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FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DR. FULGENCIO JJUUKO

Executive Director CIDI

Majority of farmers in Rakai and Kyotera districts like elsewhere in Uganda are still peasants who farm small plots of land, utilizing traditional and subsistence methods. Despite of these characteristics, peasant-farming system has vital role in Uganda's agriculture sector. According to the World Bank, agriculture is the backbone of Uganda's economy, employing over 70% of the population, and contributing half of Uganda's export earnings and a quarter of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Since majority of Ugandans live in rural areas, raising agriculture incomes is critical to reducing rural poverty, boosting prosperity and creating jobs, especially for women and youth. Solutions therefore must be found for empowering peasant farmers to deal with the problems they face.

In response to empowering rural farmers to transform their livelihoods through improved agriculture, at Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI)

we have designed and implementing the Community Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihood Project in Rakai and Kyotera Districts, southern Uganda where we are supporting and empowering rural peasant farmers to transit from farmers' groups to cooperative societies. These play an important role in enhancement of agriculture productivity, promotion of value addition and employment creation. Supporting different farmers groups into formation of cooperative societies gives them a bigger voice, power and capacity in addressing their own production and marketing of their agriculture produce.

It's my pleasure, that you will not only enjoy the stories in this publication but also learn about how CIDI through the Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation Program (UGOPAP) with support from DANIDA through Caritas Denmark has managed to successful touch many lives of rural farmers through promoting agriculture value chain.

WHO WE ARE



Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) is a registered Organization that had been operating in Uganda for the last 23 years. Our work mainly focuses on actions that directly transform lives of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. In tackling poverty, we continue to invest in community empowerment programs that contribute towards poverty reduction through the provision of sustainable integrated technical and material support, in broad areas of sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, lobbying,

health promotion, income generation, water and environmental sanitation, lobbying and advocacy.

Our Vision:

Communities enjoying a decent life free of hunger, poverty and disease.

Our Mission:

Enhancing Sustainable Community resilience through; improved Income, Nutrition and food security, Water and Sanitation, Health Care Promotion and Policy Advocacy.

Our Key Thematic Areas:

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Sustainable Agriculture and Green growth
- Health Care Promotion
- Policy Advocacy and Good Governance
- CIDI Training Institute and Skills Development

Core Values:

Professionalism, Accountability and Transparency, Team Work, Result and Learning Orientation, Community Participation

FOREWORD FROM THE **TEAM LEADER / PROJECT MANAGER**



NKUUBI BRIAN

(CESL Project Manager and Team Leader CIDI-Rakai/Kyotera Branch)

The Community Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihood Project (CESL) in Rakai and Kyotera Districts, southern Uganda, started way back in 2006 while working with farmer groups. The Project has been funded by Caritas Denmark through the Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation Program (UGOPAP). The project aim is to address challenges on food security, low production yields, limited income generating opportunities and poor standards of living among rural farmers. Through our integrated approach, we (CIDI) have enhanced capacities of over 1,128 rural farmers the project area in:

- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Governance and management of the cooperative societies,
- Farming as a business, drought mitigation and irrigation practices,
- Exposure and learning visits to the progressive farmers and entrepreneurs,
- Coffee value chain development and quality standards,

Mobilisation of farmers towards collective marketing, value addition and supporting them to access market price information via their mobile phones.

CIDI has enhanced capacities of over 1128 rural farmers in the project area. Our support to farmers has enabled the formation of 25 farmers groups which have come together to form three registered cooperative societies i.e. Kasasa farmers Coop Society Ltd (in Kasasa Sub County Kyotera District, Kitasiba Farmers Coop Society Ltd (Kakuuto Sub County Kyotera District) and Lwanda farmers Cooperative Society Ltd (Lwanda Sub County Rakai District)

with over 433 fully registered members, they have gained a stronger voice through, bulking and collective marketing of their produce thus, accessing better markets and increased incomes.

CIDI has transformed farmers through supporting the agricultural value chain of coffee and maize; production, value addition, bulking and Marketing.

A number of interventions have been implemented under the CESL project to ensure this is achieved, for example, provision of capacity building in Sustainable Agricultural Practices (SAPs), Linking the farmers to Agricultural extension service providers from the District Local governments, on Marketing, CIDI has supported the process of forming Farmer Produce and Marketing Associations, which have also been transformed into registered Farmer Cooperative Societies. This is aimed at creating a stronger voice during marketing, Value addition equipment have been procured and handed over to Farmer cooperatives in order to promote value addition practices. Farmer organizations have been supported with Capitalization Grant to boost their coffee bulking and collective marketing business, built capacities of farmer cooperatives to create strong marketing linkages with viable buyers for the farmers produce.

The cooperatives have been mobilised around two major common enterprises i.e. coffee and maize. As CIDI we believe that strengthening of farmers' cooperative societies enables rural substance farmers to improve their household incomes critical to reducing rural poverty, boosting prosperity and creating jobs, especially for women and youth. As CIDI, we want to appreciate our development partners especially, DANIDA / Caritas Denmark for the financial support extended to ensure that the CESL project is implemented to achieve the set goals and objectives, we want also to use this publication to appreciate other development partners like; Ministry of Agriculture Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) for the ACDP program, UGACOF, NDUGU Coffee Marketing Network. We believe the cooperatives are moving towards the right direction of sustainability and independence as they continue to support rural farmers.

MICRO IRRIGATION SYSTEM IMPROVES PRODUCTIVITY FOR A SMALL HOLDER FARMER IN RAKAI DISTRICT



Katayiira Rashid at his new house still under constriction

Katayiira Rashid aged 60 years, with two wives and 9 children (with the first born being 37years) a stallholder farmer based in village, Kasensero parish, Lwanda Sub County in Rakai district. He is a member of Kasensero United Farmer group and a fully registered member of Lwanda Farmers Cooperative Society y in Rakai district. The famer was supported with a small micro irrigation pilot system in 2019; the intervention has greatly transformed his household and improved on production and productivity of his coffee plantation as reported during this August 2022 CIDI publication.

How the system operates

The system has an underground water tank of about 80000ltrs, where water is collected by rain water runoff. The underground tank was constructed using locally available materials like, poles, timber, bricks, and other materials that were bought from hardware shops including cement, iron bars, water pipes and nails. A local plumber was identified by CIDI to help the farmer in installing the micro system. The farmer was involved in designing the system layout and pattern; water pipes were laid underground to convey water by gravity from the water tank to the garden which was at first integrated with Coffee, Tomatoes and Passion fruits. 3 stand taps were set up and spread in different locations within the garden. An extension water pipe is always connected at the stand taps to make it easy for watering the crops during the dry season. The water dust trap was constructed near the water tank to ensure the rain water that gets into the tank is cleared of dust. Regular maintenance is always done by the farmer to keep the system working.



The standing taps that were established in his coffee garden that help in watering

Through capacity building trainings in Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) provided by CIDI to farmers including Katayira since 2012, he got interested in trying out a micro irrigation system with gravitation force water conveyance to help in water his coffee plantation. His plantation was situated in a stony area which affects water retention capacity and used to affect the production/productivity, and alternative means through trying out a small irrigation system would reduce on water stress for his coffee plantation and boost production and productivity.



CIDI ED during monitoring the installment process in 2019

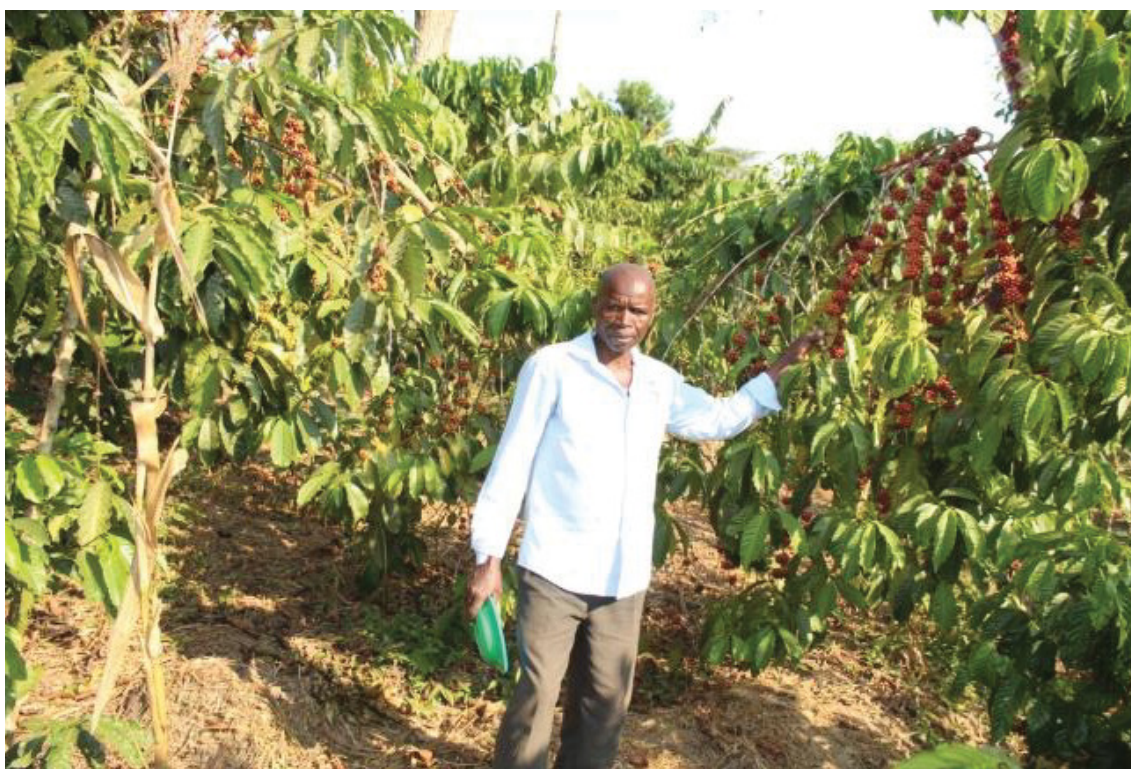
Before Katayiira was supported with the system he used to harvest 200kgs of coffee FAQ on 0.7 acres coffee garden in the year 2019, after getting the system, he expanded his garden to 1.5 acres with more 100 extra coffee seedlings. The yields from the first harvest season also increased to 700Kgs as reported in 2021. He took his coffee to Lwanda Farmers Cooperative society where he is a registered member for hulling, bulking and collective marketing.

Mr. Katayiira managed to get ugx 5,000,000 from the sale of his coffee and he has used this money to start the construction process of a permanent house with other funds from others sources. Katayiira had high expectations from the coffee for the ongoing coffee harvesting season where he expects the quantity of coffee to triple from 7000kgs to 21000kg by the end of August 2022. This is because of the intensive management practices he has adopted after attending various agronomic trainings and exposure to progressive coffee farmers facilitated by CIDI, he has done mulching, routine pruning, coffee harvesting practices like picking only red-ripe coffee, drying the coffee using tarpaulin.



Katayiira drying his harvested coffee using the tarpaulin to maintain the quality standards

Since the micro irrigation system was implemented for demonstration purposes, over 100 community members had visited Katayiira to learn about the irrigation design; pattern and how the system was operated to mitigate the effects of prolonged droughts in the coffee gardens for small holder farmers, the visitors' book at the site keep track of the visitors.



Katayiira while picking only red (ripen) coffee during the first harvesting season in 2022

Katayiira is proud of CIDI because, it has empowered him and many farmers in the district, CIDI has mobilized them to form groups, farmer associations and later farmer cooperatives which are registered for pursuing common goals especially in collective marketing of their coffee, resource mobilization and community advocacy for better service delivery.

KALYANGO ACHILLIES OF LWANDA YOUTH ASSOCIATION EARNS ALIVING FROM THE PRODUCTION AND SELLING OF ORGANIC FERTILISERS MADE FROM FISH



Kalyanga packing the organic fertilizers getting ready for sale

With the contamination of water sources and the general environment due to excessive use of artificial fertilizers, in 2020 CIDI collaborated with International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA-Uganda) under their ENABLE TAT program, 4 farmers and 2 project staff were supported to undertake a short course capacity building training in organic fertilizer (Fish Hydrolysate)

and pesticide (Lactobacillus Serum) production all in liquid form from locally available materials like; fish, rice, milk and Molasses). The farmers were trained as TOTs, after the training, they embarked on training fellow farmers, in 2021 they trained over 100 cooperative and Youth association members in production and application of this organic fertilizers and pesticides for improved productivity. The

fertilizers have enabled over 100 farmers to cope with weather changes that have caused water stress to their crops but also limited the multiplication of plant pests and diseases.

Kalyango Achilles aged 28 years and a member of Lwanda Youth Producers and Marketing Association based in Butiti Parish, Lwanda Sub County Rakai District embarked on massive production of these organic substances with the aim of selling to other local community members who had not got the opportunity to be trained. Since 2021 to the time of producing this publication, he had so far produced over 150 liters, branded and packed in small bottles/containers (500ml, 300ml and

200ml) for selling at the local market at affordable rates since it's made from locally available materials. The organic substance had helped farmers to boost their production, over 100 local farmers have bought and applied these fertilizers in their gardens and the results have been positive. CIDI therefore, planned to scale up this innovation and during the first half of 2022, 35 farmers have been trained. Through Lwanda Youth Association, CIDI is strategizing to create awareness about these organic products to create more marketing opportunities for deliberate efforts to minimize on the use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides.



Nabwogi Fausta (35 years) one of the local community members based in Lutungu village, Butiti Parish, Lwanda sub County, Rakai District who had used the organic fertilizers on her vanilla crop and it had been effective in boosting production

The organic fertilizer was produced in form of liquid content and it was produced through fermentation process, the mixture of Fish intestines, molasses and water is left to ferment for a period of 21-30 days before the solution becomes ready for application in the gardens. Each liter of ready fertilizers was sold at ugx 20,000 though; they have been packed in different sizes. Between 2021 and June 2022, 100litres of fertilizers had been sold out to 100 farmers generating ugx 2,000,000 to Kalyango. The materials are bought on local market, the youth goes to local markets where they sell fish and makes order for fish intestines and fish leftovers, he also makes orders for the molasses from one of the supplier in Kyotera Town. Production of 100 liters of fertilizers requires ugx 500,000 as operational and investment costs.



The community member displaying the maize which she harvested after applying the organic fertilizers during the first planting season of 2022

One of the big learning from this story is to; encourage the project beneficiaries to always be open to innovations and move extra mile to for sustained livelihoods. Kalyango was trained as a TOT by IITA and CIDI with the major aim of training others so that they would produce these organic substances for application on their own gardens. He however went extra mile to identify more opportunities used the knowledge and skills he gained to venture into producing the fertilizers for sell.



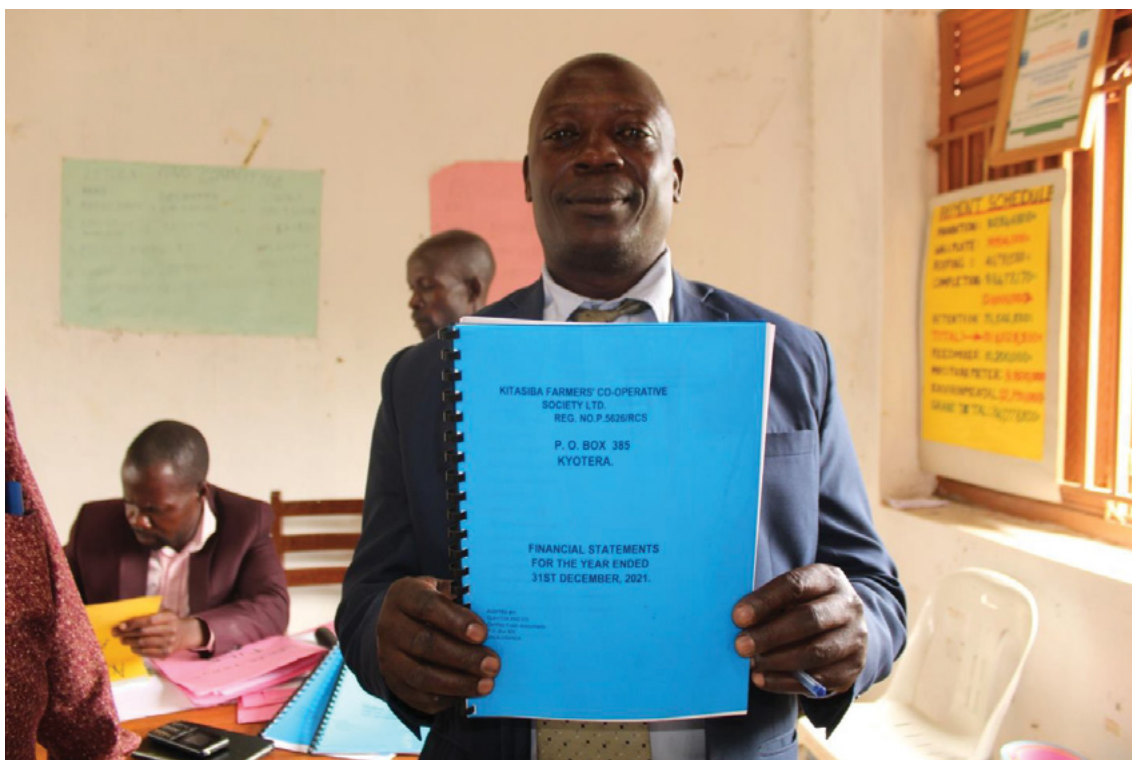
Kalyango planted two tomato plants at his place for demonstration purposes about the effectiveness of the organic fertilizers

Kalyango is so appreciative of CIDI and IITA for the great opportunity that was extended to him to undertake the capacity building training, he was looking forward for massive production of the organic fertilizers and ensure it was tested and verified by the concerned authorities for the products to be sold on advanced markets like; agro-input shops.

COOPERATIVE LEADERS' EXPERIENCE IN CONDUCTING COOPERATIVE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS (AGMS) BASED FOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AS PER THE COOPERATIVE ACT CAP 112

SEPTEMBER 2022

TOUCHING THE LIVES OF RURAL FARMERS IN KYOTERA AND RAKAI DISTRICTS



Kitasiba Chairperson displaying the 2021 audit report to members during the AMG held in March 2022

Under the Community Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihoods (CESL Project) implemented by CIDI under the Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation Program (UGOPAP), CIDI is working with three Farmer Cooperative Societies that are fully registered with the Ministry of Trade as required by the Cooperative Act.

Farmer Cooperatives are required by law under the Cooperative Act CAP 112 to conduct Annual General Meeting. The Cooperative Act provides guidelines on how registered farmer cooperative societies should conduct their AGMs. CIDI has provided enough capacity building to the supported cooperative societies under the CESL project in Kyotera and Rakai District to successfully conduct Annual General Meeting following the recommended guidelines.

Experiences as shared by Mr. Bukenya Moses the chairperson and Mr. Mulinda Stephen the Secretary for Kitasiba Farmers Cooperative Society Limited (March 2022)

“.....CIDI has undertaken this wonderful work with collaboration from the District Commercial Officers who are required by the Cooperative Act, to supervise and monitor all the activities of the registered farmer cooperative societies within the respective districts (Kyotera and Rakai) on behalf of the Cooperative Registrar from the Ministry of Trade and cooperatives in Uganda.



Mr. Bukenya Moses, the chairperson Kitasiba presenting his 2021 annual progress report to members during the AGM

Annual General Meetings (AGMs) are held after the expiry of the gazetted financial year for the respective cooperative society. With technical support from CIDI, our cooperatives have gazetted 1st January to 31st December the financial year that means, our cooperatives are operating their businesses on a normal calendar year. Gazetting the financial years by farmer cooperatives under the cooperative guidelines is very important because, it guides the cooperative on when and how to conduct certain events including the Annual General meetings. For example, the annual

auditing process/exercise, annual budgeting and planning process, election of cooperative leaders, admission and approval of new cooperative members among others. In case such processes, events or activities are not completed during the Annual general meeting, the cooperative is permitted to hold an extra ordinary general meeting to undertake such pending assignments for regulatory compliancy purposes which we have at times done based on prevailing circumstances.



Pauline Kagolo one of the cooperative members moving a motion to adopt the 2021 AGM agenda paper.

The Annual general meeting is supposed to be conducted not beyond three months after the expiry of the financial year for the cooperative, as in this case for 31st December is the end of the financial year for our cooperatives supported by CIDI. For this matter therefore, AGMs are always undertaken between 1st January and 31st March every year to avoid implications that might arise due to failure to hold

them during the required period as per the cooperative Act CAP 112. Holding the AGM after the expiry of the financial year is also done technically to allow the farmer cooperatives under take the audit exercise for the previous financial year, and the audit report is presented and approved by the cooperative members during the Annual General Meeting. However, preparation for the auditing

process is a continuous process which normally intensifies during the month of November and December as the financial year comes to an end on 31st December.

Towards the end of every financial year, CIDI starts to mobilize us as cooperative leaders to undertake some of the preparatory work that leads to the Annual general meeting. For example;

The Annual Planning and Budgeting process for the respective cooperatives. According to the cooperative Act, cooperatives are required to have draft annual work plans and budgets 3 months before the expiry of the current financial year. This is intended to have such documents available during the Annual general meeting presented for adoption and approval by the general assembly as we always do it.

In case the Annual General meeting is “elective” (where the cooperatives need to elect new leaders after the expiry of term of office), CIDI and the District Commercial officers both in Kyotera and Rakai support us during the cooperative election process. The election process for the cooperative is handled by the cooperative vetting committee as required under the cooperative Act. This committee is composed of at least 3

members also elected from the ordinary members. The District Commercial Officer or his representative is supposed to be an “ex official” on this committee to guide the cooperative during the vetting process of leaders and election process but also ensure everything is done under the law. The cooperative vetting committee is supposed to develop and issue out an election road map including displaying the adverts for the elective posts at least for 14 working days before the AGM. The vetting committee receives the applications, open and record them, then under take the vetting/screening process under the technical supervision of the District Commercial officer/his representative. The screening processes based on the criteria per post as stated within the governance, human resource and other relevant policies for the cooperative. The vetting committee also is mandated to undertake screening of the cooperative technical staff. When the screening of the applications is done, successful candidates are displayed and presented during an Elective Annual General meeting. casting of votes is made by members under universal suffrage of one man one vote and the winner is declared during the AGM for swearing in and handover process all supervised by the District Commercial Officers.



Mr. Kisekulo Mathius, the District Commercial Officer Kyotera guiding members during Kasasa AGM held in July 2022

Three weeks to the anticipated date of the Annual General meeting, cooperative leaders start the process of developing an agenda; this is always technically inclusive of all the meeting business to be undertaken and up to standard based on the assignments to be completed during the AGM. The Cooperative leaders always share and make consultations from the district commercial officer about the quality of the agenda drafted for the AGM but also seek his convenient time/date to be available during the Annual General Meeting as required by the cooperative guidelines. The Cooperative secretaries and the cooperative managers are tasked to undertake this assignment and ensure the AGM agenda and the minutes of the previous AGM are shared to the cooperatives members at least 14 days to the AGM. The normal standard agenda for an annual general meeting has among others items/businesses; presentation

of the new members and moving a motion to adopt and approval them as fully registered members of the society at the start of the meeting. This helps such members to participation during the AGM as full members. Another item not to miss on the agenda for the AGM is presentation and moving a motion to approve the annual budgets and work plans, presentation by the prequalified auditor and moving a motion to approve the audit report by the members for the previous financial year.. In case the tenure of the auditing company is over, the members during the annual general meeting are required to evaluate the work of the current audit firms to extend or disqualify based on the produced audit work. Thereafter qualify other auditing company/firms where necessary to undertake the auditing process for the subsequent years.



Mr. Luyinda Paul, the cooperative auditor presenting the 2021 Kitasiba Audit Report



Mr. Luyinda officially handing over the audit report to the chairperson after its presentation during the AGM for members to adopt it.

The cooperative agenda for the AGM also doesn't miss out election business, in case it's an Elective AGM. This process is always supervised by the District Commercial Officer or another other representatives from the District Commercial office or the Cooperative Registrar's office. Previously, before the 2020 cooperative act amendment, the term of office for the cooperative leaders has been two terms each two years. However this has been changed based on the 2020 act amendments where cooperatives leaders now have no term limits though, the cooperative should hold elections every after 4 years.



The chairperson presenting new members who had joined the cooperative for AGM approval

During the Annual General Meeting, the cooperative agenda has an item for the cooperative chairperson and the cooperative treasurers to present the general annual progress report and annual financial report respectively for moving a motion by members for adoption and approval. This is very important for the cooperative ordinary members to get the real picture and status of their society in terms of programs, business enterprises, and financial status. In case members are not contented with the progress, they can move motions for resolution to reshuffle, dismiss or commission of inquiry for any member implicated.



The cooperative secretary Mr. Mulindwa Steven taking minutes during the AGM

The above represent some of the mandatory items that have to appear on an agenda for the annual general meeting for a registered farmer cooperative society under the Cooperative Act as amended in 2020. However, their other businesses that may be put on the agenda of the cooperative and be considered during the AGM for example, presentation of the need for the cooperative to acquire a financial liability (loan) for members to consider and approve, presentation of cooperative various governance, management and operational policy amendments for consideration and approval. Cooperatives have always invited other stakeholders to come as guests during their AGMs, these are selected based on purpose especially those that are already partnering with the cooperatives in various aspects. This has increased

confidence among the cooperative partners as they physically experience how the cooperative is governed and managed through the various issues presented and discussed during the meetings. At the end of the meeting, we give the various representatives of these strategic partners an opportunity to make short remarks.

CIDI has strengthened the capacities of the cooperative secretaries to prepare good quality minute records during the Annual General Meeting minutes as required under the cooperative guidelines. Since the minutes have to be shared with various stakeholders including; the District Commercial Officer and Cooperative Registrar, we have been supported to prepare the minutes in English as an official language to easily

facilitate the process of sharing where necessary. The Secretaries have been trained in capturing key information like; the names/official titles of the persons who make any submission during the meetings, making relevant quotations including names of places, quantities or measurements of substances among others. They are also trained to prepare the AGM minutes while following the order of the agenda paper in order to have consistence. The Secretary is required to submit the approved copy of minute record by the general assembly to the District Commercial Officer/Cooperative Registrar for verification to ensure that everything cooperative society is governed and managed based on the cooperative guidelines.



The Project Coordinator CIDI Mr. Nkuubi Brian making some remarks after the AGM in March 2022



Mis Namugga Jolly, the Senior Assistant Secretary (SAS) Kakuuto Sub County-Rakai making some remarks after the 2022 AGM for Kitasiba Cooperative.

Through this publication based on our experiences in managing General meetings and managing the cooperative affairs in general, on behalf of the leadership from the three supported Farmer Cooperatives i.e Kasasa, Kitasiba and Lwanda, we express our special appreciation to; (i) Caritas Denmark the major funder of the Community Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihood Project under Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation Program (UGOPAP) implemented by Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) in Kyotera and Rakai Districts for our technical capacities have been built to steer the cooperative movement ahead for

community development. (ii) Special appreciation to the government of Uganda for fulfilling her mandate to support rural development through; provision of capacity building to cooperative leaders under the District Commercial Office and Agriculture Extension department, provision of financial support that has boosted the production and value addition initiatives of the cooperatives societies especially in Rakai and Kyotera Districts under the Agricultural Cluster Development Program (ACDP).....” as said by Mr. Bukenya Moses and Mr. Mulindwa Stephen leaders from Kitasiba Cooperative Society Limited, Kyotera District



Mr. Lubinga Geoffrey, the District Agricultural Officer-Kyotera making some remarks after the 2022 Kasasa AGM



One of the representatives from UGACOF making some remarks after the AGM for Kitasiba in March 2022



Representatives for NDUGU coffee marketing network making some remarks during Kasasa AGM held in July 2022

A SMALL HOLDER FARMER IS UNDERTAKING CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT HOUSE AS A RESULT OF INCREASED COFFEE HARVESTS



Sserwada John aged 49 years lives with one wife and four children residents of, Parsih, Kakuuto Sub County in Kyotera District construct a permanent house as a result of increased coffee harvests and participating in collective marketing as a registered member of Kitasiba Cooperative Society Limited .

He joined Kuteesa B Farmer Group in 2012 which has been supported by CIDI

with various interventions under CESL project; Because of his activeness, he was selected by his fellow group members to be trained as a Community Based Trainer (CBT) by CIDI where, he is charge with the responsibility of training fellow community members in Sustainable Agronomic Practices (SAPs) as whereas, mobilizing them to participate in various community development initiatives promoted by CIDI and other development

partners within the locality. For example, collective marketing, capacity building trainings, community planning, among others. During the recent Cooperative general elections conducted in March 2022, he was elected as Kitasiba cooperative Marketing officer, his major responsibility is to mobilise fellow members for bulking and collective marketing, looking for better markets for farmers produce and ensures quality control and assurance.

Through the various capacity building interventions including; trainings, exposure visits, and collective marketing supported by Community Integrated Development Initiatives, he acquired knowledge and skills in coffee growing, bulking and marketing which has enabled him to increase on coffee production, access better markets with better prices which is transforming his social and economic life through construction of a permanent house. Some of the trainings he attended include; training in collective marketing approaches and benefits, value addition practices on coffee, Coffee agronomic practices including post harvest handling,

Before joining Kuteesa B Farmer group in 2012, John had only 20 coffee trees intercropped in his banana plantation. He used to harvest 1 bag of coffee. After

the trainings where he gained more knowledge and skills as whereas getting exposed to the value to coffee as one of the sustainable crop that can generate income for small holder farmers, he expanded his garden with more coffee trees planted (550 trees of coffee). This increased his yields from 1 bag of 80kgs of coffee to 1000kgs, about 15 bags per season as of 2022. Sserwada has used Kitasiba farmer Cooperative society where he is registered as a member where he has bulked his coffee and collectively market with fellow cooperative members. This has helped him to get better prices as a result of strong bargaining power. Kitasiba Cooperative has a marketing MOU with UGACOF and NDUGU Cooperative marketing Network based in Kyotera, Rakai and Masaka Districts where they are assured of ready market and better price.

Sserwanda has kept saving the money from the sale of his coffee harvests over the years until April 2022, when he had accumulated about UGX20,000,000 money which he used to start constructing a permanent house in his home village. With sustainable coffee harvests, he is optimistic to have his house completed in two years to come so that he shifts from his old temporary house thus enjoying an improved social life with his family members.



Figure 1 and 2; Mr. Sserwada John at his old house



The four roomed permanent house still under construction

“...I HAVE TRANSFORMED INTO A MODEL FARMER, MY CHILDREN HAVE GRADUATED AND I AM BUILDING A PERMANENT HOUSE AS A RESULT OF COFFEE FARMING” SAYS NAMWANJA JOSEPH!



Namwanja and, his wife and son by congratulated by CIDI staff upon his efforts to construct a permanent house out of coffee production

Namwanja Joseph -----years old a member of Tukwatirewamu Farmer group based in Kisuula village, in Mityebiri Parish, Kasasa Sub County, Kyotera District. He is a registered member of Kasasa Farmers Cooperative society since 2014, where he is currently the cooperative marketing officer. He has a family of 7 children and one wife, where 3 children have graduated with bachelor's degrees in Biochemistry, Industrial Chemistry and Industrial Art and Design, 01 with diploma in Agriculture and Animal husbandry, 02 children with certificates in carpentry and 01 child one child is a senior 4 graduate.



Namwanja, his wife and daughter during her graduation ceremony in 2017

Mr. Namwanja shared his long story of coffee farming, cooperative societies and how it had supported rural livelihoods. He said, greater Masaka region was predominately known as one of the coffee growing areas in Uganda since the early days of coffee planting campaign, that was undertaken by the British as our colonial masters. According to him, this was no lie that during the 1970s to early 90s as cooperative movement was booming, Masaka Cooperative Union was one of the strongest Farmer Organizations in Uganda. It was strongly supported by coffee production by local farmers which would be bulked and forwarded to Uganda Coffee Marketing Board for exporting, farmers would benefit from better prices as a result of bulking. It was unfortunate that, during mid 1990s and early 2000s, there was a drastic reduction in production of coffee due to coffee wilt disease with in Greater Masaka region; this among other factors affected the operations of Masaka cooperative union, farmers were left with no ready market for their coffee, very frustrated thus, affecting their household income with minimal capacity to afford basic needs of life.



Namwanja's old house

During the mid 2000s, CIDI used this background information where small holder farmers experienced reduced coffee production, this was situation was reversed through collaborations with other partners like; Caritas MADD0, Caritas Kampala, Caritas Luwero, Caritas Lugazi, Caritas Kiyinda Mityana, and Tusubiira Women Development Agency under their consortium Central Archdiocesan Province Association (CAPCA) accessed financial support from Caritas Denmark to support small holder farmers in central Uganda, CIDI started mobilizing and building capacities of these rural households towards coffee growing, value addition, bulking and Collective Marketing through farmer

cooperatives so as to restore the “lost glory”. This was how CIDI started supporting Namwanja Joseph together with other rural farmers in 2006 where, he has been able to actively participate in coffee production, bulking and collective marketing through Kasasa Farmers Cooperative Society. He has been able to support his children’s education and also undertake construction of a permanent house in his rural village which has so far spent over Ugx 50,000,000 all from coffee sales. Together with his family, have a vision of establishing a Pre-primary school so that he can support local children who find it very difficult to access pre-primary education due to long distances to nearby pre-primary schools.



Before CIDI interventions in 2006, Namwanja was owning a coffee plantation of 2 acres, because of the coffee wilt disease which was affecting farmers coffee plantations during the early 2000s, he had little hope of expanding his coffee garden and increase the production. Many farmers were frustrated due to limited knowledge and skills to control the spread coffee wilt disease, low capacity to market coffee due to the general decline in operation of the traditional coffee farmers Unions in Uganda case in point, Masaka Cooperative Union. At that time, Namwanja was limited to only producing coffee of about 500kgs from the 2 acres; this limited the household income and access to basic needs. When CIDI started to extend capacity building support to farmers in 2006 through their village based Tukwatirewamu farmer group focusing on coffee agronomic practices, coffee plantation rehabilitation, water harvesting technologies, linking the farmers to suppliers of better coffee varieties which are resistant to coffee wilt. This support progressively increased his production capacity from 500kgs in

2006 to 7000kgs (7tons) as reported in Aug 2022. Namwanja has expanded his coffee garden from 2 acres to 10 acres with coffee trees. As a result of capacity building provided by CIDI in association dynamics and cooperative movement, Kasasa Cooperative was formed in 2014 where farmers in Kasasa Sub County have been supported to bulking and collectively sell their coffee to reliable coffee exporters. Kasasa Farmer Cooperative has a coffee marketing MOU with UGACOF and NDUGU Marketing Network; this has provided farmers with ready market and better prices as a result of collective voice through their cooperatives. The cooperative also has a coffee huller which they accessed from ACDP government program through MAAIF and Kyotera District Local government department of Production; this has provided convenience to farmers to add value to their coffee before it's collectively sold.



The water source he constructed in his garden for production purposes

Because of the progress he was making on his coffee plantation, Namwanja had applied to Kyotera District Production department for a micro solar powered irrigation system under U-Gift government program and had been considered among the host beneficiaries. The system equipment was going to cost ugx20,000,000 with 4,000,000 local contribution. The micro irrigation designs and patterns had already been undertaken and approved by the district irrigation engineer; he was only waiting to actual installation of the system which would further increase his coffee production capacity.



The recently planted coffee as he continues to expand his coffee plantation for more production.

As a result, there has been increased household income for Namwanja's household and has enabled him to meet the scholastic materials, school fees and tertiary/university tuition fees for his 7 children where 6 of them have already graduated in various disciplines. He has also been able to save some money which has enabled him to start constructing a permanent house. He now holds a big vision to establish a pre-primary school in the local area so that he can improve access to education services.



Namwanja's New House under construction



