



KSIIIP BULLETIN

Kasese Smallholder Income & Investment Program

July-September 2006

“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.



Mubuku farmers listen during a training session on establishing a food safety system that will lead to EurepGAP certification.



Smallholders sort and grade vanilla before it reaches the

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Welcome to the **KSIIIP Bulletin**. We appreciate the support of all our counterparts. This issue covers major activities and events from July through September. KSIIIP helps client smallholders make more money by increasing productivity, employment and sales of selected high-value crops. To subscribe to this bulletin via e-mail, please send your request to mary@fintrac.com.

KSIIIP farmers have recently harvested and processed vanilla crops. Preparations for the 2006/2007 hot pepper production season started in August with nursery seed bed establishment and field transplanting. The harvest season is expected to start by mid-November. During the reporting period, the director of HighLow and a delegation of Afrimex Foods visited Mubuku and signed a new marketing contract that will increase export volumes of hot peppers. Discussions on crop diversification led to successful trials of okra production in Kasese. Production results suggest that okra can be grown in Kasese. More trials are ongoing to further validate the data. In addition, passion fruit demonstrations have been established in parts of the Kasese district that were previously thought to be unfavorable for passion fruit production.

An M&E consultant from I/C Consult, of Holland, visited KSIIIP to further discuss program activities and fine-tune the 2005 M&E report. Technical assistance continues to strengthen farmer groups, crop agronomy, postharvest handling and provision of market information.

VANILLA

Vanilla farmers have been busy pollinating flowers for the June/July 2007 crops.

Training: Special training programs were designed and delivered by KSIIIP staff for new farmers whose gardens are starting production. Some of these farmers were the beneficiaries of planting material received on credit in 2004. During the trainings, emphasis was placed on pruning, weeding, shade management, soil and water conservation, and pollination. A total of 1,502 farmers were trained — 1,145 men and 357 women. The knowledge passed to the farmers helps them continuously improve crop management and gives them the confidence to expect good results.

Meetings on group dynamics: Meetings on group dynamics were conducted among the vanilla associations. These meetings are designed to improve association strength and general farmer group management; all of which aim to improve group and individual farmer production. These meetings also help facilitate discussion and solutions for known challenges. A total of 195 farmers — 136 men and 59 women — from the different vanilla associations participated.

Vanilla demo-plots: There was remarkable improvement in the

market.



After sorting and grading, vanilla is packed for the market.



To ensure a good hot pepper harvest, seedlings are neatly cultivated in a nursery.



Colourful hot peppers packed and ready for the market.

management of demonstration plots, particularly in activities like mulching, digging water-conserving trenches, weeding, pruning and shade control.

Table 1: Activities conducted under the vanilla enterprise

	Association Name	Men	Women	Total
Trainings	Maliba	143	69	212
	Bugoye	132	47	179
	Kisinga	215	75	290
	Kyarumba Upper	289	71	360
	Kyarumba Lower	96	27	123
	Bwera	181	33	214
	Kyondo	89	35	124
TOTAL		1,145	357	1,502
Meetings on group dynamics	Kisinga	8	4	12
	Kyondo	33	14	47
	Maliba	44	21	65
	Kyarumba Upper	6	0	6
	Kyarumba Lower	10	2	12
	Bwera	35	18	53
TOTAL		136	59	195

Farm visits: A total of 937 vanilla farmers — 690 men and 247 women — were visited. Field visits are important because they help show the progress of a farmer's activities and also identify areas that need improvement. Farm visits also provide an opportunity for farmers to discuss specific challenges with KSIIP technicians.

Table 2: Farm visits made by KSIIP staff

	Association Name	Men	Women	Total
Vanilla farmers	Maliba	104	52	156
	Bugoye	74	29	103
	Kisinga	186	66	252
	Kyarumba Upper	106	34	140
	Kyarumba Lower	82	18	100
	Bwera	93	26	119
	Kyondo	45	22	67
TOTAL		690	247	937
Application for hot pepper planting 2006/2007	Abasaija Kweyamba Co-op Society Ltd.	189	74	263
Initial receipt of hot pepper seedlings	Abasaija Kweyamba Co-op Society Ltd.	63	32	95

HOT PEPPERS

The hot pepper season began during the reporting period, and because of new seeds provided by HighLow, production volumes are expected to increase significantly this season. A production mix of the new seeds and good seeds selected from farmers' fields is being carried out to abate unknown problems. Two hot pepper nurseries were established, one is using the new seeds (103 seed beds) and the other is using seeds used in previous seasons (74 seed beds). This was done to avoid massive crop losses. During discussions among Janak, Afrimex and the chairman of the Mubuku Irrigation Scheme, it was agreed that a minimum of 7 metric

