



FARMERS TRAINING GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

The farmers training programme is still going strong after more than a decade as new areas are reached in response to the local population seeking the help of Uganda Development services.

Here, Robert Lyada, one of the first recipients of training and now a very successful farmer, is passing on his knowledge to a new farmer's group. During the past year training has been given in Bukutala, Irundu and Nkoone parishes in Buyende District.



The aim is to improve food security, nutrition, household incomes and hygiene. Each training programme starts with a baseline study to identify who will benefit most from the training.

Farmers are trained in the different crop enterprises that could help them move out of poverty. Working in groups is encouraged because it helps farmers to keep up in doing new things or old things in a new way. They are also trained in nutrition and the benefits of eating a balanced diet, how to prepare the different meals in a home using the food that you have and how to preserve food and keep it nutritious. The farmers are trained with knowledge about their

crops such as carrots, matooke and onions, as well as new crops such as pineapple being introduced.



Some previous groups in the four parishes of Gumpi, Mpunde, Kitukiro and Nsomba were followed up to see how they are getting on. Ms KayagaIgrance of Kabukye farmers group proudly shows off some of

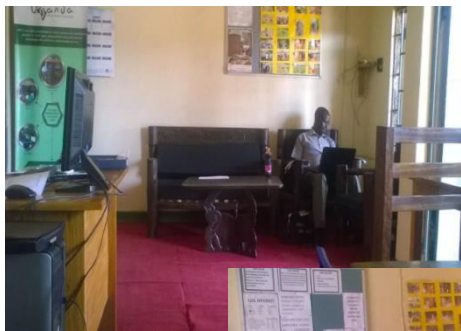


the onion harvest from her garden. Mukama Yoramu of Bukongoro shows off his onion harvest. He tried onions after the training in the second quarter of 2016.

He said the weather was the main challenge he faced or he would have had a larger quantity.

KAMULI CENTRE UPDATED

The Kamuli Centre had stayed more or less as it was set up in 2002 and had begun to look rather tired. So in mid-2016 the Kamuli Centre went through a renovation process. The front internet room was re-



carpeted, the old internet booths removed to a back room and a simpler table arrangement introduced. A computer

accessories shop opened and a more friendly low seating area was placed near the front entrance.

A new wireless router was installed to provide a Wi-Fi service to customers. Currently there are ten regular Wi-Fi clients paying a monthly subscription.



The library was also moved from the front of the building to the back to allow for the creation of a multi-use training room including the re-location of the e-learning computers used by secondary school children.

The mature serious readers now have a room dedicated to themselves as the more professional centre users. All this had the knock-on effect of needing to extend the outside reading area further into the yard.

The latrines were also completely upgraded and



soft drink machines are now installed on a renovated front verandah as a service to the

Centre users and to generate Centre income.

The Centre has experienced an increase of clients that use the internet and other services in the café to an average of 45-60 people per day. The new look Kamuli Business Centre is serving the clients better as well as looking good.

All reports in this newsletter are from UDS Uganda

GLOBAL HAND WASHING DAY

UDS took part in the Global Hand Washing Day which took place as a campaign in Kamuli during October 2016. President Museveni and the Speaker of Parliament attended the event. The Chairman of the



National Water Committee praised UDS for the ten years they had spent in promoting good hygiene practices and for being one of the community organisations with a WASH (Water, Sanitation and Health) which is sensitizing the population,



advocating clean water and constructing safe water reserves like water tanks/jars.

Access to clean water is one of the major challenges for

rural communities. Using water from unprotected sources is one of the causes of diseases and death especially among children.

In 2006, UDS envisioned that one aspect of poverty emerged from the lack of easy access to clean water, which can be reduced by harvesting rain water since the region benefits from a biannual rain fall pattern totaling to 7 months of rain in the year. With financial support from Afrinspire and other individual donors from UK, UDS has been promoting rain water harvesting through construction of water tanks and jars (barrels). Using jars which are cheaper it is possible to reach more homesteads. After some training in Kabale District more than 20 water Jars have been constructed in Bukongoro and Mango.

Musoke Elizabeth writes, "I am advanced in age and it has always been a hurdle to collect water from a borehole because I don't have enough strength to pump and carry water. I thank UDS for giving me a tank. During the rainy season I don't need to collect water and I spend more of the time in the garden. Because access to clean water is a serious need in my community, I share it with my neighbours."