



THE AGRICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



ACDP NEWS BULLETIN | July 2021 | Issue 6



Ground breaking ceremony for construction of a Cassava processing facility by Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, Minister of Agriculture at Agurur Cassava Growers- beneficiaries of ACDP Matching Grants (Cohort 3) in Kateta sub county- Serere district. Looking on is Hon. Hellen Adoa, ACDP Coordinator Dr. H. Opolot, MAAIF staff, DLGs, Local leadership and group members.

Hon. MAAIF visits ACDP beneficiary farmer groups in the Teso sub- region

In a high-level supervisory mission to monitor MAAIF activities in the Eastern region, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze accompanied by Hon. Hellen Adoa, the Under Secretary, Commissioners and other MAAIF staff visited the Ministry activities in the Teso sub region.

Among the activities was the ground breaking ceremony of Agurur Cassava Growers located in Kateta sub county, Serere district. This group has a membership of over 160 and are beneficiaries of ACDP matching grant

for the construction of a cassava processing plant. Agurur Cassava growers are also e-Voucher beneficiaries and have benefited from subsidized quality cassava cuttings (NAROCAS 1) and postharvest



*Matching Grant worth
UGX 127, 398,108
disbursed to the group*

The group has been trained on Farmer Institutional Development and management through a partnership with Uganda Cooperative Alliance

The Minister and his team also visited Soroti Sweet Potato Producers and Processors Association (SOSPPA) , here he was able to interact with the ACDP beneficiary farmers on the cassava value chain from production to processing.

SOSPPA is also expected to receive a matching grant to expand their Cassava processing plant



Hon. Minister & team at the Pingire -Acumia road, prioritized road choke, Serere district

The team also visited one of the prioritized roads for rehabilitation (Pingire -Acumia road along Acumia-Odapakol Swamp) which connects Kateta sub-county to Pingire and Labori sub counties.

This road choke is a major impediment to movement of farmers' produce from the farm to the market.

These areas are characterized by high production of rice and fishing.

On the MAAIF team was; Hon. Hellen Adoa, Minister of State for Fisheries, Commissioner AES/ACDP Coordinator, Dr. Henry Nakelet Opolot, Assistant Commissioner Mechanization, Eng. Boniface Okanya, Under- Secretary, Mr. Ssegawa Ronald Gyagenda and MAAIF stakeholders.

The district team was composed of the CAO, RDC, DPO, DAO, OWC, Agric. officers, Local council leaders and ACDP beneficiary farmers.

UGX 8 billion disbursed to 170 Farmer groups in the third cohort

Under the sub-component for Area-based Commodity Cooperatives, Warehousing, Value addition and Marketing, ACDP supports investments of locally based farm cooperatives and associations in community-level post-harvest handling, grading, bulking, storage and processing for value addition.

The mechanism for this support is a Matching Grant that finances two-thirds (67%) of the cost of developing infrastructures and purchase of equipment needed to scale up and improve the effectiveness of the cooperatives.

As of June 2021, the ACDP/MAAIF has signed grant agreements with 364 selected Farmer Organizations.

In the first cohort, 118 Farmer cooperatives from the five pilot clusters received grants worth UGX 35 billion, of which government financing was UGX 23,565,314,956 and the farmer cooperatives' co-financing was UGX 11,606,796,869.

In the second cohort, 70 farmer cooperatives from five clusters received grants worth UGX 26 billion. In this cohort, government financing was UGX 18,447,831,855 and the grantee's co-financing was UGX 9,086,245,541.



Installed cassava processing machinery at Kud Oul farmers' group, Koch subcounty in Nebbi district

The last cohort, under current matching grant financing has 176 beneficiaries. These grantees are distributed across eleven clusters.

The total grant worth is UGX 48 billion, with a government financing of UGX 32,021,813,800 and the Farmer Organizations' co-financing of UGX 16,479,360,626.

This support is meant for farmers to undertake bulking, value addition and collective marketing of quality produce for better prices and incomes at the household level.

According to ACDP Project Coordinator, Dr Henry Nakelet Opolot, supporting farmers with productivity enhancing inputs will reduce post-harvest losses of up to between 30% - 40%.

He notes that ,developing infrastructure is expensive and smallholder farmers are among the 68% who are not in the money economy, so them to participate they need to be supported.

Most of the beneficiary Farmer Organisations in the first and second cohort have completed construction of their post-harvest storage and processing infrastructures, and installed equipment.

The installed equipment include Rice mills, Maize mills, Generators, Bean Seed cleaners, Coffee hullers, Cassava processing equipment and Dryers among others. Equipment has mainly been supplied by

Musa Body Uganda Ltd, Tonnet Agro Engineering Uganda limited, China Huangpai Food Machines U Ltd, SCOGEM, Weighcom Uganda Ltd and Brazafrica (U) Ltd .

These suppliers were identified by the Farmer groups during the Agri- business expos that were held in November, 2019 at Nambole and the agri-business expos held at the district local government level due to COVID19 restrictions and observance of SOPs.

These investments are expected to expand storage capacities among these communities by 5,900 metric tons. The facilities offer storage for 1,250 metric tons of Maize, 1,200 metric tons of Beans, 1,800 metric tons of Coffee, 1,000 metric tons of rice, and 650 metric tons of cassava.



Completed storage facility for Parombo Multi-stakeholders Innovation Platform(PAMSIP), Nebbi district.

Success Stories from the Field

Bean Farmers in Kagorogoro village, Rukiga district reap big bulking with community owned storage facility



Group members sorting beans at Karubanda tukorerehamwe group, storage facility in Rukiga district

Introduction

Karubanda Tukorerehamwe Cluster is a farmer organization based in Kagorogoro village, Bukinda sub county Rukiga district. This farmer organization started in 2013 and their main activity was growing Irish potatoes, until government through ACDP came to support them with inputs and training to grow beans. Ms Christine Muhwezi chairperson of the group said.

Matching grant

Under ACDP, Karubanda Tukorerehamwe was awarded a matching grant of Ugx 231m with the farmers Organization co-funding of Ugx 114m. The group has been able to construct a storage facility of 40 MT capacity.

“We used that money to construct our storage facility with a capacity of 40 tonnes, we managed to have machines for sorting and grading beans such that we improve the quality of our beans and get a good market. Our machines have not started working that is why we are using casual labourers to do sorting for us because we have a supply to make in three days.” Ms Muhwezi narrated.

Better farming practices

Farmers have been trained in better farming practices like terracing, applying fertilizers, mulching and planting in lines which has increased yields.

“Before ACDP we were producing 2 tons of beans, we were trained good agronomic practices so the yields have increased from 2 tons to 25 tons”

This not only improved their yields but also improved quality at both postharvest and farm level.

“ This has increased our income as every member produces approx. 700kilograms.

Most organizations are now interested in working with our group since we are serious business people. Our markets have improved as we have high quality beans in big volumes.”

We have been able to create jobs for the members of the public to work at our stores but we still need government funding to improve our capacity.

“In the stores right now, we have 10 tonnes of beans. We face challenges of capital and transport. If we had enough capital, we would have collected all the beans in the sub county and filled the store to the required capacity”

Rice value-chain boosted with UGX 168,400, 000 Matching Grant

Implementing Partners

Ministry of Agriculture,
Animal Industry and
Fisheries.

Fifty-seven District Local
Governments.

Funded by
The World Bank

For more details, Contact:

Dr. Henry Nakelet Opolot

The Project Coordinator

The Agriculture Cluster

Development Project |

Plot 14-18, Lugard

Avenue | P O Box 101,

Entebbe- Uganda

Toll free No. 0800203900

Website:

www.agriculture.go.ug

Email:

acdpcu@agriculture.go.ug

Twitter:

@UgAcdp

@ MAAIF_Uganda

Our Blog:

<https://ugacdp.blogspot.com>

Introduction

West Acholi Cooperative Union is member based and works closely with 10,867 smallholder farmers organized under primary cooperative societies in the districts of Gulu, Nwoya, Amuru and Omoro. The cooperative is engaged in various crop enterprises that include rice, maize, soybean and sorghum. The ACDP crop for this cooperative is rice.

Matching Grant

In 2020, West Acholi Cooperative union was among the 10 farmer organizations that benefited from the ACDP matching grants from Nwoya district.

“A total grant of **UGX 168,400, 000** was used to construct a 120MT storage capacity, a drying yard, a farm house and two toilets, the Union has also been fully fenced”

In addition, a 2.5 MT capacity rice processing machine has been installed at the Union headquarters.

After members of the union joined the ACDP e-Voucher scheme, they were able to access improved quality inputs. As a result, the quality of produce at farm level has improved. Farmers now use tarpaulins and good storage facilities. Quality at processing stage has also been aided by pre-cleaner section of the rice milling machine and grader.

The Union now packages and has branded its rice product so that they can access bigger markets. The rice now sells between 2000-2500Ugx per kilo due to the improved packaging and branding



Rice mill - West Acholi Cooperative Union Ltd acquired from the ACDP/MAAIF matching grant

The Rice value-chain

WACU has been engaged in rice production both at the group and individual farmer level.

Despite the engagement in the rice value chain, WACU and its affiliates are faced with challenges of counterfeit inputs, post-harvest losses, storage problem, low and fluctuating prices of the rice produced.

This challenge consequently resulted in low production and productivity and poor produce quality associated with low prices in the market space.

Benefits to Members

The five primary cooperatives societies affiliated to the Union have benefited from the constructed stores, the rice mills and input subsidy. Currently the Union buys rice from its members at 1000Ugx per kilo (unprocessed rice) above the current market of 800Ugx.

It has also provided a market to its members. For example, WACU signed a supply contract with Mburugu dairy cooperative society in Kenya to supply rice bran to the tune of 300MT per year at a cost of 4x per kilo. WACU is also processing quality rice and supplying Gulu City and linking up with other rice traders from Kampala and Southern Sudan.

Managing Editors

Mr. Stephen Ojangole

Dr. Henry N. Opolot

Contributing Authors

Josephine Nakawangi

Cluster Coordinator

Production & Editorial

Dr. Janet Cox Achora