



NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

ON

ICT and Agriculture in Northern Uganda

Background

The Northern region is one of the four regions in Uganda. As of 2010, the region contains 30 districts including Apac and Kole.

Apac became a district in 1974 carved out of the then Lango district. Oyam and Kole districts were carved out of Apac in July 2006 and 2010 respectively; essentially to enhance service delivery to the community.

Apac and Kole district is located in Northern Uganda, approximately 250 km (direct) from Kampala. It lies between longitudes 32 ° E and 34 ° E and latitudes 2 ° N and 3 ° N. It is bordered by the districts of Kole in the North, Dokolo in the East, Masindi in the West and Amolatar district in the South through Lakes Kwanja and Kyoga respectively. The district covers a total area of 2847 km² of which 11% is under open water while 15% is under forests leaving 76% for human settlement. Arable land covers 1,800 km².

The district approximately has a total of 339,647 according to the socio-economic and demographic data as at March 2015; of the total population, males are 166,870 and females are 172,777.

Meanwhile Kole district was formed in July 2010, prior to then, it was part of Apac district. The district is bordered by Lira district to the East, Apac to the South and Oyam district to the West and North. It lies between coordinates of 02° N and 24° N and 3° E and 48° E and the district covers a total area of 1,073.8 km². It has approximately 241,878 as of 2014 national census.

The major economic activity in the two target districts is agricultural production and other minor activities include fishing, trade and agro processing.

Introduction

The needs assessment on ICT and agriculture among local farmers was carried out in Apac and Kole districts in Northern Uganda in the first week of April (8th and 9th) 2015. The assessment targeted four farmers groups originally formed under Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) by CTA funded project "Enhancing Access to Agricultural Information". These particular groups were identified and targeted for the needs assessment since they had experience about the use of ICTs to access agricultural information, secondly, the assessment further understand some of the challenges farmers face in their various farming activities and how ICTs can be used in a more simplified way to address such challenges. The total number of interviewees were 47 farmers including 36 females and 11 males. The questionnaires focused on: Q1. Basic information on agriculture, Q2. Methods of information access, Q3. Challenges and suggestions, and Q4. Gender issues associated with agriculture. Based on the

questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions were held with each of the farmers groups.

	Group 1 	Group 2 	Group 3 	Group 4 
Farmer's group	Bed Igen women's group	Apur Pire Tek Farmer's Group	Acan Pe Kun Women's Group	Orib Cing Farming Group
District	Apac	Apac	Kole	Kole
Sub-County	Maruzi, Apac	Maruzi, Apac	Bala	Bala
Village	Owang Central	Upper Center	Angic	Aumi 9
Members	30members (F-24 and M-6)	30 members (F-20 and M-10)	30 members (F-25 and M-5)	30 members (F-20 and M-10)
Group members interviewed	Female-9 Men-0	Female-9 Men-4	Female-9 Men-3	Female-9 Men-4
Agricultural Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize, • Sunflower • Simsim, • Beans, • Sorghum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize • Sunflower • Simsim • Cassava, • Soya, • Beans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize • Sunflower • Simsim • Bean • Cassava • Soya • Groundnut • Peas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize • Sunflower, • Simsim • Sorghum, • Bean, • Soya, • Peas, • Groundnut • Millet, • Rice, • among others

1. Basic information on Agriculture

This section of question aimed at asking how farmers access agricultural information and what kind of agricultural information they need. Several issues were considered under this aspect.

1.1 Agricultural Inputs:

About the information where they can buy agricultural inputs, most of them can access agricultural inputs in town or other places. However the quality of inputs especially seeds are of poor quality. They have less access on the quality of inputs.

1.2 Market Price:

Regarding the information on market prices of their crops, this information is got through radio but not on a regular basis; hence such information cannot help them since most farmers have only two ways to sell such as in the nearby markets or through middlemen who come to the community. Therefore, the market price is predetermined by the middlemen and farmers have no say due to the limited access to the market; except through collective marketing where their bargaining power can be increased. The quality of the produce also is always poor, thus fetching them less price than the good quality products.

1.3 Transportation of Agricultural Products:

Farmers do not have transportation for their agricultural products to other markets in long distances. Farmers produce more than what the local markets can buy, such that middlemen offer them lower prices because there is too much produce in the local market. These middle men have information on the market prices of products, they have no way to sell at the proper price, since they include the transport costs as they set the prices.

1.4 Information on Weather Forecasts:

Regarding the issue on information on weather forecasts including extreme weather patterns such as drought, flood, and landslide etc, as well as the information on how to cope with weather, disease and pest control, most of groups get such information through local radio or visit KIC (Kubere Information Center) office as WOUGNET members. One of groups Apur Pire Tek Farmer's Group said that extension officers usually visit them and their community to give them technical advice.

1.5 Challenges:

A lot of information is however needed by farmers regarding the agricultural production and value chain development, namely:-

1. Value addition skills
2. Regular market price update
3. Market information and marketing skills
4. Agro chemical products
5. New varieties (drought resistant and high yielding varieties)
6. Fertilizer usage

7. Weed control and herbicide application
8. Good quality seeds
9. Better farming tools such as ox-plough, oxen
10. Better storage facilities

The main information that farmers want to get is regular market prices, and other information is on where to access cheap quality agricultural inputs and quality production techniques. However, one of the findings is that even if they have access to information on the access to good quality seeds, they might not be able to purchase them, due to high cost. Even if they can purchase fertilisers, they have no knowledge how to effectively apply them. Thus, only information/knowledge do not help them without money for purchasing. They need enough income to purchase materials and knowledge how to use it.

Consequently, most of them get necessary information through radio, but listening to the radio is a passive way and yet the time for callers asking questions is limited, this leaves farmers with many unanswered questions. Thus, it is difficult for them to access timely information or advice that they really need 'immediately', for example, in the case of disease or some specific situation. Though they have information on how to access good quality of seeds, agricultural tools, and storage facilities, most of them cannot afford to buy them which keeps them in producing limited yields and poor quality products.

1.6 Findings that Farmers Struggle on:

- Low quality of input
- Lack of money to purchase good quality inputs
- Low price of products
- Lack of transportation
- No access to timely information and advice when they need
- Lack of technical knowledge in agriculture
- Low income

2. Methods of information access

This question was aimed at investigating how farmers usually get information and which tools they want to use.

2.1 Sources of Information:

Majority of them own a radio and they listen to the radio daily in their homes. So, the main source of information is radio. Accessing and using other sources such as personal computer, internet, and TV are almost impossible since no farmer owns them. It was also clear that almost all the farmers interviewed do not know how to use the sources. Other sources to get information are through group meeting or their neighbours who know better.

2.2. Extention Workers:

Regarding extention work, extension workers are empoloyed in every district and at sub-county level. However, only one of the farmers groups, Apur Pire Tek Garmer's Group said extention workers usually visit their community, but others said they have rarely seen them or never seen them.

2.3 Reading Materials:

The reading materials such as newspaper, magazine, and books are not common, since majority of them are illiterate and can only understand their local language. However, a few of them (7 out of 47 farmers) can read and write and a few literate farmers said they visit KIC office to borrow books.

2.4 Usage of IT e.g. Mobile Phones:

Regarding Mobile phones, some of the farmers own phones in their households. However, most of women farmers mentioned that they cannot access mobile phone since their husband dominate it and they need their husbands' permission to use it. Regardless of their husband dominating, majority of the women testified that they do not even know how to use mobile phones, especially SMS. In this view, it is difficulut to provide information by SMS to individual; but it is possible for each farmer group to share information through SMS in a particular way and on particular issues. For example, when a farmers group representative receives SMS (Short Messages), this person can disseminate information among other group members.

In this case, there should be one literate representative who has amobile phone and knows how to use it. Otherways, the ICT training can be conducted for them.

2.5 Findings:

- Main source of inforamtion is Radio
- SMS of mobile phone is possible to share information though group representative

- High illiteracy rate is obstacle to provide them reading materials.

3.Challenges and Suggestion

This question is to find out the main challenges that farmers are facing during their farming practice and to figure out their needs in their farming practice.

3.1 Lack of Information:

Lack of information is one of their challenges. The information they need is about weather and climate change and how to access timely good quality seed and inputs.

3.2 Lack of Skills and Techniques:

Regarding agricultural skills and techniques, they have lack of knowledge and skills on value addition and agronomic practices; such as pest and disease management, farm planning, enterprise selection. In addition, the poor farming (rudimentary) tools such as hand hoes cause a limited production and its time wasting.

3.3 Lack of Access to Market:

Limited access to markets is another challenge. The market they can access is limited and markets normally offer low prices. The middle men who visit their communities offer them much lower prices than markets. Even if there are more markets within their localities, it is difficult for them to reach various markets because of poor road network and high costs of transportation. Timely access to the market is also another challenge since they cannot keep their products due to the lack of storage facilities.

3.4 Lack of Access to Enough Credit:

Apart from accessing small moneys from their borrowing groups. This affects the level of expanding the production area, hence perpetual low yields.

3.5 Water Shortage:

Water shortage is another challenge. One of farmers group, Acan Pe Kun Women's Group said they do not have a serious water problem, but others said the irrigation is really challenging to them, since it's another task added to what they have to do throughout the value chain.

3.6 Any Change they want to see:

Finally most farmers mentioned what they want to see change from the current farming practices is to expand their yield to use better farming tools such as ox-plough and good quality seeds, apply value addition skills, and access timely to the market with better price, and keep good storage facilities. One of farmers' groups, Orib Cing Farming group suggested to form a market network to strengthen their bargaining power in their local communities.

3.7 Findings:

- No access good quality of seeds and inputs
- Untimely information on weather and climate change
- Lack of skills and knowledge in value addition and good agronomic practices
- Lack of modern farming tools
- Limited access to markets
- Shortage of water
- Lack of storage facilities

4. Gender Issues

The final question aimed at finding out how gender issues affect their farming practices. Based on the question 'what do you understand by gender?' most farmers' groups answered their view of gender is to work together and make decision jointly.

4.1 Power relations of Ownership and Control of Resources:

Most of the interviewed farmers said they received the gender workshop by government, which indicates the gender advocacy by government seems to reach to the local communities. However, in spite of their understanding, All farmers' groups noted that women do more tasks during farming work than men in their households. However, according to the decision making of how to use farm inputs, land, fertilizer, seeds, and pesticides etc, male and female make a decision, but in most cases men have more power to control finances to be spent. Regarding the decision making of marketing, most farmers' groups except Apur Pire Tek Farmer's Group, answered that men dominated and women have no idea how much their husbands got from the sale of their produce.

4.2 Gender Inequality in their livelihood:

Two farmers' groups, Apur Pire Tek Farmer's Group and Bed Lgen Women's Group answered defined it as an imbalance between men and women in decision making. On the other hand, other two groups, Acan Pe Kun Women's Group and Orib Cing

Farmering Grup said they have no idea on gender inequality. After explanation of gender inequality, all farmers groups repoded the gender inequality affect their livelihoods and are a cause of domestic violence against women dominated by fighting and beating, violation of women's rights (no w omen's participation of decision making), and high rate of separation and divorce.

4.3 Gender Inequality in Community Agriculture:

It was noted that gender inequality affect their agricultural production in their communities. It was clearly discusssed by farmers that inequalities reduce women's ability to put more effort in doing their farmer activities. This eventually leads to reduced and low production levels, misusing household produce since women do not participate in decision making and no reflection of women's opinion and ideas. Majority of the group members interviewed mentioned the issue of motivation to the participants in agricultural production. Since most farming works are done by women, paricipating, decision making and listening women's needs, idea and opinion would lead to enhanced production, thus increasing household incomes.

4.4 Gender Ineqality Adrressing in Communities:

The ways community addresses gender inequalities in agriculture, is through engaging all family members is family meeting; where inequalities (violence) are not solved, then group members should be called in, mild cases of inequality are handled by ealders through clan meetings, reporting to the office of the Local Council I, involving religious leaders and if the matter is not beyond family meeting, clan and religious leaders or other means, the case is referred to the police. Otherways of sensitization are music, drama, and dance. On the question of how they want to address gender inequality, they answered that both men and women should be involved and work together in any agricultural practice, encourage men to listen to women, sensitize local by local leaders including gender focal person, police, and Community Development Officer. In addition, they mentioned that they want to use ICTs such as radio and SMS, and poster to advocate for gender equality.

4.4 Findings

- Knowledge of terms of 'gender equality'
- Lack of awareness of 'gender inequality'
- Women do more farming work than men
- Men make most decisions and do marketing without infoming the income of products to their wives

- Women want to join decision making as an encouragement and motivation
- Farmers want support to raise community awareness on gender equality; and promote joint decision making for both men and women; and using ICTs and posters in addressing gender equality.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Most farmers groups commonly listen to the radio to get agricultural information, but hardly gain additional information and timely advice through the radio. Another possible tool to provide them information is using mobile phone and SMS by selecting one representative who own mobile phone and who are literate, so that each representative can disseminate information to other group members.

According to the market price, They have no choice to set a price or they only choice that farmers have to decide prices for their products is through collective bulking (having many farmers pool together their produce and market jointly) due to limited access to markets and minimizing the level of being cheated by middle men who offer lower price. Thus not only informing the regular updated market price, but also being connected to more markets and raising their bargaining power to sell products at better price are important.

There are many other challenges such as lack of technical knowledge, use of rudimentary farming tools, poor quality of inputs such as seeds, shortage of storage facilities, and water shortage. However, many of these challenges can be solved by providing proper and timely information, connecting to markets, and providing technical agronomic skills. They should learn how to expand their products and make them better quality in order to sell them at a proper price. Once they increase their income, they can purchase better agricultural inputs and build and/or rent better storage facilities.

Gender inequality is common d in the communities. Most women cannot participate in decision making in their household and communities, which demotivates women from further participating in agricultural production and thus reduced levels of production. Exposing farmers to living under better gender relations will help to increase amount and quality of yields, increase in incomes and better quality of life.

The communities are aware about the role of ICTs in promoting agriculture. However, their usage is slowed down by limited ICTs tools in the community and limited skills to

operate such tools. Training farmers and supporting them with such tools such as mobile phone, group radio and initiating community/farmers computer centre will help to develop capacity and the skills of the farmers to use various ICTs effectively and efficiently to source for agricultural information and boost their production and income.

Lastly, the assessment found out that most farmers have a strong aspiration to learn and increase their production levels. Thus, by giving them chance to access input, technical skills, connect to better markets, and provide timely advice have a potential to increase farmers' household incomes and create better quality of life.

APPENDIX

Group1: Assessment for ICT and Agriculture

Name of District	Apac	
Name of County and Sub-County	Maruzi, Apac Sub-County	
Name of village	Owang Central	
Name of Farmer's group	Bed Igen Women's Group	
Number of participants	F - 9 M - 0 (Has 30 members from 30 households – 24 females and 6 males)	
Information (crops, weather, markets etc)	Maize, sunflower, simsim, beans, sorghum	
	Data	Description and Challenges
Q1. Basic Agricultural information		
Do you have access to information about		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where to buy agricultural inputs (fertilizer, improved seeds, etc)? 	Have access – buy from agro input agent in Apac town	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The prices of the crops produced in nearby markets (e.g price of maize in Gulu district which is one of the main markets near those districts)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nearby market is Apac Auction. Other source of market used by farmers includes produce stores in Apac town and middle men who buys from farmers direct. • Middle men give low price. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up-to-date weather forecasts and warning about extreme weather (drought, flood, landslide, etc)? 	Have access – through radio	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to cope with weather and disease? 	Have access – through radio, agricultural extension officers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pest control? 	Have access – through radio talk show, visit to KIC office	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Others? 		
What other agricultural information do you need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value addition skills • Good quality and high yielding seeds • Regular market update 	
Question2: Methods of information access		
How do you get the information?		

▪ Mobile Phone	Yes, majority has phone but don't know how use SMS
▪ PC	No
▪ Internet	No
▪ TV	No
▪ Local Radio	Majority listen to radio and all have radio in their homes
▪ Newspapers	No, majority don't know how to read and write (3 members at the meeting confirm that they can read and write)
▪ Your groups, friends, relatives	Yes, through group meetings and consulting fellow farmers with more experience and who have excel through farming
▪ Agricultural extension workers	No, but they are aware about their existence at the Sub-County and district.
▪ Others - KIC	Visiting KIC office for consultation and farming advice
How do you want to get the information which you don't have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using mobile phone • Regular visit to the group • Radio talk show
Question3: Challenges and suggestion	
What are the main challenges to your farming practices?	
▪ Lack of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of quality seeds – the one they buy from the agro input agent are of poor quality. • Weather focus and update
▪ Lack of skills and techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills in vale addition • Rudimentary tools such as hand hoes • Basic skill in various agronomic practices
▪ Access to Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No market • Low price given to famers • Limited access to market couple with limited knowledge about the existing markets and price offered
▪ Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water shortage in the area • No skills in planning and enterprise selection • No micro finance willing to support small holders farmers with capital in form of soft loan to boost

	production and expansion
What do you want to see change from the way you make your farming activities?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modern farming methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved yield – say from 5 bags to 10 bags • Adapt value addition • Use of time saving tools like ox-plough, tractors among others • Put up better storage facility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely access to market • Produce what has ready market • Form network or market team to strengthen our bargaining power.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Others 	
Question4: Gender issue	
What do you understand by gender?	Relationship between men and women in decision making
What is the gender of the person(s) doing most of the farming work in your household?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Male 2. Female; but men do engage in doing farming activities. 3. Male and Female Equally
What is the gender of the person who makes most decisions on how to use farm inputs like land, fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, etc?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Male 2. Female 3. Male and Female equally; though men have more power and sometime their decision are final.
What is the gender of the person who makes most decisions about the marketing?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Male; in some family, a woman is not even supposed to know how much they got from the sales of their produce. 2. Female 3. Male and Female Equally
What do you understand by gender inequality?	Imbalances between men and women in decision making
Does gender inequality affect your	Yes

livelihood?	No
How does gender inequality affect your livelihood?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violate women's right e. g beating • Slow women participation in decision making since her views are not considered important • Compromised the health of a woman for instance if the inequality ended in a fight and beating • May cause divorce and separation
How does gender inequality affect agriculture in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little involvement of women in decision making regarding agricultural activities • Reduce production cause a woman may decide to put less effort since she is not seen as someone important and decision is not taken into account
How have you; or the community addressed gender inequality in agriculture?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clan meeting • Religious leaders • LC I court • Police if the case is beyond local leaders
How would you want gender inequality agriculture to be addressed in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving both men and women to work together in any agricultural program. • Encouraging men to listen to their wife through community awareness program

Group2: Assessment for ICT and Agriculture

Name of District	Apac
Name of County and Sub-County	Maruzi, Apac
Name of village	Upper Center
Name of Farmer's group	Apur Pire Tek Farmer's Group
Number of participants	F - 9 M - 4 (The group has 30 members from 30 households – 20 females and 10 males)
Information (crops, weather, markets etc)	Maize, sunflower, simsim, cassava, soya, beans
Data	Description and Challenges
Q1. Basic Agricultural information	
Do you have access to information about	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where to buy agricultural inputs (fertilizer, improved seeds, etc)? 	<p>Have access to agricultural inputs. They buy from Apac town. However, they said the quality especially seeds are not very good</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The prices of the crops produced in nearby markets (e.g price of maize in Gulu district which is one of the main markets near those districts)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell to produce store in Apac town and to middle men who usually go up to the community. • Members noted that produce store offer relatively higher price than middle men.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up-to-date weather forecasts and warning about extreme weather (drought, flood, landslide, etc)? 	<p>No access</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to cope with weather and disease? 	<p>Yes, agricultural extension officers usually visit the group and their community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pest control? 	<p>Yes, through agricultural extension officer, visit to KIC office and agricultural radio talk shows on radio Apac.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Others? 	
<p>What other agricultural information do you need?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better farming tools such as ox-plough, oxen • Better storage facilities • Value addition • Market prices
<p>Question2: Methods of information access How do you get the information?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile Phone 	<p>Yes, use it to search for market from fellow farmers and produce dealers (only 6 members are without cell phone)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PC 	<p>No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internet 	<p>No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TV 	<p>No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Radio 	<p>Yes – their main source of information and majority/all members have radio at home</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newspapers 	<p>Some – 4 members by borrowing agricultural books from KIC office</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your groups, friends, relatives 	<p>Through group meeting and consulting a friend with more experience.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agricultural extension workers 	<p>Yes, either by visiting the community or community</p>

	consulting them by going to their office.
▪ Others (agricultural books)	From KIC office
How do you want to get the information which you don't have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone calls and use of SMS • Visiting the group
Question3: Challenges and suggestion	
What are the main challenges to your farming practices?	
▪ Lack of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Untimely information regarding weather • Access to good quality seeds
▪ Lack of skills and techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited/no value addition skill • Use of rudimentary tools e. g hand hoes
▪ Access to Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low price offered to the farmers • Limited access to market • Limited update on the various market prices
▪ Others	
What do you want to see change from the way you make your farming activities?	
▪ Modern farming methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in outputs – majority get between 5 to 10 bags but they want to get more like 20bags and above. • Application of value addition skills • Specialize in the production of either one or two types of crops especially maize and sunflower.
▪ Access to market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely access to market • Better storage facilities • Ready market for what we are producing through initiating collaboration with farms and companies ready to buy from us. • More income from the sales of produce
▪ Others	
Question4: Gender issue	
What do you understand by gender?	Men and women working together
What is the gender of the person(s) doing most of the farming work in your household?	<p>4. Male</p> <p>5. Female; men are engage in other job in town</p> <p>6. Male and Female Equally</p>
What is the gender of the person who makes	4. Male

most decisions on how to use farm inputs like land, fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, etc?	5. Female 6. Male and Female equally but men have more power when deciding farm inputs.
What is the gender of the person who makes most decisions about the marketing?	4. Male 5. Female 6. Male and Female Equally
What do you understand by gender inequality?	Imbalance between men and women especially when it comes to decision making.
Does gender inequality affect your livelihood?	Yes No
How does gender inequality affect your livelihood?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage women from participating in decision making • It violate women's rights
How does gender inequality affect agriculture in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage women to put more effort in doing farming activities • Misuse of household produce due to unequal decision making
How have you; or the community addressed gender inequality in agriculture?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music, drama and dance • Home-to-home visit to affected family • Reporting the matter to LC I office • Involving clan leaders
How would you want gender inequality agriculture to be addressed in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use ICT to create awareness – short text on gender inequality and should be in local language. • Use poster to create awareness • Radio talk • Involving both men and women in any program and project.

Group3: Assessment for ICT and Agriculture

Name of District	Kole
Name of County and Sub-County	Kole, Bala Sub-County
Name of village	Angic
Name of Farmer's group	Acan Pe Kun Women's Group
Number of participants	F - 9 (However, the group in total has 30 members)

	i.e. 25 females M - 3 and 5 males)
Information (crops, weather, markets etc)	Bean, Soya, Maize, Sunflower, Cassava, Simsim, Groundnut, peas. Regarding water, the group made mention that they do not have serious water problem in their area.
Data	Description and Challenges
Q1. Basic Agricultural information	
Do you have access to information about	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where to buy agricultural inputs (fertilizer, improved seeds, etc)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Majority noted that they do not know where to get or buy agricultural inputs – 8; while only 4 confirm that they know or have information on where to buy agricultural inputs. The 8 who said that do not know mention that for them they buy agricultural inputs especially seeds from produce store.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The prices of the crops produced in nearby markets (e.g price of maize in Gulu district which is one of the main markets near those districts)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding market, members reported that the nearby market is Lira but it's also hard for them to access due to lack of transport and limited production to meet the demand of the buyer/market. As a result, majority sell to the produce store operating at their trading centre and the meddle men in the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up-to-date weather forecasts and warning about extreme weather (drought, flood, landslide, etc)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They get these information/updates from the radio.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to cope with weather and disease? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the group has no update on this. Neither do they see any agricultural extension officer in their community to inform them about coping mechanism regarding weather and disease.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pest control? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group reported that they are applying the skill and knowledge given to them in past by KIC to identify and control diseases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Others? 	
What other agricultural information do you need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeds • Agro chemical • Value addition • Marketing, market and market price update

Question2: Methods of information access	
How do you get the information?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile Phone 	Majority do not know how to use cell phones to access information. Majority does not know how to use SMS application, and few own and have access to cell phones.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PC 	No, none have PC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internet 	No, no internet knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TV 	No, they all don't have TV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Radio 	Yes – majority listen to radio and they all have radio at their home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newspapers 	No – majority do not read and write (illiteracy level is high among the members)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your groups, friends, relatives 	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agricultural extension workers 	No, but they are aware about the existence of them in every Sub-Counties.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Others 	
How do you want to get the information which you don't have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face –to-face meeting with the farmers • Cell phones including SMS application when they are trained on how to use the service • Print materials like posters, brochures, newsletters and books in local language.
Question3: Challenges and suggestion	
What are the main challenges to your farming practices?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular update on Climate change/weather • Limited market and market price update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of skills and techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited skills in Value addition • Poor farming tools – majority use hand hoe • Limited skills in various agronomic practices such as pest and disease management, farm planning, enterprise selection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to Market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential buyers • Poor/no storage facilities to motivate farmers to store their produce and wait to sell when the price is stable.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor road network limiting farmers to access various markets within their locality. • Low prices offered by middle men who are the main interplay in the community.
▪ Others	
What do you want to see change from the way you make your farming activities?	
▪ Modern farming methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of time saving farming tools like ox-plough • Easy access to quality seeds
▪ Access to market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ready market for farmers • Good price given to farmers
▪ Others	
Question4: Gender issue	
What do you understand by gender?	This group noted that gender means women and men are equal and should be treated equally
What is the gender of the person(s) doing most of the farming work in your household?	<p>7. Male</p> <p>8. Female</p> <p>9. Male and Female Equally. However, women does more farming work compare to their counterpart men.</p>
What is the gender of the person who makes most decisions on how to use farm inputs like land, fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, etc?	<p>7. Male – The group noted that women’s opinion regarding farm inputs are limited and its usually men who decide and women implement even when they are not contented with the decision.</p> <p>8. Female</p> <p>9. Male and Female Equally</p>
What is the gender of the person who makes most decisions about the marketing?	<p>7. Male</p> <p>8. Female</p> <p>9. Male and Female Equally</p>
What do you understand by gender inequality?	Majority had no idea about gender inequality
Does gender inequality affect your livelihood?	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>

How does gender inequality affect your livelihood?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It compromise women’s participation in decision making both at household and community levels. • It violate women’s right like right to expression • Open up space for domestic violence and this affect the health of a woman. • Misuse of house hold properties and resources
How does gender inequality affect agriculture in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage women to actively participate in farming • Women shy away to give their views/opinion • Misuse of produce by any party for self motive
How have you; or the community addressed gender inequality in agriculture?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referring the cases to the office of the LC I • Holding family meetings to handle the matter • Involving religious leaders to counsel the affected family • Mild case are reported to police to arbitrate
How would you want gender inequality agriculture to be addressed in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local leaders like gender focal person, police, community development officer to sensitize local about the danger of gender inequality • Use ICTs like radio cell phone especially SMS to create awareness on gender inequality.

Group4: Assessment for ICT and Agriculture

Name of District	Kole	
Name of County and Sub-County	Kole, Bala	
Name of village	Aumi 9	
Name of Farmer’s group	Orib Cing Farming Group	
Number of participants	F - 9 M – 4 (The group has 30 members – 20 females and 10 males)	
Information (crops, weather, markets etc)	Soya, Maize, Bean, Sunflower, Groundnut, Millet, Sorghum, Peas, Rice, Simsim among others	
	Data	Description and Challenges
Q1. Basic Agricultural information		
Do you have access to information about		
▪ Where to buy agricultural inputs (fertilizer, improved seeds, etc)?	Yes, members said they know where to buy agricultural inputs. They buy from Lira agro input outlets.	

	However, they said the some of the inputs especially seeds are not of good quality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The prices of the crops produced in nearby markets (E.g. price of maize in Gulu district which is one of the main markets near those districts)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nearby market is Lira town. This where they take their produce if they want lucrative price. • However, due to low production to meet demand in Lira majority of farmers do sell their produce in Bala trading centre i.e. produce dealers and some middle men who buys from the community. Famers noted that middle men offer low price compare to produce dealers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up-to-date weather forecasts and warning about extreme weather (drought, flood, landslide, etc)? 	Have information but it's not regularly. They get the weather forecasts over the local radio station.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to cope with weather and disease? 	Yes, through the various radio stations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pest control? 	Yes, during agricultural radio talk shows e.g. Unity FM agricultural talks show, Radio Apac weekly agricultural talk show.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Others? 	The farmers also confirm that they usually get information on pest control from agricultural extension officer. They noted that radio often give them more information than any other source.
What other agricultural information do you need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New varieties • Market price – they get but it's not regular • Fertilizer use • Weed herbicide and application
Question2: Methods of information access	
How do you get the information?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile Phone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, use mobile phone to call resource person like agricultural extension officer for help and advice. • Majority of members present had cell phones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PC 	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internet 	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TV 	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Radio 	Yes, majority of them own and can access radio and they do listen to radio daily.

▪ Newspapers	Some, majority do not know how to read and write.
▪ Your groups, friends, relatives	Yes, during demonstration and group meetings
▪ Agricultural extension workers	Yes, but they really visit the farmers. They visit farmers when they have their planned activities.
▪ Others	
How do you want to get the information which you don't have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular visit to the group • Radio program • Phone especially SMS daily or weekly update
Question3: Challenges and suggestion	
What are the main challenges to your farming practices?	
▪ Lack of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change e.g. prolongs drought, too much rain among others. • Limited access to high quality seeds – they are accessing seeds but the quality is quite poor and low
▪ Lack of skills and techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited knowledge on value addition • Use of non time serving farming tools such as hand hoes
▪ Access to Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little knowledge on the existing markets • Limited access to markets with better prices • Low prices offered to the farmers
▪ Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of water
What do you want to see change from the way you make your farming activities?	
▪ Modern farming methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion i.e. from 10 bags to 20 bags and above • Proper storage facilities so that they can store and sell when the price is high. • Better farming tools e. g ox-plough • Add value and pack our product for better marketing
▪ Access to market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible market • High prices given to farmers
▪ Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a market network to strengthen our bargaining power and sell at a good price
Question4: Gender issue	

What do you understand by gender?	Men and women planning, working and deciding together.
What is the gender of the person(s) doing most of the farming work in your household?	10. Male 11. Female 12. Male and Female Equally. Majority said women do most of the farming work than men
What is the gender of the person who makes most decisions on how to use farm inputs like land, fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, etc?	10. Male 11. Female 12. Male and Female Equally
What is the gender of the person who makes most decisions about the marketing?	10. Male 11. Female 12. Male and Female Equally
What do you understand by gender inequality?	They didn't have idea about gender inequality
Does gender inequality affect your livelihood?	Yes; the members confirm that inequality is very common in their community No
How does gender inequality affect your livelihood?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence • Separation and divorce
How does gender inequality affect agriculture in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low production since one may decide not to participate in any farming activity. • Low women participation in matter regarding farming • Women's opinion/views regarding farming are not listened to even when their idea is good.
How have you; or the community addressed gender inequality in agriculture?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clan meeting to counsel the affected family • Referring the case to LC I court
How would you want gender inequality agriculture to be addressed in your community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving both men and women together in any development or project. • Community sensitization on gender inequality • Use of poster that talk about the danger of gender inequality