



# KSIIIP BULLETIN

Kasese Smallholder Income and Investment Program

AMA

January – March 2008

## Quarterly Update

Welcome to the KSIIIP Bulletin. We appreciate all our counterparts for their continued collaboration with us. KSIIIP is a unique collaborative program working together with more than 2,000 small-scale farmers in Kasese to increase their household incomes.

## Vanilla

During the quarter, KSIIIP carried out farm visits among the vanilla and hot pepper farmers to assess the readiness of vanilla beans for harvesting and available quantities of vanilla beans ready for marketing from each association. During these visits, farmers expressed a desire for better vanilla prices. The vanilla and hot pepper farmers have been undergoing organic certification preparations and GLOBALGAP trainings. There was an early closure of the hot pepper season because of the crop's poor response to quality control measures. More details ahead.

**Farm visits:** All vanilla associations were reached by KSIIIP staff. These visits aimed to encourage farmers to pollinate the flowering season set in. It was then observed that farmers were very much interested in getting an update on the prices/market trends for the harvest season. Over the years, vanilla prices have been fluctuating, which has continuously raised concern among the farmers, who continue to manage their crop in expectation of increased prices.

**Vanilla curing:** This process is in its final stages and will be accomplished in the second quarter. KSIIIP appreciates the vanilla curing team that has worked together to ensure that the vanilla beans are of good quality. Selected representative members from different associations are undergoing training on how to cure vanilla.

**Organic certification:** Vanilla farmers also underwent the preparation stage for organic certification. This was conducted by the National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) in conjunction with KSIIIP, which was mainly instrumental in the coordination of the farmers and organizing them into groups. A wide range of data was collected from the associations

**“Working together to increase smallholder incomes in Kasese.”**

**KSIIIP’s objective is to increase smallholder household incomes through increased and improved productivity, postharvest handling, and marketing of high-value crops in Kasese district.**



Photos by AMA

A vanilla farmer and his wife show off vanilla pods ahead of harvest season.



A vanilla farmer demonstrates the pollination process.

## Agribusiness Management Associates (AMA)

of Kisinga, Kyondo, Kyarumba Upper, Kyarumba lower and Maliba to be used for formulation of an Internal Control System (ICS) for the vanilla associations. In the future, training on the organic systems for vanilla will be conducted and thereafter, sensitization on how the ICS will operate. In general, these systems aim at improving vanilla quality and access world markets.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** AMA's M&E team conducted evaluations of program activities for all KSIIP member associations. The information in the table below represents the number of farmers that participated in KSIIP's activities, during the quarter.

	Association	Men	Women	Total
Farm Visits	Maliba	286	74	360
	Bugoye	93	25	118
	Kisinga	628	88	716
	Kyarumba Upper	336	63	399
	Kyarumba Lower	64	17	81
	Bwera	160	31	191
	Kyondo	103	19	122
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,670</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>1,987</b>
Farm visits	Hot pepper associations	26	5	31
Meetings on vanilla buying	Vanilla executive members	29	6	35
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>66</b>

### Hot peppers

Farm visits were made to 31 farmers undergoing GLOBALGAP training. During the visits, a weekly spraying regimen was implemented. Prior to this, wilted plants in the farm were removed. The spraying regimen aimed to improve the size of the hot peppers and control pests, diseases, and nutrient deficiency problems. Applied effectively, these remedies lead to improved quality and quantity, and in turn, higher incomes for farmers.

The GLOBALGAP-registered hot pepper farmers started preparing for an external audit of their activities. This mainly involved consolidating farmer and KSIIP records. The hot pepper season ended early because of pest and disease infestations and nutrient deficiencies. This required pulling out old hot pepper plants and carrying them to designated areas for burning. More studies are being conducted to identify alternative crops.



Ensuring quality products: Packhouse operators sort hot peppers at the parkshade at Mubuku.



Hot pepper farmers receive GLOBALGAP training at the Mubuku offices.



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