

FOOD SECURITY PROJECT WITH RURAL WOMEN FARMERS IN GOMBA DISTRICT



IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

2023

Executive Summary

Ntulume Village Women Development Association (NVIWODA) is a Non-Governmental Organization established in 1987 by a group of women residing in Ntulume village by then. Since its inception, the organization established a centre for women entrepreneurship and career development, at Bakuli in Kampala, where women are trained in various entrepreneurship skills. A micro credit program was also established that supported the trained entrepreneur's enterprises. Economic development programs have been integrated with gender based violence awareness in order to curb down incidences of economic violence against women.

This impact assessment focused on the Food Security project supported by the Global Fund for Women. The Food Security project has been implemented in three separate funding cycles, 2014 to 2015 which had 45 beneficiaries, 2018 to 2019 had 19 beneficiaries and in 2020 to 2023 there were 26 beneficiaries.

The Food Security project objective is to promote sustainable agricultural practices among rural women farmers. The project beneficiaries were trained, provided seeds, farm tools and water harvesting tanks to support their farming activities.

Evaluation tools

In this assessment, we used a semi-structured questionnaire to interview the respondents. The open-ended approach enabled us to get in-depth narratives on the project implementation and impact in the community. A total of 45 respondents were interviewed and 14 respondents participated in the Focus group discussions

We used the "The Ladder of Life tool" to assess the wellbeing of the community. This tool was adapted from the GENNOVATE methodology (Petesch, Badstue and Prain, 2018). The tool enabled respondents to do wealth ranking for their respective communities within the confines of sustainable agricultural practices and its contribution to their livelihoods.

Respondents were able to categorize and visualize the different wealth categories before and after the project. Importantly, they established a 'Community Poverty Line' (CPL) which they

used as a basis to discuss the change in wellbeing for project beneficiaries before and after the project. If any changes were noted to exist after the project, respondents were able to deliberate amongst themselves on what factors could have led to the change.

Project delivery of transformational change

Social inclusion was a strong component of the project, where farming households were targeted with rural women farmers as the primary beneficiaries and other members of the families as secondary beneficiaries.

Although gender inclusion was implemented through the training component of the project male members of the families were included in the various trainings.

A positive change is noted in the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. Previously the community attitude towards many of the beneficiaries was not noteworthy, perhaps due to their advanced age they were not making much economic contribution. After their participation in the project, this has positively changed tremendously.

Majority of rural women farmers now earn their own money from the sale of their farm produce, they train other members of the community on good agricultural practices and are a point of reference for advice on farming.

Project delivery on the Outcome Indicators

According to the project theory of change, the project had four outcome indicators (i) Improved Agricultural technology (ii) Water conservation practices (iii) Family IGAs (iv) Capacity building.

The indicator on improved agricultural technologies indicates a positive change. This was significantly achieved through the practical trainings provided to the farmers, their application of the knowledge received and transfer of this knowledge to other farmers and their children

The indicator on water conservation practices was achieved through the project provision of materials to construct the tanks and wells. The families were also trained on how to keep these wells clean. The benefits mentioned from having these wells constructed within the homesteads included, having access to clean water, having access to water for irrigation,

saving children from coming back home late because of the long distances they had to walk looking for water before, and most importantly is the change in status for most of the beneficiaries in their communities.

The Income Generating Activities (IGAs) contributed to increase of income at the household level. Project beneficiaries acquired skills in starting businesses, farm record keeping and looking for markets. Families have diversified their businesses, purchased properties and can meet most of their household needs.

Capacity building was a very strong element of the project and this was achieved through various trainings. These included trainings on Sustainable and integrated agriculture, Entrepreneurship training, Information and computer technology (ICT), Gender based violence, Land rights awareness and financial literacy.

Majority of the project beneficiaries have become trainers in their groups and SACCOS. Some are even recognized as trainers by the district and sub-counties and are called upon to conduct trainings. Others have achieved leadership positions as a result of their changed status in their communities.

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List of Acronyms

ACCORD	Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development in Uganda
ACTADE	African centre for Trade and Development
CPL	Community Poverty Line
FAL	Functional Adult Literacy
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
GWF	Global Fund for Women
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization
ToC	Theory of Change

1.0 Project Context

Ntulume Village Women Development Association (NVIWODA) is a Non-Governmental Organization established in 1987 by a group of women residing in Ntulume village, Bakuli Kampala Uganda. Since its inception, the organization has established a Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Career Development where women have been trained in various skills. A micro credit program was also established to support the trained entrepreneur's enterprises. Economic development programs have been integrated with gender based violence awareness in order to curb down on incidences of economic violence against women.

A sustainable agriculture program for food security targeting smallholder farmers at the household level was introduced in the 2000s. NVIWODA has been running a number of projects that are supported by Global Fund for women, United Methodist Women-Self Denial, African Women Development Fund (GWF) among other funders.

This impact assessment focused on the Food Security project supported by the Global Fund for Women. The project has been implemented in three separate funding cycles, from 2014 to 2023. In the first cycle of 2014 to 2015, forty-five beneficiaries participated, in 2018 to 2019 nineteen beneficiaries participated and in 2020 to 2023 twenty-six beneficiaries are benefiting.

The Food Security project aims to scale up sustainable agricultural practices among rural women farmers with the objective of improving their livelihoods. The project has trained women farmers, provided them with seeds, farm tools as well as water harvesting tanks and protected wells.

1.1 Project Theory of Change

The project documents do not describe the Theory of Change (ToC), but from the project narratives, it is assumed that there are four axles that lead to the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and improved livelihoods. The Project Theory of Change is based on four main axles, (i) Improved Agricultural technology (ii) Water conservation practices (iii) Family IGAs (iv) Capacity building. This impact assessment focused on Result Area two, “**Adoption and Scaling up of Sustainable Agricultural practices**” the Food security project falls under this result area. The other project outcomes also fall under result area one and three as elaborated in the **Findings** section of this report.

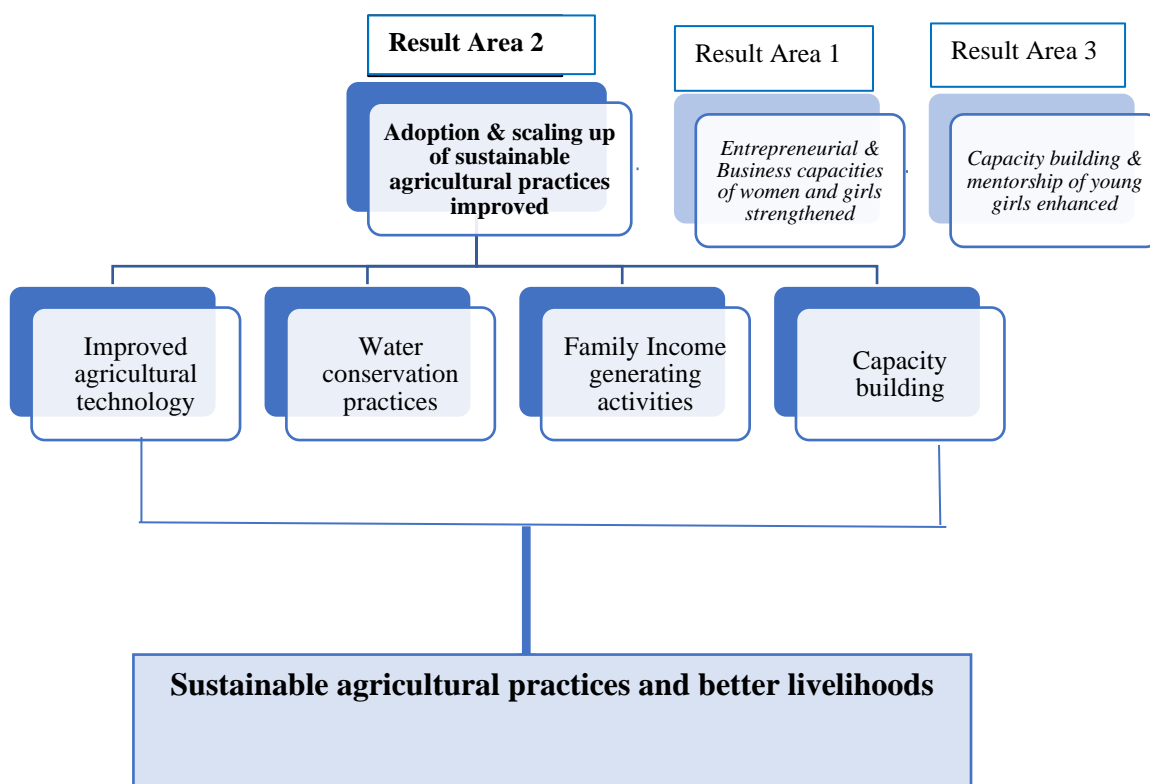


Figure 1: Project Theory of Change

1.2 Beneficiaries

Respondents to this study were purposively drawn from 15 villages in the project operational areas in Gomba district. Respondents belonged to three cohorts (table 2). The first cohort of 2014 – 2015 had 17 respondents. The second cohort 2018- 2019 had 17 respondents and the third cohort 2020- 2023 had 11 respondents who participated in this impact assessment. In total 45 women farmers participated in the individual interviews. Fourteen respondents participated in focus group discussions. The average age for the respondents was 53 years old (figure 2).

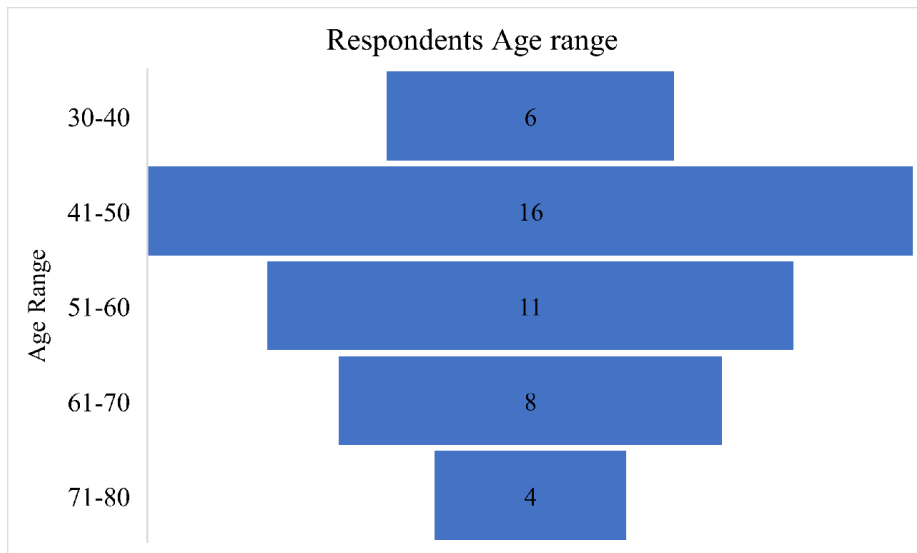


Figure 2: Respondents Age range

Table 2: Number of respondents from the three cohorts (2014-2023)

Cohort	Frequency	Percent
Cohort 1: 2014-2015	17	38
Cohort 2: 2018-2019	17	38
Cohort 3: 2020-2023	11	24
Total	45	100

1.3 Ethical considerations

Informed consent was sought from all the respondents before the interviewing process. During the study, verbal consent was also sought from the respondents. Participants were free to restrain from answering the questions they felt uncomfortable with or stop the interview altogether.

1.4 Data Analysis

Data for the quantitative study was collected using questionnaires and analyzed using excel. Data were cleaned and coded in excel and exported to SPSS ver. 23 for the frequencies and descriptive analysis. Responses to the open-ended questions were analyzed using content analysis to identify the general patterns and categories emerging from the narratives.

2.0 Findings

2.1 Family/household characteristics

2.1.1 Socio-economic and demographical characteristics

Socio-economic and demographical characteristics like sex (Female 98% & Male 2%), marital status, education, and occupation were used to characterize the respondents. Most of the respondents were married (44%), had attained primary education (58%) and practiced farming (73%) as the main occupation (table 3). The main occupation practiced had not changed from the Baseline survey conducted in 2020, most of the respondents are still farmers. The average household size was seven while 33 years was the average number of years a respondent had lived in Gomba district.

Table 3: Socio-economic and demographic characteristics

Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Female	44	98
Male	1	2
Marital Status		
Married	20	44
Divorced/Separated	10	22
Widow	10	22
Single	5	11
Education		
Primary	26	58
O'level	16	37
Never	2	4
Other(tertiary)	1	2
Main occupation		
Farmer	33	73
Livestock	8	18
Employed (Teacher)	2	4
Other (Drug shop owner & Tailor)	2	4
Average household size (mean)	7	
Average Land size (acres)	3	
Average land -Agriculture (acres)	3	
Years lived in the Village (mean)	33	

2.2 Household Asset Ownership

Most of the respondents owned a mobile phone (analogue) 91%, Radio (60%) and television (58%). Forty-one percent of the respondents owned smartphones, bicycles 22% and motorcycles 22%. The least owned assets were computers(4%), tablets (2%) and a truck (2%) table 4.

Table 4: Asset ownership

Asset	Frequency	Percentage
Radio	27	60
Television	26	58
Mobile Phone (Mapesa)	41	91
Smart Mobile phone	20	44
Computer	2	4
Tablet	1	2
Refrigerator	4	9
Bicycle	10	22
Motorcycle	10	22
Car	4	9
Truck	1	2

3.0 Sustainable agricultural practices

3.1 Farming practice

The respondents practiced both crop farming and livestock keeping. The Focus group discussions show that farmers use various agricultural best practices, mainly organic. For example farmers use organic manure which they make themselves by mixing charcoal dust, ash, dried grass and animal droppings, this is stored from one week to a month before it is ready for use. They put this composite in their gardens to add fertility to the declining soils. This knowledge the respondents said they acquired from the trainings on best agricultural practices given to them by NVIWODA.

Table 5 shows that 84% of the respondents practice intercropping and they normally intercrop maize with beans or groundnuts, cassava was also intercropped with beans. Farmers apply manure (62%), use multi-storied gardens(40%) for vegetable growing. Some other farmers practiced monocropping (29%)where they divided the land into portions to plant a particular crop.

Table 5: Farming practices undertaken by the farmers

Farming Practice	Frequency	Percentage
Intercropping	38	84
Organic manure application	28	62
Multi-storied gardens	18	40
Monocropping	13	29

**Multiple responses*

3.2 Main crops grown

The main crops grown are beans (82%), maize (80%) and bananas (80%) (table 6). The crops grown has not changed much from the baseline survey which showed that maize, beans, groundnuts, cassava, bananas, sweet potatoes and coffee were the main crops grown.¹ The additional crop at the time of this assessment was vegetables (62%), which was not commonly grown by the respondents in 2020.

Table 6: Main crops grown

Crop	Frequency	Percentage
Beans	37	82
Maize	36	80
Bananas	36	80
Vegetables	28	62
Cassava	23	51
Coffee	21	47
Sweet potatoes	21	47
Other crops	11	24

**Multiple response*

3.3 Crop yield before and after the project intervention

The findings show that crop yields increased by over 50% after the project intervention. For example the bean yield based on the assessment of 25 respondents was 1055 kgs and after the trainings and application of the knowledge on good farming practices, the yield increased

¹Ntulume Village Women Development Association: A report on the Baseline survey of the Food Security project 2020, page 11.

by 16% to 6,570 kilograms. For maize, the yield was 2150kilograms before and this increased by 9.3% to 23050 kilograms while coffee increased by 25% (figure 3)

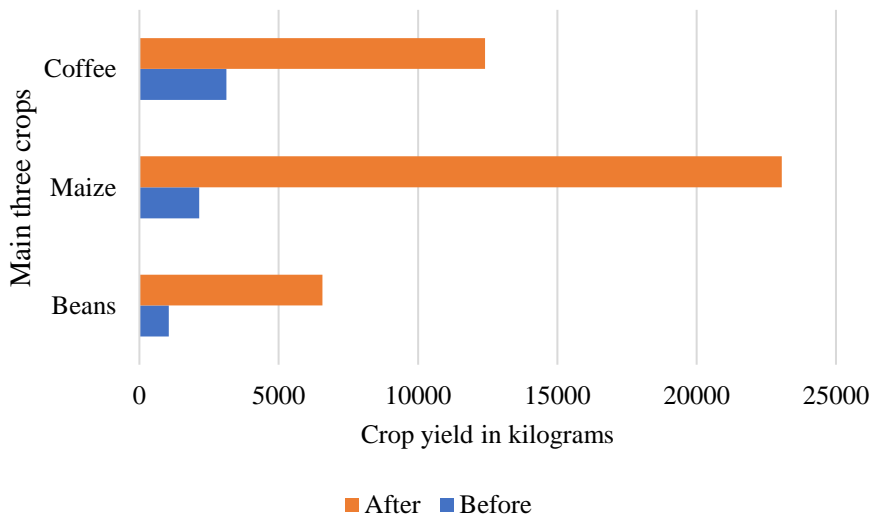


Figure 3: Estimated crop yields before(2020) and after project intervention (2023)

3.4 Crop yield at time of Impact assessment

The previous section 3.3 indicates that crop yield increased form 9 % to 25% in the three years of the project intervention. Figure 4 shows that maize, beans and coffee yield had also increased significantly. Increase in yield was attributed to the use of manure, planting at the right time, weeding and using correct post-harvest handling processes. Having access to market had also encouraged some of the farmers to expand their land for farming through hire, buying or use of family land.

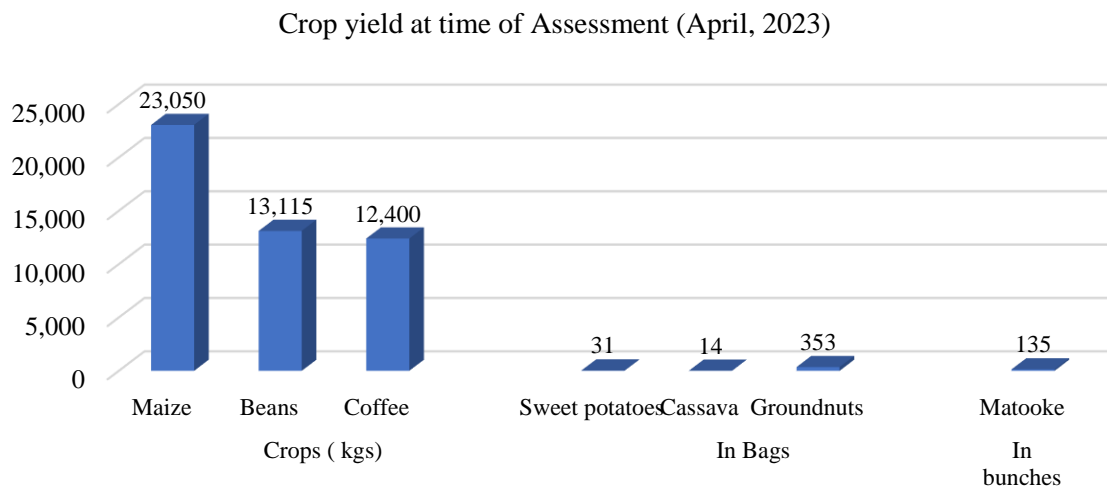


Figure 4: Crop yield at the time of assessment (April 2023)

3.5 Income per season

3.5.1 Average income from crop sales per season

The approximate average income from crop sales was 1,172,755 Uganda shillings per season. At baseline farmers income from crop sales ranged between 20,000 Ugx to 1,530,000 Uganda shillings per season. By 2023 farmers' income had increased and was ranging between a minimum of 100,000 Ugx to a maximum of 6,350,000 Ugx (table 7). Most of the farmers who realized high income were dealing in coffee and banana crop.

Table 7: Average crop income per season

Income range per season	Frequency	Percentage
100,000-500,000	15	41
600,000 – 1,000,000	7	19
1,500,000- 3,500,000	12	32
4,000,000- 6,500,000	3	8
Total	37	100

3.5.2 Approximate earnings from livestock per month

Cows (33%) and goats(33%) were the most kept livestock. Other livestock kept in large numbers were local chicken and pigs, broilers, rabbits, sheep, ducks were also kept. In a month, earning ranged between 100,000Ugx to 140,000 Ugx (29%) (table 8).

Table 8: Average income from livestock sales

Income range	Frequency	Percent
100,000-140,000 Ugx	13	29
150,000-200,000 Ugx	4	9
250,000-300,000 Ugx	4	9
450,000 Ugx and above	10	22
Non- response	14	31
Total	45	100

Other uses of livestock included use of the animal droppings for manure. This manure is either applied in the gardens or sold to other farmers at 60,000 Ugx a bag. Milk and meat from the animals is also sold for income. Goats were sold between 180,000 Ugx to 200,000 Ugx. Pigs were sold between 200,000 to 600,000 Ugx depending on the size. Milk and meat were also used for home consumption.

Thieves were mentioned as the major challenge to livestock keeping to the extent that some farmers had stopped keeping animals. Other challenges included diseases like swine fever and flu for the pigs and limited grazing land for the animals. Advanced age was also a challenge as the average age for the respondents was 53 years old, so they relied on hiring labour which was expensive.

3.6 Access to markets

During the focus group discussion we asked the respondents if markets influenced what they grew and sold, and if this had changed in the last 3-5 years. The respondents noted that they grow crops which have a market, this also helps them in enterprise selection. Other factors that determine what they grew included growing plants that did not require many inputs and were not easily affected by pests, for example a crop like beans. For the last two years crops like beans, maize, sweet potatoes and bananas were having a good market. Sweet potatoes and bananas had a high market price with a bunch selling between 10,000 Ugx to 20,000 Ugx, the price was determined by the size of the bunch. Sweet potatoes was sold for 10,000 Ugx for a tin.

The respondents told us that most times the buyers came directly to them and bought from the gardens. This helped them to resolve the costs of transporting their produce to the markets.

3.7 Access to inputs

Access to input shops was a challenge, through the trainings that NVIWODA had offered to the farmers, two shops that did not sell fake inputs were identified in the community and this is where most of the farmers acquired their inputs. One of the respondents said “ *We were trained and we know the shops to go to, we buy in bulk so that it can last a long time and we do not have to go there all the time*”.

Maize seeds was the most product that they bought as well as coffee and green paper. But sometimes the inputs expired when kept for a long time. To resolve this, some of the respondents said, “Our trainer, Ms Nakamya, brings for us. The respondent continued to say “*It has helped us to continuously farm and have what to sell to the businessmen. What we plant is not wasted*”. FGD participants 19-04-2023.

3.8 Access to Agricultural Information

Majority of the respondents said they got farming information from organizations like NVIWODA(64%), Gomba District farmers Association (GODFA) (22%) their SACCOs and UZIMA chicken. Sharing information among Fellow Farmers(31%) was also common. Extension officers (9%) and Radio (9%) were the least sources of information(table 9). For example GODFA had trained the farmers on how to plant coffee and bananas. While most of the practical trainings on multi-storied vegetable gardens had been provided by NVIWODA. The women farmers preferred the trainings from NVIWODA because the trainings were done practically in their gardens.

Table 9: Access to Agricultural Information

Source of Agric. Info	Frequency	Percent
Extension Officer	4	9
Fellow Farmer	14	31
Radio	4	9
Organization	29	6
Others	10	22

Other sources of information were neighbours, the local councilors, the veterinary doctors, Others got information using their phones and from the television.

4.0 Perceived changes in well-being

The perceived well-being exercise was done using the “ladder of life” exercise. We asked the FGD participants to categorize wealth groups beginning with those who were perceived to be well off in the community, these were placed at the top of the ladder. We further asked the participants to describe these categories in relation to sustainable farming practices.

After describing this category, respondents were asked to describe the worst off group, which was deemed to be at the bottom of the ladder. Respondents were then asked to categorize the classes they deemed to be in between the best and worst off categories. After constructing the ladder of life, respondents were asked to identify and include the Community Poverty Line (CPL). CPL is the point in the constructed ladder where people in the step above it are not poor, and all steps below it are perceived to be poor. The Community Poverty line was identified at

Step 2.

Focus group participants categorized their community into five well-being groups. They pointed out that most of them were in Step 3, having progressed from Step 2. Focus group participants categorized their community into four well-being groups. Below we describe the respondent's perception of the well-being categories.

Step 5- Well off

Households at this level are perceived to be well off. They have food, eat three meals a day the whole family eats and gets satisfied. They have an improved standard of living. They eat vegetables daily as a side dish. They have a job that gives them money. The people of these households can work anywhere. They might be government workers and draw very big salaries and they look good.

They stay in the latest homes and use expensive materials for their homes. They have a master bedroom. They have permanent houses which may look like "Trust Motel Kabulasoke", it has no dust inside nor outside. The children are all in school and attend expensive schools. The schools that the children attend are private schools like Mawuki St Joan, Bulobula parents and are all boarding schools.

They have large acres of land. They use tractors, laborers and a lot of money to farm. They use a lot of machines. People in Step five buy land from the people in step four, three or two. The crops that those people grow can be coffee. They have big coffee plantations of over five acres, a banana plantation of about three acres. Currently in Kabulasoke Sub-county, maize growing is trending. They store food, in Kabulasoke sub county wealth is shown by keeping food. They have banana plantations, large coffee gardens. They keep their farm produce in the store, but they usually have market and sell their produce very fast.

They have livestock farms that include 50 plus heads of cattle, they sell milk and the milk they get from the cows is a lot. They cross breed from other neighboring communities with exotic breeds. They also have space for their animals and feed them well.

Step 4

The people in this category stay in their own homes and work in government. They earn approximately 1,000,000 Uganda shillings a month. They have land and hire labor and have other workers, they do not do farm work themselves they use workers. They plant coffee and

can get a sack of coffee beans (Kasse) and sell in Maddu town and get money. Those who work for people in this category are from Step two and three. Their children also go to good schools.

Step 3

The people in this category own houses. The house has iron sheets, the walls are built using bricks but with no plaster. The house looks good with cement but is sparsely furnished and they keep their homes clean. The children can be in government schools, they have shoes and uniform. This class can even take their children to private schools but the children can be chased for school fees and they pay the fees in installments, or they can be chased from private schools and they are taken to government schools.

They have no car but they have a bicycle. In this category people achieve things in life with some difficulty. They do some farming, they may be government workers but earn about 300,000 shillings a month. This amount cannot sustain one for a month. They grow vegetables to get some income and are in good health.

One respondent said, *"I was once in that class, before going for the training, I was not pruning my banana plantation. I used not to care much. The bananas yielded small matooke that was bought at 3,000 each. Now that I learnt how to farm better, I sell my matooke at 10,000 shillings and above."*

They farm and have land. They produce good farm yields. "Greens, Nakati, onions, are things we can afford to eat because we get them from our gardens. The money we get from the things we sell, we can also buy eggs and chicken to eat".

In this category coffee is also planted. They farm together with their children and are able to get two bags of beans and maize. They plant vegetables and keep some livestock.

Step 2

In this category, people have some land where the home is. The house is made of mud and wattle. It has no cement on the floor, not even on the walls. The children are in government schools or sometimes do not go to school. They do not apply any knowledge in farming. The yields are not good. But can still do farming and get something out of it.

They provide labour for the rich people's farms and get money for what to eat. Some rent out their farm land and make some money. They have land but do not make much use of it and this makes them end up in the lower stage. They end up owing the rich money and have to work in their farms to pay back the loans.

Step 1-Worse off

People in this category are worse off. Most of them do not want to work. They have nothing at all. Sometimes it is hard to help them. They produce a lot of children sometimes like 10 children and have nothing to look after their children. They live on handouts and they have no land to farm or live. They only have one room. They go and farm in other people's land just to get what to eat.

Their houses have no cement. At times they do not have houses. They eat once a day and only eat after doing casual labor at someone's farm and they are given either money or food. The children are not in school. These people sleep on a mat. Others do not have where to sleep and keep moving to look where to live. They provide labour for people in Step three to five.

What causes this upward/stagnant/downward trends in the well-being groups?

The FGD discussions showed that most of the women farmers supported by NVIWODA were in **Step two** before the Food security project was introduced in Gomba district and had gradually moved to the next steps in the ladder of life. One of the FGD participants said, *“when NVIWODA came and gave us training, we have now gone up to the **third step**, maybe one day some of us will be in **Step four**”*. They continued to say that “some people in the third step work hard, they start farming on their little land and grow from there, slowly they climb from the second step to the third step.

Other participants in the FGDs said, *“Most of us are in Step two, those who attend trainings are in Step three and four and are always eager to acquire more knowledge. Now people have started planting maize, after harvesting and selling, this will make some people shift from step two to three or even from step two to three and four”* FGD Participants 19th/April/2023

The reason some people may stagnate or go downwards is that some people in Step three get debts and fail to pay back and they end up going back to Step two because even the little they have is taken away to compensate for their loans.

In Gomba district as a whole, most of the women farmers were in **Step three**, although some are now in **Step four**. They own large tracts of land, they do serious farming and even own cars.

Has the new farming practices introduced by NVIWODA contributed to this change?

Most of the respondents acknowledge that the trainings had helped them a lot, they said “*The training from NVIWODA has helped us a lot. We had learnt but were not practicing, but when COVID came people started practicing what they had learnt*”. COVID made people see the value of farming. Things were expensive and everyone was trying to survive.

Many people were at home during COVID, There was nothing to do since we could not go anywhere. People in the community came together to start learning modern farming practices. They would gather in homes and people’s farms and learn, NVIWODA contributed to the way we do our farming.



Figure 5: Focus Group Discussion One: Ladder of Life grouping

Now(2023)



Three years ago (2020)



Figure 6: Focus Discussion two: Ladder of life grouping

5.0 Access to Water and usage

Out of the 45 respondents interviewed, 35% said they had received wells/tanks. Gomba district is a drought stricken area that experiences long drought periods. Some of the challenges mentioned include the long hours children took to fetch water, coming home as late as 8:00 pm. NVIWODA supported the construction of protected wells and rain water tanks. Through the project, the organization supplied the farmers with polythene bags, cement, iron sheets, gutters and paid for the labour to construct the wells and tanks. The farmers' contribution included bricks, sand and local labour for digging. Access to water at home has reduced the time that used to be taken to fetch water from long distances.

Table 10: Access to water and usage

Access to water	Frequency	Percentage
Had Wells constructed	16	35
Usage		
Domestic use	16	35
For Irrigation	14	31
Saves time	14	31
Access to clean water	9	20

The benefits farmers have received are many and includes access to water for domestic use (35%), water for irrigation (31%) (table 10) especially during the prolonged drought periods. Time is also saved as children no longer have to walk long distances to fetch water. One of the main benefits mentioned was that these farmers can now water their vegetable gardens and

have a constant supply of green vegetables throughout the year. This has boosted their immunity as well as in income from the sales of vegetables.

6.0 Starter packs received and benefits accrued

99% of the respondents said they had received starter packs. 80% received seeds, 93% received farm tools and 35% received wells or rain water tanks. The seeds received from NWIVODA included carrots, cabbage, beet root, spinach, Sukuma wiki, green pepper and onions. The main farm tools received included wheel barrows, spades and hoes.

In addition to the benefits mentioned in section 5.0, households now experience better nutrition (67%), household income has increased (60%), status in the community has also changed (36%). One respondent said “ *My husband now thinks that I am the cleverest woman in this community, his status has also changed since we have become important members of this community*” Some respondents also started new businesses (table 11) for example by buying raw coffee from other farmers, drying it and selling at higher prices. Others have bought animals from the money they make and can now comfortably take their children to school.

Table 11: Benefits accrued from use of starter packs

Benefits	Frequency	Percentage
Better nutrition	30	67
Increased Household Income	27	60
Status changed in community	16	36
Started Business	9	20

7.0 Capacity building

All respondents said they had participated in trainings, the main trainings were agriculture (89%), Domestic violence (58%) Land rights (40%) Entrepreneurship (39%) and Human rights (39%) table 12. Trainings were also conducted in human rights (31%) ICT (31%) leadership (9%). Majority of the respondents had attended the agricultural trainings, and gone on field visits to Busesa and St Jude organic farm in Masaka where they had spent a week respectively learning the different farming practices. Other farmers have continued to learn on their own by visiting farms elsewhere.

Table 12: Trainings respondents have participated in

Training	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	40	89
Domestic Violence	26	58
Land Rights	18	40
Entrepreneurship	14	39
Human rights	14	31
ICT	14	31
Other	14	31
Leadership	4	9

Other trainings have also been offered by other institutions like ACCORD on Counselling, ACTADE on human rights, child rights and making a will. Gomba district farmers Association also offered trainings on agricultural practices. Nabagereka Foundation on Domestic Violence, Functional Adult Literacy on adult literacy and FULKAN on Chinese herbal medicines, indeed most members were trained and offer these services to their communities. Most of these trainings were cross-cutting and rein-enforced the trainings offered by NVIWODA.

8.0 Digital literacy and usage

In this section we assessed awareness of social media platforms, what platforms were most used before and after the digital trainings provided by NVIWODA, and how the trainees used these platforms. In addition we asked about the mobile applications and their usage.

8.1 Awareness of ICT and use after training

WhatsApp was the most popular (42%) used to send messages, record audios and group meetings. Most of the respondents were in a NVIWODA WhatsApp group created for communication, exchanging ideas and sharing information. Tik tok (18%) and Facebook (16%) were also well known. Twitter and Instagram were the least known about. After the trainings on ICT, WhatsApp has been the most used(35%) table 13.

Table 13: Awareness and use of ICT applications

Awareness of ICT Apps			Use after training		
App	Frequency	Percentage	App	Frequency	Percentage
WhatsApp	19	42	WhatsApp	16	35
Tik Tok	8	18	Facebook	3	6
Facebook	7	16	Tik Tok	2	4
Twitter	4	9	Instagram	1	2
Instagram	1	2			

8.2 How have you used social media after the training

The social media applications have mainly been used to communicate (41%), get farming information (18%), Network (16%) and for research (table 14). These apps have also been used for conference calls. One respondent said “ I can now talk with all my children at the same time irrespective of where they are”.

Table 14: Use of social media

Social media use	Frequency	Percentage
Communicate	14	31
Farming info	8	18
Network	7	16
Research	5	11
Business info	4	9
Market info	3	7

8.3 Awareness of Mobile applications and their use

The mobile applications were used mainly for making payments, Airtel (38%) and Momo Pay (34%), 16% used the Mobile banking apps. Other used the mobile phone applications to transfer money (31%), check mobile money balances (18%), check bank balance (11%). The mobile apps were used receive money and communicate as well (table 15).

Table 15: Awareness of Mobile applications and their use

Which mobile application are you aware of ?			How do you use the mobile applications		
Mobile application	Frequency	%	Use of application	Frequency	%
Airtel pay	17	3	Make payments	18	40
Momo pay	15	8	Transfer money	14	31
Mobile banking app	7	3	Check MM balance	8	18
Other	3	1	Check bank Balance	5	11
		7	Other	5	11

Technology is normally embraced by a younger age group, but the findings show that since 2020, more older people are embracing the use of Information communication technology for various uses. COVID also changed the dynamics of how people communicate and transact business leading to more older people embracing technology use.

However, these findings also indicate that very few of the respondents were embracing use of the ICT applications. The reasons given were age, lack of smart phones and lack of knowledge on how to use ICTs. Younger children of the respondents had been trained instead of their parents.

9.0 Assessment against the Evaluation criteria

9.1 Relevance

NVIWODA's mission is to Promote family income at the grassroots level through education. The organization does this by equipping families with entrepreneurship skills and building capacity of the targeted beneficiaries to increase income at household level.

The Food Security project falls under the results area two of the strategic plan 2020-2025, which states that "Adoption and scaling up of sustainable agricultural practices **improved**". The project also had aspects of capacity building and entrepreneurship thereby fitting into the broad goal and objective of NVIWODA.

Through the Project, NVIWODA provided farmers with seeds, farm tools and rainwater harvesting tanks. Trainings provided the rural women farmers with the knowledge that

greatly improved their farming practices, increased their yield and boosted their income level and nutritional status.

9.2 Effectiveness

The activities and outputs were implemented as stipulated in the results framework. Although this was a two-year project, the results show that impact is already being seen in the communities. The results from this assessment show that the outputs were effectively delivered.

During the COVID lock down period, many people were forced to stay home. Farmers were allowed to go their gardens so this is the time that the majority of the farmers applied the knowledge they had acquired through the project.

9.3 Efficiency

Efficiency is considered in terms of the use of resources to manage and deliver the grant to its current status. At the time of the assessment, most of the farmers had received seeds, had constructed water tanks, had multi-storied vegetable gardens and were practicing good agricultural practices. Most of the procurement processes had been implemented according to the procurement procedures and policies of the funding agency.

9.4 Sustainability

The project was designed for sustainability right from inception. In its design, the sustainability model works with families, this means the whole family is involved, mother, father and children. Since farming is the main occupation, the additional knowledge gained from the project is a skill that will enable the farmers to continue farming. Support on good agricultural practices will continue through Gomba district farmers Association and the local extension services in the district. Most farmers were also members of the GODFA.

9.5 Impact

The assessment identified several examples that point towards impact on the families. There was diversification of crops planted. For example many respondents said they were not planting bananas, cassava, beans and vegetables before the project, but had now adopted these crops. Yield had increased and this allowed for surplus to be sold. Income had increased with the sale of various commodities. Households also now had easy access to water with the

construction of the water tanks and wells. The impact is evident as narrated by the majority of the respondents and the pride with which they speak about the project, most of the beneficiaries have bought property and acquired assets.

10. Conclusion and recommendation

Evidence gathered from the assessment shows that all the beneficiaries from three cohorts have continued to apply the knowledge they have gained throughout the years of the project implementation. Farmers who do not have enough land or are farming on their family land have resolved to get their own land, so that they continue to farm and also expand their farming projects.

Children in families have been trained on the new farming techniques especially the multi-storied vegetable gardens and in the making of organic manure. For the ICT trainings, since most of the farmers were of advanced age, the children have been trained so that they can take advantage of technology to help their families to farm better and get market for their products.

Respondents expressed their wish for continuity of the project, and the provision more trainings especially in agriculture and other skills. Since the project only covered a few sub counties, there is a call to expand this project beyond the initial few sub counties and more youth involvement.