



Wealth Creation through effective and change of attitudes in piggery management practices in a farmer youth group

Picture : The host (Mr Oraria and the wife) mixing and feeding pigs

Otatai youth group is just one among the 20 being supported by CIDI Soroti district. The group is located in Owolo village, Otatai parish and Asuret Sub County in Soroti district. It was initially formed in 2011 with a total of twenty three (23) members. The major purpose of forming the youth group was to work out the most appropriate way to improve the livelihood of the youth in Otatai through enhancing agricultural productivity, through pineapple growing and pig rearing

Since then, CIDI has built the capacity of all the members of the group through a number of community sensitization meetings, trainings on enterprise selection and management, demonstrations and later on exposure visits with the objective of enabling the youth to get basic knowledge and skills in pig rearing. The group was then supported with One boar (01) and two (2) gilts as parent stock.

During the interactions with members of the group, majority of them confessed that before CIDI intervention in 2011, Otatai community had reared local pigs as a way of raising family income. The mode of rearing was basically free range system and it worked in such a way that the pigs could be allowed to move from one corner of the village to another in search for food and water. However, according to Mr. Oraria Emmanuel,(the chairperson of the group), he noted that over time especially during the rainy season, the pigs kept moving from one location to another destroying the crops in both his and other peoples' gardens. Some households were forced to feed the pigs on household food (cassava).

The practice of rearing the pigs on free range system also exposed the pigs to the deadly swine fever and eventually killed all the pigs in the village. By 2011 the village was hardly left with any pigs around and the attitude of rearing the pigs by the community in Otatai was greatly detested by almost everyone in the village, and this consequently resulted into a situation where pigs were regarded as a curse.

During the focus group discussions with members of the youth group of Otatai village, the youth had the chance to hear from the project pass on pig. The beneficiaries of this intervention told that out of one boar and two gilts they received a parent stock, and have now a total of twenty eight (28) piglets. Eight members have so far benefited from the pass ons while the rest are yet to receive.

Based on the numerous trainings that have been provided to the youth, focusing on knowledge and skills on pig rearing, great awareness has been created and by far, members now believe that

piggery is the way to go and that little did they know that such improved pigs could also be feed using local foods, housing them on zero grazing was less costly and less risky more so in disease control and management.

In addition, attitudinal change could be clearly evidenced based on the fact that youth such as Ariokot Juliet, Akello Mary and many others have been able to even pick up soft loans from their group level VSLA to buy other piglets to boost their pass ons so as to harvest more piglets in the near future for better income. Those youth who received male pass ons have also been able to fatten them over time and are now in the process of selling the big pigs and buy young females to ensure continuous reproduction.

Consequently, the chairperson of the group Mr. Oraria Emma stated that the crossed pigs seem to be better because of their faster growth, thus shorter maturity periods compared to the local pigs, they could also be fed on local foods, and that confining the pigs in a pig style makes it even much cheaper and less risky especially on disease control and management



Mr Okello Tony and Mr Ewiny Paul filed extension officer inspecting the parent stock