



# Model Farmer in Sustainable Organic Agriculture

## Championing Confined Space Farming

SODI (Skills Oriented Development Initiatives) is an indigenous non-governmental organization (NGO) that was founded and registered in Uganda in 2006. Its primary objective is to provide comprehensive community development by equipping people with the necessary skills to enhance their livelihoods. The organization's main focus is on empowering targeted groups and communities by imparting knowledge and skills that enable them to create jobs or identify sustainable employment opportunities, both in farming and non-farming sectors.

Over the years, SODI has implemented several projects that promote sustainable organic agriculture practices and livelihood skills interventions for vulnerable groups, particularly the women and youths, in Mpigi and Wakiso districts. SODI is presently collaborating with farmers in several sub-counties, including Bujjuko, Kasanje, Nsangi, Kiringete, Kituntu, Muduuma, and Mpigi town council.



### ORGANIZATION PROFILE

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**

P.O Box 235 Mpigi

**LOCATION:**

Nakirebe

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS (OFFICE)**

Nakirebe along Kampala-Masaka highway

**DISTRICT:**

Mpigi

**CONTACT EMAIL:**

sodi.skills@yahoo.com

**CONTACT NUMBER:**

+256 (0) 772484157

**EXTENSION SERVICES****CONTACT PERSON:**

Mr. Thomas Ssewaya



### Mrs. Mariam Kintu

Mariam Kintu, 46 years of age, matriculate is a successful and a hard-working farmer who is always keen to adopt new ideas and technologies of limited space farming. She owns about 2 acres of land but much of it is distant from her home and was always affected by thieves. When she joined SODI and were introduced to practices of small space farming, she has transformed her town council home that sits on less than 10 decimals of land. She incorporated all the major components of Integrated Farming Systems for diversified agriculture for enhancing household nutrition and income. She has grown a number of vegetables and fruits in the compound including leafy onions, green paper, leafy cabbages spinach, and other assorted spices.

She is also profitably engaged in backyard lungfish farming, poultry, goat and dairy farming, all on just 9 decimals of land. She employs organic practices in maintaining her enterprises. She is utilizing animal manure to maintain fertility of the soil and has planted pest-repellent crops like tobacco, peppers, etc. which are incorporated especially in the fertigation processes.



**Left:** Mariam Kintu feeding her poultry, **Right:** Backyard lung fish farming

Mariam manages the marketing of her produce in such a way as to bring her maximum profit with minimum hassle. She sells vegetables and milk to neighbors who come every day for fresh supplies. For the goats, Mariam has 10 goats but is engaged in selling kids that go for UGX. 150,000= at 3 months and sells about 8 kids annually. For fish, she currently has 3 stages of fish adding to 20,000. She sells fish at 1kg maturity at UGX. 7000 and sells after every 3 months since lungfish have different growth rates ensuring steady flow of income. Due to limited space, Mariam keeps a total of 2000 chicken for meat, specifically broilers and kroilers. Broilers are always sold after one month and kroilers after 3 months. The other 2 acres that are distant from her home are used to grow mainly maize, coffee, bananas as well as running an apiary project. The maize is always used in livestock feeding to minimize the cost incurred.

Mariam is a source of inspiration for other farmers especially women in 'Ndugu Bee Keepers and Farmers Cooperative Society' and Mpigi town council involved in farming. She is always ready to provide them the help and guidance needed. She also encourages the farming women in the surrounding villages to adopt new and innovative methods of confined space organic farming.



Mariam acknowledges that confined space agriculture and backyard fish farming can promote local food systems, increase food security, and provide a source of income for households with limited land. These practices are important because they provide an opportunity for individuals to produce in a sustainable and cost-effective way, while also reducing their environmental impact. In urban and peri-urban settlements, these practices have the potential to play a significant role in shaping the future of agriculture and food production.



### MRS. MARIAM KINTU

**Gender:** Female  
**Group:** Ndugu Bee Keepers and Farmers Group  
**Cooperative:** Ndugu Bee Keepers and Farmers Group  
**Village:** Kankoma - Mpambire

**Sub County:** Mpigi Town Council  
**District:** Mpigi  
**Contact:** +256 753668619

## About ACSA

Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) is a legally registered national network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which work with small holder farmers (SHFs) and promote Sustainable Agriculture, Agricultural market development, Environmental conservation, Research and Advocacy. This is aimed at increasing farmer's understanding of policy issues affecting small holder farmers in Uganda. ACSA's mandate is "Advocating for the agrarian policy environment for small holder farmers in Uganda". Currently, ACSA has membership of 29 CSOs (8 Caritas organizations, 3 Networks, 5 Farmers' Associations and 13 Non-Government Organizations - NGOs) spread country wide with a Mission "to Empower civil society organizations working with small holder farmers to advocate for favourable 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.