



Volunteer  
Efforts for  
Development  
Concerns  
(VEDCO)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Improving Livelihoods through  
sustainable Agriculture

## **VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS (VEDCO)**

### **Coordination office**

Plot 504, Block 8, Wagaba Zone, Rubaga

P. O. Box 1244 Kampala Tel: 256-414-270 598

Email: [vedco@vedco.or.ug](mailto:vedco@vedco.or.ug) | [vedco@infocom.co.ug](mailto:vedco@infocom.co.ug) | Website: [vedcouganda.org](http://vedcouganda.org)

 Facebook: Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns – VEDCO

 Twitter: @VEDCOUG

Youtube: [vedcoug](https://www.youtube.com/vedcoug)

A woman in a red and blue patterned dress is pouring a large quantity of yellow grains, likely corn, from a large wooden bowl. The grains are falling in a thick stream, creating a dynamic visual effect. The background shows a lush green field with tall grass and trees.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

**CAN-U:** Climate Action Network-Uganda

**CBT:** Community Based Trainer

**CSA:** Climate Smart Agriculture

**CSBAG:** Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group

**DDBC:** developing and delivering bio-fortified crops in Uganda

**EAETDN:** East African Energy Technology Development Network

**ENR:** Environment and Natural Resources

**FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organisation

**FARMIS:** Farmer Record Management Information system

**FFS:** Farmer Field Schools

**GALS:** Gender Action Learning Systems

**MAAIF:** Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries

**NAADS:** National Agricultural Advisory Services

**OSP:** Orange sweet potato

**PELUM:** Participatory Ecological Land Use Management

**SEATINI:** Southern and Eastern African Trade Information & Negotiations Institute

**UCCOSUN:** Uganda Civil society Coalition on Scaling Up Nutrition

**UDN:** Uganda Debt Network

**UFAAS:** Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services

**UFCVP:** Uganda Farmers' Common Voice Platform

**ULA:** Uganda Land Alliance

**UNAP:** Uganda Nutrition Action Plan

**UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme

**UNNGOF:** National Non-Governmental Organisation Forum

**UPHEWG:** Uganda Population, Health and Environment Working Group

**VAT:** Value Added Tax

**VEDCO:** Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns

**WASH:** Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**WHO:** World Health Organisation

**WWW:** World Wide Web

**ICN2:** International Conference on Nutrition

**NSA:** Non State Actors





## VISION

**Improved quality of life of  
small and medium holder  
farmers**

## MISSION

**To equitably empower  
small and medium  
holder farmers for food  
security and nutrition  
security, agricultural  
trade and organizational  
development.**

## VALUES

- **Result oriented:** VEDCO believes in its staff giving out quality results as output/outcome or a service in all its engagements with its partnerships.
- **Equal opportunity:** VEDCO believes in supporting the agricultural entrepreneurship development through empowering the small and medium poor farmers of Uganda and their institutions to take lead. In this, VEDCO aims at creating an enabling and just environment for them where mutual respect and equal opportunity will exist among all including its staff. We work with individuals who are personally concerned about issues of inequality and injustice and find allies within and without the agency to join them in this quest.
- **Teamwork:** VEDCO empowers staff members to have the space and confidence to use initiative and act boldly from an understanding of their vision, mission, values and working as a team to fulfill her mandate.
- **Excellence:** Every one's behaviour in the organisation is expected to meet VEDCO'S Agreed Standard.
- **Transparency and accountability:** VEDCO maintains the highest levels of integrity and consistency in her work to provide confidence to our donors and supporters who are essential in the realization of our Vision.



## BOARD CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



**Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana**

The past year, 2015, has been a pivotal year for VEDCO. At a strategic level we successfully implemented the first year of our strategic plan (2015-2019) and in all, promoting sustainable agricultural practices for food and nutrition security and market competitiveness of small/medium holder farmers was at the heart of VEDCO'S work. The success of most of the projects we implemented in 2015 gives us the impetus we need to move strongly in the right direction.

2016 will be a year of expansion and growth as we seek to build our reputation beyond the agricultural sector

VEDCO underwent some changes in management which led to the appointment of a new Executive Director Mr. Henry Nsereko and new Programme Director Mrs. Grace Babirye Sserwanja. These are two highly qualified specialists who have risen through the ranks at VEDCO. I am confident that they will take VEDCO to greater heights. The Board remains committed at playing its critical role based on principles of corporate governance to ensure excellent performance of work at VEDCO.

2016 will be a year of expansion and growth as we seek to build on our reputation beyond the Agricultural sector. I wish to thank the Executive Director, Management Team, Staff, Donors and Partners for the work well done and invite you all to continue working with VEDCO as we seek to improve livelihoods through sustainable agriculture.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Mr. Henry Nsereko**

In more than 29 years since VEDCO was founded, the organization has extended its reach to 33 districts, serving 48,858 people with a broad range of development programs and social enterprises. VEDCO works to empower poor people to lift themselves out of poverty and to improve their lives through agricultural trade development, advocacy, natural resource management, agricultural extension, access to safe drinking water and sanitary latrines, livelihood training and assistance during natural disasters.

Social Change is constant, continuous, unavoidable and inevitable. Social transformation is the result of positive

“Women farmers whose voice was muzzled and restricted have become better informed, independent and self-reliant.”

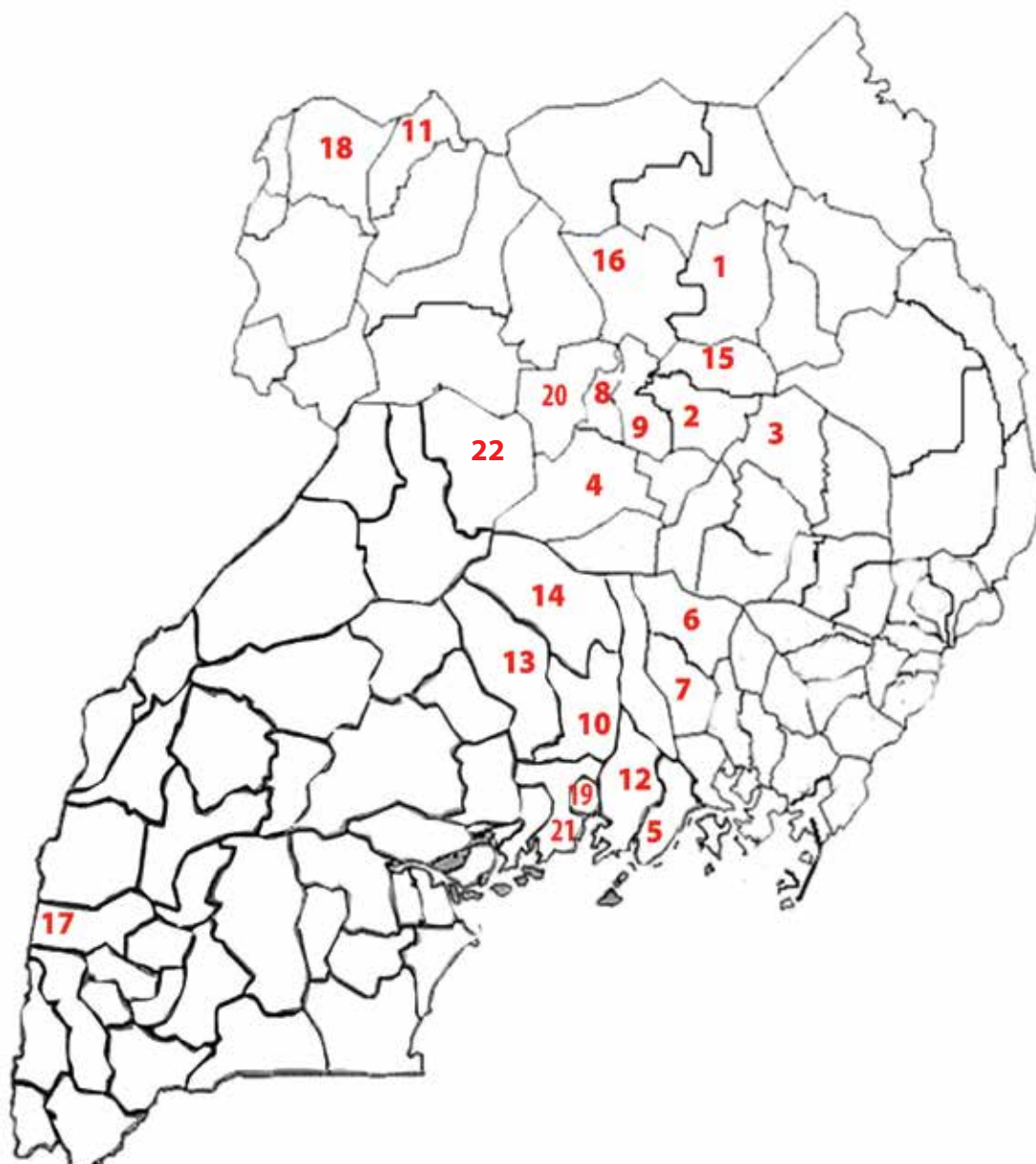
actions to improve the environment in which the marginalized and afflicted are assisted to progress. VEDCO is a change maker and the communities which benefit are change recipients. The Annual Report 2015 projects transformation enabled by VEDCO during the past 29 years in farming communities, depicted as case stories. We have seen change among farmers who were limited in terms of accessing agricultural extension and advisory services, exploited by agro market players, climate change and unfavorable policy environment. Farmers have become more adaptive to SMART agricultural practices, self-reliant, contributing to their families and communities.

Women farmers whose voice was muzzled and restricted have become better informed, independent, self-reliant, freely interacting in public and emerged as decision makers for themselves and their families. Farmers, who were marginalized, resource constrained have learnt to manage their own resources, diversify their potentials, change traditional attitudes to society specially women, girls and behave better responsible as they progress to agricultural entrepreneurs. Overall, the results of VEDCO operations, in the realms of socio-economic development of poor marginalized, segregated and exploited are impacting their lives positively.

VEDCO is grateful to our partners in development for their support in this noble undertaking of improving the quality of small and medium holder farmers in Uganda.



## WHERE VEDCO WORKS



| KEY |             |
|-----|-------------|
| No. | District    |
| 1   | Agago       |
| 2   | Alebtong    |
| 3   | Amuria      |
| 4   | Apac        |
| 5   | Buikwe      |
| 6   | Buyende     |
| 7   | Kamuli      |
| 8   | Kole        |
| 9   | Lira        |
| 10  | Luweero     |
| 11  | Moyo        |
| 12  | Mukono      |
| 13  | Nakaseke    |
| 14  | Nakasongola |
| 15  | Otuke       |
| 16  | Pader       |
| 17  | Rubirirzi   |
| 18  | Yumbe       |
| 19  | Kampala     |
| 20  | Oyam        |
| 21  | Wakiso      |
| 22  | Kiryandongo |

## FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

***The strategic objective of this thematic area is to increase access to appropriate knowledge and technology relevant for sustainable food production and equitable utilization especially for children and women.***

### **Promoting Improved crop varieties.**

Majority of small-scale farmers use traditional crop varieties, which give low yields, are less nutritious and may be vulnerable to drought and diseases. In order to address this problem, VEDCO in partnership with HarvestPlus distributed a total of 9,416 bags of Vitamin A rich Orange sweet potato (OSP) vines (282,480kgs) of Kakamega, Vita and ejumula varieties and 12,026 kgs of Iron rich beans (Roba 1. MORE and RWR varieties) to 15,553 households of which 11,394 were females and 4,159 were males in Mukono & Buyende districts. A total of 941.6 acres for OSP and 1,503 for high iron beans were established by the farmers.

In Apac district, 665 Farmers (242 Male, 423 Female) received cassava stems (NAASE 14), 634 farmers (223 Male, 411 Female) received OSP vines and 251 farmers (88 Male, 153 Female) received grain amaranth seeds. A total 125.5 acres of amaranth, 20 acres for cassava and 75 acres for OSP were established.

1,000 vegetable SEED kits for tomatoes, egg plants, pumpkins, okra, Nakati, spider plant were provided to 970 farmers (210 Male, 760 Female) based in Kiryandongo and Mukono districts under the home garden scaling project. The households that received seed kits established vegetable gardens, harvested and consumed the vegetables which greatly improved the household nutrition and health status of the targeted



*Farmers receiving improved planting materials*

households and families. Linkages were also created with Institutions like Makerere University, ILRI, NARO, CIP, NASECO Seed Company, which improved and strengthened farmers' access to knowledge on new research innovations for crops and livestock.

Assessments that were conducted by the Monitoring and Evaluation department among 3,000 farmers indicated that these improved varieties offered much higher yields, better quality and more stable production. Household food and nutrition security improved because they were able to have 3 meals a day which was not the case before.



*"I got high yields after planting the NASE 14 cassava variety that VEDCO gave me. The variety matures early and is resistant to most diseases that affect cassava. Its tubers & cuttings are also profitable"*  
 -- Willy, Apac District.

### **Promoting silage making to reduce feeding constraints in pig production systems.**

Statistics state that feeding is one of the main constraints in pig production in Uganda, due to seasonality, poor quality of feeds and lack of knowledge on supplementation strategies.



*silage making*

Feeding costs represent 62-70% of the variable costs in smallholder farms in peri-urban and rural settings. Among all feeds, commercial concentrates are the most expensive. In 2015, VEDCO partnered with International Center for Potato (CIP), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Makerere University and National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to implement a project aimed at reducing feed challenges faced by pig farmers by making sweet potato silage.

8 On-farm demonstrations on how to make silage were piloted in Butansi, Bugulumbya and Namwenda sub counties of Kamuli District. Over 200 Women, men and youth farmers that attended were also equipped with entrepreneurship knowledge on effective business operations of pig enterprise development.

### **Strengthened nutrition structures at local level**

Building coordination and promoting sustainable strategies that lead to improved food and nutrition security is important. For nutrition actions to be scaled up, tracked, reported and sustained at district and sub county levels, VEDCO facilitated the formation of 2 District Nutrition Coordination Committees (DNCC) in Mukono and Buyende districts and formation of 4 sub county level nutrition coordination committees. We also facilitated 5 District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) meetings with the objective of reviewing the district nutrition work plans, develop a plan of action and develop strategies on reporting on the nutrition interventions by all stakeholders and integration of high iron beans and OSP in the district nutrition plan. As a result, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Buyende district instructed the District Health Officer (DHO) and other department heads to make sure that sub county reports include nutrition interventions. Sub-county chiefs were also given the responsibility of constituting functional nutritional committees right from the village level and assess what had been done on nutrition.

## Empowering small holder farmers through Farmer Field schools (FFS)



*Farmers from maki-tunu group in Apac District during a farmer field school learning session on groundnuts.*

3 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were established in Moyo & Apac districts with the focus of helping our target farmers to learn by doing, experimenting, participating and discovering. The schools enabled 1,200 farmers adopt new farming techniques and agronomic practices like pest and disease identification and control, Soil and water conservation, weeding and fertilizer application which they later applied on their own farms hence increasing their yields and quality. FFS also increased their expertise to make informed decisions on what works best for them, based on their own observations of experimental plots in their Field schools. Those that mastered the techniques well taught other farmers, thus multiplying the positive effects of the methodology.

## Enhanced farmer knowledge exchange & technology promotion through Farmer Field days.

VEDCO works to ensure that small and medium scale holder farmers have an environment that enhances farmer knowledge exchange & technology promotion. This is why we conducted a total of 7 Farmer Field Days in Kamuli, Buyende & Mukono districts with theme, "Empowered households for sustainable development." These events were attended by 2,428 farmers of which 1,583 were females and 845 were males. Local Government officials were also in attendance.

## Creating awareness about recommended feeding practices for children under 5, women of productive age and people living with HIV.

Messages on the nutrition value of consuming the Vitamin A rich Orange sweet potato (OSP) and High Iron beans were run on 2 local radios (Beat Fm for Luganda speakers and Kamuli Broadcasting service (KBS) for the Lusoga speakers). Four radio talk shows were also aired on Beat FM.

Orange sweet potatoes are rich in Vitamin A which is important for fighting infections, growth, bone development and overall health of children, pregnant women and new mothers.



*"I established a vegetable home garden after VEDCO taught me the importance of eating vegetables in order to attain good health. My family is now nutrition secure most especially my granddaughter who used to have health complications." –Robinah, Nama subcounty, Mukono District.*

## Collaboration with research institutions and academia

Through partnership with academia and research Institutions like Makerere University (MUK), AVRDC- World Vegetable Research Center, National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Potato Centre (CIP), the gap of access to improved farming technologies by our farmers



was reduced hence contribution to improved livelihoods in the communities. We jointly implemented projects and programs in the districts of Apac, Mukono, Luweero, Kamuli, Nakasongola and Kiryandongo. This strengthened our strategic relationship and resource mobilization efforts.

### **IMPACT STORY:**

#### **Florence earning big from orange sweet potatoes.**

Nabunya Florence is a resident of Kyampisi Sub County in Mukono District, Uganda. She has four children. To many in the area, she is commonly known as maama kipapaali, a Luganda name derived from lumonde owa kipapaali (Orange sweet potato). The residents gave her that name because she is a successful producer, promoter and consumer of the Orange Sweet potato.

The mother of four is a member and Vice Chairperson of Anoonya farmers group. In Florence and most of its members got training from VEDCO about the need to grow Vitamin A Orange sweet potatoes and high iron beans. "I learnt that they are profitable and would improve Vitamin A status of my children. After the trainings, I was given free vines to plant." She says

#### **First Harvest**

The first season was a success. "I harvested the potatoes, sold them and got around 450,000 UGX. This gave me the energy to go on," she says. She also got good returns as a result of planting high iron beans. "Can you imagine I planted only 1 Kg of beans and harvested 70 Kgs?" she says.

#### **Good Earnings**

She earns around 3.5 Million after a harvest and sells her farm produce to people within her residential area and those from a far. "Marketing my produce is not a problem. In most cases, the potential buyers come looking for me even without me first calling them. Although my children help me out in the farm, I sometimes use hired labor which is quite expensive for me." Florence says.



*Florence in her farm*

Florence managed to construct a three-bedroomed self-contained house. She also pays school fees for her four children; two are in primary school, one in secondary and the eldest in University. "I am grateful to God and VEDCO for the support. I am now in a better financial position," she adds

### **VEDCO's Community Based Trainers' approach**

Agricultural extension service is the prime instrument used to assist farmers in expanding their ability to adopt, implement new methods and to relay information to producers concerning new technologies. In 2015, we intensified efforts of using the Community Based Trainer (CBT) approach to increase community access to extension services. VEDCO recruited and trained 100 community based trainers to support the field extension staff in providing crop and animal nutrition extension. The CBTs we trained used the acquired knowledge and skills to train other fellow farmers in their localities. An example in this case are the lead mothers locally known as 'maamandisa' whom we used to promote recommended feeding practices for children under five years. As a result, over 1,020 households embraced the feeding practices hence improved household nutrition status and reduction in health complications.

## AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

***This thematic area seeks to improve farmers' effective participation in the local, national and regional market.***



*Members of Amadrimaa Local seed business in Moyo district showcasing some of their input.*

### **Strengthened performance of farmer organizations**

Many farmer organizations become inactive or defunct over a period of time due to member corruption, mismanagement, conflict, and lack of clear goals. During 2015, through increased capacity building trainings by VEDCO, 5 Local seed Businesses (LSBs) in Lira districts and 6 OSP seed multipliers in Kamuli and Mukono Districts were empowered with knowledge and skills on key issues of governance, leadership and record keeping. This improved farmers' capacity to handle and manage their LSB groups in a sustainable manner.

Using evidence based development approaches such as Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) Methodology, 28 groups and 4 cooperatives developed their own vision road journeys, group constitutions, action plans and work plans

which became key driving tools for steering their groups to achieve their developmental objectives.

VEDCO also supported 15 groups to attain legal status after fulfilling the registration requirements needed at Sub-county, District levels, Registrar of cooperatives and at the Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives.

### **Improving farmers access to market information**

Farmers need to be able to get their products to the market and receive equitable price treatment when they do, which is why VEDCO worked hard to help farmers subscribe to market information service providers.

VEDCO linked 2,000 farmers from 32 farmer groups, 4 cooperatives, 50 producer marketing groups and 7 marketing associations to market information service providers like FIT Uganda and Agrinet. This helped improve their decision making as a result of acquiring accurate market price, weather and input dealer's information.



Our efforts also resulted into farmers selling 4.5 tons of beans, 4,073 bags of orange sweet potato vines, 1,592 bags of orange sweet potato tubers and 40 bags of dried orange sweet potato chips and 35,000 kgs of maize at 1,000 per kg to Agro ways, KAIDA.

## IMPACT STORY:

### Joseph enjoys benefits of banana growing

"Lukwago Joseph, a resident of Kyampisi Sub County in Mukono District Uganda has been a farmer since his youthful days growing crops, especially Bananas. Other crops include Beans, sweet potatoes and maize. He is a member of Anoonya farmers' group, one of the groups in Mukono district supported by VEDCO. "VEDCO extensionists under SeFaMaCo project encouraged me to start growing bananas because they are profitable and have high market. They also gave me knowledge about pest and disease control plus other good farming practices in line with Banana growing" he says. Reaping big as a result of growing bananas on 5 acres of land put a smile on Joseph's face. He sells 30-80 bunches per month, each at 20,000 UGX. This enabled him to increase his income savings and also provide for his family.



*Joseph tells his story*

## Improving farmers access to agricultural financing

1,000 small holder female and male farmers from 200 farmer groups from Apac, Amuru, Alebtong, Abim and Lamwo Districts and 50 producer market groups from Apac, Alebtong and Otuke districts were facilitated and supported to establish farmer saving and credit schemes to enable them build their own financial base. In Apac alone 135 farmer groups disbursed loans of over 200 Million UGX to their members. Establishment of the VSLAs helped them access finance which was a key enabler that helped them develop profitable agriculture value chains. 22 farmer groups still from Apac accessed 72 Million UGX from Post Bank and Centenary Bank.



*A group meeting for Mobilizing savings*

## Reduction in post harvest losses

VEDCO advocated for the reduction of postharvest losses and undertook a number capacity building sessions for farmers to support the post harvest handling agenda. In this regard, we promoted recommended post harvest handling technologies of which some included use of metallic & plastic silos, tarpaulins, triple bagging materials, off ground drying and storage of produce. Using these technologies enabled farmers in Kamuli District to reduce on their post harvest losses and get good prices from sale of their maize produce from 500 UGX per kilogram to 1,000 UGX.

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

***The strategic objective of this thematic area is to empower communities to respond and cope with realities of climate change and achieve resilient livelihoods.***

## Regional Engagements on Population, Health and Environment (PHE).



*Panelists during the conference*

VEDCO participated in the Regional Population Health and Environment (PHE) conference in Kisumu, Kenya from 9th-10th September 2015. During the conference VEDCO Coordinator Natural resources Management & Gender presented a paper entitled, "Integration of PHE in rural farming interventions of Uganda; The Case of VEDCO." Through this conference we successfully shared VEDCO's experience using the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) by highlighting farmer's perception of using contraceptives under the gender relations lane of the vision road Journey.

## Promoting Climate Change adaptation (CCA) technologies and practices.

Water harvesting technologies like use of drill bore holes, water tanks were promoted in all VEDCO's areas of operation. Over 1,500 small and medium holder farmers applied these technologies on their farms and homes. Farmers showed serious interest in water harvesting technologies because they are a low cost alternative.



*I use my tank to store rain water rather than leave it go down the drains or soaked into the ground. This has helped me provide water for my family, crops and livestock during periods of water scarcity"-  
**Haji Mubiru, Mukono District.***

## POLICY RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

***The strategic objective of this thematic area seeks to develop capacities of farmers to participate in policy advocacy and to engage duty bearers on issues that affect them in production, access to food and its utilization as well as marketing.***

### The Coalition on Agriculture Governance (CAGU)



*State Minister for Agriculture Hon. Bright Rwamirama launching the manifesto. Photo credit: Action Aid Ug*

VEDCO is a member of the Coalition on Agriculture Governance (CAGU), a coalition that was formed in 2015 to strengthen farmers' voice and accountability in Uganda's agricultural governance.

One of the coalition's plans is to build capacity of farmers to increase their voice, quality of participation and accountability in the agricultural governance process beginning with the 2016 general elections and beyond. VEDCO led the collection of views and issues from farmers

from all regions in Uganda which were incorporated in the National farmers Manifesto- Agenda 2016 that was launched by CAGU on 29th October 2015 by the

State minister for agriculture Hon. Bright Rwamirama. The Manifesto was a call to action directed at the Government of Uganda, Political Parties, Development partners, and Non-State Actors demanding for prioritization of the needs of the agricultural sector as the country prepared for the 2016 general elections.

The Manifesto pointed out five priority issues: Water for Agricultural Production, Agricultural Extension and Research, Agricultural Financing, Market Access and Co-operatives and Strengthening Regulation and Agro-inputs.

### **Advocacy for a better & sustainable World free from threat of climate change.**

VEDCO affirms that Climate change is currently one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. This is especially true for many people in the developing world who have contributed the least to causing climate change but are suffering the impacts each and every day.

In 2015, we partnered with Oxfam Uganda and collected over 2 million petition signatures from citizens most especially farmers, requesting African governments and global leaders for a binding agreement in COP21 Paris that;

- Delivers fair, ambitious and strong climate actions at a level adequate to stop climate change and keep global warming well-below 1.5°C.
- Delivers and scales up public finance to enable the poorest to adapt to climate change and continue to transit and develop in a low carbon pathway.
- African governments must commit new resources from national budgets for investment to help people adapt and build resilience for increased food security.
- Address climate change and all the processes established under this agreement ensures a gender-responsive approach, taking into account environmental integrity, inter-generational equity and respect of human rights, as well as the right to development and the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Shares the effort of curbing climate change fairly with domestic emissions reductions by developed countries that are commensurate with Science and Equity.

As part of the campaign, together with partners we also participated in organizing a debate on women, food and climate change which was held 10th November 2016. It was aired live on NTV. During the debate, Hon.Flavia Nabugere Munaaba State Minister for Environment noted that 48% of small holder farmers are women, who bear the burden of impacts of climate change. Dr Kisamba Mugerwa Chairperson National Planning Authority acknowledged that small holder farmers are mainly women who rely on rain-fed Agriculture. "Climate change has greatly affected them due to their high dependence on natural resources. Some even walk long distances looking for water and firewood for household use hence limiting their productivity in agriculture. We therefore need to empower them to be resilient to climate change," he said. 25 VEDCO supported farmers attended and thousands of online followers on

facebook and twitter also joined in on the discussion under hash tag #WomenFoodClimate.

The campaign yielded results. On 12th December 2015 nearly 200 countries that took part in the United Nations conference (COP21) in Paris agreed to strike the first climate deal to commit all countries to cut emissions and limit rise in global temperatures to less than 2 centigrade.



*Some of the keynote speakers during the debate.*

## Building and strengthening strategic partnerships

VEDCO's participation and engagement in coalitions, alliances, networks at local, national and global levels remained active. They include;

- Climate Action Network-Uganda (CAN-U) on issues of Climate Change Adaptation.
- Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) on issues of increasing budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector.
- Uganda Farmers' Common Voice Platform (UFCVP) on issues of agricultural financing.
- Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS)

on issues of agricultural extension.

- Food Rights Alliance (FRA) was engaged on the “right to food” advocacy issues.
- East African Energy Technology Development Network (EAETDN) was engaged on the “Sustainable Energy for All” advocacy issues.
- Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) on advocacy issues related to land Access, control and management.
- Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) on sustainable agriculture principles and practices, and agricultural market access.
- Uganda Population, Health and Environment Working Group (UPHEWG) engaged on issues of access to reproductive health within farming communities.
- Uganda Civil society Coalition on Scaling Up Nutrition (UCCOSUN) was engaged on advocacy issues on nutrition and its related institutionalization.
- The Environment and Natural Resources(ENR) CSO Network hosted by Environment Alert on issues to do with tracking progress in the performance of the ENR subsector.
- Humid tropics engaged on issues on systems integration to enhance production, marketing and nutrition

VEDCO is on the steering committees/ boards of; CAN-U, UFCVP, UFAAS, and PELUM

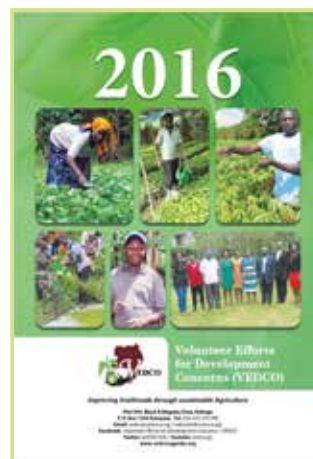
## Media Advocacy

70 radio talk shows and 171 spot messages promoting recommended feeding practices, production,marketing and other key agricultural related issues were run by VEDCO on various radio stations in different regions of Uganda.They included Beat FM, Suubi FM, Radio Sapientia,Namirembe FM, Luo FM, Voice of Lango FM, Mega FM, Nenah FM and Kamuli Broadcasting Services (KBS).

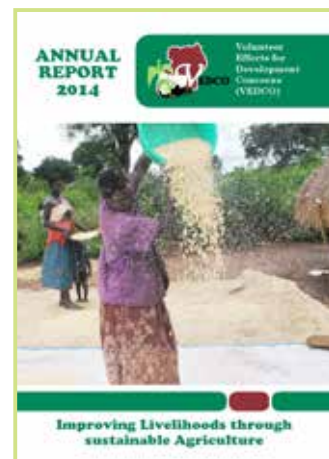
More than 40 news stories about VEDCOs campaigns with partners appeared in various local print media like Observer,New vision, Monitor.

## Publications

200 copies of the VEDCO quarterly newsletter, 300 copies of VEDCO 2014 Annual Report, 100 copies of end of year Christmas cards, 250 copies of the VEDCO 2016 calendar and 1,000 generic brochures were published and distributed to partners. They were also uploaded on our website [www.vedcouganda.org](http://www.vedcouganda.org) ,Facebook,Twitter social media platforms and were downloaded by over 5,000 online visitors.



2016 VEDCO  
Calendar



2014 VEDCO  
Annual Report



Oct-Dec 2015  
VEDCO Quarterly  
Newsletter

## VEDCO website:

VEDCO effectively disseminated information through its website in form of publications, new stories and field success stories. The website can be accessed on [www.vedcouganda.org](http://www.vedcouganda.org)

## Social media platforms:

Using our facebook and twitter platforms, we shared relevant knowledge and ideas by organizing online Question and answer sessions between farmers and our agriculture extensionists through Interactive chat messaging and use of training videos. We also engaged with the general public on a number of topics. Our facebook page likes rose to 800 with 1,500 page views per month while our recently opened twitter page also remained active.



[www.vedcouganda.org](http://www.vedcouganda.org)



Interactive twitter platform



Interactive facebook platform



## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

***This strategic objective seeks to achieve efficiency, effectiveness and sustainable impact in delivery of VEDCO's programs.***

### Governance & Management

In line with its mandate, VEDCO Board held 6 Board meetings (1 extra ordinary and 5 ordinary) to ensure transparency and better management of the Institution. We also held regular Management team and staff meetings and 1 End of Year Annual General Staff meeting and Party on 18th and 19th December 2015 respectively. We used these meetings as an opportunity to orient, review and assess our policies and systems to ensure quality service delivery.



*Some of the members of the VEDCO Board and Management team pose for a photo after a meeting*



*VEDCO Executive Director Mr Henry Nsereko during the 2015 VEDCO Annual General staff meeting*

### Strengthened VEDCO Monitoring & Evaluation system

VEDCO's M&E system was upgraded to make it more comprehensive. New databases were created for new projects which include The Home Garden Scaling for Improved Nutrition and Income, Integrated Value Chain Development and Smallholder Farmer (SHF) Commercialization of Banana and Orange Sweet Potato for Uganda. Field monitoring visits were done to all VEDCO's project operation areas by our technical M&E teams who provided support supervision. This resulted into timely donor and institutional reporting by staff and an effective implementation of our planned project activities within the required time frame.

# FINANCIAL REVIEWS

**Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.**  
Certified Public Accountants

Ground Floor, Kisozi House  
8 Kyaggwe Road  
P. O. Box 6293, Kampala, Uganda  
Phone: +256 (0)41 4258458/4236732  
Fax: +256 (0)41 4236796  
E-mail: [carrstan@carrstanyersims.com](mailto:carrstan@carrstanyersims.com)

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**Independent Auditor's Report**  
**to the Board of Directors of VEDCO**

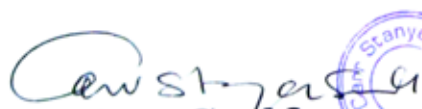
## Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of VEDCO as at 31 December 2015, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Accounting Policies in Note 2 and Donor Reporting Guidelines and comply with the Companies Act 2012 and the respective donor terms of funding and reporting guidelines.

## Reporting on Other Legal and Statutory Requirements

The Companies Act requires that in carrying out our audit we consider and report to you the following matters. We confirm that:

- (i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- (ii) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from our examination of those books; and
- (iii) The Financial Statements are in agreement with the books of account.

  
**Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.**  
 Certified Public Accountants



**24 MAY 2016**  
Kampala, Uganda



# FINANCIAL REVIEWS

## VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS - UGANDA

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

### Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2015

|                                                                     | Note /<br>Schedule | Restricted<br>Funds<br>Ushs. | General<br>Fund<br>Ushs. | 2015<br>Actual<br>Ushs. | 2015<br>Budget<br>Ushs. | 2014<br>Actual<br>Ushs. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                                       |                    |                              |                          |                         |                         |                         |
| Grants                                                              | 9                  | 1,595,568,407                | -                        | 1,595,568,407           | 1,595,568,407           | 2,167,437,306           |
| Other Income                                                        | 10                 | 5,410,294                    | 876,925,495              | 882,335,789             | 676,359,917             | 540,371,057             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                                 |                    | <b>1,600,978,701</b>         | <b>876,925,495</b>       | <b>2,477,904,196</b>    | <b>2,271,928,324</b>    | <b>2,707,808,363</b>    |
| Deferred Income                                                     |                    | (124,112,358)                | -                        | (124,112,358)           | -                       | -                       |
| Capital Expenditure transferred to Capital Fund                     | I                  | (16,350,000)                 | -                        | (16,350,000)            | -                       | (14,748,800)            |
| <b>Total Income Available for Recurrent Expenditure</b>             |                    | <b>1,460,516,343</b>         | <b>876,925,495</b>       | <b>2,337,441,838</b>    | <b>2,271,928,324</b>    | <b>2,693,059,563</b>    |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                                  |                    |                              |                          |                         |                         |                         |
| Administration, Organisation Development and Governance             | II                 | 282,229,972                  | 357,479,627              | 639,709,599             | 648,500,231             | 619,757,107             |
| Increased Quality Production for Food Security and Access to Market | III                | 188,762,050                  | 469,522,400              | 658,284,450             | 779,065,778             | 684,022,522             |
| Agric Trade Development                                             | IV                 | 211,081,200                  | -                        | 211,081,200             | 294,255,660             | 448,753,231             |
| Communication and Advocacy                                          | V                  | 185,004,125                  | -                        | 185,004,125             | 87,203,330              | 234,095,200             |
| Community Energy Access Enhanced                                    | VI                 | 46,623,700                   | -                        | 46,623,700              | 45,300,275              | 118,945,065             |
| Institution development of programme nature                         | VII                | -                            | -                        | -                       | -                       | 256,675,614             |
| Programme personnel costs                                           | VIII               | 497,284,881                  | -                        | 497,284,881             | 417,603,050             | 614,279,825             |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                                            |                    | <b>1,410,985,928</b>         | <b>827,002,027</b>       | <b>2,237,987,955</b>    | <b>2,271,928,324</b>    | <b>2,976,528,564</b>    |
| <b>UNSPENT FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>                                   |                    | <b>49,530,415</b>            | <b>49,923,468</b>        | <b>99,453,883</b>       | <b>-</b>                | <b>(283,469,001)</b>    |



## **VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS (VEDCO)**

Plot 504, Block 8, Wagaba Zone, Rubaga

P.O. Box 1244 Kampala, **Tel:** 256-414-270 598

**Email:** [vedco@vedco.or.ug](mailto:vedco@vedco.or.ug) | [vedco@infocom.co.ug](mailto:vedco@infocom.co.ug)

**Website:** [vedcouganda.org](http://vedcouganda.org)

**Facebook:**

Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns – VEDCO

**Twitter:** @VEDCOUG | **Youtube:** vedcoug