



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PROJECT FOR THE RESTORATION OF LIVELIHOODS IN THE NORTHERN REGION (PRELNOR)

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AEATREC	Agricultural Engineering and Appropriate Technology Research Centre
AMIS	Agricultural Market Information System
ASAP	Adaptation for Smallholder AgricultureProgramme
AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget
CARs	Community Access Roads
CBFs	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CDD	Community Demand Driven Development
DFA	District Farmer's Association
DLG	District Local Government
DTPC	District Technical Planning Committee
FAAB	Farming as a Business
FY	Financial Year
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GoU	Government of Uganda
HH	Household
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFMS	Integrated Financial Management System
LAN	Local AreaNetwork
LED	Local Economic Development
LGSSP	Local Government Sector StrategicPlan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal, Industry and Fisheries
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MIS	Management information systems
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MoWT	Ministry of Works and Transport
MSP	Market stakeholder platform
MTIC	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NDP	National Development Plan
NRM	Natural Resource Management
ORMS	Operational Results Management Systems
PHH	Post-Harvest Handling
PIAMES	Planning, Monitoring and EvaluationSystem
PME	Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
	Programme Management Unit
PRELNOR	Project for the Restoration of Livelinoods in the Northern Region
PSU PSTO	Project Support Officer
REIS	Renewable Energy lecthologies
	Results impact Management System
	Road Management Continuitees
SDUS	Sustainable Lend Management
	Sustainable Lanu Mahayement
	Value Addition
	Value AUUIIUU Vaar ta Data
עוז	Ital-IU-Dalt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Project for the Restoration of Livelihoods in the Northern Region (PRELNOR) became effective on 05th August 2015 and had its Midterm Review in May, 2019. PRELNOR is being financed through an IFAD loan, an ASAP grant, a GoU contribution and beneficiary Contribution. It is being implemented in the Acholi sub region and Adjumani with the Ministry of Local Government as the Lead Implementing Agency. PRELNOR is delivering project services through various partners that include District Local Governments, District Farmers Associations of Adjumani and Gulu, the Uganda National Meteorological Authority and the NARO institutes of Ngetta ZARDI, Abi ZARDI and AEATREC. The project envisages delivery of its development objective through 1) support to rural livelihoods initiatives and 2) improving on and ensuring adoption of climate-resilient crop production systems; 3) Improving on market access infrastructure through construction of climate- resilient Community Access Roads and Market Infrastructure.

Building on the previous achievements, PRELNOR made significant strides in its implementation in Financial Year 2018/2019. Specifically, the second batch of 2000 (adding up to a total of 4000 out targeted 10,000) vulnerable households were mentored and provided with Food Security Grants. A number of intermediate outcomes were observed from the first cohort of vulnerable households, including households accumulating assets, joining groups, improving hygiene and a general improvement in welfare. The second batch of 208 (raising the total to 427 out of the targeted 600) CBNRM plans were developed and funded. Similarly, the second Batch of 600 (raising total to 1,200 out of the targeted 1,800) farmer groups were selected and Farmer Group activities initiated. Extension staff capacity was built (51 extension staff trained as Plant Doctors, 50 trained in Local Seed Business).

Consequently Farmer group capacity enhancement initiatives continued. Farmers purchased inputs of their choices using vouchers through Agro-input Trade Fairs, and participated in learning visits. Previously established adaptive Trials were evaluated and new trials established in season A 2019. The installed Renewable Energy Technologies are already bearing fruits; with some beneficiary institutions reporting savings of over 65% in firewood used. This has significantly reduced beneficiary institutions' expenses on firewood (up to 67% in some institutions), and most importantly, reducing pressure on the alarmingly dwindling tree cover in the project area. Beneficiaries of solar systems reported improved class /school attendance by pupils, and improvement in delivery of health services, especially in the maternity facilities for women during child birth.

One Sub Regional Market Stakeholder Platform was constituted and their members trained on their roles and responsibilities. The capacity of identified agribusiness Farmer Groups was built in FAAB/Simple Business Plans Development, Post-Harvest Handling and Value Addition. Demonstration on post-harvest handling and value addition was conducted. Agro input dealers and produce traders in the project area were profiled and farmer learning visits for leaders of Farmer Groups to understand PHH/VA innovations, Bulking and Market Linkages conducted. The first batch of CARs (614km) were designed and works on 606.1 km commenced. IFAD No-objection for procurement of design consultancy for the second batch (608.2km) of CARs was obtained and contracting is underway. Procurement of consultants for design of the third batch (329.8km) was at the financial proposal evaluation stage. Preliminary draft designs of the Satellite and Bulk Markets were completed.

During the period under review, several data collection tools and protocols were reviewed and developed and several assessments were conducted. There was continued capacity building of partners in Data collection, Reporting and Knowledge Management to improve on the quality of reports and knowledge management practices in the project. The Annual Work plan and Budget (AWPB) for the FY 2019/2020 was participatorily prepared and planning and review meetings with the implementing partners conducted. Communication/dissemination of information was heightened through use of various media, e.g. awareness materials, radio, website, social media and publications to share progress, lessons and best practices from the project with the various target audiences.

The total Project Budget, approved by IFAD, for FY 2018/19, was UGX 40.9 Bn and the total Expenditure was UGX 30.4Bn (74%).

There were, however, a few challenges during the course of the year. These included, delayed absorption by the districts partly due to the length of time taken to access funds through IFMS. The process is lengthy and requires that all funds are transferred to Bank of Uganda, warranted in IFMS before it is accessed. The process can take a month or so after funds have been sent to the districts before the implementers can access the funds. This has been exacerbated by the cash limit of 40 million per month per District as per PS/ST's instruction to all District Accounting Officers. Its being recommended, for MoFPED approval, that payment be made by the project, directly to Bank of Uganda Accounts. Cash Limit should only apply to funds released from the consolidated account by MoFPED. Donor funds should be limited by budget. Delayed procurement of two wheeled tractors resulted into a delay in all activities associated with to the 2-wheel tractor down stream.

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

PRELNOR became effective on 05th August 2015 and is in its third year of implementation. The project is being implemented in the 9 Districts of Adjumani, Agago, Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nwoya, Omoro and Pader.



MAP SHOWING THE PROJECT DISTRICTS

PRELNOR design is in line with the Uganda Vision 2040 which is the key Development focus for Uganda. The project directly addresses three of the eight priority areas of the Vision 2040: i.e. increasing household income and promoting equity, improving the stock and quality of economic infrastructure (including CARs) and promoting a sustainable population and use of the environment and natural resources. The project is aligned to NDP II (2015/16-2019/20), which is the second five-year National Development Plan (NDP) for implementing Vision 2040. The project is also aligned with the Local Government Sector Strategic Plan (LGSSP) 2013-2023.

The LGSSP addresses reforms such as Local Economic Development (LED), Community Driven Development (CDD) and managing Climate Change which are relevant to PRELNOR. Overall the project will contribute towards attainment of the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2) of "end famine, attain food security, improve nutrition and stimulate sustainable agriculture"

1.2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The overall Goal: Increased income, food security and reduced vulnerability of poor rural households in the programme area.

The Project Development Objective: Increased sustainable production, productivity and climate resilience of small holder farmers with increased and profitable access to domestic and export markets.

The Project Components:

The project is being implemented through three components:

Component A- Rural Livelihoods: The focus of this component is to improve agricultural production and productivity, especially of selected crop enterprises (Cassava, Rice, Maize and Beans) and climate resilience. This component has two sub-components namely (i) Community planning and capacity development and, (ii) Priority climate resilient crop production systems.

Component B- Market Linkages and Infrastructure: The focus of this component is to support farmers to engage in organised marketing. This component also aims at improving market access infrastructure. This component has two sub-components namely (i) Improved market access processes and, (ii) Market access infrastructure.

Component C- Project Management and Coordination: This Component ensures that the project is efficiently and effectively managed to achieve the expected results. Gender, youth, Climate Change, Environment, HIV/AIDS, Nutrition improvement, Knowledge management and communication considerations are being mainstreamed as cross-cutting issues in all aspects of project activities.

1.3 PROJECT FINANCING

The project is being financed by the GoU, an IFAD Loan, an ASAP grant and beneficiary contributions. IFAD loan financing is USD 50.2 million; the ASAP grant financing is USD 10 million; the GoU financing is USD 9.2 million and the beneficiaries are contributing up to USD 1.5 million (in cash or in kind).

1.4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

The Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) is the lead implementing agency for the project. MoLG is providing overall direction for project implementation, coordinating with other relevant Ministries and Agencies, and chairing the Project Policy Committee (PPC) that provides policy oversight. MoLG is also ensuring that counterpart funds and agreed contributions from Government are adequately budgeted and provided in a timely manner. Representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED); Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT); Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF); the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE); Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) and the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), with supervision and/or responsibility to provide policy guidance are members of the PPC. The PPC also co-opts representatives of the DLGs, Farmers and Traders Organisations, from time to time, to provide a strong link with the local stakeholders in the project area.

The Ministry of Local Government established the Project Management Unit (PMU) to manage and coordinate the project. The PMU is based in Gulu at the Bank of Uganda Regional Branch in Gulu Municipality with a liaison office at MoLG HQ in Kampala. This is to facilitate close supervision, coordination, technical support and collaboration with other development interventions in the nine project Districts.

The District level coordination and management of PRELNOR is being coordinated by the Chief Administrative Officers, supported by designated officers who include: (1) the Project Support Officer (PSO), who coordinates the implementation and technical supervision of activities at the District; (2) The Accountant, whose role is to ensure project expenditure ledgers are kept up to date and funds are duly accounted for and records are made available for audit and; (3) Project Infrastructure Manager, whose role is to oversee the infrastructure works (roads and markets) at the district level.

The project is also working with other Government Institutions such as the Uganda National Meteorological Authority and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) on RETs respectively. Weather information. The NARO institutes that include; the Agricultural Engineering and Appropriate Technology Research Centre (AEATREC) and the ZARDIs (Ngetta and Abi) are piloting appropriate smallholder mechanization demonstration and facilitating adaptive research and foundation seeds production respectively.

1.5 KEY BENEFITS EXPECTED

The overall expected benefits at end of project by 2022 are as follows:

- 10,000 vulnerable households mentored.
- 1,800 Farmer Groups supported to improve on their production and productivity levels, including building resilience to climate shocks.
- 21 weather stations installed/rehabilitated.
- 3 bulk and 8 satellite markets constructed.
- An estimated 1,550 KMs of Climate Resilient Community Access Roads constructed/ rehabilitated.
- Benefits from the investments will reach out to an estimated total of 155,000 Households in the 9 districts.

1.6 PROJECT PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Below is a table summarizing PRELNOR's implementation achievements in comparison with the key outputs planned in AWPB 2018/2019 and compared cumulatively with the overall project expected results.

	Physical progress measured against AWPB for Financial Year 2018/2019			Overall Progress measured against the overall project target			
Indicator	Unit	AWP&B 2018/19	Actual	% (AWP&B)	Project Targets	Cumula- tive Actual	% (cumu- lative)
Component A Rural L	ivelihoo	ds				•	
Sub-component A.1 (Commun	nity Plannin	g and Cap	pacity Devel	opment		
Output A.1.a Capacity	y of Farn	ner Groups	to plan a	nd impleme	nt group a	ctivities built	
Extension staff of DFAs and DLGs trained as TOTs in participatory village planning with a focus on Natural Resource Management (NRM)	number	-	-	-	-	125M / 69F	100%
CBFs trained in partici- patory village planning with a ocus on CBNRM	number	-	-	-	-	123 M / 77 F	100%
Community Based Nat- ural Resource Manage- ment plans in place	number	200	203	102%	600	420	70%
Farmer groups iden- tified and supported/ strengthened	number	600	626	104%	1,800	1,200	67%
Households (members of Farmer Groups) supported/strengthened	person	7,200M/ 10,800F	11,268M/ 7,512 F	104%	26,460 M / 27,540 F	21,600 M / 14,400 F	67%
Groupactionplans developed	number	600	626	104%	1,800	1,200	67%
Proportion of Farmer Groups with women in Leadership posi- tions	number	600	626	104%	540	1,200	223%
Knowledge sharing events conducted in each of the 100 parishes annually	number	100	100	100%	600	200	33%
Farmer groups graduated from capacity building	number	600	574	96%	1,800	574	32%
Output A.1.b Capacity of vulnerable households to identify and solve their problems strengthened.							
Vulnerable Households identified and mentored in a phasedapproach throughoutthe projectperiod.	number	2,000	2,000	100%	10,000	4,000	40%
Vulnerable HH that have graduated from Mentoring	number	2,000	2,000	100%	10,000	2,000	20%

Table 1: PRELNOR Performance Monitoring Table

Vulnerable HHthat were pro- vided with food security grant worth USD120	number	2,000	2,000	100%	10,000	4,000	40%
Youths that have graduated from mentoring and have been facil- itated to form or join existing farm- er groups and to engage in IGAs (Target 15%)	person	156 M / 144 F	231M / 214 F	148%	588 M / 612 F	231 M / 214 F	37%
Sub-component A	A.2 Priority	Climate Resi	lient Crop P	roduction	Systems		
Output A.2.a Pric	ority crop	production sy	stems are i	nore clim	ate resilient		
Households trained in good agronomic practices	number	18,000	18,780	104%	54,000	36,000	67%
Households trained in Local Seed Business	number	750	1500	200%	2,250	1,500	67%
Households trained in Com- munity Seed Production	number	300	300	100%	900	300	33%
Small scale adaptive Re- search & Devel- opment innova- tions tested in the project parish	number	100	100	100%	400	200	50%
2WT pilot demon- strations conduct- ed in each of the project sub counties	number	50	0	0%	50	0	0%
PHH technologies demonstrated in each of the project sub counties	number	50	0	0%	50	0	0%
ADP technologies demonstrated in each of the project sub counties	number	75	0	0%	75	0	0%
Farmer groups sup- ported in communi- tybased seedmultiplication	number	100	100	100%	300	100	33%
TOTs of DFAs/DLG extension staff trained in Communi- ty seed production	person	25 M / 27 F	27 M / 25 F	100%	30 M / 20 F	27 M / 25 F	104%
Number of Hect- ares of Land under climate resilient practices (ASAP)	hectare s	100,000	92,108	92%	200,000	92,108	46%
Community groups engaged in climate risk activities (ASAP)	number	600	600	100%	1,800	1,624	90%
Poor smallholder household	person	239,525	239,525	100%	715,000	476,520	67%

members sup- ported in coping with the effects of climatechange (ASAP)							
Output A.2.b Natu implemented	iral Resour	ce Manageme	ent initiatives w	hich complei	ment resilient	crop producti	on systems
Community based natural resource man- agement plans funded and implemented	number	200	203	102%	600	420	70%
Energy efficient stoves distrib- uted to house- holds in the targeted villages	number	4,000	2,000	50%	10,000	2,000	20%
Solar units in- stalled for institutions in the project area	number	20	20	100%	35	35	100%
Energy efficient stoves distribut- ed to institutions	number	30	0	0%	72	27	38%
Institutions benefiting from renewable energy technologies	number	50	20	40%	76	62	82%
Mentored house- holds benefiting from Renewable Energy Technolo- gies (RET)	number	4,000	2,000	50%	10,000	2,000	20%
Output A.2.C Agro	o-metrologi	cal informatio	on routinely coll	ected, analy	sed and disse	minated	
Automatic weather stations installed/rehabil- itate d	number	21	6	29%	21	6	29%
Persons provided with climate infor- mation services (ASAP)	person	114,972 M / 124,553 F	114,972 M / 124,553 F	100%	343,200M / 371,800F	114,972 M / 124,553 F	59%
Component B Ma	rket Linkag	es and Infrast	tructure				
Sub-component B.1 Improved Market Access Processes							
Functioning Multi	number	7				11	100%
stakeholders Platforms supported (RIMS)	number		,	10070			10070
One functioning sub regionalMar- ket Stakeholder Platforms consti- tutedand functional	number	1	1	100%	1	1	100%

Output B.1.b Capacity of market-oriented farmer groups and youth built in improved post-harvest handling practices and/or value addition.							
Market-oriented farmer groups trained on agribusiness	number	300	300	100%	1,000	539	54%
development.							
Market oriented farmer groups that have developed business plans	number	200	239	120%	500	239	48%
Sub-component B.	2 Market Ac	cess Infrastru	cture				
Output B.2. a Exist	ing commu	nity access roa	ads upgraded or	new roads co	onstructed in ur	derserviced a	areas
Rain water harvesting pilot sites mapped	number	4	0	0%	10	0	0%
Road Construc- tion Committees formed. Implementation and supervision activities	number	64	64	100%	105	105	100%
Contract value of new and existing rural infrastructure designed with climate resilient features	'000 UGX	36,840,000	54,486,295	148%	93,000,000	54,486,295	59%
Kilometers of CARs constructed/reha- bili tated	km	606	0	0%	1,550	0	0%

**M – Males; F – Female

SECTION TWO: PHYSICAL PROGRESS BY COMPONENT

2.1 COMPONENT A: RURAL LIVELIHOODS

2.1.1 SUB-COMPONENT A.1: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The FY 2018/2019 focused on: (i) Continuing with the Household mentoring of the second batch of 2000 vulnerable households; (ii) Provision of Food Security Grants to the second batch of 2000 mentored households; and (iii) Continued capacity building for both service providers and the project beneficiaries on Business Action Planning and Financial literacy; (iv) The 2nd Batch of 600 farmer groups were also taken on board and; (v) The 2nd Batch of 200 CBNRM planning processes were carried out.

2.1.1.1 Community Based Natural Resource Management Planning

1. Entry into the second Batch of 200 Villages for CBNRM Planning Process

The village entry processes were phased, breaking the village target of 600 in 3 batches. This reporting period, at least 208 villages were targeted. As was the case with the initial batch of villages, the entry process in each village involved a similar process of: (i) Community mobilization by the Sub-county Community Development Officer (CDO), DFA representative for Gulu and Adjumani, District Agricultural Staff, Parish Chief, CBFs, HH mentors and Local Leaders; (ii) Sensitization by the Sub-county CDO and Agricultural Officers; (iii) Participatory situation analysis including: Community-Based Resource mapping and CBNRM planning; identification and assessment of existing groups (such as farmer groups, self-help groups, rotating exchange-labour groups and VSLA groups); identification and ranking of main livelihood sources and income generating opportunities; and participatory market diagnostics; (iv) Ranking and selection of the 2nd batch of Farmer Groups amongst those meeting all the targeting criteria; and (v) identification and selection of vulnerable households for mentoring through wealth ranking.

Some of the key PRA tools used in this process included the village resource maps, historical profiles, transect walks, problem tree/opportunity tree analysis, seasonal/ daily calendars, pair wise ranking among others. Part of the Community planning involved the election of Project Management Committees (PMC) and completing of the CBNRM forms. These forms constituted the application for the 5,000 USD grant.



Transect walk and Sensitization for village entry-second batch in Pader District



Communities participating in PRA activity of Village Resource Mapping-2nd Batch of CBNRM in Lamwo District

By the end of April 2019, the 2nd batch of 208 had been completed and the field and desk appraisals had commenced. As some of the PRA teams had challenges of budgeting and separating the PRELNOR contribution and the Community Contribution, a refresher meeting was organised in August 2018 to reduce these challenges.



Transect walk and Sensitization for village entry-second batch in Pader District

2.1.1.2 Farmer Group Capacity Building

1. Commence Activities With The Second Batch Of 600 Farmer Groups

The 2nd batch of 626 Farmer Groups were selected by the Districts and DFAs and taken on board. Most of these groups were taken through the activities of Visioning and Gender Action Learning System (GALS), Group Governance training and Action planning. The 2nd batch of 626 Farmer Groups identified and selected in the CBNRM planning process were strengthened through training and capacity building, which was supported by the Sub-county staff, DFA extension staff and implemented by CBFs at parish level. Farmer Groups were trained on governance, leadership, group dynamics, visioning, GALS, Busi- ness Action Planning, financial literacy, record keeping, savings etc.

The process of Farmer Action Planning for the 2nd batch of 626 Farmer Groups for the prioritized market-oriented crop enterprises was guided by the AEFs, CBFs and CDOs.

The steps focused on:

- i) Setting out the WHO does WHAT, WHEN and also HOW within a specified timeframe to address the main interest/focus and/or common problems of members in the Group. Farmer Groups were guided to action plan by season and by enterprise.
- ii) The Group Action Plans were to provide a detailed guide for individual members to follow and accomplish targets beneficial for their individual businesses and farming activities.

2. Farmer Group Action Planning Process

The following Step by step process was done :

- A situational analysis of the farmer group (Conducting farmer group resource identification and analysis, discussing the extent to which each resource is utilized, identifying the gaps for resource utilization, identifying the opportunities for better utilization of available resources). Identifying and discussing external inputs/services necessary for efficient utilization of farmer group resources.
- ii) Conducting a Farmer Group enterprise selection using pair wise ranking/weighted criteria.
- iii) Preparing a Farmer Group vision journey diagram using the GALS methodology tool.
- iv Carrying out a problem tree analysis on the selected enterprise.
- v) Using a GALS methodology challenge action tree, analysing the groups' farming challenges.
- vi) Design unextension activities as a response to the identified problems and opportunities.
- vii) Coming up with an action plan matrix by the Farmer Group (which also takes care of the cross cutting issues).

3. Farmer Group Enterprises Selection

The second batch of 626 Farmer Groups also did enterprise selection during the action planning. They carried out profitability analysis and risk analysis of the various enterprises, which process guided them on which enterprises to engage in. Some Farmer Groups were also guided through the process using a pair wise ranking tool (PRA tool). All the Agricultural Extension Facilitators and CBFs were guided by the PMU on the step by step stages of preparing a group Action Plan. Each group came up with activities for the extension support, based on the group problem analysis.

4. Household Mentoring

Household mentoring involves the training of District Community Development Staff as supervisors; identification and training of suitable community members to serve as volunteer household mentors; community-based identification of vulnerable households during the village entry process that meet the criteria for individual mentoring and the implementation of household mentoring through a series of visits by mentors to the mentored households over a period of 12-24 months. The visits involve the wife, husband and adult children as well as other adult household members.

The mentoring process has five phases, starting with visioning of the household's current situation, and a vision of its expected situation at the end of the mentoring process and the road journey moving toward the desired future situation. After making a simple pictorial action plan, household members begin to implement the action plan. After several months of successfully implementing some elements of its action plan, the household is encouraged to join a farmer group and would then receive a food security grant of about 120 USD to assist in boosting household food production and/or providing opportunities to generate some cash income. The end of the process involves achievement of goals, weaning and graduation,

subject to monitoring by the Household mentors. Graduation implies that the household has achieved most of the goals in its action plan, such as household food security, putting children back in school, improved living conditions, hygiene and sanitation, increased savings capacity, higher income, greater self-confidence and higher participation in community groups.

5. Household Mentoring Process

Immediately after the household mentors were trained, the process of mentoring commenced with the first batch of 2000 vulnerable Households. Each trained household mentor was expected to support ten vulnerable households during the period beginning April-May 2017, most of these households had been weaned off by August 2018. The second batch of 2000 households (10 households per mentor) were selected in the period July-September 2018, weaning of this group was expected to end by September 2019. The mentoring process has 5 phases spread over a 12-24month period, with intensive weekly household visits during the first 9 months, followed by less frequent visits during the next 9 months.

6. Food Security Grants

The process of providing food security grants to the first batch of 2000 mentored households commenced with the identification and compilation of the respective house hold needs. The DLGs procured the services of the input dealers, following the agreed PPDA regulations (except Nwoya and Gulu, which experienced procurement delays). The input dealers were invited to supply the inputs and to display on an organised market day setting in the subcounties. All the beneficiary households used the vouchers, which had a monetary value for purchasing their inputs of interest. This whole process was guided by the Household mentors, CBFs, AEFs and CDOs who were present on this market day. All the vouchers were then redeemed by the CDOs and submitted to the PSOs for compilation and onward submission, by the CAOs to the PMU for payment. This process was completed in August 2018 and the PMU evaluated the effectiveness of the voucher system positively. The same process was thereafter used, albeit with veryfew amendments to cover the input needs of the 2nd batch of 2000 mentored households. By the15th of April 2019, all the second batch of mentored households had received their food security grants through the seed fairs using the voucher system and were able to plant in Season A(2019).

7. Capacity Building on Financial Literacy

The purpose of Financial Literacy is to train people on the concept of money and how to manage it wisely. It offers the opportunity to learn basic skills related to Personal Financial Management, Savings, Loan and Loan Management, preparing for old age and retire- ment, Investments, current Payment modalities by financial institutions and the products they offer.



Vendors at a Food Security Grants input fair in Pader Dsitrict

Vulnerable Mentee Households buying goats at the input trade fair in Gulu District

The Financial literacy training is tailored to fit farmers' practices in the PRELNOR sub-counties to support the end beneficiaries plan appropriately. Strategically, financial literacy helps farmers to have a mind-set change to eradicate poverty and become food secure, do farming as a business and have surplus to market and increase production beyond subsistence. While the Business skills is being handled under Component B1, Component A1 emphasised the personal finance as a sub-component of financial management.

8. Preparation of a Financial Literacy Hand Book

In the FY, a write shop was organised to prepare a hand book for use by the implementers of PRELNOR. The objectives of the write shop were to validate financial literacy training books to be used in the project and to critique and correct the content for application in the PRELNOR activities. The processes of production of the handbook involved 4 major phases; 3 days were for reviewing materials on financial literacy from different sources, 5 days were for drafting the training manual, 2 days were for tailoring the manual to suit the objective and beneficiaries of PRELNOR and 2 days of compilation of the final draft Training Manuals. The actual write-shop was conducted for three days in March 2019 with seven technical team from the Facilitators side and a team from the PMU.

9. Financial Literacy Training of Trainers (TOT)

A training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted on Financial Literacy for project implementers. This training targeted PRELNOR implementers such as Community Based Facilitators, Household Mentors, and Community Development Officers and Agricultural Officers among others. These participants then quickly cascaded this information to the farmer group members and mentee households. Four Facilitators sourced from some Local Government staff and one rapporteur were the key trainers. The trainings were done in June 2019 and a total 480 participants attended (203 females and 277 males). The hand book that had earlier been prepared was the key source book. The contents of the hand book includes Personal Financial Management, Savings, Loan and Loan management, planning old age and retirement, making financial payments and financial institutions with the products they offer.



Financial Literacy Training of participants from Amuru, Nwoya and Omoro District Local Governments

2.1.1.3 Intergrating of Cross Cutting Issues Into Farmer Group Capacity Building

1. Nutrition Mainstreaming Into PRELNOR Activities

Arising from the nutrition workshop organized by IFAD in Botswana, nutrition mainstreaming is being done in project activities. It is based on the principle that by integrating nutrition considerations in traditional interventions, there is a greater impact on food security and good nutrition outcomes. In light of this, the household mentors and CDOs were trained by Bioversity International in January 2019. All the 200 mentors were trained along with the 25 project sub-county CDOs.

2. Integrating Nutrition Education in Farmer Group Training

During Farmer Group Action Planning, messages on nutrition were passed to Farmer Groups. The Farmer Groups identified the causes of malnutrition as poor feeding and hygiene habits. It was also observed that some households took only one meal a day. Mothers were sensitized on the importance of having a balanced diet, good feeding, timely feeding of children, clean water, good hygiene, bathing at least once a day, proper food preparation. It was also observed that people in rural areas could not afford to buy certain foods but they were encouraged to use a combination of local foods available because of their food values. Examples given included leafy and root vegetables which provide protection to the body, paste from simsim and ground nuts which cater for body building, posho, cassava, sweet potatoes which provide energy for the body, fruits and vegetables which provide micro-nutrients. Among the Farmer Group members in Adjumani district, vegetable production along the selected enterprises was being adopted.

3. Gender Mainstreaming Activities

i) The IFAD Event at the Commission on the Status of women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The 63rd Session of the CSW took place from the 11th -22 of March 2019 at the United Nations Head Quarters in New York.

PRELNOR was privileged to be represented at the 63rd Session of the CSW where IFAD had a Parallel Session - Eve on the target up front and personal with the world's poorest people by the Community Development Specialist, along with four other panelists. This side event took place on the 12th March 2019. The presentations covered the different methodologies that IFAD uses to reach the most vulnerable people. The PRELNOR Community Development Specialist made a presentation on the household mentoring methodology. The key issues raised on the household mentoring methodology were on targeting, remuneration of the household mentors, the sustainability of the approach and the overall costs of the approach. In response to the issue on targeting, it was explained that vulnerable households are selected by the whole community using the PRA tool known as wealth ranking. This tool made it possible for the community to identify mentee households from the lowest ranked wealth category. In response to the issue of the remuneration of household mentors, it was clarified that this is a voluntary service and mentors receive approximately 40 USD per month to facilitate their movements to the households. On the overall cost, the whole methodology costs 160 USD per household for twelve months. Regarding the sustainability of the approach, the importance of the household visioning process was emphasized.

ii) Gender training and Sensitisation

The IFAD Fielded Implementation Support and Supervision missions recommended Gender training and capacity building for the project implementers, including the specialists at the PMU. The supervision mission of May 2018 recommended the development of consolidated and comprehensive guidelines for gender mainstreaming for every component and the need to start reporting on them. The same mission also recommended that the entire PMU staff be oriented on Gender mainstreaming and GALS methodology. The mission of May 2018 further recommended that a gender analysis of the value chains of the four selected enterprises be undertaken and the information generated be used to sensitise farmer groups. The MTR recommended for a detailed Gender and inclusion training, together with the dissemination of the gender mainstreaming guidelines.

The gender training was therefore a double pronged approach to address the above mission recommendations. The participants trained were from the Project Districts of Gulu,



Gender Training for participants from Kitgum, Lamwo and Agago at Jaflo Gardens-Kitgum



Gender Training for participants from Amuru, Gulu, Adjumani and Nwoya at Zawadi Hotel-Adjumani

Kitgum, Pader, Lamwo, Omoro, Agago, Amuru, Nwoya, and Adjumani. At the Gulu venue, the participants were the District Community Development Officers, District Natural Resources Officers, District Commercial Officers, the Infrastructure Project Managers and the PSOs; the Focal Points of Abi ZARDI, Ngetta ZARDI, AEATREC and the DFA staff were also trained. The Adjumani and Kitgum venues had the AOs, CDOs AEFs in attendance. In total, 217 participants were trained, (with 166 males and 51 females-i.e. 23.5 % female). One of the key outputs of the gender training was a gender guideline, to be disseminated effective August 2019.

iii) Sensitizing the Farmer Group members on Gender Based Violence

As part of Farmer Group capacity building, topics on Gender Based Violence (GBV) were handled. The key areas covered were Gender and Farmer group activities, the forms of GBV, causes, effects and impacts of GBV on household agricultural production and productivity. The main aim of covering these topics were to ensure that the farmers understand and appreciate the relationship of GBV to agriculture, understand and appreciate the forms and types of GBV, to main stream gender in farmer group activities and HH activities and to allow farmers to understand the cause, effects and impacts of GBV to the household and community at large.

Intermediate Outcomes

- i) Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) planning: Communities were able to carry out a situational analysis of their environmental related issues that affect farming in the different villages (up to 426 communities have been taken through a PRA process). This has enabled these communities to gain skills in village level appraisals for better natural resource management.
- **ii) Farmer group capacity building:** Notable intermediate outcomes are that all the farmer groups engaged in batch 1(574 farmer groups) have improved governance and there is evidence that all these groups have constitutions, are formally registered (in the Local Governments) and hold regular meetings. All these farmer groups participated in meticulous planning sessions and are now conscious of their farming problems and understand how they can facilitate the growth of the groups and their individual member households.

2.1.1.4 Household mentoring

A total of 4,000 households have been mentored in the 3 years of project implementation (in 2 cohorts of 2000 households each).

- a) Preliminary data collected shows that 61 % of these mentored households are female headed and 21 % are youth headed. This shows that the methodology has reached the most vulnerable persons notably the women and youth.
- b) At least 40 % of these mentored households have started small investments using their own household resources.
- c) Households reported undertaking joint family discussions, planning, visioning and setting up priorities (at least up to 90 % of the households have pictorial visions drawn using the GALS methodology vision journey tool). The visioning by the households is a strong process backed by: (i) focused analysis of relationships, resources, power, challenges and opportunities; (ii) Systematic planning; and (iii) Systematic assessment of progress made in relation to the vision.
- d) Many of the mentored household are also reporting reduced Gender Based Violence as they have settled down to work on their farms. Mentored households also reported reduced hunger months (reduced from 4 to 2), which was an indication of food security.
- e) Asset accumulation was evident. Mentored households have acquired domestic livestock such as oxen (cattle), goats and chicken after the first 12 months of mentoring.
- f) Mentored households have joined farmer groups and Voluntary Saving and Loans Associations (VSLAs). For example, in Lamwo District, of the 240 mentored households from the first batch, 169 have joined farmer groups in their localities.



Mentored Housholds in Lamwo District surported with ox-plough under food security grant



Female Mentored Housholds surported with carbage seeds during input trade fair in Kitgum District



Figure 1: Employment status of vulnerable household heads



Figure 2: Household access to Agricultural Inputs, Extension and Credit

Statistics from the outcome study conducted on the 1st cohort of vulnerable reflected that, comparatively households before and after mentoring showed the following:

- i) General improvement in hygiene and sanitation (by 74.7% to 90.1% for latrine coverage, 74.9% to 90.4% for bath shelter, 63.7% to 83.7% for drying rack, 76.6% to 87.8% for kitchen and 34.9 to 99% for water harvesting structure).
- ii) Household Engagement in Economic Activities had improved (Households engaged in Animal production increased from 15.2% to 46.4%; Trade and Commerce from 2.5% to 9%)
- iii) Households joining groups increased from 60.7% to 84.7% and those joining savings groups from 79.8% to 90%
- iv) Households having two meals per day increased from 38.1% to 58.7%

2.1.2 SUB-COMPONENT A.2. PRIORITY CLIMATE RESILIENT CROP PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

2.1.2 .1 Farmer Capacity Building/Training

In FY 2018/19, three main farmer capacity building approaches were used. These included; production and dissemination of key messages on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to farmers, Farmer Group training through establishment and management of demonstration fields for farmer-prioritized crop enterprises and through organized Farmer Field Days.

1. Farmer Group training through establishment and management of demonstration fields for farmer-prioritized crop enterprises

Farmer Group training through demonstration fields were conducted throughout the cropping season of the selected crop enterprise, to provide farmers with hands-on skills.



Members of each famer group provided all the labour requirement of the demonstrations as they practically took part in all associated activities. The proceeds from the fields were shared by group members, while data on the performance of each treatment plot was collected and shared with group members to guide decision making. The 600 first batch farmer groups purchased their prioritized agricultural inputs for setting up demonstration fields during the input trade fairs held at sub-county level in the months of March- May 2019. The crops under demonstrations included maize, beans, cassava, rice, soybeans, groundnuts and sesame. Demonstration fields were established at farmer group level, following a generic field layout presented below:



Planting (L) and weeding (R) a maize deminstration field in Kitgum District



Weeding a beans' demonstration field in Lamwo District (L), Rice demonstration in Amuru District (R)



A beans' demonstration field in Amuru District

Each demonstration field was established to compare performance of different varieties, including popular local varieties under Good Agricultural Practices and under prevailing farmer practices. The intention of the demonstrations were to encourage and support adoption of good performing crop varieties and good Agricultural practices. Above are selected pictures from the demonstration fields established in season A of 2019 across the project districts. Farmer Group members and nearby members of the farming community are learning from the demonstration fields. Data on performance of the different crop varieties under different treatments and management practices will be collected and analyzed at the end of the season (September - October 2019).

2. Production and dissemination of key messages on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to farmers

To support and enhance delivery of extension services to farmers, different modes of information dissemination are important. Over the years, the technical team of the project have been working with NARO technical teams to come up with key messages on Good Agricultural Practices in simplified forms for the benefit of the farming community. During the financial year, the following documents were completed and printed, ready for distribution to the community based facilitators and farmers:

- a) 500 copies of Simplified Hand Books on GAP of Rice, Beans, Maize, Cassava, Simsim, Groundnuts, Soybean and Sorghum,
- b) 200 posters and 500 brochures on Management of Fall Army Worm
- c) 200 posters and 500 brochures on Management on Groundnut Rosette
- d) 200 copies of Rice Cropping Calendar
- e) 200 posters and 500 brochures on Managing Aflatoxin
- f) 200 posters and 500 brochures on Managing Cassava Brown Streak Disease
- g) 200 posters and 500 brochures on Conservation Agriculture practices
- h) 200 posters and 500 brochures on Optimum Planting Population.

These extension materials are expected to provide more detailed information, based on the clear illustrations which will enable farmers to closely follow the GAPs.

3. Organization of Farmer's field days

Field days are days when farmers come together to share what they have learnt and achieved through extension services and to showcase and share experiences with members of the farming community. The opportunity is always used to create network and linkages with other stakeholders. As an approach in extension, field days provide farmers with the opportunity to actively learn from fellow farmers and other invited Guest speakers. Within the financial year (2018/19), a total of 21 field days were conducted across the project districts, at sub-county level, out of the targeted 25 project sub-counties. The key stakeholders that participated in these field days included project farmer group members, famers within the vicinity of the field days, technical officers within the districts, sub- counties and parishes, and relevant stakeholders such as the media houses, agro inputs dealers, seed company representatives, district and sub-county officials. The district officials included: the Resident District Commissioners, the Chairpersons Local Council 5, District Agricultural Officers and area Councilors Local council 5. The field days were attended by over 9,500 (6,000 female and 3,500 male) farmers in the 21 sub-counties.

4. Learning visit at the source of the Nile Annual Agricultural Trade Show

The project supported a total of 29 representatives of farmers, Community based facilitators and extension personnel to attend the 2019 Annual Agriculture Trade Show in Jinja district. The theme of the show was 'Agricultural Technologies and Innovations for farmer-led Agro-Industrialization'. The show provided a platform for participants to learn current technologies and best practices along various value chains.



A farmer field day session in a Cassava demonstration field in Paicho Sub County, Gulu Dsitrict



Training on management of fall armyworm on maiz by a NARO Scientist



A section of farmers being taken through a demonstration on mechanization implements at a trade show in Jinja District

2.1.2.2 Training of Plant Doctors

Pests, diseases and soil fertility loss are among the major constraints to food production and low productivity in the project area. Limited knowledge and skills of diagnosis are some of the major constraints to addressing the above challenges. In the absence of proper diagnosis, farmers have ended up administering inappropriate management options, hence getting limited results to their efforts and sometimes endangering their lives and the environment through unsafe use of agrochemicals. PRELNOR, in partnership with CABI plant-wise Uganda and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) are supporting this cause by building capacity of extension personnel to adequately address pests, diseases and soil infertility constraints. A total of 51 extension staff (12 female & 39 male) were trained as plant doctors, the first batch of 26 in August 2018 and the second batch of 25 in May 2019.

The main objective of the training was to equip the Agricultural Extension Personnel with knowledge and skills in plant pests, diseases and mineral deficiency symptoms diagnosis and management options, including application of fertilizer optimization tool, for increased agricultural production and productivity. The ultimate goal of the training has been to contribute to increased crop yields and reduced post-harvest losses.

Upon completion of the plant doctor's training, MAAIF supported all the 9 project districts with a plant clinic kit each, to support the operation of mobile plant clinics in the project sub-counties. The kits were officially commissioned and launched by the Deputy Resident District Commissioner of Gulu prior to commencement of the operations of mobile plant clinic sessions.



Participants actively taking part in pests and diseases diagnosis based on plant samples



Participants actively taking part in pests and diseases diagnosis based on plant samples



The Deputy Resident District Commissioner Gulu, commissioning plant clinic kits in Gulu District

i) Radio talk shows on Operation of Mobile Plant Clinics

In preparation for operations of mobile plant clinic sessions across the project sub-counties, radio talk shows were organized and conducted to sensitize the general public on how mobile plant clinics ran and to mobilize farmers to visit the clinics to support their efforts in diagnosis of pests, diseases and other plant health related issues. The talk shows were conducted on five Local FM radio stations across the project districts (Mega FM & Radio Rupiny in Gulu; Auologo FM in Adjumani; Tembo and Mighty Fire FMs in Kitgum). The panelists for the talk shows included District Agricultural Officers, trained plant doctors, the project Agronomist and a Senior Crop Inspector from MAAIF. The radio talk shows created awareness and sensitized the general public on operation of mobile plant clinic sessions; mobilized the general farming community to participate in plant clinic sessions, provided opportunity to give feedback to the audience on general pests and diseases management, and availed contacts of trained plant doctors in the different project sub- counties for reference.



Radio talk show at Mega FM

ii) Operation of Mobile Plant Clinics

Mobile clinics, like in the medical and veterinary fields support diagnosis and management of ill health. A plant clinic is a place where farmers can receive advice on plant health problems. Mobile plant clinics are organized to support diagnosis and management of plant health issues, and because the clinics are mobile, the services reach out to remote areas and many farmers are served effectively. Mobile plant clinics were organized and conducted by a team of trained plant doctors in each of the project districts, under the direct supervision of the District Agricultural Officer. Each of the district's trained plant doctors worked in one team and operated two mobile plant clinic sessions jointly. This was purposefully done to ensure support to each other and to reinforce confidence among team members. A total of 18 plant clinic sessions were conducted, two per district. The dominant disease/ill health cases presented during the clinics included: Cassava brown streak disease, Fall armyworm, root rots in beans, Purple blotch in onion, Leaf miners on oranges, Potassium and Phosphorous deficiency in maize, Stalk borers in maize and rice, a viral disease causing dwarfing in maize and Cankers in Oranges.



Plant clinic sessions in (L) Paicho Sub-county and (R) Lungulu Sub-county



Mobile plant clinic session at market olace in Itirikwa Sub-County

2.1.2.3 Foundation Seed Production

Foundation seeds are seeds produced from breeder seeds and are used for the production of seeds (certified seeds or quality declared seeds) that farmers use in their crop production. To support community seed production initiatives, timely availability of foundation seeds from research is a pre-requisite. The project is supporting on-station foundation seeds production by Ngetta and Abi ZARDIs and the seed production is based on demand from the Local Seed Businesses within the project area. To support all-year round seed production, the project has supported both Ngetta and Abi ZARDIs to put in place small scale irrigation facilities. The on-station foundation seed production takes place every season and in this reporting period (FY 2018/19), season B of 2018 and season A of 2019 performance were assessed. The table below summarizes foundation seed production at the two ZARDIs in season B of 2018:

Season	Seed Crop	Yield obtained (kg)
	Rice – Nerica 4	560
2018B	Rice – Namche 3	446
	Beans – Narobean 1	172
	Maize – Longe 4	428
	Maize – Longe 5	799

Source: Abi ZARDI progress report 2018

Season	Seed Crop	Yield obtained (kg)
	Soy bean 3N	1626
	Groundnut 5R	492
	Groundnuts 8R	631
	Groundnuts 14R	566
2018B	Ground nuts 8 and 14R (LSB)	1050
	Maize longe 5D	1180
	Beans NARO BEAN	660
	Beans NABE 19	310
	Beans NABE 5 (LSB)	600
	Rice Namche 2, 5 (LSB)	24,000
	Sesame, Sesim 2	300

These foundation seeds were being acquired by seed production groups within the project area on a cost recovery basis for production of quality declared seeds. The Non Tax Revenue being generated by the ZARDIs through the sales of foundation seeds was recycled back into foundation seed production. By 30th April 2019, the two ZARDIs had cumulatively generated UGX. 39,091,700/= (UGX. 21,875,700 by Ngetta and 17,216,000 by Abi) in non tax revenue from sales of foundation seeds.

The table below summarizes the acreages of on-station foundation seeds planted in season A of 2019 at the two ZARDIs;

Ngeta ZARDI				
Seed Crop	variety	Acreage		
Groundnuts	Serenut 8R	12		
	Serenut 14R	3.4		
Soybean	Maksoy 3N	2		
	Maksoy 4N	2		
	Maksoy 5N	2		
	Maksoy 6N	2		
Beans	NARO Bean 1	2		
Maize	Longe 5D	3.5		
Total		28.9		

Abi ZARDI		
Rice Namche 1 & 5		2
	Nerica 1 & 10	2
Cassava	Narocas 1 & Nase 19	0.7
Beans	Narobean 1, Narobean 2,	0.4
	Narobean 3, and Nabe 15	
Groundnuts	Serenut 8, Serenut 9, Serenut	0.3
	11, and Serenut 14	
Total	<u>`</u>	5.4



A bean foundation seed production field at Abi ZARDI



A bean foundation seed production field at Ngeta ZARDI

An irrigation Seed production field at Ngetta ZARDI

Intermediate outcomes of Foundation Seed Production by the ZARDIs

The two ZARDIs (Ngetta and Abi) were producing adequate foundation seeds for seed production groups in the project area. Local seed business groups were accessing the foundation seeds on a cost recovery basis. The ZARDIs were collecting non tax revenues from the sale of these foundation seeds. By 30th April 2019, the two ZARDIs had cumulatively generated UGX. 34,644,000/= (UGX. 17,428,000 by Ngetta and 17,216,000 by Abi) in non tax revenue from sales of foundation seeds. These revenues are to be re-invested in foundation seed production by the respective ZARDIs and this is expected to support continuous foundation seed production beyond the life of the project. The ZARDIs have put in place small scale irrigation facilitators to support year round seed production. All these are intended to ensure local seed business groups are able to access foundation seeds of their choice at all times for continued local seed production.

2.1.2.4 Capacity Building of Extension Personnel and Farmers in Local Seed Business (LSB)

Capacity building of extension personnel in LSB was intended to realize the project objective of raising the productivity of smallholder farmers to a level where there is enough surplus production that the farmers can sell at the market place, access by smallholder farmers, to quality seeds of improved and farmer-preferred varieties is very important. Based on the experience of Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) project (2014), over 75% of farmers in the Northern region of Uganda use farmer saved seeds or seeds bought from local markets, and hence, building local capacities to produce improved seeds is considered one of the most effective and sustainable means of ensuring timely availability of quality seeds to the farming communities. Borrowing from the experience and methodology of ISSD in the Northern region, PRELNOR is supporting Local seed production (Out-scaling the ISSD initiative) to complement the formal seed systems, in addressing the challenge of inadequate availability of improved quality seeds to the farming community. Within the financial year, the following activities were accomplished:

i) Training of trainers for Extension personnel in Local Seed Business methodology

To kick start Local Seed Business (LSB) development process, the project engaged four technical staff of NARO, trained by ISSD Uganda, to build capacity of its extension staff to establish and support community seed production (Local Seed Businesses) within the project area, over the project period and beyond. A training of Trainers (ToT) took place in October 2018. The main objective of the ToT was to build capacity of the Agricultural Extension Facilitators to be able to identify, train, support and mentor selected farmer groups to engage in seed production as a business. The training involved 50 (25F & 25M) Agricultural Extension Facilitators (AEF) from 9 the districts (25 sub- counties) and 2 Agribusiness Officers of the 2 District Farmer Associations of Adjumani & Gulu. Of the 2 AEFs trained per project sub-county, one focuses on the technical aspects of seed production while the second facilitator handles the agribusiness aspects (the business aspects of seed production). Two (2) chairpersons of successful Local Seed Businesses within the project area were also engaged in the ToT (mainly to share their experiences) and from time to time, were being brought on board to provide mentorship to the selected groups. The trained AEFs identified, selected potential LSB groups and conducted diagnostic studies to inform their capacity building needs. Much as the project targets developing 25 LBS (one per project sub-county), each sub-county initially selected and started with at least 2 farmer groups to ensure that any drop out does not affect the target.

ii) Learning visit of new LSBs to established LSBs within the project area

As the saying goes "experience is the best teacher", the project promotes farmer to farmer learning aimed at arousing the interest of farmers using the experiences of other farmers. The ISSD project built capacity of several farmer groups within the Northern region and one of such groups is Latyeng Local Seed Business group in Bungatira Sub-county, Gulu district. It was on the basis of the above background that learning visits were organized for representatives of selected seed production farmer groups and their facilitators to learn from the experiences of Latyeng Local Seed Business (LSB) group in Gulu district. The learning visits took place in two lots: the first lot involved representatives of 26 farmer groups and their

extension facilitators from the districts of Agago, Pader, Kitgum and Lamwo; and the second lot involved representatives of 27 farmer groups and their extension facilitators from the districts of Adjumani, Amuru, Gulu, Nwoya and Omoro. Outputs from the learning visits were as follows: 164 farmer group representatives and 44 Extension Facilitators learnt lessons on LSB methodology from Latyeng Local Seed Business group experiences Major areas for mentoring farmer groups on LSB methodology were documented by the Agricultural extension facilitators. The farmer representatives learnt lessons on selection of seed crop enterprises, resources mobilization, access to foundation seeds, quality control procedures, how seeds are marketed, and how the proceeds from sales are shared and productively utilized.



Farmers and Extension staff learning from a rice seed demonstration field at Latyeng

iii) Support to LSB development and Quality Declared Seed production

Following the selection of farmer groups to engage in seed production at community level, and the subsequent trainings and exposure visits, some of the groups initiated seed production in season A of 2019. A total of 19 farmer groups out of the 53 groups selected, started seed production. These 19 groups across the project districts raised money and acquired foundation seeds from Ngetta ZARDI. A total of 22 acres were under seed production (8 acres of groundnuts - Serenut 14 R, 11 acres of Soybeans - Maksoy 3N, 2 acres of rice -Namche 5 and 1 acre of cassava – Nase19). These seed fields were being inspected by the respective District Agricultural Officers and inspection fees were met by the farmer groups. It should be noted that none of the groups selected for seed production in Omoro and Adjumani districts were involved in seed production in season A but plans were underway for them to start seed production in season B.



Beans seed field in Kitgum

Rice seed field in Nwoya



Groundnut seed production field in Orom Sub-County – Kitgum District



Internal quality controls -Removal of off-types (L) in Orom and weeding (R) in Nwoya District



External quality control – Inspection of seed fields by DAOs in Orom (L) and Palabek gem (R)

iv) Mentoring of new LSBs by Established LSBs within the project area

Some few established LSBs within the project area have wealth of experiences in local seed production and as such, are valuable resources within the community. The project is tapping in such resources to support its objectives of developing a sustainable seed system, led by the local farming community. It was against these background that the project, through linkage with ISSD Uganda, secured the services of four (4) seasoned LSBs to mentor the newly selected local seed business groups in LSB methodology. These LSBs are Latyeng LSB in Gulu, Loyo Kwoo LSB in Nwoya, Jing Komi LSB in Kitgum and Wot Anyim LSB in Pader. Latyeng LSB, being the most experienced in the project area, supported mentoring of 20 new LSBs in 10 project sub-counties in the districts of Adjumani, Gulu, Amuru and Omoro. Loyo Kwoo LSB supported 7 LSBs in four sub-counties in Nwoya district. Jing Komi LSB in Kitgum district mentored 12 LSBs in 7 project sub-counties in the districts of Agago and Pader.

Overall, all the 53 new LSBs got mentoring support from their experienced colleagues in local seed production. In addition to other aspects and dynamics of the LSB methodology, the mentoring focused on three critical aspects of local seed businesses, that is, seed production, seed quality control and seed marketing. Each team of mentors from the above LSBs spent two days in each sub-county, covering two farmer groups in each sub-county, over two mentoring cycles. The first cycle of mentoring took place in the last two weeks of June 2019, followed by the second sessions from mid July 2019. This will further enhance capacity of the groups in taking seed production as a business.



Loyo Kwoo LSB representatives with members of a new LSB in their seed field in Nwoya district



Members of Dongo Lobo LSBs in Orom Sub-county being mentored by Jing Komi LSB



Loyo Kwoo LSB representatives with members of a new LSB in their seed field in Nwoya District





Wot Anyim LSB representatives guiding members of a new LSB in Pader District on sorting of seeds

v) Cassava seed multiplication through community

In FY 2017/2018, a total of 100 farmer groups (one per project parish) were identified and supported to initiate multiplication of improved cassava varieties. A total of 427 acres of cassava seed multiplication fields were planted in May-June 2018. These fields were maintained during the year and generally performed well. Varietal mixtures were observed in some fields, and were either uprooted or marked to distinguish them from the main variety in each field. A training on inspection of cassava seed fields was organized and conducted at Ngetta ZARDI for all the 9 District Agricultural Officers and 27 Sub-county Agricultural Officers of the project sub-counties. After the training, all the cassava seed multiplication fields were inspected by the respective DAOs or sub-county Agricultural Officers. Fields that met the required standard were recommended as seed fields for the farming community in each district. Some of the farmer groups with clean fields were able to sell clean cassava cuttings to project beneficiaries during the March – May 2019 Agro- input trade fairs. A total of 23 farmer groups from the districts of Adjumani, Pader, Kitgum, Agago and Lamwo were able to sell cassava cuttings worth UGX. 37, 603,000 during the input trade fairs, with each

group receiving on average UGX. 1,635,000. The sale of cuttings to the rest of the farming communities took place at individual group level and the data was yet to be consolidated. Each cassava seed multiplication group established new seed multiplication fields and shared cassava cuttings from their group fields with group members who established their own cassava production fields.



Farmer's purchasing cassava cuttings from one of the Seed Multiplication Groups in Pader District

Intermediate outcome of capacity building of extension personnel and farmers in LSB methodology

A total of 52 extension personnel were trained to support development of Local seed business. These have supported the identification and training of 53 farmer groups in LSB methodology. Of the 53 groups, 19 were able to purchase foundation seeds from Ngetta ZARDI and established a total of 22 acres of seeds production fields. These fields were inspected by the respective District Agricultural Officers and the inspection fees met by the respective groups. Seeds produced by these groups were undergoing further tests and once they met the quality requirements for locally produced seeds, they would be sold as quality declared seeds.

Quality declared seeds fetch more money to the producers compared to grains, and hence, the groups will earn more income. Quality seeds being produced locally will ensure farmers are able to purchase quality seeds timely and hence able to plant early in the season. All the 53 groups have been linked to and received mentoring from established LSBs in the project area. This mentoring will continue and is expected to fasten development of new local seed businesses. The new LSBs are being encouraged to join an umbrella association for LSBs which is expected to help them easily access certification services and timely booking of adequate foundation seeds from research (ZARDIs).

2.1.2.5 Agro-Input Trade Fairs Of Voucher Schemes

One of the main causes of food insecurity for farmers in the rural areas is limited access to quality agricultural inputs, and one of the strategies to address the vulnerability of food insecure smallholder farmers is to improve their access to agro inputs. Seed distribution programs through traditional procurement chains normally do not meet the varied needs of smallholder farmers as inputs sometimes come late, the inputs may not be the right quantity, quality and type/varieties and so forth.

The Project Implementation Manual (PIM) provides for the use of an input voucher scheme for procurement of inputs for mentee households under the food security grant. Input trade fairs and vouchers schemes were organized to provide farmers with access to agricultural inputs that they needed to sustain their agricultural livelihoods.

An input trade fair is a temporary market, centrally organized to provide a targeted population with access to agricultural inputs through the exchange of vouchers and it typically lasts a

single day in each location. It was against the above background that the PMU, DLGs and DFAs organized input trade fairs using vouchers in 27 project sub- counties (4 instead of 2 in Nwoya) in the 9 project districts.

To ensure timely completion, in readiness for season A, two sub-counties were covered simultaneously and that necessitated two teams from the PMU. One team covered the East Acholi districts while a second team covered the West Acholi districts and Adjumani. The PMU provided technical support and supervision to the DLGs and DFAs during input trade fairs. The main objectives of the technical support was to ensure the processes of the input trade fairs were correctly and transparently conducted in all the project sub- counties and that the beneficiaries (Mentee Households and Farmer Groups) acquired quality agro inputs of their choices in a timely manner.

The exercise was conducted from Mid-March to Mid-April 2019 and extended into May 2019 for cassava cuttings. The exercise followed the following processes: detailed assessment of beneficiary input requirements (specification and quantity) by the respective DLGs and DFAs; mobilization of agro – inputs dealers by the DLGs and DFAs to take part in the input trade fairs; mobilization of beneficiary farmers by the PMU, DLG and DFAs to take part in the inputs trade fairs through radio talk shows, radio announcements and the extension networks of AOs, AEFs, CDOs, CBFs and HH mentors.

At each of the input trade fair venues, the activities involved assembling of beneficiaries and briefing by the coordination teams and Local Leaders; assembling of Inputs dealers and briefing by the coordination teams; inputs inspection by the District Agricultural Officer, issuing of vouchers to the beneficiaries; purchase of inputs by the beneficiaries; exit interviews with beneficiaries; transportation of the purchased inputs home by the beneficiaries and redemption of vouchers from agro-inputs dealers.

A total of 600 farmer groups and 2,000 mentee households timely purchased inputs of their choices using vouchers. This allowed timely planting at the onset of season A rains. For farmer group demonstration inputs, each group purchased all the inputs (seeds, other agrochemicals and tools) they needed for both seasons A and B of 2019.



Left: Briefing beneficiaries in Lagoro Sub-County Below: LCV Chairman Lamwo briefing beneficiaries in Palabek Gem sub-county




Input inspected by DAO and AO at Lagoro Sub-County





Beneficiaries purchasing inputs using vouchers (L) Orom sub-County and (R) Wol Sub-County



Exit interview with beneficiaries in Orom Sub-County



Voucher redemption in Lagoro Sub-County

Intermediate outcomes of Agro Input Trade Fairs

Agro-input trade fairs conducted at sub-county level provided opportunity for beneficiary farmers to actively participate in input procurement processes and were able to purchase inputs of their own choices. The open and transparent processes gave opportunity for small scale Agro-input dealers to take part in the trade fairs. Local farmers with quality seeds were able to sell seeds during the input trade fairs. For example, a total of 23 famer groups were able to sell quality cassava cutting worth UGX. 37, 603,000. Other participants included local seed business groups. Overall, the majority of the agro-input dealers that participated in the input trade fairs were from the respective districts and sub-counties and this ensured a boost to the local economy. The general farming communities were able to interact and exchange contacts with agro input dealers and this was expected to further enhance access to agro inputs by farmers. Agro-input trade fairs are expected to promote development of more local seed business groups within the community as the exercise exposes such groups to potential buyers of the inputs within and outside their locality.

2.1.2.6 Promotion Of Good Agricultural Practices (Adoptive Trial Research)

Different technologies and practices may give varying performances in different agroecologies. Adaptive trials are conducted to introduce and test new technologies and practices with the farming community with an aim to test performance in each location, and promote adoption of good performing technologies and practices. Over the last 3 cropping seasons (2018 A & B and 2019 A), the project, in partnership with Ngetta and Abi ZARDI have supported adaptive trials to introduce new crop varieties and management practices. During FY 2018/19, performance assessments and evaluation of the previous trials were conducted and new trials established in season A of 2019.

i) Evaluation of previously conducted Adaptive Trials (seasons A and B of 2018)

Evaluation of the adaptive trials were conducted jointly by the ZARDI (Ngetta & Abi) team, extension personnel and host farmers. The objectives were to: enable farmers select best performing varieties in their field conditions, help farmers to observe the effect of site selection and seasonality variations on crop performance, and provide opportunities for farmers to appreciate the importance of using recommended farming practices to adapt to climate change.

In Adjumani district (under Abi ZARDI), the key findings were as follows:

- a) Of the bean varieties at the adaptive trials, NAROBEAN 1 was the most preferred variety for the following reasons: (i) large-seeded; (ii) high-yielding (26.4% higher than local variety); (iii) grows well in most soil types in the district; (iv) has an appealing colour; and (v) matures in a short time. NAROBEAN 2 and NABE 19 were ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- b) Among the rice varieties, NERICA 4 was the best ranked variety by farmers due to its tolerance to moisture stress, its shorter time to mature and its high yield (2.5t/ha) as compared to Namche 3 (1.9t/ha) and the local variety (0.5t/ha).
- c) Of the maize varieties, farmers ranked Longe 5D higher than Longe 4 and the local variety due to its cob size, number of cobs per plant, tolerance to moisture stress and shorter duration to mature.
- d) Of the different cassava varieties, most farmers both male and female, preferred NASE 19, NAROCASS 1, Local variety and NAROCASS 2 in that order across the trial sites. Several reasons were advanced for the selection of NASE 19 and NAROCASS 1 including early bulking/ maturity, disease resistance/tolerance, bigger size of tubers, good sweet taste, vigorous and healthy stems as planting materials amongst others. NAROCASS 2 was least preferred because of the slightly bitter taste and smaller size of the tubers in most trial sites.

For all the crop varieties on trial, the local varieties planted at these sites for comparison purposes ranked the lowest except cassava.

In Acholi districts (under Ngetta ZARDI), the key findings were thus:

- a) Of the four soybean varieties on trials, Maksoy 3 and Maksoy 1N with average yields of 956.8kg/ha and 890kg/ha were the most preferred by farmers due to good performance. Maksoy 1N for early maturity and good yield while Maksoy 3N for good yield.
- b) Among the maize varieties involved in the trials, Longe 5D (1869kg/ha) outperformed Longe 4 (1539.1 kg/ha) and local (1384.7 kg/ha) in terms of yields.
- c) Of the 4 varieties of Sorghum tested in the trials, the average yield performance was in the following order: Narosorg 2 - 1289.6kg/ha; Seso 3 - 883.2kg/ha, Local variety -672kg/ ha and Seso 1 – 523kg/ha. Seso 1 is highly liked by birds and was the most affected by birds and its low average yield is attributed to bird attacks.
- d) Of the three sesame varieties involved in the trials, sesim 3 registered the highest average yield of 527kg/ha ,followed by Sesim 2 with 486.3kg and local variety with 381.8kg/ha.

Overall, performance of all the variety trials varied from location to location and level of management played a big part in the differences observed in the performance. Trials were conducted at parish level and management by the respective farmer groups was not adequately monitored and this translated into the kind of data obtained above. Yield data obtained from all the crop varieties were way below the yield potential of the respective varieties. However, in all locations, farmers were able to select varieties of their choice based on field performance in their locality. Of the introduced crop varieties, the most popular varieties selected by farmers include: Cassava – Narocas 1 & Nase 19; Maize – Longe 5 & hybrids; Beans – Narobean 1, Nabe 19; Sorghum – Narosorg 2 & Seso 3; Soybeans- Maksoy 3N & 1N; Sesame – Sesim 3 & 2; Rice –Namche 3, 5 & Nerica 4 (in Adjumani). Going forward, the number of adaptive trials have been reduced to 1 per subcounty to ensure effective management and follow-up.





Harvested cassava

Yield measurement



Participatory evaluation of performance and attributes of cassava varieties in Adjumani Dsitrict



Farmers threshing beans from a trials site



Farmers harvesting maize in a trial site

ii) Demonstration of Conservation farming Practices

Demonstration of Conservation farming practices were conducted alongside the adaptive trials. Abi ZARDI demonstrated soil and water conservation practices by digging soil and water retention ditches around the trial plots. Ngetta ZARDI demonstrated two of the three core elements of Conservation Agriculture, that is, minimum tillage, soil cover and crop rotation. Conservation Agriculture aims to make better use of agricultural resources through the integrated management of available soil, water and biological resources, combined with Limited external inputs. It contributes to environmental conservation and to sustainable agricultural production by maintaining a permanent or semi-permanent organic soil cover. In this demonstration, Maize crop was planted in a 1 acre plot under four different field preparations; permanent planting basins, along rip lines opened using ox-drawn rippers, alley cropping and conventional practices. The sites were sprayed with a non-selective herbicide (Glyphosate) before planting the maize crops.



Digging planting basins in Bungatira -Gulu



Opening of rip lines in Omiya Anyima –Kitgum



Fertilizer application along rip lines in Omiya Anyima –Kitgum District

iii) New trials established in season A of 2019

In season A of 2019, the following adaptive research activities were conducted by the two ZARDIs:

a) Abi ZARDI

Varietal trials were set in three locations in the Sub counties of Itirikwa, Dzaipi and Okusijoni in Adjumani district. Each site was an average of 4 acres, with one acre allotted to each of the four crop commodities being evaluated. The crop varieties evaluated in the trials were: NAROBEAN 1, NAROBEAN 2, NABE 15, NABE 19 and Local Check for beans; NAROCAS 1, NAROCAS 2, Nase 14, Nase, Nase 19 and local check for cassava; Serenut 5, Serenut 8, Serenut 11, Serenut 14 and local check for groundnuts; and NERICA 4, NERICA 10, Namche 1, Namche 3 and local check for rice. The trials had two major factors; crop variety and fertilizer levels, set in a Complete Randomised Block Design with a local variety introduced for each crop in all the 3 sites. The trials had 3 replications planted at recommended spacing: Beans, 50 cm x 10 cm; Cassava, 1 m x 1 m; Groundnuts, 45 cm x 15 cm; and Rice, 30 cm x continues thinned to 1.8-2 cm. Soil and water conservation practices were part of the trials and were included in all the three sites. Water retention ditches were constructed at all the adaptive trial sites and calliandra (an agroforestry tree spp) planted at the edges of the sites. The main objective of this was to promote adoption of "fanya chini" and "fanya juu" water retention ditches, use of vetiver grass and calliandra among farming communities for soil erosion control and environmental conservation. By the time of reporting, farmers were learning and making observations from the trials, which would then be evaluated at the end of the season.



Host farmers being guided by Abi ZARDI field technician prior to planting of the trials



Planting of one of the adaptive trials (L) and construction of water retention structures (R)

b) Ngetta ZARDI

Ngetta ZARDI was working on five thematic areas in its adaptive trials to ensure improved crop management options were introduced and evaluated together with the farmers. These included enhancing yield using Rhizobium inoculant in new improved varieties of soybean and beans at 8 sites; Screening 3 Cassava Brown Streak Disease tolerant and Cassava Mosaic Disease resistant cassava genotypes (NAROCAS 2, improved lines 1 & 2) for adaptation in 4 locations (Nwoya, Omoro, Pader & Lamwo); Screening 4 high yielding multiple-stress tolerant Groundnut varieties (Serenut 5R, 8R, 9T & 14R) for adaptation in 4 locations (Omoro, Amuru, Kitgum & Nwoya); Assessing the effect of different spray regimes for the control of fall armyworm; and assessing the effect of minimum tillage practices and alley cropping on maize yield. During (July 2018 – June 2019), the following trials were established:

Thematic area	Status	Comments
Screening high yielding multiple- stress tolerant groundnut varieties for adaptation to different locations	3 trials established on- farm and 2 on-station	Data collection on critical parameters was on-going
Assessing the effect of different spray regimes for the control of fall armyworm	6 trials established in Omoro, Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader, Agago & Nwoya	Data collected on germination count and fall army worm damage. Yield data were yet to be collected
Enhancing yield using Rhizobium inoculant in new improved varieties of soybean and beans	8 trials established, four on beans in Amuru, Gulu, Pader & Lamwo and four on Soybeans in Pader, Kitgum; Lamwo & Gulu.	Data collection on critical parameters was on-going
Assessing the effect of minimum tillage practices and alley cropping on maize yield 8 trials have been established across the project districts.		Data collection was ongoing
Demonstrations on cassava seed production	14 sites across the eight project districts under Ngetta ZARDI	Omoro-2, Gulu-1, Nwoya-2, Agago-1, Kitgum-1, Amuru-2, Pader-3, Lamwo-2

Intermediate Outcomes Of Small Scale Adaptive Research Activities

The participatory small scale adaptive trials that have been conducted with farmers has translated into the following intermediate outcomes:

The introduction and participatory evaluation of performance of improved crop varieties alongside local varieties across different locations and seasons has enabled farmers to witness for themselves the performances under their condition and this has translated into farmers selecting good performing varieties with other positive attributes (taste, cooking quality, nutritional values and so forth). For example, NARO beans 1 has been the most preferred and widely adopted improved bean variety across all the 9 project districts.

The bean variety is rich in Zinc and Iron and its wide adoption and consumption is expected to boost intake of Zinc and Iron and hence improved health of the consumers. Narocas 1 and Nase 19 cassava varieties have been widely adopted by the farmers. They are high yielding, disease tolerant and early maturing (12 months) compared to the local varieties that are low yielding, susceptible to diseases and take 2 years to attain marketable roots. The short

maturity period allows farmers to harvest their cassava after one year and set the land free to cultivate other crops, unlike the local varieties. Overall, the adaptive trials have introduced and facilitated adoption of good performing improved crop varieties.

The introduction and participatory evaluation of management options in the trials has translated into adoption of some of the practices by farmers. For example, farmers now take keen interest in choosing crops for intercrops, unlike before when farmers would intercrop even none compatible crops. Soil conservation measures such as mulching/maintenance of soil cover, use of cover crops, use of vetiver grass to stabilize soils, are being taken up by farmers. These and other improved practices such as timely harvest and post harvest handling are translating into more stable yields and reduced losses.

2.1.2.7 Piloting Appropriate Smallholder Mechanisation Interventions

The project is investing in piloting smallholder mechanization by deploying and promoting Animal Draft Power (ADP), 2 Wheeled Tractors (2WTs) and selected Agro-processing technologies suitable to the needs and conditions of smallholder farmers, with the aim of contributing to increased production and productivity. Majority of smallholder farmers in the project area were still not fully aware of the values and potential of these technologies in farming. For example, the use of animal traction was restricted mainly to ploughing yet it could be used for other farm operations such as planting, weeding and transportation. Similarly, use of 2 Wheel Tractors (walking tractors) and primary processing equipment were not fully embraced by farmers due to lack of access to the relevant equipment, misconceptions, limited knowledge and skills.

One of the strategies being applied to address the challenges is advancing machinery to host entrepreneur farmers, who use these machinery to do farming as a business by providing hire services at agreed fees to other farmers in the project area. The key roles of machinery host farmers under project is to take custody and operate the machinery, while bearing all costs for operations, maintenance and repair of the equipment, keeping records of all machinery hire business transactions and offering the required hire services to the surrounding farming community. A total of 175 entrepreneurial host farmers were selected in 2017/18 fiscal year for the four different mechanization technologies (50 for 2WT, 75 for ADP, 23 for motorized cassava chippers, and 27 for rice threshers). Fabrications and procurement of the mechanization implements/equipment were ongoing and the table below provides a detailed status of the smallholder mechanization equipment and implements in place.

	Equipment/ implement	Target	Number procured / fabricated	Remarks
1	2 Wheel tractors (2WT)	50	0	Procurement ongoing
2	2WT trailers	50	50	Awaiting 2WT
3	2W planters	50	50	Awaiting 2WT
4	Rice threshers	27	27	Delivered
5	Cassava Chippers	23	23	Delivered
6	Maize shelters	50	50	Not yet Delivered
7	ADP Planters	75	50	Not yet Delivered
8	ADP weeders	75	75	Delivered
9	Ox-carts	75	75	Not yet delivered

Some implements were delivered to the beneficiary host farmer groups and plans to train the group members were underway. These included: ox-weeders (supplied to 75 host farmers); Motorized cassava chippers (supplied to 23 host farmers); and Motorized rice threshers (supplied to 27 host farmers). The balance of the implements were to be delivered in the first quarter of 2019/20. However, implements operated by the 2WTs were to be delivered once the 2WTs were procured to avoid keeping them idle with the farmers, which could make them prone to vandalism.



Host farmers receiving ox-weeders for training (L) and Motorized Rice Shellers en-route to host farmers

Learning visits for selected machinery host farmers and technical officers to prominent entrepreneur farmers using 2WT and ADP was organized and conducted. The main purpose of the visits was to provide farmers and extension staff with hands-on experience with 2WT and ADP, to allow them understand the operations and management of 2WT and ADP as a business. A total of 81 host farmers and 18 extension staff drawn from all the 9 project districts participated in the learning visits in Lira, Soroti and Serere districts. The farmers and extension personnel that participated in the field visits gained useful knowledge, skills and experiences on use, management and maintenance of the 2WT and ADP.



Farmers learning and trying out the 2WT and ADP operations during the visits (Left:Ploughing with a 2WT, Below: making ridges with ADP)





Farmers trying out a Motorized Cassava Chipper

Comparative studies on use of manual labour (ML), 2-Wheel Tractor (2WT), Animal Draft Power (ADP), conservation farming (CA) and 4-Wheel Tractor (4WT) were conducted at three sites across the project area. The main purpose of the studies (mother-baby design) was to compare the different technologies in terms of the economics and productivity. Three mother demonstration gardens were established during the period of April – June 2019. These were:

- a) In Paicho sub-county under Tic Ber Women Group, at Lamin-Too village, Kal Ali Parish, Gulu district. The mother demonstration field was planted with beans, covering a total of 8 acres in a Completely Randomized Block Design (CRBD) with 3 replicates and 2 treatments using 5 different tecnologies (ML, ADP, 2WT, 4WT and CA). This site was serving as a learning site for farmers from the districts of Gulu, Omoro, Nwoya and Amuru.
- b) In Lagoro Sub-county under Lacan Pe Lony Farmer Group, at Akeca Central village, Laber Parish, Kitgum district. The demonstration field was planted with maize covering a total of 8 acres in a CRBD with 3 replicates, 2 treatments using 5 different technologies (ML, ADP, CA, 2WT and 4WT). This was serving as a learning site for farmers from the districts of Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago and Pader.
- c) In Itirikwa sub-county under Amanita Farmer Group, at Aliwara village, Mungula Parish, Adjumani district, the demonstration field was planted with Soybeans covering a total of 8 acres in a CRBD with 3 replicates, 2 treatments using 5 different technologies (manpower, ADP, 2WT 4WT and CA). This learning site was being used by farmers from Adjumani district.

The comparative demonstration studies were conducted with full participation of the host farmer groups. Different crops for each demonstration site were prioritized by the host groups. The required management practices (weeds, pests & disease management and fertilizer application) were ongoing and the crops were expected to be harvested in the period of August – September 2019.



Planting Soy beans with ADP in Itirikwa (L) & second ploughing with 2 WT in Lagoro (R)



Section of soybean mother demonstration site (L) after 2 weeks and (R) after 2 months

Intermediate outcomes of piloting appropriate smallholder mechanization interventions

Lessons learnt from the learning visits and from the comparative studies on mechanisation options were being appreciated by farmers. Those that were skeptical about the use of, for example ADP and 2WT for planting and weeding, have been able to see and do it practically either during the learning visits or from the comparative demonstration plots. Data on crop performance under the different mechanization options will further inform farmers on the benefits of application of the different options, and will encourage farmers to seek such services from the entrepreneurial farmers. Already, the 23 host farmers of motorised cassava chippers were using the machines to make cassava chips which dried out faster (2 sunny days compared to locally made cassava chips that took 3 to 4 days to properly dry). Cassava chips produced using the chipper were whiter in colour farmers cannot afford to dry on dirty surfaces and this has motivated farmers to use clean tarpaulin for drying their cassava, resulting into clean, white and safe cassava chips. The rapid drying minimized chances of mould growth on cassava chips and hence less risk of aflatoxin contamination and therefore safer food. This expected to open access to better markets for farmers.

2.1.2.8 Technical Support and Capacity Development of Existing and Emerging Farmer Organizations

The project signed a service contract with Uganda National Farmer's Federation (UNFFE) in May 2018, for capacity building of emerging and existing District Farmer's Associations (DFAs). UNFFE conducted capacity development of the District Farmer's Associations in the FY and the following were accomplished:

- 1. Training of lower structures of the DFAs of Kitgum, Gulu, Adjumani and Agago on their roles and responsibilities. The purpose was to ensure that the lower structures of the DFAs were equipped with knowledge and understanding of their roles in mobilizing farmers to participate in various programs and activities, lobby and advocate for the farmers they represent and ensuring smooth information flow on issues of interest to the farmers such as; farmers' events, weather forecast, government programs, DFA activities and programs, available opportunities for value addition, marketing, access to finance, among the many.
- 2. Review of DFA internal operational manuals and development of new ones for DFAs that didn't have them. UNFFE supported 5 out of 8 DFAs (Adjumani, Kitgum, Gulu, Lamwo, and Agago) to review some of their internal operational manuals and also supported the development of new ones which were missing. The intention was to ensure that the DFAs had a basis for holding their leaders and management accountable, provide guiding principles for corporate governance and ensuring transparency and proper management of the finances, human resources, assets and other resources of the DFAs, among others.
- 3. Harmonization of relationship with District Local Governments and conflict resolution. UNFFE provided guidance to the DFAs and their respective District Local Governments on the collective roles each party plays in meeting the needs of the farmers, the need for working together. UNFFE also attended to leadership wrangles in Adjumani DFA which resulted into nullification of an election of new executive board members that took place at the end of January, 2019. Guidance was provided and a road map was agreed upon by the conflicting parties. Some of the intermediate/emerging outcomes of the work of UNFFE with the DFAs were already being seen e.g. Mobilization of membership was ongoing in all 8 DFAs though the momentum varied from one DFA to another. Agago DFA for example was in place and fully registered. The DFA was receiving support and working with Mercy corps, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) and GIZ. UNFFE recommended bids by Agago and Adjumani DFA for tractors from MAAIF and the two DFAs each were given tractors. Minimum support in terms of capacity building was extended to Amuru, Pader and Nwoya DFAs and UNFFE was expected to focus its attention to these districts next fiscal year.

To support the accomplishment of the overall objective of the capacity building exercise of DFAs by UNFFE, a select team from the PMU was constituted to undertake a follow up exercise to validate the accomplishment of UNFFE and to provide feedback for enhanced delivery of services to the targeted DFAs. The team undertook a follow-up to assess the work undertaken by UNFFE. The team held meetings with board members of the district farmer's associations and management staff of the DFAs. The team also interacted with selected DLG staff in each district and reviewed some of the documents UNFFE supported the DFAs to either revise or develop.

The following conclusions were drawn from the interactions:

- (I) UNFFE's support to capacity development of DFAs in the project districts was taking shape, though at different rates in the different DFAs. DFAs with pro-active leadership were progressing faster than the others. Of the DFAs interacted with, Agago, Adjumani, Kitgum, Gulu, and Lamwo had reaped more benefits from the services of UNFFE compared to Amuru, Pader and Nwoya.
- (II) The reviews and drafting of key internal operational documents for the respective DFAs by UNFFE were ongoing in consultation with Board members and management staff of the DFA.

- (III) Support to membership mobilization and capacity building of Board members and lower level structures on their roles and responsibilities was on-going, but more needed to be done to strengthen functionality of DFA structures. Having the structures in place was not enough, their functionality was more important and that was not yet pronounced across most of the DFAs.
- (IV) There was a general sense of linkage between the DFAs and their respective DLGs. However, a lot still needed to be done to ensure functional working relationship between the DFAs and their DLGs as institutions. The existing good relationships between the DFA and their DLG was linked to individuals who worked with the DLG and were associated with the DFA. The ideal working relationship ought to be one in which the DLG recognised DFA as a partner in development and the DFA recognised that its efforts were towards the development of its members and the DLG at large.
- (V) Efforts to organize and conduct Annual General Meetings (AGMs) was emphasized by UNFFE to the respective DFAs, some of which had managed to conduct AGMs, after many years. However, these were done because an external institution had put in pressure and even facilitated the AGM. More effort was needed to ensure DFAs and their members actively contributed and participated in AGMs.
- (VI) Election of office bearers (board members) had taken place in some DFAs and this was a step in the right direction. Conducting regular and transparent elections were indications of maturity of institutions. However, this had not been the case with some of the DFAs. Organizing elections had been pushed onto the DFAs.
- (VI) The approach used by UNFFE, especially for training were limited to short training sessions. This was realized to be inadequate by all the DFAs interfaced with and UNFFE was advised to spend more time conducting such trainings, beyond having a few hours training sessions, conducted by one individual.

2.1.3 SUB-COMPONENT A: 2B-C COMPLEMENTARY COMMUNITY BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PRELNOR is promoting capacity building in best practices in Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and introducing climate change adaptation measures at both the catchment and household levels as a basis for climate resilient crop production systems. Focus is on the resilience of targeted agricultural livelihoods in the areas of water management, afforestation and better land-use. These include:

- (i) natural regeneration of trees in farmed and communal areas;
- (ii) multi-purpose vegetated bunds for improved soil and water management;
- (iii) tree nurseries and woodlots to provide alternative sources of domestic energy and to reduce rates of deforestation;
- (iv) demonstrations of rainwater harvesting for potable water or for supplementary irrigation of vegetable gardens; and,
- (v) promotion of improved cooking stoves. An estimated 600 CBNRM Plans are to be financed over the project lifetime in a phased approach. A total of 420 CBNRM plans have so far been funded.

2.1.3.1 Major CBNRM Interventions under Implementation

During the CBNRM plans development processes using PRA tools, target communities were guided through a process that involved analysis of the existing environmental situation, problems and available opportunities that they could adopt to improve on their environment and increase agricultural production and productivity. Deforestation was ranked as the most outstanding problem. Other problems identified during the CBNRM plans development were bush burning, land degradation, shortage of water for production, and unreliable rainfall, among others. To solve these problems, planting of multipurpose trees was unanimously proposed. This course of action is expected to yield multiple benefits including improved food and nutrition security; provision of construction materials in form of timber and poles; firewood; income from the sale of the tree products; and soil and water conservation; among other benefits.

A baseline survey conducted by the Project in 2018 indicated that the majority of the batch 'A' (217 CBNRM plans) beneficiary community groups proposed tree planting (77%), especially fruit trees as the major intervention in their natural resource management plans. This was followed by construction of water harvesting pans (commonly referred to as dam construction) (7%), sustainable land management practices (4%) and soil and water conservation (4%) among others as shown in Figure A.2.b.2. Other interventions were integrated bee keeping and agroforestry, and promotion of energy-saving cooking technologies.

The expected outcomes are increased land cover under climate resilient practices; including, increased tree cover, soil and water conservation structures, leading to enhanced agricultural production and productivity. Through the CBNRM interventions, over 40,000 households were reached. Additionally, the funding processes involved in CBNRM projects exposed community members to financial literacy and management, as well as banking skills, as most of the community members had never used the bank services. The energy saving cook stoves were saving time for women and girls in terms of fast cooking in clean environment, with a reduced quantity (more than half) of fuel wood utilized. Women constitute at least 45% of leadership positions in all the funded 420 CBNRM interventions.saving cook stoves were saving time for wood utilized. Women constitute at least 45% of leadership positions in all the funded 420 CBNRM interventions.





2.1.3.2 Renewable Energy Technologies

In this project sub component,10,000 poor vulnerable households and selected institutions (e.g. schools, health facilities, and prisons) have been targeted to receive renewable energy technologies (RETs). Of the targeted 10,000 vulnerable households, the first batch of 2000 mentored households had already benefited. Supply of additional 2000 for the second batch of the 2000 mentored households was underway. Three types of Renewable Energy Technologies (solar systems, energy-saving cook stoves and a biogas system) were installed in selected 42 beneficiary institutions. Delivery of RETs to an additional 50 institutions (30 improved cook stoves and 20 solar PV systems) was on going.

The project sensitized and built capacity of 84 representatives of the 42 institutional beneficiaries in the construction, use, and maintenance of the installed cook stoves. 400 artisans (200 males, 200 females) were selected, whose capacity were being built to support their communities, including the vulnerable mentored households in the operations, maintenance, and promotion of energy-saving cook stoves. A total of 25 individuals (beneficiary institutions, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Gulu DFA and the PMU) participated in a Learning Visit of the Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) Projects in Uganda. The objective of the learning visit was to improve the capacity of beneficiary institutions to effectively utilize, operate, and maintain the RETs installed in their respective institutions.

The installed RETs were already bearing fruits; with some beneficiary institutions reporting savings of over 65% in firewood used for cooking compared to when these technologies were not yet installed. This had significantly reduced beneficiary institutions' expenses on firewood (up to 67% in some institutions), and most importantly, reducing pressure on the alarmingly dwindling tree cover in the project area.

Other benefits reported by both the mentored households and beneficiary institutions were, less smoke produced; better kitchens with clean cooking environment; less heat to users; reduced cooking time; and food kept warm by the cook stoves. Beneficiaries of solar systems reported improved class/school attendance by pupils, and improvement in delivery of health services, especially in the maternity facilities for women during child birth.







2.1.3.3 Weather and Climate Information Services

The project is supporting delivery of agro-meteorological services to farmers to enhance their coping and adaptive capacities to climate change shocks. The capacity of 185 (90 agriculture extension workers, 25 sub-county agriculture officers, 25 sub-county community development officers, and 45 staff of the partnering DLGs/DFA) individuals were built in the interpretation and applications of weather forecasts and agricultural advisories. The capacity building had enabled the extension agents to effectively disseminate agro-meteorological information and to deliver climate-resilient extension services to the 574 farmer groups, representing 17,220 households (574 farmer groups*30 households). This was evidenced in the translation of the forecasts into the local language (Acholi) and displayed in various strategic locations such as notice boards of the sub-counties for easy access by the farming communities.

Fifteen (15) Automatic Weather Stations were procured, awaiting installation. A total of six Davis automatic weather stations were rehabilitated, and their functionality was restored. These AWS are in six districts / sites, namely; Agoro (in Lamwo District), Namukora (Kitgum), Amuru (Amuru), Agago (Agago), Gulu (Gulu) and Pader (Pader District). A website onto which the six Davis automatic weather stations deliver records of weather observations had been established. A static public IP address for the virtual server that hosts the website is: 154.72.194.1/aws/index.htm

Twenty five (25) focal persons, one per project sub-county were identified to facilitate timely dissemination of the weather forecasts to the farmer groups to aid production decisions. A benchmarking learning visit to Kenya on the devolution of agro-meteorological information from a national weather service to smallholder farmers was conducted in July 2018. A total of 9 individuals (2 Gulu and Adjumani DFAs, 3 District Local Governments, 2 UNMA; 2 PMU) participated. The learning visit had resulted in improvement of the forecasts generated and disseminated by UNMA, especially in terms of the accompanying advisory services (implications of forecasts to, agriculture and food security sector; water resources and energy sector; health sector; and disaster preparedness).

Weather forecasts terminologies were also defined in simple terms for the farmers to understand, and apply, accordingly. Radio talk shows to disseminate seasonal forecasts were conducted to enable farmers plan farming activities accordingly. Procurement of a server and high processing computer (laptops and desktops) sets to facilitate UNMA in the data capture, analysis, and dissemination was in advance stages. As part of sustainability, UNMA recruited staff to manage the modelling laboratory, which would focus on northern Uganda, in addition to other regions of the country.

Major outcomes of this subcomponent are; improved coverage of weather station networks; increased access to the weather and climate information and advisory services by the 574 farmer groups; and increased utilisation of the forecasts for farming decisions.

2.1.3.4 Sustainable Land Management

PRELNOR, in partnership with WOCAT through its local implementing partner, the Uganda Land Care Network (ULN) engaged a total of 270 individuals (234 farmers and 36 extension workers) using DESIRE decision-support tool to select appropriate SLM technologies for scaling-up. Some of the selected technologies were planting of multipurpose trees, integrated bee keeping, agroforestry; intercropping, line planting, drip irrigation, and water harvesting, as indicated in the Table A.2.d.1 below.

S/N	Tech- nology code	Technology Name	District
1	2763	Livestock grazing on natural pasture for animal manure	Gulu
2	2143	Modern intensive livestock management	Gulu
3	2816	Stall feeding for Friesian cow for manure	Nwoya
4	2818	Mulching using grass on annual and perennial cropland	Amuru
5	2815	Intercropping soya and maize	Gulu
6	2814	Row planting of annual crops (sun flower)	Nwoya
7	2274	Trenches for soil and water conservation	Agago
8	2812	Intensive Pig farming for soil fertility Improvement	Kitgum
9	2304	Under Groundwater abstraction for livestockpro- duction	Lamwo
10	2818	Mulching using grass on annual and perennial cropland	Amuru
11	2825	Pine wood lot	Amuru
12	2757	Mulching using banana leaves	Nwoya
13	2826	Citrus Orchard with grass and trenches for soil erosion control	Gulu
14	2821	Fruit tree growing for soil and water conservation	Gulu
15	2257	Integrated Apiculture and forestry	Agago
16	2327	Modern Based Bee hives	kitgum
17	2787	Fruit Orchard mangoes, oranges integrated with beans	Omolo
18	2819	Fruit tree growing for soil fertility improvement	Amuru
19	2817	Small ruminants (goats) managed for manure production	Gulu
20	2796	Ground water fed fish ponds	Lamwo
21	1803	Piggery through women's group association (Approach)	Gulu
22	2767	WALA community tree planting Approach	Omoro
24	2321	Indigenous pastures (guinea grass) for dairy farming	Kitgum
25	2254	Animal manure production	Adjumani
26	3306	Cover crops for weed control	Nwoya
27	3329	Reducing tillage by slashing	Nwoya
28	3307	Conservation Farming basins forsoil and water conservation	Nwoya
29	3324	Ground energy saving stoves	Nwoya
30	3328	Multipurpose trees species for supplementing animal pasture	Nwoya
31	3330	Low cost drier for preserving crop produce	Nwoya
32	3323	Peer farmers training other farmers on conserva- tion basins	Nwoya

Technologies and Approaches published on the WOCAT Online Database

Total number of extension officers trained, disaggregated by gender, and youth

No.	Activity	Males	Females	Total Num- ber trained
1	Reconnaissance Survey	22	2	24
2	Participatory Mapping and stakeholder anal- ysis	42	30	72
3	Trainingof National Expert Group (NEG) on WOCAT tools	5	2	7
4	Training of Extension workers in the districts and sub counties on WOCAT Tools	37	8	45
5	Project Inception meeting (District lead- ers and Extensionworkers, partners & PRELNOR secretariat)	56	10	66
6	End of appraisal meeting District leaders and Extension workers, partners & PRELNOR secretariat)	28	9	37
7	Data collection (documentation of technolo- gies)	87	16	103
8	Training on Video documentation (Exten- sion workers)	16	6	22
9	TOT of ExtensionWorkerstofacilitatedis- trictbased DS tool meetings including- partners	17	9	26
10	District based trainings on Decision support tool trainings and selection of technologies for scaling (Extension workers and farmer leaders)	248	87	335

The Synergies with ULN included the following:

- 1. Participation in the WOCAT SLM Project Implementation Committee.
- 2. Participation in the WOCAT Three (3) yearly annual Work plan and budget harmonization meetings to ensure that activities of both projects fed into each other.
- 3. ULN built capacity of PRELNOR staff on WOCAT tools, technology documentation and technology selection using the farmer participatory decision support tools based on the capacity gaps identified among the extension workers.
- 4. There was joint development of selection criteria for host farmers for demonstration of technologies.

Key outcome here is the increased land cover under climate resilient practices.

2.2 COMPONENT B: MARKET LINKAGES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2.2.1 SUB-COMPONENT B.1 IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS PROCESSES

The major activities planned for the year 2018/19 under B.1 on improved market processes were: Constitution and training of Sub-Regional Market Stakeholder Platform, Radio talk shows on farming as a business, Market intelligence and brokerage of market linkages and post-harvest handling; Training of farmer groups in farming as a Business (FaaB) and assistance to develop simple business plans; training of farmer groups in Post-harvest handling; brokerage of market linkages for farmer groups; technical back stopping of field activities; farmer group leaders learning visit to understand PHH/VA innovations, bulking and market linkages; profiling of agro input dealers and produce traders for market linkages.

1. One (1) Sub Regional Market Stakeholder Platform (MSP) Constituted

The SRMSP was constituted by the three (3) bulk markets of Elegu, Gulu and Kitgum and the eight satellite markets of Mungula, Pabbo, Olwiyo, Opit, Cwero, Porogail 2, Lokole and Agago. The major objective of the meeting was to constitute the Sub Regional MSP to facilitate policy dialogue with local and central governments on behalf of all the 11 MSPs. The meeting attracted 87 Participants of which 30 (34%) were female and 57 (66%) were male.

The members were first sensitized on PRELNOR implementation modalities and progress on market linkages and infrastructure component, the roles and responsibilities of the sub regional MSP and its relevant committees as well as briefing on how the Sub Regional MSP was to be constituted. Each of the 11 MSPs nominated two (2) members to the Sub Regional MSP to make 22 members that constituted the SRMSP. The Sub Regional MSP was constituted by a total of 22 members of which 8 (36%) were female and 14 (54%) were male.

2. Sub-Regional MSP members trained and their capacity enhanced

A total of 22 members participated in the training representing 100% turn up of which 8 (36%) were female and 14 (64%) were male. The training was facilitated by a team of three (3) resource persons led by the ABPMS/PRELNOR. The major objectives of the training were to enhance knowledge and skills of Sub-Regional MSP members to execute their duties and to orient the Sub Regional MSP members on PRELNOR implementation modalities.

The key topics covered were; PRELNOR implementation modalities and background to the Sub-Regional MSP; the roles and responsibilities of sub-regional MSP; governance/leadership and constitution making; lobby, advocacy, and resource mobilization; mobilization strategies, brokerage of market linkages and the concept of group marketing; entrepreneurship and records management and.

The key outputs of the training were:

- 1. Knowledge and skills of the Sub Regional MSP members built on roles and responsibilities, governance/leadership, lobbying and advocacy; Records Management; Resource Mobilization; Group marketing and Mobilization Strategies.
- 2. Sub Regional MSP members oriented on the PRELNOR operation modalities.

Printing and distribution of FAAB and PHH technical training manuals. Printing of 500 FaaB and 500 PHH manuals were accomplished. The manuals were distributed to the DLGs and DFAs. The technical manuals were distributed to Agricultural Extension Facilitators, Agricultural Officers, Market Facilitators, Agribusiness Officers and Community Based Facilitators.

2.2.1.1 Capacity of agribusiness farmer groups built in FAAB/Simple Business Plans Development

Gulu/Omoro: A total 718 (234 male and 484 female) agribusiness farmer group members from 32 farmer groups were trained in Farming as a Business (FaaB) and assisted to develop simple business plans.



Gulu DFA Agribusiness Officer training farmers on Business plan development in Bungatira Sub-County

The main topics handled on FaaB was the concept of FaaB where thematic areas on how to maximize profit and how to maximize yield were discussed. With regard to business planning, areas handled included definition of business, planning, importance of business plan, production plan (scale of production, product, production costs, yield, gross margin, profit), marketing plan (market for the product, competitors available and how to separate their product from them, means of product promotion, activities to undertake to sell their products), Financial Plan (where to get funds, how much funds was needed, projected cash flow, start up and operating cost), assigning roles and responsibility. Agreeing on rules and regulation, making work plan to produce their product. The farmer groups were mentored on how to dream about the future of their business and to make a realistic idea in setting the objective of what they wanted to do and to make a strategy of how to attain their objective.

Adjumani: A total of 24 agribusiness farmer groups were mobilized and trained on FaaB. The training attracted 425 individual farmers (242 females and 183 males). This farmer groups were assisted to develop 24 simple business plans

Nwoya: A total of 23 farmer groups were trained on farming as a business and business plans development. A total of 412 farmers (258 female and 154 male) attended the training. Farmer Groups/individual farmers were guided on how to develop their own business plan tailored towards their group/households' visions using a simplified version.

Lamwo: Twenty four (24) Agribusiness farmer groups were trained on FAAB and business planning. Each group has been assisted to develop a business plan. A total of 776 (334 males and 442 Females) participants/members of the farmer groups attended/benefitted from the training.

Pader: Thirty six (36) farmer groups were trained in FAAB and assisted to develop 36 business plans. Participants were taken through key aspects of farming as a business: enterprise selection, the concept of farming as a business, farm entrepreneurship, sources of cspital for investment, business records management, and financial literacy. A total of 590 farmers were trained (290 male and 300 female).

Kitgum: In total 624 farmers from 24 groups were trained in farming as a business (156 men & 467 women). The capacity building of the agribusiness farmer groups in financial literacy was conducted at group level by the extension facilitators and community based facilitators. During the training, the following topics were covered; Concept of Farming as Business, objectives of Farming as Business, profit maximization, Enterprise selection, Factors to

consider when selecting an enterprise, Profitability Analysis and making a busi- ness plan. These trainings were aimed at making farmers to appreciate that farming was a form of business and to gain the business management skills necessary for a successful business enterprise. The groups were also assisted to develop business plans. The objective of the training was to introduce and mentor farmers to undertake commercial agriculture and improve their income, savings and ultimately livelihoods.

No	District	Farmer groups	Male	Female	Total
1	Gulu/Omoro	32	234	484	718
2	Adjumani	24	183	242	425
3	Amuru	36	510	994	1,504
4	Pader	36	290	300	590
5	Agago	36	456	668	1,124
6	Kitgum	24	156	467	624
7	Lamwo	24	334	442	776
8	Nwoya	23	154	258	412
	Total				

1. Capacity Building of Agribusiness Farmer groups on Post-Harvest Handling

Gulu/Omoro: A total of 450 members, of which 192 (43%) were male and 258 (57%) female agribusiness farmer groups members were trained in good PHH handling practices. The objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge and skills of farmers to produce good quality commodities that fetch better prices in the market. The key output of the training was that knowledge and skills of the farmers was enhanced in PHH handling

2. Demonstration on Post-Harvest Handling and Value Addition

AEATREC prepared technology models for demonstration such as maize crib, legume wooden thresher, drying rack, storage silos and bin, solarisation materials, bio-rational and inert material for control of storage pests, samples of storage insects, and food pipe line chart. In addition, other materials and equipment's such as soya bean/bean motorized thresher, chemical for pest control, moisture content determination machine, tarpaulin, gunny bags, hand maize sheller, beans and maize grain samples were procured to facili- tate demonstration on PHH/VA.

In total, 762 farmers (233 males and 529 females) from 50 farmer groups (42 from batch one and 8 from batch two) participated in the demonstration, 14 AEF, 18 CBF and 4 volunteers/ interns and 2 AO also actively participated.

Nwoya: 23 farmer groups and 160 household mentees were trained on post-harvest han-dling. Major areas covered included; harvesting, tools used in harvesting, timing of har- vesting, the leaky food pipe, threshing, drying, sorting, grading, storage, storage facilities, repaired leaky food pipe. A total of 528 (221 females representing 42% and 307 males representing 58%) attended. The training involved practical demonstrations to the farmers by agro-entrepreneurs in agro processing. The value addition techniques as added ad- vantage to bargaining prices which add up to the profitability of the enterprises. A total of 23 market oriented farmer groups were supported with PHH/VA demonstration materials, which included: 24 record books, 52 turplins, 73 metallic basins and 25 wheel barrows

Adjumani: A total of 178 participants (59 males and 119 females) from eight agribusiness groups attended training. 24 agribusiness Farmer groups were mobilized and received assorted PHH demonstration materials including: 75 pcs of Tarpaulins, 120 pcs of sickles, 240 pcs of empty sacks, 24 pcs of weighing scales, 12 pcs of manual maize shellers, 13 pcs of shivers and 15 pcs of sampling spears. This aimed at supporting them with materials for improved quality of produce. As a result of the training of the farmer groups and demonstration on PHH/VA innovations, there has been improved quality of commodities from participating farmer groups as a result of adoption of good PHH practices.

3. Use of manual maize Sheller demonstrated

25 group members from five farmer groups were mobilized and trained/demonstrated to, on use of manual maize sheller, including greasing and adjustments during shelling of maize participated in the training/demonstration. It is expected that the 5 persons will train the rest of members on how to operate the maize sheller.

4. Brokerage of Linkages for farmer groups to the market

Four (4) potential produce buyers namely Agri Exim Ltd, Mount Meru Millers Ltd, Harree Millers Ltd and Bukona Agro processors Ltd were sourced for market linkage for maize, cassava and soya beans based on farmers demand. A total of 17 MTs of soya beans was procured by Agri Exim Ltd from 8 market-oriented farmers group in Paicho and Lalogi sub counties.

Lalem Tiyo cassava factory in Purongo, Nwoya District was identified for purchase of dry and fresh cassava. They were interested in buying dry cassava at Ugx 400 per kilo and fresh cassava at Ugx 180 per kilo when delivered at the factory. Discussions were still ongoing with farmers if they could manage. Uganda breweries limited was also consulted for farmers interested in producing Sorghum (Epuri Epur).

Nyeko Rac cooperative based in Lira district was linked to farmers producing Maksoy 3N, 4N and 5N varieties of soybean. The cooperative had signed an agreement to supply 3,000 MT of soy bean to a Kenyan company.

5. Profiling Agro Input Dealers and Produce Traders

The profiles of Produce Traders and Agro-Input dealers, critical for brokering input and output market linkages for farmer groups in the nine project districts were developed. As volumes of these commodities increase, market linkages become very critical. This therefore called for profiling of all produce traders to facilitate market intelligence and linkages to the produce markets for the farmer groups.

It was also important to profile input dealers to ensure effective linkage of farmer groups to improved seed varieties for enhanced production and productivity. The profiling of input dealers and produce traders was conducted by a team of volunteers, supervised by the PSOs, Commercial Officers, Agribusiness Officers in the DFAs and PMU Agribusiness Specialist. The profiling was conducted in June, 2019 in the nine project district.

The major objective of the profiling was to make available, a database of the agro input dealers and Produce traders for effective market linkages.

The specific Objectives of the profiling were:

- 1. To profile all agro input dealers in the project districts for effective linkage of farmer groups to access agro inputs;
- 2. To profile all produce dealers in the project districts for effective linkages with farmer groups to produce markets;
- 3. To enhance linkages between farmer groups and produce traders'.

Intermediate Outcomes of farmer capacity building

At least 539 farmer groups were now undertaking farming as a business. Some farmer groups participating in farming as a business and bulking their produce for the market and selling as a group realized very high income from their farming activities for example:

- 1. CANYELLA FARMER GROUP in Palaro sub-county, Gulu district sold their rice in the first season and got cash of UGX 45million.
- 2. Awinya Awinya farmer group in Paicho sub-county, Gulu district, sold their Soya bean as a group to Lira cooperative Society and got cash of 8.6millions Ugx. shillings in the first season
- 3. ACAKKI PE Yot Farmer group in Lalogi sub-county, Omoro district, marketed and sold their Soya beans and Cassava as a group and got cash of UGX 33 million. These are farmer groups from the first batch.

Thess were some of the evidence of enhanced incomes among farmer groups practicing farming as a business. At least 539 farmer groups had adopted improved post-harvest handling techniques and technologies which had resulted into improved quality of commodities for the market.





Canyella Farmer Group drying groundnut.

Awinya Awinya Farmer Group drying various commodities

District	Produce 1	raders	Total	Agro Inpu	ut Dealers	Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
Omoro	29	4	33	7	1	8
Gulu	26	19	45	11	5	16
Amuru	79	18	97	8	4	12
Pader	108	39	147	0	0	0
Agago	50	22	72	0	0	0
Lamwo	1	11	12	2	0	2
Adjumani	19	53	72	0	0	0
Nwoya	47	6	53	8	2	10
Kitgum	39	9	48	1	0	1
TOTAL	398	181	579	37	12	49

Summary of Agro Input Dealers and Produce Traders in the Districts:

1. Farmer learning visit for leaders of farmer groups to understand PHH/VA innovations, Bulking and Market Linkages

A farmer group learning visit was organized for the farmer group leaders; chairpersons of farmer groups, chairpersons of marketing committees and representatives of the Market Stakeholder Platforms to facilitate adoption of good post-harvest handling and value addition innovations, bulking for the market, input bulk buying, sustainable market linkages. The visit attracted 133 participants of which 50 (37.6%) were female and 83 (62.4%) were male. Participants were drawn from agribusiness farmer groups from the nine project districts of Omoro, Adjumani, Amuru, Agago, Gulu, Nwoya, Pader, Kitgum and Lamwo. It was conducted in June, 2019 and the major objective was to foster mindset change on PHH/VA, bulking for the market, input bulk buying and sustainable market linkages.

The participants visited Kigumba Integrated Farmers Association in Kigumba Sub-County, Kigumba district; Byerima United Stars Farmers Association located 45 km from Masindi district headquarters located Bwijanga Sub-County, Byerima village; Nyekorac Community Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited located in Ogur Sub-County in Lira district. The cooperative started in 2013 and registered as a cooperative society in 2016. The team also visited Te Adwong Cluster in Lira District. The cluster started in 2014 and consists of 180 members (108 female, 72 males). The cluster has been supported by Action for Sustainable Rural Transformation (AFSRT)/Vegetable Oil Development Project 2, who provides extension services and facilitates access to improved seeds. The major value chains were sunflower and soybeans. Soybean was produced in the first season, while sunflower was produced in the second season.

Key Learning Points from the learning visit were as follows:

- a) Bulking of commodities increases members bargaining power in the market thus ensuring better prices received, leading to increased farmer profits as opposed to individual marketing;
- b) Bulk input buying lowers the cost of production as prices of inputs are lowered;
- c) It's easier to access extension services when you are in the cluster, association or cooperative society;
- d) In the cluster even lazy members were motivated to work hard to better their hous holds through farming as a business;
- e) Members had shared vision and this enhances learning among members as well as adoption of new technologies for improved production and productivity of the enterprises.

Key outputs from the learning visit were:

- a) Knowledge and skills of the farmer group leaders enhanced in PHH/VA, commodity bulking for the market and market linkages;
- b) Linkages to the market initiated with cooperatives like Nyekorac Coop Society;
- c) Adoption of new innovations in PHH/VA as well as best practices in bulking of commodities, bulk input purchase to take advantage of economies of scale promoted:



Participants during a presentation by Nyekorac Farmers SACCO and Te Adwaong Cluster in Lira

2. Farmers Learning Visit to Nwoya on commodity bulking and linkages to the market

Seventy seven (53 male, 24 female) farmer group leaders from Gulu and Omoro undertook a learning visit to Nwoya district. The participants visited Bukona Agro Processing Factory, a company which deals in processing agricultural products majorly cassava, maize, and beans. The team also visited two model farmer groups in Nwoya under support from ZOA who were practicing bulk/collective marketing of commodities and Local Seed Business. The major objectives of the visit were to expose farmers to the market opportunities and also learn from their fellow farmers in the region who were practicing collective marketing and also doing Local Seed Business.

The key output was that farmers' knowledge and skills on commodity bulking were enhanced and linkages to the cassava market brokered with Bukona Factory.





Participants during the visit to Bukona Factory

2.2.1.2 Technical Back Stopping on Brokerage of Market Linkages

To ensure effective linkages to markets, one of the critical roles of the MSPs is the brokerage of market linkages. In order to be able to effectively undertake this role, MSP members require knowledge and skills to broker market linkages and seal deals on behalf of farmer groups. In this regard, a one day training/technical back stopping meeting was conducted for the five MSPs of Elegu, Pabbo, Opit, Porogali 2 and Lokole. This technical back stopping was facilitated by the PMU, ABOs, DCOs and DAOs. A total of 123 MSP members attended the training/technical back stopping on brokerage of market linkages of which 82 (66%) were male and 41 (34 %) were female. The major objective of the training/ technical back stopping was to enhance knowledge and skills of the MSP members in effectively brokering market linkages for farmer groups.

The Specific Objectives of the training/technical back stopping included enhancement of members' knowledge and skills in effective market linkages brokerage and; development of a commodity market directory for effective market linkages. Key topics discussed included the Concept of market linkages, Constraints and remedies to effective market linkages; Strengthening Market Linkages for Smallholder Rural Farmers in Northern Uganda; Strategies to brokering effective market linkages and strategies to responding to market constraints. Key outputs of the training/technical back stopping were that the MSP members were able to understand brokerage of market linkages for farmer groups and acquired knowledge and skills on effective brokerage market linkages.

2.2.1.3 Radio Talk Shows on Market Intelligence and Brokerage of Market Linkages

The radio talk show on market intelligence and brokerage of market linkages was conducted in May-June, 2019. The panelists' during the radio talk shows were: District Commercial Officers, District Agricultural Officers, DFA Agribusiness Officers, Agricultural Extension Facilitators, Members of the Market Stakeholder Platforms, PMU Agronomist, PMU Agribusiness Specialist and PMU M&E Assistant. The major objective of the radio talk shows was to create awareness on the importance of sustainable market linkages and broker market linkages for the farmer groups.

The specific objectives of the radio talk shows were to enhance farmer group awareness on the importance of market intelligence and; to enhance stakeholders understanding on the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders on market linkages. The talking points during the Radio Talk Shows included the concept of the market; market intelligence and a market broker; concept of market linkages, constraints and remedies to effective market linkages; Strengthening market linkages for smallholder rural farmers in Northern Uganda; strategies to brokering effective market linkages for farmer groups and; the key stakeholders on market linkages in the PRELNOR project, their roles and responsibilities.

2.2.1.4 Radio Talk shows on Farming as a Business

Similarly, radio talk shows on farming as a business were conducted in June, 2019. The radio talk shows were to rally farmers to undertake farming as a business. The panelists during the radio talk shows included: MSP representatives, Senior Commercial Officers, District Agricultural Officers, DFA Agribusiness Officers, PMU Agronomist, M&E Assistant and Agribusiness and Partnerships Management Specialists.

The major objectives of the radio talk shows were to enhance farmer group awareness on the importance of undertaking farming as a business (commercial production and bulking for the market) as well as bulking for the market and; to enhance stakeholders understanding of the role of the PRELNOR market infrastructure in contributing to community welfare.

Talking points during the radio talk show included the role of Market Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) in farming as a business (FaaB); the concept of business in relation to farm business; Principles of business; A farmer as an entrepreneur; Benefits of farm entrepreneurship; Tips on FaaB/key issues to have in mind; Importance of a farm business plan.

2.2.1.5 Radio talk shows on Post-Harvest Handling

Good post-harvest handling practices as well as adding value to agricultural commodities is critical to linkages to better markets that offer higher prices for better quality commodities. One of the biggest challenges facing smallholder farmers in Northern Uganda and which has posed a big challenge to market access is poor post-harvest handling resulting into poor quality commodities which lowers demand and prices. It's against this background that radio talk shows were conducted to supplement information offered during farmer groups training. The radio talk shows were conducted in Radio Rupiny – Gulu, Mega FM – Gulu, Mighty FM – Kitgum, Tembo FM – Gulu and Aulogo FM – Adjumani from 15th to 19th April, 2019. The radio talk shows were facilitated by the District Agricultural Officers, Agribusiness Officers, PMU Agribusiness and Partnerships Management Specialist and Coordinated by PMU M&E staff. The objectives of the talk shows are were: (i).To enhance farmers' knowledge and skills on PHH and VA for improved quality of the commodities for the markets; and (ii). To disseminate information on good PHH recommended practices.

Farmers acquired knowledge and skills on recommended PHH/VA practices that enhance quality of commodities for the market as a key output of this talk show.

2.2.1.6 Radio talk shows on market intelligence and brokerage of market Linkages

The capacity of the first cohort of 1200 farmer groups was built in group governance, proper crop agronomic practices, farming as a business, and post-harvest handling. The farmer groups' production and productivity was enhanced and the groups were realizing excess commodities for the markets. In this respect, market linkages is now the critical activity in the commodity value chain. The radio talk shows were conducted on 31st May, 2019 in Aulogo FM, Adjumani district; 6th June in Radio Rupiny, Gulu; 7th June in Mighty FM, Kitgum; 12th June in Mega FM, Gulu and 14th June in Tembo FM, Kitgum district. The panelists' during the radio talk shows were: District Commercial Officers, District Agricultural Officers, DFA Agribusiness Officers, Agricultural Extension Facilitators, Members of the Market Stakeholder Platforms, PMU Agronomist, PMU Agribusiness Specialist and PMU M&E Assistant. The major objective of the radio talk shows was to create awareness on the importance of sustainable market linkages and broker market linkages for the farmer groups and to enhance stakeholders understanding on the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders on market linkages.

Intermediate Outcomes from Talk shows:

Following the radio talk show on market intelligence and brokerage of market linkages, farmers in Lalogi, Paicho, Bungatira, Paicho and other neighboring sub-counties who had produce in stock were linked to Gulu Produce Traders Association leaders who purchased 28 MT of maize from the farmers. Farmers across the project sub-counties were adopting improved post-harvest practices and technologies such as timely harvesting, use of turplins for drying.

2.2.1.8 Acquisition of land titles for the proposed bulk and satellite markets

The Districts were tasked to process land titles for the three (3) bulk and eight (8) satellite markets market sites identified by Market Stakeholder Platforms and District Local Governments. The District Local Governments were reminded twice in writing to expedite the acquisition of land titles for the proposed bulk and satellite markets to pave way for market design and construction. They were as well asked to provide files with documents related to land titling. Amuru district had processed land title for the Elegu bulk market. However, the pace of acquisition of the land titles was very slow in other districts.

Status of Land Titling by June 2019

S/N	Market	District	Status
1	Elegu Bulk Market	Amuru	Title in place
2	Gulu Bulk Market	Gulu	Land valuation was done, MoU was to be signed between Gulu DLG & West Acholi Diocese and sub leasing by West Acholi Diocese to Gulu DLG to be concluded
3	Kitgum Bulk Market	Kitgum	Documents were at Gulu Regional Land Offices for titling
4	Cwero Satellite Market	Gulu	Documents were at Gulu Regional Land Offices for titling
5	Pabbo	Amuru	Submission to the Gulu Regional offices was done, title was being awaited
6	Olwiyo Satellite Market	Nwoya	Documents were with GULU Regional Land Offices for titling
7	Porogali 2 Satellite Market	Pader	Submission to Gulu Regional Land Office was done, awaiting land title
8	Mungula Satellite Market	Adjumani	Approvals were done by DLB and documents were with Gulu Regional Land Office for titling of the land
9	Lokole Satellite Market	Agago	Submission to DLB had been made
10	Opit Satellite Market	Omoro	Submission to Gulu Regional Land office was done, awaiting land title
11	Agoro Satellite Market	Lamwo	Submission to the Gulu Regional Land Office was done, awaiting the finalization of titling

2.2.2 SUB-COMPONENT B.2 MARKET ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Market Access Infrastructure sub-component is designed to improve access to mar kets, facilitate more competitive pricing, and increase farmers' income through improvements to community access roads (CARs) and structures that facilitate production marketing in selected strategic sites for agriculture trade. It is estimated that benefits from the investments will reach a total of about 155,000 rural households in the nine districts.

An estimated 1,550 km of all-weather CARs are to be constructed, including all the re- quired ancillary drainage structures. To ensure that the communities benefiting from construction of the CARs participate fully in the design and construction process, a road construction committee has been formed for each of the planned CARs with members drawn from villages that the CAR passes through. Provisions have been made for ASAP grant funding to support Rain Water Harvesting including Road Water Harvesting from CARs. In this, it was planned to rehabilitate a total of 606.1 km of CARs including Rain Water Harvesting at 10 pilot sites.

It is planned that three strategic market places for bulk trading at Gulu, Kitgum and Elegu for produce shall be designed together with eight smaller aggregation points and / or satellite market places. The emphasis is on facilitating the rapid receipt, sale and tranship- ment of agricultural products from the project area, not storing product.

The following were accomplished in FY 2018/2019 under this sub-component:

1. Community Access Roads (CARs)

Design of the first batch of 614.0 km was completed and Contract works for 606.1 km, packaged in 48 lots were ongoing and were at different levels of implementation. The procurement of the balance of 7.9 km of CARs in Adjumani district were differed since no bids were received for 2.3 km under Lot 6 while the bids for an additional 5.6 km under Lot 7 were non-responsive.

The combined technical and financial proposals for design of the second batch of CARs totalling 608.2km, packaged in two Lots of 257.8 km (Adjumani, Amuru, Gulu & Nwoya) and 350.4 km (Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo, Omoro & Pader) respectively were at contract signing stage.

Procurement of consultants for design of the third batch of CARs estimated at 329.8 km was at the financial proposal evaluation stage, during the repoting period

2. Rain Water Harvesting Pilot Sites

A Request for Proposal (RFP) document, including Terms of Reference (TOR) for the provision of Technical Assistance on Rainwater Harvesting was prepared and reviewed at MTR in May 2019. Following MTR recommendations, Rain Water Harvesting was incorporated in the ToR for Design of Batches B and C CARs and therefore, 10 sites are to be sited and used to demonstrate Rain/Road water harvesting.

3. Road Management Committees

64 RMCs were established, trained and are operational along the second and third batches of CARs. The RMCs were provided with Reference Guides for the Establishment and Operationalisation of the RMCs in all the project districts.

4. Strategic/Bulk Markets

The design of the three Bulk Markets of Elegu, Gulu and Kitgum were underway, with the full participation of the Market Stakeholder Platforms. Preliminary draft designs had been developed and it was expected that this process would be concluded by November 2019.

5. Satellite/Aggregation Markets

The design of the eight satellite Markets of Agoro in Lamwo, Cwero in Gulu, Lokole in Agago, Mungula in Adjumani, Olwiyo in Nwoya, Opit in Omoro, Pabbo in Amuru and Porogali 2 in Pader were underway. The market designs were being done with the full participation of the Market Stakeholder Platforms. Preliminary draft designs had already been developed and it was anticipated that this process would be concluded by November 2019.

6. Infrastructure Planning and sustainability

The PMU issued guidelines for the identification, prioritization, ranking and selection of CARs being rehabilitated/constructed under PRELNOR to all the project districts. To ensure the participation and ownership of the whole process by the relevant stakeholders, the initial identification and prioritization was conducted by the sub-counties in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, including the beneficiary communities and thereafter, the consolidation and ranking of community proposals was done by the District Local Governments.

The Project Management Unit (PMU), in consultation with the District Local Governments did the final validation, mapping and selection of the candidate CARs guided by the outcomes of the Commodity Flow Analysis (CFA). The selected roads, as part of the design process are being subjected to detailed survey, technical assessment and analysis. Regarding the Strategic/Bulk and Satellite/Aggregation Markets, Local Governments are the owners of the aggregation and bulk markets and had a major role in the needs iden- tification and site locations to ensure that the markets are located where stakeholders will use them.

The local governments have been responsible for securing the land required to build the structures and necessary roads and parking areas suitable for large trucks. The Market Stakeholder Platforms (MSP) and Market Construction Sub-committee (MCSC) were established to work with the design consultants, local governments and the PMU to ensure that the market design and final structures meet the functional requirements specified by the MSP.

Comprehensive measures were being taken to ensure Infrastructure Quality Control. Each road contract was being supervised by a Project Manager appointed by the respective districts and assisted by a Clerk of Works. The PMU Project Engineers provided additional technical support to the Project Managers. The PMU issued guidelines on quality control during the rehabilitation/construction of community access roads under PRELNOR to all project districts for use by the respective Project Managers. Similar guidelines are being prepared for the Market Infrastructure. A set of quality control tools were provided to the Project Managers. Additional tools for each of the sites were also provided by the contractors for use by the Project Managers.

District Local Governments, being owners of the roads and market infrastructure shall be responsible for maintaining the Market Access Infrastructure. The local governments have committed themselves to carry out the maintenance of the infrastructure that shall be rehabilitated/constructed. In June 2012, the Government of Uganda (GoU) instituted a policy shift from contracting road maintenance works to use of Force Account. The Gov- ernment has acquired a number of pieces of road equipment to facilitate the maintenance of roads in the respective districts. However, limited resources are provided through the Uganda Road Fund (URF) for the maintenance of Community Access Roads. Additional resources are however available for the maintenance of District Feeder Roads (DFRs). The districts are therefore being encouraged to upgrade the developed CARs to DFRs so that they may benefit from the additional resources. Similarly, Markets Revenue Collection and sharing mechanism shall be established so that an agreed percentage could be utilized for the maintenance of the market operations and maintenance.

2.3 COMPONENT C: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The activities under this component were mainly to ensure that PRELNOR was effectively and efficiently managed. The activities were also to facilitate the closer supervision, coordination, technical support and collaboration with implementing partners and to manage the different service providers. These included administration, procurements (goods and services), monitoring and evaluation, Knowledge Management, including information and communication.

2.3.1 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Management Meetings

The Project Coordinator attended a number Meetings organised in the Ministry, these included Top Management and Senior Management meetings. The meetings focused on project implementation progress and policy guidance to the Project. The policy environment remained stable without any change of policies related to the project.

2. Office Staff Meetings

Periodic Project Management Unit staff meetings, aimed at strategic planning, reviewing project implementation progress took place in the PMU, Gulu office. The project activity progress as well as administrative issues were shared and discussed in staff meetings. In addition, in-house consultations took place when required. The project team attended other management and Partners Meetings, including participating in other events.

3. Staffing

Towards the end of the financial year 2017/18, Four project staffs were recruited for different positions:- Financial Controller, Civil Engineers and Assistant Accountant. These staff reported to work by August 2018.

A total of four (4) project staff members had their contracts renewed for another two years of service. By the end of the FY 2018/2019, the PMU had 23 Staff.

4. Staff Trainings

Continuous staff training to enhance skills in different areas/fields were carried out in the following fields:

- 1. The finance staff (Financial Controller and 2 Assistant Accountants) attended a financial management training in Girigiri, Nairobi in September 2018. The training equipped the staff with skills in IFAD Procurements, preparation of Withdrawal Applications and Fraud management. Staff were trained in IFAD
- The Project Support staff, 2 Office Assistants in the Liaison and Gulu office and the Secretary/Receptionist were trained in Records Management at Uganda Management Institute (UMI) from 6th – 17th August 2018.
- 3. The new Accountant and Assistant Accountant were trainied in SAGE Pastel and Accounting Soft Ware used for Financial Reporting

5. Office Equipment and Transport

Regular maintenance of office equipment and project vehicles was carried out. Brand new computers, laptops, printers, photocopier for the Engineers office were procured to equip the staff with the required tools.

4. Office Setting

The additional office allocated to the Project PMU by Gulu District Local Government to accommodate the Project Engineering Department was renovated, furnished and occupied by the two Engineers. The PMU procured security service provider "ESPOS Ltd" to provide security at the Project Engineers Department office premises, located in the Engineers Department of the Gulu District Local Government.

5. Major Events

The mid term review of the project by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was undertaken from May 5th to 24th, 2019 to review the performance of the project over the past three years and assess if there was need to restructure any aspect of the project so as to make any adjustments/reallocations to the budget. The mission members visited the districts of Gulu, Adjumani, Amuru, Omoro and Nwoya.



The Mid Term Review Mission Team with PMU Staff

2.3.2 PROCUREMENT

The consolidated procurement report for the financial year 2018/19 were as summarized in the following tables under the different procurement categories:

1. Non Consultancy Services

No.	Description	Status	
01.	Maintenance and regular updates of Website	Maintenance and regular updates done-	
	and social Media pages	by service provider	
02.	Radio talk shows	LPOs issued and talk shows held- throughout the FY	
03.	Staff medical insurance	Contract signed and policy running	
04.	Workman's compensation, incapacity, death	Contract signed and policy running	
	benefits and funeral expenses		
05.	Insurance cover for vehicles, photocopier,	Contract signed and policy running	
	LAN, and other equipment, and		
	124 Motorcycles		
06.	Maintenance of office machinery and Computer equipment, storage device(hard drives)	Maintenance done on quarterly basis	
07.	Financial Management Software License	License renewed	
	Renewal		
08.	Conference services for trainings and	Services procured through	
	workshops for all components	Framework contracts	
09.	Security for the engineer's office	Contract signed and ongoing	
10.	Service and repair of 9 PMU vehicles as and	Service done as and when need arises	
	when need arises		

2. Consultancy Services

No.	Description	Status
01.	Design of 350 km Batch C of Community Access Roads by the selected Design Con- sultants in 9 project districtss	Awaiting IFAD No Objection for combined technical and financial evaluation report
02.	Procurement of consultants to design Batch B, 600 km of Community Access Roads (CARs)	Contract awaiting contract signing
03.	Procurement of AMIS Service Provider	Procurement put on hold by IFAD, to be done in-house

3. Goods

	Description	Status
01.	BusinessActionPlanning,FinancialLiteracyandRecord	LPO issued and delivery complete
	Keeping Handbooks	
02.	Printing CBF Log books	LPO issued and delivery complete
03.	Printing HHM Log books	LPO issued and delivery complete
04.	Solar powered projectors	Procurement put on hold because of budget constraints
05.	Cook stoves for vulnerable households	Contract execution ongoing
06.	PV Solar systems for selected institutions	Installation complete
07.	Design and print data collection books on Fuel- wood (firewood/charcoal) consumption by RETs beneficiary institutions.	LPO issued and delivery complete
08.	Design, and print Guidelines for Training of CBNRM Community Committees	LPO issued and delivery complete
09.	8Desktops,2laptops,01server,07printer,01scanner,	ProcurementpushedtothisFYduetobud-
	software, and 10 modems for UNMA	get
	Description of the set life	
10.	Rapid soil test kits	Awaiting IFAD No objection for reques for direct procurement
11.	2Wheel Walking Tractors for mechanization activities- by NARO AEATREC	To be retendered this FY after IFAD with- drew No Objection
12.	Design and print reference guides for the Operation of Road Management Committees	Not initiated by user
13.	ProcurementofMotorcyclesforMSFs(05),IPMs(09)and CARs CoWs (25) and Bulk Market CoWs (03)	Bids expired before contract signing, tobe retendered
14.	5laptops(Engineers,FC,andAsstAccountant),1Desk- top, 4 printers, AC for the engineers office, 6 tab- lets, photocopier for engineers	Delivery complete
15.	Furniture for Liaison office	Delivery complete
16.	Communication materials (leaflets, calenders, bron- chures, Posters, Pull up baners, stickers, Fliers etc)	Delivery complete
17.	Staffwelfaree.gwater,teas,newspapers(Tobeprocured quarterly through micro procurement given the fact that these are perishables that cannot beprocured and stocked in bulk)	Delivery complete
18.	Office stationery, photocopying and binding mate- rials	Delivery complete
19.	Heavy duty office shredders	Delivery complete
20.	Safety Ware /Corporate wear/Shirts/T-Shirts	Delivery complete
21.	Tyres for 5 PMU vehicles	Delivery complete
22.	Still cameras for sub counties	Delivery complete
23.	Vehicles for PMU	Awaiting delivery by supplier

4. Works

No.	Description	Status
01.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 01 Dzaipi Sub County, Adjumani District	Construction ongoing
02.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 02 Dzaipi Sub County, Adjumani District	Construction ongoing
03.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 03 Dzaipi Sub County, Adjumani District	Construction ongoing
04.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 04 Dzaipi Sub County, Adjumani District	Construction ongoing
05.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 05 Dzaipi Sub County, Adjumani District	Construction ongoing
06.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 07 Dzaipi Sub County, Adjumani District	Construction ongoing
07.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 08 Dzaipi Sub County, Adjumani District	Construction ongoing
08.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 09 Dzaipi Sub County, Adjumani District	Construction ongoing
09.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 10 Arum Sub County Agago District	Construction ongoing
10.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 11 Arum Sub County Agago District	Construction ongoing
11.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 12 Paimol Sub County, Agago District	Construction ongoing
12.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 13, Wol Sub County, Agago District	Construction ongoing
13.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 14, Lalogi Sub County, Amuru District	Construction ongoing
14.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 15 Lamogi Sub County, Amuru District	Construction ongoing
15.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 16, Amuru Sub county, Amuru District	Construction ongoing
16.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 17 Lamogi Sub County, Amuru District	Construction ongoing
17.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 18, Pabbo Sub County, Amuru District	Construction ongoing
18.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 19 Pabbo Sub County, Amuru District	Construction ongoing
19.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 20, Paicho Sub county, Gulu District	Construction ongoing
20.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 21 Paicho Sub county, Gulu District	Construction ongoing
21.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 22, Bungatira Sub County, Gulu Dis- trict	Construction ongoing
22.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 23 Bungatira SubCounty, Gulu District	Construction ongoing
23.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 24, Palaro Sub County, Gulu District	Construction ongoing
24.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 25 Palaro Sub County, Gulu District	Construction ongoing
25.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 26 Palaro Sub County, Gulu District	Construction ongoing
26.	The contract for rehabilitation of CARs Lot 27 Palaro Sub County, Gulu District	Construction ongo- ing

2.3.3 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Development and review of Data collection tools and protocols

In FY 2018/19, the existing data collection tools were reviewed and new datacollection tools and protocols developed, which was aimed at enhancing efficient, effective and quality data collection. The data collection tools were revised to incorporate the feedback from the various projects takeholders at the DLGs and other project partners such as the NARO Institutes (Abi ZARDI,Ngetta ZARDI and AEATREC) and the DFAs sof Adjumani and Gulu. The different tools and their purpose include:

- (i) Beneficiary Organization Capture Form which is being used to assess group level information on the selected farmer groups;
- (ii) Households (Members of Farmer Groups) baseline, seasonal and Outcome Data Collection Tool that is being used to assess the baseline, seasonal and out come data on production and marketing from a sample of households;
- (iii) Vulnerable Households Baseline and Outcome Data Capture Tools which are being used to track and assess the key mentoring indicators of food security, production, hygiene and sanitation, power relations and participation in group activities among others
- (iv) CBNRM Monitoring Tool being used to monitor and assess the performance of CBNRM projects;
- (v) RETs Assessment Tool being used to assess the performance of RET interventions at the various beneficiary institutions;
- (vi) Agribusiness Farmer Group Capture Form being used to capture group level baseline information for all the Agribusiness farmer groups and; (vii). General Project Monitoring Form which is being used by the stakeholders to monitor project activities. These data collection tools have been used to carry out a couple of studies.

2. Data Collections and Assessments

Group level data for the second batch of farmer groups and Agribusiness Farmer Groups was captured in the financial year, at the on set of farmer group activities. The parameters captured included membership, governance and leadership, asset ownership among others. A baseline study targeting the second cohort of the vulnerable households and an outcome study targeting the first cohort of vulnerable households were conducted. This aimed to track and assess the key mentoring indicators of food security, production, hygiene and sanitation, power relations and participation in group activities among others). Similarly, assessments were conducted targeting the first batch of farmer groups and a RETs Beneficiary Institution Assessment was conducted for the first batch of RET beneficiaries institutions with the aim of ascertaining the performance and effects of the RETs interventions. The data collected from the various assessments was processed and analysed and reports are available at the PMU.

3. Data Collection, Reporting and Knowledge Management training

The training was conducted to improve on the quality of reports and knowledge management practices in the project. The training was attended by the Project Support Officers and M&E Focal Persons from the nine project districts and the focal persons from Ngetta ZARDI, AbiZ-ARDI and AEATREC. The training provided opportunity for the participants to provide in put in to reporting templates and to the newly developed tools such as the General Monitoring and CBNRM monitoring tools. The training covered the entire value chain from data collection, reporting and knowledge management. The outcome of the training was observed in improvement in quality of Q4 reports generated by the partners though somewere yet to measure up to expected standards. The PMU will continue to support/mentor the project partners so that they fully adhere to the required standard and format of project reporting.


Data Management in Project Monitoring and Evaluation training by Dr. Rose Namara

4. Technical backstopping and Monitoring

In FY 2018/19, the team carried out technical backstopping and monitoring of project intervention in the project area basically to identify and address challenges and emerging issues affecting the smooth implementation of the project. Relatedly, technicalsupport in areas of planning and budgeting, data collection, reporting and knowledge management were provided to partners to build their capacities. Secondly, spot checks/monitoring was conducted on the ongoing construction of the Community Access Roads where several observations made were highlighted in the back to office report submitted to management.

5. Annual Work plan and Budget (AWPB)

Annual work plan and Budjet for the financial year 2019/2020 was prepared and reviewed participatorily with the project partners. The following steps were undertak- en to develop the AWPB: 1) Indicative planning figures and budget notes were issued by the PMU along with annual activity targets for each component. 2) A meeting was then convened between the PMU and the project partners where budgets were presented and comments/feedback were given to the partners by the PMU. For the DFAs with perfor- mance-based contracts, performance targets were agreed upon, which formed the basis of their AWPBs. 3) All AWPBs submitted to PMU by the partners underwent partner's internal approval processes prior to submission to the PMU. 4) AWPBs submitted by the DLGs were approved by the District Executive Councils. 5) The work plan was then consolidated by the PMU, presented to the Project Policy Committee (PPC) for scrutiny and approval and then submitted to IFAD for a no-objection.



District Partners during preparation of 2019/20 AWPB

6. Consolidated annual calendar of key events

A Consolidated annual calendar of key events (mainly meetings and trainings) was developed for this FY 2018/19 and shared with the project implementing partners. The generation of the calendar was participatorily done involving members of the PMU and the project partners. The annual calendar of key events enabled the project to harmonize ac- tivity schedules among all implementing partners especially on training and major events to avoid clashes and taking much time of the front-line implementers (CBFs, AEF and HHMs). This has been



7. Planning and review meetings for the implementing partners

The planning and reveiw meetings for the implementing partners, the meetings were attended by PSOs, Accountants, and Infrastructure Project Managers, representatives from the DFAs, ZARDIs (Abi ZaRDI, Ngetta ZaRDI, and AEATRAC), UNMA, WOCAT and MoEMD. The meetings reviewed implementation performance and planned for the subsequent reporting periods, including discussions on emerging issues/challenges affecting project implementation. Additionally, the meetings developed clear strategies and schedules to support delivery of project objectives. These meetings were held quarterly at the District Level and semi-annually, organized the PMU.







Project Technical reveiw meeting in Kitgum District

8. Production of Awareness materials

During the second quarter of FY 2018/2019, the project procured and distributed communication materials that contained PRELNOR messages to various project stakeholders. These awareness materials included Calendars, Notebooks, Diaries, and brochures, Pull up banners and tear drops among others. The materials were produced to enhance the visibility of the project and also to disseminate behavioral messages amongst stakeholders.

9. Print Media (Newspapers Articles, Magazines)

Publications were made in the national newspapers to share progress, lessons and best practices from the project with the general public. In November 2018, PRELNOR was awarded a Certificate of recognition for being the Best Government Project for the year 2018 and the project profile was pub- lished in the Visionaries of Uganda Magazine.

10. Website and Social Media updates

Following the development of a project website and social media platforms to disseminate information on project implementation and achievements, learning notes, best practices, lessons and challenges, PRELNOR has continued to update its online stakeholders regularly. The project website www.prelnor.molg.go.ug is a sub-domain of the Ministry of Local Government website domain, being hosted by the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda. The social media pages (linked to the project website) are also regularly updated. @prelnorug is the link to our social media pages for both facebook and twitter.

11. Progress Reports

Quarterly, semi-annually and annual report ere desciminated to stakeholders. Monthly reports were compiled for internal project management use, to identify any constraints or type of support required and initiating immediate action to ensure that quarterly performance was on track. The quarterly reports were submitted to the MoLG, MoFPED and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) as part of the Government reporting requirements. Semi-annual and annual reports were compiled and submitted to IFAD and Government.



Message on Project Tweet account

12. Documentation of key events, success stories and learning routes

The PMU conducted a learning visit Wakiso on Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs), case studies/success stories among the project beneficiaries on household mentoring and other project interventions. The project organized the input trade fairs for season A 2019 in all the project Districts for the farmers groups and vulnerable households and the whole exercise was documented for purposes of knowledge management and to inform future engagements. A complete documentary on input trade faire using voucher systems methodology was uploaded and is available on the project YouTube channel @preInorug.

13. Redesign and Update of the PME data base

The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation System (PME Database) for PRELNOR was re-designed and a new system was developed based on the old PME Database: PlaMES (Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation System). This re-design was done accommodate the changes in the IFAD's reporting system, together with various improvements in response to feedback received from users.

Following the migration to PlaMES, the database has been updated regularly to capture the key deliverables generated in each quarter. For instance, in this reporting period the database was updated with the farmer groups' 2nd cohort information and FY 2019/2020 AWPB activities. Generally, the database is a tool that is used for annual planning and budgeting; for monitoring at activity and output level; and for recording results at outcome level of the logical framework. Key outputs, included information on the farmer groups, case studies and which were shared with the respective DLGs and DFAs for validation.

14. Project Policy Committee Meeting

The Project Policy Committee (PPC) whose function is to provide guidance and overall oversight to the implementation of the project held its third meeting and also visited project beneficiaries in the field as well as checking on the construction of the Community Access Roads. The exercise took place in May 2019. PPC comprises of representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Ministry of Works and Transport; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Ministry of Water and Environment; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and the Uganda National Meteorological Authority, that have supervi- sion and/or implementation responsibilities in PRELNOR. The Ministry of Local Govern- ment as the lead implementing agency of the PRELNOR is the chair of the Project Policy Committee. The committee reviewed and approved PRELNOR Annual Work plan and Budget (AWPB) for the financial year 2019/2020. Following the approval of the AWPB by the PPC, it was then submitted to IFAD for a no-objection.



Field visit by PPC members on the CARs in Paicho sub county, Gulu District

SECTION THREE: FINANCIAL PROGRESS (JULY 2018 – JUNE, 2019)

3.1 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AS AT 30.06.2019

FISCAL YEAR	2018/2019	2017/2018
	AMOUNT IN UGX	AMOUNT IN UGX
Balance B/f	2,499,806,843	9,736,497,551
Adjustment to Opening Balance	-	
IFAD Credit	-	
Initial Deposit	-	
Replenishments from IFAD	19,383,649,231	9,745,759,507
Direct payments from IFAD	-	962,189,594
ASAP Grant	7,159,757,249	880,721,655
Receipts from GoU	1,918,822,734	716,445,512
Receipts from Beneficiaries	-	!!
Interest earned on Part-		
nersBank Accounts	6,265,106	5,629,883
Exchange Differences	(65,697,814)	181,396,835
TOTAL RECEIPTS	30,902,603,348	22,228,640,537

EXPENDITURE ON IFAD LOAN	-	
Rural Livelihoods	-	
A1 Community Planning andCa-		
pacity Development	4,226,412,426	2,468,143,886
A2 Priority Climate Resilient Crop Production Systems	4,354,090,089	4,675,201,918
Sub-Total: Funds spent on Rural Livelihoods	8,580,502,515	7,143,345,803
Market Linkages and Infrastruc- ture	-	0
B1 Improved Market Access Pro- cesses	1,314,962,324	1,811,309,555
B2 Market Access Infrastructure	8,806,412,963	289,005,695
Sub Total: Funds spent on		
Maket Linkages	10,121,375,287	2,100,315,250
C Project Management	3,920,401,436	4,530,239,944
Total IFAD Funds Spent	22,622,279,238	13,773,900,997

EXPENDITURE ON ASAP GRANT	-	
Rural Livelihoods	-	
A1 Community Planning and Ca-		
pacity Development	-	-
A2 Priority Climate Resilient		
Crop Production Systems	6,207,155,539	5,190,064,804

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Sub Total: ASAP Funds spent on Rural Livelihoods	6,207,155,539	5,190,064,804
Market Linkages and Infrastructure	-	0
B1 Improved Market Access Pro- cesses	-	-
B2 Market Access Infrastructure	2,074,800	49,055,250
ASAP Grant spent on Market Ac- cess	2,074,800	49,055,250
C Project Management	-	-
Total ASAP Grant Funds Spent	6,209,230,339	5,239,120,054
EXPENDITURE ON GOVERN- MENT FUNDS	_	
Rural Livelihoods	-	!!
A1 Community Planning and Ca- pacity Development	201,129,600	24,984,499
A2 Priority Climate Resilient Crop Production Systems	228,472,443	513,051,372
GoU Funds spent on Rural Liveli- hoods	429,602,043	538,035,871
Market Linkages and Infrastructure	-	0
B1 Improved Market Access Pro- cesses	28,274,847	79,930,183
B2 Market Access Infrastructure	1,263,222,287	35,156,160
GoU Funds Spent on Market Ac- cess	1,291,497,134	115,086,343
C Project Management	190,981,180	62,690,429
Total GoU Funds Spent	1,912,080,357	715,812,643
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE	30,743,589,934	19,728,833,695
CLOSING BALANCE	159,013,415	2,499,806,843

3.2 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30.06.2019

FISCAL YEAR	2018/2019	2017/2018
	AMOUNT IN UGX	AMOUNT IN UGX
Balance B/f	2,499,806,843	9,736,497,551
Adjustment to Opening Balance	-	0
IFAD Credit	-	0
Initial Deposit	-	0
Replenishments from IFAD	19,383,649,231	9,745,759,507
Direct Payments from IFAD	-	962,189,594
ASAP Grant	7,159,757,249	880,721,655
Receipts from GoU	1,918,822,734	716,445,512
Interest Earned on Partners Bank Accounts	6,265,106	5,629,883
Exchange Differences	(65,697,814)	181,396,835
TOTAL RECEIPTS	30,902,603,348	22,228,640,537

EXPENDITURE ON IFAD LOAN	-	0
I Equipment and Materials	17,680,671	1,750,711,496
II Consultancy	3,460,645,543	1,824,478,480
III Training	6,403,661,360	3,140,566,098
IV Works	7,913,234,467	62,802,165
V Grants and Subsidies	1,837,746,850	6,164,000
VI Operating Costs	2,989,310,347	6,989,178,759
Total IFAD Funds Spent	22,622,279,238	13,773,900,997

EXPENDITURE ON ASAP GRANT	-	0
I Equipment and Materials	30,228,765	470,389,135
II Consultancy	2,972,094,813	1,247,657,154
III Training	779,833,466	514,451,761
IV Works	-	-
V Grants and Subsidies	2,427,073,295	2,974,982,844
VI Operating Costs	-	31,639,160
Total ASAP Grant Funds Spent	6,209,230,339	5,239,120,054

EXPENDITURE ON GOU FUNDS	-	0
I Equipment and Materials	14,541,190	524,832,272
II Consultancy	411,862,864	68,917,624
III Training	158,251,941	34,720,788
IV Works	1,107,855,637	-
V Grants and Subsidies	81,716,077	35,473,000
VI Operating Costs	137,852,648	51,868,959
\Total GoU Funds Spent	1,912,080,357	715,812,643

TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE	30,743,589,934	19,728,833,695
CLOSING BALANCE	159,013,415	2,499,806,843
REPRESENTED BY		
Total Cash and FundBalance	6,280,558,790	2,499,806,843
Less: Other Current Liabilities	6,121,545,375	-
Balance as per Income & Expen-		2 400 006 042
diture Statement	159,013,415	2,499,806,843

ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT INUGX		
Special Account (USD)	943,435,360		
Operations Account (UGX)	4,106,739,991		
Petty Cash	-		
Partners Bank Balances	682,116,756		
Advances	544,588,202		
GoU Balance with MoLG	3,678,481		
TOTAL CASH AND FUND BALANCES	6,280,558,790		

3.3 STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES AS AT 30.06.2019

3.4 STATEMENT OF BUDGET PERFORMANCE BY CATEGORY AS AT 30.06.2019

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	BUDGET INUGX	ACTUAL IN UGX	% AGE
I Equipment & Materials	360,910,000	62,450,626	17%
II Consultancy	11,174,934,000	6,744,611,220	60%
III Training	9,111,622,320	7,231,746,767	79%
IV Works	9,318,398,680	9,019,927,864	97%
V Grants	7,676,860,000	4,346,536,222	57%
VI Operating Costs	3,324,081,000	3,040,833,476	91%
Total	40,966,806,000	30,446,106,175	74%

SECTION FOUR: CHALLENGES, REMEDIAL ACTIONS AND KEY LESSONS LEARNED

4.1 CHALLENGES

The project faced some implementation challenges during the course of the FY. They included the following:

- 1. Voluntary fatigue, 40 USD per month is low for the mentors and community based facilitators since they put in a lot of time in mentoring and supporting farmer groups.
- 2. Delayed procurement of two wheeled tractors. This has resulted into a delay in all activities related to the 2-wheel tractor.
- 3. Delayed access to financial resources at the District Local Governments to facilitate project implementation was a big challenge. For example, the allowed cash limit across all sectors is limited to UGX 40,000,000 per month. This has affected access to funds for the implementation of PRELNOR activities whose expenditure per month are over and above this limit.
- 4. The major challenge in delivery of extension activities has been untimely facilitation of extension personnel. This includes delayed provision of fuel, field allowances and extension materials. This has had huge implications on provision of extension services to the beneficiaries. The problem is more pronounced in District Local Governments compared to the District Farmer Associations.
- 5. The supervision of extension services under the project by the DLGs has generally not been adequate. The relevant district level technical staff are very busy officers handling multiple tasks and that makes it very difficult for them to devote adequate time for the supervision of extension activities, yet the AEFs are on performance contracts.
- 6. Section 24 of the VAT ACT has been amended and re-amended. This has caused anxiety and different interpretation of the law by different clients. The amendment as per Sec 24 (Sub Sec 9-10) needs interpretation as to whether the project is to refund amounts earlier withheld from clients specifically Hotels and Garages. MoLG is supposed to budget for GoU Counterpart funds in cash to cater for VAT refunds particularly to Hotels and companies dealing in vehicles and their accessories.

4.2 ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- 1. The PMU will continue to engage the Districts, especially Pader, Kitgum and Amuru where there were delayed access to funds, by the field staff so that appropriate measures are put in place to improve on the situation.
- 2. The PMU should reveiw the mode of paying facilitation to the Extension Personnel at district level .
- 3. The protracted procurement process of 2 Wheel tractors by the PDU of the ministryneeds to be concluded, otherwise, this will greatly impact the farmers.
- 4. URA requires the project to handle suppliers on case by case basis so that they are exempted from paying VAT on goods supplied to the project in accordance with VAT Cap 349 Section 24 (6-8). This is time consuming and further delays the procurement process. If MoFPED can intervene and present the case on behalf of the project to URA so that a blanket cover can be received for our clients like some other projects.

Delayed absorption by the districts was partly due to the length of time taken to access funds through IFMS. The process was lengthy and required that all funds were transferred to Bank of Uganda, warranted in IFMS before it is accessed.

The process took a month or so after funds had been sent to the districts before the implementers can access the funds. This was exacerbated by the cash limit of 40 million per month per District as per PS/ST's instruction to all District Accounting officers. We propose to pay direct to Bank of Uganda Accounts instead of paying Districts through Commercial Bank accounts so as shorten the process. Cash Limit should only apply to funds released from the consolidated account by MoFPED. Donor funds should be limited by budget.

4.3 KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- 1. Participatory Action planning by the farmer groups ensures that the extension support provided is needs based. In this kind of approach, farmers select enterprises, do a problem analysis as per the enterprise selected and come up with a vision using the GALS methodology vision journey tool. This encourages high participation by the farmer in extension activities.
- 2. Household mentoring has been observed to "wake up" the vulnerable households.Prior to the mentoring, vulnerable households are unaware of their potential in solving their own problems. With mentoring the households realize this potential using their own resources and hence experience tremendous changes in their livelihoods.
- 3. The delivery inputs for famer demonstrations through input trade fairs ensured each group timely purchased their inputs in time and this allowed timely establishment of demonstration fields and eventually better learning for farmers.

4.4 CONCLUSION

The PRELNOR project is progressing well despite the relatively low absorption rate partly due to the length of time taken to access funds through IFMS. This has been exacerbated by the cash limit of 40 million per month per district as per PS/ST's instruction to all District Accounting Officers. The household mentoring process has taken root and mentored households are accumulating assets, joining groups and a general improvement in welfare is being observed. Farmer capacity is being enhanced through production and dissemination of key messages on Good Agricultural Practices, farmer group training through establishment and management of demonstration fields for farmer-prioritized crop enterprises and organization of farmer field days. This has seen farmers utilizing the available expertise of the extension staff as evidenced in framer attendance of field days and plant clinic sessions among others.

The installed RETs are already bearing fruits; with some beneficiary institutions reporting savings of over 65% in firewood used for cooking compared to when these technologies were not yet installed. This has significantly reduced beneficiary institutions' expenses on firewood (up to 67% in some institutions), and most importantly, reducing pressure on the alarmingly dwindling tree cover in the project area. Other benefits reported by both the mentored households and beneficiary institutions are, less smoke produced; better kitchens with clean cooking environment; less heat to users; reduced cooking time; and keeps food warm for cooking stoves. Beneficiaries of solar systems reported improved class /school attendance by pupils, and improvement in delivery of health services, especially in the maternity facilities for women during child birth.

Design of the first batch of 614.0 km was completed and Contract works for 606.1 km are ongoing. Preliminary draft designs for both the Satellite and Bulk Markets have been developed with the full participation of the Market Stakeholder Platforms.

As indicated in the recently concluded MTR, PRELNOR is on course and is likely to achieve its objective of increased sustainable production, productivity and climate resilience of small holder farmers with increased and profitable access to domestic and export markets.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Sample Summary Table on Stakeholders' participation in Atanga Sub-county during Quarter I of FY 2018/19

Activity Description	Participant's category	Location/ Sub county/ Parish /Village	Total partici pants	Sex			AGE	
				Male	Female	·30	30-45	›45
Sensitization of villag- es on PRELNOR	Members of the villages	Atanga sub- county in select- ed project villages	683	242	438	126	422	137
Selection of farmers' grouptobe supported under PRELNOR	Members of the villages	Atanga sub- county in select- ed project villages	722	317	415	226	437	69
Technical support and supervision of farmer's groups activities	Members of the farmer groups	Atanga sub- coun- ty in farm- ers groups	532	137	245	226	237	45
Selection of vulner- able households for mentoring	Members of the villages	Atangasub- county in selected PRA villages	256	111	145	189	70	31
Resource mapping	Members of the villages	Atanga sub- county in select- ed project villages	242	112	180	85	151	96
Mapping farm- ers groups	Members of the villages	Atanga sub- county in selected project villages	620	243	377	232	352	78
То	tal	·	2,555	1,205	1,240	149	242	64

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)

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