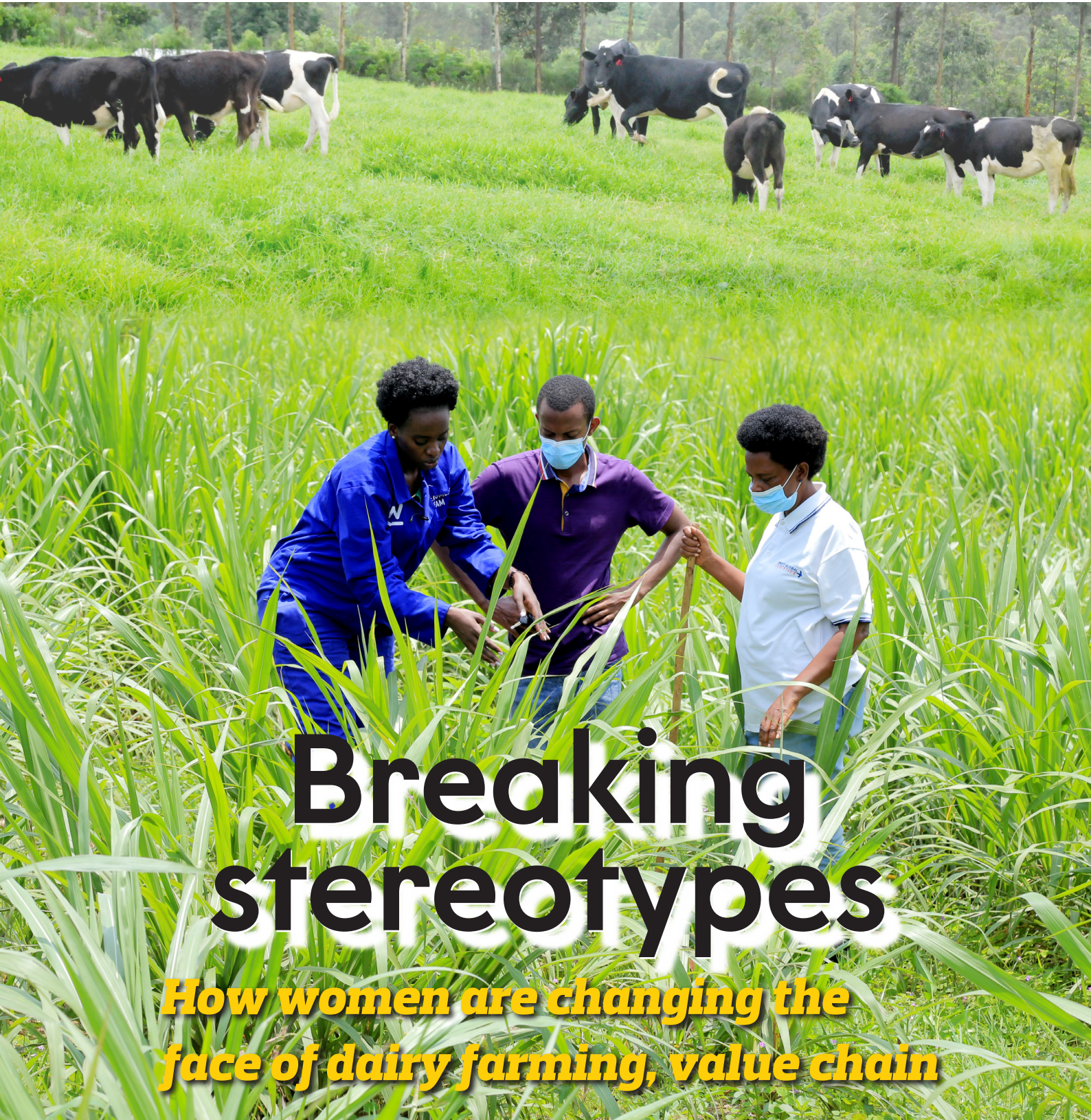


Woman Power

Dairy Magazine

ISSUE 1



Breaking stereotypes

*How women are changing the
face of dairy farming, value chain*

Supported by:



SNV

Woman Power

Dairy Magazine

PRODUCER

DIRECTOR Betty Kasabiiti

EDITORIAL

EDITOR Dickens Tiharihondijo

PHOTOGRAPHY Abdulkarim Ssengendo

WRITER Abdulkarim Ssengendo

DESIGN

LAYOUT & DESIGN Dickens Tiharihondijo

PRODUCTION

DISTRIBUTION SNV

ADVERTISING

CONCEPT Innocent Agonza

ADVISORS

CONCEPT Steven Aikiriza
Didas Kisembo



Foreword

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first edition of **Woman Power Dairy Magazine**. It contains captivating and exciting stories of women changing the face of dairy farming, value chain.

According to SNV, embracing gender equality and social inclusion is crucial, making systems, structures, and markets fairer and more inclusive by not simply talking about improving income but enabling individual agency, creating new economic opportunities which challenge traditional roles, and creating platforms for people's voice.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations speaks of women making up 43% of the global agricultural labor force, yet they face significant discrimination when it comes to land and livestock ownership, equal pay, participation in decision-making entities and access to credit and financial services.

Similarly, according to Oxfam, about 80% of the world's food is produced by small-scale farming. Women make up on average 43% of this agricultural labor in developing countries.

Agriculture is more likely, than other sectors, to provide diverse opportunities for empowering women. However, women farmers are held back by barriers that prevent them from supporting their families and reinvesting in their livelihoods.

They face restrictions related to their gender while also experiencing the financial struggles shared by all small-scale farmers. A 2018 study, conducted by **Corteva Agriscience**

on Global Women in Agriculture found that women around the world play a critical role in agriculture. They, therefore, recommended that ways should be explored to improve the delivery of technical assistance to female farmers in maximizing the use of technology especially in developing countries, where women may not have as many educational advantages:

Based on the above citations, I come to showcase the great energies, knowledge, skills, technology and sweat of women shaping dairy farming in Uganda. The stories paint pictures of all these women breaking society stereotypes, norms and myths.

The magazine is going to be published two times in a year, going forward, focusing on the mighty dairy farming value chain.

I wish to thank all those that volunteered to recount their stories, I am hopeful that they will be of great influence to our fellow women and the young girls that would love to get engaged and take the dairy value chain to the next level.

On a distinct note, I thank SNV for accepting and supporting my concept of documenting publishing this magazine.

I would also love to appreciate the technical team; photographers, writers, Editors, and the designer for their relentless effort in putting together this beautiful work of art on time.

Finally, I present to you this special and beautiful Christmas gift for 2023, the 1st Edition of **"Woman Power Dairy Magazine"** Please find time to lend/share copy with your friend.

"Every accomplishment starts with decision to try "

Betty Kasabiiti Mbaziira,



Applause

Dear Reader,

I am pleased and incredibly proud to support Betty's initiative to launch the inaugural edition of **Woman Power Dairy magazine**.

Our dairy projects, namely TIDE (The Inclusive Dairy Enterprise) and ISDAP (Integrated Smallholder Dairy Programme), operating in Mbarara, Rwenzori, Greater Ankole, and Kigezi region, have encountered numerous commendable instances of women-led enterprises and leadership at various levels. Unfortunately, these are not as well-documented or recognised as they should be.

Women are crucial in Uganda's dairy sector, constituting more than half of the agricultural workforce and contributing a higher share of crop labour than men. However, they face numerous challenges that hinder their productivity



and income, such as prevailing gender norms, time poverty, lack of assets, and inadequate extension services.

In many situations, women shoulder the responsibility of caring for the family and maintaining the household. They ensure that the family is well-clothed and well-fed and that the house is orderly. Additionally, they tend to home gardens and livestock and manage crops. These efforts should not be underestimated or overlooked.

We have also observed that many women, in addition to their roles as mothers and wives, hold significant positions in various businesses, companies, governmental organisations, and more. However, women often do not self-promote regarding their leadership roles, instead deferring representation to

men.

Through this magazine, we aim to underscore women's significance, role, and power in Uganda's agricultural economy.

There is a common saying that behind every successful man stands a woman. However, from my experience, it is not always the case that a man stands behind or next a successful woman.

I hope you find great enjoyment in reading this unique and powerful publication, **Woman Power Dairy magazine**.

With sincere regards,

Martin de Jong
Project manager – SNV TIDE and SNV ISDAP projects
Funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Kampala, Uganda

Dairy Farming was formerly a men's field, women did not think they could venture into this field. However, women have recently been empowered to embrace the power they have and they have wholeheartedly ventured into the sector of dairy farming. They have embraced this field of opportunity and are thriving in the sector. More and more women are getting inspired to join dairy farming. Those that have joined have been successful and the SNV TIDE Project has supported them in their journey. Their journey in dairy farming is a testament to the empowerment of women, and we have watched them flourish".

Lucy Githanju – Musana
Project Finance Administrator
SNV TIDE Project





The magazine is beautiful idea – *Consolanta Acayo*



This is a very beautiful idea, a big hand clap to the efforts of those who came up with this idea" says Consolanta Acayo commissioner at the ministry of agriculture, animal industry and fisheries. She described the magazine launch as a beautiful ceremony. Acayo was happy to see the magazine is trying to expose what women are doing in the dairy sector and it will interest more women to come on board and join dairy farming.

"I believe you are all aware that when you educate a woman you educate a nation and that is what we want to do, I want to appreciate the efforts of the team behind this magazine and for those who haven't started writing now," she stated.

She encouraged all women to come up and share their farming knowledge.

"The more we share the more powerful we become, the more powerful we become the more powerful the nation will be," she added.

She said that as a ministry, they are happy to see that farmers in the South western region and other parts are developing at a fast speed. She hailed the work of SNV in achieving what the government wants.

"All these testimonies are an indicator that our dairy sector is developing. We need to interest our farmers to be able to grow their farming businesses especially in value addition, we must look at sustainability of all these projects," she added.

She called for the need to scale up the knowledge to all farmers as this will interest many people to join the sector. She hailed what she termed as beautiful projects being implemented by SNV in the south-western region and called for sustainability of these projects even when SNV has left. She challenged farmers not to keep the knowledge they have for themselves but move out to support and change the mindset of other farmers.



The magazine sets good example – Phomolo Maphosa



Dairy is becoming the second biggest community contributing to income in Uganda.

"Launching this magazine is a very good idea which we all should support," said Phomolo Maphosa, SNV country director.

"What we have noticed when it comes to dairy, women are doing most of the work and men perhaps are making other decisions in terms of how the money coming from the dairy has been used," she added.

But we are saying it doesn't have to be one or the other, both men and women should participate in decision making in terms of increasing productivity, deciding how the income coming from the industry is going to be used. If you look at this magazine launched, it actually has been a drive for the TIDE project on how to ensure that women are more engaged in the dairy sector and set good examples. She was happy to note that the magazine brings out good testimonies that women can actually participate better and contribute greatly towards the growth of the dairy industry.

"It is very true the role of women is very key in the development of the dairy sector and I believe if women take a lead, we are going to see better results in dairy farming," she added.

I have already realized a lot of economic and social gains with participation of women who are already engaged in dairy farming in Africa and beyond.

EBO

buto ekorera bukuru



Financial Services

EBO SACCO DAIRY LOAN

Setting up a dairy farm comes with a lot of investment and critical thinking. Are you into dairy business? Dairy farming is now a business because farmers do it to earn a living. Would you want proper funding for an already set up dairy farming business? Let's take a look at the different aspects of obtaining the EBO dairy loan. Dairy farming is one of the biggest sources of livelihood in Uganda. To improve and sustain quality in dairy products, and make the sector proper and organized, EBO SACCO offers the EBO dairy loan to enable access to funding for our dairy farmers.

PURPOSE:

For establishing a new dairy farming unit or expanding an old dairy farming unit.
Purchase of more animals and cross breed cows for small dairy units.
Rearing of local cattle, younger calves and cross breeds
Acquisition of milk machinery such as Bulk Milk Chilling units, automatic milk collection and dispersal systems, milk vans
Construction, renovation, or expansion of cattle sheds
For growing fodder for cattle, other working capital needs of the dairy farm
Acquisition of dairy dispensation

equipment, chaff cutters, etc.
Dairy manufactured goods transportation services
Cold Storage Services
Dairy Marketing Outlets

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a registered member of EBO SACCO.
- Farmers who have engaged in dairy activities previously.
- Individual entrepreneurs who have engaged in dairy activities previously.
- Groups belonging to the unorganized and organized dairy farming sector.
- Self-help groups, Milk Unions Cooperative Societies, Milk Federations.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

Loans for modern-day dairy requirements: We provide loans for the modernization of the creation of infrastructures. Milk houses, automatic milk collection and dispersal systems, transportation vehicles, Bulk Milk Chilling Units are all covered under the dairy loan.
Hassle-free application process: The application process is as easy as it gets.
Fast loan processing: The application process follows simple steps and minimal

paperwork. The process involves the submission of applications, document verification, and disbursement of funds. This results in fast loan processing so you can improve and serve your dairy farm needs immediately.

Better and longer repayment periods:

The repayment of the availed loans comes with a minimum of one month up to 5 years of loan period.

Loan amounts of up to 350 million.

With the PCP loan of up to 7million per individual farmer.

Reasonable interest rates:

The interest rate is 2% per month on reducing balance.

OUR BRANCHES

- Bwizibwera
- Kazo
- Mbarara
- Ibanda
- Rushere
- Igorora
- Rubindi
- Ishongororo
- Kashaka
- Mwizi
- Kabwohe
- Kinoni



Contact us on Whatsapp: 0756-258684.
Email: ebosacco2yltd@yahoo.com, info@ebo.co.ug
Telephone: 0782701876, 0782115318, 0702121918.



SNV TIDE project transforms Uganda's dairy industry

Contributions of TIDE II project to the dairy sector. The project has supported sustainable sector transformation, through interventions in four key project components; dairy farm productivity, milk quality, dairy value chain and nutrition



Profiles

Stories of different women breaking stereotypes as they on a male dominated dairy farming



Technology

Women embracing technology as they drive dairy farming to greater heights

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School Milk Programmes

Thousands of children drink milk every day in different schools. This is helping in performance improvement



ON THE FARM:
In both pictures, Juliet Nagaba attends to her cows. She says she feeds her cows with salt, and also cuts cow feeds with the chaff cutter

I have no regrets in dairy farming, says Juliet Nagaba



Juliet Nagaba is the director of Nagaba Dairy Farm—located in Kyabandara cell in Sheema central division—Sheema Municipality.

Her farm is made up of 10 milking Frisian cows that produce 85 litres of milk every day. She says that passion and love are key pillars for the success of any dairy project. She explains that a cow will produce a lot of milk depending on the way they are fed.

"I grew up in a cattle keeping

family who also had crops, but my husband's family were crop growers. When I got married I interested my husband in cattle keeping because I looked at it as a good business that could generate good income for us. I tell you now, I am not regretting starting this business," she says.

Nagaba got married in 1990 and with her late husband, they started farming in 1999 on a small piece of land. That time, she was a tailor and her husband was a school bursar at Bugongi SS. Her husband passed

Farming



on in 2007, two years shortly after being retrenched. They had 35 cows.

The death of her husband was a shocking moment that almost disrupted her plans but she kept on the struggle.

She shifted her tailoring business from the trading canter back home in order to stay near her cows for better management because she realized it was a better business to concentrate on as a source of income to take care of her and her children.

That time, her cows were producing about 28 litres of milk.

SNV SUPPORT

In 2016, when SNV came, she was among women that were selected and supported with training on good farming techniques. She learnt and started planting pasture

for her cows to boost milk production. Her milk increased from 40 litres to 50 litres and kept on adding 10 litres every year.

Later she developed the idea of separating milkers from dry cows. With training offered to her she learnt to make silage and hay and expanded her farm to 35 acres and she did this by reducing banana plantation acreage to create more space for her cows. SNV also helped her in acquiring low interest loans and modern machinery.

The move has steadily increased her milk production to now 140 litres earning her shs4 million during peak season and shs2.5 million in low season on a monthly basis.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Nagaba says she has managed to educate her children, established rental houses, bought a good car and most specially created jobs for over 12 people who are earning a living from her project.

Alongside dairy farming, Nagaba has other projects including 6 acres of banana plantation, 10 acres of silk, 5 acres of coffee and her farm is sitting on 35 acres.

"This project can be done by anyone anywhere, even for people living in urban areas. I encourage women to take it up," she adds.

WOMAN POWER

She says a woman is good at developing the dairy industry.

"Personally, I ensure cleanliness, quality of milk and other animal products, and proper feeding of a cow. Therefore I am confident that when it comes to sustainability of dairy farming, a woman is a better choice," she states.

She credits a woman for the quality milk, good breeds and cleanliness at the farm. She believes the dairy industry will grow stronger, milk production will grow more than double and value addition will be at its best if a woman takes the lead in the dairy industry.

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SUPPORT: Juliet Nagaba (second-right) receives modern seeds from SNV TIDE extension workers

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HAILS SNV, CALLS FOR MORE SUPPORT TO FARMERS

She says SNV support opened their eyes to know the importance of dairy farming. She hails the organization especially for introducing them to better farming practices like use of machinery and improved pasture. All these have increased milk production than in the past when they relied on traditional ways of farming.

Value addition, innovation and record keeping is another area where SNV has helped them to know. They have also improved on hygiene, smart environment and market strategies.

She however, appeals to SNV to expand support to reach out to many farmers in the country, saying many are still caged in traditional ways of farming and it is affecting milk production.

She said that even though she is still limited by resources, her vision is to go full value addition especially making yogurt. She called upon government and other organizations to support farmers

CHALLENGES

Nagaba says, women in the dairy industry they still face a lot of challenges. She says personally, she finds hurdles on things like paddocking farms, and milking. Also she says, some workers still undermine a woman in that sector.

Other issues she notes out are; transport, especially for poor women who don't have vehicles to transport milk and other things at the farm.

Some farmers are still affected by effects of COVID-19.



“If a woman takes lead in the dairy industry, I believe, it will be stronger, milk production will double, and value addition will be at it's best”

Other challenges where they need help, she says, include ineffective acaricides, tick resistance, price fluctuations especially for milk also have no extension workers readily available to help them.

VALUE ADDITION/INNOVATION, RECORD KEEPING

Nagaba had started producing yogurt but because of market challenges she halted it. However, she says it's in her near future plans.

She has embarked on improving feeds for her animals in order to increase milk production, from which she will be able to feed her yogurt production.

She has grown improved pasture and made silage for value addition.

Asked whether she keeps records, Nagaba says record keeping is important for any project to progress. At her farm record keeping is a priority.

TECHNOLOGIES, HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENT

Nagaba has a pasture cutting machine which she uses to prepare feeds for her cows. She started with a hand machine and upgraded to an Engine machine.

In a day, her cows eat about 35–40kgs

Farming



per day.

Regarding hygiene Nagaba ensures proper hygiene at her farm and she ensures everything used at the farm is clean including milking utensils.

She emphasizes that cleanliness at the farm adds value to the price of farm products including price for animals.

Regarding environment protection, Nagaba has planted trees around her farm and home to keep a green environment. She advises farmers all over to prioritize tree planting as this will help to generate rain which is needed for better growth of their crops and water for their animals.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT, MARKET STRATEGY AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Nagaba believes involving family members especially children in your projects are a key pillar for the success and project continuity.

All her children get involved in all her farm activities. This, she says, helps her even when she is not around everything remains moving forward.

On the market, Nagaba says the market

is not yet good, especially for matooke. But for milk she sells in hotels around and dairy coolers.

She appeals to the government to help establish a milk factory in Sheema Municipality and Sheema district as this will boost the market for their products especially milk.

On social impact, she says students from different institutions train from her farm. She also trains other farmers around her village and from beyond. Getting visitors and trainees to train from her farm is a big gift to Nagaba. She is always prepared for all seasons including the dry season.

FARM MANAGEMENT

Farming as a business is what Nagaba gives as a priority. Feed her animals on a balanced diet is another area she focuses on. She heads the farm operation as the overall supervisor at her farm.

Controlling the spread of diseases is another area and she has put a foot-bath at the entry of her farm.

Studying dairy practices also helps her to manage her farm well. At her farm she has other workers who help her run the operations of her farm including her children.

She wakes up at 5:00am with her workers and they start milking. Her role is to take records of the milk but also sometimes she does milk herself. She also monitors other projects at her farm, banana plantation, silk and coffee.

DIFFICULT TIMES, FUTURE PLANS AND CHALLENGES

Nagaba says 2019 and 2020 are the years she will never forget in life. They had produced in abundance but had nowhere to sell them. However, she says, she got time to mind her projects.

She has set up a 2000 litres rain harvesting water tank which is her major source of water she uses even during dry season. At her farm she has hydro and solar electricity these help her most especially providing security at her farm especially at night. Regarding her future plans, Nagaba focuses on value addition especially yogurt resuming yogurt production. She wants to expand her farm from 10 cows producing 85 litres to 200 litres dairy. Asked about some of the challenges limiting her progress, Nagaba mentioned; ineffective acaricides is the biggest problem, tick resistance, they don't have extension workers available to help them, price fluctuation especially for milk is another challenge and no market for their products. She encourages people in farming to sacrifice enough time on a project they can manage better. Involving family members in the management of their projects is what every farmer should focus on for sustainability and continuity. Being friendly to orders and preparing for future challenges like drought is another advice she advises farmers on.



With the help of SNV support, Nagaba saw her milk production increase from 38 litres to 140 litres daily



COVERING THE MODULES:



COVERING THE MODULES:

- Milk Hygiene & Milk Techniques
- Housing
- Nutrition & Feeding
- Calf Rearing
- Management of Napier Grass
- Health Care
- Fertility & Reproduction
- Record Keeping



Farmer: Philomena Kemijumbi Nshangano
Enterprise: Dairy, Breeding
Farm: Rubyerwa Dairy Investments Ltd
Location: Rwanyamahembe in Kashari South-Mbarara

Nshangaano's contribution to dairy industry is enormous

Philomena Kemijumbi Nshangano is the Executive Director of the Family Dairy Breeding Business - Rubyerwa Dairy Investments Ltd, located at Rwanyamahembe in Kashari South-Mbarara district. Nshangano a former permanent secretary in the ministry of public service, says her involvement in dairy farming was to support their retirement.

At a very early stage, Nshangano together with her late husband started planning their retirement looking at a project that would help them

supplement their income as public servants. Dairy farming was the best-chosen project.

She says their goal was to breed and sell livestock to other farmers. Although they were committed to the project, breaking through was not all that easy basing on many struggles they went through. However, despite all odds met along the way, she has managed to turn what started as a small farm into a super model dairy farm recognized not only in Ankole region but in entire country.

She says in late 1970s they lost many of their cows which she attributed to poor management at the time, but as



The farm has given back to the community through training and creating employment. Over the years, her farm has been able to train 1750 people in dairy farming and dairy breeding

committed farmers they didn't give up and kept adding on more stock.

Nshangano lost her husband at the age of 45 with the youngest of her children being 10 years old but despite the tragedy, she remained determined and kept their retirement plan alive and to success.

Although she got married into cattle keeping family where the main source of income was selling milk and cows, Nshangano says her courage to venture into the dairy industry was an inspiration from her mother and mother-in-law who looked after cattle until they were unable to walk and they largely supported the family in terms of managing cattle.

Her farming journey started in 1972 by acquiring a land in the countryside suitable for farming, to be specific, at Rwanyamahembe the headquarters of her farming projects. What started out primarily as a dairy farm, has grown from the original 30 hectares to the current 80 hectares.

Originally containing long horned Ankole breed, the farm currently has Friesian, Jersey and Ayrshire breeds. Milk output has increased to over 800 litres daily from a milking herd of 40 animals.

Nshangano doesn't regret taking a decision to do dairy farming.

"If you look at dairy farming as a



Over the years her farm has been able to train 1750 people in dairy farming and dairy breeding.

business, it is very challenging but very rewarding. It is an area where you can grow and you can expand to every direction and dairy products are many from the cow dung to milk and to dairy breed," she says.

Her farm offers milk products, dairy breeds both bulls, cows and heifers. They keep manual record books because they believe in quality and reliable products and because of this, she says, they have kept records since 1991 and over the period of time they have developed a dairy record book for milk recording, insemination, calving, income and expenditure.

She has a strong feeling, in terms of having a family business, they are making

a great contribution to developing dairy industry. She says her organization Rubyerwa Dairy Investments Limited (RDI) will transcend her generation and it will survive beyond the six generations.

"The 3rd generation from me have already embraced what we are doing and the grand-children are very interested come holidays they all demand to come home and participate," she adds.

In terms of management, a structure that would run the business in her absence has been already put in place.

Regarding staff welfare, human resource management is regarded as very key because you cannot do good business without proper human resource management.

"We have been able to recruit right people, train them and retain them with our longest serving now in his 24 years in the royalty," she says.

COMMUNITY

Her farm has given back to the community through training and creating employment.

Over the years, her farm has been able to train 1750 people in dairy

TURN TO NEXT PAGE





RDI



Rubyerwa Dairy Investments Limited
Practical Dairy Training Farm

For Quality and Reliable Products

We offer 5days and 2days Training Packages
(Residential/Non-Residential)
as well as Customised Trainings and Farm Tours.





OUR TRAINING DATES FOR 2023

MONTH	2 days on Farm Training	MONTH	5 days on Farm Training
JANUARY	30 th & 31 st		
FEBRUARY	6 th & 7 th	FEBRUARY	19 th to 24 th
MARCH	30 th & 31 st	APRIL	24 th to 28 th
APRIL	12 th & 13 th	JUNE	19 th to 23 rd
MAY	5 th & 6 th	AUGUST	14 th to 18 th
JUNE	1 st & 2 nd	OCTOBER	17 th to 21 st
JULY	28 th & 29 th	DECEMBER	11 th to 15 th
AUGUST	3 rd & 4 th	FEES STRUCTURE Training fee for a 5 days course ■ 500,000 UGX Residential ■ 250,000 UGX Non Residential Training fee for a 2 days course ■ 200,000 UGX Residential ■ 100,000 UGX Non Residential	
SEPTEMBER	21 st & 22 nd		
OCTOBER	6 th & 7 th		
NOVEMBER	2 nd & 3 rd		
DECEMBER	21 st & 22 nd		

Tel: 0782 767 535 / 0702 138 394 / 0776 224 224 / 0702 543 401 / 0783 864 648
 email: rubyerwa@gmail.com / pknshangano@yahoo.co.uk

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farming and dairy breeding.

Her farm offers hands-on training in breeding and genetic gain, provide a practical training on managing dairy as a profitable family business, breeding and genetic gain, undertake farm design based on the physical relief, terrain and resources on the farm. They also provide skilled personnel to make silage and hay, train farmers on dairy business management, practical industrial training for students and farm managers among others.

They also make calendars for dairy farmers and they also do farm design for people to join farming. She says they have diversified over time into other complementary activities to increase core (dairy) productivity in a cost-effective manner, whilst improving sustainability of the business.

SNV SUPPORT

In the year 2016, Nshangano's Farm joined The Inclusive Dairy Enterprise (TIDE) project and became a practical Dairy Training Farm offering a platform for farmers to acquire knowledge and skills on how to turn their farming projects into a profitable venture.

She says from the time they started the partnership, a big number of farmers have been trained at her farm, a credit she attributed to SNV support.

"Many praises for SNV and the Netherlands Embassy, I wouldn't have reached without SNV, their interventions have shortened the long journey to where we are," Nshangano states.

She recalls SNV helping them in terms



of infrastructure and giving them a matching grant.

"People used to come and see what I do. They would sit on a tarpaulin in the compound at my home, we cook from the banana plantation and serve them from our compound, but SNV set up a training wing, dining hall the kitchen and the store. Without SNV we would not have been able to fulfill our objective of giving back to the community," she says.

They also helped us have bio-security. "All farmers need support, if NSV can stay on for many years their intervention will transform the dairy industry to greater heights. Farmers ask for the subsidies and I am not able to provide it, training will become very difficult for people to come and have a residential and even non-residential training. SNV had given subsidies which enabled us to train many people and it gave a boost for a good number of those who trained here," she adds.

"They have introduced strip, I wish they can stay, they also helped in water distribution, we would like to mechanize and all our hopes are in SNV."

TECHNOLOGY AT HER FARM

She hails SNV for the support which enabled them venture into usage of technology in the dairy business. She

listed production of biogas that is used for domestic cooking and lighting in the milk parlor. They harvest rain water in addition to water from shallow wells and valley tanks for production. They use hydroelectricity power which has enhanced the service delivered in the dairy business, connected to a three-phase hydro power to power a 1,000 litres milk cooler on site.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

They have a training facility with a well-developed training manual and structure. They have constructed spray races that reduce on the time spent during hand spraying of cattle and also save on

Once women get involved in the dairy sector, it will grow fast because women are very serious and take serious decisions.

acaricide.

They grow maize and Napier grass from which they make silage using their own grass chopper.

They have successfully trained over 300 dairy farmers in breeding and genetic gain and dairy farming as a profitable family business.

They have constructed a milking and feeding parlor from where over 40 cows can be hand milked at the same time.

They have developed and constructed unique calf pens with individual feeding specifications.

FUTURE PLANS

Nshangano says they plan to increase the number of automated drinking troughs in every paddock. They plan to increase the milking herd and install an automated milking system.

Construction of a hostel with a business centre and also to increase the number of out growers for maize and Napier grass.

Construct a lab to deal with the health requirements of animals, to import and store semen and also to establish a shop to supply their dairy equipment.

CHALLENGES

If you want to develop, you need money. The challenge for some people in dairy farming, especially those who want things quickly, would be a challenge for women to obtain loans without security. Access to finance is a big problem for many farmers.

Changing weather condition is another challenge hitting farmers hard. It comes with all sorts of diseases

Demand for breeds is too much and she cannot supply all those who want breeds from them.

On whether women would take a good lead to develop dairy industry; Nshangano says, "Once women get involved in the dairy sector, it will grow fast because women are very serious and take serious decisions and they do things in the right way with a lot of discipline and mother instincts.

ADVICE

"Dairy can be done as a business, it's good and a sector where one can diversify, there is always a market for dairy products," she adds.

She advises farmers to always keep records. Financial records which help them plan and estimate costs of the business. Operational records which help them to make quick decisions.

Abaho milking millions from fodder growing



Many women are increasingly looking to the dairy sector for opportunities today driven by the need for self-reliance and to fulfill their passions. They have put on the boots and rolled up their sleeves and are ready to partake of their right share of the milk candy that menfolk had monopolized for long. Besides rearing cows, a number of women are tapping into the other activities along the dairy sector value chain.

Abaho Rowland is one such dairy sector player. The director of Jayrows Innovations Farm Limited in Nyamarebe, Ibanda South Constituency in Ibanda district, grows pasture and fodder, which she sells to dairy farmers.

The former banker's enterprise also provides services to sector stakeholders, including farmer training on fodder production and advisory services on animal husbandry practices.

TAPPING DAIRY SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

"Dairy is not just about cows and milk," says Abaho, adding that she is "a dairy farmer without cows". This emanates from the fact that the award winning young agripreneur sustains cattle of other farmers through provision of fodder and extension services to dairy farmers.

"I had noticed that many cows were dying of hunger during the dry season in our area and neighboring districts of Kazo and Kiruhura. So I decided to venture into forage and fodder production with an eye on that market," says Abaho.

"I started with small pasture demo mother gardens of different varieties of fodder. With this situation (lack of feeds during dry spells) I was confident of a ready market."

The gamble paid off.

"I am earning good money from the sale



Farmer: Abaho Rowland
Enterprise: Pasture growing
Farm: Jayrows Innovations Farm Limited
Location: Nyamarebe, Ibanda district

of fodder and training of dairy farmers," she says in an interview.

Abaho was lucky to be trained in dairy farming at Rubyera Dairy Investment (RDI) in Bwizibwera, Mbarara district, equipping her with requisite skills and knowledge to undertake the venture and provide services to different dairy sector players along the value chain. She won the **Western region Agribusiness challenge fund 2022**, walked home with the sh10m winner's prize money.

SUPPORTING YOUTH

Abaho is a believer in knowledge transfer and always works with different young people to engage in ventures along the dairy value chain. She has trained some youth with whom she carries out training of farmers on different aspects of dairy production, mainly fodder production.

"I work with a group of five youths and we train the farmers on fodder management, hay and silage making and other dairy management practices," she says.

"In the past two years, Jayrows has impacted more than 1,000 farmers both directly and indirectly," says the service provider.

Abaho, who was employed in a financial institution at the time she started the enterprise, later quit her bank job to concentrate on commercial farming.

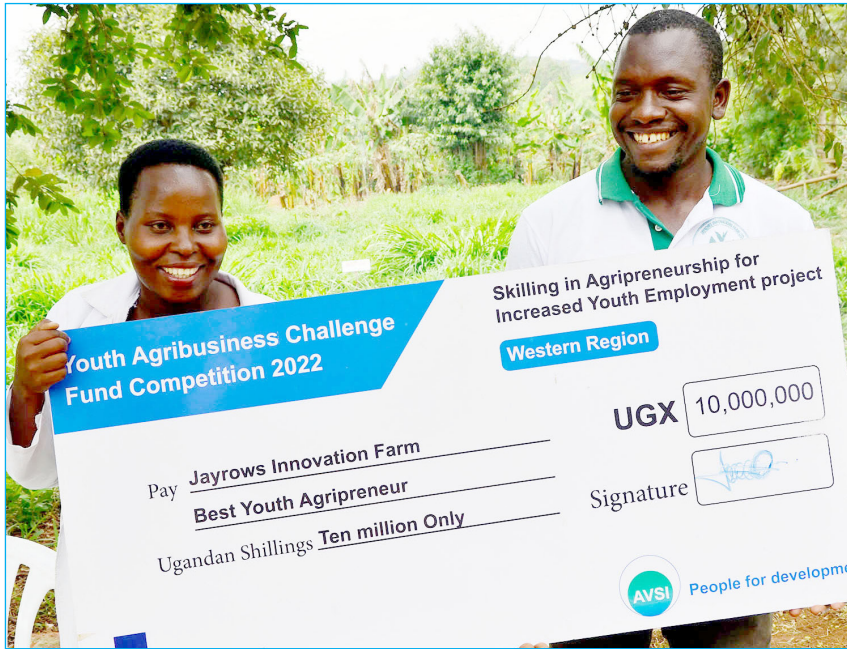
"I have been able to buy two pieces of land and I plan to expand the business and start a dairy farm since I have the capacity now," she adds.

Started over three year's back, Jayrows Innovations Farm Limited is now a registered company.

SUPPORT

Abaho says organizations involved in supporting the dairy sector, like SNV, have done a lot in amplifying and promoting modern dairy farming ideals.

She applauds the organisation for sponsoring farmer training and providing planting materials for setting up demo



Abaho Rowland "a dairy farmer without cows" won the Western region Agribusiness challenge fund 2022 and walked home with the sh10m winner's prize money

pasture gardens for farmers.

"This has enabled the change from traditional ways of dairy production to modern methods like adopting zero grazing and growing of fodder, among others."

The agripreneur is happy the SNV supports and trains women and youth, skilling them to be involved in the dairy sector.

"It is through such support that has helped to propel the dairy sector to a new level, attracting more players and anchoring it as a business," she adds.

WOMEN AND DAIRY FARMING

According to Abaho, women contribute the biggest percentage of the agriculture labour force, the inequalities that persist in different sectors notwithstanding. She says that women play a big role ensuring their families are food secure.

"So, it is important that engage in dairy farming given the benefits it presents, including a sustainable source of income and nutrition for the family," says the plant doctor.

"Dairy farming ensures that women get a steady source of income, making them self-reliant and economically secure through milk sales and selling of milk products and other value chain activities," she says.

CHALLENGES

Majority of women lack start-up capital, calling for interventions that support and

attract women and engage in different activities along the dairy sector value chain, notes Abaho.

She adds that population increase has added pressure on land, a challenge that can be tackled through adoption of modern methods like zero grazing.

This, coupled with discriminatory traditional norms, among some communities that discourage owning productive resources like land by women keep many from participating in the dairy.

She is however optimistic that with more community sensitisation on the role of women in community and promotion of equal rights, societies with such backward values will embrace new age and forward-looking practices.



Women will give dairy farming new direction if they get more involved in the sector.

With low coverage of the total irrigated area in the country, long dry spells are still a challenge for dairy sector start-ups like Jayrows. She calls for more support to women in dairy in terms of provision of subsidized irrigation equipment to ensure steady fodder growing and, hence sustainable milk production.

The peanuts, farmers get from milk sales also affect pasture and fodder growers in that the cattle keepers are reluctant to buy hay or silage to feed the animals.

LOOKING AHEAD

For the risk of sounding like an old record, women will give dairy farming new direction if they get more involved in the sector, says Abaho.

She believes the dairy industry can benefit immensely from their hard work and commitment given their 'never say die' spirit.

"Women are good at giving accountability... So, with them in lead especially for dairy projects, success can be assured, impacting thousands of Ugandans who earn livelihoods from dairy production.

"I am optimistic that at the women are joining the sector at different levels of the value chain, we will be able to see increased production and better earnings for stakeholders, going forward," says Abaho adding that with better household income, standards of living for the various players, especially those in rural areas will go up; this will also benefit the economy.



Tumwine has embraced modern farming methods

Patience Tumwine was not born in a cattle-keeping family. The model farmer joined the sector less than a decade into dairy production. It all started after she attended a farmer and entrepreneurship training about seven years ago. During the training the participants were equipped with pasture growing and management skills as well as financial literacy, skills that she has since used to improve herself and the financial fortunes, explains the resident of Bisheshe town in Bisheshe Division, Ibanda Municipality.

Initially, Tumwine had a local cow that used to give her just over one litre of milk that was consumed by the family. Presently, the farmer boasts of four milking cows, two heifers and two calves. Using artificial insemination (AI),

she now has jersey, jerando and friesland dairy cattle breed that are about 75% pure breeds.

PASTURE GROWING

She milks 25 litres of milk daily, most of which is sold at the local cooperative of dairy farmer called Bin Dairy in Bisheshe town. She practices zero grazing.

This, eventually, forced her to embrace modern farming methods and practices and currently Tumwine grows all the fodder she feeds the animals on. Besides the cut-and-carry feeding method, the farmer makes hay and silage which she keeps for the dry season.

With over five acres of land under pasture, she is assured of sustainable supply of feeds throughout the year.

This means that the community and farmers from across the district and elsewhere have easy access to planting materials. Tumwine grows a range of brachiara grass varieties, mombasa, and



Farmer: Patience Tumwine

Enterprise: Dairy production, pasture growing

Location: Bisheshe, Ibanda Municipality

massai as well as napier.

A sack of napier planting materials costs sh40,000 each while it is sh30,000 for other varieties (bulk buyers of 10 sacks and above part with sh20,000 per sack).

MINDSET CHANGE

"People now know that one can keep a few animals on zero grazing, giving you



Farming



Tumwine started with local cow producing one litre for family consumption. She has since embraced modern farming methods and now produces 25 litres of milk per day from her 4 cows

milk for sale and family needs," says Tumwine in an interview.

My farm has created awareness about zero grazing and entrepreneurship. People now know that you don't need vast portions of land to engage in dairy farming because they see how I do my things here, she adds.

In fact two of the women neighbors have embraced the practice and started zero grazing dairy enterprises following her example.

At the farm, Tumwine conducts periodic farmer training sessions to equip interested stakeholders with skills in the growing of pastures. They also learn hay and silage making, something she is optimistic will help to improve the sector in terms of increased milk production and animal health.

ENDING ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

According to Tumwine, dairy farming is one of the vehicles that help women to become financially independent and also contribute to wellbeing of their families and the general economy.

With dairy farming, one gets daily income. Besides, the money you would have used to buy milk is saved to do other development things; and the milk will boost the family's nutrition needs, she adds.

Moreover, the cows provide manure for crops and pastures, and can be a source of energy when one builds a biogas plant for lighting and cooking needs, says the model dairy farmer.

However, for one to make it in dairy production they must be passionate

about cattle, says Tumwine.

"Get involved at every stage and never leave everything to the hire staff, acting all bossy and detached," she counsels.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

The product SNV training on dairy farming, she is grateful for the intervention and knowledge the organization provided. She says the trainings in dairy farming and pasture management laid the foundation on which she built her enterprise that is worth millions today.

"They provided the planting materials I used for the mother gardens. They have also trained me in many aspects, including adding value to milk to make yoghurt, as well as making hay and silage," she says.

CHALLENGES

Despite the immense opportunities the dairy sector presents women and other Ugandans, a number of barriers still inhibit its performance, she says. Tumwine says fake and substandard

acaricides and drugs were hurting production and leaving farmers counting losses.

Also, access to vets and extension staff is at times hard, especially in emergency cases.

We also invest a lot in the production process but the prices are very low. This is at a time when prices of inputs like vet drugs and acaricides are on an upward trajectory, she notes.

Access to artificial insemination (AI) services is also hard and costly, especially for start-ups and rural poor.

UNBOUND POTENTIAL

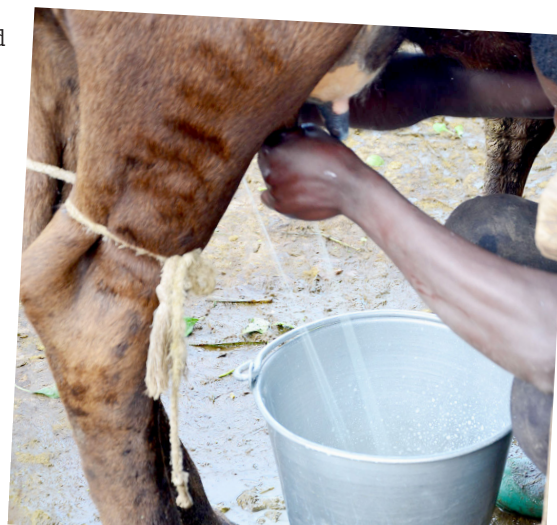
Despite the drawbacks, Tumwine paints a rosy picture for the dairy sector in coming years. The model farmer bases the bright outlook for the dairy industry on the fact that the sector has many opportunities, some of which are not yet tapped. Tumwine explains

"Many women are now vending milk in the neighborhoods and trading centres, which widens the households' income streams besides creating jobs."

She adds that more women were seeing a future in dairy sector-related enterprises dairy keeping cows.

"People have understood that keeping cows helps you to save; money that should be used to buy milk or manure is saved or caters for the other family's needs."

Tumwine however calls for more targeted training by the government and organization involved in dairy production, as well as easing access to AI services and planting materials.





Farmer: Hellen Kamwiine
Enterprise: Dairy farming
Farm: KHC Dairy Farm
Location: Nyakashara
-Nyabushozi, Kiruhura

Kamwiine Hellen Catherine is the executive director of KHC Dairy farm in Nyakashashara sub-county Nyabushozi in Kiruhura District.

Her passion for dairy farming instigates way back from childhood since she grew up seeing her parents in dairy farming as their family business and culture.

Because of her love for livestock Kamwiine started slowly by upgrading the cows she had at farm until when she got a nice breed that yielded good amounts of milk.

Her love for the developing dairy sector could not allow her to develop alone, so she decided to gather her fellow women in her neighborhood and they formed an association called YEGA Women group that saw over 25 women join dairy farming now successful dairy farmers.

In this group many women now do value addition on milk ranging from local Ghee, Processed ghee, Yoghurt, Cheese and many other milk products and Kamwiine says she doesn't regret having initiated this since development is seen in her area.

On her farm KHC, she currently does milk production, Bull fattening. She narrates that she hasn't started value addition, "Since my group members are much into value addition, I decided to concentrate on raising milk volumes at my farm to be able to meet the high demand for milk by my fellow group



Kamwiine empowers women to join dairy farming

members who are in Value Addition," she expresses.

CHALLENGES FARMERS FACE WHICH NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION

Women in dairy farming face a stiff competition with men who have been in this business for ages. "Originally we women were not allowed to own a business and even appear before your husband's or fathers, but we thank the government by H.E. YK Museveni who gave us a chance to also own things, educate and get educated and organizations like SNV supporting women in farming," Kamwiine narrates.

The challenge of funding and low capital has greatly affected farmers and most

especially women in dairy farming. There is a need for low interest loans to farmers mostly women to enable them promote production and their value addition ventures.

The challenge of mindset for their children who have gone to school towards dairy farming and other farming ventures is different and therefore needs to be worked upon right away from schools.

"The future of dairy farming is in the hands of our children, of which their mind set is a bit different towards the industry. We need to embark on an expedition of involving our children in what we do and making them love it but if we fail, the sustainability of what we have worked



Kamwine's farming passion stems from her nurturing. She grew up under a family of cattle keepers. She focuses mostly on milk production and bull fattening

hard for will be at risk," Kamwine says.

Looking at women taking lead in the development of the dairy industry, Kamwine compares this with the vehicle that is driven by a woman. "When a woman is on the steering wheel you sit comfortably knowing you are in safe hands and the same way if women take lead in the dairy industry smooth development will be seen in this country and the future of our lives and that of our children will be bright."

SNV SUPPORT

"I have seen SNV hold hands of farmers who were nowhere and they are now big

people that are referred to and recognized in public. Even myself, SNV supported me in many ways ranging from pasture production, milk production and handling value addition cost sharing on farm equipment and many other ways up to where I am," Kamwine articulates, noting that such organizations should do permanent partnership with the government since they have done a great deal towards the development of this country and wellbeing of citizens' livelihoods.

"Very many farmers still need a lot of support to be lifted up to production level. How I wish SNV can stay a little bit



longer because their intervention towards development of the dairy industry is incomparable to all our expectations are in SNV," she adds.

ADVICE

"We need to join hands in cooperatives, have one voice, have a common market and be able to negotiate together for a common price for our products and do this with great passion. We also need to change the mindset of our children and bring them back home for the sustainability of this industry and we need to pay them to enable them to enjoy the business and love it. Government also needs to invest much into equipment and then the dairy industry will be boosted," she adds.

Betty Kasabiiti inspires women to dream bigger

Betty Kasabiiti Mbaziira, was Born into a cattle keeping family in Kiruhura district. She developed the passion for dairy farming from her father, Esau Rukumba who was a cattle-keeper. In Banyankole culture when a girl gets married she is given gifts in many forms, in the year 1999 when Kasabiiti got married to Cpt Mbaziira Jimmy (RIP) they were given 30 cows.

"We collected them and with our savings got a piece of land in Masha Isingiro and that was the beginning of what you see today and my husband came to love cows even better than me until his death in 2003, farming was largely a hobby," Kasabiiti states.

She used to run other businesses in Kampala where she was dealing in phones, electronics, saloon etc. But when her husband died, she realized that she would not be able to look after her children unless she supplemented her income with farm work. In 2007 they closed her outlet due to rent arrears so she sold her cows to pay rent.

"This was the worst moment and I realized that the business was in the farming and not the shop. It was my turning point," Kasabiiti adds.

Even then, she was also tired of buying expensive milk in Kampala, yet she had milk in the village that she was selling at 200 shs per liter. This propelled her into action to develop a sustainable way of living where she then started a yoghurt processing company called AWA Foods Uganda Limited. She started the yogurt processing business utilizing milk from the cattle livestock on the farm she bought with her late husband in Isingiro district. With a salt of the earth brand name, "Awa Yoghurt". "Awa" is styled to refer to the local Ugandan pronunciation of 'Our'; meaning "Our Yoghurt" – utilizing



Farmer: Betty K. Mbaziira
Enterprise: Dairy farming,
Value addition, production
Farm: AWA Foods Uganda Ltd
Location: Masha, Isingiro

"our" green earth, for "our" healthy consumption, produced by "our" people.

She says her company has grown from a supply of 25 liters to 10,000 liters of great quality farm fresh yoghurt per month. She supplies this with 5,000 liters from the livestock on her farm and outsources

5,000 liters from other farmers to be able to support her fellow farmers and promote their milk supply businesses. She is a member of Nyamitsindo Dairy Farmers Co-operative where she sells and purchases milk from the society.

"Don't Chase the Money, Chase the Passion" is her motto.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Because of her hard work, in 2018 she was awarded as the overall winner of the annual Vision Group Best Farmer's competition becoming the first female to have won this award from the 1406 entrants/farmers for the six years the program had been running. She was given opportunity to travel to the Netherlands for further dairy processing and value addition training and was able to learn transferable skills and knowledge which she believes will not only benefit her but also her fellow farmers because there are many possibilities for dairy products when value addition is done e.g. Cheese, Ice cream, ghee.

SNV, DDA SUPPORT

Due to the company's value addition and good quality yoghurt processing

Value Addition



Kasabiti focuses much on value addition. She produces over 5000 litres of milk from her farm and buys other 5000 from community farmers

standards, she received an award from the Dairy Development Authority (DDA) together with SNV. In 2015 she was also selected for Dairy Training in 2016 in the Netherlands.

"This was an eye opener and what I saw in the Netherlands from calf management, pasture management farming as a business life has never been the same," she adds.

SNV introduced a cost sharing service that saw them paddocking, milking parlor, calf pens and this changed the way of doing things and Awa became a champion and a learning centre. Kudos to the SNV-TIDE project that was result oriented, she says they really introduced a style of farming as a business and as a woman, she realized the strategy and strength is in the passion and Resilience.

Rising Woman Award sponsored by Daily Monitor, DFCU and Investment Authority. In 2019, she came in sixth place out of the ten winners. She traveled to Nairobi, Kenya and gained more experience in value addition as well as dairy farming.

Farm Structural improvements. – Construction of the yoghurt processing



"When you empower a woman you empower a nation"

facility from the home cottage unit. –Purchase of a solar water pump that helps them with the distribution of water in the paddocks and in the processing unit that was achieved as an asset acquisition reward from the **Best Farmer awards 2018** courtesy of Vision group.

"When you empower a woman you empower a nation."

As the founder of Awa Foods Uganda, Betty Mbaziira aspires to empower herself to bring a better future to Uganda and hopefully inspire women to dream bigger as well.

"When you think or talk of dairy farming you think of a sector that is dominated by male only but my fellow women are encouraging you that small things we do as women in this sector makes a difference and it is the reason I decided to write our success stories to celebrate

everyone's milestones," she states, adding that Successful entrepreneur Tony Hseih once said 'Stop chasing the money and start chasing the passion.' With this mentality we as women can do so much, the sky is the limit. I would like to give a special thanks to my family, friends and staff for all of their continuous support. No man is an island and when we achieve, we usually do so because others have helped.

She is grateful to organizations such as DDA, SNV, PSFU, Nyamitsindo, Vision Group, etc –for sharing the vision of an integrated and innovative community for dairy farmers.

"You all understood what we were trying to achieve and helped make it possible. Your generous gifts of time, expertise and funds are deeply appreciated.

"Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally. It comes from what you do consistently".





Atuhaire plans milk production beyond Uganda



Farmer: Allen Atuhaire
Enterprise: Dairy farming
Farm: Inter-city dairy farm
Location: Bumaire sub-county, Bushenyi district

Allen Atuhaire practices dairy farming in Bumaire Parish–Bumaire sub-county Bushenyi district. She is the owner of Inter-city dairy farm which sits on 66 acres of land. Her experience in dairy farming is as old as six years now.

Before joining the dairy industry, Atuhaire was operating a supermarket business in Mbarara town which she closed in 2017. Her farm shares the same name as her former business Inter-City supermarket. The closure of her supermarket business was triggered by what she termed as a number of unavoidable challenges which included the sickness of her son who developed a heart disease that required full-time care and decided to relocate to Bumaire to stay near her son.

Because of her son's sickness, she accumulated a lot of debts to the extent of failing to raise money to pay for the

rent where she had the business.

"I had a very good supermarket in Mbarara city but when my son developed a heart disease things became tight on my side, the sickness required my full-time presence to care for my son and I had no option but to close the shop and go back home in Bumaire to take care of him," she says.

With support from friends and relatives she took her son to India for an operation where she spent close to 6 months.

On return from India, she looked around for a business to do and what came into her mind was dairy farming. She already had 3 cows which she bought using savings from supermarket business. They were milking only two of the 3, getting 8 litres per day.

The fact that her cows remained the only option to earn a living, she decided to give farming full time attention and monitoring and with good feeding her milk production increased to 15 litres a day.

With small savings from milk, she kept adding on the number of cows and with

time, she started producing 40 litres.

Much as she was earning from selling milk, Atuhaire said the milk price was so low and this forced her to turn direction into value addition and started processing yoghurt.

Using her previous networks, she got a market for her yoghurt in supermarkets in Mbarara city with the first entry point being Fresco where she was given an

Value Addition



Allen Atuhaire had to close her supermarket and start dairy farming. Right now, she produces over 10,000 litres of yoghurt every month and supplies different towns in Western Uganda

opportunity to supply them 40 jerrycans of yoghurt every day. Because of the good quality of her yoghurt the demand increased and she was forced to outsource more milk from neighboring farmers.

Currently Atuhaire produces 10,000 litres of yoghurt every month supplying to different towns in western region and even in Kampala.

Comparing supermarket business and farming, Atuhaire says farming is a way to go highlighting working from home, availability of customers, stress free, quick and reliable profit generating among the advantages.

BARRIERS

When it comes to barriers, Atuhaire mentions landownership as a major challenge giving women a hard time to be successful farmers.

Others are lack of access to bank loans and urged the government to support them with Agriculture loans.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Atuhaire has created a market for farmers around her and beyond. She has trained many people in farming and because of her projects, her area recently was given water, electricity and a good road.



She has also created jobs for people working at her farm.

SNV SUPPORT

Many thanks to SNV who among others gave her water. Now, every paddock at her farm has a water trough and this has relieved her from the challenge of water especially during dry season.

She was also given a milking machine and a solar system, improved pasture and several training sessions.

FUTURE PLANS

Atuhaire wants to establish a demonstration farm and training centre where she can empower many farmers with better farming methods and also want to empower persons with disabilities into farming. She appealed to the government to support women with milk coolers, machinery and agriculture loans.



Esether Byentaro focuses much on ghee production. She says the government needs to take on the lead in mindset change for the youth, in dairy farming



Byentaro targets international market

Esether Byentaro is the executive director of Amarebe Ghee LTD in Nyakahita Village Nyakashahara Sub-County Kiruhura district.

She is a dairy farmer and currently she makes ghee from the milk that is produced at her farm and from her neighbors' farms.

Her journey into dairy farming began when she was still young admiring her father's herds, and when she grew up and got married, she instilled the same comfort into her husband and they started there and then.

"I love cows naturally and they are the source of my happiness. Due to that love I decided to look further more on how best we can improve income and that's when I looked at Ghee processing," Esether Narrates.

She says that she is now looking at improving her product Amarebe Ghee to a better standard that can fit in an international market.

CHALLENGES FARMERS FACE WHICH NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION

The challenge of capital is cuts cross in almost every business so even people in dairy farming farmers still face the same.

"To earn in dairy farming, you must put in and when it reaches on us women it becomes even more difficult to acquire loans since we don't own land for security. We need to have access to easy and

affordable funds for us to be able to do even more better." Esether narrates.

The future of Dairy farming lies in the hands of the youths that have a different mindset of the formal sector, a reason as to why parents, government and other stakeholders need to participate in the journey mindset change of the youths.

"We need upgrade our homes to make them attractive for our children to come back and feel comfortable. A good and conducive environment for our children has to be set starting with us parents seducing them and sweet talking about dairy farming for them to change their mindset and focus on this mighty business." Esether articulates.

Women taking lead in the development

of the dairy industry Esether says women have led in many successfully in various sectors of this country noting that even dairy farming will be a great success with women taking lead.

PRAISE SNV

Esether says that, "I am a product of SNV and I thank them for giving me an opportunity. They have trained and supported me in various ways ranging from farm management training, farming for my animals, value addition, among others not forgetting a trip to the Netherlands where I saw and learnt many things that changed my ways and thinking on dairy farming."

She adds that, "It is quite sad that SNV is pulling out at the time when it is needed the most. Most farmers are, their feet are not steady and they still need to be supported for them to stand firm."

ADVICE

"My only advice to dairy farmers is not to back up. There is a future in dairy farming and let's work hard together to make ends meet and we will rejoice at the end."

"Government also needs to look into how these farmers can be supported with some capital to enable them to stand firm adding on the support they get from organizations like SNV and other parastatals that support dairy farmers." Esether states.



"I am a product of SNV and I thank them for giving me an opportunity."



Stella Rwasheema has been in dairy farming business for more than 20 years

Rwashema advocates for farmers associations



Stella Rwasheema is a renowned dairy farmer located in Rwensheshe village in Bushenyi district. She is the director of a family business which is referred to as Rwensheshe Dairy Farm.

She has been into dairy farming for more than 20 years but she started serious farming in 2014 when she retired from work and decided to concentrate on the dairy farming as a business.

She recalls they had cows before but were not serious in serious farming.

In 2015 she embarked on sorting her animals and kept only the best milkers. During that period SNV came in her area looking for farmers who were serious in dairy farming and engaged them into training where she acquired more skills that enabled her to improve her project.

"SNV came strongly, they gave us a variety of species and were successfully done, they gave us structures where animals could be milked and where calves stay, they also helped us by constructing a water tank with capacity

of 70,000 litres. This has addressed water problem we used to face in the past years. SNV again came in with a feeding ration with an App we applied for and eventually succeeded," Rwashema says, adding that the intervention helped increase her milk production.

"We now know how to balance an animal's diet," she states.

Asked about challenges she is facing, Rwashema mentions drought which normally leaves them with almost nothing to feed on their animals.

Diseases are another challenge disturbing farmers especially tick resistance, getting laborers is another problem in addition to the price for milk which she says is so low.

As a woman she sees the milk industry progressing especially if women already in farming are given desired support. She says there is a need to get a market for milk farmers produce. She advises other women not yet in farming to come on board and asked them to form associations.

SNV

INTERVENTIONS

SNV TIDE project transforms Uganda's dairy industry



SNV interventions



SNV is a not-for-profit international development organization that applies practical know-how to make a lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty. They use extensive and long-term in-country presence to apply and adapt their expertise in agri-food, energy, and water sectors to local contexts.

SNV works to strengthen capacities and catalyze partnerships that transform the agri-food system, which enables sustainable and more equitable lives for all.

Since 1989, SNV Uganda has been guided by government priorities, legal policies, and institutional frameworks at the national and local government levels.

SNV is currently implementing five projects in the agri-food sector

SNV signed a four-year (2020-2023) grant agreement with the Netherlands Embassy in Uganda (EKN) to implement phase II of The Inclusive Dairy Enterprise (TIDE) project in Southwestern Uganda covering 27 districts as a follow-up of the TIDE I project implemented 2015-2019. The impact of the TIDE II project has contributed a lot to the dairy sector transformation.

The project has supported sustainable sector transformation, through interventions in four key project components; dairy farm productivity, milk quality, dairy value chain and nutrition.

Speaking at the launch of Women Power in Dairy Magazine and TIDE project close-out, Phomolo Maphosa, SNV country director, hailed women and other farmers for supporting the growth of the dairy sector in Uganda.

She noted that the dairy sector plays a vital role in Uganda's economy reporting that the last five years, national milk output increased from 2.4 to 3.85 billion litres between 2019-2021 driven by a burgeoning cattle stock.

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

SNV interventions



IN PICTURES: SNV Interventions with different farmers



FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Uganda's dairy exports have also grown, and the sector's contribution to Uganda's GDP currently stands at 9%, underscoring its significance in household nutrition and income generation.

She added that despite all the gains, the sector still grapples with challenges limiting its full potential—fluctuating milk prices, a lack of skilled labour, concerns about breeding stock quality, tickborne disease and seasonal water and forage shortages.

She was happy to note the TIDE project has contributed to address these challenges

"The spanning eight impactful years across phases—TIDE 1 and culminating in TIDE 2—this project stands as a testament to the dedication of our partners and the unwavering support from the Embassy of The Kingdom of Netherlands," Maphosa stated.

Working with various local service providers, she said the project has supported over 22,600 farmers across 139 cooperatives, resulting in an annual milk production increased from 79.3 million litres in 2020 to 149.4 million litres in 2023 (close to 90% increase), where the farmers of the cooperatives invested a total of 12.1 billion Uganda shillings in their farms.

A total of 1,242 new jobs were created in rural area, bolstering the local economy

In partnership with the ministry of education and sports, their school milk and yoghurt program has reached



The project has supported over 22,600 farmers across 139 cooperatives

nearly a million children. The programme ensured a stable market for dairy farmers by creating a dairy demand of over 125,500 litres of milk consumed across 2,542 schools, with an estimated annual sales value of 33.6 billion Uganda shillings.

BOOSTING MILK PRODUCTION

the TIDE forage and dairy nutrition and extension, training and advisory services components facilitated over 8,000 farmers to transition from cattle keeping to dairy farming, leading to a 31% increase in average milk production.

Their technical advisors showcased the various initiatives they deployed to achieve this mark, including the practical dairy training farms and the innovative e-dairy digital knowledge portal that has attracted over 50,000 visits.

SNV interventions



MARKETS

TIDE's impact on market development initiatives has propelled the Uganda dairy industry onto the global stage. By supporting product diversification, essential dairy services, and ensuring inclusive access to finance for all players in the chain, TIDE set the stage for substantial growth.

Regarding enhancing milk quality, in partnership with DDA, Maphosa said they have piloted and scaled the adoption of a quality-based milk payment system and introduced standard operating procedures at milk collection centres and schools.

She said their efforts expanded the quality-based payment from southwest to central Uganda, increasing the participating milk collection centre from 3 to 65 and processors from three to 11. Consequently, the number of farmer beneficiaries increased from 1,000 to 4,750 leading to a 58% increase in purchased milk volumes under the quality-based payment system.

LESSONS LEARNT

While celebrating the achievements, Maphosa acknowledged the sector transformation requires a more inclusive approach to ensure that critical players such as women, youth, and more importantly, smallholder farmers who account for more than 80% of farmers in Uganda.

She said they have designed specific intervention to ensure that they, and no



one, is left behind in their transformation agenda.

Last year, they launched the integrated smallholder dairy program (ISDAP), which expanded beyond the TIDE coverage areas to include the Rwenzori and Kigezi regions. The program she said targets 15,000 smallholder farmers by providing targeted assistance and expertise, enabling them to drive positive change in the dairy sector.

She also acknowledged that to improve livelihoods, they must consider all factors affecting the home, and not just income. Shifting from a single value chain approach to an integrated farming

systems approach is crucial to holistically address challenges beyond dairy farming, including soil fertility, water availability and climate adaptability.

Securing buy-in from parents and schools is vital for the sustainability and success of initiatives like the school milk programme.

They are currently working with the ministry of education and sports to fast-track the development of a school feeding policy to guide the process.

She extended gratitude to all stakeholders of the TIDE project, starting with all committed staff, who were critical to delivering the notable results.



Empowering Women in Agriculture: A Journey of Dedication and Leadership

As a dedicated professional with eight years of experience working with SNV, Monica Kyapa has had the privilege of serving in various roles, each contributing to the empowerment of women in the agricultural sector. Her journey began as a lead trainer at the Mutanoga Practical Dairy Training Farm, where her passion for fostering sustainable farming practices first took root.

At Mutanoga, she witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that education and hands-on training can have on women in agriculture.

Through tailored programs, they equipped women with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the dairy industry. The farm became a hub of empowerment, where women gained confidence as they mastered essential techniques in dairy farming.

As we celebrate the progress made, it is crucial to recognize that the journey towards gender equality in agriculture is ongoing.

Transitioning to the role of a **Rumen8** advisor allowed her to delve into the intricacies of animal nutrition, a critical aspect of dairy farming. Her focus extended beyond conventional practices, emphasizing sustainable and eco-friendly approaches. Empowering women to

become stewards of their livestock's health became a cornerstone of my work, fostering a sense of responsibility and sustainability within the community.

Currently serving as a Field Officer in the Integrated Smallholder Dairy Program in Rukiga District, her commitment to uplifting women in agriculture remains unwavering. The program takes a holistic approach, addressing not only technical aspects of farming but also socio-economic factors. Through initiatives that promote financial literacy and cooperative development, they empower women to not only contribute to their households but also become leaders in their communities.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of her journey has been witnessing the resilience and determination of the women I work with. Despite facing challenges, they have emerged as pillars of strength in their communities, challenging stereotypes and redefining



IN PICTURES:
Monica with other trainers in the field. Through initiatives that promote financial literacy and cooperative development, they empower women to not only contribute to their households but also become leaders in their communities.

gender roles in agriculture," she says.

In Rukiga District, they are not just building farms; they are nurturing a community of empowered women who are driving positive change. The integration of sustainable practices, coupled with a focus on women's leadership, is shaping a future where agriculture is not just a means of survival but a pathway to prosperity.

"As we celebrate the progress made, it is crucial to recognize that the journey towards gender equality in agriculture is ongoing. SNV's commitment to this cause, mirrored in my own experiences, underscores the transformative power of empowering women in the field. Together, we are sowing the seeds of change and cultivating a future where women stand as equals in the vibrant landscape of agriculture," she stated.

"REVOLUTIONIZING DAIRY EDUCATION: BRIDGING GAPS THROUGH E-DAIRY MODULES"

In her role as a dedicated professional with SNV, she has actively contributed

to the transformation of dairy education through the evaluation and activation of eDairy modules. These modules, uploaded on the internet, serve as a valuable resource, ensuring easy access to crucial information for farmers seeking to enhance their skills and practices in dairy farming.

Their (trainers) commitment to empowering farmers led them to assess and refine these e-Dairy modules, ensuring they are not only informative but also tailored to the diverse needs of farmers. Their goal is to democratize knowledge, making it accessible to farmers, regardless of their geographical location or resources.

"I take pride in the activation of five active modules that cover a spectrum of topics crucial for successful dairy farming. These modules are designed to be user-friendly, employing interactive elements and multimedia to engage farmers effectively. From herd management to sustainable practices, each module is a stepping stone towards a more informed and resilient farming community," she added.





SNV TIDE projects produce good fruits, says Tumushabe

The story of Irene Tumushabe is so interesting. She is a trainer of trainees at Mutanoga Practical Dairy Farm in Kiruhura district. She has been working there since 2016 and expresses pride in having worked with the project for this long. As an individual, Tumushabe has benefited a lot, the project has given her an opportunity to grow her career and experience.

"When I started as a young girl my experience was still very low but now. I am an expert, I am what I am because of the TIDE project," she proudly states.

The project helped to build their capacity and has made women believe in themselves and seen it become possible for a woman to work and inspire communities.

The project has also exposed them to different organizations and stakeholders. This has given them a chance of exploring their capacities

They have been able to reach out to



over 2000 farmers and cause impact, changing farmers mindset who have in turn transformed from their traditional way of farming to modern farming.

"Farmers are now doing farming as a family business which is very interesting. Unlike in the past when farms were only owned by the head of the house, women now know everything that happens

around the farm. Seeing that, gives me a lot of hope for the dairy sector to continue growing," she adds.

The project has also helped to increase production and productivity.

"Gone are the days when people used to count numbers, these days it is all about quality not quantity. People have few numbers of cattle but are producing a lot of milk, this is because we have trained them how they can manage well their cows, feed them, take good care of them and then disease control which has been a biggest challenge," she adds.

"As TIDE ends, farmers will live to remember the 10 golden rules of tick control, and ticks and diseases are no longer a big challenge," she says.

Farmers now know how to select good breeds.

WOMEN INVOLVEMENT

Involvement of women in farming is another credit she attributes to SNV TIDE project.

"In past it used not to be like this, but after the intervention of TIDE our husbands have come to appreciate the effort of women in farming. If a woman choses to take charge, you can hardly lose a calf from the farm. If she chooses to do any farm work she will do it perfectly. I am happy that through TIDE trainings and sensitization, men have been able to appreciate the importance of women in the dairy sector," she adds.

Along the way they have met a number of challenges in the implementation process including lack of conducive means of transport especially working in rural areas.

They have a few farmers who are still struggling

"I want to appreciate the project, it came at the right time when we really needed it. It has created a lot of impact. I pray they can give us another TIDE such that those who did benefit can get a chance to benefit in the next phase," Tumushabe states.

She hails top leadership of SNV for giving them a chance to represent the organisation in all corners of the region, saying the walk bore visible fruits.



Atukunda enjoys being with a cow

Joan Atukunda aged 32 years grew up on farm in Kazo which made her find life at the farm fun. She therefore, enjoys being with cows and staying at the farm and this greatly contributed to her career.

Joan Atukunda is a professional animal production scientist with seven years' experience in dairy sector, expert in training and mentoring farmers to learn and adopt improved farming technologies such as pasture based grazing systems, zero grazing systems, semi-intensive among others.

She has extensive knowledge in animal feeding and dairy nutrition focusing on utilization of forages and other animals' feeds being guided by different technologies such as **Rumen8** software to enable farmers adopt balanced rations.

She is a graduate of animal production and management at Busitema University and pursuing a master's degree in agriculture and rural innovations due completion with pending research (on Dairy nutrition).

Her work journey started

in November 2016, one month after graduation where she worked as a field officer and represented Pearl Dairy Farm, Ltd on the Quality Based Milk Payment Systems, an SNV /TIDE intervention.

It is from there that she learnt about SNV/TIDE and admired deeply with her heart to work with the project. In 2018, Nyamambo Dairy Farmer's Cooperative offered her an opportunity to work as an

extension officer, a program that was promoted by SNV/TIDE project. While at Nyamambo DFCS, SNV/TIDE played a pivotal role by building her capacity which shaped her career.

SUPPORT

In 2019, With support from SNV/TIDE she was trained in the use of **Rumen8** software in 2019. In 2020 she was a local capacity builder of 18 extension officers that participated in rolling the software on 32 farms during the pilot that was implemented by SNV/TIDE project.

She is supporting the team in implementation of **Rumen8** software on 82 farms under the sustainability model where farmers are paying for the services.

Due to increase demand for tailor made farm advisory by farmers, Joan and her friend compete in the use of the **Rumen8** software formed and registered by JIMA Agricultural Consultancy Uganda LTD where she works as a dairy nutrition consultant and grants manager.



DDA boss advocates for more women in dairy farming

DDA is a government agency which is under the ministry of agriculture, animal industry and fisheries. It was created by the act of parliament and was given mandate to develop and regulate the dairy industry in Uganda

The authority covers 30 districts and 2 cities in Southwestern region in Ankole, Kigezi and Rwenzori sub-regions, offering services across the dairy value chain starting from the farm where they build capacity of farmers to improve their milk production and productivity so that they can produce a lot of milk with good quality.

They also move across the value chain to milk collection where they support farmers through cooperatives to come together for purposes of marketing. They also support them to acquire milk equipment and give them training and support them to do milk testing among others.

DDA has a dairy training school in Entebbe where they mobilize farmers to get training in value addition but also in milk quality assurance.

They also support milk consumption by putting in place various campaigns especially through media houses telling people the benefits of taking milk



As DDA we encouraged men to give women a chance to participate in the dairy business.

encouraging them to consume milk

GIVING WOMEN PRIORITY

In his statement, Dr. Moses Ahimbisibwe-Regional Manager DDA southwestern region says, as Authority they have a component of supporting gender in a special way women to bring them on board in the dairy industry.

"As we are planning and implementing our activities, we give them priority for example special training in value addition,

in milk quality maintenance," he stated.

He said a good number of them have supported batch pasteurizer, milk handling equipment and we want to continue supporting them.

When it comes to consumption, he said women have played a great role in supporting the consumption of milk

Ahimbisibwe also hailed women for their great contribution in small scale processing especially supplying yoghurt in schools under the school milk feeding program and encouraged them to continue

However, as they work along the dairy value chain, they have discovered that women are less involved especially at the farming level with over 80% being men engaged in dairy farming at farm level.

"Women are left behind to do the basic house work, they are given little milk to chan and get some butter out of it but are not directly involved in farming. As a government we encourage women to get involved at farm level and I also encourage men to support women also to support farms," he added.

He noted that most times when the men are not around you find there are a lot of issues at the farm and this is because women have not been involved at the beginning. He attributes this to reasons why some farms are collapsing

He hailed women who are already catching up, getting involved especially in fodder production, growing improved grasses and conserving it in form of hay



and silage and being able to feed the cows during dry season.

He said women can also be involved in nurturing the young ones.

"We very well know women are good caretakers and we believe in them if they are taking care of those cows, we want to see more women in farming," he added.

At the level of milk collection cooperatives there is a mandate that cooperative executives should have at least three women but he proposes the number should increase and encourage women to take leadership roles at cooperative level and guide the operations of the cooperatives.

When it comes to reception, management or the MCC, he was happy to report there is a good involvement of ladies but encouraged cooperatives to employ more women saying it is good for sustainability.

He was happy to note the an increasing number of women in value addition milk processing. He said, around the southwestern they have over 70 small scale processing facilities and over 60% of those groups are women and encouraged to have an upward percentage

"As DDA we encouraged men to give women a chance to participate in the dairy business. Those who have tried we have seen a difference on the farm," He added.

CHALLENGES

Regarding challenges pushing women off the dairy industry, Ahimbisibwe mentioned lack of ownership of land since most of the land is owned and controlled by men, limiting chances of women who would wish to practice something on dairy.

They also lack capital since dairy farming is a business that needs money to start and that they are also being neglected—especially when they want to do something on farming their husbands neglect them. Those trying in value addition have a challenge of equipment and are also grappling with a challenge of the market for their products.

"The dairy industry would go far if women are also given the opportunity to take the drive, already in some of the areas where women are participating at farming level there is a great improvement. So, their involvement is causing a difference and the future will be much better if they are given more chances," he added.



Natumanya vows never to leave dairy farming

For 7 years in it, Peninnah Natumanya plans never to leave dairy farming. She came into the sector as a professional staff and now she is a serious farmer.

"I enjoy my work with dairy stakeholders because now I know the real experience and it's now part of m," she states.

She particularly hails women in farming as her role model in development and they are interesting and exemplary.

Out of their motivation, she says they have formed a woman led group called **Global Life Challenge** which targets changing lives through agriculture especially dairy farming, saying they have seen a secret in the sector.

Natumanya, who is employed at DDA as Inspector for South Western Region, believes women have been transformed from poverty to leaders in development and wealth.

"We are grateful to women in dairy who have contributed much to the dairy industry above 65% value addition is done by women," she adds.

On her contribution to the dairy sector as a woman, Natumanya says she has ensured operations of dairy production, processing and marketing comply with dairy

standards and regulations for safety of both dairy products and consumers.

She also has built the capacity of farmers, youth, women and men in hygienic milk handling and processing through training and workshops.

She has also built relationships with dairy stakeholders to ensure good collaboration for continuous growth and sustainability of the dairy sector. She recommends dairy farming as the best business because it is a solution to many.

"Everything needed for life improvement both wealth and health is from dairy farming since products of dairy farming are both food and medicine. Dairy farming is easy to operate using family labor; it saves a lot and improves family status," Natumanya says, adding that dairy farming is the best inheritance for the generation.

Regarding challenges; Natumanya notes that women in dairy farming are limited by less capital and culture that limits women from property ownership.

With a woman supported leader in dairy farming, she says the sector's growth will triple since a committed woman will transfer the treasure of dairy farming to the children and entire family hence sustainable dairy farming.

SNV interventions



The maize silage train technology at step



Fertilizer application



Milk cooling at bulking centre



Milk quality with digital equipment

SNV interventions



IN PICTURES: Practical skills training of Extension workers



Women at SNV Women's Day celebrations





Profiling dairy cooperative extension services as driver of woman power

Uganda is predominantly dependent on agriculture with more than 70% of the working population engaged in agricultural-related activities. Agriculture is largely practiced on a subsistence scale, characterized by low input low output low productivity with less practical skill levels, lack of quality inputs, and limited access to expert extension services.

SNV TIDE project introduced a cooperative extension services model to offer an alternative sustainable model of dairy extension services that are cooperative-owned. It is aimed at giving technical knowledge and advice while working with the farmer to fix emerging technical problems, on-the-farm hands-on training of neighboring farmers, giving farmers free market information, recruiting these farmers to enroll for more training and



Steven Aikiriza

joining the cooperative, and gathering data for investment opportunities. All these resulted in increased membership enrollment, increased on-farm investments, improved milk production on

the farm, and increased milk bulk at the cooperative.

Extension officers could make things practical and simple to make them usable by farmers. This has changed the mindset of the farmers from having extension workers who treat animals when they are sick to having farm advisors who provide advice so that animals remain healthy and minimize veterinary visits and bills because of improved animal health through improved management and establishment of quality feed sources and their preservation methods into silage and Hay, better feeding practices, provision of clean and sufficient water, appropriate minerals, calves and young stock management, calving management, cow fertility, and genetic gain improvement.

INTERVENTIONS

To date, the TIDE project has reached 8,296 dairy farmers with different dairy interventions aimed at increasing milk

SNV interventions



production by farmers adopting better dairy management practices and as a result, a total of 6,364 dairy farmers adopted the different dairy farming practices out of the 4,000 farmers target, where 16% of the adopters are female owned farms.

Some of the technologies adopted included the use of improved pastures and forages for animal feeding, the use of fodder for animal feeding, the use of silage both from fodder and maize, rainwater harvesting construction of dams, among others.

It is important to note that farmers who are counted as adopted are those doing at least two practices of dairy management. Each of the six thousand farmers has indirectly been contacted by at least five others for knowledge and materials dissemination which makes the number of farmers who have adopted the practices even much higher.



OPPORTUNITIES

A total of 2,391 jobs in the last three to four years were created where 27 % (407) are females and 1,102 are males. The reported jobs were created at Cooperatives (131), processors (11) input distributors (13), Yoghurt making small-scale companies (93), and school milking feeding-from schools (1,261) among others.

COOPERATIVES

A total of 134 cooperatives out of the 150 cooperatives supported under TIDE have integrated females and or Youth in leadership positions for cooperatives, with 48% (64) of cooperatives having females on their leadership board committee and 52% with both female and or youth. This

was possible due to the support provided to cooperatives to improve their business systems. Most support focused on training cooperative leaders and members in good governance and coaching, financial literacy, among others.

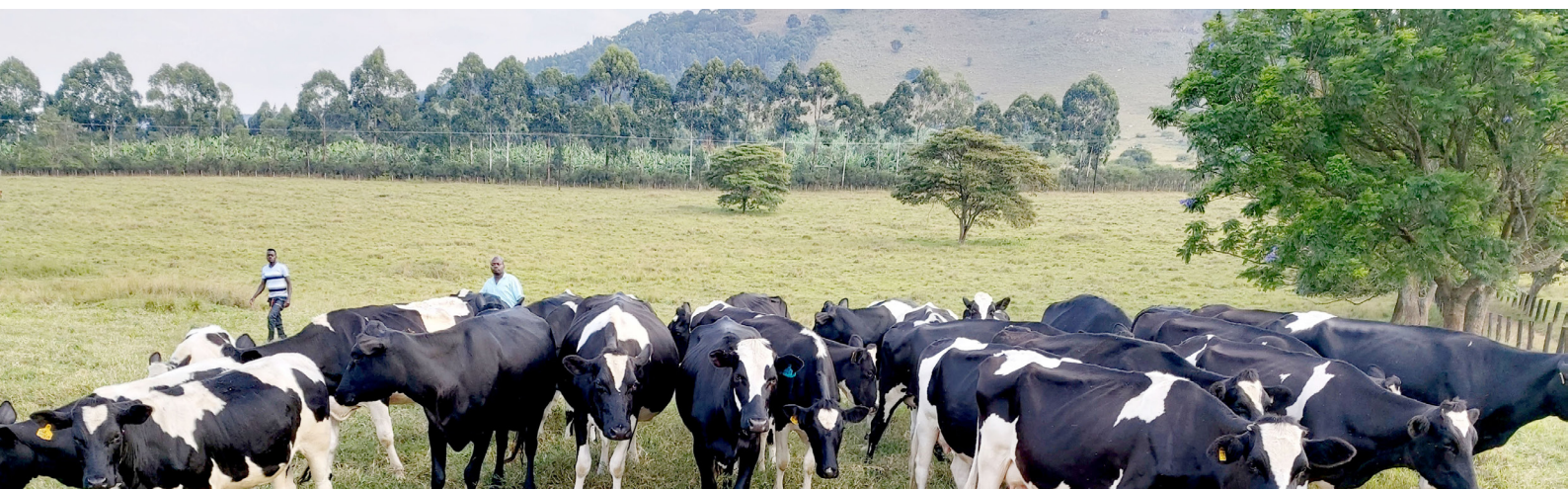
EXTENSION SERVICES

SNV TIDE established a cooperative-based extension services model where the cooperative leadership recruited and SNV trained and equipped the extension officers. We worked out the modalities of how extension officers could be paid a salary based on services and they could offer silage making, seedbed preparation and marketing of seedlings, and crop management among others. It was well explained in the deduction matrix at the milk collection center.

Where the extension officer existed the SNV TIDE-2 Project committed to its obligations of equipping the cooperative with tools and materials that support financing and efficiency of extension and advice to the members. Part of the equipment is the Samsung Tablet and its accessories-Adapter Charger, Screen

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A total of 6,364 dairy farmers adopted the different dairy farming practices out of the 4,000 farmers target



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Protector, and a tablet cover to support the coaching of the extension officer to improve competencies. The project contributed 5,000,000 to support dairy extension and advisory-related activities or procure a Motorbike (Boxer India make) if the cooperative paid a 1 million shillings salary to the office.

The CEO was supported 75% with a tablet which has adequate memory for data collection and management. Some cooperatives chose between having a computer and its accessories at 75% support to be used by the CEO for data capture and reporting and placed at the cooperative. Dairy Farm Assessment Tool–The CEO had training and 100% free access to professionally managed computer application tutorials to build competency in communication, skills and knowledge, expertise, and evaluation of

their performance on 14 themes and topics. VetEffecT/Perfomete– The CEO had 100% free training and access to a computer application tool that assists in assessing farm practices and achievements generates results and shares the achievements with the Coop and coaches.

The CEO had 100% access to a platform of extension materials on 6 relevant and priority themes, topics, and subtopics that affect farm profitability and sustainability. There was additional technical training, coaching, and backup from various international and local experts in the introduction of various hybrid forage varieties on dairy farms, various brachiaria varieties, Panicum, and sun hemp by SNV and International Centre of Tropical Agriculture–CIAT, pasture management (strip grazing).

Feeding ration tool called Rumen8 for ration balancing, linked to suppliers of

farm machinery in particular maize chopping and crushing equipment (forage harvesters), seed companies, and soil labs. be linked with agricultural contractors with scaled machinery for small and large-scale forage maize production and ensiling.

Land preparation, seeding, forage harvesting, and ensiling in bunkers (Engsol, SPEs). Linkages with farmers, coops, and groups in SW Uganda that ventured into mini processing (yogurt production and sales) e.g. Abesigana Coop, Mutanoga PDTF. Linkages to the local and international suppliers of requisite equipment, yoghurt cultures, equipment, and packaging materials for mini processing.

Linkages to international experts for total farm management and milk processing (PUM/ ProDairy EA/Bles Dairy Consultancy).

Having done all these, the cooperative leadership approved the matrix for salary enhancement for their cooperative extension officers using the following mechanism. It was assumed that the cost of sustaining an extension worker is 1.7m per month.

One of the suggested avenues to finance extension services is for coops to contribute to the milk collections. For example, for coops collecting 2000L per day, deducting 5/= per liter can be able to raise at least 304,167/= as a contribution from the milk towards the extension support.

The matrix was shared with the leaders who are interested in implementing it. According to suggested alternatives, if adopted by the coops, they can be able to finance the extension officers since their services make them realize more money on their farms.

The farmers therefore pay and provide

Item to finance the cost of an extension worker	Monthly income X UGX
Levy on milk collection	304,167
Additional milk volume (200 l/month)	80,000
Bonus new members	41,667
Technical advice members	400,000
R8 advice	400,000
Support in silage making	200,000
Insemination service	500,000
To provide forage seeds and crop management services	100,000
Commision on linking with seed, fertiliser and mchanisation services (pius info)	100,000
Total	2,124,834

SNV interventions



office space and other benefits to the extension officers. SNV does the capacity building of extension officers and provides tools to support the knowledge. Knowledge is the source of power and money.

TRAININGS

Several expert-led trainings in-house and outside have been provided to improve officers' technical and social skills relating to cow signals and farmers' signals.

Tools of training, handouts, uniforms, and equipment have been provided- protective gears for chemicals handling, biosecurity hand sprays, desk computers and laptops and tablets, Motorcycles, chaff cutters, tents, and chairs for training instead of hiring, among others.

The dairy platform visualized training and instructional materials at three levels (farmer, lead farmer, and extension worker) for six key dairy themes.

The Dairy Competence Builder is a tool for online or remote planning, management, supervision, training, and coaching for extension workers, the dairy farm Benchmarking tool for farm improvement developing a commercial dairy farm finally, Rumen 8 for dairy feed formulation.

The extension officers have become all-around staff doing field routine farm visits, community mobilization, and training at field days and outreach. Extension officers occasionally have been found to support day-to-day milk collection, testing, recording, marketing, and periodical reconciliations for farmers' payments.

On a single day, the extension office can speak to 30 farmers or cumulatively to 300 farmers repeating in a month which becomes a good sales and marketing platform for services, products, and knowledge. There are other service

providers and institutions that are using cooperative extension officers as a sales channel for animal health products, pasture seeds and planting materials, financial recruitment services, fertilizers, dairy feeds, silage bags, machinery, mechanization, and maintenance.

Chaff cutters are efficient, user-friendly with women and youth, and good to work with in times of labor shortage. The project has the potential to create jobs for both the youth and Women.

At one time in the month of October, we had to get specialized training for women extension officers to deepen their practical skills in cow and young stock restraining, Examination, and KPIs for a healthy calf and reproductive cow. Physical examination of cows for heat signs causes of return to heat/breeding.

Extension services for cooperatives as initiated by SNV TIDE are very good but only a few farmers, farm managers, cooperatives, and extension officers who have benefited will testify in the movie! This intervention was on trial and therefore deliberately localized around cooperatives and individual farmers that have benefited from SNV TIDE services and have been categorized as such, but even within these cooperatives, few members have individually been selected, trained, and supported to benefit as hosts of demonstration technologies and or can afford to individually compete as hosts and pay for such services and technologies.

This magazine is a good platform for farmers to know how extension services developed and became farmer-owned and cooperative hold products, how they work, the benefits, and who is behind these successes.



THE MODEL OFFICER

My model officer is Evalyne Natukunda "a happy cooperative and Cooperative Extension Officer –CEO supporting the farmers and fully paid by the coop," Steven Aikiriza says.

Evalyne Natukunda is a Diploma holder in Animal Production and management deeply entrenched in dairy cooperative extension at Akajumbura Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society in Kiruhura Rwetamu sub-county Akajumbura village. My daily milk procurement in the dry season that is May, June, July, August, January, and February has risen from 1220 litres a day to 2800 – 3000 litres of milk on average per day while in the rainy season ie March, April, September, October, November, and December the cooperative receives (3600 – 5200) liters of milk per day. The radius of milk collection is within the limits of 6 KM.

"The farmers like me because I am a lady in a male-dominated farming community. At work, I don't come from their area. I am not their child. My work routine revolves around visiting farmers and advising them on best practices for pasture and fodder improvement. My chairman is a former schoolteacher, so he is quiet patient, and willing to listen and guide me as well.

The work I do involves farmers' mobilization to participate in the practical training at the Practical Dairy Training farmer-PDTFs that the SNV TIDE Project supported to start. I also organize internal training called field days for cooperative members hosted by the lead farmers where they gather and share experiences.

I have been exposed to many trainings organized by the training Unit and Agriterro, two of which were by the PUM expert resident on one of the host farmers in the cooperative. I am fully empowered and willing to do much more.

I have good practical knowledge that farmers want. I have benefited from 15 practical trainings since I joined the cooperative. These include the 10 Golden Rules control, the Dairy Farms benchmarking, Pasture varieties establishment and management, Maize Train, Communication & and reporting, Chaffcutter maintenance, Pasture Management, Rumen8, Calf housing and feeding, and Silage making.

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It is anticipated that there will be more buy-ins from laggards, new cooperatives, districts, national government, and non-state actors who will adopt these operational steps, procedures measures, and applications. What is the best Christmas package for 2023, the year of weaning off and handing over the successes to the dairy farming communities we have served for 8 years for the sustainability of this successful intervention?

How has technology helped to break the stereotypes of women farming in the cattle corridor?

Previously women were not allowed to milk cows. With the introduction of milk machine technology, a woman can milk better by simply pressing buttons and setting the 12 cows in a milking motion. Over 15v milking machines have been installed on commercial dairy farms in southwestern Uganda. With this, women are going to be the best milkers of cows without necessarily violating the norms of society.

Women still have hurdles to jump.

Society here does not accept that a woman dairy farmer can start giving out cows (empaano) without the consent of the husband even when the cows are hers in the first place the woman should not do cows and farm supervision when the husband is still alive.

A woman should not dehorn and trim the tails of cows not even calves, should not do ear tagging, bull castration, administer injections when the husband is present, buy cows when her husband



is alive, supervise and fire workers when the husband is alive, being successful at your husband's place means your parents have lost you, instead of calling it empowerment, the society says you are a lost culture outfit.

Digital technologies in addressing barriers that women face in Agriculture

Women now receive milk and manage accounts offices in most milk collection centers, although they are not seen much in driving milk trucks and riding motorcycles to deliver milk to the market, they are more on processing lines managing and operating equipment right

from receiving milk, quality control, to filling, packaging, testing end products, managing stores, thanks to digitization.

Digitization has deduced direct farmer-cooperative interface with the use of digital systems women are behind these computers silently but smoothly running the equipment and delivering results.

Digital technologies have reduced gender biases by strengthening the capacities of female positions in the male-dominated dairy industry. Digital technologies have increased women's participation in various roles that are less laborious, and less time-consuming which are regarded as important to the dairy industry.



Kamwine trains thousands of farmers in **safe** handling of milk



Kamwine Monicah is the Compliance officer, Pearl Dairy Farms Limited Mbarara. She started her career 14 yrs ago as a laboratory technologist in the milk industry, and since then she has climbed ladders.

She is currently doing PhD in milk products looking at metagenomic analysis of bacterial communities in milk products produced in Mbarara.

Kamwine is also a female mentor at Pearl Dairy Circle. She does consultancy work in Implementing and internal auditing in Quality management systems and Food safety management systems.

"I have managed to do jobs in the dairy industry which were previously known to be jobs for men because of their demanding nature. For example, I was a production manager at GBK Group of companies for more than four years, Quality Manager at Lakeside Dairy limited for two and half years," Kamwine says.

As a lady, Kamwine believes she has contributed a lot to the dairy industry, through conducting training to dairy farmers on safe handling of milk and to trained milk factory workers on quality and food safety of milk and milk products.

"Dairy farming is a business for a woman to invest in. I personally am a farmer, and I don't regret it because it has contributed greatly to the wellbeing of my family. It also reduces domestic violence once a woman has something she brings on table," she adds.

She notes that women engaged in dairy farming face challenges ranging from limited capital to purchase cooling equipment, safe drinking water for dairy animals, animal diseases among others.

"When a woman takes the lead in the dairy industry first women are very honest and we do work with passion. I see the dairy industry growing exponentially," she adds.

SNV



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- Economics & BP planning
- Animal Nutrition & Feeding
- Fertility & Breeding
- Animal housing & Welfare
- Communication & Extension



SNV interventions

School Milk Programmes





Emirates directors hail SNV for school milk program

Zainab Kyobutungi, the head teacher Emirates Nursery and Primary School, hailed SNV TIDE for the milk program implemented at her schools, saying the project has achieved significant milestone as over 200 children drink milk every day at her school.

SNV has been supplying them yoghurt for now three years. The impact caused in our children is enormous, the intervention has reduced cases of illnesses in our children notably stomach pain which used to disturb children

"Their yoghurt is good and children enjoy it," she stated.

According to Kyobutungi, the yoghurt is supplied to them twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday. She advised other schools to join and start taking Yoba yoghurt from SNV, adding that it is healthy and good for the children especially those who have young ones.

"SNV should continue supplying us and my wish is to see all schools in the country especially those with young children be supported."

She encouraged parents to take an initiative of feeding their children with yoghurt, saying it even boosts the

immunity and fight infections in the children

Regarding a woman in dairy industry, Kyobutungi challenged all able organizations to provide more funds to support women to take up dairy farming as a business.

The school started in 2018, SNV came after a year when they had started. Since then, we have not had challenges with them, the turnout of children increased.

"When parents knew the feeding is good, even the love of the children motivated them to bring more children," she stated.

Our 782 pupils of Mother Care P/S take milk everyday- Director Tumuhimbise



Proscovia Tumuhimbise the director Mother care primary school- Ntungamo said her pupils totaling to 782

do take milk every day as one way of feeding well the learners.

The school is a customer of milk whereby they take over 100 litres every day, they give pupils Probiotic Yoghurt every Tuesday and Friday and during other days they give them porridge mixed with milk which is served for breakfast and fresh dairy in the evening as part of the school feeding programs.

She said they started this program in 2018.

Tumuhimbise also encouraged women to take part in the dairy production and the consumption of milk and it's products.

Women gave challenges like shortage for cattle rearing and also

weather related challenges.

The government should come in and construct valley dams and ponds in the dry areas of Uganda as one way of solving the problem of water scarcity.

The SNV re contributing to the growth of dairy industry in Uganda.

Government should also sensitize the schools and community about the usefulness of milk consumption.

"This industry will continue to grow if a woman is at the centre of dairy production because a woman is the most responsible person for feeding a family," she added.

She recommended that more sensitization is needed in schools and as well as in communities about the use of dairy products.

Justine Rwakakooko- a dairy farmer- thanked the SNV for introducing school feeding program feeding children with milk for their better health.

Little Angels nursery and primary school Ntungamo embraces milk program

More than 8 years ago, Little Angels Nursery and Primary School Ntungamo was enrolled in the school feeding milk program by SNV. According to

Patience Kanyesigye Twino, the school director, the school at that time had an enrollment of 430 pupils. They had challenges of cough, flu and ulcers which were common among pupils.

When SNV enrolled them, milk was served at a rate of 1 litre to 10 pupils and in 2017 they added 250ml of yoghurt per pupil twice a week, every Tuesday and Friday.

The first term of the program, 80% of pupils consumed the milk, through intensive promotion, 100% consumption was achieved.

Currently the enrollment is 670 pupils which is highly attributed to the milk program as follows.

1. Cough, flu and ulcers reduced tremendously.
2. Pupils became healthy and there was improved academic performance.

3. School enrollment increased.

4. Pupils absenteeism reduced and pupils concentration improved.

5. Pupils are always excited especially on the days yoba yoghurt is served and 100% pupils attendance is achieved.

"As Little Angels nursery and primary school -Ntungamo, we are grateful to the SNV milk program which has contributed to the stability and academic excellency of the school," she says.

She sincerely recommends other schools to enroll and benefit.

"For us at Little Angels, the milk program is our blood, without the milk, the school can face unavoidable challenges in all aspects," she adds.

However, the major setback in the milk program she said is the fluctuating prices of milk, when prices are high, the school is challenged to maintain the milk supply to pupils.

"Nothing is safe, no password can't be broken, just use what you can," advises schools.



SNV interventions



Many schools have embraced milk programs



Hon Frank Tumwebaze, his wife Florence (left) and Hon Rwebyambu at the dairy farmers open day in Bwizibwera



Empowering Kabale Farmers: A Success Story of Integrated Farming with ISDAP



SACCOs enabling farmers to access loans for farm improvement.

"To help farmers with access to financial support, a partnership was reached with SACCOs including Lyamujungu and Ahakashenyi which give farmers loans to improve their farms," Ankunda highlights.

To support market access for dairy products, farmers are equipped with milk testing kits and encouraged to form village milk marketing groups. Additionally, a cost-sharing initiative aids farmers in acquiring milk handling equipment.

"We started by equipping farmers with milk testing kits to ensure quality milk production and then we later encouraged them to form groups and market their milk in groups (Village milk marketing groups)," explains Ankunda.

Farmers receive training on storing feeds during dry spells and are provided with animal feed chaff cutters to minimize wastage. The program also addresses transportation costs by supporting farmers with Buffalo bicycles- reducing daily expenses significantly.

In addressing the health of cows, the program offers training in tick control and establishes demonstration crush facilities.

ISDAP extends its impact beyond farming by promoting environmental conservation.

Farmers are supported in cultivating calliandra trees, which serve dual purposes – providing animal feed and stakes for climbing beans.

Ankunda emphasizes the importance of preserving the environment while ensuring agricultural productivity.

"Farmers here have been cutting down trees to get stakes for growing climbing beans, a risk to the environment but with the calliandra trees, we are ensuring both conservation and output at the same time," she adds.

ISDAP actively promotes gender sensitivity, encouraging both men and women to engage in dairy farming, and fostering a more inclusive and empowered community.

Glorious Ankunda, a dedicated field officer associated with SNV Kabale district office, has been an integral part of the SNV journey since June 2002. In Kabale district, SNV is spearheading the Integrated Small Holder Farmer Dairy Program (ISDAP). This initiative is designed to uplift smallholder dairy farmers by fostering integrated farming practices, with a primary focus on dairy farming to enhance farm-level incomes, employment, household food security, and nutrition. Currently, 1250 farmers in Kabale are reaping the benefits of this transformative program.

Ankunda sheds light on the challenges faced by farmers in Kabale, including limited land and shortage of pastures. Recognizing the pivotal role of care in dairy production, Ankunda emphasizes the significance of proper feeding and water supply, constituting 60% of a cow's ability to produce quality milk.

"In Kabale, farmers are grappling with several difficulties, such as limited land, a scarcity of pastures. To cope, they resorted to gathering roadside grass, which they then cut and used to feed their cows at home. Additionally, the hilly terrain intensifies the water shortage faced by these farmers," Ankunda says.

Through ISDAP, farmers have received four varieties of improved foliage,



Glorious Ankunda, extension worker

contributing crucial crude protein to enhance animal production.

Acknowledging the vital role of water in milk production, Ankunda outlines ISDAP's efforts to provide a reliable water supply to farmers.

"After ensuring the animals are properly fed, the next important factor is ensuring access to water, given that 87% of milk is composed of water. Another aspect we focused on was facilitating farmers with a dependable water supply on their farms. We initiated a collaborative effort where farmers can participate in cost-sharing to acquire water tanks ranging from 5000 to 10000 liters," Ankunda explains.

ISDAP has forged partnerships with



Betty Karagiرو urges dairy farmers to add value



Betty Karagiرو is a resident of Nyakahita village-Nyakashashara sub-county-Kiruhura district. Karagiرو grew up in a dairy farming home, where she got the passion to invest in a dairy farming business.

In the year 2010, she started the journey into farming as a business by adding value processing milk into yoghurt.

Karagiرو says she is a pioneer producer of yoghurt in the whole of Nyakashashara sub-county-Kiruhura district. Her doors of prosperity were opened after attending different farming training which equipped her with better farming methods knowledge.

She says her project has helped many farmers especially women in the area to engage in value addition and they are earning a better living.

Her business has since sprouted, earning her valued profits compared in the past days where she used to earn only sh500 in a litre of milk.

"In a season like this I would be earning just sh500 from a litre of milk, I thank God for my decision to venture into value addition because now I can generate over sh5000 in only one litre of milk," she adds.

"I introduced the business of making yoghurt in my area and am happy all women have taken up the project. This

is a great contribution I have offered to my society and entire dairy industry and what gives me more energy is our children are also embracing the project an indicator for good for continuity and sustainability," she says.

At her farm, she also does silage and this has saved many farmers in the area from losing cows especially during dry season when there is shortage of pasture.

She hails SNV for supporting them, saying her projects have given her exposure through training other farmers in Kiruhura district and beyond.

Some of the challenges, Kiragiرو highlighted financial problems, giving example she has failed to expand her yoghurt business because of lack of machinery.

Lack of electricity, changing weather conditions, lack of transport means to transport her products to various market centre.

She encourages women to invest their resources in making yoghurt saying the business is easy and can be done at home and can save them a lot of money in the long run and it doesn't need a lot of things to make it.

She encourages farmers in dairy to always take good care of their cows in terms of feeding, housing and protection against diseases saying if not taken cows can remain unproductive dwindling farmer's income.



More women in dairy farming leadership is a big motivator, says Bonny Kashaija

Bonny Kashaija Mutungi currently a farmer mainly in dairy farming and she is into the process of commercializing her business. She has her farm located in Ruborogota in Kikagata Isingiro district. Bonny has been into farming business because she found her father having cows and she picked interest.

"From the time I was born I have been seeing cows and I have a real love for them," Kashaija states.

Her farm has been in existence but after the 2021 elections where she lost the Mbarara City Woman MP race she decided to go full time into dairy farming.

"When that thought came to have dairy farming as a full-time job, I approached SNV southwestern office to get sufficient

knowledge on how best I can do dairy farming, I was introduced into RDI for a practical training and since then have been doing my best to put in practice what I studies and the most thing I learn from that farm was how best can we improve our milk and feeding," she adds. SNV also advised her to form a cooperative where her farm is and she organized farmers and were supported to form Ruborogota-Isingiro Dairy Cooperative Society of 40 members where she is the chairperson. She had mobilized farmers under the cooperative to go for training who have gained skills in pasture improvement, milk improvement, breed improvement among others.

Asked what motivated her to mobilize farmers to form a cooperative; she says she wanted to have better prices of milk and how they can improve the quantity and quality of milk. She has already separated her farms and one she is using Artificial Insemination (AI) for improved

Farming



IN PICTURES:
Bonny Kashaija Mutungi with her cows. She decided to take farming as a business from 2021. She is now headed for greater heights

breeds. They have already created a milk correction centre and all farmers under the cooperative are encouraged to embrace AI.

"We are doing our best and we are looking at the next step of adding value so that when the milk prices are low we can add value by making yoghurt," Kashaija adds.

"Yes we can, me as a woman I practically participate in all farming activities at my farm including grazing, immunizing and treating my cows because I don't want to see my cows suffer or die," she states.

She hails SNV for helping her to prepare herself for the commercialization of dairy farming.

She demystifies gender biased behaviors and sentiments and encourages all women to join dairy farming, saying they have capacity to make wonders.

"What a man can do, a woman can do. There is nothing that should stop a woman from joining farming. Women naturally have hands-on and dairy farming would



Farmer: Bonny Kashaija
Enterprise: Dairy farming
Location: Ruborogota,
Kikagata – Isingiro district

much and better improve if most women came into it. It is good if you give it time, it is lovely and these cows need care like we care for our families and women are the

pillars of families. It's the same skills they can transfer to farming," she adds.

Kashaija who has gone through all ladders of employment and even attempted politics says farming is the best way to go. She asserts that having women in farming encourages the whole family to love the project.

"With NRM government, it has been proven beyond doubt that women can be good managers in all fields," she says.

She also encourages farmers not to fear the challenges they encounter at the beginning of the projects, telling them that they can't make it automatically. The first year is always a year of learning.

She also tasks them to visit farms that have already developed and learn ideas, advising farmers not to rush into new steps or modernization before learning how their animals behave.

She says they should also look into their capacity and area where they are farming from and understand the challenges they have.

"Apply opportunity, strength and weakness approach and approach the field when they know what to do first and have a plan in their head," she adds.

She says at her farm she already has a 10-year plan.



IN PICTURES:

Turyahebwa with one of her workers attend to their zero grazed cows. She started with 1 gifted cow, but now has 5 of them. She hopes to expand her farm in future.

Turyahebwa reaping big from urban farming



Farmer: Moreen Manyire
Enterprise: Dairy farming
Farm: Momo Farm
Location: Kyamugorani-Mbarara city

Moreen Turyahebwa Manyire, an urban dairy farmer started livestock farming with one cow. It was given to her by a friend at

their wedding ceremony with her husband, Moses Amanyire about 18 years ago.

What started as a wedding gift has grown into a big zero-grazing farm project she named MOMO Farm under MOSMAU Agribusiness Innovations Limited.

The name given to her farm originated from her Christian name and that of her husband Moses Amanyire and they saw it fit to name it MOMO Farm for continuity and sustainability. Turyahebwa developed the passion for farming from her husband who is a veterinarian and had too much love for animals.

"I was lucky to marry a veterinarian. I got

to understand that he grew up in many cows, and his father was a farmer. He took it upon himself to make me love animals because for me, I didn't grow up with the background of cows, but for him it is all about a cow," she states.

Turyahebwa is practicing zero grazing project in Kyamugorani-Mbarara city North division. She finds keeping her animals confined as healthier for the cows and there are more benefits for her family and the community. Turyahebwa has been with her husband Amanyire for 18 years; but the passion for farming grew around the 10th year of their marriage.

"My husband kept telling me he is always not here and he wants someone who can take on his farming projects and I took it upon myself-started studying and now I can tell you that I



know a lot about a cow," Turyahebwa says.

"We started with one cow which was given to us by our friend on our wedding day and it challenged us, but with the passion of my husband, we took it up and the project is growing every day," she adds.

She later got a small loan from Millenium and added on other cows. She currently has 5 cows with 2 milking and the other 3 are pregnant. The 2 milking cows, one is giving her 1 litre of milk and another one 8 litres.

She intended to keep the zero-grazing project because she realised it is manageable and doesn't require a lot of land, especially in urban areas. Turyahebwa is lucky she is a neighbor and with Kakiika Prisons who have become great customers.

"To be frank I recommend the zero grazing farming business because it has added value and I intend to add more cows, God willing," she says.

She intends to grow further and have a branch in their village in Kitagwenda district.

CHALLENGES

She mentioned lack of access to finance as one of the challenges hindering most women from growing their farming projects.

"You go to acquire agricultural loans and they will tell you that a cow can die the next morning and yet you find someone



**Naturally, when
women put their
hearts onto something,
they make sure it
works.**

has a small shop is given a loan, it is one of the barriers," she says calling up the government and other organizations to support women in farming.

BENEFITS

Regarding the benefits in farming; she says it is a good source of income, and has supported her needs and family needs. She has been able to encourage other women to have farming as a side income venturing in different enterprises.

She also sells cow dung and other animal products.

Regarding benefits to the community, she has been able to supply them fresh and good milk and the demand is high.

She has provided employment and at her farm she has workers taking care of her animals and garden for the feeds and she intends to employ more when she increases the number of the cows.

FUTURE PLANS

Regarding her future plans she intends to expand the project to their home village Omurwera in Kitagwenda because they realized the town setting is quite limited and they intend to have training and increase on the numbers targeting around 50 cows under zero grazing.

She also intends to add value targeting to produce cheese and yoghurt and also high-quality breeds.

Turyahebwa credits the great contribution of women already involved in dairy farming. She sees the dairy sector moving on steadily if women are more engaged to a higher level in farming.

"Naturally when women put their hearts onto something they make sure it works well and since many women have taken up dairy farming, I see it growing steadily.

She encouraged women to put aside those voices that discourage them to take on dairy farming saying from her experience, the benefits are numerous starting with production of milk and cows.

Considering the nature of a woman the critical challenge is getting feeds for the cows especially those without modern machines.

Technology



Former accountants' story in successful dairy farming



Hilda Nduhura, a professional accountant, took a decision to quit the job about 5 years ago and set up **4DIZ Dairy Farm**. A mother of two boys and two girls married to Denis Nduhura, is the director of 4DIZ dairy farming company which is named from the initials of their children's names. Her journey to dairy farming started way back when she was still working for NGOs in Kampala. With her husband, they established a Zero-grazing farm in Kakiri-Kampala with aiming to boost their salary. The project did not go as planned because people around them didn't like what they were doing.

She recalls a sad moment when all their 12 cows were killed by people, they didn't know. They closed the business.

"We realized it's not good to have such a farming business in an area where people are not farmers. There were so many people who looked at those cows and were not happy with them. We decided to be serious about farming in Kashari where there were farmers doing the same activity," she says.

She says it was also expensive to maintain zero grazing in Kampala. The two

also had a small scale farm at their village home in Sheema district. Because of their love for farming, they acquired a better land in Kashari which is thriving and has become a turning point for many people who go there to learn better farming methods.

Looking for land and money to purchase it, then the African society especially the way people look at a woman were some of the barriers she faced as a woman joining dairy farming. But she persisted.

Her company has many projects. They include **4Ds farm**; where they breed heifers and bulls for sale, **4Ds machinery**; sells agriculture machinery mainly for dairy, and others.

She advises people planning for their retirement that farming is a better place to go.

"With farming you don't even need to waste money on gyms for exercises because farming itself is exercise that keeps you busy," she states.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Nduhura is happy her projects are giving back to the community especially through job creation and training.

"I employ many people at my farm and other projects. I have peace while doing

Technology



this. I now manage my time and I am well contented in farming and my projects are progressing. I am also inspired by the networks it's bringing," Nduhura adds.

INVESTMENT IN MACHINERY, SNV SUPPORT

She says that, while still in Kampala, because they were looking for better methods of farming, there was an agricultural show in Nairobi she agreed with her husband to attend. From that show she discovered a machine for chopping grass for the cows.

She came back with the brochure from the show and discussed with her husband on purchasing it. That was the beginning of their journey for investment in agriculture machinery. But by that time, they were not doing silage. When SNV came in 2016 they found her selling those machines at the farm and supported her to expand her machinery project.

With such support she has now established a multi business enterprise to carry forward dairy and agriculture in farms within her area and beyond. She has a big showroom in Bwizibwera town council where she sells forage choppers, chaff cutters, milking machines, milk cooling tanks, pasteurizers, bottle filling machines, motorized sprayer, calf feeding buckets, and pasture seeds among others.

She also sells spares for all the mentioned products, carries out servicing and maintenance for all the products. Her core business is harvesting and processing of milk. They are rapidly augmenting value addition to their milk processing capability and portfolio.

"We were staying in Kampala but because of the passion and the level SNV had taken farming, I left my job in 2018 where I was working as a finance and administration manager communication for development foundation Uganda

organization," she states.

"My salary was good. I can't say it was the reason. I just had the passion. I had always wished to have something and do things of my own. I resigned from my job in July 2018, and I left completely Kampala October 30, 2018, shifted to Kashari and started farming," she adds.

"We are grateful to SNV, they introduced us to Canters BV of Netherlands for business and trained one of our sons who has traveled there twice for refresher courses, from where he got skills for installing milking machines and coolers and has helped many farmers," Nduhura adds.

There is still a mentality of African culture thinking it is only the men who can manage.

She believes SNV has made them have better farms, and have learnt a lot from the farm.

"There is a time when SNV introduced field experts and from that time we learnt a lot starting from how to feed the cow, check whether the nutrients in the pasture is enough, how to make better silage, how to manage milking cows compared to the dry ones, we now know to separate milk from driers," she added.

She encouraged farmers to adopt the use of technology. She gave an example of milking machines, which she said have many advantages like saving of labour expenses, reduction of dependency on

skilled farm workers, enables rearing of larger herd strength, 4 times faster than hand milking, increase in the milk yield and reduce stress throughout the lactation by creating good milking routines.

Furthermore, the milking machines will not require a farmer to have special skills to operate them, all they need to do is to familiarize themselves with the machine.

STRIP GRAZING

Nduhura urged farmers to embrace strip grazing, a technique that involves utilizing a movable, solar powered electric fence to allot enough pasture for a short time period and then moving the fence forward providing a new allocation of pasture.

The technology gives animals access to clean, uncontaminated, fresh pasturage on a regular basis, helps pasture management and reduce wastage.

"When you are doing pasture, you have to do pasture management and strip grazing helps in pasture management in that you normally allocate a certain portion to the cows then you give them another portion," she adds.

Nduhura says the method is good as it gives animals access to clean, uncontaminated, fresh pasturage on a regular basis and also helps in pasture to regenerate fast and at the same level. Regarding milk, she says the method is good at increasing milk production as well as reducing contamination of animals with infectious parasites.

CHALLENGES

Nduhura says the workers they use at the farm need tight supervision, adding that challenges are not only in farming but even in the industry of selling machinery. There is still a mentality of African culture thinking it is only the men who can manage.



IN PICTURES: Hilda Nduhura the director of 4DIZ dairy farm, has decided to embrace technology and is encouraging farmers to embrace it. It makes work easier



Bishop's wife transforming lives through preaching the gospel of dairy farming

Dr Alice Mwesigwa – is the wife of Bishop Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa, bishop of Ankole diocese. She is a teacher by profession and she has been Mothers' Union President for Ankole diocese and Western Region for a good number of years.

She was also appointed the Vice President Mothers Union for the Province church of Uganda, where she served for two terms.

Mrs Mwesigwa supports the idea that dairy income is a way to go for all Ugandans including the women.

GENESIS

Her passion for dairy farming started way back when she was growing up. Her father had cows and she would see him do all these activities and that is how she learnt and picked interest.

She started an amazing enterprise that has changed many lives in the diocese and beyond. Her farm she

named Mwesigwa Farm has also become a knowledge hub for many people especially the women and the youth.

Her project started way back in 2010, when her husband Bishop Sheldon Mwesigwa was chosen as a bishop of Ankole diocese. She decided to implement what her heart loves by investing in a zero grazing, a dairy project she practices at the bishop's house on Ruharo hill – the diocesan headquarters.

She says her project started with two cows picked from the gifts Christians gave them at the consecration ceremony.

"People gave us cows as gifts and I told my husband that I am keeping two of them here. He wondered if I will manage, but I assured him I would, and he is now happy I have managed," Mrs Mwesigwa states.

"Right from the time I was born, I found myself with cows around, so I love seeing cows around me. I started this small project and it kept on growing." As a

committed farmer, Mrs Mwesigwa knows and does all activities on a cow including milking it, excluding injecting it.

In fellowships of Mothers Union and pastors, Mrs Mwesigwa uses the platform to teach them to think of something that can support the income to their families preferably dairy farming which she says is easy to manage.

"I want to thank God it has worked and I have seen some testimonies from women," she adds.

In other congregations she teaches other women and the youth how they can survive alongside the job that they do and encourages them that they can survive on farming without being a burden to other people even when they don't have a job. With her husband, they have another farm in the village but she chose to keep some cows in Bishop's compound because she wanted a project to keep her busy.

"I have just come from the office a bit exhausted but once I just visit and see my cows and how they are doing, I feel much better," she states.



IN PICTURES: Mrs Mwesigwa on at her farm where she practices zero grazing. She gets 50 litres of milk a day

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Her farm has caused great impact not only to the community around Ruharo hill but to many in the entire diocese and beyond. She was happy to note that her project has touched a good number of families with many turned into good farmers.

Quite a number of women come to her farm to get knowledge about farming and to see how she does it. She challenges them that she is a civil servant but alongside the job she does dairy farming as a side business and it has supported her and the family.

"I challenge the ladies that we need to think outside the box, don't just depend on the salary but think of something else that can support your salary if you really want to develop," she adds.

Her lessons don't only benefit the communities but has also taught her children who have picked love for farming when they are at home they love being with cows.

The project has also created employment especially for young people who help out at the farm. Currently she employs about 12 people.

Farm institutes always send students to her farm for internships to concretize their experience. Whenever there is a youth conference at the diocese, she



engages them in farming.

"I tell them the world we are living in, they have to work, if someone picks a skill, he will survive on for some time. I think that's a great contribution".

She sells 50 litres of milk every morning to institutions around especially when schools are in operation. Living alone is a source of income. It is also a ministry to the families around because almost every family around Ruharo hill gets free milk from her farm every evening.

"I feel happy that am supporting these

young parents in giving them quality milk. Recently I saw a video clip where they were showing someone adding dirty water from the swamp in the milk, I felt so bad and I said God give me the grace even if I don't earn a lot at least I render a service to these young mothers" she adds.

Through the project she has also challenged the pastors in the diocese to think of something they can do which brings in money each day.

With a new curriculum which is

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



Mrs Mwesigwa says a word of God alone is not enough. You need an extra income to survive

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

hands-on, I am teaching people and challenging them to do something alongside their occupation.

She gets manure from her project and uses it in their banana plantation which is expensive to farmers who are in matooke farming, it is an added advantage.

"They can deposit my salary for six months and I will not check there because I am feeding on milk. I encourage women to invest in dairy farming, it doesn't need a big land, it is all about commitment and loving what they are doing."

CREDIT TO WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DAIRY

Mrs Mwesigwa strongly encourages women to come out and join dairy farming.

"Previously, we used to think those were men's projects. I call on women to embrace this project especially in this error where it is hard to get a job. I also challenge pastor's wives to do something even if it is a goat in a year or two they will have a cow".

She also advises those in farming never to give up even if they register a failure.



Giving your cow time and paying much attention is one way of getting maximum production of milk.

CHALLENGES

Mrs Mwesigwa says many women fear because they think farming is a project that is too demanding.

"Let's get rid of thinking this is a male activity. Dairy farming is a project that doesn't need a big size of land, even one acre one can start," she notes.

SPREADING THE GOSPEL WITH FARMING

"Don't sit back and relax and say the word of God alone is enough, money pushes the gospel. If you are preaching, you need to put in practice and have something to share with the person you ministering,"

you must be practical to what you are telling people they see you doing.

"We can't say we are going to pray for people when they are hungry and poor, you will pray an overnight one day, two and on the fourth day they will collapse, if you can pray for God's blessing and at least you have cassava and say have this one for supper then it becomes relevant.

HUSBAND SUPPORT

"My husband Bishop Mwesigwa, has strongly supported my projects and I challenge all men there to always support their wives when they come up with any income generating project. He is always busy, but he encourages me especially when he gets to know that am interested in any project".

Dr. Alice believes if more women join dairy farming, she sees a big prospect because women are very diligent with what they do.

"If a woman develops passion and is committed to it, she produces quality work. Most women are trustworthy because some men want to play tricks, if they are 50 litres some men will want to add on 10 to sell 60 but a woman will tell you can't do that, women are God fearing that's why I feel if more women join we would get quality products as far as dairy farming is concerned," she adds.



Justin Rwakakoko has managed farming for over 40 years

For over 40 years Justin Rwakakoko and her husband Elly Rwakakoko had managed their animal farm on the remote, living away from home. The mixed farm that also has fish ponds, Matooke and others has however survived to see the current generation management with Ms Rwakakoko settled at home to do hands-on management.

The dairy farm alone established on a 50 acre piece of land, Rukiri mixed farm in Rukindo Kyamate ward, Easter Division-Ntungamo municipality cross cutting into Nyaburiza parish in Nyarutuntu sub-county Ntungamo district, is one of largest farms in the locality.

"The farm is the ancestral home of my husband and I have been married to him for over 52 years. We lived in Kampala so my involvement was minimal. But when we decided to relocate, I took more interest with the running of different aspects in 2018," Mrs Rwakakoko says.

A mix of career, jobs and town life separated Mrs Rwakakoko from the childhood chore that when she returned to the same job, managing cattle, a lot had changed.

"It was a real learning curve, because this was a complete change of career. Although I grew up in a family that kept cows, it was a long time since I was personally involved in the day to day management of cows," she says

She took time to learn and unlearn different aspects of the cows she had,



Farmer: Justin Rwakakoko

Enterprise: Mixed farming

Farm: Rukiri mixed farm

Location: Rukindo Kyamate, Ntungamo Municipality

the farm had to sustain itself and ensure proper breeding.

"Knowing how each breed can survive the terrain of the farm and how to make them pay for themselves in Milk production, disease control and reproduction." This was the greatest challenge which however is being demystified.

The only challenge was simply a change in management as the farm had been established and not much financing was needed. It's hard to determine thus how much was invested to start the farm.

While the farm was assessed for SNV benefit, Ms Rwakakoko says they have not received the support which she says is given to the union where she supplies milk.

"I have not received any support from SNV, they came and assessed the farm, however I am aware of their engagement with the Ntungamo Dairy Farmers' cooperative union (NDAFCU)," she says

Managing the farm comes with various challenges, however the most general challenges she says are unstable milk prices that fluctuate with seasons of the year and the drug resistant ticks that are hurting the animals.

Prices for acaricides and drugs are still expensive.

It's also hard to get workers that are knowledgeable in farm management with the farm at times depending on unskilled labor to maintain an expensive venture.

"There is high turnover of workers. We also face two extreme weather conditions: drought and heavy rains. These can't be predicted. This brings a challenge of sources of feeding as well as water sources during drought," she notes.

The great plan for the farm is now to "continue to learn and improve on breeds that will increase Milk production thus revenue."

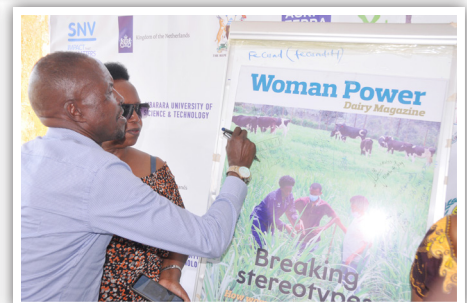
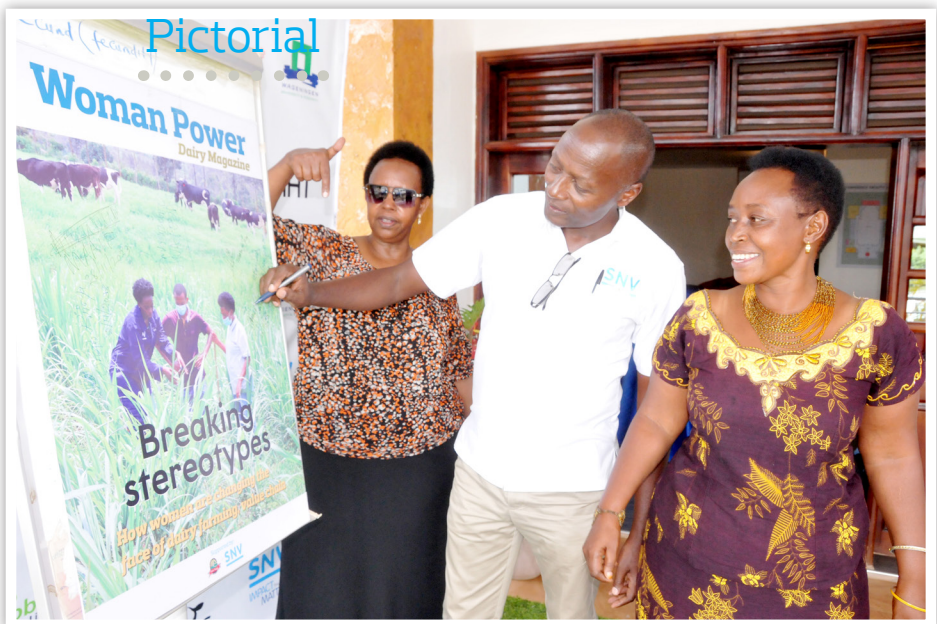
Rukiri Farm is approaching the value addition step with improved productivity and quality production realisation. However the setbacks of ticks, price fluctuation and farm maintenance prices, she says, must be addressed for the success of the dairy farming.



Magazine Launch



Pictorial



The Women Power Dairy Magazine launch went down on November 28, 2023 at Igongo Country Hotel in Mbarara City. It attracted hundreds of people, majority farmers. Several government officials including commissioners from ministry of Agriculture, Animal industry and Fisheries were in attendance. Emmy Kateera Turyabagenyi, the RDC of Mbarara was the chief guest at the event which was also attended by SNV country director Phomolo Maphosa who hailed the brain behind the idea of publishing such a great magazine. In her speech, Betty Kasabiiti Mbaziira- thanked Martin de Jong, NSV project manager for having accepted her proposal to support to write the story and show the power of women in the dairy sector.





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