

Session Info/Questions

	Session 3: Access to technology land
	Chair: TBC (ACP Ambassador)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What technology was shared and how? <p>Farmer-Field Schools (FFS) in Uganda: The FAO's flagship Farmer Field Schools approach, has been adapted to address the varied needs of the highly subsistence farmers in Uganda to address both critical production and livelihood challenges in marginalized communities in the rural areas. The FFS are used to build the agricultural skills and knowledge of rural farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions on how to better manage their crops, livestock, landscapes, among other aspects for improved production and productivity of their farms. The farmers are taken through a systematic experiential learning process using basic experiments and validation studies to introduce the farmers to new information, practices and technologies.</p> <p>Technologies, and how they were introduced</p> <p>FAO Uganda works in close collaboration with institutions of the Ugandan National Research Organisation (NARO) for Crop, Livestock, and Semi-arid resources research institutions, the National Genetic Resources Centre and National Research Laboratories to introduce improved technologies to the farmers depending on their needs and demands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction of new technologies of rice (NERICA) and promotion of improved varieties of main staple crops that are short term maturing, drought tolerant and disease resistant including beans, maize, root tubers (cassava and orange flesh sweet potatoes) among others through multiplication by FFS groups;- Introduction of tolerant varieties of coffee, an important cash crop- Introduction of improved pastures and fodder legumes in the pastoral regions of central Uganda including bracharia, mucuna, lab lab among others. Over 400 acres of pastures are being multiplied by farmers at household level.- Improved breeds of livestock through artificial insemination services and promoting Indian Kuroiler chicken which are high yielding for eggs and meat.- Dissemination of appropriate technologies for PHH including, solar drying techniques, chippers, honey processing.....

What change/benefits did it bring about?

The communities have improved skills in crop farming and livestock keeping, managing their rangelands, the environment and undertaking farming as a business. Improved crop varieties, and breeds of livestock have been adapted by the communities, improving production which have resulted in:

- Improved productivity of crops and livestock among participating households; with conducive weather, FFS embers realize increased crop and milk yields from their farms due to embracing improved practices and technologies.
- Improved nutritional status of households. Families consume fairly balanced meals, and can afford to take meals 3 times a day which is a big change from previously having one meal per day and in extreme cases, one meal every 3 days.
- Easing the labour burden on women through labour saving technologies like animal traction, energy saving stoves;
- Improved incomes of households due to alternative livelihood activities –trade in produce, livestock, improved poultry breeds that yield more eggs and meat and fetch a higher price on the market, households can afford to pay for their children’s education, medicare etc; the basic households assets [land, livestock] are protected from sale due to alternative income sources.
- Improved harmony in the home- there are reduced cases of gender based violence due to improved income status of the households. Women are the majority participants in the FFS, and do bring back home new knowledge and information from the FFS. The results of their improved skills are appreciated by their husbands. Men are more listening and regard their wives as partners more than before; the women have a voice, are respected and are involved in decision making in the home;
- There is a move towards environmental conservation by communities through agro forestry, energy savings stoves, green fencing, woodlots,

- Does your Programme have an SSC element?

The FFS began in South East Asia in Indonesia in 1989 and spread to the Philippines. . The global spread of the FFS was a result of experienced FFS master trainers initially coming from Asia to support development of FFS programs in other parts of the world. FAO supported South-South exchange for development and spread of the FFS and has been at the centre of promoting FFS development and its spread to over 90 countries to date. In 1993 and 1994, the first Vietnamese and Bangladesh were trained by Indonesian and Filipino trainers. In Africa FFS were introduced in 1990 with the help of FFS master trainers from Asia.. Through SSC, they spread to E.Africa in 1995 in a regional FFS program; then to West Africa in Senegal, Mali, and Burkina in 1999 – 2000. They have since spread to the rest of Africa – central, and south using master trainers from across continents or from within.

- How did your Programme provide women, in particular, access to land and help guarantee land quality?

Land is communally owned in many parts of the country where FFS have operated. In some areas land is freehold. In the particular areas of intervention, land is owned by men; women have access to land for production, but cannot sell it. However, through improved skills, improved incomes and ability to acquire labour saving technologies and/or hire extra labour, women are now putting to good use land which was otherwise idle. The practices for environmental management like agro forestry, use of organic matter in their farms guarantee land quality

- How has access to land/land quality changed lives? [this is similar to the benefits brought in question 2 above](#)

Access to land due to ability to utilize idle land pieces profitably has resulted in increased incomes; women are confident; households are more stable, working together to improve their families;.

- What lessons were learnt from other Southern countries?

The Government of Uganda signed a Tripartite Agreement between United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations (UN-FAO) and Peoples Republic of China (PR. China) on 8th December 2011. The SSC programme supports the provision of technical assistance to outputs and activities identified under the four programmes of the Uganda Agriculture Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP 2010/11-2014/15). It promotes capacity building in priority areas including: improved water management, crop intensification, improved Agriculture, aquaculture, livestock production, food processing and development of producer groups/associations. Some of the activities of focus were hybrid rice production, horticulture, wooden cages for poultry production, mushroom growing among others

Overall, the technologies were appreciated by the recipients and the following were some of the lessons learnt:

- lack of prior identification of challenges and involvement of the farmers in tailoring the technologies that have worked elsewhere to the conditions in Uganda led to gaps in the management. For example the wooden chicken cages introduced had chicken droppings falling on other chicken in the lower cages and no inadequate provision for collection of eggs .
- Not all relevant stakeholders were included in the process, like local government officials and other organisations operating at the community level; thus gaps cannot be easily covered once the technicians leave
- Limited coverage and therefore impact because the team worked mostly with individuals thus benefits do not trickle to the rest of the community ; one of the recommendations was to organize and work with farmer group
- Need to consider the whole chain for success and not introduce the technology in isolation – vital linkages of farmers to agro input dealers and

	markets were identified as hampering continuity and progress of some of the activities.
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