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FARM INCOME ENHANCEMENT AND FORESTRY CONSERVATION PROJECT

Promoting Irrigation for Enhanced Income & Agricultural Productivity

EXPEDITE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION-PS

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment, Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, who is also the Chairman Project Steering Committee for the Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme—Project 2 (FIEFOC 2) has urged project management teams to expedite implementation of the project.

He made the remarks while officiating at the 8th Project Steering Committee meeting held on November 23 at Mbale Resort Hotel in Eastern Uganda.

“I urge project management teams to expedite their deliverables,” he said.

Mr. Okidi noted that during the recent supervision mission of the African Development Bank, it was agreed that the construction of irrigation schemes across board should

be at 35 percent by the end of December 2018 and at 65 percent by the Mid Term Review in 2019.

He said though the construction of Doho II Irrigation Scheme in Butaleja district had stood

at 27 percent at the time of field inspection by the Project Steering Committee in November 2018 ; the percentage was still below expected target.

He also reminded the District Local Governments of their commitments with the Ministry of Water and Environment through memoran-



Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water & Environment, Mr. Alfred Okidi (centre) with members of Project Steering Committee after a meeting in Mbale.

dum of understanding to implement the project.

He therefore emphasized the need for teamwork with the implementing partners , including the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; District Local Governments; and other collaborating institutions to ensure successful implementation of the project■

Implementation of Irrigation Scheme Improves in Butaleja

According to Mr. Richard Waya, the District Chairperson, Butaleja, the implementation of Doho II Irrigation Scheme has greatly improved.

He noted that although the district was still grappling with the challenges of harnessing nature, there was harmony among leaders.

“ We have stamped out poli-

tics of doom and negativity,” he said, while welcoming members of the Project Steering Committee to a field inspection in Butaleja District on November 22. Mr. Waya thanked the Ministry of Water and Environment for honouring its commitment towards implementation of irrigation scheme. “Relations have improved with the communities,” he said. “They are happy.”

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FIEFOC Assures Butaleja of Its Commitment

The National Project Coordinator, FIEFOC-2, Mr. John Magezi Ndamira has assured Butaleja District leadership of FIEFOC's commitment to implement planned activities in the district.

Mr. Magezi made the remarks while paying a courtesy call on the Chief Administrative Officer, Butaleja District, Mr. Alex Majeme in the company of Project Steering Committee members and staff of Ministry of Water and Environment on November 22.

He appreciated the comments made by the Butaleja District Chairperson, Mr. Richard Waya that there was harmony within the district leadership over the implementation of Doho II Irriga-



Mr. Magezi addressing Butaleja District leaders during a courtesy call on the CAO Butaleja.

tion Scheme.

"I'm pleased to hear that the situation has greatly improved in terms of project interventions," he said. "I hope the situation will remain the same."

Mr. Magezi assured the district leadership, saying that the project will be implemented in time in order to mobilise additional funds.

He said that the project component on Integrated Natural Resources Management had already initiated procurements to address issues of planting trees on river banks.

He added that the project covering Budaka, Butaleja and Mbale would be funded by KEXIM Bank and the process was on going; meanwhile, Namalu, Pabbo and Sippi irrigation schemes would be funded by the Islamic Development Bank.

On delays of construction of irrigation scheme, Mr. Magezi said the deadline for completion of the project was agreed upon among the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Contractor and the African Development Bank, the financiers of the irrigation schemes ■

"The situation has greatly improved in Butaleja in terms of project interventions." - Mr. Magezi

From Page1: Project Implementation Improves in Butaleja

Mr. Waya urged the ministry to increase implementation of other project components, especially one on agribusiness that focuses on women and youth groups.

"Butaleja has the highest birth rate in Uganda," he said. "The youth and women badly need the project to take off."

Butaleja Irrigation Scheme has a total of 4,523 beneficiaries, comprising both male and female.

Mr. Waya however noted that although a meeting was held on agri-business, the implementation of ENABLE Youth Program was behind schedule.

He also urged the ministry to expedite the implementation of integrated natural resources management, especially aspects of tree planting on the river banks.

He added that the irrigation scheme had greatly benefited the communities.

"Poverty levels have reduced compared to other districts. Farmers have moved from *bodabodas*, local motorcycle transports to vehicles; and the secret is rice," he said.

Meanwhile the newly appointed Resident District Commissioner, Butaleja District, Mr. Ssegawa Jimmy Ebil, thanked the project implementation team for its activity within the district and expressed total commitment to the project ■

Agricultural Infrastructure Development

Construction of Irrigation Schemes on Course - Eng. Kasozi

The Ministry of Water and Environment under the Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme—Project 2 (FIEFOC 2) is constructing five irrigation facilities in five districts.

These include Mobuku II Irrigation Scheme in Kasese District; Doho II Irrigation Scheme in Butaleja District; Tochi Irrigation Scheme in Oyam District; Ngenge Irrigation Scheme in Kween District; and Wadelai Irrigation Scheme in Pakwach District.

The schemes are designed to increase agricultural land area under irrigation from the current 14,418 hectares to about 420,000 hectares by 2035, and thus benefiting a total population of over eight million people across 40 districts in the catchment areas.



Ongoing excavation work for dam construction at Mubuku II Irrigation Scheme in Kasese District

According to Eng. Ronald Kasozi, Coordinator of Agricultural Infrastructure Development Component, the construction work of irrigation schemes are on course. “Physical progress have been registered across board,” he said. “We shall hit the target agreed upon with the bank.”

During the recent African Development Bank supervision mission and through Aide memoir; it was agreed the construction of irrigation schemes across board should be at 35 percent by end of December 2018 and at 65 percent by Mid Term Review in 2019■

“We shall hit the target agreed upon with the Bank.”
- Eng. Kasozi

Table showing schemes, districts, catchment size, target population and physical progress

Name of Scheme	District	Size of Scheme (ha)	Target Population	Cumulative Physical Progress	
				QTR 1: Jul-Sep 2018	QTR 2: Oct-Dec 2018 (As of Nov.2018)
Mobuku II Irrigation	Kasese	480	821,384	13%	21 %
Doho II Irrigation Scheme	Butaleja	1,178	2,782,760	9 %	27%
Tochi Irrigation Scheme	Oyam	500	1,525,026	20%	34%
Ngenge Irrigation Scheme	Kween	880	652,886	24%	33%
Wadelai Irrigation Scheme	Pakwach	1,000	1,450,180	0	0

Agribusiness Development

FIEFOC Sensitizes District Leaders on Youth Program

District leaders from Pakwach, Nebbi, Oyam and Kween; implementing Wadelai and Tochi Irrigation Schemes respectively have been called to mobilize youths to participate in the ENABLE Youth Uganda program.

The call was made during the launch of ENABLE Youth Uganda Program by the teams from FIEFOC and IMPACT Booster Consortium on November 26 at Pauline Hotel in Lira District.

IMPACT Booster Consortium comprises four partners, including Impact Booster, Agribusiness Booster, 3A Strategic Management Consultants and



Participants at ENABLE Youth sensitization Workshop in Lira■

ICCO Cooperation—they are the consultants contracted to help run the program.

ENABLE, which stands for “Empowering Novel Agri-Business Led Employment,” is a pilot program that targets Ugandan youths by the African Development Bank with support from the Nordic Development Fund.

The overall goal of the program is to create gainful

employment and income generation for the youth in Africa through agriculture and agribusiness.

According to Mr. Anthony Nkwasiabwe, Agribusiness Development Officer at FIEFOC-2; the program focuses on young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector.

“It also promotes start-ups and growth of youth led agro-enterprises in multiple regional member countries,” he said. “The program aims at creating opportunities for young agri-entrepreneurs to upgrade technical skills, adopt innovative agricultural business management practices and access expansion to climate-smart agriculture and potential for outreach■”

Ushs 30 million Earmarked for each Successful Youth Enterprise

A maximum of US\$ 8,000 (Ushs 30 million) has been earmarked for each successful youth enterprise under ENABLE Youth Uganda Program, Dr. David Kamukama, the Coordinator Impact Booster Consortium has revealed. Dr. Kamukama was speaking at a sensitization workshop for the District Technical Support

Teams from Wadelai and Tochi Irrigation Schemes on November 26 at Pauline Hotel, Lira. “The program comprises three components: training and mentoring, business development and fund management programs,” he said. He explained that for any youth to qualify for the program, he or she should have an agri-preneur mindset; be ambitious and skill-

ful; have realistic expectations; demonstrate potential for cost contribution, scalability of the innovations, linkages to climate-smart agriculture and potential for outreach.

He said following the Kasese Boot Camp, a total of 850 applications were received via online and off-line platforms; and 40 agripreneurs were selected and are now undergoing validation■

“The situation has greatly improved in Butaleja in terms of project interventions.” - Mr. John Magezi

Integrated Natural Resources Management

Catchment Management Plan Ready for Implementation

Catchment Management Plan and Reports on Investment Options for the five Irrigation Schemes under Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme are ready for implementation, officials from the Forest Sector Support Department have revealed.

The remark was made during a review and validation workshop to discuss a final report of the Consultant on preparation of Catchment Management Plan and Evaluation of Investment Options for the five Irrigation Schemes held from 14-15 November 2018 at Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi.

According to Ms. Margrate Adata, Commissioner Forest Sector Support Department and Coordinator Integrated Natural Resources Management Component under FIEFOC-2, the objective of integrated natural resources management is to establish a viable basis for irrigated agriculture and natural resources management in five irrigation schemes and their surrounding watersheds.

“The activities are implemented in the catchment areas of the schemes to reduce sediments entering the irrigation schemes and



Participants at the review and validation workshop to discuss Catchment Management Plan at Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi.

improve farming in watershed areas,” she said.

The five Irrigation schemes are Mubuku II in Kasese, Doho II in Butaleja, Tochi in Oyam, Wadelai in Pakwach and Ngenge in Kween.

A Consultant known as SMEC, a member of the Surbana Jurong Group was hired in March 2018 to assist Forest Sector Support Department in the preparation of five Catchment Management Plans for the surrounding watersheds of the irrigation schemes.

The Consultant advised that for a successful implementation of the Catchment Management Plan, there is need for investment in eight strategic areas, including: soil and wa-

ter conservation; stabilization of river banks with vegetation; agroforestry; civil works; woodlot establishment; replanting of trees in Central Forest Reserves and Local Forest Reserves; restoration and enrichment planting; and buffer zone demarcations and protection.

The Consultant also identified through ranking investment options for each scheme and calculated economic benefits and return on investments.

Participants were drawn from the Ministry of Water and Environment and District Local Governments ■

**Catchment
Management
Plan ready
for
implementation
with eight
options for
investments.**

MWE-FIEFOC PICTORIAL



Eng. Kasozi (2nd –left) explaining developments at Dobo II irrigation scheme to Project Steering Committee members, Butaleja District.



Water distribution point on river Manafwa for Dobo II Irrigation Scheme, Butaleja District.



Rice field under cultivation at Dobo II Irrigation Scheme, Butaleja District.



Irrigation canal under construction at Dobo II Irrigation Scheme to increase agricultural productivity, Butaleja District.



Diversion point of River Nyammwamba for construction of canals to Mubuku II Irrigation Scheme in Kasese District.



Water dam under construction at Mubuku II Irrigation Scheme in Kasese District.

MWE-FIEFOC PICTORIAL



The PS-MWE, Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi (4th left) with members of Project Steering Committee & Project Staff handing over motorcycles to Kasese District Local Government for project implementation.



The PS-MWE, Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi (extreme left) with some of the people recognized for their outstanding performance cutting a cake to celebrate end of year 2018 at NFA Gardens, Bugolobi.



Excavation of main canal at Tochi Irrigation Scheme in Oyam District.



Resident District Commissioner Butaleja District, Mr. Jimmy Ebil addressing members of Project Steering Committee, who were on field inspection in the district.



Mr. John Magezi, National Project Coordinator, FIEFOC-2 addressing participants during ENABLE Youth Bootcamp in Kasese District.



Mr. James Kaweesi, Ass. Commissioner, Planning—MWE (left), who was also Chairman for the meeting together with ministry staff & other stakeholders listening to a presentation by a consultant on inception report for FIEFOC-2 Baseline Survey, FIEFOC Boardroom, Bugolobi.

Farm Income Enhancement and Forest Conservation Project

Phone: +256 -414 505 942
Fax: +256 -414 505 941
Website: www.mwe.go.ug

EDITORIAL TEAM

Mr. John Magezi, Editor in Chief
Mr. Robert Anguzu, Managing Editor
Mr. Dan Kitone, Member
Mr. Anthony Nkwasiwe, Member
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Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)
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District Local Governments (DLG):
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♦ Kasese District Local Government
♦ Kween District Local Government
♦ Oyam District Local Government
♦ Pakwach District Local Government

Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme— Project 2 (FIEFOC 2) is a five year project (2016-2021), designed within the context of the Government of Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) and the long term development strategy, the Vision 2040 both of which promote agricultural infrastructure and income enhancement.

The project is also designed to assist the Government increase land area under irrigated agriculture from the current 14,418 hectares to about 420,000 hectares by 2035. And it further seeks to consolidate and expand notable achievements registered under FIEFOC 1, which ended in December 2012.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth in Uganda through enhanced productivity and commercialization of agriculture. Specifically, the project aims at improving household incomes, food security and climate resilience through sustainable natural resources management and agricultural enterprise development.

The project has four major components, including Agricultural Infrastructure Development, Agribusiness Development, Integrated Natural Resources Management and Project Coordination.

The primary project beneficiaries, estimated at 1,816,756 are found in the districts of Pakwach, Oyam, Butaleja, Kween, and Kasese, where five irrigation schemes are being constructed. These include Mubuku II Irrigation Scheme (Kasese District), Doho II Irrigation Scheme (Butaleja District), Tochi Irrigation Scheme (Oyam District), Ngenge Irrigation Scheme (Kween District) and Wadelai Irrigation Scheme (Pakwach District).

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) jointly implement the project. MWE is the executing agency, responsible for implementation of irrigation infrastructure and related activities under project component one and the natural resources management activities under component three. While MAAIF is a key implementing partner, responsible for implementation of agronomy and extension related activities and the agri-business development■

MWE Recognizes Outstanding Personalities

The Ministry of Water and Environment has recognized seven outstanding personalities for their dedicated service to the ministry and the nation. This was during a ceremony to mark end year for the ministry staff held on December 20 at the National Forestry Gardens, Bugolobi in Kampala. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment, Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, who presided over the ceremony noted that 2018 was a year

of outstanding performance, notwithstanding some challenges.

"It has been a year of high level performance," he said. "I thank you for your effort."

Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner Personnel, Mr. Atwebembeire Dez said: "We should recognize people who have worked diligently and retire honourably."

Some of the outstanding personalities that were recognized included: Mr. Paul Mafabi,

former Director, Directorate of Environmental Affairs, who is thought to have given birth to wetland management in Uganda; Mr. Charles Esimu Okuraja, former Undersecretary, who worked for 36 years in public service before retiring; Eng. Nebert Wobusobosi former Commissioner Monitoring & Assessment at the Directorate of Water Resources Management; Eng. Kisembo Ephraim, Commissioner Liaison Department and Eng. Chong, Commissioner, Water for Production■