



Farmers in Nankoma ACE listen carefully as they are being sensitized on how to access the MUIIS agro- input loan.

## EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN LEADERS AT FARMER GROUPS LEVEL

One of the key implementation objectives of the MUIIS business is to build the capacity of leaders within the Area Cooperative Enterprises (ACEs) and District Farmer Associations (DFAs) that are registered with UCA and UNFFE – MUIIS project partners.

Institutional development is strongly linked to leadership skills development among men and women. MUIIS has been focusing on this critical intervention of empowering leaders from ACEs and DFAs while encouraging women to take up leadership positions within their institutions. As positive role models within their associations, they are able to attract more females and youth to participate at these levels. MUIIS considers leadership skills development as one key factor that contributes to the social and economic development of Uganda. As a result of the different trainings conducted in the current participating FBOs below is the summary of leadership within ACEs and DFAs.

NAME OF THE INSTITUTION	MALE	FEMALE	YOUTHS	LEADER
Mt Rwenzori	5	3	1	female
Rugendabara	9	1	0	
Stride SACCO	5	4	2	f/m
Kasese DFA	6	4	1	male
Luwero DFA	9	2	1	male
ZAABTA	8	1	1	female
Mukono DFA	6	5	1	female
Mayuge DFA	5	4	1	female
Sabinyi ACE	5	4	2	m/f
Baitambogwe SACCO	7	2	2	female
Iganga DFA	7	4	2	m/f
Budaka DFA	6	4	1	female
Nankoma ACE	5	2	1	female
Namungalwe ACE	5	2	2	male
Bugiri DFA	4	4	1	female
Bunambutye ACE	6	3	2	m/ f
Sebei Farmers SACCO	7	1	1	female

# GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UGANDAN YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE



*Annet Mugula briefing the network of MSAs she is working with about profiling.*

The national **unemployment rate** in Uganda is at **3.2%** and for the youth, it stands at 22.3%. According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2014), **64% of the total unemployed persons in the country are youth.**

Uganda is a predominantly an agrarian country yet the biggest section of the population is not substantially active in agriculture. Where they are active, it is more of subsistence than commercial production for improved incomes and livelihoods. A number of measures to improve agricultural production are in place but short of a specific youth focus which leads to an unguided and unstructured youth involvement. Although a lot of work has been done regarding support of youth by a number of stakeholders in Uganda, close to 78% of young people in the age bracket of 18 - 30 years are out of work. According to Kayinza, 2015, Uganda is ranked second to Niger as one of the countries in the world with the youngest population of dependents.

While as a country we still have a favorable climate for agricultural

production in most parts of the country, the incentives for youth to meaningfully participate in the sector have been minimal. Today many young people prefer to migrate and live in the urban areas as opposed to staying in the village and make use of their land. Some have even sold land to undertake small businesses in the urban centers like boda-bodas, road side kiosks, taxi drivers among others.

The MUIIS business has contributed to creating job opportunities for Ugandan youth through profiling of farmers. Ann Mugula, one of the best performing MSAs on the project works for Budaka District Farmers' Association. Since inception of the MUIIS business, she has been consistently profiling farmers and as a result has created a network of individuals who are earning a remuneration for the work done.

“I thank the MUIIS project changing my life; in that my farming techniques have greatly improved, after I acquired knowledge on how to handle pests and use fertilizers to improve the yield of my crop. I have been able to use part of my salary to hire more MSAs to work with and have created employment for the youth in my community. I have also been able to hire land for farming, take care of my family and i pray that I keep working hard and become the best agro-input dealer in Uganda. Through profiling, I have been able to open up an agro-input shop to support farmers in Budaka to access first class quality inputs from a well-recognized supplier.”

**ANN MUGULA**

“Without MUIIS project I don't know what my life would be now! Through profiling farmers for the project, I have acquired a saloon, hired 2 acres of land for farming and several farmers including myself have gained access to information on modern methods of farming. All the debts I had before have been cleared and I intend to buy a plot and construct a nursery and primary school for the benefit of my community in the future.”

**TAZENYA INNOCENT 23,  
BUDAKA DISTRICT**

## PARTNER PROFILE

# THE UGANDA COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE LIMITED (UCA)

The Uganda Cooperative Alliance Limited (UCA) was formed in 1961 as the umbrella organization of cooperatives in Uganda. The main purpose for its formation was to carry out advocacy, promote and build the capacities of all types of co-operatives in the country by providing education, training and mobilization of resources for the development of the co-operatives.

The members of UCA include:- Primary Cooperative Societies (PS), Area Cooperative Enterprises (ACEs), local and national Cooperative Unions and Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs). Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) collaborates with a number of development partners both at national and international levels. As a partner in development and in line with her mandate,

Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) currently provides a range of services to its members, which are categorized into two:

- a) Lobbying and advocacy
- b) Institutional capacity building for cooperatives at institutional and cooperative member levels, covering agricultural production, value addition, marketing, financial services, formation of new types of cooperatives in Uganda.

UCA has with the support of its development partners been implementing programs designed to revive and promote the growth of the co-operative movement in Uganda. In this effort, UCA started its partnership with the MUIIS project supported by CTA and other key implementing partners to promote the use of ICT in agriculture by working with ACEs whose role is to profile farmers onto the MUIIS platform, to enable them receive agronomic tips, insurance, weather tips and financial services. Through its mandate of lobby and advocacy, UCA has been able to revive cooperatives in Uganda and over 18,000 cooperatives have so far been legally registered by the Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives of which 250 are members of UCA.



*UCA in partnership with VECCO supported the construction of the bulking centre at Kameke ACEs in pallisa district.*



Farmers in ZAABTA pause for a group photo after being compensated through their mobile phones.

## MUIIS COMPENSATION

MUIIS information service infrastructure was built to manage knowledge and operations for MUIIS, including modelling the weather and crop data to provide alerts and agro-tips delivered to farmers over SMS. The drought index insurance services is provided by EARS (Netherlands) working closely with National Agricultural Insurance Consortium (NAIC). The insurance is satellite based, and protects farmers in cases of severe drought and dry-spells during crop production seasons. Currently the project is working with the ACEs and DFAs who are members of UCA / UNFFE, to ensure farmers access crop insurance where by farmers first subscribe for the MUIIS service bundle in order to access services of which Insurance is among the key products.

In the year 2017 season two, a total of 379 farmers subscribed for the MUIIS service bundle which includes **Weather Alerts, Crop Agronomic messages, Crop Insurance against drought/dry-spell and Market information and trend analysis**. Subscription was done through farmers' mobile phones via USSD code \*284\*10# and the cost of the service bundle was at 14000 UGX. Compensation of the farmer therefore is done by EARS a partner on the MUIIS project who work closely with the farmers' farm geo-coordinates to monitor the crop losses across the season. Compensation is based on the calculations of the total crop losses. Below is a summary of farmers who were compensated for season two 2017.

NAME OF FO	REGION	NUMBER OF FARMERS
KAYUNGA DFA	Central	3
Luwero ZAABTA	Central	105
Lwengo Kasambya	Central	43
Mukono DFA	Central	28
Lira	Northern	5
Kole	Northern	4
Apac	Northern	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>192</b>

## MUIIS BUSINESS LOAN RECOVERY UPDATE

MUIIS is currently transitioning from project into a Business to be run by both UNFFE and UCA and as the business wing picks up, MUIIS is collaborating with Rabobank Foundation to offer season-based Agricultural Input Loan as an additional product to farmers who access the loan and subscribe to MUIIS bundle services. The loan component has been integrated into MUIIS bundled service products. Farmers apply for and receive through their respective FBOs and repay at end of every season. During the first season of the year 2018, four SACCOs were mapped out and accessed the loan through use of MOBIS software. As the season comes to the end all farmers who accessed the loan are in the process of re paying the loan. In the month of May UCA together with UNFFE organized a meeting targeting leaders of ACEs, DFAs and SACCOs to strategize on loan recovery plans. A total of 137m has so far been recovered from the different SACCOs and it's expected that by the end of July all the 1billion UGX disbursed should be fully recovered and farmers are prepared to access more credit for season two.

**137M UGX  
RECOVERED  
TO DATE**

