

Food sovereignty in Uganda

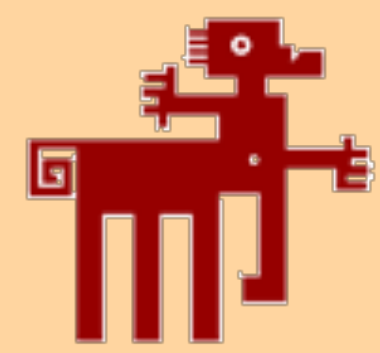
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Introduction

Food sovereignty is the right of a community to have accessible healthy food, culturally appropriate and produced ecologically and sustainably ¹.

Frequently, in Uganda, as well as in other countries, this right is not respected, mostly owing to soil disputes.

Objectives

1. Deepen in the concept of food sovereignty
2. Understand Uganda's socio-economical situation
3. Review the soil disputes that take place in Uganda
4. Consider the veterinarian role in this situation



Figure 2. An Uganda Kob (*Kobus kob thomasi*) stands in front of an Oil Rig in Murchison Falls Protected Area.



Figure 3. A group of Batwa living in shacks, years after they have been evicted from their homeland, the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Conclusions

Food sovereignty is a complex issue that carries with it important controversy; mostly due to the differences found between the involved groups.

Some suggested solutions include promoting education about food sovereignty and also to actively participate in sustainable agricultural projects.

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Figure 1. Sugar cane fields after the harvest.

Uganda

Uganda is an East African country, that counts with 38 million inhabitants. The GDP nominal per capita is of 700 US\$. The majority of the population works at the fields ².

Soil disputes

This project has focused on reviewing some of the most recent soil disputes, which have been separated into four groups: sugarcane production, palm oil production ³, creation of National Parks and drilling for oil ⁴.

As a result of these disputes, the evicted families lose their economic sustain and their food sovereignty. In some cases, the responsible companies offer two scenarios to the affected families: either they work on the lands or they ought to leave.

A veterinarian's role

Veterinarians have two main roles that consist on both raising awareness about the importance of respecting food sovereignty ⁵ and helping improve the agricultural developement in a sustainabe way.



Figure 4. Mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) in the Bwindii National Park.