



Dream Farm Kyakabunga Group (DFK)



PROFILE

dreamfarmkgroup.org

Background

Dream Farm Kyakabunga Group (DFK) is an indigenous Non- Governmental Organization registered with Ministry of Internal Affairs under National Bureau for Non- Governmental Organizations No. 6108INDR127644864NB. It focuses on promotion of ecological farming practices for food security and increased household income while encouraging communities to manage the environment in a manner that benefits future generation.

Location

Dream Farm Kyakabunga Group is located in South Western Uganda, Kiruhura District about 200 km from Kampala with offices and a demonstration farm at Kyakabunga village, Nyakashashara Sub County.

Vision

Smallholder farmers meeting their basic needs

Mission

To promote poverty alleviation for smallholder farmers, vulnerable groups such as orphans, women and people with disabilities through implementation of sustainable agriculture practices and agro enterprise development.

Goal

To enhance the capacity of smallholder crop livestock farmers to adopt to adverse effects of climate change through demonstration and production of appropriate area specific innovations

Strategic Objectives

1. To promote livelihood improvement through sustainable farming practices and capacity building trainings.
2. To improve primary health care services to the underserved communities through nutrition and hygiene awareness, educational trainings to curb infant mortality, low child birth weight and waterborne related diseases among others
3. Provide educational trainings to handicapped adults and find meaningful employment with vocational skills and work habits
4. Collaborate with new funding partners both national and international funding agencies to expand our community outreach with a long term financing strategy

Core Values

Dream Farm Kyakabunga Group believes in accountability, equity, togetherness, integrity, transparency, innovativeness and sustainability

Main activities

Dream Farm Kyakabunga Group carries out capacity building and hands on training programs in sustainable farming practices for community schools, groups, youth and individual families in food security and agro enterprise development for income generation, climate change adaptation innovations, nutrition and hygiene awareness, environment management and water harvesting.

Activities implemented and the main funding sources in the recent years

Dream Farm Kyakabunga Group for the past four years has been involved in community capacity building activities that centered on poverty alleviation, water harvesting, food security and environment management. They included community based agricultural trainings, provision of clean water, agro enterprise skills development and soil conservation practices. Source of funding came from Grundfos Foundation(<https://www.pdf.dk/en/>) , Quaker Service Australia (QSA) (<https://www.qsa.org.au/>), and Miva Netherlands. (<https://www.miva.nl>)

Project Name	Year	Amount
Kyakabunga Water Project Uganda	2021-2022	183,819,318/=
Livelihoods improvement for 40 Marginalized women	2023-2026	140,516,500/=
Expansion of Dream Farm's Training Center	2024-2026	214,830,500/=

Achievements

Nutrition and Hygiene

Beneficiaries were supported with nutrition and hygiene trainings emphasizing consumption of fruits and vegetables that provide the body with nutrients which can easily be grown on their gardens. Nutrition awareness, has enhanced participants' knowledge and need to eat balanced diet as a key way to fight diseases and poor health, Each of the cohesive participating groups were supported with communal vegetables and fruits nursery beds and they are raising their own seedlings. Participants were also trained to add value to milk, cassava, sweet potatoes and maize for domestic use and even as source of family income.



Left: Designing vegetable demo garden, **Right:** Learning about vegetable integration

Farmers and schools adoption of ecological farming

During outreach community programs 80 farmers and 2,162 students from four community schools were taken for extension support based on their vulnerability and desire to embrace new farming practices involving ecological methods. The new acquired knowledge has helped beneficiaries to improve their skills on ecological farming methods with enhanced crop productivity and more resilient to the changing rain patterns. Within one season of crop production since DFK's intervention, participants have already realized a 30% improvement on crop production mainly on maize and vegetables as a result of applying compost manure and plant teas on their cropping land and better pests and disease control methods. Based on field monitoring and evaluation visits and participants' testimonies, 67% of the beneficiaries had 25% increase in food crop harvests and better family nutrition eating freshly own grown vegetables and fruits.



Left: Students plant vegetables, **Right** planting seedlings from community plant nursery bed



Left: Handing over seedlings to project participants, **Right:** Beneficiaries learn to design backyard gardens

Participants' testimonies show that 67% of the beneficiaries have 25% increase in food crop harvests

Hygiene and Sanitation

Hygiene and sanitation also got better; beneficiaries make their own bar and liquid soap for domestic use and even as a source of family income. Participants are now much aware for the need to wash their hands before taking a meal and after pit-toilets use. The availability of adequate and clean water made it possible to grow fruits and vegetables by watering in case of rain failure. Also water availability has been essential for enhanced hygiene and sanitation.



Left: Farmers learn to make Bokash organic fertilizer **Right:** Youth learn hands on liquid soap making,



Left: Community water project being launched, **Right:** Area Member of Parliament commission school water system

Income Diversification

The outreach program to the communities was calculated to build income generation skills to the participating farmers through multiple sources of income to mitigate their vulnerability. Since they are in agro-based community and off-farm activities mainly handcraft, baking of snacks and small grocery trading. Participants generated more income from farming activities than ever before because the approach has made agricultural practices more attractive and gainful. This development also extended to beneficiaries' income hitting at a monthly average of Shs 150,000 among 52% of the participants. They have embraced viable agricultural enterprises with quick returns that needed small pieces of land. Enterprises taken on included green pepper growing, carrots, passion fruits and cabbages. These ventures were preferred because they require small pieces of land and offer higher and better returns on investment with fast maturity period.



Left: Participants make Mats and bags **Right:** Women make baskets and milking pot covers,



Left: Exhibiting value added products during farm tour, **Right:** Women stall with more items on women's day

Improved dietary habits

As food production and income generation keep raising among the selected beneficiaries, also food security and nutrition has improved from one uncertain meal to eating at least three nourishing meals a day through it can still fluctuate depending on weather changes still sustainable measures are fully adopted. Dietary upgrading is linked to increased production of diversity of fruits and vegetables, a variety of grains and root foods, all with various micronutrients that are beneficial to human development. Also enhanced income have had a direct implication for participating families' nutrition as beneficiaries are in better position to purchase additional delicacies like meat, fish, dairy and poultry products.



Left: Students enjoy lunch at school **Right:** learners prepare lunch with different food varieties,



Left: Group members enjoy a meal with more food options **Right:** Farm stall with food varieties for sale

Awareness of climate change

Environment management is also on course of recovery, various adaptive and coping practices have been taken-on to survive the changing climatic conditions. Emphasis was put on enhancing land productivity through soil management practices by applying compost, mulching and moisture control, use of water-can irrigation to ensure optimal crop growth during dry seasons and adaptation of ecological farming techniques. These practices have boosted land productivity by more than 30% and improved participants' resilience and reduced poverty.



Left: Mulching banana garden, **Right:** Visitors learn to make plant and manure teas, pesticides and fertilizers



Left: Making compost **Right:** Training farmers to make Bokash fertilizer



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Model Farm for Sustainable Agriculture

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