

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2003

To: The Managing Partner  
DFID Maize Marketing Project

From: Rehema Kalibbala  
In Charge DFID Project Kiboga District

**RE: REPORT ON POST HARVEST ACTIVITIES IN KIBOGA DISTRICT  
(JULY – SEPTEMBER 2003)**

**Post harvest technologies**

We have received a number of items from KARI to help farmers improve on their post harvest practices and they include a motorized pump, 200 hand held maize shellers, 1000 polybags, a weighing scale, 3 sets of protective wear, 2 grain cleaners and 2 fumigation sheets. They are to be distributed to the farmers groups in Kibiga while Nsambya will receive some items this quarter.

There has been adoption of technologies like cribs with group members helping each other to put up the drying structures. 10 new cribs have been put up in Kibiga and 23 in Nsambya.

**Group storage and stores**

Group storage has been emphasized although the complaint has been on the distances to the selected stores. Some of the groups have preferred to have collecting centres instead moving their produce to the main stores. Three centres have so far been identified and farmers are ready to store maize in Degeya, Kitete and Seeta all in Kibiga subcounty. Nsambya is still in the process of identifying stores because most would be collecting centers are being occupied and hired by middlemen.

Renovation of Kizinga store is on going and will be ready any time from now to start receiving maize. A committee for mobilization of funds and materials for store construction has been set up in Nsambya and they are organizing a fundraising drive to be held from October –November 2003 with the involvement of BUCADEF and district officials. There will also be maximization of efforts on mobilization by NIMMA withgin farmers' groups.

We have received maximum cooperation from the local authorities right from the subcounty to district level. Both the district and the subcounty councils have approved budgets that include a fund towards the construction of the store in Nsambya.

### **Training of farmers**

Training of farmers on improved post harvest technologies is going on although we need some more involvement from KARI especially on group dynamics and improved post harvest technologies. Other groups have been included in the partnership i.e Kasenya Commercial Farmers from Kibiga and Kiboga Commercial Farmers from Nsambya.

### **Maize Quality**

Physical qualities of maize like insect damage, diseased grain, existence of foreign material and live weevils have so far been very low or non-existent. The biggest problem is still of high moisture content of up to 18%.

### **Market Situation**

There are a number of opportunities for farmers to sell their maize this season. Maize buyers range from middlemen, schools, World Food Programme and Uganda Grain Traders Ltd. However farmers are loosing out on big buyers because of the moisture content.

### **Maize Production**

There has been a marked increase in maize production from last season within the two subcounties under the project. This has accrued from project activities especially

sensitization directed towards group storage and marketing. Acreage under maize in Kibiga has increased from 123 acres in season 2003A to 268 in 2003B while Nsambya has increased from 967 acres in 2003A to 1432 acres in 2003B.

## **Constraints**

### **1. Utilisation of Farmers' funds**

The use of funds within the farmers' budget does not fully conform with the suggested budget. Only one subcounty is utilizing funds that were meant to be utilized by the two subcounties. It is the request of the Agriculture office that the funds be utilized with the guidance and approval of the In-charge of the project.

### **2. Group dynamics**

Group members in various groups still have a problem of disunity. Decisions are made by their leaders without the consent of all members in the group. There is still need for help on this issue.

### **3. Poverty**

A number of members in the farmers groups have sold off their maize individually because they had to meet their immediate needs. This has left the groups with little or no maize for storage.

### **4. Storage Facilities**

The collecting centers so far identified are not up to standard. Most are semi permanent structures and are partly used as residences.