

RESULTS FROM FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS HELD IN UGANDA (BUDAKA AND KWEEN DISTRICTS)

FGD 01

What are your farming activities? Slashing, digging, planting, weeding, spraying crops, harvesting

What crops do you cultivate? Maize, groundnuts, cassava, sweet potatoes, rice, soya beans. Millet, sorghum

Why do you cultivate those crops? Because they take a short time to mature, those are the crops that we can afford to plant financially

Are there crops women would like to plant that you have not been able to? Yes, cabbage, watermelon, tomatoes, coffee. We like these crops, but we cannot afford to buy seeds, pesticides and land is limited. One woman (widow) explained that she uses ash to spray crops such as beans, maize and soya beans against pests.

What size of land do you cultivate? Most women cultivate less than 1 acre of land while men farm on bigger pieces of land. But when some women get money from the savings group, they hire additional land for farming. When women fail to hire land, they cultivate a small portion.

How about ancestral land? That one is a small piece of land and is controlled by men. That is why women intercrop very many crops, like cassava, potatoes, beans. This land is farmed by the entire family so it's not always adequate. Women are allocated a small portion to farm.

What is the quality of soil? Some parts are sandy while others are fertile. We only get good yields in the fertile part. In the sandy parts animals would be grazed from there but unfortunately, we don't even have cattle

Who controls the land that you cultivate? Land belongs to men and they control it.

How about if there is no Husband? Widows manage their own

Do windows have power over the land? No, it is the clan which is mainly comprised of men and male grown up children of a deceased husband who controls land.

Are there times when women have been stopped from using family land? Yes, the clan members have to be consulted, and they must negotiate with the clan on how to use the land. Some women have to request for land to cultivate some crops on the land of the late.

Are women free to use family land without consulting their male partners? Women are permitted to cultivate family land but if a husband refuses, he can be reported to law enforcing agencies.

Is it common for men to deny women land for cultivation? It's not very common but it happens. Experience from one woman: there was a time my husband denied me access to land, I reported him to the chairperson LC1 and the issue was resolved.

Is it common for men to restrict women's land use? Yes, especially when he marries another woman, he takes the land and gives it to the new wife. You are left to struggle with your children.

What income-generating activities are you involved in? Women sell small things like boiled sweet potatoes, pan cakes among others. Most women borrow money from savings groups, but the money is little and that is why they are able to do only small and few businesses. Besides that, some men do not allow women to engage in business.

How are women expected to behave in this community? Women are expected to be under their husbands but because men misbehave, we exchange with them. When the men get money, they go and take breakfast from the trading center and yet there is no food at home. So, women have to struggle to provide the family.

When we plant our crops, they sell and do not give us any money even to buy meat. It's usually a fight (it ends up in a fight)

Is this how things have been even in the previous decades? No, because our mothers share the same experiences. Such behaviour from men is on the rise, every woman is complaining and crying because of men's unsupportive behaviour.

How has this affected the responsibilities that men and women have in the household? Women have now taken the lead in maintaining the household. Women have been affected the most. Women offer casual labour to get money.

Do men use soap or eat the food provided by women? Yes, because you are in his home, you have to wash for him and if he moves with dirty clothes, it's the woman that mostly gets embarrassed. Women try to maintain peace because they cannot go back to their home and must take care of their children. Besides that, women also comfort each other because most women are experiencing similar challenges.

What challenges do farmers experience?

Unpredictable rainfall, floods, drought and pesticides. But women have a lot of household chores, they must walk for 1 mile to get water and yet we come back from the garden when we are tired. They have only 1 borehole in the entire parish.

If women return home late from the borehole, men can even beat you up. They think women spend time conversing with other women and wasting time.

Women also experience fatigue, poverty (we can't eat what we want), we rare birds but because of coccidiosis we lose everything. Goats would be fine, but we have no money to buy.

What resources are used for farming? Hoes, pangas, wheelbarrow, ox-plough, oxen. The soil has become infertile, so farmers use ox-ploughs so as to dig deep, but women struggle.

Do both men and women use ox-plough? Yes, if a man has mercy on you then he can bring it but in case he does not women have to look for money and do just till the land using hand hoes.

How do farmers manage weather change? Here in Namagongolo, farmers cultivate in the wetland during the dry season to plant vegetables like dodo and finger vegetables. For those who have not planted buy from those who have cultivated in the wetland. Some plant crops like rice and sugarcane in the wetland when they anticipate rain. The men cultivate watermelon, tomatoes, vegetables, sugarcane for commercial purposes.

Do women decide to cultivate vegetables in the wetland on their own? No, they negotiate this with their husbands because when water is much, they are the ones to help. Women decide to plant vegetables, but they offer labour to weed to be permitted to plant vegetable in the man's garden.

Do men have control over such vegetables? No, it is the women but if men are ones who bought the seeds, they will be in control of the vegetables.

Do women feel they need to have control over your vegetables? It needs women to have control over resources and income and own their own things. But because women have no money, we're forced to rely on our husbands (marrieds).

For widows, they decide on their own because they do not have husbands. But still, because the land they farm is family land, they have no power over it.

What methods of farming do you use to manage weather changes?

We plough but if we do not have money, you just dig. We borrow money and start up small businesses

What do you do when the garden floods? We dig water trenches so that the crops do not wither and this is a common method.

What are you experiences from climate change? It shines so much, the rain is unpredictable, mist/fog, unpredictable rainfall, sometimes it is cloudy.

We experience low crop yields; in the past we used not to spray crops but now if you do not spray crops, you cannot harvest anything. Sometimes there is heavy rainfall and little rainfall which stunts our crops

Who do you get knowledge that we use in farming? Training, experiences and interactions among farmers who share their experiences.

How has the climate been previously? In the past rainfall was predictable, pests and disease (birds used to die in January but now days the die any time) and yet that is what has been supporting families.

Do partners discuss these changes in households? Sometimes partners talk about climate change and ask each other questions about how the climate changes and how the family should be cared for but not very often.

Does this improve cooperation in the family? It depends on men. There are men who sell goats and gets some money to start off a business. When it rains again, he goes back to replant crops.

Is it common for men to support their wives? There are those men who try to support but it is not common. Women struggle on their own.

How do women feel about this? We want to be independent, but it is because we are poor and have no source of income. For example, there is someone who has a water pump in the wetland which we would have hired to irrigate our crops, but we don't have money to hire. Besides that, it is also very expensive. For one to hire you have pay 300,000. We want to irrigate during drought but there is nothing we can do.

Are there women who have overcome challenges of weather changes? Yes, especially women who have joined groups and benefited, those who try to cooperate with their partners. They have got animals like goats and cows.

Data generated using Gender Disaggregated Seasonal calendar in FGD 01

Understanding gendered agricultural activities of smallholder farmers

Planting: We start planting in February but there is no definite period because of weather changes (sometimes rains delay). We usually wait for rain before we can start planting because it is raining in February (end) or March. There are crops that are continuous (Feb – April). In May we plant cassava and sweet potatoes. July – August we plant maize, November and December (plant vegetables in the wetland to help us during the dry spell)

Weeding: in January – February we weed in the wetland, in April - May we weed on the dry land (maize, beans, cassava, sorghum. In September we weed (crops planted in the second season).

Harvesting: We harvest in March - May in the wetland especially maize. In June and July, we harvest. October is usually a dry month and too much water in the wetland (flooding) so we do not cultivate in the wetland during this period.

Drying crops: June, July (groundnuts, maize, beans, sorghum and millet)

Marketing: Sometimes male household heads sell crops before harvesting (during weeding) when the crops are still in the garden specially to pay school fees. The crops are sold any time (ground nuts). The peak of selling is January and February (vegetables, maize, melon, tomatoes), June (first crops), July, August, October. In December we mainly spend what was saved on different savings and credit groups.

FDG 02: Undertaken with the aid of Gender Disaggregated Seasonal calendar

Understanding gendered agricultural activities of smallholder farmers

Planting: Who are the people who plant? It is the women who do most planning work.

What do men do during this period? The men are busy with rice while the women plant food crops. The men are interested in rice because it is mainly for sale. Men like crops such as rice, watermelon, cassava, tomatoes for commercial purposes while women cultivate mostly crops like Simisim, beans, soya, groundnuts for food.

Weeding: Who weeds crops? Women and children (both male and female).

What do men do during this period? During this period, they are weeding their own crops using their own labour, hired or with the help of children and their wives. Some go to the trading center.

Harvesting: Who harvests crops? Both men and women. This happens because men know that crop selling time is almost and so there is need to be close to produce. They also feel afraid/insecure that the women can sell everything. The men control everything and decide

what can be sold even if it's a woman's crops. If a woman sells secretly, he will beat her up that is why women have to seek a man's permission.

Do women sell crops without their husbands? Yes, they do it secretly because the men do not allow women to sell crop produce.

Drying: Who dries crops: This is done by the women and children (both male and female). During this period most men monitor closely, sometimes they can be resting in the house or in the trading center.

For crops like rice, most men measure it every time and some place a stick in the bag so that when women take even the stick out to get some rice to cook, they will know that the rice was tampered with.

In fact, women have so many problems and male partners do not provide for them that is why sometimes women steal the harvested crops so as to address their challenges

Marketing: Who markets crops produce? It is mainly men. Crops are controlled by the men, and most men do not permit women to sell even their own crops.

Do women share their earnings from produce sell with their male partners? If women just stole the produce to sell, they would not share with him but their partners just permitted them to sell the produce, they can share the money with him.

Understanding climate change

Rainfall

When does the rainy season start? It starts in February (end), in April the rain increases but they are not reliable. This continues up to the beginning of June. August, September (this rain is not much) there is rain and in November (much) there is some rain, and the start of December. Once it rains it is heavy but unreliable.

Have you observed any changes in the rainfall patterns? In the past there was consistency in the rainfall pattern but this has changed. Sometimes even when you pattern, expect rain it rains. For example, in January 2020, rained and crops were washed away this had never happened (in the wetland).

How were you affected? All our hope was in the crops and so we could not feed and it became difficult to mobilize money to replant. Others got loans from savings groups, did casual labour just to feed the family.

Has anything changed this year? Last year the rain was very little, this year we received rain quite early and we have planted crops in the mainland for the we have been able to harvest without trouble. In the mainland the rain is still not adequate because from the time we planted there has been very little rainfall.

Have you attended any training on climate adaptation? Not women but men sometimes attend.

Is this the case for both men and women? Yes

Is this experience new? No, we have been hearing from the radio when they are advising farmers from Big FM and Bugwere FM, but there has been no proper training that all farmers attend.

Is it common for farmers to listen to radios? We listen but it is not common for women.

How do you plan and prepare for climate changes? Women collect firewood, share information with friends, keep seeds (if you do not have seeds, you buy them expensively about 3000 a kg). When the rain disappears and people are unable to plant, they eat up the seed because they get spoilt (groundnuts, sorghum, beans). Men go to the trading centre to do business, cultivate in the wetland.

Do women seek permission from male partners to eat up the seeds? No

Floods

Are floods common? Yes, they are common in April and May (are the peak), June and July (but not much) in the wetland and this is not common on the mainland. As long as it rains in those months it floods. There are floods in November also.

In the last three years have you had floods on the mainland? No

How do floods affect crops? They turn yellow (beans, maize, watermelon. Tomatoes)

Why doesn't it flood on the mainland? The mainland is up and the wetland is a valley. This happens every year (May and June and November) when it floods.

How have you adapted to floods? We plant crops that can sustain the floods like rice and sugarcane. For the rice, once it has flowered it is not affected by the floods but once it has not, the water just burns it. So, to manage this the farmers try to plant rice early (February)

Who decides when to plant crops? It is the man who makes those decisions

What is the role of a woman? You have to be sharp to go plant; finish it quickly and then move back to the dry land. The wetland is the one that saves us.

Drought

When do you experience droughts? We experience drought in January and part of February (in March it rains only twice and we do not know when we shall receive more rain), June is dry. It is common for it not to rain when it is expected to rain like in 2021. Sometimes we are left helpless, the crops dry and you cannot harvest much. We are stranded because if you plant and do not harvest you will have no rain. We used to have rain in June, but this has changed and June is now dry

How are animals affected? Lack of pasture and animals are fed with plant residues from the wetland. This wetland is of great help.

Pests and diseases

Pests and diseases are experienced throughout the year such as army worms. All crops are affected, even tomatoes the pest just cuts the roots, and you see the plant just drying.

Is this increasing? Yes, we don't use spray but we used to use ash now we spray maize, beans and everything with pesticides.

Why have you changed to pesticides? Ash does not work well nowadays. We have been trying to use it but it is not effective but when you use pesticides the crops look healthy.

How do you use ash? It needs to be very early in the morning when there is dew so that the ash can be effective.

How about those without money and can't afford pesticides? They will not harvest anything. Even in the wetland the people who have not sprayed their crops harvest nothing.

Are there people who come and teach you about pesticides? No, we just learn from our neighbors and friends depending on the yields. Farmers who harvest more are consulted about seeds, pesticides and fertilizers.

Are there times when pesticides fail? No, they are always effective compared to ash.

Life stresses: Effects of climate change

Hunger: When is hunger prevalent? March, April (2 meals), May (1 meal). During this period, households have one meal a day and people starve.

Who provides for the family during this period? Mostly women, with support from some male partners.

Why do women and men work together? It is because sometimes men lack money and they tend to be cooperative during those periods.

Sicknesses: When are sicknesses more common? Previously, there used to be specific months (during the first harvest) for illness but now people fall sick all the time because they fumigate our homes against pests and the climate has changed.

Expenditure: Has there been changes in your expenditures? Yes, we spend more in December because we have to hire land, buy food, clothes. In other months we do not have what to spend.

Death: Are there periods when death is pronounced? In the past it used to be in the harvest of the past season, but it is now people die any time.

Why is this the case? Because there are many diseases like corona, malaria and diarrhea.

Responsibilities: Division of labour

Who is responsible for cooking? Women. **When do you cook the most?** June, July, August, September, October, November, December (regulated). Sometimes women have regulated the families feed in December because family members can roast maize, groundnuts and sweet potatoes, so there is no need to cook three meals in a day, mostly two. Consumption is regulated to keep seeds much as cassava is eaten throughout the year.

Childcare: Women are mostly responsible for childcare. There are no specific months when children are cared for the most, this happens throughout the year. Women ensure the child has eaten, bath, treated when they are sick. It is women who mainly care for the children because

sometimes a man has more than one wife so you just provide information because he can be in Kadama.

Do older children support this role? Yes, at least 10 years above (both boys and girls help but this depends on the upbringing of the child). The girls do it more than boys.

Animal care: Women care for animals such as goats, sheep and livestock throughout the year, but it is more prevalent when crops are in the garden from March, April, May but in August, September they still care the most. In January animals move freely. It is women and children who care the most because men after returning from the garden the man goes to the trading center. Cows are cared for by the boys and girls who help with goats.

What animals do you rear? We keep cows, goats, birds

Can you sell it? No, even milk men decide how he would like to use it. Just in case of anything women must negotiate because male partners may want to sell to customers on a monthly basis.

FDG 03: Undertaken with the aid of Venn diagram (institutional mapping)

What institutions work with and support women?

NUSAF: Two members were in that group. People used to earn 30,000 Uganda Shillings.

Tukola Baseka women's Saving Group: Members save on a weekly basis (Sunday) and also give credit. Repayment is after two months. People borrow money to buy seeds, start business and also to hire land for farming. We also help one another in the garden by doing things such as digging, weeding and harvesting. In 2021, we cultivated cassava as a group of 42 (3 from another group), sold and shared the money. **How do members join?** People are invited to meetings and to join the group. **What is the leadership structure?** There are five members in the executive. The secretary and the vice are men. The treasurer is a woman (3 members in the executive). Men are not trusted they eat people's money. It is a women's group, but men got interested after realizing that women were gaining from the group

Bataki Tutakangane: it's a farmers group and we are 15. We hire land and cultivate cassava or tomatoes as a group. 5 members in the executive committee. It is mixed but the majority are women (05 men). It started as a women's group but men got involved. People just join the group when they are interested. Others just admire the group and join because they farm collectively.

Who makes decisions in these groups? We have meetings and we meet every Sunday. The members present have not joined because they are in other groups

Bagwere Tulamuke: it is a savings group (cash round), 30 members and we contribute 2,000 every Thursdays (60,000)

Bagwere Tuyabagane: (18 members) we collect money and buy glass plates, we contribute 10th, 20th, 30th. We contribute 3000.

In most cases, women belong to different groups.

Mairu group: In this group members collect money and buy a bull for meat (contribute 50,000 for 12 months from January (13 members but they are supposed to be 15). Members can get 5kgs of meat each. It helps children to be content with their home.

Laws on land and resource inheritance: Some women report land issues to the police and issues are taken to court or addressed at the sub-county. There are women who reported their husbands to the sub-county because they were not providing for the family and wanted to hire land for money. Their issues were discussed at the Local Council Court. Most women don't even understand how that court works.

How about government programmes have benefited from any? No, just the one of parish model but we have gained anything. We formed groups, contributed money and did everything including the constitution but we have never received anything and yet we desire.

Institutions

1. Tukola Baseka group: Very important
2. Bataki Tutakangangane group: Less important
3. Bagwere Tulamuke: Moderately important
4. Bagwere Tulamuke: Less important
5. NUSAF (Linghole Interested Green Action: Is very important because we got
6. National Agricultural Extension services: Very important
7. Bagwere Tuyambagane: Not very important
8. Mairu group: Important
9. Local council court, important

Notes: Women desire male partners to provide for their families. If the husband does not buy meat, we can go back to our home. Even if he buys a gomesi that is not enough.

We also have burial groups, but it is under the clan (Tugangane) – Irabi Tugangane: community members provide some financial support and make you feel loved.

FDG 04

What farming activities do you engage in? Digging, monitoring crops, planting, weeding, collecting plant residues (clearing the garden), harvesting.

Are there times when you plant and crops fail? Yes, this is caused by too much sunshine (drought) and flooding.

What crops do you cultivate? Cassava, maize, sorghum, beans, soya beans, green Gram, rice, watermelon, tomatoes and vegetables.

Why do you plant those crops? They are for food and also our soil (sandy) is favorable for such crops. In sandy areas we plant cassava. Men cultivate crops like rice mostly for sell.

On what size of land do you cultivate crops? The land that women farm is small and that is why we do mixed cropping. This has also contributed to low crop yields because we over mix crops. Sometimes we request land from our friends and neighbors while others just hire. But men at least farm on relatively big land.

Who owns the land that you cultivate? It is for the family, but the husband is in control

Who decides how the land is to be used, when and how? It is the man who is responsible. Sometimes you can suggest we plant cassava, but the man will say know we should plant something else. One participant emphasized.

How about widows, who controls the land they farm? Some portion of the land is controlled by the widows. This happens especially when the land is not fertile, when its rocky. Also, widows control land which they bought probably with their sons, but this is not common. Widows mainly cultivate family land.

For customary land, the clan and the children cannot allow a widow to make independent decisions over how to use land

What is the membership of the clan executive? They are mostly men (core 5 executive members). There are no women in the core executive except in the working committee where there is only 1 woman. This has been a recent development but previously there were no women in the clan leadership at all.

How do you feel about the clan leadership structure? It is not fair and that is why women are oppressed over land issues because there is no one to represent them. This is cultural and even females do not inherit land.

What other economic activities are you involved in? Selling birds and starting small businesses like selling tomatoes, omena. But most women rely on farming. Men farm and engage in business as well.

How are men and women expected to behave?

Men do not women to own money, women should be begging men for money. Sometimes even when you sell something some husbands will want you to give him the money and he buys what she wants on her behalf.

Most women would like to have their own money and buy what she wants like inner ware and clothes, but this not possible.

Who is responsible for household chores? Women, they are oppressed. Both women and men go to the garden, but when they return home the man begins asking for food. And most men do not buy sugar, so you have to provide for the family even when you tired. After working very hard he will ask you to go back to the garden in the afternoon. Even when you wash up and put on a clean dress or a new one, he becomes uncomfortable and says you have changed. Men also want women to produce every year.

What challenges do you face in farming? Poor yields – in 2021 we cultivated groundnuts, but most people lost, unreliable rainfall, lack of farm implements like fertilizers, poverty, too much illness, lack of income.

Is this how things have been? No, the challenges are increasing each time, even sickness.

What is causing illnesses? Some say it is fumigation (it is compulsory), maybe sunshine and other problems that we can't explain. We don't even know.

What resources do you use for farming? Hoes, ox ploughs (this depends on if one has money). Because of poverty we plant, weed and harvest by ourselves. The fact is most women are suffering. Children who helped are grown up; some are in school and others are still young.

Have you noticed changes in the climate? Yes, the rain is not enough, people planted ground nuts in February (2022) and it did not rain for 3 weeks, the seeds did not germinate. They just got rotten.

What happened, were the weather forecasts wrong? We don't know. The climate has just changed. Things have changed.

We used to plant millet in December, January February but this has changed and now we plant ground nuts in March, but things have changed, if you plant in April, you won't harvest because the yields are poor.

What has been done to address these problems? We are requesting help because we are sharing it with you so that you can share it with those who can help. Farmers need fertilizers, ox-ploughs and even support to work in groups

What do you do to address the dry spell? There is no way you can fight God's plan, so we just have to endure until God has mercy on us.

Do all farmers practice irrigation? Men use it mostly. Women are in support of irrigation, but they need support from male partners.

What challenges do you face during the dry season? In the dry season we suffer so much with issues of water because we have only 1 borehole we wish we could have piped water. At least other villages have more boreholes.

Why do have only 1 borehole? It is because the land is rocky and water cannot be easily found.

Other than drought, how has the weather changed? Sometimes it rains little and sometimes much and all these affect crops negatively

Do you discuss weather change issues with your spouses, relatives and other people?

Yes, we discuss with our partners, and we tell them what they harvested the previous year during this time (especially rice). We share and plan throughout the planting season, but when the harvest time reaches that marks the end of the relationship because most of them marry other wives.

Have you experienced flooding recently? This happened in the wetland in 2021, and crops were submerged and washed away.

Do you experience flooding every year? Yes, between April, May and November. This was there about 10 years ago. As long it shines so much, we experience flooding

What has changed about pests and diseases? They are more prevalent and they have destroyed sorghum and maize and there is also a dangerous weed that farmers struggle with now.

Have you attended any training on farming? Very few women, it is mostly attended by men.

What adaptation knowledge do you use? We rely on our local knowledge. Nowadays we do not have a definite season we plant whenever it rains.

Is this different for the men? No, it is the same the only difference is that men cultivate rice and they also spray their crops and also improve on their crop yields.

How have the changes in the weather affected life in the village? Yes, it has been increased poverty, there are low yields, illnesses (measles, malaria, diarrhea, HIV, Corona)

Do you feel you have the power to address the weather-related challenges? No, we are limited but we also try some small businesses.

FDG 05: Undertaken with the aid of Gender Disaggregated Seasonal Calendar

Understanding division agricultural activities

Planting

When do plant crops? From the end of February 20th up to April

What do you do in May? We Weed crops.

How about June? We start harvesting fast-maturing crops

What crops do you plant in February? Maize, Beans, cassava, peas, groundnuts, green gram on the dry land

How about in October? We plant maize on the dry land

How about in August? We plant sweet potatoes

Note: The farming activities heavily depend on the climate (rainfall patterns) so there are times when planting is done late or early.

Vegetables are commonly planted throughout the year depending on the rain and along the wetland

Who plants crops? Both women and men, but mostly women

Why is it so? Women plant more because men have to try to find money to support the family. Men are usually busy in the trading centre.

What do men do during this season? They are busy in the wetland planting rice, watermelon, tomatoes for commercial purposes.

Where do they take what they cultivate? Most men harvest and take the rice to mill, sell and even marry other wives and come back home when the money is over. There are those who can bring back about 5 or 10 kgs of rice only out of the entire harvest.

How do you feel about this? It is very painful because in the course of the season you have suffered in the garden, lost weight but you gain nothing. It is a must for you to go and cultivate his crops in the wetland because you want the marriage to work since you already have children.

How does society view women who have left marriage? Negatively, but there are women who have left marriage and are doing even well than they were married.

Weeding

Which months do you weed crops? We weed from end of march, April up to May and part of June and July and November (we weed crops that have been planted in the wetland and the dry land)

Who does most of the weeding? Women and their children (male and female) and this depend on how the children have been parented because there are boys who cannot weed sweet potatoes.

Harvesting

In which months do you harvest crops? Harvesting commences from late April we harvest, may, June, July, August (both digging and harvesting).

Why do some people plant early and others late? Some people have no seeds while others are not sure of the rainfall. Some wheat for the rainfall to fall much. There is no definite season. Reliable rainfall comes late and this delays planting (sometimes they gain while sometimes they do not) – the first rain comes in February and the one in March is the second rain.

Why is the rainfall unreliable or unpredictable? People have cut down trees in the village and rainfall has been affected. We also think that God has allowed things to happen that way.

Where do people get the knowledge to adapt to climate change? This is from our experience and sometimes from agricultural extension services.

Do you sell crops? Mostly men market crops cultivated in early March and April in May. Crops such as groundnuts are harvested and marketed. A farmer can sell a basin at 20,000 as opposed to those who harvest in June and sell at 5,000.

When crops are cultivated early, it helps one to harvest early and we end up having food. The crops that are planted early produce better yields.

Who does the work of harvesting the more? It is mostly women and the children (male and female). Men are very concerned and they will see what you have harvested and also find out the price a kilo gram cost. Men want to control and influence decisions about the women's crops. Even if it is in the store, they will monitor to see if crops have been sold. The crops that most men cultivate and sell are spent on other women and not their married partners.

A participant shares their experience: There was a time a woman hosted her relatives, and she did not have any money, so she sold some millet to buy meat and prepared for her visitors. When the husband came back found that the visitor had been served meat (beef). So, he asked where she got the money from, and the woman told him that she sold her millet. And the man asked her where she got the authority to sell his crops because the land she cultivates belongs to the man. So, when the visitor had gone to say hello to another relative, the man beat the woman and the case was reported to the chairperson, but the husband insisted that woman

should bring back the millet. So, he went to the person who bought the millet to arrest him as a thief, but the chairperson resolved the issues and yet the millet was for the wife.

Is it common for men to batter their wives for selling produce? Yes, it is very common. women just endure.

Drying: What crops do you dry? We dry cassava, sweet potatoes (sliced potatoes) in January, May (sorghum, millet, beans), June, July and August and December.

Who dries crops? Mostly women and children (both male and female)

Marketing: We sell in crops January (egg plants, sweet potatoes, cassava, ntula), February. Its only men who sell in March. In May, June, July, August, September women sell. In November and December, we sell sweet potatoes to buy clothes.

Do you sell alone? No with the support of the men. Some women cannot interpret the weighing scale, so when their husbands go with them, they tell them less kilograms. For example, if the produce is 50kgs, they can be said it is 25 kgs.

Most men no longer bring the rice home. They dry it in mill even if it is just two bags.

Changes in the rainfall patterns

Rainfall: What changes have you observed in the rainfall: It starts raining at the end of February, March (rain is variable and little). This varies from year to year (in 2022 rain was little in March), April, May, July, August, September, October, November and December.

Floods: When are floods common? Floods are prevalent in the months of April and May, and August. It only floods in the wetland.

How have these changes affected crops? The crops dry (maize, beans). It also becomes difficult to go and harvest rice during floods because people use boats and it is dangerous for life. That is why the rice rots away.

Are floods also experienced on the dry land? We have never had floods because it is sandy

Drought: When do farmers experience drought? Drought is experienced in January, part of February, June (withers crops) and end of December.

How does drought affect farming? It dries the land and crops do not grow well.

Is drought experienced every year? No, it varies. There are years when it rained almost throughout like in 2020 and there was a lot of food. This was last experience in 2020 but since then rain has been unreliable.

When it rains throughout the year there are unique events like in Iki Iki sub-county, there is a cow which talks asking people what they wanted (sunshine or rain). This takes about 4 years

Pests and diseases: When are pests and diseases prevalent? It starts in March, April, and May. In July they attack sweet potatoes, in September it affects watermelon and November it affects even vegetables.

Are all crops affected by pests and diseases? Yes, millet, sorghum, rice, sweet potatoes.

Are the pests prevalent in the current decade? Yes, because of weather changes, pesticides have increased pests and diseases (crops have become more susceptible). Sometimes after spraying crops the pests do not die like rocket or dudu.

Have you received training on climate adaptation? It is not common as the extension officer train people with big farms, who are mostly men.

How do women address the problem of pests and diseases? Women mix pesticides in a basin and spray it with leaves or brooms sometimes the men help.

Life stresses – effects of climate change

Hunger: When is hunger prevalent? January, February, March and Ap, February, households have one meal a day during this period.

Why is hunger prevalent? What causes this is that people waste food and also men do not cater for the family. Sometimes men also steal food and sell.

Who provides more during period of food scarcity? It is mainly women but are just household heads but women provide more.

Health /sickness: When are illnesses prevalent? March, April and May, June, July when they are weeding (malaria, dysentery, throwing of bones, malaria, diarrhea malaria).

Who provides medical treatment? Men

Who is more affected by these diseases? All (men, women and children). When the child falls sick they are taken to the health center and they inform the man

Expenditure: What do you spend your finances on? We spend mostly on food in the month of January, February. In April and May we spend on pesticides, December we spend on different types of food and clothing due to festivities.

Whose money is spent more in the family? For the men

Death: When is death prevalent? People get sick and pass away at any time nowadays. But more pass away in the months of January and December because of food poisoning and people also drink a lot of alcohol, May and June are the peak - because of new food.

Division of household responsibilities

Cooking: When do you cook a lot? In May, June, July, August and part of September and December because it is harvesting time there is a lot of food and people also have some money. In December we get back our savings and so most farmers have so much to spend.

Childcare: When is childcare very pronounced? Throughout the year and it is done by the women.

Livestock: Who takes care of livestock? It is women who care for them and this work is undertaken throughout the year. Animals are rarely released to move on their own. The animals cared for by tying, grazing, (cows and goats are cared for by the men) while birds are cared for by the women

FDG 06: Data collected with the aid of Venn diagram (Institutional Mapping)

Savings and credit groups: There used to be a savings club which was functional 2 years ago and it is not functional. We had problem in that group we saved money and opened a bank account, and we were supposed to get money from micro finance support centre from the savings. Unfortunately, it was a period of Covid, and they were not given money. As a result, people got discouraged thinking that the leaders ate their money. They are still hopeful that the bank will call them and give them the loan.

This was a women's founded association, but men joined later (13 members). It is called Irabi Women's Group.

NAADS: It gave people goats, cows and seeds. Women benefited (15) in their group 2018 (district discretionary equalization grant – DDEDG – Very important

UWEP: women are borrowed money at low interest although we have not yet received this money, but we are hopeful – This is important but very few women have benefited from it.

YLP: Some people have received interest free loans. Supports people who deal in produce. – not very important. It is not close to the household because we even do not know much about it. The sub-county chief and their officials know these more.

NUSAF: Constructed schools and gave cassava cutting, ox plough, bulls, tree seedlings. People registered, members were sensitized and members were selected based on their income levels. People were negative towards the training and would sometimes insult the trainer those who benefitted attended the training to the end. People were also required to take passport photographs, but some refused. Both men and women benefited. Even up to date we are still eating cassava. But it is very important.

Court and laws: there are laws that protect women's right to inherit land. Some widows have reported the clan and relatives of their late husbands to police. They have been arrested and taken to court. This is important to women.

Safe neighborhood: sensitized on hygiene, nutrition, energy saving from 2013 – 2020. They were supporting women. They target and work with existing groups.

Savings group: Some people just send money, and they do not attend meetings. The groups need certificates; the groups are not registered. They start saving out of mutual understanding. – very important although few people are involved. It helps people quickly

Notes: Women in Irabi A were less involved in groups

NAADS and Savings group work together in the household – they support farmers to adapt to climate change.

FGD 07

What are your farming activities? Digging (first and second tilling). Some use hand hoes especially women while most men use oxen.

Does everyone use oxen? No. Mostly men and a few women who can hire.

How much do you spend on hiring ox-ploughs? It costs UGX 30,000 to hire ox-plough for a day

Why do you plough using oxen? Because our land is big, about 2 or 3 acres and it is very hard work. You can even break your waist.

What other activities do you undertake? Planting, weeding, applying fertilizers, spraying crops. Some crops like potatoes are sprayed before they germinate to kill weeds. We use herbicides on barley. At the first weeding we use herbicides and then the second one is the one we weed because we need to put soil to help the plants to fruit well.

Note: some use herbicides other than weeding which loosen the soil and render it susceptible to flooding. This is used by some farmers especially men.

What crops do you cultivate? Potatoes, bananas, onions, maize, barley, cabbage, beans and other vegetables.

Are these crops planted by both men and women? Yes. We all plant because they are for the family. Children, women and husbands provide labour.

The onions predominantly require hired labour because their cultivation is very tedious and is often too much.

What benefit are these crops? Onions and potatoes help us to pay school fees. After harvesting potatoes, we can plant onions. They also help in accessing medical treatment, transforming birds into goats

What animals do you rear? Goats, cows, hens, donkeys: Caring for animals is predominantly known as women's work. The women ensure the animals have fed well because the men are not usually at home.

Of these, which ones belong to women? Mostly chicken and goats.

How do you own goats? Women exchange their birds into goats

Why do people exchange birds for goats? It is because birds are susceptible to illness especially when the numbers grow very large, so goats are better because they are more resilient to sickness.

Has anyone here ever bought a motorcycle? Yes, it is mainly men who buy but not women.

On what size of land do you farm these crops? Here we segment different crops, but they are planted on the same piece of land. On average farmers here cultivate one acre of land. Women farm on smaller land whilst men farm on more than one acre.

Whose crops, are they? They are for the entire family, but men often determine their utilization.

What is the quality of the soil in these gardens? The soil has lost fertility. If you do not apply fertilizers, you cannot harvest anything.

Due to this, we plant using DAP (black). If you do not have money to buy them the harvest will be very poor.

How did you learn that you can use fertilizers? It started with the neighbours (rich farmers) and we noted that they have been harvesting much, that is why we also decided to start applying fertilizers.

How about manure? Do you use it? Organic manure is good but accessing them is difficult and these work after a long period of time. But we still apply UREA even after using some manure.

Who controls the land that you cultivate? Land belongs to the men and they control it. But widows also take charge sometimes.

Is the land customary? Yes, but the land is small and that is why people buy. Most male farmers just buy land.

A participant shared her experience of accessing land

My father in-law died in 1975 and did not allocate land for his sons. Because land was not divided the family experienced different conflicts. The widow suffered the most as the relatives of her deceased husband tried to grab the land.

Do widows manage land on their own? No, land is usually apportioned to male children, and the widow continues to access and manage it based on children. Sometimes the relative of a deceased husband does not disturb much when the widow has children, especially males.

What happens when a woman loses her husband and did not have children with the deceased? Such women are sent away. The clan takes over the land because of lack of children

Is this common here? Yes, it is.

Does this apply even for the land that the couple bought? Yes, the clan changes and says the land belongs to them. Male children are mostly the ultimate security for most widows.

Does this apply for female children? Yes, but sometimes the girls are disturbed, and they are pressured to get married so that the male relatives of their father can take over the land.

Are farmers involved in any other economic activities? No, we just sell our crops whenever we need money.

How are women expected to behave in the village? Women need to be born again so that others can learn from them because it helps them to be disciplined. Women are expected to care for home, stay home in the absence of your husband.

However, the challenge is that most women are liars and they also gossip a lot, wasting time.

How are men expected to be behave? Men are expected to be respectful. Women are responsible for upbringing children and ensuring that they feed well. The men ought to provide for the family, but they sometimes fail to provide for family.

What challenges of women farmers face? Women do a lot of work such as weeding which is done single handedly because men rarely participate in weeding. Sometimes the children are of help.

Where do men go during this period? They go drinking alcohol, watching videos and return home late at night. Women are not permitted to question the actions of men.

FDG 08

What farming activities are you involved in? Ploughing land with oxen - this is majorly done by men physically. The reason for using ox-ploughs is to dig deeper to have more fertile soil and dig out all the weeds. We also plant crops like maize, beans, potatoes, barley, wheat, onions and cabbages. Farmers also weed crops, apply fertilizers during planting and top it during weeding.

Why do farmers rely on fertilizers? Has this always been the case? No, the soil used to be fertile but now the soil has lost fertility, that is why farmers use fertilizers.

Why have the soils lost fertility? The poor methods of farming and soil erosion caused by changes in the climate.

How much do you spend on ploughing? For one acre of land ploughing per day costs between Uganda shillings 30,000 – 40,000 per day.

Do all farmers use ox ploughs? Yes, the majority of men plough. Those without hire and very few use hand hoes especially women who farm on hilly places and if you do not have a big portion or money to hire.

Any other activities? Yes, we also apply fertilizers in our gardens, and this is done twice before crops mature and are harvested. When planting we apply fertilizers and when weeding as well.

Why do you use fertilizers? To improve soil fertility and crop yields because soil has lost fertility

Is this how it has been? No, previously people used not to apply fertilizers because the soil was fertile, but this has changed because of poor methods of farming, soil erosion which has washes away top fertile soil.

Who owns the land that women cultivate? It is for the family, but the men are in control, but they oppress women so much because they are in control of everything.

Who decides what crops to plant? There are families that negotiate and agree. Crops like maize take a whole year to mature but other crops like potatoes and onions mature after three months. All these are looked into and then a decision is made.

Results from gender disaggregated seasonal calendar

Understanding agricultural activities

Planting: Planting starts mid-March. There are times that we start planting in April. All this depends on rain (Variations in planting seasons). Averagely, crops are planted in March, and this is done up to the end of April.

What crops do you plant during this season? We plant maize, potatoes, onions, barley, wheat, cow peas and beans.

Do you plant after April? Yes, we also plant in May especially onions and cabbages because the rain is usually much. There are few people who plant these crops in May.

Why do few people plant in May? The crops that are planted during this period are few and they use the remaining portion of land after planting major crops. These crops are majorly onions which first must be put in nursery beds in June.

In August, we harvest first season crops and plant second season crops like potatoes, barley, cabbages, and onions. During this period there is so much work as well because farmers plant and harvest.

In September we continue planting second season crops.

Notes: Male partners also participate in planting, but the actual planting is done by the woman and children. In cases where women have no children, they sometimes must hire labour and in case you do not have money the woman does the work by herself. This is something that men do when women are disciplined, respectful and complete all their duties are responsibilities.

The money spent on hiring labour is provided by the men. The women request for such support from the men, but most women work by themselves. Most men are not supportive in terms of hiring labour. Some women struggle and even hire labour on their own because they do not want food to get wasted in the garden. But it reaches harvest time, they are very active

Who does the work of planting? Women and children do most of the work of planting, but women work more. Those with money hire labour. After realizing the work in the garden is too much and you cannot manage, you can ask him to find you people to help. Some will offer you the support you need while others will not.

There are men who are not interested in garden work, others go around drinking alcohol, and you will have to work by yourself because the men will say they have no money. Most men will say they have no money.

How do women address these issues? Some women will struggle to find money and pay people to help them with work, while others will seek help from the groups.

Where do women get money? From savings groups, revolving funds, social groups.

Weeding

Weeding starts from mid- April up to June. We also weed in mid-September and October.

Who is responsible for weeding? This is majorly done by women with the help of children.

Harvesting

In January we harvest potatoes, beans, wheat, barley, onions and cabbages up to the end of February. At the end of June, we start harvesting potatoes up to July, August and part of September. In November we harvest maize, potatoes, peas, and cabbages. This continues until February (this is when harvest ends)

We also harvest in June, July, August and part of September.

In June we start harvesting first season of crops

In October we harvest second season crops

Notes: men are very active this period because he wants is ready and he does not trust the wife. Some sell before the actual harvesting. If you resist there are men are beat up their spouses. Even here, when potatoes are harvested men take control of everything.

Ploughing: We start ploughing in January to up to march. This is mostly done by male partners.

Drying: Women undertake the work of drying crops, but men monitors while the actual work is done by the women and children. This work is done in January, August (beans, barley, wheat) up to mid-September. We again start another shift of drying in November, December (maize) and January.

Marketing: Marketing starts in July, August, September, January (there are some few things that we sell): the men are very busy during this time. However, there are selling is done throughout the year but in small quantities. In January we sell potatoes and onions.

The crops sold in January are those that some male farmers irrigate, especially those who have gardens close to the river and they cultivate for cash. This happens in August especially for those who have groups (farmers group) – they cultivate potatoes and cabbages for sell and food). In groups, we hire land for a cultivating at 500,000. However, this is not commonly practiced. Some women are members of farmer groups and are active in them while others are not).

The crops that are irrigated are mainly for sell (onions, beans, potatoes)

Spraying: Due to the burden of pests and disease, spraying starts immediately once the crops have germinated. It is done in April, May, and part of June (part of June). In mid-August, September, October, November we spray second season crops

Understanding changes in the rainfall patterns

When does it start raining? It starts raining in mid- March with little rainfall which increase as months pass by. up to April when there is a lot of rainfall. In May this year, it rained for two weeks and then it went again and sometimes in May rain disappears completely.

In June there is rainfall but sometimes it is not there for the whole month (scattered showers).

In July, August, September and October there is usually plenty of rainfall, but this is also variable.

Rainfall is very variable in November like last year we lost so much because of inadequate rain. Last year it stopped raining in October up to the end of the year.

What changes have you observed? Previously it would start raining in February and we would plant vegetables, but this has changed.

Since when long ago have you noticed these changes? 10 years ago. It has been a while since we noticed these changes.

What has caused these changes? There used to be forests but now the trees have been harvested with no replacement. To some extent we can't explain why these changes are there.

Why do people cut trees? For timber, charcoal, firewood (this is mainly done by men)

Floods

Are floods very common? Yes, each time it rains there are floods. We had floods in April, May, August and September sometimes. It destroyed so many crops, cows, and goats. This year (2022) it has been worse. This is because these months are characterized by heavy downpours and it destroys crops, houses and even animals.

What did you do? Crops were washed away and people did not plant and we decided to dig trenches and plant grass (this was a woman's initiative). We just keep digging trenches (men and boys)

Are men cooperative during this period? Yes, but not always.

Do the floods find you prepared? Some prepare while others don't prepare. Some farmers even plant grass to regulate the negative effects of flooding. Farmers have also thought of planting trees after having a conversation with their spouses. There are people who have started tree planting including those in this group.

Drought

When do you experience droughts? The end of January and this continues up to February and March (experience prolonged dry spells and hotter temperatures). But still farmers are not sure if there is going to be drought due to climate change.

Are there any changes that you have noticed? The droughts are longer and severe.

How does this affect people's livelihoods? It causes water scarcity (women queue for 2-3 hours to get water), there is no food, we lack vegetables. Some streams dry up and the water level reduces. Farmers who are upstream also divert water in their gardens and even people who irrigate lack water for that purpose. There is struggle for water during periods of drought. The worse months are February and March.

Do men support their wives to collect water? Very few men do that, but most times women and children bare this responsibility. Men who collect water do it for sell because during such a time a jerrycan of water is bought at 500. For example, the educated men and the women are the ones who support each other during this time. When you respect your husband, and do what he tells you to do, he can help to collect water using a donkey.

Pests and diseases

When are pests and diseases prevalent? These are usually common in April, May and June. Whenever we plant crops there are pests and diseases, so we have to keep spraying crops.

This escalates once there are variations in rainfall like maize once they are sprayed and rain disappears the pests become many especially the army worm.

What is the cause of this prevalence? We cannot even explain how the pests and diseases came about. But we think climate change. Some claim the pests and disease were brought by others. For sure, we cannot explain how pests and diseases came about if you do not spray crops you will not harvest anything

Understanding Life Stresses

Food scarcity

Hunger is common and it starts from April to June. The remedy for this is usually potatoes which we start harvesting in late June. In September, households also struggle to feed.

How many meals do people normally eat in a day? Two meals but during periods of food scarcity, most households have one meal per day.

Who is responsible for providing food? Women. That is why women have joined groups because they have to sustain the family and ensure the children eat. Some men are not bothered about food.

Sickness: people fall sick mostly in May, June, July, August and September. Whenever there is hunger and maize start flowering, people fall sick so much. They get fever, diarrhea, malaria, and typhoid.

Expenditures: The expenses go high in February (school fees), March, April, May, June (part), August, September, October (part) December (purchase of farm inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, food, school fees)

Death

When do people die the most? This has greatly changed in recent times especially in 2022. Usually, the beginning of the year in January people die. In April people die and in December as well. People die of accidents; others are just killed but cannot explain why.

Which gender is mostly susceptible to death? It is mostly women because others die due to childbirth but this year it was mixed. In the previous years, children used to die but now we have mostly adult men and women (over 40 years).

Cooking

When do you cook the most? January, February, March, July, December because there is food

Childcare responsibilities

From February – May the childcare responsibility increases because most of children go to school. This continues in part of June and September.

But children are cared for throughout the year by their mothers, but it is more during holidays when children are at home

Care for animals: This is more pronounced in March due to scarcity of pasture, water. In the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November, animals are cared for the most because crops are in the garden and there is drought. The animals require a lot of attention.

FGD 09

Understanding climate change

What changes in rainfall patterns have you observed? Previously we had adequate rainfall, which was favorable for farming, we used not to experience floods which have changed now. There is plenty of rainfall which is destructive.

Previously people were few and so the land was very much cultivated because people just used to raise animals, but this has changed because people farm to get money to support their children. There are so many demands.

What methods do you use to adapt to drought? We dig trenches, plant grass and practice contour farming. Farmers experience landslides, this was experienced in 2008, farmers lost property and crops.

Who digs the trenches? Mainly men and children and sometimes women dig it by themselves. The trenches also need maintenance especially when they get filled up by soil. These trenches are of great help

Where were trenches commonly used previously? No, because the place was full of forests

Sunshine

What has been your experience with sunshine? Previously, when it shines for one year you expect a lot for the next year but this is not the case nowadays.

The sun is hotter now days because streams even dry up (these changes have been evident in the last 2 years ago). We also struggle to find water due to drought, so we walk long distances and queue from long to get water, over two hours.

For example, in 2022, we would get up at 2:00 am to go and collect water and return and 11 am

Who decides what, when and where to cultivate? We discuss and reach an agreement. Women contribute towards these discussions, but they majorly focus on things that can be used at home like food and school fees. The men dominate the big decisions.

Who regulates what crops are sold? Male partners. Women intervene because they are more concerned about what food is left for the children to eat. If not, men may end up selling everything.

What happens when women do not intervene? The men will sell all the produce that was harvested

In cases where men sell all the food, how do women feed the children? They look for other options because if they question their partners actions, they can be beaten. And when the husband returns home, he also needs the same food, so women have to find a way of providing for the family.

Knowledge and skills for farming

Have you attended any training? Yes, we were taught by barley people (IFDC) even last year (2021). The training was mostly attended by men, very few women attended it. Farmers were taught about how to prepare seeds, manage pests and diseases, and handle harvest.

How about training from the sub-county? We have never attended any because they look out for progressive farmers with large expanses of land. They are given even sprayers while

others are left out. The sub-county also looks out for people who are educated to benefit from NAADs. The chairperson is asked to mobilize such people.

FGD 10: Results from gender disaggregated seasonal calendar

Planting

Planting starts in March (especially potatoes because it needs sunshine. Other crops are planted in mid-March, April, August, and September (beans and potatoes)

Men plant with the children because they use oxen and sometimes hired labour (males and females). But whenever women plant, they do it manually. During planting, food is spared and seeds as well.

Weeding

This starts in April, May, June, September (few weeding), October. Women and children mostly weed. Children help during weekends and holidays but its majorly done by women. The men mainly end at planting.

Who cooks food during this period? The women and most women go to the garden between 8 – 3pm after that, they come back to cook food.

Do you go back to the garden? No, because we have to go tend the animals. Women rarely sit down or relax except when it's time to go to bed.

Harvesting

When do you harvest? We harvest different crops in different months of the year. In January (Potatoes, Barley and wheat), July, August (potatoes), October, November, December (harvesting maize, beans). The women and children do this work the most and request help from friends.

This is the season most men are concerned about, they check whatever crops have been harvested and brought home

Drying

Women dry crops that have been harvested. This work is undertaken in January and February (drying barley), July (beans), August (wheat, barley), September (some drying of maize), October, November (maize). Sometimes children help their mothers to do this work the most

Marketing

Farmers sell different crops throughout the year. In January (potatoes and onions), March (maize) because the price starts going up. In May people sell goats and other crops to buy farm inputs. In July – August there are sells of potatoes, barley. In September, onions are sold. In December, maize is mainly sold. The crops sold in January are harvested mainly by men who irrigate their fields and not women. A few wealthy farmers practice irrigation.

Is irrigation a government programme? No, farmers practice it on their own

Who has the power and authority to sell farm products? It is the man who has that power and authority. The men are supportive to some degree and bring back proceeds from the sale of farm products if women are respectful and cooperative.

Spraying: Due to climate change, pests and disease are prevalent. In April crops are sprayed, May, June (against plight), September, October (plight – potatoes, beans), November.

How long do you wait before you can spray again? 1 week. The work is mainly done by men, but women are now getting involved and some even spray crops by themselves using handmade brooms, leaves or asking help from young boys.

Farmers also spray rapid growth to enhance crop growth and yields.

Changes in rainfall patterns

When does the rainy season commence? The rainy season starts in March. In mid-march there is usually little rain (rainfall is variable this month), April (much rain), May and it reduces in June. In July there is plenty of rain, August, September, October, November and then it reduces by the end of November.

Has this been the pattern of rainfall? No. So much has changed. Rainfall is unpredictable and catastrophic sometimes.

Floods

Floods are experienced in the months of April and May. They wash away crops. In July there are floods just like in October.

Do you experience floods every year? No, last year (2021) was fine but this year (2022) has been bad. Sometimes it can take like two years before we experience it because this place is mountainous.

Drought

When do you experience droughts? We experience more droughts mainly in January, February and March.

How do you address this? There is nothing we can do, we just wait for rain. Only those who are able can irrigate like now (May) some men farmers are irrigating crops.

In fact, drought is not good. Sometimes crops are destroyed, and farmers harvest nothing at all.

Do you experience droughts every year? No, but for the last two years, we have faced severe droughts.

What do you expect next year? We do not know just trusting in God

Pests and diseases

In April pests and disease start if you do not spray, they will eat all the maize. In June it affects peas, July and August (spray onions), September. Men use sprayer pumps whilst most women use handmade brooms to spray crops using pesticides that they can afford.

Understanding life stresses

Hunger

When is hunger prevalent? There is more hunger in mid-April, May (it is now very bad), June until we start harvesting potatoes.

How many meals do you have during this period? One meal a day.

Who provides this food? The women struggle to see that food is provided

Sicknesses

When do people get sickly? The sicknesses go hand in hand with feeding. The period that we eat once in a day many people fall sick, that is April and May. People suffer from coughs, fever, malaria. This is caused by lack of money and poor feeding, high temperatures.

Expenditure

When do the expenses go up and why? Expenditure are more in March, April and May (We spend on school fees, farm inputs and food). In June we spend on farm implements like fertilizers, September

Understanding division of labour

Cooking: In January, February and March people spend more time cooking because there is no work. The food we have even gets over during this time. July, August, September, October, November, December there is plenty of food. Women mostly cook.

Childcare: This is done more in January, February, March because we are at home and there are less garden work, September and December. But children are taken care of throughout the year by women majorly. Sometimes older children help.

Tending animals

We tend cows and goats more in April, May and June because farmers have crops in the garden. This is done throughout the year until December.

When do you care for the animals more? Women and children following the directives of men.

Death: People die every year.

Why is it so? Traditionally people used to rely on traditional herbs, which is not the case in current times. There are also many diseases and new diseases like cancer. Climate change has also worsened everything in that farmers harvest little and are sometimes unable to meet all their medical expenses.

FGD 11: Results from institutional mapping

Do you belong to any groups and associations? Yes.

Chechac Sat ka (kokop shadi): Members collect money and share it at the end of the year (it is a savings and credit group). Money is borrowed only to group members, and they borrow up to a tune of 100,000. I borrowed it to buy a goat. We are 15 members and all of them are women. I inform him when I would like to borrow money. People borrow money to startup businesses and also to buy garden implements like fertilizers. Some women borrow money because their husbands have asked them to borrow money.

How are decisions made in that group? We have rules and regulations such as being able to repay the loan, and good credit history. These decisions are made by the chairperson and other members of the executive.

Are you happy with how issues are addressed? Yes, because they inform members later

How did you learn about that group? I was selling milk and found people in a meeting and I was interested.

Have you experienced any challenges? Some people repay the money and ask to borrow it back again.

How often do you save? Weekly (on Saturday)

Any other groups? We used to have a group, but it collapsed, because some people failed to repay the money they had borrowed. This group consisted of men and women, but women were more. Some people failed to return the money, but we are reconsidering starting again.

Do you have burial groups? No, when someone dies people work together

Have you received any support from other organizations? We have Action Aid which supports children.

How are children to be supported identified? They buy books and uniforms for children.

How do they identify children to be supported? The staff from Action Aid just come and ask people to register children, especially the needy ones, but later the ones who are supported are those who are able and not the ones who are poor. (Action Aid is still there but not working in our community.

NUSAF: It gave some farmers cows

How were the beneficiaries identified? There is a woman who advised us to start a group because there are things the government was doing. We agreed to save on weekly basis 2000 for a week until it reached about 300,000/= . We started saving in January up to October that was in 2011. After that we received information that we are going to receive some help so three people went to Kapchorwa started a bank account and that is how we received the money (about 15 members only women). The money that we received was used to buy cows.

What happened to the 300,000? Some members borrowed but did not refund the money. From that time, we have never received anything

Is the group still functioning? No, it is no more

How about FHI? Someone mentioned it. It would provide scholastic materials, goats, basins (2006 but it is now not functioning)

How about from the sub-county? There is nothing apart from NAADs who supports mostly men farmers because they farm on bigger piece of land.

Why are people not having groups? Poor leadership and sometimes people's money are eaten. Some members wanted to report the matter to police but they lack evidence to present to the law enforcing agencies. Some groups are formed out of mutual understanding, that is why there is not much documentation.

Are there any groups that are functioning well? Yes, some groups can be noted to function well.

Tas tai: we are 11 members and the group has been in existence (Eunice). We have 6 women and 5 men. It is a merry go round group. We contribute 50,000 every month which is given to one member with a gift that members buy. I have benefited twice. This group has helped me because I was able to pay school fees, buy seeds and fertilizers.

Have you faced any challenges? Not really, the group is very strict on rules and regulations

How did you join this group? We were just one time asking ourselves how we can support each other and that is how this group was formed.

How useful are these institutions to the household?

NUSAF: I sold one cow and constructed a house and also, I bought a piece of land. Another woman also got 4 calves. *Notes: few women benefited from this NUSA.* Very important

Checha Sat Ka: the money I got from that group was used to buy a goat, bedding and I also treated my husband when he was sick. It is very important

Food for the Hungry (FHI) Helped to educate children even up to college, constructed Kitany primary school. It is very important although it is no longer functioning in 2016.

Tas tai: Merry go round, it has been functioning for two years now. It has helped people; some members have constructed houses.

NAADs: Is also helpful and important because they provide training, seeds, fertilizers but few women benefit from it. It mainly supports men because women are busy even to attend training.

International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC): provides fertilizers, improved seeds and training. It is helpful but men use their services more. Fertilizers and improved seeds are given on a loan basis. Men are eligible because of their big farmland.

Sub-county court: Addresses family issues about land and roles of men and women, physical violence and child neglect. They try but women complain a lot that they are not being helped much. Clan leaders also address issues the sub-county chiefs, mostly telling women to forgive.

Police: It is good but very corrupt. They ask for money and even release husbands who have been arrested. There is a law on land inheritance and property which protects women and children, but sometimes we think police does not follow those laws.

FGD 12

How many farming seasons do you have? Two. The first season starts in mid-March and goes on until July

What crops do you plant in the first season? Wheat, maize, potatoes, barley, beans (most of them take 3 months to mature). Maize is only cultivating for one season (from April – November) it covers two seasons.

When does the second season start? It starts in August up to December we plant the same crops.

Are there crops that are mainly cultivated by women? All these crops are shared, farmed by women and men.

How do you approve of what is eaten at home? Beans, vegetables (Sukuma) are mainly controlled by the women. Husbands manage wheat, barley, onions and cabbage because they are mainly cultivated for commercial purposes.

Here when we cultivate beans it does not do well so it is cultivated in low quantities. There are other families where the woman is apportioned her own land to cultivate but these are very few.

In case a man sells everything that has been harvested there is usually conflict and this depend on the agreement between the husband and wife.

Most men prioritize their own needs and forget the family.

Women are not happy about the behaviour of men, but they have nothing to do. Women have so many challenges in their households, but they just choose to endure for peace and harmony to prevail.

Institutional mapping

Are you members of any group? Yes

Sukut multipurpose women's group. It has 15 members and it started in 2017 and it is still functioning, but the members are not all active. We are 3 members who belong to that group. We hired land and planted potatoes during the dry season to irrigate but the water was not enough so we lost everything. People even left the group, and we only remained 7 and yet we had support from IFDC – they gave us a weak machine because it was supposed to be co-funding. They asked us to give them money, and they brought us good seeds from Kabale (2018). Last year (2021) we tried again but drought was too much and we lost all the potatoes.

We collect money on a weekly basis (1000) we saved 1000 for 1 year. Because of the loses People left so we decided we give 100,000 each household so that we could plant again.

Was it difficult to raise this money? Yes, we agreed to break down this money so that people pay in instalments

How did you start this group? There are people of agriculture who came to train us and they came to train us and encouraged us to form groups and that is how we started. We registered at the sub-county and the district.

Have you received any support from the sub-county? Yes, we got some money which we used to buy pipes for irrigation. We were given 3.5 million and others we used to hire land, buy seeds. NAADs have also been helpful in providing training.

What plans do you have this year? We are still waiting for our proceeds in the garden (potatoes) and then we shall see what to do.

Membership: There are 3 men and 4 women. The group also has a committee. We have a chairperson, secretary, marketing and treasurer (marketing is a man and the rest are women)

Can new members join? Yes, but they have to cover up all other expenditures that we have met and also take part in the meetings.

Have you followed up with people who left? No, because the time most of them left there was money that we had agreed to pay so if you fail to pay you leave the group but those who left did not comply. This was done during a meeting. Others were followed but they said they have no money.

Market-oriented group: This was a men's group, but we do not have much information about it.

Notes: There are fewer groups in Kween than in Budaka

What challenges do groups face here? Some groups are not functional because of gossip, poor leadership and lack of cooperation among members (Juwa kali women's group). In savings groups, the biggest challenge is defaulting members.

There are women who have no groups, they rely on their own business. Some get loans from money lenders. Others can borrow from other groups (you have to provide security and pay the money with interest). Some men help well behaved wives.

Why are some women not active in groups? it takes long for activities to be carried out, few groups are as result of women's own initiatives, poor accountability, dishonest leaders. Most groups fail here. Some members claim they have agreed to pay money but yet they have not, poor time keeping.

Sometimes when the benefits come, they are shared secretly

How can group formation be promoted? Establish rules and regulations, members should be aware of it, sign, respect each other which must be enforced. This calls for agreement

Are there any institutions that support farmers? Yes.

Action Aid: Supports children with books, and uniforms from 9 years downwards (all children). All children are eligible to register but few are selected but we do not know the reason. They register children. Children were registered twice a year in September

UWEP: But most of us have never benefited I do not know how beneficiaries. It supports women's groups and it depends on how active your councilors are. Recently there was a counselor who got information and formed groups quickly and those people received about 4,000,000.

How is UWEP money used? We don't know since we have never benefited from it.

NAADS: They no longer come but previously they used to provide cows, hoes and seed. We have an agricultural officer, but they no longer visit farmers. They invite farmers to the sub-county and its mostly men who attend.

Nile Breweries teaches barley farmers but not all farmers (Sebei Elgon Cooperative Union)

Both men and women are invited but there are men who deny women the opportunity to go for meetings. Very few women are permitted to go but most men restrict. They claim that women are just hyperactive.

There are also women who are immoral, who cannot stay home.

Venn diagram

Sukut multipurpose women's group: We were trained how to cultivate vegetables which has contributed to our empowerment, there are those who have small businesses which has motivated us to be hardworking. Nutrition, financial management and members have been able to pay school fees. *It is very important (Big circle)*

Action aid: it has supported children, contributed to their happiness (soda, clothes, books). Children have been motivated to study. They also used to support medical care, training leaders against FGM. It is still working and they address issues to do with gender-based violence (men are even arrested and counselled over gender issues) but they only work in Kapchorwa not in Kween. It has worked here for over 15 years. For example, when men want to sell land and the men is counselled, the men who marry out children at a young age, early marriage, forced marriage and defilement.

Constructed Chemanga primary school and some children got goats. *It is very important (Big circle)*

Police: Help address family problems because the law on property inheritance protects women, but the problem of police is bribery and corruption. It would be useful but its not very helpful.

IFDC: Trained us how to plant potatoes and maize. Previously we did not know how to dig pits for planting potatoes (fertilizer use, you start with fertilizers, put some soil and then follow with the seeds) this helped to improved yields. After slashing for one week, they can be harvested. The big potatoes are eaten and sold, those of the egg size are kept as seeds.

It has helped from the management of seeds, planting, harvesting, storing and marketing, nutrition, savings culture. It benefits both men and women. *It is very important (Big circle)*

UWEP: Much as people here have not benefited but women have received money to support themselves. *It is not very important (small circle)*. We know very little about it. It affects a big portion of our population.

Market oriented: in this group there are men who are entitled to find market for the potatoes and onions. *It is moderately important (medium circle)*

NAADs is now operation wealth creation, it is functioning much as few people benefited. Challenges: when things are brought to the sub-county, they get lost. Sometimes men get some things. The trainings are attended mainly by men in the sub-county.

Sebei Cooperative Union – Nile breweries: Men have benefited more from this because they buy barley from farmers. Not very important, medium circle.

Notes: IFDC trains members of Sukut Multipurpose women's group