



THE JESE BULLETIN

Issue 2
April-
July



Inside

- A COMMUNITY BASED MONITOR'S FRUSTRATION
- A FARMER'S GRIEF
- KAJUMA ITWARRA CFM RISKS A BREAK
- KYENJOJO MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL REACHES OUT TO COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPORTS
- SUSTAINABILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY OF WATER FACILITIES THROUGH WATER USER ASSOCIATIONS
- UGANDAN FORESTS RISK DEPLETION UNDER A REGOROUS LINCENSING PROCESS
- JESE 'S TEAM BUILDING EVENT

EDITORIAL

I once again take the pleasure to introduce to you yet another edition of the JESE news letter.

In this edition, JESE continues to witness growth in issues of forest governance and advocacy, empowering communities to increase household income and promotion of good hygienic practices in communities.

It is an overview of activities that took place from the month of April to July.

Enjoy your reading.



A COMMUNITY BASED MONITOR'S FRUSTRATION

A

s the community increases its efforts in fighting illegal activities in the central forest reserves, NFA continues to frustrate their effort. During one of their usual patrols in the forest of Kagorra, the monitors of Kyarusozi landed on encroachers in the forest reserve with no permits however, the product that was being harvested was not illegal. The community members wondered how they entered the forest with no permit from NFA. There were no records from NFA permitting them to be in the forest. Martha of NFA confirmed that she was aware of their activities but with no records to confirm it. 'They have always been harvesting then get cleared later,' she said when asked why the encroachers were in the forest without a permit. However this raised a lot of suspicion among the community members wondering how someone, moreover a foreigner could freely enter the forest and harvest any amount of forest products and then get cleared later. What if they went ahead and harvested what they were not supposed to harvest? Would it be easy for NFA to ascertain the amount harvested since no official monitored them while harvesting?

Monitors of Kyarusozi CFM

To make matters worse, the price charged on every bag was too little compared to profits made. Every bag of a pine stamp goes for 5000 shillings at NFA yet just four pieces from one bag one can approximately make between 400,000 to 600,000 in the market.

The monitors further reported that the suspects have also been attacking their homes stealing property and food from their gardens. Given the current political situation in the region the community members were worried that they could be rebels because no one including the LC1 knew where they came from and had no any form of identification.

When asked to enforce an arrest on the culprits the Assistant Inspector of Police Mr.Amodoi James desisted claiming that the case did not have sufficient evidence and after all the forests will eventually be cleared. Everybody wondered what more evidence was needed other than what was available at that moment.

The suspects were left with NFA and Martha promised to write a situation report to senior management for advise on how to handle the matter.

However follow-up will be made by the JESE team to ascertain how the matter was handled.



The suspects



pine stamps packed in sacks

A farmer's grief

It's yet another planting season and the farmers have cleared their gardens ready for planting but the question is how genuine are the seeds they are about to plant. An average Ugandan farmer doesn't have a lot of land neither does he have a lot of money nor the hope to expect a huge harvest at the end of the season. In his quest for better yields, he approaches his local farm inputs dealer who advises him to buy his high-yield seeds and fertilizers because they will help him triple his harvest. Would do you believe him if it were you?

Seed counterfeiting is one of the biggest factors that has kept small scale farmers poor. The illegal industry has developed so rapidly while cheating farmers by selling to them agricultural inputs with promises of high yields but produce disastrous results. It should be noted that very few farmers in Uganda buy improved seeds from formal markets as majority of them rely on seeds saved from the previous harvest or traded informally between neighbors but such seeds generally produce far lower yields than genuine high yield hybrids.

There are no formal figures indicating the extent to which counterfeit goods have penetrated the market but it's reported that for every genuine product sold in the market some similar form of counterfeit is also sold just next door. For instance, counterfeit dealers have learned to dye maize seeds with a pinkish orange colour similar to that of industrially processed maize seeds which has confused farmers making it hard for them to tell counterfeits from genuine seed hence paying high prices for fake seeds that have a low germination percentage or do not germinate at all causing frustration and financial losses.

We need to note that it is unfair that genuine dealers are forced to compete with cheaply imported or locally made counterfeit inputs. The huge difference in prices for genuine and counterfeits has always encouraged farmers to go for the cheaper inputs because they cannot differentiate between the genuine and counterfeit products including their price differences. The rampant, intentional, unpunished adulteration and sale of fake agricultural inputs in Uganda seem to take place in the watchful eye of UNBS and other stakeholders. How will our country modernize agriculture under the current situation of counterfeits?

EXPERIENCES

KYALIMPA LAZARUS, 38Years, KISAKARA Village, KIHUURA SUB-COUNTY KYENJOJO DISTRICT



● *My biggest disappointment has been with herbicides, I bought them expensively out of my savings from my previous harvest unfortunately no weed was destroyed. I found myself incurring an extra cost to hire someone to clear my garden again. People always come to this village collecting empty bottles of these herbicides; I wonder where they take them? I request government to regulate the retail dealers and encourage the companies that produce these products to open up retail shops for their genuine products because we are losing a lot of money.*

KOBWEMI ASTON 73Yrs KISAKARA VILLAGE, KIHUURA SUBCOUNTY, KYENJOJO DISTRICT



● *I have been a victim of counterfeits several times and thought of giving up on farming at some point. I bought Longe 5 maize seeds, planted one and a half acres of land, to my surprise nothing germinated. For hoes and pangas I can't even say a word, two of my hoes got broken even before I used them in the garden. I have used all sorts of herbicides but none has ever worked for me, I now resorted to hiring people to do the clearing. I request JESE to open up a retail shop such that they can sell genuine farm inputs. We have worked with JESE for a long time and I trust them.*

NDYOMUGABI EDISON 43Years KIGUNDA VILLAGE, KISOJO , SUB-COUNTY, KYENJOJO DISTRICT



● *I bought fake beans and maize and only half the quantity I planted germinated. I have also been disappointed by green fire, agroset and weed master because none of them killed the weeds. I request JESE to open up an agro shop to save us from the fake products on the market.*

KAJUMA- ITWARRA CFM RISKS A BREAK-UP

M

embers of Kajuma Itwarra on Thursday 17th 2014 came out to express their concerns over the wrangles that are threatening to break up the first and only CFM in Kyenjojo district. Following the expiry of Kakuru's term of office as chairperson of the CFM, groups have begun to form which is causing severe misunderstandings.

It was reported by the current chairperson that Mr. Kakuru over drew the CFM's account which had the member's savings worth 3,000,000 which was supposed to be paid to HOFOKAM microfinance as a loan that was given to the CFM.

It was further reported that Mr.Kakuru was always conniving with illegal timber dealers whose operations were taking place in Itwarra central forest reserve. However, when asked, Kakuru denied all the accusations and instead accused the current chairperson of selling off forest land to non members of the CFM yet it was given to the members of the CFM by NFA to plant trees. He reported that some people were growing beans and maize yet it was not in the original agreement. He threatened to quit the CFM and form his own if the wrangles were not sorted.

However some sources revealed that it is actually power struggle issues between the outgoing and the incoming management that is affecting the CFM.

The meeting was also attended by the NFA Surveillance and investigative officer Mr Amon Rutenta who was not happy with the way people were circulating rumors of him promoting illegal timber activities in the forest reserves. He said it was unfortunate that people were not appreciating his effort given the too much work he has done. He also confessed to filed several cases at the magistrate's court in Kyenjojo and some people have been imprisoned at Katojo prisons in Kabarole district and he is ready to offer evidence for his activities to whoever is interested.

Dezi of CARE International advised the CFM that breaking up was not the solution to the problem because the members may not be able to withstand the pressure and the risks that would surface .The best thing would be for the members to harmonize the CFM wrangles. Break away of a section of members would likely lead to the collapse of the CFM.

He also advised them to review the agreement that was signed between NFA and the CFM so as to bridge the gap between the two and always refer the constitution and other laws managing the CFM when making a decision for example incase there is change of office. He further advised that in collaborative forest management no one is greater than the other since we are all aiming at the same goal. He advised Amon to learn how to sieve out the good and the bad in whatever people say about him because no one can ever stop people from talking.

It was finally agreed that JESE would call for another meeting in which issues affecting the CFM would be resolved.



TOP:Left,Mr.Kakuru addressing members of the CFM.
 TOP:Right,Mr.Amon Rutenta
 BELOW:left,Members of the CFM
 BELOW:Right,Mr.Irumba Dezi of CARE International

KYENJOJO MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL REACHES OUT TO COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPORTS

A Case Study Of Kyenjojo Model Primary School

Introduction

Due to the UPE policy, schools in Kyenjojo district are characterized by high enrollment that is unproportionate to the available class room space and stances of latrine; the pupil stance ratio in the target schools ranges from 1:66 to 1:212 as compared to the national average of 1:45. The high latrine stance ratio in primary schools is majorly associated with inadequate budget allocation to school sanitation by local authorities, collapsing latrines due to poor workmanship by the private sector which has led to open defecation inside and outside the latrines. In addition, poor garbage management in school compounds is an observable common practice in the schools.

The problem of poor sanitation facilities is further escalated by shortage of safe clean water within the school campuses where as some of the existing water facilities in the target schools are not functional due to poor operation and maintenance, vandalism by the neighboring community and drying of water sources during prolonged dry seasons.

Based upon the above background, JESE engaged the school management committees (PTAs, school authorities and the district education officer) as an entry point for the SWASH activities in schools. These committees helped the schools to prioritize key areas for intervention and as a result, JESE in partnership with the school management and parent rehabilitated and constructed WASH facilities in schools.

As agents for change the pupils in their respective schools have been trained in good WASH practices and have as well preached the gospel to their peers and the surrounding communities.

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION

As part of the school's activities in reaching out to communities, Kyenjojo model primary school in partnership with JESE organized a sports day on 25th July 2014 in which they educated the parents and other community members on ways of improving their sanitation and good hygiene in the community.

The event started with a match past and later the games proceeded. The students of the Kyenjojo model primary School played a football, netball, bottle filling and athletics. They organized and competed in eight teams which included sanitation, hygiene, handwash, foods and nutrition, conservation, environment, health and safe water. As part of the strategy, all the teams were branded with WASH slogans which easily helped to send the message to the visitors. With vivid evidence of the poor conditions of their toilets and areas of open defecation presented by the pupils, some parents were seen covering their faces to hide their disgust and shame while others openly confessed that they had been indulging in

these negative behaviors.

The event was officiated by the district LC5 who appreciated JESE's good work because he believes good sanitation and hygiene leads to good performance. Among the other invited guests was the district education officer for Kyenjojo district, Mrs Kyaligonza Peruth and the town clerk Katooke town council.

The event was closed with an award giving ceremony for the best performers in the different sports categories the pupils had competed in and the girls won in most categories.

In conclusion, the pupils succeeded in using the event to educate the parents and other community members about what they had learnt from the SWASH programme. The event created awareness of the WASH condition and good WASH practices which community members promised to start practicing.

LESSONS LEARNT

There has been significant achievements in terms of latrine construction, hand washing facilities and some success in behavior change.

CHALLENGES

The challenge still remains of prioritizing behavior change because once this is in place other initiatives will also be sustainable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is need to give greater priority to WASH activities in schools in terms of, increasing the allocation of funds for construction and rehabilitation of more WASH facilities and sensitizing communities on good hygiene practices.
- Private contractors need closer monitoring to prevent shoddy work and the parents should take on the role of supervising the construction of the facilities, contribute towards their sustainability and behavioral change. This would ensure quality work and also build their commitment to the project
- The schools should take on the child-to-child approach in ensuring capacity building among the pupils. In this way the children, under the guidance of their teachers, can exchange ideas and suggestions, make the decisions and take the initiative in developing and maintaining a better sanitation standard. This builds enthusiasm and commitment among the students.



Pupils of kyenjojo model primary school during the match past



The chairman LC5 Kyenjojo awarding gifts to the best performers. Team hygiene playing netball against team hand wash

SUSTAINABILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY OF WATER FACILITIES THROUGH WATER USER ASSOCIATIONS

Case study: RUJOJO SHALLOW WELL WATER USERS GROUP, KYENJOJO DISTRICT

In Uganda, community management is a core aspect in ensuring sustainable supply of clean and safe water in communities. The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of rural water facilities is largely based on the Community Based Maintenance System (CBMS) which emphasizes community responsibility and authority over the development, operation and maintenance of their facilities. The Golden indicator to assess community management is “Percentage of water points with actively functioning water and sanitation committees”. As of June 2012, the number of water facilities with functional water and sanitation committees at national level stood at 71.8% up from 70% (2011). On the other hand, the national functionality of rural water supplies, defined as the “percentage of improved water facilities found functional at the time of spot check”, has stagnated in the range of 80% – 83% in the last nine years, which is still lower than the target of 90% by 2015.



Records book for saving



Members of rujojo shallow water users group

Sustainability and functionality of water facilities in Katooke Sub County in Kyenjojo district is still a great challenge with majority of the water user committees/management structures formulated failing to function shortly after being established. This has been as a result of failure to successfully mobilize households for Operation and Maintenance (O&M), collection and proper management of water user fees for water source repairs as well as poor maintenance of the constructed water facilities.

Based upon the above background, JESE facilitated the process of formulation of the Rujojo shallow well group a member of the Katooke Water User Association in Katooke Sub County for purposes of building ownership, sustainability, monitoring, coordinating, improving functionality and building strong solidarity among the members. The water user group comprises of 24 members who save 1000 shillings every Saturday and collect 100 shillings user fee for operations and maintenance every week.

Description of the initiative

Rujojo shallow well group a member of Katooke Water User Association is a local initiative which was formed in 2012 with the help from JESE in partnership with Katooke sub county. The group has a management structure with an executive of 09 members (i.e. Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and 05 members). It is guided by a constitution that clearly spells out their objectives, roles, responsibilities and terms of office for the executive.

evidence of payment. The association so far has 960,000/= shillings as saving for the year 2014 and member are free to borrow from the savings and pay back with an interest of 5%. Every household pays 100 shillings for operations and maintenance every week.

The user fees are then saved with the treasury which would later be used to cater for minor repairs and maintenance of the water source.

Successes

Since the group's inception, it has achieved a number of successes as highlighted below:

- 24 community members have been mobilised, trained and are members of the WUA.
- Its members have savings totalling to 960,000/=
- The water point has been maintained using the finances from the user fees.

The association carried out sensitization meetings on the water user concept, VSLA and O&M of water points.



Rijojo shallow well

CHALLENGES

- The shallow well requires rehabilitation so as to increase on the quantity of water collected per day however the WUA cannot afford the rehabilitation cost. It should be noted that the shallow well can only provide 40 litres of water after every two hours and people have resorted to collecting water from a nearby unprotected spring.

The community has not yet fully appreciated the WUC concept and that explains why there are few members from the community.



The alternative unprotected spring that the locals are using

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is need for continuous sensitization on O&M and the importance of subscribing to the Water user Association.
- There is need to support the community in rehabilitating the shallow well so as to increase on the quantity of water.
- There is need for more Capacity building of the members of the executive committee in the Yahura Yehoza strategy.
- There is need for more active participation and support from the technical and political wing of the Sub County in the activities of WUA
- The WUA concept should be scaled up to other Sub Counties within the district as it has demonstrated being a driver in sustaining O&M of water points and functionality of WUCs.

UGANDAN FORESTS RISK DEPLETION UNDER A STRICT LICENSING PROCESS

Licensing for timber harvesting is a tiresome and strict process, but one wonders why there are many people in the business and forests reserves are being depleted at a very high rate.

JESE recently organized a harmonization meeting among stakeholders which included district forest officers from Mubende, Kyegegwa and Kyenjojo and NFA to ascertain the loopholes in the process as well as seek a way forward in the fight against illegal logging.

During the meeting, Mr. Robert Owinyi the acting manager NFA Muzizi Range, acknowledged that the issuance of licenses seeks to regulate timber harvesting, however, faulting the set regulations has been key in abusing the licenses. NFA has never issued any license for Kyankwazi, Kiboga, Mityana, Mubende, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Kabarole, Ntoroko and Budibugyo but government through district forest services issues them which brings about the confusion. "I recently impounded timber from an illegal harvester and contacted a district forest officer but he told me the harvester had documents and he had a copy in his office. I escorted the suspect but I realized the load on the truck had different species compared to the ones in the documents," he says.

This, according to Owinyi, shows that illegal loggers connive with district officers which has made illegal logging to prosper. Amon Rutenta, the NFA surveillance and intelligence supervisor says timber must be stamped but some harvester connive and illegally acquire the stamps without authority.

Rutenta said he once found a timber harvester stamping six lorries of timber in Kyegegwa District on a Sunday, which made him suspect that no money had been paid to the authorities since it was not a working day.

"I confiscated the stamp [hammer] but police returned it to the Kyegegwa District forest officer who gave it back to the harvester, which really shocked me," he said. However, Kyegegwa District forest officer, Abbey Twinomujuni, said he gives the stamp [hammer] to harvesters because he cannot climb on top of lorries to stamp the timber.

"I cannot climb lorries to [stamp] hammer timber when there are drivers and turn boys. No, I am above that," he said. Asked how he ascertains the volumes of timber when dealer stamp the timber in his absence, Mr Twinomujuni said the decision was looked into by the district council and passed.

Badraa Onzima, the Kyenjojo District forest officer however thinks, understaffing has been another obstacle in the fight against illegal logging. For instance, some districts have only one officer, who values, follows and marks the timber. This makes it difficult which perhaps explains the increase in illegal logging. The whole country has 35 field stamps [hammers] covering 112 districts and this makes work hard for field supervisors.

To curb the vice, Kyenjojo District is lobbying for a road toll at Mubende to check unlicensed timber from reaching the market.



Mr.Owinyi Robert addressing members of the forum.



Members of the multistakeholders' forum in the harmonization meeting

JESE'S TEAM BUILDING EVENT

It was a day full of excitement and fun as JESE held its first ever team building event. It was a day full of merry making where staff participated in games, danced, dined and wined. The staff had fun while at the same time learnt a lot about themselves, and now they have a greater understanding and appreciation of a high level of individual and collective performance. Mrs. Kandole Annet of CARE International who gave a motivational talk to help staff appreciate the value of team work and inter staff relations.

At the same time JESE was sending off Mrs.Twiine Teddy the natural resources manager who resigned her duties for other responsibilities. Among other guests present was the vice chairperson board, the treasurer and Mr. Mubiru vicent.



Mrs Annet Kandole facilitating at the event





Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE)
Binanata zone near the Kabarole District Local Government
P.O.BOX, 728, Fort Portal Uganda
Telephone:+256-483-4-25253/0772492109
FAX:256-483-4-22636
Email: jese@jese.org; Web: www.jese.org;