

Rakai and Masaka Districts Group Leaders training report

Chapter 1. Introduction

- ***Indicate the project/ programme that is reported on***

This training was carried out under the IFAP the total quality improvement and market linkage project with the major aim being training the leaders who in turn will train the individual NUCAFE members who are in their groups.

- ***Refer to the conclusions of the preceding project /program and the intentions and aims of the current project/programme***

The training of the group leaders was meant to give those skills and knowledge on

- GAPS (Good agricultural practices for increase productivity and quality coffee production).
 - GHP (Good Hygiene Practices for maintaining the quality of coffee produced after harvesting).
 - Group Marketing and market information the value of the NUCAFE system and losses incurred out of the NUCAFE system
 - Ownership
 - Organising
 - Sustainability of the NUCAFE system– Fundraising
- ***Enumeration of the problems or constraints that have impeded the implementation of the activity as planned. Are those external (weather, political situation etc.) or internal (culture of the organisation, planning) constraints.***

This activity was scheduled for the start of the coffee season which is in April but was carried out in August because the funds were received late and a number of other activities which had to be implemented before this activity.

- ***Short outline of the most striking results.***

- The total attendance for Rakai district was 68 Mainly Group leaders from Kagamba, Dwaniro and Lwamaggwa coffee farmers associations. With 4 women and 64 men.
- The total attendance for Masaka district was 82 Mainly Group leaders from Kabonera, Buwunga, Kyanamukaka and Kisekka coffee farmers associations. With 10 women and 72 men
- The farmers embraced the idea of fundraising and resolved to contribute 5kgs of Kiboko per farmer per year to the NUCAFE system activities
- The farmers learnt and started using the phones to get the indicative market prices
- Group leaders realised the losses they make by selling outside the NUCAFE system and resolved to train their Group members on the importance of marketing as a group and the importance of the Group being strong.
- Groups that were visited had members practicing good Agricultural practices with some pruning the coffee which is a major problem for most of the coffee farmers. It was also interesting to see that most of the gardens were weed free and mulching had been done.
- Some groups had opened bank accounts and had used them during the season for the money obtained from marketing.
- The leaders were very effective in delivering the knowledge and skills they had learnt

Chapter 2. Activities

- *Short outline of the activities performed in relation to the general objective of the project. Please quantify information (activities at local or regional level, for men or women)*

The training was organised and conducted by the NUCAFE secretariat staff for the Group leaders of associations that are in Bushenyi district and was conducted over a period of five days.

Key activities for the training included preparing and purchase of materials, Mobilisation of the group leaders, hiring of venue and other logistical arrangements, travel and conducting of the training by the Executive director, The senior business manager and the Market development Manager.

The total number of group leaders trained was 150, 14 women and 136 men.

- *Indicate the activities that have been performed, but did have unsatisfying results and explain the causes*

The fundraising drive has not yielded as much coffee as had been envisaged mainly due to the fact that the concept was introduced late in the season arising from the lack of funds for the sensitisation activity. It is also important to note that it's a new concept that the farmers have to embrace as they realise the benefits of the system and the need to sustain it. The bad cooperative legacy also lends to the slow build up in trust with in the groups.

Chapter 3. Results

- *Enumeration of the most important results and how they are related to the main objectives of NUCAFE (strengthening of associations and / or economic initiatives). Distinguish:*

- Tangible results/impact (relate to the original results)

The Tangible results are

- ✓ 150 farmer Group leaders and farmers trained, it is envisaged that these will train approx. 3000 of their fellow coffee farmers in the groups they represented.
- General results/impact, added value etc associations if applicable)
 - ✓ increase productivity
 - ✓ sell value added coffee
 - ✓ Increase in Membership of groups
 - ✓ Increase in the number of coffee farmer groups
 - ✓ Fundraise for the sustainability of the NUCAFE system.
 - ✓ Emphasis on advocacy and lobbying for appropriate and available support from the local Government, NGOs and other partners.

Chapter 4. Conclusions

- Conclusions for the organisation with regards to future plans and general policy.

The training in the western region was successful. The training of group leaders and the leaders training the individual farmers in their groups with additional guidance and support

from the Business manager is the cost effective and best way of reaching a large number of NUCAFE farmers.

Chapter 5. Recommendations

- Recommendations for NUCAFE
 - ✓ Better facilitation of the Group leaders in carrying out the trainings with the necessary materials
 - ✓ Consideration of the “In Kind” contribution group leaders make in the NUCAFE system
 - ✓ More specialised training to build the capacity of the group and association leadership
 - ✓ More sensitisation and stream lining of the fundraising system
 - ✓ There is a need for Hand pulpers or appropriate technology for processing the new introduced Arabica curtimos.

Chapter 6. Activity plan for the next period

- **Short impression of the activities planned for the next period (if applicable)**
 - ✓ Training of the group leaders of the 45 groups in Kibinge Sub county
 - ✓ For Rakai and Masaka this formed part of the way forward and mainly focused on the activities that will lead to the general or impact results as mentioned in chapter 3 above.