



THE AGRICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



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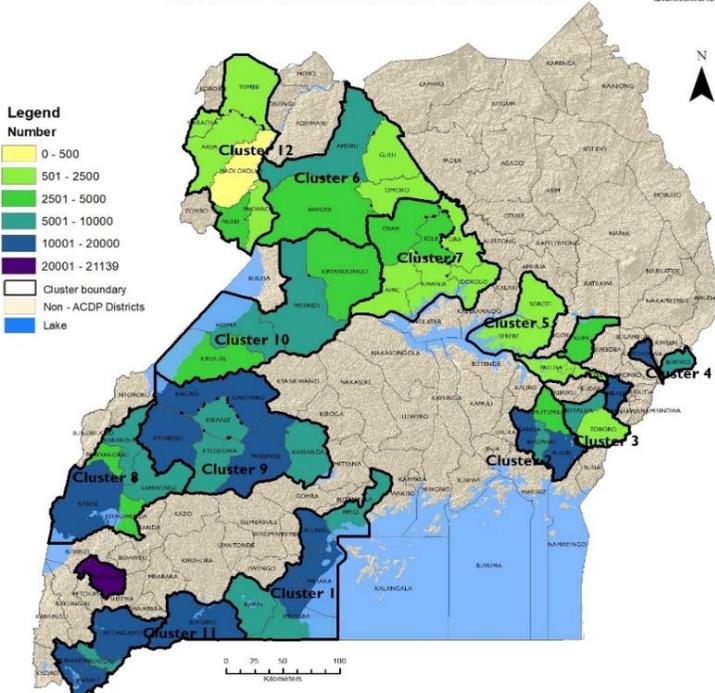
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Handover ceremony of MAAIF Ministers at the Ministry headquarters- Entebbe held on the 22nd June 2021. From the Left, Hon Hellen Adoa- MoSF, Hon. Bright Rwamirama- MoSAI, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze- Minister of Agriculture Animal Industry & Fisheries, Outgoing Hon MAAIF- Hon. Ssempijja Vincent and former MoSA Hon. Aggrey Bagiire.

Farmer enrollment for the e-Subsidy program continues to rise

NUMBER OF FARMERS THAT ENROLLED UNDER THE ACDP PROGRAM BY APRIL 2021



Introduction

As more farmers continued to embrace the e-Subsidy program, farmer enrolment in the e-Voucher management system has steadily increased from 2,070 in season 2018 A to 416,518 by April 2021. This represents 92.5% of the expected 450,000 targeted beneficiaries.

Success factors

Success factors are attributed to the deployment of Project staff to the 12 clusters, working together with the district local governments. The recruitment of Community based facilitators deployed at the subcounty level also took services closer to the farmers. Capacity building of farmer organizations both by Enterprise Uganda and Uganda Cooperative Alliance are notable additional success factors. By June 2021 Enterprise Uganda had offered Business development support and trained 2,280 leaders from 570 Farmer organizations across the 57 project districts.

M-Cash comes on board to support farmer enrolment



Selected Agri-Tech firms at the Disruptive Agriculture Technologies challenge- Munyonyo Resort Hotel- Kampala

Background

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in partnership with the World Bank held the Disruptive Agricultural Technologies Challenge in November 2019. The aim of the Innovation challenge was to identify Agri-tech solutions to support the automation of key business processes along the value chain as well as improve service delivery to ACDP beneficiaries. Agri-tech Firms and individuals with digital solutions that could mitigate challenges that the project was facing at the time, were selected through a rigorous process to showcase their solutions. The Innovation Challenge, sought to explore opportunities offered by Disruptive Agricultural Technologies to address the ACDP implementation challenges.

Implementation challenges

The implementational challenges were categorized into four broad categories that included; (i) Information and Advisory for agricultural productivity, (ii) Market linkages, (iii) Financial Inclusion, and (iv) Data Analytics. Four start-ups with digital solutions at advanced stages emerged as winners.

These four start-ups were M-Omulimisa, Data care, Akello Banker and M-Cash. MCash emerged as winners of the Financial inclusion category.

M-Cash

M-Cash digital solutions include Virtual wallets, Digital payments, Mobile Banking, and Agency Banking Aggregation. M-Cash is coming on board as a parallel system to the e-Voucher Management system to support enrollment of farmers in the roll-out districts in selected clusters. Specifically M-Cash will

- Address the gaps that have been identified in the e-Voucher management system.
- Train MAAIF staff, DLG agricultural officers and farmers.
- Develop a centralized database that merges data from the e-Voucher management system.
- Migrate data from the current system to a centralized developed database.

Specifically M-Cash will work in the Tororo cluster 3; Kapchorwa cluster 4; Soroti cluster 5; Lira cluster 7; Kabarole cluster 8 and Hoima cluster 10.

Productive Alliance Meeting: Tailoring partners' products and services to farmers' needs



ACDP Deputy Project Coordinator, Mr Stephen Ojangole giving his opening remarks at the productive Alliance meeting - Protea Hotel, Kampala

Background

Productive Alliances formation falls under ACDP Component two of Value addition and Market access. The objective of these Productive Alliances are to establish relationships, Innovation platforms and create markets linkages between stakeholders and partners in the ACDP commodity value chains. The Alliances are also meant to build a three-way partnerships in which off-takers contribute inputs, equipment, and technical assistance to mature farmer organizations so that they are able to co-finance business plans that may be constrained by ACDP matching grant ceilings.

Stakeholders in these meetings include Financial institutions (Banks, SACCOs & Micro finance institutions), Producer buyers, Farmers, Farmer organizations or Cooperatives and input dealers.

Tailoring Partners products and services

At the Tailoring partners' products and services meeting, that was held at Protea hotel and sponsored by Agro-consortium, partners identified and discussed the critical factors needed to operationalize the Productive Alliances. Some of the factors discussed included;

- ◆ Access to affordable financing
- ◆ Access to markets
- ◆ Quality inputs
- ◆ Tax exemptions and holidays on enterprises in the platforms
- ◆ Strategic partnerships
- ◆ Periodic monitoring and evaluation

It was agreed at this meeting that the operationalization of the Productive Alliances would adopt the Innovation platform model, and would be commodity based.

Stories from the Field

Demo Fields in Tororo district

Rice demo field- Merik subcounty Tororo district



In this demo field, WITA-9 seed was used and the group applied DAP (Phosphorous with some nitrogen; and UREA (nitrogen)

Maize demo- Kwapa subcounty- Tororo district



The group planted Bazooka and Longe10 each on half acre. They applied DAP 50 kgs and Urea 50 kgs. The host farmer is Ekaron Alice in Kwapa sub county, Tororo district.

Waraka United Farmers Assoc.- Yumbe district



Group members crash cassava into smaller pieces ready for drying

Introduction

Waraka United Farmers Association is located in Yumbe district. The group is composed of 30 members, (21 female and 9 male). The group joined ACDP in November 2019 and they grow cassava. Before ACDP, the group has been partnering with Dan Church Aid, who support them to grow sunflower. On joining ACDP each member paid 148,000 UGx and received eight bags of cassava cuttings.

What has changed since joining ACDP?

According to the chairperson, Mr Jamal Muhammad, before joining ACDP, members were using local seeds and supplied cassava stems locally. But now members supply NAADs, OWC, NGOs and the Refugee camps with cassava cuttings, the roots and flour. For example, Malik Sadiq a group member told us that “I harvested 70 bags of cassava cuttings which I supplied to NAADs at 12,000ugx a bag”. Sometimes a member can make as much as 900,000 Ugx per acre from the cuttings alone.

What has changed at home?

Lack of food is now a thing of the past, while we sell, we also keep some cassava for food at home. As you can see(*refer to picture above*) after removing the cassava from the garden, we wash it, then crush it into smaller pieces for drying and milling. Members also make baked bricks and have built permanent houses using Iron sheets. They buy iron sheets using the money from the sales of cassava. We also support our children in schools. And now during this COVID times, everyone is busy in their gardens, said the chairperson.

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

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Binagoro Women’s group- Yumbe district



Matching Grants beneficiaries Binagoro Women's group, Yumbe district at their facility offer milling services to the community

Background

Yumbe district has nine matching grants beneficiaries and Binagoro women group is a recipient under the first cohort. The group received a grant of UGX 126,630,000 from ACDP and this was matched with UGX 62,370,000 from the group members making a total of 189,000,000 Uganda shillings.

The Matching Grant

With this grant, the group has been able to construct a store and buy a cassava milling machine. Fatima, the vice chairperson told us, “ We are now able to offer bulking and milling services to our members and the community.

Before construction of the store, we used to keep our cassava in our houses and it was not well dried. We now use the tarpaulins to dry the cassava, we mill and sell the flour.”

Service to the community

People bring their cassava, maize and sorghum for milling. Milling cassava costs 100 Ugx per kg, maize costs 200 Ugx per kg and Sorghum costs 200 Ugx per kgs. Asked how much they make in day, she said “ We make between 20,000-25,000 Ugx per day, there is a lot of competition.”. the groups spends 8,000 Ugx per day for two litres of fuel to run the milling machine.

Benefits

This milling machine has helped us in many ways, when we have funerals, we can mill in bulk and we use the money to meet our household needs. We also make money from bulking.

Obituary Farewell thee Getrude



We lost Getrude Badaru on the 13th June, 2021. Getrude was the DAO Arua and also the ACDP Focal person. She was laid to rest on the 16th at Okalimba Village, Pajulu
“Rest well with the Angels. Psalm 34:18”