

# PRODUCTION FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION

## Livelihoods and Agriculture

Improving agriculture is important because more than 80% of Ugandans live in rural areas and depend on it for their livelihoods. The USAID/Production for Improved Nutrition project is improving the agricultural practices of small scale farmers in 21 districts in Uganda for improved livelihoods by increasing production of food for home consumption and selling surplus produce to strategic markets including RECO industries for the production of Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTFs) and Fortified Blended Foods.



### A sustainable approach

A multi-dimensional approach to building farmer capacity

### In numbers

1,317 lead farmers have trained  
13,630 farmers in improved agricultural skills  
3,465 households established kitchen gardens  
40,280 farmers reached

**EQUIP:** Lead farmers are equipped through the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach with modern agronomic skills mainly through demonstration and they practice what they have learnt in dedicated nurseries and gardens in the field schools, mentor farmers in their groups.

**ENTERPRISE:** Producer Organizations (POs) are market driven farmer groups, supported to form cooperative enterprises. The POs help to generate demand for farmer produce, raise capital, link farmers to trade opportunities, continuing education, and partnerships.

**EXPERTISE:** Partnerships with experts, both in the private sector and local government specialists at the district level ensure that farmers optimally leverage opportunities including national agriculture initiatives. Key partners include agro input dealers, financial institutions and cultural institutions for increased effectiveness.

### Capacity building for farmers

- Farming as a business
- Establishment of kitchen gardens
- Land selection and preparation
- Seed selection, spacing and planting
- Pest and disease control
- Soil fertility management
- Safe use of inorganic agro inputs
- Harvest and post-harvest handling
- Storage and marketing

### Producing for homes and markets

**Home Consumption:** To improve household nutrition, farmers are taught how to produce nutrition dense foods and protective foods including a variety of fruits and vegetables.

**Market Consumption:** To provide raw materials for a ready market (RECO industries) to produce Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) and Fortified Blended Foods maize, soybeans, groundnuts and serenut.

Farmers are linked to produce buyers such as RECO, and given opportunities to participate in trade shows like the East African Grain Councils expo and National Annual Agriculture show.

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