



Hon. Frank Tumwebaze  
Minister for Agriculture, Animal  
Industry and Fisheries.



Hon. Kyakulaga Fred Bwino (MP)  
Minister of State for Agriculture



Hon. Bright Rwamirama  
State Minister for Animal  
Industry



Hon. Adoa Hellen  
State Minister for Fisheries



Maj. Gen. David Kasura-Kyomukama  
Permanent Secretary



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President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni recently commissioned Uganda's first locally developed anti-tick vaccine at the National Livestock Resources Research Institute (NaLIRRI) in Namulonge, Luwero. PHOTO/COURTESY

## President Museveni's vision on agriculture

The President's Vision is embedded in Uganda's Prosperity For All policy and the Five-Year National Development Plan, both of which position agriculture as a key driver of economic transformation.

BY RACHEAL NABISUBI

**P**resident Museveni's Vision on Agriculture is hinged on pillars such as the move from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture; achieving a 6 percent annual growth rate in the agricultural sector; and increasing agriculture funding to reach a target of 10 percent by ensuring adequate investment in the sector's infrastructure and support services.

The president's vision is embedded in Uganda's Prosperity For All policy and the Five-Year National Development Plan, both of which position agriculture as a key driver of economic transformation.

In the National Development Plan IV, the focus for agriculture is on providing mindset change education and helping communities understand the long-term benefits of engaging in the money economy, concentrating on moving 33 per cent of Ugandan households from subsistence agriculture into the money economy.

Speaking at various agricultural expos, wealth creation tours, and national budget events over the years, Yoweri Museveni has consistently argued that agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda's economy and the surest pathway out of poverty for millions of rural households.

vast arable land, favourable climate, and youthful population should position Uganda as a regional food basket and agro-industrial hub. The President has repeatedly urged Ugandans to abandon what he describes as "survival farming" and instead embrace commercial agriculture through enterprise selection, irrigation, mechanisation, and organised markets.

Museveni's strategy heavily emphasises the "Four Acre Model," where families with small pieces of land are encouraged to maximise productivity through high-value enterprises such as coffee, fruits, dairy farming, poultry, and fish farming. According to the President, even households with limited land can generate sustainable incomes if farming is approached scientifically and commercially in what he calls ekibalo.

The government has also invested heavily in irrigation schemes aimed at reducing dependence on rain-fed agriculture, particularly as

climate change continues to disrupt planting seasons, citing irrigation as essential to guaranteeing year-round production and food security.

Programmes such as the Parish Development Model, Emyooga, Operation Wealth Creation, and the Agriculture Credit Facility have been rolled out to expand access to financing, inputs, and extension services for farmers. All these are intended to transition millions of Ugandans into the money economy.

At the centre of Museveni's agricultural agenda is agro-industrialisation. The President has repeatedly called for the establishment of agro-processing factories across the country to absorb agricultural produce, reduce post-harvest losses, and create employment opportunities.

As Uganda pushes toward middle-income status, Museveni insists agriculture must remain central to the country's economic transfor-

mation.

Key focus areas include enhancing production and productivity, improving market access and value addition in agriculture, creating a favorable environment for agriculture, developing institutions, and advancing economic diversification through the commercial production of milk, beef, leather, fruits, and fish, among others.

Commissioning the first locally developed tick vaccine on April 30, 2026, at Namulonge in Wakiso district, the President described it as a breakthrough solution to tick-borne diseases that have long plagued the livestock sector.

"Ticks have been a long-standing setback to Uganda's livestock sector. This vaccine is safer and more durable than acaricides, which are toxic and lose effectiveness over time. The cow now kills the tick," the President said, highlighting the innovation behind the product.

He pledged continued government support for science and innovation, including Shs600 billion requested by the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to establish a vaccine research hub. He also proposed tax incentives for scientists, similar to those given to security personnel, in recognition of their contribution to national development.

### BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR

Agricultural products contribute nearly all of Uganda's foreign exchange earnings, with coffee (of which Uganda is Africa's leading producer) contributing the largest percentage of 19% of the country's exports. Exports of non-traditional products, including hides, skins, vanilla, vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, and fish are growing, while traditional exports such as cotton, and tobacco continue to be mainstays.