

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTIONS

Namgongolo and Irabi A Villages: Budaka

Interview 01:

Interviewer: We just want to know how long you have lived in this village?

Interviewee: I have lived here for about 13 years

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: Since 1999 and I actually started farming from childhood

Interviewer: How did you start practicing agriculture?

Interviewee: I started when I was in P.1. My mother used to encourage me to cultivate crops near home. So, we would go to the garden before going to school.

Interviewer: Whose crops, were they?

Interviewee: They were for my parents, my father and Mother

Interviewer: Were there any special appreciations for you?

Interviewee: Not really, they just used to buy me clothes when the crops were sold.

Interviewer: What are your farming activities?

Interviewee: My activities involve planting (maize, groundnuts, cassava), weeding, harvesting, drying rice (once the rice has dried it is sold immediately)

Interviewer: Once you have harvested, what happens to those crops?

Interviewee: Crops like ground nuts are dried, stored and marketed

Interviewer: Do you do these activities with household members?

Interviewee: Yes, with all my household members (husband) and children during holidays – the children.

Interviewer: How many children support you with garden work?

Interviewee: 3 children

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: I have 08 children

Interviewer: Do you have any animals that you rear?

Interviewee: Yes, I have some goats and birds

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate?

Interviewee: In the wetland where I just hire land. I also cultivate in the dryland, but I just hire some portions because the one we have on is small.

Interviewer: What crops do you cultivate on dryland?

Interviewee: I plant groundnuts, beans, maize, potatoes, cassava

Interviewer: How about in the wetland, what crops do you cultivate?

Interviewee: I plant mainly rice in the wetland

Interviewer: On what is the size of land do you cultivate on the dry land? Let's first start with the one near home.

Interviewee: I don't know the exact measurement of the land near home, but it is a small portion.

Interviewer: How about the one you hire on dry land, what is its size?

Interviewee: It is less than an acre but usually, I hire depending on the amount of money that I have

Interviewer: How about in the wetland, what size of land have you hired?

Interviewee: It is a small portion as well

Interviewer: Do you hire by yourself or with your husband?

Interviewee: It is my husband who hired it.

Interviewer: Did you discuss and agree to hire land for farming?

Interviewee: Yes, I discuss with my husband

Interviewer: Where do you get the money that you used to hire land for farming?

Interviewee: We both contributed. The money is for both of us because we sold rice and that is the money that was used to hire land.

Interviewer: What is the quality of land you cultivate? Let's start with the dry land.

Interviewee: On the dry land, some parts are fertile especially where the soil is clay. But the sandy has very poor soil. I managed it by digging a rubbish pit where I throw household waste in this part and once, they have decomposed my husband spreads it in the garden.

Interviewer: So, what exactly do you throw in that pit?

Interviewee: It's mainly household waste and things like cow dung and chicken droppings

Interviewer: Where did you get this knowledge?

Interviewee: All this knowledge is from (Mukama wange) – husband. My husband learnt this from his family. He grew up in a traditional farming family where they were farmers and that is why he even digs water channels in his banana plantation.

Interviewer: What is the quality of soil in the wetland? This land is still fertile, for instance we planted maize in January and now it is already flowering. At least when you cultivate you can harvest. The crops grow well.

Interviewer: What activities do you do other than farming to generate money?

Interviewee: I sale snacks (pan cakes) in schools and in the trading center so as to buy soap and other small things that I need at home.

Interviewer: We would like to hear from you about the changes that have taken place in recent years. How have the farming seasons changed in recent years? Have you noticed any?

Interviewee: Yes, the rain patterns have changed. This year it rained once in February, I planted groundnuts, but it has not rained since then until March when it rained only once and it has not rained since then.

Interviewer: How has this affected the groundnuts?

Interviewee: When it shines the crops wither and this affects production. Right now, they look green because it is still morning but, in the afternoon, they look withered.

Interviewer: How about changes in terms of crops that you cultivate?

Interviewee: Sometimes I plant and harvest but sometimes I lose almost everything. Last year (2021) groundnuts and maize did not do well at all. So, the harvest was very poor except for cassava and sweet potatoes. That is what has been sustaining my family.

Interviewer: Are those the crops that you have been cultivating traditionally?

Interviewee: The crops that we have been cultivating historically are the same I cultivate now and I will continue planting those crops because those are the crops that we have been cultivating from childhood.

Interviewer: I am sorry to take you back, how many farming seasons do you have in a year?

Interviewee: We have two seasons and this has continued up to now.

Interviewer: How about in the wetland, how many seasons do you have?

Interviewee: Even in the wetland there are two seasons. The wetland helps us a lot

Interviewer: Are there seasons that are shorter than the other?

Interviewee: The seasons are the same. Beans have not been doing well at all lately in both seasons.

Interviewer: What farming methods do you utilise?

Interviewee: I dig with a hand hoe but when I have money I use an ox-plough

Interviewer: How about things to do with ensuring soil fertility and managing weather related changes, what methods do you been use?

Interviewee: I just apply decompose/organic manure. Sometimes I just through rubbish in the garden.

Interviewer: Do you apply fertilizers?

Interviewee: No, I don't use any

Interviewer: How about pesticides, are there those that you use?

Interviewee: I don't use pesticides. It is only my husband who applies pesticides and sometimes fertilizers occasionally but not me.

Interviewer: What do you think is responsible for the changes in the weather?

Interviewee: I don't know; I just see the changes happening and things changing

Interviewer: Lets focus on a homestead a bit, what responsibilities do you have at home as a woman?

Interviewee: I do garden work, cooking, caring for my family members, washing clothes, taking children to the hospital when they are sick.

Interviewer: How about in terms of behaviour, how are you expected to behave at home as a woman?

Interviewee: We are expected to behave well, being hospitable, caring for the husband and children. Supporting neighbours with vegetables, oranges, salt (supporting other members in the community). For example, the women who have just gone wanted some vegetables, so I had to send them to my garden to get some. When people request what I have, I have to give them

Interviewer: Is that what is expected of all women in this community?

Interviewee: Yes, but there are some women who are mean. When you ask them for something from the kitchen, she will say let her consult her husband. With such a woman you do not go back to ask for help from her.

Interviewer: why then do such women say they should consult her husband, isn't that how things are supposed to be done in a household?

Interviewee: Such women also, I don't why they are like that may be that is how was brought up in her family.

Interviewer: Let's talk about men for a while, what are the responsibilities of men?

Interviewee: They provide money for treating children when they are sick, buying household items like salt. My husband does that when he has money, but when he has no money, I have to find a way of providing.

Interviewer: Do men meet their responsibilities?

Interviewee: In my husband, my husband takes the biggest role of providing for the family but in this village, most men do not meet their responsibilities. Women are the ones who mostly provide for the family.

Interviewer: What challenges have you been facing in farming?

Interviewee: I would first like to start with the benefits of farming. While living in Namabasa I used to cultivate that is how we bought land that we currently live on. This land was bought because of farming. The main challenge is that the land is small and I have hire land with my husband.

It's good to appreciate it. If you plant one seed and it multiplies that is good enough. Africans don't appreciate they want to harvest and fill the house and yet the fact it they have harvested and got something.

Interviewer: Who dug water channels in your garden?

Interviewee: It's my husband who dug it because he knows that even if it shines, the crops stay hydrated. When water collects in the pits, they keep the crops hydrated even during the dry seasons (banana plantation). The pits get filled with water.

Interviewer: Does he do this in other gardens as well?

Interviewee: He also digs channels in the wetland but not in the other dry land.

Interviewer: How about in the dry land?

Interviewee: There is no need for water channels, especially on the sandy soil because it is not waterlogged.

Interviewer: Why is it your husband who digs water channels and not you?

Interviewee: I never grew up cultivating bananas (matoke) but my husband has the experience.

Interviewer: Do you wish to learn?

Interviewee: I would have loved to learn but he does it by himself. From the time I got married I have never done such work.

Interviewer: How do you feel?

Interviewee: I feel good about it because he cares for his children and me. He plants fruit trees like oranges, mangoes, and jack fruit because he wants a good life for his family. My husband likes trying out new things. When he moves out there and sees something new like fruits, he will try to plant it. For instance, there was a time he brought a jack fruit seedling, planted it and watered it by himself and now it has grown.

Interviewer: Are most men in thus village responsible?

Interviewee: In this village, it is mainly women who cultivate bananas and struggle to support their households.

Interviewer: Have you attended any training on farming?

Interviewee: I have received no training. I just rely on training from my parents

Interviewer: Do you feel your husband is supportive and it helps you learn farming practices?

Interviewee: Yes, at home here I cultivate with my husband. Even in the wetland we farm together.

Interviewer: I would like to know if you are a member in any groups/ associations, do belong to any?

Interviewee: Yes, I am a member in a savings group – Bagwere Tukulakulane

Interviewer: What does this group do?

Interviewee: In this group, we save and borrow money on a weekly basis. This money is repaid with interest.

Interviewer: Are there any other associations other than this one that you belong to?

Interviewee: Yes, Mairu group where we save money to buy a bull to be slaughtered during the new year celebrations.

Interviewer: How was this group formed?

Interviewee: We the women are the ones who formed it and it was later joined by the men.

Interviewer: About how many members are in this group?

Interviewee: I cannot remember the number now.

Interviewer: How are decisions made in this group?

Interviewee: The decisions are made by the executive, especially the chairperson (secretary, treasurer, publicity)

Interviewer: How about in terms of collaboration, does this group work with other groups?

Interviewee: No, it works on its own.

Interviewer: Why do people borrow money from the group?

Interviewee: It depends on the issue one has. Some borrow to access medical treatment, start a business, and address other problems that they face.

Interviewer: Are you happy about your participation in that group?

Interviewee: I am happy because it helps me keep my money and I will get it back in December.

Interviewer: What help has this group helped you with respect to farming?

Interviewee: The group has been of great help to me. I get money to hire land for farming and put it in business. If I need about 100,000/=, I am given.

Interviewer: Do inform your husband before borrowing money?

Interviewee: Yes, I have to seek the consent of my husband before borrowing any money even for farming. I explained to him that my business is not doing well and I need money to boost it. Because there can be a time when I fail to buy the loan and he has to pay off the loan.

Interviewer: Is this case with money that you borrow for farming?

Interviewee: Yes, I still have to seek his approval

Interviewer: Are there times when you have asked for permission to borrow money and he refuses?

Interviewee: No, he has always granted permission.

Interview 02

Interviewer: I would like to know how long have you lived in this village?

Interviewee: I have lived here for about 28 years

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: About 50 years ago

Interviewer: At what age did you start farming?

Interviewee: I started farming since childhood

Interviewer: How did you start farming?

Interviewee: I started cultivating with my father when I was young. I used to weed with my father crops like cotton. He had big land and would hire some.

Interviewer: What size of land did your father have?

Interviewee: It was a big portion of land.

Interviewer: What are farming activities do you engage in?

Interviewee: Digging, weeding, burning weeds, harvesting, store, selling some crops and I also eat some.

Interviewer: Do work in the garden alone or with your household members?

Interviewee: My son helps me.

Interviewer: Do you have animals that you rare?

Interviewee: No. I used to have birds two years ago, but they all got sick and died. Besides that, I now have no money to buy them.

Interviewer: When was the last time you had birds?

Interviewee: For the last two years I have never had birds

Interviewer: Do your neighbors have birds?

Interviewee: Some people have birds

Interviewer: Is it common not to have birds?

Interviewee: Most people have birds

Interviewer: How have they managed to keep birds?

Interviewee: The treat them when they get sick and also vaccinate their birds.

Interviewer: Is it common for people not to have birds?

Interviewee: No most people have birds. They vaccinate them but for me I am unable to care for them because I have no money

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate crops?

Interviewee: On a small piece of land on dry land which I bought. It is about $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land

Interviewer: Did you buy it alone?

Interviewee: I bought it with my son after cultivating rice on the land that we hired in the wetland. The rice was sold and we used that money to buy land.

Interviewer: Do you still cultivate in the wetland?

Interviewee: Nowadays we don't cultivate in the wetland because we have no money to hire land.

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: six children – the girls are marriage and it is only my son that is living with me here.

Interviewer: How can you describe the quality of land?

Interviewee: Fertility has reduced and when I plant crops they get stunted. The soil is sandy and has lost fertility. I don't know why may be because the land is now old or it has been over used.

Interviewer: How do you improve soil fertility?

Interviewee: I dig deep using a hand hoe with my son. We use so much strength.

Interviewer: What other income generating activities are you involved in?

Interviewee: I cultivate egg plants and sell

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate egg plants?

Interviewer: On the same piece of land that I cultivate my food

Interviewer: We would like you to tell us about the changes that have occurred in recent years with respect to farming seasons. How are the rainfall patterns?

Interviewee: Currently the rain has reduced. In the month of march (2022) it has rained only once.

Interviewer: How long ago did you notice these changes?

Interviewee: I noticed these changes about 3 years ago.

Interviewer: How many farming seasons do you have?

Interviewee: Two seasons

Are there changes in the crop yields during these seasons? Yes, in some seasons, crops are lost completely.

Interviewer: What have you done to address these challenges?

Interviewee: There is nothing that I have done I just wait for the rain. If it comes I

Interviewer: How about in terms of the crops you cultivate are they the ones you used to cultivate traditionally?

Interviewee: Yes. I cultivate the same crops because they are our stable foods.

Interviewer: How about farming methods, how do farm?

Interviewee: I just cultivate like that. I only spray ash.

Interviewer: Has this been of help?

Interviewee: Sometimes it helps a bit but not at all times.

Interviewer: What are your household responsibilities?

Interviewee: Providing for the family and practicing agriculture.

Interviewer: How about your son, does he support the family?

Interviewee: My son also tries to provide whenever he can.

Interviewer: Are those the responsibilities of women in this village?

Interviewee: Yes, they do through their businesses or garden work. For those with husbands very few receive support from their husbands

Interviewer: Have the responsibilities of women changed in any way in the recent years?

Interviewee: No, in fact I feel women are now having more responsibilities.

Interviewer: How do you feel about that, is it fine for women to have such responsibilities?

Interviewee: It is unfair

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: It is unfair to the women because they left their families to get marriage so as to enjoy the support of a man, but he does not support.

Interviewer: What are the responsibilities of men?

Interviewee: To support women.

Interviewer: Do the men meet their responsibilities?

Interviewee: Some men are supportive but most of them are not.

Interviewer: What farming challenges have you experienced?

Interviewee: Sometimes I cultivate and harvest nothing or very little because of dry spell and pesticides. When it rains it is very little

Interviewer: How common are drought and losses? Does this happen every year?

Interviewee: Some seasons we harvest whereas in other seasons we harvest almost nothing.

Interviewer: What can be done to address these challenges?

Interviewee: Nothing can be done; God himself will fight for his people because he has all the authority. Nobody can fight God because God has allowed things to happen (laughs)

Interviewer: Have you received any training in farming and weather changes?

Interviewee: No, I have not received any training

Interviewer: Now let's just reflect a bit on the time that you used to farm with your father, were there moments when it would shine so much and the rain would be little?

Interviewee: During that time, it used to shine mainly in January when we prepare the garden and clear the bushes. It would start raining in February after which we would plant millet. But now there is a big difference Rain was reliable.

Interviewer: Why is there a difference?

Interviewee: We used to have forests and green vegetative cover but they have all been cut down, that is why the rain is little (land is now bare). But if we grow more trees, I believe things will change.

Interviewer: Are there people in this village who are trying to plant trees?

Interviewee: NUSAF has supported people planting trees and those who are doing it are those with large pieces of land while others plant even just 1 tree.

Interviewer: Did people embrace NUSAF?

Interviewee: Yes, they collaborated with people

Interviewer: Are you a member of any group or association?

Interviewee: I am a member of the savings group, but I can't remember its name.

Interviewer: What are the activities of that group?

Interviewee: We meet every Sunday and save any amount starting from 1000/= This money is borrowed for a period of 3 months, and it is repaid with 10% interest.

Interviewer: Why do people borrow money?

Interviewee: For farming and any other problem like sickness, death and other problems.

Interviewer: It is common for people to hire land for farming why is it so?

Interviewee: It is because land is small, the population has increased and some people have also sold land.

Interviewer: Are there people who borrow money to cultivate trees?

Interviewee: Yes, but very few people do so. However, the biggest challenge they face is that the trees wither and are also attacked by pests.

Interviewer: How are decisions made in that group?

Interviewee: Decisions are made by the group members guided by the committee which consults all the members of the group.

Interviewer: How do you feel about how decisions are made in your group?

Interviewee: Yes, I am fine with the way decisions are made

Interviewer: Does the group have other support or collaborations?

Interviewee: This group has no collaborations

Interviewer: How do members join?

Interviewee: Members join on free will after paying a membership fee of 2000

Interviewer: What is the membership?

Interviewee: Both men and women but women are more. In the committee there are 3 women and 2 men in a 5-member committee.

Interview 03

Interviewer: How long have lived in this village?

Interviewee: I have lived here for about 20 years

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: I have been cultivating 28 years ago

Interviewer: How did you start cultivating?

Interviewee: I started 10 years and I am now 38 years

Interviewer: What was your experience compared to the current times?

Interviewee: Previously (20 years ago) we used to cultivate millet and cassava, and the yield used to be very high. We would harvest a lot of cassava and millet. We used to cultivate a small piece of land and harvest granaries of cassava and millet, but this is not the case nowadays.

Interviewer: How different is it from now?

Interviewee: The yields have changed so much. They are very low. There are many pests that affect cassava.

Was this the case for all the crops? Yes, even cotton we used to harvest granaries.

Interviewer: Why have the yields changed?

Interviewee: I don't know why things are the way they are. The soil seems to have lost productivity.

Interviewer: What are your farming activities?

Interviewee: Clearing the garden, ploughing, planting, weeding, if I have money I spray plants against pesticides when you have money and harvesting.

Interviewer: Who do you this work?

Interviewee: With my family – husband, wife and children

Interviewer: Who works more?

Interviewee: We parents do more than the children. It is my husband. He digs in the morning and evening while I stay home to do other household work.

Interviewer: Is this common for men to work in the garden more than women in this village?

Interviewee: Women work more and even go back to the garden in the afternoon

Interviewer: Do you raise animals?

Interviewee: Yes, 1 cow, 1 goat and birds

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate your crops?

Interviewee: I cultivate on the dryland (its small) and it's about ½ acre of land. I also farm in the wetland and the land I cultivate is about 1 acre.

Interviewer: What crops do you grow in the dryland?

Interviewee: Cassava, millet, sweet potatoes

Interviewer: What crops do you grow in the wetland?

Interviewee: In the wetland I cultivate rice, sugarcane and vegetables during the dry season

Interviewer: Other than this land, do you cultivate elsewhere?

Interviewee: Yes, I hire part of the dry land that I cultivate. It is a small piece of land less than an acre

Interviewer: How is the quality of the soil you cultivate on?

Interviewee: The dry land has lost fertility so I use fertilizers without it you can't harvest much. Why is it so?

Interviewee: This is because the land has been over cultivated.

Interviewer: Are there any other methods that can be used for the land to regain its fertility?

Interviewee: Not really, we need fertilizers. But what we do, we sometimes look for land that has some fertility and hire it when money is there and we leave our own to rest for 1 year.

Interviewer: Do people use this approach in this village? No, they cultivate every year. they cultivate cassava and sweet potatoes every year.

Interviewer: What non-farm activities do you practice?

Interviewee: In the morning I sell roasted g-nuts and sweet potatoes in schools. Sometimes I also sell proceeds from my garden

Interviewer: Whose initiate were these businesses?

Interviewee: It was my own

Interviewer: What made you think of this?

Interviewee: Because it is difficult to wait for the man to provide everything. Sometimes I ask for something, and my husband will say he has no money.

Interviewer: How many people are in your household?

Interviewee: 13 Children, 04 grandchildren, my husband and wife (20 people)

Interviewer: For the time that you have been farming, have you noticed changes in the farming seasons? If so, how has it changed?

Interviewee: The seasons have changed. In the past we used to cultivate maize and harvest granaries. Low crop yields, there are no potatoes because of very poor yields. There is so much drought. The wetland used not to dry but it dries nowadays in October, December and January and when it rains it floods.

Interviewer: How many seasons do you have?

Interviewee: There are two farming seasons

Interviewer: Why does the wetland dry nowadays

Interviewee: Previously, we used not to cultivate in the wetland but in the current times people cultivate in the wetland.

Interviewer: How about on the dry land, what changes have you noticed?

The rainfall has also changed. It is very little and unpredictable.

Interviewer: What is responsible for the changes?

Interviewee: The traditional people used to perform their rituals and we would have rain. There were shrines but nowadays they are not there, forests have also been cut and the vegetation has been lost.

Interviewer: Do you plant the same crops?

Interviewee: Yes, but the seeds have changed. The cassava that we plant nowadays is highly infested by pests and diseases like cassava mosaic.

Interviewer: What methods of farming do you use?

Interviewee: I plough because when you use a hand hoe you won't harvest more. I spray my crops against pesticides because if I don't, I will not harvest anything. That is why most people spray

Interviewer: How long ago did you notice these changes?

Interviewee: About 5 years ago

Interviewer: Has this raised any concerns in the village?

Interviewee: Yes, people are wondering why the yields are poor when they don't plough or use ox-plough.

Interviewer: What has been done to address these issues?

Interviewee: So people try out small businesses.

Interviewer: As a woman, what are your household responsibilities?

Interviewee: I have to know what the children and my husband will eat, doing garden work, caring for the children and knowing what crops to cultivate. Sometimes I also hire my own land, and I decide what to plant.

Interviewer: Do most women do this?

Interviewee: Yes, because in this generation you have to work for yourself

Interviewer: What are the responsibilities of men?

Interviewee: A man is supposed to provide for his family, construct houses, dressing members of his household, providing money for medical treatment.

Interviewer: Do men meet these responsibilities? Some do

Interviewer: Are you happy about your household responsibilities?

Interviewee: I am constrained sometimes but I have to work and win especially when my husband says he has no money.

Interviewer: In what areas have you been constrained?

Interviewee: When my husband has no money, I must sell snacks to get money to provide for the family. During such time my husband will be waiting for crops to mature in the garden before he can get money

Interviewer: What are your farming challenges?

Interviewee: Lack of money for ploughing, spraying and purchasing fertilizers

Interviewer: How have you address these challenges?

Interviewee: I borrow money from my savings group after discussing with my husband

Interviewer: What groups /associations are you part of?

Interviewee: It is a savings group – Tukola Basaka

Interviewer: What are the activities of this group?

Interviewee: We save money every Sunday and we borrow. Members repay with 10% interest and there are 42 (07 are men) members. It was started by women, but the men admired and joined. The group also hires land, and they cultivate as a group.

Interviewer: How long has this group been in existence? for 5 years' now

Interviewer: How are decisions made in this group?

Interviewee: During group meetings. The executive invites people for a meeting and they share ideas. Members are then invited to give their views.

Interviewer: Are you happy about how decisions are made?

Interviewee: Yes, I am happy about this group

Interviewer: Do you hold any leadership position in that group?

Interviewee: Yes, I hold a position as a treasurer. I am so trusted, there was a year she wanted to relinquish this position, but the members still wanted her to be the treasurer.

Interviewer: How has this group helped women farmers?

Interviewee: They borrow money for hiring land, buy pesticides, fertilizers, starting businesses and also meet other household needs.

Interviewer: Has this group empowered women?

Interviewee: Yes, materially. There is a woman who saved 80,000 and bought a goat and it produced 3 kids, she hired land in the wetland, cultivated rice and sold and that is the money she used to construct her own house. The second time the goat again produced 3 kids, and this is what is now sustaining her.

Interviewer: Is it common for women to belong to a savings group?

Interviewee: Yes, because that is the best way to uplift oneself. Some women belong to more than one group considering that there are 3 savings groups in this village.

Interviewer: Are there any support or collaborations that this group has?

Interviewee: None

Interviewer: Have you attended any training on farming?

Interviewee: None. We just hear that people have been given wheelbarrows, ox ploughs and cows but I have never benefited. There is a time official from the sub-county came and asked us to form groups of 15 members and contribute 10,000/= each. We did so but we did not receive anything but a few people got goats.

We have never been sensitized and have never received anything.

Interview 04

Interviewer: How long have you lived in this village?

Interviewee: I have lived here for about 15 years

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: I have been farming since I was 5 years old.

Interviewer: Were you cultivating in your own garden or what?

Interviewee: I used to farm with my mother who taught me how to dig. She would give me a small hoe, and I would also dig alongside my mother

Interviewer: Why not your father?

Interviewee: He was a businessman and was always in the market so the person that we would stay with at home was my mother.

Interviewer: What are your farming activities?

Interviewee: Prepare the garden, burn the bush, digging, planting, spraying crops, weeding

Interviewer: Who do you work with in the garden?

Interviewee: I work with my husband and children

Interviewer: What crops do you grow?

Interviewee: I cultivate sweet potatoes, cassava, beans, soya beans, maize, millet, rice

Interviewer: Do you rear any animals?

Interviewee: Yes, I have 2 cows and 2 goats. I have been having birds, but they all died due to coccidiosis

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate these crops?

Interviewee: I farm on both the dry land and the wetland

Interviewer: Why do you farm in the wetland?

Interviewee: the wetland is useful during the dry season and when it rains we come back to the dry land

Interviewer: What is the size of land that you cultivate on?

Interviewee: The one in the wetland is about 1 acre and the one on the dry land is also about one acre.

Interviewer: who owns the land that you cultivate?

Interviewee: The one in the wetland is hired. For the one on the dry land, part of it is owned by my family while part of it is hired because what we have is small. The customary land is about 3 acres for the whole family.

Interviewer: What is the quality of the land that you cultivate?

Interviewee: The one on the dryland is fertile in some areas while other sections are fertile. Crops usually do not do well on the part that is not fertile.

Interviewer: How about the wetland?

Interviewee: The one in the wetland is fertile.

Interviewer: Is there any land that you hired by yourself or own?

Interviewee: I have no land of my own. For the hired one I contributed money towards it hire

Interviewer: Are you free to plant crops of your own?

Interviewee: No, I have to speak and negotiate with him.

Interviewer: Are there moments that you disagree with?

Interviewee: Yes (Laughs) He decides as and I have nothing to do because he is my husband he has authority and I am under him; I have to accept his decisions (laughs).

Interviewer: How do you feel about that?

Interviewee: I feel bad but I have nothing to do because I am under him.

Interviewer: Is it common for men in this village not grant the desires of their wives?

Interviewee: Yes, it is common. That is why some women hire their own land. With this land they can make decisions about how to use it or even what crops to cultivate.

It is common for women to hire their own land

Interviewer: Have you experienced any changes in the farming seasons?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: What are those changes?

Interviewee: Sometimes the sunshine is too much and sometimes there is heavy rainfall.

Interviewer: Why are there changes?

Interviewee: I think it is because of climate change. The climate is bound to change, that is why we are experiencing these changes.

Interviewer: Have these changes been there previously?

Interviewee: Yes, but there is a difference currently. In the past it used to shine in January only and rain would start in February. But nowadays, it shines in January and February.

Interviewer: How have the changes in the weather affected farming?

Interviewee: We prepare seeds hoping that we shall plant but rain disappears so the seeds get spoilt.

Interviewer: How does heavy rainfall affect crops?

Interviewee: It affects because of floods; the crops do not do well.

Interviewer: Does it affect crops on the wetland and the dry land?

Interviewee: Floods mainly affect crops in the wetland because the land is relatively flat and not dry land because the soil is sandy and quite hilly.

Interviewer: What do you do in case of flooding in the wetland?

Interviewee: We dig water channels.

Interviewer: Who digs the water channels in the wetland?

Interviewee: Both of us but my husband does it more because he is energetic.

Interviewer: Are there women who dig water channels?

Interviewee: Yes, but it requires energy. If you don't have a husband, you have to hire someone to do it for you.

Interviewer: What methods of farming do you use?

Interviewee: Yes, but even if I want to apply fertilizers or pesticides, I have no money to buy them.

Interviewer: What challenges do you face in farming?

Interviewee: Sometimes when you plant crops the sun shines and scotches them. Also, I face financial constraints which affect my ability to buy pesticides

Interviewer: How long ago did you notice these changes?

Interviewee: About 10 years' back

Interviewer: How is the situation? Do you feel it is worsening or it is getting better?

Interviewee: There is more sunshine. The drought is increasing.

Interviewer: Have you attended any training on how to manage weather changes?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: The trainers come but we have never been informed.

Interviewer: Have you ever heard that people of your village are being trained on farming?

Interviewee: No, I have never heard.

Interviewer: What knowledge do you rely on to farm?

Interviewee: I am taught by those who sell pesticides. I can't know because if I plant and do not spray, I won't harvest so I learn that I have spray the crops. I also see what my neighbors do.

Interviewer: Do you have groups where you talk about farming?

Interviewee: Yes. We plant trees, paspalum and flowers, mango trees (NUSAF)

Interviewer: Why was the project interested in that?

Interviewee: It is because the project would sell and get money.

Interviewer: Do you belong to other groups other than that one?

Interviewee: Yes, Mairu and Savings group

Interviewer: What is the name of that savings group?

Interviewee: I have forgotten its name.

Interview 05

Interviewer: How long have you live in this village?

Interviewee: I have spent about 15 years here

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: I started when I was 7 years when I used to live with my grandmother because my mother was dead

Interviewer: How many years have you spent farming?

Interviewee: About 24 years' now

Interviewer: How did you start farming?

Interviewee: I used to get a hoe and follow my grandmother who used to show me how to dig.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: I used to follow my mother because I wanted to learn how to dig

Interviewer: Do you rear any animals?

Interviewee: Yes, I have cow, but they are for my husband and goats as well. But I also have one goat

Interviewer: Who cares for these animals?

Interviewee: I am the one who cares for them

Interviewer: Do the children help?

Interviewee: Yes, with the support of my children (both girls and boys help out). Children help mainly during holidays.

Interviewer: Who decides our milk is used?

Interviewee: It is my husband who decides how milk is utilised.

Interviewer: From the time you have been farming, have you acquired new knowledge?

Interviewee: Yes. I have learnt new knowledge. When I used to follow my grandmother, we just used to dig without spraying crop but presently I spray my crops.

I have also learnt that if I am to earn more, I have to cultivate on a large piece of land.

Interviewer: Where did you learn this from?

Interviewee: I have had people from the district and the sub-county come and train on farming methods.

Interviewer: Do most farmers attend such trainings?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: When was the latest training?

Interviewee: About 3 years ago.

Interviewer: Are concerned that they no longer come? Why haven't they come again?

Interviewee: I think it depends on the programme that the sub-county has

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate?

Interviewee: I cultivate things like cassava in the dry land and this land is about 2 acres. I also cultivate in the wetland, and this portion is less than an acre of land. The wetland is hired and I cultivate rice during the rainy season and the maize and beans during the dry season.

On the dry land I cultivate maize and groundnuts. I don't plant beans because they do not do well because the soil is sandy.

Interviewer: Is the dry customary land?

Interviewee: The dry land is customary

Interviewer: Who decides what crops to plant and how to use the land

Interviewee: It is my husband who decides

Interviewer: Are there times when you feel you should cultivate certain crops on that land?

Interviewee: Yes, it happens but I request him to allow me to grow a particular crops and he is he one to direct me where to plant them.

Interviewer: Are there instances when your request has not been honored?

Interviewee: Yes, he refuses and I have nothing to do.

Interviewer: What crops have you ever desired to plant?

Interviewee: Like in this I would have looked to grow ground nuts as a woman, maize for the children to eat and sweet potatoes.

Interviewer: Why do you want those particular crops?

Interviewee: For us women, those are the crops that used for food. Ground nuts are used to make sauce, and children also enjoy eating maize.

Interviewer: Is this the case for most women in this village?

Interviewee: Yes, because most women do not have other jobs, so they have to plan how to feed the family through cultivating food for the whole year.

Interviewer: Is there any other land that you cultivate as your own?

Interviewee: I don't own land of my own, but I just hire my own land.

Interviewer: Do you have authority to sell or decide how what to plant and how to use crops that you have cultivated on the hired land?

Interviewee: I am free to decide what I would like to use the crops and the land for. But this depends on the kind of husband one hers because there are men who want to make decisions even on land that women have hired.

Interviewer: Is it common for men to decide how land that a woman has hired will be used?

Interviewee: Yes, it is very common.

Interviewer: Why do you think men do that?

Interviewee: It depends on someone's background. There are men who believe that a woman can never make decisions in my home. This is the norm in our society.

Interviewer: What challenges have you experienced farming on dry land?

Interviewee: Sometimes crops just get stunted, low or poor harvest, pests and diseases, drought

Interviewer: What do you think causes this?

Interviewee: The soil has lost soil fertility

Interviewer: How about drought, what is causing it?

Interviewee: They used to tell us that when there are forests and green vegetation, there will be rain but now there are no forests. The trees have been cut. Even bushes have been cleared.

Interviewer: What have you done to address these challenges?

Interviewee: I am trying to plant some trees, and I am also planning to apply fertilizers although I used not to apply them.

I am also planning to get more land so that while I cultivate one portion I leave the other to rest.

Interviewer: How have you addressed the problem of pests and diseases?

Interviewee: That has not been solved fully because there are pests that are in the soil and I have no control over. For the ones on the crops, I buy pesticides from the agro-shops and spray them.

Are these pesticides effective? Some of these pesticides work while others do not work well because they are counterfeit.

Interviewer: Is it common for pesticides not to be effective?

Interviewee: No, it is not common

Interviewer: What other income generating activities are you involved in other than farming? No

Interviewer: Have you experienced any changes in the farming seasons?

Interviewee: Yes, there have been changes. Now rainfall is unreliable, crop yields are low

Interviewer: How many farming seasons do you have in a year?

Interviewee: 2 seasons in a year

Interviewer: Are they the way they used to be previously or have there been changes?

Interviewee: Yes, there are changes for example in the first season it is expected that rainfall (heavy) will be much while in the second season the rains are unreliable, so we cultivate crops that mature fast like soya, sweet potatoes, beans. This takes about 3 weeks to mature.

Interviewer: Are these the crops that you have been cultivating from the time you started farming with your grandmother or have they changed?

Interviewee: Yes, my grandmother used to cultivate cassava, sweet potatoes, beans and ground nuts.

Interviewer: Who decides to plant fast maturing crops?

Interviewee: I am the one who decides.

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate it? Is on customary or hired land?

Interviewee: Sometimes I cultivate it on customary land and at times in the wetland especially during the dry season.

Interviewer: Is it common for women to make these decisions?

Interviewee: Sometimes they negotiate what crops to plant in the second season. But it is common for women to decide what crops to plant in the second season because these are usually for food like beans and sweet potatoes. Besides that, men would have already benefited from the first season crops which tend to fetch more money like rice, tomatoes, maize, cabbage which they are more interested in.

For example, a man cannot cultivate beans on the dry land because they know they will harvest much so they leave it for the women. There are men who do not cultivate completely because they have no land. They instead hire it out. So, if a woman has a goat, she can sell it and hire land for cultivation. In such a case, she decided what crops to plant.

Interviewer: What methods of farming do you utilise?

Interviewee: I do not use any methods. I usually cultivate the way I feel.

Interviewer: How does that work?

Interviewee: There are places that I dig with a hand hoe and there are sections that I plough using oxen.

I also rotate crops, mix crops and intercrops. If I cultivate cassava, I intercrop it with cassava.

Interviewer: Do you belong to any group or association?

Interviewee: I am a member of a Savings group called Namagongolo women's savings. We save and borrow money which is repaid with interest

Interviewer: How many members?

Interviewee: 65 members and the minimum saving is 1000 every Sunday (weekly)

Interviewer: What is the highest amount that a member has saved in a week? About 20,000 but most people save between 1000 – 5000.

Interviewer: What do people borrow money for?

Interviewee: For treatment, loss of a loved one. They usually save to solve their household problems. Members would like to save and borrow without going to the bank because the bank asks for security and the process is also long

Interviewer: How much do people borrow?

Interviewee: It depends on ones needs. During farming season people can borrow about 50,000 to hire ox-plough or even to buy seeds.

Interviewer: Are there times when members would like to borrow but there is no money?

Interviewee: we save every Sunday. Sometimes there are many people who want to borrow and yet the money is enough. So, they are asked to wait until next week.

Interviewer: Is this a common occurrence?

Interviewee: It is a common occurrence. Like during farming season most people want to borrow money to buy seeds and plough land.

Interviewer: Who are the members of this group?

Interviewee: Men and women but the women are the majority. They are about 10 women

Interviewer: Who decides how decisions are made?

Interviewee: The chairperson presents the issue to members during the Sunday meeting, and they decide who should be given a loan first.

Interviewer: Are you happy with how decisions are made in your group?

Interviewee: Yes, I am happy because it works for us

Interviewer: Have you ever borrowed money from this group?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Was it your own decision or you sought your husband's consent?

Interviewee: I decided to get a loan on my own because I wanted to hire land for cultivation

Interviewer: Do most women decide to get loans on their own?

Interviewer: Does your husband help you to repay the loan?

Interviewee: No, I struggle on my own. There are also men who do not want to hear that you belong to a group. Sometimes when get those loans without the knowledge of the husband

Interviewer: Has this group empowered you to make decisions?

Interviewee: Yes. I borrow money, hire land and have cultivated.

Interviewer: Do you belong to any other group?

Interviewee: Yes, Parish Model. We have been trained but activities have not commenced.

Interviewer: How are decisions made in your household?

Interviewee: There are things that we decide both and there are those he decides on his own. When we cultivate together, the husband can consult me but if he wants to sell land he decides on his own.

Interviewer: What sort of decisions does he make on his own?

Interviewee: For example, if he wants to sell land and you say please, don't sell that land. He will say why? Are you the one to decide on for me? I have my own problems, and I have to sell it!

Interviewer: How do you feel about this?

Interviewee: I feel bad because it affects me.

Interviewer: How does it affect you?

Interviewee: Psychologically

Interviewer: Is it common for men to make their own decisions in this village?

Interviewee: Yes, most men have groups where they meet with fellow men and discuss. You find them saying ...a woman cannot make decisions for me in my home. They are influenced by their mates.

Interviewer: Have you experienced any changes with respect to men dominating decision making in the household?

Interviewee: Yes, there are changes and things are worsening. Men make their own decisions. The men do not even want their wives to work or have anything. This has continued to

Interviewer: Since when long ago have you noticed changes in the seasons?

Interviewee: From 2008 – about 14 years ago.

Interview 06

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate your crops?

Interviewee: On this the dry land around my home and in the wetland.

The land around home is small and I have planted sorghum, bananas, and vegetables. I also plant other crops in the wetland.

Interviewer: How big is the land you cultivate in the wetland?

Interviewee: It is about 1 acre, and I cultivate maize, cassava, beans, groundnuts, sugar cane, cabbage, tomatoes, sweet potatoes. I have also planted sugarcane on half an acre.

The dry land is less than an acre. I plant cassava, sweet potatoes, groundnuts and soya

Interviewer: Do you mix your crops?

Interviewee: Yes, I segment them

Interviewer: Why do you do that?

Interviewee: I would like each crop to be independent so that when I am weeding, I know I what crops I am weeding.

Interviewer: Where did you get this knowledge from?

Interviewee: I just use my common sense

Interviewer: Is there any other land that you cultivate?

Interviewee: Yes,

Interviewer: What is the size of that land?

Interviewee: It is about $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre and I cultivate millet and maize. This land is hired and I have been cultivating it for about 2 years.

Interviewer: How do crops grow?

Interviewee: I mix crops

Interviewer: How did you access this land?

Interviewee: Both the wetland and the dryland are customary land (family land).

Interviewer: Who decides what crops to plant?

Interviewee: I am the one who decides.

Interviewer: We see that you have your sons, do farm on this land?

Interviewee: Yes. I am like their father, so I demarcated for them where to cultivate

Interviewer: Do you decide what crops they should farm?

Interviewee: No, they decide what crops to plant.

Interviewer: So where do you cultivate as a mother?

Interviewee: We cultivate as a family, but every son has their portion. I have a portion on the dry land and the wetland

Interviewer: Are you free to decide what to do with your crops?

Interviewee: Yes, I am at liberty to do that

Interviewer: Do your children provide labour?

Interviewee: Yes, only those that are not married but the married one's farm on their own. I work with children who are between 10 - 17 years.

Interviewer: Have you experienced any challenges with respect to accessing this land as a widow?

Interviewee: Yes, after the death of my husband, the brother to my late husband did not want me to cultivate on this land but I stood my grounds until the family allocated land to her and her children. This is because my late husband had not been allocated his portion by the time of his death. This man used to not greet her, and this moved the family to divide land because they had done it prior.

Interviewer: How addressed these issues?

Interviewee: The clan

Interviewer: Are you happy about how these issues were addressed?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: How long ago did this happen?

Interviewee: About 15 years ago

Interviewer: What is your relationship with this man now?

Interviewee: It is not good, but I do not care because I am in home. So, I do not mind because what I wanted was achieved.

Interviewer: Were you given any conditions after these issues being addressed?

Interviewee: No, I was not given any conditions

Interviewer: Are you free to remarry if you like?

Interviewee: Yes, because I am not even their child so I can decide what I want.

Interviewer: If you remarry, will you be able to use the land?

Interviewee: No, because they will say I have moved away

Interviewer: Is this what happens to widows in this village?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Are you allowed to sell that land?

Interviewee: No, because I even have children. But in case there is a problem, I can report to the clan who will either permit or deny me the opportunity to sell the land.

Interviewer: Why do hire land and yet you have the customary one?

Interviewee: To enable me to buy soap, sugar, pay school fees and sometimes I cultivate and yield is low, so this balances it.

Interviewer: What farming challenges have you experienced?

Interviewee: Lack of money to hire land. When I have no money, I am not allowed to keep cultivating. Low crop yields due to floods, sunshine

Interviewer: Is there anything you have done to address the challenges of floods?

Interviewee: I dig trenches, but when the water keeps flooding, I just leave it.

Interviewer: How about sunshine?

Interviewee: There is nothing I can do so I just leave it like that.

Interviewer: Who digs the water channels?

Interviewee: I do it myself and sometimes I hire someone to do it for me but most times I dig the channels on my own. Since I have no husband, I do it alone

Interviewer: How about sunshine, how do you address it?

Interviewee: I do nothing about it.

Interviewer: Are there any farming challenges that you face?

Interviewee: Sometimes I pay money for hire, but the land is given to someone else and he tells me to wait for the next year.

Interviewer: Are your funds refunded?

Interviewee: No, he asks me to wait for next year even if I report to the chairperson, he admits it and says the land will be available next year.

Interviewer: What do you do?

Interviewee: When this happens, I just cultivate on the land that I have as I wait for the next year.

Interviewer: Do you experience other challenges?

Interviewee: Cassava is affected by pests and diseases, beans are affected by drought, with groundnuts I lack money to buy pesticides to spray it. When there is too much rainfall, the crops get destroyed in the garden

Interviewer: How have addressed the challenge of drought?

Interviewee: Whenever there is drought, I just wait until it rains. In case I have planted already, I wait for rainfall, buy other seeds and replant.

Interviewer: Do you divert water from the wetland to your garden during the dry season?

Interviewee: No, because I do not have a water pump. During the dry spell I cultivate in the wetland.

Interviewer: Are there people who irrigate using a water pump?

Interviewee: Yes, but very few because there is only one water pump in the village. The majority wait for rainfall. There is only one water pump in this village.

Interviewer: What crops are irrigated?

Interviewee: Watermelon, cabbage, tomatoes

Interviewer: Do you have to irrigate in the wetland?

Interviewee: Yes, in January there is usually drought. The farmers who have money hire water pumps during this month but the majority wait for rainfall.

Interviewer: Do most farmers irrigate in the wetland?

Interviewee: This is also used by people who have money and gardens near the water but those who are far do not utilize it.

Interviewer: How long did water start running out in the wetland?

Interviewee: It started some time back, about 5 years ago.

Interviewer: How was it in the past?

Interviewee: In the past the wetland would dry but for a short period of time and it would rain but now days it can get dry from December, January, February, March and even April.

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: Because of changes in the weather and the world

Interviewer: Are you involved in any other income-generating activities other than farming?

Interviewee: I do casual labour. I also save in groups and sell crops to get some money to buy soap. I also sell baggy (snacks)

Interviewer: Have you attended any training about farming?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: Do people in your village attend some training?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: What haven't you attended any?

Interviewee: I do not have information. I just heard that people have been mobilized so I miss out. Most times I am not aware much as I desire.

Interviewer: Are most women affected by these?

Interviewee: Yes. Much as men and women attend the women are affected. It is just by chance that you can be informed.

Interviewer: What knowledge do you rely on to farm?

Interviewee: I use my own knowledge or common sense.

Interviewer: Are you part of any groups in the village?

Interviewee: Yes. I belong to a savings group, burial group, kasale, NUSAF, Mairu group, Irabi Tukungane, Bataki tulime. I belong to many groups; I have even forgotten some.

Interviewer: Why are you in all these groups?

Interviewee: To get to know each other and solicit support

Interviewer: Let's talk a bit about the savings group, how did you join the savings groups?

Interviewee: I just desired and joined with the help of a friend.

Interviewer: How did you join NUSAF?

Interviewee: We were just mobilized.

Interviewer: Who does NUSAF target?

Interviewee: It targets both men and women, but the majority are women.

Interviewer: What are the activities of NUSAF?

Interviewee: We plant trees, flowers, and paspalum in the school Linghole. We were working as casual labourers.

Interviewer: How much were you paid?

Interviewee: 5500 but we were given 4500 after 10 days. 1000 was taken to the account. It was a savings group, so you work and save part of your earnings.

Interviewer: What does Batake Tulime do?

Interviewee: We mobilize resources to hire land, cultivate together and whatever is collected we share.

Interviewer: For how long has this group been in existence?

Interviewee: for 3 years but from the time of Covid the group has not been functional.

Interviewer: How has this group helped you?

Interviewee: I get some money to buy soap and other household items

Interviewer: Are any of these groups supported by the government other than NUSAF?

Interviewee: No,

Interviewer: Are you active in all these groups?

Interviewee: Yes, savings we meet on Sunday, Mairu group on Friday, Tugagane we meet whenever someone dies.

Interview 07

Interviewer: How long have you lived in this village?

Interviewee: I have lived here for 17 years

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: I started farming when I was 7 years and I used to go to the garden with my mother

Interviewer: Why did you go with your mother?

Interviewee: It is because I had no father. He died

Interviewer: What are your farming activities?

Interviewee: I dig, planting, I plant maize, weeding, harvesting – sometimes I harvest maize about one basin or two basins

Interviewer: Who do you cultivate with?

Interviewee: I do it myself because my husband died

Interviewer: Don't you have anyone to help you with garden work?

Interviewee: None because the children go to school.

Interviewer: Do you rear any animals?

Interviewee: Yes, I have some birds and 1 goat

Interviewer: Where do you farm your groups?

Interviewee: I farm on dry land and in the wetland

Interviewer: what is the size of the land you farm on the dry land?

Interviewee: It is about 1 acre

Interviewer: What crops do you grow on the dryland?

Interviewee: I plant only cassava because the soil is sandy

Interviewer: Is that how that land has been?

Interviewee: Previously it was sandy but fertile unlike in the current times. The land has also been over cultivated

Interviewer: How about before, have you been growing cassava only?

Interviewee: No, we used to grow Maize and Beans. But now when you plant these crops the harvest is very poor.

Interviewer: Is there any land you cultivate on dry land?

Interviewee: No, I do not even hire any land because my income is low

Interviewer: How about elsewhere?

Interviewee: I cultivate on the wetland.

Interviewer: Is this land yours?

Interviewee: Yes, it was for my husband. This land is customary

Interviewer: What crops do you plant in the wetland?

Interviewee: I cultivate rice, maize

Interviewer: Are there any challenges that you experience cultivating in the wetland?

Interviewee: Sometimes, the crops are submerged in water, the yield is so poor. Sometimes the harvest is very poor. I harvest even 3 basins of rice in a season

Interviewer: How often does it flood?

Interviewee: In the month of April, June

Interviewer: How often does it happen?

Interviewee: Every year

Interviewer: How long have you been cultivating in the wetland?

Interviewee: 10 years

Interviewer: Previously, did the wetland used to flood?

Interviewee: Floods were not serious

Interviewer: Why

Interviewee: Maybe because the papyrus was cut. Even in the past we used to harvest a lot of food, but the yields have dropped.

Interviewer: Why is the yield declining?

Interviewee: I cannot explain why

Interviewer: What is the size of land you cultivate in wetland?

Interviewee: About 1 acre

Interviewer: What do you do when it floods in the wetland?

Interviewee: I just leave it. I do nothing

Interviewer: What have done to address the low yields?

Interviewee: I just wait for the next planting season, and hope things will be better

Interviewer: What other challenges do you face cultivating in the wetland?

Interviewee: Low crop yields and I am also sickly

Interviewer: What is the quality of soil in the wetland?

Interviewee: The soil is fertile except for the problem of floods

Interviewer: How do you think floods that can be addressed?

Interviewee: There is no way we address that

Interviewer: Does it affect the entire wetland?

Interviewee: Yes, it affects the entire wetland

Interviewer: What other income generating activities are you involved in?

Interviewee: None

Interviewer: How many farming seasons do you cultivate?

Interviewee: Two seasons

Interviewer: Which ones are those?

Interviewee: First season which starts in February

Interviewer: What crops do you cultivate in that season?

Interviewee: We cultivate maize beans. Soya beans, cassava, groundnuts

Interviewer: When does the second season start?

Interviewee: 2nd season starts in July

Interviewer: What crops do you cultivate in the second season?

Interviewee: We cultivate the same crops we grow in the first season

Interviewer: How is rainfall in the first season?

Interviewee: We have heavy rainfall in April

Interviewer: How about in the second season?

Interviewee: There is some rain in July, and it increases in August

Interviewer: Has there been any change in recent years in the quantity of rain?

Interviewee: Yes, for instance, in the first season we expect rainfall in February, but it does not fall and instead comes in March

Interviewer: When did this happen?

Interviewee: It happened this year

Interviewer: When did you notice these changes?

Interviewee: About 10 years ago

Interviewer: What is responsible for this change?

Interviewee: Every year is different, that is why we are experiencing changes

Interviewer: How was rainfall previously?

Interviewee: It used to be much in February and that is when we used to plant. We used to harvest in June a lot of food.

Interviewer: Why did you used to harvest a lot of food?

Interviewee: The years have changed and no one knows the plans of God

Interviewer: Did you used to experience storms and hails storms?

Interviewee: It used to be there but little. The rain makers are the ones who used to cause storms.

Interviewer: How about in the current times?

Interviewee: Whenever it takes long to rain it comes with hails stones and storms

Interviewer: How does this affect the crops?

Interviewee: It destroys crops

Interviewer: Does this affect also crops in the wetland and dry land?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: How frequently do they occur?

Interviewee: We experience it every year

Interviewer: What methods of farming do you utilise?

Interviewee: I just cultivate without any methods. I do not even apply fertilizers because my income is low.

Interviewer: What are your responsibilities as a woman?

Interviewee: I farm, collect water, caring for the children, cooking food, providing food

Interviewer: Who decides on how the land is used?

Interviewee: I do it myself

Interviewer: Do you have full control over that land that you can do anything on it without consulting anyone?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Has that land been handed over to you?

Interviewee: No, it belongs to the family

Interviewer: Have you experienced any challenges accessing that land?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: Have attended any agricultural training?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: Where do you get the knowledge that you use to farm?

Interviewee: I rely on my own knowledge (common sense)

Interviewer: Why don't you attend any training?

Interviewee: I am not a member in any group

Interviewer: Why haven't you been a member in any group?

Interviewee: I have not been involved

Interviewer: So, isn't there any group you belong to?

Interviewee: Yes, savings

Interviewer: How long have you been in this savings group?

Interviewee: From this year (2022)

Interviewer: How about before?

Interviewee: My husband was the one who was involved and would not allow me to take part

Interviewer: How much do you save?

Interviewee: 1000 and we meet on Mondays

Interviewer: Is it common for women in Namagongolo to belong to savings group?

Interviewee: Yes, it is common

Interviewer: What are the activities of this savings group?

Interviewee: Nothing,

Interviewer: Do people borrow?

Interviewee: Yes, they borrow and spend it on farming

Interviewer: Have you ever borrowed?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: For what?

Interviewee: Treating children when they are sick

Interviewer: How are decisions made?

Interviewer: How many members?

Interviewee: 40 (both men and women) but women are the majority

Interviewer: Why are women more?

Interviewee: It is the wish of women to involve more unlike men who are not interested in joining such groups

Interviewer: How useful has this group been to you?

Interviewee: I am able to save money which helps me during the festive season

Interviewer: Why do you spend this money in the festive season?

Interviewee: Because every month I get about 1000 so I can't even buy a goat.

Interviewer: Have you faced any challenge in that saving group?

Interviewee: No problem

Interview 08

Interviewer: Who planted trees around your home?

Interviewee: I am the one who planted them

Interviewer: Why did you plant them?

Interviewee: For sell and home consumption

Interviewer: What do you sell out these trees?

Interviewee: I sell mangoes, lemons, jack fruits and I also eat some and also use it to feed my family.

Interviewer: Is it common for women to plant such trees?

Interviewee: Yes, it is common

Interviewer: Do you have birds?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: How many are they?

Interviewee: I have 18 birds

Interviewer: Whose birds, are they?

Interviewee: I have only 1 while the rest are for my husband

Interviewer: Are you free to decide to sell or eat your bird?

Interviewee: Yes, I can decide. My husband does not deny me

Interviewer: How about the ones of your husband?

Interviewee: If I request, he can allow me. He will not refuse

Interviewer: Are most women allowed to decide if they want to eat their chicken in this village?

Interviewee: Some men do not mind but most men do not allow women to make their own decisions. Because they have rules and they say you are rearing birds on my land, so you have to seek permission.

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate your crops?

Interviewee: I cultivate near home on dry land. It is customary land and its less than an acre

Interviewer: What crops do you plant on dry land?

Interviewee: Sweet potatoes, bananas, yams and groundnuts

Interviewer: Other than pests have you experienced other farming challenges?

Interviewee: Sometimes when it rains, there are storms which destroy crops

Interviewer: Are you free to decide what crops you would like to cultivate?

Interviewee: I am the one who decides which crops to plant and where to plant them

Interviewer: Do most women decide what crops to grow in this village?

Interviewee: No, it is usually the men

Interviewer: Why is your situation different?

Interviewee: It usually depends on how one relates with the husband and my own relationship with my husband is different and good.

Interviewer: How different is your relationship?

Interviewee: We are both calm and when one decides it is all fine. I have been married for 19 years but we have never quarreled.

Interviewer: How have you managed?

Interviewee: If my husband annoys me, I keep quiet and ignore it and he also does the same until to get back together

Interviewer: What is the situation of relations in other households in this village?

Interviewee: I do not know what happens there but there are people who quarrel and fight, but it is not very common.

Interviewer: Are most families peaceful like yours?

Interviewee: No, there is no peace in most households. So even when I try to counsel some women, they tell me you are ok. So what you tell us will not work

Interviewer: I am seeing some trees around. Are the trees yours?

Interviewee: Yes,

Interviewer: How do you use it?

Interviewee: I can sell them for timber if I need money

Interviewer: Have they matured to be harvested?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: But you have not represented it in your household map?

Interviewee: Oh yes, I can still include it

Interviewer: What trees are they?

Interviewee: Greviereria

Interviewer: Who decides when to cut them?

Interviewee: My husband and I because we work together. Even when he finds when I have sold it I give him the money. Even when I find that he is the one who has sold it he gives me the money if I need it.

Interviewer: Let's talk about your involvement in groups or associations. Are you involved in any?

Interviewee: Yes, there was a savings group that I was part of a group, and it ceased to function

Interviewer: So, does that imply that you are not in any savings group now? Yes

Interviewee: How about other crops? I am in a burial group

Interviewer: What do are the activities of the burial group?

Interviewee: We contribute firewood and cassava flour like 2kgs when someone dies

Interviewer: So, what happens in this group? Do you agree on how much to contribute?

Interviewee: Members decided that whenever a member loses a loved one, we contribute some money depending on how much each can afford and cassava flour. But the minimum quantity of cassava flour that one can give is 2kgs.

Interviewer: Have you attended any training by the district or other organizations?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: But have you heard that they came and trained some people?

Interviewee: Yes about 5 years back but I was not around so I missed out.

Interviewer: Have they ever returned from that time?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: I have seen your husband taking out some goats, other than birds, do you any other animals?

Interviewee: Yes, I have. 6 goats and 2 cows. My husband and I contributed money and bought 01 cow, but the other cow is for my mother.

Interviewer: How about the goats?

Interviewee: 2 goats are ours. We just bought them whereas 04 are for my sister

Interviewer: How are decisions about those animals made?

Interviewee: In case there is a problem, and say we need to sell any, we agree on what to do.

Interviewer: How about treatment of those animals, who does it?

Interviewee: It is my husband who does it but when I have money I also contribute to buying medicine

Interviewer: How about those trees that I see, who planted them?

Interviewee: My husband and I did it together and whoever was at home watered the trees.

Interview 09

Interviewer: Where do you farm?

Interviewee: Around home I have only a banana plantation, but I farm far away from my homestead

Interviewer: How big is the land you farm around your homestead?

Interviewee: It is a small portion

Interviewer: What do you cultivate on dry land?

Interviewee: Maize, cassava, beans, sweet potatoes and it is less than 1 acre

Interviewer: Yes, there is also another land that I cultivate away from my homesteads. Yes

Interviewer: What is its size?

Interviewee: It is less than 1 acre

Interviewer: What do you cultivate on this land?

Interviewee: Maize, Cassava, beans, sweet potatoes

Interviewer: Do you mix crops or do you plant them differently?

Interviewee: I mix and rotate crops. I first cultivate in the first season when I plant cassava and beans. In the second season when I harvested the first season crops I plant sweet potatoes. Right now there are groundnuts, maize. When I harvest these crops, I will plant cassava

Interviewer: How do you cultivate these crops?

Interviewee: I just mix the crops

Interviewer: Why do you mix?

Interviewee: it is because I have a small portion of land

Interviewer: Other than this land, is there any other that you farm on?

Interviewee: Yes, I cultivate in the wetland

Interviewer: What do you cultivate in the wetland?

Interviewee: Rice and sometimes beans and cotton

Interviewer: What is the size of that land?

Interviewee: It is about 1 acre

Interviewer: Do you hire or is it customary land?

Interviewee: Laughs...It is family land (customary) but it belongs to my husband

Interviewer: Do you have any other land that you cultivate such as those hired, borrowed or given by friends or relatives?

Interviewee: No, I don't have any

Interviewer: Let's first talk about the land you cultivate around home. What are the challenges you have experienced farming on this land?

Interviewee: The land is small and yet I have crops that I would like to farm. This would require about 1 acre of land.

Sometimes when I cultivate the crops dry up because the soil is sandy

Whenever it rains heavily the soil becomes compacted (washed away) and you can't have cultivated anything

Interviewer: Other than those challenges, are there any other challenges that you face?

Interviewee: I have a boundary conflict with my neighbor. When he cultivates, he extends on my land

Interviewer: Who is this person that you have conflict with?

Interviewee: He is a man

Interviewer: What have you done to address this?

Interviewee: I informed my husband who also said he would talk to his father to address the issue but he has not updated me.

Interviewer: Who is the owner of this land?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: Did he just give your husband this land?

Interviewer: Yes, my father-in-law is alive, and he just gave that land to my husband. Because he is still alive, he still has authority over that land and in case of a boundary conflict, he is the one who addressed it.

Interviewer: Who decides what crops should be planted?

Interviewee: It is my husband

Interviewer: How about you?

Interviewee: I have no authority. Whenever my husband plants crop I also bring mine. For instance, if he plants cassava, I join him and plant beans

Interviewer: Why does your husband plant cassava?

Interviewee: It is for home consumption

Interviewer: So why do you plant beans?

Interviewee: For food as well

Interviewer: How do you feel about planting your crops after your husband has planted?

Interviewee: I feel bad because I do not even have money to hire my own land

Interviewer: If you had money to hire your own land what crops would have loved to plant?

Interviewee: Sorghum, maize and groundnuts.

Interviewer: Why would like those crops?

Interviewee: Those crops are useful in feeding the home and sometimes when you need money I can sell it.

Interviewer: How about the in the wetland, what challenges do face cultivating there?

Interviewee: Some times when I plant crops it sunshine heats hard

Sometimes, the crops are affected by floods when rains heavily

Interviewer: What have done to address these challenges?

Interviewee: We have left it to God because there is nothing that we can do.

Interviewer: How about in the wetland, who decides what crops to plant?

Interviewee: It is my husband

Interviewee: Who cultivates that land?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: Does he dig by himself?

Interviewee: Yes, we do it together. He takes me and the children to dig in the wetland

Interviewer: Between you and your husband who puts much effort on the wetland?

Interviewee: My husband. I work more on the dry land because what is planted there is for food while the crops planted in the wetland is mainly for sell.

I can put much of my effort on the wetland because whenever my husband sells those crops he does not give me part of that money to buy food.

Interviewer: How about the children, do they put more effort cultivating in the wetland or the dry land where food is cultivated?

Interviewee: The children work more on the dry land where food is cultivated

Interviewer: Is this the situation of most women in this village?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Since when did you begin noticing that when you cultivate the crops are washed away and when did you notice drought?

Interviewee: About 2 years ago

Interviewer: Have you attended any training on agriculture?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: But have heard of people being trained in this village?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: How about in other villages, have you ever learnt of people being trained on agriculture?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: Are you a member of any group?

Interviewee: Yes, I am a member in a savings group but I cannot remember the name

Interviewer: How much do you save?

Interviewee: 2000 on a weekly basis and we meet on Sundays

Interviewer: How many members are in that group?

Interviewee: 30 members

Interviewer: Are they males or females?

Interviewee: Both men and women

Interviewer: Who are the majority?

Interviewee: Women

Interviewer: Why are women the majority?

Interviewee: I do not know why there are more women than men. May be it is because the men are not aware that the savings group exists

Interviewer: So why haven't the women informed them?

Interviewee: They have been informed but probably they think that they will be cheated.

Interviewer: Have you ever borrowed money from that group?

Interviewee: I borrowed 100,000 which I have not yet paid. I borrowed it in February.

Interviewer: What did you borrow that money for?

Interviewee: I needed it to pay school fees

Interviewer: Did you seek your husband's consent before borrowing that money?

Interviewee: Yes, he is the one to ask me to borrow that money

Interviewer: Had you previously borrowed from the group?

Interviewee: No, this was the first time. I needed 100,000 of this 50,000 was spent in the garden and 50,000 on school fees

Interviewer: Who pays this money?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: Do you rear any animals?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: Why don't you have it?

Interviewee: Whenever I buy them they die or are stolen. For example, I had a goat but it fell sick and died. But for the birds, they are just stolen

Interviewer: Do you know the cause of the goat's death?

Interviewee: I don't know what killed the goat. I woke up one morning and found the goat was dead.

Interviewer: Are your neighbours birds also stolen?

Interviewee: Yes, there is a problem of theft in this village

Interviewer: Do you plan to have some of these animals soon?

Interviewee: No, I have to plan. My heart wants but I am unable.

Interviewer: Other than farming, is you engaged in other economic activities?

Interviewee: Nothing

Interviewer: So how do you manage especially when the yields are poor?

Interviewee: I borrow food from the neighbor

Interviewer: How often do you borrow?

Interviewee: Once or twice a month

Interviewer: Do you refund or not?

Interviewee: It depends on the person from which I have begged from. There are those who will require you to pay back while others will not.

Interview 10

Interviewer: Who planted the trees around your home?

Interviewee: They were planted by my two sons

Interviewer: Why did they plant those trees?

Interviewee: For shade

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate your crops?

Interviewee: I cultivate them in four gardens (these are small pieces of land)

Interviewer: What crops do you cultivate?

Interviewee: It is one piece of land but I have divided it into four parts. I have used elephant grass to demarcate the land where I plant different crops.

I have planted cassava, sorghum, groundnuts, millet

Interviewer: Why did you decide to use elephant grass?

Interviewee: To prevent crops from being washed away by heavy rainfall and, because I needed grass to feed my animals

Interviewer: Where did you learn that you could plant elephant grass to sub-divide your land?

Interviewee: I learnt it from Iki Iki at a training.

Interviewer: Are there other women who attended the same training?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Are they also implementing what you learnt from the training?

Interviewee; No

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: I do not know

Interviewer: What is the size of land you cultivate on?

Interviewee: It is about 1 ½ acre

Interviewer: Who owns this land?

Interviewee: Part of is customary while the other portion was just bought.

Interviewer: Who bought the other portion?

Interviewee: I bought it by myself, and it is about ½ an acre

Interviewer: When you were buying it was your husband aware?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Are you free to sell that land if you want?

Interviewee: No, I consult my husband (woman sighs) because he is my Lord (Mukama wange) now what can I do

Interviewer: How about regarding decisions about how to use that land that you bought, who makes them?

Interviewee: Most times I plan by myself because my husband is now old besides that he has two wives

Interviewer: How about farming on customary land?

Interviewee: I make my decisions during planting, and my husband is not bothered because he has two wives. However, during harvest time he wants to know how much I have harvested, and I can't sell anything without his consent. Whenever I sell any crops, he wants to know how much I have earned.

Interviewer: Is this case for most women in this village?

Interviewee: Yes, most men behave like that

Interviewer: What challenges have you experienced in farming?

Interviewee: One of the challenges is floods. For instance, I just planted groundnuts but they were washed away by rainfall.

- Whenever it delays to rain, it comes when it is heavy
- Even weeds are so many and are a challenge. This makes weeding difficult

Interviewer: Is it common for crops on the dry land to be washed away?

Interviewee: Yes, whenever it takes long to rain it tends to be heavy and it washes away crops

Interviewer: Do you cultivate on this land by yourself?

Interviewee: I do it with the children. But sometimes when I have money, I hire labour

Interviewer: How common is it for you to hire labour?

Interviewee: It is common to hire labour especially with groundnuts

Interviewer: Apart from this land, where else do you farm?

Interviewee: My husband has some land in the wetland that I cultivate (1/2 acre) but I also hire about 1 acre from the wetland whenever I have money, but when I have no money I hire ½ an acre

Interviewer: Have you hired already?

Interviewee: No, not this season. I have been unable because I spent so much on meeting the medical bills of my late mother.

Interviewer: What crops do you plant in the wetland?

Interviewee: I plant rice water lodged area whereas the crops like maize and beans are cultivated on the anthill

Interviewer: What groups or associations are you involved in?

Interviewee: I am in a savings group (Irobi Women's group) which also cultivates rice.

Interviewer: For how long has this group been in existence?

Interviewee: From 2013 to date

Interviewer: Are there any groups that you are part of?

Interviewee: No, because human beings are difficult. I used to even borrow money for the group from the bank. People take the money but just refuse to pay the money.

Interviewer: Why would they refuse to pay?

Interviewee: After someone receives the money, they just refuse to pay

Interviewer: Is this the case with other groups?

Interviewee: Yes, it is actually a big problem. People borrow money and fail to pay and this becomes a problem for the chairperson, secretary and the treasurer to solve.

For example, there is a person who borrowed money and he would go and hide in the next sub-county (Nasanga sub-county) and he kept moving and hiding. Later on he started circulating false information that they had actually spent his money.

Another concern: I don't know if you can be of help: Women are very interested in farming, but they are limited by their husbands. Women cultivate groundnuts and sell so as to get money to start businesses, but the men always want to take control of their money.

Interview 11

Interviewer: When did you start working in this department?

Interviewee: I started working in this department in 2019

Interviewer: What does your work entail?

Interviewee: My work entails coordinating with other stakeholders to ensure development of communities, monitoring of implementation of activities within the community, I support in registration of CBOs and I do community sensitization and empowerment

Interviewer: Other than that your department, are there other departments within the district local government that address gender issues?

Interviewee: Yes, health department does through partnership with other organizations. Even production does

Interviewer: What gender issues does production address?

Interviewee: According to policy in all that we do we have to be inclusive so even when distributing outputs gender issues are included. Women should have their percentage just like the elderly

Interviewer: What kind of gender issues does your department address?

Interviewee: Gender Based Violence, sexual gender-based violence, equity and equality in resource mobilization and distribution.

Interviewer: How do you address gender-based violence issues?

Interviewee: We do sanitization and home visitation in case we identify an issue, referral networks and we as well coordinate with other stakeholders in addressing these issues because our role is mainly advocacy on their behalf.

Interviewer: Let's talk about the family visitation a bit, what is it about?

Interviewee: When we reach the family, we tend to unite them and we do counseling

Interviewer: How do you identify the families to visit?

Interviewee: It depends, you know in Africa the issues of reporting basing on our traditional concept, women are inferior to report their husbands. They feel, due to our culture men are always on top, so even if a woman is discriminated, battered or her rights are violated she will tend to fear to come and report. But then due to continuous awareness and sensitization, at least they have started coming up. Even if that family does not report, a neighbor can report to our stakeholders because we have networks down there at the sub-county levels. We have sub-county CDO, representative on LCI council (secretary for women affairs, Nabakyala). They report issues to her if she fails to handle them, she refers them to sub-county, if the sub-county fails they refer them to the district if not they refer them issue to child and family unit in police because they handle issues of physical violence, where a woman is beaten or assaulted or sexually harassed.

Interviewer: So how do you identify the families to visit?

Interviewee: Automatically when there is a challenge in a family you cannot fail to know. The reception alone will show that there is a problem, you can reach and find the woman is miserable and the husband is happy, sometimes they might all not welcome you then like any other profession you have to find out what the problem is. Sometimes you may find when the children are abused,

children are doing their own things, and the parents are also doing their own things. There is no sense of organization in that family, you realize there is a problem. So we probe to know more and through probing you get to know the problem through the husband, wife or children

Interviewer: How often do you do family visitation?

Interviewee: There is no limit. It's our daily work we do not Programme it. Even when you go to launch a project there is a high chance of you branching to the family.

Interviewer: What sort of people seek your services?

Interviewee: It cuts across gender, but the majority are women

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: When you look at the situation currently, women are more abused than men and they are also empowered than men. Why do I say so? They are informed and are able to report despite men being abused because women carry a big burden in the family. For example, if there is a problem in a family a man can run away and get another woman where he will spend time and just come back to sleep but a woman will stay with the children. She will look for food, take to the child to hospital or even dress the child. Men have neglected families and women have been tortured than men that is why they report because she wants to protect herself and her children,

Interviewer: I recall you said the people who seek help cuts across genders, what sort of issues do men seek help about?

Interviewee: Majorly men report issues of sexual denial, but women have sexual, physical, emotional, neglect actually all sorts of issues.

Interviewer: How do you handle issues of sexual denial?

Interviewee: We always call the partner; we call both of them and we talk to them because they have their own reasons for doing that. After we counsel, teach them and talk to them and they reunite

Interviewer: Does it always work out well?

Interviewee: There are times when the issues are not resolved and the families are separate but most times it works out because sometimes, they report without acknowledging their fault but when sit with them on a round table each one will realize their fault and reconcile. But if the worst

comes to the worst, we let them separate. But if they have children we again feel that the children will miss the love of their parents. It again impacts on the children.

Interviewer: What are the responsibilities of women in a household?

Interviewee: They are supposed to respect their spouse, protect their children, take care of their children, participate in decision making, protect property

Interviewer: Do they do this?

Interviewer: Some do while others do not. The problem is in decision making and property. That is still wanting. Women do not participate in big decisions. Like if a man wants to sell land a woman is not involved, they mainly take part in making small decisions like chicken, but big project is owned by men.

Even in farming, a woman thinks of planting crops in the garden, she prepares seeds, but a man will stop her from planting in that garden. Decisions about what to plant, where to plant in some families are done by the men.

Interviewer: Is this common?

Interviewee: Yes, it is based on our traditional African traditional culture. Everything is based on our culture

Interviewer: How about access to property?

Interviewee: We are still sensitizing them, but women do not access property. When a man passes on, women do not inherit property. The clan members feel property belongs to the clan and prefer sharing property of a widow than giving it to her. They feel they should be the one to distribute it

Interviewer: How is the response towards sensitization?

Interviewee: They are aware of the law and for that reason they are forced to comply

Interviewer: Let's talk about farming more directly, what resources do women use in farming?

Interviewee: They use hand hoes, pangas (local methods of farming). Much as some use ox-plough for those in the middle class but the main one is hand hoe.

Interviewer: How about the seeds they plant?

Interviewee: They recycle their seeds and do not buy seeds (local seeds). They still use traditional methods.

Interviewer: How do women manage pests?

Interviewee: Some sprays with pesticides especially groundnuts and maize. When they realize pest are affecting their crops they tend to spray

Interviewer: What is the cost of these pesticides?

Interviewee: They are quite affordable, but it is expensive to them. For example, when they go to the agro-shop and ask for the price of the pesticide and they are told it costs 6000 shillings they will ask can't you help me and get the one of 2000 and they will be given an alternative and yet in reality the one of 6000 would work best.

Interviewer: Who owns the hand hoes?

Interviewee: They are for the family, and they access it with no restrictions because the women till for the family

Interviewer: How about the ox-ploughs?

Interviewee: These are owned by men

Interviewer: What are causes of conflicts in the household?

Interviewee: The main cause of power imbalance. The woman shows power and the mother also shows power and the children observe and take sides. Once a family has conflicted, the children are affected and they will have no peace.

Interviewer: Do remember of any way that this was addressed recently?

Interviewee: There was a widow who had her children, but when the situation was hard, she decided to leave the family and went to stay with her brother, but the situation was not good there because she kept conflicting with the wife to her brother. So, this woman decided to return to her

marriage. She found out when one of her daughters who was abroad had renovated the house. So she came back to stay at their home, but after some time this daughter asked the mother to live because she was not present to help them. They told her to go back to their home to the extent of beating up their mother badly. She came and reported the issue at the district. The clan could not help because, they alleged she killed her husband. When I consulted child and family, they also said they had intervened in that issue and they were tired. They were also blaming this woman for leaving her home. So, I decided to go to that family and have a chat with them and offered some counsel. After my departure, the daughters came back and beat their mother again. Because my responsibility is mainly advocacy, I had to coordinate with justice center, we met in the family. After several attempts to reach the daughters, we finally resolved the issue. It is now about 6 months I have not had any issues. They gave their mother part of the house and land.

Interviewer: Does she have a son?

Interviewee: Yes, but he is the youngest

Interviewee: There is also another one where the men abandon his wife and children and goes to live with a concubine but we try to talk to them. After talking to them we follow up to ensure everything is alright.

Interviewer: Are there any associations/groups and networks that women are involved in?

Interviewee: Yes, they have their own groups such as UWEP are involved in agriculture (they do piggery, farming). We also encourage them to join all government programmes because they are given a percentage

Interviewer: Are the women responsive? Yes, they are more responsive in farming and group formation than men

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: It is because women share similar problems and when they meet, they talk about these issues and find solutions. In principle, problems are solved in the community.

Interviewer: Do family members support women to participate in groups?

Interviewee: Yes, if it were not so, then most of them would not be participating in groups.

Interviewer: In what ways have the responsibilities of women affected their participation in government programmes?

Interviewee: Basing on the situation women go through, and the experience women have, it has helped them participate more in programmes because it is like men have neglected their families and left family responsibilities to women, so the women have woken up to more work more than men and they are participating more than men.

Interviewer: Are there instances when women have been demoralized?

Interviewee: I think where they feel demoralized is on the economic gains whereby a woman has not said on big assets. May be Like when they cultivated 1 acre of rice they are both very active, but when it is sold the woman has no share because the man will drink off all the money or even marry another wife. So, they feel demoralized but through group engagements, they share experiences and come up with their own solutions. So, in the second season, the woman can refuse and say you cultivate your won and I also do mine based on the previous experience. But whenever a woman spearheads a project in a family or an activity it is always a success. And when you go to monitor the programmes, you really see success.

Interview 12

Interviewer: When did you start working in this department?

Interviewee: I started working in this department some time back.

Interviewer: About how long ago?

Interviewee: About 7 years ago. I started working under NAADS as a coordinator. That was when I had just finished my graduate studies at Makerere. After this I did interviews, passed and was granted the job. Previously, I worked in other sub-counties, namely, Budaka sub-community, Budaka town council and Tadameri

Interviewer: What does your work entail?

Interviewee: My work entails imparting knowledge and skills concerning better farming technologies and practices

Interviewer: How do you impart those skills?

Interviewee: We train farmers on improved farming practices and carry demo sites so that farmers can copy and also share that same information with other farmers.

Interviewer: Let's talk about training. What kind of farmers do you train?

Interviewee: We normally form groups, so we engage groups

Interviewer: How do you identify them?

Interviewee: We rely on farmer groups. Farmer groups are easy to mobilize and besides that when you train a few, they share the knowledge that they have gained with others

Interviewer: How many farmer groups are in Tademeri?

Interviewee: I am not very sure because I do not know the statistics, but they are approximately 15

Interviewer: Are these groups mainly for farming or do they undertake other activities?

Interviewee: They engage in other activities like savings so that they can mobilize so resources to engage in other businesses like growing and selling vegetables

Interviewer: Who are more dominant men or women?

Interviewee: Previously men were more but recently I discovered women are more involved. In some groups you find only women.

Interviewer: Why do think that is coming up now?

Interviewee: I think they have realized the need for them to be in the money economy due to the growing domestic needs because men these days cannot meet all the needs in the household. They have discovered that they cannot rely wholly on their spouses.

Interviewer: How about the demo sites, what exactly do you do?

Interviewee: A demo site is something which shows technology and how it works so that people can learn from it. In most cases when using it the farmers are engaged so that they can learn so that they can adopt it

Interviewer: What technology do you show them? There are so many. They can vary like the response of crops to fertilizers or the yield Versus the amount of fertilizer to be applied. How new crop varieties are resistant to climate change. Like the new cassava (NARO cast 1). Other varieties could succumb to mosaic but this new variety is quite resistant.

Interviewer: So, how often do you hold train in a year?

Interviewee: Our work is planned quarterly because of how we are facilitated quarterly. and in a sub-county we train about 7 groups.

Interviewer: How about the demos?

Interviewee: For the demos we have 2 or 3 in quarter because they take a lot of money

Interviewer: Have held any demos in Tademeri

Interviewee: That is what I am on now and I hope to complete it soon. We are looking at conservation tillage

Interviewer: So where are you holding it from?

Interviewee: It is in Kasuleta village, Tademeri S/C

Interviewer: What has been the response of farmers to the training whenever you invite them for training?

Interviewee: They do come and attend but it also depends on the timing in relation to the weather. For instance, if it has rained like this you do not have to go there very early because it has been dry and now they also have to work in their gardens. During the dry season many turn up because there is less work but during a rainy season, you have to plan well. You can ask them to come at 2:00pm and you engage them for about 2 or 3 hours because they have work to do at home. So the numbers vary depending on the weather.

Interviewer: Who attends training more?

Interviewee: Sometimes there are more men than women and sometimes there are more women than men

Interviewer: On average, who are usually more?

Interviewee: On average, the number of men surpass that of women

Interviewer: How do you mobilise them for these activities?

Interviewee: We pass through their group leaders, sometimes we use a megaphone and move around the village

Interviewer: Have you ever assessed the response of women depending on the method of mobilisation?

Interviewee: The megaphone mobilizes women more. Because, sometimes when you send information through the group leader, they may not deliver the information to the women unless it is a woman. For the male leaders, sometimes they meet in the drinking joint and discuss what will be taking place the next day from there. But when you use a mega information follows to the women easily.

Interviewer: Let's talk about climate change, from your technical knowledge and experience you have gained working as an agricultural officer. How have the farming seasons changed according to your observation?

Interviewee: There is remarkable change in the farming seasons. Nowadays rain delays. Sometime back there would be some rain in December and then January and February would be dry spell and then it would start raining in late February. So by March there would be a lot of rain and people would engage in weeding. But these days the rain is delayed. As you have seen we have got rain about two days ago and it is almost April. So, the weather has changed

Interviewer: So, how was the rain previously?

Interviewee: It used to come early, March weeding

Interviewer: Other than rain, have noted any changes in the seasons?

Interviewee: Crop yields have dropped in all crops and that is why people have moved to the wetland because it is wet but even there the crops yields are poor because water levels are reducing as well.

Interviewer: Is this the same across seasons?

Interviewee: Yes, actually first season is now the worst. In fact the second has better yield than the first season, which is a reverse of how things used to be some time back.

Interviewer: How about in terms of pests and diseases?

Interviewee: There are pests and diseases that used not to be there. Let me first talk about pests. Like the army worm which affects maize used not to be there. We used to have army worm (*Sodoptera exempta*) It would only eat cereals, and it would be there in January only. But it has disappeared. Now we have a new one called Fall Army Worm which is there throughout the year and it feeds on maize but in the absence of Maize it feeds on sorghum and other crops in that family of grasses. This pest came after a very long drought in 2007, and most people were not familiar to it. It feeds on other grass plants. It surprised everybody, even though the ministry was not aware of it.

We also have the one which reflects a white coating (Mealybugs) this one affects any type of crop, shrub, mangoes. It used not to be common but because of the rampant drought this pest is now very common.

Interviewer: What could be causing these changes?

Interviewee: It is because of the drought

Interviewer: How has drought contributed to this?

Interviewee: Drought is conducive for their breeding whereas rain washes away pests.

Interviewer: How long ago were these changes noticed?

Interviewee: From 1997 that is when we started experiencing long droughts. During this period there was even famine (more than 20 years ago). In 2005 and 2006 we had only one planting season.

Interviewer: How about in the wetland?

Interviewee: When it is dry the wetland cracks and water remain only in the mainstream.

Interviewer: Was this in Budaka alone or across the country?

Interviewee: It was majorly in Eastern Uganda (Budaka, Teso). Other regions experienced it but not much

Interviewer: How about hailstorms and storms?

Interviewee: These are very rampant. Recently it hit Nalugondo and part of Budaka. It destroyed crops like mangoes, watermelons. In fact, whenever it rains, we always expect storms. 2 days ago it was experienced also in the upper side of Budaka. Whenever it takes long to rain, people expect hailstorms.

Interviewer: What do you think is responsible for these changes?

Interviewee: The climate has changed because of various factors.

- For example, depletion of the ozone layer and we now gases (hydro carbons) which are disturbing) and lead to global warming. When there is global warming, the areas that are cooler and have glaciers melt and when they melt too much water runs from the mountain to the low land because of floods and also increases water in oceans which floods and the other winds.
- Human activities are the direct causes. Like charcoal burning increases carbondioxide in the atmosphere. Much is it good to use fertilizers, some fertilizers are not good which release some chemicals. Also, some industries disturb the environment and affect the rain making process.

Interviewer: How has your department supported farmers to address these issues?

Interviewee: Yes, we have started because we realised that we shall not have food if we rely on rain fed agriculture, so we need to adapt to climate change. So, there are some methods that we

want to put in place and impart into the farmers so that they can adapt to climate change. One of them is:

- Irrigation. There was even a plan to have solar irrigation plants in Naluli cell and Natama.
- We are also encouraging them to practice agroforestry. When we plant trees it will so as to absorb carbon dioxide, at the same time they act as wind breakers, contribute to conventional rainfall and increase soil fertility.
- Crop rotation: that is growing different crops in different seasons
- Bush fallowing, improves organic matter and reduces soil erosion
- Planting basins (conservation tillage) some areas are left covered with grass. The aim is not to expose the soil. So much as the grass will be destroyed using herbicides but the soil will remain holding each other. So, running water will collect in the basins.
- Shady trees: we encourage them to plant some shade trees. For example, coffee requires shade.
- Organic fertilizers
- Rotational grazing
- Staking
- Artificial fertilizers because it is used during the time when the plants are being planted.
- Climate resistant varieties that can adapt to too much rain or drought (such as fast maturing crops, maize that is short and cannot be thrown down by drought).
- Cut and carry of forage (zero grazing)
- Water basins – control water flow. In the direction of water, you dig basins that can contain water especially in banana plantations.
- Cover cropping: Grow cover crops like soya beans and beans which grow close to the soil surface and offer protection to the soil. But they also add nitrogen to the soil which improves soil fertility.
- Contour ploughing. You plough across the normal water flows.

Interviewer: Of all the above which ones are the farmers using?

Interviewee: So some use it consciously or unconsciously like intercropping especially women. They might be only aware of benefits like improved crop yields but not in relation to adaptation to climate change.

- Organic fertilizers especially in the backyard gardens. This is mainly use by women
- To a small extent crop rotation is used especially in the upland. But crop rotation is not much practiced in the wetland because every year they grow rice. Even if there is an outbreak of pests or the yields are poor

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: They mainly focus on the money they will earn despite the yields or other benefits. So they do some interpolating of maize and vegetables which they can uproot afterwards.

Interviewer: How about bush fallowing?

Interviewee: Bush fallowing is almost not being used at all. This can be used by the rich but you cannot find it in small household.

Interviewer: How about planting basins?

Interviewee: We are just introducing it so it has not been embraced yet but water basins have been embraced by people who plant bananas

Interviewer: How about shady tress?

Interviewee: Shade trees used to be utilized but most trees have been cut for bush burning so people are being encouraged to plant indigenous fruits like mangos, jack fruit. There is an organisation called Eco Trust which is paying people to plant indigenous trees.

Interviewer: How about artificial fertilizers?

Interviewee: This is very minimally used. It is mainly with progressive farmers

Interviewer: How about improved varieties?

Interviewee: this is also mainly used by progressive farmers. For example, farmer are claiming that the new maize varieties are the ones that brought the new pests.

Interviewer: How about the challenges that farmers are face, are there those that are more predominant among women farmers?

Interviewee: There are farmers who are my friends and they share with me. Women take a very small share of the proceeds from agriculture. For example, yesterday, I went somewhere and I found that a husband was in the rice garden and the woman was from the cassava garden. So I asked this woman why are you not working together and she said aha...I was told to go this way.

So in the end, the man will be in control of what is got from rice selling and the woman will be in control of the cassava.

- Some women are restricted to attend trainings. Some men think that when a woman moves out of home she will learn improper behaviour.
- Lack of access to agricultural credit. Most women rely on their group savings because they are good in saving money. They rely on what they save.
- Illiteracy is a challenge. When interacting with them those who have gained some education respond differently from those who have attained any education at all.
- Lack of access to information. Such as market information which causes them to respond to the market demand late compared to men.

Interviewer: Are there any organisations that work with women farmers in Tademeri?

Interviewee: I don't know any.

Interviewer: How about those that work with farmers generally?

Interviewee: International Fertilizers Development Centre (IFDC). They provide fertilizers for demo sites to improve crop yields. For the demo sites they would provide free fertilizers but to farmers, one would access it in form of a fertilizer loan.

Interviewer: How long has this organisation worked here? For about 3 years but they ended their work last year

Interviewee: There is also MAFOC (Mbale Area Federation for Communities) it has many interventions such as supporting children from vulnerable communities, and they would also give some fertilizers, hoes and some animals like goats, seeds (maize and beans)

Interviewer: Who are the beneficiaries?

Interviewee: People who have children being supported by the organization. So other than supporting children they support their families too. They work mainly in Butove and Lyama.

KWEEN DISTRICT

Kapmwyet and Sukut Villages

Interview 13

Interviewer: Have you ever got a loan from finance trust?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: What type of loan is that?

Interviewee: Farmers Loan

Interviewer: Do many women go for those loans?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: After being taken a photograph and that of your land what else do you need to provide before a loan can be granted?

Interviewee: Nothing much, you will be given the money once you complete a form that is to be completed and signed by the clan chairperson and LC1 chairperson.

Interviewer: Are these loans for women only?

Interviewee: No, they give both men and women. There are actually different types of loans. Some people get farmers loans while others business loan. The repayment period for farmers' loan is 1 year but the business people start paying after a month.

Interviewer: What is the interest loan?

Interviewee: I borrowed 1.5 million but I received 1,360,000 million

Interviewer: How many times have you got a loan from them?

Interviewee: About 3 times now. The first time I got 1,500,000, the second time 2,000,000 and the third time 3,000,000

Interviewer: Are there people who get these loans and fail to repay?

Interviewee: Yes, in case you fail they come and sell your land or your home. The people who act as witnesses are the chairperson LCI and the Clan Head.

Interviewer: Are there women who desire to get such loans but they are unable?

Interviewer: Yes, there are who not able. You know, getting such money requires you to plant many things such as potatoes, maize and onions so that you can repay. With this even if the money is not enough, you can find a way of filling it up.

Interviewer: Are the women who fail to repay such money married or not?

Interviewee: They are married and have husbands. You see, the interest on loans got by women is lower compared to the one for the men. So some women are asked to go and get a loan on behalf of the family.

Interviewer: About how many women get loans because their husbands have requested them to so?

Interviewee: In this village about 4 women have ever got these loans out of about 40 households (400 people)

Interviewer: How many sheep do you have?

Interviewee: 8 sheep

Interviewer: How did you own those sheep?

Interviewee: I just bought them

Interviewer: Where did you get the money, you used to buy the goat?

Interviewee: It was from farming. I first started by buying one in 2013 and it multiplied (reproduced). I have kept selling them to support myself and the family

Interviewer: What land do you cultivate your crops?

Interviewee: I have a banana plantation which is about 1 acre of land

Interviewer: How did you get to own this land?

Interviewee: I got this land when the government was dividing land to the people. This was in 1983. This place was a forest and so when the government was dividing land, we also took over this part. It all depended on the section one would be able to clear (Trees). This was a strategy of addressing poverty and conflicts between government and farmers over protected areas.

The people who were living in the forest used not to practice crop farming. They mainly reared animals (cows and goats) and their livelihood conditions were not so good. Women particularly were affected the more because they would make crafts like baskets for a living. So because people were suffering the government decided to allocate them land for farming.

Interviewer: Was the forest demarcated and protected by then?

Interviewee: No, but after this was done the forest reserve was demarcated in 1983 and people are not allowed to carry out activities from there. As of now, people are permitted to collect firewood on Saturday and Sunday. Weekdays are not allowed. Charcoal burning is now prohibited.

Interviewer: Before this, where were you living?

Interviewee: In the lowlands (Kakwore)

Interviewer: Do you still farm in the lowlands?

Interviewee: No, it is my children who do it

Interviewer: Are there people who got more land than you?

Interviewee: Yes, some were able to clear about 5 acres of land because it depended on one's ability to clear the trees.

Interviewer: When did you plant the bananas?

Interviewee: It was in 1996

Interviewer: How about coffee?

Interviewee: I planted coffee last (2021) after the death of my husband.

Interviewer: Why did you decide to plant coffee?

Interviewee: I wanted to improve my household income, that is why I decided to intercrop them with bananas.

About how often do you bananas? I rarely sell it because my household relies on it more for food.

Interviewer: Other than coffee and bananas, what else have you planted?

Interviewee: Nothing much, I just planted a few potatoes

Interviewer: What farming challenges do you experience?

Interviewee: Sometimes when it rains heavily, I experience flooding, but I have tried to use terraces, have dug trenches and I have also planted grass across the garden.

Interviewer: How are the soil?

Interviewee: They need fertilizers

Interviewer: Do you apply fertilizers on bananas?

Interviewee: I use organic manure. I usually do it during planting and then whenever it is available I just apply during weeding.

Interviewer: Do most people use organic manure?

Interviewee: This majorly depends on its availability. Some people may want to use it but access is a challenge.

Interviewer: Do you have any trees around home?

Interviewee: No, I tried but the cows broke them when they were still young.

Interviewer: Are there any other challenges that you face other than that you have shared?

Interviewee: I also lack fertilizers (CAN (for fruiting (for topping) and DAP (for germination) is used for planting. Urea for topping. CAN and UREA (for leafing) are mixed and used for topping.

Interviewer: Where did you learn this from?

Interviewee: It is just based on my own experience

Interviewer: How much do these fertilizers cost?

Interviewee: Urea is about 220,000 CAN is 140,000 (2)– this can cover about 1 acre (50kgs bag) DAP is at 220,000 and it can cover about 1 acre

CAN – One needs two bags to cover 1 acre of land

Interviewer: How is the soil quality?

Interviewee: It is quite poor, so I apply organic manure

Interviewer: How often do you apply manure?

Interviewee: Before planting bananas, I start by applying organic manure. After that I keep pouring cow dung and chicken dropping in the garden.

Interviewer: Does everyone in this community use organic manure?

Interviewee: No, it just depends on individuals and if they can access things like cow dung and chicken droppings.

Interviewer: Have you planted any trees around your home?

Interviewee: I had planted some trees, but the cows broke them

Interviewer: Do you have any other land other than these ones?

Interviewee: Yes, I hired about 1 acre of land in which I have planted maize and beans.

Interviewer: What is the size of the land that you cultivate on?

Interviewee: It is about 3 acres (1 acre)

Interviewer: Why did the government decide to give people land?

Interviewee: People used to cultivate in the forest and even graze animals so when the government was demarcating forest reserves, people were compensated and it was also strategy of uplifting the livelihoods of people. So, after clearing the land, people were given documents to show ownership.

Interviewer: So, when was the forest reserve demarcated?

Interviewee: It was in 1983 after people were settled

Interviewer: What crops have you planted?

Interviewee: Potatoes, barley, maize, beans

Interviewer: Who works in these gardens?

Interviewee: I do it myself and my portion is about (2 acres). This land has been divided among the children so everyone digs their portion, but I plough using oxen.

Interviewer: Did farmers used to use fertilizers previously?

Interviewee: No, these are new things

Interviewer: About how long ago did people begin applying fertilizers?

Interviewee: About 10 years ago

Interviewer: Why do farmers use them?

Interviewee: To improve crop yields because I used to hear from my neighbors that if you want to have better yields then you need to apply fertilizers.

Interviewer: Did farmers used to use trenches previously?

Interviewee: There used to be trenches but people used not to plant grass, but when there was vegetation. But due to over cultivation and clearing of bushes there is no vegetation

Interviewer: Are there households where women and children are allocated portion of land to cultivate on their own?

Interviewee: Here when a child grows up and marries, they are given a garden.

Interviewer: Are children given their own land?

Interviewee: This does not happen here. Whenever food is grown spouses agree on what should be sold and eaten

Interviewer: Do men cooperate with their spouses?

Interviewee: It depends. Men who drink alcohol are the ones who disturb but the others are ok

Interviewer: Do you have granaries?

Interviewee: I have two granaries. One used to store hay for cow and maize but there is nothing now so I firewood.

Interviewer: How come there is no maize in the store?

Interviewee: It got over because I eat and sold some

Interviewer: So how do you get food?

Interviewee: I buy maize flour. Sometimes I sell a hen to buy maize

Interviewer: Based on your experience in this village, do most households ran out of maize for food before the next planting season?

Interviewee: Yes, it is common. What helps us here is that from between May and April, potatoes start maturing and that is what most households rely on for food.

Interviewer: So, about how many months do households struggle without food?

Interviewee: About two months

Interviewer: How about those days?

Interviewee: (exclaims)... when we had just come here things were very different. The household demands were few and people would not sell maize because people used not to go to school like these days. So, people used just to eat. Sometimes when the harvest time reaches it finds when maize from the previous season is still in the granary.

Interviewer: Where did you get the knowledge that you apply in farming?

Interviewee: I grew up in a farming household. In our home there used to be a cow which was milked and we also used to cultivate.

Interviewer: Have you ever attended any training on farming?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Which people train you?

Interviewee: They come from down there and it is a company of Barley

Interviewer: What is its name?

Interviewee: I don't know. We meet in the church, and they teach us about how to farm.

Interviewer: When did these people last come to train you?

Interviewee: They come every year. They even used to give Barley seeds and fertilizers so as to improve on crop yields but people...laughs... used to apply that fertilizer on other crops and plant barley without fertilizers that is why they changed their approach. Others even used to deny that they never receive fertilizers. So instead of advancing these things, people were required to pay before they are given fertilizers.

Interviewer: How about sub-country training, have you ever heard of people attending any agricultural training?

Interviewee: Yes, people attend but I have never been part of it.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: It is because I just did not have time for that ...laughs. It is because I already have knowledge on how to plant crops. But also, I do not have time because I have animals like cows and goats that require my care.

Interviewer: Do women in this village attend those trainings?

Interviewee: Yes, they usually select people to attend. For instance, if they are distributing maize, people are selected according to villages.

Interviewer: Who are the people who are selected?

Interviewee: It is the chairperson who knows who should receive what is being given. If they say 5 people are needed it is the Chairman who selects them.

Interviewer: Does he select only people that he is related to?

Interviewee: Sometimes that is what happens. But for me, I rarely desire those things. I just focus on what I have worked for and own because if you bother yourself with what you have not been involved in, it becomes stressful so, it is best not to stress oneself.

Interviewer: How about agricultural officers, do they visit your gardens to see how you are practicing agriculture?

Interviewee: No, they have never come.

Interviewer: How about the people of Barley, did they train people?

Interviewee: Yes, but I did not participate because I was not planning to plant crops besides that I did not have an ID. Besides that, if you want to plant barley you can just buy it.

Interviewer: But since you were not planning to plant barley why did you go for the training?

Interviewee: I just leant people were going to be trained that is why I went but I did not move with my ID before you can be given barley and fertilizers but because I did not have an ID I chose not to bother.

Interviewer: How about other people without IDs did they attend?

Interviewee: Nowadays if you did not have an ID you cannot receive anything from the government.

Interviewer: How about if you have a letter from the local council I chairpersons?

Interviewee: Still, you will not receive anything.

Interviewer: As a widow, what challenges have you experienced with respect to accessing land for farming?

Interviewee: If now the children are old...

Interviewer: When did your husband pass away?

Interviewee: In 2013

Interviewer: What happens when the children are grown up?

Interviewee: This is what happens, when children are grown up they see how you have been living with their father, so they do not disturb. Usually, relatives get involved when you conflict with your children, but if you are peaceful nobody will bother you.

Interviewer: What happens when the children are young?

Interviewee: You see, if the children are young and look a weak woman who drinks alcohol other people will begin to interfere. In my case, we were two wives and we were living in peace, but when my husband died, the clan said the land should be divided among the wives. This was 1 year

after my husband's death. I was fine with it but there was an observation that the other woman had young children and that there was land that I had owned prior to my husband's death. They also claimed that my first son refused to feed his father when he was ill but even the people that woman was relying on were not of any help to her. So, we went to Action Aid and issues were resolved. I am the first wife

Interviewer: Based on your observation, what was the interest of the clan?

Interviewee: They just wanted to disorganize my family because they had agreed among themselves.

Interviewer: But when you reported it to Action Aid, how were the issues resolved?

Interviewee: It was resolved well because they ascertained that everyone digs their portion besides that my co-wife also uses oxen I owned with my husband to plough her garden. So there was no point to conflict. Actually everything ended up like that.

I cannot allow anyone to come and control me because she came when she came when I had already settled and her I am even the one who fed her children.

Interviewer: As a widow, what is your experience about?

Interviewee: Sometimes there are things that require a man because a woman has things she can do just as a man also has what he can do.

For example, educating children is quite difficult when you are alone. Sometimes I sell all the farm produce

Interviewer: Are there any organizations that support farmers?

Interviewee: None

Interviewer: Are there crops that you plant on the riverbanks?

Interviewee: No, but I should be having onions seedlings in the nursery bed now so that when I harvest potatoes, I plant onions, but I have not done this because I am constrained financially.

Interviewer: Do you irrigate?

Interviewee: No. I do not have any plans to do this because it is very expensive

Interviewer: Do you think women in this village desire to irrigate their crops?

Interviewee: Yes, but some are far from the waters source, and they also do not sprinklers and money to hire them. But those who are close to the water source irrigate.

Interviewer: Who decides what crops to plant?

Interviewee: In the garden we have to rotate crops so as to break the pest cycle, I plan this on my own while my children also plan for themselves.

Interviewer: How about in other households?

Interviewee: Among the marrieds, husbands plan.

Interview (14)

Interviewer: What is the size of land do you cultivate on?

Interviewee: It is about 2 acres, and I also have grazing land which is about ½ an acre

Interviewer: What have you planted there?

Interviewee: Barley, maize coffee

Interviewer: Who planted the maize?

Interviewee: I am the one who planted this maize near home so that I can boil it as food for my grandchildren. The main garden is far from home. The size of land is small.

Interviewer: How about the bananas, who planted it?

Interviewee: I am the one. I bought sackers and planted them because for us in this district, we just buy banana sackers instead of going to buy in the market.

Interviewer: So, why did you plant them?

Interviewee: For food so that I do not have to go to the market to buy.

Interviewer: How about the coffee?

Interviewee: It is my husband who planted coffee because we had a son who was at school but now it helps us at home.

Interviewer: When were the coffee trees planted?

Interviewee: About five years ago alongside bananas

Interviewer: Do you cultivate at the riverbanks?

Interviewee: I have just planted eucalyptus trees.

Interviewer: What is the name of that river?

Interviewee: It is called Yendyo

Interviewer: Who planted the trees?

Interviewee: I am the one because I wanted it to help me with firewood

Interviewer: Do you cultivate vegetables by the riverbank?

Interviewee: Yes, but I haven't got this time round, but I am going to start again.

Interviewer: Why did you not plant vegetables when rain started?

Interviewee: I had many financial obligations, that is why

Interviewer: Do you plant vegetables during the dry seasons?

Interviewee: I did not but this year I will plant because we now have a water pump which can be helpful for irrigation.

Interviewer: Are there people who irrigate using that water?

Interviewee: Yes, from the upper side

Interviewer: Do people who live around there irrigate?

Interviewee: Yes, those who live on the upper side

Interviewer: How is the soil quality of you garden (Katorok)?

Interviewee: This land is fair and I am now planting elephant grass to help preserve the soil.

There are times when the yields get so low that I have to apply fertilizers if the crop yields are to improve.

Interviewer: So what fertilizers do you use?

Interviewee: CAN

Interviewer: Even on bananas?

Interviewee: No, for the bananas I use organic manure (cow dung)

Interviewer: How about when you compare this garden with others what is the difference?

Interviewee: This garden around home has better soil because I throw household wastes in it and this has improved its fertility. However, this land is also affected by floods.

Interviewer: How do you manage floods?

Interviewee: I have done nothing because it is only the recent rain that caused flooding otherwise previously, there was no flooding.

Interviewer: So how do you intend to address this problem?

Interviewer: I will dig some trenches

Interviewer: Are you the one who decides to dig them?

Interviewee: Not really, recently I talked with my husband about it but he travelled.

Interviewer: Who digs these trenches in your gardens?

Interviewee: We usually hire people to help us but, in the gardens, away from home, we just planted elephant grass. Now that my husband is around, I will see how to go about it

Interviewer: How about pests and diseases, how do you address them?

Interviewee: Whenever crops are infested by pests and diseases, I buy pesticides and spray. Previously this was not a big problem but from last year (2021) I experienced so many pests and diseases.

Interviewer: How about the garden you have away from your home?

Interviewee: The fertile soil has been washed away by floods, and the soil has turned red. The maize is very poor. I actually need fertilizers because if I don't put it, I will not harvest anything.

Interviewer: Did you plant this maize with fertilizers?

Interviewee: No, I did not because I did not have money, but I now need it.

Interviewer: So how do you address the challenge of flooding?

Interviewee: I just planted grass (intercropping elephant grass – *Pennisetum purpureum* with crops like maize

Interviewer: Why didn't you dig trenches before?

Interviewee: Floods were not predominant but now that they are more common, I will dig the trenches.

Interviewer: Considering that it seems you have financial challenges, are you a member in any savings group or do you have access to bank loans?

Interviewee: I have not got a loan from the bank because they require a person to have a business which I do not have besides that we are also old. That is why we decided that it is better we meet our needs. In case we need something, we can sell off one goat and have the issue sorted other than looking out for loans.

Interviewer: How about agricultural loans?

Interviewee: I have never got that one as well.

Interviewer: But do people get loans in this village?

Interviewee: Yes, they do

Interviewer: Are they mostly men or women?

Interviewee: Mostly men. Very few women get loans from banks.

Interviewer: What have you stored in the granary?

Interviewee: There is nothing now. It is empty

Interviewer: But do you usually store it there?

Interviewee: I store maize, but I have stored firewood

Interviewer: Why is your granary empty and yet you have not yet harvested maize for this season?

Interviewee: It is because last year I harvested little. I only cultivated 1 acre because one of sons had committed an offence and we needed money (laughs) so we decided to lease out 1 acre of land so as to raise funds to bail him from police. So, that is why I am struggling this year.

Interviewer: How about previously, would you have a good harvest?

Interviewee: Yes, the maize I harvest would feed my household until the next harvest season

Interviewer: Which has been the most challenging years in terms of feeding your household?

Interviewee: Last year (2021) and this year (2022) (laughs) have not been easy for me.

Interviewer: For the times that you have been cultivating in that garden, do you harvest the same quantity of maize every season?

Interviewee: No, it fluctuates. The yields change every year.

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: I don't because this happens even when I have applied fertilizers so, I just can't explain why. So, I just believe that is God's plan.

Interviewer: Who decides what crops to plant?

Interviewee: We discuss but if my husband says we need to plant this and the other so that it can help us, I agree.

Interviewer: Are there crops you would have liked to plant as a woman but for some reasons you have failed?

Interviewee: As a woman I feel like there should be work that I should do because much as I work very hard my husband controls most of the things at home. So, I also feel like I should plant more bananas or even start a business but if I request him to give me some money after selling crops he will not. When men have sold something and he has money they will not give so you just have to bare.

Interviewer: How about crops, are there those you desire to cultivate but have not been able?

Interviewee: Yes, it is because of power. For example, if I want to plant beans, I can't if I have not been permitted to use the garden. When the farming season starts, he begins speaking openly in that garden I will be planting this and the other. This implies that what you are talking about is not useful (Laughs)

Interviewer: Is it common for men to apportion women land to cultivate crops of their interest?

Interviewee: In my household this has not happened. Maybe it could be because I agree with my husband most times.

Interviewer: How about among other households in this village?

Interviewee: Yes, it happens. There are men who even hire land for their wives to cultivate what they wish. But I do not what happens during harvest time whether the woman controls those crops or the man.

Interviewer: Is this common?

Interviewee: No, very few men allow this.

Interviewer: Have you attended any training on farming?

Interviewee: No, most of us utilise our local knowledge

Interviewer: How about extension workers from the sub-county?

Interviewee: Sometimes I hear that people are coming like for only 2 times and that is it

Interviewer: Which people attend whenever they come?

Interviewee: The chairperson is usually informed but I have never heard our chairman tell us that people are coming to train much is we hear about people coming to train.

Interviewer: Does he inform other people and probably leave you out?

Interviewee: I don't think. You know our chairman is old and he cannot run around like the youthful ones maybe that's why we are left out.

Interviewer: Have you been able to apply all the farming knowledge that you have?

Interviewee: I would have desired to renovate my house, but I am limited. Whenever I tell my husband he asks me to be patient.

Interviewer: How about garden work?

Interviewee: Yes, I wanted to plant potatoes but this husband of mine could not let me. There was a time I bought even potato seeds (2 bags) and I requested him to give me a portion of land to plant potatoes and he told me ahaa "those are your plans; I can't manage that". So, I just had to sell the seeds. I can't suggest anything because he will never accept. All I needed was a garden, nothing like him buying fertilizers even but he refused.

Interviewer: Do you think this challenge is common?

Interviewee: I do not know what people experience in their households because people have different challenges.

Interviewer: Do you have cows?

Interviewee: Yes, 5 cows and 2 donkeys

Interviewer: Who bought these cows?

Interviewee: One was from NUSAF and it reproduced one calf (these 2 are mine) and then my husband bought 3.

Interviewer: How many goats do you have?

Interviewee: 10 (mine are three and I just bought them using my group savings)

Interviewer: Do you have authority to sell your goats when you have an issue to address?

Interviewee: No, I am in someone's home, so I have to inform him. Even if he refuses, he will see how to help me. Even the cow I can't sell without his knowledge.

Interviewer: Do you have a cow that you milk?

Interviewee: Yes, there is one that I milk 1 cup for home consumption. In reality much as a woman claims that she has certain things in a household, they belong the husband. (Laughs) that is typical of this sub-region

Interviewer: How about when you have a problem and wish to sell milk, is it acceptable?

Interviewee: Yes, I can sell it to buy soap or salt, and my husband has no problem with that.

Interviewer: How many donkeys do you have?

Interviewee: I have 3

Interviewer: Who bought them?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: Are they useful?

Interviewee: Yes, very useful. They help me to transport maize from the garden and also to collect water especially during the dry season when there is scarcity of water because we travel very far to collect water.

Interviewer: How do you feel about things being called by your name and yet you do not have power and authority at home?

Interviewee: Now for me, I have reached a level where I reflect on the fact that I left my father and mother and got married to this man. So if I insist that this thing is mine and all that, I believe we shall conflict. I just humble down and obey what he says. All the things in the home were bought quite recently.

There was a time when I was sick for years and could not rise up from the bed that was (1994). I was totally dependent and we sold everything at home for me to access medical treatment. So I have just started accumulating assets.

Interviewer: What responsibilities do women have in the community?

Interviewee: In case someone dies in the community, we are considered to be one. So if you have bananas or beans you can give. But what has been formally agreed is that you contribute 5,000. If you have a husband and he is present, he will provide the 5000 while I give bananas and beans. But if a woman is not married (divorced or widowed) she will do this by herself.

Interviewer: In case of a family conflict, in what ways does the clan address these issues?

Interviewee: There are men who drink alcohol and those who do not. For those who do not drink alcohol like my husband the clan intervenes and addresses the issue and reconciles the two fairly. They do not take sides

Interviewer: How about for those who drink alcohol?

Interviewee: The one who drinks insists on highlighting the weaknesses of the woman and because the clan members would like their son to win, they will side with him because they would like their man to prevail. But if the couples are not alcoholics the issues are resolved well.

Interviewer: Are there instances when the clan fails to address household conflicts?

Interviewee: Yes. In such cases you just have continue living like that until you reconcile and others decide to separate. There are those who can seek help from the sub-county. In most cases, it is those who would like to separate who move to the sub-county

Interview15

Interviewer: What trees do you have?

Interviewee: Cyprus

Interviewer: Who planted it?

Interviewee: Myself. I planted it in 2015

Interviewer: Why did you plant it?

Interviewee: Because I wanted it to provide good shade at home as well as other trees.

Interviewer: What is the size of land that you cultivate?

Interviewee: ½ acre and it is in a place called Kasego

Interviewer: How did you acquire this land?

Interviewee: Some of the land was leased for 2 years, part of was hired and I also have customary land. This land was leased at 2 million shillings (1/2 acre).

The hired land ¼ an acre.

Interviewer: What crops do you cultivate?

Interviewee: Maize, potatoes,

Interviewer: Why did you plant potatoes?

Interviewee: Because it matures fast and will allow me to plant other crops when it is harvested

Interviewer: What crops will you plant once you harvest potatoes?

Interviewee: I plan to plant barley

Interviewer: Who decided that potatoes should be planted?

Interviewee: It is my husband

Interviewer: Did you have an alternative thought of what should be planted in that garden?

Interviewee: No, I agreed with my husband to plant potatoes

Interviewer: Do you have any land that you are cultivating that was donated by a friend, family or any one of good will?

Interviewee: No, I do not have.

Interviewer: What farming challenges have you experienced?

Interviewee: One of the challenges that I experience is long dry spells which affect crops (drought). Pests and diseases and the soil quality is also poor.

Interviewer: Do you experience every year?

Interviewee: No, it is not every year. For instance, this year we have experienced too much sunshine.

Interviewer: What do you do to address the challenge of dry spells?

Interviewee: There is nothing I can do because other than just live it to God.

Interviewee: Why don't you irrigate?

Interviewee: That can work if the garden is close to a river but if it is far, it becomes very difficult.

Interviewer: Do you have any of your gardens close to the river?

Interviewee: Yes. The one that I would use is at a distance and I do not have irrigation pumps otherwise I would have been able to utilize this strategy

Interviewer: Do you have a water pump or sprinkler?

Interviewee: No but I can borrow from my neighbors

Interviewer: Whenever you borrow, are you given?

Interviewee: Yes, this literally depends on who you collaborate with

Interviewer: Do most people borrow or buy water pumps to irrigate their land?

Interviewee: Most people buy water pumps

Interviewer: How do you address the challenge of floods?

Interviewee: I dig trenches on the side of the garden

Interviewer: Who dug those trenches?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: How about when it gets filled up with washed soil?

Interviewee: My husband empties it.

Interviewer: Does he do it most of the time?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Most people intercrop grass how about you?

Interviewee: That requires if the land is yours, which is not the case in my circumstances (permanent land)

Interviewer: Do you hire land?

Interviewee: Yes, I am the one who provided money for hiring this land (wife)

Interviewer: How much did you hire it?

Interviewee: 200,000/=

Interviewer: How did you generate that money?

Interviewee: It was from my small business of selling vegetables (tomatoes, cabbages) and avocados.

Interviewer: Whose initiative was it?

Interviewee: It was my initiative. When you hire land and plant maize, you will harvest a lot more and have food in the granary

Interviewer: Do you store it all for food?

Interviewee: Mostly but whenever there is an issue that requires money, it can be sold.

Interviewer: Does your husband allow you to sell it so as to address your personal challenges?

Interviewee: He does not unless it is something to do with children's school requirements.

Interviewer: When did you start practicing agriculture?

Interviewee: I have been farming since childhood (about 35 years). I used to go with my my her to the garden and she would teach me how to dig.

Interviewer: How did you start farming?

Interviewee: When I was a child, I used to go with my mother to the garden, and she would guide me on how to dig.

Interviewer: How about your father, why don't you used to go with him?

Interviewee: You know it is the mothers who are close to the children most of the time.

Interviewer: Does your husband have customary land?

Interviewee: Yes, but it is not close here because his family just migrated from a place called Kaptokwoi.

Interviewer: So, does your husband cultivate there?

Interviewee: He does not but he plans to go and start cultivating there.

Interviewer: Have you ever been there?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: For how long have you been married?

Interviewee: 20 years. I have 5 children (2 boys and 3 girls)

Interviewer: What animals do you rare?

Interviewee: I used to have birds, but they all died recently because of coccidiosis

Interviewer: Do you have thoughts about having birds?

Interviewee: Yes, because they are very helpful at home

Interviewer: Do you have a garden on the riverbanks?

Interviewee: No, I do not have such land

Interviewer: Are there people who train people on how to manage birds?

Interviewee: Yes, but I do not know where they come from because it is usually the chairperson who brings them to the village.

Interviewer: Have you attended any training on farming?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: How about training from the sub-county?

Interviewee: I have attended only once when they were training how to plant potatoes in 2018.

Interviewer: How many people attended that training?

Interviewee: 15 members from this village

Interviewer: How were they selected?

Interviewee: Usually, people form their groups and whenever there is any training people are selected based on groups.

Interviewer: Where are you all members of the same group?

Interviewee: Yes. There were 3 men and the majority (12) were women.

Interviewer: Which organization trained you?

Interviewee: IFDC (International Fertilizer Development Organisation)

Interviewer: Have they ever returned?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: In case of household conflicts, where do women seek for help from?

Interviewee: Some women go to the chairperson LCI, Action Aid, involve neighbors to address the matter, clan

Interviewer: How does the clan resolve such issues?

Interviewee: Usually, they call for a meeting to assess who is the cause of the conflict and then they are advised on how they should live.

Interviewer: Does the clan often resolve the issues?

Interviewee: Yes, they try but sometimes they support the man because that is their son.

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: There are people to claim that their culture existed ever since and so no women should be above men.

Interviewer: Culturally, how is a woman expected to behave?

Interviewee: She has to be obedient, be respectful, stay at home and do home chores

Interviewer: But is that how women behave?

Interviewee: The majority of women follow these expectations.

Interviewer: Do men listen to women when they have something to say?

Interviewee: No, even if you change your approach, he does not listen.

Interviewer: How does the office of the chairperson LCI address household conflicts?

Interviewee: They usually provide opportunity for the person who complained to speak followed by the one who is being reported. After this the chairperson asks the members to assess the situation and make their observations. If they have found the one who was on the wrong, they are cautioned.

Interviewer: Does this resolve the issues people have?

Interviewee: There are issues that the Chairperson may not be able to resolve and in such circumstances such issues are taken to another level but in most cases, they are resolved.

Interviewer: What are the common conflicts in households?

Interviewee: In most cases there are men who sell everything at home, there are those who fail to pay school fees, fail to buy food at home, failing to treat children when they are sick.

Interviewer: Do women address these issues when they are able?

Interviewee: Yes, they do.

Interviewer: How do women ensure that there is peace at home?

Interviewee: Some women try so much to ensure that they work and have money to address such issues so as to maintain peace

Interviewer: Are men comfortable with this?

Interviewee: Some feel jealousy when women have money and they can even mess up their businesses. They do not want women to have money because they think they will be despised.

Interviewer: What is the reason for this?

Interviewee: Such men just want women to keep suffering

Interviewer: How do women get money to support the family?

Interviewee: Some collaborate with friends and hire land for cultivation. Others start up small businesses. For example, friends can decide to hire small portion of land for farming depending on their financial ability. After harvesting, they sell the products from the garden, get money and take up a lease because with a mortgage, you can cultivate the land for a long period of time. Once they have gained more, they can now divide up and everyone starts cultivating on their own. They usually collaborate when resources are few and then they separate later on.

Interviewer: Do most women collaborate with others?

Interviewee: Few collaborate while the majority work independently.

Interviewer: Are there men who fail to buy fertilizers?

Interviewee: Yes, there are times that men can fail to buy fertilizers

Interviewer: What does a woman do in such circumstances?

Interviewee: If you are a person who loves your family, you can use the money that you have got from Merry go rounds or other sources and buy fertilizers instead of leaving crops to get damaged in the garden.

Interviewer: Are there men who intentionally refuse to buy farm products because they see a woman has money and can do that?

Interviewee: Yes, they are even the majority. They just choose to be negligent because they want the woman to run out of money. Very few are supportive. Nowadays, there are women who even put a spray bump on their backs and go to spray crops by themselves.

Interviewer: How about during harvest, are you at liberty to sell the farm products?

Interviewee: How will you even do that because during harvest he will stay at home and even go up to the garden.

Interviewer: In what ways do men drain women financially?

Interviewee: They will ask to provide more than you can until you deplete all your resources. In most cases the men do not allow women to talk claiming it is his home.

Interviewer: Are there women who get loans from the banks?

Interviewee: Yes, such as women loans, farmers and those from BRAC

Interviewer: Are they many?

Interviewee: In this village they are few

Interviewer: How do people use loans from BRAC?

Interviewee: For starting up businesses because they are paid on a weekly basis.

Interviewer: Those who take such loans start up businesses like selling second hand clothes, start a shop or selling vegetable.

Interviewer: How about farming loans, what do women use it for?

Interviewee: They use it to purchase seeds or fertilizers

Interviewee: Have you ever got such a loan?

Interviewee: Yes, I got it from Finance Trust Bank

Interviewer: What are the requirements for one to obtain a loan?

Interviewee: You must move with your husband, provide a collateral and this depends on the amount of money one is borrowing. Items such as a cow, land agreement, or a plot of land can be used.

Interviewer: How much did you get?

Interviewee: 1,400,000

Interviewer: Did you agree to get the loan?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: What did you provide as collateral?

Interviewee: I had a cow and that is what I provided

Interviewer: How did you spend that money?

Interviewee: I put it in business and paying school fees

Interviewer: How did you manage to pay this money?

Interviewee: I did not have any trouble paying that money as part of it was got from my business (shop).

Interviewer: Did your husband help to repay these loans?

Interviewee: Yes, he was helpful

Interviewer: Do most women go with their husbands to the bank if they want money?

Interviewee: Yes, that is the condition. Your husband has to sign to show that he has consented to you getting a loan.

Interviewer: Are there men who refuses to consent?

Interviewee: Yes, but the majority accept especially if they know that the money will be used to support the family.

Interviewer: What are the requirements for a woman to get a loan from BRAC?

Interviewee: The requirements are similar. You need to have a form signed by the LCI chairperson, your husband, 2 guarantors and consent from group members.

Interviewer: What do members rely on to make such recommendations?

Interviewee: Character and ability to repay the loan on a weekly basis

Interviewer: Are you a member in BRAC?

Interviewee: I used to but I left because there I had a lot of work.

Interviewer: Are there many in BRAC?

Interviewee: No, they are few because they majorly practice farming.

Interview 16

Interviewer: How long have you lived in this village?

Interviewee: 24 years but in marriage I have more than those years

Interviewer: So, where were you living previously?

Interviewee: I was living in Kaptoyoy and I was married

Interviewer: Why did you live Kaptoyoy?

Interviewee: We just saw that people here cultivate potatoes and gain from it that is why we decided to move to this place (yields were high). The yields were high and yet people used not even use fertilizers.

Besides that, during that time there was insurgency caused by the Karamojong cattle raiders. They always requested men to join in and fight the raiders so my husband feared because sometimes they would even kill those who are guarding.

It was mandatory to go and guard during this time – every household was to provide someone to go and guard. In case there is no one to represent a household, those in charge would confiscate any material things such a goat, cow and anything valuable. These things would be sold, and the money was used to support those who are guarding.

This was a requirement for all adults

Interviewer: Would they use guns?

Interviewee: No, they would use spears, bows, arrows, machetes, sticks. So the soldiers with guns would go ahead of them while the civilians come after them. The purpose of this was to support the soldiers.

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate the crops?

Interviewee: I cultivate on the slopes of the mountain (onions and maize) – 1 ½ acre.

Interviewer: How did you obtain this land?

Interviewee: We just bought it with my husband after family assets like selling goats, cows, and some crops that we had harvested

Interviewer: Do you have any other garden?

Interviewee: Yes, there is another one which is about 2 acres. I have planted barley, potatoes and maize (it is just divided into 3 portions)

Interviewer: Who suggested these crops?

Interviewee: My husband suggested that we plant maize, but I told him we also need crops that would fetch us enough money to educate the children since we are not salary earners that is why we planted barley.

However, for onions, he is the one who suggested it.

Interviewer: Do you have other gardens?

Interviewee: I have hired one garden which is about 1 acre, and I have planted peas and maize.

Interviewer: Who hired one garden?

Interviewee: We just used things from home, but it is my husband who looked out for this land. We sold some maize.

Interviewer: Who suggested that more land should be hired?

Interviewee: It was my husband

Interviewer: Who suggested that you grow peas and maize?

Interviewee: It was still my husband

Interviewer: Do rear animals?

Interviewee: I have a cow which I milk but I sold the calf
I have 4 goats, 1 donkey

Interviewer: How did you own a cow?

Interviewee: We just bought. My husband sold the things that we have worked on (potatoes) and bought it.

Interviewer: How about the goats?

Interviewee: I just exchanged birds and got a goat.

Interviewer: Whose birds, were they?

Interviewee: I bought it and it multiplied

Interviewer: How about the donkey?

Interviewee: I bought it using money from my merry go round group.

Interviewer: Why did you exchange birds for goats and sheep?

Interviewee: It is because the birds have multiplied and yet they are more susceptible to diseases.

Interviewer: So, do you still have birds?

Interviewee: Yes, I have only one which I just bought recently

Interviewer: Are there ways of preventing coccidiosis?

Interviewee: Yes, but I do not know what is happening now days especially this year (2022). When birds get sick and they are treated they do not get well. Birds die so much even if they are treated. Everywhere I go people complain about.

Interviewer: Do women in this village get loans?

Interviewee: Yes, they go to Finance Trust and Centenary bank, money and from savings groups. There is an increasing number of women getting loans because of educating children (paying school fees).

Interviewer: Let's talk about money lenders, what are their requirements for one to be granted a loan?

Interviewee: You have to provide security such as a goat, cow or anything. So there is a form which the LC3 (at the sub-county), LCI chairpersons and guarantors have to complete. In case you fail to pay the money, the money lender is free to come and sell any of the items that have been provided as security as long as its value is equivalent to what was borrowed.

Interviewer: Who are the people who get loans from the money lenders the most?

Interviewee: I have noticed women get such loans more. Much as there are households where a husband and wife decide to get a loan together but the ones I see regularly are women.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: I do not know

Interviewer: Have you ever got a loan?

Interviewee: I went long time ago, but when you borrow money, you have to pay it back.

Interviewer: What has been your observation about women getting loans?

Interviewee: From my view as a woman, I have observed that from the time the issues of gender balance came, there has been some changes. Previously, men would go and sell agricultural products or even land without the knowledge of his wife and children. But when Action Aid came men were sensitized not to sell any household items without the consent of the wife and children. From that time according to my observation, the men refused to meet their responsibilities. So all the household responsibilities have been left for the women. In most households, women struggle even to educate their children, men have become very negligent. Unless the men are educated but for those who are not the women bear the heaviest burden of paying school fees. The men have used this 'gender balance to punish women unless the man is educated. Because if the women fail to pay school fees in the upper school levels, they drag the men to Action Aid because they are unable to pay many fees since at this level school fees are very pricey.

Interviewer: What is your view about gender balance?

Interviewee: It is a good thing because nowadays men do not just sell land without the consent of his wife and children, previously, here in Sebei region, when the cows have been taken to graze, you find that at the time of them returning one or two cows are missing because a man decided to sell it in the grazing field. But a woman is not supposed to question it. So, women's understanding of their rights is very helpful, that is why gender balance is important.

Interviewer: What is the view of men about gender balance?

Interviewee: They are not in support at all, that is why they have become negligent.

Interviewer: Are there men are still selling household things without the consent of the wife and children?

Interviewee: Yes, they are there but few. Because currently, even a buyer will require the consent of the seller's adult child or wife before buying anything. This is because if you buy without family consent, you can be accused of theft by the family.

Interviewer: Does the sub-county help in enforcing this?

Interviewee: They are of help when it comes to issues to do with land but police has been very helpful in this aspect because they collaborate with action aid which offers support to women.

Interviewer: Do you still have action aid here?

Interviewee: No, it is Binyinyi.

Interviewer: What causes men and women to conflict at home?

Interviewee: The challenge is that men are greedy. During harvest time men spend most of their time in the trading center drinking beer and end up spending all the money got from selling agricultural products. They get very busy with things that do not benefit the family in any way much as it is not bad to drink alcohol. Most of them will never give a woman and children part of the money he has got from selling agricultural products. According to my experience, that is the major cause of conflicts in households. I would have no problem a husband drinking alcohol after selling potatoes but at least give the family also some money to support themselves and also pay school fees. In fact, during harvest time, there are so many conflicts in households but during planting and weeding, the men are very friendly and there is peace in the home because he wants you and the children to work for him (there is war in most households during harvest time)

For me you can oppress me, but I try to stand my ground but since I have lived in this village for some time, I see what women go through. Sometimes when it rains well, you can plant 5 bags of potatoes and get about 100 bags. Sometimes, the prices go high and when this happens, you see people because the men (husbands) do not want women to move even just close to the gardens. That is when you can see real war!

Interviewer: During such conflicts, where do women seek help from?

Interviewee: They go to the sub-county, LC1 chairperson, police, action aid, clan. With the clan it is usually women who request for intervention from the clan. Sometimes it addressed the issue. The Local council court also tries to address family issues.

Interviewer: Do these institutions solve these issues completely?

Interviewee: Some do whereas some do not, so it calls for the law. People are usually warned that they will be subjected to the law if they do not comply or do the right thing.

Interviewer: Which of these organizations have always resolved family conflicts completely?

Interviewee: The men fear police because they will be charged money.

Action has been helpful in resolving family conflicts completely but generally it depends on the kind of issue and the willingness of a person to change. They are all helpful to some degree. I have noticed that women prefer sorting out issues in the office of LC1 chairperson.

Interviewer: Are women required to pay in case they report men?

Interviewee: Yes, if you involve the police

Interviewer: To what extent is the helpful I addressing the challenges that women face?

Interviewee: This depends on the kind of clan. There are clans where men are found of selling land, so if you report any issue to them, you will not get any help as a woman. In such situations, women seek for help from the LCI chairperson.

Interviewer: Are men active in buying farming inputs?

Interviewee: There are some men who are negligent as women and there are households where the husband and wife share in case any decision is to be made. They agree to buy seeds and other inputs like fertilizers and pesticides.

Men can provide fertilizers, but it depends on what he would like to achieve from the crops that have been cultivated. In this village, most men plan and buy fertilizers depending on how it benefits them directly.

Interviewer: Where do men put much of their efforts?

Interviewee: It is in crops that are to be sold like potatoes while the women are left to struggle with things like maize which will be used for food.

Interviewer: Does a woman have to advocate for food to be spared other than selling everything?

Interviewee: He will sell everything...laughs... because he wants money

About 3 years ago we cultivated with my husband 3 times and this even made me lose the energy of farming, but I realized that if I am not directly involved in agriculture the home will collapse. I

got involved again and this time I even went up to the garden because I wanted to know hoe crops are sold. We harvested and got potatoes 1 truck and I remained in the garden. Because I bought 50% of seeds and he bought 50%. He told me I will take the potatoes to the market and then buy iron sheets for our house because we were to construct. What made me gain boldness and confidence to confront him and even seek redress from the law was that he went for 3 days and never returned. On the 4th day because we did not have food (posho flour) since it was June we had not yet harvested maize, I called him on phone, and he said I am aware about that. Since maize has already been harvested here, I will buy some and come along with and I will also come with iron sheets. I will buy them from Mbale and come with them home.

The next day, he arrived in night, and the car was empty without iron sheets, so I asked him the next day, and he told me not to worry because he was going to buy the iron sheets. From that time up to date, I have never seen any money and the iron sheets were never bought. Since then, I have always been present whenever they are selling anything. If there are things to pay such as fees, I am given the money there and then. This has really helped me and the family because if you are relaxed, all your efforts will go to the drain. women work very hard to ensure that food remains at home.

Interview 17

Interviewer: Do you have trees around your home?

Interviewee: I have trees, Cyprus and eucalyptus

Interviewer: Who planted them?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: Why did he plant those trees?

Interviewee: They act as wind breakers because this place is windy there was need for some trees

Interviewer: When were these trees planted?

Interviewee: In the year 2020

Interviewer: What have you planted there?

Interviewee: There are bananas and pumpkins

Interviewer: Who planted the bananas?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: Why did you plant pumpkins?

Interviewee: For food. We eat pumpkins and their leaves for food

Interviewer: How big is this land?

Interviewee: It is a small portion

Interviewer: Do you have any other land that you cultivate apart from the one near home?

Interviewee: Yes, it is about ½ an acre

Interviewer: What have you cultivated in this garden?

Interviewee: Bananas, grass and beans

Interviewer: Who planted the grass and trees?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: How did you own this land?

Interviewee: It was bought

Interviewer: Do you have any other land that you cultivate?

Interviewee: Yes, but it is also small. This land was just bought

Interviewer: What have you planted there?

Interviewee: Potatoes

Interviewer: For how long have you lived here?

Interviewee: For about 1 year and 4 months

Interviewer: Do you have land that you are cultivating in your home?

Interviewee: No, in our culture girls do not inherit land. They benefit from the side of their husband.

Interviewer: How about where you are living now, how did you access it?

Interviewee: It was just bought

Interviewer: Did you contribute to the purchase of this land?

Interviewee: Yes, through the farm produce and animals that we kept

Interviewer: What challenges do face in farming?

Interviewee: I have noted that in this place almost all farmers apply fertilizers

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: The farmers say most of the topsoil has been washed away by water that is why they apply fertilizers

Interviewer: Are there any other challenges that you face?

Interviewee: Soil erosion due to flooding water (there are water gullies)

Interviewer: What have you done to address this problem?

Interviewee: I have dug trenches, planted trees and grass

Interviewer: We would like to discuss household relations, what causes conflicts in household?

Interviewee: In most polygamous families, conflicts are because of resources. Whenever a husband buys household items the other family can claim that more has been taken to the other household. Alcohol and religion are also other challenges

Interviewer: Where do women go to get help and support?

Interviewee: Others borrow from friends or do menial jobs or start businesses

Interviewer: If there is disagreement in a home where do women seek help from?

Interviewee: Action Aid, police, LCI chairperson and it also depends on what the cause of the conflict is. Some women go to trusted relatives, friends and clans.

Interviewer: Of these organizations, which one is of more help to the women?

Interviewee: It is LC1 chairperson, because it is close to the women and they also offer guidance on how issues can be referred to other authorities just in case they are not addressed. But Action Aid is of more help

Interviewer: According to your observation, which one is the weakest in addressing women's issues?

Interviewee: It is chairman LC1 that appears too weak.

Interviewer: How about the clan, what is your observation about how issues are addressed?

Interviewee: The clan tries to address conflicts, but it depends on the leadership. There are some clans that do not support women that much. But in most cases depending on what they are addressing the women are supported the most.

Interviewer: Do women in this village get loans?

Interviewee: Yes, I believe they do but I am not very conversant

Interviewer: Are men active in providing fertilizers?

Interviewee: They try but some do not.

Interviewer: Other than farming what else do you do for a living?

Interviewee: Business

Interviewer: What business?

Interviewee: It is veterinary shop

Interviewer: Who digs water trenches?

Interviewee: It is men because boys are also men.

Interview18

Interviewer: How long have you lived in this village?

Interviewee: 09 years because I came here in 2013

Interviewer: Before coming here where were you living?

Interviewee: I was living in Kitany because that is where my parents are.

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: I started learning how to farm when I was 10 years

Interviewer: How did you learn?

Interviewee: It was my mother who taught me how to weed. Whenever she went to the garden to weed, she would also give me a hoe and would guide me on how to weed.

Interviewer: Do you rare animals?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: What are they?

Interviewee: I have 5 cows, 6 birds, 2 sheep (goats)

Interviewer: I have noticed people here have more sheep than goats. Why do people prefer rearing sheep than goats?

Interviewee: It is because sheep reproduce quite quickly than goats. For instance, a goat produces once a year whereas a sheep produces twice a year.

Besides that, sheep are easy to feed compared to goats because they graze like the cow eating grass but goats feed on what is raised like leaves. It is easy to feed sheep other than goats.

Interviewer: How about in terms of diseases?

Interviewee: Goats are more resistant to diseases compared to sheep but as long as they are treated, they get fine. You can treat it twice a year and it will be fine.

Interviewer: Let's talk about these things a bit. Who owns the cows?

Interviewee: They are for my husband, but it is for the family

Interviewer: How about goats?

Interviewee: They are for my husband

Interviewer: Who owns the birds?

Interviewee: Both of us however, in our culture when a woman has something, it is the man who is in charge because he is the head of the household. So even if you want to sell something, you have to seek his permission even if it is yours.

Interviewer: Who started the project on birds?

Interviewee: I am the one and I have some power to sell them but still I have to inform my husband before making any decision.

Interviewer: How about if he refuses?

Interviewee: Sometimes I just sell.

Interviewer: Do you conflict after this?

Interviewee: This depends on the kind of man, but most men do not permit a woman to make any decisions.

But in this community, most women work very hard to sustain the family. They do menial jobs like offering casual labour and use this to support their households. The women no longer depend on a man so much because they look for money to take care of the home. Men have authority majorly when it comes to issues to with land and cows

Interviewer: Are men comfortable with women taking on this role in their households?

Interviewee: This depends on the kind of man. There are those who drink alcohol and are never bothered about what happens in their homes whereas there are those who may be concerned to some degree. But most men are not bothered about this and where women get money to support the family as long everything is moving on smoothly.

Interviewer: Have you heard that women get loans?

Interviewee: Here the women go for loans from the sub-county and then Finance Trust Bank, Centenary Bank, there are those with saving groups and from money lenders.

Women borrow money from money lenders to pay fees or to start business

Interviewer: Where do most women get loans from?

Interviewee: Most of them get it from their savings group

Interviewer: Have you ever got a loan from a bank?

Interviewee: Yes, I have never got once but it was many years ago.

Interviewer: When was that?

Interviewee: In 2015 and I got it from Finance Trust Bank

Interviewer: Why haven't you gone back?

Interviewee: I found challenges repaying it so I could not go back because I had got a business loan and was required to pay fortnightly.

Interviewer: Based on your experiences and observations what are the major causes of conflicts in households?

Interviewee: Let me start with food. Lack of food non provision by the husband.

When a husband does not pay school fees and children are sent away from school it becomes a source of conflict. This also goes along with other scholastic materials like uniforms and shoes. If you have about 5 children with scholastic materials it becomes a source of conflict.

- Another thing is that after cultivating crops well when it reaches harvest time, the husband wants to own everything and the proceeds from the crops that have been sold.
- There are also men who are found of selling household assets without informing the wife or even seeking her consent (goats, cows or even chicken).
- There are also men who sell or mortgage land without the knowledge of the wife and children. Leasing land is a very common habit here, sometimes you may not even know what he wanted the money for or where he spent the money. With issues to do with land, we go to law enforcing institutions for help. Court can help to address these issues because laws on land and resource inheritance helps to protect women.

Interviewer: So, in times of conflicts where do women seek help from?

Interviewee: LCI Chairperson but incase this fails, a woman to seek help from the clan. If the issues are addressed completely that is fine but incase all matters have not been resolved, the woman can proceed to report the matter to police. When it gets to issues to do with land, women try to seek help from law enforcing institutions like the police.

Interviewer: What sort of issues do women seek help from LCI chairpersons?

Interviewee: In case of a fight between a man and woman and also when children fight among each other.

Interviewer: How about the clan, what issues do they address?

Interviewee: Predominant conflicts and when the man is found of selling household assets without necessarily involving the wife.

Sometimes, even when a woman reports a case to police, they are asked to go back to the clan to address these issues because there are children, neighbors or relatives who may be involved or can be of help in resolving these issues.

Interviewer: Are there instances when women are not happy having their issues addressed by the clan or chairperson LCI?

Interviewee: Yes, but even if you go to police, depending on how your issue has been assessed you can be asked to go back and seek help from the clan or office of the chairperson LCI. For those who wish their issues to be addressed by police, they are asked to provide a referral letter from LCI chairperson.

Interviewer: Are there organizations that support women to address such issues?

Interviewee: Yes, we have Action Aid

Interviewer: What issues cause women to seek help from action aid?

Interviewee: Issues to do with land, defilement, violence against children. Usually when issues are taken to law enforcing offices, they are solved quite well.

Interviewer: Do such women go to action aid direct?

Interviewee: No, they started from the LCI chairperson. Usually, for issues to be addressed well it is better to involve the law (law enforcing agencies)

Interviewer: Which of these organizations are quick to address the issues of women?

Interviewee: Action aid because they are more concerned about women issues. They have even sensitized women to go to them to address the different issues that women face.

Interviewer: Which of these institutions can you consider to be weak in addressing women issues?

Interviewee: Chairperson LCI is not usually of great help. This office focuses on encouraging people to reconcile even when issues have not been addressed because they want to appear good before their voters and every other person in the village. Women are often not satisfied

Interviewer: How about the clan, what has been people's experience?

Interviewee: The clan can even flog a man or give him penalties because it is his own people who are instilling discipline.

The clan predominantly addresses issues and if it is a land issue, the clan can even divide land so as to avoid conflict.

Interviewer: Do women prioritize peace?

Interviewee: They are more concerned about peace. If a woman knows that the husband returns he will fight, she will cook early and do all her household chaos in time, he will not quarrel. But if he finds food is not cooked, the cow has not been tied, and everything is in order there will be no quarrel

- Also, if you are not born again, you decide to become born again so that peace can prevail
- Other issue is communicating well with the man
- Always being obedient and respectful even if he has sold all the harvest so that he can he can look around for a way of providing for the family.

Interviewer: How about when a man sells all farm produce, when do women do?

Interviewee: You just have to humble yourself and ask him for help such as paying school fees. Sometimes women struggle to provide for the family, plant vegetables so that you can pay school fees and keep quiet so that peace can prevail. This does not even require one telling him what they are doing because there is need as long as there is peace.

Also, if you have a cow that you're milking, you can sell milk and get money to support the family

Interviewer: Who is more concerned about the education of children?

Interviewee: There are households where men are concerned and those where women are more concerned. But the majority of those who more concerned about the education of the children are women.

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: It is because they focus so much on the future and also compare their children with those of the neighbours and other relatives.

Interviewer: What help does the sub-county render to women?

Interviewee: It is of help and I hear that in case of separation the sub-county gets involved, but few people go there. You go and speak to the sub-county chief, and they will guide you on who can help but it is rare for people to separate.

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate you crops?

Interviewee: Land that was bought (maize, potatoes and barley). It is about 1 acre

Interviewer: Do you have any garden that you cultivate?

Interviewee: There is also land that we have in my husband's home in Kawin

Interviewer: Do you cultivate there?

Interviewee: No because the land has been leased out.

Interviewer: How about near home?

Interviewee: Yes, I cultivate potatoes, coffee and bananas

Interviewer: How big is it?

Interviewee: It is small.

Interviewer: Do you cultivate on the riverbank?

Interviewee: Yes, but my husband leased this land out

Interviewer: What crops did you use to plant in this portion?

Interviewee: Maize, potatoes and vegetables

Interviewer: Why did he lease out this land?

Interviewee: There are school going children who require fees.

Interviewer: Did you use cultivating vegetables there?

Interviewee: Yes, for sell.

Interviewer: Have you ever learnt about farmers being trained by the sub-county?

Interviewee: It is not common other than those who come through the sub-county to teach people how to plant maize and they were to give groups seeds.

Interviewer: Are groups registered with the sub-county?

Interviewee: Yes, most groups are registered because there are even training opportunities and you can get money. They can also receive things like seeds.

Interviewer: Is there any knowledge that you feel you should have utilized but was limited due to other factors?

Interviewee: Yes. As a woman, you can want to plant maize with fertilizers but because I do not enough money to purchase fertilizers. This becomes a limitation.

I also had desired to plant onions but because I did not have money to buy pesticides and fertilizers, I gave up the whole idea.

Interview 19

Interviewer: How long have you lived in this village?

Interviewee: I have lived here for about 2 years

Interviewer: So where were you living before?

Interviewee: I was first living in the trading center (Kapnarykut) but when I learnt that this place was being sold, I decided to sell the land that I had in the trading and bought this one.

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: For 22 years

Interviewer: What were you doing before getting fully engaged in agriculture?

Interviewee: I was a food vendor. I had a restaurant (eating place)

Interviewer: How did you start farming?

Interviewee: I started farming when I was 15 years and I would farm my own beans which I would sell and use the money to purchase my personal effects

Interviewer: What are your farming activities?

Interviewee: Planting, weeding, harvesting

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: 8 the first born is 28 and the youngest is 14 years' old

Interviewer: Do you have any animals?

Interviewee: Yes, I have 3 cows and 8 goats

Interviewer: What help are the goats?

Interviewee: When I have, I need I just sell one. For instance, recently I needed to buy fertilizers, but I did not have money, so I sold one goat.

Interviewer: How did you get to own these animals?

Interviewee: I just bought them after the death of my husband (has been a widow since 2018)

Interviewer: How have you benefited from agriculture?

Interviewee: It helps me meet my personal needs, buy farm inputs

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate crops?

Interviewee: I have land which I bought with my husband (3 acres of land)

Interviewer: Have you experienced any challenges with the relatives of your husband in accessing this land?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: How about your children?

Interviewee: I have not had any challenges with them because even my elder son has his own portion to cultivate (it is leased land about 1 acre). It is only the sons that will have land and they are 3 but the girls will not.

Interviewer: Why don't you give the girls also land?

Interviewee: In our culture girls do not inherit land and they do not even own property.

Interviewer: Do you have ownership over the land that you and your husband bought?

Interviewee: Yes. The issue of not owning land is more applicable to land which was inherited or ancestral.

Interviewer: Have you ever learnt of widows who experience challenges accessing land that they bought with their spouse?

Interviewee: Yes, man's relatives sometimes do not understand the dynamics that surround ownership of land. So for them all they want is their son's property

Interviewer: Other than farming, are you involved in other economic activities?

Interviewee: I am a vegetable vendor. I sell vegetables and fruits like avocados which I also buy from other farmers.

Interviewer: We would now like to talk about weather-related changes and farming and as we focus on this, we want to compare the past and the present. So, I would like to start with seasons, how many farming seasons do you have?

Interviewee: We have two seasons

Interviewer: Have you noted any changes?

Interviewee: Yes, there have been changes, sometimes when you expect rain it does not rain. For instance, you can transplant onion seedlings when there are signs of rain, but after transplanting the rain disappears and this affects the crops while others just dry up.

For example, recently we transplanted onions about (1/2 kg) ½ acre when it was raining but after doing this it never rained for 3 weeks and all the onion plants dried up (2022).

In the second season, sometimes after planting rain comes for a few days and it disappears. I experienced this even last year (2021). We planted crops and rained for 2 days, and the rain disappeared completely up to the end of the year. We lost all that we had planted.

In my farmer group, we hired 1 acre of land at 400,000 for about a year and planted 10 bags (400 kg) of potatoes, we even applied fertilizers, but the rain disappeared.

In the first season we planted and got 32 bags and so we thought if we plant well in the second season we would gain more but this was not the case because we lost so much.

Interviewer: How long ago have you notice that the weather has changed?

Interviewee: About 5 years ago

Interviewer: Let's talk about the crops that you cultivate, are the crops you are planting now the same as those that used to be cultivated in the past years?

Interviewee: There is a change. For instance, in the past years' farmers used to cultivate maize and beans for food mainly but now people plant crops that mature fast which can be sold to pay fees. So people plant onions, potatoes because they mature in 3 months and not maize which takes 12 months. Things like barley and wheat are also new but people prefer potatoes because you can gain more.

Interviewer: How did people used to address floods and soil erosion?

Interviewee: The challenges we are facing now like floods erosion used to be few those days because the vegetative cover was there, there were many trees and forests unlike today where people have cut down trees and cleared vegetation to create land for farming due to the increasing population. Previously the farmers would not cultivate on the slopes but now days people cultivate even up to the slopes of the mountain.

Interviewer: How do you address these challenges (farming strategies)?

Interviewee: For the case of sunshine, there is nothing much I can do other than proper timing of planting so that by the time crops are planted there is enough rain to support their growth. If you want to plant crops during the second season you have to time the planting well so that even if rain disappears in the future at least the crops will receive enough to support their growth. This year I have implemented this because I was fatigued by losses last year. I planted in march other than in April as I have always done. Right now, I am even preparing nursery beds for onions.

For the floods and erosion, I have planted grass in my garden, dug trenches and this grass helps me feed the animal. After digging trench, I plant grass on the sides. So when the soil collects in the trench it is removed and thrown back to the garden because it is fertile soil. It preserves the soil.

Interviewer: Who does this work?

Interviewee: I do it with my sons

Interviewer: Any other methods?

Interviewee: I rotate crops if I plant maize I don't remove the stalks. I use it as mulches to prevent flooding and also preserve soil moisture.

Interviewer: How about pests and diseases?

Interviewee: Currently we have more pests and diseases than it was previously because people plant different crops so, I have to spray crops with pesticides.

Interviewer: What are the responsibilities of a woman?

Interviewee: I have to spend most of my time home doing household chores, caring for the children, cooking and for me I have to ensure the animals are safe and they have not grazed or eaten people's crops.

Interviewer: Do women do these?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: How about men?

Interviewee: They are responsible for ploughing with oxen, grazing much as women also do these, paying school fees

Interviewer: How about treating children when they are sick?

Interviewee: It is mainly women

Interviewer: Do men meet their responsibilities?

Interviewee: Some do but others do not. They have left women with household responsibilities

Interviewer: Why is it so?

Interviewee: Men have just become negligent, and they spend most of their time in the trading centers having fun (leisure)

Interviewer: How have women managed these challenges?

Interviewee: Most women are in groups where they save and borrow money, they have merry go rounds and other are involved in small businesses and menial jobs to raise money to support their households. Because in most cases men do not provide.

Interviewer: Are women happy about this?

Interviewee: No, they are just enduring because they have children. They are not happy with this

Interviewer: What are your farming challenges?

Interviewee: Sometimes I lack money to buy farm implements like fertilizers and pesticides. The other challenges that I face are floods which was away from crops, sunshine and poor market

Interviewer: Do you experience flooding every year?

Interviewee: Not really but in the last five years' floods have been more frequent, we even experienced landslides.

Interviewer: Who decides what crops to plant?

Interviewee: I discuss it with my elder son and the rest of the children follow

Interviewer: Do you have trees?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Who planted them?

Interviewee: I am the one who planted it with the children (eucalyptus)

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: Because I wanted it to for timber, firewood and poles for construction

Interviewer: Have they matured?

Interviewee: Not yet

Interviewer: Where did you get the knowledge that you use in farming?

Interviewee: I was trained by IFDC but before that I was a member in AT Uganda. They would train us and we would also train other farmers. The knowledge that I have got from these trainings

Interviewer: How did you manage to be beneficiary?

Interviewee: They look out for people who know how to read and write and that is how I was selected.

Interviewer: How about training provided by the sub-county, have you attended any?

Interviewee: No, the only time that I went to the sub-county was during the training offered by International Fertilizer Development Company (IFDC)

Interviewer: Are you a member in any group?

Interviewee: Yes, I am a member in multipurpose women's group. But before this I was in Juwa Kali women's group but when it ceased functioning, I joined Multipurpose women's group

Interview 20

Interviewer: For how long have you lived here?

Interviewee: 20 years

Interviewer: Before here where were you living?

Interviewee: I was living with my parents in Siron

Interviewer: How did you learn how to farm?

Interviewee: I learnt from others

Interviewer: What are your farming activities?

Interviewee: I dig the banana plantation, planting,

Interviewer: What do you use for digging?

Interviewee: I use ox-plough and a hand hoe

Interviewer: Who do you farm with?

Interviewee: I do it with my children

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: 5 (3 boys and 2 girls) the oldest is 23

Interviewer: How about your husband?

Interviewee: That one does not go the garden

Interviewer: Do you rear any animals?

Interviewee: I have 1 cow, 4 goats, and 7 poultry

Interviewer: What crops do you cultivate?

Interviewee: Maize, potatoes (these are for the first season crops)

Interviewer: How about beans?

Interviewee: We plant it in the second season only because plight affects it badly. The rain would have reduced. Even potatoes are planted in the second season as long as potatoes had not been previously planted in that garden

Interviewer: Why do they you plant these crops?

Interviewee: They help me. They are for food. They can also be sold. I just use my own energy to cultivate than relying on my husband

Interviewer: Who decides what crops to plant?

Interviewee: It is my husband who tells me what crops to plant

Interviewer: Are there crops that you would have wished to plant but you have not been able because your husband decided what crops to plant?

Interviewee: If I had authority, I would have planted wheat

Interviewer: Why would you want wheat?

Interviewee: Because it is good. It can be ground and used to make chapati

Interviewer: Why doesn't your husband allow you to plant wheat?

Interviewee: I do not know. It seems that he does not just like it. Another good thing about wheat is that you do not have to weed but you can spray the weeds with herbicides just as barley

Interviewer: Are there women in this who would like to plant certain but because they do not have authority, they are limited?

Interviewee: Such women are there because some men restrict them to cultivate only maize

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate these crops?

Interviewee: I cultivate them on my husband's ancestral land

Interviewer: What is its size?

Interviewee: It is about 1 acre

Interviewer: Do you have any other land that you are cultivating?

Interviewee: No, that is the only land that I have. I haven't hired any

Interviewer: How have you managed to cultivate all those crops on that land?

Interviewee: I have just divided/segmented the land

Interviewer: What is the quality of soil in your garden?

Interviewee: It would have been fertile, but the rain washes away soil so I have to apply fertilizers

Interviewer: What other economic activities do you do?

Interviewee: No, after garden work I go to the banana plantation.

Interviewer: Who planted the bananas?

Interviewee: Myself

Interviewer: How about coffee?

Interviewee: It is my husband who planted them

Interviewer: How is the plantation doing?

Interviewee: It is not doing very well

Interviewer: How about the tree that I am seeing?

Interviewee: It is an avocado tree, and I am the one who planted it. I sell and also eat.

Interviewer: How much do you sell avocados?

Interviewee: 1 basin at 5000

Interviewer: How about the other trees?

Interviewee: My husband planted them and he sells it to people we sell firewood. They buy the tree, cut it and chop small logs for fuel (Grivaria, eucalyptus)

We had even harvested eucalyptus to construct our house, but it did not work because we were attacked. There is a clan relative to my husband who was suspected to have murdered some gentle man in Kapnarkut, so the clan of the deceased attacked all the clan members of the suspected murderer. Our houses were destroyed and they looted animals, food produce among other things. We just fled to safety and returned quite recently (Kamelygut). They took even our timber; I lost 2 cows. We spent 3 days out of home, but the children took so long before they could come back So someone just called and advised us to leave. We just had to divide, the

Interviewer: Have those issues been resolved?

Interviewee: No, I understand the suspected murderer was arrested in Kenya and he is now in prison.

We would now like to talk about the changes that have occurred in this village with respect to the weather and farming. I would like to discuss this while comparing the past the present times.

Interviewer: How many farming seasons do you have?

Interviewee: Two

Interviewer: Are the crop yields the same in the first and second seasons?

Interviewee: First seasons yield fairly well but the second season yields are poor because sometimes the rains reduce

Interviewer: Is that how it used to be? No, this is a recent development and presently the rain has become more destructive.

Interviewer: How about pests and diseases, are there more now than it was previously?

Interviewee: There are more pests and diseases in the current times.

Interviewer: How about before?

Interviewee: They used to be few

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: I think the rain was adequate than it is currently. When the rain becomes many pests and diseases also increase

Interviewer: How about sunshine, how would you describe it now?

Interviewee: We have more sunshine than it used to be

Interviewer: How about the crops that you cultivate, are there any changes from what used to be cultivated previously?

Interviewee: In the past years, farmers would only cultivate maize and not potatoes but nowadays everything is planted.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: I think crops like wheat and barley used not be there

Interviewer: How about the wellbeing, is it poor now or in the past years?

Interviewee: The wellbeing is poor currently because there are so many people and even food is not enough

Interviewer: Let's focus on the farming methods, were terraces, trenches and planting grass practices previously?

Interviewee: No, in the past years these were not there

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: Because the rain was not destructive, the forests were there as well as the vegetative cover. Now days people cultivate even up to the riverbanks and yet this used not to happen in this village

Interviewer: Do cultivate on the banks of river?

Interviewee: For me I just planted grass for my cows

Interviewer: What farming challenges do women farmers experience?

Interviewee: They do most of the garden work (they weed with the children). Low-income levels

Interviewer: How long ago did you notice these changes?

Interviewee: About 10 years ago

Interviewer: Where do you get the knowledge that you use in farming?

Interviewee: I learnt it from my neighbours

Interviewer: Have you attended any training?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: Do men attend such trainings?

Interviewee: Yes, I see men go to the sub-county and they are trained about training.

Interviewer: Don't they tell you?

Interviewee: No, which man can tell you... laughs

Interviewer: So how do you know he is going for training?

Interviewee: I ask and he will answer

Interviewer: Doesn't he come back and tell you what they learn?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: How do you feel; do you think you also need such training?

Interviewee: Yes, we need it as well.

Interviewer: Have you been able to use all the knowledge that you have in farming?

Interviewee: I have not utilized it all

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: Because my husband does not permit me to practice farming the way I want. For example, I even forcefully plant potatoes because he wants us to plant only maize

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: I don't know, for me I know the value of potatoes. It is very useful for food. When I am hungry with the children =, he is not even bothered (some portions of the garden are intercropped maize and potatoes)

Interviewer: What crops are men more interested in farming?

Interviewee: They are more interested in potatoes but mine is different

Interviewer: How about when you harvest, is he interested in selling it?

Interviewee: No really

Interviewer: Does he give you a portion to cultivate?

Interviewee: Yes, for the case of potatoes he gave me a small portion (very small portion).

Interviewer: Does he leave some maize for the family to eat?

Interviewee: He leaves some

Interviewer: Who weeds your husband's maize?

Interviewee: I am the one who does it.

Interviewer: Does he leave what can feed you up to the next harvesting season?

Interviewee: Yes (when potatoes are harvested)

Interviewer: So how do you preserve such maize?

Interviewee: I just pack them in bags and keep them in the house because if you leave it in the granary thieves can steal.

Interviewer: Do most men do what your husband does?

Interviewee: No, they sell off everything

Interviewer: What are the responsibilities of women?

Interviewee: Grazing cows, cleaning, collecting firewood, water,

Interviewer: Do women meet their responsibilities?

Interviewee: Yes, the women do

Interviewer: How about men, what are their responsibilities?

Interviewee: They go to the trading center to watch videos and drink alcohol

Interviewer: What work would men be expected to do?

Interviewee: Grazing animals because now women do that but also come back home to cook and do other household chores.

They should also clear bushes around the home

Interviewer: Are you a member in a group for parish model?

Interviewee: No, I have just learnt about it

Interviewer: How come and yet your husband is a chairperson?

Interviewee: Yes, he has not told me anything

Interviewer: Or are you not interested?

Interviewee: Not really but even if both of us cannot go and the leave the home alone.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: We can just leave the home like that. If my husband has gone somewhere I have to keep the home. Even when he goes to the trading center.

Interview 21

Interviewer: What is in the granary now?

Interviewee: Firewood

Interviewer: So how do you ensure there is food?

Interviewee: We just buy

Interviewer: On what portion of land do you cultivate maize?

Interviewer: ½ acre

Interviewer: Is that the only land that you have?

Interviewee: No, there is a place where we have cultivated potatoes and wheat.

Interviewer: Did you just eat all the maize?

Interviewee: No, we sold some to pay school fees.

Interviewer: Who suggested that the maize be sold to pay school fees?

Interviewee: I agreed with my husband

Interviewer: Did you discuss what quantity should be sold?

Interviewee: Yes, we agreed

Interviewer: Do you have trees around your home?

Interviewee: Yes, I have avocado trees (03) and eucalyptus

Interviewer: Who planted it?

Interviewee: My husband

Interviewer: What do you do with avocado fruits?

Interviewee: We eat and sell

Interviewer: Any other fruits?

Interviewee: Yes, I have passion fruits

Interviewer: Who planted it?

Interviewee: I am the one

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: I wanted it to feed my family and also to sell for money

Interviewer: How about the eucalyptus?

Interviewee: It's my husband who planted it for firewood and timber

Interviewer: Who planted bananas?

Interviewee: Myself. I wanted it for food, and I can also sell it to get money to access other basics of life. It is a small portion of land

Interviewer: How about the garden that you were digging, what size is it?

Interviewee: It is 1 acre

Interviewer: Do you have any other garden that you cultivate?

Interviewee: Yes, there is one that is hired.

Interviewer: What is the size of that land?

Interviewee: It is small, about $\frac{1}{4}$ an acre

Interviewer: What have you cultivated there?

Interviewee: Maize, potatoes, wheat

Interviewer: How about the land that you are cultivating around home?

Interviewee: Part of it was inherited about $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre and part of it was just bought about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

Interviewer: How did you buy it?

Interviewee: I had a cow which I sold, and my husband added money and bought that land

We also got a NUSAF cow which was sold and used to buy land

Interviewer: You look very hardworking?

Interviewee: Yes, I am hardworking, but my main challenges is fertilizers

Interviewer: Are there instances when your husband apportions you land to cultivate crops of your own interest?

Interviewee: No, we just cultivate and divide during harvest. We agree on what should be sold and used for home.

Interviewer: How about vegetables, do plants?

Interviewee: Yes, I do plant some vegetables

Interviewer: How did you own this land?

Interviewee: We bought it. Those days' land used to be very cheap, and we bought it 300,000 in 2003. We bought the other portion at 2,000,000 in 2014.

Interviewer: Of the two which one is bigger?

Interviewee: The land that we bought at 300,000/= is bigger than the one that we bought at 2,000,000/= because by the time we bought things had not been so monetized.

Interviewer: Why did you plant vegetables?

Interviewee: I just decided to do that because I did not want to spend money buying vegetables.

Interviewer: Did your husband permit you?

Interviewee: He was hesitant that I am wasting the garden, he wanted us to plant potatoes even in that portion, but I had to do it forcefully. Whenever he sees the vegetables, he says I am wasting his land because which would now have potatoes.

Interviewer: Who decides what crops to plant?

Interviewee: We just discussed with my husband and agreed.

Interviewer: What if you suggest certain crops to be cultivated does he agree?

Interviewee: Yes, he agrees

Interviewer: Do you have any other land that you cultivate?

Interviewee: Yes, there is another one that I hired

Interviewer: Are you the one who hired it?

Interviewee: We just sold a goat and used that money to hire that land.

Interviewer: What is the size of that land?

Interviewee: It is about $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land.

Interviewer: How much did you hire it?

Interviewee: At 190,000 for a period of one year

Interviewer: Have you applied fertilizers in all those gardens?

Interviewee: Not yet we are just planning to do so

Interviewer: But did you plant all your crops with fertilizers?

Interviewee: Yes, we did

Interviewer: I can see birds around where do they sleep?

Interviewee: The birds have no house, but they used to sleep in the kitchen when it was still ok but now, I sleep with them. because I do not have a poultry house.

Interviewer: How many goats do you have?

Interviewee: 02

Interviewer: Where do they sleep?

Interviewee: I take them to the neighbours place because we have a challenge of theft in this village.

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: 08

Interviewer: How old is the eldest?

Interviewee: She is 28

Interviewer: How about the youngest?

Interviewee: 04 years

Interviewer: Where do you children study?

Interviewee: They are in a private school

Interviewer: Why did you take them to a private school and yet there are government schools?

Interviewee: My children were not performing well at all that is why is made this decision

Interviewer: For how long have you lived in this village? I have lived here since 2002

Interviewer: Where were you living previously?

Interviewee: I was living in our home

Interviewer: How did you start farming?

Interviewee: When I was growing up my parents were farmers and we used to weed so I just started farming with my family. We used to weed with my mother and elder siblings (weeding). That is how we learnt weeding and we do it up to now.

Interviewer: What is the quality of the land that you cultivate?

Interviewee: The land is not fertile

Interviewer: Is that how it has been? Previously from 2002 -2005 the soil was still fine but currently the soil quality has reduced. Besides that, the soil is now used to fertilizers, and the rain is so heavy and have been washed away. We just emulated progressive farmers, that is why and now we cannot cultivate without fertilizers. The challenge is that when we apply fertilizers, we put what is not enough and sometimes that also becomes a problem because our crops do not yield as much as those of the rich farmers. Even potatoes when we had just started farming, it used to yield well but the yields have now reduced.

Interviewer: Other than farming what other economic activities are you involved in?

Interviewee: Nothing I only farm

Interviewer We would now like to discuss the changes in farming and the weather while focusing on the past and the present. Your experiences and observations will be very useful when responding to these questions. I would like us to start with the farming seasons, what are the changes in terms of crop yields?

Interviewee: The crop yields are poor because of loss of soil fertility

Interviewer: Which season has better crop yields?

Interviewee: First season is better because in the second season the rains are inadequate and crops remain thirsty.

Interviewer: Is that how it was previously?

Interviewee: No, I understand it used to drain well and in the circumcision year (even year) it would rain well but now this does not matter whether it is an even or odd year the rains are the same.

Interviewer: Why did it used to rain more in the circumcision year?

Interviewee: It was a belief and it used to happen that way

Interviewer: How about the crops is there any change?

Interviewee: Previously, potatoes used not to be there, and they would mainly cultivate maize and wheat

Interviewer: What caused these changes?

Interviewee: I think it is because of the increasing demands and needs that is why people looked out for other crops

Interviewer: How about the methods of farming?

Interviewee: The trenches were not there except the terraces but now people have over cultivated the soil that is why there is a challenge. That is why we do a lot of work trying to scoop soil from the trenches

Interviewer: Do you do this by yourself?

Interviewee: Yes, with my children because my husband goes to the trading center.

Interviewer: Who is responsible for ensuring that the crops are weeded?

Interviewee: It is mainly women because most men do not stay at home

Interviewer: How many times do you weed maize?

Interviewee: 3 times

Interviewer: How about potatoes?

Interviewee: 2 times

Interviewer: How about wheat and barley?

Interviewee: Those are just sprayed with herbicides

Interviewer: Where did you gain the knowledge, you use in farming?

Interviewee: It is from my experience and indigenous knowledge. Nowadays you must put enough, we used to use only UREA but now you have to use CAN DAP

Interviewer: Have you been able to use all the knowledge you acquire in farming? Not sure

Interviewer: Are there crops that you wished to cultivate but you have not been able to because you do not have the power to make decisions?

Interviewee: Yes, maybe barley. I had cultivated it previously, but I did not gain more because they were infested by weeds. I also wanted to plant onions, but I do not have money to seeds because they are expensive.

Interviewer: Do you think your husband would permit you?

Interviewee: Yes. It is just that I have not been well financially

Interviewer: What are the responsibilities of women at home?

Interviewee: Cooking, grazing, garden work (it is their responsibility to ensure that crops are healthy)

Interviewer: How about men?

Interviewee: All they do is to help you plant and may be spraying after which women are left to do most of the work

Interviewer: What would you expect men to do?

Interviewee: Grazing, digging and weeding and spraying crops

Interviewer: Do men do these jobs?

Interviewee: There are those who do so, but they are very few because most of them spend time in the trading center. They even say that knowledge and wisdom is got from the trading center. You can find a man just standing in the shops verandahs you just wonder what they are doing there instead of doing some work at how. But when they return home, they quarrel that you are lazy and yet they have been doing nothing throughout the day

Interviewer: Have you attended any training on farming?

Interviewee: No, I just heard that people want to be trained on barley farming in Kapnurkut have been invited and they usually invite the rich/ progressive farmers. The people from the sub-county

are even the worst and they know who to invite with the help of the chairperson. They say they want those who are educated, especially when they are distributing sprayers and they leave out the farmers.

Interviewer: Has your husband attended any training?

Interviewee: Yes, the one of barley

Interviewer: How about you?

Interviewee: He says I should stay home and do other things while he goes. Like today, he has gone for parish model and said I should stay at home.

Interviewer: Are you part of parish model?

Interviewee: I am not sure since this is the first meeting

Interviewer: Will your husband tell you what happened?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: How about other women?

Interviewee: I do not know but I think money do not unless they have specified that women are specifically needed

Interview 22

Interviewer: How long have you lived in this village?

Interviewee: I came here in 1998 and was first living in Looch after which I bought this portion of land and moved here

Interviewer: For how long have you been farming?

Interviewee: It has been a while since 1985

Interviewer: How did you learn how to farm?

Interviewee: I realized that if you are not educated you have to farm if you are to survive. So in our family we are farmers and we did not even go to school

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: 7 (04 boys and 03 girls). The eldest is born of 1985

Interviewer: How about your husband?

Interviewee: He passed away in 2004

Interviewer: So many people live with you now?

Interviewee: 3 children and myself with my grandchildren (03) A total of 6 people.

Interviewer: What crops do you farm?

Interviewee: Maize, potatoes, onions

Interviewer: Why do you cultivate them?

Interviewee: To enable me to pay fees

Interviewer: Which ones are of more help?

Interviewee: Onion and potatoes because they are fast maturing. Maize is mainly for food.

Interviewer: How long does it take for onions to mature?

Interviewee: About 3 months, we harvest in the 4th month

Interviewer: Where do you cultivate these crops?

Interviewee: That place in Logi were there were landslides in 2007 that is why I bought this place and relocated here

Interviewer: What is the size of this garden?

Interviewee: 4 acres

Interviewer: Did you just buy this land?

Interviewee: We just bought it when my husband was still alive

Interviewer: Does your husband have ancestral land?

Interviewee: Yes, in Kerop. We just migrated here after buying this land

Interviewer: Why did you leave Kerop?

Interviewee: Laughs...I think we found life here better than in Kerop (Kaptoyoy sub-county) that is why we moved

Interviewer: Do you cultivate the gardens in Kerop?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: What is the size of that land?

Interviewee: It is about 4 acres

Interviewer: What have you cultivated on that land?

Interviewee: Peas

Interviewer: Do you farm by yourself?

Interviewee: Yes, but sometimes I just send money to my relatives to help out

Interviewer: Have your sons been given land already?

Interviewee: No, I am still in charge of all this land

Interviewer: How old is your first son?

Interviewee: He is a born in 1993 and I am the one educating his children. He is also educated and has a degree but has not yet got a job.

Interviewer: When did he graduate?

Interviewee: In 2018

Interviewer: How many children does he have?

Interviewee: 1 child

Interviewer: Where does he cultivate?

Interviewee: I have apportioned him 1 acre to cultivate but I have not yet allocated him that

Interviewer: You seem to have done a great job educating my children?

Interviewee: Yes, and I am still working very hard to educate them.

Interviewer: How have you managed educating your children? For me my parents did not send me to school much as I desired to study because my father was ill. When I had children, I became very determined to educate them. Even dressing was a very big child and that is why I am determined to give my children the best.

Interviewer: How have been able to achieve all this in the absence of your husband?

Interviewee: I have been struggling actually when my husband was alive it was quite difficult for me but now it is even much easier because I still used to work alone.

I faced challenges, the clan members beat me and wanted me to live this land so that they could take over because my late husband did not have a bother, he only had sisters. But I told them even if they want to kill me let them do so, but I am not giving up any land. Within me I knew that if I gave up, that would mark the end of my children. Even during the landslides, they wished my children and I died but I told them in the name of God, we shall not die. They tried even vain. They would come to my home and beat me asking me to leave so that they can take over our property. Even my sisters in law connived with them.

Interviewer: Did you try to seek redress from anywhere?

Interviewee: Yes, I went to police and Paralegals in Kapchorwa and they were asked to stop those cautions, so I defeated them and that is how we came back and lived quite peacefully. They even asked my sisters in-law what they wanted because I have children and need to educate them.

After this I sold some portion of land in Looch, bought this place that we are living now and used part of that money to construct this house. My husband's relatives were not happy with that as

well, but I asked them why they want my children and I to suffer and yet we have property. We moved here in 2009. I interchanged with the owner of this land, and I gave him a portion to cultivate which was the same size as the one I gave him. From this land, I even had to sell some parts to pay school fees.

Interviewer: We now like to talk about changes in the weather, lets first talk about the crops are there any changes in the crops that are currently farmed?

Interviewee: Yes, in the past years they used to farm yams and sweet potatoes but now there are new crops like maize, potatoes, and onions. In the past years they used to farm maize but on a very small scale. The crops that were cultivated would take so long to mature because they did not have many pressing need like it is today. If they even used to put on skin was there anything they desired. But now things are different, we need money, that is why people cultivate different crops. For example, I wanted to cement floor in my house if I do not farm, I won't achieve this. The crops that were previously cultivated were not even for sell

Interviewer: What farming challenges do women experience?

Interviewee: Lack of pesticides and fertilizers because if you do not do this you will not harvest anything. We have a challenge here of plight but in the rain and dry season because when there is sunshine the night tends to be very cold.

We also have a challenge of pests

Interviewer: What do you use the store for?

Interviewee: I store maize, onions, potatoes and firewood

Interviewer: What is in the store now?

Interviewee: I have kept firewood until harvest time

Interviewer: What are you eating now considering that you have no food in the store?

Interviewee: I just buy

Interviewer: Do you have trees around your home?

Interviewee: Yes, we have Cyprus and eucalyptus

Interviewer: Who planted these trees?

Interviewee: I am the one

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: They help me with firewood and poles for construction

Interviewer: How old are these trees?

Interviewee: They have matured; I recently even cut some for my son to construct his house.

Interview 23 with the aid of gender resource mapping

Interviewer: What have you cultivated on that land?

Interviewee: Potatoes, maize and onions. I have cultivated barley on ½ an acre, onions ½ acre, maize 2 acres and potatoes 1 acre.

Interviewer: Why did you cultivate maize on 2 acres?

Interviewee: I just decided to do that because I would like to be food secure

Interviewer: Do most farmers do that?

Interviewee: Most farmers focus on cultivating crops which they can sell but for me food is priority

Interviewer: What farming challenges did you experience?

Interviewee: Floods even this year in April

Interviewer: What have you done to address these floods?

Interviewee: I have planted grass and trenches

Interviewer: What do you use the grass for?

Interviewee: I use it to feed my cows (2). We just take cows there because there is a grazing field.

Interviewer: Who digs the trenches more?

Interviewee: Both men and women but men do it the more

Interviewer: Who empties the trenches?

Interviewee: Women do it more because men are not at home. If a woman does not intervene the garden will get destroyed (silting of the trenches). For example, for me I am used and I do everything on my own because I am alone

The men sometime leave in the morning and goes to the trading center without even checking out the gardens in the morning.

Interviewer: Any other challenges?

Interviewee: Yes, sometimes I cultivate and the crops do not yield well. For example, recently (year 2022), I planted barley, but it has not germinated well because of inadequate rain.

Interviewer: How about crop yields in other gardens?

Interviewee: Other than barley, maize and potatoes have been doing well as long as I apply for fertilizers.

Loss of soil fertility is also a challenge, that is why I have to apply fertilizers.

Interviewer: What is the size of the land in Kaptoyoy (Kerprop)?

Interviewee: It is about 4 acres, and I have planted peas and maize and this is inherited/ customary land. Peas is 1 1/2 and maize

I hired out 1 acre because I was unable to cultivate the whole of it because I needed money for fees and I was also constrained cultivating it.

Interviewer: How much did you hire it?

Interviewee: At 300,000 for one year

Interviewer: Did you decide on your own?

Interviewee: I involved my children

Interviewer: Do you make independent decisions?

Interviewee: No, I always involve my children

Interviewer: What challenges have you faced cultivating on this land?

Interviewee: Lack of fertilizers and pests and diseases since there is no plight there

Interviewer: During harvest is the produce brought home here?

Interviewee: Yes, maize is transported but the peas I sell them off

Interviewer: Do cultivate on the riverbank?

Interviewee: Yes, it is called the stream of Cherotich

Interviewer: What is cultivated there?

Interviewee: Vegetables, eucalyptus and onions (seedlings). Sometimes people ask me to allow them to prepare their onion nursery beds from there

Interviewer: Do they pay you?

Interviewee: No, by the way when you help people they pray for your blessings

Interviewer: What quantity of onion seedlings do people irrigate?

Interviewee: They irrigate about 10 kgs of onions which can cover about ¼ of land

Interviewer: Does this stream run out?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: Does the water volume reduce?

Interviewee: No but when it rains the water level increases

Interviewer: How about during the dry season what do you plant there?

Interviewee: Vegetables

Interviewer: For what purpose?

Interviewee: I eat some and sell some

Interviewer: You seem to have worked very hard; how did you manage to buy all these land?

Interviewee: We cultivated and we were also determined to own land that would help us in future

Interviewer: Have you attended any training on farming?

Interviewee: Yes, about barley farming

Interviewer: What is the name of that company?

Interviewee: I can't remember

Interviewer: What were you trained on?

Interviewee: How to plant barley, harvest and store

Interviewer: Which year was that?

Interviewee: 2015 and they came back in 2021

Interviewer: How many people attended that training?

Interviewee: We were many

Interviewer: How were people selected?

Interviewee: It was for all farmers

Interviewer: How were you invited?

Interviewee: We were just invited through letters as long as you are a farmer

Interviewer: How many women attended that training?

Interviewee: Women were there (widows and marrieds)

Interviewer: Any other training?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: How about from the sub-county?

Interviewee: I have not received any training

Interviewer: Have you heard that people are being trained?

Interviewee: No

Interviewer: How about the agricultural extension workers?

Interviewee: I have never seen them come to teach in our village

Interviewer: Do you have birds?

Interviewee: I had many, but they died so I now have only 2 which I just bought

Interviewer: How about your neighbours, do they have birds?

Interviewee: No, people lost them to coccidiosis

Interviewer: How about cows?

Interviewee: Yes, I have 5 cows which I bought after the death of my husband

Interviewer: Are there any organizations that support women?

Interviewee: Yes, FHI helped to educate my children (all my children). FHI also helped to construct a school – Kitany because we used not to have a school and Action Aid constructed the one in Chemanga. We contributed some money towards construction.

Interviewer: Have you been able to utilize all the knowledge you have about planning?

Interviewee: I did not use all my knowledge because I feel like planting different plans about 10 acres so that it can support me better. I would need pumps for irrigation

Interviewer: How much do they cost?

Interviewee: Between 400,000 - 600,000 but I am not well conversant with it. The people who harvest potatoes in the dry season are those who irrigate and I wish to do so. They harvest in April and May

Interviewer: How much do they sell potatoes during the dry season?

Interviewee: It is usually between 1500 – 2000 for 1 kg compared to 300 per kg during the normal rainy season

Interviewer: What was your experience of the landslide?

Interviewee: It happened in two phases at 3 am and it killed 5 cows and my side happened at 6 am the same. So, I thought that if God has saved me why don't I act. Because my neighbours cows were close to my house after realizing that there was a landslide, I decided to take my neighbours cows. On my way back the landslide had already occurred

Interviewer: Did you get support from Government?

Interviewee: No, people who received were different. Here it is very difficult to get anything from the government but the officials from the sub-county did not give us anything. In fact, I am no longer interested in any support from the government, that is why I work hard.

Interviewer: Are there many women who struggle?

Interviewee: Women are very hardworking and they meet their needs.