



AGRICULTURAL PILOT PROJECT PLAN

Kope Foundation's vision is to create a confident generation of youth, men and women in rural communities spearheading economic development through creating and feeding markets and practicing a savings-to-investment culture. Our agricultural pilot project is Kope Foundation's first step toward creating this vision.

Kope Foundation chose to begin in the area of agriculture due to many factors, including the importance of farming to the local economy in Pader and Agago, the gap in commercial agriculture in the area, and potential for drought and flooding in the area to threaten current agricultural yields. Through extensive field research, Kope Foundation staff determined that it will be able to make the most immediate economic impact in the area of agriculture. Therefore, Kope Foundation developed this project plan, with implementation to begin immediately upon receipt of approval from the Pader and Agago District Local Governments.

RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

Kope Foundation practices diligence and patience when developing its programs, taking part in extensive community-based field research before developing its programs. Beginning in late July 2018, personnel on behalf of Kope Foundation began meeting with local leaders, local experts and potential beneficiaries to determine the area with the most potential for positive impact. These meetings were strictly informational and solely meant to inform the work of Kope Foundation as it developed its organizational plan. Through the information collected in these meetings and consultations, Kope Foundation was able to develop the plan outlined in the subsequent sections herein. Below is a list of

each meeting and its participants executed prior to the development of this project plan.

LOCAL LEADERS

- *Production Officers, Pader District*
- *Probation Officer, Pader District*
- *Community Development Officer, Pader District*
- *Local Councilwoman 1, Kilak, Pader District*
- *Agricultural Officer, Pader District*
- *Chief Administrative Officer, Agago District*
- *Community Development Officer, Agago District*
- *Local Councilman 3, Lira Palwo, Agago District*
- *Local Councilman 1, Lira Palwo, Agago District*

LOCAL EXPERTS

- *Gulu Agricultural Development Company*
- *Lutheran World Foundation, Agribusiness & Value Chain Development*
- *Produce brokers in Kitgum*
- *Adventist Development and Relief*
- *Acholi Private Sector Development Fund*
- *Kilak Corner Institute*
- *NGO Forum, Pader*
- *Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET)*

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- *Can Lonyo, Corner Kilak Women's Group*
- *Mego Lonyo, Lira Palwo Women's Group*
- *Waye, Lira Palwo Women's Group*
- *La Pyem Wang Kiti, Lira Palwo Youth Group*
- *Peny Wii, Lira Palwo Youth Group*
- *Tam Pii Anyim, Pajule Women's Group*
- *Mine Keni, Pajule Youth Group*
- *Lupur Pelwo, Pajule Youth Group*
- *Kacel Watwero, Corner Kilak Youth Group*
- *Mother's Union, Pajule Women's Group*

CROP ANALYSIS AND IDENTIFICATION

Kope Foundation staff utilized internal and external expertise when selecting the crops to begin its pilot project.

Kope Foundation received recommendations from its community-based experts on which crops would be best to implement during the pilot phase, with due consideration for the season, irrigation needs and other risk factors. We considered the risk and the rewards of the traditionally grown crops, and considered less traditional crops, like vegetables.

After consideration of all of these factors, Kope Foundation identified that vegetable growing was the area that it could make the most impact, as research showed that too many vegetables are imported from far away areas of Uganda, despite some local knowledge about raising them. Ultimately, Kope Foundation chose to specifically invest in growing cabbages, tomatoes, onions and eggplants due to their current demand in Pader and Agago Districts.

| Crop | Type |
|-----------------|---|
| <i>Tomato</i> | <i>Assila F1, Stallion F1, Ranger F1 & Commando F1</i> |
| <i>Cabbages</i> | <i>Gloria F1, Global Master F1, Fanaka F1 & Baraka F1</i> |
| <i>Eggplant</i> | <i>Early Long Purple & Black Beauty</i> |
| <i>Onions</i> | <i>Red Corle, Red Queen, Bombay Red & SV7030NS</i> |

Vegetable growing requires heavy watering in comparison with most other crops, thus, Kope Foundation works with beneficiaries near water sources to ensure that regular watering is feasible for each group. There are also concerns for keeping away pests and diseases, which can be treated with fungicides and pesticides.

IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFICIARIES (“PARTNERS”) FOR PILOT PROJECT

While Kope Foundation formed on the principles of income generation for the people of Pader and Agago, and thus, the entire community in the region, further identification of specific beneficiary groups was needed, whom Kope Foundation call “partners” to encourage motivation. Kope Foundation needed to identify its specific partners both for the benefit of Kope Foundation’s work and efficiency. The success of pilot projects, especially the agricultural pilot project, will establish a framework for Kope Foundation to expand its partnerships in the future.

Based on research, Kope Foundation chose to work with savings groups to begin its activities, specifically women and youth savings groups. Kope Foundation determined that it should begin working with savings groups as they are already established groups with internal structure, which are easy to mobilize since they regularly meet to discuss group business. Kope Foundation chose to work with youth and women’s groups because these populations tend to be underserved throughout Uganda and East Africa, despite their apparent ability to create impact in the area of economic growth.

Among the groups consulted, the groups identified for the pilot project qualified in two respects: first, these groups expressed interest in growing vegetables, in collaboration with Kope Foundation, and second, these groups identified group land near a water source. Each group was consulted before the project began to ensure that they understand Kope Foundation’s expectations throughout the partnership, and vice versa. While Kope Foundation has identified specific groups with which to work, Kope Foundation continues to focus on its mission to create an entire generation of beneficiaries in Pader District, who either directly or indirectly benefit from Kope Foundation’s work.

PARTNERS

| <i>Group name</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Group location</i> |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|

| | <i>description</i> | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Can lonyo</i> | <i>Womens' group</i> | <i>Pader District</i> |
| <i>Lupur Pelwo</i> | <i>Womens' group</i> | <i>Pader District</i> |
| <i>Lapyem Wang Kiti</i> | <i>Youth group</i> | <i>Agago District</i> |
| <i>Mine Keni</i> | <i>Youth group</i> | <i>Pader District</i> |

EXTENSION TRAINING MODEL

Kope Foundation will offer extension training during implementation to all beneficiaries who take part in its agricultural pilot program. Trainings will include standardized curriculum based on a training manual developed by Kope Foundation's agricultural experts. This way, Kope Foundation can ensure that all beneficiaries possess baseline skills in these areas, while having opportunity to instruct others on vegetable growing via use of the manual.

Kope Foundation must ensure that its beneficiaries exercise sound agricultural practices to ensure the success of the pilot program. Trainings will occur in the field during implementation in order to promote the best learning through practical skills training. Kope Foundation has three agricultural experts that participate in each step of the planting process. With three experts available, Kope Foundation can ensure that an expert is on site to answer questions and provide guidance at each step.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Kope Foundation will be on site for all major milestones in the vegetable growing process as outlined in the sections below. Kope Foundation also provides manuals to each group and regularly communicates at important intervals with instructions on how to tend or upkeep their gardens

PLANTING NURSERIES

Late September through mid-November

Planting is naturally the initial step in the Agricultural Pilot Project. Kope Foundation works with farmers during the planting process to ensure that they properly construct nursery beds, cleanse the soil through heating, and plant the seeds. Kope Foundation stays on site to oversee the entirety of this process and ensure that farmers have access to agricultural extension workers who can answer their questions and respond to concerns during training.

RAISING THE NURSERY BEDS

Mid-October through late November

Protection from harsh sunlight is imperative when growing vegetables at the nursery stage. Each nursery must be monitored and evaluated for readiness for sun exposure and handled accordingly. Kope Foundation works with farmers to ensure that they are properly de-shading their nurseries and raising the nursery bed height to ensure that plants are able to successfully germinate before transplanting.

FENCING

Late October through early December

Wild animals of all sizes are threats to the success of the vegetable project. Thus, each area identified for vegetable growing must be properly fenced to prevent large and small animals from entering. Kope Foundation trains and works with each group to properly fence their land and keep out animals. Kope Foundation is also working with the local expert to identify local materials and plants that will provide more sustainability and less upkeep than barbed wire fencing.

TRANSPLANTING INTO GARDENS

Late October through early December

Transplanting is the most important stage in the process of vegetable growing, when plants are most vulnerable to harsh conditions. As transplanting begins for each crop, Kope Foundation is on site to ensure that each group is properly transplanting their vegetables. Kope Foundation conducts regular field monitoring during this process to ensure that farmers groups' maintain good practices during transplanting, as well as to ensure that groups are properly identifying and treating the plants for pests and disease, as well as taking part in regular watering.

HARVESTING

January through March (and continuously thereafter for some vegetable crops)

The last stage in the Agricultural Pilot Project is the harvesting stage. As part of the harvesting stage, Kope Foundation works with farmers to ensure that their plants are properly harvested and prepared for market. Kope Foundation also assists farmers groups' with accessing good prices at market by acting as a broker between the farmers and local buyers.