

THE AGRICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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President Museveni hands over a 60BN Cheque and flags off agro-processing equipment for smallholder farmers



President Museveni flags off post-harvest and value addition equipment for ACDP matching grant beneficiaries. The event took place on the 10th October, 2020 at Namalere Agricultural Referral Mechanization centre- Wakiso district (Courtesy Picture).

On the 10th of October 2020, President Museveni flagged off post-harvest and agro-processing equipment for smallholder farmer organizations at Namalere Agricultural Referral Mechanization centre in Wakiso district. This equipment was acquired by the small farmer organizations under a matching grant mechanism where the farmer organizations contributed 33% of the total cost of investment and the government through ACDP contributed 67%.

The equipment which was delivered to 47 different project sites was supplied by six companies, Musa Body (U) Ltd, Tonnet Agro Engineering (U) Ltd, China Huangpai Food Machines U Ltd, SCOGEM, Weighcom Uganda Ltd and Brazafrika (U) Ltd. In his address, the President noted that since 1986 the NRM government had accelerated the industrialization policy by reducing the importation of items like milk products, processed fish, drugs, cooking oil and textiles.

President Museveni hands over a 60BN Cheque and flags off agro-processing equipment.....

The President was happy that the Ministry had re-initiated the integrated approach of production and processing, which used to be the case before the colonial times. He went on to say that what the Ministry was doing was just the beginning of the agro-industrialization process that was fully supported by the government and it was good that smallholder farmers were involved. He thanked the farmers for co-funding of the purchase of the equipment and the local manufacturers like Musa Body (U) Ltd for the local fabrication of agricultural machinery. At the same ceremony, the President also handed over Shs 60billion dummy cheque to the awarded grant beneficiaries.

In her testimony, Ms Christine Muhwezi, one of the grantees, from Rukiga district representing Karubanda Tukorere Hamwe farmers association, said that their group had benefited a lot since joining ACDP and that they were now using improved farming methods.

Their bean yield had increased from three bags to 9-12 bags. The machinery that the group was going to acquire would help them to clean, sort and package the beans for the market.

Other dignitaries from MAAIF present at the function included the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Vincent Sempijja, the Ministers of State, the Permanent Secretary, the Under Secretary, Commissioners, ACDP Project Coordinator, RDCs, District Chairmen, DAOs and Project Coordination staff.

Related articles about the event can be found @

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/news/1529052/museveni-tells-ministry-invest-indigenous-seed-multiplication>

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<https://youtu.be/HOWTCYbNXvM>



President Museveni hands over a 60 bn dummy cheque to farmer organization representatives (Courtesy Picture)



President Museveni inspects some of the equipment. Also in the picture are the Minister Hon. Vincent Sempijja, Project Coordinator, Dr. Henry Opolot and the proprietor Musa bodies Ltd (Courtesy Picture)

ACDP Embraces Electronic Applications Processes for Enhanced Project Management

Unlike the previous years when the World Bank implementation support mission was composed of round table meetings, field visits and presentations, this year's implementation support mission and mid-term review was held virtually due to the novel COVID 19. The mission which was held from the 7th to 17th September 2020 had discussions ranging from project implementation progress, challenges and strategies on how to move forward.

“Overall the project performance was rated satisfactory”

The main objective was to undertake a comprehensive mid-term review of the project. Specifically, the mission sought to;

- Review progress towards achievement of the Project Development Objective.

- Review implementation of set targets towards the overall results framework.
- Assess the implementation status of agreed actions from the last support World Bank Mission.

Key recommendations from this mission are;

- Continue to improve implementation of the e-voucher scheme
- Strengthen the provision of extension services to farmers participating in e-voucher scheme
- Strengthen the linkages between Components one (intensification of on-farm production) and component two (value addition and market access)
- Have close monitoring and reporting on progress in the last batch of roll-out districts

Area-based Commodity Cooperative Enterprises prioritize – development of Value Addition facilities

Under the sub-component for Area-based commodity cooperatives level 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 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 ACCEs.

To date, the Ministry has signed grant agreements with 193 selected Farmer Organization from 24 pilot districts and approved additional 378 Farmer Organizations which are being prepared for grant agreement signing. As of September 30, 2020, Government had disbursed UGX 21.7 Billion to 111 (One hundred and eleven) beneficiaries in the 24 pilot districts. This support is meant for farmers to undertake bulking, value addition and collective marketing of quality produce for better prices and thus realize better incomes.

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 they need to be supported to participate in the money economy.

Most of the beneficiary Farmer Organizations have completed the first implementation phase of their respective projects that includes construction of stores and processing infrastructures. These facilities are expected to 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.



Parombo Multi-stakeholder Innovation Platform (PAMSIP) in Parombo-Nebbi district at completion stage

Twenty-eight grantees received awards valued at UGX 5.8 billion with a government contribution of UGX 5.52 billion. Construction of facilities are on-going with some near completion.

The third pilot cluster of Nebbi, which is composed of the districts of Nebbi, Arua, Maracha, Packwach and Yumbe, received a total of 15 grants. Government contribution is UGX 3,607,331,595 and Farmer Organisations have contributed UGX 1,750,761,964.

Amuru cluster received 18 grant awards with total value of UGX 2,761,610,997 as government contribution and Farmer Organizations contributed UGX 1,350,447,623. This Cluster is composed of four districts of Amuru, Nwoya, Gulu and Omoro.

In the fifth pilot cluster of Ntungamo, 24 grant were awarded. Government contribution is UGX 7.966 Billion and so far UGX 3.923 billion has been disbursed. Ntungamo cluster is composed of five districts, Ntungamo, Bushenyi, Rubanda, Rukiga, Kabale and Isingiro.

The equipment that will be installed include Rice mills, Maize mills, Generators, Bean Seed cleaners, Coffee hullers, Cassava processing equipment and Dryers among others. The investments are expected to expand storage capacities among these communities by 5,900 metric tons.



Cassava drying facility installed at Aratarac farmers coop- Nebbi district

In the Kalungu cluster composed of the five districts of Kalungu, Masaka, Kyotera, Rakai and Mpigi 29 grant awards were received by beneficiary farmer organizations under the first cohort. Government total contribution towards the construction of these facilities in this cluster is UGX 6.1 Billion

In the second pilot cluster of Iganga, composed of the four districts of Iganga, Namutumba, Bugweri and Bugiri.

ACDP builds Local Capacities for Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies



Practical demonstration of permanent planting basins and rip lines at the Kabarole district training

Integration of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Integrated Soil fertility Management (ISFM) are important if farmers are to achieve high production and productivity. These practices involve proper use of herbicides, minimum tillage technologies, having soil and water conservation structures, correct fertilizers use and good agronomy practices.

SLM refers to the adoption of land use systems that, through appropriate management practices, enables land users to maximize economic and social benefits from the land while maintaining or enhancing ecological support functions of land resources.

Therefore, it is important that farmers are continuously trained and provided with the right information about these technologies. It was against this background that the SLM team organized trainings for district agricultural extension officers for skills on SLM and ISFM.

This time the trainings took place at Mountains of the Moon hotel in Kabarole district from the 21st to 25th of September, 2020 and at Akello Country hotel Soroti from the 28th September, to 2nd October, 2020.

Specifically, the training sought to skill field extension workers on ISFM and SLM Integration in coffee, maize, beans and rice. The training also skilled extension workers on how to lay out standard field demonstration gardens and local seed multiplication plot for the five ACDP commodities, beans, cassava, rice, coffee and maize.

Participants were drawn from the five pilot clusters of Kalungu, Ntungamo, Nebbi, Iganga and Amuru. A total of 34 District Agricultural Officers and 84 Agricultural Officers were trained.

Why Sustainable land management practices

Sustainable Land Management practices enable farmers and communities to adapt, as well as become more resilient, to climate change by increasing food production, conserving soil and water, enhancing food security and restoring productive natural resources.

In most of the agricultural production zones, the soils are old with little mineral nutrient reserves. Many cases where phosphorus, potassium and calcium, are below critical levels, it means that there is

- a decrease in fallow periods due to increased pressure on land.
- those under ‘fallow’ are in poor state.
- rain-fed agriculture.
- continuous cultivation without fertility enhancement.
- increased nutrient mining with low inputs and
- limited use of land management practices.

SLM structures and practices help to retain soil and water which increase yield production. SLM has four main components (i) Structural e.g. terraces, contour bunds, stone lines, diversion channels, retention ditches, grass water ways, trash lines, (ii) Conservation agriculture e.g. rip lines, permanent planting basins;

(iii) Agronomic e.g. Mulching, intercropping, germplasm, cover crops, alley cropping, crop rotation (iv) Vegetative e.g. grass strips/bunds, hedge barriers, windbreaks, agroforestry, and management e.g. land use change, rotational grazing.

During the trainings, participants were taken through the practical demonstration which included, marking and construction of contour trenches both “fanya chini” and “fanya juu”, permanent planting basins, ripe lines, contour grass bands, planting different crops and varieties in both permanent and ripe lines.

Also, soil testing and herbicide application especially on spraying were demonstrated. Participants appreciated the training and on return to their respective district Local Governments, they would transfer this knowledge by scaling up these demonstrations to farmers.



Mr. Mpaata George demonstrating spraying techniques to the participants at the Soroti district training

ACDP New Staff Appointments



Barbra Clara Khayongo, joins ACDP as the Environmental Specialist effective 1st October 2020. Barbra's previously worked with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and is a designated Environmental Inspector. Barbra holds a Masters' degree in Public health Leadership, a Bachelors' degree in Environmental Health Science, Post graduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management, and certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation.



Deogracious Opolot joins ACDP as the Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant effective 1st September 2020. Deogracious's previous work assignments were with Busitema University, Farmer Research Network and the Project for Restoration of Livelihoods in Northern Uganda. Deogracious holds a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics of Makerere University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and a post graduate Certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation; certificates in data management and analysis.



Moses Tera Marahi, comes to ACDP with a wealth of expertise as the Zonal Sustainable Land Management Coordinator effective 1st October, 2020. Before this appointment, Moses held the position of an Agronomist and he has over eight years of experience from the private sector. Moses holds a Master of Science in Integrated Watershed Management from Kenyatta University Nairobi Kenya and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Land Use and Management from Makerere University, Kampala- Uganda.



Loga Dorcas Elizabeth Okello is the in-coming Grants Officer effective 1st October 2020. Previously Dorcas worked as a Grants Manager for the SHARE Intra ACP Mobility Scheme hosted in the Department of Extension and Innovation Studies at Makerere University. She brings a wealth of expertise with over 11 years' experience in grants management and administration of European Union, Intra-Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, and EDULINK grants. Ms. Loga holds a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Extension Education, and a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management of Makerere University, Kampala- Uganda.



Pease Anna Auyat, comes to ACDP as the Financial Management Assistant effective 1st September, 2020. Previously Peace worked with Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) as a Data Assistant and KPMG as an Accounts Assistant where she has gained expertise in auditing, financial risk management and financial advisory. Peace holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. She is affiliated with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.



Dunsen Tayebwa joins ACDP as the Zonal Agricultural Extension Coordinator effective 1st October, 2020. An Agricultural/Development Economist with more than 15 years' experience, Dunsen previous work assignment was with TAB Logistics Limited a consultancy firm specializing in provision of advisory services in agriculture and natural resources management. Dunsen holds a Master of Science degree in Development Economics of Uganda Martyrs University, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Economics of Makerere University and has undergone a series of postgraduate and on job trainings alongside his work career.



Fredrick Kakeeto joins ACDP as the Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant effective 1st September, 2020. Previous work assignments were with Elite Research solutions as a Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, and with the Parliament of Uganda as a Research Assistant. Fredrick holds a Bachelor's degree of Economics and Management from Uganda Christian University and a Post graduate diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from Uganda Management Institute.



Epilo James joins ACDP as the Zonal Agricultural Extension Coordinator effective 1st October, 2020. James previously worked as the Oilseeds Coordinator with the Vegetable Oil Development Project Phase 2 (VODP2). Mr Epilo holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, Makerere University and Masters of Science in Agricultural development, Copenhagen University, Denmark.

Implementing Partners
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Press briefing- Media Centre



A Media briefing held at the Media Centre on the 8th October, 2020 at which the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Vincent Sempijja accompanied by the ACDP project coordinator and Grants officer briefed the press on the Flag off event of post-harvest and value addition machinery that was presided over by H.E the President at Namalere Referral Mechanization centre.

Project status virtual meeting held with DLGs

On the 2nd of October, the Project Coordination Unit held a virtual meeting with the District agricultural officers and District Production officers. The purpose of this meeting was to provide all districts an update on the project status.

Key focus of the discussion were;

1. Implementation of Road chokes.
2. Disbursement of operational funds for the FY 2020/21.
3. New guidelines on enrolment and redemption of farmers into the e-voucher system.
4. Funding for matching grants across clusters.
5. Orientation, roles and responsibilities of community based facilitators.
6. Modalities and format for cluster review Meetings Upcoming.

Input redemption- Cluster seven



In the picture farmers in Cluster seven receive their inputs. Cumulatively this cluster has an enrollment of 8595 farmers in the e- Voucher Management system. Cluster seven consists of the districts of Apac, Lira, Kole, Oyam, Kwanja and Dokolo.