



AICAD

African Institute for Capacity Development

A Newsletter from AICAD Secretariat

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NEWS

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Message from the Executive Director

I write to convey greetings from AICAD and once again welcome you all to the 35th issue of our Newsletter. I hope you find this issue of our Newsletter informative. Inside this issue we are delighted to share with you a few of our implemented activities. But foremost on behalf of AICAD Secretariat and on my own behalf I would like to acknowledge with appreciation the guidance and support AICAD has been receiving from the Governing Board (GB) members and our stakeholders in working towards achieving its mandate for the months we have been through in the year. The modest achievements so far are as a result of well-coordinated teamwork amongst the governance, stakeholders and AICAD staff at the Secretariat and country offices. We pray that this spirit of teamwork continues for AICAD to attain even higher achievements for the remaining period of the year.

AICAD organised a number of activities through its Unified Programme for 2011/12. These activities were implemented at the Headquarters and Country Offices in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. These activities were implemented in collaboration with our partners; World Bank Institute (WBI) and our long time supporter, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

JICA completed its support through AICAD/JICA Project to AICAD at the end of June 2012. JICA had been supporting AICAD for the last twelve years since its establishment in 2000. The JICA's support to AICAD contributed greatly in helping us build our capacity for which we are very thankful.

As JICA leaves AICAD, it leaves behind a strong seed that is determined and prepared to venture into the turbulent future marred by the global economic crisis in pursuit of its quest of poverty reduction in Africa. On behalf of AICAD Secretariat and the entire AICAD fraternity, I would like to seize this opportunity to pay special tribute to JICA for the invaluable assistance AICAD received for the last twelve years, and praise its friendly commitments in supporting AICAD programmes efficiently and effectively.



AICAD/ JICA project farewell party

In order to be more focused in our mandate, AICAD has taken measures to review its Five Year Rolling Strategic Plan for the period 2012 to 2017. This exercise was done through a retreat at Seasons Hotel in Narok District, Kenya, from the 2nd to 4th July 2012. The revised Strategic Plan will come into effect from September 2012 following the approval by the Governing Board in its 10th meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

AICAD was privileged to have been visited by various stakeholders and dignitaries including H.E. Yaacov Lopez, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of State of Israel, Nairobi, Kenya, Mr Hideo Eguchi, newly appointed Chief Representative, JICA Office, Kenya, Dr Chikako Takase, Director, United Nation Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Nagoya, Japan, Dr Manege Ludovick, Ag. Director,



AICAD staff at the Strategic Plan retreat

Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO) and a delegation from Burundi headed by Mr Pierre-Claver Ntibakivavo, Technical Advisor and Coordinator of National Agricultural Investment Plan, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi.



H.E. Yacov Lopez, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of State of Israel, Kenya and Prof. Andrew Gidamis, Executive Director AICAD.

On behalf of AICAD Secretariat and on my own behalf we thank the visitors for choosing to come to AICAD in support of our mission.

In the efforts to forge collaborative ventures, AICAD has signed Memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with the Interuniversity Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Uganda, Shriram Institute for Industrial Research (SRI),



The Executive Director signing an MoU with Prof. Kwesiga of UIRI

India, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), South Africa and Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), Uganda.

The MoUs are mainly for the five institutions to jointly organise activities related to human capacity development in the region. The process of signing the MoU with the East African Community (EAC), Arusha, Tanzania has been finalized. Finally, on behalf of AICAD Secretariat and my own behalf, I wish to express our sincere thanks to our supporters, stakeholders and AICAD staff for the support AICAD enjoyed so far. We appeal for your continued support so that AICAD can realize even higher achievements for the remaining period of the year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*AICAD/ JICA article Pg. 2

*Uganda Office Pg. 2

*Tanzania Office Pg. 3

*Kenya Office Pg. 4

*Training and Extension Pg. 4

AICAD/JICA PROJECT

AICAD/JICA Project Ends

JICA's cooperation with the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) ended in June 2012. On this occasion, the Project team is delighted to conclude humbly that AICAD has successfully enhanced its capacity to address issues of poverty in Africa as per its mission. Looking back to the birth of AICAD, Japan initiated the idea of establishing a regional Base for African Human Capacity Building at the 2nd Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II) in 1998. After intensive consultations, the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Japan reached an agreement to establish AICAD in March 2000. Since then, Japan



AICAD/JICA Project Staff

has been assisting AICAD in its institutional foundation and programme development for 12 years, commencing with construction of AICAD headquarters supported by the Japanese Grant Aid.

AICAD/JICA Technical Cooperation Project has gone through three phases: Phase I (formulation of the blueprint of AICAD and initiation of pilot activities such as training courses and AICAD funded research), Phase II (development of organizational structure and programme modalities), and Phase III (strengthening and consolidating comparative advantages of AICAD). Since AICAD headquarters obtained legal status as an independent international institution in 2007 (Phase III), JICA shifted its approach to selectively support specific activities among those included in the AICAD annual Unified Programme.

As outcomes of the three-phases of the AICAD/JICA Cooperation, there are major achievements. One example is AICAD's experience in Community Empowerment Programme (CEP).

CEP is a community-oriented programme targeting selected community groups in specific areas with particular emphasis on community participation towards better and sustainable livelihood through the improved use of knowledge and technology. With its participatory approach, it has resulted in encouraging communities to nurture ownership of their development. The experience of CEP should be a useful reference for those who wish to enhance knowledge dissemination in the communities. Another example is the

University Outreach Activity (UOA). Through a series of UOA symposium and workshops, the Universities have become better aware that UOA should be regarded as one of the pillars of every university mission. UOA is expected to act as a catalyst to encourage more proactive participation of universities in reaching out and tackling poverty related problems in communities. It would be essential for AICAD to enhance collaborative relationships with a variety of stakeholders and to showcase its comparative advantage in its programmes. In this regard, it would be worthwhile for AICAD to incorporate the experiences and knowledge gained through CEP, especially its need-oriented approach, into its further efforts to promote UOA in the region.

The JICA Project team notes with sincere respect that the three East African governments have launched strong initiatives and commitment to their continued support for sustaining and enhancing AICAD and its programmes. We believe with a sense of pride that the AICAD will continue to elaborate its "AICAD Brand" to literally demonstrate the AICAD's mission "to be the leading African institution in building human capacity for poverty reduction."

Finally, the JICA project team would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and all the stakeholders for their strong support and expertise provided towards the development of AICAD. We would also like to thank all the AICAD Secretariat and Staff members for their steady

UGANDA OFFICE

Enhancing Poverty Alleviation Among BOGA Members through Sustainable use of Papyrus in Mityana district, Uganda.

By John Ssendawula, Programme Officer, AICAD Uganda Country Office

Bukanaga Orange Growers Association (BOGA) is a Community Based Organisation (CBO) composed of 30 members located in Busimbi sub-county, Mityana district in central Uganda. The sub-county is bordering Lake Wamala which has an extensive papyrus swamp neighbouring BOGA members' gardens. The group members had no use for the extensive papyrus swamp until the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) Uganda Country Office sensitized them about the possibility of sustainable use of the wetland resources. During the sensitization meeting, the group members agreed to implement a sustainable papyrus use project by making crafts out of papyrus. The objective of the project was to alleviate poverty among BOGA members through commercial exploitation of papyrus to make crafts.

Prior to the actual implementation, a project working group was formed by people from various institutions such as Makerere Univer-

sity, Kyambogo University, Mentor University project, National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Education and Sports and AICAD. Project implementation started with a planning meeting that was facilitated by the AICAD working group. During this meeting, a tool called pair-wise ranking was adopted and used to prioritize a list of products that could be made out of papyrus, after which members prepared an activity schedule for the project activities using the results of the ranking. The group members requested AICAD to facilitate a study tour to sites where papyrus is harvested and where papyrus products are made and sold (market outlets) to enable them to internalize the crafts production value chain and establish the most marketable crafts. The tour raised a lot of enthusiasm and desire among the members to start practicing what they saw. After the tour, a review meeting was held during which the members re-prioritised the crafts they wanted to start producing, zeroing on production of hats, ceiling mats and shopping baskets.



A trainer demonstrating to BOGA members how to make a ceiling mat.

Skills in the above mentioned crafts were imparted to group members by trainers sourced from various crafts production centres around Kampala. The training was held at one of the members' residence for four days after which members continued practicing making the various crafts on their own in order for them to perfect the skills. Members have reported a big local market for all the products made during the training and thereafter, particularly the ceiling mats and hats. The group has also been linked by to market in Kampala through one of the trainers (Mr. Musakala), who urged them to produce crafts in adequate quantities which can be purchased in bulk. The group is also planning to open up a shop in Mityana to set up a one-stop-centre where all their products can be purchased from. The papyrus pulp is used by members to mulch their gardens to conserve soil moisture, while the bloom is used for making brooms which have also secured a big local market.

Group members have requested AICAD to organize more training so that they can learn how to make other products to enable them diversify the products produced. They also requested for training in sustainable environmental/ wetland management and marketing strategies for their products.

Towards Improved Livelihoods Through Building Capacity To Generate Income In The Rural Communities Of Mityana District – Central Uganda, 'A Community Empowerment Approach'

By Seruma Andrew Kizito, Assistant Country Director and John Ssendawula, Programme Officer, AICAD Uganda Country Office

AICAD has implemented a Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) within two community groups, namely Kakindu Tweekembe Organic Savings and Credit Group (KATOSACO) and Butayunja Balema Tweekembe Development Group (BBTDG) located in Kakindu and Butayunja sub-counties, respectively, in Mityana district of Uganda. The project in both cases employed a community oriented approach using multiple interventions with emphasis on community participation and empowerment towards socio-economic development. In KATOSACO group, the project addressed the core problem of lack of water for farming and domestic use due to persistently long droughts. The project trained group members in organic farming, zero grazing, soil fertility management, soil and water conservation and mixed farming.

AICAD also collaborated with Heifer International and constructed biogas units in 11 members' households. Through the knowledge and skills gained during the various trainings, group members are producing vegetables, bananas and oranges using manure from the zero grazing units. They prepare and use organic pesticides to control pests and diseases on their crops. The project has improved food security and nutrition in members' households. Sales from surplus of the crop yields are sold have increased their incomes and members can easily meet their household necessities as well as pay school fees for their children, The biogas provides clean energy for cooking and lighting.



Biogas unit under construction in Kakindu Subcounty

Among BBTDG members, the project addressed the key problem of poverty and hopelessness among the People with Disabilities (PWDs). The project trained the PWDs in modern methods of maize and soyabean growing, poultry and piggery rearing as well as rehabilitation sessions for the group members. The BBTDG members were provided with maize and soyabean seeds for planting. They also received chicks, piglets and their starter

feeds, and were trained in crafts making as income generating activities. As a result of the interventions, the PWDs used the maize and soya bean harvests to improve the food security situation in members' households and the income from the sale of the remaining flour was used to meet other domestic needs and pay school fees for their children. The maize bran was used as poultry and piggery feeds.

Through the rehabilitation sessions, the PWDs were able to regain self-esteem. They have also been trained in value addition and crafts making, and as a result, they are packing crisps and making a variety of hand crafts that they sell locally and in Mityana town. The incomes from the sales of the various products has greatly improved the incomes of the PWDs and they are now able to contribute to their domestic requirements, can raise money to meet their hospital bills and some have married as they are now able to look after their families. The group members pray that AICAD continues equipping them with skills in various areas to enable them continue living a descent and independent lives.

TANZANIA OFFICE

Achievements of AICAD's Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) in Tanzania

By Ms Elida Busagala, Programme Officer, AICAD Tanzania Country Office

Hekima Tumaini Kwenda (HTK) Mama Kwanza Food Processing Women Group (Mama Kwanza) is the women group under CEP at AICAD's Model Region of Kibaha District in the CoAat Region of Tanzania. Mama Kwanza deals with food processing as their major activity of income generation for their livelihood. The group processes diverse agricultural products that include, nutritious flour, different types of fruit juices, pices, peanuts butter, pickles, dried vegetables, wine, honey, dried fruits and Moringa.

The CEP project developed the group's capacity in quality control and management of products, market search and marketing strategy and empowered Mama Kwanza with new skills and technologies for processing agricultural products.

Each one of the 20 Members of Mama Kwanza can confidently operate and manage the grain miller, the juice extractor and the spices grinding machine, which were provided by AICAD as a soft loan under the CEP. Mama Kwanza members are also knowledgeable in processing procedures; storage; packaging of products; preparation of brochures and business cards.

Through implementation of the CEP activities members of Mama Kwanza have undergone unique transformation both economically and socially. Members have acquired skills, knowledge and technology which helped them to increase their incomes significantly, despite

the fact that CEP was just at its beginning. Members of Mama Kwanza have responsibilities in caring for their families; hence, any improvement in economic status of the members has direct impact on the livelihood of their families. As they testified during a recent impact assessment survey, the women can now pay school fees for their children, they can feed their families well and they can meet other household needs. Furthermore, the group's promising performance enabled them to access a loan from Kibaha Town Council and enjoy support from the SIDO – parastatal organization. These are huge achievements that were realised in only two years of CEP in Tanzania.

The social impact of the intervention to the community can best be captured from the following testimony of a Mama Kwanza member, who did not mind her story appearing in AICAD's publications:-



Ms. Consolata Nestory Mwakiposa of HTK Mama Kwanza Food Processing Women Group

Consolata Mwakiposa is a 34-years old mother of 4 who lives with her Evangelist Pastor husband at Kibaha. She lived as an obedient house wife until the year 2005 when she started a small kiosk business. She wanted to earn a supplementary income for her large family. The Pastor husband saw it as an embarrassment for his wife to be seen selling chapattis, milk and peanuts. So he prohibited it. Nevertheless, Consolata operated the business secretly. One day, the husband discovered what was going on behind his back. The younger boy had shown him where mum hid her money. When asked where she got all that money from, Consolata had to disclose the secret. On learning that the money was used to pay for the children's school bus fares and exercise books, the Pastor allowed his wife to continue with business.

Consolata later attended SIDO courses on food processing where she learnt how to process pickles, peanut butter, jam, and many others. While at SIDO, Consolata met five other women entrepreneurs with whom she joined to form Hekima Women Group. Hekima members later became founder members of HTK Mama Kwanza. At one time Consolata stopped participating with her group because of restriction from her husband. Other members visited her to encourage her. They also talked to the husband to reassure him,

slowly she resumed her participation. This lady testifies how she has been empowered economically and socially through CEP intervention and the support from other Mama Kwanza women members. She has gained food processing knowledge and skills through the trainings and study tour supported by AICAD. She applies her knowledge to improve the quality of her products and to improve the way of doing business. She acquires new business tactics as she interacts with other women in the group. Her income has greatly increased. She can now pay school fees for her children, feed the family and meet other family needs alone.

The Pastor has now changed his attitude and is understanding. He now recognizes the contribution of his wife to the family. His burden to look after the family has eased. Now he encourages his wife to participate fully in all Mama Kwanza activities.

KENYA OFFICE

Fighting Poverty in Rural Areas in Kenya through Integrated Approach

By Samuel Obino Mokaya, Assistant Country Director AICAD Kenya Country Office

Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) was initiated in 2009 with commencement of activities in the later half of 2010. The programme was implemented in Kariandusi (Gilgil), Nakuru County. It is an integrated programme where a number of identified problems were tackled at the same time to achieve balanced socio-economic development. Kariandusi area is semi-arid characterized by water shortages, poor farming practices, un-economic irrigation practices, low farm production, poor marketing systems and food insecurity. The only water resource is River Kariandusi, with high water fluoride levels. Some community members in the villages with access to the river practice irrigated agriculture using water abstracted from Kariandusi hot spring/river. The area is organized into six villages; 3 with access to River Kariandusi (Majimoto, Kihonge, & Kanyawa) and 3 with no access to the River (Ngong, Eka Tano & View Point). The main economic activity in the area is crop farming for both domestic & commercial use.

The programme comprises three projects namely:

1. Integrated Irrigation Farming; whose goal is to increase agricultural production through integrating various crops and farming practices in target area.
2. Livestock production; which focuses on increasing livestock production through improvement of available breeds of livestock and adoption of modern livestock production technologies.
3. Water Harvesting & Management; whose main objective is to promote rainwater harvesting through runoff and roof catchment. Health and sanitation was integrated as a cross-cutting issue in all the three projects. A number of positive changes have been wit-

nessed in both the economic and social dimensions of development. They range from upgrading to introduction of new livestock breeds; improved farming practices, improved crop varieties, economic water use, improved irrigation systems, increase in acreage under irrigation and farming, improved yields, cooperative procurement of farm inputs and marketing, and improved household incomes. Many farmers have installed rain water harvesting systems including installation of plastic water tanks to harvest clean water for drinking and pans to harvest run-off. There is also improved health, social cohesion / understanding participation in group activities, improved knowledge level and security.

Restoration of Cassava Production and Utilization in Rongo District, Migori County.

The project was implemented in Rongo District, Migori County under Knowledge and Technology and Dissemination Programme (KTDP). The communities living in the area used to grow a lot of cassava as their main cash and subsistence crop. However, it was wiped out by African Cassava Mosaic Disease (ACMD) between 1984 and 1990. The project goal was to restore cassava production and utilization; empowering the community to produce, process, utilize and market the crop and its products for poverty alleviation and socio-economic development. The cuttings of two selected TMS varieties that are of high yielding and adaptable to the local conditions were acquired from Agricultural Training Centre in Kisii in November and December 2010 and distributed to selected farmers from four locations; West and East Kamagambo, North and South Sakwa for bulking. The farmers were trained on cassava agronomic practices at different stages of production, post harvest handling and value addition and thereafter, trained on marketing and market survey.

The project has impacted positively on the socio-economic development in the area. The changes witnessed as result of various activities implemented include adoption of improved, disease-free cassava varieties, improved cassava yields and utilization, processing and commercialization of cassava products, improved marketing of cassava products, improved social cohesion, increased income levels and food security.

Integrating Smallholder Farmers into Agricultural Value Chain through In-country Training

The Kenya Country Office conducted its 6th In-country Training on Value Addition in December 2011. A total of 30 smallholder farmers (11 male and 19 female) drawn from Bungoma and Nyamira Counties were trained on various aspects of value with practical demonstrations taking a bigger part. The training was based on a baseline survey conducted to facilitate formulation of content that addressed real needs and opportunities of the target farmers. The needs and opportunities identified ranged from milk processing, fruit processing, sweet potatoes processing, baking, beverage processing, soap making, soya

beans processing and banana processing. Research has shown that when farmers are empowered through value addition training, they can become greater market participants, both domestically and globally thus, effective integration of smallholder farmers into the modern and higher value chain is critical to achieving the socio-economic development in a country. The other in-country training programmes conducted by the Kenya Country Office include Irrigation and Water Resource Management, Rural Women, and Enterprise Development, all based on the popular principle that 'smallholders are the centerpiece of a pro-poor agricultural growth agenda'.

AICAD Extends Support For Universities' Outreach Activities To Universities In Tanzania And Uganda

By Patrick A. Waku, Training & Extension Director

In an effort to sustain the momentum towards development of tangible outreach programmes and activities, AICAD organized symposia on Development of Policy for Implementation of Universities' Outreach Activities (UOA) for universities in Tanzania and Uganda. While the symposium for Tanzanian institutions took place at Sokoine University of Agriculture from 28th to 29th November 2011, that for Ugandan institutions took place at Makerere University from 12th to 13th December 2011. Prior to this, the symposium for Kenyan institutions was conducted at AICAD Headquarters from 5th to 6th September 2011. This therefore marked the completion of AICAD's support for this series of symposia in the three AICAD member countries.

The general aim of AICAD's UOA Programme is to sensitize the universities in the region on the importance of implementation of Universities' Outreach Activities (UOA) in order to bring research, training and outreach into the service of local communities. It also seeks to support implementation of actual activities referred to as model activities under the UOA programme for poverty reduction in the communities. The symposia were organized as a key tool for presenting and exchanging experiences on good practices and enhancing dialogue on mechanisms for promotion of university extension/outreach activities. The symposia were considered to be an important step towards implementing a recommendation requesting AICAD to support development of institutional policies and strategies on outreach by holding a symposium in each country.

While most of the participants were drawn from AICAD member universities, other key stakeholders with an important role in the area of outreach were also invited. A key output in each country symposium was the generation of a general framework outlining the key elements upon which policy for implementation of universities' outreach activities will be constructed for further internal processing and development within each institution, and eventual production of institutional documents.