



## DEVELOPING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TALENT OF YOUTH TO FURTHER FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

*The following case study was received as a result of a call issued by the Committee on World Food Security for case studies highlighting examples of initiatives aimed at 'Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition'. The cases received will provide the background for a discussion of lessons learned and potential policy implications at a special event planned for CFS 42. Find out more at [www.fao.org/cfs/youth](http://www.fao.org/cfs/youth).*

### **Background**

*Mbale is located in eastern Uganda 245 kilometers by road from the capital Kampala. In my sub county Bungokho. Most of all communities survive by farming to provide food for their family throughout the year. Bungokho sub county, Bushilusa Village is where I stay and practice farming after I completed school. I came up with an idea of sensitizing youth farmers about safe preservation and storing harvest for farmers until there is a shortage in the dry season. We were looking at how safe we could preserve harvested and keep them safe from destruction of pests and wastage during harvesting time in families. The idea involved drying the harvests such as maize, beans, soya beans, chopped bananas, sweet potatoes. The youth harvest a lot of fresh foods and have few skills in preservation. This has resulted into a continuous spell of famine and hunger during dry seasons.*

### **Challenges**

*Farming information and dissemination in rural communities is still a big problem.*

*Few participants took part since the idea was self-oriented with a team from my family.*

*Local farmers do not have a modern silos to safely keep the preserved produce.*

*Farmers are still using traditional seeds and breeds which results into poor yields.*

*The traditional farmers who are not willing to their farming ideas.*

### **Approach Used**

*The farmers can have their own food drying stands in their compounds.*

*The farmer is involved directly in preserving perishable food produce.*

*It is simple and easy to practice by young farmers.*

### **Outcome and Impact Achieved**

*The idea was conducted and practiced in my village where by 30 youths beneficiaries.*



*The youths that had been part of this program had enough food to feed their families during the dry seasons where by their where no harvests.*

*The project team emphasized on proper drying of food hence giving it a long life span.*

*Foods such as beans, soya beans , ground nuts where among the target crops since they are highly nutritious for families with children. This was aiming at improving nutrition among kids.*

### **Lessons Learned/Opportunities for Scaling-Up**

*More youth farmers should be trained in the methods of preserving food for the dry seasons so as to avoid wastage during the harvest time.*

*Farmers still need knowledge on improved seed breeds that are pest resistant improve on their harvest.*

*A modern silo is really needed so as young as farmers can communally preserve their produce.*

### **Policy Implications**

*There is need to train more youth farmers on food security and nutrition in rural communities.*

*Farmers should be availed with information about improved seeds.*

*Rural communities should at least have one silo to keep their produce.*

*Government policies in Agriculture should be drafted to directly benefit young farmers.*

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