



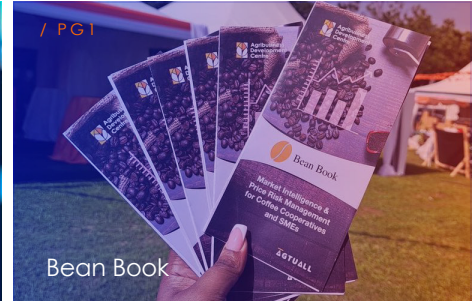
AGRI DIGEST

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER THAT BRINGS YOU UPDATES AND INSIGHTS FROM THE WORLD OF AGRIBUSINESS



DFCU BANK'S 60-YEAR TRIUMPH

/ PG 9



Bean Book



SPOTLIGHT ON THE HI-INNOVATOR PROGRAM

/ PG 4

NEWS TIT-BITS

- How Rabo Foundation's 50 years of Excellence is transforming Agribusiness
- Why SOMA is your go to platform.
- Uganda's Coffee Industry

AND MORE

Budget Highlights For Agriculture

/ PG 8



CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Climate-smart agriculture is crucial for ensuring sustainable growth in agribusiness. Conducted in partnership with aBi.

/ PG 16

VISIT TO WEST C

CHECKOUT THE LAST PAGE FOR PICTORIAL

Bridging the Digital Literacy Gap



OUR **INNOVATIONS HUB** IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR SME'S INCUBATION

FOR SUPPORT / catherine.komugisha@adc.ug



Proudly Associated with NSSF as a Partner Hub

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EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Quater 2 edition of Agri Digest! We are thrilled to bring you the latest updates and stories from the Agribusiness Development Centre (ADC)

Bean book

Our innovations support officer, Simon, shares insights into BEANBOOK, focusing on branding, marketing, and socio-economic initiatives that are shaping the future of agribusinesses in the coffee

Uganda's coffee industry

Get to know Uganda's latest journey towards compliance with international coffee standards, find out more by checking out this story presented by Daniel Ikaaba

NSSF HI innovator Preselection Bootcamp

We kick off with a recap of the NSSF HI-Innovator preselection bootcamp that prepares entrepreneurs to pitch better their ideas. The bootcamp was a vibrant hub of ideas, networking, and learning, helping to drive forward thinking solutions in our industry.

SOMA Activations

Next, we provide an update on the SOMA initiative. This program continues to make strides in promoting agribusiness through various activities like the SOMA CLUBS in the different institutions. We cannot wait for you to read the exciting feedback from the users of the eLearning platform.

Climate Smart Agriculture Project

At ADC, climate-smart agriculture is crucial for ensuring sustainable growth in agribusinesses. We are eager for you to see the achievements and learnings from the Climate Smart Agriculture project, implemented in partnership with aBi. This initiative continues to bring significant improvements in productivity and resilience to climate change. We dive into an in-depth on the project's impact, accompanied by visuals from West C, showcasing the transformative changes in the regions implementing these practices

DFCU and Rabo Foundation Milestones

We celebrate the milestones of DFCU (60 years) and Rabo Foundation (50 years), reflecting on their significant contributions to agribusiness and their partnership with ADC. This milestone marks a promising future for agribusiness in Africa.

Budget highlights for Agriculture in Fy 2024-2025

Find out key highlights and budget allocation figures that transpired during the just concluded budget reading

Applying project management standards in Agribusiness program.

An Article by one of our very own Projects Manager Innovation Mr. Ronald K. Ssekajja discusses how to bridge gaps and break barriers in growing the project management profession in the country

Warm regards,

katia.mugenzi@adc.ug

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Rabo Foundation

dfcuLIMITED

Bean Book:

The Game-Changer for Coffee Enterprises

By Katia Mugenzi (Manager Marketing & Partnerships)



The Challenges Coffee SMEs Face

Fragmented Market Intelligence: Tired of sifting through cluttered and overwhelming platforms like investing.com and barchart.com? Bean Book consolidates all relevant market data into one easy-to-use platform, tailored specifically for coffee cooperatives.

Limited Awareness of Market Fundamentals: Smaller cooperatives often miss out on crucial market insights due to unreliable sources or lack of access. Bean Book bridges this gap by providing precise and trustworthy information on production outlooks, weather impacts, and currency fluctuations.

Understanding Certified Coffee Pricing: Are you missing out on the benefits of certified coffee pricing? Bean Book educates cooperatives on minimum prices and premiums, empowering them to negotiate better deals during market fluctuations.

Lack of Transaction Decision Support: Say goodbye to guesswork and manual calculations. Bean Book offers digital tools to make informed decisions, compare transaction quotes, and understand fair-trade minimum prices, ensuring you never settle for loss-making transactions again.

Are you struggling to navigate the complex world of coffee pricing?

Introducing Bean Book, the ultimate digital decision support tool designed to revolutionize how coffee cooperatives and SMEs manage price risks. Developed collaboratively by Agtuall and the Agribusiness Development Center (ADC), Bean Book is the solution every coffee enterprise in Uganda has been waiting for.

Why Bean Book is a Must-Have

Bean Book isn't just a tool; it's an integral part of the Price Risk Management training programs conducted by ADC.

Here's what it offers:

Market Intelligence: Access comprehensive domestic and international coffee prices, daily futures prices from New York Arabica and London Robusta markets, UCDA daily farm gate and export prices, global coffee news, market reports, and weather forecasts.

Transaction Analysis: Negotiate optimal prices with real-time insights into transaction performance compared to international prices and internal margins. Automate margin calculations, making complex Excel management a thing of the past.

Risk Exposure: Empower your cooperative with a simulation tool for hedging, utilizing futures and options to mitigate price risks. Get a consolidated view of open positions, breakdown of price risk exposure, and insights on mitigating price volatility using futures markets.

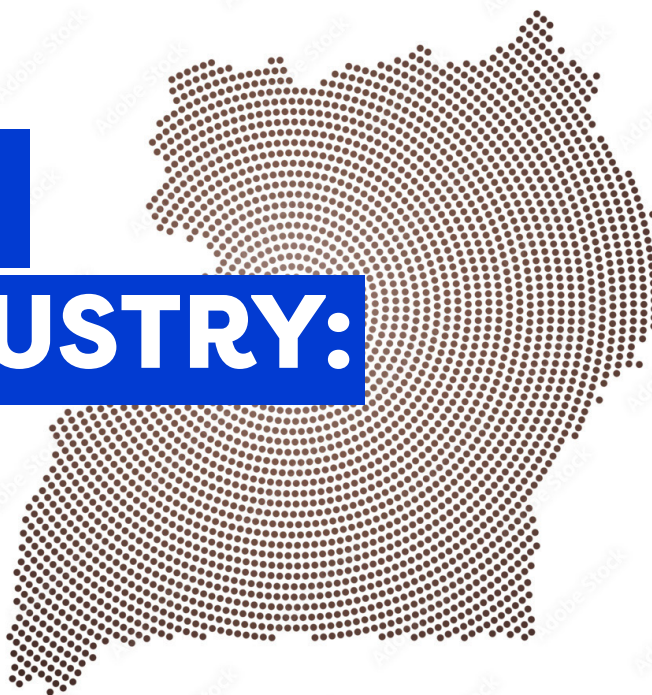
Transform Your Coffee Enterprise Today

Don't let market complexities hold you back. Bean Book is here to transform how you manage price risks, negotiate deals, and stay ahead of market trends. Elevate your coffee enterprise with Bean Book and experience the future of coffee market intelligence and decision support.

UGANDA'S COFFEE INDUSTRY:

Navigating Compliance with Global Standards

By Daniel Ikaaba (Business Advisor General)



The Challenge Ahead

Uganda's coffee industry stands at a crossroads as global regulations tighten and standards evolve. With the European Union (EU) being the largest market for Ugandan coffee, compliance with international standards is crucial. The Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) and various stakeholders are working diligently to meet these stringent requirements.

The Evolving Market Demands

Over the past 20 years, the focus on global value chains has shifted significantly. Consumers now demand sustainably produced commodities, with an emphasis on environmental and social responsibility. This has led to the rise of Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD), which audits the entire lifecycle of a product.

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

In June 2023, the EU published new regulations to combat deforestation. From January 1, 2025, traders and operators must ensure that commodities like coffee do not originate from recently deforested land. Compliance with these regulations is critical for maintaining access to the EU market, which accounts for over 65% of Uganda's coffee exports.

Key Players in Compliance

Government and Regulatory Bodies:

The Ugandan government, through agencies like UCDA, is responsible for aligning national regulations with international standards. They provide frameworks, conduct inspections, issue certifications, and ensure traceability systems are in place.

Coffee Cooperatives and Farmers:

At the grassroots level, cooperatives and farmers are essential. They must adhere to sustainable agricultural practices and maintain traceability of their produce. Education and empowerment are crucial for their compliance.

Exporters and Processors:

These stakeholders ensure that coffee meets quality and safety standards before export. They implement quality control measures and inspections to comply with international requirements.

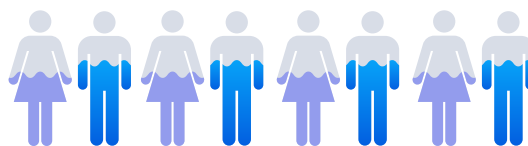
ADC's Role in Facilitating Compliance

Informing Themselves:

ADC stays updated on international standards and compliance requirements, positioning itself as a credible guide for the industry.

Disseminating Information:

ADC organizes workshops, training sessions, and meetings to inform coffee groups about the latest standards and their implications.



Grouping for Affordability:

To address the high costs of compliance, ADC groups farmers and cooperatives, making profiling and certification financially feasible through pooled resources.

Ensuring Awareness and Preparedness:

ADC emphasizes the long-term benefits of compliance, such as market access, improved product quality, and potential premium pricing. By fostering a culture of compliance, ADC helps coffee groups see its value beyond avoiding penalties.

Conclusion

Uganda's journey towards compliance with international coffee standards is a collective effort. The government, regulatory bodies, cooperatives, farmers, exporters, and organizations like ADC all play critical roles. Through continued cooperation and commitment, Uganda can secure its position as a leading coffee producer in the global market.



“If Agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right”.

~ M.S SWAMINATHAN



Winners of co-hort 3 women Accelerator

Spotlight on the Hi-Innovator Program:



By Catherine Komugisha | **Alternative Learning Officer**

In August 2023 ADC joined the Hi - Innovator Program community as an Enterprise Support Organization (ESO) to link the enterprises that we work with to funding, business development services and a larger business community.

The Hi-Innovator Program comprises of two main components.

2



Meanwhile, the Business Accelerator Program not only provides eligible businesses with a

\$20,000



funding prize but also offers access to mentorship and investor exposure to help scale their business.

1

The Business Academy is an online, self-paced platform designed to equip both existing and aspiring entrepreneurs with the foundational knowledge necessary for running and sustaining a business.

So far, we have enrolled over

2,000



aspiring entrepreneurs in the Business Academy and have supported **approximately**

350

to complete their courses.

We continue to support the rest by providing guidance through every module. In May, we celebrated a significant milestone. All Small and Growing Businesses (SGB) that pitched emerged victorious. Five enterprises—Microvest LTD, Narka Dairies LTD, Red Shield LTD, Mount Elgon Women in Speciality Coffee LTD, and Kikazi LTD —were able to pitch and secured the provisional

\$20,000 funding.



Group picture of the winners.

Following a 3-day intensive boot camp at MUBS EIIIC, one of the ESO Partners, the preparation process for the Pitch Day was a demanding one, and we appreciate the entrepreneurs for their dedication and hard work.

Entrepreneurs need to understand that success requires effort. Most likely your business is not perfect, and you must be open to guidance, and continuous improvement. Our support included assisting with the academy courses, designing and creating presentation content, and facilitating physical practice sessions for pitches.

Everyone, from Josephine Mukumbya, our Executive Director, Sharon Nambasa, our Business Advisor Central, and William Ssenyondo, our Software Engineer, participated in providing valuable ideas and insights that the different businesses could use to improve their pitches.

However, the entrepreneurs' efforts were equally commendable. But winning funding is just the beginning. We are committed to moving forward with these businesses every step of the way, providing them with ongoing advice and support to help them scale and achieve even greater success.

Their journey doesn't end here, and neither does our support. Sign up on the Hi Innovator Business Academy Hi-Innovator Business Foundational Course (nssfug.org) with ADC as your hub, and let's embark on this journey together.

Whether you are starting or looking to enhance your business skills, the academy offers a variety of courses, including Career Planning, Business Compliance, and E-Business Essentials. ADC is here to support you every step of the way.

Our Winners from the ADC



Rosemary Nabimanya (right) the CEO of Narka Dairies Ltd



Zakalia Nangai (far right) and Josephine Nderaki (far left) from Microvest Limited



Grace Akatuha (Right) from Kikazi Agri Products Limited



Christine Muga (in white) from Mount Elgon Women in Speciality Coffee Ltd



Racheal Tania Naijuka (Centre) from Red Shield Limited



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GOING FURTHER, TOGETHER

dfcu Bank is regulated by the Central Bank of Uganda. Customer deposits are protected by the Deposits Protection Fund of Uganda up to UGX 10 million. T&Cs apply.

Applying Project and Program Management Standards in Agribusiness Programs

By Ronald K Ssekajja Project Manager
Innovation



In the recently concluded Project Management Institute – Uganda Chapter’s 10th anniversary celebration and conference. I was tasked with presenting on a panel about “The Success of applying PMP Standards in program delivery”. This was part of the theme of discussion where we were discussing how to bridge gaps and break barriers in growing the project management profession in the country.

Within the Panel discussion, a lot of questions arose around the application of the project and program management standards. As well as how this is supporting social impact programs and in particular agribusiness and private sector development.

It was important to note that where organizations like ADC run market systems development or Systemic Participatory intervention approaches in supporting agriculture and agribusiness. The structured delivery of projects and programs was imperative to achieve the results of the projects or programs.

It became critical clear that many practitioners drive focus on project or program activities and ignore the best practices and standards as enshrined in the professional standards making development partners, donors and implementation organizations, lose time, and money and also, run the risk of not achieving the reach or social impact objectives of the programs.

Within this presentation, organizations with well-set-up Program Management Offices exhibited more delivery maturity and a higher success rate in achieving the project. The structured approach to delivering agricultural interventions and agribusiness support means that the project activities need to be directly traced back to the Result Chain and the various Intervention Log Frames.

Project Management Institute calls for the structure benefits realization tracking using traceability matrices that enable organizations to mostly spend time and other resources only on activities that result into a benefit to the project and program participants and reduce on none KPI project activities that derail finances and Time.

As practitioners adopt to new intervention approaches, new trends like Artificial Intelligence and consortia driven programs. The application of professional standards like project management institute standards is still very critical within the agri-business programs to have the transformation of the agricultural sector in Uganda. Photo Captions, Ronald delivering a presentation during the panel & also while receiving an accolade for the years of impacting project management professions in Uganda in the last 10 years.

By Ronald K Ssekajja Project Manager
Innovation





Budget Highlights for Agriculture in FY 2024-2025

The FY 2024-2025 budget has introduced substantial investments aimed at transforming our agricultural sector.

Key areas of focus include increased funding for subsidies on seeds and fertilizers, significant allocations for irrigation and water management projects, and enhanced support for research and development. Additionally, there are targeted funds to aid small and medium farmers, ensuring they have the resources needed to thrive. These strategic investments are designed to boost productivity, drive innovation, and promote sustainable farming practices.

Stay informed about these developments to make the most of the opportunities presented and to plan effectively for a prosperous farming season ahead.

Budget figures for farmers

824B & 800B

Invite & Grow programmes

303B

Agricultural credit facility (ACF)

75B

Coffee value chain development

25B

Anti-tick vaccine

427.21B

Support for pest, vector and diseases control and prevention

50B

Presidential initiative on Banana industrial Development

1.878 Trillion

Agro-Industrialisation



60
Years
ANNIVERSARY



60
Years
ANNIVERSARY



60
Years
ANNIVERSARY



DFCU Bank's 60-Year Triumph: A Partnership Transforming Uganda's Agribusiness!

Background

DFCU Limited was started by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) of the United Kingdom and the Government of Uganda through the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) under the name of Development Finance Company of Uganda Limited.

It came into existence in May 2000 following dfcu's acquisition of Gold Trust Bank to extending universal banking services alongside the pre-existing equity finance; long term development finance; leasing and working capital finance.

It's objective was to support long-term development projects whose financing needs and risk did not appeal to the then existing financial commercial lending institutions.

DFCU Bank's steadfast support and shared vision have been instrumental in driving positive change within Uganda's agricultural sector. As AgriBDCU, we are honored to continue this journey of impact and innovation. Here's to celebrating DFCU Bank's 60 years of achievement and our fruitful partnership that continues to pave the way for progress.

As DFCU Bank celebrates 60 years of excellence, **ADC proudly reflects on our impactful partnership since 2018. Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones:**

Empowering Dairy Farmers in the West: Our joint efforts have provided vital support and resources.

Supporting Women Entrepreneurs: Through the Business Acceleration Program (BAP), we've helped women in business thrive.

Equipping SMEs in the North: We've imparted essential financial management skills, driving growth and sustainability.

Strengthening Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLs): Our collaboration has fortified community savings groups.

Uplifting Coffee Enterprises: In the East and Central regions, we've boosted the coffee industry, fostering economic development.

Highlights Of DFCU@60 Celebrations





Rabobank

Discover How Rabo Foundation's **50 Years of Excellence** is Transforming Uganda's Agribusiness!

This year marks exactly 50 years since Rabo Foundation was founded. In half a century Rabo has supported more than 5,000 organizations in the Netherlands, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

We are thrilled to honor Rabo Foundation on their 50-year journey of excellence and five years of pivotal support in transforming Uganda's agribusiness landscape through ADC. Their dedication has catalyzed growth and empowered local communities, showcasing a steadfast commitment to sustainable development.

Key achievements include:

Catalyzing Growth: Rabo Foundation's contributions have spurred significant advancements in agribusiness.

Empowering Local Communities: Their initiatives have positively impacted countless lives, promoting sustainable practices.

Setting Standards in Agricultural Finance: Rabo Foundation's innovative approaches have set a benchmark for impactful partnerships.

As we reflect on this milestone, we commend Rabo Foundation for their continuous efforts in redefining what's possible in agriculture and beyond.

Cheers to a partnership that embodies resilience, collaboration, and a shared vision for a prosperous future. Together, we look forward to further leveraging our collaboration to create lasting, positive change in the agribusiness sector and beyond.

Join us in celebrating these remarkable achievements and the ongoing partnerships that continue to shape the future of Uganda's agribusiness!



The Impact of Rabo Foundation on Rubanga Cooperative

The CEO of Rubanga Cooperative, Society Ltd, shares an inspiring testimony on how the support from Rabo Foundation has revolutionized their operations and bolstered the cooperative's financial standing.

With financial backing from Rabo Foundation, Rubanga Cooperative has invested **USD 2.7 million in upgrading their processing facilities**. This significant enhancement in coffee processing capabilities has allowed them to transition from primary to secondary and tertiary levels of production.

This strategic investment has opened doors to new export markets, securing contracts that exceed expectations. As a result, the cooperative has seen a surge in turnover, positively impacting their financial stability and growth.

Moreover, these advancements have fostered greater loyalty among the cooperative's farmers, enhancing their livelihoods. The benefits extend beyond the farmers to the entire cooperative, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

With over 9,000 farmers involved, Rubanga Cooperative's success story is a testament to the transformative power of Rabo Foundation's support. This partnership has not only strengthened the cooperative but also contributed significantly to the development of Uganda's agribusiness sector.

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

Why SOMA is your go to platform



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Eng. Ssonko Jackson Principal at Uganda Institute of Graphics and Technology

"Greetings, everyone! I'm Eng. Ssonko Jackson and I have had the privilege of exploring the history and development of the cooperatives course on the SOMA platform. This course deepened my understanding of cooperative principles and governance, which were instrumental in enhancing my teaching curriculum. thank you to the Agribusiness Development Center team for such insightful coursework!"



Mr Micheal Bwenje Head of Department Management Studies at UICT

"Good day! I'm Mr. Bwenje Micheal and I recently completed the price risk management course on the SOMA platform. This course equipped me with essential skills in identifying and managing financial risks within agricultural enterprises. The interactive lectures and real-world case studies were particularly valuable in understanding risk mitigation strategies. thank you to the ADC team for this comprehensive learning opportunity!"



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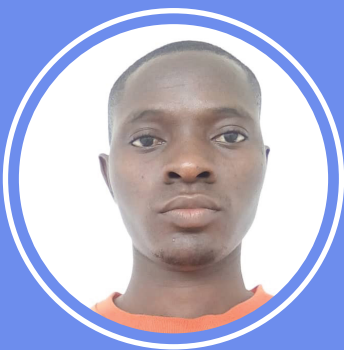
Namagulu Rita- Student

"Hello! I'm Namagulu Ritah, and I recently completed the Financial Literacy course on the SOMA platform. This course has been invaluable in enhancing my understanding of personal financial management and investment strategies. The practical knowledge gained has already started benefiting my financial decisions. Thank you to the Agribusiness Development Centre team for providing such a comprehensive and beneficial course!"



Bakanzewa William - Student

"Hey, everyone! I'm Bakanzewa William, and I want to share my experience with the SME Agribusiness Management course on the SOMA platform. This course provided me with crucial insights into managing small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises within cooperatives. The lectures on sustainable practices and market strategies were highly informative and applicable. Thank you to the Agribusiness Development Centre team for empowering me with these essential skills!"





“

Winfred Nassiwa (Mrs) Dean of Students Victoria University

"Hello everyone, I'm Winfred Nassiwa (Mrs), and I want to share my experience with the Robusta Coffee Agronomy course on the SOMA platform. This course provided me with in-depth insights into the cultivation techniques and the challenges specific to robust coffee. I appreciated how modules were structured, focusing on practical aspects like pest management and soil nutrition. Thank you to the Agribusiness Development Centre team for such enriching content!"



Nakayiwa Christine.... student doing Diploma in business administration

"Hi there! I'm Nakayiwa Christine, and I recently completed the Digital Literacy course on the SOMA platform. This course has been transformative for me in improving my digital skills for everyday tasks and professional presentations. The interactive modules and practical exercises made learning enjoyable and accessible. Thank you to the Agribusiness Development Centre team for offering such a valuable course!"

Building A Resilient Future:

ADC's Climate -Smart Agriculture Initiative

At the Agribusiness Development Centre (ADC), we are dedicated to promoting sustainable agricultural practices that empower farmers and protect our environment. Our latest initiative, funded by aBi Development, exemplifies this commitment. The project aims to train farmers to become more resilient to climate change while adopting strategies to mitigate further environmental harm.

A Journey of Transformation

Led by our Executive Director, Josephine Nakoma Mukumbya, a recent monitoring tour to West C highlighted our dedication to implementing climate-smart agriculture across the region. This tour provided invaluable learning experiences and established crucial connections with farmer-based organizations, leveraging our previous training programs for practical access to climate-smart practices.



Bio-gas launch in West C

In collaboration with Bold Energy, we've made significant progress, visiting numerous farmer cooperatives and SACCOs to monitor activities, explore new opportunities, and launch innovative projects.

Key Visits and Activities:

St Ludovic Farmers SACCO:

Met with the Board of Directors to discuss further opportunities for collaboration and expansion of climate-smart practices.

Kagamba Coffee Farmers Cooperative:

Monitored ongoing program activities and explored additional opportunities to enhance climate resilience among coffee farmers.

Kasasa Coffee Farmers Coop:

Assessed the progress of program activities, ensuring effective implementation of climate-smart practices.

Kyakabunga Dairy Farmers Coop:

Explored potential areas for further collaboration to enhance sustainability and productivity in dairy farming.

Karututsi Dairy Coop/Bashaija Paul:

Monitored the progress of the demo site, showcasing practical applications of climate-smart agriculture techniques.

Mbogo Dairy Coop/Jolly Mugisha:

Launched a biogas project in partnership with Bold Energy, demonstrating the potential for renewable energy solutions in agriculture.

Kamwengye Tukolrere Hamwe:

Monitored ongoing program activities to ensure effective implementation of climate-smart practices and identify areas for improvement.

Witnessing Transformation

Throughout this visit, we saw firsthand the transformative impact of climate-smart agriculture on our farming communities. These practices have not only enhanced farmers' resilience to climate change but also promoted environmentally sustainable farming methods.

We are grateful for the support of aBi Development and our partner, Bold Energy, in making this initiative a reality. Together, we are building a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector, ensuring a brighter future for our farmers and our environment.

A monitoring visit to West C



A photograph of a woman with a warm smile, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a plaid apron over a light-colored shirt. She is holding a woven basket filled with fresh vegetables, including green leafy plants and red bell peppers. The background is a blurred field of crops, suggesting a farm or garden setting. The overall tone is bright and positive, with a slight darkening of the image to make the text stand out.

Agriculture Is Not Just Growing Crops;
It's Cultivating A Way Of Life

Naveen Jain