



**KULIKA LIGANDA**  
*Transforming Livelihoods*  
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# **MODEL FARMER FOR SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRACTICES**



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## INTRODUCTION

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ACSA is a legally registered national network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) which work with smallholder farmers to promote sustainable agriculture, agricultural market development, and environmental conservation and undertakes research and advocacy. ACSA has membership of 31 CSOs spread country wide in 28 districts with a Mission “to Empower civil society organizations (both church and non-church actors) working with small holder farmers to advocate for favorable agrarian Policy environment for sustainable communities” and a Vision of “Smallholder farmers living in a Sustainable Environment”. ACSA’s focus areas are; Advocacy and Lobbying, Research and Documentation, Capacity building of Member Organisations, Capacity building of ACSA secretariat, Networking and Partnership Building, which are undertaken under the overall goal of: **“Relevant agriculture policies and services for Small Holder Farmers (SHFs) are implemented to foster profitable sustainable agriculture enterprises”**. In its effort to advocate for smallholder farmers, ACSA has been employing various strategies such as use of media – both main stream and social and publication of documents like this one.

Over the past years, the focus on the approach and channels of delivery of extension and advisory services has evolved through different stages. These changes have been driven by a changing context in resource availability; climate change; new developments in information, communication, and production technologies; the entry of new actors; and increasingly globalised and vertically integrated agri-food systems. There is a renewed interest in exploring different extension and advisory services delivery models to better serve the changing agricultural development context. This renewed interest is accompanied with a desire to revive community-based approaches of extension service delivery, with farmer-to-farmer extension now as a dominant approach in many African countries.

In Uganda, the model farmers’ approach has been adopted by many CSOs to address the inadequate government extension service delivery due to high ratio of extension worker to farmer which is established at 1:5000 as opposed to the global benchmark of 1:500. The situation has persisted since 2013 when the National Agriculture Extension Strategy (NAES) was developed and has recently been exacerbated by the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. In this context, Model Farmers (MF) are understood as farmers that continually demonstrate increased productivity per unit area, while diversifying and integrating farm enterprises for food security and income generation at household level. These translate into their ‘good practices’, which are replicated in the community peer-to-peer learning. This strategy has proved to contribute to increased extension service delivery and or coverage in addition to improved technology transfer and use. Nonetheless, with the agribusiness orientation, MFs are playing a significant role in organising farmers towards collective and sustainable markets for their produce.

In the year 2022, ACSA has profiled and documented 12 model farmers drawn from member organisations country wide specifically the following CSOs; Skills Oriented Development Initiatives (SODI), Bidhampola Community Development Association (BICODA), KULIKA Uganda, Nnina Olugero Foundation, Homeland agro tourism, Caritas Lugazi, PROMETRA Uganda, Mityana District Modern Farmers Ltd (MIDMOF), Uganda Youths at Risk Development Network (UYDNET) and Agency for Integrated Rural Development (AFIRD). The criteria for selection of model farmers was based on; the level of farmer development, uniqueness of sustainable organic agriculture practices employed, specific agricultural innovations, and the level of production among others. Farmers' enterprises included seasonal and perennial crops, livestock and agroprocessing of produce.



## Kulika Uganda

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Kulika Uganda is an Indigenous NGO founded in 1981 and promoting sustainable organic agriculture. Initially Kulika operated as a UK grant-making charitable trust specializing in the provision of educational scholarships for East African students, but later developed into a fully independent Ugandan registered NGO with an emphasis on community development and the provision of educational opportunities to help people improve their livelihoods. Kulika Uganda strategic direction includes a vision of “Rural communities with enhanced livelihoods” a mission “To provide relevant skills and technologies to empower rural communities” and all the operations are guided by the core values of integrity, commitment, teamwork, respect and learning. Kulika Uganda’s major focus is to support community development through the implementation of programmes in the thematic areas of Sustainable organic agriculture training and farmer to farmer extension; Vocational skills training; and Scholarship administration. The development of a Sustainable Agriculture Training Programme, which started in the mid-1990s has transformed many families and communities in Uganda.

### Mr. Walugembe Andrew

Gender:	Male
Village:	Kyampisi
Sub County:	Namayumbe Town Council
District:	Wakiso
Contact:	0774344948

Mr. Andrew Walugembe, 42 years who hails from Kyampisi village, Namayumba Town Council, Wakiso District has been trained by Kulika Uganda as a Key Farmer Trainer for his community. Due to this position and his on-farm practices, he has become a role model for smallholder farmers in his community.

Traditionally, he maintained a banana plantation and grew crops such as maize, beans, selected fruits and vegetables and a small poultry unit. Following the training from Kulika Uganda, he decided to integrate coffee into the banana plantation and the early signs show a successful integration of enterprises.

## Methods of Production

### Integrating coffee in bananas

Bananas and coffee are the main enterprises on the farm. Mr. Andrew Walugembe says his earlier integration efforts into the banana based on random inter-planting did not yield as expected. He then developed his own spacing modelled along the lines of Brazilian coffee spacing measurements. He has ever since developed a spacing of 3 rows of bananas of 3 feet by 3 feet. After the third row, a pace of 6 feet is left where a line of coffee is planted before another 3 rows of banana. After 3 successive intervals of bananas and coffee, he constructs a contour ditch and on its ridge plants fodder for animal feeds. According to Mr. Walugembe, planting of fodder grass along the contour ridge helps preserve soil because it slows the water flow, spreads water evenly during torrent rains, and protects the soil against erosion.



For planting coffee in an already established banana plantation, Mr. Walugembe stresses that bananas provide valuable shade coverage for highly climate-sensitive young coffee crops. He also notes that he has found bananas to be capable of remaining hydrated under water stress condition, reducing water competition during drought, compared to other tree crops inter-planted with coffee. Thus, he acknowledged that farmers need to always find new low-cost ways to manage their farming systems to accommodate changing climate and livelihoods. To Mr. Walugembe, inter cropping coffee into bananas is one of the best available options as it also boosts reducing risks related to income and food security emanating from declining farm sizes. From his experience, Mr. Walugembe points out that intercropped bananas provide leaves and stalks that can be used as mulch to suppress weeds that would disturb both enterprises and this decreased his workload. He also argues that intercropping coffee and banana with this spacing and proper weed control reduces the spread of the disease, increasing productivity in bananas, coffee and fodder grass. He is currently expanding his banana plantation by 0.5 acres in which after 18 months he will add coffee.

### Other common enterprises

Mr. Walugembe intercroops other seasonal crops like beans and maize. Based on his experience, beans are good companion crops for bananas and reduce production costs significantly as good soil cover crop and nitrogen fixing plant in the soil. On the other hand, he always plants maize as a single crop on rotation with vegetables to reduce incidences of diseases. His farm also includes a significant portion of fruits ranging from mangoes, passion fruits, oranges, papaws, water melons among others planted together with nappier grass as boundary hedge to produce.



## Economic Impact

He harvests about 25 bunches of matooke per month at an average price of Shs.12,000 earning him about Shs.375,000. The coffee is still young with a seasonal turnover of Shs.1,200,000. Over the last four seasons, he has been able to harvest an average of 1,500kg of maize and 350kgs of beans earning him about Shs.2,000,000 from maize and Shs.1,000,000 from beans. He also harvests 12 bags of mangoes and 8 bags of passion fruits seasonally. This earns him about Shs.680,000 and Shs.1,100,000 respectively per season. The money got from the vegetables, fruits and other enterprises enables the farmer to meet expenses incurred on casual workers allowing him to minimize costs of production.

## Community Impact

Mr. Walugembe is a Key Farmer Trainer (KFT) with Kulika Uganda. In this capacity, he has been able to train other farmers from Kyampisi village and Namayumbe Town Council in sustainable agriculture practices. Together with other KFTs, they organise practical training sessions in their communities visiting farmers and carrying out on farm demonstrations. His farm has also become a centre where farmers come and learn new practices.





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