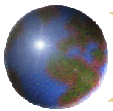


Staple food prices in Uganda

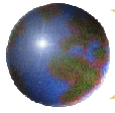
Monica Kansime-Owuor, ASARECA

Presented at the Comesa policy seminar
"Food price variability: Causes, consequences, and policy options"
on 25-26 January 2010 in Maputo, Mozambique
under the Comesa-MSU-IFPRI African Agricultural Markets Project (AAMP)



Main staples – highly diversified

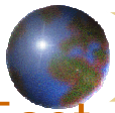
Commodity	Quantity consumed (kg/capita)	Daily caloric intake (kcal/day)	Calorie share (percent)
Plantains	172	419	18%
Cassava	101	300	13%
Maize	31	266	11%
Sweet potatoes	82	215	9%
Beans	16	148	6%
Wheat	7	42	2%
Rice	4	53	2%
Other		1133	48%
Total		2360	100%



Importance of trade

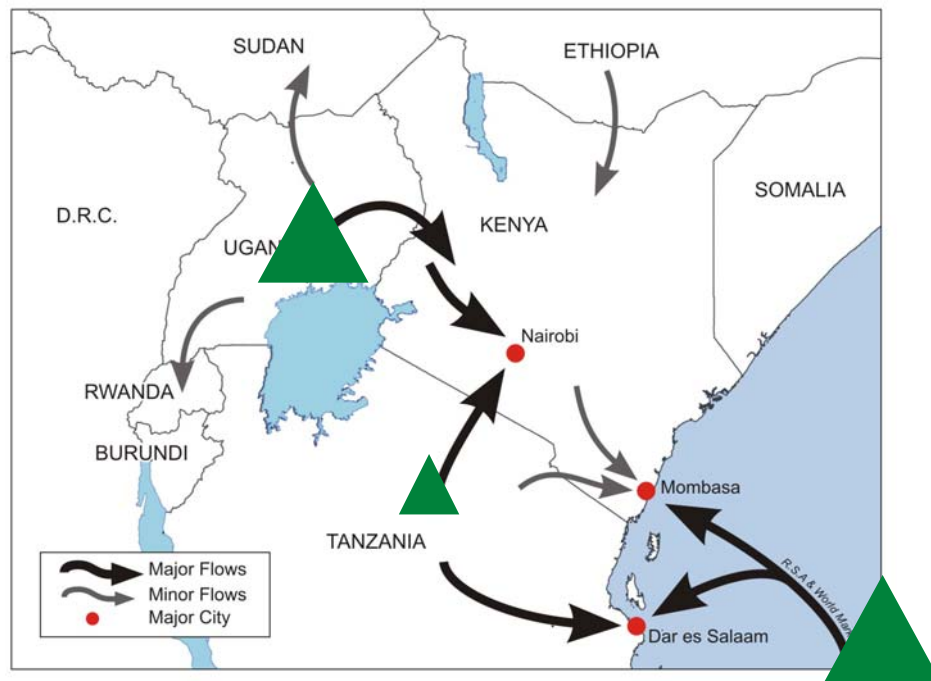
- Non-traded staples self sufficient: plantains, cassava, sweet potatoes
- Maize and beans: cash crops for export (170,000 tons of maize; 90,000 tons of beans exported annually)
- Rice and wheat: Uganda remains highly import dependent

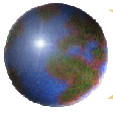
Commodity	Production (1000 tonnes)	Imports (1000 tonnes)	Formal Exports (1000 tonnes)	Imports share consumption (percent)	Formal export share prodn (percent)
Plantains	9110	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Cassava	4986	-	7	0.0%	0.1%
Maize	1230	33	41	2.7%	3.3%
Beans	446	3	19	0.7%	4.2%
Rice	105	63	18	42.0%	16.7%
Wheat	17	365	1	95.8%	7.4%
Others	8867	523	513	5.9%	5.8%
Total	24761	986	598	3.9	2.4%



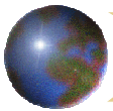
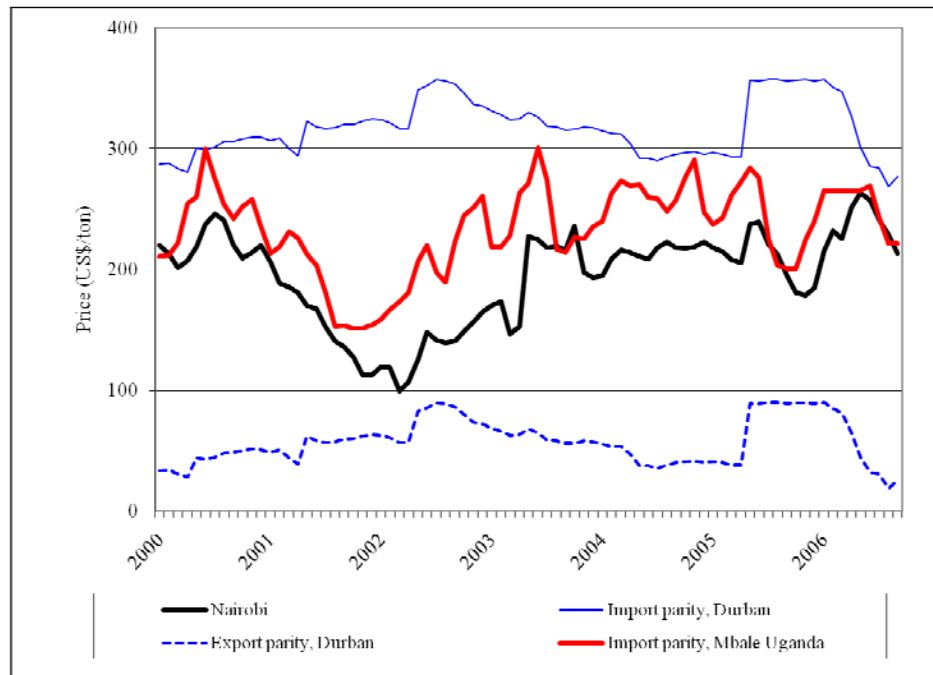
East Africa Maize Market Shed –

Uganda is a major surplus producer and exporter



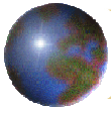


Uganda maize exports cap Nairobi price

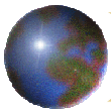
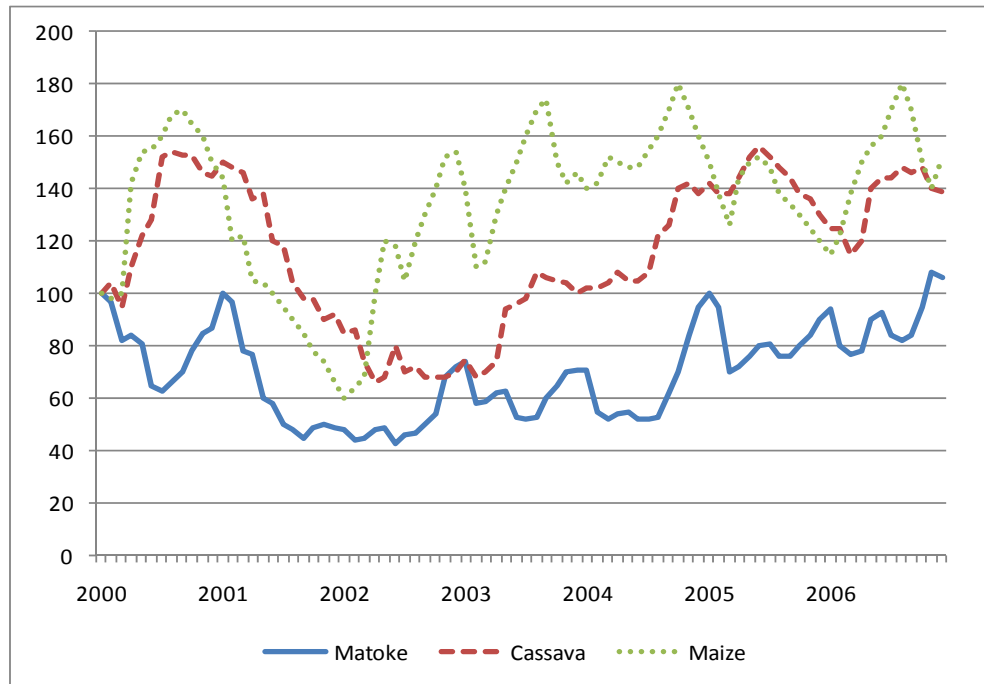


Food policy

- Government funds agricultural research and extension
- Largely free-market food trade policies (no bans)
- Government aims to promote regionally competitive food exports
- Food aid for refugees used as procurement and market promotion tool

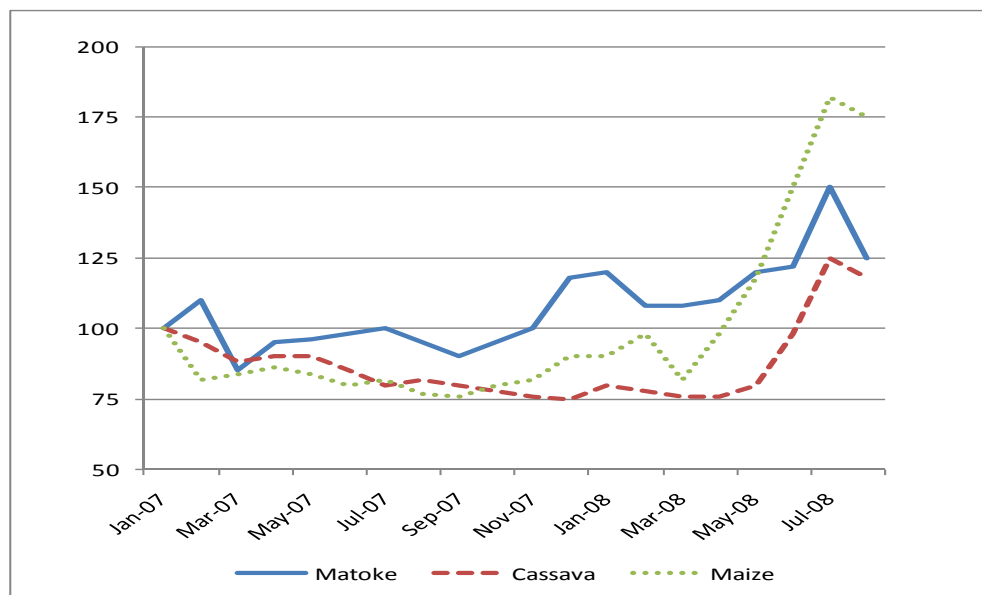


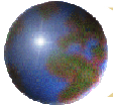
Price trends 2000 to 2006: flat



Price trends 2007 and 2008

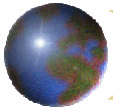
- Maize price spikes: 75%
- Matoke and cassava up 25%, then down





Food policy – response to 2007 price spike

- Main staples (matoke, cassava, sweet potatoes) largely nontraded and unaffected
- Volatile cereals are minor consumption items
- No response was taken



Conclusions

- Uganda enjoys a large variety of food staples
- Main staples largely nontraded, stable prices
- Cereal prices unstable and subject to outside influences (from Kenya for maize, overseas for wheat and rice)
- Because cereals account for minor consumption share, cereal price volatility → mild impact on consumers
- Foodcrop diversification allows roots and perennial crops to soften consumption instability of cereals