

WOMEN FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF UGANDA

BENEFICIARY SURVEY REPORT JULY 2018



SUMMARY

The Women Farmers Association of Uganda (WFAU) is an umbrella organization of all women farmers in Uganda that was formed under the intervention of women in agriculture with a mission to address women challenges towards their involvement in agriculture as limited access to land, finance, market and information in order to create women employment, improve on their livelihoods and increase on the national GDP. The organization's establishment was championed by the Women Farmers to respond to the felt need to get organized and be able to collect and forward their issues at national level. WFAU seeks to address Young Farmers issues through lobbying and advocacy for favorable pro-poor policies and strengthening women farmer association's to play their rightful role, improve value chain management in Agriculture, promotion of farming as a business and encourage entrepreneurship.

Women Farmers Association of Uganda is developing a project of supporting women in Uganda to engage in sustainable farming as a business. Our project is based on the continued belittling situation of women in the country. Uganda has a total population of 34.5 million people of which 50 % (17.3m) are female (UNFPA 2011). Uganda's annual economic growth rate slowed down to 4.5% by FY 2013/14 (UBOS 2014), with the agriculture, forestry and fishing sub-sectors growing at about 1.5%, much lower than the economic growth rate (World bank 2015, MoFPED 2014). Over 80% of Uganda's populations live in the rural areas and rural employment constitutes of mainly agriculture. Women constitute 77% of agriculture labour force compared to 65% of men (OECD 2015, MoFPED 2014), and subsistence farming is, by far, the main source of employment. Although women constitute the highest labour force in the agriculture sector, they are faced with countless challenges that are influenced by the gendered, social and geographical determinants for women's employment. All these limit and constrain women's employment in the agriculture sector.

Between June and July, Women Farmers Association of Uganda project team conducted a beneficiary survey in four regions of the country designed to provide a variety of opportunities for women members in the grassroot women farmers associations to contribute their ideas about the directions of the project. This beneficiary input will be integral to the process of developing the preliminary project plan, expected to be released for OpenIdeo expert comment in mid July 2018.

The objectives of this report are:

- Feasibility Study for long term Management of women farmers association's activities.
- To provide evidence that a diligent, transparent and effective process of beneficiary survey and processing of comments has occurred.
- To describe how the beneficiaries plan for women farmers association of Uganda was put into action.
- To describe how the ideas and comments received from the grassroot women farmers were processed.

- To provide a summary of all comments received during the period of beneficiary survey
- To document written comments from beneficiary survey meetings and grassroots women farmers submissions relevant to directions for a sustainable farming future.
- To describe how grassroots women's input is being used during the transition from the project proposal to the implementation stage.

METHODOLOGY



The Women Farmers Association of Uganda's beneficiary survey team was guided through the consultation process by grassroots women farmers association's engagement strategy. The goal of this strategy was to optimize grassroots women farmer's engagement with both the development and implementation of our project plan. The beneficiary survey team received ideas and comments from a large number of grassroots women farmers who are our beneficiaries and at the same time our main stakeholders, through grassroots women farmers Information Sessions held in 4 locations throughout the four regions of Uganda. During our beneficiary survey, 317 women farmers in total attended the women farmers information sessions held in four districts (Kayunga, Oyamu, Kaptchorwa and Rukungiri) from four regions of Uganda.

GRASSROOT WOMEN COMMENTS

During the beneficiary survey, grassroots women farmers were asked to mention the challenges they are facing, the cause of these challenges and what they require in order to overcome these challenges. The sessions were very interactive and organized in their local languages in order to ensure complete inclusiveness. We were unable to capture individual comments for

Plot 1447,Block 2016 Buye,Kigowa,Ntinda-Kiwatule Road.

Tel:+256776022992,+256703014326

every participant because of their large number. We captured the common challenges mentioned by women which are mentioned below as follows.

We were told that women have limited access to land. Though women own approximately 80 percent of crops in Ugandan communities, they only own one percent of land. This illustrates the lack of security in ownership, and in most cases of the one percent that own smaller plots to men that are less fertile. After beneficiary information session, we visited the home of Namuyiga Paulina in Kayunga district. Namuyiga Paulina is a mother of six school going children. Her house was pushed down by wind caused by the cutting down of trees and increasing climate change. Paulina and her children are currently sleeping in a small temporary house. She had a 3acres of maize garden on a land rented from her neighbor at a cost of 1.000.000 Uganda shillings but she is expecting to harvest maize less than the price she rented the land. Paulina is worried about what she will feed her children, where to get money to pay her children's school fees and above all where to get money to build another house. Majority of women reported to us that if they can have equal access to land for agricultural activities, they could increase production on their farms by 20 to 30 percent.



Above photo is Namuyiga Paulina in her 4 acres of maize farm in a rented plot of land and below is her temporary house after her big house was pushed down by wind storm.



Grassroot Women farmers complained of limited access to funding or credit facilities. Majority of Women farmers told us that they are facing greater challenges when it comes to securing credit. They told us that they don't know much about borrowing from financial institutions, most women have suffered hell from money lenders and without assistance and support they find it difficult to access much needed funding for their agricultural projects. From their submissions, we also found out that women receive the smallest share of the agricultural extension services and credit services especially these grassroot small-scale farmers.

Women farmers in Uganda also have limited access to technological advancements. In most cases the government does not consider women for most advanced technology like ploughs, cultivators, planters, harvesters and irrigation equipment. Most of these advancements are aimed at a male specific audience, with improvements aimed to accommodate their requirements. Women farmers often lack the know-how and the confidence to use the improved technology and most of the new technologies.

Grassroot women farmers in Uganda have very limited market opportunities. Women are in most cases confined in homes by husbands to carry out domestic duties and as a result, they lack time to carry out market research and limited information limit women farmers to market opportunities. As a result, women are confined to local markets where prices are generally lower than in urban markets.



Madam Namugabu Jesca carrying the basket of her passion fruits ready for market

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS/GRASSROOT WOMEN DEMANDS

In order to break through the barriers that have always limited women to succeed in farming, grassroot women demanded the following;

- Women need access to extension services
- Women need access to agro-inputs like fertilizers, seeds and herbicides or pesticides.
- Women need access to credit facilities
- Women need on farm trainings and farming retreats in order to learn from role models
- Women farmers need to be consulted in decision making process



Plot 1447,Block 2016 Buye,Kigowa,Ntinda-Kiwatule Road.

Tel:+256776022992,+256703014326

- Access to market opportunities
- E.t.c

CONCLUSION

There was a good response to our beneficiary survey and the target figure of 480 responses from all regions of Uganda was reached. This figure was determined as sufficient to give a good representative range of opinions. Basing on the comments and proposed solutions or women farmers demands, we have a conclusion that our strategy of leveraging grassroots women farmers associations and available information technologies will help us to achieve our desired goals. This strategy will help us reach to a big number of women with the necessary information and support designed to help women farmers succeed in agriculture.