



September 21-27

Meet Grace-The Woman with a strong Economic Muscle



Grace Munere is so proud and excited about her vegetables and fruits because of the nutritional and economic returns from them. She took time to smile for the camera next to them all.



It's still a gradual haul to empower women socially and economically in Kapchorwa district, located in eastern Uganda. However, Grace Munere has traversed the stereotype of women being confined to the domestic sphere to become a role model in Tuban parish.

Her backyard garden at home is lush with vegetables such as spinach, carrots, onions and nakatti and it is through selling these that she earns the days bread. The mother of eight who has been at this practice for four years says it has yielded numerous other benefits for her and her family.

"I have been able to diversify into animal husbandry and each year, I buy a goat. I also make profit of Shs 100,000 every month which I use to meet some of the basic needs such as scholastic materials for my children," the soft-spoken Munere says.

Her journey to economic independence has been made remarkable by the Women Rights in Agriculture (WORIA) project, implemented by ActionAid with funding from Australian Aid. Accordingly, she has been exposed to several capacity building trainings and also integrated her into women's groups where they are encouraged to speak out.

According to Scola Cherukut, WORIA's project officer in Kapchorwa Local Rights Program, the project aimed at empowering women both socially and economically. Socially, for them to know and claim their rights such as owing land and property;



and economically through being able to engage in productive activities such as commercial agriculture.

WORIA has been running since 2010 and the project ended in June this year.

"Women continued to face production and productivity bottlenecks as well as a system which had rendered them invisible historically as farmers in their own right. Thus there was need for sustained support. As the project closed, am glad to say that it changed the above status quo," said Cherukut.

Before joining WORIA in 2011, Munere testified that her obligations circuted around giving birth, looking after children and engaging in domestic work. However, after getting Enlightened about the project, she was compelled to join and her life has turned out for the better, albeit with a few challenges.

"During the dry season, my gardening no longer comes to a standstill because I don't rely on rain water. I carry out drip irrigation using bottles.," she proudly says.

Support from her husband Patrick Munere has further empowered her. Patrick, also a farmer, has identified suitable market for her produce and also contributes financially through buying pesticides.

"Thank you Australian Aid and ActionAid for transforming my life. Am smart, healthy and with a strong economic muscle", she concludes, while smiling for the camera.

AAU Against Sexual Harassment



AAU Country Director(2nd left standing) joined by staff take a stand against sexual harassment at the workplace

AAU joined the ActionAid Federation in a 10 day campaign against sexual Harassment in the workplace. AAU recognises that both men and women may be harassed sexually and provides for an efficient but discreet procedure of reporting such incidents. Please don't suffer in silence. If it's not wanted, then its harassment.

Please [click](#) to the hive for some of the activities that AAU took part in during the campaign that ended last Friday.

AAU in the media



AAU Country Director speaks to the Media during the launch of the Tax Power Campaign(File Photo)

- In the Daily Monitor, Intrepreneurs have been argued to engage children in running of businesses. Find out why [Here](#)
- Visit the AAU Facebook page [Here](#) and Twitter [Here](#) and join the deliberations to rid Uganda of injustices and povety.

Busiki Farmers Embrace grain storage



Betty, with her maize at the seed store. She believes that they will be able to enjoy a better price if they store and sell in bulk as a community.

Members of Namutumba Grain Growers Association have resolved to store their bumper harvest of mainly grain in their community seed stores and only sell off when the prices are better and more stable. The decision was reached during a meeting where members acknowledged that they were losing a lot of money by selling off the produce at cheap prices and yet they can utilize the stores and wait for better prices.

According to Betty, the Chairperson of the group, a kilo of maize is currently going for only UGX500.

"Some farmers are selling off at much lower prices and yet we know that the price can shoot to even UGX1500. We are going to store our maize and sell it at a meaningful price at a later date" she said.

Another farmer, found at the store indicated that keeping her maize there reduces the temptation of selling off to middle men who move home by home.

"This time I want a better price. Iam keeping here my 10 sacks of maize to avoid temptation of selling off at a cheap price."

In 2013, AAU Busiki LRP supported the construction of two community stores in Kibaale and Ivukula. According to Ednance Kiiza, the LRP Coordinator, this was a support mechanism to enable farmers attain collective marketing by storing in bulk and bargaining for a better price, to avoid exploitation by the middle men.

WEEK AHEAD:

- AAU is currently conducting interviews to fill vacant positions under the DFID funded Women Protection Centers Project.
- The sponsorship unit will be conducting a phase out Documentation process for Uganda National Association of the Deaf(UNAD) this week. ActionAid has been operating in this community for the last 12 years. View the Documentary [Here](#) to learn more about AAU work with this community.
- Hellen Malinga and Harriet Robina Gimbo continue with their three weeks trip in Australia. We shall bring you updates on their trip in the next weekly
- The Country Management Team (CMT) will meet tomorrow to further discuss the findings from the HR& Organizational Efficiency Review and the way forward.