

PERIODIC REPORT (MARCH-JUNE 2015)

BkB FARM and the FAMILY DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Introduction

BkB farm has for the last seven year served the community as an organic demonstration farm. Farmers, school children, leaders, farmer groups, and tertiary students have all taken advantage of learning with us. The areas of interest have always been demand driven. Such areas covered include: organic farming, vegetable production, nutrient recycling and composting, soil and water conservation, livestock production, agro-processing and post-harvest handling, to mention but a few.

In 2013 we realized that most farmers in rural areas needed our services but were too poor to afford transporting themselves to our farm. These farmers for example live at a distance of about 60 miles away from the farm. As an intervention to educate these farmers in their own villages and farms the idea of establishing Family Demonstration Gardens (FDG) was developed. This started in July 2014 in Kakiri Sub-County, Wakiso District. We started with two demonstration gardens at Ssentema and Katiiti. In January 2015 we opened up two more: Naggulu and Naddangira.

This report will therefore cover:

1. Progress of the first two demonstration gardens (Ssentema and Katiiti) over one year
2. Progress of the second demonstration gardens (Naggulu and Naddangira) over 6 months
3. Progress of the main BkB farm over one year.
4. Challenges
5. Future Plans

PROGRESS OF THE FIRST TWO DEMONSTRATION GARDENS at Ssentema and Katiiti over one year:

At Ssentema, the garden is located at Nalongo Mubiru's homestead, about 1km from Kakooge Trading Centre. By 24th June, farmers were visited at their own family gardens. Farmers showed varying degrees in managing their gardens as shown in the table below. **At Katiiti**, the demonstration garden is located at Nakintu Zubedah's homestead just close to the road leading to Katiiti T.C.

Participants have learnt how to grow different crops including onions, leeks beet roots, sesame, leaf cabbage, sun flower, amaranths, okra and kale which were not common in their traditional cropping system. They have also shown interest in consuming them.



Enrollment: Each has 2 or more spouses / dependents

Category	Males	Females	Total
Local leaders involved	06	13	19
Pioneer farmers	04	10	14
Farmer trainees at Ssentema	05	29	34
Farmer trainees at Katiiti	18	06	24
Total	33	58	91

Comparing individual family gardens to the Family Demonstration Garden's objectives: production of enough food in terms of quality and quantity and to minimize malnutrition among communities.

Location	Established Gardens:Total	Flourishing Gardens	Poorly Managed Gardens	Discontinued Gardens
Ssentema	34	20	07	04
Katiiti	24	13	05	03
Total	58	33	12	07

Comparison by gender

Category	Gender	Katiiti	Ssentema
Active gardens	Males	02	00
	Females	11	20
Average take up	Males	01	00
	Females	04	07
Low take up	Males	02	01
	Females	01	03
No take up	Males	00	00
	Females	03	02
Totals		24	34

The project was dominated by female participants as compared to males. This is probably because in their traditional settings, women are obliged to feed the family while men take on financial issues.



Some participants dropped out because they expected to have cash thrown at them which was not in the project design.

Land tenure system does not favour most women. This is why those who appear in the discontinued category are mostly females: those divorced or lost ownership of farmland.

Most participants in the poorly managed category have gardens but these are not well managed and lack diversity.

Farmers in the flourishing category have well managed gardens. In addition to food production and consumption, some have done agro-processing. For example Dimitria Kiyinji processes Kaawa (coffee) from soya and okra seeds. She roasts them, crushes and mixes them well to produce an aromatic mixture which tastes good with milk or plain water. She has started selling these to members. Another person is Zawedde who harvested 45kgs of beans. She planted 2.5kgs. She plans to eat, sell and plant some in the coming season.





Farmers like Nalujja of Katiiti have opened up a need to sell the surplus. For example she planted less than 500gms of amaranths and harvested between 15-20kgs. This lady wets seeds of sun flower, scratches off the seed coat to remain with the inner contents. When roasted and eaten, the taste, nutrient content and aroma are all good.

To complete the project at Ssentema and Katiiti we need to:

- help the villagers to develop businesses
- produce a simple illustrated reference manual
- acknowledge success by awarding certificates

PROGRESS OF THE SECOND DEMONSTRATION GARDENS at Naggulu and Naddangira over 6 months

Enrollment: Each of these participants has 2 or more spouses / dependents at home.

Category	Males	Females	Total
Local leaders involved	03	07	10
Pioneer farmers	02	05	07
Farmer trainees at Naggulu	06	43	49
Farmer trainees at Naddangira	00	19	19
Total participants	11	74	85



We have gone through all stages of agronomy such as seedbed preparation, manure application, seed selection, planting, spacing, watering, weeding and thinning up to harvesting. The turn up is still good with 2-3 cases of drop out at Naddangira and Naggulu respectively



PROGRESS OF BKBs ORGANIC DEMONSTRATION FARM OVER 6 MONTHS



- We have bred 48 piglets since March 2015
- We received a pregnant nanny goat in April
- We harvested 5 liters of honey in December 2014
- Henry (our boar) serves female sows in sequences hence giving us piglets at different periods of the year
- We have raised over 200,000/= from sale of vegetables and bananas.
- Milk sales have been 12 liters x 120days x 1400/= totaling to 2,016,000/=
- Eggs have also been sold to a tune of 160 trays from 68 birds giving a total sale of 1,120,000/=
- 15 farmers from Kakiri visited our farm and 24 kids Jolly Kindergarten plus 2 teachers.



Future plans for the Organic Demonstration Farm

- Expand the income generating projects such as the poultry and the piggery so as to raise enough funds and employ armed security personnel
- Stocking more farm tools, machinery, old engine parts which are so important in training agricultural mechanization to both secondary and tertiary students. This will make us a viable substitute to Kabanyoro which is a giant center for mechanization needed by schools.
- Partner with agricultural training schools which can send their students to our farm, already Mbuye farm school has shown interest.
- Take up more villages for the Family Demonstration Gardens.

