



# KSIIIP BULLETIN

Kasese Smallholder Income & Investment Program

January – March 2007

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

Welcome to the KSIIIP bulletin. We appreciate all our counterparts for their collaboration. The current issue covers major activities and events that have taken place during this reporting period. KSIIIP works with client smallholders to increase their household incomes through increased productivity, increased employment and marketing of selected high-value crops. This reporting period was highlighted by vanilla and hot pepper harvesting. The harvest for hot pepper started in the last quarter of 2006 and is ongoing. It is expected to end in the second quarter of this year. The vanilla harvest was carried out from January to February and a total of 8 tonnes of green beans were obtained from farmers. The program has initiated an activity to prepare vanilla growers for organic certification and all member vanilla associations have been registered with the local umbrella organization for organic producers, National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU). Internal control systems (ICS) have been developed and growers are being trained to comply with the requirements. The program also has initiated contacts with some potential buyers of organic vanilla in Europe. This will help alleviate major challenges the program has faced in marketing. Hot pepper growers, meanwhile, are in the process of preparing new land that has been furrowed, for disease management. Disease has caused serious production constraints during the last two seasons. The Mubuku growers have undertaken training programs in food hygiene and food safety control programs funded by EU-PIP in preparation for EurepGAP certification, which is required by the group's client in Europe. An internal audit is expected in the next quarter and an external audit during the last quarter of 2007. KSIIIP appreciates your feedback to make this bulletin as interesting and informative as possible, please contact Solomy Nakimera for comments and suggestions.

— KSIIIP management

## VANILLA

During the quarter vanilla growers were quite busy harvesting. KSIIIP continued to provide technical assistance to growers through demonstrations and farm visits. The training involved practical demonstration of proper management of vanilla, pollination and recordkeeping, as is required by EurepGAP. During the quarter, 914 vanilla farmers attended training programs organized by KSIIIP. Issues in marketing, standards and quality were emphasized. In addition to field demonstrations, farm visits were carried out and 676 vanilla farmers were visited by KSIIIP (Table 2). During these visits, farmers were able to discuss different issues concerning vanilla and individual farmers had a chance to interact and seek advice. These visits motivate farmers to work hard with an aim of increasing their production and household income. Farmers expressed overwhelming appreciation for KSIIIP's interventions, among which include the following: market guarantees, extension services, and farmer association strengthening.

Member associations turned in 8,111 kilograms in January and February. Vanilla curing started in January and is expected to end in early April. Several association members were strategically employed at the

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

**KSIIIP's mission is to increase client smallholder sales and incomes by at least 400 percent through the introduction and expansion of high-value crops, improvements in production and postharvest technologies, and market linkages.**



Some of the farmers with the Mubuku hot pepper association sort and pack hot peppers for export.



Vanilla farmers discuss the importance of organic certification amongst themselves.

processing facility to acquire processing skills needed when individual associations begin processing. More than 1,200 kilograms of processed beans are expected.

**Table 1: Training outreach to vanilla and hot pepper farmers during the quarter.**

	Association Name	Men	Women	Total
Trainings	Maliba	85	46	131
	Bugoye	77	26	103
	Kisinga	156	43	199
	Kyarumba Upper	88	23	111
	Kyarumba Lower	36	9	45
	Bwera	92	21	113
	Kyondo	65	17	82
	Hot pepper farmers	101	29	130
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>700</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>914</b>
Organic certification meetings	Vanilla associations	145	37	182
Mobilization of passion fruit farmers	Maliba/ Bikone/ Isule	93	35	128
	Kisinga/Kabingo/Nsenyi	31	17	48
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>358</b>

### HOT PEPPERS

Hot pepper season began in the last quarter of 2006 and is expected to end by the second quarter of 2007. During this period, crop nutrition trials were initiated to study how hot pepper responds to bacterial wilt, which was found in many of the farmers' fields. Preliminary data collected from the trials indicated positive results, with few incidences of the disease. In addition to these studies, a new block of land that has been under furrow for several years has been identified for hot pepper production next season. Production of hot pepper is expected to significantly increase next season. A total of 185 farmers received training highlighting the importance of crop agronomy, harvesting and postharvest product hygiene, safety, and quality. Food safety management systems and its application as required in the EurepGAP protocol have been covered and an internal audit is expected to be carried out during the next quarter.

**Table 2: Number of farmers visited during the quarter**

	Association Name	Men	Women	Total
Trainings	Maliba	71	23	94
	Bugoye	62	31	93
	Kisinga	118	58	176
	Kyarumba Upper	67	18	85
	Kyarumba Lower	39	12	51
	Bwera	80	23	103
	Kyondo	56	17	73
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>493</b>	<b>182</b>
Hot pepper farmers	Abasaija Kweyamba Co-op Society	131	54	185
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>131</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>185</b>



A sample of passion fruit grown on the slopes of Mt. Rwenzori in Kasese.



A hot pepper farmer weeds her field during a practical training on implementing a food safety management system in Kasese.

**Moringa:** The program signed a contract with one Kenyan company to supply 16,000 kilograms of Moringa, the quantities are being consolidated for delivery.

**Passion fruit:** Farmers were mobilized in the passion fruit growing areas of Kisinga/Kanyampara (Kabingo and Nsenyi), and Maliba (Bikone and Isule). The main target of this mobilization exercise was to encourage farmers to form farmer interest groups to enhance coordination with KSIIP.



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