

REVOLVING FINANCE SERVICES TO ENHANCE FARM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SKILLS



Source: www.ilb.utexas.com

Project site: Bukonde Sub County Mbale District, Uganda



A SACCO member grazing goats in the field

Background

Bukonde has a population of approximately 30,000 with a working population of less than 8 per cent, indicating a very high degree of dependency.

87% of the population depends on the agriculture sector for income; modern livestock farming has also proven profitable as dairy cows, dairy goats and beef goats are now becoming common livestock.

The nearby town of Mbale, with about 100,000 residents, has a very large market for both agricultural and livestock products. Local communities need skill building, seed capital (both in cash and in kind), support and supervision to address the problem of poverty and unemployment and be able to integrate the markets.

Project Summary

The aim of the project is to provide a revolving finance scheme to generate income, nutritious food, cash employment and boost household farm productions and productivity, therefore improving household livelihood in Bukonde Sub County, identifying and prioritizing

community issues. The project will work towards the development of democracy, responsibility sharing and capacity building, providing skills not only for employment but also for the advancement of education. 10 dairy Heifers and 100 dairy and beef goats will be distributed to needing households. They will receive training on dairy farming management practices. The first two female calves will be passed on to other members on a revolving fund basis.

Local farmers will access training on local farming skills, including entrepreneurship and farm business training for project/Enterprise selection/identification, design, monitoring, evaluation and report writing.

A business centre for local cooperative marketing in Mbale town will be set up to enhance sustainable farm production and productivity and provide members with cooperative marketing practice.

The members will monitor their development on a regular basis to ensure continuity and progress of activities.

Contributions to the Decent Work Country Programme's priority (DWCP):

Reduce poverty and youth employment through increased opportunities and productivity.

Partners

- Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) the national cooperative apex body in Uganda;
- Uganda Cooperative Savings and Credit Union (UCSCU) linking all savings and credit cooperatives in Uganda;
- Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry;
- Department of Cooperative Development Mbale District;
- Mbale District Local Government.

Beneficiaries

The targeted beneficiaries are disadvantaged women and children, marginalized farmers, the disabled, the elderly and youth. Targeted groups will benefit from enhanced production, productivity and economic diversification, which will improve household livelihood.

Expected achievements

The project will be self-sustaining from resources generated internally:

- One hundred dairy and beef goats and ten in calf dairy heifers raised on a revolving fund basis by passing the first two female births on to other households (by Feb 2010 150 dairy and beef goats and 10 dairy heifers);
- Production of 3 to 5 liters of milk per day per farmer, their household consuming half and selling the other;
- Generated income for households, employees and the community from the sales of cows and goats off spring;

The dairy heifers and goats will also be providing the community with farm manure to boost the productivity of the small-hold farms by feeding the soil with nutrients.

Project

Other achievements include:

- Improved skills in entrepreneurship, business and leadership to empower the 320 households and employees, who will then be able to pass these skills on to Bukonde surrounding areas;
- 500 households mobilized, sensitized and practicing farming and business cooperative marketing in Mbale town, enhancing sustainable production;
- 485 beneficiaries trained on monitoring, evaluation and report writing on the performance of the organization's activities.

Project duration and budget

Project duration: 12 months, June 2009 – May 2010

Total budget: USD 67,774

Contribution from COOP^{AFRICA}: USD 50,714



A SACCO member learning new skills

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