



## WEEKLY

June 1 - June 7, 2015

### Nebbi LRP farmers receive treadle pumps

Long dry spells will no longer be a problem for 150 farmers in Nebbi and Zombo districts thanks to the treadle pumps given by Nebbi LRP. The treadle pumps will be used in the three sub counties of Atyak, Nyapea, and Panyango.

15 treadle pumps were distributed to the model farmers who will operate in groups of 10 hence benefiting up to 150 farmers.

Panyango sub county is one of the areas marred by long dry spells. Night Jesca oyeki one of the farmers in Panyango said:



“With these treadle pumps in place we are going to start growing vegetables since we are close to the river and can easily access the water to irrigate our gardens. I am sure that our lives will never be the same again.”

Margaret Cetho from Atyak sub county is also pleased with the new pumps:

“I used to sometimes hire a treadle pump at 10,000 /= per day to irrigate my vegetable gardens but now we have our own pumps,” she said.

The LC3 chairperson of Panyango sub county, Margaret Acaro, said that this is a big relief to farmers in Panyango and that the sub county through technical support will ensure that the farmers plant the right crops in the right places.

### Media Practitioners' trained on seed related policy issues



Over the years, Uganda has experienced unprecedented quest from multinational seed companies to control its agriculture system through pushing for a number of laws and policies. ActionAid Uganda therefore collaborated with SEATINI and organized a training of media practitioners last week.

The workshop focused on seed related policy trends in Uganda, drawing insights from regional and global processes and analysing how the media can influence such processes. It also reviewed and discussed regional and international legal frameworks governing seeds and plant genetic resources, plant variety protection, and farmers' rights. Media practitioners also enhanced their understanding of the global dynamics of seed policies at international, regional, and national level.

The training attracted over 30 participants who report on agronomic related issues. The media fraternity being the primary source of information for most people including farmers, applauded AAU efforts and its partners for taking them through this training that equipped them with knowledge to improve and enhance their reporting on seed related policy issues and the entire agriculture sector.

“Whoever controls seed, controls food and controls life,” said Dr. Alupot Giregon of Makerere University.

### Pallisa: strong involvement in review of strategy



Last week Pallisa LRP rolled out a robust review of AA Uganda's fourth Country Strategy Paper (CSP IV 2012-2017). The process was able to bring out both the 'what' and the 'how' Pallisa LRP is going about implementing its strategy.

Stakeholders participated actively right from the community level to the district and generated critical changes in the operating environment that impact on the delivery of the work at LRP level. In trying to answer the 'what', the stakeholders provided an un-sieved overall assessment of the CSP IV and the LRP progress towards achieving results and impact. The district leadership was very appreciative of ActionAid's work and pledged to continue supporting its interventions, as they have been able to register tremendous results from our program implementation.

Among the achievement highlighted was the fight against gender based violence, community capacity building, promotion of food security (community food stores and through Reflection-Action Methodology) promotion of girl child education, engagement of other stakeholder, and the raising of consciousness among the district leadership while enabling the community to hold their leaders to account.

Some of the district leaders confessed that “sometimes they do less than a quarter of what they are supposed to do in ensuring quality service delivery” but through ActionAid's awakening, they have been prompted to keep a wake knowing that they are supposed to answer to the people.

### WEEK AHEAD

- Pallisa: Several community and stakeholder mobilisation meetings about state roads; women's and girl's rights among others.
- Kumi: Pre-budget community debate and scrutinizing of the budget in partnership with one of the local radio stations.

### Junior Farmer Field School and Table banking for women – lessons from Kenya

Last week, Peter Kalule, the Livelihoods National Coordinator, and Mathias Mulumba, the M&E Officer together with the Kenyan AACES project implementing team held a joint reflection and planning meeting in Nairobi. The team visited projects in Mwingi and Makima in central Kenya.

Captivating for the Ugandan team was the Junior Farmer Field School (JFFS) model and table banking for women.

The JFFS approach is based on experiential learning where by primary children learn good agricultural and life practices. Each JFFS is composed of 30 pupils. In Kyasani Primary School, which the team visited, children demonstrated skills in mixing chicken feeds, feeding chicken, tree planting, etc.

These children with support from a teacher and extensional worker are now proud of their poultry project with 83 chicken supplying eggs in the nearby market. This model is if replicated in Uganda can encourage livelihoods diversification for better food security and sustainable futures.

Over 2000 Kenyan women are making headways with the table banking which has enabled them to access credit and improve their financial literacy. In groups, women hold monthly table banking sessions where they contribute money for a social fund, savings and loan repayment at 10%.

The groups have accumulated a portfolio of more than 1,000 USD in less than a year, which is now available to the women now to borrow to diversify their business enterprises like vegetable production, small-scale businesses like charcoal, poultry, and road side selling. etc.

