

Enhancing inclusive market access for AIVs and value-added products in Uganda

PROJECT CONSORTIUM

PROJECT COORDINATOR

- Uganda Christian University

PARTNERS

- Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE)
- Farmgain Africa Ltd
- SYOVA Seeds Ltd

LOCATION

Central and Eastern Uganda

PERIOD

1st March, 2022-31st September, 2024

TOTAL BUDGET

Eur 250,000

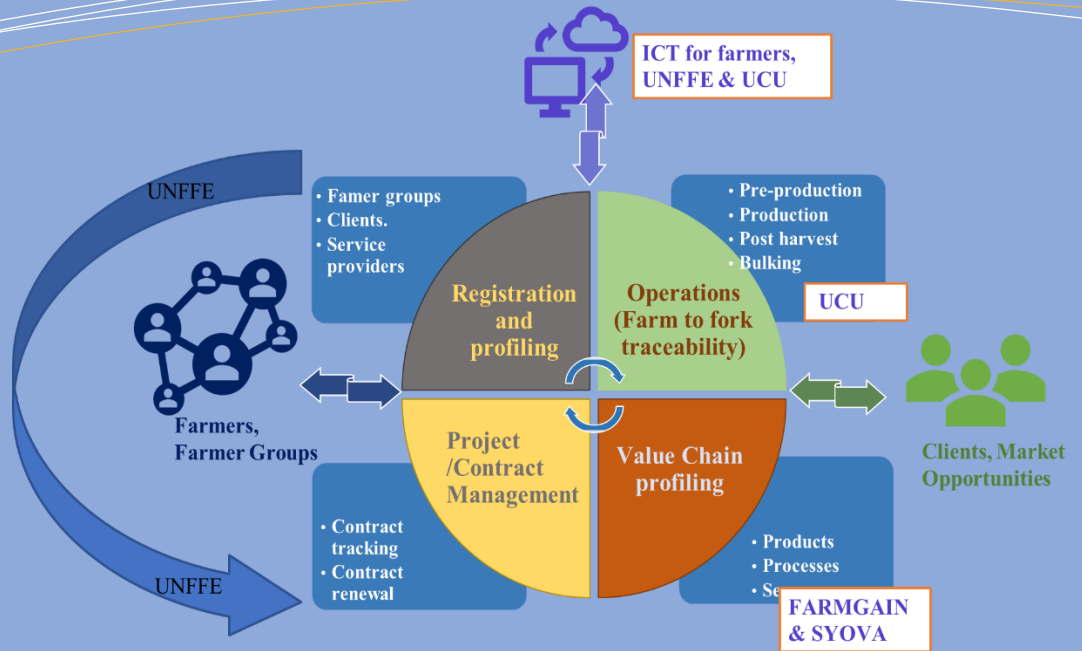
FUNDING

FARA/ASARECA

PROJECT CONTACT

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CHALLENGE

There is an absence of key multistakeholder engagements between producers and the market which renders the African Indigenous Vegetable (AIV) value chain inefficient and unsustainable due to poor distribution, limited traceability and absence of targeted linkages and alliances. Over 70 % of Ugandan vegetable producers are smallholders based in rural areas, whose operations are greatly affected by the disorganized AIV markets along value chains, weak logistics systems, and business intelligence among others. This undermines an efficient seed system consequently affecting negatively downstream value chain activities (e.g., agro-processing and marketing). As such farmers miss out on business contracts because of the low capacity in terms of knowledge and organisation and get aged out by bigger enterprises.

FOCUS

The project aims to contribute to increased women and youth farmers accessibility to income opportunities in the vegetable value chain by strengthening private led systems, to organize and link producers and their market. In doing so, it is hoped that relationships with big market players will be blockered to enable entry of organized small scale producers. The project will build and develop capacity of farmer organization under UNFFE to consistently match the demand in terms of volume and quality of the market. UCU will support UNFFE by providing technical backstopping and also to digitise its mobilization while linking the farmers to relevant entities and markets drawing from market linkage expertise of Farmgain Africa Ltd and SYOVA Ltd.

KEYWORDS

African Indigenous Vegetable Value chains, Market Linkages, Private-led systems strengthening, Management Information systems, Capacity building

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RATIONALE

Addressing the above gaps by strengthening private-led systems (including seed) to organise and link smallholder producers and their markets, there is potential to ensure farmers focus on commercial seed and assured markets for AIVs and value added products. The strong experiences of multi-stakeholder engagements and management information tools to promote AIVs has the potential to contribute to achieving sustainable agrarian livelihoods and rural transformation by fostering an inclusive innovation environment.

METHOD

The project will a) Build capacity among UNFFE Women and youth members in AIV seed production and value addition as a business and linked them to standardized brand markets through UNFFE b) Adapt a Management Information System at UNFFE to streamline operations in mobilizing and information sharing among members in response to market opportunities. c) Improve business intelligence in the AIV value chain and brokering contracts on behalf of the small-scale producers d) Produce and disseminate information in print, online and audio-visual, conduct regional demonstrations and to bring awareness to key stakeholders.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Impacts

Increased Market Opportunities for Supply and Demand Of AIVS Seeds and Value Added Products

Outcomes

- ✚ Improved quality of AIV Seeds and value-added products produced by production units
- ✚ Improved Market Access for Vegetable production units
- ✚ Improved service delivery by UNFFE

Outputs

- ✚ Knowledge of members of production units strengthened to produce improved seed and products
- ✚ Linkages between Small Scale Production Units and markets established
- ✚ An MIS Established at UNFFE