



Model Farmer in Sustainable Organic Agriculture

Commercializing Smallholder Production



Homeland Organics and Agro-Tourism Centre Ltd is a registered community based organisation (CBO) that was formed in 2006 and also registered as company limited by guarantee in 2016. Homeland Organics and Agro-Tourism Centre aims at providing a holistic approach to sustainable agriculture production with an element of nature tourism to promote agroecology. The organisation offers extension services to farmers in agroecology and permaculture practices in the 6 sub-counties of Mubende, where they have identified and are working with households to demonstrate sustainable and climate smart agriculture practices from where other members of community can learn from. The organisation is also working with 12 primary schools where permaculture demonstration gardens are set up to teach learners.



PHYSICAL ADDRESS (OFFICE)

Kazinga-Gwanika Mubende

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Kibalinga

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Mr. Samuel Yiga

Yiga Samuel, a remarkable farmer hailing from the picturesque village of Lwensama in Nabingoola ward, Mubende Municipality, has an awe-inspiring story of perseverance and triumph. With unwavering determination and an unwavering work ethic, Yiga and his wife have transformed their humble subsistence farming into a flourishing commercial enterprise, standing tall today as shining examples of successful farmers.

Their journey to success was fueled by a groundbreaking initiative that completely revolutionized their lives. Before embarking on his farming adventure in 2011, Mr. Yiga worked as a trailer driver for Mukwano Industries. However, the income he earned was insufficient to meet the needs of his growing family. Determined to secure a brighter future, he decided to turn to farming, armed with the five acres of land passed down to him by his father. He recognized the potential for expansion and growth and resolved to make the most of this opportunity.

In 2021, a turning point arrived in Yiga's farming journey when he was granted an all-inclusive irrigation set, comprising a solar panel, a water tank, and a water pump capable of pumping an impressive 3000 liters per day. The installation of this state-of-the-art irrigation equipment marked a watershed moment for Yiga. It allowed him to achieve year-round production, significantly boosting his household income. His newfound prosperity was primarily fueled by his successful cultivation of coffee and vegetables. The government-provided irrigation equipment was just the beginning of Yiga's success story. Empowered by increased production, he seized the opportunity to expand his farm by acquiring additional land. This expansion necessitated a higher volume of water, prompting Yiga to procure another solar-powered water pump capable of pumping an astounding 3000 liters per hour. Today, his farm thrives with an abundant water supply, enabling year-round production and fueling his ever-growing success.



Left: The solar panel for the received irrigation set **Right:** Yiga showing his sprinkler irrigation system

Yiga's farming prowess extends beyond the mere utilization of resources. He has ingeniously integrated vegetable farming into his banana plantation, a technique that has become an integral part of his farming activities. By planting rows of vegetables in the spaces between the banana plants, Yiga has created a harmonious ecosystem where the low-growing vegetables, with their shallow roots, pose no significant competition to the bananas. This innovative integration not only maximizes the potential of his land but also provides additional income for his family. The interplanted vegetables not only fetch an average of Ugx 400,000 but also contribute to the household's dietary needs.

In addition to his thriving banana plantation, Yiga has expanded his coffee enterprise to encompass an impressive five acres of land. This expansion was made possible by the income generated from his farm. Each month, Yiga harvests an average of 100 bunches of bananas from his three-acre plantation, selling them for an average of Ugx 15,000 per bunch. The coffee plantation, on the other hand, yields a gross income of over Ugx 20 million, with associated production costs amounting to

approximately Ugx 6 million. Buoyed by this success, Yiga has already acquired an additional 10 acres of land for coffee cultivation, with the ambitious goal of reaching 15 acres. He confidently predicts that this expansion will guarantee earnings of over Ugx 40 million from coffee alone.



Left: Integration of vegetables with banana plantations **Right:** Yiga showing some of the coffee grown on his farm

Beyond his individual accomplishments, Mr. Yiga's impact on the community is nothing short of overwhelming. He serves as an inspiration to others, motivating his neighbors to enhance their pest and disease control efforts. Yiga generously shares his extensive knowledge of best farming practices and offers free extension services to all the farms in his vicinity. Moreover, he goes above and beyond by supplying his fellow farmers with banana suckers, coffee and vegetable seedlings, and even providing water to their homesteads through a community village tap.

Grateful for his achievements, Yiga acknowledges the pivotal role his wife has played in their joint success. He recognizes her unwavering support, both in terms of physical labor and the invaluable farming knowledge she brings to their shared endeavors. In Yiga's absence, his wife takes on the role of supervisor, ensuring that their agricultural operations continue smoothly. Together, they have achieved remarkable feats, enabling them to provide education for their children. With their eldest already attending university and their three other children in secondary school, the Yiga family exemplifies the transformative power of collaboration and hard work in the realm of agriculture.



MR. SAMUEL YIGA

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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 in 46 districts 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.

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