



THE AGRICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

MAAIF signs UGX 34 Billion Matching Grant agreements with Local Farmer Associations

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One of the biggest challenges to food security is post-harvest losses. The five main segments where food losses occur are at harvest, drying, threshing/shelling, and grading/cleaning, farm storage, transportation and market storage.

Under ACDP Subcomponent 2.2, the focus is to support investments of locally based farm cooperatives and associations in community-level post-harvest handling, grading, bulking and storage; and processing for value addition.

Mr. Christopher Gumisiriza, ACDP Grants Manager said that , “.....by September 2019, grants worth 34 billion had been approved for funding under the project, ...”. He continued to say that, the project was aware that beneficiary organizations were faced with a number of challenges like negotiation skills, while on the other hand, the suppliers had limited knowledge of the specific locations and needs of the farmer cooperatives”.

To date, he says, 117 farmer associations have signed grant agreements worth 34 billion with co-funding from government worth 23 billion and 29 grantees have received funding.

Mr Isiko, the district production officer Bugiri notes that cost sharing under ACDP is the way to go. On the co-financing mechanism, he says “This model has created a lot of ownership and the farmers are really appreciative... “



Jubilations as local farmer associations receive the dummy cheque from the Chief Guest

In November last year, the project together with the World Bank, organized an Agribusiness Match Making Expo at Namboole stadium in Kampala to match grantees with potential suppliers, contractors and service providers.

According to Mr Gumisiriza, the matching grant is a cost sharing mechanism, where government finances 67% and the farmer association meets the remaining 33% towards the cost of the purchase of tools, equipment, machinery and services needed to scale up and improve the effectiveness of postharvest handling.



ACDP stall at the Harvest Money Expo at Namboole- Kampala.



On- going farmer mobilization and sensitization in the roll out clusters

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e-Monitoring System to address challenges of Performance Data

The Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan 2015/16 – 2019/20 highlights one of the challenges of the agricultural sector as gaps in agricultural statistical data on crops, livestock and fisheries. The proposed intervention for improvement of gaps in sector agricultural statistics was to establish an electronic monitoring system for performance data collection. In line with this intervention, the Agriculture Cluster Development Project is developing an e-M&E System with the ability to capture data using electronic devices connected to mobile networks, upload information to a centralized database, and geospatially aggregate the data from local, regional, or national levels. Electronic Routine Monitoring Tool were developed using kobo collect, an open-source software, and installed on Computer-Aided Personal Interviewers. The tools will be deployed across all the 57 ACDP project districts to enable real-time data collection and reporting using mobile technologies.

In December last year, the monitoring and evaluation unit deployed the Electronic Routine Monitoring Tools and e-Grievance Redress Mechanism Tool in the five pilot districts of Kalungu, Iganga, Amuru, Ntungamo, Nebbi and Amuru. The deployment exercise included a training that

benefitted a total of 470 district officials including 36 members of district coordination teams, 68 sub-county chiefs, 55 Sub-county extension workers, 53 Sub-county community development officers, and 258 parish chiefs. These are the focal point persons for data collection at the different tiers of local government.

A total of 170 tablets were provided to the 5 pilot districts and a procurement for 3000 tablets is in final stages. These are to be provided to district staff in the roll-out districts. A pilot phase in which routine monitoring tools were deployed, as a precursor to establishing the system, has been used to capture seasonal farm production data and farmer organization performance data.

This e-Monitoring and Evaluation system will provide the project with seasonal production and productivity data for the commodities supported by the project, since data is collected every season by the districts. All data collected is housed at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Database termed as the “Data Lake”.

Moving forward more standardized data collection tools will be deployed by the project to boost administrative data at the Ministry level.

A farmers’ register was also deployed in the financial year 2018/19 and this data is also stored in the “Data Lake

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Training of the District Teams in the Electronic Routine Monitoring tools- Ntungamo District

MAAIF signs a one-year contract with Uganda Cooperative Alliance to build Institutional capacities of Farmer Organizations for optimal utilization of e-Vouchers

In March 2017, MAAIF under the Agribusiness Technology and Agribusiness Advisory Services (ATAAS) project funded by World Bank undertook an exercise that assessed the functionality of existing farmer organizations. A capacity needs assessment was also carried out with an aim of establishing the various capacity gaps across all the value chains and for all types of farmer organizations at both lower and higher level farmer organizations. The study revealed various capacity gaps with one of the findings as lack of business orientation amongst the farmer groups. Farmer organizations were also not adequately organized to;

- ✦ Undertake collective action in input and output bulking,
- ✦ Attract profitable markets, business development services
- ✦ Play effective roles in their respective value chains.
- ✦ Lacked the adequate capacity to mobilize resources internally to facilitate their value chain activities.

In some areas the study established that there were no farmer organizations. As a result of the findings from this study, one of ACDP's key output areas is to facilitate farmers in groups to access e-vouchers, undertake collective action to be able to participate in value chains, support input and output bulking, invest in value addition activities, attract profitable market linkages, and improve farmer organisation internal resource mobilization strategies to support investments.

A one year contract has been signed with Uganda Cooperative Alliance to support the formation, growth and development of farmer groups into strong, sustainable and commercially viable entities.



One of the farmer sensitization and mobilization in ACDP roll out districts

- ✦ Train the district technical leadership/core team, agricultural and community development officers and Community Based Facilitators as Training of Trainers.
- ✦ Strengthen the capacities of 25000 existing farmer organizations.
- ✦ Mobilize and sensitize farmers to form 1000 new lower level Farmer organizations, and Organize existing groups to form at-least two strong and commercially viable higher-level farmer organizations (Area-based Commodity Cooperative Enterprises / Rural Producer Organizations) in each district where they do not exist (one organization for each of the two commodities will be promoted in a district)

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Success stories- Namukuve a second season farmer narrates



Namukuve with her husband Vincent in one of their one acre maize fields- Bugiri district

My name is Namukuve Monica Nzimuli and my husband's name is Vincent. I joined the "cluster" project last season (2019) and my group is called "Tambula Ibone". We received training from our extension officer on how the cluster project works and he taught us two main things. That we have to plant maize and/or rice and that we have to be in a group. He also told us we would get an input package of 450,000 shillings of which we farmers, contribute 33 per cent.

I paid 148,500 shillings in the first season and I got maize seeds, two tarpaulins, spray pumps and fertilizer. In that first season we harvested 18 bags which we sold for 1,600,000 shillings

I sat down with my husband and we said, what do we do now? We decided to use the money to pay fees and buy a plot of land. We kept 500,000 shillings in the bank which we shall use to buy bricks and build a house.

I entered season two, here I paid 225,000 shillings and I got maize seeds, fertilizer, tarpaulin. We decided to expand the land from one acre to three more acres. This season I expect to make more profits. I will educate my children and continue building. I have also bought some chickens that we rear. Since we expanded to 3 more acres, we sequence how we use the maize, some can be for food and some for sale. I used to dig without fertilizers and I would get very low yield. I thank this project for bringing me out of poverty.

For the Markets, in our group we bulk, so we get all our money at once. I do not sell from here (home). We also got the matching grant and as the treasurer of the cooperative, I attended the Expo at Nambole, in fact in my group I have excelled. Asked if she faced any challenges, Monica said "the main challenges we have is using hoes to dig and the delay in input delivery".

As narrated by

Namukuve Monica Nzimuli

Nakyegereike village, Bulinda parish
Bugiri district.

What does a farmer need to enroll into the e-Voucher system?

In an interview with Sandra Namutosi, a UBA staff, Bugiri district, she said, "for a farmer to enroll into the system, they need..."

- ☛ A national ID
- ☛ A cell phone (either smart or a basic phone)
- ☛ A valid telephone number
- ☛ Belong to a farmer group

So when a farmer comes to the UBA staff, they are asked for their name, valid telephone number, date of birth, address (sub county), language, national ID no., Gender, farmer group, parish, sub-county and district. This information is saved into the system and an account is created for the farmer. The system creates an account number and triggers a create password. A farmer also needs to make an initial deposit of 20,000 shillings.

Some of the major challenges with farmers' enrollment are some farmers not having national IDs; farmers' forgetting their passwords to the e-Voucher system and financial challenges.

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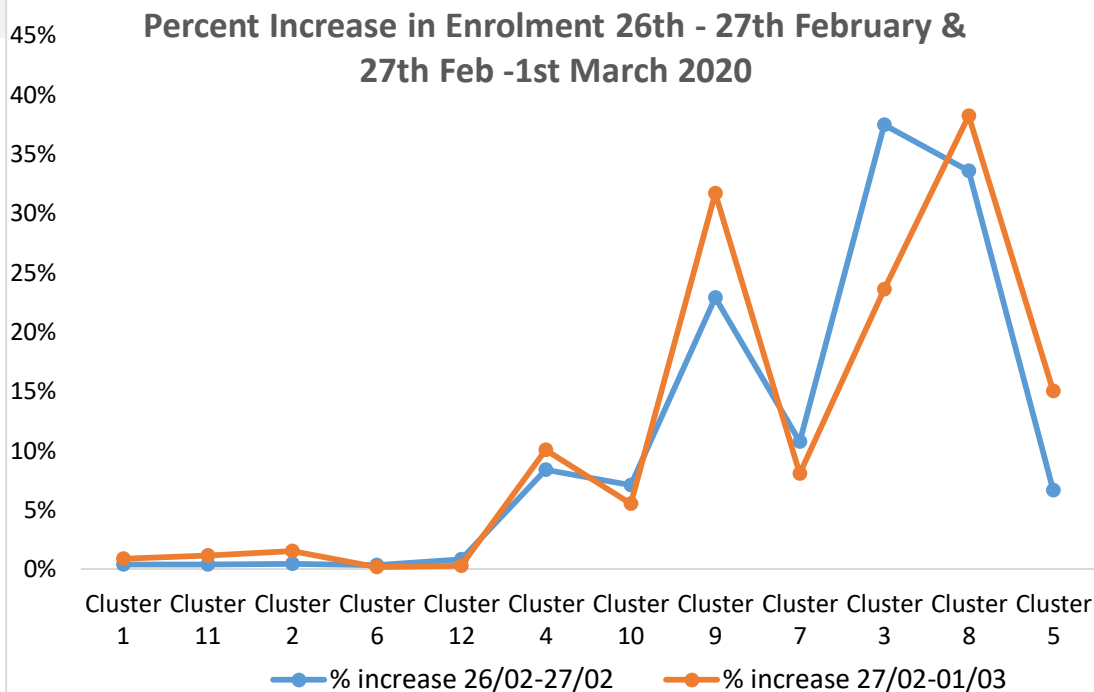
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The current enrollment status stands at 73,236 farmers, an increase of 3.8% from January 2020

Workshops and Upcoming events

February workshops



Proof of Concept Workshop for the Disruptive Agriculture Technology (DAT) innovations Challenge solutions 3-5 February, 2020, held at Speke Resort Hotel- Munyonyo.



Training of field workers from the Coffee clusters on ISFM and Sustainable Land Management Technologies 9-12 February 2020, held at Essella County Hotel.

Upcoming Events.

- Mid-term review
- Farmer registration and enrolment ongoing in all ACDP districts
- Regional Cluster Review meetings
- Project Steering Committee meetings
- Project Technical Committee meetings
- Sustainable Land Management write-shop