

Plant Disease Diagnostic Capacity and Needs in Uganda

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Diagnostic service provision: Past

Category	Service provider
Plantations (<i>Tea, Sugarcane</i>)	Corporations , Res. Institutions, University
Medium scale farmers (Coffee, Cotton)	Cooperatives , Traditional Extension Service, University
Small scale farmers	Traditional Extension service
Home gardens	University, Research Institutions

Diagnostic service provision: Today

Category	Service provider
Plantations (<i>Tea, Sugarcane</i>)	Corporations , Res. Institutions, University
Medium scale farmers (Coffee, Cotton)	Cooperatives, Traditional Extension Service, Producer Organisations, University, Res. Institutions,
Small scale farmers	Traditional Extension service, Producer Organisations, Private Service Providers, National Agric. Res. Institutes (NARO), International Research Institutes
Home gardens (mostly urban)	University, Research Institutions

Institutionalization of Plant Disease Diagnostic Services

- Has there been institutional frameworks for development and provision of plant disease diagnostic services in Uganda?
- Probably NO (though there are efforts today)

Characteristics of Diagnostic Services in Uganda

- No designated diagnostic labs or personnel
- Individual scientist based
- Limited to obvious cases, without need for culturing or techniques beyond visual diagnostic
- No records kept nor fees charged
- Limited Institutional support.

As a result:

**Demand for diagnostic services
has unfortunately
been low**

Current Demand for diagnostic services

- **Demand is steadily rising**
 - **The flower industry**
 - **Vegetable production and export**
 - **Fruits production and export**
 - **Demand for Organic Produce**
 - **Campaigns for commercialization of agriculture**

Are we ready for the demand?

- **The Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is strengthening diagnostics**
 - **Has a department of diagnostics with a commissioner**
 - **Is finalizing a laboratory for diagnostics and quarantine**
 - **Has begun a pilot “mobile plant clinics”**

Are we ready for the demand?

- **The Department of Crop Science, Makerere:**
 - **has also designated space for a diagnostic laboratory (IPM CRSP activity)**
 - **Steadily equipping it**
 - **Appointed a technician in-charge**
 - **Developing operational modalities**
 - **Trying to engage and develop partnerships**

Gaps in Disease Diagnostic Capacity

- **Institutional recognition and prioritization**
 - **Insufficient manpower**
 - **Lack of requisite skills**
 - **Infrastructure inadequacy**
 - **Access to chemicals and lab. reagents**
- **Farmer sensitization**

Way forward

- **Institutional recognition and support for plant disease diagnostic activities**
- **Build linkages and partnerships (or strengthen): local, regional and global**

Asante Kwa Kunisikiliza

Thank you