



UGANDA UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2024

PlantwisePlus is a global programme led by CABI that empowers smallholder farmers to increase their incomes and improve food security and safety, while reducing biodiversity loss through sustainable crop production practices.

Uganda is a focus country for PlantwisePlus. Under the programme's three impact pathways—pest preparedness, pesticide risk reduction, and farmer advisory—a range of activities are being implemented in-country.

Engaging with Uganda's agro-input dealers

The global rise in pesticide use boosts agricultural productivity, but raises health and environmental concerns. In Uganda and other low- and middle-income countries, agro-dealers are key suppliers of inputs like fungicides, insecticides and crop health advice to smallholders, but often lack the resources and training needed for accurate recommendations. PlantwisePlus has been working with the mandatory government licensing scheme for agro-input dealers to promote awareness of safer plant protection options, particularly bioprotection products.

Could certified agro-dealers emerge as champions of safer pest management?: A CABI-led study in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) on 557 Ugandan agro-dealers highlights their potential in promoting chemical and non-chemical pest control products. Nearly half of the agro-dealers were uncertified despite certification being required for pesticide sales. Certified agro-dealers showed greater knowledge and adoption of biopesticides and sustainable practices, suggesting their crucial role in advancing safer, eco-friendly pest management in Uganda. [Read the paper](#) | [Read the blog](#)

Agro-dealers eager to embrace safer practices through voluntary certification: Another CABI-led paper assesses Ugandan agro-dealers' willingness to join a voluntary certification scheme to reduce pesticide risks. The findings showed strong support, particularly for the training and safety benefits. Participants favoured restricting high-risk pesticides if linked to income opportunities, with preferences varying by certification, experience, and personal exposure to pesticide poisoning. Overall, agro-dealers were motivated to adopt lower-risk plant protection practices. [Read the paper](#)

Developing Uganda's agro-dealer training manual: In the past two years, PlantwisePlus has worked with MAAIF, Makerere University and the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to create a module for the agro-dealer certification course, including a training manual to help agro-dealers identify hazardous pesticides and support in reducing pesticide risk through giving farmers advice on lower-risk alternatives. The manual focuses on two topics: recognizing pesticide risks and reducing them through bioprotection products. The manual, and its associated training materials, is already being used by the trained MAAIF Inspectors to train agro-dealers, in addition to the existing government safe use manual. The final manual will be handed to MAAIF for continuous training of agro-dealers. [Read the blog](#)

Further updates:

Youth-led agribusinesses: Cultivating success in Uganda:

PlantwisePlus aims to upskill youth, women and men so they can access new agribusiness opportunities. In Uganda, over 200 young women and men affiliated with Rubanga Cooperative Society Limited and Zirowe Agali'awamu Agribusiness and Training Association (ZAABTA) have so far been trained in plant health diagnostics, agrochemical safety, and seed entrepreneurship. Using these skills, they've launched agribusinesses, including agro-input dealerships, bundled farming services, and value-added products like banana wine, honey, and biopesticides.

A section of young women and men affiliated with ZAABTA have also begun producing high-quality seeds for local communities and broader markets. In its early stages, this seed entrepreneurship addresses community needs and creates income opportunities. Seed enterprises focus on locally adapted and demanded crops that are not fully integrated into the formal or commercial seed sector.

By fostering entrepreneurship and enhancing market reach, PlantwisePlus supports individual success and contributes to Uganda's sustainable agricultural development.

Could a 'One Health' approach reduce pesticide risks in Uganda? International standards on pesticide risk management stress the importance of cross-sector collaboration, but institutional and disciplinary barriers often hinder such efforts. Early experiences from [Uganda's crop-livestock clinics](#) demonstrate the added value of a 'One Health' approach, which addresses multi-dimensional health issues across sectors. Can a stronger multi-sectoral, One Health approach reduce pesticide risks in Uganda?

To explore this, PlantwisePlus has launched a study as part of a broader pesticide situation analysis. The study employs a mixed-methods approach to gather insights from sectors including Crop, Livestock, Human Health, Fisheries, Environment, and Wildlife/Forestry. This year's focus is desk research—reviewing the literature, analysing secondary data from crop-livestock clinics, and conducting a bibliometric analysis to identify gaps and collaboration opportunities in pesticide research. A paper based on this analysis is in progress. Fieldwork, including focus group interviews and a Social Network Analysis survey, is planned for 2025.



Young people showcasing their skills and products at the 30th National Agricultural Show in Jinja

For further information on these activities or others under [PlantwisePlus in Uganda](#), please contact:

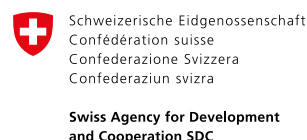
Dr Morris Akiri, Senior Regional Director, Africa

T: +254 20 2271000

E: africa@cabi.org

CABI, Canary Bird, 673 Limuru Road, Muthaiga, PO Box 633-00621, Nairobi, Kenya

PlantwisePlus receives core support from:



www.plantwiseplus.org

KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE