

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SMALLHOLDER FARMERS (SURE) PROJECT

PROJECT BRIEF

INTRODUCTION

Smallholder farmers' families in Jangokoro Sub County, Zombo district, Uganda face high reliance on subsistence agriculture, limited income diversification strategy, limited participation in local decentralized governance, and now COVID-19 pandemic that together has culminated into high rate of food, nutrition, and income security. The Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder Farmers' (SURE) Project seeks to address these challenges building on its intervention in the area by organizing 335 vulnerable smallholder farm households (56% women) into 10 farmer groups (05 farmer groups already exists in the sub county) through a multipurpose cooperative society. In this Cooperative, the farmer group 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.

Target beneficiaries

Targets	Farmer groups			Household population		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
05 old groups (Adiober, Canmwa, Canbithum, Cana, and Nyagak)	99	111	210	594	666	1,260
05 new groups to be formed (in Allo, Limu, Ayabu, Olyeku, and Nzense villages)	50	75	125	300	450	750
Total	149	186	335	894	1,116	2,010

Note: the number of old groups was based on the group register at the end of project. The number of new groups is based on 25 people per group

PROJECT FOCUS

Using the sustainable agricultural intensification approach combined with community micro financing, and participation in local governance, the project seeks to trigger environmentally-friendly and gender-sensitive production, and marketing of diversified agricultural commodities that will guarantee male and female members alike improved food and nutrition security, exit out of extreme poverty, and women empowerment. Thus, 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."

Key stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities

Stakeholders	Roles and responsibilities
Beneficiaries	Participate in the identification of group members; advise project team; actively participate in all group activities including VSLA, attend capacity building trainings; provide peer support in groups; participate in monitoring of, and provide feedback on implementation of project activities; and engage in learning events.
Local government	Identify project intervention areas; facilitate access to community structures; provide technical support to groups, monitor and provide feedback on project implementation; participate in learning events.
AFARD	Overall project management; facilitate group formation; recruit and equip staff; procure and distribute inputs; coordination and oversight of project planning; implement, monitoring, learning and evaluation; disseminate lessons learnt; and donor reporting and accounting.

Key results and activities

Expected results	Expected results	Key activities
1. Increased production and consumption of diversified agricultural foods in targeted households (56% females)	<p>R1.1: 65% of targeted male/female headed households use good agricultural and climate smart practices¹</p> <p>R1.2: 90% of targeted male/female headed households have own kitchen garden</p> <p>R1.3: 75% of targeted male/female headed households eat diversified foods</p> <p>R1.4: Targeted male/female headed households have each at least 10 surviving fruit trees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form and register 05 new beneficiary groups (with 125 members, 60% females) and train members in group dynamics Select and train 20 Lead Farmers (50% females) Provide agro-inputs: Irish potato – 435 bags; Bananas – 12,500 suckers; Beans (NABE 14) – 2,125 Kgs; 125 Watering cans; 125 Spray pump; 6,500 local poultry; and 6,700 tree seedlings. Arabica coffee – to be secured from Coffee Development Authority and group members are expected to procure 270 bags of organic fertilizers as a precondition to receiving Irish potato seeds. Conduct 100 training sessions in climate smart agronomy Conduct 40 training sessions in safe nutrition and kitchen gardening
2. Increased income of targeted households (56% females) from diversified on-farm livelihood activities.	<p>R2.1: 75% of targeted male/female headed households have both farm and non-farm income generating activities</p> <p>R2.2: 50% of targeted male/female headed households save €5 monthly in their VSLA</p> <p>R2.3: 10% of targeted male/female headed households use at least 4 good business management practices²</p> <p>R2.4: 85% of targeted male/female headed households sell their farm produce through collective marketing or cooperative society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train 05 VSLA mentors, support them to conduct 35 training sessions in VSLA methodology, and provide 05 VSLA kits Conduct 35 training sessions in IGA-selection, planning, and management Form and strengthen a producer cooperative Conduct agribusiness mentoring and coaching through market surveys, market linkages and business coaching Conduct 10 training sessions in financial literacy
3. Local government plans and budget are responsive to local needs and aspirations	<p>R3.1: 75% of targeted male/female headed households report awareness of their rights to local government development plans</p> <p>R3.2: 90% of targeted male/female headed households attend annual village planning meetings</p> <p>R3.3: 05% of targeted male/female headed households benefited from local government budget support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct 10 awareness sessions on human and women's rights Train Coop and farmer group leaders in advocacy skills Conduct one dialogue meeting
<p>Transverse activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit and induct project staff; and procure logistics a digital camera, laptop, and motor cycle Hold a stakeholder briefing meeting Conduct a baseline study Conduct 08 management monitoring visits Strengthen community COVID-19 response (including with 345 hand washing facilities and 150 liter of fuel district task force). Conduct 01 district closeout meeting Conduct 01 annual audit. 		

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

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