



Kasese Smallholder Income & Investment Program KSIIP Update

Third Quarter 2005

*"Working Together to
Increase Smallholder
Incomes in Kasese"*



For more information about the KSIIP program and the world's best quality vanilla, please visit our new web site at www.vanillamoon.org



A farmer in his vanilla garden, with good practices high yields are expected

Welcome to "KSIIP Update", a quarterly publication from the Kasese Smallholder Income & Investment Program to inform our agribusiness counterparts on recent and upcoming activities of KSIIP. To subscribe via e-mail, please send a request to mary@fintrac.com./ama@infocom.co.ug

Quarterly Bulletin

To our dear readers, this is the third quarterly bulletin in which we provide interesting news about KSIIP activities that has taken place during the period under review.

Farmer Training

A total of 786 farmers (275 females and 511 males) were trained in vanilla and hot pepper crop agronomy and post harvest handling. Topics covered during the vanilla trainings were soil and water conservation, pollination, shade management and quality control. The training of hot pepper farmers at Mubuku included Safe Use of Pesticides and Cold chain Management. Table 1 below shows the number of farmers trained from July – September 2005. During the reporting period, many farmers were present at the training activities. This interfered with vanilla harvesting activities resulting in a reduced harvest. Bigger numbers are expected in the coming quarter.

Table 1. Association	Number of Farmers Trained		
	Female	Male	Total
Bugoye	66	83	149
Bwera	19	38	57
Kisinga	14	49	63
Kyarumba-Upper	26	61	87
Kyarumba-Lower	15	26	41
Maliba	78	121	199
Mubuku	36	92	128
Kyondo	21	41	62
Total	275	511	786

Vanilla Update

During the period under review, farm visits were made to 284 farmers (86 females) in all the member vanilla associations.



Well mulched vanilla-banana intercrop, for higher profits. High quality vanilla beans ready for export from the foothills of Mt. Rwenzori



Passion fruit cuttings in the nursery at Mubuku Irrigation Scheme. They would provide planting material for farmers as well as expand the mother garden



Pack house staff sorting hot pepper into export boxes in preparation for export. Each farmer has to certify the boxes of hot peppers delivered to the pack house.

Intensive farm visits were conducted to establish the progress of the young and mature vanilla fields and the vigour of the vines that were distributed to farmers on loan. During the farm visits, it was observed that the vines were growing well, with more than 50% being ready for looping. The mature plants had many flowers, which indicated that training activities emphasised good pollination techniques, the yields of vanilla in 2006A season are expected to increase significantly. All seven demonstration gardens established in the vanilla associations were visited and emphasis placed on demonstrating the best vanilla production practices.

VANILLA BUYING AND CURING: Vanilla buying was one of the several activities that were accomplished during this reporting period. Consultative meetings with farmers' executives were held to decide the price of fresh beans and the harvesting date to ensure that only mature beans of high quality are harvested. Over 15 metric tonnes of fresh vanilla beans were bought by the program from farmers and processing activities were successfully completed. Several farmer association members were employed during this period to assist in the processing activities, and acquired skills which are vital for establishment of new processing facilities in a couple years. Over 2.5 metric tonnes of cured beans which are ready for export were obtained.

Vanilla advance recoveries: There has been excellent loan recovery on cash advances received in 2004 and 2005 in the seven associations that operate under KSIIP. At least Ushs 22,078,000 (US\$11,934) of Ushs 29,350,000 (US\$ 15,864.86) was recovered in July, mainly through supply of vanilla beans.

Hot Pepper & Passion Fruit Update

During the review period, the hot pepper harvest season was closed and the new crop established. The new season began with distribution of seedlings from a central nursery. Thirty acres of land were planted and harvesting is expected to commence in November.

Mr. Wilson, a new staff member of KSIIP is closely working with the Mubukku Growers Association to provide technical assistance. He makes farm visits to all 128 farmers to ensure compliance and adoption of good agricultural practices. His efforts supplement the Mubukku management.

Two passion fruit mother gardens have been established; these will provide additional planting materials and will be a demonstration site for farmers interested in growing passion fruit.

Moringa buying

KSIIP continues to look for alternative markets for other products produced by association members. One such product is Moringa. A total of 22.5 metric tonnes was transported to the buyer and more is expected to be procured in the fourth quarter.



A vanilla plant with vanilla beans expected for harvest in January 2006

Visitors to the program:

During the month of July two consultants from Fintrac Honduras, Ricardo Lardizabal and Efrain Murillo Bouiche visited KSIIP and interacted with the farmers. They provided valuable information on improved productivity. Ben Hagsman from ICCo visited Uganda and held fruitful meetings with KSIIP staff concerning M&E, "Learning for Impact".

In August, the program also received a consultant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nthenya R. Mule, who provided an assessment of the impact of training programs offered by the program.

Weather

During this reporting period there was less rainfall, and much of the period the area remained dry. The rains are expected late September through December.

KSIIP Web Site

The KSIIP program has an internet web site (www.vanillamoon.org). "Vanilla Moon," is the brand for vanilla produced under the KSIIP program. The site is used to market vanilla to international buyers, promote consumer awareness, and to provide updates on project activities. Many buyers and other interested parties have made inquiries concerning vanilla marketing and production after visiting the web site.

The Kasese Smallholder Income & Investment Program (KSIIP) is a joint partnership of CORDAID (the Netherlands) and Highlow Supermarkt (The Netherlands & Uganda) with technical assistance from Fintrac Inc. (USA) and Agribusiness Management Associates Ltd. (Uganda), to seven smallholder associations based in Kasese, Uganda.

Our mission is to increase client smallholder sales and incomes by at least 400 percent in Kasese through the introduction and expansion of high-value crops, improvements in production and post harvest technologies, and market linkages.



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