

# Identifying Drivers, Constraints and Stakeholders for Innovations in Diversified Agriculture, Nutrition and Value Chains in East Africa

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## Abstract:

The research project “Education and Training for Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition in East Africa” (EaTSANE) uses an integrated approach for innovation and capacity strengthening to facilitate systemic change in the food system. The main research areas are: Diversified Agriculture, Nutrition and Value Chains. It is an international research project with cooperation among research and development institutions in Kenya, Uganda, Germany and the Netherlands. Within the project, the research work is based on multiple research disciplines, of which each applies a participatory action research approach to engage farmers and other value chain actors. Therefore, there was a need for a study to look at these areas from an interdisciplinary point of view. Likewise, we conducted, together with students from partner universities in Kenya and Uganda, an interdisciplinary study in order to identify innovations that were implemented by farmers within the last years and related drivers, constraints and stakeholders. Our aim was to frame an enabling environment for farmer innovation and use the results to provide a basis for policy dialogue and communication of the project findings. Four Focus Group Discussions were held in each research site (Teso South in Kenya and Kapchorwa in Uganda) with farmers that participate in the EaTSANE project. The participants were asked about their innovations in agriculture, nutrition and value chains within the last year. Drivers, constraints and stakeholders were identified and discussed by creating a stakeholder map together with farmers. In order to achieve a better understanding of the relations between the stakeholders and the innovations, follow-up interviews with identified stakeholders were held. We summarized our findings in an overall stakeholder map for each study site, and discussed the maps in workshops with policy makers and other stakeholders in Kenya and Uganda. As main driver and also as constraint, knowledge was identified. Therefore, we assume that knowledge is a key to scale up the innovation process. Through the identified stakeholders, possible entry points for the EaTSANE project to further spread the knowledge and findings created within the project have been identified.