



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Uganda June 24-29, 2010

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Purpose of Trip: Meetings and workshop with East Africa LTRA team and partners to introduce SANREM global project and initiate Cross-cutting activities; team building

Sites Visited: Uganda- Mbale; Kapchorwa town; Kaplak village and Parish, Kapchorwa District

Executive Summary:

The visit consisted of two half days with the team in Mbale, one field day with the farmers at Kaplak and a meeting with Country coordinator Dr. Laker-Ojok the following week. The first day in Mbale served to introduce the project and the last for team reflections. Goals were set from the onset and were met. All participants considered the days successful and also made important recommendations for improvement. (See team reflections below.) Materials were distributed: the "Rules of the Game" document, the guide to Focus Group Activities; and a copy of all three presentations. Overall, women's access to assets was found to be limited; however there is an opportunity for women to increase income, nutrition, and soil fertility through their management of chickens and collection of chicken manure.

Description of Activities:

Meetings and workshop with Uganda (AT) and Kenya (Manor House and SACRED Africa) team and partner institution (KACOFA); field day with farmers in Kaplak; meeting with Dr. Rita Laker-Ojok at AT headquarters

Gender Workshop Agenda (day 1)

- Sign in and distribute materials
- Introductions
- Revise agenda as needed
- Goals/Expectations
- SANREM overview PowerPoint presentation
- Team updates

- TEA BREAK
- Gender equity
- Cross-cutting research activities (CCRAs)
- Activities for tomorrow
- Logistics
- Adjourn

Gender Workshop Goals of the participants

- Learn how to mainstream gender
- “Help me do my work”
- Soils cross-cutting research activities and gender
- Learn how to balance gender with conservation agriculture
- Learn more about conservation agriculture and SANREM
- Team building
- Learn from farmers

Notes:

Teams are just getting ready to begin the baseline survey. Both Kenya and Uganda teams are preparing to apply it; there is still a brief window of opportunity for input. AT Uganda will be training enumerators (to be provided by KACOFA) July 12-13 and is waiting for input on the survey instrument. They have received applications (still receiving) from students from Kapchorwa (graduates from Makerere, Gulu and other university). (MEC met student candidate from Makerere, below.) SACRED Africa will be recruiting enumerators next week; they will be identifying farmer groups and have already identified a woman student at Moi University in soil science. Manor House will be coordinating surveys and conducting field trials; they have identified two districts for this and plan to work with 200 farmers per district.

Field day at Kaplak (day 2)

First the team visited the facilities and CEO of the Kapchorwa Commercial Farming Association (KACOFA) in Kapchorwa town: Mr. Kissa David. The organization started 10 years ago with 27 members and has grown to over 3,000 today. Their goal is to improve farmer livelihoods through commercial farming. The vision statement on the wall read: “To improve the standard of livelihood through sustainable income from agriculture.” The mission statement read: “To support farmers in production of viable agricultural commodities that meet the demands of a competitive market.”

KACOFA currently has 5 depots but plans to have 11 by December (funded by Gates Foundation through USAID). We visited one site under construction by a Chinese firm on the return from Kaplak village. Asked for the recipe to success in the difficult task of getting farmers to work together and change mindset, Mr. Kissa gave three points: 1) leadership; 2) persistence; and 3) continued training. He also said much patience and motivation was required to change the mindset of traditional farmers. Mr. Kissa pointed out that the region has an advantage for commercial farming given the unique soil and climate that allows them to supply value crops.

On gender: He said their motto was: “Not behind nor beside, but in front of every farmer is a woman.” He also said that half of the 8 staff of KACOFA are women. Staff and members also

include widows, disabled and youth, he said. His wife and another woman are on the Board; the Chair is a man, the Vice-Chair a woman; also, by Board resolution, for each member who joins, the spouse is automatically a member. The association recently trained 46 field facilitators, of which 2/3 were women. Dominic asked what transformation had occurred in women's status and decision-making. Mr. Kissi replied that during his grandfather's time no women were present at meetings; during his father's time women were tolerated at meetings; now there was pressure from women themselves and from high level policy to include women. With both USAID and Gates' strong gender policy and the interest of women in the community, there is an opportunity for SANREM CRSP to support more equitable institutional change in KACOFA. Without specific steps and monitoring, however, this will remain a motto with no significant participation of or decision-making by women.

Challenge for CAPS: Mr. Kissi pointed out that colonialists taught the farmers to clean their fields and to plow and plow again when they introduced coffee, maize and bananas. These practices and associated beliefs will be hard to change.

Upon arriving at Kaplak village, we visited the offices of Atari Soil and Water Conservation, Kaplak Parish, where a group from the World Food Program was being introduced to the organization. The group is registered with the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS). Several hand drawn maps lined the walls; they depicted the 2-year and 20 year vision of the community and their work digging trenches (now have 7,500 meters dug; men and women and children provided labor) to stop erosion of their soils. Atari is a self-motivated group, inspired by an AT Uganda potato project and IUCN land-care efforts training people in another village several years ago.

Walking through the field to get to Atari offices and then to our meeting place, the erosion and excess water causing gullies was visible everywhere. A landslide had occurred nearby (also visible) near the top of the mountain/hills, pushing a farmer household to another site.) Some yellow corn was evident. One farmer woman expressed her concern (as many others did later) that the soils were less fertile every year and that they are losing topsoil to the rain. This year has had particularly heavy rainfall.

MEC met with one of the top candidates for the student scholarship at Makerere Agricultural Economics. His name is Isaac Chepkurui, and he completed his Bachelors in Agricultural Business Management. He is from Kaplak and appeared to be a very bright young man. He participated in the day's activities.

Focus group activities began at 11:30 am (they had been planned for 9:00 but we were delayed with visits to KACOFA and Atari and the farmers not being there when we arrived). Two meeting spaces were set up outside, with poles holding fabric to cover from the sun and rain and a good nail on the front to hold flip chart. The group is clearly organized and used to participating in development projects. One of the successes of the day was the diversity of participants; we did have nearly equal parts men and women (21 women including the facilitator and 16 men), both a man in his 80s and a woman of 78, and young men and women as well as middle aged people of both genders. There were clear differences in income among the participants as well, as evident from the dress but also from examples given during exercises.

There was also a good mixture of institutions and people from different villages (KACOFA field facilitators) who would reproduce some aspects of the training and participative activities. (Sign-in sheet available.)

Team reflections on process and findings (day 3)

Responses from the participants indicated that they found the process both effective and enjoyable. They stated that they appreciated the flexibility of the facilitator as well as the participatory dynamic. Without asking direct questions, we were able to obtain information in a participatory exchange. With farmers exhibiting their willingness to participate, the process directly attended to the information they were interested in and they were able to achieve their goal of garnering useful knowledge from the experience. From a facilitation perspective, it was noted that NGOs need to orient outside researchers based on their local knowledge of sites.

Findings of 4 Dimensions Gender Research Framework:

The Gender Dimensions Framework (GDF) was developed to provide guidance to USAID staff and partner organizations for working with USAID projects looking at promoting equitable opportunities in agricultural value chains. The GDF contemplates four dimensions: access to and control over key productive assets (tangible and intangible); beliefs, and perceptions; practices and participation, and legal frameworks. In addition to these four is the cross-cutting dimension of power. The GDF was used to identify gender-based constraints and document the disadvantages faced by women and the opportunities for increasing gender equity and benefits to women through our projects. Gender-based constraints include the limited access to resources or opportunities based on gender roles and responsibilities, and restrictions on women's mobility.

Gender-based constraints:

- Women will not be so eager to invest in enterprises that they feel that they will not benefit from (coffee, barley and wheat)—they said more money for men means more land for another wife.

- When mapping resources, it was clear that women have access to and provide a lot of labor in agriculture but have no control over resources.

Gender-based Opportunities:

- Women have the willingness to change (and change things).

- Women have knowledge about agriculture which can be tapped for improvement.

- The majority of KACOFA's field facilitators are women and most were from the local community.

- Men are more interested in new technologies; they talked about oxcarts and sledges. These can help reduce the burden of labor on women (weeding for example, which is a women's task) if men can have implements for cultivation. Men could use that as opportunity to earn income, when they own the equipment.

-Impact of livestock on soil. The farmers mostly brought out positive points, such as using manure for fertility, but also negatives such as exposing the ground to erosion and compacting of the soils and animal ruts on road.

-If it's the women who are going to provide most of the labor, we need to be sure that the technologies do not put more pressure on the women.

- Men are especially motivated to be involved with things that look technologically advanced, like sprayers. They want to take the lead (as long as the activity is linked to an enterprise that brings cash—thus not “food crop” such as beans).

-There is an opportunity to do intensive poultry production—for producing manure. The farmers had observed and believed chicken manure is better than that of other animals. It is a non-farm activity—don't need a lot of land; less labor required too. Same can be done with goats. Also opportunity with cow, people said the milk is for women, the cow for men. Means will have competition if green manure is one of interventions—can encourage integrating for nutrient cycling and producing enterprise opportunities for women. But danger of men controlling the “surplus”.

The two way question (USAID):

“How does gender affect the sustainable results of our project?” See above

“How does our project affect gender relations/equity?”

There is a danger of men controlling the “surplus” when an enterprise is successful.

CCRA opportunity—chicken manure for soil fertility; banana production in kitchen gardens

Through women's management of chickens and collection of chicken manure, there is an opportunity for women to increase income, nutrition, and soil fertility. Women's groups and microcredit organizations could be brought in for support.

Also, with bananas, if the surplus becomes men's assets, it will disempower women. There is an opportunity here if it is done at the level of women. Julian remembers when extension promoted 50 banana plants (only) to keep it as a women's project. Women are supposed to grow kitchen gardens. This can be presented as an opportunity for women to practice CAPS in the back of the house at the same time it improves family diet and women's income. It will also benefit the children (nutritionally and with things like pens and school fees). Children ask their father for a pen and he says “go to your mother”; women are responsible for covering at least part of educational expenses.

ME Christie meeting with Dr. Rita Laker- Ojok (Tuesday, June 29, 2010)

Rita had pneumonia and was forced to cancel her trip to Mbale and Kapchorwa at the last minute. She was especially sorry to have missed the opportunity to meet the whole team and to

discuss the surveys together. Dominic is now coordinating the two Kenya groups. He plans to finalize the survey on the 19th with Keith.

We discussed CCRAs and results of workshop. Rita says the difficulty is how to balance outreach with research; how to involve farmers in research activities. KACOFA presents opportunities to mainstream SANREM activities.

Gender is already part of AT; fully in sync with Gender CCRA. MEC mentioned the National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU) as a possible partner to work with women in a potential chicken project.

Training Activities Conducted:

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		
Gender workshop	June 25	Kenya and Uganda team	3	3	Virginia Tech	Stress importance of gender equity and research for SANREM and provide tools for implementation
Focus Group with break-out activities	June 26	KACOFA members and field facilitators; farmers	21	12	Virginia Tech	Train partners and collaborators in use of participatory techniques addressing gender issues; provide farmers (especially women) with opportunities and skills in map –making, self- reflection and presentations

Suggestions and Recommendations:

Participants asked to be included in emails regarding the project and consulted to agree on schedules. Partners from Kenya requested being informed two weeks in advance.

Time: Need more time for exercises with the farmers. Full day of Focus Group activities should be divided into two days to have more time for discussion—especially when differences of opinion/statements between men and women require further probing to get clear information.

Men and women need to discuss and agree on controversial issues in order to get more accurate information from their presentations. Taking two days instead of one will also help so farmers do not get weary and also have time for digestion of activities. Need more time to thoroughly explain SANREM CRSP to farmers.

Other issues that came up requiring further action/inquiry:

Find out how income generated from agricultural activities is distributed and spent. (Women stated they did not see the money from men’s commercial marketing while men denied this and

said they did not see the money from women’s banana sales.) Note that newly revised focus group guide uses Control, Access and Labor map to discuss this.

Follow up: explore possibility of Gender CCRA (Virginia Tech) student carrying out research in Mbale.

List of Key Contacts Made:

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Kibrotich, Mike (?)	Chairman, Atari Soil and Water Conservation, Kaplak Parish	07852 44704
Isaac Chepkurui	Potential MSc student in Ag Econ at Makerere	
Katherine Shea	World Food Program (intern from Cornell University-CIPA)	KAS446@cornell.e 75538du 07880
Mrs. Kissa Phylis	Board member, KACOFA	