

Northern Uganda Farmers' Livelihood Improvement Project

Period of the project: From December 2015 to August 2021

Our assignments: Vegetable Production Technology

Background of the Project

In the Acholi Sub-region of Northern Uganda, despite improved security conditions following the end of a nearly 20-year civil conflict in August 2006, the poverty rate remained alarmingly high at over 60%. Approximately 90% of the working population in this region is engaged in agriculture, with over 70% being small-scale subsistence farmers. Supporting the livelihoods of these small-scale farmers was a critical issue for poverty reduction.

This project focused on eight districts in the Acholi Sub-region, developing a "Livelihood Improvement Approach" that combined two key objectives: "income generation through market-oriented vegetable production" and "improvement of quality of life" through enhanced household management, nutrition, and dietary habits. Working in collaboration with Agricultural Officers (AOs), the project implemented dissemination activities targeting these goals.

Outline of the Survey

To promote market-oriented vegetable cultivation, the first year of the project focused on developing appropriate technologies and strengthening the capacity of AOs. From the second year onward, farmer training sessions were conducted jointly with AOs. The technologies developed emphasized small-scale intensive farming using locally available materials, aiming to improve yield and quality, while ensuring accessibility for subsistence farmers with limited financial and labor resources.

Farmer training began with market surveys to identify market needs and select items accordingly, raising awareness of the importance of marketing. The training covered the entire cycle of market-oriented vegetable production, from cultivation to sales, incorporating income and expense calculations and farm planning to instill systematic cultivation methods with a focus on profitability.

In the "improvement of quality of life" domain, the project emphasized the effective use of income from vegetable cultivation to enhance family well-being. Under the slogan "For the Happiness of All Family Members," training activities continued even during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching over 2,300 farmers across the eight districts of the Acholi Sub-region.

Responsibilities

- Developing market-oriented vegetable cultivation technologies adapted to the region.
- Establishing and managing demonstration fields, along with providing technical instruction.
- Strengthening the capacity of AOs in market-oriented vegetable cultivation techniques through local and group training sessions.
- Developing training materials for farmer training sessions (e.g., illustrated lecture tools).
- Planning, implementing, and providing technical guidance for training sessions for model farmer groups.
- Creating extension tools for AOs (e.g., handbooks and digital tools).
- Planning and organizing business forums and agricultural input dealer forums

Photos



Trail field to verify appropriate technologies



Technical training for Agricultural Officers



Farmers' training



Market survey by farmers