AKASI FARM INITIATIVE

PROJECT REPORT

2019

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AND ENDING POVERTY:

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND END POVERTY.

PROJECT ID: AKASI-2019-700

01/04/2019 TO 31/10/2020

REPRESENTATIVE

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Executive summary

Poverty poses a serious threat to the people of Uganda and impacts their livelihoods to great extent especially to women in families, widows and female headed households. Studies have revealed that most of these people are living in rural areas like Kayunga district and majorly depend on agriculture for survival.

In order to get money, most families in Kayunga district resorted to growing cash crops like sugarcane instead of food crops like cassava and matooke. This shift has drastically impacted food security in the region. On top of that, lack of seed to plant, drought, diseases and high illiteracy levels have escalated the situation.

Akasi farm initiative therefore decided to help the people through this project where we donated 50 pigs, 30 sacks of maize seeds and 10,000 pineapple suckers to 200 families in the growing villages of Kasokwe, Kataigwa, Banda and baale. We also carried out a two month workshop to educate families about agribusiness and modern farming methods. The beneficiaries were then monitored, followed up and sensitised by Akasi farm team.

The results proved very successful at lessening poverty and improving food security amongst families in the project regions. Out of the 200 families given maize seed, 180 (90%) got high yields upon harvest. The maize was eaten as food and surplus stored for the next planting season.

50 pineapple suckers given to each of the 200 families for planting also received good harvests. The grown pineapples where then sold at the market to make some money.

40 families (80 %) that received pigs managed to rear them until they gave birth to piglets which were sold to make money and grow their piggery agribusiness. The workshops also received a high turnover and the beneficiaries got high level skills in agribusiness and agriculture that helped them improve farming skills.

The success was attributed to proper management, follow up by Akasi farm team and practicing correct farming techniques by beneficiaries. These practices are also recommended to be enforced in future projects.

The project was very effective in the covered area and would be very effective at curtailing poverty and improving food security if carried out at on a wider scale.

1.2 Background of the Project

Globally 700 million people are in extreme poverty living on less than a dollar a day. While the struggle to end poverty by 2030, baseline projections suggested that 6 per cent of the global population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030.

Sub-Saharan Africa are expected to see the largest increases in extreme poverty, with an additional 26 million people, living below the international poverty line as a result of the pandemic. In Uganda the poverty rate for 2016 was 87.70%, a 0.7% increase from 2012, yet a big number of these are women. Poverty in Uganda has a predominantly female face. Households headed by widows are particularly vulnerable to asset depletion and impoverishment. Therefore, it was imperative for Akasi Farm Initiative to create linkages between economic growth and gender issues. These linkages are critical for achieving a variety of development goals and most especially SDG 1: End poverty and SDG 3: No hunger in Uganda majorly in Kayunga district in Uganda.

This has been accelerated by the shift from growing food crops to cash crops like Sugar canes in Kayunga leaving people with little to feed their families yet these crops take a long time to grow. As a result, many children in the district of Kayunga have been left malnourished or hungry.

Akasi therefore came up with a project to offer 10,000 pineapple suckers, 30 sacks of maize and 50 sows to 200 different families in Kayunga district with the aim of improving the lives of women and their families.

Kayunga district has a total population of around 368,064 people according to the 2014 National Population and Housing Census. Of this 181,920 (49%) were males and 186,142 (51%) were female.

The majority of the population is mainly concentrated in the growing village trading centers of Kasokwe, Kataigwa, Banda and baale. These became the target areas for the Akasi project.

1.3 Problem Statement

Agriculture is the backbone of the Uganda's economy, employing over 80 percent of the rural population. It is a source of food, raw materials for industries and foreign exchange through agricultural exports like sugar, coffee and more. Hence provides subsistence income to a large portion of the population, but also contributes to the national economy.

In Kayunga District most families shifted from growing food crops like maize, matooke and beans to sugar cane which is the most the most dominant cash crop in the region. This shift has at some extent lessened poverty levels of the district but has also drastically impacted food security.

On the other hand, many agricultural dependant families have been affected by climate change which causes prolonged drought and shift of planting seasons leading to poverty, starvation and death. Notwithstanding, the high illiteracy levels have affected agriculture, agribusiness resulting in elevated poverty and food security issues.

It's for the above reasons that Akasi Farm Initiative came to help to reduce poverty and forester food security in the district. To do this Akasi embarked on an empowering project where we donated 50 pigs, 30 sacks of maize seeds and 10,000 pineapple suckers to 200 families in 4 villages of Kasokwe, Kataigwa, Banda and baale. Workshops were also conducted to train families in agribusiness, sustainable farming, and water preservation methods

1.4 Objectives of the Project

1. To reduce poverty by providing good breeds of pigs to families which can be sold to make money.
2. To educate families about agribusiness and modern ways of farming.
3. To reduce improve food security by providing standard maize seeds and pineapple suckers.

1.5. Project duration

The project was executed between months of March and October 2019 reaching 29 families monthly to cover the scope. Follow up and monitoring was then conducted from August 2019 onwards.

1.4 Target and Expected Outputs of the Project

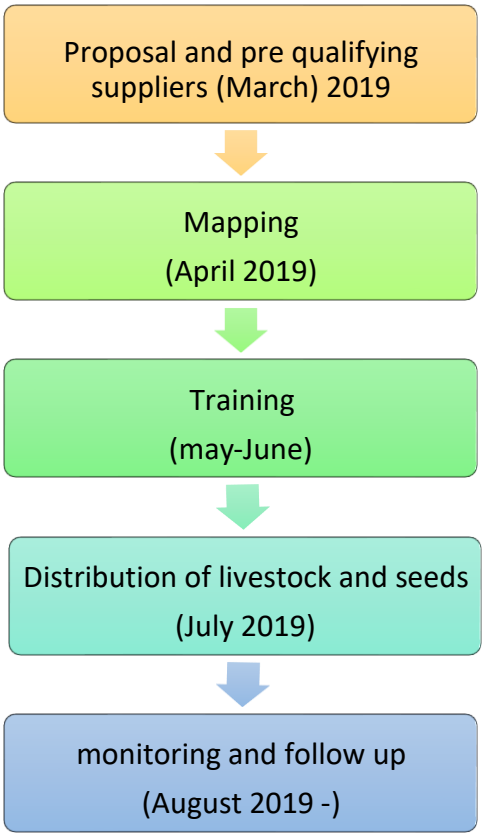
The project targeted 200 families in the villages of Kasokwe, Kataigwa, Banda and baale in Kayunga district.

After thorough mapping and identification of suitable affected candidate families, 50 pigs, 30 sacks of maize seeds and 10,000 pineapple suckers were distributed in order to reduce poverty and improve food security. With these the families will be able to sell pigs and make a living, and grow maize for food. The pineapples will also be eaten or sold in the market.

Workshops were also carried out in order to accelerate knowledge on agribusiness and new farming methods.

2.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES

2.1 Project layout



2.2 Project budget

The project covered a total cost of Thirty thousand five hundred eighty-one Dollars (30,581.6$) which is One hundred nine million two hundred and twenty thousand (109,220,000 UGX).

2.2.1 Project beneficiaries' items costs

Item	**Quantity**	**Unit cost**	**Total cost**
Maize	30 bags	50,000 UGX	1,500,000/=
Pineapple	10000 suckers	200 UGX	2,000,000/=
Pigs	50 pigs	500,000 UGX	25,000,000/=
Allowances	8	50,000 UGX daily	400,000/=
Transport / fuel	2	70,000 UGX	140,000/=
		Total costs	29,040,000/=

2.2.2 **Mapping costs**

A team of 8 Staff officers from Akasi conducted meeting with village leaders in each of the villages to identify potential beneficiaries for the project.

Item	**number**	**Unit cost**	**Total cost**
Meeting facilitation	4 meetings	20,000/=	80,000/=
Staff transportation	8 members	15,000/=	120,000/=
Staff allowance	8 members	10,000/=	80,000/=
		Total costs	280,000/=

2.2.3 **Training/ workshop costs**

50 people were trained in a single lot per workshop for 2 weeks. The workshop took a total of 8 weeks (2months) to fully complete training all the 200 families. Families were trained in agribusiness and modern ways of farming. A total of 8 staff from Akasi were deployed to tarin the families.

Item	**Number**	**Unit cost**	**Total cost**
Training facilitation	8 weeks	20,000/= per day (5 days a week)	800,000/=
Staff transportation	8 weeks van fuel	70,000 per day (5 days a week)	2,800,000/=
Staff allowance	8 people	70,000 Per day (5 days a week)	2,800,000/=
		Total costs	6,400,000/=

2.2.4 **Distribution costs**

After training, the items were distributed to the beneficiaries by Akasi Team

Item	**number**	**Unit cost**	**Total cost**
Items transport costs	2 Vans	70,000 per day (5 days a week)	140,000/=
Staff transportation	8 members	20,000 per day (5 days a week)	160,000/=
Staff allowance	8 members	30,000 per day (5 days a week)	240,000/=
		Total costs	540,000/=

2.2.**5 Monitoring and follow up costs**

A team of 8 staff from Akasi was allocated to each of the 4 villages to carry out monitoring and follow up for the project and also to provide further support to the families. This was done oftenly for a period of over a year.

Cost per week

Item	**number**	**Unit cost**	**Total cost**
Staff transportation	8 members	100,000 per member per week	4,000,000/=
Staff allowance	8 members	100,000 per member per week	4,000,000/=
		Total costs	8,000,000/=

Monitoring and follow up in total has costed 64,000,000 million shillings and this has been carried out in 8 weeks spaced in over a year period after the distribution of the seeds and livestock.



2.2 Project Activities

1. Mapping out: Selecting appropriate recipient candidates from the 200 beneficiary families to receive pigs, maize and pineapple suckers.

2. Training: educating participants about modern farming methods and agribusiness in lots of 50 per training session.

4. Distribution of Livestock and seeds: to appropriate candidates.

5. Monitoring and follow up: field visits by Akasi farm veterinary doctors and agricultural experts to monitor the 200 participants for a year.

2.3 Project Implementation.

The project was carried out in Kayunga District in the villages of Kasokwe, Kataigwa, Banda and baale with the aim of targeting 200 families, mapping was then carried out to identify appropriate beneficiaries following a criteria like;

i. Religious background
ii. Level of poverty
iii. Size of the family iv. Size of the land
v. Level of education

Meetings were hosted with village leaders, to identify and organize different families that need support according to the criteria.

Akasi veterinary and agricultural experts conducted workshop trainings in lots of 50 per session to educate beneficiaries in agribusiness and modern farming methods. Key areas covered included

I. Agribusiness management
II. Water harvesting and conservation
III. Pest and disease management
IV. Animal husbandry
V. Crop production
VI. Basic agricultural mechanization
VII. Agricultural technological implementation.

The training was conducted in both English and Luganda to make understanding easy for the locals.

Of the 200 families we trained, all families received 15 kilograms of maize and 50 pineapple suckers each. Appropriate worst poverty stricken 50 families each also received a female pig.

Akasi farm initiative staff then immediately carried out monitoring and follow up so as to ensure that processes and results are documented and implemented. The staff conducted community field visits in the beneficiary families to collected data, offer more support training and ensure that the provided materials are being appropriately as per the project objectives.



2.4 **PROJECT CONSTRAINS**

- The pandemic limited effective monitoring, follow up, data collection and sensitisation in the villages since Akasi vet staff couldn't move around very well in the communities.
- Poor impassable roads in the villages.
- High levels of illiteracy amongst the locals which limited effective training during the workshops.
- Pests and diseases which affected planted crops and killed some animals.
- Poor management by some beneficiaries which resulted into failure to get the desired results.
- Lack of enough funding to support more people.

3.0 PROJECT RESULTS

MAIZE

- 15 KGS of maize seeds where given to each of the 200 families for planting
- Harvesting took place after 4 months
- 180 families (90%) got good yields: the harvested maize was eaten as food and some was dried and stored for the next planting season
- Only 20% of the families didn't receive good yields.



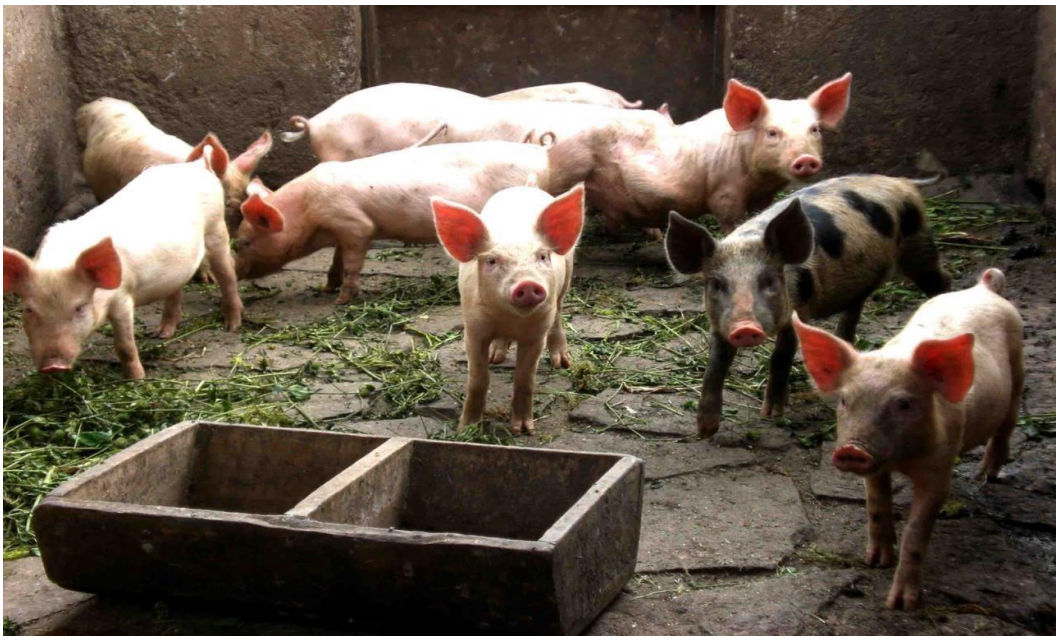
PINNEAPPLES

- 50 pineapple suckers were given to each of the 200 families for planting
- Harvesting was done after 17 months
- Harvested pineapples were sold to the market and some eaten as food
- 196 families (98%) got good yields because of fertile soils and good farming methods

PIGS

- After serious consideration like; poverty levels, religious background and availability of facilities, 50 families out of 200 where selected and each given a female pig.
- After 4 months gestation the produced piglets took around 6 months to grow.
- The pigs produced at least 6 piglets each.
- The farmers were able to grow their pig business by selling some of the piglets and managed to expand the stocks.
- 40 families (80 %) that received pigs managed to rear them until they gave birth to piglets and grew their pig farms.
- This was attributed to following the advice provided by Akasi farm staff, good management and care.

10 families (20%) were not successful because of theft, poor management, poor housing of the pigs, diseases and some ate them.



4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Overall, the project was a success. 90% (180) of the families given maize seeds where able to get high yields. The grown maize was used as food which helped to improve their food security. The surplus was then stored for the next growing season. High yields were attributed to correct planting procedures and good crop management.

Only 10% (20) had poor yields because of poor management, pests and diseases.

98% (196) of the families given pineapple suckers yielded highly after harvest because of good management and fertile soils that support pineapple growth.

The harvested pineapples were sold to the market to earn domestic income.

Pigs received an 80% success rate. 40 of the families were able to grow piglets from the sows to around 6 months. This was attributed to proper care and management by the farmers. Also because of the field visits from Akasi farm staff that sensitised the farmers about proper management and care.

These were able to sell off some of the piglets to make money which improved their standards of living. The piglets where also left to grow and reproduce further growing their piggery agribusiness.

10 families weren't very successful because of; pig diseases, lack of feed and poor management.

5.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The project was very successful in the study area and a wider coverage is recommended for future projects. The project is very feasible even on the district level.

Having the correct farming knowledge and practicing proper management by the beneficiaries resulted in high yields for both crops and animals. These practices should be encouraged for success of future projects.

Presented by

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