



UglIFT
**MICRO-SCALE
IRRIGATION PROGRAM**
Improving farmers' livelihood

A GUIDE FOR LOCAL LEADERS:

What are the benefits of irrigation?

What is the Micro-scale Irrigation Program?

How can I help my constituency access the Micro-scale Irrigation Program?

SEPTEMBER 2020



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL INDUSTRY &
FISHERIES



Ministry Mission:

*"To transform subsistence farming
to commercial agriculture"*

INTRODUCTION TO MICRO-SCALE IRRIGATION

Welcome!

Farmers in your constituency often suffer because they are dependent on unpredictable rainfall to grow their crops. This dependence often leads to production losses, income losses, and food insecurity. This brochure will show you how your community can benefit from irrigation through the Micro-scale Irrigation Program. We hope you find this brochure useful. Please help promote the Micro-scale Irrigation Program within your constituency. Thank you!

What challenges do smallholder farmers face?

Uganda enjoyed two reliable rainy seasons in the recent past, allowing farmers to produce crops under rainfed conditions.

However, the situation is different for farmers today because rain does not fall as expected. For example, sometimes rain does not fall when crops are growing. Dry spells can lead to significantly reduced crop yields and harvests. Additionally, farmers find it challenging to produce high-value crops that are more water sensitive, such as horticultural crops and coffee.

How can irrigation help farmers?

Irrigation can help farmers grow crops all year, with or without rain. Farmers can plant crops even without rain or throughout a dry spell. Farmers can also grow during the dry season, when prices on the market are higher. Farmers can grow new crops – such as high-value horticulture and coffee.

Irrigation can lead to opportunities for farmers to grow greater quantities and varieties of food. Farmers and their families will have more food to eat and more food to sell. Their overall livelihoods will improve.

What is micro-scale irrigation?

Micro-scale irrigation is when a farmer applies water with the use of irrigation equipment on a small farm.

There is strong potential for micro-scale irrigation development in Uganda. This is because many smallholder farmers have water available nearby, such as streams, rivers, lake, well or boreholes. This allows for the development of a micro-scale irrigation system for an individual farmer.

The micro-scale irrigation system consists of three components:



1. Solar or petrol/diesel pump to take water from the water source;



2. Small pipe to carry the water to the field;



3. Hose, sprinklers, or drip lines to distribute the water to the crop; and



4. a tank, but only if one is required.

THE MICRO-SCALE IRRIGATION PROGRAM

What is the objective of the Program?

The Micro-scale Irrigation Program supports farmers to purchase and use irrigation equipment.

Who are the Program beneficiaries?

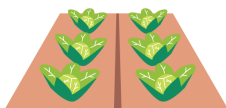
The Micro-scale Irrigation Program targets male and female farmers interested in introducing micro-scale irrigation to their farm. The Program is expected to benefit mostly smallholder farmers interested in transitioning from mostly subsistence to more commercial agriculture. This expectation is due to the fact that the Program supports irrigation development on up to 2.5 acres (1 hectare) in size. The farm can be larger than 2.5 acres, but with only a portion with irrigation development. The Program supports individual farmers (not farmers' groups).



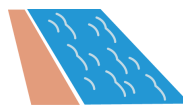
It is expected that by 2023 between **6,000** and **14,000** smallholder farmers across **40 Districts** will be able to benefit from the Program.

Who can benefit from the Program?

A farmer can join the Micro-scale Irrigation Program if:



He/she wants to irrigate a small plot of land, up to **2.5 acres (1 hectare)**.



He/she has access to **water** near his/her land.



He/she has access to land for **one year or more**.



He/she can pay for **part of the cost** of the irrigation equipment.



He/she wants to **grow and sell high-value crops** like horticulture crops and coffee.

PHASES AND TIMELINE OF THE MICRO-SCALE IRRIGATION PROGRAM

The Program phases and timeline detailed below show the first cycle of the Program. This same cycle will be repeated every year for the duration of the Program.



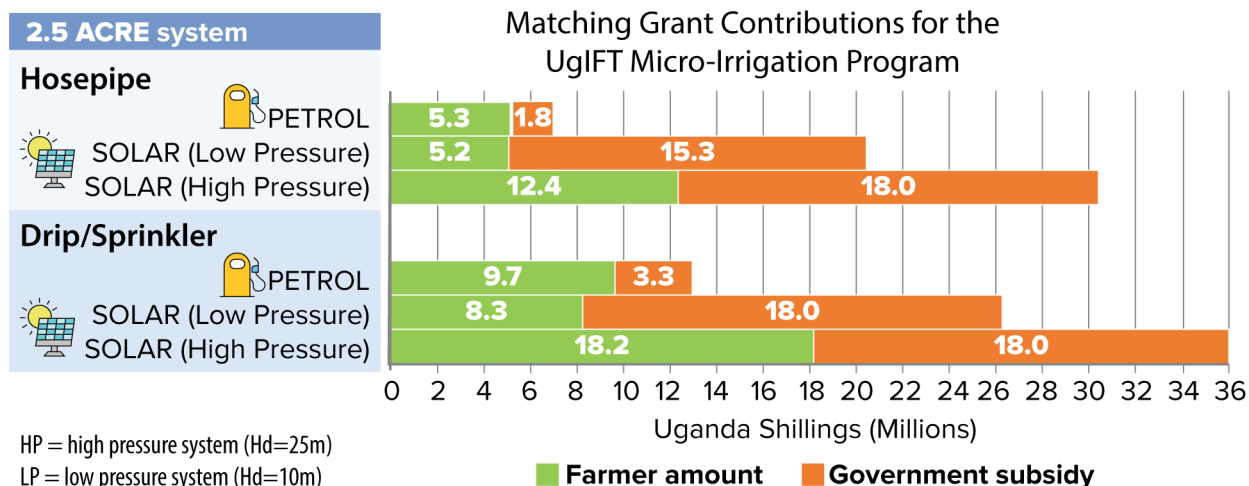
Farmers will participate in the Micro-scale Irrigation Program in the order of submission of the expression of interest. The sooner farmers submit their expression of interest, the sooner they can receive irrigation equipment. For example, farmers that express interest in the Program by October 2020 can expect installation of irrigation equipment as early as October 2021.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM

The Government of Uganda will help farmers pay for the irrigation equipment. The farmer and the Government will share the cost of the irrigation equipment, lowering the price for the farmer. A dedicated budget is allocated at District level to support farmers in purchasing the irrigation equipment. The District procures the irrigation equipment on behalf of the farmer. The farmer will own the irrigation equipment, and the farmer will be responsible for its operation and maintenance.

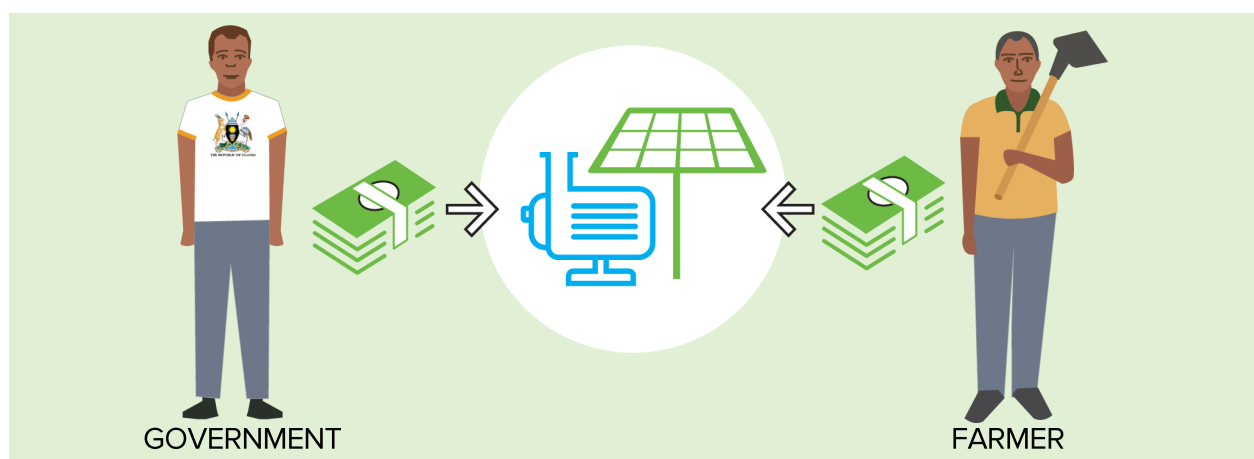
How much does the irrigation equipment cost?

The cost of the irrigation equipment depends on multiple factors, such as the distance to the water source and the type of irrigation equipment. The graphic below demonstrates the indicative costs of different irrigation equipment set-ups.

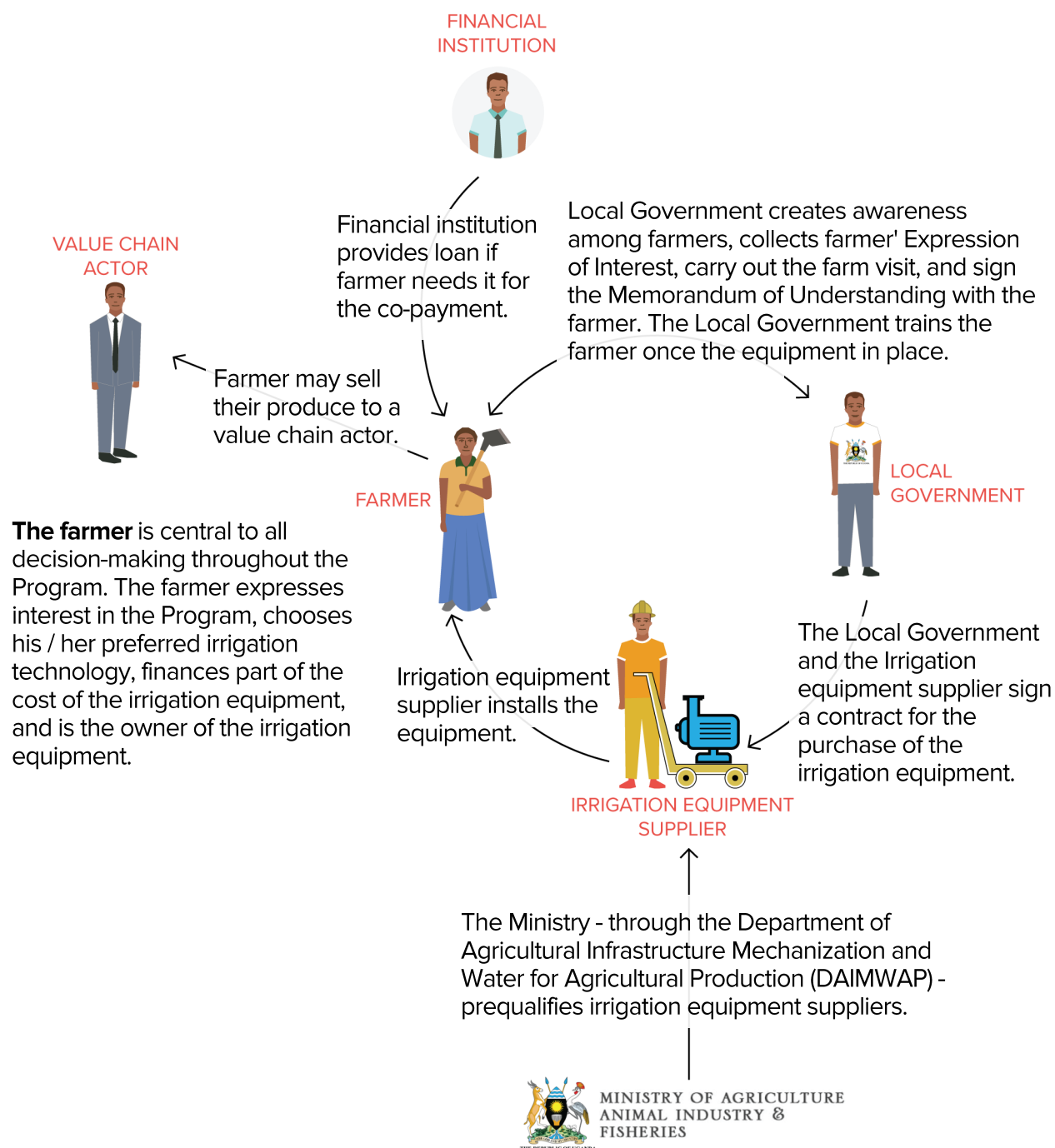


How much will the government and the farmer pay?

The Government will pay between 25% and 75% of the total cost of the irrigation equipment, but with a maximum contribution of 7.2 million Shillings per acre. This means that the farmer will pay from approximately 2 million to 7.2 million Shillings per acre. The maximum area allowed is 2.5 acres.



THE ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE PROGRAM?

1. Tell farmers about the benefits of irrigation

Many smallholder farmers do not know about irrigation and its benefits.

You can support by letting farmers know that irrigation will allow them to grow crops during the dry season, and not lose production because of dry spells.

2. Tell farmers about the opportunity to buy irrigation equipment at a low cost.

District and Sub-county Officers will raise awareness about the Program among smallholder farmers.

You can support these awareness-raising activities by sharing information about the Program with farmers in your constituency. You can also let farmers know that they can contact their Agricultural Engineer or District or Sub-county Officer for more information (contact information found at the back cover of this brochure). You can ask the officers to provide you with brochures to distribute to the farmers.

3. Ensure that women and people who have trouble reading and writing hear about and understand the Program.

Certain individuals and groups may experience difficulties becoming aware of and accessing information about the Program.

You can support female farmers and people who have trouble reading and writing by carefully explaining the Program to these individuals and groups. For example, people who cannot read or write may need you to read the brochure for farmers to them, and answer questions.

4. Help farmers collect land tenure documents.

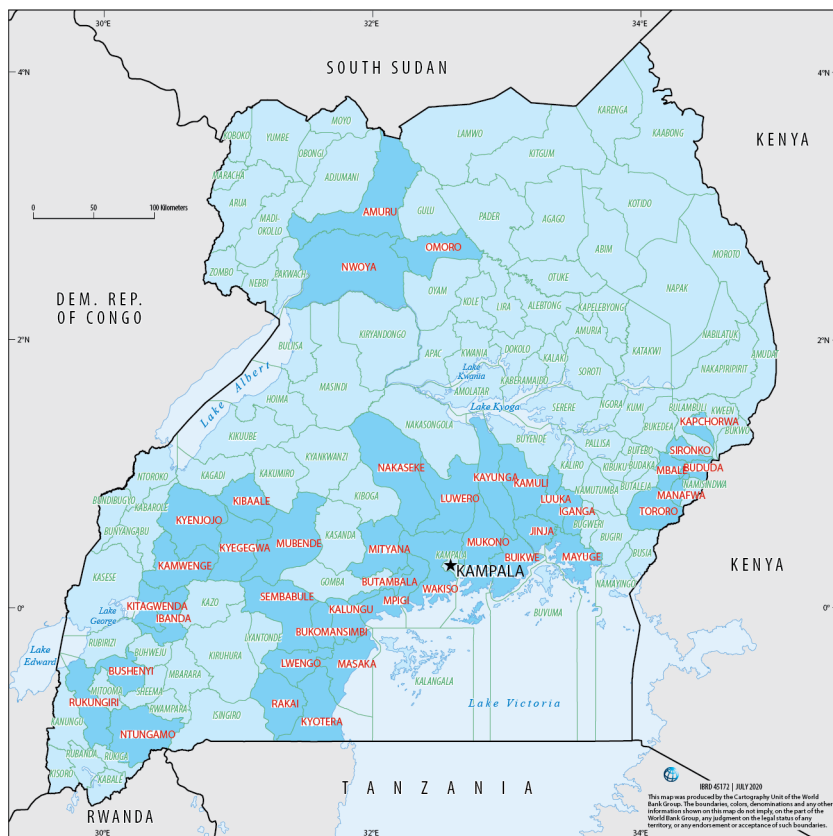
Farmers have to demonstrate access (ownership or rental) to land for at least one year to join the Program.

You can support farmers by guiding them through collection of land tenure documents. If they do not possess any formal documents, they will need your help.

5. Help connect with and inform the private sector about the Program.

You can support by increasing awareness and understanding about the Micro-scale Irrigation Program with agro-dealers, crop buyers, financial institutions, and irrigation equipment suppliers.

WHERE IS THE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED?



The Program has a phased approach. Districts are divided into two groups: Phase 1 Districts where the Micro-scale Irrigation program will start to be implemented in July 2020, and Phase 2 Districts, where the Micro-scale Irrigation program will start to be implemented in July 2022.

Districts by Program Phase

- Phase 1 Districts
- Phase 2 Districts
- Kampala

Useful contacts

Agricultural Engineer

Given Name _____

Surname _____

Telephone number _____

District or Sub-County Officer

Given Name _____

Surname _____

Telephone number _____

 You can find out more information by writing an email to **UgIFTirrigation@agriculture.go.ug**

 Website: **<https://www.agriculture.go.ug/micro-scale-irrigation-program/>**

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