

FARMER INNOVATION FAIR commemorated in the context of the Farmer Innovation day at the Youth Association for Rural Development at their offices in Ngogwe Sub County in Buikwe district on 4th September 2017.

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Introduction

These are briefing notes for the Farmer Innovation Fair (FIF) conducted at **Youth Association for Rural Development (YARD)**³ offices and demonstration site in Ngogwe Sub County.

The event was celebrated on 3rd September 2017 at the offices of Youth Association for Rural Development in Ngogwe Sub County in Buikwe District. It was supported by **HORIZONT3000**⁴, the Austrian Organization for Development Cooperation under the auspices of their program on, '**Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) East Africa Project**,' which is implemented in Uganda and Tanzania based on the ERI approach.

Project implementation consortium:

- a. Caritas Tororo, Uganda;
- b. Safe Neighborhood Foundation (SNF), Budaka, Uganda;
- c. Youth Association for Rural Development (YARD), Buikwe, Uganda;
- d. Masaka Diocesan Development Organization (Caritas MADDO), Masaka, Uganda;
- e. Kolping Society of Tanzania (KST), Bukoba, Tanzania;
- f. Anglican Church of Tanzania, Diocese of Mara (ACT Mara), Bunda, Tanzania.

Specific objectives of the event were:

The event targeted to bring together farmer innovators, both men and women, young and old in one place to witness, recognize and celebrate the creativity, ingenuity and innovativeness of men and women

Box 1: Farmer Innovation Fair is an engagement during which the creativity, ingenuity and innovativeness of smallholder men and women farmers is celebrated. It provides a rare opportunity for them to know each other, share experiences and learning from each other in an open forum. Thus, it helps in boosting of the farmer innovator's self-esteem and confidence, publicly calling for recognition of them as important actors in agricultural research and development (Prolinnova, 2017).



Figure 1. Farmer Innovators of Kolping Society of Tanzania (KST), Bukoba, Tanzania attending to their stall during the Farmer Innovation Fair. Photo by JZ.

¹ See Box 3 for further information about Environmental Alert.

² See Box 5 for further information about the Prolinnova Uganda-Country Platform.

³ See Box 2 for more information about YARD.

⁴ See Box 4 for further information about HORIZONT3000.

practicing small-scale farming under the ERI-East Africa Project.

Thus, it drew participation from several partners and stakeholders including:

Farmer innovators (*such as Tusitikirewamu Farmers Group, Bivamuntuyo farmers group*, others from Bukoba-Tazania.); Ngogwe sub county, Buyikwe district Local Government; Caritas MADDO; Caritas Tororo; SIRACO Irrigation; PELUM Uganda; Non-Government Organization Forum-Buyikwe District; Environmental Alert c/o Prolinnova Uganda Country Program; Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment; Uganda Young Women's Christian Association and the general public and community from within and outside Buyikwe district. In total the event involved about 150 people.

The event was officiated by Christian Guggenberger, the Regional Director HORIZONT3000, and the Austrian Organization for Development Cooperation.

All farmer innovators who participated in the Innovation Fair through exhibitions were recognized by awarding them certificates. These were presented to them by Ruth Nabaggala of PELUM Uganda. The best farmer innovators were given innovation awards, which were presented to them by Dr. Joshua Zake.

Key results from the engagement

a) The farmer innovators shared and disseminated their innovations in agriculture and natural resource management through demonstration and illustrations presented through exhibitions. Particularly, the innovations displayed can be categorized as follows:

- i) Food security and nutrition through value addition and processing i.e. foods and beverages;*
- ii) Sanitation and hygiene e.g. soap made from jatropher;*
- iii) Sustainable utilization of renewable energy resources e.g. improved energy cook stoves;*
- iv) Environment and natural resources management e.g. promotion of indigenous tree species through farm forestry and agroforestry, Soil fertility sustenance through integrated soil and nutrient management – plant porridge/tea;*
- v) Sustainable agriculture;*
- vi) Poultry management e.g. training chickens for laying and hatching eggs;*
- vii) Small-scale Irrigation systems;*
- viii) Art and crafts through use of local materials;*
- ix) Bee keeping.*

b) Experience sharing and networking among farmers and partners with a common interest in advancing farmer innovations in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management for improved livelihoods. This is a stepping stone in consolidating and building synergies among partnership through value adding strategic partnerships.

However, a clear way forward from this FIF engagement is that *the exhibited farmer innovations should be taken through subsequent steps of innovation development involving validation and documentation for further dissemination and up scaling of proven ones.* Furthermore, *value should be added to the innovation through packaging and marketing* so that the farmers can have greater benefits from the innovations which will translate into increased household incomes and livelihood.

Box 2. About YARD

YARD was founded in 1995 as a community based charitable organization and is now registered with the NGO Bureau. The association was an initiative of 10 founder members concerned about the worsening situation of poverty and ignorance, especially among young people. They saw the need for improved education and better health services focusing on disadvantaged people, while safeguarding the natural resource base. They joined forces to effectively spearhead development and improve the standard of living particularly of children, youth and women in their communities of Buikwe district.

The Vision of YARD is, *'healthy and educated communities with reliable incomes that use their natural resources sustainably.'*

The Mission is, *'we build communities' capacity for socio-economic development and solicit support for improved infra-structure and technologies for better living conditions, focusing on disadvantaged people, and on the acres of Central, Eastern and Northeastern regions.'*

YARD can be reached through the Coordinator on P.O.Box 109 Lugazi – Uganda; Tel: +256 (0) 773116664/785653311; Email: yarduganda@yahoo.com



Impact of YARD programmes

YARD has improved the living conditions in more than 12,000 households directly and close to 30,000 households indirectly through;

- Improved food security and household nutrition in Buikwe district at 54%.
- Increased household incomes through agro-enterprise development from 300,000 UGX to 1.2 M.
- Increased access to markets through the formation of associations(Rural producers organizations (RPOs)
- Increase in average acreage for production from ½ an acres to 2 acres
- Increase in production from 0.3 tons to 2 tonnes

Box 3. About Environmental Alert

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in 1988 and has developed and transitioned into a National Non-Governmental organization contributing to an enabling policy environment for sustainable agriculture and sound environment and natural resources management at community, local, national and international levels. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization (NGO), incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an Independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA is a 1st prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.

EA is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.

EA envisions, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

EA's mission is to, *'Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management'*

Program and institutional Components:

1. Environment and Natural resources management;
2. Food security and Nutrition;
3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
4. Finance and Administration;
5. Resource mobilization and Investment.

Scale of Implementation:

EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA's operations are in 20 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

EA is a Secretariat for following networks:

- a) The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network);
- b) Uganda Forestry Working Group;
- c) The Standards Development Group; and
- d) Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network).

Further information about Environmental Alert is available at: <http://envalert.org/>

Box 4. About HORIZONT3000

As one of the first International NGOs, HORIZONT3000 opened a country office in Uganda in 1988, shortly after the civil war in most parts of Uganda had ended. The relatively stable, landlocked country in East Africa was dominated by preparations for the national elections scheduled for the beginning of 2016 which resulted in the re-election of long-term president Yoweri Museveni. The treatment of the opposition and its supporters was criticised by most observers. In November 2015 the new Non-Governmental Organisations Bill was passed by Parliament. The conditions for HORIZONT3000's work in Uganda have remained positive. 12 technical advisors had been seconded to non-governmental and faith-based organisations and institutions in Northern, Central-Northern, Eastern and Central Uganda.

Geographical Areas

Broadly speaking, the geographical focus in East Africa is the region around Lake Victoria. In Uganda, given the relatively small size of the country, HORIZONT3000 is present in most regions of the country with a focus on Northern Uganda. HORIZONT3000 has a Regional Office in the capital of Kampala.

Sectors*** Rural Development and Natural Resource Management**

The objective is to empower the farmers to generate income as well as to achieve food sovereignty. HORIZONT3000 supports farmers by promoting the Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) approach. This approach enables small scale farmers to produce those agricultural products that are demanded by the local markets and trains them in improving their homestead and increasing their production. Another component of this sector is the ecological rehabilitation of the rural hospitals by furnishing them with solar panels, incinerators and washing machines. The upgrade also involves the construction of sewage systems and water tanks.

*** Human Rights/Civil Society**

Activities in this sector concentrate on lobbying and advocacy for specific rights, such as rights of women, children, youths and child headed households, slum dwellers, war affected individuals, and marginalised rural communities. In Uganda the focus is mainly on children rights.

Areas of Intervention and beneficiaries

In the sector Human Rights – Civil Society the aim is to empower local civil society organizations to strengthen their watchdog function – by monitoring and criticizing the actions. In the sector of Rural Development and Natural Resource Management the target group consists of small scale farmers and patients of the rural hospitals who benefit from the improved services.

Further information is available: <http://www.horizont3000.at/en/home/countries-and-sectors/uganda>

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Box 5. About Prolinnova Uganda

PROLINNOVA Uganda is an NGO-led multistakeholder initiative to build a national learning network on promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). PROLINNOVA–Uganda envisions, ‘a world in which women and men farmers play decisive roles in agriculture and NRM innovation processes for sustainable livelihoods.’

The mission is to, ‘stimulate a culture of mutual learning and synergy among diverse stakeholder groups to actively support and promote local innovation processes in agriculture and NRM.’

The goal of Prolinnova Uganda is to, ‘contribute to equitable and inclusive development of resilient and sustainable farming communities.’

Prolinnova Uganda is governed by the following Institutional structures*Prolinnova International Support Team (IST)*

Supports PROLINNOVA activities at national and regional level through overall coordination, fundraising, capacity strengthening, coaching, web-based knowledge management, policy dialogue, networking, publishing and other activities to raise the profile of PROLINNOVA and inform the world about approaches and outcomes in supporting farmer innovation and PID.

The International Secretariat

This is now hosted by KIT (Netherlands), and is responsible for overall administrative and financial management of projects that are funded through the international PROLINNOVA network.

Prolinnova Uganda National Steering Committee.

This comprises of 10 members including: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries; National Agricultural Research Organization; National Agricultural Advisory Services; Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations; International Centre for Tropical Agriculture; Uganda National Farmers Federation; Uganda National Council for Science and Technology; Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation-- Makerere University; Africa 2000 Network; and Environmental Alert, the Prolinnova Uganda Secretariat. It provides overall oversight and strategic guidance in implementation of the country program.

Core Team

This comprises of PELUM-Uganda; KULIKA Uganda; Kikandwa Environment Association; Mukono Agricultural Research and Development Institute; and Environmental Alert, the Prolinnova Uganda Secretariat. They provide technical backstopping to the Secretariat and members in respect to advancing participatory innovation development.

The Secretariat for Prolinnova Uganda

This coordinates Prolinnova members and partners in the implementation of Prolinnova Uganda Country Program. *Environmental Alert* hosts the secretariat for Prolinnova Uganda.

Members of Prolinnova Uganda

These participate in networking, information exchange and implementation of PROLINNOVA Uganda program activities.

Partners of Prolinnova Uganda

These share similar goals and aspirations as PROLINNOVA Uganda and hence, collaborate in the implementation of PROLINNOVA Network strategic plan and related country programs. Further information is available at <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>

Annexes

Annex 1 – List of exhibitors during the Farmer Innovation Fair event held at YARD offices in Ngogwe Sub County Buikwe district

GROUP	INNOVATION	ADDRESS AND CONTACT
Youth Association for Rural Development - YARD		
TUSUBIRA WOMEN DEVELOPMENT GROUP	CATERING SERVICES	MASAABA LC1, NDOLWA PARISH, NGOGWE S.C , BUIKWE DISTRICT
KOLANG'OMUDDU F.G	Prunis Africana, SEEDLING RAISING AND MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS	NYEMERWA LC 1, LUBONGO PARISH, NGOGWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
NAMULESA Y.W.C.A	ART & CRAFT, SEED PACKING, VEGETABLE GROWING	NAMULESA LC 1, NAMULESA PARISH, NGOGWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
BIVAMUNTUUYO F.G	COCOA VALUE ADDITION (CAKE PRODUCTION)	MAYIRIKITI LC 1, NDOLWA PARISH, NGOGWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
SUGU - KIRANGIRA F.G	CASSAVA DEMONSTRATION, COFFEE HARVESTING, QUALITY CONTROL	SUGU - KIRANGIRA L.C, SUGU PARISH, BUIKWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
KUFUNA KWEFAAKO	CASSAVA AND MAIZE VALUE ADDITION	MAWOLOBA LC1, NAMULESA PARISH, NGOGWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT. JOASH: 0757945971
MUKISA F.G	SEED PROCESSING, PACKAGING AND MARKETING	KALAGALA LC1, NAMULESA PARISH, NGOGWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT. NABUKALU ALLEN: 0751837669
LUBALEKA F.G	BANANA PRODUCTION AND MGT, GOAT FARMING, MUSOMO GWA SENG	LULEKA, KOPA PARISH, SSI S.C BUIKWE DISTRICT
BALIKYEWUNYA F.G	LOCAL POULTRY BIRDS PRODUCTION AND MGT	KUNYU LC1, KILINGO PARISH, NGOGWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
ALINYIKIRA F.G	COFFEE NURSERY MGT, COFFEE PRODUCTION, COFFEE PROCESSING(LOW COFFEE)	KYANBOGO LC1, KOPA PARISH, BUIKWE RURAL, BUIKWE DISTRICT
TULIBUMU F,G	LOCAL BREW FROM BANANAS (NONO)	ZITWE LC1, SSI S.C ,BUIKWE DISTRICT
ST. JOHN KIKWANYA	VALUE ADDITION ON MAIZE AND CASSAVA , CO-PERATIVE FORMATION	KIKWANYA LC1, NYENGA S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
TUKOLELE WAMU F.G	AGRO - FORESTRY TREE NURSERY ESTABLISHMENT AND MGT, LIQUID MANURES	MAWANGALA L.C1, NYENGA S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
AGALI AWAMU F.G	ENERGY SAVING STOVES, CONSTRUCTION, USE AND MANTAINANCE	KAMULI BOGO LC1, KILINGO PARISH, NGOGWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
NGABO YAMULAJJE	ART & CRAFT (MATS, HUTS & BASKETS)	MULAJJE LC1, MULAJJE WARD, , NGOGWE S.C, BUIKWE DISTRICT
Caritas Tororo		
Tukola Bagaya Nsimbo	Medicinal trees	Mr. Jjumba George William Ddwaniro Sub County

		0757538635/0775709956
Tulembeke Kaleere B	Improved Tissue Culture Bananas	Nakalanzi Judith Ddwaniro Sub County 0788957111
Agnes Kiwumulo group	Water harvesting	Namugema Rose Kabira Sub County 0775734144
Anglican Church of Tanzania – ACT -Mara		
LISHE GROUP	FISH FARMING ENTREPRISE	SERENGETI DISTRICT, MARA REGION. PHILIPO MARITINI: +255755118810, +255686822701
MATOKEO GROUP	SOAP MAKING FROM JATROPHA PLANT	BUNDA DISTRICT, MARA REGION. +255753704518 / +2557769908923
NGAYANI MLIMANI GROUP	APIARY	SERENGETI DISTRICT, MARA REGION +255756-732592 / +255752933339
TUSHURIKIANE GROUP	VEGETABLE AND FRUITS PRODUCTION	SERENGETI DISTRICT. +255769182677 / +255742735925
Kolping Society of Tanzania (KST)		
TUINUJANE GROUP	WINE PROCESSING: BANANA WINE & ROSELLA WINE	BUKOBA DISTRICT,KAGERA REGION,SEVERA MTAYABARWA /+255754740246 & EDITHA JOHAKIMU / +255753698051
UPENDO GROUP	FOOD PROCESSING: BY USING THE IMPROVED SWEET POTATOES REACH IN VITAMIN 'A': MANDAZI,DONATS,CHICHILI,CRISPS	BUKOBA DISTRICT, KAGERA REGION,INVOLATHA NOVATI / +255686399314 &ADVENTINA ATANASI
Caritas Tororo		
NYIGO BERI F.G	POWERED GOAT DUNG FOR SOIL FERTILITY MGT	CARITAS, TORORO, OBURU JOHN: 0777263547
SIBAHOLA NABONA FARMERS	LOCAL HUTCHERY FOR CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION OF CHICKS	CARITAS, TORORO, NAMIRIPA ANNET 0782-060713
SILWANYI KIROM FARMERS	PLANT PORRIDGE, RAPID GROWTH	CARITAS, TORORO, KINAME FLORENCE 0774-843732