SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SMALLHOLDER FARMERS (SURE) PROJECT

Final Baseline Study Report

March 21, 2021

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ACRONYMS

AFARD	=	Agency For Accelerated Regional Development
CAO	=	Chief Administrative Officer
CDO	=	Community Development Officer
DAO	=	District Agricultural Officer
DLG	=	District Local Government
DVO	=	District Veterinary Officer
IGA	=	Income Generating Activity
Kg	=	Kilogram
KII	=	Key Informant Interview
LLG	=	Lower Local Government
M&E	=	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoFPED	=	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
NGO	=	Non-Governmental Organization
PDP	=	Personal Development Plan
PSE	=	Private Sector Enterprise
SACCO	=	Savings and Credit Cooperative
TVET	=	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UBOS	=	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UGX	=	Uganda Shillings
UNHS	=	Uganda National Households Survey
US$	=	United States Dollars
VSLA	=	Village Savings and Loan Association

SUMMARY

About the project
The Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder Farmers' (SURE) Project seeks to address the high food and income insecurity in Jangokoro Sub County, Zombo district, Uganda by organizing 335 vulnerable smallholder farm households (56% women) into 10 farmer groups (05 farmer groups already exists) through a multipurpose cooperative society. The goal of the project is, "to contribute to the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty in Zombo district, Uganda" and its specific objective is, "to empower 335 smallholder farmer households in Jangokoro Sub county to increase their production, consumption, and marketing of diversified agricultural commodities."

Why the baseline study
TIP conducted this baseline study to determine the baseline status of the project outcome indicators through assessing the: (i) agricultural production and productivity; (ii) financial inclusion and income generating activities; (iii) level of participation in local governance; and (iv) the level of food, nutrition and income insecurity levels.

The methodology used
Data was collected from all the targeted households using a quantitative-based survey questionnaire designed and uploaded on Kobo Collect tool. Overall, 274 households participated in the survey.

The findings
Household distribution and characteristics:
- Distribution of respondents: Data was collected from 277 people indicating that while the project targeted 335 members, in the old farmer groups 56 members had exited from the groups.
- Demographic characteristics: Each household had an average of 07 people. Majority (52%) of the beneficiary members are females, married (90%) and youth (17-35 years) constitute 41%.
- Preventive Health Practices: Few respondents (22%) had semi-permanent house and pit latrine with hand washing facilities (48%) and were using use energy saving stoves (18%) and solar lights (41%).

Result | One

Production And Consumption Of Diversified Agricultural Foods

- **Use of good agricultural and climate smart practices:** Only 14% of the project beneficiaries used all the priority good agricultural and climate smart practices. Overall there was high use of timely planting, organic pesticides, and correct spacing as compared to tree planting/agroforestry that was least used.
- **Yield performance:** Overall, the yield per unit of land was significantly low as compared to the regional research institute figures. Yet, almost all of the harvests were sold off.
- **Kitchen gardening:** Only about half of the project beneficiaries had kitchen gardens and apart from pumpkins other high nutrient vegetables such as pawpaw, amaranth, and moringa were not common in the communities.
- **Eating diversified foods:** There was good (77%) knowledge of balance diet and application of safe nutrition practices in the project communities. Equally, families largely consumed plant-based vitamin rich foods (86%) as compared to livestock products (46%)
- **Tree planting:** Although above half of all targeted households had planted trees (for firewood, timber and fruits). However, only 29% have more than 10 fruit trees project target.

Result | Two

Income From Diversified On-Farm Livelihood Activities

- **Farm and non-farm income generating activities:** 23% of the targeted households had an IGA in which they worked about six hours daily and every week earning UGX 96,192 monthly gross income.
- **Savings in VSLAs:** 53% of the targeted beneficiaries used personal savings in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) although only 38% saved € 5 monthly. While 82% of the members took loans, only 44% of these loans were for business;
- **Business management practices:** The IGAs that the targeted households had were managed informally as only 0.4% were legally registered, 2. 9% did sales promotion, and 3.3% separated their business from personal finances. Overall, none of the households used all the project priority practices.
- **Produce marketing practices:** Only 2% of the targeted households sold their commodities through collective marketing.

Result | Three

Local Governance Is Responsive To Local Needs And Aspirations

- **Awareness of right to local government development:** 83% of targeted household were aware of their entitlements to local government development initiatives.
- **Participation in village planning meetings:** Only 49% of targeted household participated on the annual village planning meetings that informs decentralized local government development planning.
- **Accessing local government budget support:** Only 24% of targeted household benefited from their local government projects.

FOOD AND INCOME SECURITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- **Food security status:** Food adequacy was very low as only 64% of the households had food all year round and 71% eat at least 3 meals food daily. Social discrimination against women reduced as many families shared same food (97%) and many girls and women (90%) ate traditionally forbidden foods. Diet diversification improved as 83% of the households ate at least seven food types weekly and 84% of boys and men ate green vegetables without any complaint. Overall, as an index, food security status remained very low (42%).

- **Asset poverty status:** 95% of the households' owned land a key factor for agribusiness. The fairly common assets included poultry, mattresses, mobile phones and shoats (goats, sheep, pigs). In addition, on average the total household income was UGX 1,034,061 (US$ 280); a figure is far below the asset poverty line. Meanwhile, 61% of the targeted households were asset poor. The level of poverty was higher: among females (33%); married people (54%); and those in the new groups (33%).

- **Women empowerment status:** Although there was a fair awareness in the participating households of women rights and many women who were free from gender-based violence, few women owned properties and participated in family decision-making and community affairs. Thus, the overall index of women empowerment is a dismal 28%.

- **Child poverty status:** Generally, many children when compared to household heads were not aware of their basic human rights. The commonly known children rights are related to health, education, food, and clothing and the little known are rights to information and decent accommodation. But it was found out that there was a very high rate of child poverty (96%).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About the project

The Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) is a local non-denominational NGO formed in July 2000. AFARD's vision is "a prosperous, healthy and informed people of West Nile." Its current 6-year Strategic Plan seeks to "build thriving and peaceful families." To achieve that goal, AFARD secured a one-year funding from Manos Unidas and the Government of Canary Island to implement the Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder Farmers' (SURE) Project in Jangokoro Sub County, Zombo district, Uganda. The project seeks to address the cardinal challenge of food and income insecurity in smallholder farmers' families due to high reliance on subsistence agriculture, limited income diversification strategy, limited participation in local decentralized governance, and now COVID-19 pandemic. To do so, the project will organize 335 vulnerable smallholder farm households (56% women) into 10 farmer groups (05 farmer groups already exists) and finally into a multipurpose cooperative society where members will ably pool their knowledge, networks, risks, and finances towards collective action for socio-economic transformation through active participation in the market and local governance.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives of the study

Although the SURE project was developed in a participatory manner, it had no baseline study. This study was therefore conducted primarily to determine the baseline status for the project performance indicators in order to guide the project implementation processes (planning, monitoring and evaluations) with: (i) Pre-intervention status of the beneficiaries; (ii) Implementation strategy review, if needed to achieve maximum results; and (iii) Effective monitoring and evaluation system. To achieve this, the study assessed the indicators related to:

a) The production and consumption of diverse agricultural foods;
b) Income generation from farm and non-farm activities;
c) Participation in local governance;
d) Envisaged impacts - food and income security and women empowerment; and
e) Child poverty. This was included to ensure harmonization with the current AFARD Strategy need to explore how interventions are impacting on the growth and development of children.

1.3 Scope of Work

The internal terms of reference agreed upon for this study team spelt out that the team will: 1) Conduct the study in all the project targeted households; and 2) Develop, collect and analyze the data using standard tools aligned to the study objectives and the results. As a result, the study key activities included:

- Inception meeting to review and approve the methodology;
- Design and review of the study tool as well as its configuration on the digital Kobo Collect Tool;
- Training of data collectors and piloting the Kobo Collect Tool;
- Data collection and analysis; and
- Report writing, review, and production and dissemination.

Project name	Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder Farmers' (SURE) Project
Location	Jangokoro Sub County, Zombo district, Uganda
Beneficiaries	Direct: 335 people (186 women and 149 men)
	Indirect: 2,010 people (1,116 women and 894 men).
General Goal	To contribute to the reduction of hunger and extreme poverty in Zombo district, Uganda.
Specific aim	To empower 335 smallholder farmer households in Jangokoro Sub county to increase their production, consumption and marketing of diversified agricultural commodities.
Impact	• 50% increase in food security status in targeted households • 15% reduction in the proportion of targeted households that exit asset poverty • 25% increase in the number of targeted women beneficiaries who report being empowered
Specific objective outcome	Increased production and consumption of diversified agricultural foods in targeted households (56%females)	R1.1: 65% of targeted households use good agricultural and climate smart practices R1.2: 90% of targeted households have own kitchen garden R1.3: 75% of targeted households eat diversified foods R1.4: Targeted households have each at least 10 surviving fruit trees
	Increased income of targeted households (56%females) from diversified on-farm livelihood activities.	R2.1: 75% of targeted households have both farm and non-farm income generating activities R2.2: 50% of targeted households save €5 monthly in their VSLA R2.3: 10% of targeted households use at least 4 good business management practices R2.4: 85% of targeted households sell their farm produce through collective marketing or cooperative society
	Local government plans and budget are responsive to local needs and aspirations	R3.1: 75% of targeted households report awareness of their rights to local government development plans R3.2: 90% of targeted households attend annual village planning meetings R3.3: 05% of targeted households benefited from local government budget support

2.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY

In order to gather comprehensive evidence-based information for the above objectives, this section explains the methods that were used in data collection and analysis as well as the limitations faced.

2.1   Study sites, sampling methods and sample size

The baseline study was conducted in Jangokoro sub county, Zombo district in selected parishes and villages where the project target beneficiaries were located. It used a census approach given that all the project beneficiaries (276) were surveyed. Worth pointing out is that while the project targeted 335 members, in the old farmer groups 59 members were found missing due to exit from the groups, migration to other districts (Nwoya and Bunyoro due to land shortage), and marriage and death.

2.2   The study phases

To elicit comprehensive data for the study, a 4-phased approach of quantitative data collection and analysis was used as below:

PHASE   1

Study inception:

This phase involved a review of the project proposal (especially the log frame) to: (i) developing a relevant data collection questionnaire taking into consideration previous Manos Unidas funded projects as well as AFARD Strategy 2020-25 performance indicators; and (ii) Designing the questionnaire in a digital Kobo Collect Tool by a hired support team so as to reduce data collection errors and data entry time loss.

PHASE   2

Training data collectors: :

This phase involved the 1-day training of data collectors (who had diploma and university levels of education, were familiar with the local project area and language, and had previous experience with digital data collection). The training paid emphasis on ethical and quality issues in good data collection, how to conduct interviews, coded data, child protection requirements, and pilot testing the questionnaire for relevance. The finding of this pilot enabled the refinement of the tool for final use.

PHASE   3

Field data collection:

Data collection was conducted between February 19 – March 1, 2021 using smartphones onto which the final digitalized household questionnaire was deployed (through Kobo collect App). With routine supervision of field work, there was daily real time submission of data and quality checks.

The study team used a reflexive approach in this reporting phase. Daily the team discussed respondents' perceptions and opinion. Given that data collection was digitalized, a data entry mask was developed in SPSS (V25) to ensure quick export of clean data from the Kobo Tool through the Excel worksheet. As such, report writing was an on-going process. The draft report was reviewed and a final report was produced and shared with the various stakeholders. A copy of the report is also uploaded on AFARD website.

2.3   Data quality control

To ensure that appropriate professional practices were adhered to, a quality control system was put in place through:

- Adherence to sector standards for performance measurement especially of agriculture and enterprise development. The guidelines from Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda Bureaus of Statistics, FAO, and Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED) were mainly used.

- Joint review of study instruments: Management and Data collectors were involved in this process to ensure data consistency with the M&E framework.

- Pre-testing of study instruments: This was done prior to the main survey fieldwork to ensure reliability, acceptability, feasibility, question flow, and the duration of the interview. This exercise helped in modifying the survey tool.

- Social mobilization for data collection: To increase the response rate, the project staff mobilized the respondents for a timely administration of the study tool.

- Introduction letter: Apart from communicating about the study to district officials, AFARD management also availed the field team with a letter of introduction to facilitate acceptance by the various support agencies.

- Consent and confidentiality: Data collectors sought consent from respondents to participate in the study and provided statement of confidentiality to the respondents.

2.4   Limitation of the study

The study process experienced the following limitations:

- COVID-19 pandemic that called for adherence to ministry of health standard operating procedure (SOP) guidelines. Data collectors were mandatorily required to secure and use sanitizers and face masks.

- The fieldwork period coincided with the on-going general electoral process especially the voting and celebrations of winners. This extended the study period from the 10 planned day to 13 days.

3.0   RESULTS

Below the study findings starts by describing the characteristics of SURE project beneficiaries who were engaged in the study. This is followed by an analysis of the baseline status of the three project result areas as well as the impact indicators. A recommendation is then provided to ensure effective implementation.

3.1   RESULT 0: GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

3.1.1   Distribution of respondents

Data was collected from 277 people in the six parishes of the sub county as is shown below. Worth pointing out is that while the project targeted 335 members, in the old farmer groups 56 members were found missing due to exit from the groups, migration to other districts (Nwoya and Bunyoro due to land shortage), and marriage and death.

TABLE Two	Distribution of project beneficiaries by group b parish						
Names of group	Parishes						Total
	Afunda	Congambe	Dindu	Jupadindu	Patek	Yada	
Adiober	-	-	-	-	30	-	**30**
Can Bithum	32	-	-	-	-	-	**32**
Can Mwa	24	-	-	-	-	-	**24**
Can Tegoju	-	-	25	-	-	-	**25**
Cana	34	-	-	-	-	-	**34**
Dikiri Ber	-	-	-	-	-	25	**25**
Kwer kabu can	-	-	25	-	-	-	**25**
Mak Tic	-	-	-	25	-	-	**25**
Mer Ber	-	-	25	-	-	-	**25**
Nyagak	-	32	-	-	-	-	**32**
Total	90	32	75	25	30	25	**277**

3.1.2   Demographic characteristics

Table 3 shows the demographic characteristic of the project beneficiaries. It is evident that:
- Each household has a very many people (an average of 07) to take care of. This figure is higher than the national average of only five people per household.
- Majority (52%) of the beneficiary members are females as compared to males (48%).
- Youth (17-35 years) constitute a good proportion of the beneficiaries (41%). Adults make up to 47% of the beneficiaries and the elderly (60 years and above) 12%.
- Majority of the project beneficiaries (90%) are married compared to 10% who are single.

Demographic characteristics of members

Characteristics	Status
Number of Respondents	**277**
Average household size (people)	**6.5**
Members of old groups (%)	**46.4**
Members of new groups (%)	**53.6**
Age-group	
17-35 years	**41.2**
36-59 years	**46.8**
60 years and over	**12.0**
Average age (Years)	
Sex (%)	
Male	**47.8**
Female	**52.2**
Marital status (%)	
Single	**5.4**
Married	**89.9**
Others	**4.7**

3.1.3   Preventive Health Practices

To achieve food security required safe home environment especially sanitation and hygiene practices. Respondents were asked about the key questions and figure 1 below shows that:

- Few respondents (22%) have semi-permanent house. Observations revealed that majority of the people used grass thatched roofed houses of mud and wattle walls and floor. Often these houses are one room that are share as bedrooms and kitchens. Some even sleep in the same rooms with animals thereby increasing their susceptibility to disease vectors from domestic animals.
- Less than half of the beneficiaries (48%) had pit latrine with hand washing facilities. The emphasis on handwashing facilities is to limit the exposure of people to not only open defecation (by use of pit latrines) but also to disease vectors if people visit toilets and do not wash their hands.
- Few members use green energy as only 18% use energy saving stoves and 41% solar lights. The use of traditional cook stoves increases the risk of inhaling smoke hence health risks to especially women and children.

FIGURE One   **Households that have safe homes (%)**
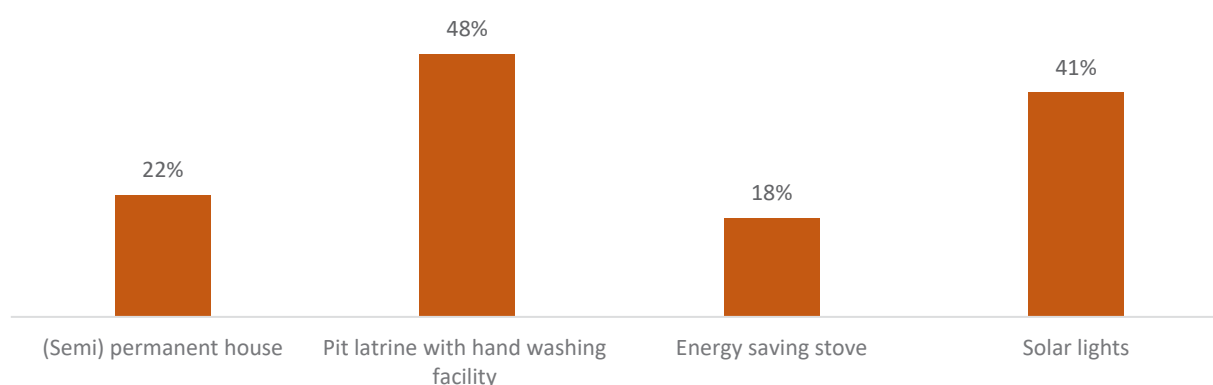
3.2

<div>Result | One</div>

Production and consumption of diversified agricultural foods

To achieve the goal of increased food and income security, SURE project seeks to improve farming practices by ensuring that beneficiary farmer group members adopt good agricultural and climate smart practices that will increase their yields and hence access to adequate food as well as high volume of produce marketed for better income. This section presents the current farm production and marketing practices and levels.

3.2.1   Use of good agricultural and climate smart practices

Respondents were asked about the use of improved practices that are resilient to climate change and critical for high yields per unit of area in the 2020 farming year. Table 4 shows:

- Only 14% of the project beneficiaries used all the priority good agricultural and climate smart practices.
- Overall there was mixed use of selected practices with timely planting, organic pesticides, and correct spacing as most widely used.
- Tree planting/agroforestry was also not common as only 21% of the households planted trees.
- Only 18% of the respondents kept poultry. Almost all of these households used poor poultry management methods. Few had poultry houses (4%) and provided supplementary feeding (12%). Routine vaccination and parasites and disease control as well as programmed hatching technology are almost not in use.

<div>TABLE | Four</div>   **Use of improved farming practices**

Agronomic Practice		%
Timely planting		77
Correct spacing		62
Drought/disease resistant seeds/planting materials		58
Intercropping with cover crops		70
Organic pesticides		73
Tree planting (agroforestry)		21
Improved postharvest handling (better drying & storage facility)		57
Using all promoted practices		13.5
Poultry Management		
Do you keep poultry – chicken, ducks, turkey, guinea fowls?		18
If you are keeping poultry, do you use the following?	Poultry housing	4
	supplementary feeding	12
	Routine vaccination	0.7
	Routine parasite and disease control	0.7
	Programmed hatching	0.0

Yield performance

To assess the productivity levels of the priority commodities, table 5 shows the average yields in the second seasons of the year 2020. Overall, the yield per unit of land was significantly low as compared to the regional research institute figures.

What is worrying is that almost all of the harvest in the season and for all crops grown were sold to meet the urgent need for money. This is because households do not separate cash and food crops. Often the high market prices compel many households to sell off their produce even when they have little harvests.

TABLE Five			Average acres planted, yield and sales volume			
Main commodities	Farmed in 2020	Average land size used (Acres)	Average harvest*	Average units sold	Share of harvest sold (%)	Average income (UGX)
Beans	41%	0.78	462	453	98	191,854
Banana	5%	1.25	318	318	100	374,615
Coffee	4%	1.2	181	181	100	231,546
Irish potato	38%	0.7	349	220	63	258,140
Green vegetables	3%	0.7	772	468	61	133,750

3.2.2 Kitchen gardening

While yield ensures adequacy of food in the household, diet diversification is critical for access to micronutrients that the body needs for healthy living. Kitchen gardening is one of the cheapest ways of ensuring that vulnerable families have stable access to high nutrient foods. Figure 2 shows that only about half of the project beneficiaries had kitchen gardens and apart from pumpkins other high nutrient vegetables were not common in the communities.

FIGURE Two	Farming of nutrient-rich vegetables

54.0% Had kitchen garden   86.0% Grew pumpkinsG   21.0% rew pawpaw   56.0% Grew amaranthG   0.7% rew Moringa
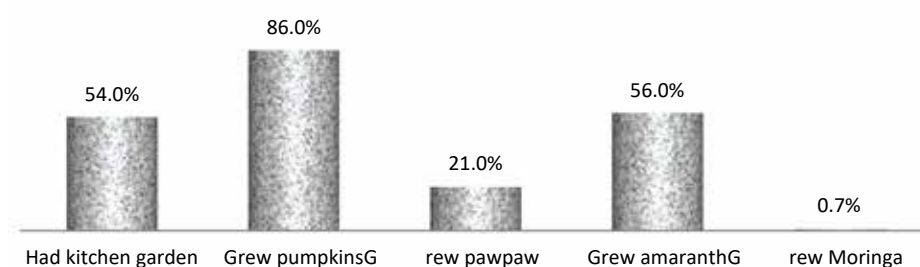
3.2.3 Eating diversified foods

Achieving food security requires improved feeding practices in the beneficiary households. Respondents were asked questions related to feeding practices. The analysis (Table 5 and figure 3) reveals that:

- There is good (77%) knowledge of balance diet in the project communities.
- There is an average application of safe nutrition practices as regards to meals planning, food hygiene, and storage.
- Families largely consume plant-based vitamin rich foods (86%) as compared to livestock products (46%)
- Alcohol (28%) and tobacco (18%) consumptions are fairly low.

Use of improved nutrition practices

	%
Know balance diet	77
Integrated fruits and vegetables in family diet	65
Planned meals according to the needs of different family members	62
Washing hands with soap before touching food	56
Storing food in clean place	77
Proportion of family members who got Vitamin A supplements	70
Proportion of family members who were dewormed	77

FIGURE   Three   **Dietary diversity status**
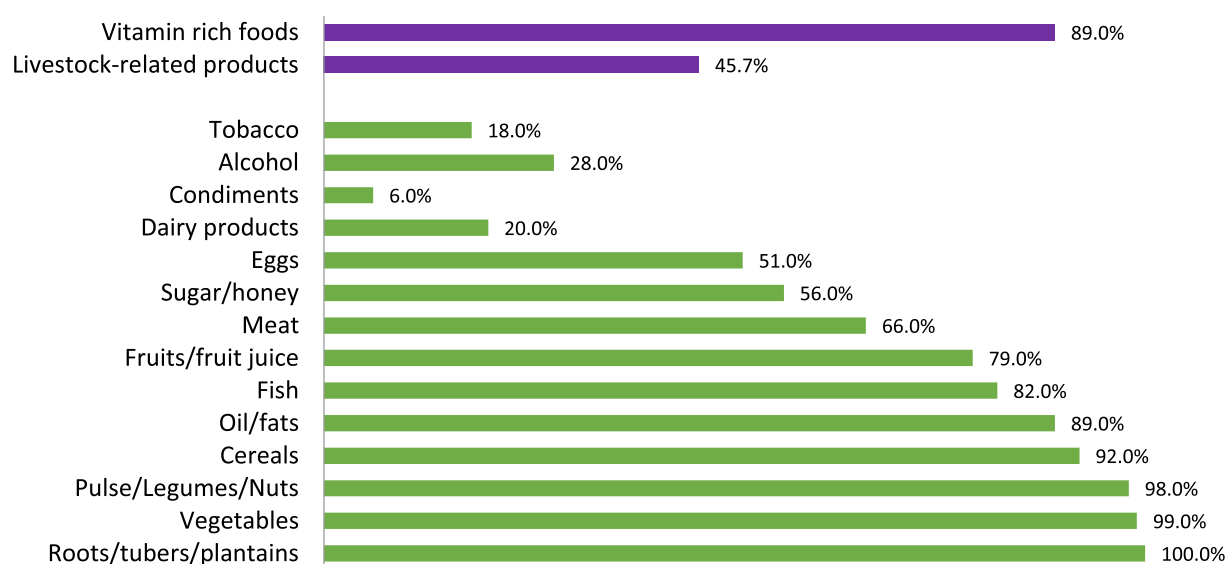
3.2.4   Tree planting

To promote sustainable agricultural practices, the project seeks to also promote tree planting but with a bias towards fruit trees in order to boast household dietary diversity and income. Table 6 shows that above half of targeted households have already planted trees (for firewood, timber and fruits). These are mainly on the garden boundaries since only 19% have woodlots. However, only 29% have more than 10 fruit trees project target.

TABLE   Seven   **Adoption of tree planting**

Households with	% Planted	Average number per household
Firewood trees	56	20
Timber trees	62	514
Fruit trees	86	8
At least 10 fruit trees	29	
Have woodlots	19	

3.3 RESULT 2: INCOME FROM DIVERSIFIED ON-FARM LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

Vulnerable families have cashflow challenges as they primarily rely on rainfed agriculture. To ensure stable income, the SURE project seeks to enable targeted households diversify their livelihood activities by saving weekly, accessing loans to start-up and grow (agri) businesses, and adopt improved business management practices so that they in turn increase their sales and profit margins hence their household income.

3.3.1 Farm and non-farm income generating activities

Respondents were asked whether or not they had alternative income generating activities (IGA). Table 8 below shows that only two in ten households had an IGA in which they worked abour six hours daily and every week.

TABLE Eight	Business ownership and outcomes
Had an income generating activity (%)	23
Hours worked daily in the IGA	5.6
Days worked weekly in the IGA	7
Average gross monthly income (UGX)	96,192

3.3.2 Savings in VSLAs

To assess the level of financial inclusion of the project beneficiaries, respondents were asked whether they are saving and accessing loans. Table 9 shows that:
- Slightly above half of the beneficiaries (53%) were practicing personal savings in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs);
- Only 38% were able to save an equivalent of € 5 monthly.
- While 82% of the members took loans, only 44% of these loans were for business;
- The ratio of loans to savings was extremely high signaling high level of indebtedness among the borrowing project beneficiary households.

TABLE Nine	Participation in saving and loan groups
Saving group participation	
Member of a saving group (%)	53
Weekly average saving value (UGX)	6,517
Saves € 5 monthly (%)	38
Took a loan (%)	82
Took a business loan (%)	44
Average loan amount taken (UGX)	201,462
Average amount taken as a business loan (UGX)	75,973
Average share out amount (UGX)	343,665

A closer look at spending behaviors of the targeted households however confirms the low level of financial literacy (see figure 3 below). Less money is spent on business (re)investment and asset acquisition as compared to on recreation, family support, food and clothing. However, what is striking is that instead of investing loans into business that has a faster way for asset acquisition, majority of the households only save with an asset acquisition purpose; waiting until the end of the year to take their share out in order to buy assets.

FIGURE Four — **Loan and share out spending patterns (%)**
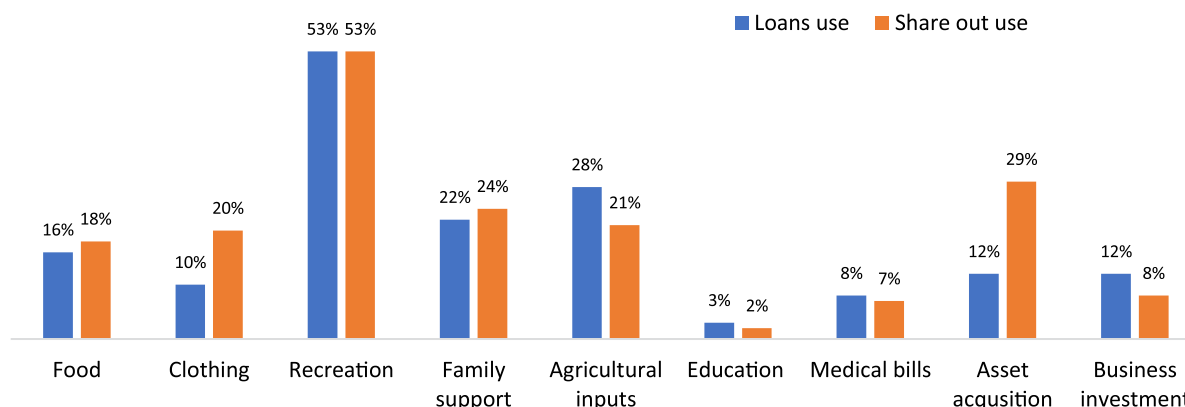
Note: Multiple responses allowed.

3.3.3   Business management practices

To ensure that beneficiary household IGAs are growing, the project target to promote selected better business management practices such as having a legally registered business, sales promotion, separating personal and business finance, keeps business records. To assess the status in these areas, the study asked some questions that are summarized below in table 10. It was evident that:

- Only 58% of the targeted households had a personal/family development goal/plan to guide their purpose for work
- The IGAs that the targeted households had were managed informally as only 0.4% were legally registered, 2. 9% did sales promotion, and 3.3% separated their business from personal finances. Overall, none of the households used all the project priority practices.
- A few of the households were keen on their financial management practices such as developing a budget (34%) and tracking monthly cashflows (24%).

TABLE Ten	Business and financial management practices (%)
Has a legally registered	
Has a written business plan	0.4
Has a written business plan	0.4
Conducts sales promotion	2.9
Separates business & personal finances	3.3
Keeps business records	5.5
Links business with others for inputs, skills, funds, market	23.0
Has a bank account	0.4
Has a personal/family development goal/plan	58.0
Has a personal/family budget	33.6
Tracks monthly income and expenditure	23.5
Using the 4 priority project practices	0.0

3.3.4   Produce marketing practices

Agribusiness thrives with better paying markets. When asked about how they participated in the market the farmer group members' responses indicated that only 2% sold their commodities through collective marketing. Almost all households sold their farm produce individually and directly to consumers either at home or in the weekly markets. More so, they had no access to market information.

3.4 RESULT 3: LOCAL GOVERNANCE IS RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS

SURE project also seeks to ensure that targeted households participate in the local governance of their areas so that they are able to realize their rights to local development initiatives. By so doing, they will ably influence policies on matters that affect their welfare in addition to benefiting directly from local government development projects.

3.4.1   Awareness of right to local government development

Respondents were asked whether or not they were aware of their entitlements to local government development initiatives. As figure 4 shows, 83% responded that they have a right to benefit from their annual local government plans and budget.

3.4.2   Participation in village planning meetings

Further asked whether they participated on the village planning meetings, only 49% attended (see figure 4). Under decentralization, local government development planning starts at village levels. This is where all priorities are generated and if the population don't participate then the leaders dictate what projects should be implemented.

3.4.3   Accessing local government budget support

Respondents were also asked whether or not their households benefited from the current local government plan. As figure 4 shows, only 24% noted that they benefited from their local government projects. However, only 14% pointed out that they received any form accountability from their local government leaders about any development projects being implemented in their areas.11

Awareness of rights to and participation in local governance (%)

Aware of rights to local development	83%
Attended village planning meetings	49%
Aware of approved local government plan	18%
Household benefited from local government projects	24%
Received feedack from local government	14%

3.5
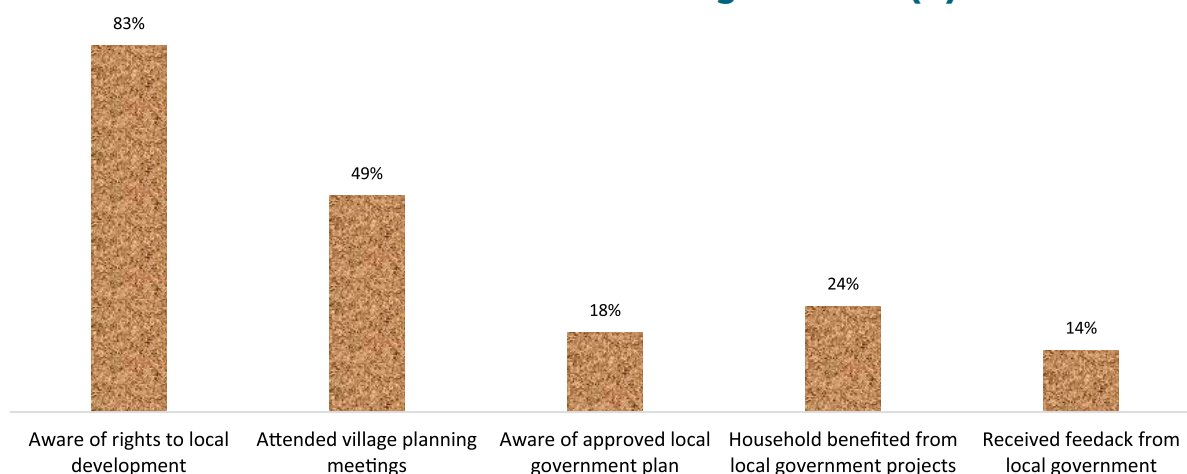
IMPACT:

FOOD AND INCOME SECURITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

3.5.1   Food security status

The first impact of SURE project is improved food security in the targeted households. This is assessed against selected indicators – eating three meals daily, eating at least seven food types weekly, and sharing food among all family members without discrimination. Respondents were asked questions related to these parameters and table 11) reveals that:

- Food adequacy is still very low as only 64% of the households had food all year round and 71% eat at least 3 meals food daily.
- Feeding practices are experiencing declining social discrimination as many families share same food (97%) without discrimination against women and girls. Likewise, many girls and women (90%) are now eating hitherto traditionally forbidden foods.
- Diet diversification was improving as 83% of the households ate at least seen food types weekly and 84% of boys and men ate green vegetables without any complaint.
- Overall, as an index, food security status remained very low (42%).

TABLE Eleven   **Food security indicator status (%)**

|	%
Had food all year round	64
Ate at least 3 meals of diversified foods daily	71
Ate or shared same food as a family	97
Ate 7 food types in the last one week	83
Girls and women ate forbidden foods	90
Boys and men do not complain eating green vegetables	84
Met all indicators	49

3.5.2 Asset poverty status

Asset poverty explained

The second impact of SURE project is reduction of extreme poverty in the targeted households. This is assessed by use of asset poverty measurement approach as proposed by Haveman and Wolff (2004). The preference for this approach is because asset poverty measures the economic ability, using productive assets, an individual or household has to sustain a basic needs level of consumption during temporary hard times for a period of 3 months. Leonard and Di (2012: 1-4) stretched this period to 9 months because asset accumulation at levels equal to nine-months' worth of income at the international income poverty level or greater ably improves a family's odd of permanently escaping poverty. By use of this method, a household is asset poor if its financial net worth is unable to meet its consumption needs over a 3-month period. It is considered non-poor if its net worth is able to meet its 9-month consumption needs.

To compute a household's net worth first, all its productive assets are valued at the current market price. Second, the asset value is added to the current cash savings (i.e., cash at hand, bank, and debt lent to others). Third, the current value of debts taken from other people/firms is deducted from the asset and cash savings value to get a financial net worth. Finally, the financial net worth is subjected to the required household consumption at the international poverty line of US$ 1.90 per person per day. At USD 1= 3,700, this means a household of 7 people needs UGX 49,210 per day or UGX 17,961,650 annually).

Ownership of productive assets

Given the importance of productive assets in asset poverty measurement, respondents were asked about their ownership of productive assets. Figure 5 below shows the asset holding status. Females generally had more liquid assets than their male counterparts. In addition, 95% of the households' own land a key factor for agribusiness. The fairly common assets are the low-cost value assets like poultry, mattresses, mobile phones and shoats (goats, sheep, pigs) compared to other assets that need more money to buy (cattle, motor cycles, bicycles, and solar systems).

FIGURE Six   **Household asset ownership by gender (%)**
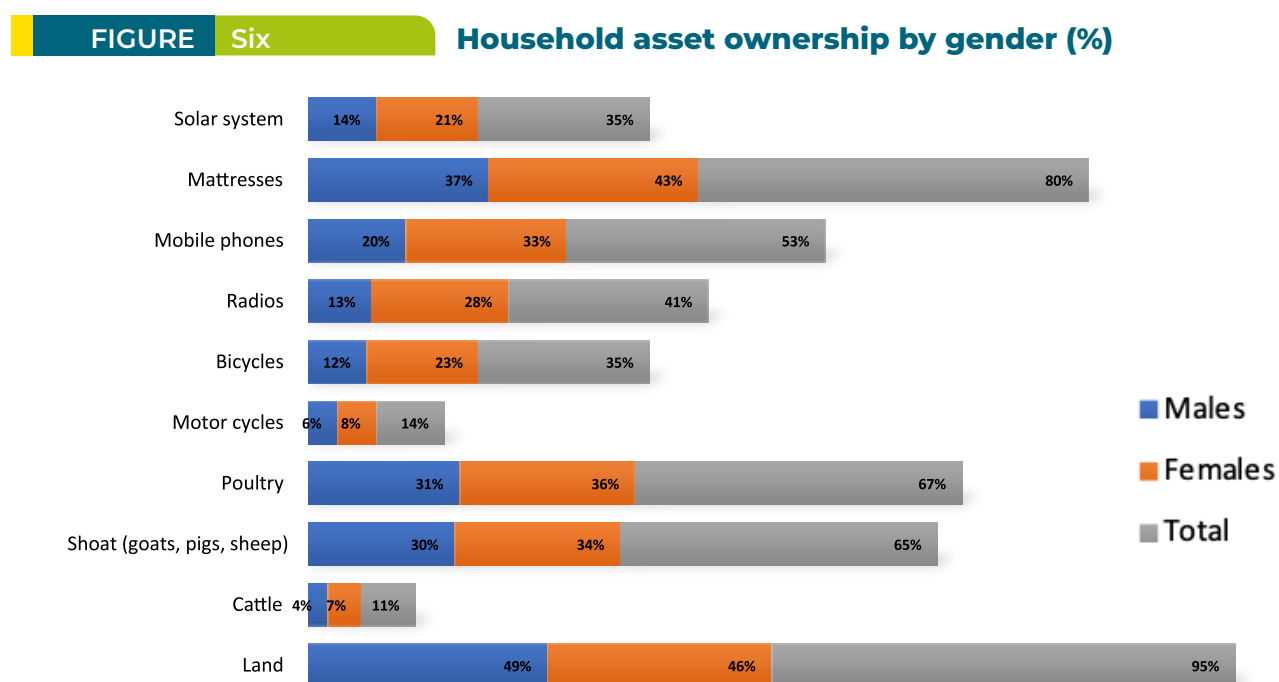
Income status

The baseline study asked targeted households how much money they earned in 2020 from different economic activities. Table 12 shows that the average total household income was UGX 1,034,061 (US$ 280). This figure is far below the asset poverty line.

TABLE Twelve	Average annual household income	
Revenue streams	**(UGX)**
Sales of crops	266,360
Sales of poultry	77,745
Income generating activities	346,291
Accumulated savings	343,665
Total	1,034,061

Asset poverty status

Using the above analysis, the study found out that the average total financial net worth of the targeted households was UGX 5,516,640 (with a marked difference between the non-poor UGX 10,380,824 and the poor with a dismal UGX 235,1990). This amount for the poor can barely afford a monthly cost of living for a household of 7 people.

It was further found that 61% of the targeted households were asset poor. Table 13 below shows that the level of poverty was higher: among females (33%); and married people (54%); those in the new groups (33%).

TABLE Thirteen	Asset poverty status (%)	
Total	**All**	**61**
Sex	Male	28
	Female	33
Marital status	Married	54
	Single	4
	Others	3
Enrolment	New groups	33
	Old groups	28

3.5.3   Women empowerment status

SURE project is committed to furthering gender equality by ensuring that both women and men participate and reap the fruits of their efforts equally. This can only be achieved when more women engage in decision making, own productive asset ownership rights, and are not exposed to gender-based violence. The critical bedrock therefore lies in averting discriminatory norms and practices. Therefore, respondents were asked a number of critical questions and table 14 shows that:

- There is a fair awareness in the participating households of women rights.
- Few women own properties and participate in family decision-making and community affairs.
- Many women, however, are free from gender-based violence.
- No doubt, the overall index of women empowerment is a dismal 28%.

Households aware of women's rights to:	%		Women Participation in Decision-making on:	%
• Earn income/employment	76		• Major farm inputs	43
• Own property – land, livestock, & assets	77		• Family planning	39
• Participate in family decision making	77		• Fees for children's education	44
• Gender violence free family	72		• Sale of farm harvest	43
• Family planning	66		• Major use of family income	43
Women who Own Household Asset alone or jointly:			**Women who Experienced Gender Violence:**	
• Land	31		• Physical abuse	2
• Cash savings	40		• Verbal abuse	14
• Livestock	39		• Sexual abuse	1
• Bicycles	39		• Negligence	2
• Radio and phones	39		• Denial of access to resources or community group	4

3.5.4 Child poverty status

Awareness of children's rights

AFARD Strategy 2020-25 is cognizant of the need to ensure that family economic transformation benefit children too. To do so the study explored the level of awareness of children rights among the household heads and children. Table 15 below shows that: a) generally many children are not aware of their basic human rights; and b) many household heads were aware of children rights especially to health, education, food, and clothing. Yet, they knew little of children rights to information and decent accommodation.

TABLE Fifteen **Awareness of children rights (%)**

		Household heads	Children
Awareness of rights to	Safe food and nutrition	77	51
	Health care when sick	82	64
	Safe drinking water	72	62
	Safe sanitation and hygiene	70	47
	Education	81	69
	Decent accommodation	68	50
	Information	43	22
	Protection from physical abuse	70	46
	Decent clothing	77	65
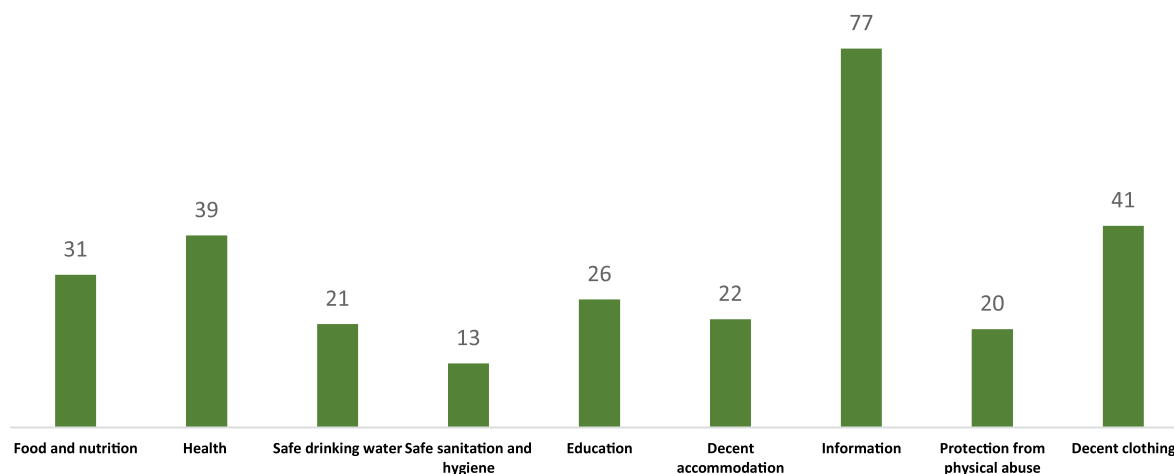
Child poverty in AFARD is based on the Situation Analysis of Child Poverty and Deprivation in Uganda 2014 report (conducted by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, UNICEF, and Economic Policy Research Centre). Unlike income poverty measures, children worry of how: Lack of education erodes their futures; Poor health destroys family livelihoods; Hunger can be devastating; and Experience of violence evaporates hope. The negative lifetime effects of such deprivations are aligned to the international Bristol multidimensional approach to measuring child deprivation that is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore, in Ugandan context, child poverty refers to children deprived in two or more dimensions highly likely to have serious adverse consequences for the health, wellbeing and development of children. These dimensions include: (i) Nutrition; (ii) Water; (iii) Sanitation; (iv) Health; (v) Shelter; (vi) Education; (vii) Information; (viii) Protection; and (ix) Clothing. And extreme child poverty refers to children deprived in two or more dimensions.

A total of 288 children in the targeted households were asked about their experiences of deprivations. It was found out that there is a very high rate of child poverty (96%). Many children faced deprivations as figure 6 shows. The leading dimensions of deprivations remained in access to information (77%), decent clothing (41%), health care (39%), and nutritious food (31%).

PROJECT OUTCOME INDICATORS

Intervention's Logic	Indicators	Baseline	Target
General aim: To contribute to the reduction of hunger and extreme poverty in Zombo district, Uganda.			
Specific aim: To empower 335 smallholder farmer households (56% females) to increase their production, consumption and marketing of diversified agricultural commodities.	% increase in food security status[1] in targeted households	49	50
	% reduction in the proportion of targeted households that exit asset poverty[2]	61	15
	% increase in the number of targeted women beneficiaries who report being empowered[3]	28	35*
Result 1: Increased production and consumption of diversified agricultural foods in targeted households (56% females)	R1.1: % of targeted households use at least 4 good agricultural and climate smart practices[4]	14	65
	R1.2: % of targeted households have own kitchen garden	54	90
	R1.3: % of targeted households eat diversified foods	83	75
	R1.4: Targeted households have at least 10 surviving fruit trees planted	29	50
Result 2: Increased income of targeted households (56% females) from diversified on-farm and non-farm livelihood activities	R2.1: % of targeted households have both farm and non-farm income generating activities	23	75
	R2.2: % of targeted households save €5 monthly in their VSLA	38	50
	R2.3: % of targeted households use at least 4 good business management practices[5]	0	10
	R2.4: % of targeted households sell their farm produce through collective marketing or cooperative society	2	85
Result 3: Local government plans and budgets are responsive to local needs and aspirations	R3.1: % of targeted households report awareness of their rights to local government development plans	83	95*
	R3.2: % of targeted households attend annual village planning meetings	49	90
	R3.3: % of targeted households benefited from local government budget support	24	50*

[1]Food secure households are those that: eat at least 3 meals daily; eat 7 food types weekly including vegetables and fruits; and allow women and girls to eat nutritious traditionally forbidden foods. Food types include: i. cereals, ii. roots/tubers/plantain, iii. vegetables, iv. fruits/juices, v. pulses, vi. eggs, vii. meat, viii. dairy products, ix fish, x. oils, xi. sugar/honey and xii condiments

[2] Asset poverty is measured using financial net worth (of cash, savings and value productive assets) that affords decent living above $1.90 poverty

[3]Women empowerment refers to more decision making, more asset ownership rights, and reduction in exposure to violence

[4]Practices include use of timely planting, correct spacing, intercropping with cover crops, organic pesticides, tree planting, and improved postharvest handling

[5]Practices include having a legally registered business, sales promotion, separating personal and business finance, keeps business records.

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