

TUBERS for business



OXFAM

CONTENTS



About the Cassava Project 3



About Oxfam 4

Project Partners 5



About the Groups 8

Planting, Harvesting & Tasting 10



Grinding & Drying Process 12

Project Impact 14

Conclusion 16



About The Cassava Project

Project Objective

To improve the food and income security situation of 2,500 direct beneficiaries in the Districts of Oyam and Pader in Northern Uganda through applied research on cassava to boost production and utilization by 2018.

Cassava Applied Research for Food Security is a 3-year project (2016-2018) designed to improve the food security situation of 2,500 direct beneficiaries of which 60% are female in districts of Pader and Oyam in Northern Uganda. This project focuses on cassava, one of the most important staple crops in this region. To sustainably improve the food security situation, this initiative aims to boost production and utilization and improve market access. The project is implemented through a co-creation approach, where NaCRRI, works closely with farmers, A2N and Oxfam.

The Project interventions are based on applied research where NACRRI is working with farmers to evaluate and test the near-release six cassava varieties; increase farmers' knowledge on disease management, increase farmer access to quality cassava planting materials and improve quality of cassava and cassava products for better market access.

The co-creation approach: This project brings together the different partners to develop the cassava value chain. In this approach, there is a clear common interest to work on the proposed issues by all partners involved. The scale of the challenges of food insecurity in Pader and Oyam in northern Uganda is too big for a single actor to solve; it requires joint forces from partners with different but complimentary roles, as there is a need to have a multitude of skills and mandates working together on improving food security from different perspectives.



Oxfam is a global organisation working in more than ninety (90) countries all over the world. Oxfam's vision is a world without poverty where everyone exercises his or her rights and responsibilities.

Oxfam in Uganda works to create a world free of extreme inequality and injustice where every citizen particularly women and youth have a right to a secure livelihood and are actively participating in taking decisions on issues that affect their own lives.

To ensure empowerment, Oxfam looks at citizens as people who are actively participating and contributing to their own livelihoods, not as passive recipients.

"There is something that is dignifying about the fact that there is enormous ability now to put food at the table as opposed to that given by somebody else," says Peter Kamalingini B.L. Oxfam In Uganda Country Director.

Oxfam's purpose is to work with others to create lasting solutions to the injustice of poverty.



National Crops Resources Research Institute

Project Partners

The National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) is one of the sixteen Public Agricultural Research Institutes under the policy guidance and co-ordination of the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO). NaCRRI is mandated to generate, develop and disseminate appropriate crop technologies, methods and knowledge on crops of national importance. The current research intervention include, development and dissemination of stress-tolerant, disease and pest management, post-harvest management, bio-fortification of staple crops, conservation of genetic resource conservation, increased shelf-life, value addition and innovative Biosciences research and training.

“Cassava is a very important crop for food security. We have to continue to work with communities so that they can grow enough for their consumption and for business. It has a lot of potential for income generation. We want to see cassava farmers in the market place adding value through processing and make good profits. When we start seeing this, we will know that we are making an impact and poverty levels will start dropping evidenced by farmers moving to better housing, being able to pay school fees and medical bills. Our aim is to use cassava to transform communities.

”

Dr Titus Alicia,
Principal Researcher, NARO





Africa 2000 Network

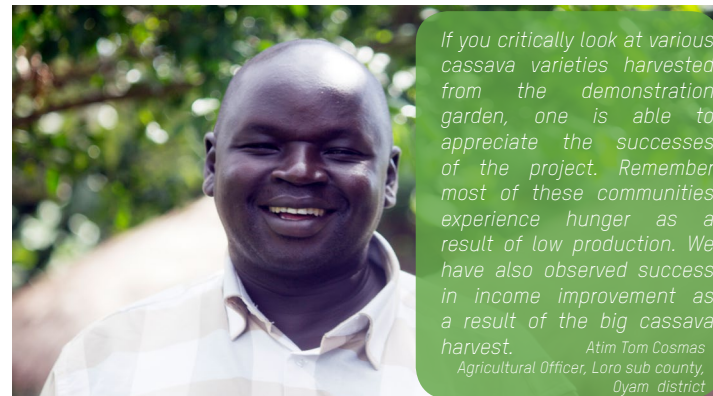
Africa 2000 Network was conceived in 1986 at a United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Critical Economic Situation in Africa as a UNDP project for small grants in 13 African countries, Uganda inclusive. In Uganda project activities commenced in 1990 with focus on grassroots initiatives in the area of sustainable agriculture. A2N Uganda in partnership with Oxfam has been supporting the post conflict communities in Northern Uganda since 2012 through promoting inclusive sesame and cassava value chains for food security and sustainable livelihoods. The cassava project is the first one of its kind to be implemented using a consortium approach and Oxfam provides technical and financial support to the consortium.

“

Cassava is a staple crop in this area. As the population grows and food becomes scarce, cassava is becoming a cash crop as well. The people eat cassava, they sell the stems, they sell the roots and get some additional income, which they so badly need. We have already adopted the demos from the methodologies our partners have utilized and we will promote it in our various interventions.

”

*Christopher Kyeswa
Executive Director, A2N*



If you critically look at various cassava varieties harvested from the demonstration garden, one is able to appreciate the successes of the project. Remember most of these communities experience hunger as a result of low production. We have also observed success in income improvement as a result of the big cassava harvest.
*Atim Tom Cosmas
Agricultural Officer, Loro sub county,
Oyam district*



Farmers are now knowledgeable and have the capacity to sustain this project through offering training support to other farmers and engaging duty bearers as part of their growth journey.

*Charity Chalangat
Project Officer Livelihood and Value Chain - Oxfam*



Looking at the positive change already realized within the few groups that have been reached. We intend to fundraise more to scale up this project and the focus of this is to intensify processing and value addition aspects of the value addition so as to produce more cassava products beyond stems and tubers.

*Geoffrery Okao Okujja
Research Assistant
NaCRRI*



If we manage to get some funds or grant, then our priority will be processing and marketing. Production will always increase when the market is guaranteed. Processing and marketing is very crucial.

*Robert Akena
Field Extension Officer A2N*



This project has helped me support the orphaned children I live with. Whenever, I am in need, I am able to get a loan from the group savings and pay back with interest of 10 percent. Besides training, this is another way we gain from the project.

Isha Amwonyo Hamza
Orib Cing Farmers' Group
Oyam District



After the training, we now select a good and conductive portion of land to plant our cassava. As group members, we share our new knowledge with other farmers outside the group to develop good practices and ensure increased yields and this is good for marketing.

Judith Ogang
Orib Cing Farmers' Group
Member
Oyam District

This project has changed our lives through training on cassava farming and management. We harvested 23 sacks of cassava tubers, which we sold and earned 2,070,000 Ugandan Shillings. We also sold the cuttings and got 850,000 Ugandan Shillings. We also bought oxen, which we use to plough. Our vision, now that we have six gardens of cassava as a group is to get a chipping machine.

Dina Apwonyo
Chairperson
Gen bedi Farmers' Group,



Under cassava processing, we farmers have been trained on how to chip and process cassava for purposes of turning it into shreds for easy drying and storage. We harvest, peel and wash the cassava immediately then take it into the chipping machine to chip them into shreds. Then we spread the shreds on a clean tarpaulin and leave it to dry under the sun.

Margaret Acan
Oruukit Farmers Group
Pader District

Planting, Harvesting & Tasting



The process includes the training of farmers on how to form groups and budget and use it wisely. Farmers are also given cassava cuttings which they plant in a demonstration garden as a group. During harvesting, each plant was individually uprooted, roots grouped into marketable and non-marketable, depending on size. The number of roots for each group was counted and weighed separately so that the total number and weight for each variety is obtained. Each root was transversely cut 5 times to check for the presence of CBSD root necrosis in the flesh. During tasting, each harvested variety selected, a few representative roots, are peeled, washed and cut into small pieces for raw taste. The remaining peeled tubers are wrapped into banana leaves by variety and boiled for cooked taste. The raw and cooked roots are put on the plate, tasted by variety and response got.



In our demonstration garden we have NASE14, NAROCASS 1, NASE 19, and our local variety known as BAO. I have already planted 10 acres of cassava, mainly NAROCASS 1.

*Jasper Otim
Cassava farmer,*



I encourage my fellow women to rise up and stand strong, form a group and start farming, not only for home consumption, but also for business. In that way, we will become a good example to the community.

*Grace Ogwang
Cassava farmer,
Loro sub county, Oyam district*



At home, we prepare, cook and taste our cassava yields. All the varieties are prepared, labeled and packed in same saucepan, cooked maximally and tasted to determine the best variety which we select for planting next time.

*Beatrice Okumu
Cassava farmer,
Loro sub county, Oyam district*



Grinding and Drying Process

Under cassava processing, farmers are trained on how to chip and process cassava tubers turning the tubers into shreds for easy drying and storage. Here cassava is harvested, peeled and washed immediately before being taken into the machine for chipping. It is then spread on a clean tarpaulin and the shreds are left to dry.



Project Impact



14



We expect to have our new house next year roofed with iron sheets which we bought out of our cassava harvest. Santa Oyella (left) and Walter Komakec



We also encourage other farmers to prevent cassava infections and spread of bacteria. We show them the signs of infected cassava and compare it to the healthy one. This helps them understand and learn. Judith Ogang, Oyam District



We acknowledge all the support received from Oxfam, without which it would not be possible for A2N Uganda to work effectively with the farming communities in northern Uganda.

Robert Akena
Field Extension Officer A2N



Cassava is a very very important crop for food security. So we want to continue growing it on a large scale that will sustain us and transform the lives of our families.

Abdallah Opio
Chairperson
Orib Cing Farmers' Group
Oyam district

15

Conclusion

Given the fact that the farmers now have the knowledge and have the access to clean planting materials of the different cassava varieties, the production is expected to increase. As a result, the implementing partners will work towards creating market linkages and ensure that farmers are able to negotiate for fair prices for their cassava products. Looking at the positive change already realized within the few groups that have been reached, we intend to fundraise more to scale up this project and the focus of this is to intensify processing and value addition aspects to produce more cassava products beyond stems and tubers.

Call To Government

There is need for government to enact, review and/or implement the phytosanitary laws. This will help to control the movement of cassava planting materials. With this law in place transporting of planting materials to different regions and locations will be after they have been verified and confirmed to be disease free. This will reduce the spread of diseases.



For more information, contact:



National Crops Resources Research
Institute
P.O Box 7084, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 414573016
+256 414567649
Email: info@nacri.go.ug
Website: www.nacri.go.ug



Lower Kololo,
Plot 70 Bukoto Street
P.O. Box 21990
Tel No: (+256) 414 541 571
Kampala, Uganda



OXFAM

Plot No.3459, Tank Hill Rd, Muyenga
P.O.BOX 6220, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 414 390 500
Fax: +256 414 510 242
Email: kampalaoffice@oxfamnovib.nl
www.oxfam.org/uganda