



# STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINES OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN UGANDA







## OPUS FRANCIS,

Kaikamosing Village, Magoro Sub County, Katakwi District

For quite a long time, Opus Francis has been grappling with food insecurity in his family. His life came to light when SOCADIDO supported by CORDAID facilitated the establishment of a village savings and credit association in his area that he joined as a member.

Opus narrates that the rampant food insecurity in his family has been due to a number of factors ranging from water logging, prolonged dry spells and inadequate planting materials. He states that through his savings, he has been able to change the food security situation in his home. He borrowed money amounting to UGX 80,000 (approx. EUR 19.-) in 2017 and bought two bags of improved cassava stems that he has multiplied and hopes to sell some to his neighbours at a small fee.

Similarly, in order to increase food reserves in his household, Opus borrowed money that he used to acquire potato vines that he planted in areas that are prone to water logging since it remains cool and the vines can survive for the next planting season. According to Opus, his family is now food secure and he has constructed granaries to improve food storage in his household. He further notes that he is not scared of anything in regard to his family food security situation as he has planting materials ready for the next planting season.

## NALUBEKA CHRISTINE

Smallholder Sweet Potato farmer, Nakoosi, Mukono, Uganda

Just to remind you about sweet potato, our staple food crop, the poor persons' crop,

The Sweet Potato is under attack by climate change related shocks and yields are going down every year. The Sweet Potato is grown by mainly women, like me, on small garden plots and is a good contributor to food security and nutrition in most communities and households and so poorer women stand to lose most.

In your next planning and budgeting include plans for sustainable climate resilient agriculture through enabling access to drought resistant sweet potato vines, early warning systems and targeted flood resistant infrastructure investment.

Women will gain the most from this





## MPEKE JAMES MUKOOME

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Meet coffee farmer James Mpeke Mukoome of Mukono, Uganda he practices small adaptive methodologies in his coffee plantation to control the impact of climate change and its related effects like rain water harvesting and micro irrigation. .

“Many more farmers in rural communities can be supported to adapt to climate change. Local leaders need to take advantage of opportunities to gather and share vital information on crop yields, hydrology, meteorology, agronomy, fisheries and livelihoods so that this information can be used to guide farmers and advise them on small adaptive methods’.

I am part of the HYCRISTAL research and advocacy project in Mukono District , In this pilot, both long-term climate predictions provided through HyCRISTAL climate modelling, and reliable context-specific information provided through a rich suite of social science methods,are used to enable policy and decision makers to make informed short-term decisions (covering 1-3 years, such as programmes to mitigate extreme events) as well as long-term decisions (covering 5-40 years, such as the provision of major infrastructure such as roads, irrigation schemes and institution-based training programmes) on adaptation.

HYCRISTAL developed the IDAPs platform which is a rich and integrated data resource spanning climate, crops, fisheries, hydrology and livelihoods. Interpreting and analyzing this data assists policymakers to understand and respond to the effects of climate change in the Lake Victoria Basin.



## ELUNGAT PATRICK

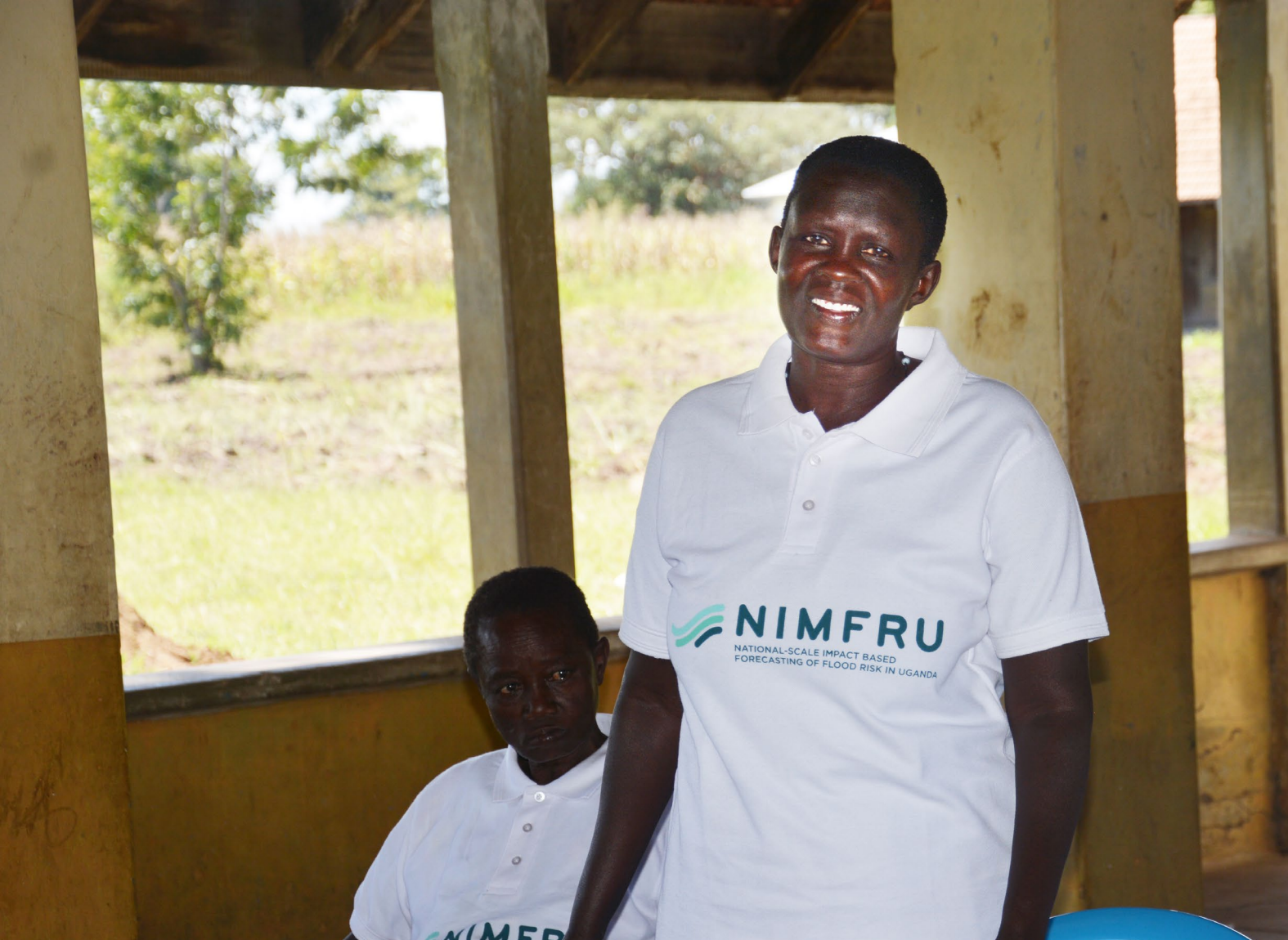
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My name is Elungat Patrick a farmer from Agule Village, Katakwi District, and my village is affected from by long droughts during the dry seasons and severe flooding in the rainy season. It is important for farmers to understand that with climate change everything has changed and our practices must change to ensure sustainable future.

This year, I started working with EcoTrust and Lorna Young Foundation as a leader of farmer radio listenership group where we engage with Etop Radio staff to generate and inform content on agriculture, meteorology under the National- Scale Impact Based Forecasting for Flood Risk in Uganda (NIMFRU) project.

This information is shared on Etop radio which is listened to throughout Teso region and I mobilise other community members to listen and be able to use the information to better their lives in the face of climate change.





## ROSE MALINGA

### Agule Village, Katakwi District

My name is Rose Malinga, a farmer from Agule Village in Katakwi District, for the past 3 years my village has been affected by floods due to heavy rains. The floods destroy crops, animals and household property. Our major challenge is that as communities we are unable to get timely warning about the weather and climate so planning planting and harvesting seasons become difficult.

This year, I started attending the monthly Farmer Agri-met Village Advisory Clinics (FAMVACs) run by Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) and EcoTrust Uganda under the National- Scale Impact Based Forecasting for Flood Risk in Uganda (NIMFRU) . At the farmer village clinics we meet the agriculture extension workers and staff from UNMA who provide us with weather and climate information, agricultural advisory services where they advise us on which crops to plant depending on the weather and rain patterns forecast.

I believe when more farmers are able to access information on weather and climate, seasons advisory many more farmers can be able to plan planting and harvesting seasons to minimise losses due to flood-risk.

## ATIKA GRACE

### Ikobatum Village

“When we were fetching water from the nearby swamp, it took so much time. There was no time for other activities. Now we can get water 1, 2, 3 or 4 times from the borehole because it’s so close”. – Atika Grace

Before SOCADIDO with support from Cordaid began working with Ikobatum community, they lived in a state of helplessness and often left everything to God. Atika Grace narrates that, before SOCADIDO drilled the borehole they used to fetch dirty water from a nearby swamp; this water was shared with animals. They would spend the first half of every day walking and waiting in line to collect safe water from the nearby borehole in the next village. It was never enough water for her family, and it left her very little time to earn money. As a mother of 5 children, life was incredibly challenging. Today, with a hand-pump next to her home, Grace can collect as much clean water as her family needs. She has plenty of time to focus on things that bring development to her house hold.

“I am happy now, because this water helps me to produce vegetables which have made me earn income to cater for my children. This money has helped me to acquire some household assets like beddings.”

Atika Grace, a resident of Ikobatum Village





## Shea Nut Production - 'Golden Opportunity' for Moo Yao women

*Total Direct Participants—11,981  
Women Economic Empowerment Direct  
Participants—4,110 43% Female Participation*

Clad in colorful traditional African outfits with shades of the Ugandan flag, the Moo Yao women made a grand entry to the Olilim trading center and gathered at a nearby stall along the dusty Kotido-Lira highway in Otuke District. To those familiar with their style, this symbolized yet another meeting for the Moo Yao (which means shea nut oil in langi) Village Saving and Loan Association. Moo Yao women's group has been specializing in shea nut products and worked together over the years to grow joint enterprises. "We started this group loosely in 2006. At that time, we were only making crude shea nut oil product for food and body lotion. We used a lot of energy to grind the shea nut seeds, firewood to boil the crushed nuts and extracted oil. We sold shea nut oil in local markets."

In 2012, we were trained by Community Based Trainers (CBTs) in VSLA methodology under the PFR program of CARE. We learnt the principles of saving as a group, group dynamics, saving as a business, and enterprise selection planning and management (SPLM). We started to save our proceeds from making shea nut oil, we borrowed and loaned funds in the group to meet family needs. Our share values started to grow. As time went by, in 2014-2015 the CBTs advised us to register with the sub county as an association or a group to attract anticipated government funds in the coming financial years. Additional trainings were conducted for us by CARE in promoting value addition to shea nut oil and increase advocacy for environmental conservation," says Sarah Ejang, Moo Yao ("Moo Yao" is the Lango word for "shea nut oil,") Women's Group secretary.



*Learning by doing', during the learning visit by stakeholders*

Climate Resilient Agro-Ecosystems Model (CRAEM) by Participatory Ecological Land Use and Management (PELUM) Uganda is a community centered approach for empowering communities to build household and agricultural systems resilience, contribute to climate change mitigation and sustainably increase agricultural production and productivity. CRAEM systematically integrates various farm and off-farm practices selected and prioritized by the beneficiary communities as a way of building their resilience, increasing agricultural production and contributing to climate change mitigation. The prioritized practices are promoted holistically as one package to enable farmers get maximum benefits of adopting integrated practices as opposed to single practices. CRAEM draws from the appreciation that farmers have a wealth of knowledge and experience in coping with extreme climatic variabilities and change, which if well integrated with new locally adapted and ecologically sound innovations could further strengthen adaptation and mitigation to climate change. While promoting the model among the beneficiary communities CRAEM emphasizes sustainability both in terms of the practices promoted and the approaches used. The model emphasizes working with and strengthening community leadership structures to spearhead the implementation and scaling up of the model. It seeks to eliminate over dependence among beneficiary communities that is characterized by handouts and with no clear sustainability mechanisms. The model therefore puts emphasis on promoting practices and technologies that are within the means of beneficiaries such that they can be scaled out even without external interventions.



*Ejang Sarah, explaining about the products made by the group to visitors*

Today, this group makes about 50 tubes of lotion daily. Each lotion is sold between 10, 000 UGX to 15, 000 UGX (2.40€-3.50€). "With our sweat, as a women's group, we have been able to educate our children, access better health services, dress well, feed our families well, buy land, oxen and ox plough and build permanent houses" Ejang says. "We feel blessed because we are a more organized group of women who have come together to solve our problems and meet our needs, thanks to CARE International that organized us into a VSLA group. Now, the district local government recognizes us and started to support us through various government programs."



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*“With our sweat, as a women's group, we have been able to educate our children, access better health services, dress well, feed our families well, and build permanent houses”*  
-Sarah Ejang

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The LC3 chairperson of Olilim sub-county, Francis Otyama said, “The conservation of this endangered tree species has allowed many hardworking women in Otuke District (Olilim Sub County) to increase their incomes and advocate for implementation of the Environment and Natural Resources Bill (ENRB). Their capacities have been enhanced and are attracting government funds which helps them contribute towards the district development plan and Uganda’s vision 2040, where Ugandans are envisioned as attaining higher levels of income. To motivate these committed women, Otuke District Local Government lobbied and secured funds from United Nations Development Program (UNDP) which was used to construct a market information center in the district. The purpose is to disseminate information on marketing shea nut products.”

## Government support for a Community Based Organization

On July 25, 2016, Otuke District Local Government signed an enterprise financing agreement with Moo Yao Women’s group for a loan of 10 million Uganda shillings (2,400 €) to support the groups value addition activities through the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP). The fund is administered by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with the goal of empowering Ugandan women to improve their income levels and contribute to the economic development of Uganda. According to Sylveto Ocen, during the UWEP review meeting, the Community Development Officer Otuke, “Moo Yao women’s group is the most excellent group with super performance on the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP) in Otuke District.



*Moo Yao Women's Group explaining their products to the visiting team from Mali*

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*“Moo Yao Women's group is the most excellent group with super performance on the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP) in Otuke District” —Ocen Silvesto*

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The National Environment Authority selected the Moo Yao Women’s Group to participate in the five-year (2017-2022) Kidepo Critical Landscape Programme. The women’s group was selected due to their strong social cohesion, increased absorption capacity for funds, and their advocacy on the need to conserve and restore the environment. The program’s main focus was on the training of groups on shea nut value addition. From the program the group received a manual cold press machine for processing shea nut butter, which allows the women to reduce their use of firewood in processing the shea nuts.

In 2018, they received stainless machine for producing shea nut products from the UWEP. The Moo Yao Women’s Group is now buying shea nuts from around 50 groups and allows two other local CBO’s (community-based organizations) to rent time on their machines for processing their products. The partnership between the local government and the group through UWEP has allowed for greater resiliency in the community. “We hope government can establish a factory for us to process shea nut

products in larger quantities to meet the increasing local and international markets because there are forests of shea nut trees here. We are ready to conserve our wealth in shea nuts. Many people have stopped cutting them for charcoal. Every day we talk to people and advise them not to cut these trees but harvest the fruits for oil.”

The VSLA groups established by CARE’s PFR program are growing and becoming more resilient to shocks and stresses. The groups are self-sustaining and act as Community Based Organizations or Civil Society Organizations. The members can meet medical bill, school fees, buy goats, cows, and land. They even pay school fees for children. Some of them have championed dialogues to conserve the environment and end gender-based violence at households.

