



THE AGRICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



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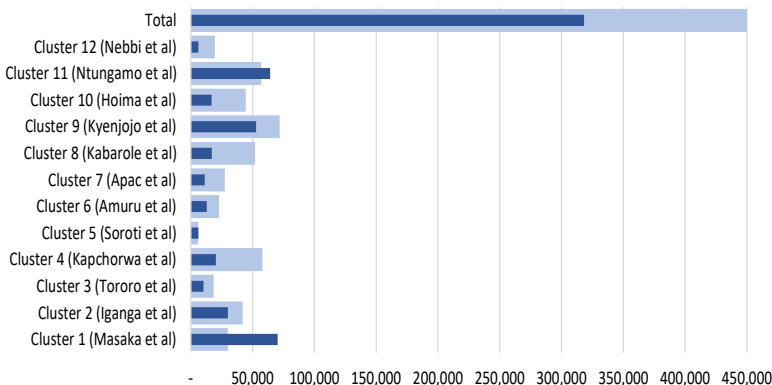
Farmers embrace e-Voucher: Kalungu, Soroti and Ntungamo clusters surpass enrollment targets

The e-Voucher Management system currently piloted in 57 districts is an initiative by Government through the Ministry of Agriculture to digitize agriculture in Uganda. With support from the World Bank, this system is implemented by ACDP In Co-junction with the district local governments. It is a cashless system of input distribution where farmers are registered and enrolled; Agro-input dealers are accredited and put in the system to ensure quality and traceability. Upon registration, a farmer contributes 33% of the total cost of inputs in the first cycle. The 67% is the subsidy government pays to the farmer's e-Wallet in the first cycle. In the second cycle the farmer contributes 50% and the government 50% and in the third cycle the farmer contributes 67% and the government subsidy is 37%.

The inputs are ordered from accredited Agro-input dealers. Upon delivery of inputs, a farmer initiates payment directly to an accredited supplier where he/she redeems their inputs.

Target Vs Actual enrollment by cluster

Clusters 1, 5 and 11 have already 'enrolled more people than the target' number of beneficiaries. The total number of people enrolled is 'less than the target number' of beneficiaries by 131, 663



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“By the end of February 2021, 71% (318, 337) smallholder farmers had been enrolled into the e-Voucher Management system. The three clusters of Kalungu, Soroti and Ntungamo had surpassed their enrollment targets by 40, 277 (134%); 201 (3.3%); 7,275 (12.7%) respectively”

The three clusters of Kalungu, Soroti and Ntungamo will no longer be enrolling farmers instead the focus will now be moving these farmers from cycle one to cycle two; then to cycle three and finally the farmers will now be empowered to order improved inputs.

The objective of this decreasing e-subsidy program is that as a farmer progresses from cycle 1 to cycle 2 and 3, they become more economically empowered and can meet the full cost of their inputs. In the first season when the farmer joins the subsidy program, he/she contributes 33% of the cost of inputs while the project subsidizes by 67%, in the second season the contribution by the farmer and the project is 50% and in the third season, the farmer is expected to contribute 67% and the project 33%.

Finally it is expected that in the fourth season, the farmer knows the value and what type of inputs to order, the expected benefits that accrue from using improved inputs, is a member of the empowered farmer associations and therefore has an avenue of where to bulk and market his produce.

Some of the reasons that can be attributed to the high enrollment levels in these clusters are the highly organized farmer groups and the crops grown in these clusters. For example in Kalungu cluster alone, 55 farmer organizations were awarded Matching grants, In Soroti cluster, 36 farmer organizations submitted business plans and in Ntungamo cluster 28 farmer organizations have been funded for construction of storage facilities and purchase of machinery. The crops grown in these clusters are beans, coffee, cassava, rice and maize.



ACDP rice farmer, Iganga cluster

Community Access Roads in Kalungu district now motorable



Before: Flooded section of Buwanda swamp, Kalungu district



After: The road was raised, filled with marram and culverts installed

One of the major Investments, the ACDP project has done at the community level is the removal of bottlenecks commonly referred to as “road chokes” on critical farm access roads. This investment primarily targets the removal of bottlenecks that impede transportation to and from areas of production. This is a key strategic output of the project that aims at improving accessibility of production areas to post-harvest handling centres and markets.

As of February 2020, works had been completed in Kalungu district, with ongoing works in other pilot clusters. The services of Victoria Construction Limited were procured as the contractor to carry out rehabilitative works on “chokes” on 29.3km Farm access roads in Kalungu District. Kalungu is one of the districts under the pilot clusters and rehabilitative works had been ear marked on the following community access roads;

ZZave-Kiggundu Road (3.4Km) in Kyamulibwa sub county; Nabutongwa-Kalokero-Kyamusoke-Kiraga-Katogondo (9.95Km) in Kalungu sub county; Lusango-Mitete (2.9Km) in Bukulula

Kabaale-Buwanda-Kigajju (8.8Km) in Lwabenge sub county; Kijomanyi-Namagoma-Bweyo (2.5Km) in Kalungu sub county; Kitabona-Namasavu (5.3Km) in Bukulula sub county.

*“ Scope of works included:
Site preparatory works; Setting out & site clearing; Earth works, drainage works; Graveling & completion works; Preliminary & general items; ES&S mainstreaming Activities ”*

This investment from the Ministry of Agriculture is expected to improve the movements of produce from the farm to the trading centers; and from the farm to the bulking centres that have also been supported by ACDP in the different clusters.

Stories from the Field

In 2018 season B, Jjongonza coffee Cooperative was introduced to ACDP and the e-Voucher program by the District extension Officer.

The group went ahead and convinced other small farmer groups to join the cooperative because they did not want to miss the opportunity of competing for the matching grants. In total, they managed to reach 341 members who collectively contributed money towards the purchase of 2 hectares of land and the eighty four million co-funding, the rest is now history as the group won a matching grant of ..

“UGX 255,150,000”

“This grant will enable the farmers to increase their savings because they no longer have pay the 250 shillings for processing per kilogram, since they own a milling machine

&

They will have more time for themselves as they will no longer have to travel long distance just to take their coffee for processing to the milling machines”

Jjongonza Coffee Cooperative society now milling coffee for its members and other farmers in Kyotera district



Mr. Muwonge of Jjongoza cooperative, Mr. Kakeeto of ACDP at the cooperative society

Jjongonza Coffee Cooperative society limited is located in Kyotera district. In 2019, the Cooperative was among those who submitted a business plan and was awarded the Matching grants of One hundred seventy million nine hundred and fifty thousand Uganda shillings as government contribution and the Cooperative contributed eighty four Million, one hundred ninety and nine thousand Uganda shillings to make a total of two hundred fifty-five million one hundred and fifty thousand Uganda shillings (UGX 255,150, 000) only. The Cooperative has been able to construct an office, construct storage facility a milling machine house and buy a milling machine from the grant.

***“We are nearing completion of the storage facility, we already have our machine installed and very soon we are going to be connected to electricity because that was catered for in the grant”
said Deo Muwonge, Secretary to the Board.***

Mr Muwonge believes that this has been the best investment for the Cooperative as they now own land and have a bigger space that will allow them to work easily. The Matching Grant will increase their productivity and enable bulking. Farmers will reduce on the post-harvest losses they have been experiencing as they now have a storage facility which they can use to store their coffee. They believe this storage facility will increase on the value of their produce and fetch better prices.

Implementing Partners
Ministry of Agriculture,
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Fifty-seven District Local
Governments.

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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:

@UgAcddp
@MAAIF_Uganda

Our Blog:

<https://ugacdp.blogspot.com>

Managing Editors

Mr. Stephen Ojangole
Dr. Henry N. Opolot

Contributing Authors

Prossy Nakibuuka
Intern -ACDP

Production & Editorial

Dr. Janet Cox Achora

Coffee farmer Nassolo has a ready market at Jjongonza Coffee Cooperative Association.



Coffee farmer Nassolo has a ready market at the cooperative

Nassolo Rose Mary Kiwanuka 73 years lives in Kirumba sub-county Lwemikoma village Kyotera District. She is a widow to Late Kiwanuka to whom she was married for over 39 years.

She cannot wait to be enrolled in Cycle 2 of the program because she made enough savings that can enable her afford the two hundred twenty five thousand Uganda Shillings (UGX 225000).

She has been able to avoid post-harvest losses by using tarpaulin to dry her coffee, She pays school fees for her grandchildren, sells her coffee in bulk and has ready market in her Jjongonza Coffee Cooperative Association.

As Rose was trying to find a way of survival, ACDP was rolled out in the Greater Masaka region,

“When the Extension workers and the chairperson first told me about ACDP and the Voucher program I thought it was a scam but decided to give it a try in September, 2019. They taught me how the program works and I was introduced to the cooperative known as Jjongonza Coffee Farmers’ Cooperative society where I was registered as a member. I was given training in fertilizer application, herbicide use and disposal, and the e-Voucher Program. I paid 148, 500 Ugx and ordered for fertilizer, tarpaulin and herbicides in that season”. says Rose.

Nassolo has since increased yields from 3 sacks of 50 kilograms to over 20 sacks of coffee (Kiboko) of 100 kilograms in one season.

