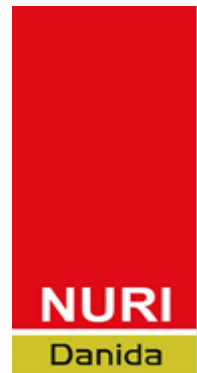


UPSIDE

**Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative
(NURI)**



Guidelines for Working with Old Farmer Groups

**Government of Uganda
Danida**

Version no.

1

5/2/2018

Guideline for working with the old groups

Under NURI implementation, some progressive farmer groups supported under RDNUC (DAR3/RALNUC3) will continue to be supported for the first two years of the project (2019–2020). These are groups that have shown sufficient potentials in areas such as bulking, marketing and organizational capacity. Support will be based on a needs-assessment carried out with the individual groups and will focus on bulking, post-harvest handling and marketing of agricultural produce (particularly the strategic crops selected under RDNUC). Where there is evidence that investment in low-cost assets such as simple irrigation equipment, simple value-addition equipment and storage facilities these will be considered, though with a strong element of cost-sharing.

The breakdown of the old groups per district is as below:

District	Number of Farmer groups
Arua	200
Nebbi	80
Zombo	80
Pakwach	50
Agago	135
Kitgum	110
Lamwo	100
Total	755

Each AEO shall support 15 – 20 groups spread in one or more sub counties. They will be supervised by AES. Marketing Coordinator and VSLA Officer/supervisor will provide addition support to these groups where relevant.

1. Selection of groups

The following procedures will be used to assess and select the potential groups.

Review of existing data: IPs shall compile the list of possible groups for this support based on their production and marketing data for 2016 and 2017 and the shortlisted groups will be subjected to a set criterion to scale down to the required number. Available records of Production and Marketing Plans (PMP) developed under RDNUC are key in the selection. Other support such

as animal traction and VSLA will also be considered in the assessment. Once completed these lists will be submitted by IPs to Regional Coordinators.

Assessment criteria: CF will design a tool with set criteria for the assessment and selection. This will look more into qualitative assessment to back up above screening. AEOs shall apply the tool for each group.

Selection of groups: The total scores for each group shall be computed and ranking done. The top ranked groups are then selected for this support in NURI program. The extension staff and marketing coordinator are key in this assessment.

2. Enterprises for support

Validation of potential enterprise: IPs to validate the potential enterprises/strategic crops for support. This may be one or two enterprises. It should be an enterprise that the group has agreed to produce and either market or do value-addition collectively. Where the group does not want to continue with previous enterprise, another may be selected but the groups should be able to run it effectively with their own resources.

Production and Marketing Plan: Each group with guidance from extension staff and marketing coordinator shall come up with a simple yearly production and marketing plan. These plans should be achievable and realistic.

Training in CSA: Where it is found necessary, farmer groups may be trained in particular CSA methodologies/practices in line with their enterprise/strategic crop(s) and this should be demand driven. Each AEO can support 15-20 farmer groups offering guidance, training support/backstopping and documentation of results/achievements.

3. Support to group projects

Selection of the projects: Based on the assessment and need of the group, the extension staff/marketing coordinator shall guide/work directly with the farmer group to come up with a feasible project (store for bulking and marketing, tarpaulins for quality improvement, simple value-addition equipment are examples). A group can be supported in many areas of their project as long as the budget can accommodate but activities should be prioritized.

For stores, no specific design has been prepared. The amount allocated for each group is fixed so groups interested in expensive projects should be ready to contribute more resources. It is also important to assess whether there are any nearby storage facilities constructed by other development partners within that locality, ownership or management and if the group can easily have access to that facility so that the same group can prioritize other support from NURI

Cost sharing: There will be cost sharing in the value of the projects selected by the farmer groups. For the projects that involve the use of local materials e.g. construction of simple stores, beneficiaries will provide in kind all the required/necessary local materials (bricks, sand, water, aggregates, murrum, poles etc.) and their project money allocation will be use to procure the necessary industrial materials (iron sheet, cement, nails, hooks, iron bars, metallic doors/windows, paint etc.). The group shall provide land for construction of the store with properly signed MOU to avoid the land owner from personalizing the structure in future that will lead to group conflict and disintegration

Other projects that requires mainly cash input and no local materials e.g. simple value addition equipment, tarpaulins etc., the farmer group will contribute not less than 25% of the total project cost.

4. Support on VSLA

Enroll groups for VSLA: Farmer groups selected for support and who have not previously been organized and trained for VSLA activities under RDNUC or other programmes, will be assessed and enrolled for VSLA if they express clear interest from the majority of members. The extension and VSLA staff are key in this assessment and selection. The VSLA tool will be adopted for this exercise and the program will provide only the VSLA kit and training.

RDNUC GROUPS SELECTION FOR NURI - ASSESSMENT FORM

Group name		Year established						
District		No. of members	F		M		T	
Sub-county		Name of chairperson						
Parish		Tel. chairperson						
Village		Extension Officer						
Enterprise								

S/N	Area of Assessment	Max. Points	Points Scored	Means of Verification
1	Documented rules	Max 6		
2	Records	Max 16		
2.1	Register of members	2		
2.2	Minutes of meetings (with attendance lists)	6		Quarterly meeting of 3 years with each scoring 2 marks
2.3	Financial records / bank account	2		
2.4	Yield/ production records	2		
2.5	Sales records	2		
2.6	Assets register	2		
3	Leadership	Max 12		
3.1	Leaders elected by group members	2		
3.2	Ability of leaders to write	2		
3.3	Women in leadership	3		
3.4	Frequency of election of leaders	2		
3.5	Functional Marketing Committee	3		

4	Membership	Max 10		
4.1	21-25 or 31-35 = 6 points, 26-30 = 10, 15 - 20 = 4	10		
5	Group activities in 3rd year	Max 20		
5.1	Collective marketing (bulking)	4		
5.2	VSLA (or other joint savings activities) (Good 4, Very good 8)	8		
5.3	Collective use of ox traction or other collective activity (Good 4, Very good 8)	4		
5.4	Engagement with other partners / linkages with other services	4		
6	Progress in PMP activities	Max 21		
6.1	Developed realistic plans	3		
6.2	Collective procurement of any inputs	3		
6.3	Operationalization of PMP	4		
6.4	Any new joint activities	4		
6.5	Members expanding area of strategic crop (must be validated)	4		Group records
6.6	Members following GAP practices (must be validated)	3		Monitoring records, field visits
	TOTAL SCORE	Max 85		

COMMENTS

Rules:
Records:
Leadership:
Membership:
Activities:
Support received:
Future Plans / Vision:
General impression / other issues:

Staff involved	Date	Name	Signature
Assessor			
Checked by, AES			