

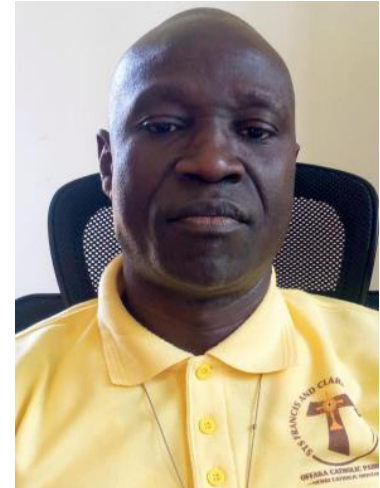


# AAC REPORT 2022





## 2022 END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – AAC



**D**ear Friends,  
Twenty twenty-two (2022) was a year Adraa Agriculture College will not soon forget. Notwithstanding the post-coronavirus pandemic challenges, we continued to face in the year 2022, our team has maintained an uninterrupted level of service and support for our students and stakeholders, while also accomplishing significant achievements.

In July, we inaugurated the highly quality hostels and ICT/Library buildings officiated by the Germany Head of Cooperation for BMZ to Uganda (Ms. Iris Knabe), launched the 2-year National Certificate in Agricultural Production and management (NCAPM), launched a 5-year strategic development plan (2022-2027), received registration number for examination center from Uganda Business Technical Examination Board (UBTEB), received and got accredited permanently as directorate of industrial training (DIT) assessment center, got new Board of Governors inaugurated, trained and graduated 1017 students through short courses of 1 – 5 weeks, enrolled 70 students for the 2-year NCAPM program, sustained 100 employees (70 contractual and 30 casual workers), we won the 2022 Uganda Responsible Investment Mark of Excellence Award for emerging as the best agricultural Education Institution in Uganda, we established good collaborative relationships with two renown public universities (Muni University and Makerere University in areas of research & development), we sustained a cordial relationships with all our committed partners/collaborators/communities and we thank you for your continual trust in us. We look forward into 2023 to seeing that these good working relationships continues for a common good of all people and creation. I am grateful to the leadership of the Franciscan Brothers, the Board of Governors - AAC and the Internal College Management Committee for believing in our work and supporting us to morally, as well as to the members of AAC Staff for their continued guidance and support during this historic move.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank our Headquarters Leadership team – the General Council of the Franciscan Brothers at global level for working together to make this possible. Moving approximately 10 year's worth of files, servers, and systems is no small task. I am honoured to see our staff remain dedicated to our work during this complex period for our college.

Our accomplishments during the year were not limited to those listed in the above. In 2022, we held multiple events that brought together hundreds of partners and stakeholders. These included our monthly graduation ceremonies for short-course students, Food Use Workshops in 37 villages in Offaka

subcounty under the Nutrition project, Day Release Learning visits, commissioning of the building infrastructures, games and sports competition and the Madi-Okollo district Education Forum (MODANI) for promotion of basic educational initiatives in the district, as well as the launch of our new 5-year strategic plan. A huge thanks to our team for coordinating these events, and our partners for your continued support in this cybernetic world!

Additionally, all our loyal partners (BMZ, SoH, Miseen Cara, Misereor, GIZ, Caritas Austria, MIVA-Austria, Franciscan Brothers, Safeline Foundation, DCA, CEFORD, Caritas Nebbi, Catholic Dioceses of Nebbi & Arua, Association of Religious in Uganda, Caritas – Uganda, GLRA, Muni University, Makerere University, etc.) and both Local Government of Madi-Okollo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Arua, Maracha, Terego, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo & Adjumani Districts among others as well as the National Government of the Republic of Uganda for the highest level of trust and cooperation accorded to us during the past many years of our service to the public (host and refugee communities). Much of these progresses have been fostered by a peaceful environment that nurtured the continuation of our work with minimal disruption. I want to thank the leadership of government of Uganda at district levels in the greater northern Uganda for their continued goodwill and material support of the College's work.

All of the work and milestones mentioned above were done while our researchers, study directors, competent facilitators, Alumni students, Staff and other team members worked on numerous studies and research projects in an effort to meet the quality education needs of specialty students. More information about our work can be found in our website [www.aac.ac.ug](http://www.aac.ac.ug).

As our team continues to meet the needs of our stakeholders in the 21st century, I want to thank everyone who has been involved with the Franciscan Brothers Adraa Agriculture College for your unique contributions to where we stand today as an institution. Our future is bright thanks to your support. And we look forward for further collaborations and cooperations to brighten lives of the marginalized in their struggles to liberate themselves in the year 2023. God Bless you all and your loved ones.

All the best,

**Br. Charles Lagu**  
Principal – Adraa Agriculture College



# WHO WE ARE

**A**draa Agriculture College (AAC) was founded in 2012 to educate and train people from rural communities in Uganda, South Sudan and North East Democratic Republic of Congo to improve capacities and capabilities so that the rural people will be able to use available natural resources to achieve sustainable livelihoods. The college is owned and managed by the Franciscan Brothers working in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Nebbi.

The Franciscan Brothers Adraa Agriculture College (AAC) is a registered ENTITY awarding and training INSTITUTION under the Ministry of Education and Sport with registration No: MoES/BTVET/219. We are specialised in designing high quality and cutting-edge Certificate and Diploma programmes in **Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development (SARD)**.

**The philosophy of Adraa Agriculture College** is underpinned by the reality that every human person is a unique individual and each one has the right to an environment in which she/he can live with dignity. This philosophy is founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ that inspires it to bring this 'good news' in a practical way to all people, especially the poor. Based on the social teaching of the Catholic Church, AAC endeavors to serve all people irrespective of their religion or ethnicity by focusing on human potential, natural resource base and the environment as the foundation of economic and social activity.



## The College Charism

The Charism of AAC is to live the gospel way of life



## VISION

The Vision of the Institution is a society where the marginalized are prioritized and the earth is cared for.



## MISSION

The Mission of AAC is to empower the marginalized in their struggles to liberate themselves and to care for the earth.



## MANDATE

The mandate of AAC to nature the capacities and capabilities of the marginalized communities in SARD comes from the examples and teachings of Jesus, the charism of the Franciscan Brothers, the social teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and provisions of the Business, Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (BTVET) Act, 2008.



## CORE VALUES

In pursuing its mission and achieving its vision, AAC is guided by the following core values that underpin the work of all AAC.

1. Equality of all
2. Respect and care for the Earth
3. Stewardship
4. Spirit of excellence
5. Hospitality

We are proud to announce that AAC is now a Training Institution recognised by Ministry of Education and Sports. All our long-term courses curricula are endorsed by National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), examined Uganda Business Training Examination Board (UBTEB) and Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) that recognises our commitment to high quality training. Our students will be entitled to receive TVET and NCHE certification upon successful completion of their courses. Our programmes are flexible, affordable and globally recognised. Our qualifications help to develop individual's talent and calibre for their future career progression and enhance the practical skills required to succeed in today's competitive environment. We are now rolling out our programmes to prospective students who are looking for a *quality education and a fast track to gaining an internationally recognised qualification*. Please find attached more details of our courses and more details for enrolment for the programmes. You can also find more information on our website at [www.aac.ac.ug](http://www.aac.ac.ug). Please contact us on [info@aac.ac.ug](mailto:info@aac.ac.ug) if you require any more information or details. We look forward to hearing from you.

# OUR INTERVENTIONS AND PROJECTS DURING THE YEAR 2022

## Our interventions with VSLA groups - Safe Line Foundation project

AAC with support from Safeline has implemented a student's microfinance support scheme which aimed at providing capital to AAC past students to support them in their enterprises. Since 2019 when AAC introduced this model, these groups have continued to work and save together in absence of AAC's involvement and most of them are in their 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of savings and its sustainability and group cohesiveness is successful. Amidst challenges alumni go through, they are able to support themselves through the social funds generated within groups' savings, the soft loans offered and managed by the members supported small businesses among the beneficiaries, families are able to have food at home, access money to buy medicines and send children to school with the current needs for these services especially among the refugees in West Nile. It is deemed necessary to facilitate these progressive students in their struggles of expanding and strengthening their enterprises.

### Progress done during the year 2022

- Capacity building for group leaders in areas of group dynamics, financial literacy, record keeping
- Regular follow-ups to the groups to offer backstopping and support to the groups. These visits included household visits to check implementation of skills and knowledge learnt at household level.
- Establishment of feedback mechanism where households and groups can channel their issues in terms of generating gaps, following up group activities and providing answers to issues raised by members.
- Distribution of Financial support to progressive and needy groups to enhance group loans.

### Outcome of the initiative

- A total of UGX10,000,000 was distributed to different VSLA groups.
- A total of 16 VSLA groups were supported with the initiative in 3 settlements of Imvepi, Rhino camp and Bidibidi.
- The initiative expanded to 400 households and a total of 2000 people benefited from the trickle-down effect.
- 40% Increase in household income as a result of interventions undertaken by farmers.
- 70% have improved household dietary diversity and increased meal intake by the households.
- New small businesses emerged within the settlements.
- The initiative has increased groups' demand for loans and created a sense of self sufficiency and belongingness within the groups.

### PROGRESS OF THE Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA) GROUPS THAT RECEIVED SUPPORT

SN	Group Name	Settlement	Cumulative savings	Social fund	Loan out	Loan portfolio
1	Morebongo VSLA	Imvepi	7,689,000	2,715,000	5,950,000	10,404,000
2	Success VSLA	Imvepi	2,936,000	433,000	2,725,000	3,369,000
3	Hope VSLA	Imvepi	2,471,000	314,000	2,350,000	2,785,000
4	Lucky VSLA	Imvepi	1,211,000	178,000	569,000	1,389,000
5	Rocky vegetable	Omugo	3,500,000	1,500,000	3,200,000	5,000,000
6	Wanyange united	Rhino camp	2,800,000	1,000,000	2,600,000	3,800,000
7	Hope group	Imvepi	3,500,000	607,000	2,600,000	4,107,000
8	Mercy VSLA	Imvepi	2,800,000	900,000	2,300,000	3,700,000
9	Kita ku Rowuju	Bidibidi	1,500,000	950,000	1,400,000	2,450,000
10	Happy never give up	Imvepi	3,700,000	2,000,000	3,500,000	5,700,000
11	Hope	Bidibidi	4,000,000	2,300,000	3,800,000	6,300,000
12	Ngun Koyi	Rhino camp	3,000,000	1,500,000	2,600,000	4,500,000
13	Hakuna bila mungu	Omugo	3,200,000	1,800,000	2,500,000	5,000,000
14	Mama group	Omugo	2,800,000	1,100,000	2,700,000	3,900,000
15	Mori mor farmers	Omugo	2,450,000	1,300,000	2,300,000	3,750,000
16	Unity farmers	Omugo	1,800,000	800,000	1,500,000	2,600,000



## I CAN NOW PROVIDE FOR MY FAMILY - MAWA COSMAS FAUSTINO

My name is Mawa Cosmas Faustino. I am 26 years old south Sudanese refugee from Zone 1, Imvepi refugee settlement. I fled my country way back in 2017 because of the war and came to settle in Uganda. When I came to the settlement, life was so hard especially for refugee youths like me. I had no means of getting anything for myself. I could go and look for casual jobs but these still can't help me out of my situation. A friend of mine asked me to join a youth group which he said is so important and helpful.

When I joined **Success farmers and VSLA group** supported by Adraa Agriculture College in 2019, I got motivated and encouraged that it's through the works of my hand that I can help solve my personal issues. In this group we do savings, pick loans, do social funding, alongside sustainable agriculture practices like kitchen gardens, soil and water conservation practices and many more. These were entirely new concepts to me and yet profiting in the smallest piece of land given to us as refugees. I gained more skills in sustainable agriculture, financial literacy which enables me to plan, produce and save for my future initiatives.

My goal has always been to establish a profitable business enterprise. This has been pushing me to work hard and save. I



opened up a saloon and phone charging centre in my village from my savings since 2019. When AAC introduced capital support to the groups, we were so excited. I borrowed UGX 500,000 from my group, and this money has helped me to boost my business and allows me to accomplish the goal I set. I am able to put back the smile that we lost during the war in South Sudan. The business I have is able to provide all the basic necessities of my family life including but not limited to balanced diet, clothing, medical support and we no longer rely on aid. Alongside the Saloon, I am also growing vegetables, field crops and rearing poultry and goats.

I appreciate AAC and the donors for the support. It is my hope that more of such small capital investment funds should be targeted to the active youths in their VSLA groups to strengthen their abilities and capabilities for self-reliance. Furthermore, soft skills trainings in financial literacy, group dynamics, business record keeping, etc be extended to groups.



## BEE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OUTREACH PROGRAM - SAFELINE FOUNDATION

During the year, a total of more 15 bee keeping groups with a total of 415 bee keepers (336 male and 79 female) were identified and formed, the project operated in four sub-counties of upper Madi which include; Offaka, Anyiribu, Uleppi and Okollo sub-county. Through this initiative, a total of 2,155kgs of crude honey was supplied to the college business unit with an average of 5-10kgs per hive.



## REPORT FROM THE COLLEGE CLINIC

From the college clinic this year, the unit secured a room with beds in the new hostel block. The clinic is specifically established to provide first aid and treat minor sicknesses among the students and staff. However, emergency cases are usually referred to the government health centre for further administration. The unit is managed by Sr. Frances Adania - a highly professional nurse who exhibited high level of professionalism in handling cases and issues especially being faithful in the medical career amidst challenges and pressure of work.

This year, a total of 1,880 patients were treated at medical unit of the college. Of these total, 1,409 adults were treated with various diseases as compared to 474 children handled during the year.

There are four (4) major sicknesses treated during the year the most prominent is; malaria with the highest number of cases amounting to 1,021. Of these, 724 cases were among the adults and 297 cases among children. The second major disease handled during the year was cough with a total of 516 patients treated and out of this, 339 were cases among adults and 177 cases among children.

The third disease handled was peptic ulcers which was entirely among adults with a total of 183 patients treated. Lastly, typhoid was the least treated disease during the year with a total of 160 patients treated. Among all the diseases treated, malaria was the most prevalent and of all the cases reported during the year, the month of April was the worst hit with a total of 553 cases and out of these malaria was the highest with a total of 257 cases handled. Secondly, November was the second month recorded with high number of cases totaling to 382 with malaria being the highest case recorded.

### Referrals

During the months of January to April, two referrals were made, one case of a pregnant mother who came with malaria in the first day of arrival and was taken to Offaka health centre III and was admitted, after her discharge, was sent home. A second case of a baby of 10/12 months who came with acute Tonsillitis from home plus malaria was also admitted and recovered. There were no death cases recorded. There were no referral cases in the second quarter (May – August) and no death recorded.



## DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The main purpose of this department is to build the capacity and capabilities of people in sustainable agriculture for rural development and non-farming rural business within the catchment areas of AAC. Through the college, the department works closely with all relevant stakeholders to achieve the overall purpose of the College. The department offers both residential and non-residential as well as long-term and short-term courses - ranging from one week to six weeks for short-term courses and 2-year certificate courses using practical approaches in the delivery of trainings.

### NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

During the year, AAC launched a 2 year National Certificate in Agricultural Production. It is a national course assessed by UBTEB. A total of 70 students were enrolled for the course and out of this number, 72% of the students were under sponsorship while 28% are privately sponsored. Lessons were conducted according to the modules agreed on and students were subjected to end of term exams.



### Short Courses

During this period, thirteen (13) lots of students were recruited by both the college and the partner organizations. A total of 1017 students were trained in these thirteen lots for different durations of one to six weeks. These training were majorly sponsored by partner organizations that include: Caritas Austria, Caritas Uganda, GIZ, Misesan Cara (ODP), CEFORD, CRS and DINU and few under private sponsorship.

at teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and provis Business, Technical, Vocational, Education and T (VET) Act, 2008.

### RE VALUES

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S/N	PERIOD	DURATION	COURSE	SPONSER	NO. OF STUDENTS	GENDER	
						Male	Female
01	10/Jan/-28/Jan/2022	3 Weeks	SA	C. Austria	80	44	36
02	10/Jan/-04/Feb/2022	4 Weeks	SA	C. Uganda	25	07	18
03	07/Feb/-04/Mar/2022	4 weeks	SA	GIZ	147	102	45
		4 weeks	SA	Private	03	03	-
04	07-11/03/2022	1 week	SA	GLRA Nyapea	126	7	119
05	20/Mar/-08/April/2022	3 weeks	SA	C. Austria	80	50	30
06	20-25/March/2022	1 week	B. Keeping	ODP	30	29	01
07	28/March-1/April/2022	1 week	B. Keeping	ODP	27	01	26
08	4/March-8/April/2022	1 week	B. Keeping	ODP	35	02	33
09	11/April-6/May/2022	4 weeks	SA	CEFORD	206	124	82
10	19/April-6/May/2022	3 weeks	Extension	CRS	09	06	03
11	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> /August/2022	1 week	FSA	GLRA	85	50	35
12	26/Sept-4/Nov/2022	6 weeks	B. Keeping	C.A S Sudan	04	03	01
13	10/Oct/-9/Nov/2022	5 weeks	SA	DINU	160	96	64
<b>Total</b>					<b>1017</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>493</b>

### Students Follow-up and Backstopping

During the year, the department conducted follow up visits to students trained especially under the GLRA, DINU, CRS, and Caritas Austria among others. A total of 800 students were reached during the follow-up. This was done to find the progress being done by the students and give them technical support where they are not doing well. The follow-ups as well provides insights and feedback mechanisms to review our short course curriculum based on the tailored needs and realities on ground.

### Internship Program

During this period, a total of 42 students (23 males and 19 females) from different

institutions applied, accepted, received and supervised on experiential learning as per their training needs of field placement and all had received good facilitation in all aspects of college entities.

### Day Release

During the year 2022, a total of 408 (232 males and 196 females) students were received for one day equivalent learning on sustainable agriculture and sensitization drives. This has contributed positively to college public goodwill and promotion wise the target beneficiaries comprising of small-scale commercial farmers and aspiring youth and women as well as teachers & secondary school students from the neighboring schools in the region.



### 2023 TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR COURSES FROM 1-6 WEEKS (short courses)

S/N	DATE	COURSE	WEEKS	SPONSERER	AVAILABLE PLACES	BOOKING
01	15 <sup>TH</sup> JAN-3 <sup>RD</sup> FEB 2023	SA	3 WEEKS		30	BOOKED
02	5 <sup>TH</sup> FEB-3 <sup>RD</sup> MAR 2023	SA	4 WEEKS		150	BOOKED
03	5 <sup>TH</sup> MAR-31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023	SA	4 WEEKS		30	BOOKED
04	2 <sup>ND</sup> -7 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023	SA	1 WEEK		80	-
05	9 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL-12 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023	SA	5 WEEKS		130	
06	14 <sup>TH</sup> MAY-9 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023	SA	4 WEEKS		150	
07	18 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE-14 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023	SA	4 WEEKS		150	BOOKED
08	16 <sup>TH</sup> -21 <sup>ST</sup> JULY 2023	SA	1 WEEK		30	
09	23 <sup>RD</sup> JULY-11 <sup>TH</sup> AUG 2023	SA	3 WEEKS		80	BOOKED
10	13 <sup>TH</sup> AUG-8 <sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2023	SA	4 WEEKS		120	
11	17 <sup>TH</sup> SEPT-27 <sup>TH</sup> OCT 2023	SA	6 WEEKS		125	BOOKED
12	29 <sup>TH</sup> OCT-8 <sup>TH</sup> DEC 2023	SA	6 WEEKS		125	

### UPCOMING 2023 NATIONAL CERTIFICATE COURSES OF TWO YEARS

S/N	COURSES	AVAILABLE SPACES	COURSE DURATION
01	National Certificate in Agriculture 1	68	2 years
02	National Certificate in Agriculture 2	92	2 years
03	National Certificate in Automotive Mechanic	20	2 years
04	National Certificate in fashion and Design (tailoring)	20	2 years
05	National Certificate in Welding/ Metal Fabrication	20	2 years
06	National Certificate in Hotel Management and Institutional Catering	25	2 years
07	National Certificate in Apiculture and Ecosystem Management	30	2 years





## REPORT ON AAC COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN 2022

Research is one of the core entities that AAC focuses on in order to identify and address the existing gaps together with other stakeholders. Together with Muni University; Banana, beans and rice experiments were established while cowpea improvement trials were established with Makerere university regional Centre for crop improvement (MaRRCI)

### Objectives of the research

- To contribute to Banana improvement by providing knowledge on pest & disease resistance and yield for selected genotypes.
- To contribute to beans improvement by providing knowledge on pest & disease resistance and yield of selected genotypes.
- To contribute to rice improvement by providing knowledge on pest & disease resistance and yield of selected cowpea genotypes.
- To contribute to cowpea improvement by providing knowledge on pest & disease resistance and yield of selected cowpea genotypes.

### Description of the experimental site

The experiments were conducted at Adraa Agriculture

College - found in Adraa village, Offaka Sub County, Offaka East constituency, Madi Okollo district, West Nile Uganda. The area receives a bimodal rainfall with an average amount of 1100 mm per annum with a mean temperature of 21.7°C.

### Experimental materials

The study used 14 cowpea genotypes for National performance trials (NPT) and 55 cowpea genotypes for advanced yield trials (AYT).

### Methodology

The cowpea experiments were set in randomized incomplete block design with three blocks and 11 genotypes per block for advanced yield trials as well as for national performance trials of 14 cowpea genotypes

### Achievements

- The experiments were successfully established
- Proper management of the experiments to date
- Participatory research approaches with some student's involvement for learning purposes





# DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

## OUTREACH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Adraa Agriculture College (AAC) has a department of Outreach Development Program (ODP) that works with the local communities in collaboration and in partnership with the education and training department, local governments and other like-minded stake holders to transfer practical education and training in sustainable agriculture for rural development (SARD) from AAC to the local communities.

In pursuit of the college's mandate, vision, mission and values, ODP has been implementing four projects namely: Sustainable Agriculture Livelihood Program in Offaka Sub-County (**SALPO**), Inter Congregational Sustainable Agriculture Program (**ICSAP**), the **Nutrition Project** and the East African Bee Keeping Project (**EABKP**) in Offaka Sub-County Madi-Okollo District with the support from Misesan Cara. SALPO, ICSAP and the Nutrition projects are three-year multi annuals while the EABKP is a two-year project. The overall objective of these projects are to contribute towards community capacity and capability building so that they can effectively use their natural resources for sustainable livelihoods.

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME IN OFFAKA SUB-COUNTY (SALPO)

The Sustainable Agriculture Livelihood Programme in Offaka Sub-County (SALPO) is a three-year project in its third/last year of implementation with support from Misesan Cara. SALPO operates in 12 villages of Adraa, Ayuu and Pamach of Adraa Parish; Oliba/Muni/Ojiba, Pajia/Pacen and Riki of Elibu Parish; Aguru, Arara A/B and Ndabu of Ocebu Parish, and, Ndu, Pajo and Patru of Oribu Parish. A total of 120 households were supported under the project this year 2022 with the purpose of enhancing household food, income and nutrition security.

### Progress of intervention under SALPO

- ODP together with the communities updated 12 Village Development Committees (VDCs) with 44 females and 76 males by replacing some non-performing and inactive members in all the 12 villages. The revitalized VDCs also received refresher training on their roles and responsibilities.
- 120 (51F, 69M) Participating households were selected to directly participate in the project in all the 12 villages. Each participating household assisted three other households for trickle down process.
- 120 (51F, 69M) Participating households were trained at parish and village levels in sustainable agriculture for rural development (SARD) principles and practices in kitchen gardening, field cropping, pig and poultry production and agroforestry (woodlot establishment and management).
- 12 VDCs and 120 participating households received **660** packets (25g) of **5** types of vegetable seeds, **1,056kg** of 4 types of field crops seeds (maize, groundnut soy bean and simsim), **360** pieces of 8 types of tools and equipment, **118** piglets, **630** chicks, **16800kg** of animal feeds, 120 pkts and 120 bottles of vet drugs
- Four village open learning days were organized at parish levels. The theme was "**Transforming lives of the communities through Sustainable Agriculture.**" The objective was to create an avenue for learning of new skills, information and experience sharing by farmers and the technical team for improved productivity and an opportunity of bringing learning closer to those who cannot come to college for residential training. A total of 304 (120F, 184M) farmers across the four parishes of Offaka sub-county participated in the open learning days.



- 12 Village demonstration sites were established for learning practical skills in all the 12 villages in which 5 different types of vegetables (kales, green pepper, eggplants and onions) and 4 different types of field crops (simsim, soybean, groundnuts and maize) were established.
- All the 120 participating households were offered technical backstopping support and encouragement in their different enterprises (kitchen gardening, field cropping and construction of livestock structures)



## Project outcomes

- 70% of the Farmers have adopted and adapted skills in sustainable agriculture
- 40% of the farmers share the learned skills with at least 3 other members
- There is substantive increase in household asset base with 50% having goats and cattle, 30% buying solar lamps, 40% doing savings in the VSLA.
- 20% of the households have diversified their income, this includes not only selling vegetables, but other cash crops like share, chilli and simsim and this has increased household income
- 70% have increased household meals intake, specifically from 2 meals to 3 meals a day. At the same time there is an increase in household dietary diversity
- 10% has increased labour input especially they hire tractor to plough for them and also hire casual laborers to work in their fields
- At least 50% of the farmers have introduced production technologies like soil conservation, multiple cropping, and line planting with appropriate spacing



## Farming is the way to go than destroying the environment by charcoal burning as a livelihood.

My name is Alimuke Nelson from Riki village, Elibu Parish Offaka Sub County, Madi Okollo District and West Nile – Uganda. The biggest challenge here in my village is charcoal burning which affects our water sources and food production. If I'm to look at hills in Riki village, nearly all big trees are cut down for charcoal burning and timber. This is affecting our local climatic condition and water sources and food production system. After being trained by Adraa Agriculture College. The way I look at environment, it has completely changed. In addition to that, AAC changed my life particularly and technically by way of skilling me in crop growing and management skills like planting technique, pruning, staking, and pest and disease control up to marketing. To manage my cost-benefit analysis well for the crop production, I have a farm accounts and records book and I also have visitors book to take note of all visitors in my farm.

My advice to AAC is to continue giving us knowledge and skills to improve and promote our farming skills/practices; and to protect environment. Finally, my message to farmers in Riki village is to be open and learn from some of us and AAC how to do sustainable farming and protect our environment. This year I got UGX 720,000 from the sale of vegetables in first season. I have never received such amount of money from the burning of charcoal ever since. So sustainable farming is the way to go. I used the money for school fees and some for buying seeds. I am expecting to get UGX2.9 million from the tomatoes I have in the field. I am grateful to AAC for empowering me and I would like to continue with vegetable production to support my family.



## INTER CONGREGATIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME (ICSAP)

The Inter-Congregational Sustainable Agriculture Programme (ICSAP) is an initiative of seven International Congregations established in 2016 working with vulnerable households in three Eastern African countries; Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. The current project under ICSAP implemented by AAC Outreach Development Programme is a three-year project in its second year of implementation and it operates in Ayibu/Osabu village, Adraa Parish, Offaka sub-county. The overall goal is to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable livelihoods of target households with tenable household food, nutrition and income security.

### Progress of project intervention

- A ten (10) member Village Development Committee was instituted to spearhead the project implementation in Ayibu/Osabu village with overall responsibility of initiating and coordinating development initiative in the village.
- 40 (23 female and 17 male) vulnerable households were identified during a consultative Ayibu/Osabu village meeting.
- 40 participating households were trained in Ayibu/Osabu village in SA principles and practices particularly in kitchen gardening, field cropping, poultry and pig production, agroforestry, making organic pesticides and indigenous micro-organisms.
- 210 packets of 5 different types of vegetable seeds, 327kg of 3 different types of field crop seeds, 91 pieces of tools and equipment, 80 piglets, 120 chicks, 2800kg of animal feeds were procured and distributed to the 40 participating households
- 1 Village demonstration site was established for learning in Ayibu/Osabu village in which 5 different types of vegetables (kales, green pepper, eggplants and onions) and 4 different types of field crops (simsim, soybean, groundnuts and maize) were planted and managed by the participating households



Beneficiary households for practical learning site in Ayibu/Osabu village



Beneficiary households for practical learning session, the principle used here "learning by doing".

### ACIDRI JAMES JIMMY

Acidri Jimmy is a participating household under ICSAP from Ayibu/Osabu village. He is 37 years old with five children (1 girl, 4boys). Jimmy being one of the vulnerable households in Ayibu/Osabu village, he was selected in village meeting to participate in ICSAP project. This year, Jimmy got trained and produced vegetables for home consumption and sold some.

Out of the money got from the sale of vegetables, he bought clothes for the children and other basic needs. He also processed some vegetables which he is planning to sell during dry season to raise money for school fees.

He is grateful for the opportunity and promised to continue with the production of vegetables to support the family in the coming year 2023.





## NUTRITION PROJECT (i4Life)

This is a three-year pilot project. It's in its second year of implementation. Nutrition project is implemented in 13 villages of Adraa, Ayibu/Osabu, Ayuu and Pamach of Adraa Parish; Oliba/Muni/Ojiba, Pajia/Pacen and Riki of Elibu Parish; Aguru, Arara and Ndabu of Ocebu Parish, and, Ndu, Pajo and Patru of Oribu Parish with the objective to improve the nutrition of the children under 5-years of age in Offaka Sub-County with support from Misesan Cara. AAC and i4Life are jointly implementing the project.

Currently under the project, a total of 103 (55 female and 48 male) households were identified. These were

households with cases of malnutrition identified during village assessments. The 103 households and 13 Village Health Teams (VHTs) received inputs and these include 6 different types of vegetable seeds, tools and equipment.

Five days Parish level training was conducted for the 103 (55F, 48M) beneficiaries and were supported in kitchen gardening to improve household food, nutrition and income security. This was to empower the participating households with skills of setting up nursery beds for various vegetables and small livestock enterprise management.

### VHT training on MIYCAN

55 Village Health Team (VHTs) were trained on the maternal infant, young child and adolescent nutrition (MIYCAN) package at Offaka Sub County Head Quarter. The training objective was to equip the VHTs with appropriate knowledge and skills to facilitate sessions with community members as individuals or groups using the GATHER (You Greet, Ask, Tell, Help, Explain and Reassure) approach. Participants were also oriented on community group formulation using the care group model approach and develop a tentative plan to establish care groups and practicum on back yard farming where VHTs learnt mandala, raised beds, sack and container back yard gardening set up techniques.

Training of mothers in meals preparation, this training focused on equipping mothers to identify different food groups, prepare well balanced food for the children and focused food hygiene for both children and maternal nutrition. The training was attended by 161 participants.

### Project outcome

- Improved nutrition in Offaka sub county (and specific refugee settlements identified for the pilot programme) especially among the <5s
- Trainees in malnutrition treatment & prevention contributing to improved health and resilience of the most vulnerable
- Nutrition Clinic established within the existing health facility with effective outreach programs across Offaka sub-county involving Village Health Team.



Proscovia - the ICSAP project Officer during regular field visits interacting with Mr. Acidri Jimmy

### A case of malnourished child - EYOTARU HELLEN

Eyotaru Hellen, a child who was identified in the community in Adraa village. She had severe acute malnutrition. The mother herself did not also look well nourished. After engaging the mother in nutrition health education and practical sessions of meal preparation during community training; the mother gradually started showing improvement. This indicated that the nutrition information she had learnt was effectively transforming her and her family. She also engaged in the establishment of the kitchen garden and has benefited from it in that it has boosted her food security.



BEFORE



AFTER





## EAST AFRICAN BEE KEEPING PROJECT (EABKP)

EABKP is a two-year project in its second/last year of implementation. Operates in Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan. Adraa Agriculture College is the coordinating Centre for the project in Uganda and implemented in Madi Okollo and Zombo District with 10 beekeeping groups (200; 25 female and 175 male participating households).

### EAST AFRICA BEE-KEEPING PROJECT

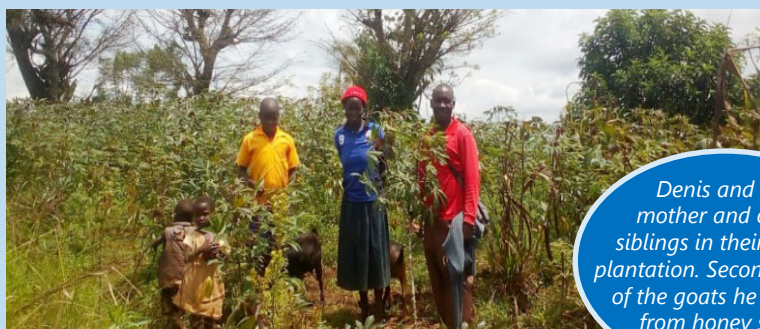
Ten (10) beekeeping groups with 200 participating households were formed in the project sites in Zombo and Madi Okollo districts. The groups were trained in beekeeping particularly in beekeeping systems, management of honey bees, hive product and processing and beekeeping as a business.

Bee keeping equipment were distributed to the 10 groups with 200 participating households. The inputs distributed were 10 pieces of bee suits, 10 pairs of gumboots, 10 pairs of harvesting gloves and 5 pieces of smokers to the group leaders. Those tools and equipment were given to the group leaders. Out of 200 target beneficiaries, 136 were followed to check whether they were implementing what they were trained in – especially the beekeeping systems, management of honey bees and hive product processing. It is an encouraging experience to realize that the youth and women are have developed active interest in Bee keeping as a business as opposed to the prevailing cultural belief systems of people in the target communities where women were perceived in the olden days not to be involved in such activities.



### A CASE OF A 14-YEAR-OLD DENIS

Okethwengu Denis is a 14 years old orphan from Alengu Village, Omua Parish, Kango Sub-county in Zombo District. He is in primary five and lost his father in 2019. Denis started beekeeping in 2019. In the year 2021, He was selected in village meeting to participate in the project. After being trained by AAC, he harvested 31.5kgs of honey from 5 beehives which he used not to get and sold to Adraa College at UGX157,500. Out of UGX157,500, he bought 1goat, 1 blanket and 50 cypress tree seedlings. The goat he bought produced two kids which are growing very well. He is optimistic that in this coming season, he is expecting to triple honey produce since he added more hives and improved harvesting skills. He is thankful to Adraa Agriculture College for the support and promised to increase the number of beehives to increase honey production.



Denis and his mother and other siblings in their coffee plantation. Secondly some of the goats he bought from honey sales









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