



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



A F I R D

AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Since then, AFIRD has been working to improve the livelihoods of small holder farmers, through capacity building in sustainable natural resource management for food and nutrition security, better income and environmental conservation. Target groups include; small holder farmers, school communities and prisons.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACSA: Advocacy coalition for sustainable Agriculture
ADA: Australian Development Agency
AFIRD: Agency For Integrated Rural Development
BftW: Bread for the World
BSU: Biogas Solutions Uganda
CAO: Chief Administrative officer
CBO: Community Based Organization
CDO: Community Development officer
DEO: District Education officer
DLC: Development Link Consultancy
DPO: District production officer
FG: Farmer group
FRA: Food Rights Alliance
IGA: income generating activities
ILUD: Integrated Land Use Design
MAAIF: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MOH: Ministry of Health
NaCRRI: National Crops Resources Research Institute
NGOs: Non-Government Organizations
PELUM: Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PFE: principle focused evaluation
RUCID: Rural communities in Development
SA: Sustainable Agriculture
SAP: Sustainable Agriculture Practices
TA: Technical adviser
UNBS: Uganda National Bureau of standards
VSLA: Village Savings and Loans Association
YARD: Youth Association for Rural development



AFIRD VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC AREAS

Vision:

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

Mission:

To enable the more vulnerable small holder farmers in the increasingly urbanizing Wakiso, Mpigi and Mukono districts to be nutrition secure and to have increased income with a special emphasis on young people and to contribute to policy development and implementation towards sustainable farming in Uganda.

Strategic objectives

Objective 1: Increased sustainable and well documented animal and crop diversity and productivity for improved incomes for target farmers

Objective 2: To influence the mindsets in Wakiso and Mukono Districts towards farming as a viable livelihood option for the youth

Objective 3: Agriculture market development: To continue exploring marketing opportunities for small holder farmers in Wakiso and Mukono District

Objective 4: Vulnerable groups are able to participate and influence development programs and policies that affect them

Objective 5: To develop a relevant, dynamic and inspiring organization that is increasingly and flexibly living up to its principles

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



JOSEPH KASULE
CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Executive committee, I am pleased to present to you this annual report of AFIRD for the year 2021.

In spite of the hard times of COVID-19, we were able to continue with our work at AFIRD. We also continued working with our partners and we were able to get a number of achievements. This was possible due to a combined efforts by different stakeholders including; the Executive Committee Members, field officers and the entire staff of AFIRD, partners, donors. Each of these was able to play their roles effectively to ensure they bring about positive changes in the livelihoods of small-scale farmers. The journey to success has never been smooth.

We therefore, give Special thanks to our Development Partners for the continuous support. These include; Misereor, Bread for the World, Tudor Trust, Horizont3000 and MIVA Switzerland who have continued standing with us at all times to ensure that development is achieved in our areas of operation.

We also send our sincere gratitude to our network partners with whom we have carried out lobbying and advocacy. these included ; Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM), Advocacy Coalition on Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA), Food Rights Alliance (FRA), and Uganda Water & Sanitation Network (UWASNET).

Last but not least, I wish to thank our beneficiaries with whom we have implemented the various projects for their hard work and the government which has continuously provided an enabling environment for work.

It's my plea to all development agents and the public at large never to give up but continue with the struggle to fight poverty.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



EUSTACE SAJJABI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Am grateful to present to you the results and achievements from AFIRD's work in the year 2021.

AFIRD's work has continuously contributed to improved livelihoods in Wakiso and Mpigi districts. This achievement is as a result of our beneficiaries adopting the different technologies we promote on sustainable agriculture. These technologies have been used by the beneficiaries to efficiently utilize and benefit from natural resources for improved food security and income as well as better health and environment.

In spite of these achievements, farmer still experience challenges such as the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic that negatively halted the development of the economy at global level. The farmers experienced lack of markets for their produces that was in plenty in the year.

AFIRD has contributed to generating strong platforms that will enable farmers and schools adopt sustainable agriculture practices so as to become resilient to the changing environment.

I express my sincere pleasure to our partners, the Executive Committee, farmers, government and staff for their contributions towards success.

AFIRD STAFF



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BWAMBELE JOSEPH
Farm Manager



MIYINGI ANTHONY
Assitant Farm Manager



MBABAZI MARGRET
Welfare Assistant

1. INTRODUCTION

We are grateful to share our achievements, successes, challenges and lessons learnt during the year 2021. Work done among the target groups included; sustainable agriculture project among small holder farmers in Wakiso district and permaculture and integrated land use design for school communities and prisons in Mpigi and Wakiso district.

During this time, AFIRD continued with the second year of a three-year sustainable agriculture project where we worked with 650 small holder farmers organized in 26 groups and categorized into: the New (N) and the Medium (M) groups. New farmer groups were sixteen and had been supported for two years and medium farmers groups were 10 and had been supported for five years to implement sustainable agriculture activities. These farmers were distributed in Mende, Masuliita, Kakiri sub counties and Gombe division of Wakiso district.

AFIRD also worked with schools, youth and mothers and prisons to promote integrated land use designs (ILUD) and permaculture. In this area, AFIRD implemented two projects under the support of, Bread for the World (BftW) and Austrian Development Agency (ADA) together with DKA who provided funding through Horizont3000.

AFIRD received a long-term grant (2021- 2024) from Tudor trust to support her address funding priorities in order to become a relevant and dynamic organization that addresses challenges that emerge along her work in agroecology.

Bread for the world (BftW) project was being implemented for the second year directly benefiting 8 primary schools, 32 households and 3 prisons located in Mpigi and Wakiso districts. While funds from ADA and DKA through HORIZONT3000 were for a two-year Sustainable agriculture (SA) livelihood improvement project among school communities in Mpigi District covering four sub counties (Kituntu, Nkozi, Buwama and Kayabwe Town Council). The project is directly benefiting five primary schools, five youth and five mother groups.

In addition, AFIRD started work with a Technical Advisor (TA) under the support by Horizont3000 in its technical cooperation program. The TA's work is to support the development of the social enterprise. This includes; training services and products, advocacy and public relations. Various interventions were carried out under the different projects. The results obtained contributed to successes gained by the beneficiaries and to a great extent towards achievement of the organization's strategic objectives.

The year 2021 was the final year of implementing the five-year strategic direction that was running for five years since 2017. A new five-year strategic direction was also developed. This will be implemented starting 2022 till 2026.

2. INTERVENTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

These are given below per strategic objective / area.

2.1. AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM.

AFIRD supported farmers to implement organic/sustainable farming. Through the sustainable agriculture project, we worked directly with farmers in the new groups whereas in the medium groups, a Farmer led approach was used. New farmers groups were introduced to the key aspects (concepts) of sustainable / organic farming while medium groups already had the knowledge and skills and were supported through the Farmer led approach to own and sustain what had been achieved.



Figure 1: Trained farmer with her goats in Mende Sub county

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC FARMING IN NEW GROUPS

All the sixteen new farmer groups were trained on a number of organic/ sustainable practices including; farm planning, soil and water conservation, soil fertility management, integration of animals into the farming system, integrated pest and disease management and vegetable growing using indigenous seeds.



Figure 2: Soil and conservation structure stabilized with Napier grass

New technologies of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides were introduced among the farmers. Through the training farmers acquired, knowledge and skills which they have used to improve crop production.

Soil and water conservation methods such as mulching, tree growing, trenches and contours were encouraged among the farmers. Farmers who were able to implement them on their farms did not experience the negative effects of climate change such as drought and floods.

SUPPORT ON IMPROVED PLANTING MATERIALS

Sixteen new farmer groups were supported with planting materials that included tree seedlings and vegetable seeds.

Through the seed given, they were able to establish vegetable gardens for spider weed (*Cleome gynandra*), onions (*Allium Cepa*), spinach (*Spinacia Oleracea*) and Sukuma wiki (Collard greens) which have become part of their meals.

The tree seedlings that were planted included multi-purpose ones like *Calliandra* spp, Mangoes (*Mangifera Indica*) and soursop (*Annona Muricata*). These have improved the micro climate at the farm.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL CROP VARIETIES

Activities implemented under this area were;

Twelve-day seminars were done for three mother groups, where a total of 75 mothers received knowledge and skills on growing and preparing traditional foods. In addition, the mothers received trainings on child healthy and feeding and strategies to support school feeding program.

In order to increase access to the scarce indigenous planting materials to the communities, three mothers and three youth's groups were supported with a diversity of starter traditional/indigenous crop species. A total of 121 women and 29 men benefited from the planting materials

Description of achievement: The result is based on the thinking that every community member/group has a general and simple understanding of food and nutrition. Our thrust was directed to the strength of local resources in Nutrition. For example; the indigenous knowledge/wisdom on nutrition from the 'elderly women' and the power of indigenous crop varieties towards improving nutrition.

A total of 75 mothers underwent basic nutrition education. The elderly mothers with varsity knowledge on traditional foods and cooking recipes were engaged and their experience shared during these trainings.

A total of 150 people (121 females and 29 males) were supported to establish demonstration garden stands for major indigenous crop varieties that are deemed highly nutritious but getting scarce. These included; Traditional Banana varieties, Yams, spices and vegetables. It's through these garden stands that the rest of the community can access the scarce indigenous planting materials

The knowledge and skills attained on nutrition has increased the percentage of target households eating different food varieties from 34.6% at baseline to 42.1% progress. We also expect the percentage of children access a meal twice a day and children accessing solid food at school to raise having established more food sources and alternatives among schools

THE FARMER LED APPROACH.

All through the year 20 farmer trainers received support from AFIRD in terms of trainings to further build their capacity on knowledge transfer. The area of focus was farming as a business. This training emphasized the PESA model (Agroecology model) where farmers can be able to use agro ecological principles to make and save money on their farms.

In addition, the farmer trainers were supported to facilitate them move among the farmers to conduct trainings and extension services.

The achievements as a result includes:

The Farmer Trainers have developed their farms to the level of learning centers in their communities. These are attracting more people from their areas to get knowledge on sustainable agriculture practice. These include; vegetable growing, animal husbandry practices and seed saving.

Farmer trainers have fully implemented their farm plans. This has attracted people from outside the groups to be supported to develop their farms. The farmer trainers have benefited by providing this service at a cost.

In addition, some community members who were non group members have been attracted by farmer trainer work to join farmer groups so that they gain knowledge on sustainable agriculture.

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ON-FARM TRIALS

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At the end of the study, farmers selected 11 bean varieties as best performing in their areas.

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At the end of the study, farmers selected 11 bean varieties as best performing in their areas.

These varieties are being multiplied and maintained at group level.

Farmers have established community seed bank units. These are stocked with seeds owned by farmers and those selected from the farmer led research. The seeds are always planted every season in order to maintain the banks.

In addition, a backup seed bank at AFIRD was established where thirty-two (32) bean varieties are being maintained. These includes; seeds owned by farmers and those selected from the farmer led research.



Figure 3: A bean seed bank for Mende farmers group



Figure 4: A seed unit displaying seed in the bank managed by Joy Katabire of Mende Farmers group

INFORMATION SHARING AND DOCUMENTATION

Under this area, more work was done by farmer trainers. These were supported with smartphones, and a WhatsApp group created through which the farmers do information on new technologies, disease identification and control.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

During this year, interventions in this area were; establishing animal housing structures for the goats and rabbits among the sixteen new farmer groups. These were stocked with animals and were used as demonstration structures for zero grazing in the communities. Through this practice, farmers are able to harvest animal manure and urine to use in making organic compost for use at the farm. In addition, use the structures to control breeding, diseases and conflicts with neighbors. Two farmers from each of the sixteen new farmer groups were selected by their fellow group members to host the structures.

2.2. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Efforts to promote youth empowerment focused at promoting school and prison community led extension approach, training of youth peer trainers. The work which was done with the schools and prisons, under the ILUD /permaculture is described below



Figure 5: A giant mandala garden established at one of the beneficiary schools

This approach was done under the intervention of school projects; activities that were done are considering the Horizont3000/ADA/DKA project which worked with five government aided primary schools from the Sub Counties of Kituntu, Nkozi, Buwama and Kayabwe Town Council

Conduct ILUD/Permaculture design implementation workshops in 5 schools; Three trainings were done and benefited 60 people of which 32 were females and 28 males. Three schools environments were redesigned by establishing functional gardens, planting trees, establishing waste management points, creating pathways and planting live fence.

The schools were supported with inputs. Much emphasis was directed to distributing the traditional crop varieties due to their high contribution to nutrition and resilience to climate change impacts. A total 18 varieties of multipurpose fruit trees, 4 vegetable varieties, 3 varieties of herbs and 3 varieties of African yams were distributed. These increased access of indigenous planting materials to the community.

Three (3) schools were also supported towards seed multiplication for sustainability: to ensure a sustainable supply of planting materials among communities, tree nursery was established at each of the three schools. The intervention benefited 195 people (148 females and 47 males) with basic skills on local seed saving and multiplication.

In addition trainings were done at each of the three schools. On making and using bio-fertilizers and bio pesticides, Four Biofertilizer recipes and skills in making them; Bokashi, Supermagro, mineral brew and general pest repellent were shared to the beneficiaries.

A protected nursery structure was established at each of the eight schools to ensure that beneficiaries continuously raise own seedlings, of which they will always plant in the main gardens. In addition, these nurseries are also raising seedlings to be provided to community members. On average 25 (with at least 60% females) participants including pupils, teachers and parents in each school participated in the activity.

DESCRIPTION OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Three schools have been designed as potent examples of sustainable land use; with the formerly bare/dusty and/or bushy compounds being transformed into productive landscapes with ecological products and services such as; food, shelter, living laboratories and cool micro environments. The schools now serve as local centers for Agroecological knowledge transfer. Furthermore, climate resilient Agroecological practices like; use of Bio-fertilizers have enhanced healthy soils. The tree nurseries constructed supply seedlings to both the schools and the parents which ensures sustainability and resilience to climate change at school.

Adoption of permaculture principles and practices among schools and households is significantly increasing. There is significant increase in the environment conservation practices among the schools and households.

The communities have appreciated the need for diversity on the crop varieties grown. Due to the reducing farm land in the project area, the households and schools embraced permaculture principle of working along the edges. Land is now productively utilized right from the verandahs, covering the formerly wasted land (bare and dusty compounds) with vegetables, herbs and spices.



Figure: in the pictures above, shows impact at kitakyusa primary school; 2021 before intervention: Bare, eroded and dusty grounds due to trampling, 2022 After Intervention: path ways and vegetable gardens created. Wasted land reduced

PROMOTING PRISON LED EXTENSION APPROACH

Three prisons; Kitalya, Butooro and Sentema were supported on ILUD/Permaculture design implementation in four-day workshops in each of the prisons; 100 participants were trained of which 84 (84%) were men and 16 (16%) were women.

Of the 84-male trained 80 (95%) were inmates and 4 (5%) were officers while for the fourteen women trained, 10 (71%) were inmates while 4 (29%) were officers.

By the end of the training, three pieces of land were designed using permaculture principles; one piece per prison.

It is important to note that the only prison where we had female inmates was Sentema and all of them were trained on ILUD.

Prison	Total trained	Inmates		Officers		Total Male	Total Female	% Male	% Female
		Male	Female	Male	Female				
Kitalya	33	30	0	2	1	32	1	97	3
Butoolo	33	30	0	2	1	32	1	97	3
Sentema	34	20	10	0	4	20	14	59	41
Total	100	80	10	2	6	84	16	84	16

Summary of Beneficiaries of training on ILUD in prisons

2.3. AGRICULTURE MARKET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

AFIRD's focus to promote agriculture market development is supporting farmers access premium markets, collective marketing and dissemination of market information at group level. For the year 2021, all these approaches targeted increase of household level income.



Figure 8: AFIRD farmers and staff during the indigenous food fair in Kampala

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED WERE

Promote Agro-based income generating ventures among mothers and youths groups: One meeting was held for each of the 12 targeted groups with a view of getting familiar to the group's history, current status and the environment. Furthermore, the groups were given time to assess the existing IGAs (income generating activities) and come up with the viable IGAs that are agro-based. The IGAs were to serve both food and income purpose with minimal negative effects to the environment,

Twelve trainings were conducted on enterprises selection for the ten groups: This benefited 150 people (121 females and 29 males). Mothers and youths were trained on how to select Agro ecological income generation enterprises and assigned to come up with desired businesses.

Training in business skills. Two-day training on developing selected enterprises was done at each of the six groups (3 mother and 3 youths). The training included; mind set change, record keeping, and cost-benefit analysis and developing business plans. A total of 150 people (121 females and 29 males) were trained.

DESCRIPTION OF ACHIEVEMENT;

A total of 150 people (121 females and 29 males) have benefited from Agribusiness and enterprise selection skills hence the emergency of a diversity in the income generating activities within the project area.

Interventions under this area have enabled more women and youths to improve their financial status with the percentage of target mothers and youths having at least 3 agro-based income generating activities raising from 33.1% and 52.3% % at baseline to 43.8% % and 57.5% % at progressive respectively.

Farmer trainers were also trained in a five-day workshop on PESA model. In this training the trainers acquired knowledge and skills on how one can use the agro ecological principles to save money.

New farmer groups were trained and supported on spices and herbs growing. Emphasis was put on female farmers. This was done to improve income for women. These were supported with rosemary, lemon grass and mujaja (African Basil) seedlings. The farmers have established garden for these spices and herbs. The gardens are being used as sources of planting materials to scale up production. Some farmers have started generating income from the sale of lemon grasses.

Exhibitions; Farmers were supported to participate in agriculture exhibitions at both National and local levels. These included;

The indigenous and traditional food fair at national level organized by PELUM where AFIRD was awarded with certificate.

Furthermore, farmers participated in a local exhibition and they were able to display their products and technologies and also obtained contacts of buyers for their produces.



Figure 9: MS Nakalyowa Sarah exhibiting her produces at the Indigenous food fair.

2.4. ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING PROGRAM

Efforts to promote advocacy and lobbying focused at empowering community to have capacity to participate in public affairs and leaders to participate in planning and budgeting



Farmers of Mende sub county engaged during the consultative meeting

Work done in this area include;

Advocacy work by AFIRD started in 2020 and continued throughout 2021 where a number of meetings were organized with the Mpigi District leadership. We were advocating for their support to introduce ILUD / permaculture in Mpigi district.

In addition, an Advocacy and policy dialogue work shop was organised. In the workshop, Baseline survey findings on situation of school communities were being disseminated. The workshop targeted schools leaders (head teachers and founders), Mpigi District local Government; the CAO, DEO, DPO and CDO.

The objective of the workshop was to give feedback to the duty bearers about the situation among the schools communities. Some of the issues of interest were: feeding children at school, energy conservation among households and climate change actions.

Based on the findings from the baseline; we were able to strengthen Advocacy and policy dialogue on key areas such as: school nutrition, Gender and environment.

Furthermore, farmers from Wakiso were engaged in three consultation meetings, one per each of the three sub counties of Masuliita, Gombe and Mende. Farmers were asked to raise out advocacy issues in the area of agriculture that need action by the local government leaders: From the meetings, eight issues were highlighted by farmers. These included;

1. Late inputs delivery,
2. Low extension services delivery for support on emerging issues in the production of crops and livestock
3. Fake inputs on the market, especially with the planting materials

4. Lack of enough information on how to benefit from government agriculture related programs especially on the latest agricultural-related policies and the new development strategy of the parish development model.
5. The communities need to understand how to participate in the national budget process right from the grassroots, the sub-county up to the district.
6. Land-related conflicts with land grabbers, poor relations with the landlords, lack of information on land rights, and land acquisition processes like acquiring a land title and the remedial measures during conflicts.
7. The communities are much affected by unavailability of clean water for both domestic and production purposes.
8. Insecurity for their animals during festival periods.

In addition, the issues that were raised by farmers were then discussed during dialogue meetings between the farmers and the leaders from their sub counties



Figure 10: Farmers together with their leaders during a dialogue meeting in Masulita sub county

2.5 INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Efforts to promote organization and institutional development, we focused on uplifting the Resource Center for Organic Agriculture, staff capacity building for staff development and resource mobilization through collaborations with partner and monitoring and evaluation.



Figure 11: The established two storied training hall at AFIRD resource centre

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Staff were supported to participate in a number of trainings:

- 1. Five AFIRD staff were trained on Knowledge management which included:** Development of case studies, website uploading, Capacity development sharing, Microsoft365 and institutional development. The knowledge has been used in improving information collection and storage, AFIRD history documented in pictorial format and 15 staffs trained on Microsoft365 (outlook, teams, calendar, one drive and forms).
- 2. Four Project staffs were facilitated to participate in the Resource mobilization under the KNOW-HOW3000 arrangement.** The training was deemed necessary in helping AFIRD to identify funding gaps in her work and strengthen her fundraising capacities so as to keep developing at an organization.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HORIZONT3000

Since 2020 AFIRD established a partnership with HORIZONT3000. Through its technical cooperation program whereby we have received support of Technical Advisers (TA).

AFIRD received a permanent TA who will work with AFIRD for two years on supporting the development of the social enterprise. TA work at AFIRD is expected in two major results areas namely;

1. Establishment of the social enterprise "Resource Centre for Organic Agriculture" that offers training services and produce own organic agricultural goods (organic seedlings, Vermiculture, organic fertilizer & organic pesticides)
2. Strengthen advocacy work and public relations of AFIRD

In addition, AFIRD hosted participants from YARD, Caritas Tororo, RUCID and St. Jude Masaka during a sharing about learning centers workshop. Eight AFIRD staffs benefited from the experiences of various partners. These experiences were used to develop the social enterprise "Resource Centre for Organic Agriculture"

Furthermore, we were also privileged to host partners who included East Africa Technical Advisors of Horizont3000 as well as Environmental Alert NGO stakeholders whom we hosted to share experiences of learning centers. Our center together with St. Jude and Rucid were three of the centers that were used as case studies in a two days conference.

PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION WORK THAT WAS DONE WAS BASED ON AFIRD PRINCIPLES.

AFIRD has 8 principles: Transparency& Accountability, Team work, Quality work, Work with Nature, Stable Families& Gender Equity, Care for the people Documentation& Information dissemination and Cultural connection

The principles inform decision making at all organization levels. They are part of our daily communications and have helped in bridging a communication gap between junior staff and senior staff

Results from the previous Principal Focessed Evaluation (PFE) report were a foundation for finding practical solutions to emerging challenges. For example; some shortcoming in our operations were sighted based on the principles evaluation done, these included:

- The new training shade has no provisions for the disabled people- which violated our principle of care for the people. An adjustment will be made to include one more entry for the disabled to access the hall easily.
- The kitchen is not spacious, not well ventilated, no proper rack and without energy saving stove- these were found disrespectful to our principle of stable families and gender equity. A better kitchen will be established suit the purpose
- Lack of changing rooms at the center was seen to violate the gender responsive principle. Therefore, the team decided to have one room established to cater for the female staffs.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

A new project that was supported by Horizont3000 was started in January 2021 in three Southern sub counties of Mpigi district. This was in addition to another project funded by Bread for the world (BftW) that had started in August 2020. Both these projects were in school communities and prisons and covered 12 schools, three prisons, three mothers' groups and three youth groups. Furthermore, MIVA Switzerland together with Bread for the World (Bftw) provided us funding that helped us to procure a brand-new Toyota Double Cabin. This helped us to improve our mobility for support supervision and supply of permaculture materials in Mpigi district.



Figure 11: Supplying seedlings with vehicle provided by MIVA and BfW support.

AFIRD received a long-term grant (2021- 2024) from Tudor trust to support her address funding priorities in order to become a relevant and dynamic organization that addresses challenges that emerge along her work in Agroecology.

During the year 2021, the grant contributed towards enhancing the organization capacity in terms of human resource (staff salaries and welfare), Non recurrent expenditure/Equipment and running costs as core areas of interest. Tudor trust grant contributed 5.4 percent (UGX73,477,080) of the total AFIRD annual budget for the year 2021.

This enabled AFIRD to establish an Eco-training shade: it is a two-level structure made out of recycled materials like; seasoned wood, used pallets and old iron sheets. The shade provides a siting space for trainings and meetings with a capacity of 40 people.



Figure 13: Upper level of the hall where trainings and meetings are conducted.

The structure demonstrates efficient utilization of space at various vertical levels. It also provides a space that serves as a practical learning unit for bio-fertilizers, vermi-composting and bio-slurry. While the underground floor holds a bio digester and a tank.



Figure 12: Ground level of the training hall where practical trainings on bio-fertilizers is conducted.

During this period, MISEREOR organized a hands-on capacity building training for its partners in Uganda on advocacy. AFIRD participated in this training. This training was spear headed by the ACSA network secretariat and was intended to build capacity of member organizations who were to implement advocacy on seed.

3.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT.

Challenges

- Schools experienced a long lock down, reaching the children was quite challenging. The situation affected the knowledge transfer pace since all the indirect target groups have not been exposed to the permaculture principles demonstrated.
- Taking care of the established gardens became challenging while the teachers and children were away from the school. However, we had to mobilize the nearby children, parents and teachers to collectively take care of the gardens by irrigating during droughts, weeding and controlling pests. In return, the nearby members have benefited from the food crops on the school compound
- Using the same approach (ILUD) among the two target groups' schools and prisons was quite challenging. Each group required different timing approach. We found schools to be easy and more open to reach whereas prisons were more restrictive- most of the time a consent was required for each step done. This caused delay in implementing prison activities
- In spite of the outbreak of the Covid 19, smallholder farmers continued with farming activities. However, due to less market, their income reduced. They had an opportunity to use maize as an input for livestock feeds.
- The restrictions that were put in place by MOH due to Covid 19, hindered group gatherings, since groups were no longer conducting regular meetings. Most members in groups remained inactive and eventually group membership reduced.
- Farmers depend on sells from their farm produces to earn their income, since the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic the purchasing power has been very low. The incomes generally is low. This has affected the local contribution by farmers for the trainings as well as inputs. Contribution towards project activities was low.
- Climate change brought about negative effects that resulted in reduced crop and animal production. Climate change led to calamities like prolonged drought with high temperature, hailstones and floods. Along with this came epidemics, pests and animal diseases.

Lessons learnt

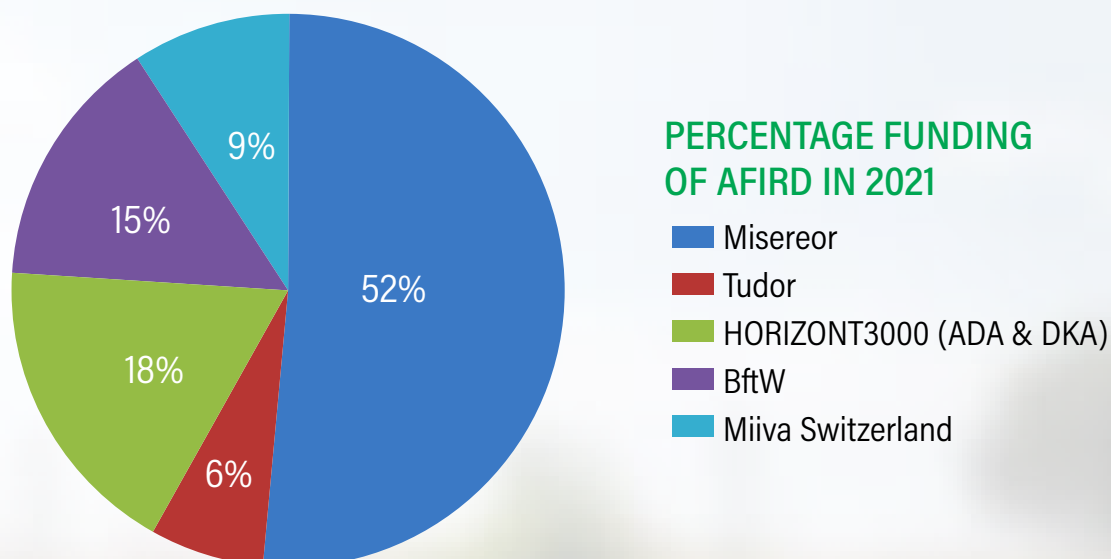
- Working with whole school communities is of importance and will ensure that school projects continue even when schools are closed.
- Empowering the school community to design own working solutions as will ensure high adoption rates and project sustainability

- Availability of alternative options at community level will help sustain community projects. This in regard to school water tank systems that broke down but soil water was replaced and conserved using micro irrigation using plastic bottles, mulching the gardens and use of live mulching plants like legumes
- Flexibility in the program approaches is important especially when working with new stakeholders and will help projects to move faster
- Understanding best tools to reach the target groups even during limiting times like COVID 19 situation (for example; use of ICT- social media like WhatsApp) is important to foster communication during times of restricted movement
- Exposure visits to learnings centers/ farms is very important as it facilitate faster adoption of technologies.
- Diversification of crop and animal enterprises is a strategy that could handle uncertainties that come about as a result of climate change effects
- Farmer Trainers are community resource people who train beyond their groups
- Smart phones are a powerful tool with wider village documentation benefits and are also helping farmers to share and access knowledge on farming technologies and solutions to challenges.
- Farmer group strengthening requires continuous interventions.
- Practical training increases adoption of technologies
- Use of technology (social media) to deliver services to farmers is necessary amidst challenges such as pandemics.
- Farmer knowledge in research done towards solving their own challenges is key.
- Local contribution by farmers creates ownership of project activities by the beneficiaries.
- Exchange visits is important method for knowledge and technology transfer and allows for quick adoption.
- Agroforestry is very key and requires more efforts in reducing climate change effects at household level.

4.0 FUNDING

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ANNEX

Annex 1: A case study: Using sustainable agriculture, improves farm production.

Mr Jjuko Charles of Masulita sub-county of Wakiso is a member of Agali awamu farmers group who has been trained by AFIRD on different sustainable practices. He is the chairperson of his group and he has demonstrated a number of SA practices on his land.

Among the SA practices he has been able to implement include making bio-pesticide using locally available resources like rabbit urine mixed with medicinal plants like tithonia, black jack, leafy onions & marigold and wood ash. He has applied this bio-pesticide on his vegetables and the results have been positive. The levels of pest infestation has reduced and he is expecting to get good results especially from his farm. He grows a variety of crops like bananas, coffee, vegetable, fruits and spices.



Annex 2: A case study on using vermiculture products for improved crop and livestock production



Mr. & Mrs. Irumba are members of Tusubira Nakatunda group one of the new groups in the current Sustainable Agriculture program. He and his wife have started adopting some of the practices after the exposure visit which was conducted early 2020. After undergoing a number of trainings, they have become a case to their fellow group members and the community where they leave.

In early 2020, Fred and his wife were among the members of Tusubira Nakatunda who visited one of the farmers who was rearing the worm for both waste management and production of organic fertilizers which could be applied to boost vegetables growing. After getting the parent stock, he established the vermicomposting unit at his home and it has provided them with both the liquid (vermi-tea) and the solid (vermicomposting) fertilizers which they have used to scale up their vegetable growing for improved nutrition at the home. The worms are a source of proteins to their livestock like poultry and pigs.

Annex 3: LIST OF FARMER GROUPS AND SCHOOLS THAT WORKED WITH AFIRD IN 2021

List of groups supported by Misereor

No.	Medium FGs	Sub county	Village
1	Kirwanira women group	Gombe	Matugga
2	Nasse youth association	Gombe	Nasse
3	Akwata empola Nabalanga farmers	Masulita	Katikamu
4	Abakadde Tweekembe farmers	Masulita	Katikamu
5	Lwemwedde self help	Masulita	Lwemwedde
6	Twezimbe farmers group	Masulita	Lwemwedde
7	Akwata empola wanjejo	Masulita	Wanjejo
8	Balandiza Kimeze farmers	Mende	Kaliti
9	Muzanganda farmers	Mende	Banda
10	Mende development	Mende	Mende

No.	New groups	Sub county	Village
11	Women we can FG	Gombe	Katalemwa
12	Tusubira Nakatunda FG	Masulita	Nakatunda
13	Mpegwe FG	Kakiri	Mpwegwe
14	Agali Awamu FG group	Masulita	Kikoota
15	Bbika men and women FG	Masulita	Bbika
16	Biyinzika Weaver's FG	Gombe	Kiyagonja
17	St Balikudembe Parents FG	Masulita	Kiziba
18	Kamu kamu FG group	Masulita	Bbale mukwenda
19	Nezikokolima FG	Masulita	Nabalanga
20	Manze Busawa twamanyirawo group	Masulita	Manze
21	United we stand FG	Masulita	Katikamu
22	Mujamiati FG	Masulita	Masulita kyalo
23	Sosolye FG	Gombe	Katalemwa
24	Buwambo FG	Gombe	Buwambo
25	Marnatha FG	Masulita	Masulita town
26	Tusubira FG	Masulita	Bbale

List of schools and groups supported by Bread for the World

No.	Schools	District	Sub county
1	Galatia C/U primary school	Mpigi	Kiringente
2	Besania C/U primary school,	Mpigi	Mpigi Town Council.
3	Archbishop Kiwanuka Memorial School	Mpigi	Kiringente
4	Kataba C/U primary school	Mpigi	Kammengo
5	Bujuuko UMEA primary School	Mpigi	Muduuma
6	Kikunyu C/U primary School	Mpigi	Kammengo
7	Manyogaseka primary School	Mpigi	Muduuma
8	St. Charlse Kibanga primary School	Mpigi	Kammengo
No.	Prisons	District	Sub county
1	Kitalya prison	Wakiso	Namayumba
2	Butooro prison	Mpigi	Kammengo
3	Sentema prison	Wakiso	Kakiri

List of schools and groups supported by HORIZONT3000

No.	Schools and groups	District	Sub county
1	Nabusanke primary school	Mpigi	Nkozi town council
2	Nabusanke Organic youth	Mpigi	Nkozi T/C
3	Nabusanke Sustainable Agricultural Dev't Group	Mpigi	Nkozi T/C
4	Masiko C/U primary	Mpigi	Kituntu
5	Masiko Youth Development Group	Mpigi	Kituntu
6	Twekulakulanye Masiko Mothers Group	Mpigi	Kituntu
7	Kitakyusa Primary	Mpigi	Kituntu
8	Kitakyusa Youth Organic Development Group	Mpigi	Kituntu
9	Agali Awamu Sustainable Mothers	Mpigi	Kituntu



Nutrition trainings to the mothers of namusanke amids COVID19



Mandala Garden At Nabusanke Ps



MOTHERS relied on vegetables on school compound during COVID19 lockdown



Extension visit to Masiko primary school in Kituntu sub county - Mpigi District



Micro irrigation systems by smallholder farmer Joy Katabaire of Mende Sub county



Training mothers of Galatia primary to raise own tree seedlings



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