



RESTORATION OF DEGRADED FORESTS TO ENHANCE ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE & TRAIN LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS IN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN RIVER RWAMBU-MPANGA ECOSYSTEM

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO OCTOBER 2024

Submitted by



October 2024

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	3
OUTPUT 1: Formation and training of 8 - 10 livelihoods farmer groups per district, each consisting of between 20-25 persons, 60% women on EbA approaches and practices, climate-resilient agricultural techniques, alternative livelihoods options, soil and water conservation measures etc.	3
Achievement vs Target	3
1.1 Selection of farmer groups.....	3
1.2 Livelihoods of the selected farmer groups the project area.....	5
1.3 Profiling the selected farmer groups	6
1.4 Enterprise selection for the farmer groups	7
1.5 Challenges faced during farmer group selection.....	7
OUTPUT 2: Build capacity and support 8 - 10 livelihoods farmer groups to implement alternative livelihoods options identified.	7
Achievement vs target	7
2.1 Training farmer groups in bee keeping in the project area and livelihood support given..	7
2.1.1 Training farmer groups in bee keeping in the project area.....	7
2.1.2 Livelihood support given to bee keeping farmers groups.....	8
2.2 Training farmer groups on use of energy cook stoves in the project area	8
2.3 Training farmers on coffee establishment and management in Kitagwenda district.....	9
2.4 Training farmers on livestock keeping in the project area.....	11
2.4.1 Training farmers on piggery and goat rearing in Ibanda district.....	11
2.4.2 Training farmers on goat rearing and cattle keeping in Kitagwenda district	14
2.4.3 Training farmers on goat rearing in Kamwenge district	16
2.5 Needs assessment and capacity building gaps of farmer groups	17
2.6 Challenges	18
2.7 Progress towards gender equality and accountability to affected populations	18
2.8 Beneficiary feedback mechanisms for the organisation	19
3.0 LESSONS LEARNT	19
4.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES	20

List of tables

Table 1: Sub counties and Parishes in the project area where farmer groups were selected	5
Table 2: Farmer groups trained in bee keeping in the project area.....	7
Table 3: Farmer groups trained on use of energy cook stoves in the project area	8
Table 4: Farmer groups trained on coffee establishment and management in Kitagwenda district.....	9
Table 5: Farmer groups trained on goat rearing in Ibanda district.....	12
Table 6: Support to farmer groups in Kamwenge district.....	16
<i>Annex: Photo gallery of farmer group activities</i>	21
(a) Profiling of farmer groups in Ibanda, Kitagwenda and Kamwenge district districts....	21
(b) Training on bee keeping	22
(c) Training on energy cook stoves	23

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Summary of beneficiaries of alternative livelihoods intervention	24
Table 1: Details of farmer groups selected in Ibanda District.....	24
Table 2: Details of farmer groups selected in Kitagwenda District.....	24
Table 3: Details of farmer groups selected in Kamwenge District.....	25

EbA CO-OPERATING PARTNER REPORT

NAME OF PARTNER: Marianne Foundation
PROJECT ACTIVITY: Formation and training and Support of livelihoods farmer groups
PROGRESSIVE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: May to October 2024
REGION: South-Western Uganda
LIST DISTRICT (S) OF IMPLEMENTAION: Ibanda, Kitagwenda and Kamwenge
PERSON SUBMITTING THE REPORT: NAME: Justus Ahimbisibwe POSITION: Director, Marianne Foundation PHONE CONTACT: +256 – 765 - 672662 EMAIL ADDRESS: justusahimbisibwe@gmail.com
SUBMITTED TO: Ministry of Water and Environment
DATE OF SUBMISSION: 17th October 2024

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Please provide an overview of activities undertaken during the reporting period including Activity, Objective, achievement vs target, immediate outcomes (if any) any unintended outcomes (if any).

INTRODUCTION

Marianne Foundation held initial district entry meetings and consultations in the project districts of Ibanda, Kitagwenda and Kamwenge. These meetings were held between 18th and 28th July 2024, and were attended by a total of 15 people. The objective of the meetings was to inform stakeholders about the intended project activities for implementation and to ensure buy-in by the stakeholders, including both the district technical staff and political leadership. Stakeholders expressed concern about delays in project implementation and the role and extent to which technical and political personnel at all levels will be involved in project activities.

OUTPUT 1: Formation and training of 8 - 10 livelihoods farmer groups per district, each consisting of between 20-25 persons, 60% women on EbA approaches and practices, climate-resilient agricultural techniques, alternative livelihoods options, soil and water conservation measures etc.

Achievement vs Target

1.1 Selection of farmer groups

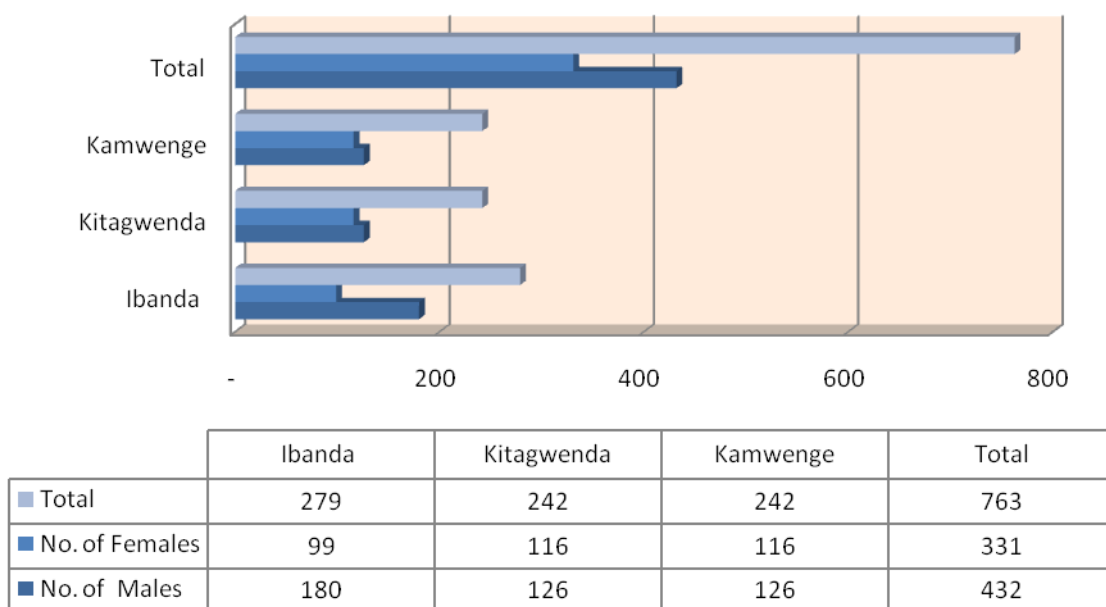
The initial district entry meetings and consultations were followed by selection of farmer groups during which a total of twenty six (26) farmer groups were selected, eight from each of the two project districts of Kitagwenda and Kamwenge and 10 groups from Ibanda district. All groups selected are from the villages adjacent to the wetland. These villages include Kyarutanga 1, Nyarubira and Nyamushwiga in Ibanda Municipality, in Ibanda District, the groups were formed from villages of Kinagamukono, Rwambu 2 and 3, Kiryabishoro, Rwanyabihuka 1,2. All these villages are adjacent to the Swamp. In Kamwenge, the groups were formed in villages neighboring River Mpanga. These include Butanda Village, Kebisingo Village, Burengye

Village, Kebisingo 1 & 2 and Butusi village in Kitagwenda, the villages included Nsunga, Kiyagara, Kabujogera, Omurwera, Nyabittoma and Wamushambo. All these villages are adjacent to the swamp and therefore we selected the primary beneficiaries.

Currently, most people in the project area already belonged to groups under government programs like Parish Development Model (PDM). However, these already existing groups were not aligned to the project goals. We formed smaller groups as opposed to retaining PDM groups that are Parish based with many unmanageable numbers. Also in areas where there were no groups or in areas where the groups lacked the inclusion of primary beneficiaries, we formed new groups. For example in Kijongo, we discovered that over 20 affected members never belonged to any group. The primary beneficiaries were trained and they formed - Save the Environment group - Kijongo.

A total of 763 farmers will be supported from the 26 farmer groups in the project area with the majority being men accounting for 57% of the total beneficiaries as indicated in Figure 1. Women in groups is 43% below the target of 60%. This was because EBA project focuses on land that was demarcated. In the project areas, ownership still lies in hands of Men. However, the consultant has put in place efforts towards women participation. For example during training in Energy Saving stoves, **many women (62%) attended more than Men (38%)**. Details of farmer groups selected in Ibanda, Kitagwenda and Kamwenge districts are presented in Annex 1.

Figure 1: Total number of beneficiary farmers in the project area



The farmer groups selection process was participatory and the selection criteria was based on capacity of groups to implement project activities. In some cases, there were already existing groups in the project area which were weak or non functional and needed strengthening while in others, groups had to be formed. For instance, Ibanda district had already existing groups but which were weak. The sub county technical staff (Agriculture Officer and the Community Development Officer (CDO) of the respective sub counties provided the initial lists of farmer groups in their sub counties which were used as sampling frames. Subsequently the Local Council 1 Chairpersons of the target villages were informed about the selected groups for

confirmation. The 26 groups were selected from four sub counties and nine parishes in the project area as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Subcounties and Parishes in the project area where farmer groups were selected

District	Sub county	Parish
Kamwenge	Kabambiro sub county	Three Parishes - Kabambiro, Kebisingo and Nyamashegwa
Kitagwenda	Kabujogera Town Council	Three Parishes - Kantozi Ward, Kabujogera Ward Kagazi Ward
Ibanda	Kijongo sub county	Two Parishes - Rwambu and Kijongo
	Ibanda Municipality	One Parish – Kashangura

1.2 Livelihoods of the selected farmer groups the project area

• Ibanda district

In Ibanda district, six farmer groups were selected from two parishes of Rwambu and Kijongo that were most affected by the demarcations in Kijongo sub county and four farmer groups were selected from two Wards of Kashangura and Kyarutanga in Ibanda Municipality. All the villages were selected from parishes with farmers falling within or in close proximity to demarcated section of the Rwambu-Mpanga Wetland system.

Findings from the field show that, major sources of household income in Ibanda district include growing coffee, vanilla, maize, beans and bananas as well as rearing animals such as goats, cows and pigs. Coffee, maize and beans are grown as the major cash crops while the major food crops include cassava, bananas, beans, maize, sorghum and vegetables. Millet, sweet potatoes, groundnuts and sorghum are also grown on a small scale. Challenges faced by farmers are attributed to pests and diseases, variation and variability in weather conditions, poor seed varieties, lack of market, price fluctuations and post-harvest handling losses, lack of agro-processing technologies. Gender based violence during harvesting as well as limited capital to set up animal shelters were also mentioned.

In Ibanda Municipal Council, most households depend on agriculture as a major source of income specifically coffee and bananas. Other households are involved in retail businesses. Coffee, bananas and vanilla are the major cash crops grown in the area while the bananas, maize, millet, beans and groundnuts are the major food crops. Households mainly keep cattle (both local and exotic), pigs and goats.

It was reported that currently the district is promoting awareness creation on proper use of wetlands and hill tops through environmental education. Several methods are being emphasized to reduce on the issue of soil erosion and these include sensitization of the community members to stop bush burning, replanting trees, training of communities on use of terraces as well as promoting agro-forestry through integrating trees such as Grevellia with arabica coffee and pasture. For wetland management, the district officials recommended activities which are environmentally friendly such as fish farming and bee keeping, in addition to physical enforcement of laws and policies and continuous environmental education for the affected community. Major challenges to farming (crop production and livestock keeping) in Ibanda Municipal Council were attributed to price fluctuation, climate change factors such as floods, drought, hail storms, drought. Poor soil fertility, pests and diseases, land fragmentation, poor storage facilities and lack of adequate fertilizer also affect farming enterprises.

- **Kamwenge district**

In Kamwenge district, eight farmer groups were selected from one sub county and three parishes as indicated in table 1. Findings from the field showed that some of the local communities were already planting trees in their pieces of land although on a very small scale. Coffee, cocoa and bananas were the major cash crops grown by households while beans, maize, banana, cassava and sweet potatoes were the main food crops in the area. Water melons, coffee, macadamia and hass avocados were the potential crops with good market opportunities as they are considered high value crops which can raise high income. Other enterprises which were being promoted in the areas included fish farming, apiary and livestock including goats, dairy cattle, piggery and poultry. Trading and transport business were the main sources of household income in the district.

- **Kitagwenda district**

In Kitagwenda district, farmer groups were selected from Kabujogera Town Council which had its farmers staying in close proximity to the demarcated section of the Rwambu-Mpanga Wetland system. In Kabujogera Town Council, most of the households derived their income from apiary and its associated products, growing coffee, maize, groundnuts and bananas and rearing livestock including cattle, pigs, goats and poultry. Majority of the farmers in the area had a land holding of more than 3 acres and beans, groundnuts, maize and millet are some of the crops which had great marketing potential.

Fish farming, bee keeping, pasture establishment and soil and water conservation technologies such as contour ploughing, mulching and manure application were some of the sustainable farming practices which were being promoted in the area. However, majority of the farmers did not have adequate knowledge on terracing, agroforestry, zero grazing and cattle carrying capacity of land to minimize over grazing of hill tops. In this area, knowledge is needed on change of mind set and setting a vision and mission in their homes. Fish farming, bee keeping, vegetable growing, root crop growing and agroforestry technologies incorporating trees into arabica coffee, bananas and beans are some of the climate smart agricultural practices recommended for these communities.

1.3 Profiling the selected farmer groups

The selected farmer groups were profiled to establish their capacity buildings gaps in terms of governance and level of knowledge on EbA approaches and practices. Information was also gathered on climate-resilient agricultural techniques in use and on soil and water conservation measures practiced by the farmers. Focus group discussions (FGDs) were held with selected farmer groups to obtain information on size and composition of group membership, registration status, objectives of the group and current businesses undertaken and whether the farmer group had Business Plan as well as challenges faced by the group. Emphasis was also put on assessing governance issues for the groups such as having an executive committee in place, possession of bye laws and constitution and whether Annual General Meeting (AGMs) take place among others. Training needs for the group were assessed in terms of knowledge gaps on EbA approaches. The FDGs gave a general perspective on what different stakeholders and target Beneficiaries though needed to be done in areas of capacity building. These included training farmer groups on Animal management –Housing and feeding, in Kitagwenda, training soil cobsevation measures was emphasized targeting coffee farmers. Challenge to do with lack of fuel wood raising concerns of unprecedented encroachment on the Catchment was cross cutting recommending a cross cutting training in energy saving cook stoves.

1.4 Enterprise selection for the farmer groups

After the profiling exercise, the selected farmer groups were guided to select enterprises to be supported by the project. The selection criteria was based on the number of farmers undertaking the enterprise, market potential and ability to increase household incomes while conserving the environment. The most common enterprises which were selected in the project area are presented in the text box below.

- Kitagwenda district - Coffee farming, diary, bee keeping and goat rearing
- Kamwenge district - Bee keeping, goat rearing .
- Ibanda district - Piggery, goat rearing, bee keeping and coffee farming

1.5 Challenges faced during farmer group selection

Challenges were attributed to the following

- i. The limited number of farmer groups to be supported by the project despite the high number of farmer groups within the catchment area. The project needed only 8 groups per district.
- ii. Some affected farmers expected to be supported as individuals and not in groups and were not willing to join the selected groups. In addition these individual farmers had their own enterprises which they wanted to be supported by the project.
- iii. The expectations from farmers were high because they expected compensation from government.

OUTPUT 2: Build capacity and support 8 - 10 livelihoods farmer groups to implement alternative livelihoods options identified.

Achievement vs target

2.1 Training farmer groups in bee keeping in the project area and livelihood support given

2.1.1 Training farmer groups in bee keeping in the project area

The training on bee keeping was conducted in Ibanda, Kitagwenda and Kamwenge districts between 3rd - 13th September 2024. A total of 60 farmers were trained out of which 52% were male participants while 48% were female participants. Participants from Ibanda accounted for the majority, 43%, while participants from Kamwenge and Kitagewnda accounted for 27% and 30% respectively.

Table 2: Farmer groups trained in bee keeping in the project area

District	Location	Name of Group	Category of Participants			Dates of Training
			Male	Female	Total	
Kamwenge	Kabambiro	Kabambiro Bee Keepers Association	8	8	16	3rd to 4 th September 2024
Ibanda	Kijongo	Kinagamukono Rwambu Conservation Group	11	15	26	13 th September 2024
Kitagewnda	Kabujogera Town Council	Kabujogera Town Council Bee Keeping Group	12	6	18	14 th and 16 th September 2024

	Total		31 (52%)	29 (48%)	60	
--	--------------	--	---------------------	---------------------	-----------	--

The training which targeted farmer groups involved in the bee keeping enterprise, aimed at giving bee management skills to group members with emphasis on knowledge on modern bee keeping practices. Knowledge was given on skills in hive management and honey production as well as on promoting bee keeping as a sustainable alternative livelihood. The training also aimed to foster entrepreneurship and income generation through beekeeping and how to encourage environmental conservation through sustainable bee keeping practices. Farmers were given knowledge on how to make products from bees such as honey, bees wax and propolis.

Topics trained on included

- i. Bee colony setting and options of setting a colony
- ii. Items needed during wild honey bees trapping
- iii. Bee keeping management practices
- iv. What needs to be done at various stages such as site setting and management,
- v. Harvesting methods
- vi. How to keep honey
- vii. Myths / false beliefs about honey
- viii. Products from bees namely bee venom, honey, wax, propolis and royal honey.

2.1.2 Livelihood support given to bee keeping farmers groups

After training, the farmer groups received support in form of bee keeping equipment as indicated below.

- i. KabujogeraTown Council Bee Keeping Group received 10 KTB Bee Hives, 2 Bee Protective Gears and 2 Smokers
- ii. Kabambiro Bee Keepers Association received 10 KTB Bee Hives, 2 Bee Protective Gears and 2 Smokers
- iii. Kinagamukono Rwambu Conservation Group received 10 KTB Bee Hives, 2 Bee Protective Gears and 2 Smokers.

2.2 Training farmer groups on use of energy cook stoves in the project area

Trainings were conducted between 13th - 24th September 2024 as indicated in table 3 below. A total of 324 farmers were trained of which 62% were female participants. The training was intended to equip community farmer groups with skills in construction and maintenance of energy saving stoves from locally available materials. A total of 16 demo stoves were constructed, five in Ibanda and Kitagewnda and six in Kamwenge.

Table 3: Farmer groups trained on use of energy cook stoves in the project area

District	Location (Ward/Parish)	No. of Demo stoves constructed	Number of people Trained			Dates of Training
			Male	Female	Total	
Kamwenge	Kabambiro	6	30	66	96	13 th Sept- 16 th Sept 2024
Ibanda	Rwambu	5	13	23	36	17 th - 19 th September 2024
	Kijongo		18	26	44	
Kitagewnda	Kantozzi- Rwamasiinde Ward	5	42	58	100	20 th September to 24 th September 2024
	Kagazi Ward		20	28	48	

			123	201 (62%)	324	
--	--	--	-----	-----------	-----	--

2.3 Training farmers on coffee establishment and management in Kitagwenda district

Training of coffee farmers was conducted between 6th-10th October, 2024 by the Agriculture Officer, Kabujogera Town Council. The focus of the training was on establishment and management of coffee gardens / farms as well as on harvesting and post-harvest handling of coffee specifically wet processing, dry processing and storage. The training was attended by a total of 158 farmers of which about 40% were women as indicated in table 4. Participants were selected from five farmer groups located in the Wards of Kagazi, Rwamasinde and Kabujogera. The farmer groups which received training are Rwamusambo Tukwatanise Coffee Farmers Group, Omurwera Coffee Farmers Group, Rwamasinde Coffee Growers Group NO.5, Nyamitoma Tukorehamwe Farmers Group and Nyabitoma Twebembirwe Farmers Group, Mukama Silk Group.

Table 4: Farmer groups trained on coffee establishment and management in Kitagwenda district

	Name of Farmer Group	Ward	Sex		Total
			Female	Male	
1	Rwamusambo Tukwatanise Coffee Farmers Group	Kabujogera	20	8	28
2	Omurwera Coffee Farmers Group	Kabujogera	7	23	30
3	Rwamasinde Coffee Growers Group NO.5	Rwamasinde Ward	6	24	30
4	Nyamitoma Tukorehamwe Farmers Group	Kagazi Ward	13	17	30
5	Nyabitoma Twebembirwe Farmers Group Mukama Silk Group	Kagazi Ward	14	26	40
	Total		60	98	158

The training covered both the theory and practical which included hands on/field visits. Each of the topics covered recommendation and methodology as indicated in the training manuals. The key topics of the training included establishment of a coffee garden / farm, site preparation for a coffee garden / farm, spacing, selection of planting materials, planting technique, coffee agronomical practices, raining/bending of a coffee tree and weed control / management, pest and diseases control, harvesting and post-harvest handling.

Training of coffee farmers on establishment and management of coffee gardens in Kabujogera Town Council



Omurwera Coffee Farmers Group being trained



Rwamusambo Tukwatanise Coffee Farmers Group undergoing training in Kabujogera Town Council



Training Nyamitoma Tukorehamwe group in Kitagwenda District in Soil Conservation



Highlights on key areas emphasized during training

- Emphasis was placed on key agronomic practices namely pruning, desuckering, stumping and mulching as well as digging pits/troughs at some points of the terrace to preserve rain water.
- Farmers were advised to plant cover crops such as mucuna, phaseolus, lab lab, ground nuts and sweet potatoes and to plant grass at the edge of the garden and ridges (terraces/contour bands) as well as to plant shade trees and or/ bananas.
- The training also focused on main insect pests and diseases of coffee and how to control them. The main insect pests of coffee being black twig borer (which mainly attacks robusta coffee), root mealy bug, stem borer which mainly attacks arabica coffee, spice berry borer and antestia bug which attacks arabica coffee only, coffee lace bug (which attacks arabica coffee only as well as aphids and leaf mealy bugs. The main diseases of

coffee namely coffee wilt disease (which attacks rubusta coffee only), leaf rust which mainly attacks Arabica, coffee berry disease which attacks arabica coffee only and red blister disease.

- Harvesting and post-harvest handling of coffee focused on harvesting, wet processing, dry processing and storage, as indicate in text box below.

Wet processing

- *Put fleshy harvested cherries into sufficient water to float un filled fruits and extraneous materials*
- *Remove the floats and pulp the clean cherries, pulp cherries within 2 hrs after harvesting using poplars to separate pulp from parchment*
- *Keep freshly pulped coffee beans in container for 12-24 hours to allow fermentation, wash the fermented coffee thoroughly to remove mucilage from the parchment*
- *Dry washed parchment un wire trays or tarpaulin*

Dry processing

- *This involves drying cherries without removing the pulp*
- *Dry the cherries immediately after harvesting*
- *Dry cherries on a tarpaulin or concrete floor but not bare ground*
- *At night, stack trays in a store or house*
- *Do not leave wet coffee heaped or it will develop mould*
- *Dry coffee to 11-13 % moisture content*

Storage at dry coffee in bags

- *Place the coffee bags on pallets raised to at least 15cm to avoid wetting by ground moisture*
- *Keep stacked bags at least 30cm away from the walls*
- *Preferably do not store with agro-chemicals and oil products, do not use fertilizers or fish bags*
- *Storage rooms should be well ventilated and leak proof*

2.4 Training farmers on livestock keeping in the project area

2. 4.1 Training farmers on piggery and goat rearing in Ibanda district

Training farmers on piggery and goat rearing in Kijongo sub county in Ibanda district was conducted for three days, from 3rd to 5th October 2024.

2.4.1.1 Training farmers on piggery and support received

Members of Kiryabishoro Piggery Group were trained on piggery management. The group is located n Kijongo sub county, Rwambu Parish in Rwambu 3 Village. The training was conducted in conjunction with the district sub county based Veterinary Officer for Kijongo sub county. For sustainability purposes, the training involved linking the group with the Veterinary Officer of Kijongo sub county to guarantee continuous support to the group enterprise through the established government technical staff.

A total of 23 members of Kiryabishoro Piggery Group attended the training at different interval and included 12 males and 11 females. Most men joined during the training on construction of the piggery unit while women attended trainings related to feeding of the animals. One piggery house was constructed using locally available materials. During the training, emphasis was placed on the following areas

- Prevention of diseases that are mostly related to poor hygiene.
- Different breeding methods like Artificial Insemination (AI)

- Revision of group bye laws to include how they will manage the piggery project.

After training, the group members received five female pigs (sows) that were almost ready to be mounted.



A housing structure built in Kijongo parish, Ibanda district



Farmer group receiving pigs in Kijongo parish, Ibanda district

Challenges and recommendations

The challenges faced

- Group members had different interests based on gender. For example women attended training on feeding and when it came to construction, they were not interested and it was men who turned up.
- There was no known source of income to support the enterprise
- Since the breed received was large white, there was an urgent need for housing to be completed and kept clean for the pigs.

Recommendations

- Group members should participate in Village saving and loans scheme (VSLA) schemes to improve their saving culture and enhance their ability to access credit facilities to initiate income generating enterprises.
- Business management concepts and skills should be integrated in enterprise establishment and management to ensure effective record keeping and financial management.
- There is need to carry out capacity building gender roles, gender equity, equality and inclusiveness to enhance equal participation of women and men in household activities e.g. stove construction and cooking can be done by both males and females.

2.4.1.2 Training farmers on goat rearing

Training on goat rearing in Ibanda district was offered to two farmer groups in Kijongo sub county. A total of 40 farmers were trained in goat farming including 28 men and 12 women, Table 5.

Table 5: Farmer groups trained on goat rearing in Ibanda district

No.	Name of Farmer Group	Number of farmers trained			Location		
		Male	Female	Total	Sub county	Parish	Village
1	Save Environment Farmers Groups	18	2	20	Kijongo	Kijongo	Rwanyabihuka 1
2	Rwambu 3 Goats Rearing Group	10	10	20	Kijongo	Rwambu	Rwambu 4
	Total	28 (70%)	12 (30%)	40			

The training of goat rearing prioritized aspects such as proper housing with adequate spacing, lighting and ventilation, goat health including effective methods of controlling parasites and diseases, goat feeding including supplementing their diet with mineral lick and protein rich pastures, breeding including selection of goats with superior traits, record keeping and overall care and management of the goat flock. All Trainings were conducted by The Local Government technocrats. Housing components were handled by the Veterinary and agriculture officers. These made sure that the housing components are in line with the recommended standards.



Save the Environment farmer group in Ibanda district receiving goats



Training in Goat farming at Mr Rutaro Paul's Farm in Rwanyabihuka 1, Kijongo sub county

2.4.2 Training farmers on goat rearing and cattle keeping in Kitagwenda district

2.4.2.1 Training farmers on goat husbandry and management practices in Kantozi Ward, Kabujogera Town Council

The training was conducted in Kantozi Ward, Kabujogera Town Council, Kitagwenda district to members of Kantozi Goat Keepers Group. This group is comprised of 30 members but only 26 members attended the training including 13 females and 13 males. The training was participatory where the trainer and the trainees used two way questioning approach combined with some on-farm demonstrations.

Highlights of the major topics covered during the training

- Importance of keeping goats
 - ✓ Goats are good livestock enterprise since they are most desired for their prolificacy and small areas that are required to start. Goats have a short gestation period and are less attacked by parasites and diseases.
 - ✓ Goats work as sources of revenue after their sales.
 - ✓ They provide manure to support crop growing hence increased production
 - ✓ They are good source of meat, a delicacy to many Ugandans.
 - ✓ Certain breeds like Toggenburg produce milk which is rich in proteins.

- **Housing**

Goat housing is important because it protects goats from adverse weather i.e extreme sunshine and rains. It also protects them from predators and thieves. Housing controls the multiplication of disease pathogens hence better health for quick reproduction. Goat houses must be constructed in well drained soils away from shade and it must allow the sunrise or sunset to pass through (in a sun axis). This will allow goats to receive vitamin D from sunshine. The goat house should have a 3ft bed from the ground in order to reduce on the rate of pathogen attack and the bed should allow fecal and urine to pass through. It should be spacious enough to allow at least 1.5 ft for each doe. And there should be a buck cubicle.

- **Feeding**

Feeding nourishes goats, enhances vigour and allows animals to reach the reproduction stage in a short time. Proper good feeding improves immunity and overall animal health. Goats must be fed on pasture which provide proteins, carbohydrates and vitamins. Supplementary feeding should be provided to goats in terms of concentrates like mineral lick to complement in trace elements necessary for better growth. Pastures rich in proteins include *Calliandra*, *Sentro*, *Desmodium introturm*, *Centrosema*, *Lablab* and *Etcetra*. Pastures rich in carbohydrates include *Brachiraria*, *Elephant grass*, *Rhodes grass*, *Thatching grass*, *Panicum maximum* (guinea grass), *Water your goats' adlib* and *Sorghum*.

In addition, the trainers took it upon themselves to tackle aspects of goat breeding, signs of heat in goats, kid management, control of external parasites among others.

Livelihood support given to farmer groups

A total of six goats were distributed to the group of which they expect to multiply to reach the last farmer with adequate and careful management practices. This is expected to be achieved through continuous engagement of these farmers in technical trainings under goat management.

2.4.2.2 Training farmers on dairy cattle production and management in Kantozi Ward, Kabujogera Town Council

This training which was conducted in Kantozi Ward, Kabujogera Town Council, Kitagwenda district was attended by members of Kantozi Animal Farmers Group. The group is composed of 30 members but the training was attended by 13 members only, 8 women and 5 men. The group has one live dairy cattle which is well-nourished and estimated to be in the second trimester of its gestation.

The training was participatory in nature and involved observations, on-farm demonstration as well as allowed the trainees to ask questions for further elaboration; Aspects which were covered included; good traits of dairy cow, good body conformation and appearance of a health dairy cow e.t.c.

The dairy enterprise was the most ideal for the farmers since they possess small holdings of land and can graze under cut and carry system. The docility and temperament exhibited by dairy cattle make it more perfect for these farmers to manage and optimize their production while undertaking this enterprise.

Major topics covered during the training

- i. Dairy cattle production: Nutrition, feeding for a healthy and productive cow. Information was given on dry matter and fresh fodders, dry feeds which include supplements such as dairy meal concentrates as well as minerals and protein supplements.
- ii. Parasites and how to control them. External parasites include ticks, fleas, lice and flies while internal parasites include mainly the roundworms, flatworms, liver flukes, etc.
- iii. **Dairy housing:** The cubicles (resting area), the walking area, the milking place:
- iv. Materials required for construction of a zero grazing unit

Training farmers on dairy cattle production and management practices in Kantozi Ward, Kabujogera Town Council



Training of framers on dairy production and management in Kabujogera town council, Kitagwenda district



Kantosi Animal Farmers Group in Kabujogera TC, Received a diary cow.

2.4.3 Training farmers on goat rearing in Kamwenge district

In Kamwenge district, training on goat rearing was conducted on 17th September 2024. A total of 200 farmers received training of which 102 were male and 98 female. Participants comprised of members from the seven groups in Kabambiro sub county and these were Butanda Goat Rearing Group, Kebisingo 5 Goat Rearing, Kebisingo I Turinde Ebyobuhangwa Goat Rearing, Kabambiro Bee Keepers Group B, Burengye Goat Rearing Group, Butusi-Mpanga Goat Rearing and Kebisingo II Goat Rearing Group.

Farmers were trained on how to maintain their simple farm structures for shelter of their goats, especially kids and on how to properly spray goats against ticks, since most of the diseases that affect goats are tick borne diseases. Foot pump was recommended to be used in proper spraying. Routine management at farm like deworming against worms, and the importance of disinfecting the structures as it can reduce some transmission of diseases in a goat's houses, good practices like cleanliness was recommended. Farmers were advised to always consult technical staff for treatment. In Kamwenge district, seven groups in Kabambiro sub county were supported with goats, as indicated in table 6.

Table 6: Support to farmer groups in Kamwenge District

No	Parish	Group Name	Enterprise	Support Received
1	Kabambiro	Butanda Goat Rearing Group	Goat Rearing	6 Goats
2	Kebisingo	Kebisingo 5 Goat Rearing Group	Goat Rearing	6 Goats
3	Kebisingo	Kebisingo I Turinde Ebyobuhangwa Goat Rearing	Goat Rearing and Tree Planting	6 Goats
4	Kabambiro	Kabambiro Bee Keepers Group B	Goat Rearing	6 Goats
5	Nyamashegwa	Burengye Goat Rearing Group	Goat Rearing	6 Goats
6	Kebisingo	Butusi-Mpanga Goat Rearing Group	Goat Rearing	6 Goats
7	Kebisingo	Kebisingo II Goat Rearing Group	Goat Rearing	6 Goats

Kebisingo I Goat Rearing Group in Kabambiro Kamwenge District receiving goats



CAMON 20 •

24mm f/1.7 1/33s ISO551

2.5 Needs assessment and capacity building gaps of farmer groups

The needs assessment carried out during profiling of farmer groups, documented capacity

building gaps and information needs of farmers. This data is being utilized to inform and design and/or develop training manuals to guide training activities and content to be delivered. The baseline data collected during profiling of farmer groups will be used to track progress during implementation and to assess impact at the end of the project.

Results indicate that majority of the farmers need more knowledge on Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs) for the most common livelihoods namely coffee, bananas, fish farming and bee keeping. Other training needs captured from the farmer group profiles include

- i. Soil fertility improvement
- ii. Soil and water conservation measures
- iii. Agroforestry
- iv. EbA approaches and practices
- v. Preparing Business Plans
- vi. Marketing and value addition
- vii. Group management
- viii. Agribusiness skills, farming as a business, financial management and record keeping
- ix. Gender equality, equity and inclusiveness

2.6 Challenges

Please describe any challenges faced during the reporting period relating to the implementation of the project interventions and the impact on programme implementation. Please describe the mitigation measures taken or proposed recommendations to address these challenges

- 1) Market linkages to the existing enterprises are still a challenge.
- 2) Political boundaries for example Ibanda Municipality versus Ibanda district. However, we have tried to engage them and the project is moving on smoothly.
- 3) Many people were affected and yet the project currently supports only 8 groups per district therefore many people have not benefitted. There is a need for future expansion of this project.

2.7 Progress towards gender equality and accountability to affected populations

What activities are contributing to women's empowerment, gender equality and gender-based violence prevention that were carried out in the reporting period? And what were the results?

Efforts have been put in inclusion of women in all groups. All trainings conducted therefore empower women. In specific activities like cooking stove construction, we have made intentional efforts to make sure more women attend these trainings than men. In total 201 women attended these trainings compared to 123 men who attended the same representing 62% and 38% for women and men attendance respectively.

What are the key gender concerns/issues observed during implementation and how do they impact the programme? Please list mitigation measures taken or proposed recommendations to address the issue.

Landownership: In the project area, land is owned by men. It is therefore not easy to form

farmer groups with a bigger percentage of group members who are women. However, using structures like Community Development Officers and our technical team to conduct sensitization meetings, women involvement has increased and their participation is evidenced.

Cooking vs Construction Culture: Cooking in the project area is largely done by women and construction is done by men. It is therefore highly likely that in a home setting, it is men who will be expected to construct the cooking stoves. During the training, a simple approach which involved use of locally available materials was used which ensured participation of women in cooking stove construction.

2.8 Beneficiary feedback mechanisms for the organisation

What beneficiary feedback mechanisms does your organisation have in place? Please provide a summary of the types of complaints received, resolved, and pending resolution in the reporting period and explain how you are using the feedback to inform programming.

Our feedback mechanism is hinged on coherent linkages between the community and local government both at district and subcounty level. Communities can provide a feedback direct to our officers or community workers or through the existing Government structures.

Complaint	Status/feedback
Affected people still need to be considered since we only formed 8 groups per district.	Not Yet Resolved
In Kijongo Parish, beneficiaries gathered hoping we were going to compensate them for the land demarcated	Stakeholders were guided about the fact that the project was not for compensation but rather to build their capacity to enable them protect and wisely use the Rwambu Mpanga wetland system and this enable the consultant to manage expectations.
Individuals affected by demarcations' demanded for individual support not group support	Stakeholders were informed about the advantages of being supported as a group rather than at individual level and they were able to appreciate the mode of support.

3.0 LESSONS LEARNT

- 1) Stakeholder involvement at all levels of project implementation is very key towards the smooth running of the project. We engaged the District technical staff as well as Political teams in all the districts. We also engaged lower technical and political teams at lower local government levels. For example, the consultant undertook entry meetings at Kabambiro and Kijongo Sub counties as well as Ibanda Municipality and Kabujogera Town Council.
- 2) Profiling farmer groups to understand group dynamics and economic activities done by different groups helps on right enterprise selection
- 3) Linkages with previous government livelihood programs is effective in creating a sustainable livelihood intervention that is hinged on government's plans and priorities.
- 4) Engaging technical staff like CDOs, Sub county Chiefs, Agriculture and Veterinary officers is critical in creating a sustainable support system towards the farmer groups during the project implementation and after the project is completed.

4.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

1. Monitoring activities of the groups and the interventions implemented.
2. Restoration of catchment areas around the Rwambu-Mpanga Wetland systems
3. Identify and Support model farmers
4. Continuing to work wiith district local governments to ensure smooth implementation and sustainability of project interventions.
5. Continue support farmer groups and follow up of their activities.

Annex: Photo gallery of farmer group activities

(a) Profiling of farmer groups in Ibanda, Kitagwenda and Kamwenge district districts

Profiling of farmer groups in Ibanda district and in Ibanda Municipal Council



Profiling of farmer groups in Kijongo Parish, Kijongo sub county, Ibanda district



Profiling farmer groups in Ibanda Municipal Council

Profiling of farmer groups in Kabujogera Town Council in Kitagwenda district



Meeting to discuss profiling of farmer groups in Kabujogera Town Council in Kitagwenda district

Profiling farmer groups in Kamwenge district



Profiling farmer groups in Kabambiro sub county in Kamwenge district

(b) Training on bee keeping



Kabambiro Bee Keepers Association in Kabambiro sub county receive training from an experienced bee keeper from Kabambiro

Tumwesigye Geofrey, the Entomologist for Kamwenge district training Kabambiro Bee Keeping Group



Kinagamukono Rwambu Conservation Group in Kijongo sub county, Ibanda district received KTB bee hives and Protective Jackets to enhance their group activities



Kamwenge District Entomologist hands over Bee hives and Protective gears

(c) Training on energy cook stoves



Women get involved to mix mud during training in making biomass cook stoves in Kitagwenda



Rwambu Parish in Kijongo. A complete Biomass cook stove constructed by members



A completed biomass cook stove demo constructed at Butanda, Kabambiro Parish Kamwenge

Annex 1: Summary of beneficiaries of alternative livelihoods intervention

Table 1: Details of farmer groups selected in Ibanda District

No	Sub county	Parish	Group Name	Name of Chairperson	Contact of Chairperson	Enterprise	No. of Males	No. of Females	Total
1	Kijongo	Rwambu	Kiryabishoro Piggery Group	Ayebazibwe Yowasi	0770 516496	Piggery	16	14	30
2	Kijongo	Kijongo	Save The Environment Farmers Group	Namanya William	0782 862808	Goat Rearing	27	2	29
3	Kijongo	Rwambu	Kinagamukono Rwambu Wetland Conservation Group	Murambuzi Tanazio	0765 519873	Bee Keeping	16	11	27
4	Kijongo	Rwambu	Rwambu 4 Coffee Growers Group	Nakimuli Joweria	0782 003327	Coffee Farming	8	22	30
5	Kijongo	Rwambu	Rwambu 3 Goats Rearing Group	Aziizi Kabutika	0775 828286	Goat Rearing	12	13	25
6	Kijongo	Kijongo	Rwanyabihuka 11 Coffee Growers Group	Tumuhairwe Beatrice	0777 276594	Coffee Farming	24	6	30
7	Ibanda Municipality	Kashangura	Kashangura Wetland Conservation Group 1	Dr.Tuhumwire Julius	0782 411130	Heifer Rearing	27	1	28
8	Ibanda Municipality	Kashangura	Kashangura Wetland Conservation Group 2	Agatha Nyangoma	0784 433284	Piggery	10	18	28
9	Ibanda Municipality	Kashangura	Kashangura Wetland Conservation Group 3	Mwesigye Jonan	0776 575455	Heifer Rearing	22	5	27
10	Ibanda Municipality	Kashangura	Kashangura Wetland Conservation Group 4	Adriano Bishanga	0776 169030	Coffee Farming	18	7	25
							180	99	279

Table 2: Details of farmer groups selected in Kitagwenda District

No	Sub county	Parish	Group Name	Name of Chairperson	Contact No.	Enterprises	No. of Males	No. of Females	Total
1	Kabujogera Town Council	Kantozi Ward	Rwamasinde Coffee Farmers Group	Banyagi Amos Kweyamba	0774 370811	Coffee Farming	13	17	30
2	Kabujogera Town Council	Kabujogera Ward	Kabujogera Town Council Bee Keepers Group	Rwomwihamba Ceasor	0772 931013	Bee Keeping	16	12	28
3	Kabujogera	Kagazi	Nyabitooma Twebembirwe	Kabikire Scovia	0760	Coffee	16	14	30

	Town Council	Ward	Mukama Silk Group		778653	Farming			
4	Kabujogera Town Council	Kabujogera Ward	Rwamushambo Tukwatanie Farmers Group	Tumwine Vicent	0774 435439	Coffee Farming	20	10	30
5	Kabujogera Town Council	Kabujogera Ward	Omurwera Farmers Twehaireyo Group	Godfrey Nyamugambwa	0773 728862	Coffee Farming	18	12	30
6	Kabujogera Town Council	Kantozi Ward	Kantozi Animal Farmers Group	Katungye Vicent	0772 908917	Heifer Rearing	15	17	32
7	Kabujogera Town Council	Kagazi Ward	Nyabitooma Tukorere Hamwe Farmers Group	Biine Ojab Leonard	0775 462858	Coffee Farming	13	17	30
8	Kabujogera Town Council	Kantozi Ward	Kantozi Goats Keepers Group	John Paul Asiimwe	0776 967404	Goat Rearing	15	17	32
							126	116	242

Table 3: Details of farmer groups selected in Kamwenge District

No	Sub county	Parish	Group Name	Name of Chairperson	Contact of Chairperson	Enterprise	No. of Males	No. of Females	Total
1	Kabambiro	Kabambiro	Kabambiro Bee Keepers Group A	Barugahare Charles	0772 662825	Bee Keeping	19	9	28
2	Kabambiro	Kabambiro	Butanda Goat Rearing Group	Protas Bizishaka	0776 21077	Goat Rearing	20	8	28
3	Kabambiro	Kebisingo	Kebisingo 5 Goat Rearing	Tugumehabwe Gideon	0777 774231	Goat Rearing	14	16	20
4	Kabambiro	Kebisingo	Kebisingo I Turinde Ebyobuhangwa Goat Rearing	Byesigamazima Fred	0764 103420	Goat Rearing and Tree Planting	11	19	30
5	Kabambiro	Kabambiro	Kabambiro Bee Keepers Group B	Sunday Wilson	0783 350353	Goat Rearing	22	5	27
6	Kabambiro	Nyamashegwa	Burengye Goat Rearing Group	Hagama John	0778 468360	Goat Rearing	8	20	28
7	Kabambiro	Kebisingo	Butusi-Mpanga Goat Rearing	Besigensi Amos	0771 446112	Goat Rearing	13	8	22
8	Kabambiro	Kebisingo	Kebisingo II Goat Rearing Group	Biryomumisho Jackson	0772 777981	Goat Rearing	18	16	34
							125	101	217