

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA
KARAGWE DIOCESE**

NEW LIFE IN KARAGWE

THEME:

**SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURAL
SUPPORT; A NEED FOR THE CHURCH'S PARTICIPATION.**

SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS:

FARMERS AND LOCAL LEADERS

VENUE:

DISTRICT/PARISH H/QS

DATE: NOV/DEC, 2007

SOURCE OF FUNDING: CHURCH OF SWEDEN (COS)

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

The agriculture development project 'New Life Project' started in July 2007. It began with the 10 parishes of Kasheshe, Ihembe, Nyakayanja, Bisheshe, Kandegesho, Kayungu, Mazinga, Nyabiyonza, Kihanga plus Rugela. In 2008 it has expanded to cover 8 Parishes of Kituntu, Lukajange, Kachato, Nyarutuntu, Runyaga, Rukole, Nyabwegira and Rwabwere. The project is funded by the Church of Sweden.

PROJECT CONCEPT

The Project was conceived with a Prime mission of empowering the core poor. It was targeted that some very poor house holds will be assisted to overcome their situation as captured in the following planned objectives.

Project objectives:

- To improve socio-economic conditions of under privileged people by providing extension/ agriculture practical orientation into 880 families out of 89,947 in all seven districts for five years.
- Provide practical farming knowledge and support in form of inputs to the selected 25 farmers in each district per year so as to improve living conditions, nutrition and health.
- To encourage the selected farmers to pass on the acquired farming education to other families within the same Parish or District.
- Participate in promoting balanced and sufficient food Production (food security) through providing agricultural advisory services as well as inputs support.
- To provide Dairy cattle to 7 farmers in each Parish with a view of raising incomes, diet and soil fertility.

The beneficiary selection criteria and guidelines pertaining to the Project include the following:

Project Guidelines:

- The beneficiaries are rural poor women and men from families owning less than 5 acres of land or equivalent assets. It is anticipated that such House holds practice animal husbandry incorporated with crop agriculture. Hence the Project will support or help to increase their income and food Production. Widows and orphaned families are given a high priority.
- The target families are selected from a scattered range of villages within the Diocese so that the rest of the surrounding families can learn from them. The families once selected are given practical training which is conducted by the agriculture Extension worker for both groups and individuals in their fields. Training is provided in sustainable agriculture, homestead gardening and animal zero grazing. For both economic and ecological reasons, use of agro-chemical fertilizers is discouraged. Instead, the use of compost, crop rotation and planting legume crops are emphasized.

- Seminars are conducted as a component of the Agricultural knowledge provision. In addition, group visits to Farm institutes specifically Igabiro Agriculture College is organized for the beneficiaries in groups.
- The project supports peasants by providing them with organic manure, better seeds of bananas, maize, and a female cow for getting milk.
- One assistant Extension worker has been hired and is being assisted by others from the government. The project provides allowances to the Government extension workers against services provided.
- For purposes of continuation, the first calf from the cow which the project gives to the farmer is passed over to another selected beneficiary after it has clocked one year.
- The last pass on of the calves produced in the fifth year will be sold to the other farmers within the project area at half price and the money will be used in Diaconia department to care for orphans or otherwise as will be directed by the donor.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Project is being implemented directly by Karagwe Diocese. The overall Project overseer is the Deputy Secretary for Planning and Development. The Project also has an Extension worker who acts as its manager.

But besides these technical staff, there exist various committees from the Parish level which are charged with different functions related to the Programme. These include the following:

1. Karagwe Diocese Agricultural Support Committee (KADASC).
2. District Agricultural Support Committees (DASC).
3. Parish Agricultural Support Committees (PASC).
4. Congregational Agricultural Support committees (CASC).
5. Lower Level Project Management Committees (LL-PMC).

The specific functions and Composition of these committees are as follows:

1. KARAGWE DIOCESE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE (KADASC).

Composition

1. Diocesan Bishop-Chairperson
2. General secretary-Asst Chairperson
3. District Agricultural Officer-Technical Advisor
4. Area Veterinary worker-member
5. Planning Officer-Secretary

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To make final decisions pertaining to Agricultural Projects being implemented by the Diocese.
2. To advise the local Governments on best ways of improving Agriculture.

3. To mobilize local and foreign resources to be directed towards Agricultural advancement.
4. To advise the Diocesan Policy making organs on matters related to Farmer empowerment within the diocese area of operation.

2. THE DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE (DASC).

Composition

1. District Pastor-Chairperson
2. Church Elder-Female
3. Area Agricultural Officer
4. Area Veterinary Officer.
5. Ward Councilor.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Guide Lower Committees on matters pertaining to the Church agricultural projects.
2. To advise ward Local Governments on how to improve Agriculture.
3. To mobilize local and foreign resources to be directed towards Agricultural advancement.
4. Advise Diocesan Agricultural Support committee on matters pertaining to the Church agricultural projects.

3. PARISH AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE (PASC).

Composition

1. Parish Pastor-Chairperson
2. Church Elder-female
3. Church Elder-Male
4. Area agricultural extension officer/veterinary officer.
5. Parish executive Officer.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Guide the CASC on matters pertaining to the Church agricultural projects.
2. Advise Parish Local Councils on how to improve Agriculture.
3. To mobilize local resources to be directed towards Agricultural advancement.
4. Verify qualifications of farmers forwarded from congregations as beneficiaries for Church Agricultural projects.

4. CONGREGATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE (CASC).

Composition

1. Evangelist-Chairperson
2. Church Elder-Female
3. Church elder-male
4. Chairperson congregational youth committee.
5. Village chairperson

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Select LL-PMC members.

2. Monitor beneficiaries on a routine basis to ensure good care of items received from the project.
3. In case a beneficiary fails to adhere to the project terms, make a decision for discontinuing the farmer from the Project.
4. Advise the Project extension worker/s on issues pertaining to Project management.
5. Advise Village councils on how to improve Agriculture.

5. LOWER LEVEL PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LL-PMC).

Composition

1. Evangelist-Chairperson.
2. One Successful Crop farmer in the Local area (Below 30 years of age)
3. One successful animal farmer from the Local area.
4. One Person from the Village Local council Committee.
5. One Person from the Women groups within the area.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Select Project beneficiaries.
2. Monitor beneficiaries on a routine basis to ensure good care of items received from the project.
3. In case a beneficiary fails to adhere to the project terms, make a decision for discontinuing the farmer from the Project.
4. Advise the Project extension worker/s on issues pertaining to Project management.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS REACHED UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The project has managed to register the following in line with the set objectives:

1. Has so far distributed 100 cows to farmers in phases.
2. 4 of these cows have already got calves.
3. Approximately 69 trips of manure have been supplied to farmers and given demonstrations on how to apply it in their gardens.
4. An extension worker was recruited and continues to provide Agricultural advisory services to farmers.
5. The project also managed to procure two brand new motorcycles for staff transport.

SETBACKS TO THE PROJECT

1. The reproduction rate of 4% for the animals is dismal. We expected the first batch of 50 calves supplied in July last year to be milking by now. The lack of bulls within the proximity of our farmers is so far blamed as the biggest contributor to this inconsistent performance.
2. The project objective of supplying manure to farmers for demonstration and soil improvement has been made complicated by the swelling cost for deliveries.

- Originally, the Project had banked on the Diocese Lorry for supplies at reasonable prices which unfortunately crushed.
3. The animal mortality rate of 5 out of the 100 animals is unacceptable. We are of course aware of the low income levels of our beneficiaries that render treatment of sick animals cumbersome. However, we see urgency in devising exit routes for this bedrock we seem to have currently hit.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT

1. Concerning the issue of animal fertilization, we recommend that farmers learn to seek artificial insemination services. We are preparing to supply a few bulls under the Project but we feel this natural means of animal breeding is soon becoming obsolete. The earlier you caught up with the artificial method, the better.
2. We have also come up with a requirement for all our beneficiaries that you form small credit groups of 10 persons with a view of saving collectively to meet treatment costs when they occur. We are not giving guidelines on how the groups should operate. We expect you to come up with your own rules to guide your small credit schemes. Of course ensure that while forming the groups, you select leaders. Once the schemes begin operating, ensure that your coffers have reasonable savings to fall to when you have a sick animal. Our extension worker will follow up this mechanism in liaison with the CASCs.
3. The project is also laboring to equip the beneficiaries with best methods of animal husbandry and farming through the extension workers. We urge the recipients to put this knowledge into practice.

Presented by Rev. George Choby

**AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT EVALUATION
QUESTIONNAIRE**

(TICK WHERE APPLICABLE)

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Name of your village

B. CALVE SUPPLY

2. What Problems do you face in regard to the cow?

- i) Animal diseases/Expensive treatment ()
- ii) Obtaining feeds/grass ()
- iii) Fertilizing the animal ()
- iv) Any other Problems (Please specify).....

3. What are the possible solutions to these problems?

- i) Group savings ()
- ii) Planting grass in fields. ()
- iii) Seeking artificial insemination services ()
- iv) Any other solutions (Please specify).....

C. SUPPLY OF MANURE

4. Have you realized any benefit from the manure supplied to you under the Project?

- i) Yes ()
- ii) No ()
- iii) Not applicable

5. In case of (i) above, please list the benefits

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D. AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

6. How often do you receive the Project extension workers in your area/home?

- i) Once in a fortnight ()
- ii) Once a month ()
- iii) Once in two months ()
- iv) Beyond two months ()

7. What kind of advisory Knowledge do you receive from the extension worker?

- i) Good animal husbandry ()
- ii) Best methods of banana cultivation ()
- iii) Market opportunities for farm products ()

iv) Any other (Please specify).....

8. What in your view should the extension workers do that is not being done presently?.....
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E. SEMINAR TRAININGS

9. What areas do you think should be covered during the seminars or group visits.

- i) Project management. ()
- ii) Working in groups (Group dynamics) ()
- iii) Animal husbandry techniques. ()
- iv) First aid treatment for cows. ()
- v) Cultivation of banana. ()
- vi) Any other (Please specify).....
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F. OTHER

10. What general ideas do you have for the improvement of the Project operations?.....
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THANK YOU FOR COOPERATION!