

The Multiplier Effect

Through working with farmers groups to multiply disease resistant varieties of groundnut project R8105 has in only two years achieved many clear benefits. More than 2500 households have directly accessed rosette resistant varieties of groundnuts namely Serenut 2 and 4. Considerable informal seed distribution (i.e. outside project guidelines) to relatives, friends and neighbours means that a figure of 10,000 beneficiaries is likely to be a very low estimate. The varieties are greatly appreciated for being high yielding and drought tolerant. Many farmers state that the variety Serenut 2 does not fail – a farmer will always get a good yield even when other varieties fail completely. Consequently there

Higher yields have meant that participating farmers have better access to protein over a longer period of time compared to other farmers, they acknowledge that their families look better nourished than others because they are feeding well.

Household incomes have also improved. Many farmers have been able to produce more than they need for seed and food, and the extra income has been used to pay school fees and purchase assets like

cows, bulls etc. Farmers from four sub-counties in Kumi District completed their repayment requirements and then sold their extra groundnut seed (worth £3036*) back to the project for further distribution. In 2003 group members accumulated a marketable surplus of 38 tonnes of Serenut 2 worth £12,768 which is being sold to other NGOs and to individual farmers. This is sufficient seed to plant about 1,125 acres (0.45 hectares).

"I have no worries about what my family will eat during this period even when most peoples' families are depending on the poor diet of boiled vegetables without anything in it, mine will always have groundnuts."

Comment from farmer



Parish Development Committee checking germination of groundnut crop

is a huge demand for the varieties being multiplied. In the past only those with access to the Research Centre could obtain the seed, but now most poor farmers have benefited. Selection and monitoring of repayment is being handled by Parish Development Committees to ensure long-term sustainability.

Seventy five groups (out of 160) decided to use their own group savings to buy additional seed for multiplication. Many non-group members have seen the value and have bought these varieties. There has been a lot of pressure from non-group members to join the participating groups so that they can also access seed.

* Conversion rate (2004) Ugandan shillings 3446 = £1.00 sterling



This groundnut farmer has purchased a cow with the profits from her crop

R8105: Farmer-Led multiplication of rosette-resistant groundnut varieties for Eastern Uganda

Contact: Rita Laker-Ojok, AT Uganda, Uganda

Photos: Benedikte Siderman Wolter and Rita Laker-Ojok