



SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SMALLHOLDER FARMERS' (SURE) PROJECT

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About the Project

The Agency for Accelerated regional Development (AFARD) secured funding from Manos Unidas for Phase I and Phase II Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder and Resilient Agriculture (SURE) Project (Phase II) in Jangokoro Sub County in Zombo district local government. The overall goal of the project was, *“to empower 277 smallholder farmer households in Jangokoro Sub county to increase their production, consumption and marketing of diversified agricultural commodities.”* The envisaged results are: (1) production and consumption of diversified agricultural foods, (2) income from diversified on-farm livelihood activities, and (3) local governance is responsive to local needs and aspirations. The project will increase production and consumption of diversified agricultural foods in targeted households (56% females); increase income of targeted households (56% females) from diversified on-farm and non-farm livelihood activities; and local government plans and budgets are responsive to local needs and aspirations of the smallholder farming communities.

The Evaluation Objectives and Processes

The purpose of this evaluation was to enable both AFARD and the donors **LEARN** from the implementation of the projects in order to continuously improve their own work and the cooperation with other actors. Specifically the evaluation sought to analyze the impact and sustainability of the project and obtain recommendations for relevant stakeholders for further replication.

To meet these objectives the evaluation team adopted a 4-phased study approach starting with Phase I: Inception that developed the inception report with study tools and work plan; Phase II: Field data collection during which fieldwork was conducted and data was collected; Phase III: Reporting that focused on data analysis and report writing; and finally Phase IV: report dissemination. Data was collected using different methods (document review, individual smallholder farmer group member survey, Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews, participant observations, and cases studies); analyzed using both SPSS (V24) and MS Officer (for content analysis); and finally triangulated into a unified report. Data quality control measures were put in place.

The Evaluation Findings

The following were the key findings from the various evaluation parameters:

R1.1 Use of good agricultural and climate smart practices

There was generally a high improvement in all agronomic practices, where 100% use climate smart farming practices with a positive gain of 78% above baseline values.

R1.2 Kitchen gardening

The adoption of growing and eating of vegetables is high among the farmer group members as all households had kitchen gardens in which they grew different types of vegetables especially amaranth and pumpkins.

R1.3 Eating diversified foods

There was increased intake of diverse food among the targeted households with more gains in especially livestock-related dairy products, eggs, and meat.

R1.4 Tree planting

The access to free seedlings enabled all the households to plant trees varieties of their choices mainly on farm borders and a few on woodlots as 100% of targeted households have at least 10 trees, and 54% have more than 10 fruit trees, 52% own planted woodlots.

R2.1 Own farm and non-farm income generating activities

There has been a 29% increase in the overall ownership of alternative IGA as well as the average monthly income among the targeted households .

R2.2 Savings in VSLAs

All members had opportunity to save. Their weekly savings value increased and 55% more members saved € 5 monthly. Access to loans too increased although members reduced their average loan uptake mainly because they also had some income to fallback onto. With increased savings also came increased share out value that each member received at the end of every saving cycle.

R2.3 Business management practices

More than 50% of the targeted households have legally registered businesses (51%), separate business and family finances (53%), keep business records (67%), have personal/family development plan (79%), have budgets that guide expenditures (67%), and are able to track their budget and expenditure (60%) respectively. The gross project gain is also positive for all indicators.

R2.4 Collective marketing practices

There was a marked increase from 2% at baseline to 71% who currently sell collectively through their Cooperative. This indicates that not all members use of the cooperative as their market points as one farmer who now farms over two acres of Irish potato remarked,

R3.1, 3.2, 3.3 Participation in local governance

Three (3) including awareness of rights and participation in village planning were not met. This is because the community engagements necessary to increase awareness of rights were very limited. Nonetheless, more people through the community engagements with local government officials gained access to local government project support.

The project investment impacts

a) Food security status

There was market progress made in achieving food security in line with the project components considered for the indicator. Positive gains were made on all the indicators.

b) Income security status

The value of both annual income and financial net worth increased thereby enabling 10% more households to exit from extreme (asset) poverty. The knowledge and skills in farming and business management the smallholder farmer group members especially the women acquired from the

training and mentorship enabled many of them to set up (individually) petty businesses (selling silver fish, beans and cooking banana) through which they have increased incomes.

c) Women empowerment status

There was a major positive inroads made in asset ownership and participation in decision making and a dismal exposure to gender based violence realized.

d) Other non-planned impacts

From the various FGDs and KIIs as well as literature review a number of positive changes were identified namely:

- The beneficiary smallholder farmer group members are now believed to have a positive attitude towards hard work in order to succeed (locus of control). They exhibit personal discipline towards work and are self-motivated to do their work.
- The formation of farmer groups and the Cooperative was reported to have built social cohesion among members who initially worked in isolation.
- The advocacy skills imparted to group members and cooperative leaders has improved their confidence to engage and demand for service delivery from the Sub County Lower Local Government.
- Through the project women are in leadership position at both farmer group levels and in the Cooperative. This has enhanced their social space and voice for women within those institutions and local government.
- Family development planning has given women more say in their family affairs. It has also curbed wasteful spending as families direct their incomes to meet their plans.

Major factors that influenced project performance

The following key drivers were identified:

- Family development planning using the vision road journey training instilled in a new forward looking (life goal) attitude where families set and pursued clear vision/goal to achieve (or aspiration).
- VSLA methodology together with training in IGA management and financial literacy provided opportunity for poor excluded smallholder farmers to save, take loans, invest in productive activities, manage their monies well and invest for the future.
- Provision of many inputs that enabled diversification of both food and income sources. SURE opened the door for engaging in multiple but interrelated ventures. This reduced exposure to risks and increased opportunities for growth.
- Working in collaboration between project team, peer trainers and local government officials by providing career guidance, counseling, regular follow-up, participatory monitoring with feedback, training and start-up kits gave motivation and incentive to develop positive attitude towards work and enabled the smallholder farmer group members and the cooperative to concentrate on their work.

- The formation of Cooperative provided additional inspiration especially among the elderly who knew the benefits of Cooperatives before they collapsed in the 1990s. This brought hope to the people to work hard for a shared future.

Sustainability strategies

Below were the main strategies identified for sustaining impacts:

- The presence of farmer group based extension peer trainers – Lead Farmers and VSLA mentors – has continued to provide beneficiaries access to knowledge and skills from within their communities as government-based extension services are hard to come by.
- Functioning VSLAs at group members with increased share values has continued right from the farmer group formations to date to provide opportunities for members to save, access loans and build seed fund for either business or productive asset acquisition.
- Multiple revenue base – crops, livestock, alternative IGAs – continues to provide the targeted households access to diverse income sources and opportunities to mitigate livelihood shocks.
- The establishment of the cooperative which although young has succeeded in mobilizing youth and the elderly to work in strategic commodities for collective marketing.

Critical challenges affecting Cooperative sustainability potential

- Inaccessibility to quality seeds. The project supplied improved seeds in 2021 and 2023. Some of the seeds have lost viability given the many production rotations they have gone through (5-6 cycles) leading to low yields .
- Limited business capital as the Cooperative is depending on members shares. This limits its ability to buy produce in the volume available from its members as well as to increase its profitability.
- Lack of space. The Cooperative currently operate in a rented small office which also doubles at production and sales time as a store.
- Limited business management capacity. The Cooperative leaders are mainly primary and lower secondary school leavers. They lack business management skills and exposure necessary to position the Cooperative as a key market actor.
- Low literacy levels. Majority of the Cooperative leaders are (semi)literate. They are unable to read and write.

Recommendations

To highly impact smallholder farmer poverty reduction with improved food security status, increased income and a responsive local governance, the following are crucial:

- ***Inaccessibility to quality seeds;*** Engage the Cooperative in seed potato multiplication both on its land and demonstration plots of the farmer group members. This will reduce dependence on seed supply from Kabale.
- ***Limited business capital;*** Secure booster capital or interest free loan to capitalize the business growth. With additional funds, the Cooperative will increase both its buying and sales volume thereby increasing its customer and member loyalty but also profitability.
- ***Lack of space;*** Seek funding support towards the construction of a physical infrastructure that will provide ample space for safe storage of produce and an office.
- ***Lack of business management skills;*** funds permitting, it is important to hire a Business Development Officer on a 2-year contract to help the Cooperative streamline its business operations (systems development, and business growth).
- ***Low literacy levels;*** Start a Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) program to provide basic reading and writing skills and knowledge for the Cooperators.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the project

The Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) is a local, Ugandan NGO operating in northern Uganda. AFARD's formation was motivated by first, the political turbulence that left the region extremely the poorest in Uganda. Second, many development interventions have been external to local context leaving behind a people hardly changed. Third, decentralization had dismally improved people's livelihoods given resource constraints and limited adherence to co-governance. AFARD has grown steadily over the past 23 years and today implements numerous projects in the field of smallholder agriculture, local value chains and vocational training. It is a member of national and district NGO networks e.g., Uganda National NGO Forum, Participatory Ecological Land Use and Management (PELUM), Uganda Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET) among others. In addition, it has accumulated vast knowledge, experience and expertise in the areas of sustainable agriculture, agribusiness, VSLA and micro-enterprise development, youth skilling, preventive community health, and community-led advocacy.

About the project

The Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder and Resilient Agriculture (SURE) Project (Phase II) sought to deepen the achievements made in Phase I by continuing to address the high rate of food, nutrition and income insecurity in smallholder farming families in Jangokoro sub-county, Zombo district, Uganda. The project objective (see annex 1 for more details) was "To empower 277 smallholder farmer households in Jangokoro Sub county to increase their production, consumption and marketing of diversified agricultural commodities." Its specific objectives were:

- 1: Increased production and consumption of diversified agricultural foods in targeted households (56% females);
- 2: Increased income of targeted households (56% females) from diversified on-farm and non-farm livelihood activities; and
- 3: Local government plans and budgets are responsive to local needs and aspirations.

The project organized vulnerable smallholder farmers into a multipurpose Cooperative Society with the objective of promoting the production, consumption, and marketing of diversified agricultural products in an environmentally sustainable and gender-sensitive manner that will ensure greater food, nutritional and income security for members. The key implementation approaches used included: (i) Sustainable agricultural intensification to increase and diversify the agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers; (ii) Strengthening the market participation through the newly registered cooperative society; (iii) Financial inclusion using the VSLA and IGA training; (iv) peer-to-peer demonstration for hands-on learning and adoption of climate smart agricultural practices; (v) Community-led advocacy of human and women's rights through the cooperative; and (vi) the incorporation of COVID-19 awareness, gender issues and environmental conservation in all project activities. A key summary of the project is here below.

1.2 Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation is: **Learning**. Both AFARD and the donors are interested in learning from the implementation of the projects in order to continuously improve their own work and the cooperation with other actors. The findings, lessons learned and recommendations will be useful for the possible multiplication and replication of the chosen approach. Specifically the evaluation sought to:

- Analyze the impacts of the project;
- Analyze the sustainability of the project; and
- Obtain recommendations from relevant stakeholders for further replication.

Final beneficiaries and users of the evaluation are AFARD and her constituencies, Manos Unidas and funding partners with a focus on the learning, accountability and communication objective, and other actors working on the same issues and interested in the lessons learned from this evaluation (NGOs, technical services, local authorities etc.).

2 EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Evaluation design

The evaluation design was cross-sectional. It included a combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques in order to provide a deeper understanding of the study question. Quantitative methods focused on assessing respondent characteristics status of project indicators at evaluation and other aspects of the DAC/OEC criteria while qualitative methods dwelt on assessing stakeholder perceptions about the project impact and sustainability.

2.2 Survey sample size determination

The quantitative survey was administered within the 10 smallholder farmer groups level and the group members were the sampling unit. A sample size of 166 out of the total target population of 277 direct project beneficiaries within the investment groups was selected. The sample was determined using the proven sample selection formula as illustrated below.

$n = \frac{z^2 p(1-p)N}{(N-1)(e)^2 + z^2 p(1-p)}$ Whereby; N is the population size. e is the level of precision which is assumed at 0.5 (z = 1.96 with a CL =95%).

We have assumed a proportion (P) = 0.5, on the assumption that members of the farmer groups are normally distributed and internally homogeneous in the selected areas. Given that beneficiaries will be randomly sampled in the villages to be visited, a 95% confidence level and at 5% level of precision/degree of error has been assumed. Using the above formula, the total sample size becomes 166 households as calculated below and spread out in the selected areas.

$$n = \frac{0.25(z^2)N}{(N-1)(e)^2 + z^2 p(1-p)} = \frac{0.25 \times (1.96^2) \times 277}{200(0.05)^2 + 1.60} \approx 166$$

Sample size determination has taken into consideration possible attrition as some members of the farmer groups may not be traced and/or contacted due either to a change of phone number or withdrawal from the study. Therefore, an additional 5% has been added to make the target sample of 166 respondents. If the target is not sufficient to achieve the desired sample of 166 study participants, a snowballing technique will be employed to ensure that a statistically representative sample of 166 respondents is achieved for the study. Snowballing involved requesting the first identified group member to assist in identifying their colleagues and where those colleagues could be found. Additionally, support of AFARD field staff shall be sought while tracing to ensure that the desired sample sizes are met in the project target area.

The sampling allocation was made to reflect the design of the project that targeted 60% of the female gender and 40% of the male gender. The sampled youths (n=166) have been distributed among males and females as shown in the table below.

Target Population	Proportion	Target Sample size	Sample and Attrition (5%*n)
Males	40%	64	2
Females	60%	97	3
TOTAL		161	166

2.3 Survey sample selection

Using the available master database of project beneficiaries, the database was sorted in alphabetical order beginning by gender, name and location to select a systematic random sample of beneficiaries

that is representative of the gender that the project supported. A random starting point was chosen and the nth respondent was generated by adding the position of the starting point to the sampling interval until the sample size was exhausted.

Different sampling techniques was applied to the different categories of respondents. A total sample of **355** respondents were reached as elaborated in the table below.

Sample category	Sample size	Sampling method
Key Informants	3	Purposive sampling
a) AFARD staff	2	
b) Multipurpose cooperative leaders		
c) Zombo District Local government officials	2	
d) Lower local government officials	7	
2. Household survey		Stratified and Simple
a) Target farmer group respondents	166	Random aampling
Focus Group Discussions		Purposive sampling
a) Mixed gender (1 FGD per cooperative; @ 12 participants)	24	
Sample Size	355	

2.4 Data Collection

A team of three (03) enumerators conducted quantitative data collection. They administered the household survey questionnaire to farmer group member households. The enumerators were recruited based on fluency in the local language spoken (Alur) and have at least a post – secondary school qualification (e.g. certificate or diploma holders and above). The training of data collectors on the instructions regarding interviewing techniques and field procedures was conducted. This was followed by a detailed review of the questions in the questionnaires, tests, mock interviews and the role played between participants in the training. A detailed field data collection plan was developed and given to all field staff with a comprehensive set of instructions intended to guide all staff before and during the field work period. The field data collection took a period of 5 days.

The consultant used qualitative methods to explore gender dynamics and influences on achievement of project results. Data was collected using face-to-face interviews, in-depth interviews, and field observations. Key informant interviews was conducted using a key informant interview guide. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) was conducted to supplement the findings from the surveys. FGDs was conducted separately for 12 members in each meeting for farmer group and cooperative members based on women only, men only and mixed gender.

The consulting team conducted field observations throughout the data collection process, to further enable verification as well as to provide qualitative illustration of the quantitative information collected. Still photographs were taken focusing on agri-business facilities and farmer cooperative activities, and any other observations found to be relevant to the evaluation. In addition, literature review was conducted of project baseline report, project annual reports 2021 and 2023, AFARD annual report 2021, management report to the Board 2023, and project training materials and reports.

Annex 2 presents the study tools and annex 3 the list of persons consulted.

2.5 Data analysis

Quantitative data was collected using electronic data collection Open Data Kit facilitated by android tablets. Collected data was sent wirelessly to a secure server at the end of each day for review prior to the following morning's de-brief of enumerators. After the data collection exercise, the collected data

was downloaded from the server as a CSV file, exported to Excel, cleaned and exported to SPSS for coding and analysis into percentages, graphs and cross tabulations.

Qualitative data on the other hand was collected using notebooks and transcribed in word for each day of data collection by the evaluation team using codes, quotations, and themes in line with the evaluation objectives. Thematic analysis was then applied, and narratives and quotations developed based on respondents' perceptions and the evaluation team's experience of the Programme components. The draft report was reviewed by AFARD team and the feedback was used to produce this final report.

2.6 Quality Control Measures

The evaluation exercise went through several procedures for quality control purposes, and these included the following:

- a) Training of interviewers and close supervision: All the interviewers had at least attained university or diploma and were trained in research ethics, research methodology and questionnaire administration. The Research Assistants (RAs) were also supervised closely to flag out any challenges. Re-training on key issues was done regularly throughout the survey period. A random check of a range of forms captured by different RAs by a consultant was also done to ensure that the quality of data was up to the desired standard.
- b) Data capture form programming: The data collection tool was programmed to ensure that all fields were mandatory (logically) and also to limit illogical and inconsistent entries. This ensured 100% completeness and possibly reduce inconsistent entries to less than 5%. Lastly, the questionnaires were programmed in the tablets with logical skips that helped to check for consistency of responses and reduced time taken in administering the questionnaire.
- a) Questionnaire and procedure pre-test: The questionnaires and procedures was pre-tested, after which a standard operating guideline for the study was finalized detailing all the steps and the likely actions for the different scenario cases.
- b) Data collection process and field coordination: All questionnaires were administered in the local languages while responses were typed in English to ensure consistency of the meaning and to illicit accurate responses.

2.7 Ethical Considerations

The consultant addressed ethical concerns in the process of data collection, analysis and presentation. Voluntary and informed consent was obtained from all respondents. Respondents were fully briefed on the purpose and objectives of the evaluation so that they make voluntary consent to participate. No promises were made to them as a way of getting consent. In Addition, respondents' confidentiality was strictly upheld. Moreover, we ensured the lists of names and other information that could lead to the identification of the respondents were not published. The names of the key informants were noted with their consent. Other principles of beneficence, neutrality, impartially were strongly emphasized throughout the exercise.

2.8 Evaluation limitations

- The baseline study was not analysed with gender sensitivity. This made is difficult to compare outcome and impact attainment by gender. As a result, the consultant analysed and compared change based on the aggregate total.
- As aproject implemented in two phases it was difficult for the beneficiaries to attribute change to a specific period. Rather they cumulated their benefits over the entire project period. As a result, change due to the project was compared between baseline and endline.

- It was time consuming to mobilize the beneficiaries given the socio-economic activities of the community in January. The research team worked closely with the Project staff and the Farmer group and Cooperative leaders to trace and replace missing sampled respondents.

3 EVALUATION FINDINGS

In order to assess the impact and sustainability of the project (key evaluation focus), the study started by asking, “what key investments did the project make?” This was followed by the questions, “To what extent have the objectives and results of the intervention been achieved?”, “How did the project investments impact positively or negatively the beneficiary communities?” and finally, “What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives and results?” Below we present the findings.

3.1 Key project investments

Literature review of the project annual reports 2021 and 2023, AFARD annual report 2021 and management report to the Board 2023 revealed that the major project investments were as below:

- a) 10 farmer groups were formed and trained on group dynamics for self-management and in all the 10 supported groups a Vision Road Journey trainings were conducted and they all (and their members) developed their group/family development plans.
- b) Various one-off start-up agro-inputs were distributed to beneficiaries, namely 125 watering cans, 125 spray pumps, 2,081 local poultry, 10 digital weighing scales, 2,125 Kgs of beans, 435 bags of Irish potato seeds, 5kgs of Amaranth, 36,800 coffee seedlings, 277 post-harvest fiber sheeting, 10 aphid nets, 20,350 tree seedlings, and 27,700 banana suckers.
- c) Community based extension peer providers were trained namely 20 Lead Farmers (10 females) were trained and equipped in Irish potato agro-ecology and they set up demo-plots where they conducted hands-on climate smart agricultural practices of Irish potato and beans. In addition, trainings were provided on poultry management and banana propagation and management, further, 10 VSLA Mentors were trained and they led training in their group members on VSLA methodology, IGA management and financial literacy.
- d) A number of trainings were provided on good sanitation and hygiene practices, kitchen gardening, safe nutrition, human and women rights, advocacy, and collective marketing (with the help of business mentoring and coaching, market surveys, and market linkages).
- e) Jangokoro United Farmers’ Cooperative was formed and supported to secure interim registration with the Ministry of Trade. The Cooperative was supported to develop a business plan and was provided basic equipment such as 01 tricycle and 01 floor scale (medium duty) together with various training for its Board/Executive and Committee members on management and governance, business management, marketing, financial management and audit, and risk management, advocacy, gender mainstreaming

3.2 Achievement of planted project objectives and results

Tabel 1 below answers the question, “To what extent have the objectives and results of the intervention been achieved?” Out of the 11 outcome indicators, 7 were surpassed (64%). Shortfalls were registered in the areas of use of business management practices, collective marketing, awareness of rights and participation in village meetings. As the section on challenges shows, the key impediments in these areas were attributed by the KII and FGDs to the high illiteracy levels that could not allow members to record their business transactions, limited capital base of the Cooperative to buy members produce for on-selling, and the limited investment (one-off training) in human and women’s rights. Local government official noted that the low participation in village planning is because unlike in the past when planning started at the village level, currently with limited funding, planning is more concentrated at the sub county and district levels as a respondent pointed out,

There is no longer any decentralised planning. When decentralization started in 1995 all plans originated from the village, to the parish, to sub county, district then finally at the national ministries where the parliament appropriated funds. Now the Chairpersons at LC III (Sub counties) and District

(LC V) together with their Executives and Technical Planning Committees (TPC) sit and plan for their areas.

Table 1: Achievement of planned project outcomes

Intervention's Logic	Indicators	Baseline	SURE II targets	Final 2023
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 ¹	14	95	100
	R1.2: % of targeted households have own kitchen garden	54	100	100
	R1.3: % of targeted households eat diversified foods	83	100	100
	R1.4: Targeted households have at least 10 surviving fruit trees planted	29	100	100
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	100
	R2.2: % of targeted households save €5 monthly in their VSLA	38	75	93
	R2.3: % of targeted households use at least 4 good business management practices ²	0	25	18
	R2.4: % of targeted households sell their farm produce through collective marketing or cooperative society	2	100	71
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	75	61
	R3.2: % of targeted households attend annual village planning meetings	49	100	74
	R3.3: % of targeted households benefited from local government budget support	24	35	73

A snapshot of outcome performance

R1.1 Use of good agricultural and climate smart practices

In terms of adoption of good agricultural and climate smart practices, there was generally a high improvement in all agronomic practices (Table 2). In addition, 54% of the beneficiary households have at least more than 10 fruit trees and 52% of the beneficiary households own woodlots. Overall, 99% of the beneficiary households use improved farming practices (positive gain of 78% above baseline values).

Table 2: Use of improved farming practices

Agronomic Practice	Baseline	Endline	Gross gain
Timely planting	77	99	22
Correct spacing	62	99	37
Drought/disease resistant seeds/planting materials	58	99	41

¹ Practices include use of timely planting, correct spacing, intercropping with cover crops, organic pesticides, tree planting, and improved postharvest handling

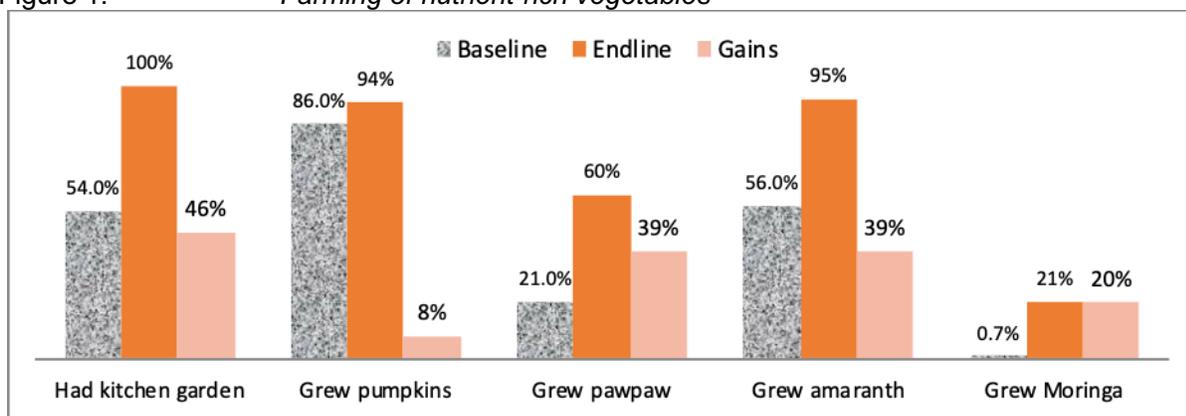
² Practices include having a legally registered business, sales promotion, separating personal and business finance, keeps business records.

Intercropping with cover crops	70	94	24
Organic pesticides	73	96	23
Tree planting (agroforestry)	21	99	78
Improved postharvest handling (better drying & storage facility)	57	99	42
Used at least 4 practices	14	100	86

R1.2 Kitchen gardening

In terms of the production and consumption of diversified food items Figure 1 reveals that adoption of growing and eating of vegetables is high among the farmer group members. Kitchen gardening is one of the cheapest ways of ensuring that vulnerable families have stable access to high nutrient foods. On all project targeted vegetable production, all households had kitchen gardens in which they grew different types of vegetables especially amaranth and pumpkins.

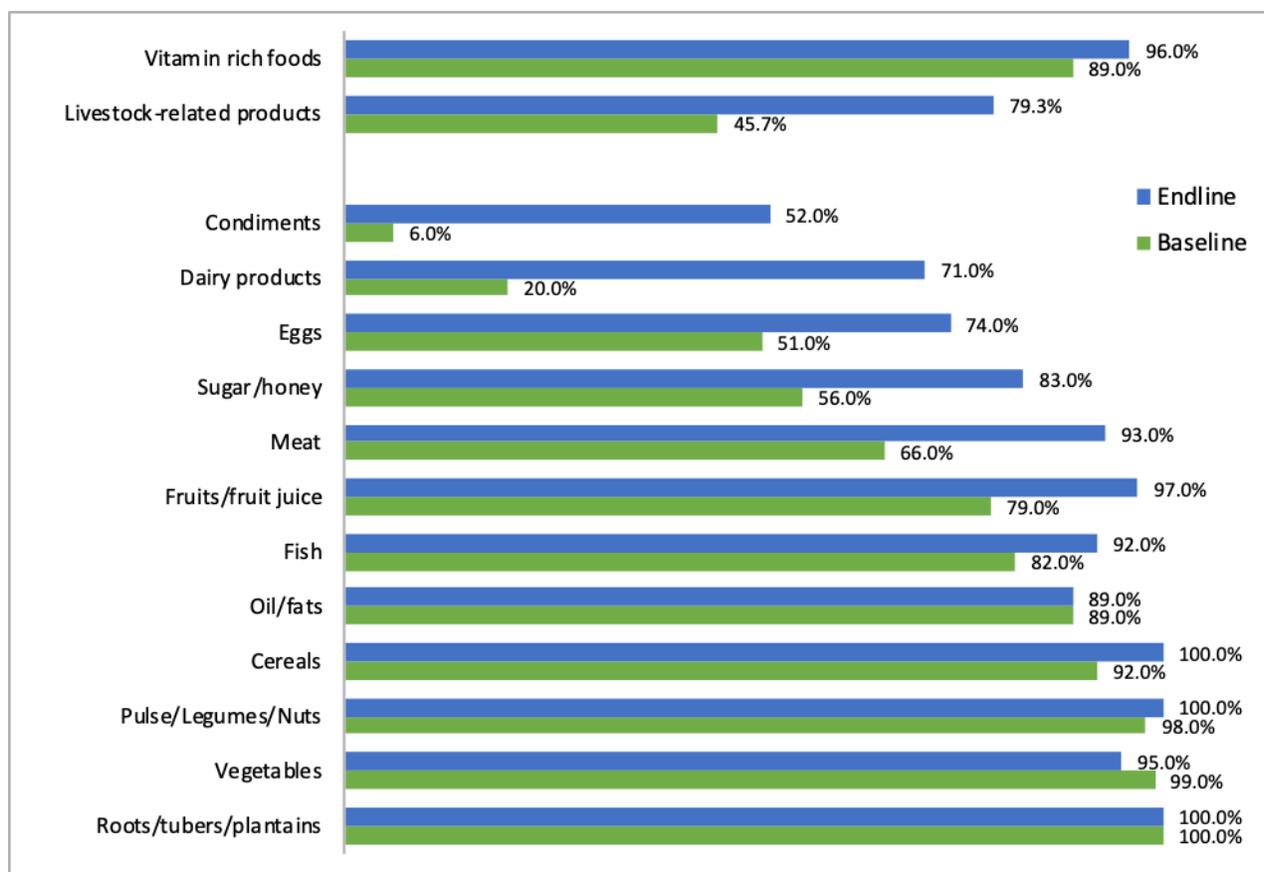
Figure 1: *Farming of nutrient-rich vegetables*



R1.3 Eating diversified foods

Figure 2 shows that overall the targeted households increased their intake of diverse food with more gains in livestock-related especially dairy products, eggs, and meat. This was confirmed by women during FGDs that “*now because of the project we are able to buy good food (fish, meat) for our families.*”

Figure 2: Dietary diversity status



R1.4 Tree planting

The project beneficiaries noted during the FGDs that before SURE only a few of the were planting trees. However, with access to free seedlings, all households selected trees of their choices and planted mainly on farm borders and a few on woodlots. Table 3 shows the gains made in tree planting. The reduction in the number of timber trees was explained by the Sub county extension staff as a result of people harvesting their trees to earn income for emergency needs.

Table 3: Use of environment protection practices

Households with	Baseline	Endline	Project gross gain
Households with Firewood trees (%)	56	98	42
Households with Timber trees (%)	62	100	38
Households with Fruit trees (%)	86	100	14
Households with at least 10 fruit trees (%)	29	100	71
Households with woodlots (%)	19	52	33
Average number of Firewood trees (#)	20	48	28
Average number of Timber trees (#)	514	295	-219
Average number of Fruit trees (#)	8	14	6

R2.1 Own farm and non-farm income generating activities

Table 4 below reveals that there has been a 29% increase in the overall ownership of alternative IGA as well as the average monthly income therefrom. However, although work hours increased the number of days devoted to these IGA reduced. This change was attributed by one respondent as below,

When I started my IGA, I devoted more time to it working everyday and resting only on Sundays. However, when I harvested my Irish potato during the first season, I realized that there was more money in that crop. So, since that time, I devote more time to my garden where my main income come from. I only occasionally go to sell in the IGA especially on market days. During peak farm seasons I sometimes also do not open the stall.

Table 4: *Business ownership and outcomes*

	Baseline	Endline	Project gain
Had an income generating activity (%)	23	52	29
Hours worked daily in the IGA	5.6	8.4	2.8
Days worked weekly in the IGA	7	6	-1
Average gross monthly income (UGX)	96,192	185,093	88,901

R2.2 Savings in VSLAs

The introduction of the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) as table 5 shows opened a wider opportunity for financial inclusion for the project beneficiaries. All members had opportunity to save. Their weekly savings value increased and 55% more members saved € 5 monthly. Access to loans too increased although members reduced their average loan uptake mainly because they also had some income to fallback onto. With increased savings also came increased share out value that each member received at the end of every saving cycle.

Table 5: *Participation in saving and loan groups*

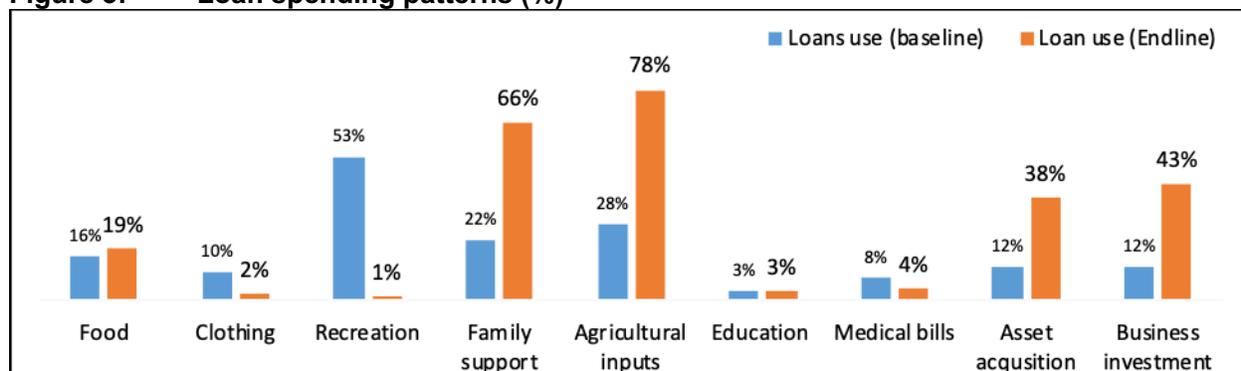
Saving group participation	Baseline	Endline	Project gross gain
Member of a saving group (%)	53	100	47
Weekly average saving value (UGX)	6,517	9,390	2,873
Saves € 5 monthly (%)	38	93	55
Took a loan (%)	82	96	14
Took a business loan (%)	44	53	9
Average loan amount taken (UGX)	201,462	186,453	(15,009)
Average amount taken as a business loan (UGX)	75,973	77,053	1,080
Average share out amount (UGX)	343,665	409,503	65,838

Figures 3 and 4 reveals how the use of loans and share out changed drastically. While spending on clothing and recreation and health reduced, more money is spent on productive sectors (agricultural inputs, business investment, and asset acquisition) as well as on family support. During the KII, the Cooperative leaders pointed out that:

Financial literacy has improved financial management practices in many families. Initially, people preferred to spend on leisure, clothing and for women food. Financial literacy introduced the concept of spending more money where there is long term returns. This made many people to realize that

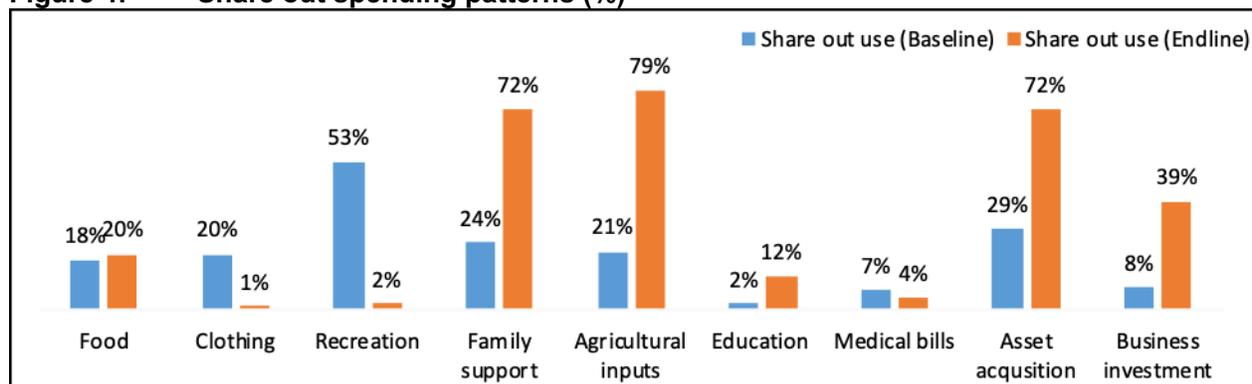
leisure as a current consumption hardly generate any return. People then woke up to start spending on things that generate money – Irish potato farming, IGA and buying assets that multiply e.g., livestock.

Figure 3: Loan spending patterns (%)



Note: Multiple responses allowed.

Figure 4: Share out spending patterns (%)



Note: Multiple responses allowed.

R2.3 Business management practices

To improve household productivity and transform traditional indigenous farming practices into modern enterprises that improves food security, quality of life, and economic growth of beneficiaries, the need to create an enabling agribusiness environment is important. In line with this, the respondents were asked whether they use better business management practices. Table 6 shows that more than 50% of the beneficiaries have legally registered businesses (51%), separate business and family finances (53%), keep business records (67%), have personal/family development plan (79%), have budgets that guide expenditures (67%), and are able to track their budget and expenditure (60%) respectively. The gross project gain is also positive for all indicators.

Table 6: *Business and financial management practices (%)*

Use of better business and financial management practices	Baseline	Endline	Project gross gains
Has a legally registered business	0.4	51	50.6
Has a written business plan	0.4	16	15.6
Conducts sales promotion	2.9	47	44.1
Separates business & personal finances	3.3	53	49.7
Keeps business records	5.5	67	61.5
Links business with others for inputs, skills, funds, market	23	29	6
Has a bank account	0.4	12	11.6
Has a personal/family development goal/plan	58	79	21
Has a personal/family budget	33.6	67	33.4
Tracks monthly income and expenditure	23.5	60	36.5

R2.4 Collective marketing practices

Smallholder farmers face many marketing challenges including selling their produce individually to middlemen who exploit them because they have small volumes, low quality, and lack market information. This is where strong producer groups and cooperatives are able to overcome many of the difficulties faced by the smallholder farmer by increasing the volume and quality as well as negotiating better prices. The household respondents when asked about collective marketing revealed that there was a marked increase from 2% at baseline to 71% who currently sell collectively through their Cooperative. This indicates that not all members use of the cooperative as their market points as one farmer who now farms over two acres of Irish potato remarked,

I now farm over two acres of Irish potato every season. When I harvest I want to sell the produce at once so that I can plan and use the money well. This is because in the past when I would sell my produce in small quantities hardly did I do any meaningful thing (read visible investment). However, when I go to the Cooperative to sell my produce, the song is there is no enough money to buy my produce. I cannot give my produce on credit to wait for the Cooperative to first sell then pay me. As a result, I look for buyers on my own and sell off all my produce. When the Cooperative will have adequate money to buy all my produce, I will be willing to sell to them.

R3.1, 3.2, 3.3 Participation in local governance

The deep and persistent government failures in providing the services that smallholder farmers need to access agricultural technologies, participate in markets, and improve their livelihoods and well-being continue to deny them the opportunity to move away from subsistence to commercial farming. To help salvage this situation SURE project promoted the participation of the smallholder farmers in local governance process to enable them influence policies on matters that affect their welfare in addition to benefiting directly from local government development projects. As already observed under 3.2, 2 out of 3 indicators in this result area were not met – awareness of rights and participation in village planning. Worth noting here is that first, the community engagements necessary to increase awareness of rights were very limited. The Project Officer and the Sub county Community Development Officer pointed out that not much was done in this area. Few awareness creation sessions were held and efforts was geared instead towards strengthening the capacity of the Cooperative leadership. Moreover, for participation in village planning, the change in planning processes does not provide ample opportunity for people to participate. However, we

construe that the reported decline in awareness of rights is majorly a function of people’s growing dislike for their leaders in whom they see no major development demand since almost all government funds pay salaries. Respondents largely see awareness as demanding for their rights. This point was also emphasized by the LC III Athuma that whenever they call people for government meetings, they are hesitant to go. Nonetheless, more people through the community engagements with local government officials gained access to local government project support. For instance, through the newly established Parish development model some households got the loan fund that they will start repaying after 2 years.

3.3 The project investment impacts

The evaluation also assessed the extent to which the project planned impact indicators were achieved. Table 7 shows that 2/3 indicators were met and surpassed namely food security and income security. Although women empowerment indicator was not met, the 42% more gains achieved only shows that the project most likely set an ambitious target for a social transformation indicator that takes time to achieve.

Table 7: Impact indicator achievement status (%)

Indicators	Baseline	SURE II targets	Final 2023
% increase in food security status in targeted households ³	49	95	100
% reduction in the proportion of targeted households that exit asset poverty ⁴	61	64	71
% increase in the number of targeted women beneficiaries who report being empowered ⁵	28	73	70

A snapshot of impact achievements

d) Food security status

Table 8 shows the market progress made in achieving food security in line with the project components considered for the indicator. Positive gains were made on all the indicators. Both women and men FGDs reiterated the fact that

Now food is not a major issue of concern in our families. We eat adequate balanced meals and are able to afford them. In the weekly markets, we buy fish and meat. All family members eat this food contrary to the past when such foods were served mainly to men. With adequate vegetables from kitchen gardens, we are able to balance our diet as we were trained. And we can see that many of us are healthy. The frequency of falling sick has also reduced with marked savings of money that we used to spend on medical bills.

Table 8: Food security indicator status (%)

³ 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

⁴ Asset poverty is measured using financial net worth (of cash, savings and value productive assets) that affords decent living above \$1.90 poverty

⁵ Women empowerment refers to more decision making, more asset ownership rights, and reduction in exposure to violence

	Baseline	Endline	Project gross gains
Had food all year round	64	100	36
Ate at least 3 meals of diversified foods daily	71	100	29
Ate or shared same food as a family	97	100	3
Ate 7 food types in the last one week	83	100	17
Girls and women ate forbidden foods	90	100	10
Boys and men do not complain eating green vegetables	84	100	16

e) Income security status

In the area of income, table 9 presents a summary of the changes targeted households achieved. The value of both annual income and financial net worth increased thereby enabling 10% more households to exit from extreme (asset) poverty. The knowledge and skills in farming and business management the smallholder farmer group members especially the women acquired from the training and mentorship enabled many of them to set up (individually) petty businesses (selling silver fish, beans and cooking banana) through which they have increased incomes. Florence Kawambe of Kwer Kabu Can farmer group in Padea town council pointed out that,

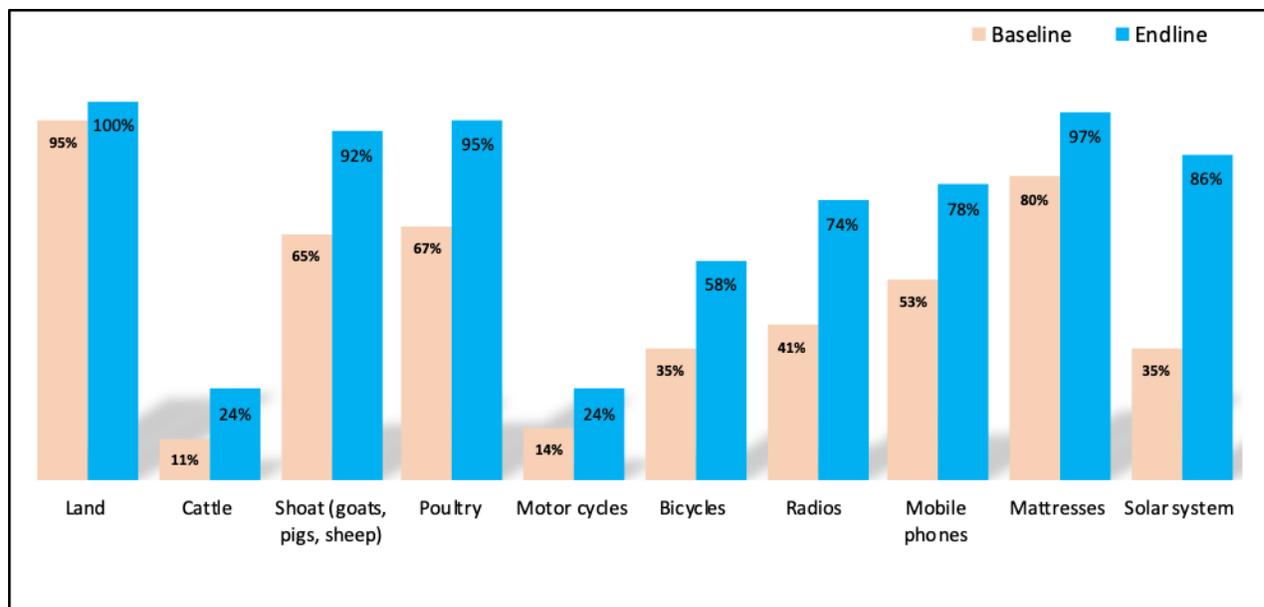
She buys beans from Awasi market in DRC of 1 Million Uganda shillings (UGX) and sells to traders from Paidha every Thursday. She gets UGX 300,000 per week and she has used the proceeds from the business to buy good household furniture, more land to expand farming activities and I now have adequate food for my household members all year round.

Table 9: Household income, assets and poverty status

	Baseline	Endline	Project gross gains
Average income from sales of crops (UGX)	266,360	1,617,405	1,351,045
Average income from sales of poultry (UGX)	77,745	595,010	517,265
Average income from IGA (UGX)	346,291	2,221,118	1,874,827
Average accumulated savings (UGX)	343,665	547,406	203,741
Average total annual income	1,034,061	4,980,939	3,946,878
Average total financial net worth (UGX)	5,516,640	8,357,454	2,840,814
% of HH that exited extreme poverty	61	71	10

Figure 5 below also shows how the increase in income translated into better asset holding status of the households.

Figure 5: Household asset ownership by gender (%)



f) Women empowerment status

Table 10 below also shows the gains women made in empowerment. However, while major positive inroads were made in asset ownership and participation in decision making, exposure to gender based violence has been very dismal.

Table 10: Selected indicators for women empowerment (%)

	Baseline	Endline	Project gross gains
Women who Own Household Asset alone or jointly:			
· Land	31	78	47
· Cash savings	40	98	58
· Livestock	39	97	58
· Bicycles	39	96	57
· Radio and phones	39	98	59
Women Participation in Decision-making on:			
· Major farm inputs	43	100	57
· Family planning	39	94	55
· Fees for children's education	44	99	55
· Sale of farm harvest	43	94	51
· Major use of family income	43	100	57
Women who Experienced Gender Violence:			
· Physical abuse	2	1	-1
· Verbal abuse	14	11	-3
· Sexual abuse	1	1	0
· Negligence	2	1	-1
· Denial of access to resources or community group	4	1	-3

d) Other non-planned impacts

From the various FGDs and KII as well as literature review a number of positive changes were identified namely:

- The beneficiary smallholder farmer group members are now believed to have a positive attitude towards hard work in order to succeed (locus of control). They exhibit personal discipline towards work and are self-motivated to do their work.
- The formation of farmer groups and the Cooperative was reported to have built social cohesion among members who initially worked in isolation.
- The advocacy skills imparted to group members and cooperative leaders has improved their confidence to engage and demand for service delivery from the Sub County Lower Local Government.
- Through the project women are in leadership position at both farmer group levels and in the Cooperative. This has enhanced their social space and voice for women within those institutions and local government.
- Family development planning has given women more say in their family affairs. It has also curbed wasteful spending as families direct their incomes to meet their plans.
- The presence of Community Health Frontline Advisors in the new groups has led to increased awareness and improvement in sanitation and hygiene practices.

- Some groups have realized the need for ownership of group assets such as land brings out a sense of belonging.

3.4 Major factors that influenced project performance

Finally, the various respondents were also asked, what in their views were the major factors that influenced the achievement of the objectives and results noted above. The following key drivers were identified:

- Family development planning using the vision road journey training instilled in a new forward looking (life goal) attitude where families set and pursued clear vision/goal to achieve (or aspiration). This harnessed family resources (land, labour, time and funds) for a shared goal.
- VSLA methodology together with training in IGA management and financial literacy provided opportunity for poor excluded smallholder farmers to save, take loans, invest in productive activities, manage their monies well and invest for the future.
- Provision of many inputs that enabled diversification of both food and income sources. Compared to government programmes, noted one political leaders, where only one input is provided and when it fails that is the end of the intervention, SURE opened the door for engaging in multiple but interrelated ventures. This reduced exposure to risks and increased opportunities for growth.
- Working in collaboration between project team, peer trainers and local government officials. Continuous project team and local government staff interaction with the smallholder farmer group members and the cooperative leaders by providing career guidance, counseling, regular follow-up, participatory monitoring with feedback, training and start-up kits gave motivation and incentive to develop positive attitude towards work and enabled the smallholder farmer group members and the cooperative to concentrate on their work. The District Production Officer (DPO) Zombo District Local Government emphasized the importance of holding the hands of smallholder farmer group members and walking with the learners makes them develop sense of ownership and realize the significance to work hard to meet their daily and future household growth needs.
- The formation of Cooperative provided additional inspiration especially among the elderly who knew the benefits of Cooperatives before they collapsed in the 1990s. This brought hope to the people to work hard for a shared future.

4.0 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The KII and FGD respondents as well as literature review sought to identify which measures and strategies were put in place by AFARD to ensure the sustainability of the project impacts and whether or not the the Cooperative was effective in sustaining the project results. Below are the findings.

4.1 Sustainability strategies

Below were the main strategies identified for sustaining impacts:

- The presence of farmer group based extension peer trainers – Lead Farmers and VSLA mentors – has continued to provide beneficiaries access to knowledge and skills from within their communities as government-based extension services are hard to come by. As it is now, one government extension staff serves 10,000 families and this makes them inaccessible.
- Functioning VSLAs at group members with increased share values has continued right from the farmer group formations to date to provide opportunities for members to save, access loans and build seed fund for either business or productive asset acquisition. Many of these groups hardly have access to formal financial institutions that work in mainly in urban areas.
- Multiple revenue base – crops, livestock, alternative IGAs – continues to provide the targeted households access to diverse income sources and opportunities to mitigate livelihood shocks. A beneficiary pointed out that,

While I used to wait for 3-4 months for only beans to sell now I have regular income sources. Daily, I sell some silver fish and earn some income. Weekly I sell at least 2-5 bunches of bananas. Monthly, I sell at least 2-3 chickens. Every 3 months, I sell some beans and Irish potato. Put together, now there is regular flow of income into my household and we have been able to use this income well to expand our businesses (farm sizes, etc), improve our well being (feeding, clothing and housing), and buy assets for the future so that when we get old and are unable to farm we can sell some of the animals to meet our needs.

- The establishment of the cooperative which although young has succeeded in mobilizing youth and the elderly to work in strategic commodities for collective marketing. To date the Cooperative is providing better opportunities for collective bulking, price negotiation, and marketing.

4.2 Effectiveness of the Cooperative in sustaining impacts

The Jangokoro United Farmers' Cooperative as was noted is a young Cooperative that is hardly 2-3 years old. The Cooperative has been supported to develop a business plan and was provided basic equipment such as 01 tricycle and 01 floor scale (medium duty) together with various training for its Board/Executive and Committee members on management and governance, business management, marketing, financial management and audit, and risk management, advocacy, gender mainstreaming.

A review of the annual report revealed that the Cooperate had only UGX 13 million operating capital from which it was able to make UGX 8 million before tax profit. A farther look at the Cooperative business plan showing that it needed over UGX 100 million (including some of the inputs already provided) to be profitable leads but to one critical observation, "it will take the Cooperative a long time at the current status to be self sustaining." This means, in its current financial status, it is unable to sustain the economic impacts the beneficiaries have achieved (as some already intimated the urge to sell to other traders).

4.3 Critical challenges affecting Cooperative sustainability potential

The various respondents we talked to pointed out the following key impediments to the Cooperative growth:

- Inaccessibility to quality seeds. The project supplied improved seeds in 2021 and 2023. Some of the seeds have lost viability given the many production rotations they have gone through (5-6 cycles). As members continue to produce from these same seeds, low yields are the norm. Yet, accessing foundation seeds from Kabale national research center is exceptionally expensive in terms of cost for seeds, transport and damage while on transit. In the long run, the Cooperative will not have its projected outputs to sell thereby worsening its market position.
- Limited business capital as the Cooperative is depending on members shares. This limits its ability to buy produce in the volume available from its members as well as to increase its profitability. The current UGX 13 million at UGX 120,000 per bag can only buy 108 bags of Irish potato (what only one farmer with two acres of land can produce). With limited funds to increase its business turn-around trading cycle, it can only grow its profits at snail speed.
- Lack of space. The Cooperative currently operate in a rented small office which also doubles at production and sales time as a store. The size of the space in itself cannot allow it to grow its sales through buying and hoarding to monitor market conditions. In addition, the market is increasingly becoming competitive in its demand for quality produce. This requires not just good production but also better post-harvest (on-field and in-store) management.
- Limited business management capacity. The Cooperative leaders are mainly primary and lower secondary school leavers. They lack business management skills and exposure necessary to position the Cooperative as a key market actor. Their ability to translate the business plan into annual plans and project sales is too weak. This can not stir a faster growth opportunity for the Cooperative and its members.
- Low literacy levels. Majority of the Cooperative leaders are (semi)literate. They are unable to read and write. This gap does not only affect their individual business management but it also affects the ability to have rotational leadership in the Cooperative executive and committee positions.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

From the above findings, the overall conclusion is that SURE project has been successfully implemented within budget, time and with the desired results. Families are food and income secure. Women have also gained more empowerment in asset ownership and family decision-making although some few continue to experience domestic or gender based violence. The functional sustainability strategies are more effective at the targeted households levels with the Cooperative, as is, still very weak to harness and be a point of reference for the communities.

What more needs to be done to strengthen the Cooperative ability to sustain impacts?

From our discussions with the various stakeholders, it was pertinent that the following will help build the Cooperative into a strong and democratic institution:

Gaps	Suggested solutions
Inaccessibility to quality seeds	Engage the Cooperative in seed potato multiplication both on its land and demonstration plots of the farmer group members. This will reduce dependence on seed supply from Kabale. It will also diversify the Cooperative revenue stream, build member loyalty (given its new monopoly in seed supply) but it will also leverage its relationship with government research institution.
Limited business capital	Secure booster capital or interest free loan to capitalize the business growth. With additional funds, the Cooperative will increase both its buying and sales volume thereby increasing its customer and member loyalty but also profitability. This fund can drive its other growth needs such as recruiting professional managers, procuring equipments, but also undertaking construction works necessary for its to operate.
Lack of space	Seek funding support towards the construction of a physical infrastructure that will provide ample space for safe storage of produce and an office. Funds permitting, securing a hall (for meeting and trainings) will be an added advantage.
Lack of business management skills	In the short term, funds permitting, it is important to hire a Business Development Officer on a 2-year contract to help the Cooperative streamline its business operations (systems development, and business growth). This officer will also be mandated to ensure transfer of skills through training of elected Cooperative leaders in business management skills, compliance with government regulations, etc.
Low literacy levels	Start a Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) program to provide basic reading and writing skills and knowledge for the Cooperators.

CASE STUDIES

Case 1: Banana Growing and Livelihood Improvement

Abudu Arima is aged 57 years, a married man who is the chairman of Kwer Kabu Can group in Padea Town Council having 5 children and 5 extended family members all are depending on him for their survival.

Before, SURE project came to them in 2021, he used to grow low yielding traditional Irish potato variety, beans, maize, cassava and few stools of cooking banana (Matooke) for his livelihood. Beans and cassava were grown for sale and would get UGX 250,000 from 0.5 to 1 acre of beans and cassava and the money he would use for paying school fees and meeting, medical bills which was always not enough. They would also sell goats and pigs to help complete school fees for the children.



Situation changed after the COVID 19 lock down in 2022 where all his produce had no market and he could not adequately support the family, thank God Ms. Abidok Trinity (AFARD officer) approached them, sensitized the community about group formation, supported him with Irish potato seeds, 7 chicken, 200 banana suckers, organic fertilizers, 200 coffee seedlings, fruit trees and timber trees.

In 2022, the Irish potato did not yield well as the seeds have degenerated and very heavy rain also affected it and in 2023, he started harvesting his cooking banana that he has expanded to 3 acres from suckers provided. From the 3 acres of banana, he sells the bunches for UGX 500,000 per week. With the money, Abudu managed to buy 6 goats each at UGX 100,000 (UGX 600,000) and the goats are now 18 each can be sold at UGX 150,000 giving UGX 2,700,000. From the



banana he has also built a 2-room semi-permanent house that he plans to cement the floor and build another house for a store and shop at UGX 8 million and now comfortably he is paying UGX 103,000 School fees per term for his 3 children in a private primary school and can support the family. In 2 years' time he will be smiling more as he will start harvesting his coffee and the fruit trees increasing his household income.



Annex 3: Names of Persons Consulted

Location	Designation/ Group	Name	Contact
Zombo District Local Government	District Production Officer	Dr. Walter Kumakech	0782707711
	District Commercial Officer	Lamech Olum	
	AFARD project officer	Trinity Abidok	0777447180
	Ream Leader-SURE project	Godfrey Nimungu	
Jangokoro Sub County	LC 3 Chairperson	Charles Okecha	0775503298
	Parish Chief	Brian Angala	0788186385
	Agricultural officer	Nowel Wangu ic	0782287195
	Jangokoro United Farmers Cooperative Society Limited	Muhamad Silva Ukadha	0772456520
		Celsio Openytho	0775543537
		David Onyuthpirwoth	0785598521
		Scovia Acaye	
		Awekunimungu Zulaika	
		Peter Opoki	
		Amia Florence	
		Apio Liberty	
	Cana group	Florence Acan	
		Collins Kwiyocwiny	0789052404
		Sika Akumu	
		Everlyn Kawambe	0778082677
		Stephen Okonya	0783303268
Robert Anican			
Jenety Ngamita			
Joice Maractho			
Padea Town Council	LC 3 Chairperson	Melki Orwothwun	0778155757
	Kwer Kabu Can	Abudu Arima	
		Grace Ozelle	
		Marijan Onyuthuwun	

		Florence Kawambe	
	Can Tegu Ju	Jonathan Ocanda	0763357816
		Athuanet Aromborac	0789264234
		Judith Kayeny pamungu	
		Jeta Aduba	
		Jamila Biwaga	
		Naima Ozelle	
		Charles Owonda	0760328192

Annex 4: PROJECT INDICATORS PERFORMANCE

Intervention's Logic	Indicators	Baseline	SURE targets II	Final 2023
Specific aim: To empower 227 smallholder farmer households (56% females) to increase their production, consumption and marketing of diversified agricultural commodities.	% increase in food security status ⁶ in targeted households	49	95	100
	% reduction in the proportion of targeted households that exit asset poverty ⁷	61	64	71
	% increase in the number of targeted women beneficiaries who report being empowered ⁸	28	73	70
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 ⁹	14	95	100
	R1.2: % of targeted households have own kitchen garden	54	100	100
	R1.3: % of targeted households eat diversified foods	83	100	100
	R1.4: Targeted households have at least 10 surviving fruit trees planted	29	100	100
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	100
	R2.2: % of targeted households save €5 monthly in their VSLA	38	75	93
	R2.3: % of targeted households use at least 4 good business management practices ¹⁰	0	25	18
	R2.4: % of targeted households sell their farm produce through collective marketing or cooperative society	2	100	71
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	75	61
	R3.2: % of targeted households attend annual village planning meetings	49	100	74
	R3.3: % of targeted households benefited from local government budget support	24	35	73

⁶ 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

⁷ Asset poverty is measured using financial net worth (of cash, savings and value productive assets) that affords decent living above \$1.90 poverty

⁸ Women empowerment refers to more decision making, more asset ownership rights, and reduction in exposure to violence

⁹ Practices include use of timely planting, correct spacing, intercropping with cover crops, organic pesticides, tree planting, and improved postharvest handling

¹⁰ Practices include having a legally registered business, sales promotion, separating personal and business finance, keeps business records.