



*Development Initiative for
Northern Uganda - DINU*



Annual Progress Report

for

Building Resilience to Enhance Food and Nutrition Security, Income and Health in Northern Uganda (BRENU)

Reporting Period:

January – December 2020

CRIS Number: **UG/FED/2016/038-781**

Due Date:

Submission date:



ACTION DETAILS

Programme Title	Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU)
Action Title:	Building Resilience to Enhance Food and Nutrition Security Income and Health in Northern Uganda (BRENU)
CRIS No:	UG/FED/2016/038-781
Implemented by:	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
Area of Implementation	Lango sub region: Kwania, Apac, Amolatar, Dokolo, and Otuke districts Teso sub region: Amuria and Kapelebyong districts
Starting date:	1 st /January/2020
End date:	31 st /December/2022
Implementing partner(s):	Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO), Rikolto International, Kilimo Trust, Ernest Cook Ultrasound Research and Education Institute (ECUREI) and Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (ABC)
Direct beneficiaries (M/F)	51,250 small holder farmer households
Final beneficiaries (M?F)	51,250 small holder farmer households plus 268,650 indirect households beneficiaries
Project Duration:	36 months
Total budget:	Euros 5,578,949
Financial contribution:	Euros 557,895 (10% of total)
European Commission financial contribution:	Euros 5,021,054 (90% of total)
Reporting period/ No. of report:	1 st /January/2020 – 31 st /December/2020 / Annual report one (1)
Specific Objective(s) of DINU targeted by this Action:	(i) Increase household food and nutrition security, (ii) Increase household incomes (iii) Improve maternal and child nutrition, and (iv) Improve public and reproductive health
Specific Result(s) of DINU targeted by this Action:	Result 1.1: Increase production of diversified foods. Implemented Result 1.2: Increased market accessibility. Result 1.3: Nutrition and public health interventions.
Specific Activity(ies) of DINU targeted by this Action:	Activity: 1.1.1 Facilitate the adoption and production of diverse food crops and animal product. Activity: 1.1.2 Facilitate access to key inputs and output markets for women and men small-scale farmers. Activity: 1.1.3 Train farmer groups and other small market operators along the value chain in community saving and credit schemes. Activity 1.2.1 Foster linkages between smallholder farmers, agro-processors and market operators.

Activity: 1.2.4 Assess and identify market opportunities and product niches along the stages of the value chain and facilitate market exchanges and contractual agreements.

Activity: 1.3.1 Developing and promoting community-based nutrition initiatives including micronutrient supplementation & deworming, promotion of maternal and young child feeding practices, hygiene and sanitation and childcare.

Activity: 1.3.2 Increase the use of effective family planning methods with the aim of decreasing the number of teenage pregnancies and increasing child spacing which address both nutrition and population growth issues.

Improved incomes and sustainable livelihood for the people in the disadvantaged areas through improved production and wealth creation.

OPM Programme Outcome

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List of Abbreviations

BRENU	Building Resilience to Enhance Food and Nutrition Security, Incomes, and Health in Northern Uganda
BCC	Behavioural Change Communication
B2B	Business to Business
CDF	Community Development Facilitator
CDP	Community Development Promoter
CLGs	Community Livelihood Groups
DDP	District Development Plan
ECUREI	Ernest Cook Ultrasound Research and Education Institute
HH	Household
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm circumference
OFSP:	Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato
SACCO	Saving and Credit Cooperative Society
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
ToT	Training of Trainers
VEDCO	Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
ZARDI	Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute

1. Executive Summary of the action

Building Resilience to Enhance Food and Nutrition Security, Incomes and Health in Northern Uganda (BRENU) activity implementation started in early March 2020 with the baseline activities and has finished the year 2020 much more strongly having identified up to 92% of the beneficiaries in the seven districts. The action has worked with district local governments to identify beneficiary sub counties as well as farmer beneficiaries.

BRENU, is premised on the hypothesis that smallholder farmer households' food security, income, nutrition and health improvement will be enhanced through; (i) Increased household food nutrition and income security, (ii) Sustainable market systems and value chain efficiency and (iii) Improved sanitation, reproductive health and health seeking practices. The project that commenced in January 2020 has been implemented by 6 partners including IITA – lead, VEDCO, Kilimo trust, Rikolto, ECUREI and Bioversity. These partners have jointly implemented mostly startup activities like; (i) baseline survey, (ii) beneficiary selection (iii) establishment of the implementation structure (Community Facilitation Group Model) through formation of Community Livelihood Groups and recruitment of Community Development Facilitators (CDFs) and Community Development Promoters (CDP) who are agents for the 3 result area work; Production, markets and nutrition & public health, (iv) Sub contracting consortium partners and staff recruitment, (v) Community inception meetings, (vi) development of training materials, (vii) conducting initial partnerships and buy in meetings (viii) development of the Communication and Visibility Plan (CVP) and (ix) Training CDPs in Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLAs) methodology and business skills.

2. Update on the context of the Action (if any changes)

The year 2020 was eventful in both social economic and political angles. At the beginning of the year, the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda that led to a lockdown delayed project implementation and largely delivery. The pandemic caused restricted movement and thus activity implementation pause. Additionally, the end of year brought in campaign events that also paused a challenge. However, these challenges did not completely stop the activities, though caused some disruptions for events that involved gathering of farmers. While both the political season and COVID-19 effect still have some impacts, we have learnt how to live and work with them. We expect no huge changes in 2021 due to them

3. Results achieved during the reporting period

Summary of the project progress according to results and indicators for the reporting period

Result	Outcome/output	Indicators	Progress	Remarks
Result 1.1: Increased production of diversified food	Outcome 1: Increased household food nutrition and income security.	At least 60% households eating 6 different foods in 24hrs period.	0%	This indicator will be tracked and reported on in year 2 after trainings and follow-up on nutrition, adoption of Good Agronomic practices, availability of a variety of own grown foods and regular support by the trained nutrition care group leaders have been conducted. However, as per the baseline, 22% farmers reported consumption of 5 and more different food items while 51% reported meeting minimum frequency meal which is attributed to some food security, nutrition knowledge on good nutrition practices.
		At least 60% of farmers practicing good nutrition practices.	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. The project had not yet trained farmers in Good nutrition practices. As per the baseline only 7% of farmers were access to good nutrition information. The indicator is planned to be tracked and reported in year 2.
		At least 60% households experiencing less than 2 hunger months in a year.	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. No activities geared towards increasing production, storage post harvest handling wre conducted in year 1, therefore data was not collected to ascertain hunger months. How ever todate, as per the baseline only 5% of farmers were food secure. The upcoming trainings in nutrition GAP will enable farmers grow more food, store more food to reduce hunger months. This indicator is planned to be tracked and reported in year 2.

		At least 60% households saving \$300 per day using VSLAs	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. The project VSLA trainings were conducted at the end of year, therefore we could not realise change immediately. However, year 2 will be a good measure since VSLA would have been strengthened and monitored, hence this will be tracked in year 2.
		Percent households earning \$2 or more per day.	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. Trainings in financial literacy and VSLA methodology were conducted at the end of the year and others are still on going. Therefore we are looking forward to see that in year 2, the indicator is tracked.
		Proportion (50%) of households completing repayment of loan after accessing credit from VSLA.	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. The project VSLA trainings were conducted at the end of year, therefore we could not realise change immediately. However, year 2 will be a good measure since VSLA will be strengthened and monitored and hence this will be tracked in year 2.
	Output 1: Increased adoption and production of high quality foods	At least 6 Good Agronomic - Practices adopted by farmers	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers were not trained in Good Agronomic Practices in year 1 but will be trained in year 2 and thereafter we expect rate of adoption to increase by end of year 2. However, at the time of the baseline only 7% of farmers were practicing good agronomic practices.
		At least 6000Kg average yield increase per harvest of the promoted crops.	0kgs	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers were not trained in Good Agronomic Practices in year 1 but will be trained in year 2 and thereafter we expect rate of adoption to increase by end of year 2. However, at the time of the baseline only 7% of farmers were practicing good agronomic practices..

Result 1.2: Increased market accessibility	Outcome 2: Sustainable market systems and value chain efficiency	Volume (5120MT) of produce bulked and sold together.	0	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to Uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. There has not been any collective bulking between farmers. However, some crops were undergoing physiological maturity, specifically maize, ground nuts, beans and sweet potatoes were harvested in piecemeal and cassava was mainly for subsistence. upcoming trainings in production and marketing in year 2 will enhance knowledge of farmers on benefits on collective bulking and marketing.
		Number (30) of buyer/off taker linkages established (one per value chain)	0	11 potential off takers have been identified, assessed and profiled.
	Out put 2: Increased access to markets for agricultural produce	Average tonnage of agricultural produce sold to local, regional, and national markets. (1ton)	0	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to Uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. There has not been any collective bulking between farmers. However, Upcoming trainings in production and marketing, Post harvest handling, linkages to off takers in year 2 will enhance knowledge on benefits on bulking, production and marketing for international, regional markets .
		% of smallholder farmers with access to viable agricultural markets	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to Uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. There has not been any collective bulking between farmers. However, Upcoming trainings in production and marketing, Post harvest handling, linkages to off takers in year 2 will enhance knowledge on benefits on bulking, production and marketing for international, regional markets
		Percentage of established producer groups accessing markets	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to Uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. There has not been any collective bulking between farmers. However, Upcoming trainings in production and marketing, Post-harvest handling, linkages to off takers in year 2 will enhance knowledge on benefits on bulking, production, and marketing for international, regional markets
		Percent (60%) of farmers adopting modern post-	0%	Given the delayed start of project activity implementation due to Uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic. There has not been any

		harvest technologies.		collective bulking between farmers. However, upcoming trainings in, post-harvest handling, in year 2 will enhance knowledge on benefits on PHH and hence add value to produce to fetch high returns.
		Average (3\$) daily income from on farm activities	0	Given the delayed start of project implementation due to uganda government lockdown. as a result COVID-19 pandemic , Training in financial literacy and VSLA trainings took place at the end of the year and other are still on going. Therefore we are looking forward to see that in year 2, the indicator is tracked.
Result 1.3: Nutrition and public health interventions	Outcome 3: Improved nutrition, sanitation, reproductive health and health seeking practices.	Percent (60%) of households practicing good hygiene and sanitation practices.	0%	This indicator has not kicked despite the Covid effect. Its still up for discussion. The activities are still subject to discussion and adjustment
		Percentage (60%) of households with knowledge and practicing good nutrition.	0%	Given the delayed start of project implementation due to uagnda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic , the project had not yet trained farmers in Good nutrition practices. However, in year 2 farmers will be trained on good nutrition. As per the baseline only 7% of farmers had access to good nutrition information. This indicator is planned to be tracked in year 2.
		Number (6) of food items eaten by households in 24-hour period. (Household Dietary diversity score).	0	Given the delayed start of project implementation due to uagnda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic , the project had not yet trained farmers in Good nutrition practices. However activities in GAP, nutrition will be implemented in year 2. As per baseline result, 22% farmers reported consumption of 5 and more different food items which is attributed to some food security, nutrition knowledge on good nutrition practices. In year 2 we will be able to track progress of this indicator.

	Number(14) of youth friendly corners established in health facilities.	0	During year 1, the project identified space from 14 health facilities. A staff (Nurse - midwife) was identified from each facility who will oversee the corner. However, the facilities will be set-up, equipped and train the in-charge in year2.
	Percentage (35%) of young people reporting access to SRH information.	0%	Given the delayed start of project implementation due to uganda government lockdown as a result COVID-19 pandemic , the project had not yet trained young people (oeer educators) in sexual and reproductive health. However the activities will be implemented after setting up, equipping youth friendly corner and training Nurses in year 2.

4. Activities carried out during the reporting period

Management and operational startup activities

Sub-contracting partners

IITA completed the process of subcontracting all the five partners (VEDCO, Rikolto, Kilimo Trust, Bioversity and ECUREI) who have all signed their contracts. Funds for the whole year to implement activities were disbursed and acknowledgements received. However, due to changes in the staffing plan that could only be approved by the contracting authority, contracting of Bioversity International took a bit longer as feedback from the contracting authority on the changes submitted in the inception report was being waited for.

Staff recruitment

IITA and consortium members undertook the recruitment of project staff. The adverts for the different positions were developed based on the recommended specifications by the communication and visibility office of the project management unit and published by all the consortium partners. All project staff have successfully been recruited with; IITA having 9 staff, Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO) – 5 staff, Kilimo trust – 3 staff, Rikolto – 3 staff, Ernest Cook Ultrasound Research and Education Institute (ECUREI) – 5 staff and Bioversity – 4 staff.

Start-up activity: Baseline survey in the 7 districts

Development of the survey tool: IITA, together with the consortium members, developed a survey tool to collect baseline information. This tool was developed based on key information needed for project kickoff but also based on missing baseline values in the log frame. The tool had major areas including production of diversified crops, market enhancement, nutrition, child & maternal health, reproductive health, and WASH.

Conducting of the baseline study in all seven districts: A baseline study was carried out in all seven districts where the action will be implemented. Before the baseline was conducted, letters were sent to the district Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) informing them of the impending activity. Prior to the activity starting, the IITA’s country representative—Dr. Regina Kapinga and the interim project manager,

Mr. Perez Muchunguzi, visited each of the district authorities to discuss the action and to inform the district authorities about the start of the activities. The district was given the opportunity to choose two sub-counties in the district where the action will be implemented. Also, they contributed two team members per district in the survey. These mainly played a significant role as key informants due to the diverse knowledge they have of the locations we visited. A baseline reports was developed.

Acquisition of the local office in Northern Uganda – Dokolo district

As part of the startup activities, the action acquired a field office in Dokolo district, Lango sub-region. The twelve-roomed office on the ground and first floor is located along Amolatar Road, Plot 49, Dokolo Block 4, Angwecibange, Dokolo Town Council. The office space will house all the consortium members responsible for the three result areas namely, production of diverse foods, enhancing markets, and nutrition and public health interventions. Dokolo was selected due to its centrality considering the target districts in the Lango sub-region and proximity and being on the highway to eastern Uganda, thus accessing Amuria and Kapelebyong. The office is hired on an annual basis with two months' notice for either side to terminate the contract; renewal is based on the availability of funds.

Result 1.1: Increased production of diversified foods

Start-up activities: Conduct community project inception meetings,

During the year 2020, VEDCO led the consortium in conducting inception meetings at lower local government offices in all the 14 sub counties of the 7 targeted districts. The meetings' objectives were to; (i) advocate for sub county stakeholders buy-in as regards the project, (ii) heighten and increase stakeholder awareness about BRENU and its implementation modalities including roles of all actors along the value chain, (iii) acquire details of existing registered farmer groups from the sub counties' Community Development Officers (CDOs) and (iv) to verify information about existing cooperatives that was collected during the baseline survey. The sub-county level meetings were attended by 131 sub-county officials (94 males and 37 females) and these included Senior Assistant Secretaries (SAS), Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs), Community Development Officer (CDOs), Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), public health assistants, LC3 chairmen, parish and sub-county chiefs, councilors and project staff. The sub county local authorities embraced the project and pledged their commitment and support to ensure project success within the regions. They have since then participated in community mobilization which ensures active participation by farmer groups and this fosters community ownership of the project.

Permission was sought from the sub- county authorities to hold similar meetings at village and parish levels with 1,159 participants (788 males and 371 females). Attendees included LC 1s, parish chiefs and group leaders. During the meeting, awareness about the project was created, farmer groups received from the subcounty level were vetted and the local leaders accepted to work with the project. 85,000 profiling forms were distributed to the village leaders to register potential beneficiary households from their communities.

Outputs:

- Project Inception meetings at sub-county, parish, and village/farmer group levels
- Built awareness about the BRENU project
- Developed a data base of existing registered farmer groups from all implementation sub- counties
- Farmer groups that were recommended at sub-county level were scrutinized and approved by LC1s, Parish chiefs and group leaders.

Start-up activity: Identification, profiling and selection of households and formation of Community Livelihood groups.

During the year 2020, 46,190 out of 51,250 beneficiary farmer households were selected as project beneficiaries across the 7 districts of Apac, Amalotar, Dokolo, Kwanja, Amuria, Otuke and Kapelabyong. This leaves a deficit of 5,060 beneficiaries to be filled in quarter 1 of year 2. In addition, 1,510 Community Livelihood Groups (CLGs) were formed and sensitized about the project, and later 151 Community Development Promoters (CDPs) were selected from CLGs to support in project implementation. However, on assessing the capacity and organization level of the farmer groups and cooperatives, it was established that majority were poorly organized, fairly young and had limited bulking/collective marketing happening at group level – with bulking only observed at cooperative level (1-10MT capacity). This poses a big challenge moving forward.

The delays in beneficiary selection was due to the Covid 19 pandemic that led to a lock down and community engagement restrictions. Political activities ahead of the Uganda 2021 general election also caused rescheduling of project activities due to competing programming. These were however tackled by engaging local authorities and re-adjusting project activity schedules bearing in mind major political events within the communities

Out puts:

- 46,190 beneficiary households were selected and enlisted for support resulting into, 90% achievement of overall project target
- 1,510 CLGs were formed and sensitized about the project
- 151 Community Development Promoters were also selected

Start-up activity: Verification of Community Livelihood Groups and Cooperatives, Recruitment, and orientation of Community Development Promoters (CDP) and Facilitators (CDF):

IITA-DINU project implementation strategy makes use of the Community Facilitation Group Model to implement activities. It involves formation of Twenty-five (25) neighborhood households clustered in a Community Livelihood Group (CLG), with a representative called Community Development Facilitator (CDF). Each 10 CDFs are led by a Community Development Promoter (CDP). The project verified the profiled 1510 farmer groups for their suitability to become CLGs. The selected groups were facilitated to select an appropriate leader/CDF and later on CDFs were clustered into 10 CDFs to select a CDP amongst them who will participate in all basic project trainings and activities for the three-result area's work (Productivity, Markets and Nutrition and public health). Communities were well mobilized through the sub county officials and group leaders. Mapping out, identification and assessing of 10 Farmer Business Organizations (FBOs) and 11 Cooperative Societies was also conducted. However, lack of proper records by most farmer organizations made it difficult for the data collection team to assess and verify the information they were providing. However, plans are underway to support cooperatives and FBOs to strengthen internal management systems, leadership, and business skills.

Review meetings for Community Development Promoters (CDPs):

During the year review meeting for CDPs were conducted with aim of reviewing CDP's past experience and engagement in the project, deepen knowledge on BRENU objectives, targets and three result areas of production, marketing, health & nutrition activities and expected roles of CDPs under each result areas, Identify expected challenges and opportunities to project activity implementation and generate key workable action points. As a result, a total of 151 CDPs participated in the activity across the seven districts, during the review participatory approaches were used by different project partners including IITA, ECUREI, RIKOLTO, and VEDCO who exhaustively explained to the CDPs their planned activities and the corresponding project expectation to achieved planned activities, CDPs understanding of the project was deepened and clearing out possible misconceptions about the project deliverables. Potential

challenges, opportunities and action points were documented and addressed. The CDPs were able to interact among themselves as a way of networking and encouraging cross learning

Outputs

- 1510 Community Livelihood groups verified representing a 74% achievement of the target
- Identified and profiled 11 cooperatives and 10 rural producer organizations
- 1510 Community development facilitators and 151 out of 205 community development promoters were selected.
- Review meetings for 151 CDPs and some CDFs were conducted

Start-up activity: Development of training materials on crop productivity and VSLA management (seed production and marketing, VSLAs, Agronomy/Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

The production team collected an assortment of relevant training materials; manuals on cassava production from IITA Nigeria, the six steps of managing weeds and other manuals on Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs), local seed business, and Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS). As a result, the process of developing user-friendly manuals is ongoing, the manuals will be customized, made into popular versions, translated into local languages, simplified for Community Development Facilitators (CDF) and Community Development Promoters (CDPs) to ensure user-ability for the different project target audiences.

Sub activity: 1.1.1.0: Develop and promote local seed systems for adoption of clean improved varieties linked to high value output markets and nutrition:

Procurement and dissemination of superior, disease- tolerant and resistant crop varieties to smallholder farmers: The IITA-DINU project completed the process of evaluating the bids to identify a potential supplier of planting materials to be distributed to farmers. The committee selected Divine Organic Foods Limited to supply planting materials of Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes (OFSP), iron and zinc rich beans, groundnuts, and indigenous vegetables and fruits. The company is experienced and has supplied the Office of the Prime Minister in the past.

Sub activity: 1.1.3.1: Training Community Livelihood Groups (CLGs) in the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA).

The capacity of 146 Community Development Promoters (CDPs) (108 males and 38males) out of 205 CDPs from seven project districts of Otuke, Kapelebyong, Apac, Amuria, Dokolo, Amolatar and Kwanja were trained in VSLA methodology and key training themes included; governance, development of VSLA constitutions basic principles and practices of VSLA, action audit, loan management among others. The trainings on VSLA methodology will help to clarify on action audits as one of the critical internal controls in VSLA and will renew members trust, the CDPs skills and knowledge in; group dynamics (Membership, Leadership and Elections), development of policies and rules for social fund, share purchase and credit activities, development of the group constitution, Saving and rules of saving was enhanced. The CDPs used the acquired skills to transform the 1510 Community Livelihood groups (CLGs) into VSLAs. The remaining CDPs' capacity in VSLA will be enhanced in year 2. In addition, the capacity of 68 VSLAs was built in VSLA methodology and 1815 farmers (female 974 and male 841) attended the training. The trainings focused on Qualities of good VSLA members, Leadership and qualities of a good leader, the savings box and its contents, Records kept in a VSLA group, Procedures taken in a savings meeting, group constitution – sample format. The VSLA trainings have resulted into a shift in the VSLAs to save for investment as opposed to saving for consumption and feasting as practiced before.

Outputs

146 out of 205 CDPs trained in VSLAs methodologies representing a 71% achievement of project target.
1510 CLGs transformed to VSLAs by the CDPs

68 VSLAs groups were trained in VSLA methodologies

Sub activity: 1.1.3.2: Link Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to financial institutions

Seven (7) out of 21 financial linkage meetings were organized between farmers and banks profiled and enlisted for possible credit support to BRENU producer groups. These banks included Centenary bank, Postbank, Equity bank, DFCU in Lira and local Community Savings and Credit Organization (SACCO) called Ikwera SACCO. The linkage meetings attracted a total of 1,855 farmers with 671 males and 1,184 females. At the onset, introductory meetings were conducted between banking Officers and BRENU groups and they were aimed at understanding different banking products and services on offer. During the introductory meetings, groups were enlightened on aspects of financial literacy, with focus on personal finance management. The financial institutions are farmer friendly with better interest rates and loan repayment terms. Financial literacy tips were also cascaded to VSLAs to ensure that funds borrowed are invested in meaningful ventures such as Income generating activities that can service the loans. Negotiations and documentations are ongoing to ensure timely access of funds by VSLAS, however the VSLAs have been encouraged to open bank accounts with the financial institutions which will ensure safety of VSLA money and increase access to finance from the institutions. It is however worthwhile to note that though linkages of financial institutions to groups were made, no group has been able to access credit support. This is because the group saving portfolios are still small to attract commensurate loans. Similarly, groups business plans were not concluded for most groups at end of year one. Groups are now being encouraged to boost their saving portfolios and guided to conclude their business plans. This is expected to increase number of groups able to access credit from banks in year 2. Follow up linkages meetings of identified financial institutions will be held with farmers in subsequent quarters to ensure that farmer groups are directly linked and are able to access credit.

Out puts

Seven (7) out of 21 financial linkage meetings were conducted between 5 financial institutions (Centenary, Post, DFCU, Equity banks and Ikwera SACCO and farmers which makes a 33% achievement rate.

Sub activity: 1.1.3.4: Link farmers to agro-dealers and other private sector actors to access quality inputs

Fourteen (14) parish level linkage meetings between farmers and 11 agro input dealers were conducted in the 7 districts and 1855 farmers (671 males and 1,184 females) attended. The meetings provided an opportunity for the actors to share information and contact details with farmers. Increased access to quality inputs is anticipated to boost production in season 2021 A. The farmers were also able to consolidate their input demand and bargain for better prices from agro-input dealers. Additionally, the Agro-input dealers were implored to consider investing in soybean, Cassava, Rice Groundnuts seed business as there was an evident scarcity of seed especially during peak planting seasons. There is however a high demand for inputs which might overwhelm local input dealers at the sub counties. To mitigate the challenge, medium scale, and large-scale input dealers in Lira, Soroti and surrounding semi developed trading centres and urban areas were also engaged, and assurance given to meet the demand. Data on Input access by the farmers will be compiled and used to project production and marketing of the agricultural products.

Outputs

- Fourteen (14) parish level linkage meetings between farmers and agro input dealers were conducted
- 1855 farmers attended the Agro- input dealers linkage meeting.

Sub activity 1.1.3.5: Introduce and train seed inspectors on the use of disease management Intelligent software (NURU (Swahili for Light)).

Two production department staff are undergoing a virtual Training of Trainer (ToT) course on the application of the NURU App, used in crop disease diagnosis and management. The training aims to

enhance the officers' skills to use the intelligent software that accurately recognize diseased and damaged crops especially in cassava. The 2 trained project staff are expected to pass on the knowledge to project agricultural extension workers and 420 seed inspectors.

Result 1.2: Increased market accessibility

Start-up activity: Conduct initial partnership and buy in meetings.

During the year, the project through Kilimo trust and Rikolto profiled and conducted buy-in business meetings with major off takers for soybeans, rice, and cassava. Meetings were conducted with 11 potential consortia leads for buy-in in the Lango and Teso regions. They included (i) Acila Enterprises in Soroti for soybeans, (ii) Landmark Millers in Soroti for cassava, (iii) Adyaka Millers Ltd in Apac for cassava, (iv) Soybean Solution Eastern Africa Ltd in Lira for soybean, (v) Windwood Millers in Lira for cassava, (vi) Oasis Agribusiness Ltd for soybeans, (vii) TOTCO in Lira for soybeans, (viii) Markburridge Guest Farms for rice, (ix) Lira Resort for soybeans, (x) Global Forum for Development (GLOFORD), (xi) Transformation for Rural Development (TRAFODE) and (xii) AgriExims Ltd. These meetings were geared towards leveraging opportunities across the value chain and exploring potential for off take, especially at the market end. The competitive prices offered by off-takers will provide a pull factor, thus furthering BRENU producer groups' bulk marketing initiatives. All the groups through CDPs will be linked to the above bulk marketing initiatives through a spectrum of business to business forums in year 2. Arising from the meetings, was the commitment of the SMEs to take part in the project i.e. They are hoped to provide market information to position farmer groups to bargain for the most competitive prices with spectrum of off takers.

Outputs

Eleven (11) off takers were identified, engaged and profiled

Sub activity 1.2.1.1: Train suppliers and buyers in business skills, negotiation skills and management of contracts

To increase commercialization level among farmers and access to markets seven (7) Training of Trainer (TOTs) events for Business development skills, negotiation skills and management of contracts were held and attended by 148 Community Development Promoters (CDPs) in the districts of Apac, Amolatar, Dokolo, Kwanja, Otuke, Amuria and Kapelebyong. These CDPs will be expected to facilitate training of farmers in the selected groups/Community Livelihood Groups (CLGs). The breakdown of the participants was as follows; Apac – 28 CDPs (20M, 8F), 01 District Official; Kwanja – 23 CDPs (16M, 7F), 01 District Official; Amolatar & Dokolo – 35 CDPs (28M, 7F); Otuke – 22 CDPs (17M, 5F); Kapelebyong -23 CDPs (13M, 10F); Amuria – 17 CDPs (15M, 2F). Going forward, technical backstopping of trainings by the CDPs will be made by the technical staff of the project to ensure that the CDPs are able to train 7060 suppliers and buyers.

Outputs

- 7 Business skills trainings were conducted
- 148 out of 205 CDPs were trained as TOTs in the Business skills representing a 72% achievement

Sub activity 1.2.1.2: Upgrade and equip storage facilities (computers, weighing scale, moisture meter, etc.) and increase utilization

During the year 2020 project partners Identified and conducted preliminary assessment of storage facilities at cooperative level. As a result, 8 out of 20 storage facilities were identified in the districts of Kapelebyong (4), Otuke (1) and Apac (3). The identified facilities will be upgraded and equipped in year 2. This activity was however scheduled for year one but the COVID 19 pandemic and its effects i.e. lockdown

delayed the onset of all project activities until August 2020 – yet this activity depends on start-up activities such as beneficiary selection and structure formation, thus the shift to year 2.

Sub-activity 1.2.1.6. Develop training materials (manuals).

In preparation for the Business skills training, Kilimo trust finalized and printed the training manual for the business development skills and management of contracts which was disseminated to CDPs/ToTs. Rikolto has also developed training manuals on; Post Harvest Handling, governance and leadership, marketing, quality management, financial management, operations management, and networking which are undergoing approval from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) communication office.

Output

1 complete business skills training manual tool was developed, printed, and disseminated to 151 CDPs.

Sub activity 1.2.4.1: Conduct market assessments and profiling (secondary literature review, rapid market appraisal, profiling of key market off takers and market actors, conduct comprehensive market review).

In preparation for the market assessment studies to be conducted for the rice, cassava and soybean value chains, Terms of Reference to allow contracting of a consultant for the studies to be undertaken were developed and finalized for publishing.

A rapid market appraisal and profiling was conducted using standardized simplified tools developed for assessment of both buyers/off takers and suppliers. It was conducted in selected districts of Soroti, Apac, Lira, Gulu and Nwoya and surrounding areas with the objective of scouting and assessment of the business potential of key market off takers and profiling them. Another objective was to determine the market requirements for the three commodities: Cassava, Rice and Soybeans. All business-related information was captured and will be used for appraisal. The information includes; company profile, legal status, key products, engagement with farmers, areas of operations, quality and standards issues, operational capacity, prices/price variability, company marketing models, market information sharing strategies, product traceability plans, collective action, environmental protection (waste management) measures, products on demand among others. Eleven (11) potential off takers for rice, cassava, and soybean in the Lango and Teso region were profiled. Additionally, secondary literature review for the rice and cassava market assessment studies were conducted.

The process also involved assessment of farmer business organizations to establish how many of them exist, type of commodities they engage in and what inputs they use. A total of 10 farmer business organizations and 11 cooperatives were identified, assessed, and profiled. In areas where there are no farmer business organizations/ cooperatives, Community Livelihood Groups were encouraged to establish farmer business organizations/ cooperatives to facilitate marketing activities in those areas.

Sub activity 1.2.4.4. Conduct service sector analysis and undertake digital mapping and assess SMEs and FBO capacity/needs (through SCOPE insight assessment tool).

Rikolto recruited a service provider to develop digital tools to support dissemination of information and payments to smallholder farmers. The process involved advertised the Terms of Reference for the companies to submit proposals and four service providers submitted their technical proposals for the job. The ***eproduct solution*** was selected as the digital solution service provider

Sub activity: 1.2.4.13: Undertake Business 2 Business (B2B) meetings for business engagements

Crucial to establishing market linkages was organizing and holding Business to Business (B2B) meetings between suppliers and buyers which was led by Kilimo trust and Rikolto. A total of 8 business to business linkage meetings were conducted across the value chain. The meetings were geared towards leveraging

opportunities across the value chain, especially at the market end. Arising from the meetings were firm business relationships and information shared, especially on prevailing input and produce demand. The farmers were able to consolidate their input demand and bargain for better prices from Agro-input dealers. These meetings were conducted in the 7 target districts and the following stakeholders participated.

- Apac - 2 Off-takers (Lira Resort Enterprises Ltd for Soybean and Adyaka wholesalers Ltd for Cassava), 39 Cooperatives/farmer group representatives (26M, 13F, 19Youths), 2 district officials;
- Kwanja - 1 Off-taker (Lira Resort Enterprises Ltd for Soybean), 43 Cooperatives/farmer group representatives (36M, 7F, 9Youth), 1 district official;
- Dokolo - 2 Off-takers (Oasis Agribusiness Uganda Ltd for Soybean, Adyaka wholesalers Ltd for Cassava), 25 Cooperatives/farmer group representatives (19M, 6F, 11Youth);
- Amolatar - 1 Off-taker (Adyaka wholesalers Ltd for Cassava), 28 Cooperatives/farmer group representatives (22M; 6F; 21 youths), 2 district officials;
- Otuke - 50 Farmer group/cooperative representatives (34M, 16F), 2 Off takers (Lira Resort Enterprise Ltd (Soybean) & Markburrige Ltd (Rice)), 2 district officials;
- Kapelebyong – 35 farmer group/cooperative representatives (26M, 9F), 2 Off takers (Acila Enterprise Ltd (Soybean) Landmark Millers Ltd (Cassava & Rice));
- Amuria – 73 farmer group/cooperative representatives (45M, 28F), 2 Off takers (Acila Enterprise Ltd (Soybean), Landmark Millers Ltd (Cassava & Rice)), 1 District official.

In addition, a separate Business to Business meeting was held between Oasis Agribusiness Uganda Ltd and Dokolo West Cooperative Executive to forge a business linkage. In the meeting, it was agreed that the cooperative would sell to the off taker but in a formal relationship, starting season A 2021. A draft MoU will be shared among the parties and the cooperative members will be brought to speed with the development. The cooperative tentatively pledged the ability and willingness to supply 50MT of soybeans and 100 MT of maize in Season A

Result 1.3: Nutrition and public health interventions

Start-up activity: procurement and distribution of bicycles to Community Development Promoters.

The IITA-DINU project is recruiting 205 Community Development Promoters (CDP) to support the implementation of the project activities as key agents for all the 3 result areas; Production, markets, Nutrition, and health. To ease their movement during project implementation, a total of 205 bicycles were procured by one of the partners; ECUREI and were distributed by the team to the CDPs in the 7 project implementation districts. Distribution of these bicycles was officiated the district local authorities in all the seven districts. The exercise that commenced in Dokolo was attended by the Regional Programme Coordinator Gulu, Resident District Commissioners (RDC), Local Council V Chairpersons. Chief Administrative Officers (CAO), District Production Officers, DINU focal persons and Marketing Officers. All the 205 bicycles were procured (100% achievement) however only 137 bicycles have been distributed to the Community Development Promoters from all the 7 project districts representing a 67% achievement. The balance of 68 bicycles will be distributed after verifying and selecting CDPs in the next quarter.

Start-up activity: Develop training materials for nutrition and health; ECUREI is reviewing training manuals for; nutrition, maternal and child health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and Water Access, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). These will be translated to the local dialect and used to train Community Development Promoters who will later train the Community Development Facilitators and group members.

Sub activity: 1.3.1.3: Develop, test, and launch a Nutrient rich product

Bioversity international is in the process of identifying a food processing Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) to collaborate with in the development, promotion and testing of the nutrient rich food product. As such, two food processing SMEs in the regions; Divine organic foods in Lango and Eastern agricultural development company (EADC) in Teso were identified and visited. The visiting of both SMEs was to gather information for assessing their feasibility to deliver the required food product in terms of availability of food sources, processing lines, areas of operation, etc. As a requirement for the project, the implementing unit will decide and select the suitable SME for the product delivery based on their selection criteria

Sub activity 1.3.1.7: Support households for increased practice of using local hand washing points and pit latrines:

In preparation for effective implementation of this activity in the 7 districts, ECUREI together with a successful consultant and district technical wing led the team in a preliminary activity where two households were supported to construct two pilot improved pit latrine technologies in Kabelebyong (Acowa subcounty) and Dokolo (Amwoma subcounty) districts. This was done to determine feasibility, actual cost, and appropriateness of latrine structures in relation to terrain and water retention levels in the implementing districts. Some of the challenges encounter included fragile soils, low water table in some districts and not readily available construction materials like timber, aggregates and sand which made the unit cost of this activity about 10 times higher than the budget. A survey is being done to establish the existing materials used to construct pit latrines in the area that could be used to cut down on the costs.

Sub activity 1.3.2.2: Develop an android mobile phone application with adolescent reproductive health information. A phone application with adolescent sexual and reproductive health content will be developed and installed on adolescent beneficiaries' phones. However, the activity will involve developing Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) material tailored to the needs of adolescents and integrate them into a mobile android phone platform to be used by adolescents in the implementing districts. A BCC expert is being contracted to take on the job

Sub activity: 1.3.2.4 Adolescent peers distribute family planning commodities and hold dialogue meetings and awareness on safe reproductive health

ECUREI is leading in the process of verifying peer facilitators who are selected from the adolescent groups formed at household level and peer leaders selected from the facilitators. The selection is done by adolescents from the peer groups in the 7 implementing districts. A total of 2050 Peer facilitators and 205 peer leaders will be identified and verified but so far 225 peer facilitators from Dokolo and Amuria have been identified and verified. The total 205 peer leaders who will be selected will receive a ToT training from ECUREI in Sexual Reproductive Health and family planning so that they can convey the message to peer facilitators and adolescents in the communities.

This activity was delayed due to COVID 19 pandemic and the lock down which resulted in delay in beneficiary selection and group formation hence delay in selection of the peer facilitators and leaders. This activity has however been adjusted into year 2's work plan

Advocacy and strategic stakeholder engagement for project visibility, resource mobilization, institutionalization, and catalyzing policy action

Advocacy meetings; Developed an IITA- DINU project brief with strategic information for potential Public Private Partners and donors. Additionally, meetings were held with some key players with the aim of

identifying potential synergies with other development initiatives. The focus was on the initiatives that will contribute towards realizing the country's vision of transforming the agriculture sector from subsistence farming to commercial farming- prioritizing improving access to agricultural markets and value addition. The IITA-DINU project also embarked on looking for funding opportunities and held meetings with the following development agencies and private sector partnerships; (i) Ministry of East African Community Affairs (MEACA), (ii) Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), (iii) Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders & Agribusinesses (CASA) funded by DFID, (iv) Ag-Ploutos and (v) Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)

A strategic meeting with the African Development Bank-sponsored Technologies for African Agriculture Transformation (TAAT) program was held on 7 April to identify opportunities and synergies between DINU and TAAT programs by exploring what TAAT and DINU can do to complement the DINU government of Uganda program in Northern Uganda. This is part of advocacy for scalability and sustainability. The virtual meeting was attended by 42 participants including representatives from the CGIAR and non-CGIAR that are participating as TAAT compact leaders and country focal persons. Other attendants were the consortium partners. TAAT program is one of the potential partners for linkages in several commodities especially cassava, beans, sweet potato, rice and livestock. Others will be explored during the implementation. Preliminary plans were drawn to allow collaboration between the two programs

IITA-DINU stakeholder engagements with district officials: Strategic engagements with local government officials at DINU district level were held: Courtesy visits to focal persons and other relevant district offices i.e District Production Office, Resident District Commissioners of the 7 implementation districts. This served as the planned engagement visits to update on the progress of the IITA-DINU project. These regular interactions also aid in fostering public awareness in the communities, strengthen relationships and foster co-ownership at local government level. The project is now registered under a file at each of the districts, and these will carry a dossier of all project documents including OPM's approved district level deliverables and work plans. These deliverables and workplans are the foundation of the MoU between the DINU consortium and the districts. The regular interactions will also aid in fostering public awareness in the communities, strengthen relationships and foster co-ownership at local government level.

IITA-DINU project district stakeholder consultative workshop; Following the desire to scale the IITA-BRENU project, a 2-day district consultative workshop was organized by IITA and attended by (i) district local government officials under the 3 result areas; production, markets and nutrition and health, (ii) the policy makers (iii) Ngetta – Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute and (iv) consortium members. The meeting was pivotal in registering further support from district political and civic leaders, developing deeper understanding of the project implementation model, lay strategies to develop funding concept for expansion, scale up and sustainability of project activities. Some of the outputs of the workshop included A catalogue of issues/problems faced by each district and potential solutions/interventions and district based draft concept notes. District technical working groups were selected to complete the concept notes with support from the consortium.

DINU programme district launch meetings: Organized by the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) – Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) regional offices (Northern region and Karamoja region), DINU district launch meetings were held in the project implementation sites i.e. on 10th December in Amuria, 11th December parallel in Kapelebyong and Dokolo, and on the 14th December in Amolatar districts. These meetings were meant for the donor - OPM to officially introduce DINU programme implementing partners to the district local government and launch the projects in the respective districts. IITA was represented

by the IITA-DINU project monitoring and evaluation expert and project manager who made presentation on DINU progress.

Discussions on harmonization with GIZ:

Both BRENU and GIZ through their project Promoting Rural Development in Uganda (PRUDEV) work in Dokolo and Amolatar. Discussion were held to harmonize working modalities and ensuring a common approach as we both work with the village-based structure for knowledge dissemination and sustainability after project closure.

Monitoring and Evalutaion (M&E)

Startup activity: The BRENU project M&E expert updated the log frame with baseline and target values. The updated log frame was submitted to the DINU M&E specialist.

5. Financial performance during the reporting period

IITA received 2,170,126.94 Euros and disbursed annual funds to all the partners, the total estimated expenditure for year 2020 is 396,163.38 Euros. The balance is 1,773,963.56 Euros.

6. Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues during the reporting period

During beneficiary selection, the households selected to benefit from the project had more women beneficiaries i.e. 54% women and 46% men. Additionally, women have been encouraged and recruited in leadership positions of Community Development Promoters and facilitators as most of them are shy to take up these leadership positions. This will ensure that their views are taken up and they oversee decisions made at the group level. This will be followed by basic training in gender

During the establishment of production and marketing committees at community Livelihood Group level, the market team made deliberate effort to ensure women representation in the committee. This is intended to empower women in terms of leadership, production, and marketing of their agricultural produce.

The action puts women of reproductive age and adolescents at the center of building resilience to Enhance Food and Nutrition Security, Incomes and Health in Northern Uganda. By increasing the use of family planning among women, child spacing is enhanced there by ensuring that mothers are healthy. In addition, the different interventions for adolescents aim at reduction of unwanted pregnancies and ensuring that they live a productive life helps to empower the youth

The project is also promoting Climate Smart Agricultural which will ensure environmental sustainability

7. Partnerships and synergies

Relationship with consortium implementing partners

The BRENU project that commenced in January 2020 is being implemented by a consortium of 6 partners including IITA – lead, VEDCO, Kilimo Trust, Rikolto, ECUREI and Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (ABC). Some of the partners including VEDCO and ABC have worked together with IITA to implement previous projects. However, one of the strategies the project is employing to ensure effective project

implementation and synergy identification is the consortium monthly meetings for result area leads. The purpose of the meeting is to;

- (i) Align discussion and reporting to donor approved project workplans and contractually expected milestones/ outcomes/ outputs
- (ii) Deliver key result area progress updates and identify synergies between the different partners; Each result area lead presents a general update in activity implementation, challenges in need of input or support from others, intended action to be taken, opportunities arising.

Weekly field level engagements are also held to strategize and capture administrative and logistical cost cutting opportunities or synergies; identifying and making decisions on the sharing of transport and other resources where activities may overlap.

Relationship with other project implementing partners

Private sector collaboration: One of the private sector organizations that the project has partnered with is Devine organic foods in Lira. This is a small and medium food processing enterprise (SMFE). The collaboration with Devine that is a Lira based company will ensure the provision of quality seeds to the farmers and ensure that the seed producers get the necessary training and market linkages. SASU enterprises at the Uganda Technical college in Lira is another private sector that the project partnered with to provide furniture and technical advice. They have been able to supply all the office furniture needs for the BRENU field office and provided the related technical assistance.

Ngetta Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (ZARDI): Ngetta ZARDI has partnered with the BRENU project and will contribute to provision of agricultural development technologies like improved varieties and services like training and quality assurance for example seed germination testing.

Gulu Regional referral hospital for weighing balances and height boards: During the baseline survey held in March 2020, the project partnered with Gulu referral hospital through its director and the hospital nutritionists who lent the action nine height boards and ten weighing balances for a period of two weeks to assist with anthropometric measurements, i.e. measuring the children's height and weight to determine nutritional indicators.

Cooperation and synergies with other components of the DINU programme or with other projects/programmes outside DINU

BRENU initiated collaboration synergies with Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), a program of the African Development Bank (AfDB) that was initiated in 2018 as part of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy of 2016 – 2025.

Similar to DINU hence BRENU objectives, TAAT seeks to rapidly expand access by smallholder farmers, majority women, to high yielding agricultural technologies to improve their food production, assure food security and raise rural incomes, and deliver regional public goods by scaling up agricultural technologies across similar agro-ecological zones.

Our partnership with TAAT is poised to increase agricultural productivity and diversification, leading to improved food and nutrition security, job creation through expanded commercialization and industrialization.

IITA as a CGIAR TAAT implementing institution is focused on strengthened coordination, harmonization, and alignment of TAAT delivery compact operations within Uganda that complement our project's priority value chains like cassava, rice, orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP), high and iron beans (HIB).

Working with relevant delivery and development organizations like NARO, we are ensuring that TAAT's proven technologies are transferred through appropriate mechanisms to achieve impact at scale within the regions where we work.

Some of the initiatives we are currently working on is quality rice seed production and dissemination of improved /climate-smart mega varieties and hybrids with seed enterprises.

The Orange Flesh Sweet Potato Compact contribution to DINU will be to share materials from established decentralized vine producers, provision of certified seed of adaptable climate smart drought hybrids adaptable to agro-ecologies of Northern Uganda.

The partnership emphasizes support to farmer groups, with a focus on women groups in Northern Uganda. Together we shall source and supply initial quantities of Early Generation Seed (EGS) of climate smart hybrids, develop and promote local seed systems for adoption of clean improved varieties linked to high value output markets and nutrition.

At local government level, Support to the action will be in recruiting and training individual farmers and agricultural officers in the various districts of implementation to establish local seed businesses to produce Quality Declared Seed (QDS) that can be branded and promoted as TAAT premium quality. Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT is leading the nutrition component of the DINU- BRENU project adding value to the partnership.

The ENABLE TAAT compact ongoing activities including; the food basket, advocacy outreach, youth incubation, agribusiness parks are a major way we shall tackle youth unemployment by stimulating youth-led agribusiness start-ups along the value chains of cassava, rice, Orange-fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) and High Iron Beans compacts in northern Uganda. We will establish several on field site learnings and field events for community youth farmers.

Some DINU-BRENU's priority value chains are prone to aflatoxin and would deter farmer's access to regional markets. As part of our mandate to contribute to food safety and security, income, regional trade, and nutritional health of farming families in northern Uganda, IITA has designed integrated aflatoxin management strategies centered around scientifically proven solutions to minimize aflatoxin contamination.

Currently Uganda has a Technical Working Group (TWG) on Mycotoxins involving different stakeholders of which we are a significant contributor. The group works closely with the EAC Regional Aflatoxin Working Group, to liaise activities to manage the pertinent issue of aflatoxin in the country. The collaboration will play a crucial role in the implementation of a suit of aflatoxin prevention strategies, including good agricultural practices, good crop handling and storage structures will be disseminated to actors at various nodes along the value chains, to prevent aflatoxin contamination in the priority commodities.

8. Main lessons learned during the reporting period

- Proper coordination and effective communication are critical for successful project activity implementation. That engagement should specifically target local government officials.
- The use of mobile money payment method is acceptable; when awareness is created in the masses, the people change and embrace the change.

- It is important to level stakeholder expectations at first engagement to avoid problems at a later stage
- Management of community expectations from the onset is critical, but there must be a continuous engagement as new issues and expectations come up all the time.
- Constant update of the district level officials so that they are in touch with what is being implemented on the ground is critical
- Involvement of community leaders like LC1s and Parish chiefs facilitates activity implementation as it causes less resistance

9. Main challenges and key messages from the reporting period

Quality and affordable inputs: the main messages that come through in the reporting cycle have to do with the need to address the issue of access to quality and affordable inputs for farmers. Access to quality inputs is still a challenge for many and for year two readjustments will be made to make more input available to farmers and strengthen the component of local seed business.

The next challenge that comes up is the issue of farmers finding good market for their produce. To address this, the consortium is working with the existing cooperatives in the operation area and is also moving to organize the different established groups into apex bodies and finally into cooperatives for common marketing.

Construction of toilets: the activity that relates to construction of toilets has been challenging because first the population were not enthusiastic to cost sharing but also the district leadership in some places didn't fully embrace it. It was a way of making communities too dependent. This will be revised in collaboration with the Project Management Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister.

High office operation costs: because of office location in Dokolo and most of the services being in the main business hub of Lira, the operation costs went up and made coordination difficult. Coordination with the districts and linking with the like-minded implementers has been difficult. As part of the changes in the new year, the coordination office location will be changed and taken to Lira. This will solve coordination and logistical challenges and improve project success overall.

10. Implementation of the Visibility and Communication Plan during the reporting period

DINU communication working group meeting: The IITA-DINU project communication expert attended this first meeting on 20th November that was aimed at all consortia under the DINU programme sharing updates and lessons on communication activities. The other objective was to devise ways of supporting each other through Joint activities in raising public profile about the programme and promote Grantee, government of Uganda and European Union visibility. It was agreed that communication experts for the different consortia will prepare DINU branded communication and visibility materials ready for disseminating at the forthcoming district coordination meetings in Northern Uganda. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) – Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) shall prepare general pull-up banners detailing consortia interventions.

IITA-DINU project bicycle distribution to Community Development Promoters;
https://twitter.com/IITA_Uganda/status/1339158054168899585,
<https://www.facebook.com/IITAUganda/posts/2915485718685174>

Visibility in recruitment and job advertisements: Developed branded job adverts giving visibility to the government of Uganda and European union. These were published through the New Vision newspaper to ensure accessibility by all potential candidates

Coordination of the design and development of the BRENU project signposts for the office premises in Dokolo and demonstration sites (100%); An IITA-DINU office premise signpost that aligns with the European Union communication guidelines was developed and installed at the Dokolo office in Northern Uganda.

Manage the design/branding of give-away visibility materials like T-shirts, caps and offer support in their procurement (80%); BRENU project t-shirt designs were developed in alignment with the European Union communication guidelines.

Development of the DINU project communication and visibility strategy and workplan: (90%); Draft BRENU project communication strategy was developed with input from partners, this will be shared with OPM communication unit for feedback.

Manage the design and development of 2 pager briefs/factsheets on the BRENU project to facilitate understanding by stakeholders; Project overview, overview per result area; The fact sheet was approved by OPM, A copy was uploaded on CG space but also shared through facebook and twitter for external audience. <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/109965>

Managed the design and development of the DINU branded business cards giving visibility to European Union

11. Signature of the report

Name of the contact person for the action: **Perez Muchunguzi**

Signature: 

Location: **BRENU field office, Lira district**

Date report due:

Date report sent:

Annexes

A. Updated Logical Framework

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
Specific objective: 1	To increase food security, improve maternal and child nutrition, and enhance household incomes through support to diversified food production and commercial agriculture and through improving household resilience (notably to climate change) and women empowerment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. % increase in diversified resilient food productivity. 2. % increase in the Minimum Acceptable Diet 3. Decrease in prevalence of anemia in children aged 6-59 months & women of reproductive age 4. % increase in household incomes 5. % increase in incomes of SME engaged in food value chains 6. Improved participation of women in decision making. 	Minimum Acceptable Diet (%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teso - 25.4% • Lango - 9.1% Anemia in children (%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teso - 59% • Lango - 61% Anemia in women (%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teso – 31.9% • Lango – 39.3% 	Realistic targets will be drawn at inception for indicators 1-6	Baseline data collection tool, Baseline Survey Report, and Interim and End evaluation report	Favorable environment and willingness, support from government and local government
Result: 1.1	Increased production of diversified food	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. % increase of diversified resilient food crops introduced and adopted for production 2. % increase in acreage of diversified foods 3. % increase in food productivity. 	Data from baseline surveys conducted by grantees will be used	Realistic targets will be drawn at inception	Baseline data collection tool, Baseline Survey Report, and Interim and End evaluation report	Favorable weather conditions for crop growth.
Outcome 1	Increased household food nutrition and income security.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of households eating 6 different foods in 24 hr period. 2. Percent of farmers practicing good nutrition practices. 3. Percentage of households 	51% 7% 4.9%	60% 60% 60%	Household/Individual dietary diversity score questions and Household Food Insecurity Access scale questions. Household questionnaire, Project reports, VSLA records	Commitment and willingness from farmers. Good climatic environment. Strong VSLA members.

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
		<p>experiencing less than 2 hunger months in year.</p> <p>4. Proportion of households saving \$300 per day using VSLAs.</p> <p>5. Percent households earning \$2 or more per day.</p> <p>6. Proportion of households completing repayment of loan after accessing credit from VSLA.</p>	<p>0%</p> <p>0%</p> <p>0%</p>	60%		Favorable weather conditions.
Output 1	Increased adoption and production of high-quality foods	<p>1. Number of GA-Practices adopted by farmers</p> <p>2. Average yield increase in Kilogram per harvest of the promoted crops. (Ground nuts, soybeans, Cassava and Rice, OFS)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1958 kgs</p>	<p>6 -practices</p> <p>600 kgs</p>	<p>Farm records,</p> <p>Household questionnaire</p>	<p>Commitment and willingness from farmers, good market prices.</p> <p>Favorable weather conditions.</p> <p>Farmers participate in all the necessary activities.</p> <p>Funds are readily available.</p> <p>Adequate social, economic, and political stability will be maintained.</p>
Activities and process indicators						

Result chain/Intervention	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions	
Activity: 1.1.1	Facilitate the adoption and production of diverse food crops and animal product					
	Develop and promote local seed systems for adoption of clean improved varieties linked to high value output markets and nutrition (IITA).	No. of local seed systems developed and promoted (disaggregation by types) No of groups promoting local seed system.	4 of the 8 diversified crops/seed systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maize – 53.85% Cassava – 32.69% Rice – 1.92% Simsim – 11.54% 2.81% use clean planting material	4 Seed systems to be promoted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFSP Leafy vegetables G. nuts Iron rich beans 51,250 HH.	Project reports	There will be no extreme occurrences Farmers adopt the improved varieties. High value markets are available
Sub activity: 1.1.1.1	Training seed producer groups in internal mobilization of resources for procurement of foundation seed, seed production and marketing	No of seed producers trained No of trainings conducted	0 seed producers 0 trainings	525 seed producers	Project reports	Farmers adopt the improved varieties. High value markets are available
Sub activity: 1.1.1.2	Establishment of seed demonstration	No of seed demonstrations established	0 seed demonstrations	28 demos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soya beans - 7 Cassava - 7 G. nuts – 7 Rice - 7 	Project reports	There will be no extreme occurrences. Farmers adopt the improved varieties. High value markets are available
Sub activity: 1.1.1.3	Organize training and exposure visits for seed producer groups	No of exposure visits for seed producer groups organized	0 exposure visits 0 farmers	20 visits	Project reports	Seed producers will be interested. Farmers adopt the improved varieties. High value markets are available
Sub activity: 1.1.1.4	Link seed producer groups to Research institutions for supply of foundation seed for production of QDS.	Number of seed producer groups accessing foundation seed from to Research institutions for production of QDS.		68 seed producer groups	Project reports	Research will be willing to provide technologies. Farmers adopt the improved varieties. High value markets are available

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
Sub activity: 1.1.1.5	Seed inspection by district seed inspectors	No of demonstration and seed multiplication gardens inspected by the district seed inspectors No of district officials trained in quality declared seed system	Zero (0) gardens 0 district officials	28 gardens 70 district officials	Project reports	Districts will be interested in developing local seed businesses
Activity: 1.1.2	Training and promotion of good agricultural practices (GAP) for diversified crops					
Activity: 1.1.2.1	Training Community Livelihoods Groups in GAP.	No. of farmers that received GAP training No. of GAP trainings conducted No. of community Development Promoters trained No. of community livelihood groups trained	49.58% of farmers 147 GAP trainings 22 Community Development Promoters 49 Community Livelihood Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 trainings 5120 farmers trained. 205 Community Development Promoters 2050 Community Livelihood groups trained	Project reports	Communities will be vigilant to acquire knowledge. Farmers attend the GAP trainings. Farmers adopt the GAP.
	Facilitate access to key inputs and output markets for women and men small-scale farmers (VEDCO)					
Sub activity: 1.1.2.2	Establish on-farm demonstration plots for selected diversified crops	No. of on-farm demonstration plots for selected diversified crops established.	34 demonstration plots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maize – 20 Cassava – 10 Local vegetables – 4 	200 demos	Project reports	There will be good climatic conditions
Sub activity: 1.1.2.3	Organize Farmer Field Days to disseminate GAPs to surrounding communities (VEDCO).	No. of farmer field days conducted Proportion of communities reached with GAPs No. of technologies demonstrated	9 farmer field days 49.58% villages reached 13 technologies	21 farmer field days conducted	Project reports	Communities will be vigilant to learn together as a community
Sub activity: 1.1.2.5	Promote the six-step labour saving technologies to control weeds and increase yield.	No. of farmers that have received weed control labour saving technologies Number of trainings conducted	3.69% of farmers received training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amurai – 16.95% Kapelebyong – 11.86% 	28 weed control demonstration plots (4 per district)	Project reports	There will be good climatic conditions

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
		No of weed control demonstrations established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amolatar – 10.17% • Apac – 10.17% • Dokolo – 18.64% • Kwania – 25.42% • Otuke – 6.78% 			
Sub activity: 1.1.2.6	Facilitation of Community Development Promoters (monthly allowance).	No of Community Development Promoters facilitated	0 CDPs	205 CDPs	Project M&E reports, monthly reports by CDPs	Community Development Promoters will be productive
Activity: 1.1.3	Train farmer groups and other small market operators along the value chain in community saving and credit schemes					
Sub activity: 1.1.3.1	Training CLG in VSLA	Proportion of VSLAs formed and given capacity building support No of trainings conducted No. of groups trained.	62.50% (5 out of 8 groups) had VSLAs integrated	2050 groups trained in VSLA 205 CDP trained	Project reports	Communities will be interested in training in VSLA. Farmers are willing to form the VSLAs and save. Farmers attend the VSLA trainings. Communities will be vigilant to acquire knowledge

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
Sub activity: 1.1.3.2	Link VSLAs to financial institutions	No. of VSLA members linked to financial Institutions. # of partnerships built between VSLA & other financial service providers	6.88% of farmers access credit 57.59% of VSLA members access credit 11.94% received training in credit access 0 meetings	1000 members. 21 partnership/meetings/events	Project reports Questionnaire survey	Financial institutions will be available and willing to lend
Sub activity: 1.1.3.3	Identify gender-based constraints using the GALs approach	No of gender – based constraints identified and addressed. Percent households contributing to community decision making. Full engagement of all in joint planning and sharing of roles within the community	0	60% 60%	Project reports, Questionnaire survey	Local leaders will be supportive
Sub activity: 1.1.3.4	Link farmers to agro dealers and other private sector actors to access quality inputs	# of partnerships/meetings built between farmers and agro dealers. No of farmers linked to agro dealers	4 inputs accessed; • Herbicides – 21.43%, • Fertilizers – 21.43%, • Pesticides – 14.29%, • Seed - 42.86% 22.22% (6 out of 27 villages) access inputs	50 meetings 1000 farmers. 7 meetings (1 event per district)	Project reports	Input dealers will be available in the localities
Sub activity: 1.1.3.5	Introduce and train seed inspectors on the use of disease management	No of seed inspectors trained on the use of disease	0 0	30 seed inspectors trained 14 training events	Project reports	Use of ICT in agriculture will be embraced

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
	Intelligent software (NURU (<i>Swahili for Light</i>))	management intelligent software No of trainings on use of NURU soft ware				
Result: 1.2	Increased market accessibility	% of farmers (by sex) supported by the programme adding value to their products	TBD	30,000 farmers (30% of which will be women)		Adherence to Post harvest handling techniques.
Outcome 2:	Sustainable market systems and value chain efficiency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volume of produce bulked and sold together (disaggregate by crops). 2. Number of buyer/off taker linkages established (one per value chain) 	TBD	5,120MT	Project reports Farmer – cooperative survey records	Willingness to bulk and trade together Price stability
Output 2	Increased access to markets for agricultural produce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Average tonnage of agricultural produce sold to local, regional, and national markets. 4. % of smallholder farmers with access to viable agricultural markets 5. Percentage of established producer groups accessing markets 6. Percent of farmers adopting modern post-harvest technologies. 7. Average daily income from on farm activities. 	TBD	5,120MT	Project reports Farmer – cooperative survey records	Willingness to bulk and trade together Price stability

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
Activity 1.2.1	Foster linkages between smallholder farmers, agro-processors and market operators (VEDCO & Kilimo Trust)	8. No. of farmers linked to other VC actors (disaggregation by actors types and sex) 9. No. of platforms developed or forums organized depending on the project	0	1. 1750 Farmer groups @ 30 members 2. Five (2) technologies for value addition (soybean & threshers; Cassava chippers; on		Use of ICT in agriculture will be embraced. Commitment and willingness by VCD actors. Availability of quality produce.
Sub activity 1.2.1.1	Train suppliers and buyers on business skills, negotiation skills and management of contracts	No of suppliers and buyers trained in business skills, negotiation skills and management of contracts	0 suppliers and buyers	7060	Project reports	Actors will be interested in negotiation skills
Sub activity 1.2.1.2	Upgrade and equip storage facilities (computers, weighing scale, moisture meter, etc.) and increase utilization	No of groups/Cooperatives with stores No of stores upgraded and rehabilitated No of Market stores equipped with facilities.	13 out of 26 groups with stores 0 stores rehabilitated 20 stores in total 9 stores equipped	Seven (7) stores rehabilitated 20 stores equipped	Project reports, Observation	Stores that require rehabilitation will be available. Cooperatives and SMEs supported will avail their contributions (50%) on time
Sub activity 1.2.1.3	Purchase postharvest and processing technologies equipment for target commodities	No of post-harvest equipment purchased and distributed.	0 post-harvest equipment purchased	71 soybean processing machines, 71 mobile cassava chippers, cassava drying racks	Project reports	There will be production to support post-harvest
Sub activity 1.2.1.4	Introduce/demonstrate/promote use of efficient post-harvest handling, processing equipment and technologies	No of postharvest handling equipment demonstrations promoted. Percentage of farmers adopting post-harvest techniques.	0 post-harvest equipment demonstrations	71 soybean processing machines, 71 mobile cassava chippers, cassava drying racks 60%	Project reports. Technical reports	There will be production to support post-harvest. Smallholder farmers shall adopt project promoted technologies
Sub activity 1.2.1.5	Training of FBOs on post-harvest handling	No of FBOs trained in post-harvest handling	0 FBOs trained	2050 FBOs	Project report	There will be production to support post-harvest
Sub activity 1.2.1.6	Develop of training material	No of training materials developed	0 training materials developed		Project reports	There will be need for training

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
Sub activity 1.2.1.7	Training of SHF cooperative members and FBOs on access to finance and agricultural insurance	No. of cooperatives and FBOs strengthened/trained to access to finance and agricultural insurance No. of SHF linked to finance and agricultural insurance.	Access to Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 out of 8 farmer groups 10 out of 22 cooperatives Access to agricultural insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 out of 8 farmer groups 6 out of 22 cooperatives. 	7060 SHF cooperative members in 7 districts will be trained 30 Cooperatives	Project reports. Farmer survey, financial institutions records	Cooperatives and FBO will be existent. Inflation and interest rates will be at manageable levels for the farmer to make profits from investments
Sub activity 1.2.1.8	Training of community Livelihood groups in Markets	No of community Livelihood groups trained in markets		2050	Project reports	Community livelihoods groups will stick together
Activity: 1.2.4	Assess and identify market opportunities and product niches along the stages of the value chain and facilitate market exchanges and contractual agreements (Kilimo Trust)	1. No. of market opportunities identified and accessed. 2. No. of product niches identified within the VC engaged. 3. No of agreements contracted	TBD	1. 5 market opportunities one per value chain identified 2. 175 RPOs 3. Five (5) agreements Value chains (Cassava, Soybean, Rice, Groundnuts & OFSP)	External evaluation	Commodity produced shall meet quality requirements demanded by buyers
Sub activity: 1.2.4.1	Conduct market assessments and profiling	No of market assessments conducted	0 market assessments conducted	Three (3) market studies	Project reports, Market assessment report	There will be business opportunities
Sub activity: 1.2.4.2	Update and develop commodity and market assessment reports	No. of market assessment reports updated and developed	0 market assessment reports	Three (3) market studies reports	Project reports	Functional markets will be existent
Sub activity: 1.2.4.3	Identify new markets for target commodities and their by- products	No. of business buyer/off taker linkages established	Farmer groups linked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 buyers/off takers Cooperatives linked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 buyers/off takers 	5 market opportunities identified one per value chain	Project reports	Production will be existent

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
Sub activity: 1.2.4.4	Conduct service sector analysis, undertake digital mapping and assess SMEs and FBO capacity/needs (through SCOPE insight assessment tool)	No. of functional digital solutions for information dissemination and payment system established	3 digital solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile banking – 5.13% • Phones – 69.23% • Radios – 25.64% 	1 functional digital solution established.	Project reports	ICT in business will be embraced
Sub activity: 1.2.4.5	Customize digital solutions (information and payment systems) and install digital MIS solution in one region (including user orientation)	No of customized digital solutions for information dissemination and payment system	3 digital solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile banking – 5.13% • Phones – 69.23% • Radios – 25.64% 	1 digital solution customized.	Project reports	ICT in business will be embraced
Sub activity: 1.2.4.6	Develop digital solution strategy and procurement of system architecture for identified FBOs	No of digital solution system architectures procured	0 system architectures	1 digital solution architectures	Project reports	ICT in business will be embraced
Sub activity: 1.2.4.7	User orientation of the digital solution per region and support	No of digital platforms created No of people oriented to the digital solution in the region # of people (M/F) using digital information and payment platforms in the region	0 Platforms 0 people 60.57% (3,583 out of 5915 group/Cooperative members) use digital information payment platforms	1 digital platforms. 205 oriented 12300 (7380 -F and 4920-M) using digital information and payment platforms.	Project reports	ICT in business will be embraced Business will be existent
Sub activity: 1.2.4.8	Install digital payment solution in the second region and user orientation	No of digital payments platforms installed in the region.	0	1 platform installed	Project reports	Communities will be owning phones. Financial institutions will have confidence and embrace the payment platforms
Sub activity: 1.2.4.9	Link producer MIS to agro-dealers, buyers, processors and payment platforms.	No. of business linkages established No of linkage meetings/workshops	Farmer groups linked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 input dealers • 7 buyers/off takers Cooperatives linked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 input dealers • 60 buyers/off takers 	At least 35 business linkages established 7 events (1 event per district)	Project reports, Cooperative and SME records	There will be producers and traders. Farmers will meet the requirements of end markets

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
Sub activity: 1.2.4.10	Formalize trade agreements between suppliers and buyers	No. of trade agreements signed. Volume and value of commodities traded.	Trade agreements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice – 1 • Cassava – 0 • Soybean – 1 Volumes of trade by groups/Cooperatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice:15.0MT at UGX 1,883,333/MT • Cassava: 35.5MT at UGX 500,000/MT • Soybean: 121.2MT at UGX 1,475,000/MT 	7 agreements (for Rice; Soybeans & Cassava) At least 5120MT (120, MT of rice; 2,010MT of cassava and 2871MT of soybean), G-nuts 120 MT 5 contracts to supply 5120MT by 20,000 SHF will be signed	Project reports, Cooperative and SME records	Both producers and traders will be interested in formalization of engagements. Farmers will meet the requirements of end markets
Sub activity: 1.2.4.11	Mobilize SHFs to aggregate commodities in identified collection centres in target districts	No of SHFs mobilized to aggregate commodities in identified collection centres	0	7060	Project reports	Communities will be motivated to aggregate
Sub activity: 1.2.4.12	Establish input and output market partnerships/business consortia	No of input and output market partnerships/business consortia established	0	70	Project reports	Producers and traders will be willing to link Traders will be available
Sub activity: 1.2.4.13	Undertake B2B meetings for business engagements	No of B2B meetings conducted No of participants	0	638 B2B meetings 140 participants.	Project reports	Business will
Result: 1.3	Nutrition and public health interventions	1. % decrease in prevalence of anemia among children under 5 and women of reproductive age. 2. % decrease in prevalence of stunting, underweight and wasting among children under 5 years. 3. % decrease in prevalence of overweight & obesity	TBD	TBD		

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
		among children, adolescents & women				
Outcome 3:	Improved nutrition, sanitation, reproductive health, and health seeking practices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percent of households practicing good hygiene and sanitation practices. 2. Percentage of households with knowledge and practicing good nutrition. 3. Number of food items eaten by households in 24-hour period. (Household Dietary diversity score). 4. Number of youth friendly corners established in health facilities. 5. Percentage of young people reporting access to SRH information. 		<p>60%</p> <p>60%</p> <p>6</p> <p>14</p> <p>70%</p>		
Activity: 1.3.1	Developing and promoting community-based nutrition initiatives including micronutrient supplementation & deworming, promotion of maternal and young child feeding practices, hygiene and sanitation and childcare (Bioversity)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. % of children & women dewormed 7. % of women, children & adolescents supplemented. 8. % increase in women, children & adolescents receiving proper Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition practices (<i>exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months, timely & quality complementary</i>) 	X	At least 25% of households (51,250 households) in 7 selected districts introduce two (2) additional nutrient-rich plant foods and one (1) animal source of protein to the HH diet	Technical reports with pictures and testimonials from field (biannual)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That all the identified stakeholders including end-users and private sectors will be willing to participate in the intervention and stay committed throughout the process and beyond. 2. That communities and households will be willing to produce the food commodities,

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
		feeding & minimum acceptable diverse diet etc.) 9. % increase in WASH interventions implemented				adopt the production, post-harvest handling, food preparation, consumption, health promoting practices and behaviors that are promoted in the intervention.
Sub activity: 1.3.1.1	Training community livelihood Groups in nutrition agriculture, maternal and child health.	No. of extension service providers trained on nutrition	0	2050 service providers trained	Project reports	Extension providers will be willing to be trained
Sub activity: 1.3.1.2	Training of Community livelihood agents and households on nutrition.	No of Community livelihood agents (promoters) trained in nutrition. No of trainings conducted.	0	205 agents trained. 7 trainings per year	Project reports	Community livelihood agents will be keen to learn
Sub activity: 1.3.1.3	Develop, test, and launch a Nutrient rich product	No. of nutrient rich product developed, tested, and launched		1	Project reports	Private sector will be willing to invest
Sub activity: 1.3.1.4	Establish nutritious kitchen gardens	Proportion of nutritious kitchen gardens established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48.25% (772) nutritious garden 	205 gardens	Project reports	There will be interest in nutrition
Sub activity: 1.3.1.5	Establish on-farm demonstration plots for selected nutritious and diversified crops	No of demonstration plots for selected nutritious and diversified crops established	34 demos Maize – 20 Cassava – 10 Local vegetables - 4	200 demos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cassava OFSP Leafy vegetables Soya beans Gnuts Local poultry 	Project reports	There will be interest in the communities towards nutrition
Sub activity: 1.3.1.6	Hold seminars for community development promoters	No of seminars for community development promoters held	0	12 seminars/review meetings (4 per year)	Project reports	
Sub activity: 1.3.1.7	Support households for increased practice of using local hand washing points and pit latrines	Proportion of households with latrine/toilets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93.94% households have latrines/toilets 13.06% of households have 	(TBD TBD	Community Development Promoter quarterly report Service receipt acknowledge forms	There are no cultural taboos against toilet use

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
		Proportion of targeted households with local hand washing points. No of households supported to construct pit latrines	hand-washing points. • 0 households supported			
Activity: 1.3.2	Increase the use of effective family planning methods with the aim of decreasing the number of teenage pregnancies and increasing child spacing which address both nutrition and population growth issues (ECUREI)	1. % increase in use of family planning methods (disaggregation by method) (Contraceptive prevalence rate) 2. % reduction in teenage pregnancies 3. No. of family planning initiatives in HCs and Communities. 4. % increase in child spacing among beneficiaries.	Teso-33.9%, Lango-43% Teso-31.4%, Lango-27.9% TBD TBD	50%on 50% 14	Health records, Household questionnaire. Project reports.	Parents will support the adolescent family planning program
Sub activity: 1.3.2.1	Conduct home visits to monitor uptake of micronutrient supplements, de-worming and identify malnourished children and pregnant women	Proportion of malnourished children in communities recommended for therapeutic management at health centers. No of children up taking Vitamin A from outreaches and health facilities. Number of Pregnant women up taking folic acid and supplements from outreaches and health facilities.	0% households 50 cases of malnutrition 100% of cases recommended	60% 10080 10080 10080	CDF nutrition monitoring tool Interim and End Evaluation Report Health facility nutrition register	Health facilities have human resource and supplies to manage malnutrition Floods and drought

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
		Number of children & women dewormed.				
Sub activity: 1.3.2.2	Develop a mobile phone application for adolescent reproductive health information	Proportion of young people between 10 and 24 years who access SRH information on developed application platform. Proportion of young people trained on how to use the developed platform.	0% 0	205 smart phones for CDPs/lead adolescents 1 Mobile Text messaging platform	Data server Mobile application usage data Utilization registers (HMIS form) at the friendly corners.	Parents will support the adolescent family planning program
Sub activity: 1.3.2.3	Train peer educators to use adolescent friendly phone app	No of peer educators trained	0	205	Project reports, Attendance sheets.	
Sub activity: 1.3.2.4	Adolescent peers distribute family planning commodities and hold dialogue meetings and awareness on safe reproductive health.	Proportion of adolescents using modern family planning. Number of women in childbearing age offered family planning services during community outreach activities Family planning materials distributes (Disaggregated by type). No of adolescents trained on safe reproductive health	16.36% use family planning 13.94% use modern family planning 18.54% (170 women) offered family planning	700 18450 205	Adolescent peer Family Planning register	Parents will support the adolescent family planning program
Sub activity: 1.3.2.5	Set up care groups for project implementation.	No of care groups set up	2050 care groups	2050 care groups		
Sub activity: 1.3.2.6	Support health facilities to set up adolescent youth friendly corners	No of youth friendly corners set up	0 youth corners	14 corners (2 per district)		
Cross cutting						
1.4.1	Develop a project communication and visibility strategy and	No of communication materials developed and disseminated.				

Result chain/Intervention		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Source & means of verification	Assumptions
	disseminate communication materials for advocacy of the project	No of people accessing the communication materials. No of people asking for information on the project.				
1.4.2	Identify and train champions for advocacy to further project objectives	Number of champions identified and trained		91 champions (13 per district)		Actors will be interested
1.4.3	Designing and addressing gender specific issues per value chains and per result area	No of trainings / self-assessments for CLP in gender mainstreaming		7 training/meetings per year		Cultural leaders will be supportive
1.4.4	Project monitoring and evaluation			Monthly and periodic M&E reports	Monthly reports, M&E reports.	No major occurrence
1.4.5	Learning and reflection events			Annual events		Consortium members will be willing to sponsor events
1.4.6	Organize regional and promotion forums for advocacy and promotion of the project technologies /interventions to the decision makers and other key investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of advocacy forums organized • Number of participants to the advocacy forums 				National and Districts actors will be interested

B. Annual Work plan 2021

Description of the planned activity	Indicator / Output	Annual Budget	Time of Implementation				Location	Implementers
			Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q4		
Result 1.1 Increased Production of Diversified foods								
Establishment of seed demonstration. Demonstration gardens will be established for groups to learn seed production practices and farmer experimentation. The established gardens will serve as learning/ technology transfer sites to the group and non-group members.	22 demos established	21,000					All 7 districts ¹ .	VEDCO
Organize training and exposure visits for seed producer groups	63 seed management trainings conducted (at least 3 per group), 16 visits conducted	9,240					All 7 districts.	VEDCO
Establish on-farm demonstration plots for selected diversified crops. Establishment of seed demonstration. Demonstration gardens will be established for groups to learn production practices and farmer experimentation. The established gardens will serve as learning/ technology transfer sites to the group and non-group members.	200 on farm demonstration gardens established	108,000					All 7 districts.	VEDCO
Organize Farmer Field days (FFD's). farmer field days will be conducted on fields established by the LSB groups. This is to exhibit to the community different products produced by the groups but also to market the groups	16 Farmer Field days organized	23,414.63					All 7 districts.	VEDCO
Link farmers to agro dealers and other private sector actors to access quality inputs. farmers will be linked to input dealers to access quality inputs to increase production of selected enterprises	6 meetings organized	11,360					All 7 districts.	VEDCO

¹ Apac, Amolatar, Amuria,

Seed inspection by district seed inspectors. 28 seed fields will be inspected by the district inspectors to quality their QDS to be sold. This aims at assuring that seeds produced meet the required standards	49 seed inspections conducted	27,750				All 7 districts.	VEDCO
6.18 Training CLG in VSLA. 2050 CLGs will be trained in VSLA methodology in order to enhance a systematic way of saving and credit access among the group members.	1,640 CLGs trained	68,500				All 7 districts.	VEDCO
6.19 Link VSLAs to financial institutions. Financial linkages to 2050 CLGs will improve access to finances for production. VEDCO intend to sign MOUs with selected financial institutions to ensure farmers are protected	8 linkage meetings conducted	1,600				All 7 districts.	VEDCO
Review meeting for Community Development Promoters (CDP).	205 attend review meeting to share achievement best practices.	16,800				All 7 districts.	IITA
Procurement and dissemination of superior, disease-tolerant and resistant crop varieties to smallholder farmers.		-				All 7 districts.	IITA
Training seed producer groups in internal mobilization of resources for procurement of foundation seed, seed production and marketing	68 seed producer groups trained	1,536.59				All 7 districts.	IITA
Link seed producer groups to Research institutions for supply of foundation seed for production of QDS	70 seed producers linked to research institution for foundation seeds.	-				All 7 districts.	IITA
Identify gender-based constraints using the GALs approach	7 meetings organized to identify and address at least 4 gender issues.	-				All 7 districts.	IITA
Promote the six-step labor saving technologies to control weeds and increase yield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 30 farmer groups will be trained in weed control. - At least 14 trainings will be conducted on weed control. 	9,500				All 7 districts.	IITA

	- At least 28 weed control demonstration sites established.								
Introduce and train seed inspectors on the use of disease management Intelligent software (NURU <i>(Swahili for Light)</i>)	- 30 seed inspectors will be trained	10,000					All 7 districts.	IITA	
Description of the planned activity	Indicator / Output	Annual Budget	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q4	Location	Implementers	
Result 1.2 Increased Market Accessibility									
Conducting initial partnership and buy-in meetings	500 market actors reached during buy in meetings.	-					All 7 districts.	KILMO	
Establish input and output market partnerships/business consortia	70 input output market partnership established.	-					All 7 districts.	KILMO	
Train producers on business skills, negotiation skills and management of contracts	7060 producer groups trained in business skills, negotiation skills and management of contracts.	-					All 7 districts.	KILMO	
Introduce/demonstrate/promote use of efficient post-harvest handling and value addition technologies	71 Soya bean threshers post - harvest handling technologies demonstrated for value addition.	-					All 7 districts.	KILMO	
Purchase postharvest and processing technologies for target commodities	71 soya been threshers purchased and distributed to 70 groups for value addition	-					All 7 districts.	KILMO	
Upgrade and equip storage facilities and increase utilization	30 group/ cooperatives with equipped stores. 7 stores equipped and upgraded.	68,000					All 7 districts.	KILMO	
Formalize trade agreements between suppliers and buyers.	5 trade agreements and contracts will be formalized and signed between buyers and suppliers.	14,394					All 7 districts.	KILMO	

Conduct market assessments and profiling. (Secondary literature review, Rapid market appraisal, Profiling of key market offtakers and market actors).	3 market assessment and profiling will be done.	-					All 7 districts.	KILMO/ RIKOLT O
Description of the planned activity	Indicator / Output		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q4	Location	implem enters
Market studies will be conducted, updated, and developed. (comprehensive market review)	3 market studies will be conducted, updated, and developed.	-					All 7 districts.	KILMO/ RIKOLT O
Identify new markets for target commodities and their by- products	28 business buyer/off taker linkages established.	-					All 7 districts.	KILMO/ RIKOLT O
Training of FBOs on post-harvest handling, quality, and standards.	205 CDPs will be trained on post-harvest handling, quality, and standards 2050 groups trained in post-harvest handling by CDPs.						All 7 districts.	RIKOLT O
Training of SHF cooperative members on access to finance and agricultural insurance	7060 SHF cooperative members trained on access to finance.	88,760					All 7 districts.	RIKOLT O
Conduct service sector analysis, undertake digital mapping and assess SMEs and FBO capacity/needs (through SCOPE insight assessment tool)	1 functional digital solution for information dissemination and payment system established.						All 7 districts	RIKOLT O
Customize digital solutions (information and payment systems) and install digital MIS solution in one region (including user orientation)	1 functional digital solution for information dissemination and payment system will be installed and customized to suit user needs.						All 7 districts	RIKOLT O
User orientation per region and support on digital solution.	1 digital platform created 2050 oriented to use digital solution in the region 7060 using digital information and payment platforms in the region.	54,609					All 7 districts	RIKOLT O
Install digital payment solution in the second region and user orientation.	1 digital platform created						All 7 districts	RIKOLT O

Procurement of system architecture for identified FBOs	Architectural system for identified CBOs id identified.						All 7 districts	RIKOLT O
Link producer MIS to agro-dealers, buyers, processors, and payment platforms.	At least 35 business linkages established.						All 7 districts	RIKOLT O
Develop and printing of approved capacity building manuals for PHH, Business skills, management of contracts, Quality and Standards	At least 4 user friendly manuals will be developed, produced, printed on topics: (PHH, Busines skills, management of contracts, quality, and standards).	-						RIKOLT O
Description of the planned activity	Indicator / Output	Annual Budget	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q4	Location	Implem enters
Result 1.3 Nutrition and Public Health Interventions Improved								
Development of training modules	User friendly training modules on nutrition, food preparation and utilisation, and kitchen gardens developed.	-					All 7 districts	ABC
Training of CDPs and CDFs in nutrition	205 CDPs trained on nutrition. 2050 CDFs trained on nutrition.	63,600					All 7 districts	ABC
Establishing of the Kitchen gardens at household levels	205 kitchen gardens established at household level.	10,000					All 7 districts	ABC
Development and evaluation (consumer and market analysis) of a nutrient rich product	1 nutrient rich product developed and, tested and launched.	15,000					All 7 districts	ABC
Establish on-farm demonstration plots for selected nutritious and diversified crops	200 on farm demonstration gardens established	40,500					All 7 districts	ABC
Biannual Household assessments	Assessment Report produced.	-					All 7 districts	ABC
Seminar for Community Development Promoters	Cross learning and knowledge sharing amongst CDPs and other consortia members.	10,000					All 7 districts.	ABC
Conduct home visits to monitor uptake of micronutrient supplements, de-worming and identify malnourished children and pregnant women		-					All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Develop an android application with BCC SRH information	1 android application with Sexual reproductive information developed	2,266.68					All 7 districts.	ECUREI

Train peer educators to use the Android App.	205 peer educators trained on use of Android	-				All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Integrating family planning in community outreaches	28	350				All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Support health facilities to set up adolescent youth friendly corners	14 health centres supported to set up friendly corners.	-				All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Train Nurses attached to youth friendly corners.	14 nurses will be identified and trained from 14 sub counties.	-				All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Train CDPs on WASH	205 CDPs will be trained on WASH	-				All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Train CDPs on Nutritional assessment status	205 will be trained on Nutrition 2050 CDFs will be trained on Nutritional assessment.	-				All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Support communities with latrine construction.	513 households will be supported with latrine construction.	51,300				All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Support communities hand washing with points construction	1025 handwashing points will be constructed for households.	8,620.25				All 7 districts.	ECUREI
Develop a project communication and visibility strategy and disseminate communication materials for advocacy of the project		28,606.33				All 7 districts.	IITA
Identify and train champions for advocacy to further project objectives	205 champions trained in advocacy	16,887.75				All 7 districts.	IITA
Designing and addressing gender specific issues per value chains and per result area		20,017.76				All 7 districts.	IITA
Project monitoring and evaluation	Quarterly monitoring and update on project progress	25,420				All 7 districts.	IITA
Learning and reflection events	Bi- annual	-				All 7 districts.	All partners