

Lydia Kateregga, a story of intrigue.

I was introduced to Katosi Women Fishing & Development Association, one of the founder groups of KWDT in 2004 by Regina the group treasurer. I was then 40 years old and fervently supported by my husband. He encouraged me to join the group to achieve my dream of owning my very own cow!

I felt warmly welcomed by the group members. Some people warned my husband of the dangers of allowing his wife to join a women's group. They told him that the main danger was being so empowered and thus uncontrollable.

My husband eventually heeded his friends' warnings, and demanded that I leave the group. When I refused, he even confronted KWFDA group members, asking them to stop working with me. At that time, I had applied for a cow from the group; under

such circumstances, the group did not feel confident to approve my application. Eventually he took another wife and left us. I continued to work with KWFDA and actually committed more time to the group work. It was a very difficult time, my husband had left me, and the group did not approve me to get a cow because of my family situation. I was devastated, but I stayed and continued to work hard in the group complying with all the



group's norms.

I enlisted for training in tank construction and was elected Secretary of the group in 2007.

As a leader of the group I attend the KWDT Coordination Committee Meetings that are such a crucial part of decision-making in KWDT programs!



Undeterred, I won the trust of the group members, and they eventually approved my application to acquire a cow. I got a 4 month-old female calf from Ms. Kidda Phoebe in 2006. She matured and has since given birth 4 times to male calves. On average, I sell 6 litres of milk during the lactation period, and we consume one litre a day at home. My annual income has risen to Ugx 1,120,000 (US \$ 432) from milk sales, 250,000 (US \$ 95) from the annual sale of the male calves, and approximately Ugx100,000 (\$32) monthly from selling the surplus production from my garden.



I am proud to be one of the 22 masons who have been trained by KWDT to construct domestic rainwater harvesting tanks; we are called engineers in the community. I earn Ugx. 190,000 (US \$ 73) from each tank and construct 3-4 tanks every year. I have a domestic rainwater-harvesting tank, which I got in 2008; it has eased my household chores. My children no longer fetch water from the well and have time for their studies. I also often sell water from my tank at ug.200 (US \$0.07) per 20 litres. I have met new people and improved my communication skills.



I recently acquired a biogas digester. Life is good, I simply light up to cook family meals. I soon plan to start charging those who flock to my home to teach them how to utilize cow dung and urine from the cow to generate biogas. The recent lessons were given free of charge, but I have many people asking me to explain the process. I am more than glad that I was trained by KWDT.

I receive no support from my husband with whom we have had 6 children since 2006; I meet my family's needs independently, and life is far better now!