

“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 the Kasese district.

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.

During this quarter, KSIIIP’s staff continued to offer technical assistance to the vanilla and hot pepper farmers through trainings and field visits. Such TA widens the farmers’ ability to practically apply the knowledge they have learned. In addition to the TA, matters concerning marketing and prices for the coming vanilla season were discussed. This quarter was also characterized by vanilla pollination and ripening and thus, market preparations. Mubuku farmers are actively working on the GLOBALGAP standard, especially in the areas of internal inspection, which came out lacking during the last voluntary inspection. In the next quarter, farmers are expected to go for an external audit to be GLOBALGAP certified. KSIIIP appreciates your continued interest in the program activities; your comments and feedback are always welcome.

VANILLA

Vanilla farmers were busy pollinating but at the same time preparing for harvest in January. The activity progressed well in some areas, whereas others were interrupted by heavy rains. Field staff were to assess the expected harvest in January 2008.



Mr. Fred Ssango explains the stages of the vanilla production.



Fresh from one of KSIIIP’s hot pepper farmers in Kasese.

Training Activities

Vanilla: A total of 482 farmers were trained by the KSIIIP staff, during the quarter. Continued trainings were carried out in all the vanilla associations targeting the management of vines in the field and expected quality of the beans. During these trainings, farmers raised their concerns about the falling prices of vanilla, calling for an intervention to increase the prices. Farmers were also interested in getting an update on market trends for the harvest in January. Field staff met with executives of the vanilla associations to devise ways of recovering loans and advances given to farmers.

The table below shows farmer attendance at the various locations.

Association Name		Men	Women	Total
Trainings	Maliba	46	21	67
	Bugoye	44	22	68
	Kisinga	56	23	79
	Kyarumba Upper	97	25	122
	Kyarumba Lower	31	08	39
	Bwera	53	11	64
	Kyondo	32	13	45
TOTAL		359	123	482
Farm visits	Vanilla associations	744	206	950
	Hot pepper fields	57	23	80
Vanilla executive members' meetings		37	12	49
TOTAL		838	241	1079

Note: Association executives were advised to carry out better mobilization to raise the number of farmers attending the trainings.

Farm Visits

Vanilla: This was another major activity conducted by the KSIIIP staff during the pollination period. These visits were made to 950 farmers who were advised on how production can be successfully conducted to attain expected harvests. Farm visits have proved important because farmers get to voice their concerns on a one-on-one basis with the KSIIIP staff. They are continuously thankful for KSIIIP's tireless efforts aimed at the development of their livelihoods.

HOT PEPPERS

Farm visits: Farm visits with all the 80 beneficiary farmers were conducted with an emphasis on

GLOBALGAP, disease control (uprooting and burying wilted plants), and proper maintenance of shed houses. Each farmer was visited twice during the quarter, which gave them an opportunity to discuss different issues with the KSIIIP staff. Measures are also in place to increase the size of the peppers by applying foliar feeds to leaves.



Growers attend a training seminar in Kasese.



Vanilla from a KSIIIP farm.



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