0.82	0.79	0.47
	497.43	500.47	521.71	513.68	661.44

Source : Bank of Uganda

FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE RECENT PAST

Population trends & production of major crops

	1970	1991	1995	2000	%change 1991-2000
Popn. (Mn)	9.5	16.7	19.7	22.8	36.53
Type of food		'000 tons	'000 tons	'000 tons	
Bananas		8,080.00	7,909.00	5,545.00	-31.37
Cereals		1,576.00	933.00	1,038.00	-34.14
Root crops		5,268.00	5,736.00	4,867.00	-7.61
Oil seeds		264	136*	125*	-52.65
Pulses		488	335**	495**	1.43
	14,100.00	15,676.00	15,049.00	12,070.00	-23.00
Per capita production	1.48	0.94	0.76	0.53	

Cereals: Maize, finger millet, sorghum, rice and wheat

Root crops: Sweet potatoes, cassava and Irish potatoes

Oil seeds: Simsim, ground nuts and Soya beans

Pulses: Beans and peas

* Only groundnuts were analysed

** Only beans were analysed

Source: Crop Survey Module 2002; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

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