



AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014



Work With the People to foster Development

ACRONYMS.

AFIRD:	Agency for Integrated Rural Development
AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ACSA:	Advocacy Coalition on Sustainable Agriculture
UWASNET:	Uganda Water & Sanitation NGO Network
CBOs:	Community Based Organizations
VSLA:	Village savings and Loans Association
CSBAG:	Civil society budget advocacy group
HIV:	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
CBSVD:	Cassava Brown Streak Virus Disease
IPM:	Integrated Pest Management
KIFAD:	Kiyita Family Alliance for Development
NaCRRI:	National Crops Resources Research Institute
NGOs:	Non Government Organizations
RMF:	Result Monitoring Frame Work
PELUM:	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
SA:	Sustainable Agriculture
FRA:	Food Rights Alliance
SSFs:	Small Scale Farmers
VHT:	Village Health Team
ULA:	Uganda Land Alliance

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Executive committee, I am pleased to present to you this annual report of AFIRD for the year 2013/2014. During the course of the year, we made tremendous progress towards improving the livelihoods of small scale farmers.

I express my deepest gratitude to the Executive Committee members, field officers and the entire staff of

AFIRD who have worked tirelessly to see a change in the livelihoods of small scale farmers for the better. The journey to success has never been smooth. Never the less there were a lot of achievements registered as highlighted in the report.

Special thanks go to our Development Partners for the continuous support. Misereor, Gorta, Tudor trust and Seeds for Africa who have stood with us at all times to ensure that development is achieved in our areas of operation/.

We also send our sincere gratitude to our collaborators; Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda in particular has done a great work towards capacity building. Advocacy Coalition on Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA), Food Rights Alliance (FRA), Uganda Water & Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET) and Uganda land alliance (ULA) are also thanked for their good relation and knowledge shared with AFIRD.

Lastly but not least, I wish to thank our beneficiaries with whom we have implemented the various projects. It's my plea to all development agents; government, donors, NGOs, CBOs, development groups, individuals and the public at large never to give up but continue with the straggle to fight poverty.

For GOD and my country.

Joseph Kasule

Chairman Executive Committee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Today, Uganda like any other developing country is subject to several environment related worrying trends. These put economic, environmental and social development at risk. Foremost soil degradation, deforestation, drainage of wetlands, loss of biodiversity, pollution and unsanitary conditions. Many of these problems are associated with poor management of natural resources.

The rural folk face an uphill task to make ends meet. It upon this that AFIRD has put efforts to improve the rural livelihoods through supporting households to manage their natural resources in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the present and the future generations.

AFIRD has contributed to creating strong platforms that will enable farmers adopt sustainable agriculture practices so as to become resilient in this changing environment.

I convey my sincere appreciation to our partners, the Executive Committee, farmers, government and staff whom we have worked with to achieve success.

Eustace Sajjabi
Executive Director.



Executive Summary

Agency for Integrated Rural Development (AFIRD) is a registered non governmental organization (NGO) with offices located in Kakiri 16 miles on Kampala - Hoima high way.

The organization has been in operation for the last sixteen years.

Our vision is to a society free from hunger and diseases, living in a peaceful and green environment.

The major programs areas are; Agricultural production and environment, market access and human rights.

Our financial year began in March 2013 and ended in February 2014.

A number of Sustainable agriculture projects with various activities have been implemented in Uganda especially Wakiso District of Central Region.

This report presents AFIRD interventions and achievements during the year 2013/2014 basing on her Strategic plan for 2010 - 2014.

Challenges are also highlighted.

AFIRD BACKGROUND.

Agency For Integrated Rural Development (AFIRD) is an indigenous organization which was founded in 1997 by a group of professionals and registered as an NGO by the Ugandan government in 1998.

Since 2000, AFIRD has been implementing projects on Sustainable Agriculture. The projects started with support from SNV - Netherlands Development Organization under the Sustainable land use programme.

MISEREOR has also supported us since 2001 and has continued to support us on sustainable agriculture in Wakiso district.

GORTA came on board in 2011 and supported food and nutrition security in Masulita sub-county of Wakiso.

Seeds for Africa of United Kingdom has also supported fruit tree and vegetable growing projects in schools and breakfast clubs.

AFIRD interventions focus on building capacity of Small holder farmers in sustainable natural resource management.

VISION

A society free from hunger and diseases living in a peaceful and green environment.

MISSION

We are:

A national NGO working with vulnerable communities and development partners. We aim at improving the livelihoods of vulnerable communities through capacity building in sustainable natural resources management to increase household income.



CORE VALUES

With the people at the center of development:

We believe in Justice

We strive for excellence

We value self-reliance

We learn and share from each other

We value honesty, transparency and accountability

We are loyal, honest and trustworthy

We believe in love thy neighbor

PROGRAM AREAS

1. Agricultural production and environment,
2. Market access
3. Human rights.

OPERATIONAL AREAS

In 2013/14, AFIRD operated in Wakiso and Mukono Districts in Central Uganda as well as Amuria district in Eastern Uganda.



1.0 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT

Introduction.

Agriculture is the main economic and livelihood activity of 80% of Ugandans who live in the rural areas. It provides employment for 73% of Ugandans. Though the sector's contribution has reduced to 19% of the GDP, it still provides food to the region e.g. DR Congo, Rwanda, Kenya and South Sudan.

AFIRD has recognized the role of agriculture in economic development and taken on the challenges that have continuously derailed the growth of the sector.

Uganda depends heavily on environment and natural resources. Most of the areas have a conducive environment for agriculture but it is rain fed. This makes agricultural production highly vulnerable to the changing climatic conditions. Over 90% of the population directly or indirectly depends on the products and services from farming; crop production, livestock, fisheries, and related enterprises. AFIRD helps farmers understand the role that each one of us plays in biodiversity conservation. This program area focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture through the use of available local resources and conservation of the environment.

1.1. CROP PRODUCTION

Objectives. -Increased food availability and utilization through promotion of sustainable agriculture.

- Improved, diversified yields and sustainable environmental management

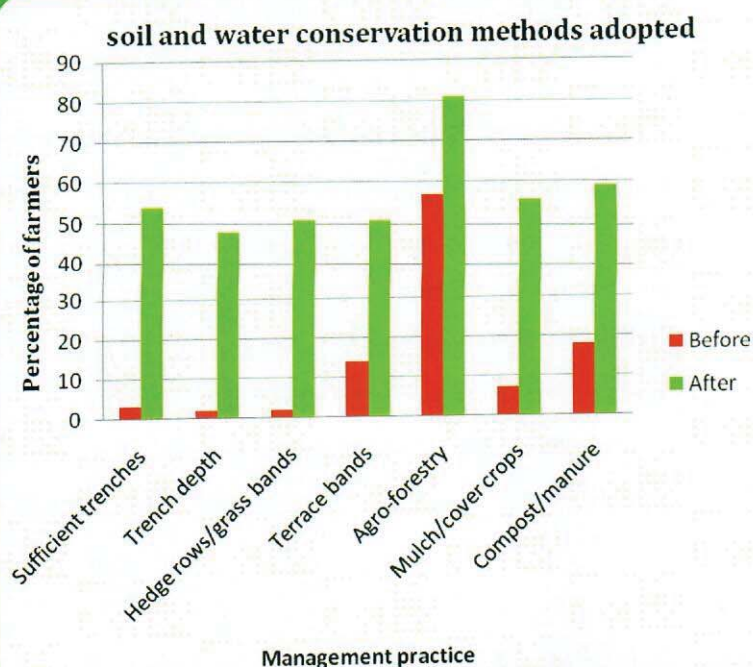


1.1.2 Trainings and Agricultural extension services

A number of trainings were conducted to enhance farmers' capacity in crop production. Support was also given on knowledge and skills on agronomic practices for the different food and cash crops. These included cassava, beans, bananas, yams, sweet potatoes, avocados and mangoes.

The trainings emphasized soil fertility and water conservation methods. I.e construction of water harvesting trenches, hedge rows or grass bands, Terrace bunds, agro-forestry, use of mulch, cover cropping and use of compost/manure.


Our field staff continued with home visits after the trainings to fill the missing gaps. Over 1,200 farmers were reached in 46 farmer groups. 70% of targeted groups adopted methods to improve soil fertility through construction of sufficient trenches, hedge rows or grass bands, Terrace bunds, agro-forestry, use of mulch, cover cropping, use of compost/manure.



Integrated pests and disease control methods was also handled where Eighteen (18) new groups were supported to establish 18 herbariums to multiply botanicals for controlling pests

1.1.2 Improving famers' access to quality seeds.

Cassava that was earlier given out to 250 farmers is being harvested now. Farmers have scaled up on the acreage of cassava. Over 300 secondary beneficiaries received cassava stems (NASSE 14) for planting. The challenge of cassava brown steak virus diseases that



made cassava tubers rot in the soil has been combated. As a result of expanded acreage for cassava, farmers are looking forward to processing it into high quality cassava flour that is anticipated to fetch farmers more income.

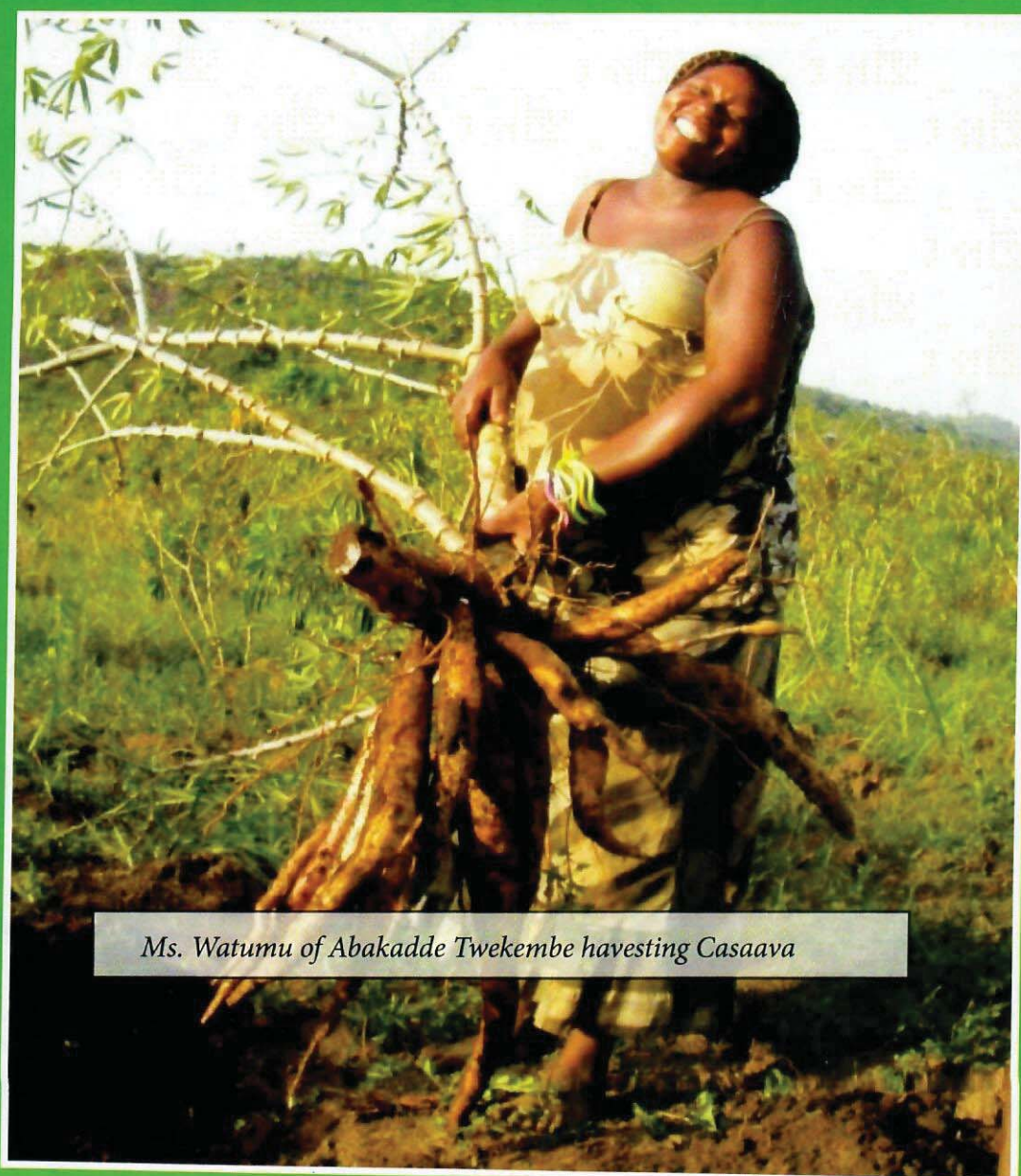
Starter input of beans that was given to 50 percent of farmers has been multiplied. Over 80 percent of farmers now have these high yielding bean varieties of NABE 15, 16 and 17.

Sweet potato vines rich in vitamin A continued to be multiplied in 20 farmer groups. All the 500 farmers can now sustainably have these vines. This has been a great achievement as the community has their own seed bank.

1.1.3 Access to nutritious food (Vegetables)

Over 70% of Farmers have started earning income from vegetable production in addition to having balanced diet.

With a variety of crops grown, farmers are food secure and their incomes have generally increased. This has been attributed to the sale of surplus.



Ms. Watumu of Abakadde Tweekembe harvesting Casaava

1.2.0 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Animal and crop husbandry are interdependent. For sustainable agriculture we promote both crop and animal production for small scale farmers.

OBJECTIVES:

- Increased biological and economic productivity of farm animals.
- Diversify income generating options at household level for farmers.

1.2.1 ENHANCING ACCESS TO IMPROVED BIRDS (CROILERS)

850 pullets and 95 cocks were given to 95 farmers. In addition 95 rolls of wire mesh were also given to the beneficiary households to enable them carry out semi-intensive poultry production.

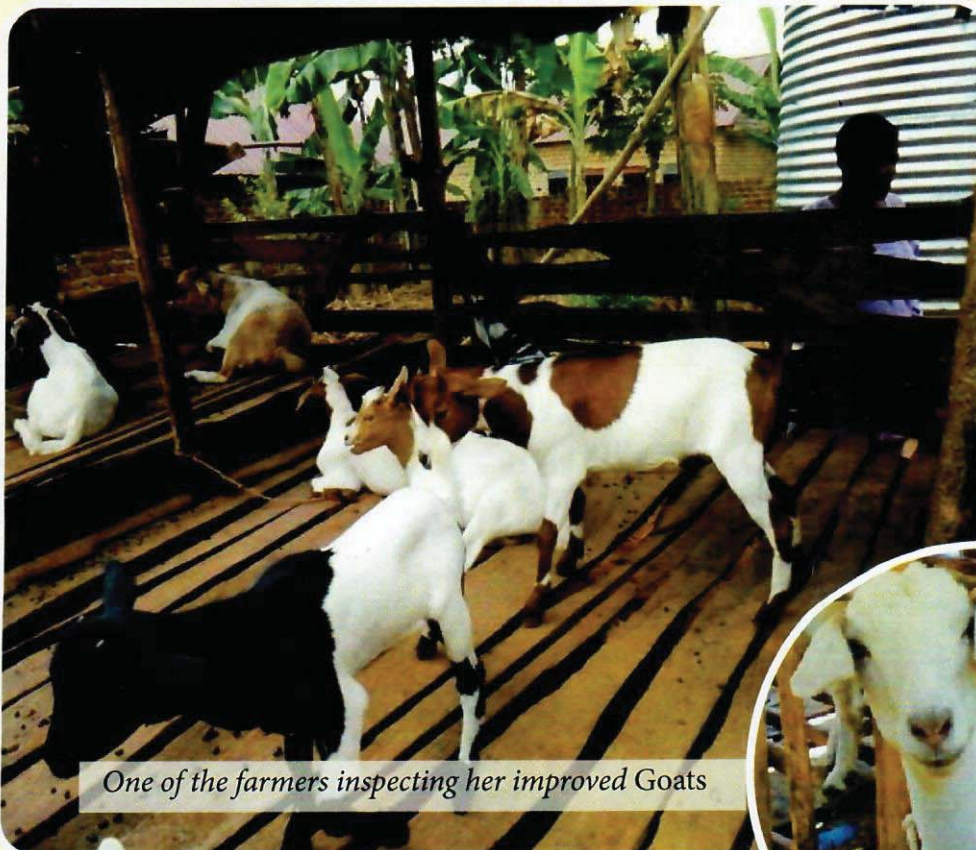
This has reduced on the movement of birds that results in easy spread of diseases, protect them from wild animals and control breeding. Farmers' house hold income has risen as a result of selling eggs. There is change in diet especially for the children under five years.

Four dialogue meetings were carried out between farmers and dealers in poultry inputs and outputs. A linkage was created and now farmers are accessing quality feeds, veterinary services especially vaccines for their birds. To expand their enterprises, farmers began taking their eggs to hatcheries in Gombe, Kakiri and Nansana

1.2.2 PROMOTION OF FARMERS' ACCESS TO GOATS WITH HIGH GENETIC POTENTIAL.

Success has been achieved from the eighteen pairs of elite breeding Boer goats that were given to 18 Households in Mende Sub County to start upgrading their local animals. They were given out with the aim of having animals of high genetic potential through crossing to increase productivity and income. Recipients of the improved goat breeds have increased productivity of livestock farming. The goats that have been

produced from crosses of improved Boer male goats have a high birth weight and a high growth rate compared to the local goats as expressed by Ms. Nabutto of Zibula attitude farmer group who has two twin kids crossed between the given improved goat and her local female goat.



One of the farmers inspecting her improved Goats

1.3.0 ENVIRONMENT.

Maintaining a sustainable environment for human, animals and crops is still a big challenge on most small scale farms in the target areas. A delicate balance exists between increasing agricultural production and environmental degradation

1.3.1 RENEWABLE ENERGY

Lack of energy causes strain on growth and threatens the forest cover. High tariffs imposed on other sources of energy like electricity and petroleum and rising energy prices suggests that wood will continue to dominate as a source of energy. This threatens to severely diminish the resource base and biodiversity.

AFIRD was in position to train eighteen farmer groups on construction of energy saving stoves, and demonstrated on the use of renewable energy where solar driers and Biogas were handled. Two Biogas plants of capacity 6 Cubic meters each were established. Three solar drier to dry produce for three farmer groups established. Farmers are earning some income from sale of energy saving stoves.

We also worked with Barefoot solar energy agency to supply and also repair solar lamps and phone chargers among our farmer groups.

1.4.0 ADDREESSING CROSS CUTTING ISSUES THAT LIMIT PRODUCT

1.4.1 WATER CONSERVATION.

Uganda depends heavily on rain fed agriculture and improved rain water management is a priority. Eighteen new farmer groups were trained on rain water harvesting methods for domestic use and farming activities, underground tanks were constructed. Cut off drainages and L-bridges to trap water have proved to be useful in tapping water into the soils. With this farmers are in better position to carry out production regardless of the adverse weather conditions as a result of climate change

1.4.2 ENHANCING FARMERS' ACCESS TO FINANCES

In an effort to foster development and have self reliant farmers in the community, a component of saving was introduced. Saving is done in farmer groups. 20 farmer groups were trained on village saving and loan schemes. They were given saving kits that contained; a calculator, counter book, pass books, pad locks, ruler, collecting bags and a metallic box. This would help in keeping records and ensure some security of the money collected which is later taken to the bank.

200 farmers have been in position to adopt the scheme. The saving reserves of each group grew from 0- 1 million. The average saving per individual has reached 25,000 shillings per month unlike the past where no savings were made. There is easy access to finances by these farmers as they can borrow from their group at a small interest. This money has been invested in various enterprises both livestock and crop and others like tents and chairs for hire.

Saving has also helped farmers solve unforeseen problems in their homes thus securing other assets that would have been sold at even a cheaper cost. Not only have the farmers benefitted in from of cash got from the group but it has become a unifying factor that has made the groups stronger and sustainable

1.4.3 GROUP STRENGTHENING

95% of the groups under AFIRD support have attained registration at the sub county level, while 30% of the groups have attained registration at the District level.

All groups have been enabled to select at least two main enterprises; one for income and the other for food security. Bivamuntuyo Manze is one of the groups which have a well developed banana enterprise that is benefiting the membership.

All groups in Masulita sub county have developed comprehensive action plan from which to base their two year activities and projects. This was done in a participatory manner with the farmers taking the lead.

Through group saving, members have bought cows, sheep and other animals for their members. Such groups include Mukama Mulungi in Seganga- Kyengeza Parish and Kabale dairy farmers group in Kabale parish of Masulita.

Groups have developed to an extent that they are able to run their development activities without project intervention. This is shown groups like Bivamuntuyo farmers in Manze. The group grows bananas as their group income generating activity. These farmers sell bananas, from which they have managed to startup a number of businesses where they earn some income



2.0 MARKET ACCESS

Introduction

Accessing markets remains a big challenge to many poor farmers in Uganda. This has been attributed to factors such as lack of market information for both domestic and international markets, stringent quality standards for agricultural products from developing countries and lack of post harvest facilities among others. Much as government has been encouraging farmers to target international markets, little has been done to strengthen the capacity of small holder farmers to do so.

Objective: To increase farmers capacity to access markets by 30%.

2.1.0 MARKET INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.

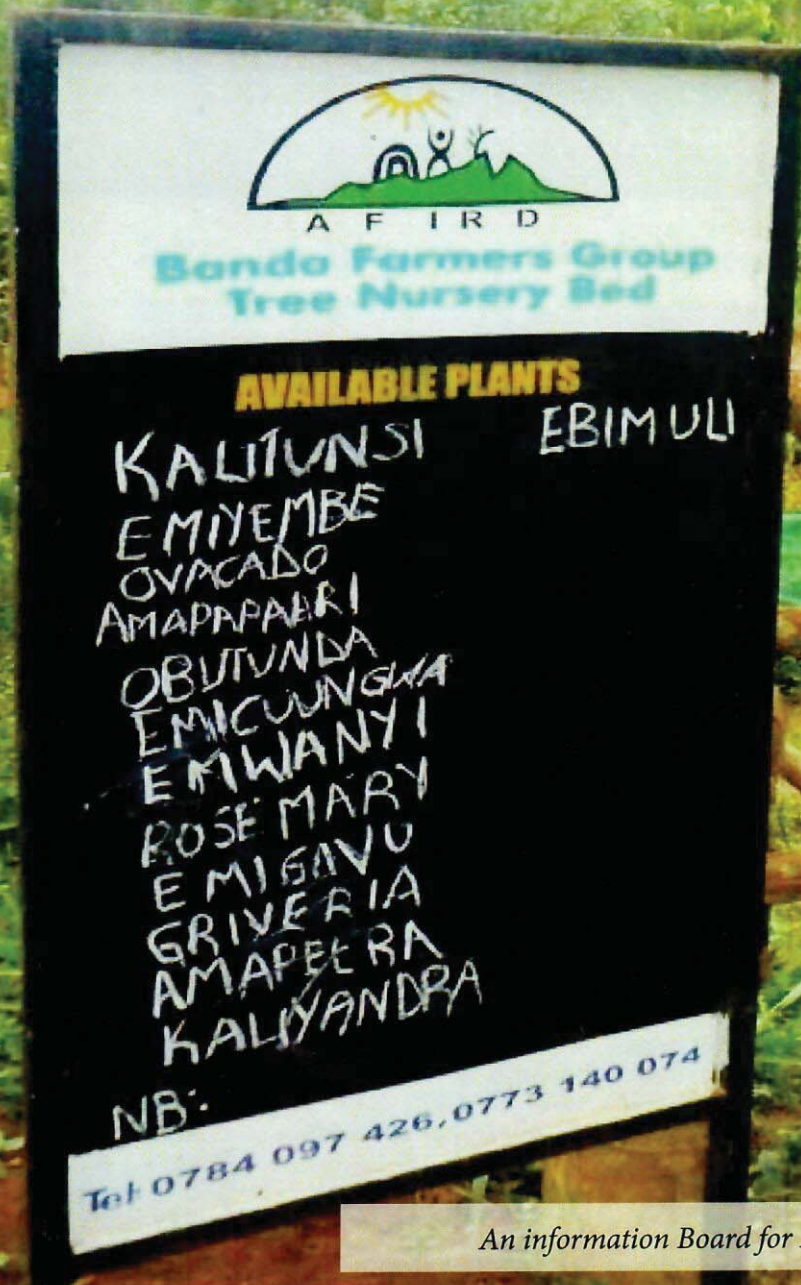
The provision of basic information is a service that aims to increase the efficiency of agricultural markets and contribute towards overcoming issues of market failure based on asymmetric access to basic market information.

In its simplest form, the provision of spot prices aims to assist farmers in being able to monitor market conditions and make better decisions on where to sell their produce and negotiate for improved prices rather than being compliant price takers.

The dissemination of prices and market news is achieved through various media options such as radio, mobile phones, information boards, development agencies and others including consumers

2.1.1 RADIO SHOWS.

Talk shows on radio have continued to promote marketing of the produce. A total of 28 radio shows were conducted. During these shows farmers aired out the commodities they had in place. Three local stations were used; Radio Suubi every Wednesday from 10:30-11:00pm, Central broad casting services every first Saturday of the month and Radio Busiro that was used in early 2014. The first two radios were through support of PELUM network where AFIRD is a member and also helps to monitor the programmes for the Central region. The later was through support offered by Misereor to AFIRD.



An information Board for Band Nursery

The flow of information to farmers has also been facilitated by provision of market information boards. This has enabled farmers to receive information that enable them to make informed decisions on marketing of their produce.

2.2 ROAD SIDE STALLS.

Farmers were organized into groups. Members had to bring their produce in the group at their collective marketing stalls. The use of collective marketing stalls has been appreciated as an avenue that empowers farmers to set the price for their produce. 'Farmers who have collective market stalls can decide how much to sell their produce, as opposed to other farmers who are price takers' noted Dr. John Jaggwe the Director of FARMGAIN Africa when he visited farmers supported by AFIRD.

Some farmer marketing stalls are being utilized by non group members who pay some fee to the group. These are providing a source of income for farmer groups.

2.3.0 VALUE ADDITION.

Farmers have a challenge perishability of their produce especially vegetables and fruits. This is common during the bumper harvest where the prices steeply decline. To combat the challenge farmers have been trained in value addition to enable them fetch relatively higher prices from the market.

Five farmer groups were trained in value addition. Beneficiaries of the scheme are processing fruits into fruit juices and wine. In addition, three groups were sensitized and trained on the use of solar drier to add value on their farm products. The units set up have improved the quality of perishable products (mushroom) that have enabled the farmers to access market.

A number of groups involved in value addition include: Zibulattude in Mende sub county, Tusitukirewamu in Kyengeza involved in wine and juice production and Mazima United in Lubbe parish Kakiri sub county involved in passion fruit juice production.



Farmers exhibiting some of their processed products in Kakiri

4.0 PARTNERS, FUNDING, CHALLENGES & RECOMMENDATIONS.

Development happens through working together as stakeholders. AFIRD collaborates with a number of stakeholders who include local and international partners who are presented in this section. Also highlighted is the funding sources, challenges met and future plans.

4.1 PARTNERS

AFIRD is working with a number of stakeholders in ensuring that small scale farmers are helped to achieve their dreams. These include individuals and organized institutions like farmer groups, Community based organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, religious institutions, Schools, donors and the Government. Their contribution is described below.

Together with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM), Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA), Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) and Food rights Alliance advocacy work has been done towards fighting for the rights of small holder farmers.

AFIRD also collaborated with government institutions in its areas of operation. These included Wakiso District and the Sub counties of Kakiri, Masulita and Mende.

In addition AFIRD worked with researchers from National Crops Resources research Institute (NaCRRI) to provide farmers with agricultural knowledge and skills to help them improve production. This included knowledge and skills on seed multiplication of beans and sweet potatoes and recent research findings on those crops.

4.2 FUNDING

1. Misereor.....	127,707,660/=
2. Gorta.....	121,324,740/=

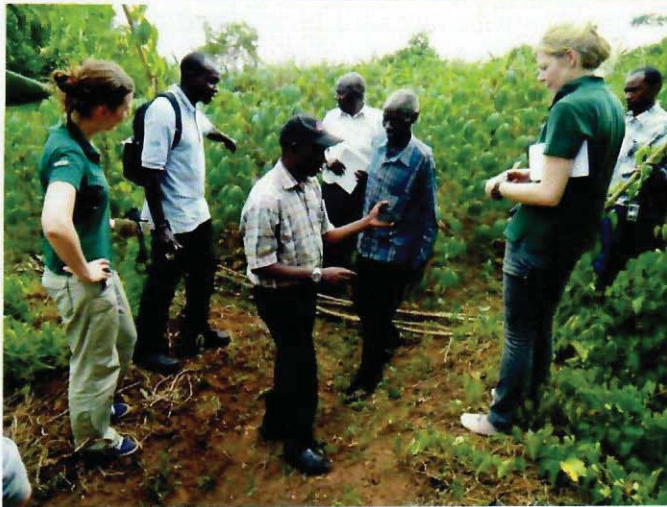
4.3 CHALLENGES.

- The more energetic youth are reluctant to join farmer groups where they can acquire development and life skills. They are more interested in the get rich quick schemes like petty trade, motorcycle riding and sports betting. This has greatly affected both livestock and crop production as they have left the weak elderly to do the production.
- Deforestation has led to decreasing availability of poles and other building materials for livestock production.
- Unpredictable weather changes; this manifested itself in extreme temperatures, thunderstorms and drought.

4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- More youth are encouraged and enabled to participate in community activities to help them acquire developmental skills.
- More support is to be given to farmers through provision of extension services.
- Engage farmers into small scale irrigation technologies.
- Government should move in to control the unabated use of natural resources like forests, wetlands and water bodies. Enforcing the laws and ensuring that policies work should of high priority.

APPENDIX. 1. PHOTO GALLERY



A field visit by GORTA staff, ED and program manager to one of the program beneficiary. In Sseganga

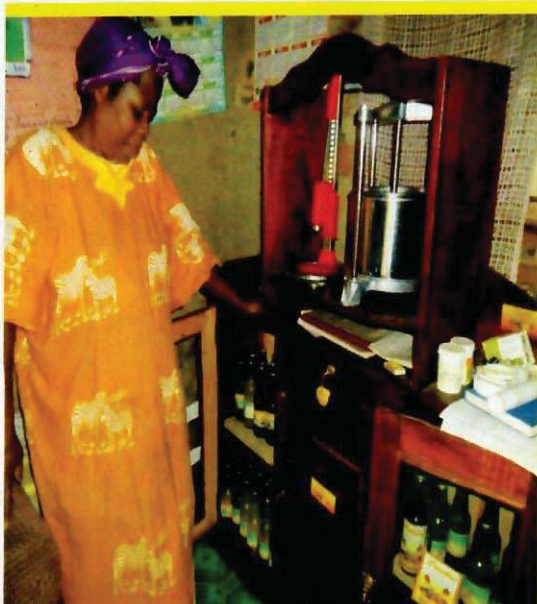
Mrs. Kayongo with visitors from AFIRD in her semi-intensive poultry



Underground water harvesting in Kaliti



Putting in practice agronomic practices for water and soil fertility management.



Processed and packed juice together with wine

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF FARMER GROUPS THAT WORKED WITH AFIRD IN 2013/14

GROUP NAME	SUB COUNTY	VILLAGE
ABAKADDE TWEKEMBE	MASULIITA	JOMBA
ABAKYALA NENKULAKULANA	MASULIITA	NAKIKUNGUBE
AFRICA FOR CHRIST	MASULIITA	KATIKAMU
AKUWA GWOWA	MASULIITA	MANZE
AKWATA EMPOLA	MASULIITA	NABALANGA
AKWATA EMPOLA DEVELOPMENT GROUP	MASULIITA	WOLOLO
BANDA FARMERS	MENDE	BANDA
BIBANJA ASSOCIATION	MENDE	NSEKWA NSEKWA
BIVAMUNTUYO VANILLA AND BANANA GROWERS	MASULIITA	MANZE-BUSAAWA
BUSAWULI AGALI AWAMU	MENDE	BUSAWULI
CARING HEART/ TUSUBIRA KITOOKE FARMERS	MENDE	KALITI
KABALE DIARY FARMERS	MASULIITA	KABALE
KALITI TWEGATTE	MENDE	KALITI CENTRAL
KASUDDE FRAMERS	MASULIITA	KASUDDE
KAWOMERA KYEBBUMBA	MASULIITA	
KITOTOLO YOURTH	KAKIRI	LUWUNGA
KITUDDA	MASULIITA	KIZIBA-MASULIITA
KIZIBA	MASULIITA	KIZIBA
KONGOJJE TWEKEMBE MIXED GROUP	MENDE	KONGOJJE
KYATEREKERA WOMEN GROUP	MENDE	BUMELA
KYENGEZA TUKOLLEWAMU	MASULIITA	KYENGEZA
MAGEZI BUGAGGA	MASULIITA	KANZIZE
MAGEZI MULIRO	MENDE	MABOMBWE
MUKAMA MULUNGI	MASULIITA	NANSOBA SSEGANGA
NAJJEMBA FARMERS ASSOCIATION	MENDE	NAJJEMBA
NAKIKUNGUBE HIV	MASULIITA	NAKIKUNGUBE
NEZIKOKOLIMA FARMERS	MASULIITA	
NKOWE FARMERS GROUP	MENDE	NKOWE
SIKYOMU FARMERS GROUP	KAKIRI	KIKUBAMPANGA
TUKOLE BUKOZI	MENDE	MENDE -BUGGA
TUKOLERE WAMU	MASULIITA	GAMBA
TUSITUKIRE WAMU	MASULIITA	WANJEYO
TUSUBIRA FARMERS AND RICE GROWERS	MENDE	BUKASA-NSEKWA

GROUP NAME	SUB COUNTY	VILLAGE
TUZETUMALIRIDDE	MENDE	BAKKA CENTRAL
TWEKEMBE SESISILIBA FARMERS GROUP	MENDE	SESILIBA
WABIYINJA FARMERS	MASULIITA	WABIYINJA
ZIBULA ATUDDE GROUP	MENDE	KASENGEJJE
ZINUNULA FARMERS GROUP	MENDE	MENDE

