

Agriculture and Forestry Research and Training Prospects for Southern Sudan

MAF – GoSS

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V/Chancellors of National Universities and Research Institutions

Honorable Professors

Distinguished Guests

**V/Chancellor and Professors of Catholic University of Sudan –
gratitude and thanks for this opportunity,**

**Our dear helping friends across the Atlantic Ocean: The American
People**

Welcome

**Topic of Symposium: Training and Research in Southern Sudan –
Academic Institutions' domains**

I.0: Introduction

1.1: MAF Research and Training Policy

CPA, 2005: Formation of GoSS – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry : Formulation of MAF agriculture and Forestry Policies

1.2: A Short Historical Background on Research and Training in Southern Sudan

The traditional research and training institutions:

University of Khartoum and British Agricultural and Forests Teaching Institutions 1950s

Shambat Institute for Agriculture – 1950s: Agricultural technicians

Yambio School of Agriculture: Agriculture and Forestry technicians since 1948

Kegalu Southern School of Forestry: technicians, 1948

Yambio Research Division:

Maridi Agriculture Extension Centre

Juba University

Formation of Southern Sudan Regional Agriculture Research Council: 1980 – 1991

2.0: Potential Roles for Agricultural and Forestry Training and Research

- 1. Consistency with GoSS Agricultural and Forestry Policy Guidelines**
- 2. Desirable socio – economic consequences and strategies of GoSS**
- 3. Technical feasibility, economically sound, socially acceptable and environmentally safe.**

2.1: Agro – ecological Zones of Southern Sudan

There exist substantial agricultural lands and forest resource in Southern Sudan – characterized by a wide variety of crops and tree species. Fertile soils and adequate annual amount of rainfall (650 - > 1500 mm per annual) in the six agro ecological zones

- 1. The Green Belt – CES, EES, WES : Agricultural Research Centre at Yei**
- 2. Ironstone Plateau – NBG; WBG; UNS; WES; CES: Reserech Centre at Halima**
- 3. Arid Zone – EES**
- 4. Hills and Mountains – EES; JS – Agrcultural Centre at Upper Talanga**
- 6. Flood Plains – EES; LS; JS; US; NBGS; WBGs; Warrab State; UNS : Aweil**

2.2: Current Human Resource

2.1.1: Training to date

Academic and professional training Curricula

1. National Universities established during War period 1980s
2. Foreign Universities – Professionals and Youth in Diaspora and Internal displacement
3. In Service training – minimal

3.0: MAF Training Policy Framework, 2007

Vision:

Modernization and environmentally safe agriculture with diverse rural technological advanced and competitive farmers

Mission:

To contribute to human / expertise development (agricultural managers, extension workers, rural entrepreneurs, women and youths) to catalyze agriculture and forestry modernization.

To achieve the above vision and mission, the following strategies are in plan:

- *Speedy socio – economic development by taking agriculture and forestry as the backbone to rural development*
- *Capacity building and training knowledge, and skills provision for rural development i.e transforming traditional and subsistence agriculture to modern scientifically based – technocrats, farmers, and extension workers.*

4.0: The Southern Sudan Agriculture Research and Technology Organization (SSARTO)

SSARTO exists as the main agriculture research entity following previous work during the 12 year Liberation Struggle.

It is visualized that SSARTO to be a centre of excellence generating and disseminating improved and appropriate technologies to technocrats and farmers (farmer's field schools and extension services).

SSARTO mission is therefore to contribute towards improving livelihood of Southern Sudan People by promoting agriculture and forestry development while conserving the natural resource base. These are achievable through increasing production using appropriate scientific knowledge, methods and policy advisory.

The general objectives being to increase quantities, qualities and availability of essential commodities on a sustainable pattern. The prime goal is food security, poverty reduction and socio economic development, Upgrading demand driven researches in agriculture and forestry

4.0: Constraints and Challenges

4.1: Constraints

Amongst others the followings are the main constraints to effective research:

1. Lost of Human resources and Research inputs during War period
2. Currently existing personnel are either over-aged, lusty and with low capacity
3. Destruction of physical infrastructure: dilapidated buildings, research facilities lost etc.
4. Limited research funds
5. Younger University graduates used Arabic as medium of instruction
6. Environmental Sciences not well focused in the National Universities Curricula

4.2: Challenges

1. Endemic shortage of technocrats (abolishing of National Diploma Institutes), training and research facilities and research incentives and applicability.
2. Lack of funds ad accredited Higher Institutions

5.0: Way Forward

Conclusively there is dire need to focus speedy and current training of technocrats in various fields of agriculture. Training and research to be applicable environmental science coupled with appropriate research techniques which address the needs of Southern Sudan – especially in industrial problems, agricultural and Forestry specializations

Thanks for Your undivided attention