



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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THEMATIC AREA 1: FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY COMPONENT

SO.1: Strategic objective1: Increased access to appropriate knowledge and technology relevant for sustainable food production and equitable utilization

Increased adoption of productivity enhancing and climate resilient technologies

Agriculture holds significant potential for growth in Uganda, however, production and productivity remain low due to factors such as climate change variability and limited access to and low adoption of appropriate technologies. Projected and current climate change impacts on agriculture, food and nutrition security, and poverty are raising global concerns, calling for urgent action by communities, governments, regional and international organizations. Small-scale farmers in Uganda are already experiencing rising scarcity of and reduced access to agricultural land due to rapid population growth, and declining soil fertility, leading to declining agricultural yields and production.



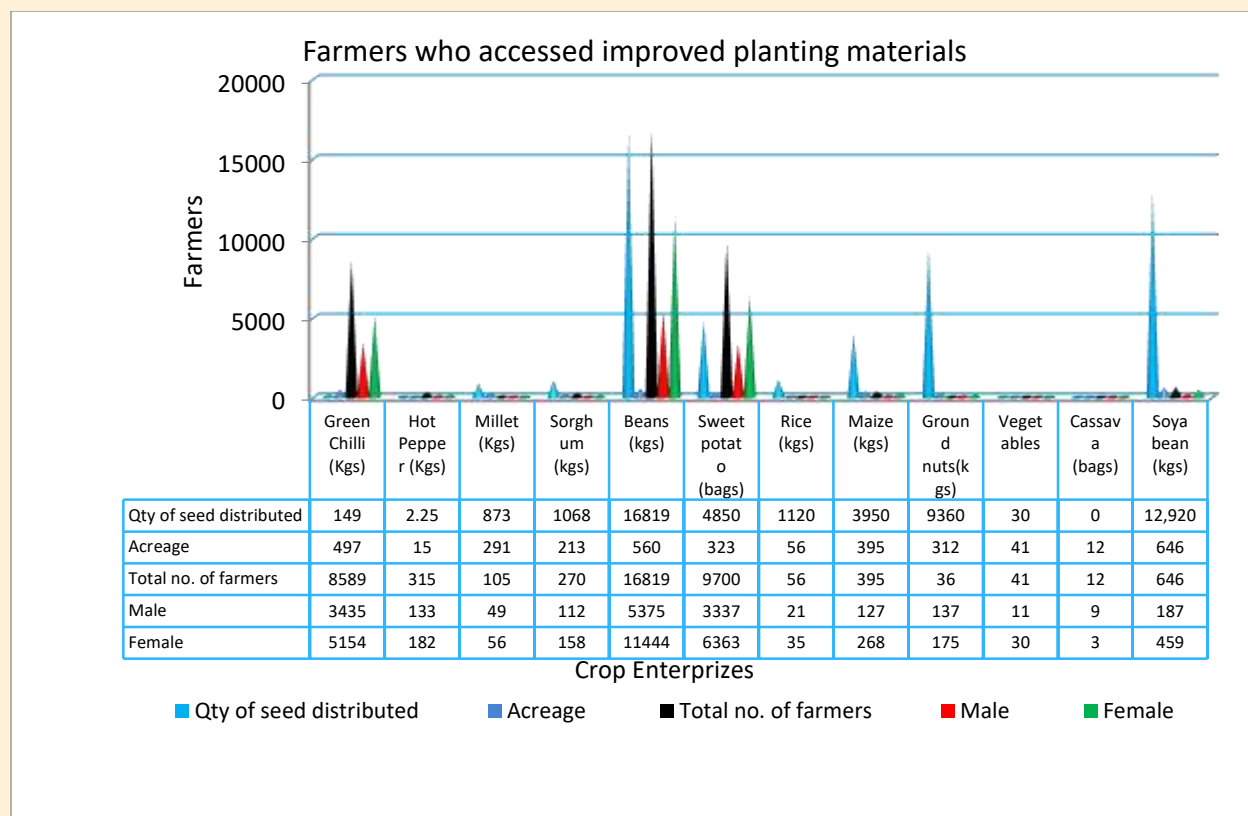
Stakeholders meeting on the practice and adoption of agro ecologically productive farming practice, crop varieties & systems, in Soroti district

VEDCO is responding to the situation by increasing adoption of a wide range of productivity enhancing and climate resilient technologies and practices among farming communities in Uganda. A diversity of improved resilient, nutritious and early maturing crops, soil and land management technologies and water conservation practices are promoted. To increase uptake of the sustainable adaptation technologies at farm and community levels, 410 Farmer field schools and community on farm crop demonstrations for Millet, Sorghum, Iron rich beans, Orange sweet potatoes, Grain amaranths, Green chili, Green pepper, rice, Cassava, ground nuts, maize and vegetables (Sukuma, Dodo, spinach, okra, cow peas and pumpkin) were established. The established demonstration plots served as innovative learning and technology transfer centers in the communities for good Agronomic and soil enhancement practices.

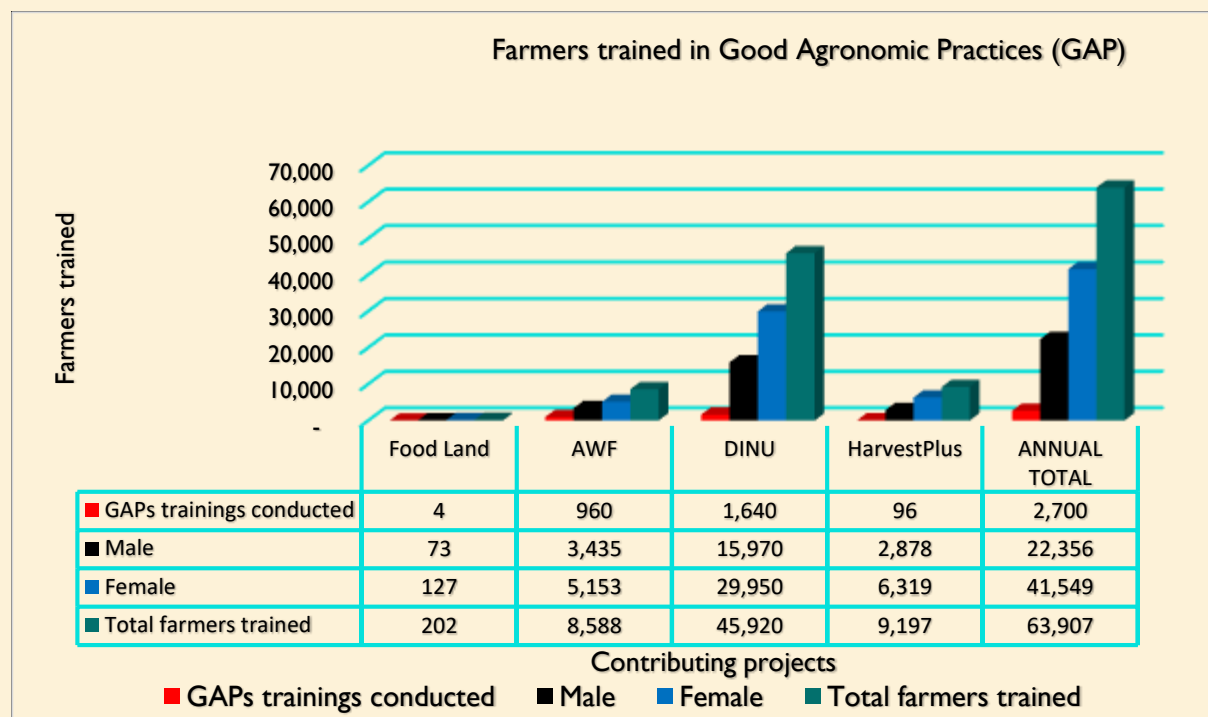
VEDCO Improved production and productivity of field crops by increasing farmers access to quality planting materials through direct seed distribution and seed loan approaches. Planting materials for a diversity of preferred crop

types and varieties were distributed and planted by farmers as indicated in the table below:

Crop type	Variety(s)	Quantity of seed distributed	Acreage established	Total no. of farmers who received seed	Male farmers	Female farmers
Green Chilli (Kgs)	Long thigh and African bird's eye	149	497	8589	3435	5154
Hot Pepper (Kgs)	Hot pepper	2.25	15	315	133	182
Millet (Kgs)	Seremil 2, Naromil 2, Naromil 3	873	291	105	49	56
Sorghum (kgs)	Seso 3, Narosorg2, Mak 56	1068	213	270	112	158
Beans (kgs)	Roba 1, Naro bean 1,2,3	16819	560	16819	5375	11444
Sweet potato (bags)	Naspot 8,12,13, Kabode, Vita, Kakamega, Ejjumula	4850	323	9700	3337	6363
Rice (kgs)	Namse 1	1120	56	56	21	35
Maize(kgs)	Longe 5 and Bazooka	3950	395	395	127	268
Ground nuts(kgs)	Serenut 14	9360	312	36	137	175
Vegetables	Dodo, Okra, Sukuma, Cowpeas, Pumpkins	30	41	41	11	30
Cassava (bags)	Narocas 1	72bags	12	12	9	3
Soya bean (kgs)	Maksoy 3N	12,920	646	646	187	459



The on farm- demonstrations and seed packs were complimented with training of Community Based trainers and farmer groups in Good agronomic practices. VEDCO uses the community Based Trainers as one of the extension approaches and sustainability strategy to reach out to target beneficiaries. By the end of 2021, 728 CBTs (259 males and 469 females) were trained on basic recommended agronomic practices. The CBTs used the knowledge and skills acquired in Good Agronomic Practices, agro ecological intensification, post-harvest handling, soil and water conservation, and production planning to train 63,907 (22,356 males, 41,549 females) as indicated in the graph below



Efforts to build sustainable seed system of superior, disease- tolerant and resistant crop varieties for smallholder farmers were undertaken by developing the capacity of Local seed businesses (LSBs) to produce and market Quality Declared seed of preferred crop varieties. The capacity of 28 LSBS with a membership of 1,103 farmers (521males and 582 females) was enhanced in seed production, and LSB management. 25 seed demonstration gardens were established for learning of seed management practices, 50 acres of seed for soybean, groundnuts, rice (Namse1) and cassava were established. 8 seed field inspections were conducted by sub county Agricultural Officers and 1020 kgs of soy bean, 55 bags of ground nuts, 15,099 bags of OSP and 3933 kgs of iron rich beans were marketed as Quality Declared seed (QDS) to farmers in their communities and LSBs earned 275,680,500 Ugx. In addition, VEDCO in collaboration with Harvest plus established 18 secondary and tertiary OSP commercial vine multipliers in Kamuli and Iganga district. Farmers' skills in seed production were enhanced. These efforts increased the production of QDS in the regions, improved small holder farmers access to clean, superior, disease- tolerant and resistant crop varieties at an affordable price. A financial

benefit from the sale of seed has contributed to excellent management of the seed fields.

Seed production and Marketing 2021

CONTRIBUTING PROJECT	SEED TYPE	SEED VARIETY	ACREAGE ESTABLISHED	QUANTITY HARVESTED (KG/BAGS)	QUANTITY SOLD	SELLING PRICE PER KG/BAG	INCOME EARNED	MARKET WHERE SEED WAS SOLD
DINU	Soya bean (kgs)	MakSoy 3N	28	4,143	1020	3000	3,060,000	Fellow farmers in the community
	Groundnuts (bags)	Serenut 14	18	55	55	120,000	6,600,000	Fellow farmers in the community
	Rice (kgs)	Namse1	2	565	0	0		0
	Cassava	Narocas 1	12	not harvested	0	0	-	0
HarvestPlus	OSP (bags)	Naspot 13, 12, Kabode, vita, Kakamega	1,006.60	15,099	15,099	12000	181,188,000	Namug alwe, Buyende, Luuka markets, Schools, Kamuli markets,
	Iron rich beans	Naro bean 1,2,3	1,131	33,933	33933	2500	84,832,500	Farmer s in Namug alwe, Buyende, Schools, Kamuli Luuka markets
TOTAL							275,680,500	

Follow up visits to farmers who received planting materials revealed that over 85% and 75% farmers adopted the recommended Good Agronomic Practices (seed rate and line planting which improved yields) changed from planting 6 sweetpotato vines to 3 vines in a mound which increased on acreage planted of sweet potatoes, from drying agricultural produce on bare ground to use of tarpaulins which improved quality of produce/ harvest.

During the year, VEDCO strengthened linkages with agriculture research institutions (NaSARRI, IITA, and Makerere University) to increase farmers' access to quality seed, agro-inputs and post-harvest handling technologies.

Adoption of recommended feeding practices for children less than five years, Women of reproductive age and PLHIV strengthened

Under nutrition threatens to destroy a generation of children in Uganda despite the nutrition improvement efforts. Based on the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (2016), national stunting prevalence is 29% while 30% of children under 5 in rural areas are stunted (UBOS & ICF, 2018). Stunting increases with age, peaking at 37 percent among children 18-35 months. Stunting is greater among children in rural areas (30 percent) than urban areas (24 percent) with some regional variations. Anemia, which reflects several micronutrient deficiencies and infections, affects more than half of children under 5 years and pregnant women (UBOS and ICF 2018). In the rural areas women tend to get pregnant when young and have low birth-weight babies, which predispose children to malnutrition. Repeated childhood infections such as diarrhea, low breastfeeding rates, poor infant and young child feeding practices are also common which leads to wasting and stunting. Only 15 percent of breastfed children 6–23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet (UBOS and ICF 2018). According to Uganda demographic and health survey

2016 malnutrition tends to be highest among children born to illiterate parents. WHO 2018 report showed that 45% of deaths among children below 5 years were linked to under nutrition.

VEDCO with support from Harvest-Plus and McKnight Foundation complimented Government efforts of fighting vitamin A and iron deficiency through creation of awareness and promoting the utilization of nutrient dense bio-fortified crops (OSP and iron beans) and nutritious mixtures made from locally available foods. Awareness campaigns on nutritional benefits for OSP and iron rich beans were created through community sensitization meetings, Village health teams, health workers, advocacy champions, Market link Farmers, demonstration gardens, radio talk shows and radio spot messages and trainings. To improve on the quality of meals, practical nutrition education trainings on recommended feeding practices were conducted for mothers and care givers Conduct practical cookery and utilization demonstrations using locally available foods for nutritious meals. Nutrition education trainings were conducted for 172 Community Based Trainers (44 males, 128 females) and 5,663 care givers (1,401Males, 4,262 Females). This resulted into adoption of proper feeding practices for children by caretakers and improved general hygiene of targeted households

VEDCO established and strengthen community nutrition structures to enhance coordination of nutrition service delivery. 172 CBTs, Lead mothers and VHTs were trained to offer basic nutrition education to farmer groups. VEDCO used the Lead Mother and CBT approach to offer mother to mother extension and basic nutrition education to groups. In addition, professional and none professionals (Health workers, teachers, sub county extension workers, community development officers, opinion leaders, policy makers) were trained on nutrition education. Linkages with nutrition and health service providers were created to increase access to nutrition and health services in the community. As a sustainability strategy for the Lead mother approach, 7 Lead mothers associations were formed and linked to Sub County and district

health centers for continued follow-up of nutrition interventions and support. These efforts contributed to increased demand and utilization of biofortified crops, improved household sanitation and hygiene, increased the number of mothers visiting health centers for antenatal and postnatal care, improved nutrition among the followed households, improvement in household meal frequency (from one to 3 meals), and inclusion of bio fortified foods into schools' diets was pronounced, increased referrals to the vine multipliers, stockiest and farmer groups to access planting materials and sales points OSP root tubers and iron bean grain for consumption.

THEMATIC AREA 2: INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND FARMER INSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SO.2: Inclusive farmers (more especially women and youth) participation and access to local, national and regional markets

Increased profitability and viability of agricultural value chains

Development of agriculture value chains is one of the key strategies for enhancing farmers' income. For farmers to effectively participate and access local, national and regional markets, the capacity of 15 VEDCO staff was developed to effectively facilitate value chain development processes using the PESA Agricultural marketing model. VEDCO enhanced the capacity of 100 Farmers in value chain mapping and analysis and 3 profitable agricultural value chains (chill, sweet potato and hot pepper) were selected and 754 young women and in Kamuli and Buyende districts are actively participating in production and marketing of green chill, sweet potato and hot pepper for domestic and export market.

To promote development of the green chill, sweet potato and hot pepper value chains, VEDCO facilitated the development of strategic business plans for 100 youth farmers' groups in Kamuli and Buyende districts to enhance

agribusiness operations and enable them project production costs, markets and incomes. In addition, strategic value chain actors engagement meetings were organized and 23,200 youths (Female 13932, Male 9268) were linked to domestic and export buyers (Dubai handlers, forty miles, tropical dynasty, Anchor Foods, KK Fresh foods Export company), Local input stockiest, financial institutions (Centenary bank, Finance Trust) and production and marketing Local government departments in Kamuli and Buyende districts for market access, financial & agricultural based technical support.

To mitigate the challenges that come with working in isolation and to increase profitability and productivity, VEDCO supported farmer groups to form 10 marketing associations for collective production and marketing, and enhanced the skills of 778 (female-435, male-343) in organizational development (leadership, negotiation and collective production and marketing).

These efforts resulted into increased production and productivity of chilli, improved agronomic practices and increased volumes of chilli and sweet potatoes marketed in domestic and export markets as indicated in the table below:

Enterprise	Quantity sold	Average price	Revenue generated (UGX)
Green Chill (kgs)	218,271	900	196,443,900
Hot pepper(kgs)	1,200	1,500	1,800,000
OSP vines(bags)	15,099	10,000	150,990,000
Sweet potato roots(bags)	4,935	60,000	296,100,000
Beans(kgs)	33,933	2,000	67,866,000
Total income earned			713,199,900

Improved adoption of post-harvest handling and loss reducing technologies and practices at household level

In Africa, Post-harvest losses (PHL) remain a persistent challenge. According to the World Resources Institute, approximately 23% of available food in Sub-Saharan Africa is lost or wasted (Global Knowledge Initiative, 2014: 9). Today, while the number of food insecure population remains unacceptably high (FAO, 2010; IFAD, WFP and FAO, 2012), each year and worldwide, massive quantities of food are lost due to spoilage and infestations on the journey to consumers (FAO, 2011; Stuart, 2009; FAO, 2002). Poor post-harvest handling such as poor drying and improper storage conditions lead to losses due to storage pest and aflatoxin contamination (MAAIF, 2013: 1).

Reducing post-harvest loss is one promising way to make foods more available, accessible, and affordable while improving the environmental sustainability of the food system. While viable technologies to reduce loss exist, the challenge of limited uptake still exists. Development of business models are needed for Post-Harvest Handling technologies to ensure sustainable adoption and delivery of technologies, address the needs for local knowledge and adaptation, technical training, and services support for end-users by not promoting options in a “one-size-fits-all” fashion.

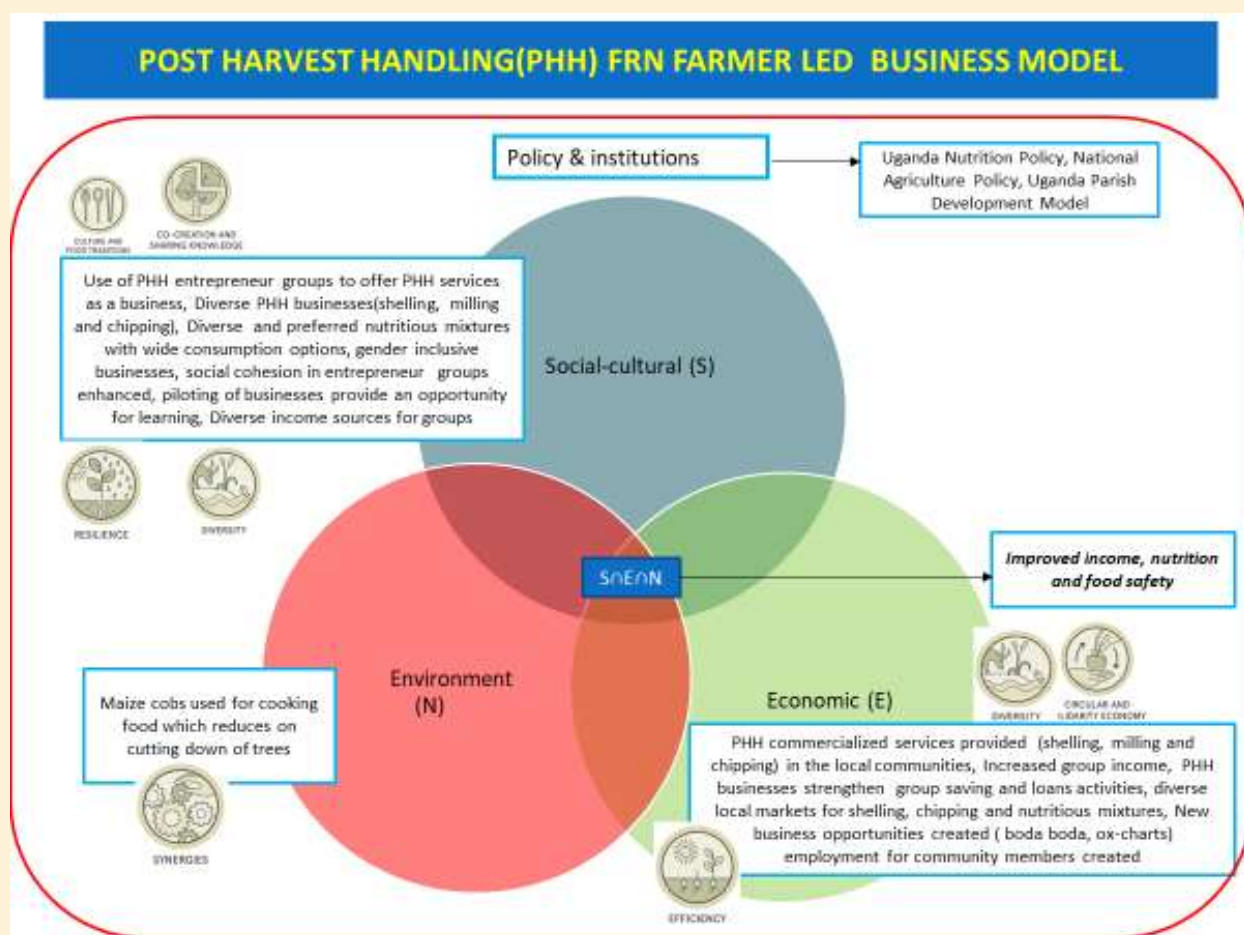
Post-Harvest Handling FRN with support from McKnight Foundation is piloting the use of PHH business model using the Farmer Research Network (FRN) approach. The business model aims at sustainable uptake and use of PHH innovations in cereals (maize, millet, and sorghum) and root tubers (cassava and sweet potatoes) for improved income, nutrition and food safety. The PHH business model uses the PHH entrepreneur groups (farmer groups) to create, capture, and deliver value to their customers. Vision journeys were used to select farmer groups that see business opportunities in providing PHH services.



PHH valued added products, farmer innovations aimed at improving value and market for agricultural products

A diversity of businesses are piloted under the PHH business model and these include: a) maize shelling business b) milling business: for pure flours and nutritious mixtures c) cassava and sweetpotato chipping business. Thirteen (13) PHH entrepreneur groups are used to provide commercialized post-harvest and handling services to community members. The business groups are provided with improved PHH technologies (motorized maize shellers, chippers for root tubers and motorized micro mills) for their businesses. The development of the PHH businesses is closely integrated with piloting and training activities for various options in order to foster sustainable adoption. The business skills of PHH entrepreneur groups are enhanced in records keeping, market search and leadership & management. The project uses the business model canvas to support PHH entrepreneur groups to develop and describe their PHH business. Group management systems are established for efficient and effective operations of the PHH businesses and for each group a PHH management committee are constituted to manage the business

operations. PHH business entrepreneurs' records book was developed and is used to track the business expenditures, incomes and profits/ losses and Village Saving and Loaning activities in the business groups



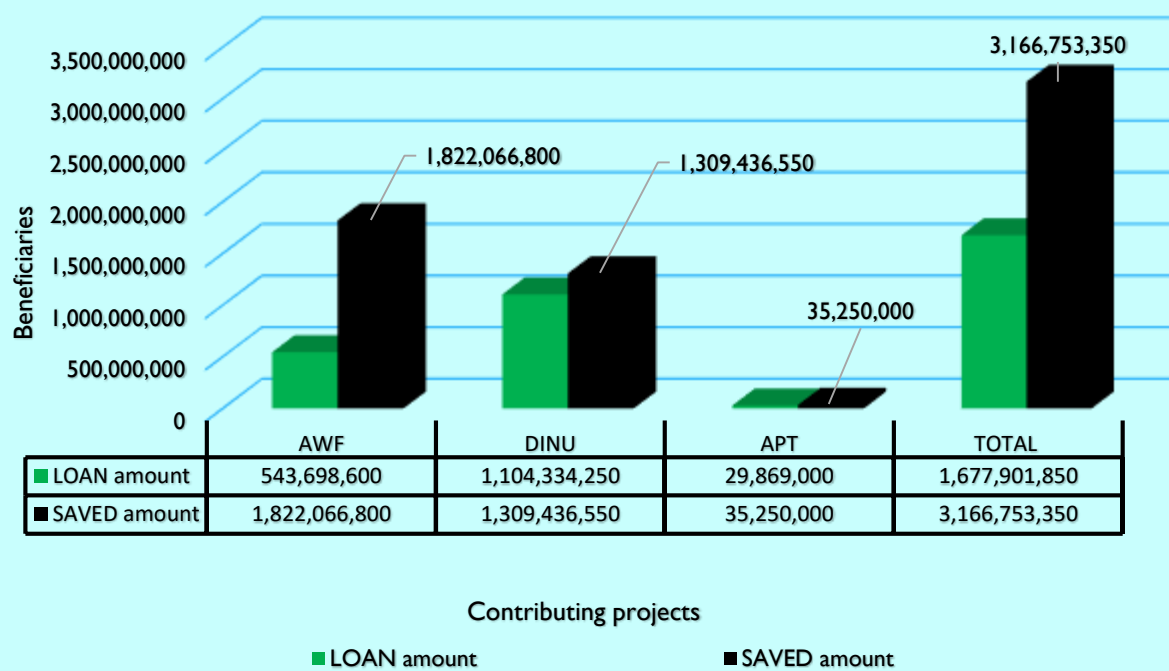
To reduce post-harvest losses, demonstrations on the use of appropriate food processing and storage technologies were conducted, scale up access & use of PHH technologies using Farmer Research Network (FRN approach). 36 Farmer groups were supported with 28 Plastic Silos, 84 improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags, 4 mobile Grain Flour Milling Machines, 90 pieces of drying Tarpaulins, 3 Cassava chipping machines and 3 Ox Cart for transportation of farm produce from garden to home and market and 330 tarpaulins. The capacity of farmers, CBTs, Local government extension agents and nutrition officers was enhanced on Post-Harvest Handling practices, processing and value addition of agricultural products.

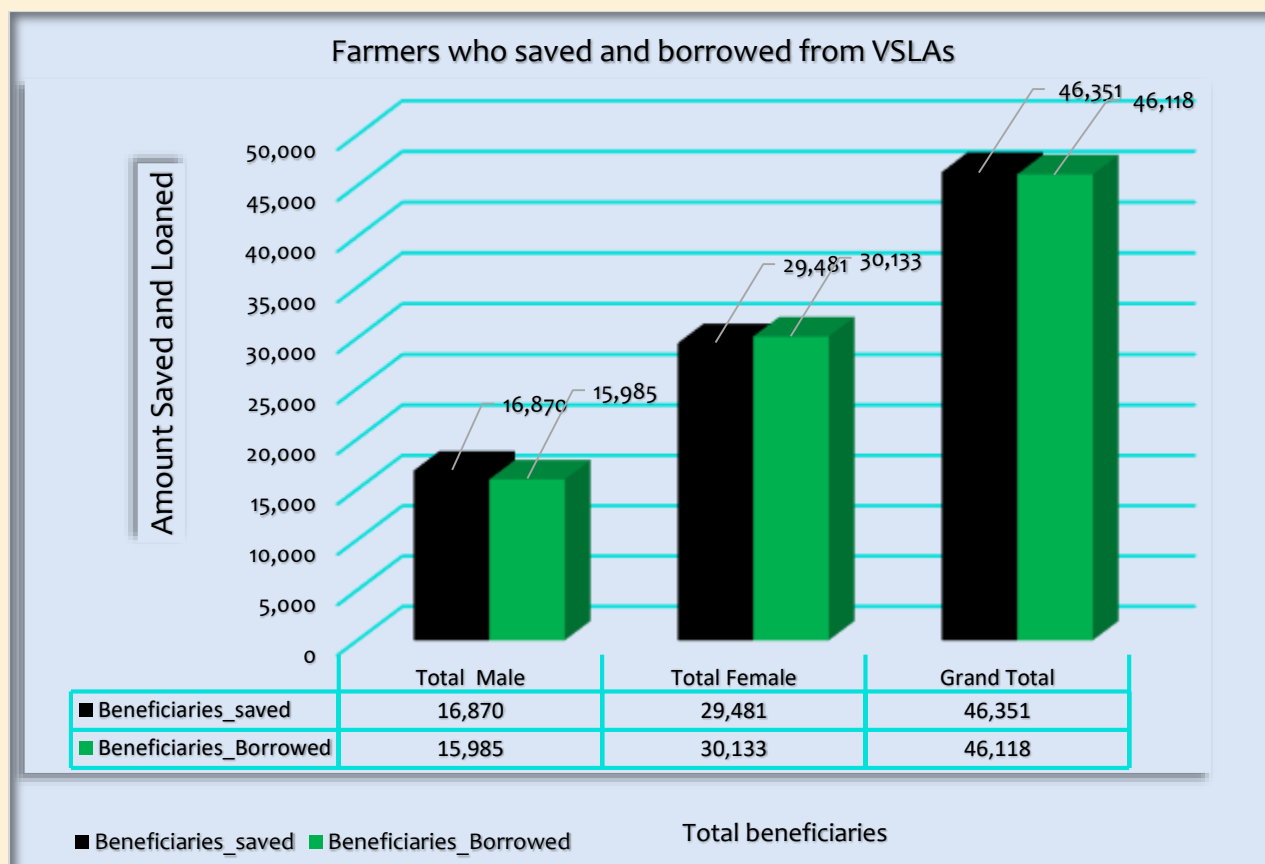
INCREASED ACCESS TO INVESTMENT CAPITAL

In Uganda, access to agricultural credit by the rural communities, where the majority, over 80 percent are smallholder farmers, has remained very low and this is attributed to weak institutional frameworks, policy inconsistencies on agricultural financing, high interest rates, limited financial literacy, lack of collateral, lack of bankable projects and high risk of agricultural credit to farmers.

VEDCO responded to the challenge by facilitating the development of saving and credit schemes for farmers to build their own financial base using the Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) methodology. With VSLA methodology, VSLA group members pool their money into a fund from which members borrow and pay back with manageable interest, causing the VSLA fund to grow. The skills of 1,545 farmer groups with 46,351 (male 16,870 and female 29,481) was enhanced, the VSLAs saved Ugx: 3,166,753,350 loaned out Ugx: 1,677,901,850 to 46,118 farmers (15,985 male and 30,133 female). Through the VSLAs, the farmers generated investment capital for their enterprises and re-investment in agriculture as indicated in the tables below

Farmers who saved and borrowed in VSLAs





In addition, VEDCO linked farmer groups/ VSLAs to government structures at district and sub county levels to access agro-financial services to boost their agric-business operations. Nineteen (19) youth farmer groups with a membership of 320 (male-145 and female-175) from Kamuli and Buyende districts received investment capital worth 42,850,000 Ugx from government programs (Emyooga, Parish Committee Association and Uganda Micro-Support Centre). The youths invested the funds in poultry production, carpentry and joinery, small scale irrigation system and livestock.

Strong VSLAs/ CLGs with capacities to borrow and repay loans on time were linked to viable agricultural financial institutions for financial support. In 2021, VEDCO signed MOU with opportunity bank to offer affordable credit facilities to the farmers. To minimize financial mismanagement and promote enterprise profitability, linkage meetings between -----VSLAs and Financial

institutions were organized, and the skills of 10,797 farmers (male 4,515 and 6,282) was enhanced in decision making, financial literacy and funds management. The linkages resulted into 368 beneficiaries with 219 males and 149 females accessing funds worth Ugx 471,828,000 from different financial institutions that included Centenary bank, opportunity bank, DFCU, Post bank, Finance Trust Bank vision fund and SACCOs. The funds accessed by the VSLA members was invested in productive ventures such as agricultural production, business support, construction of houses that can be hard to finance at VSLA level and to selected members who are financially stable.

The efforts improved linkage between production and market demands in the agricultural sector, increased saving and credit services in farmer groups, strengthened the VSLA leadership structures and improved cash management in the VSLAs, loan repayment and processes of group annual share out.

THEMATIC AREA 3: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

VEDCO, in partnership with UNDP and APT, have strengthened the capacity of persons of concern (refugees) and other marginalised people within the host communities in the two districts of Obongi and Lamwo.



Deliveries of work for cash equipments in Palorinya refugees camp, Obongi District

Under the VEDCO-APT program, the project focused on increasing economic empowerment and supporting positive attitude change towards refugees, PWD, women and young people. The project directly benefited 800 young people (50% female; 5% with disabilities; 35% young refugees, 65% host community youth), with approximately 4800 dependents (6 per young person) and a further 1600 young people linking with their peers.

During the year 2021, the project realized a wide range of results including reduced proportion of people living in poverty, reduced youth unemployment among others. The project enhanced the life skills, financial literacy, Business skills, provided support (equipment and financial) to 43 businesses to enable them to support placements, facilitated work placements for 751 youth with 382 Female, 29 Persons with disabilities (PWDs) & 355 refugees, facilitated 43 partnerships with private sector and community for mentoring support, follow-up and guidance, 10 mentors from the business community were engaged to offer mentorship sessions to 750 youth (F-200, 29 PWDs & 392 refugees),

provided start-up kits for 751 youth with 382 Female,29 PWDs & 355 refugees to start own business/or tools/equipment for self-employment.

The start-up kit included both materials and equipment's such as tailoring machines, clothes, tape measures, grinders, welding plates motorcycle spares parts, assorted Carpentry and Joinery materials and equipment, assorted Hairdressing materials and equipment, Horticulture planting materials, kuroiler birds and their feeds, piglets etc. The businesses that were started include tailoring, carpentry, and motorcycle workshops, saloons, poultry, horticulture, shoe making among others. This ensured that 422 youth employed with 221 females,25PWDs and 206 refugees and 458 youth with 222females, 25PWDs and 170 refugees earning between UgX 112,000 -220,000 per month by July 2021.)



Youth in carpentry arranging the tools to support the trainings

The project also provided linkages with MFI, SACCOs, and established VSLAs ensuring that 759 youth with 369 females, 29PWDs and 326 refugees joined VSLA or accessed other forms of credit/savings related to their employment or

business. Trainings for youth representatives in negotiation, advocacy, leadership and engaging with public and private sectors were conducted. These efforts resulted into increased access to employment for marginalised young women and men in refugee host communities of Agago, Obongi and Lamwo districts, improved their technical and vocational skills, access to work experience and financial services and ability to represent their interests among local government and the private sector, technical and vocational skills, business skills, and work experience to boost their employability and skills for wage or self-employment. The tree planting exercise will greatly contribute to climate change mitigation.

VEDCO contributed to improved livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities in both the refugee and host communities of Oblong district through provision of humanitarian support for cash-based interventions using the Cash for work approach. In September 2021, 1,200 (60% female) beneficiaries were identified and selected to take part in various cash for work activities including road works and tree planting. The cash for work interventions will in January 2022 and after completion a total of 300,000UGX will be paid to each participant. This payment will enable beneficiaries to meet their basic household needs. More to that, following the 3x6 model, a section of successful beneficiaries will be supported with a cash grant to start up small micro-business. 50 youth will also be selected and supported to engage in vocational trainings at ST. COMBONI in Palorinya refugee settlement.

THEMATIC AREA 4: PUBLIC POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

On life skills training for youth and vulnerable community members, Life skills sessions consisting of trainings, counseling and career guidance sessions that targeted cohort 2 were conducted. A total of 400 youth with 200 males and 200 females were reached. The different training sessions were facilitated by CBTs, selected volunteers, and sub county local government technical staff and project officers. These training sessions focused on: problem solving, confidence building, conflict resolution, communication skills, negotiation, and gender & disability empowerment. None the less, skills acquired by the youths strengthened their personal development and prepared them for future challenges.

Counseling sessions were organised to address the identified psychosocial needs especially school drop outs, financial burdens that topped the list, though Peer-to peer counseling sessions were also conducted on selected youth profiled with significant traumatization. Career guidance sessions were carried

out and resulted into selection of preferred marketable courses that can ensure their employability after placements. With courses such as hair dressing, motorcycle repairs, horticulture and poultry taking a considerable number of youth. Life skills sessions and back up engagements with cohort helped the project to record zero drops out during the quarter. Selected cohort one offered motivational talks during the sessions which proved more effective in keeping fellow youth intact and more focused.

Different farmer groups were trained in advocacy that influences budgeting and budget tracking, food rights, land rights and property rights. Two (2) training sessions were conducted on negotiation, advocacy, leadership, and engagement. The training focused on the clear understanding of advocacy, why need for advocacy, identifying an Advocacy issue, the root causes of the problem, developing an advocacy goal and objectives, partner tracker-the allies, opponents and undecided, targets and messages, activity planning, evaluation plan, advocacy roadmap, leadership skills, negotiation skills for effective engagements. The selected members joined the cohort 1 umbrella body (Youth Advocacy Team, YAT). Through members the team presented issues that affect youth livelihoods and peaceful engagements with stakeholders were made. The team lobbied for involvement of the youth in the budget processes such that their issues are catered for and to create a good working relationship between the youth and local government stakeholders. The engagements were supported by an advocacy message “youth livelihoods concerns all of us Act Now”. Engagements were conducted at parish, sub county and district levels. Due to COVID 19 lockdown, multiple sessions had to be conducted which took quite long. The Peaceful engagement of the local government officials is expected to yield fruits in the budget for the next financial year 2021/2022 as promised by the relevant local government officers. 60 youth with 30 males and 30 females were trained

On engagement meetings/fora for farmers and decision makers to discuss issues affecting agriculture and livelihoods, VEDCO conducted 2 workshops in

Lamwo and Agago to orient the youth on local government planning cycle and processes. The youth developed advocacy plans on issues affecting their livelihoods and were presented at the village, parish and sub county levels. The project supported the youth representatives to access information on the government planning and budgeting process and to develop their advocacy agenda. Deep discussions and experience sharing between the youth and government officers raised awareness among the youth on the budget processes and identified the parish development committees and sectorial committees at both the parish and sub county levels as important forums for advocacy. The team attended committee meetings at parish and sub county levels where they aired out issues that affect the youth. The engagements resulted into sub county officers sharing previous and the newly passed budget. The youth used them as an advocacy tools.

- The local government stakeholders committed and participated in the implementation of the developed action plan. This enabled the youth to successfully participate in budget monitoring, budgeting process, mobilized youth to be oriented on local government programmes and planning, engaged the local leaders including the youth council on the planning and budgeting for youth interests.
- There was continuous interface between the youth and the local government stakeholders.
- Government officers, Community Development Officers, Youth livelihood Project focal persons for the two districts supported the youth and involved them in the planning processes

Unlike before, the sub counties are committed to allocate budgets to issues affecting the livelihoods of the youth. The challenge of COVID 19 made the activity to take long than expected as each meeting had not less than 20 people with strict SOPs. It was hard also to convince the local government stakeholders to attend as some of them were working from home, transporting

them to the meeting venues became costly too. 80 participants attended the sessions with 52 males and 28 females.

Never the less, during the year interventions to promote inclusive farmers' participation in national level hearing sessions on key agricultural and environmental decisions were facilitated. VEDCO participated in the 2nd Uganda National Agricultural Extension Symposium in Kampala under the theme; "Making extension and advisory services a transformative force in Uganda's agriculture": What are the bottlenecks and game changers. The platform created awareness for the FRN model to the wider audience across the country. At regional level, the Project team on a project that was funded by McKnight participated and shared research findings and experiences during the Community of Practice for Eastern and Southern Africa and national event. VEDCO also took part in the 2nd National Agro ecology Actors Symposium (NAAS) at National level, where she was given an opportunity to represent her research findings on management of striga weed using the integrated approach. The results were presented during the Symposium under the theme 'Agro ecology for a resilient and sustainable food system.' The topic presented was "Re-shaping Agriculture Extension and Research for Impact through Farmer Research. This stimulated debate, understanding and appreciation of agro ecology as a multi-disciplinary approach for further strengthening Uganda's food and agricultural systems towards resilient and sustainable productivity, better consumer health, improved income and livelihoods for smallholder farmers.

THEMATIC AREA 5: CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

During the year, several projects contributed differently to natural resources and climate change management. A number of climate smart activities and



practices, which included crop rotation, use of improved varieties, mulching, intercropping, multipurpose tree planting, diseases and pest management, irrigation, water harvesting and use of organic fertilizer,

among others. Farmers and others stakeholders actively participated in the pre-testing, use and scaling out of proven climate smart technologies across the various operational areas. Most predominantly were the water ponds for irrigation among the dry season farmers, integrated farming practice that aimed at improving soil health, controlling pests, promoting crop diversity as well promoting agro ecological farming due reduced use of synthetic farm inputs. 33 water harvesting wells and irrigation technologies which included

watering cans, sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation were promoted. The technologies resulted into 25 acreages of chilli under irrigation for off season gardening/dry season farming. 30 (12 Males, 18 Females) environmental ambassadors were trained in environmental conservation, waste management control, Vine conservation, swamp reservations, good farming practices, agroforestry and soil erosion control. This effort attracted other development actors (KANENGO) to jointly take part in conserving the environment for future generation. KANENGO promised to supply farmers with 5000 seedlings of trees and fruits. With support from Plan international – Uganda, a total of 8628(F=5,164 M=3,464) youths and CBTS were trained in water conservation, crop protection and pest identification on in Kamuli and Buyende Districts and over 1200 refugees were trained in tree planting.

THEME AREA 6: VEDCO INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the year, VEDCO re-instated a new office structures in the West Nile region, to support field activities in Moyo and Obongi districts. This was aimed at easing project activity implementation and field monitoring on UNDP project, by project staff.

As a result, new staffs were recruited to join the institution and give direct support to institutional agenda, as prescribed by role and position. A total of Five new officers were hired, four on the west Nile project (Malik Abdul, Ayugi Gloria, Peter Vukoni & George Idro) and 1 (Akello Suzan), on the Development initiative for Northern Uganda, DINU project. The new staff received orientation from management and from other existing staff, as well as other performance capacity building support from immediate supervisor.

Four board meetings that were attended by all board members were held, two of the meeting being hosted physically at the institution's office and others were conducted virtually. The meetings reflected on a number of existing

concerns but also protectively brainstormed on future strategies, which are expected to better the progress of the institution's works.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS -UGANDA
 (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING SHARE CAPITAL)
 ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive income

	Note/ Schedule	Restricted Funds Ushs	General Fund Ushs	Actual 2021 Ushs	Budget 2021 Ushs	Actual 2020 Ushs
INCOME						
Grants:	11	2,274,897,310	-	2,274,897,310	2,274,897,310	2,847,106,233
Other Income	Schedule 14	3,286,531	532,292,500	535,579,031	535,579,031	625,250,150
Total Income		2,278,183,841	532,292,500	2,810,476,341	2,810,476,341	3,472,356,383
Differed income	12	(238,900,955)	-	(238,900,955)	-	(324,123,502)
Expenditure to Capital fund		-	(1,150,000)	(1,150,000)	-	(74,640,000)
Total income available for recurrent expenditure		2,039,282,886	531,142,500	2,570,425,386	2,810,476,341	3,073,592,881
EXPENDITURE						
	Schedule 1					
Administration, organization devpt and governance		253,193,919	535,084,217	788,278,136	1,018,111,159	785,701,934
Food and Nutrition security		367,832,970	-	367,832,970	367,832,970	273,215,000
Agricultural trade Development		373,247,981	-	373,247,981	373,247,981	568,277,353
Policy Research and advocacy		101,375,750	-	101,375,750	101,375,750	76,577,000
Climate Change & Natural Resource Mgt		1,050,000	-	1,050,000	1,050,000	2,680,000
Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency preparedness & response		107,246,600	-	107,246,600	107,246,600	31,434,000
Programme personnel costs		293,566,160	-	293,566,160	-	256,692,000
Programme personnel costs		645,254,089	-	645,254,089	645,254,089	790,035,037
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		2,142,767,469	535,084,217	2,677,851,686	2,614,118,549	2,784,612,324
		2,142,767,469	535,084,217	2,677,851,686	2,614,118,549	2,784,612,324
Net Surplus /Deficit for the year		(103,484,583)	(3,941,717)	(107,426,300)	196,357,792	288,980,557

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matter, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were the most significant in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulations precludes public disclosure about matters or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that the matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on other legal and regulatory Requirements

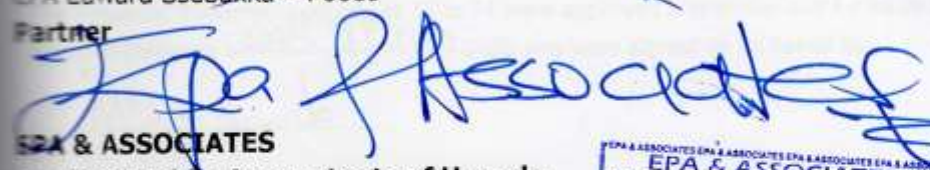
In accordance with the requirements of the NGO Act 2016, we report that in our opinion, the accounting and other records and the registers required by the Act to be kept by the organization have been properly kept in accordance with the provision of the Act

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is



CPA Edward Ssebakka – P0089

Partner


EPA & ASSOCIATES

Certified Public Accountants of Uganda

Kampala, Uganda

Date 21st March 2022



The firm is licensed and regulated by ICPAU

Independent Auditors Report for VEDCO Uganda for the year ended 31st December 2021

