

Uganda is a blessed country, gifted by nature.....but harnessing the available opportunities remain major challenges due to various militating factors



ROLE OF NARO IN THE AGRICULTURE SUB-SECTOR

- ❑ Primary goal of NARO is to improve the livelihoods of the 68% resource poor subsistence farmers operating in very militating environments.
- ❑ Research agenda are directed towards food/nutrition security, unemployment and wealth creation.
- ❑ Issues of main concern include increasing production, productivity, value addition, market access and institutional capacity development
- ❑ Core business of NARO is generation and promotion of TIMPS in crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry
- ❑ We integrate indigenous knowledge with modern scientific methods in some of our research agenda as in the case for bio-prospecting

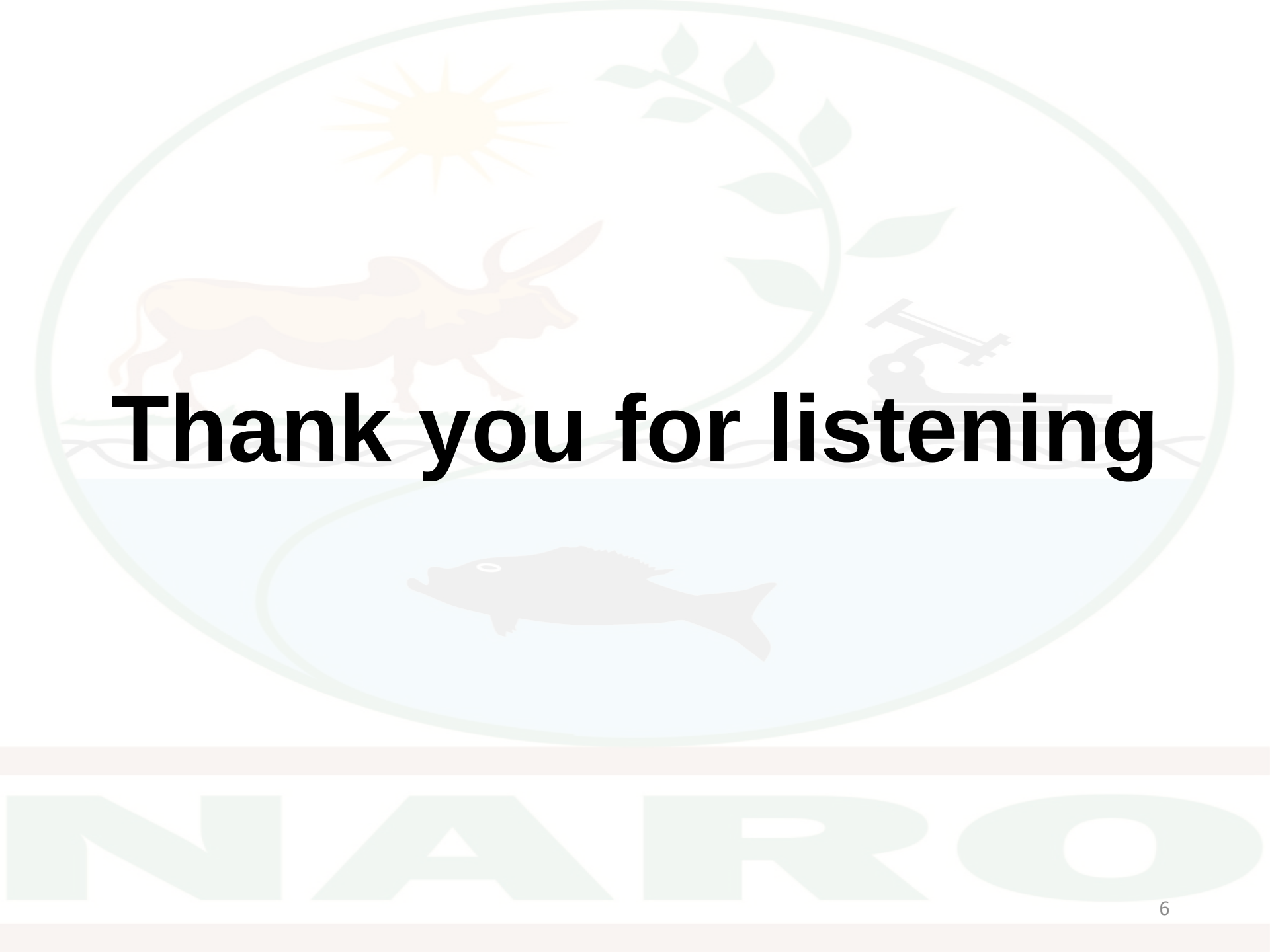
BIO-PROSPECTING OPPORTUNITIES

- ❑ Knowledge sharing passed on from generation to generation on biodiversity of indigenous species improves management, protection and utilization of appropriate plant spp for food, health and cosmetics
- ❑ Micronutrient deficiencies increasingly becoming more eminent: malnutrition, poor mental development, stuntedness, poor health etc.
- ❑ Food supplements as alternatives for good health but very expensive
- ❑ Exploitation of indigenous plants e.g. *Cleome gynandra* (Spider plant) and *Nauclea latifolia* in partnership with “Inheritor” IK
- ❑ Crude extracts of *C. gynandra* and *N. latifolia* potential use on crops, livestock and humans

- ❑ Formulations available as Water or Oil soluble, and powder. Active ingredients not determined, but prescription and application based on existing traditional knowledge
- ❑ Products referred to as “Alpha and Omega Theraphy” effective as broad-spectrum antibiotics on crop, animal and human diseases; food supplement; anti-inflammatory; sedative; aphrodisiac; stimulant etc.
- ❑ Research intervention: efficacy evaluation against field diseases, seed treatment, conservation
- ❑ Gaps: determination of active ingredient, level of phytotoxicity, shelf-life and packaging materials, standardization and certification by UNBS

CONCLUSION

- ❑ What indigenous people know and do, and what they have known and done for generations let the knowledge systems be legitimized and fortified under suitable institutional frameworks and regimes to guarantee sustainability of knowledge diffusion for the future
- ❑ Hidden hunger is a disease of the new generation, but can be fully harnessed through judicious exploitation of biodiversity
- ❑ Genetic erosion due to over exploitation, militating biotic and abiotic factors is real and is irreversible. Conservation is a must do.

The background of the slide features a large, faint, light green oval logo. Inside the oval, there is a yellow sun with rays in the upper left, a green olive branch with leaves in the upper right, a brown bull in the center, and a grey fish in the lower half. A grey laboratory scale is also visible on the right side of the oval. The text "Thank you for listening" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the slide.

Thank you for listening

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