

## RESULTS SUMMARY

### Drafting & passing the 2024 Ugandan Agriculture Chemical Control Act

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#### PROJECT

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Title:</b>   | Protecting Farmers, Safeguarding the Future: Caritas Uganda's Bold Stand Against Hazardous Agrochemicals |
| <b>Partner:</b> | Caritas Uganda (CU)  |
| <b>Country:</b> | Uganda   |
| <b>Period:</b>  | 2024   |

#### CHANGE

Uganda faced significant challenges related to the widespread use of unregulated agricultural chemicals (Agrochemicals). The sustained advocacy efforts of Caritas Uganda (CU) and the Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform (UFCVP), and their partners towards the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), culminated in the successful drafting of the Agriculture Chemical Control Act, 2024, which received presidential assent on July 19, 2024, thereby enacting legislation to regulate the sale and importation of hazardous Agrochemicals in Uganda.

#### CONTEXT

Many of the hazardous Agrochemicals sold in the Ugandan markets, are already banned in other countries. Farmers, often unaware of the hazards, use agricultural chemicals indiscriminately, leading to health risks such as cancer, environmental damage by harming the soil health, reducing productivity and creating dependence even more chemical inputs to maintain yields. To protect vulnerable smallholder farmers, CU together with other CSOs advocated for the Government to regulate the use and import of hazardous Agrochemicals.

#### CONTRIBUTION

CU collaborating with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM), Food Safety Coalition of Uganda (FoSCU), The Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations (SEATINI-U), Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), Food Rights Alliance, Makerere University, The Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT). CU's campaign role was to bring the voice and perspective of the church, leading in securing space for engagement for members of parliament and the MoA.

#### IMAGES



Ms. Aguti Betty Rose, Policy and Advocacy Specialist. Photo credit: CU



Food Safety Dialogue, Kabale, Ugand. Photo credit: CU

[See next page for more details](#) →

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES

To achieve this result, several engagements were conducted which among others included: research on chemicals residues in the different food materials in the market, conduction of community engagement to raise awareness on the dangers of chemical residues in selected foods in Uganda, one-on-one lobby meetings with members of parliament, a press conference on the hazardous use of Agrochemicals in Uganda and call for a total ban of these chemicals in Uganda markets and protection of the environment. Furthermore, policy dialogues with parliament, community debates/sensitizations, media engagements, and lobby meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries were held to enable the Control Act.

### LESSONS

Building upon the success of advocacy work, which culminated in the Agriculture Chemical Control Act, 2024, it is evident that public health, food safety, and environmental protection are critical concerns for both policymakers and communities. These issues are increasingly likely to receive significant attention and action. As a result, Caritas Uganda will continue to push the Government to conduct a national assessment of all agrochemicals available in the Uganda market, with the aim of producing a report guiding action at different levels. It is evident that the success of the advocacy campaign on the chemical act stems from the collaboration and longstanding partnerships with like-minded civil society organisations (CSOs). Additionally, media engagement has played a pivotal role in enhancing the campaign's visibility, effectiveness, and overall impact, and will continue to be a key component of its strategy.

### EVIDENCE

For the past 5 years, Caritas Uganda (CU) has actively organised and facilitated engagements involving multi-stakeholder dialogues and consultations with Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Industries and Fisheries. These initiatives have been undertaken to promote inclusive participation, foster collaborative decision-making of the chemical act. This is all well document through meetings record and printed articles. The regional farmer meetings, sensitization and national stakeholder dialogues that brought together farmers, members of parliament, CSOs, scientists, and agrochemical regulators were all initiated by Caritas Uganda. Furthermore, Caritas Uganda participated in generating the press statement and conducting the press conference which is backed up by pictures, the press release and radio talks.

### DOMAINS

*Development strategy priorities:*

Insert strategy priority

*Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability*

X

*Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights*

X

*Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights*

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*Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights*

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*Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability*

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*Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work*

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