

(MAHUPE) PROJECT

ST. GEORGE'S PARISH MAKUKUULU

**PROJECT TITLE: MAKUKUULU HUNGER AND POVERTY ERADICATION
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APPLICANT: MAKUKUULU PARISH
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TARGET AREAS: MAKUKUULU SUB-PARISHES

BENEFICIARIES: 4,500 HOUSEHOLDS.

DURATION: 3 YEARS

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BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

BACK GROUND

Makukuulu is one of Masaka diocesan parishes located in Kitanda sub-county Bukomansimbi district in central Uganda. The parish is divided into 9 sub parishes with 42 zones/ villages. It has a total number of 4,500 households with a population of over 11,000 people. The people in this area are largely Baganda and agriculture is the main source of livelihood. Coffee being grown as the main cash crop, banana staple food, maize, beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, ground nuts provide both income and food. Agriculture provides employment to 90% of people in the community, however doing it on a subsistence scale with no technical support to uplift production levels together with changing climate, seasons are no longer reliable to support proper crop growth and prevalence of new diseases which calls for a different intervention instead of waiting to reach an alarming state. As a way of improving quality of life, increasing farmer income and ensuring food security in the community, we need to assist farmers learn new farming skills, access improved agriculture inputs plus soil and water conservation techniques to sustain soil productivity.

These will be achieved through good agricultural practices, post-harvest handling techniques, processing and group marketing.

We shall work with Caritas MADDO staffs who promote integrated Agriculture production that maintain and sustain soil productivity thus creating a suitable ground to increase crop production in conjunction with government agriculture officers working in project area.

We shall establish demonstration gardens for specific crops as learning centers for beneficiaries.

We shall also introduce improved technologies in crop production so as to increase yields per hectare. In the second phase of the project implementation we shall concentrate on formation of associations to ensure marketing in bulk and access better market prices.

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

Farmers in the target areas produce crops on a small scale specifically for household consumption that is not even sufficient to provide food all year round and using traditional methods of farming which include planting inferior crop varieties, poor planting techniques, little or no use of fertilizers, poor land use planning and management, lacking knowledge for post-harvest handling leading massive yield losses. Because of continuous land cultivation without soil nutrient replacement crop yield has gradually declined from year to year which has caused vicious cycle of poverty and hunger in the community. As a result of climate change there is prevalence of new diseases and pests which have cleared almost 40% of farmer's coffee fields, banana plantations, cassava and sweet potato plantations among others. Hope was gained when government research stations came up with new varieties resistant to diseases, pests and drought, however access to these improved crop varieties by small scale farmers is still hard due to factors such as not available in local areas, sold at high prices from research stations, lack of technical knowhow in their agronomy. This intervention will mainly focus on bringing such services closer to farmers, through nursery bed establishment, establishment of demonstration centers, produce model farmers per village from whom other farmers can copy, training farmers in sustainable agriculture practices, supplying improved crop varieties, environmental conservation by encouraging farmers to plant trees both assorted and multipurpose, using energy saving stoves among others.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The rainfall distribution in the district for many years has been well known to range between 900–1500mm per year; distributed between two rainy seasons, March to May and September to November. With low potential and high potential areas, however the so mentioned rain pattern and rainfall intensity are no longer visible due to the Global and Local climate change. Temperature ranges between 22⁰C – 30⁰C. Effects of climate change are evident in the district with some areas

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experiencing longer drought, and generally the climate condition becoming unpredictable. This has in some instances greatly affected production in this rain-fed agriculture sector.

The community has passable access roads within the different localities. However during rainy season, some of the roads are inaccessible.

Soils in the project area are generally ferrallitic which are old, highly weathered with little mineral reserves, such soils require intense management to sustain crop production.

GENDER

There is gender inequality and dependency on women labour for agriculture production and this is one of the factors contributing to low production and poor incomes. While women provide over 80% of the agriculture labour, men and youths prefer to look for quick income generating activities that are usually not forthcoming in the villages, hence the rural urban migration in search of petty trade and other speculative business. This gender disparity is mostly attributed to cultural prejudices against women, inadequate rights awareness and inadequate sensitization on gender issues and the fact that Uganda is traditionally a patriarchal society. Moreover, in agriculture, where women contribute the much needed labour, they have little control over the factors of production such as land, capital, technology, information and training. The project will address these gender issues so as to enable women have control and access to factors of production and equally benefit from agriculture produce.

ECONOMIC BASE

Generally, crop production is the major activity on the land, engaging 83.3 % of the land. Coffee is the major cash crop, while bananas are the staple food. Other seasonal crops grown include ground nuts, maize, beans, potatoes, cassava and various vegetables. Some of the

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farmer's rear livestock that include cattle, goats, pigs, sheep, and some also keep poultry. Other economic activities include lumbering and brick making.

TARGET GROUP

Our main focus will be on small scale farmers who are potential and willing to change their livelihood through agricultural activities.

These will be communities willing to work together in villages and sub parishes.

We shall prefer to work with communities where civil leaders, government extension workers, and Caritas MADDO staff provide support and training in the development process.

The communities or groups / structure that are built on democracy and gender respectively are highly preferred and this project intervention will highly observe and promote it.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE;

To contribute to improving the quality of life among subsistence/small holder farmers in Makukuulu parish, Masaka Diocese.

PROJECT PURPOSE;

Eradication of poverty and hunger through increased agriculture production in Makukuulu parish.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To foster knowledge and skills of 4,500 households in crop production and post-harvest handling techniques for increased yields, using modern production technologies.
2. To ensure that families produce enough food to eat all year round.

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3. To increase house hold income at least 3,000/= per day each house hold by the end of second year of implementation.
4. To ensure that women and children have access to factors of production and equally benefit from sales of agriculture produce.

EXPECTED RESULTS;

RESULT 1

Farmers are organized in groups and their leaders have the capacity to advise and monitor.

RESULT 2

Farmers actively participate in crop production by applying new knowledge and enjoy the economic benefits of their involvement in the project.

RESULT 3

Farmers grow a variety of trees for income generation and environmental conservation.

RESULT 4

Farmers grow improved crops and produce more agriculture products while applying sustainable agricultural concepts.

RESULT 5

Farmers have access to adequate storage facilities and market their crop produce as a group.

RESULT 6

Makukuulu farmers' leadership capacity to manage the project is strengthened.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN.

Result 1

Farmers are organized in groups and their leaders have the capacity to advise and monitor.

Activity1. Conduct three stake holders' orientation meeting at parish level

Activity2. Conduct 18 [2per s/parish] stake holders' orientation meeting at sub-parish level

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Activity3. Train 126 group leaders on group leadership and management, financial management, savings and credit management, on-farm business planning and marketing.

Activity4. Train 84 community based extension assistants (CBEAs) in crop management skills, quality assurance and monitoring of standards.

Result 2

Farmers actively participate in crop production by applying new knowledge and enjoy the economic benefits of their involvement in the project.

Activity1 Seasonal field/ open day events

Activity2 Training 42 farmer groups in agronomic practices, sustainable Agriculture and related gender issues

Activity3 Train 42 farmer groups on post-harvest handling and collective marketing

Activity4 Supply farmers with improved banana suckers, maize, bean seeds, cassava cuttings, potato vines and coffee seedlings

Activity5 Facilitate exchange and study visits to 84 CBEAs

Result 3

Farmers grow a variety of trees for income generation and environmental conservation.

Activity1 Organize four training workshops on tree nursery management with selected group members

Activity2 Provide seeds and supplements to selected households for setting up tree nurseries

Activity3 Conduct 42 exposure visits of farmers from the project to other exemplary farms in other locations

Activity4 Provide outreach agricultural and business advisory support (extension and follow up visits) to the farmer groups

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Activity5 Conduct 84 on farm training workshops to train farmers on various practices of sustainable agriculture.

Result 4

Famers have access to adequate storage facilities and market their crop produce as a group.

Activity1 Purchase tarpaulins for the groups

Activity2 Purchase of weighing scales for the groups (1 per sub- parish)

Activity3 Drying racks (2.5X6 feet) 2 units per group for 42 groups.

Activity4 Harvesting facilities ie sack, baskets, sisal rolls.

Result 5

Makukuulu famers' leadership capacity to manage the project is strengthened.

Activity1 Conduct dialogue meetings about the project.

Activity2 conduct Seasonal review meetings on progress of project with farmers

Activity3 conduct project management monitoring visits

Activity4 Purchase motor cycle for monitoring and following up farmer groups in the parish

Activity5 Purchase bicycles for CBEAs.

Activity6 Conduct project board meeting

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STRATEGIC APPROACH TO BE USED:

A. Labor pooling and working together

Sustainable Agricultural_Practices_(SAP) refers to good practices including: Agronomic principle, soil and water conservation, Agro forestry, soil fertility management, composite manure application, pest management and disease control measures.

Some of these practices are labor intensive thus need strategic planning to get people implement them.

When applying Sustainable Agriculture practices in the field after being trained, farmers shall realize a need for working together to implement some of the labour intensive activities. In order to make work easier and more effective, pooling of labour will be adopted. Labour pooling involved working in rotation on each other's gardens on selected days of the week. Bye-laws governing the process are developed and followed strictly.

B. Setting standards for everyone to follow

Groups start to set standards for the level of implementation of good agriculture practices. These include general crop management, soil and water conservation techniques used, pest and disease control measures used, number of times organic manure and / or artificial fertilizers applied in the crop garden in a given period of time, proper garden hygiene.

The idea of setting implementation standards within groups shall be generated during crop management training meetings.

Group members together with trainers sit and agree on which standards practices to set for their group.

Standard setting lead to some kind of competitive spirit amongst the group members and lead to better adoption of the SA practices, and adherence is not voluntary. Regular follow-up by CBEAs and regular review meetings to act as an encouragement.

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It's at this point that the idea of group marketing will be introduced.

C. Competition within the groups

During the time of rotational labour pooling and visits to the members' farms, group members must realize that there is diversity of implementation potential at the different homes they are to visit.

This coupled with the setting of implementation standards must trigger competition.

Competitions within the groups results into

- more cohesiveness within the group,
- farmers' desire to excel
- farmers copying new ideas and sharing during the competition
- competitions and judgment as a learning event for improved adoption of SA practices
- Weak farmers being uplifted, individual farmers working hard to avoid being left behind.

D. Extension /facilitation skills of Caritas MADDO staff

The methods and facilitation skills to be applied are.

- Use of theories and practice (on-farm training to put theories into practice)
- Establishment of local capacity of skill sharing through group representatives
- Development of training practice manual with a set syllabus for clear guidance on the training programme
- Use of the experienced farmers to enhance the SA practices through farmer-to-farmer sharing
- Exposure visits for selected members of the groups to successful farms
- Input support to enhance adoption modern crop production technologies.

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- Regular follow-up support (as trainers move around the groups it is used as a learning event for sharing and correcting mistakes, while looking out for areas which need consolidation)
- Creating friendships and market bonds with traders
- Group strengthening- through group dynamics.

INTENDED OUTCOME OF INTERVENTION

- At least 70% of the trained farmers have improved crop productivity on their farm as a result project intervention.
- 70% of farmers are assured of eating lunch and supper on a daily basis by the end of project intervention.
- Farmers have formed collective marketing groups and are able to bargain favorably for their farm produce.
- Increased income of the targeted households by 60% over the period of three years (3yrs) and at least 40% increase by second year.
- Farmers are supporting each other to achieve their objectives in relation to their farm and family in a more organized manner.
- By the end of 3rd year 60% of the members in each group have well established and stabilized surface runoffs control structures on their farms.

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- All groups have well established constitutions and have active leaders who are able to steer developmental activities and able to hold quarterly meetings with at least 70% attendance at meetings.
- 80% of the groups practice regular rotation of leadership and member share responsibilities.
- 100% of the group maintains record books e.g. minute's book and books of accounts.

POSSIBLE POSITIVE EFFECTS

As a result of project implementation by Caritas MADDO staff and District agriculture extension officers we anticipate that farmers will produce enough food to support their families, start taking farming as a business resulting into increased income. Once this is achieved people in the target area will have improved quality of life and other surrounding communities will copy from them to improve their livelihoods too.

ACTIVITY PLAN FOR 2013-2014

The schedule of activities planned for one year period is given below

Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mobilization, Sensitization and group formation												
Training of group leadership												
Training on soil and water conservation												
Establish crop demonstration												

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centers												
Training on crop agronomic practices												
Training on post-harvest handling methods of various crops												
Training on collective marketing												
Procurement of farm inputs												
Procurement of bicycles for CBEAs												
Procurement of motor cycle for project coordinator.												
Market research and market information sharing												
Linking farmers to markets												

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Monthly and quarterly progress reports												
Project management Quarterly review meetings												
Seasonal Project field/open day events(half yearly)												
Conduct exchange visits/study tours												
Project management monitoring visits												
Project annual evaluation												
Annual audits for certification												

PARTICIPATORY IMPACT MONITORING (PIM)

Caritas MADDO staff will strengthen Participatory Impact Monitoring in all groups so that farmer groups are able to actively participate in monitoring of their activities. This will help them to assess the achievement by the individual member and their group. The group will set their

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desired objectives and decide how they will verify whether they have achieved them. Such indicators will form the basis of monitoring. The project implementers (Caritas MADD0) will participate in the planning and discussion sessions while assessing the impact observed by the members. Results from group assessment will help project implementers to set strategies to address issues which may be identified as weak points during the monitoring

ADDITIONALLY

- M&E shall be conducted by Caritas MADD0 and district agriculture extension staffs
- Collection of Gender disaggregated data
- The project shall use Caritas MADD0 and district agriculture extension staffs to collect data and feedback.
- The Community Based Extension Assistants (CBEAs) shall provide universal information reflecting position on ground.
- Data got shall be synthesized by Caritas MADD0 team to give feedback and trends for farmers depending on situation, action shall be taken.

FUTURE PROSPECTS/ SUSTAINABILITY

- Practicing of sustainable agriculture, post-harvesting handling techniques and marketing shall be spearheaded by the farmers in collaboration with Caritas MADD0 staff and other stakeholders in the community.
- Farmer groups have a component of saving and credit whereby the increased income from increased agriculture production shall have a greater contribution to the saving scheme thus farmers shall be able to cater for the economic and un predicted problems.
- The CBEAs shall receive special training to enable them reach out to farmers for advisory role.
- Gender equity practices shall be integrated in the whole project process.

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PROJECT PROPOSED BUDGET

Result 1: Farmers are organized in groups and their leaders have the capacity to advise and monitor.	
Activity	Amount
<i>Activity1:</i> Conduct three stake holders' orientation meeting at parish level	1,104,000/=
<i>Activity2:</i> Conduct 18 [2per s/parish] stake holders' orientation meeting at sub-parish level	6,624,000/=
<i>Activity3:</i> Train 126 group leaders on group leadership and management, financial management, savings and credit management, on-farm business planning and marketing.	1,177,350/=
<i>Activity4:</i> Train 84 community based extension assistants (CBEAs) in crop management skills, quality assurance and monitoring of standards.	3,924,600/=
Sub total	12,829,950
Result 2: Farmers actively participate in crop production by applying new knowledge and enjoy the economic benefits of their involvement in the project.	
<i>Activity1:</i> Seasonal field/ open day events	6,000,000/=
<i>Activity2:</i> Training 42 farmer groups in agronomic practices, sustainable Agriculture and related gender issues	10,953,000/=
<i>Activity3:</i> Train 42 farmer groups on post-harvest handling and collective marketing	10,953,000/=
<i>Activity4:</i> Supply farmers with improved banana suckers, maize, bean seeds, cassava cuttings, potato vines and coffee seedlings	30,000,000/=
<i>Activity5:</i> Facilitate exchange and study visits to 84 CBEAs	1,500,000/=
Sub total	59,406,000/=
Result 3. Farmers grow a variety of trees for income generation and environmental conservation.	
<i>Activity1:</i> Organize four training workshops on tree nursery management with selected group members	1,200,000/=
<i>Activity2:</i> Provide seeds and supplements to selected households for setting up tree nurseries	600,000/=
<i>Activity3:</i> Conduct 42 exposure visits of farmers from the project to other exemplary farms in other locations	910,900

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Activity4. Provide outreach agricultural and business advisory support (extension and follow up visits) to the farmer groups	3,000,000/=
Activity5. Conduct 84 on farm training workshops to train farmers on various practices of sustainable agriculture.	1,000,000/=
Sub total	6,710,900/=
<u>Result 4. Famers have access to adequate storage facilities and market their crop produce as a group.</u>	
Activity1. Purchase tarpaulins for the groups	2,100,000/=
Activity2. Purchase of weighing scales for the groups (1 per sub- parish)	900,000/=
Activity3. Drying racks (2.5X6 feet) 2 units per group for 42 groups.	5,880,000/=
Activity4. Harvesting facilities ie sack, baskets, sisal rolls.	13,500,000/=
Sub total	22,380,000/=
<u>Result 5. Makukuulu famers' leadership capacity to manage the project is strengthened.</u>	
Activity1. Conduct dialogue meetings about the project.	800,000/=
Activity2. Conduct Seasonal review meetings on progress of project with farmers	1,200,000/=
Activity3. Conduct project management monitoring visits	1,000,000/=
Activity4. Purchase motor cycle for monitoring and following up farmer groups in the parish	3,500,000
Activity5. Purchase bicycles for CBEAs.	8,400,000/=
Activity6. Conduct project board meetings	900,000/=
Sub total	15,800,000/=

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Budget summary

RESULT	AMOUNT
<u>Result 1:</u> Farmers are organized in groups and their leaders have the capacity to advise and monitor.	12,829,950/=
<u>Result 2:</u> Farmers actively participate in crop production by applying new knowledge and enjoy the economic benefits of their involvement in the project.	59,406,000/=
<u>Result 3.</u> Farmers grow a variety of trees for income generation and environmental conservation.	6,710,900/=
<u>Result 4.</u> Famers have access to adequate storage facilities and market their crop produce as a group.	22,380,000/=
<u>Result 5.</u> Makukuulu famers' leadership capacity to manage the project is strengthened.	15,800,000/=
Total project cost	117,126,850/=

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