

# AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT



# **Annual report 2015/2016**

"Work with the People to Foster Development"

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### **ACRONYMS:**

ACSA: - Advocacy Coalition on Sustainable Agriculture

AFIRD: - Agency for Integrated Rural Development

AIDS: - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

CSBAG: - Civil Society Bugdet Advocacy Group

FRA: - Food Rights Alliance

GMO: - Genetically Modified Organisms

HIV: - Human Immune-deficiency Virus

ILUD: - Integrated Land Use Design

IPDM - Intergrated Pest and Disease Management

KIFAD: - Kiyita Family Alliance for Development

NaCRRI: - National Crops Resources Research Institute

NGOs: - Non Government Organizations

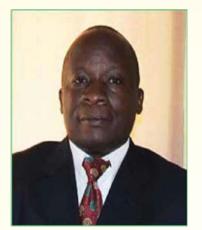
PELUM: - Participatory Ecological Land Use Management

Ps - primary school

SA: - Sustainable Agriculture

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 2015/2016.

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. These include; Misereor, 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 work shared with AFIRD.

Last 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 struggle to fight poverty.

For God and my country. Joseph Kasule Chairman

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**



As AFIRD makes 17 years of existence, we are fortunate to celebrate a continued abundance. As the organization grows, we have worked as a team to support farmer folks who are the main food providers of our country.

Despite the fact that Agriculture is the back born of Uganda's economy, the sector still faces several worrying trends. These put economic, environmental and social development at stake. Foremost are adverse

climate change effects, undependable agro inputs, unfavorable markets and poor sanitary conditions. Many of these problems are associated with the: poor management of natural resources, limited access to market information and ignorance

The rural folk face an uphill task to make ends meet. It's upon this that AFIRD has put efforts to improve the livelihoods through promoting sustainable farming practices among farmers and schools so as to unlock their potentials as custodians of natural resources.

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 AFIRD's success.

Eustace Sajjabi Executive Director.

#### **AFIRD STAFF**



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WASWA FAIZO P.O PERMACULTURE



KAGOYA LYDIA ASS P.O PERMACULTURE



MUSISI ALIPIO LOGISTICS



KONSO EDITH VOLUNTEER



LUKWAGO NOCHOLAS VOLUNTEER

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report covers the period starting March 2015 and ending February 2016. The interventions, achievements made and challenges faced are highlighted.

The major programs areas of focus in the year were; Agricultural production and environment, market access and human rights.

Two projects; Sustainable agriculture and Integrated Land Use Design/Permaculture projects were implemented in Wakiso District -Central Region.

In order to deliver the objectives and intended result, a number of strategies were employed and these included; training to provide knowledge and skills, establishment of demonstration gardens, home visits to farmers and farmers groups and support inform of agro inputs of cassava cuttings and banana tissue cultures. In addition, the communities were supported to carry out monitoring their activities and the organization did an impact survey.

The overall assessment is that the organization was able to achieve, to a significant level its intended objectives. The challenges faced include unpredictable weather conditions, reducing land sizes with conflicts which has hampered production, disease outbreaks for goats and bananas and theft of animals and birds among our farmer groups.

Key lessons have been adopted in both implementation and redesigning of strategies to cope with new developments.

#### **BACKGROUND**

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

AFIRD is implementing projects on sustainable agriculture and ILUD/permaculture

This started with support from SNV-The Netherlands Development Organization under the Sustainable land use programme. MISEREOR took over in 2001;and since then, they have supported the implementation of Sustainable organic Agriculture in the sub-counties of Namayumba, Kakiri, Masulita, mende and Gombe in Wakiso District. The project (2014-2016) is worked with 16 new farmer groups in Gombe and 17 medium farmer groups who have worked with AFIRD for more than 3 years in Kakiri and Mende sub counties.

Seeds for Africa from United Kingdom have supported fruit tree, vegetable growing and breakfast clubs with four primary schools in Mukono and Wakiso districts.

With financial support from TUDOR TRUST, we promoted Integrated Land Use Design/Permaculture in three schools in KakiriSub-county. Significant results have been registered from the implementing schools work! We intend to expand the project from three to twelve schools among four sub counties in the next financial year.

The 2015/16 report was developed basing on the interventions, achievements and lessons from the ongoing projects; details are shown per program area in the following section that also shows the Vision, Mission statement and organizational values

#### **VISION**

We envision 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 environmental conservation,
- 2. Market access
- 3. Human rights.

#### **OPERATIONAL AREAS**

During the year, AFIRD operated in Wakiso and Mukono Districts in Central Uganda. The project areas in Wakiso included Mende, Masulita, Kakiri and Gombe sub counties; and Nakisunga sub County in Mukono District.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Agriculture is a backbone to Uganda's economy. Within the NDP II, Close to 80 percent of all households in the country are involved in agriculture and the results also indicate that more rural households participate in agriculture (90 percent) compared to their urban counterparts (46 percent). Agriculture becomes highly vulnerable to the changing climatic conditions. These compromise crop and animal productivity which hinders rural development.

AFIRD promotes sustainable Agriculture and focuses on building the farmers' capacities in the sustainable management of natural resources. We target the small holder farmers because their livelihoods are most at stake. Schools are also targeted as they are potential centers for developing social human capital yet they are always isolated from community development programs. Most schools have vast land that is underutilized characterized by bear and dusty grounds which hinders effective learning and performance.

From our past experience of working with rural communities, we believe that engaging schools in community development is another hidden treasure that is not fully utilized by many development partners. Therefore, it's on this background that AFIRD has built the capacities of schools to participate in spreading sustainable land use practices to their local communities through promoting Integrated Land Use Design and Permaculture.

A number of interventions to support beneficiaries improve agriculture production and environmental conservation, market access and human rights were carried out in the year 2015-2016. These and achievements are described in the following section.

#### 1. AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Objective: Improved diversified yields and sustainable environmental management.

Under this program area, emphasis was directed on Crop production, environmental conservation and livestock production. As described in the following section.

#### Interventions and achievements

#### 1.1 CROP PRODUCTION



Ms Hellen inspecting cassava multiplication garden they established as Twekembe Nkoma farmers in Gombe.

1.1.1 Promote crop diversification: Sixteen new farmer groups comprising 450 households were sensitized in a one day seminar on the benefits of diversification in crop production. In addition, these groups obtained knowledge and skills through practical trainings on appropriate agronomy of cassava, banana and beans. At group level, farmers were supported to establish multiplication gardens of cassava; variety NASE 19, a variety that is resistant to brown streak and cassava mosaic diseases. In addition, they were also provided with tissue culture seedlings (Kisansa Variety) and established multiplication gardens at group level.

AFIRD worked with research; one dialogue meeting between farmers and researchers was organized in an effort to help farmers identify the specific suitable crop varieties according to the area. Crops like; Cassava, banana and beans, were discussed and the relevant varieties recommended in favor of farmers' specifications with guidance from researchers.



Mr. Luyima a researcher on beans from NaCRRI helping farmers to identify the potential bean varieties of their choice at Gombe sub county offices

#### 1.1.2 Promote IPDM:

In an effort to control crop pests and disease, farmers from sixteen farmer groups were trained on the different integrated pest and disease management (IPDM) methods.

Preparation and use of concoctions and the multiplication of herbs was also handled. These included identification of plants that repel pests. Using the knowledge obtained, farmers were able to control pests from their crops especially; banana weevils using traps and concoctions.

New farmer groups were also supported to make Organic pesticide where they received buckets from which demonstration on preparation of concoctions was done. Planting materials for repellant herbs were also given for multiplication.



AFIRD staff and farmers of Gombe share a practical identification of banana weevils on a banana stem.

#### 1.1.3 Soil and water conservation

Following trainings conducted on Soil and Water conservation, 447 farmers and three school communities have adopted and used technologies like; contours, cut off drainages and L-bridge (s) to enhance their capacities to sustain production despite the adverse effects of climate change.

Soil fertility build up has been witnessed on the recent desert like school compound now being transformed into greener fruitful environment.

Farmers also testify having improved on their banana yielding potential after installing the swales that harvest water and prevent soil erosion.

At three primary schools (Child to child, St. Kizito Buzimba and Sentema CS), the established soil and water conservation structures (Pit beds, mandala gardens and swales) showed positive effects on school land.



Ms Topista of KIKI farmers group working in her banana plantation



Kasingye Yves a parent at St. Kizito Buzimba PS improved on his banana production by establishing swales.

The parents/farmers around schools have adopted use of water conservation structures on their farms hence scaling up production.

Example is Mr. Kasingye Yves a parent of two boys at St. Kizito Buzimba primary schools who learnt on how to conserve water and soil on a banana garden from the Permaculture school project at St. Kizito Buzimba Primary. He established a one acre banana garden with all soil and water conservation structures installed.

Mr. Kasingye testifies that 'he has increased on the number and sizes of banana bunch harvested in a month at his household'

We appreciate the spillover effect of the project from the schools to the farming communities. AFIRD believes in the power of schools to transform livelihoods of the surrounding local communities.

#### 1.1.4 Seed Security

Community seed multiplication is our core aspect under seed security program. Farmers are encouraged and trained to have multiplication nurseries both at house hold and group level. Plants like trees, vegetables, staples and spices are multiplied and shared among farmers for continuity.

Example is Nalubwama Joyce a member of Tusubira rice growers' farmers group in Namusera parish in Mende sub county who is prominent in supplying spices like; rosemary seedlings and night shade seeds from her home nurseries and gardens. Seed multiplication has turned out to be an added source of income at households

Under the ILUD school project, pupils from three primary schools in Kakiri Sub County have acquired skills on raising their own seedlings.



Joyce's home multiplication gardens for spices



Pupil's of Ssentema catholic school carrying out seed multication.

Through the school tree nurseries activity, parents support schools with local seeds of trees, vegetables and staples for multiplication at school. Schools intern produce seedlings that are distributed to pupils to plant at home. This is quite an interesting interaction between the school and surrounding community! And here we encourage communities to regard schools as a major resource especially in this era of development.

#### 1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

#### 1.2.1 Agro forestry:

After training sixteen farmers groups and three schools on agro forestry, we continuously followed up the implementations to ensure that the intended key principles like; diversity, multi-functional and ecologically supportive agroforestry systems were established and the beneficiaries got the skills.

Below is a case of St. Kizito Buzimba primary school whose land experienced significant changes after a period of two years of ILUD/permaculture implementation

St. Kizito Buzimba primary school is a Government aided school located in Kamuli village in Kakiri sub county of Wakiso district – Uganda. Being government aided, little efforts were directed to developing school since the users didn't have an ownership mind. This kept Buzimba school compound for decades in a dusty, dry and desert like condition up to AFIRD'S intervention in early 2014

St. kizito Buzimba before ILUD/Permaculture program,



St. kizito Buzimba after two years of implementation



The school now continues to produce its own food to supplement on the daily posho and beans meals. Buzimba is also multiplying sweet potato vines and supplying them to her community.

The introduction of permaculture design while using the integrated land used design-ILUD approach gradually transformed the schools former image from desert like to a more productive compound. ILUD introduced constructive activities to the land users (parents, teachers &pupils) which have helped them build their capacities on how to creatively utilize their land. Complementary to agro forestry, activities like; soil and water conservation, waste management, soil fertility build up, vegetable growing, staple food production, live fencing and .creating path ways help in increasing biodiversity on the compound.

#### 1.2.2 Promote energy savings:

Training was carried out among 450 farming household. In addition, IEC materials on energy saving technologies were developed and distributed to farmers and schools. This aimed at sensitizing farmers on the negative effects of climate change for the farmers to start acting.

#### 1.3 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

AFIRD aims at increasing biological and economic productivity of farm animals. In new groups, emphasis was directed to goats and poultry.

1.3.1 Promote animal housing: AFIRD has continued promoting a zero grazing system of animals. In addition to the 17 medium farmer groups that were already supported in this activity, Sixteen (16) new farmer groups were also supported to establish eight demonstration houses of good goat pen (one per group) that serve as demonstration centers for animal housing and management at group level. The beneficiaries appreciate the raised pen system for ensuring security, suiting small spaces and appropriate in managing parasites and diseases.



Mr. Nalumenya's raised goat's pen, he is member of Busikiri farmers group

1.3.2 Continuous upgrading of animals/animal breeding; sixteen new farmer groups were supported with improved breeds of goats, (One pair per group; male and female) for multiplication and cross breeding to improve local animal breeds.

From the follow up visits made among the medium farmers, it was found out that the number of improved goat breeds have substantially increased. There are more improved goat breeds among medium groups who are based in Mende area.

Some of the farmers especially the first goat beneficiaries have managed to scale up their incomes from selling kids (shs250,000- 300,000/kid) and the male goat services to the community (shs5,000 per mating).

In one of the case studies on goat featuring Mr. Bikaali who has seven female goats that produce every year and one male boar goat for breeding purposes. He says that he earns most from sale of kids and the male's services to the community. Among the many benefits from the goats, he has managed to construct a new iron sheet roofed house from a grass thatched house.



Mr. Bikaali's old house



Mr. Bikaali's new house

- 1.3.3 Promote better animal nutrition: This involved promoting production of fodder among sixteen new groups. It was in form of Calliandra Spp seed and capacity building towards nursery bed management and planting in field. In addition, 16 new farmer groups were given skills and knowledge on feed formulation and mixing in a practical session.
- 1.3.4 Disease and parasite control in animals: Through trainings conducted at group level, farmer's capacity in identifying and managing diseases in animals was increased. This happened among the new groups from Gombe Sub-county.
- 1.3.5 Poultry production: AFIRD has continuously supported farmers on poultry production. For this time around, the focus was on increased egg production for improved nutrition especially for the women and children. Farmer groups were first trained on poultry for egg production and after supported with starter birds to benefit all the group members. Two members per group were able to benefit first. These have also managed to pass on the birds to at least two other members within their group. Furthermore,



Mr. Kizito of Bubale is a second beneficially, he received 10 chicks of one month from the first beneficiaries

farmers are collecting eggs which they are consuming and also sell surplus for income.

Example is Ms Muganga Mary of Bubale. She has managed to multiply and pass on birds to Namusisi rose and Mr.Kizito John her fellow group members. Shea also managed to increase her stock of birds from 12 to 50.

#### 2. MARKET ACCESS

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The major factors affecting market access among farmers are; lack of market information, failure to produce good quality produce in sufficient quantities and poor post-harvest handling.

Much as government has been encouraging farmers to produce more, little has been done to strengthen small holder farmers'capacities in terms of skills, market infrastructure, roads and value addition

AFIRD promotes a farmer led marketing system. The following interventions have been employed to improve on marketing for farmers' produce;

#### Interventions and achievements

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

#### 2.1 Agribusiness creation

Farmers from the medium farmer groups were mobilized to participate in two radio programmes on marketing. Through these programs, farmers got opportunities to pass on adverts for their produces and products to a big audience. In addition, Medium farmers from two farmers groups were supported to participate in two exhibitions one at regional and another at national level.



MS Mastula a group member selling tree seedlings at the Banda farmer group tree nursery bed.

Through these exhibitions, farmers were able to exchange contacts with buyers. As a result some farmers have been able to get market for their products an example is the Banda farmer groups. These are selling more of their tree seedlings from their tree nursery.



Farmers exhibiting during the national indigenous food fair at Lugoggo show

## 2.2 Promote agro processing and value addition:

Farmers from medium groups were given skills through training on agro processing especially for fruits to make wines, juices and jam. This happened among eight groups in a two day seminar. This activity aim at improving market access and also reduce wastage for farmer produce.

As a result of this intervention, some farmers took this as group activities where they process wine for income generation.

#### 3. HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY.

Increase community response to promote and protect human rights.

Interventions and achievements

#### 3.1 Advocacy

AFIRD in collaboration with PELUM, CSBAG, and FRA participated and worked on a number of bills and policies that included the GMO bill, seed and extension policies. In addition, through networks, AFIRD participated in the budget advocacy work.

#### 3.2 HIV mainstreaming;

In this area; AFIRD worked in conjunction with Kiyita Family alliance on HIV/AIDS voluntary testing and counseling among farmers in Gombe Sub County. Five hundred and eight people benefited from the exercise. IEC materials on HIV/AIDS were also developed and distributed to farmers from the project area



A developed IEC material with information to sensitize farmers on HIV/AIDS negative effects on agriculture.



In the picture; Community members Lining up to access counseling and testing services at Jaagala playground Farmers

#### 4.0 DEMONSTRATION CENTER

AFIRD started operating at her new home at Nkoowe 13 miles along Kampala-Hoima road in Mende sub county of Wakiso District. This center will help coordinate our work among all the sub counties of operation.

The center demonstrates confined farming technologies for farmers especially with small cultivatable land. These technologies include; box gardening, tiregardening, veranda gardening, vertical planting, arrow root growing, mushroom growing, small live stocking and Vermiculture.

AFIRD has developed Vermiculture as another organic waste management system. For the past two years we have tested Vermiculture and found it more advantageous compared to other systems of managing bio waste.

We have been able to build capacity of several farmers and organizations like; Caritas Hoima on the application of Vermiculture technology and hope to disseminate it to a wider community. We encourage farmers to stop lamenting about land sizes. Today, farming begins at your verandah



AFIRD offices at Nkoowe

#### **5.0 PARTNERS**

AFIRD is working with a number of stakeholders in ensuring that small holder 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.

Research institution these supplied farmers with improved and high yielding seed varieties of cassava stems and banana suckers.

#### 6.0 FUNDING

Misereor (SAP): UG SHS231,529,885

Tudor Trust (permaculture): UG SHS 30,940,000

#### 7.0 CHALLENGES.

- The increasing plant diseases for major crops like the banana bacterial wilt and coffee wilt that affects bananas has always hampered food security
- Seasonal changes that are characterized by late and little rains; have affected crop yields
- Increasing land shortages and conflicts affected production.



#### 8.0 OUTLOOK

In the next year, we shall continue with sustainable agriculture implementation. We also aim at extending the ILUD/permaculture project to more nine schools and also engage the young out of school.

### APPENDIX 1: LIST OF FARMER GROUPS AND SCHOOLS THAT WORKED WITH AFIRD IN 2015/16

		WORKED WITH AFIRD IN 2015/16							
No.	New Farmer Groups	Sub County	Village						
Ι	Mirembe Development Farmers	Gombe	Bubale						
2	Twekembe Nkoma Farmers	Gombe	Nkoma						
3	Migadde Tukolerewamu Farmers	Gombe	Migadde						
4	Kingidde Farmers	Gombe	Kingidde						
5	Kigogwa Kilyowa Farmers Group	Gombe	Kigogwa kilyowa						
6	Kibungo Kilyamuli Farmers Group	Gombe	Kibungo kilyamuli						
7	Buwambo Farmers	Gombe	Buwambo						
8	Munakukaama Farmers	Gombe	Bibbo						
9	Tusitukirewamu Farmers	Gombe	Kitungwa						
10	Gombe Farmers	Gombe	Gombe						
11	Busikiri Farmers	Gombe	Busikiri						
12	Jagala Farmers	Gombe	Jagala						
13	Zibula Attudde Farmers	Gombe	Wambale						
14	Mwereerwe Farmers Group	Gombe	Mwereerwe						
15	Kavule Organic Farmers Association	Gombe	Kavule						
16	Biyinzika Farmers	Gombe	Mwereerwe						
	Old Farmer Groups	Sub County	Village						
	Banda Farmers	Mende	Banda						
2	Bibanja Association	Mende	Nsekwa						
3	Busawuli Agaliawamu	Mende	Busawuli						
4	Tusubira Kitooke Farmers	Mende	Kaliti						
5	Kaliti Twegatte	Mende	Kaliti Central						
6	Kongojje Twekembe Mixed Group	Mende	Kongojje						
7	Kyaterekera Women Group	Mende	Bumela						
8	Magezi Muliro	Mende	Mabombwe						
9	Najjemba Farmers Association	Mende	Najjemba						
10	Nkoowe Farmers Group	Mende	Nkoowe						
11	Kitotolo Youth Farmers	Kakiri	Luwunga						
12	Tuzetumaliridde Farmers	Mende	Bbaka						
13	Twekembe Ssesiriba Farmers	Mende	Ssesiriba						
14	Zibula Atudde Farmers Group	Mende	Najemba						
15	Tusubira Rice Growers	Mende	Namusera						
16	Zinunula Farmers	Mende	Nansomba						
17	Tusubira Development	Mende	Sanda						
		_							
No.	School	District	Sub County						
Ī	Katente C.O.U Primary School	Mukono	Nakisunga						
2	Sir Apollo Kagwa Primary School	Mukono	Nanziga						
3	St Anne Primary School	Wakiso	Kakiri						
4	St Edward Primary School	Wakiso	Kakiri						
5	Child To Child Primary School	Wakiso	Kakiri Town Council						
6	Sentema C/S Primary	Wakiso	Kakiri						
7	St.Kizito-Buzimba Primary School	Wakiso	Kakiri						

## **AFIRD TEAM**



# AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AFIRD)

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