



MEMBER ORGANIZATION



For the month of April 2020



Location:

Lubanja village, Kireku parish, Busimbi division, Mityana municipality, Mityana District.

4 km from Mityana town along Namutamba road.

Major Activities:

Organic farming Training, Food processing, Business incubation & Bio fertilizer production

RURAL COMMUNITY IN DEVELOPMENT (RUCID)

Area of operation: RUCID offers extension services in the district of Mityana, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi and Mubende.

RUCID College admits students from all corners of the world.

For networking and Linkages:

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ABOUT RUCID

RUCID was established in 1994 as an NGO to work with rural farmers in the promotion of farming as a profitable business and occupation. Initially this was a demonstration farm replicating technologies from research stations, farmer's indigenous knowledge and best practices for scaling up towards improved farming methods. In 2007 RUCID evolved into an agricultural college with the aim of addressing youth unemployment in Uganda and youth shunning agriculture. This would result into youth participating in the farm education service, hence producing professional farmer youths and extension workers following a curriculum that includes food processing.

As an NGO and a limited company, RUCID has three interlinked sections; the social services (community farmer training and outreach programmes), RUCID College for trainings and the business wing charged with the sole role of food processing and value addition.

Training in Organic farming and Value addition

RUCID ORGANIC AGRICULTURE TRAINING COLLEGE is an autonomous subsidiary of RUCID offering certificates and diplomas in principles and practices of organic agriculture. RUCID College is fully registered under the ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) and possesses a Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) center. RUCID offers both short courses and long courses. Diploma courses run for two years and their modules are designed by MoES. However, the methodology of content delivery is predominantly modelled to give students broad based practical knowledge and skills in organic farming supplemented by basic theory. As an additional incentive, students visit the Kenya Institute of Organic Farming where they get more exposure to best practices in organic farming before course completion. Upon completion, students are awarded diplomas that are nationally and internally recognized.

RUCID is currently encouraging Individuals and groups of people to enroll for the short course trainings whose courses' content and methodology are designed according to the needs of the participants and are presented in the language of choice, i.e. between Luganda and English. While English courses target participants who at least completed Primary Leaving Examinations, these courses do not have age limit and participants from far are provided with accommodation facilities at a cost.

Courses are designed from a number of fields including crop husbandry, animal husbandry, and food processing and value addition. All the courses (including food processing and value addition) support increasing resilient production, increasing productivity and mitigation of climate change. Notably short courses range from one week to one year depending on the needs of the participant. For courses that last for at least three months (an equivalent of the semester) are examined by the DIT and trainees are awarded a competence-based DIT certificate upon completion and examination. Important to note is that training fees are affordable.



Some of the people who have been trained in value addition displaying their products on a function

Business Incubation

One of the major benefits of training at RUCID College is the opportunity to have incubation space at no cost for a period of one year. The purpose of business incubation is to effectively link acquired skills, technology, capital and know how to leverage entrepreneur talent in order to accelerate the development of trainees and thus speedup the production and growth of agriculture value addition industry. RUCID provides mentoring and support to innovators and early stage agricultural entrepreneurs in strategy and practice of growing sustainable businesses by offering technology and management support to value addition entrepreneurs to enable them to develop their products to full commercial potential and market penetration.

One of the important features at RUCID is the modern physical incubation space that manages a number of value addition enterprises for incubates including wine, juice and fruit drying incubation facilities, and greatly contributes to the quality and marketability of these products. Incubates at RUCID also enjoy a high level of technical expertise on the campus that include laboratory facilities, equipment design, food technology expertise, business development services or business registration and product certification.



Some entrepreneur trainees under incubation programme displaying their products

Food Processing & Value Addition

RUCID through its business wing is involved in food processing as a way of adding value to the food produced and increase the shelf life of the products. Through its community outreach programmes, RUCID identified farmers in Kasambya, Nabingoola, Kigando, Kiyuni, and Bageeza Sub- counties of Mubende District and those of Kibuye in Kyegegwa District, as potential suppliers of pineapples, apples, bananas, mangoes and jackfruits. These crops are used to produce wines and juices of different types. Other fruits are dried and packaged and supplied to different markets.

An internal control system has been developed by RUCID so as to serve as a quality manual system. This also guides the key players in the product chain and safeguards integrity of the organic quality of the fruits grown by the outgrower farmers. In order to improve on the quality attributes of products, HACCAP system was established which has led to products being certified by UNBS.

Community outreach programme (Extension services)

RUCID through its social services department is dealing in dissemination of organic agricultural knowledge and practices to the farmers to ensure the knowledge and practices are being applied appropriately at individual farmers, groups and cooperatives levels. Thus, RUCID is training rural youths, development agents and grassroots farmers' groups to act as agents of change. This training is conducted using different methodologies based on the needs of different farmers in the spheres of sustainable farming practices.

By and large, RUCID has so far trained over 250,000 farmers in the use of organic farming methods in crop production, animal husbandry and sustainable environment management. Of the 250,000 farmers, 250 farmers have been registered, trained in sustainable organic production methods and they are in the process of being certified for the EU and USA markets.



Some extension service farms managed by RUCID demonstrating the best practices in growing different crops

The Future

The future belongs to the youth who are skilled in agribusiness. Training in organic farming has been central to the operations of RUCID and venturing into short courses has provided the best solutions to the needs of many farmers. RUCID will continue to provide tailored solutions to the demands of farmers by designing trainings whose duration (as short as one day) can allow the farmers time and resources to access the training.

Mr. Samuel Nyanzi, the Executive Director of RUCID is trying to tackle the issue of declining soil fertility by venturing into promotion of organic fertilizers a niche RUCID is taking on to avail bio fertilizers from native microbes towards eco-friendly, effective and affordable products that can be easily replicated by small holder farmers.

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