



# Transforming small holder farmers' livelihoods through sustainable Organic Agriculture



Since 1997

## AFIRD OFFICE



## AFIRD STAFF



# Acronyms

AFIRD:	Agency for Integrated Rural Development
ACSA:	Advocacy Coalition on Sustainable Agriculture.
CBOs:	Community Based Organizations.
FRA:	Food Rights Alliance.
HIV:	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
NGOs:	Non Government Organizations.
PELUM:	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management.
RMF:	Result Monitoring Frame Work.
SA:	Sustainable Agriculture
SSFs:	Small Scale Farmers.
ULA:	Uganda Land Alliance
KIOF:	Kenya Institute of Organic farming
SNV:	Netherland Development Organization
RUCID:	Rural communities in development
NOGAMU:	National Organic Agriculture Movement.
RDC.	Resident District Commission
MAK:	Makerere University Kampala
ILUD:	Integrated Land Use Design
AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV:	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
KIFAD:	Kiyita Family Alliance for Development
NaCRRI:	National Crops Resources Research Institute
SA:	Sustainable Agriculture
Ps	Primary school

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## Message from Chairperson of the Executive Committee.



Sustainable agriculture has increasingly gained recognition globally in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is fronted because of its ability to meet the nutritional and economic needs of the present population without compromising the ability of the future generation to equally meet their food and economic needs.

My appreciation goes to AFIRD secretariat and the entire staff for the tireless efforts towards improving the livelihoods of small scale farmers.

These have gone through thick and thin but never the less success has been achieved.

I am also grateful to the Executive Committee members who have served tirelessly. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and I am confident that they will continue to deliver towards our Goal.

AFIRD partners cannot be left out for the continuous support of AFIRD towards her mission.. PELUM Uganda in particular has done a great work towards capacity building. ACSA, Food rights Alliance and Uganda land alliance are also thanked for their good relation and knowledge sharing with AFIRD.

We also send our gratitude to our funding partners; Misereor, Gorta, and Seeds for Africa who have stood with us at all times to ensure that development is achieved in our areas of operation.

Lastly but not least, we wish to thank our beneficiaries with whom we have implemented the various projects.

I call upon all development agents, civil societies, organizations, religious institutions, NGOs, government institutions and the public at large to join hands as we fight poverty in the next twenty years.

For GOD and my country.

Joseph Kasule

Chairman AFIRD Executive Committee

## Message from Executive director



I am pleased to present to you AFIRD Journey for the last 20 years. During this period, we made tremendous progress towards improving the livelihoods of small scale farmers and indeed if the record of achievements in this journey is anything to go by, then I must say, we at AFIRD achieved our targets and we are on the right path towards poverty reduction.

This Book provides an over view of the key interventions and achievements of the organization in the past 20 years.

Success was registered in the different program areas as clearly stipulated in this report.

During the twenty years of work, we have been able to transform livelihoods of small scale farmers, pupils and prison. We started our work in a small area from Namayumba. AFIRD has been able to expand its area of operation up to now five sub counties in Wakiso district and eastern Uganda

I also thank the AFIRD Executive Committee for their guidance towards our strategy and the staff for their tireless efforts in supporting our beneficiaries in the 20 year period.

Eustace Sajjabi

Executive Director

## Executive Summary

Twenty years down the road AFIRD has executed a number of project under sustainable agriculture with an intention of meeting its vision of seeing a society free from hunger and diseases, living in a peace full and green environment.

Through its projects, AFIRD together with its partners have been carrying out development work in some parts of in Uganda, especially in Wakiso District.

This report highlight the major interventions. It goes ahead to indicate AFIRD work in terms of projects and the different donors for each project, interventions per project, Achievements gained and success stories per strategic objective, partners support towards the work of AFIRD and challenges met. It also suggests a number of way forward. It is divided into three sections.

The first section gives the background and introduction on AFIRD; strategic objectives, mission and vision and principles.

The second section presents the different projects implemented by AFIRD through the twenty years, the different donors, interventions per project and achievements per each of the strategic objective; including Agriculture production and environment, Youth empowerment, Agriculture market development, Advocacy and lobbying, Organizational and institutional development

The last section gives highlights on import people, organisations and institutions behind success of AFIRD, challenges and way forward of AFIRD for the next twenty years.

# 1.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Agency for integrated rural development (AFIRD) is an indigenous NGO which was founded in 1997 by a group of professionals and registered as an NGO by the Ugandan government in 1998 under registration No: S 5914/2404 and Certificate No: 2222. It is authorized to operate in all parts of Uganda.

AFIRD has established a fully furnished office in Nkoowe 13 miles along Kampala-Hoima road with a courtyard that serves as a seed multiplication facility and demonstration for small space farming.

AFIRD employs staff from diverse fields with qualifications ranging from Diplomas to degrees. These fields include Development Management, Agriculture and Veterinary Science.

AFIRD's has been and is still working with the disadvantaged community members who include; small scale farmers, school communities, prisoners, the youth and the disabled.

Since 2000, AFIRD has implemented projects in the fields of sustainable Agriculture focusing on addressing food insecurity, low house hold income and environmental degradation. The organization has also played a part in the mitigation of cross cutting issues that affects agriculture. Currently, we are continuing with projects on Permaculture and Sustainable agricultur

AFIRD receives funds from local and international donors, member contributions and agricultural related consultancy services.

## VISION, MISSION AND PRINCIPLES:

The new AFIRD statements of Vision, Mission and values are our responses to the worsening hunger situation in the country.

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

**Mission:** To enable the more vulnerable smallholder 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:*

1. Agriculture production and environment.
2. Youth empowerment:
3. Agriculture market development.
4. Advocacy and lobbying
5. Organizational and institutional development

## Principles

These principles are given below:

- **Transparency and accountability:** Always being transparent (open) and accountable to the people we work with.
- **Teamwork:** Working as teams with clear roles and responsibilities both inside AFIRD and with stakeholders

- **Quality work:** Continually striving to improve the quality of our services and products.
- **Work with Nature:** Working creatively with Nature as we conserve and protect the environment in all our work
- **Stable families and gender equity:** Promoting an ongoing movement towards strong and stable families where gender equity flourishes.
- **Focus on vulnerable people:** Reaching out to work with vulnerable people in a non-discriminating way, being clear about whom we see as vulnerable and ensuring we do not worsen the situation for vulnerable people.
- **Documentation:** Ensuring accessible (evidence-based) documentation of our experiences and activities towards learning, influencing policies and inspiring others.
- **Farmers' rights:** In addition to providing services, we empower farmers to demand their rights.
- **Cultural connection:** Recognizing and respecting local and cultural knowledge and practices.

## 2. AFIRD'S WORK

Since 1997, AFIRD has been on ground continuously working with communities to ensure food security, increased household income and protected farming environment. It has worked in partnership with a number of Donors, who have been providing funding for the different programs.

### 2.1 Sustainable Agriculture Programmes from 1999 to Date

#### From 1999 to 2008

The work started with a participatory rural appraisal in 1999 in two villages of Namayumba sub-county in greater Mpigi District, where farmers identified the root cause of their problems and drew action plans to improve agriculture in order to overcome poverty. This programme received its initial funding from SNV-Netherlands development organization in the year 2000.

This was the genesis of our agriculture programme which promotes sustainable agriculture. It also focuses on building farmers' capacities in the sustainable management of natural resources for food security, income and environmental conservation.

Since then a number of the same programme has been implemented each for three years, with support from MISEREOR of Germany.

These have included;

- 2008-2011 the agriculture programme expanded from the two villages in one parish in Namayumba Sub County to a programme which benefited 813 farmers organized in 38 farmer groups distributed in three sub counties of Wakiso District including Namayumba, Kakiri and Masulita.
- 2012-2014; another agriculture programme was implemented benefiting again 913 farmers organised in 38 farmer groups. Mende sub county was included in addition to other sub counties of Masulita, Kakiri in wakiso district

- iii. 2014- 2016; the agriculture programme was extended to benefit farmers in Gombe Sub County. This benefited 715 farmers organised in 34 groups from three sub counties of Kakiri, Mende and Gombe sub counties.
- iv. 2017-2019; currently we are implementing the same agriculture programme in Masulita, Mende and Gombe sub counties. The project is benefiting 516 farmers organised in 26 farmer groups.

## 2.2 Tree Planting and Vegetable Production Project (2007-2009)

AFIRD in conjunction with Seed for Africa a UK Charitable Organization and Uganda Martyrs University we able to support fruit tree planting in 5 schools in greater Kakiri and Namayumba Sub counties in Wakiso district. The trees were intended to improve on the diet of primary school children through provision of vitamins and also conserve the environment.

## 2.3 Tree planting and vegetable production project (2003-2007)

This project was also supported by seeds for Africa and was implemented in 3 schools and one Government Prison (Kitalya). The project was intended to offer the vulnerable groups involved with a balanced diet through provision of vitamins.

In addition; tree planting contributed to environmental regeneration through provision of service and productive functions.

## 2.4 Advocacy project 2010

This project was aimed at building the capacity of farmers towards lobbying and advocacy in order for them to lobby for increased funding towards poverty reduction. It was implemented in Masulita Sub-county in Wakiso district and benefited 10 groups of farmers composed of over 200 farmers. This project was funded by participatory ecological land use management (PELUM).

## 2.5 Promote food and nutrition security 2011-2014

The project was implemented in Masulita Sub County in two phases. One year then 2 years. It directly benefited 500 directly organised in 20 groups in Masulita Sub County. The project aimed at improving food and nutrition security among small holder farmers. This was funded by GORTA of Ireland.

## 2.6 Promote integrated rural use design/permaculture in schools 2014- 18

In 2014 /2015; the project started with a one year phase where by three schools in Kakiri Sub County were supported. The second phase of this project started 2015 and was then expanded to 12 schools distributed in three sub counties of Masulita, Kakiri and Kombe. This project is currently on going. It is funded by TUDOR TRUST OF the United Kingdom. The aim of the project is to create a conducive environment of learning for pupils in schools.

## 2.7 Other Projects

SOS Children's village of Kakiri has contracted AFIRD to strengthen the capacity of her beneficiaries towards business management of enterprises. These are parents who have children who are supported by SOS and the

objective of the partnership with AFIRD was to ensure that they can sustain their children when the SOS project ends. Under this partnership, AFIRD was able to train 3 farmer groups on business skills which included the importance of records and the kind of records which are important for Agriculture enterprises.

Farmer Institutional development and strengthening in the Sub counties of Nabweru, Nsangi and Namayumba (2003), Wakiso(2005) and Kakiri ( 2007) for Wakiso District NAADS Programme.

Sensitizing and training 360 parents, teachers and pupils in 12 Primary schools about the effect of HIV/AIDS 2005.

Conducted a feasibility study for Kotido Catholic Diocese on sustainable agriculture in Karamoja region 2006.

In conjunction with Environmental Alert, Prollinova and PELUM we Conducted research on local poultry development and cross-bred chick hatchability and survivability in Wakiso District

The organization has also played a part in the mitigation of cross cutting issues that affects agriculture. Including; genders and HIV/AIDS main streaming, hygiene and sanitation, access to clean water and human rights protection.

### 3. Interventions and achievements of programmes / projects

#### 3.1. Interventions per project

These are outlined per project as described in the following paragraphs.

##### 3.1.1 Sustainable agriculture projects; interventions under these projects have been;

Promoting agro forestry, soil fertility management, soil and water conservation, integrated pest and disease management, integrating crops and animal production, crop diversification, support farmers to access markets for their produces, promote agro processing and value addition, energy saving technologies and better nutrition and vegetable growing. Continued selection and upgrade of animal breeds, and group dynamics, support farmers with improved animal



Figure 1: Promoting tree planting among farmers



Figure 2: Promoting agro forestry among farmers



Figure 3 : support farmers with clean planting materials



Figure 4: seed multiplication garden managed by farmers



Figure 5 : Promote poultry production



Figure 6 : Promote goat production

### 3.1.2 Promote food and nutrition security project

under this project, interventions were; supporting farmers with breeding birds and demonstrate poultry feed formulation, promote group savings and credit schemes, support farmers with fruit tree seedlings (mangoes, avocados) ,support farmers with crop planting materials that are resistant to diseases like banana tissues, cassava cuttings (nasse 14), sweet potatoes vines( Naspots)

**3.1.3 Integrated landuse design/ Permaculture project in schools;** under this project; interventions include ; training and supporting pupils, teachers and parents in integrated land use designs, support schools to establish nursery beds for vegetable and tree seedlings, vegetable gardens, soil and water conservation structures, plant trees in compounds and animal production.



Figure 7: promote soil and water conservation structures in schools.



Figure 8: Promoting agro forestry in schools

**3.1.4. Tree planting and vegetable production project (2003-2007)** under this project; interventions include; support the schools and prisons with vegetable seeds and tree seedlings.

**3.1.5 Cross cutting issues;** interventions are; Link farmers to access HIV/AIDS counselling and testing services, support farmers access clean and safe water, support farmers to improve on the hygiene and sanitation and human rights and advocacy.



Figure 9: Figure 3 Farmers and community members accessing VCT services



Figure 10: supporting farmers to improve sanitation structures in their homes



Figure 11: Farmers during a sensitization meeting on HIV/AIDS

## 3.2 Achievements

Achievements from the above projects are described in the following section as per each strategic objective including; Agriculture production and environment, youth empowerment, Agriculture market development, Advocacy and lobbying, Organizational and institutional development

### 3.2.1 Agriculture production and environment

**Animal production among Farmers has improved:** AFIRD support farmers with improved goat breeds the Boer. These have enabled farmers to access breeding animals with high genetic potential in their communities. Farmers reported that the off-springs grow faster and are bigger attaining market size in a short period of time-12 month compared to 30 month for the local goats.

The He goats have helped to serve group members as well as non members. For instance the he goat received by Magezi Muliro group (in 2014) Namusera parish Mende sub-county had fathered 18 off springs spread in 11 households 4 of which were non members. Likewise the he goat received by Tusubira Rice growers group was noted to have fathered 12 off springs spread in six households two of which are non members.

From the survey by AFIRD; 2014, it was found out that after 2 years 235 cross bred goats and 23 pure lines were produced among farmers in Mende sub counties.

Furthermore, the farmers mentioned that, the improved breeds also fetch a higher price on average 250,000 compared to at most 100,000 for the local goats.

Farmers can now do the breeding themselves to get better crosses of higher growth vigor and meat gain which have better market price in a shorter period



Bakaali's former house AFIRD intervention

**One case is Mr. Bikaali Joseph** a goat beneficiary under Magezi Muliro farmers group in Mabombwe village Mende sun county has been a goat farmer since 2000 but much constrained by the breeds (local type) that had slower growth and small in size. In 2012 AFIRD intervened by introducing the Boer goat breed that has helped Bakaali improve his native breeds.

Originally, Bikaali sold a goat between 70,000-90.000/=, which wasn't sufficient to meet his household needs! But as started multiplying more boar crosses and pure lines, today he sells a goat between 200,000 when crossed and 300,000 if a pure line. The goat project has totally changed Bikaali's life from the former poverty images to a prosperous image.



***Bikaali' House from the goats income***

**Food security has improved;** according to the evaluation by Kayobyo 2015, Majority (57%) of the households reported that they had enough food reserves. The average number of meals eaten per day during the hungry period increased in 2015 compared to those consumed before. Findings revealed that overall there was a 36% reduction in the average number of days in the hungry period experience by target households in 2015 compared to the situation before.

This has been as a result of adoption of the following sustainable agriculture production practices which have contributed to increased production.



*Nammuddu in her banana plantation*

- Soil fertility improvement practices notably application of animal manure and composite manure in the vegetable and banana gardens.
- Use of trenches/terraces, cover crops and mulching is noted to have enhanced water retention in the fields and helped to check soil erosion. Trenches were commonly applied in the banana, vegetable, and to some extent coffee gardens.
- Use of herbal concoctions to control pests on the vegetables and bananas

- Use of improved varieties notably for cassava, maize and beans which are higher yielding, disease tolerant, quick maturing, and drought tolerant. Provision of planting materials contributed to the increase farmer use of improved varieties notably in the medium groups.

- Proper farm planning and realization that they had the ability to work hard to create change in their homes other than indulging in self-pity that they were poor people who had to depend on others.

**Seed security;** this has improved among the farmers where by farmers share and conserve seeds of indigenous crops which are tolerant to harsh climatic conditions. Farmers have established multiplication gardens among their groups for continuous supply of seeds. Crops like indigenous banana varieties, beans, and cassava.

**Better nutrition among the farmers:** Access to a variety of food stuffs and increased range of vegetables. Diversity of crops grown to include vegetables hence availability of these items on the household menu. Growing the vegetables is noted to have also enabled households to reduce expenses on buying such items and eat vegetables that are not contaminated with agro-chemicals. Availability of vegetables has improved nutrition in the homes.

The improved nutrition coupled with improved sanitation practices were noted to have contributed to better health of household members. Farmers had this to say *“Now may take up to 6 months without having children falling sick before it was one month” Children are strong, jolly and playful unlike before.*

**Improved nutrition for school pupils:** The introduction of integrated land use designs in schools created more space for farming technologies like vegetable growing, mushroom growing and rearing small animals like goats and rabbits. This created an additional meals to the daily school meals. Schools are able to eat vegetables and mushrooms from their gardens which improves their dietary demands.



**Continuously growing stronger in influencing the teaching and learning systems :**The ILUD/Permaculture school project introduced the ‘TALULAR’ system of training young children. The system focuses at inclusive participation during lessons, where the teacher uses locally available materials to pass on practical skills to the learners. It’s an active way of training young children and also changing their negative perceptions on sectors like agriculture which is the main the main business for our country.

**Environmental conservation:** Planting of trees, cover crops, use of trenches to conserve the soil, application of soil fertility practices that replenish the soil, energy saving stoves that save fire wood and reduce smoke, rubbish pits/containers separating degradable and non-degradable materials in difference places will continue to positively impact on the environment for many years. A case of Banda group.

Banda Farmers in Bulabakulu village started the Nursery in December 2012 to serve as an income generating activity for the members many of whom were youth. However some did not understand the need for patience, expecting quick returns hence they dropped out. New members were allowed to join and the group now has 20 members (8 male and 12 female). A community member offered the group land to establish the nursery. Now the group formalized their relationship with the land lord from whom they rent the land at UGX 100,000 per year and also give him a share of the profits every year. AFIRD provided the training on Nursery establishment as well as equipment and materials including mesh, poles, polythene for bagging, manure and start-up seeds. Spot advice provided during the follow-up visits by AFIRD staff were noted to have enabled the group members to learn on the job and correct mistakes as they went along.

Banda Farmers started making wine in 2015 and had 40 litres by the time of the evaluation. Chose wine making

as it is easy to get raw materials and market compared to juice and Jam. The group has undertaken measures to increase visibility and enhance market for their products. These include:-

- Participation in agricultural shows and exhibitions
- Maintaining links with farmers who buy from them to serve as a reference for prospective buyers on performance of their seedlings.

#### Benefits

- Acquisition of vocation skills like grafting, and managing nurseries
- Every year, the group passes out a member who is given money to invest in a physical asset of their choice. Through this process 1 member acquired a tailoring machine, another solar equipment, one invested in commercial layers while another used the funds for completing the permanent house. Two of the members established individual nursery beds. These have provided employment to the farmers and now they are self-employed in their established nursery beds.
- Every year each member is given one type of seedlings while they can buy others at a subsidized price. Members have used this opportunity to establish own woodlots.

#### Tree Nursery projects in schools and farmers groups

AFIRD has integrated the tree nursery concept in all her projects to ensure that not only access tree seedlings but also conserve the endangered species and earn income out of them. Community tree nurseries at group and school level have been constructed and nurseries at household level been encouraged and found to increase incomes. The skills acquired have enabled some farmers begin their own tree nurseries.



*Pupils of St. Joseph Ps on their Nursery*



*Farmers of Banba Group leaning skills on grafting*

#### Energy saving technologies



As the quest for energy among the population increases, too much pressure is exerted to natural resources like trees for fuel. AFIRD has intervened through training on the use of energy saving fuel stoves (lorena and fire rocket stoves) within households and supported the demonstrations on biogas technologies among farmer groups. The energy saving stoves have not only reduced pressure on tree resources but also turned to be income generations to farmers through sell of stoves

## Vermi composting technology

Organic (agricultural) waste has always been taken to be a problem by most farmers! Yet it's a key resource for improving both production and incomes at a household. AFIRD is promoting the development of organic waste commercialization through the use of sustainable farming technologies e.g. Vermicomposting technology. The technology involves earth worms to feed on organic waste (food leftovers, plant remains, peelings, animal dung, etc.) and produce the final plant food called worm castings. Vermicomposting will not only boost production and household income but also ensure family hygiene and sanitation.



### 3.2.2. Youth Empowerment

Under this strategic objective, work has been focusing on primary schools and the youth. A number of results have been achieved. Promote sustainable agriculture among the youth: In 2012, the youths Scholarship supported by Gorta-Ireland was introduced. Four youth from Masulita Sub County were supported to attain a certificate in Sustainable agriculture from Barraka agricultural college in Kenya. The trained youth have been attached to their own local communities to pass on the sustainable Agriculture skills through on farm demonstrations and trainings. (insert the picture of ssali)



Ssali John aged 28 years living in Wanjevo village in Masulita sub county is among the youths that were supported to attain a certificate in sustainable agriculture at Barraka agricultural college. Since he finished the course, he has been able to support his community in the areas of food security through trainings on agronomics practices and also has started a cottage industry on juice.

Mr. Ssali working on his farm

### From a desert land to food prints - St. Kizito buzimba primary school

For example a case of ST. KIZITO BUZIMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 school accompanied by wrong perceptions from parents and teachers (that Government should fully support each need at school), little efforts were directed towards effective utilization of school land the school land. This kept Buzimba school compound for decades in a dusty, dry and desert like condition until AFIRD'S intervention in March 2014.

#### AFIRD intervention

With financial support from the Tudor Trust UK, AFIRD introduced permaculture designing approach using the integrated land used design (ILUD) technique to gradually transform the school's former image to a more productive compound. ILUD introduced constructive activities to the land users (parents, teachers & pupils) of which have helped them build their capacities over their land use. The activities include; soil and water conservation, agro forestry, nutrition, waste management, soil fertility build up, vegetable growing, staple food production, live fencing and goat rearing.



***A photo of St. kizito Buzimba before AFIRD's ILUD/Permaculture program***

One of the techniques employed under ILUD was the access lay out which involved establishing clear path ways that created more space to integrate various practices like agro forestry, staple and vegetable growing. This has created a more supportive landscape in terms of: food, shade and soil fertility build up to grow crops.

The above bear ground was demarcated with a main path way to the main block and alongside planted both shade and fruit trees and food crops like maize, cassava, beans and bananas.

Changes have been experienced as time passes on;



***During ILUD implementation 2014***



***In January 2015***



***In January 2017***

### **3.2.3. Agriculture Market development**

A number of results under this strategic objective have been achieved. Some of which include: farmers have been able to increase sources of income due to growing a number of crops notably vegetables, livestock, and non-farm activities. Farmers have ventured into high value commodities/enterprise in an effort to take advantage of market opportunities in the neighboring Kampala and up-coming urban centers in Wakiso district. Such enterprises include Rosemary, leafy onions, and other vegetables which can provide a constant stream of income.



Figure 12: Mr. and Mrs SEbuwufu at their cottage industry of wine and juice

Agro processing: Farmers have established cottage industries at their farms. For example Mr. and Mrs. Sebuwufu Edward of Nzu village Namayumba Sub County, is now a supplier of sweet wine and concentrated passion fruit juice. he had this to say; AFIRD having trained us in value addition, in 2000 on most of the crops we grow, as our family, we decided to take up this activity as our major income generating activity. We started small but now we can process 5000 litres of sweet tropical wine, 3000 litres of fruit juice on quarterly basis. Our products are popularly consumed by many customers across the region.

We are earning income through sales and training other people to obtain this skill. Now the family is planning to enlarge their factory where by they are in the process of constructing food processing house worth 70 millions. From this activity, i and my wife have managed to educate our children, grand children, feed them and meet all other family requirements



Figure 13: Mrs. SEbuwufu Edward displaying their products at an exhibition



Figure 14: A group photo of mirembe development group located in Sanga parish, Gombe division

Groups have been able to establish savings and credit schemes which have greatly helped members to access credit for meeting family emergencies, sending children to school and investing in farming as well as trade. groups leave some money in the box at the end of each cycle to start the process again while other share everything and start from zero in the next cycle.

A case of Kabale dairy group and Mirembe development group. This group in the picture, has been able to develop their income through Village savings and loans scheme (VSLs) both at group and individual members. Currently through savings the group has savings of Uganda shillings seventeen millions seven hundred fifty two thousand shillings only (17,752,000). The group borrow some of the savings to invest in farming. As a group currently, they have established 1.5 acres of cucumber which they are now being harvesting and selling. Furthermore, the group managed to purchase a 50 seater tent which is also earning for the group more income. At individual level, farmers borrow their savings and invest them in crop and animal production.

### 3.2.4. Advocacy and lobbying

AFIRD's work has positively impacted on political capital of farmers notably women. Farmers notably women have been empowered to talk in various fora. This was attributed to participation in groups which has given the farmers confidence to express their views and to demand for answers from those in positions of authority. It was also notated that groups have encouraged farmer participation in the development processes in their localities as opposed to being passive recipients. They now actively contribute to finding solutions in to their farming problems. The

increased confidence was also noted to have resulted in women group members assuming positions of leadership in their groups as well as at the local government level. For instance two members of Tsubira Rice Farmers group in Mende were elected to positions of women councilors one at the district level and the other at sub-county level. Likewise one member of Najemba farmers group was elected as a counselor at sub-county level.

### 3.2.5 Organizational and institutional development

Under this objective, results achieved include;

AFIRD capacity to deliver services has improved following establishment of a permanent home located 14 miles at Nkowe along Kampala -Hoima road which services as the organization's office but also as a farmer learning Centre through the demonstrations at the premise.



Figure 15: AFIRD office with the learning Centre

AFIRD work with farmer groups, new groups are recruited every beginning of a new project. The groups Continued to exist and group into strong and stabilized groups. These have remained stable as a strong foundation for institutional sustainability.

## 4.0 Partners of AFIRD in development work

The above achievements have not been solely AFIRD's efforts but also working in partnership with other development organizations including;

**4.1 Participatory Ecological land Use Management (PELUM):** At the regional level AFIRD is a member of the Participatory Ecological land Use Management (PELUM) a regional network for 10 Eastern and Southern Africa countries. Under this network, the support is in form of; Learning Visits for staff, Participation in annual exhibitions on indigenous foods and agricultural shows in Jinja District, Capacity building of the staff in different areas of development, weekly market information and passed it on to our farmers

**4.2 Advocacy Coalition on sustainable Agriculture;** we are also members of this coalition where we have been carrying out lobby and advocacy for small holder farmers.

**4.3 Strategies for hope foundation of United Kingdom;** we collaborate with this agency to pass over information and technologies to farmers in our projects. This information has been on farming amid the HIV/AIDS challenge.

Most of the technologies passed on are for sustainable organic farming and include Kitchen gardens, Integration of animals in the farming system by use of appropriate houses that enable manure collection and also prevent animal damage to crops and control of diseases using integrated pest and disease management.

**4.4 Research institutions;** these institutions carryout research and come up with new innovations / technologies that promote high agricultural productivity. Project staff work together with researchers to get new innovations and transfer them to the farmers.

**4.5 American Peace Corps: 2010-2011;** AFIRD worked with a trainee of American Peace Corps who was able to build capacity of the staff in the area of HIV/AIDS mainstreaming.

**4.6 International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR):** This partnership has existed since the early 2000s and culminated in 2009 when facilitators from IIRR facilitated the second strategic planning process for AFIRD. In addition to this, they supplied us with Reading materials.

**4.7 Environmental Alert:** We worked with Environmental Alert since 1999 when they supported us to carry out the PRA which was the Genesis of our Sustainable Agriculture programme. In addition they worked together on the Advocacy Coalition on the Environment in Wakiso district where we were the Chair of the Coalition. And also on the Promotion of Local Innovations gave us 7 cows which we distributed to our farmers and have had very good results. We further programme (PROLLINOVA) where farmers from our programme were supported.

**4.8 Collaboration with Farmgain Africa;** AFIRD collected and disseminated market information to farmers which enabled them to make decisions on production and marketing.

Information from local markets in Wakiso district is collected by AFIRD staff, while that from National Markets is provided by Farmgain on a weekly basis.

**4.9 RODI Kenya:** In 2014 AFIRD formed a partnership with RODI Kenya aimed at capacity building on work with Prisons.

**4.10 SCOPE Uganda:** AFIRD engaged this partnership in 2015 with the intension of networking in the areas of supporting schools through Permaculture approach.

## 5. Important occasions in AFIRD



Figure 16: Members of parliament on the parliamentary committee for climate change during the visit at AFIRD



Figure 18: The vice Local council five chairperson during schools open day 2016 inspecting Permaculture project at Mende Kalema primary school



Figure 17: Members of parliament on the committee for climate change during a visit at AFIRD office



Figure 19: AFIRD staff Mr. Waswa and Farmers participating during the indigenous food fair organised by PELUM ;2017



Figure 20: Board members of PELUM during their visit to AFIRD



Figure 21: Board members of PELUM visiting learning from AFIRD demonstration gardens



Figure 22: Minister of state for education inspecting stalls during a farmers' exhibition during the green action week 2013



Figure 24: Visitors from Peace corps visiting AFIRD farmers in Namayumba



Figure 23: GORTA representative Rebecca during a visit to AFIRD project on promoting food and nutrition security



Figure 25: AFIRD staff meeting with misereor representative in charge of HIV/AIDS

## 6.0 Special recognition

20 years back, AFIRD has been developed by the support from different kinds of people, development organizations, and institutions these are given a special recognition. These includes;

AFIRD Founder Members: Sentayi Peter, Kirembe Gerald (Dr.), Alex Lwakuba, Kasule Joseph, Nalule Sarah (Dr.), Eustace Sajjabi and Musimenta Justice Julius, Kironde (MIA)

Current board members: Including Kasule Joseph, Nalule Sarah Kizito, Agness Yawe, Kasibante Joseph and Eustace Sajjabi.

Staffs: AFIRD has worked with many staffs and this cannot pass without being recognized; staffs has provided support in different areas these includes those who worked as interns (Namwanje Florence, Catherine wairimu, Nakyegje cissy, Bamulanzeki timothy, Hyuha Ivan, Bogrere Gerald, Njogedde Angella, Imam Nuwagaba, Sabano Rose, Ssebunya, Safina, , Ssemanda Mathias), volunteers( Bwambale josepgh, Okodi martin , Male Enock ) and employees, Nakiwala Annet, Mulondo Yusufu, Lwanyaga Wilson, Galiwango Willy, Sikyomu (RIP), Namazzi Gloria, Musisi Sulait, Nabunnya Daliah, Nakubulwa Nuluh, Kagoya Lydiah, Guloba Robert, Buchana Emanuel, Waswa Faizo, Mayega Samson, Lukwago Nicholus, Nassali Mariam, Nyakato Verah, Musisi Alipio, Nakirembeka Mable, Kirya Joseph, Miiro Tonny).

Partner Development organization: SNV, rodi Kenya, Misereor BARRACK, KIOF, PELUM, , Seeds for Africa, Gorta, RUCID, KULIKA, NOGAMU, ProLinova, Caritas Kampala, MADDO Masaka, the Catholic Church, Kitalya prison, St. Jude, EA, ACSA, PELUM, UWASNET, Wakiso District NGO Forum.

Individuals: Mr. Nyanzi, Sekatawa, Nakya prossy, Sebaduka of Rucid, Mrs. Kizza Joseph of Busense, Mr. Andrea and peter of SNV, Dr. coral and Dr. Lorenz Butchman of Misereor, Mr. Luswata of Maddo, M/s Nakasi, Ms Luyiga, Father Matage of Caritas, Dr. Oine Patrick of Wakiso Production and marketing Department Wakiso,, Prof. Kugonza Donard Rugira of MAK, Prof. Opio Odongo of Kawanda, Mr. Kasoma the formers Chairman Namayumba Sub county, Jada of Namayumba Namayumba town Council plus others, Mr. Patrick Kivumbi, Mr. Joseph Kasibante,, Kasajja Morgan and Charlse Walaga.

Target groups including schools, farmers groups and prisons

Lastly but not least; The Government of Uganda and Local government bodies, especially Greater Mpigi District, Wakiso District Council, Nabweru, Nsangi, Kakiri, Masulita, Namayumba, Mende and Gombe sub counties.

## 7. Challenges

Through the twenty years, AFIRD work has been hindered by the following challenges;

Pests and diseases these have continuously affected AFIRD work, i.e. crop and animal production. Most farmers are affected seriously by outbreak of new pests and disease. This has forced farmers to seriously apply chemicals (pesticides). This is a practice not promoted under sustainable agriculture.

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.

Climate change: continues to have adverse effects on the livelihoods of the small scale farmers since they mainly depend on rain fed agriculture; in most case many farmers has poor and low quality yields, for example the year of 2016 was characterized by long drought, the yields were very low and the country was hit by famine which also claimed lives of people.

Drought: Increasing water shortage for domestic and agricultural development.

Lack of land; In 2015, Gombe sub county; where the majority of medium groups are found was elevated to an urban division of the newly created Nasnsana municipality. The rapid urbanization in this area has created competition between farming and settlement where land owners are selling their land for settlement which has resulted into evictions of farmers; the majority who are just tenants. In some cases some farmers have had their plots reduced in return to get land titles. However, in most instances, the process for getting titles is not equitable as the land given in return is very much smaller.

Furthermore, animal numbers are decreasing, this reduction for ruminants is attributed to the increase in land scarcity and reduced areas of pasture. This makes it more difficult for farmers to find the needed amount of fodder even under zero-grazing management as practiced by sustainable agriculture farmers (Bachmann and Kiguli 2015).

The organizations' work is still being constrained by limited funding. There is need to identify more potential funder to support development work in AFIRD. As per the plan, more land is being required so as we are able to demonstrate economical confined space technologies since it is now the new trend.

## 8. Prospects

AFIRD, after 20 years of existence and thus with a lot of experience, is ready to move onto another level. Basing on the strategic objectives highlighted in the next five year strategic direction, we hope that these will guide in determining activities to be implemented under and development of projects and key result areas. The major shift in our focus is towards the farmer led extension approach, which we hope will bring farmers to be much more the leaders of their own development efforts. We also intend to address the continuous reduction in land-size through advocacy efforts and by introducing appropriate technologies for confined spaces. We also hope to introduce new innovations such as waste management through vermin culture and briquette making as source of income among our beneficiaries. We shall make more deliberate efforts to bring the youth into agriculture as future farmers by gathering evidence on their impediments and addressing these. Furthermore, we hope to develop and strengthen the advocacy abilities of farmers as well as providing excellent examples on the ground and continually feeding these into advocacy efforts at national level.

Last but not the least, we intend to change the method of approach of working with the target groups. Rather than building farmer capacity, we train trainers of trainees and also provide solutions to farmer challenges. We also hope to transform AFIRD Centre into a learning Centre for the community. Learning is expected to be a demand driven.

Lastly, we intend to strengthen the capacities of the organization to deliver quality services and remain relevant to her mandate. With all this, we believe that AFIRD will increase its effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery but, more important, will be an inspiring and dynamic organization that addresses the needs of its constituency.

## Appendix 1: List of farmer groups supported by AFIRD in the different sub counties

No	Farmer group	Sub county	Parish /Ward	Village/Zone
	<b>Namayumba</b>			
1	Nzu farmers	Namayumba		Nzu
2	Kitayita farmers group	Namayumba	Kitayita	kitayita
3	Lutisi farmers group	Namayumba		
4	Bembe farmers group	Namayumba		
5	Kyasa farmers group	Namayumba		
6	Luguzi farmers group	Namayumba	Luguzi	Luguzi
7	Bukondo farmers group	Namayumba		Bukondo
8	Nakedde farmers group	Namayumba		
9	Kyanuna farmers group	Namayumba		
10	Kanziro farmers group	Namayumba		
	<b>Kakiri</b>			
1	Sentema farmers group	Kakiri	Sentema	
2	Sentema Yoga Yoga farmers group	Kakiri	Sentema	Sentema
3	Luwunga A farmers group	Kakiri	Luwunga	
4	Luwunga B farmers group	Kakiri	Luwunga	
5	Buwanuka farmers group	Kakiri	Buwanuka	
6	Kamuli farmers group	Kakiri	kamuli	kamuli
7.	Mazima united women group	Kakiri	Lubbe	Lube
8.	Community to community group	Kakiri	Lubbe	Lube
9.	Baseka majja farmers group	Kakiri	Lubbe	Lube
10.	Sikyomu farmers group	Kakiri	Ward	Kikubampanga
11.	Kitotolo Youth farmers group	Kakiri	Luwunga	Kitotolo
	<b>Masulita</b>			
1	Masulita Agali Awamu farmers group	Masulita	Masulita	Masulita
2.	Akuwa gwowa farmers group	Masulita	Manze	Manze
3	Magezi Buggaga farmers group	Masulita	Kanzize	Kanzize
4	Kuyambagana farmers group	Masulita	Tumbali	Tumbali
5	Bivamuntuuyo farmers group	Masulita	Kabale	Kabaale
6.	Bivamuntuuyo farmers	Masulita	Manze	Busaawa
7.	Africa for Christ farmers	Masulita	Katikamu	Katikamu
8.	Kasudde farmers group	Masulita	Kassudde	Kasudde
9.	Kyengeza tukolewamu farmers	Masulita	Kyengeza	Kyengeza
10.	Mukama mulungi farmers	Masulita	Kyengeza	Seganga
11.	Omukyala n'enkulakulana women group	Masulita	Tumbali	Tumbaali
12.	Nakikungube HIV farmers	Masulita	Nakikungube	Nakikungube
13.	Gamba tukolerewamu farmers	Masulita	Gamba	Gamba
14	Kiziba youth group	Masulita	Masulita	Kiziba
15	Kawomera farmers group	Masulita		Kyebbumba
16	Akwata empola farmersgroup	Masulita		Wololo
17	Wabiyinja farmers	Masulita		Lwemwedde
18	Kitudda farmers	Masulita	Masulita	Kiziba
19	N'ezikokolima farmers group	Masulita		Nabalanga
20	Tusitikirewamu farmers group	Masulita	Wanjeyo	Wanjeyo

21	Akwata empola Nabalanga farmers	Masulita	Katikamu	Nabalanga
22	Abakadde Tweekembe farmers	Masulita	Katikamu	Nabalanga
23	Balikyewunya farmers group	Masulita	Kabale	Kabaale
24	Lwemwedde self help	Masulita	lwemwedde	Lwemwedde
25	Twezimbe farmers group	Masulita	Lwemwedde	Mazzi
26	Akwata empola wanjeyo	masulita	wanjeyo	Wanjeyo
<b>Mende</b>				
	Banda farmers	Mende	Banda	Banda
2	Bibanja association	Mende	Mabwombwe	Nsekwansekwa
3	Busawuliagaliawamu	Mende	Bakka	Busawuli
4	Tusubirakitooke farmers	Mende	Kaliti	Kaliti
5	Kalititwegatte	Mende	Kaliti	Kaliti central
6	Kongojjetweekembe mixed group	Mende	Bakka	Kongojje
7	Kyaterekera women group	Mende	Bakka	Bumela
8	Magezimuliro	Mende	Mabwombwe	Mabombwe
9	Najjemba farmers association	Mende	Kasengejje	Najjemba
10	Nkoowe farmers group	Mende	Kaliti	Nkoowe
11	Tuzetumaliridde farmers	Mende	Bakka	Bbaka
12	Tweekembe Ssesiriba farmers	Mende	Mende	Ssesiriba
13	Zibulatudde farmers group	Mende	Kasengejje	Najjemba
14	Tusubira rice growers	Mende	Mabwombwe	Namusera
15	Zinunula farmers	Mende	Mende	Nansomba
16	Tusubira development	Mende	Mabwombwe	Sanda
17	Balandiza Kimeze farmers	Mende	Kaliti	Serinya
18	Muzanganda farmers	Mende	Banda	Bulabakulu
19	Mende development	Mende		Sanda
<b>Gombe</b>				
1	Mirembe development farmers	Gombe	Sanga	Bubale
2	Tweekembenkoma farmers	Gombe	Sanga	Nkoma
3	Miggaddetukolerewamu farmers	Gombe	Miggadde	Miggade
4	Kingidde farmers	Gombe	Miggadde	Kingidde
5	Kigogwakilyowa farmers group	Gombe	Kiryamuli	Kigogwakilyowa
6	Kibungokilyamulifarmersgroup	Gombe	Kiryamuli	Kibungokilyamuli
7	Buwambo farmers	Gombe	Buwambo	Buwambo
8	Munakukaama farmers	Gombe	Buwambo	Bibbo
9	Double happiness farmers	Gombe	Gombe	Kitungwa
10	Gombe farmers	Gombe	Gombe	Gombe
11	Busikiri farmers	Gombe	Wambale	Busikiri
12	Jagaala farmers	Gombe	Kavule	Jagaala
13	Zibulaattudde farmers	Gombe	Wambale	Wambale

14	Mwererwe farmers group a	Gombe	Mwerewe	Mwererwe
15	Kavule organic farmers association	Gombe	Kavule	Lulagala
16	Biyinzika farmers	Gombe	Mwererwe	Mwererwe
17	Kirwanira women group	Gombe	Matugga	Matugga
18	Nasse youth association	Gombe	Nasse	Nasse

## APPENDIX 2: LIST OF schools supported by AFIRD

No.	School	District	Sub county
1.	Katente C.O.U primary school	Mukono	
2.	Sir Apollo Kagwa Primary school	Mukono	Nanziga
3.	St anne primary school	Wakiso district	Kakiri
4.	St Edward primary school	Wakiso district	Kakiri
5.	Child to Child primary school	Wakiso district	Kakiri
6.	Sentema c/s primary	Wakiso district	Kakiri
7.	St.Kizito-Buzimba primary school	Wakiso district	Kakiri
8.	Mende Kalema primary school	Wakiso district	Mende
9.	Kaababi Bulondo primary school	Wakiso district	Mende
10.	Bakka primary school	Wakiso district	Mende
11.	Kiziba mixed primary school	Wakiso district	Masulita
12.	St. Joseph Kanzize	Wakiso district	Masulita
13.	Kalongero Junior school	Wakiso district	Masulita
14.	Nasse Muslim primary school	Wakiso district	Gombe
15.	St. Balikuddembe Nabinaka primary school	Wakiso district	Gombe
16.	Bibbo primary school	Wakiso district	Gombe

## APPENDIX 3: LIST OF INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTED BY AFIRD ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

No.	INSTITUTION	DISTRICT	SUB-COUNTY
1	Amuria Development Organization Community based organization	Amuria	Amuria
2	RENDA Uganda Community based organisation	Jinja	Buwange
3	Global Link Organization Community based organization	Mukono	Nazigo
4	Pamba Kichijanji Primary school	Soroti	Soroti Municipality
5	Teso Children's Home for the blind Community based organisation	Soroti	Soroti Municipality
6	Father Hilders Jameria Primary school	Soroti	Soroti Municipality
7	Caring Heart Primary school	Wakiso	Kakiri town kases

## APPENDIX 4: PRISONS STAKE HOLDERS

1. Kitalya prison
2. Labamba community cervice



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