



STORY OF ALOYSIUS from CAPCA YOUTH PROJECT

Ssaali Aloysius aged 25 from Matengeto Village, Katovu Parish, Kakuto Sub County in Rakai District. He is a youth farmer one of the members of Katovu-Mayanja Agali-awamu Youth Group. Aloysius dropped out of school due to the failure of his parents to meet the cost of his education at Secondary level, since the time his household members have had numerous challenges to meet the cost of the basic needs and other social services like medical bills, transport to access the trading center.

Aloysius started working with his parents in their family garden, producing on a small scale for home consumption. This was because, they did not have access to capital that would be used to open up large cultivable land, and he lacked skills to practicing commercialized farming.

With the support of CIDI under the CAPCA youth Project, Aloysius has been built his capacity in horticulture and non- traditional crops farming through participating in numerous trainings focusing on Agronomic practices, Group dynamics, Farming as a business, Agro Produce Marketing strategies and information flow system. Aloysius has progressed progressing from small farm holder to semi commercialized farmer and his major dream is to become an international exporter of horticultural crops.

"..... two years back i have been growing passion fruits, I would plant around 50-80 plants, tomatoes half a tin 100 g, when I was trained by CIDI in farming as a business, I started saving the proceeds from my small passion fruit plantation which I have recently re-invested.....last year I opened up another land (01 acre) where I currently own a big passion fruit plantation of 500 plants on an acre.....I thank so much the CIDI Extension staff who keep on checking and advise me on the best practices on a regular basis "

Aloysius has been able to harvest 40 bags of passion fruit the previous season around December, sold each bag at 200,000/= (Two hundred thousand Uganda Shillings), he has been also trained in the grafting of passion fruits, he is expecting to harvest around 50 bags during the coming season. He intercropped with water melons which he is about to harvest, coffee and Green paper. He plans to start up a passion fruit grafting nursery. He is very proud to be working with his group members since; they always meet monthly to share ideas.

".....i can't use my motorcycle for bodaboda business because the work it does for me and to other members at home is more expensive than the 8,000/= that it can bring home on a daily basis and the other associated bodaboda business risks....)

Aloysius is so proud of the progress he is making and thanked CIDI for the tireless efforts to help the youths to get interested in agriculture as a means of getting out of poverty and live independently from their parents.