



..

Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon Grass Growing and Education in Uganda

Quarterly Performance Report

October-December 2019

Prepared by



SORAK Development Agency

Registered NGO: No:8726

;P.o Box, 71883 Clock Tower –Kampala; Tel:+256 703515225

Lusalira T/C, 16km from Mubende Town along Mubende –Fort portal Road



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND.....	2
2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	2
3. PROJECT RESULTS AS PER ATIVITY.....	3
4. KEY CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES UNDERTAKEN	5
5. LESSONS LEARNT	5

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CU	Church of Uganda
GBN	Global Bridge Network
JFGE	Japanese Fund for Global Environment
SORAK	Strategic Organization for Real Action -Kampala

1. BACKGROUND

SORAK with funding from Japanese fund for Global Environment (JFGE) through partnership with Global Bridge Network (GBN) is implementing a 3 year project. This is an environment protection and promotion project with title: Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon Grass Growing and Education in Uganda.

This report presents quarterly progress of activities implemented between October and December2019. The report highlights results, outcomes, challenges faced in the thirdquarter and how SORAK has been able to overcome challenges.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project in Mubende District, Uganda seeks to promote environmental protection and education through growth of lemon glass. This project is based on the lessons provided by the SORAK through the project, "Lemongrass for essential oils production and sales" funded by Common Wealth of Australia in 2013.

These lessons include;

-Encouraging rural people to grow the grass

-Advantages of growing the grass such as it grows rapidly, and the grass has a strong ability to protect the soil from agents of erosion

-The grasshas many uses such as extraction of oil to being used as a mulch as well as controller of water runoff

-Planting tufts can be easily obtainednow and it helps to grow the grass

-We have experiences of distilling essential oils and have beenaware of oil yields per ton of withered grass.

SORAK is therefore, encouraging farming communities in Mubende and the neighboring Kyegeggwa district grow lemon grass with emphasis to its environmental and livelihood improvement benefits. The grass puts waste and redundant and barren hill slop lands into productive use. Farmers are realizing the benefits of controlled water runoff while being able to meet their basic needs namely; medical care, scholastic materials, food, clothing among others.

The project is having environmental benefits of providing a permanent soil cover to the currently eroded bare grounds. It further helping in solid waste management when waste is collected and added to lemon grass spent grant for briquette charcoal making.

Further, SORAK is making use of spent grass after distilling essential oil in the production of briquette charcoal. Global Bio-Energy Uganda (GBE), Limited has provided all the necessary support to that enabled SORAK to establish a briquette charcoal production unit during the second project year 2018. This area also grows a lot of maize and cassava and that

solid waste is now being used to make briquette charcoal. SORAK is using other organic waste to make briquette charcoal.

This project is accompanied with environmental education through both community and school based campaigns. This has raised prospects of women and youth sustainable livelihoods and mitigation of climate change effects. The project has overall contributed to environmental awareness and protection.

3. PROJECT RESULTS AS PER ACTIVITY

<Activity I >

Activity I.9 Conducting routine support supervision and monitoring of the project activities

In order to ascertain progress of project activities, SORAK team comprising of Martin Mafabi and Muhammad Kyeyune, conducted monitoring visit to various project sites as follows;

Dates: 25th and 26th November 2019.

Locations:

- ✧ Three lemon grass farmers namely Isaac Kasolo, Husein Agonza and Kasifa Nanyonga from the villages of Semuto, Kibalinga and Nakanyans respectively
- ✧ Indigenous tree farmers Gonzaga Peter and Ssemanda from the villages of Semuto and Kibalinga respectively
- ✧ Kabubbu primary school, Nkokonjeru primary school, Kirume public primary school, and Nabingoola primary school

Activities:

1. Spot checking in planted trees and lemon grass among project beneficiary individuals
2. Checking maturity of lemon grass that would soon be harvested and distilled.
3. Checking whether provided trees had been planted and how they were growing.
4. Participants sharing of key lessons and challenges
5. Visited three schools for support supervision and monitoring purposes.
6. Checking the functionality of environment club at school and her readiness to plant and maintain provided wood trees and fruit seedlings

Outcomes:

- Lemon grass was found to be grown well and was nearly ready to be harvested
- The indigenous trees were found to be growing well; though they faced some competition from other crops and weeds which are sharing the same soil nutrients hence affecting their proper growth of the planted trees.
- The Kirume public environment club was found to be very active, with a well-maintained compound with planted trees sheds. There were also grown vegetables, crops like banana. The compound also had reserved green grass zones with specific walkways.
- At Kabubbu primary school, the environment club was found having successfully engaged the school parents in supporting children with local material provision that would enable children to make art and crafts.
- Parents were also willing and eager to buy such art and crafts made by children. This provided a source of income to the school based environment clubs members.



Lemon grass planted at the edge of the garden and road to control water runoff-also ready for harvest.











Lemon grass ready for harvesting, Nakanyansi village



Lemon grass ready for harvesting



Executive Director SORAK check lemon grass which is soon getting ready for harvesting

			
<p>Executive Director SORAK monitored indigenous trees planted in August. Director stands pointing to both the tree and sorghum crop and weeds that are competing with the planted trees</p>			<p>The girl standing is one of the care takers of the trees.</p>
			
<p>Environment club chairperson, vice and secretary giving speeches to SORAK visitors on monitoring</p>	<p>Kirume public club members makes presentation to SORAK during monitoring visit.</p>	<p>Nabingoola primary school Environment Club present environment awareness song</p>	<p>Environmental Club Kabubbu p/s perform environment song during monitoring</p>

Activity 1.10 Conducting monthly visits to 16 schools based environmental clubs Dates: 24th to 31st October 2019

Locations:

1. Kabubbu C.U primary school
2. Maya primary school
3. Nkokonjeru primary school
4. Muyinayina primary school
5. Nabingoola primary school
6. Kibalinga primary school
7. Kabowa Primary school
8. Kasaana C U, Primary school
9. Katega, Primary school
10. Buwata, Primary school
11. Ntungamo Public,
12. Cawodisa, Primary school
13. Kirume public Primary school
14. Mugungulu primary school
15. Nabibungo primary school
16. Kyakasimbi, primary school

Activities:

1. Checking on the activities being done by each of the respective club
2. Providing them further information and advice on how to keep their schools and the surroundings environmentally friendly and training on how to sustain clubs
3. Discussing with the school administrators and club members on their future plans and how we can keep the clubs sustainable and active during and even after the end of the project.

Outcomes:

- SORAK learnt the club members were doing wonderful work and activities. These included making hand crafts from waste including mats, baskets, lopes etc, growing vegetable and banana, and general cleaning activities

- Club members kept the compound of the schools clean and pleasant to look at hence making school environmentally and a child friendly one.
- Club members had composed and sung environmental promotion and protection songs. They even sung for SORAK team during the monitoring visit for example at Kirume and Kabubbu Primary schools also shown here below in the photographs
- Among other things discussed in addition to adding on what the clubs were doing for sustainability and continued existence included;
 - Proposal to engage their local leaders in their respective areas to ensure that their environmental protection needs are also planned for. Such needs would include being provided for with trees seedlings, fruit trees, school gardening and livestock.
 - The discussions also involved schools ensuring that clubs membership would be renewed on an annual basis to cater for those leaving primary education level and also those joining active participation.



Club members of Nabingoola primary school cleaning the compound



Mats made by club members of Nabingoola primary school



Club members of Kirume p/s perform environment protection promotion song



Club members of Kabubbu p/s perform environment protection promotion song

4. KEY CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES UNDERTAKEN

The key challenges faced during this third quarter of the project implementation period included;

- Too much rain during the month of October. This slowed down staff movement and reaching the schools in time. SORAK made sure that the monitoring team reaches the schools in mid-morning hours before afternoon hours. Here during this period rain normally comes in the afternoon hours.

5. LESSONS LEARNT

- School children can learn a lot and teachers, fellow others and their parents via music, dance as well as practically making craft products. They are thus able to promote environmental protection awareness as well as making use of local materials to make useful art and craft materials.
- Farmers prefer planting trees that do grow well with other crops. This is because they need to ensure that they have food security as they protect the environment.

6. ACHIEVEMENT

Environment Club members of Kabubbu make art and craft materials for sale to parents and earn some money for buying –scholastic materials for themselves.

SORAK with funding from JFGE and support from GBN targeted Kabubbu Church of Uganda Primary school as one of the environment protection and education targeted schools. SORAK conducted environmental education sessions in the school. This later motivated the school to form an environment club. This has taken a self and sustainable initiative of making crafts materials using local materials and waste materials. They also grow own vegetables and conducting environmental conservation activities of garbage picking and sorting, which they use as manure.

This school invited SORAK Director to deliver a speech on the importance of environmental protection. This was during a parents' general meeting and speech day. The crafts that were made were sold to parents and the club members raised some money. The club matron told SORAK that the club members would in the coming schooling year be able to buy their own scholastic materials. This is illustrated in the photographs below.



club members displayed on parents' speech day for sale. ropes, baskets and banana grown



Club matron with sold money in basket



SORAK Director giving a speech on the importance of environmental protection at Kabubbu Primary school. In the background of the Executive Director are the banana and vegetable grown at the school