

Innovative/Model Farmers' Profiles



Plot 3 Zzimbe Rd, Nsambya

Tel: +256 772 463 220

+41 4 670 400

Website: info@acsaug.org

Email: acsa.ug@gmail.com

Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) is a network of Civil Society organizations (CSOs) working with Smallholder farmers and promoting Sustainable Agriculture. ACSA's focus areas are Sustainable Agriculture, Agricultural market development, research and advocacy aiming at increasing farmers' understanding of policy issues affecting small holder farmers in Uganda. Since June 2016 the coalition membership has grown from 7 ACSA core partners namely; Caritas Kampala, Masaka Diocese Development Organization (MADDO), and Caritas Kabale, Hoima Caritas Development Organization (HOCADDO), Rural Community in Development (RUCID), Agency for Integrated Development (AFIRD), National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU), Caritas Uganda and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) to 27 CSOs countrywide.

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Introduction

This profiling activity was undertaken by Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) in a bid to collect data of the identified model farmers from MOs. It is hoped that this exercise will increase the publicity of ACSA MOs and affiliated farmers in the community. This will allow them to respond to the designed questionnaire so as to identify the qualifying farmers to respond to current needs and demands of public at large. Specifically, this assignment was to identify the suitable farmers and enterprises as well as areas of specialization.

The Agro-Tourism Champion



Mr. Julius Tumwebaze of Homeland Organics and Agro-tourism Centre aged 45 years, is from Lubuguma village, Kasaana Parish, Kibalinga Sub-county in Mubende District. He is passionate about Bee keeping and Fruit growing but also ventures in wood lot and vegetable growing

He has applied organic principles in pineapple growing and has secured for himself market for his organic produce from a number of organizations - RUCID from Mityana district being the major buyer. The consistency of this market has enabled him to graduate from small pieces of land to bigger and established plots of pineapples which definitely have boosted his income.

Julius has found bee keeping more lucrative among his enterprises. He attests this to ready market for bee honey where he usually gets orders from customers even before the harvest time. He acknowledges the role of bees in facilitating the process of quality production of other farm products like fruits because of pollination which is done by bees.

The prospects from wood lot are also high in terms of profitability and Julius cannot wait to mint money in the near future.

With these however, Julius acknowledges that his success has not been entirely his individual efforts but through trainings and exposures facilitated by a number of partners including KULIKA, RUCID, ACSA and PELUM Uganda.

He has attributed the impact he has caused in the community to the entire organisation of Homeland Organics and Agro-tourism Centre. Schools, youths and the general public who intentionally or by default come to see what they are doing are part of the wider community that have learnt and benefited from their work.

Food security and environmental protection are key aspects that can be attributed to his works in his community. Community members are seriously engaged in vegetable farming, and schools have greatly improved their school gardens to suit the sustainable farming principles.

Julius advises the rest of the farmers to think about the future rather than parochial interests in farming.

Success in Multi-Enterprise Ordeal



Mr. Musinguzi Josephat aged 58 years from Lwenvubo village, Nabingoola Parish Mubende district is an all-rounder farmer whose soul has delighted in diversity of enterprises. From coffee, fruits, banana plantation, cassava, maize to fish farming, piggery, poultry and bee keeping, he has fascinated his fellow farmers in the community.

Josephat's income from all the enterprises mentioned has not only transformed his household but the entire community because he employs more than 20 workers across different enterprises.

The ecosystem fortified by the diversity of his enterprises is something worth noting. His fish farming is totally dependent on his poultry and fruit farming business. At the same time his quality of fruits is reinforced by pollination aided by his apiary.

Every month, he earns income from banana plantation worth UGX1,200,000, while from his coffee plantation, he earns UGX2,400,000. His poultry farming is for both eggs and meat. He gets 3 trays of eggs every day from his chicken.

Josephat prides in the sustainability of his enterprises and regrets nothing for venturing into many enterprises. He however, expresses the need for capacity building to add value to some of his produce especially honey. He affirms that farming like any other business requires excellent skills in management and time.



Championing Climate Change Mitigation Practices



Mr. Aloysius Tumwikirize aged 38 years from Kazo Farmers Association located in Lusalila village Mubende district is a climate change mitigation champion trained and supported by ACSA and other development partners like USAID.

He has set up a climate change resource center to facilitate trainings and practical lessons for farmer organizations and individuals regarding climate change resilience activities. Sustainability, profitability and environmental concerns are at the helm of the choice of enterprises he is venturing in.

Aloysius focuses on fruit farming, vegetables, banana plantation, piggery, fish farming, bee keeping, goats and sheep that are managed from a climate change lens, where climate sensitive feeds as well as resilient crops are considered for sustainability.

Food security, income generation and shared practices are the cornerstones for his activism in his community. These have been accelerated by technical support from partners like ACSA through provision of trainings and exposures for members within the organization.

His story is one that is premised on supporting even the most vulnerable members of the community to organize their homesteads through sustainable farming particularly old widows. He has trained members of the association and the outcomes in terms of food security and facilities at household level are evident in the community.

He is a transformed farmer because he has heard, seen and practiced sustainable farming approaches. The established center reflects all sustainable farming practices as depicted in the pictures. The sky is the limit for him in championing climate change mitigation agricultural practices.

Pollination of Livestock ideas at Household Level



Mrs. Lydia Kyakabale is a widow aged 77 years, in Lubuguma village, Kasaana Parish, Kibalinga Sub-county in Mubende District. Elderly widows are historically among the poorest and most vulnerable individuals in rural communities. Given that poverty and vulnerability are typically measured with the household as the basic unit of observation, Kazo Farmers association has taken up the burner to support such people. Lydia is one of them. She has been supported by Kazo Farmers Association to organize her life in a sustainable manner. She has a tank at home for harvesting water so that in the times of the dry spell, given her age, she does not have to struggle with fetching water.

She has settled in raising a range of animals at home to support her livelihood. Her rabbits and sheep are a source of manure for her backyard gardening where she has planted vegetables like eggplants. Lydia has a banana plantation which supplements her income specifically to buy books and school uniform for her granddaughter.

There are a number of elderly people like Lydia who have lost hope and are merely waiting for their demise. Lydia has a word for such contemporaries. *“Life can change even when you are approaching to your grave; the association has revived my hope by showing me how to live in a simple and less demanding life at a household. I cannot fail to give a visitor what to eat, moreover by myself. Thanks to Kazo Farmers Organization”*

The Magic of Jack Bean in Climate Change Mitigation



Mr Kabuye Samuel is a leader of Uganda Youth at Risk Development Network (UDINET) found in Kizigo village, Najjembe Sub-county, Buikwe District. The organization is focused on smart agriculture, climate change mitigation and health aspects. However, the current emphasis is on Agriculture which Kabuye indicated is being supported by ACSA in areas of capacity building and exchange visits.

Kabuye's model of five farmers per village who duplicate sustainable farming activities at the learning center has been beneficial in pulling resources to sustain the organization given that there are no external funders at the moment.

Indigenous vegetable production has been Kabuye's catch point. He has identified the secret of tomato production where he uses Jack bean at the peripheral of the garden to act as a nitrogen fixer, fertilizer, pest chaser and trapper within the garden. Yet, Jack bean is drought resistant and is eaten by livestock most especially during the dry season. In terms of climate change mitigation, the Jack bean has been Kabuye's innovation.

The diversity of vegetables on Kabuye's farm including onions, tomatoes, cabbages, pumpkins, egg plants and others have stimulated his desire to test alternative sources of organic fertilizers. All enterprises are practiced in a banana plantation that is well looked after. His farm has turned into a learning center where students from institutions come to learn a number of organic principles.

Kabuye looks forward to having different demonstration sites encompassing all enterprises. He already has passion fruit in its youngest stage and is awaiting to plant hibiscus to add on the already existing enterprise portfolio on the farm.

The Choice of Specialization in Passion Fruit Farming



Mr Ssentongo Simon of Kikube village, Najjembe division, Lugazi Municipality like any other farmer has tried a number of enterprises on his farm to date. These include, bananas, water melons, mangoes, vanilla, tomatoes and fish farming. However, he has found his niche in Passion fruit growing.

His desire for dairy farming is in high gear. He is only waiting for the right advisors regarding the right breed for dairy cattle. Regarding the choice of passion fruit growing, Simon expressed wide knowledge and because of its profitability, he has devoted much of his time on passion fruit farming.



Due to his love for passion fruit, his entire compound has been used for production. He views every inch of his land from a business perspective. He currently earns about 30 million in a year from passion fruit farming with no signs of meeting the demand side of the market.

Simon is desirous of value addition technologies in order to upscale his income from passion fruit growing. He however indicated the need for support in production, packaging and labeling. Other than passion fruit, he is also engaged in fish farming which to a large extent is still in a pilot stage. He hopes to intensify this venture under the advice of some fisheries officers he is in touch with.

The Pride of a Donated Heifer



Mrs Ssemuddu Nanteza is a mixed farmer from Namiluga village, Nagojje parish Mukono District whose farming journey was sparked by a donated heifer from Caritas Lugazi. She is engaged in dairy production, vegetable farming and banana production.

Nanteza is very grateful of what the calf she was given has benefited her. Almost nine years ever since the calf was given to her, she prides of seven cows which have changed her entire life. She earns income from milk production and has also installed a biogas system which has provided clean energy and bio fertilizer for manure.

She has sustainably planted onions in her compound, egg plants and other types of vegetables. All her crop production approaches have on a larger extent depended on dairy production for manure. Within her banana plantation, she has integrated fruits like avocado and egg plants.

She has plans of reinstating her bee keeping project which she had abandoned for some time because of lack of manpower as well as beehives. Her production is for both subsistence and commercial purposes. She expressed the need for capacity building and support in piggery since it is her next enterprise on her agenda.



Compound Gardening Startups

Mrs Rahama Nanyonga is a startup gardener from Samuka village, Katoogo parish, Nama Sub County in Mukono District. Her interest is in vegetable production and backyard banana plantation. These enterprises are mainly intended for household level food security and nutrition. Her husband rears three cows which support her vegetable enterprise in terms of manure provision.

Nanyonga is part of newly identified strata of farmers by Caritas Lugazi who have started their enterprises for the first time with a focus of employing organic production methods on their farms.

Currently she is doing her vegetable production in her compound by means of wire mesh as soil holders and other methods of holding soils for purposes of quick returns production. She has managed to make her first three harvests of onions, spinach and other leafy vegetables.

She still requires knowledge and skills in vegetable production given the size of land she has. The choice of enterprises that suit her production area also warrants capacity building to enable her and other farmers in the same category to adopt sustainable agricultural production. She is excited and ready to be a change agent in her village in sustainable production practices.



Richard is a pineapple farmer and a member of Sulma Foods Ltd. Sulma foods works with a total of 1368 out grower farmers in the greater Luwero area who produce fruits and vegetables and supply them to process, standardize and market under its brand name Sulma foods. The farmers are provided with the necessary inputs to effectively grow the required products and produce right quantity and quality.

Sulma foods Ltd then buys the produce from these farmers at very competitive prices and processes them for export. Sulma foods Ltd has an expanse of farmland where it grows most of the produce. This farm mainly produces herbs, vegetables and other products that are not supplied by the out grower farmers.

This farm doubles as a learning center for farmers around the country and region who come to learn about the practices of organic production and value addition for export. The farm also has a hall where agro trainings are conducted

Sulma Foods Ltd is involved in food processing to add value to the produce and increase the shelf life of the products and is purely an Agro Business Company Limited that aims at making profits from the sale of products. It also occasionally liaises with national and international organizations in carrying out organic farming related researches under which it gets funding.

