

European Third World Association (ETWA)

**STAD- UGANDA**  
**KITCHEN GARDENING PILOT PROGRAM REPORT.**



Ayimini Village Degiba Parish Koboko District.

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## **List of Abbreviations.**

STAD:	Support Trust for Africa Development.
OSLP:	Open Space Learning Program.
PLE:	Primary Leaving Education.
NFI:	Non Food Item.
SOP:	Standard Operating Procedures.
VHT:	Village Health Team.
LCI:	Local Council One.
F&CMO:	Field and Community Mobilization Officer.
A F&CMO:	Assistant Field Community Mobilization Officer.
TOR:	Terms of Reference.
ETWA:	European Third World Association

## **1.0 Executive summery.**

This project hatched timely especially when schools are closed due to the COVID-19. As a result, many school age going children were in attendance. The project beneficiaries in conjunction with STAD executed most of the field tasks that include land preparation, planting, weeding and pest control and a facilitator contracted to facilitate a three (3) days training with clear Terms of Reference (TOR). These trainings were organized to suite the agricultural knowledge gap in the community. This includes awareness campaign for sustainable agriculture and 64 were in attendance, 48 farmers were trained on organic manure and on the last day, 37 famers were trained on organic pesticide. Most importantly, this project was implemented in the context of COVID-19 and the necessary Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were followed for example social distancing, hand washing among others Total of 148 farmers were trained

### **1.1. Project back ground.**

Support Trust for Africa Development (STAD) received funds from European Third World Association (ETWA) to implement kitchen garden project under the Open Space Learning Program (OSLP). Ayimini as a village and community faces such challenges due to limited developmental agricultural intervention by both the government and humanitarian organizations. This has affected the food basket of the area. Therefore, the kitchen garden project is designed to provide knowledge and awareness on sustainable agricultural practices in Ayimini village Degiba parish Midia sub county Koboko district.



## 1.2 Project specific objectives.

- To establish kitchen gardening farm used to demonstrate/train the farmers with the most sustainable farming practices.
- To raise awareness on mindset, change and sustainable agricultural practices
- To train 130 farmers on making organic manure and pesticide.

## 1.3 Training methodologies

With limited education and knowledge on the various topics presented, the participants participatory methods including: brainstorming, probing, role plays explanations, testimonies, questions and answers periods were used.

## 2.0 Awareness building meeting.

Meetings were have organized in various locations within Ayimini (project location) with the community, LC1 offices of Ayimini and Bongo Villages. In the community meeting, 23 member turns up this is due to the government restriction of 20 at that time due to the COVID-19. Present were the Village Health Team (VHT), Local Council One (LC1), elders, and community members. During the meeting, the aim and objectives of the kitchen gardening project was clearly explained to ensure sustainability of farming knowledge and practices by the community.

During meeting names of project participants were unanimously selected. This included representative from the youth, women and men. And a total of 20 beneficiaries were selected that time. It was resolved that beneficiary must be willing to participate in trainings, learn and adopt the new practices. However, issues such as teaching youth skills in laying blocks for housing construction emerged - brought up by one community member who attested that he has the expertise together with five other community members in doing the work of laying blocks. This to STAD was a great opportunity for improving the youth's skilling who are redundant due to lockdowns and effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most importantly, community members acknowledged the importance of the Open Space Learning Program (OSLP) in Ayimini Village. One member was able to testify that due to the intervention by STAD through the Open Space Learning Program his child was able to score good grades in the recently released Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) results and his child scored second grade.



The community members and STAD team attending the awareness meeting.

## 2.1 Procurement of firm tools and items.

To progress to the practical stage of the program, farm tools were purchased. These tools were purchased at different stages involves at the field. First, tools like hoes, slashers, pangas, forked hoes, watering cane, spraying pump. Protective gears like gumboots, masks, hand sanitizers during meetings, hand gloves. These tools greatly helped in site clearance, cultivation, watering, spraying of the crops.



### 3.0 Primary land tillage.

This phase entails mainly digging, and shaping the land for planting. The selected participants for the project turned up overwhelmingly to dig the land and carry second digging. There is a clear indication that the community takes projects of STAD positively since they are educative projects and have long lasting positive impact on the community. After cultivation, the garden was allowed to ferment for 2 weeks before secondary tillage.



The project beneficiaries digging the kitchen garden piece of land.

### 3.1 Secondary land tillage.

At this stage, beneficiaries were basically working on the primary tillage. Focus was on; reducing clod size, weed control, leveling soil surface etc. which is a prerequisite before planting. These helps in mixing the upper fertile soil profile with the lower profile which influences the soil organic carbon and distribution of water and aeration in the soil profile manipulates weed residue and later controls/ removes unwanted plant growth. This leaves the garden in a suitable condition for planting seed and seedlings.



The ideal plots of garden ready for plantation



#### 4.0 Purchase of seeds and seedlings.

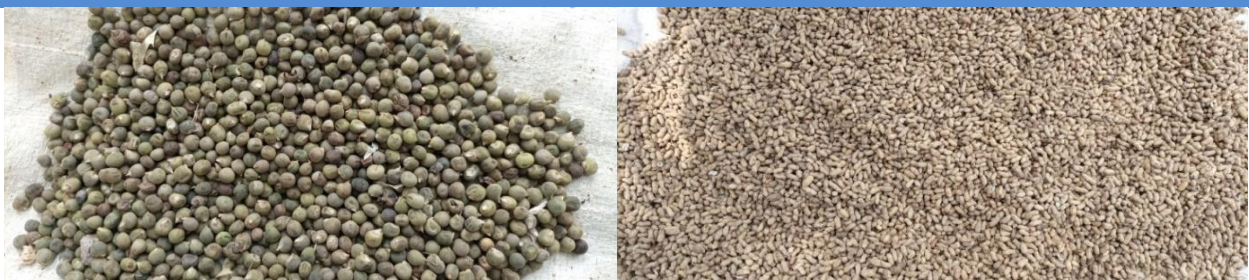
The strength of agriculture lies in the quality and variety of seeds and seedlings. We purchased high-quality. Sustainable seeds and seedlings in order to sustain the production of this project. This will help in reducing seed dormancy hence mitigating losses. The variety of crop seeds include; maize, okra, cow-pea and groundnuts and seedlings include egg-plant, garden-egg and potato vines. In addition to that, the community and the STAD field team were engaged in peeling the groundnuts.



The seedlings of garden egg/eggplant and next is the heaps of potato vines.



The STAD volunteers and the community and the participants peeling groundnut pods.



Okra seeds and groundnut pods

#### 5.0 Planting of the seeds and seedlings.

At this point, the STAD field team supported the kitchen gardeners with specific knowledge in planting these crops and seeds. The demonstration garden is open to the community to get experience in land preparation, growing, planting, and caring and management of crops, harvesting among others. During planting, the community mobilization officer demonstrated to the kitchen gardeners the best practices needed during planting these include; adequate spacing, proper depth, watering among other. However, broad casting method was used for planting cowpeas. The spacing between the crops and rows were as follow;

Table 1, plant spacing guide used;

Vegetable	Spacing between plants	Spacing between rows.
Okra	(18-38 cm.)	(90-106 cm.)
Sweet potatoes	(30-45 cm.)	(90-120 cm.)



Eggplant	(45-60 cm.)	(75-71 cm.)
Maize	(90 cm)	(95 cm.)
Groundnuts	(8-12 cm.)	(45-50 cm)



The F&CMO demonstrating to the beneficiaries how to plant and next is the participants planting.



The project beneficiaries and STAD field team planting groundnuts.



The two photos are taken during plantation of okra seeds.



The field team and beneficiaries making heaps for planting sweet potatoes.



### 6.0. Distribution of food items and Non-Food Item (NFI).

Since this program is volunteer driven, we offer our best for the community in terms of the skills, knowledge and time. And all community engagements towards the project are on voluntary basis due to the urge to learn sustainable farming practices. We motivate the kitchen gardens by giving them maize flour and soap. However, distribution of food and NFI went beyond to most needy especially the most vulnerable in the community. In this case, we supported only one family whose members all lame. The items given include maize flour, soap, sugar, tea leave, matchbox, beans and cooking oil.



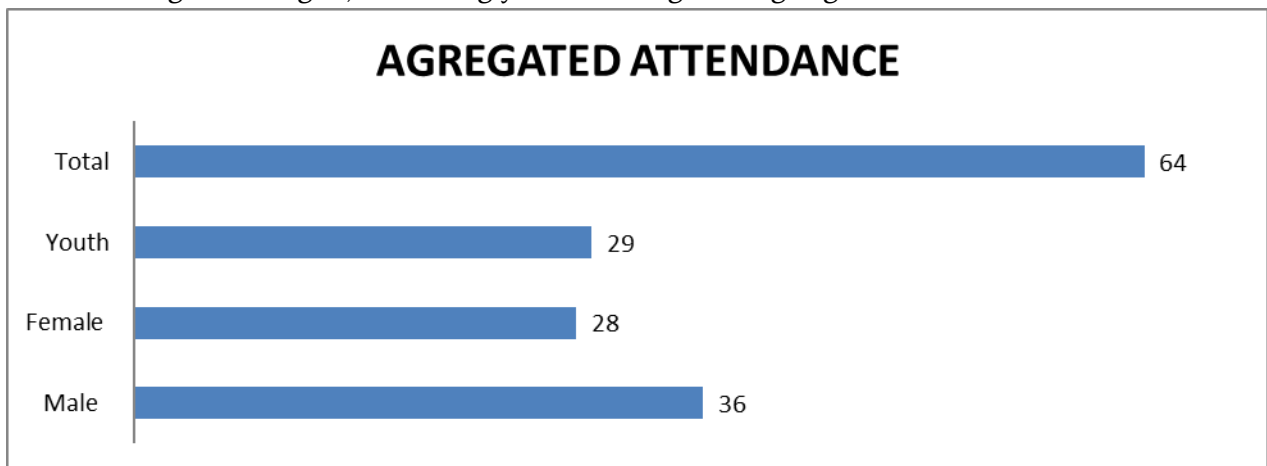
The assistant community mobilizer issuing maize flour for the kitchen gardeners after planting.



The assistant field officer delivering food and NFI to a needy family

### 7.0 Awareness campaign for sustainable agriculture.

This program was deliberately organized to provoke the negative attitude and practices of the community members towards agriculture. Agriculture here has been characterized by poor farming methods (harvest and post-harvest, purely subsistence); the energetic youth have become laziness towards agriculture as they prefer to stay in urban and semi-urban areas. Most importantly this awareness was designed deliberately to enhance knowledge of the farming community on kitchen gardening and organic agriculture, which offers optional strategies in food production. The area of mind set change on personal development, sustainable agricultural practices, farming as a business, urban farming technologies, addressing youth challenge through agriculture.







The facilitator giving a presentation and next are the participant having refreshment



A trainees asking a question and is being answered in the next photo by a facilitator

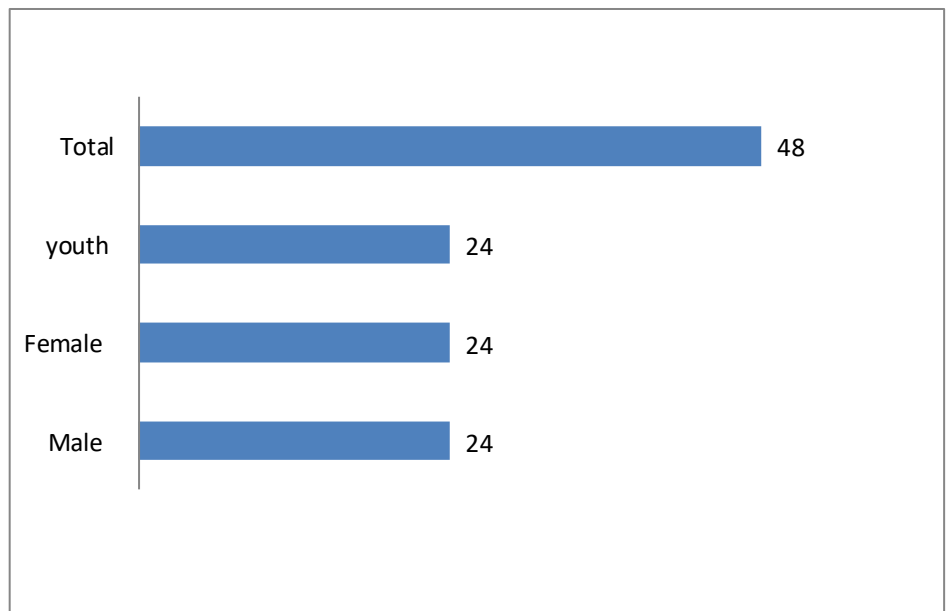
### 7.1 Training on organic manure.

In the training, a total of 64 participants attended. And these materials were used; dry grass, Twigs (maize stem), Green hairy leaves, Ash, Water, Loam soil, Goat droppings, Manure stick. And a pit of 60cm wide 100cm long and 60cm dip was dug to fill the materials.

#### Profile of the Manure pit.

Loam soil
Water
Ash
Green hairy leave
Loam soil
Goats droppings
Dry grass
Twigs( maize stem)

#### Graphical attendance.





The facilitator giving instructions for the trainees next the trainees doing practical work.



The training forming the different layers of the manure pit.



A general overview of the trainees being trained

### 7.2 Training on organic pesticide.

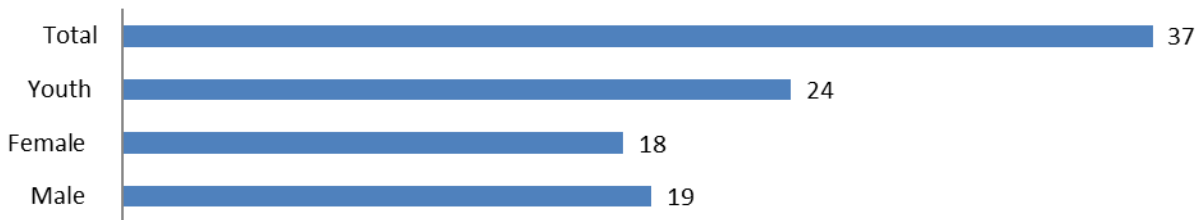
The beauty with these trained was that it gave each member a room to learn. And these was the procedure; Use of motor, we pounded Pawpaw leaves, Tephrosia leaves, Neem leaves, chili, Garlic separately. These materials are mixed in water at a ratio of 1:3 respectively  
We cut the brown soap at match box size and this will mix 20L and above.

**The table showing how each material was prepared: -**

MATERIALS	QUANTITY	RATE OF H <sub>2</sub> O
Pawpaw leaves	1kg	3L
Chili	2 cups	6 cups
Tephrosia leaves	1 1/2	4 1/2 L
Neem	1/4kg	1 1/2 L
Kerosene	1ml	2 L
Brown soap	Match box size	20 L



## Agregated Attendance.



### Pictorial evidence.



A facilitator giving a demonstration as the participants looks on in the next photos.



Trainees pounding chili and Neem and next is squeezing the chilly to make pesticide.



The various materials made in a liquid form and a group photo after the training

### 8.0 Farm management and maintenance.

After the three days of training, the project participants resorted employing the best practices learnt. Series of activities were done that includes weeding, spraying the crops with the organic pesticide among others. Lunch and breakfast were catered during this exercise. \





Beneficiaries weeding groundnuts and next is during weeding of eggplant/ garden egg.



Appearance of the groundnuts and eggplants after weeding.



A woman cooking for the project beneficiaries.

## 9.0 Challenges.

- This is a community feels neglected in most development initiatives and have literally sat down on any innovations and personal endeavors to come out of poverty. Bringing their mind to self-reliance is a slow and hectic idea.
- Most of the participants had high expectations of big meals, sitting allowances. This kept shifting attention during the presentations.
- Poor weather conditions associated with rain, cold which affected time management in all days of training.
- Logistical challenges the area of intervention is very far about 5km and associated with poor road network. This lead to high expense on transport.
- Fluctuation in the market prices. This is for both commodity prices and a drop in exchange rate especially euro to local currency.
- Limited space or room. During the awareness campaign, the number of participants reached 60 this overwhelmed the room.
- COVID-19 restriction. These restrictions were o gathering, movement among others. These delayed early implementation of the project.

## 9.1 Lessons learnt.

- High turnover of participants in the 3 days of training. This is due to weather changing weather conditions.



- Deliberate and joint mobilization is key to achieve targets in any project implementation. This is by involving key stake holders like the LC, VHT and community members.
- Being flexible and having a good relationship with the community is key. During the awareness campaign, we run out of chairs and community members were able to support us with 20 chairs.

### **9.2 Recommendation.**

- Need to renovate and expand the shelter. During the awareness campaign, the numbers of participants were many and these challenged standers sitting capacity.
- Need to organize additional training for the beneficiaries on the areas of food nutrition.
- Need to do a follow-up on the training conducted
- A clear strategic plan in demonstrations and agronomic trainings will help a lot in bringing the community to fight hunger and poverty

### **9.3 Conclusion.**

This report has reviewed and identified the context and level of agriculture in the community and agriculture still remaining the leading source of livelihood in this area. As being first agricultural intervention in the community, Lots of collective and similar interventions are still needed from both the public and private sector in order to incorporate some of the most sustainable agricultural practices.

Lastly, it's our unwavering pleasure and sincere thanks to ETWA for funding this projects that will change the lives of the community.