

Uganda: «Aradu Pi Fur» Project

«Youths in farming» (local language Alur) - A youth educational initiative in business oriented farming



Project region
District Zombo, West Nile Region

Project duration
4 Years, 01.07.2018–30.06.2022

Project budget 2018–2022
CHF 1.2 Mio.

Background

The «Aradu Pi Fur» project addresses 600 vulnerable youths (15-25 years) and their families in the remote district Zombo in the northwest of Uganda. Their life is affected by poverty and in many families, even food security is not given. Due to low production and productivity as well as restricted access to capital and farming land, 57% of the population count as “working poor”. Young people often lack qualifications and opportunities. In the district Zombo the situation is especially dire. The regional literacy rate (54%) is clearly below the national rate at 68%. The World Bank estimates the youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate 83% (Development Indicator Africa 2008/2009). Without education it is nearly impossible for young men and women to build a secure and independent life for themselves and their families.

Goals

- 600 youth receive vocational training and are able to make a living.
- 20 Local Resource Persons and 1 Vocational Training Institution provide quality agro-business vocational courses.
- 24 youth farmer groups improve productivity through increased value and collective marketing.
- 1 cooperative of interested youth farmer groups promote new agricultural knowledge and methods in the Zombo district.
- Development of an Agro Partner Network

Beneficiaries

- 600 vulnerable youths
- 24 Youth Farmer Groups with 25 members each
- 1 Cooperative
- 20 local Resource Persons and 1 Vocational Training Institution
- 1 Agro Partner Network

Partner organization

CEFORD (Community Empowerment for Rural Development) was founded in 2000 and is a nationally registered NGO. Their work focuses on the West Nile Region.

Vision: A strong and poverty-free society.

Thematic focus: farming, education, community development, health.

www.ceford.org.ug

Activities

- Agro-business vocational courses are offered concerning horticulture, piggery, poultry and apiary at the Vocational Training Institution or through Local Resource Persons.
- All youths are trained in business skills preparing them to run micro-enterprises in a successful and sustainable way ensuring income generation and food security.
- The youths receive extensive training in life skills (e.g. hygiene and sanitation, safe water chain, nutrition, family planning, HIV/AIDS and prevention of violence against women.) For the least literate youths functional adult literacy sessions are offered.
- As a multiplier factor the youths share their gained knowledge with members of their communities and their youth farming group.
- 24 youth farmer groups are formed in order to promote knowledge exchange and cooperation in production and marketing.
- All youth farmer groups receive training regarding group management and bulk marketing.
- The youth farmer groups form a cooperative, which takes a leading role in sustainable farmer-led development in the Zombo district.
- Foundation of a district-wide agriculture network, bringing all agricultural stakeholders together.
- Youth are encouraged to participate in agricultural events and fairs.

Results from the predecessor project «ZOYEI», 2015-2017

- 300 youths were trained in horticulture, piggery, poultry and apiary at the Vocational Training Institution and through Local Resource Persons.
- Over 82% were able to establish micro-enterprises with income ranging from 200 to 400 CHF per harvesting cycle (3-4 months)
- Most of the trained youth practice integrated agriculture, i.e. combining at least two of the mentioned areas, which can be traced back to the project's multiplier effect.
- The number of daily meals in the youths' families has gone up from 1-2 to 3.
- A network of Local Resource Persons, the Vocational Training Institution and representatives of the public and the private sector has been formed to establish contact between the youths and agricultural actors.
- 8 farmer groups of graduates received support through the governmental youth livelihood programme. 11 youths could benefit from a public farmer programme and grant due to their network connections.

Sustainability

With the acquisition of agricultural vocational skills, the youths become self-employed or find jobs in agro-businesses or small enterprises. This is an important prerequisite for a sustainable increase of income and food security at household level.

Trained youths build youth farmer groups that are gradually transformed into a district wide cooperative. This first cooperative spearheads sustainable farmer-led development of the agricultural sector in the underdeveloped district Zombo. It enhances access to new agricultural knowledge and technologies, provide affordable agro-inputs for farmers and eliminate exploitation by intermediaries through collective bargaining, joint marketing and better prices.



Horticulture class with a Local Resource Person



Income through poultry



Theoretical class at the Vocational Training Institution

CO-OPERAID is engaged in the international children's right to education in East Africa and South Asia. The association was founded in 1981, is politically independent and denominationally independent and ZEWOCertified since 1998.

Vision: Qualitative good education for children and youths as a basis for a self-determined and dignified life.

Thematic Focus: Basic education and vocation training with complementary elements such as fighting poverty, farming income projects, furthering girls, Aids prevention, health.

www.co-operaid.ch