Green Business Opportunities for Child Mothers Northern Uganda

“Case Study on Eco Agricultural Practices- Sesame”

Regional Networking Forum- Burkina Faso

By
Laban Lay
Objective

- Change in Agricultural production and consumption
  - Reduce Environmental Effects
  - Increase Livelihood opportunities
  - Market Linkages
Background _ Target Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries

- 15 child mother groups (405 members)
- 259 Female (including 159 child mothers), 146 Male
- Location: Lira District
- Barr, Ogur and Agweng sub counties.
• Eco- Agricultural Practices

Change of Mindset & Attitude

- Trainings
- On farm demonstration
- Promotion of local knowledge and practices
- Linkage to input suppliers especially quality seed
- Linkage to markets
- Exposure learning excursions
- Information sharing and learning
• **Eco-Agricultural Practices**

**On-farm Practices**

- 1. Green manuring production
- 2. Perma- culture
- 3. Concoction of biorationals
- 4. Organic seed selection

Adoption Rate 70%
• **Eco- Agricultural Practices**

On-farm Practices- Integrated Pest Management

- **use of Biorationals** - particularly the use of animal tea (a concoction prepared from fresh cow dung and/or selected indigenous plant species)

- Tephrosia concoction as a pesticide against rodents, ball worms, aphids, fungi.

- Animal (goats and cattle) droppings are used for manure and controlling field pests and diseases

- Dry banana fiber and dry *Lantana camara* leaves are used for controlling storage pests.

“these are the simple, local knowledge based practices that all our farmers - countrywide- need to take up if we are to sustainably produce under today’s climate change realities
Other Practices adopted by the farmers

Beneficiaries participating in making a concoction of cow dung and chili used to kill storage pests

Animal tea made from animal droppings used to manage pests and disease as well as adding fertility to the soil
Post harvest handling practices adopted

- Dry banana fiber and dry *Lantana camara* leaves are used for controlling storage pests.
- A mixture of cow dung and chili in smoked in the storage facility to kill storage pests.
- Placing storage bags on pallets rather than placing the bags on the floor to avoid moulding of the sesame.
- Using dried banana leaves as a repellant in storing grains.

A bucket containing *Lantana camara* leaves that are dried and mixed with grains as a seed preservative.
• Eco- Agricultural Practices

Post Harvest Handling. (Reduction loss from 20% to 5%)

Youth farmers during the training participating in a demonstration on storage and drying methods.
Eco- Agricultural Practices

Adoption Rate 22.1%
- Crop Residue Management (attitude and low adoption)
- Intercropping with legumes (31.2%) behavioral tendencies to stick to monocropping

Adoption Rate 11.8%
- Garden Hedge tree planting (land shortage)
- crop rotation (42.2%) (lack of knowledge to the crop cycle, limited land-fallowing)
• **Eco- Agricultural Practices**

Information sharing and learning
Impact: on sesame productivity / yield

**Before** adoption of the ecological agriculture practices:
- Low yield

**With adoption of ecological agriculture practices; improved yield**
Benefits accrued:

Green jobs created in the value chain

- Child mothers make animal tea and sell to people in the community (UGX 1000/litre) USD 0.17
- 405 youth are specializing as sesame producers.

- Value addition of sesame by making paste and sesame snacks.

- Another source of income is through reduction on production costs (46.7% cost reduction) due to elimination of agrochemicals in the production process.
Benefits accrued:

Social Aspect

- Access to credit: VSLA program was initiated in the group to help access loan to support their production

- Access to labour: labour hire during the labor peak season

- Group - Attracting social services from govt & other partners.
Benefits accrued: Environmental

- Organic verse convectional approach (pest, weeds, disease management, soil and water conservation)
- Reduced bush burning
- Collective marketing (reduced carbon print)
Strategies for up scaling.

- Demonstration units for good practices
- Media (radio talk shows, drama)
- Inspection and certification
- Recruitment of youth groups
Challenges

- Short term projects Vs impact (pre mature end)
- Climate change
- Inadequate legal framework to support organic farming
- Cost inspection and certification high for small holder farmers.
- Limited access to capital investment to green agriculture.
Green Agriculture.

THANK YOU