

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Kachope Patrick
Project title	Community agro forestry as an engine for reforestation and sustainable poverty reduction: a case of smallholder farmers in RWebigoma village, Kibaale District.
RSG reference	61.05.08
Reporting period	18 months
Amount of grant	£5821
Your email address	kachpat@yahoo.com
Date of this report	25.04.2010

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Piloting community agro forestry			**	In my opinion I learnt the dynamics of introducing agro forestry projects in rural communities. I now know the practicalities of this field. For example, I have learnt that poor people do not want to wait for long to gain from a project. They want immediate benefits like milk from a cow than waiting for firewood 3 to 5 years ahead.
Sensitising farmers on sustainable land use			**	I held all the scheduled meetings and introduced the relevant issues such as intercropping, zero grazing, tree planting, etc. The farmers in the zero grazing component have applied manure from cow dung and planted fodder to improve their soils for crop production.
Conservation of indigenous trees		**		The group was able to plant 2500 various types of indigenous trees like musizi, mutoma, gacia and fruit trees. But the uptake rate was low. It was mainly those who expected and got cows that were more motivated to plant trees than those who considered themselves long in the queue for heifers.
Promotion of zero grazing			**	Held three sessions on zero grazing and got an expert input from the local government. The cows distributed created more motivation for members to participate in other elements of the project. We have 4 calves now which will be given away by August 2010 to another set of beneficiaries.
Exposure tours			**	Held two. One in Kibaale district and another in Mubende district. Farmers were excited about what they saw on other people's farms.
Formation of a CBO			**	Registered CBO in the Names of Buyanja Community Agro foresters (BCA) to ensure that this project continues.
Income improvement		**		Farmers benefited from two rounds of vegetable growing. They were for nutrition and income purposes. When seeds in the budget were over, most

				farmers stopped. Its only two farmers who have since taken up tomato growing as an enterprise though on a small scale. Secondly, on average, the four farmers on average sell five litres of milk per day which has led to income improvement.
Reforestation		**		Fewer trees planted than expected. Out of at least 20,000 expected only 9,500 trees of various types were planted. It was due to poor people's apathy to tree planting.
A community tree nursery		**		Had initially thought of one big nursery, on trying to customise the project to local farmers, they preferred operating small unit nurseries shared by three to four farmers. Managing a big tree nursery proved difficult. Only one farmer took up the tree nursery as a micro business enterprise although she lacks money to run it successfully.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Money was released in late August 2008; the tree nursery could not start until June 2009 targeting the heavy rains of September of the year 2009 suitable for transplanting. Preparation of the tree nursery had to be pushed back to June 2009 so that seedlings take 3 months in the nursery. From the experience I had got from the low rate of planting indigenous trees, we decided with the Committee for Community Tree Nursery (CCTN) that we begin with few seedlings so that we gauge the rate of uptake of tree planting.

At the time when we sought to procure heifers, there was a high demand for cows from southern Sudan and Rwanda. The prices of heifers went up almost by 25%. But we agreed with farmers to cost share. The farmers bore the construction cost by a half to compensate for the high cost of heifers. Another challenge which came up later was the absence of a bull of high quality for mating the heifers. We are using artificial insemination, but the technology is not readily available. We are thinking of buying our own bull, but we are still weighing the merit of this alternative.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- A formal organisation in the names Buyanja Community Agro foresters (BCA) has been registered with Kibaale district local government whose main objective are among others is to contribute to environmental protection through planting of trees.
- Secondly, I have gained substantial field experience on what it practically takes to encourage tree planting in a community that hitherto did not appreciate reforestation. Important in this lesson is that peasants will not engage in planting trees if the planting is not associated with some immediate change in their social, nutritional or economic status. Despite of all

the seminars and tours, 70% of the members still look at this project in terms of getting cows and seeds for vegetable growing. Only about 30 percent take tree planting seriously. For example, we shall be giving away the first offspring of the heifers by August 2010 to the next set of beneficiaries but members come to me saying “chairman, for me I have planted trees come and see. Consider me in the next give out of calves”. The motivation here is mainly on the prospect of getting a heifer not the benefits of tree planting.

- Thirdly, I have identified three community resource persons who have taken keen interest in tree planting. These are primary school teachers and one of them a head teacher and all are willing to take up, through our registered organisation, the message of tree planting to school children. These teachers are going to serve as change agents for reforestation in their respective schools. As a result of trainings in tree nursery practice using Trees for the Future manual, one community member, a woman, has taken up tree nursery as an enterprise although seeds are still expensive for her. But I am happy that from my own work another person has taken up work that will lead to self improvement financially and generally protect the environment.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

Right from the start, I involved community members in the running of the project. I began with community studies to adopt the project to members’ needs. We constituted ourselves into a leadership committee of five, where I was elected chairman. There was a Secretary, Vice chairperson and a treasurer and one other committee member democratically elected. We further constituted two functional committees, one was Committee for Community Tree Nursery (CCTN) and the other was that of the Cut-and-Carry Grazing Committee (CCGC). The chairperson of CCTN was a primary science teacher who was preferred by members because of his ability to carry out simple technical instructions to farmers. The one for the CCGC was a farmer who had some knowledge of zero grazing and was elected because he had access to the technical people at the district headquarters. The CCTN was charged with mobilising members for labour, planting trees including fruit trees and indigenous species. They were supposed to identify local tree species suitable for animal forage and advise members of the CCGC to promote them for zero grazing. The CCGC with the help of the chairman coordinated the purchase of heifers and monitored construction, did animal health monitoring for early intervention in cases of any illness. To crown it all this participation resulted into the formation of a CBO which I have already pointed out as a major achievement. Together with all community members we made rules for accessing vegetable seeds, for qualifying for the next calf and membership conduct and all these rules are in writing. The benefits of this project are many; they range from increasing social interaction, nutritional benefits from vegetable growing and milk for children. They have also got incomes from the project from sale of vegetables and milk. Farmers are very proud of the heifers which improve their social esteem. Importantly, they got skills and knowledge of on farm nursery practice and two of them have taken up vegetable growing as income generating project. Although farmers are looking at trees planted as having remote benefits, they will directly enjoy the advantages of trees in their environment.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As already indicated, the registration of a CBO was intended to have this work continue. Secondly, I still have seeds not yet used. Three, we want to take this to a larger community using experience gained from this pilot project and through the teachers to schools. We are already working on a

plan to identify a community land approximately 5 acres for the National Forestry Authority to give planting materials.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We are going to register for membership with Kibaale district Civil Society Organisations' Network. Once registered, I will share my experiences on how best to promote community tree planting in the district so that others can learn from me. I received applications from two organisations to come and learn from the project. One was a German volunteer placement organisation, and another was Makerere university forestry department student. They wanted to come and study at the project. They learnt about the project from the Rufford website. But because I lacked office space and formal registration, I could not take them up. I have however documented every aspect of the project and once BCA is firmly established, I will let in students, volunteers and researchers to learn about my work thus providing another avenue for sharing the results. We intend to build a website for BCA through which the works of this project can be published to a wider audience.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

As I have already indicated, the grant was used over 18 months and I still have some seeds I have not used. The tree nursery which I had considered a major component of the project took long to start due to late release of funds which meant that I had to wait for another year to time the heavy rains in September 2009 suitable for transplanting. The original plan in the proposal was to begin work in June 2008. Even after waiting for this long, the rate of adoption of tree planting was low which necessitated a reduction in the number of seedlings to rise for the start. We raised 5,000 seedlings for the start of various tree species, but farmers were still reluctant to take them for planting. Many preferred pines yet there were many other useful species like acacia for fuel wood. Therefore, compared to the planned period, this project took longer than expected to complete due to the necessity of waiting for the right rain season and adjusting to the participating farmers' speed. Apart from the community nursery component, the rest of the activities were carried out within the stipulated 12 months period.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Stationary	38.5	38.5	00	Used on the transport for heifers Topped it up myself.
Laptop computer	500	450	50	
Internet modem and airtime	300	350	50	
Exposure tours	260	280	20	Members contributed the difference. Fuel prices had gone up.
Seminars	63	63	00	
Tree nursery				There were price increases for some items, but we had to stick to the budget and buy what was
• Equipment summary	225.5 2435	225.5 2435	00 00	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeds/seedlings • Vegetable seeds 	625	625	00	within the budget.
Heifers logistical expenses reserve money	1500 250 00	1750 250 99	250 00 99**	Two neighbouring countries; southern Sudan and Rwanda were buying heifers from Uganda and the prices had shot up. Adjusted the farmers' contribution to cover the gap in the budget.
Total	6197	6317	270 covered by member contributions	

Note: By the time the application for the grant was made, the exchange rate was £1 = 3200 Uganda Shillings. By the time money reached my account, the local bank offered the money at 2921 shillings per pound. Variations in exchange rate resulted in a shortfall of about 400 pounds in real cash terms.

** Still have the reserve money for the remaining nursery activities.

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

I need to focus on building the profile of Buyanja Community Agro foresters (BCA) as a linchpin for continuation of this project. BCA needs a website so that we can put our objectives across. Apparently, all our documents and equipments are in one of our member's garage which we use as an office and store. Within an organisational framework I believe many things can happen including resource mobilisation. I believe, once BCA is strengthened, it will be possible to have full time volunteers and later on staff to propagate the seed sown by the RSGF in this rural community.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

- Yes, the five beneficiaries from the cut and grazing system were required to sign an agreement not to sell the cows for 4 years and also to participate in activities to conserve the environment among others. In this agreement, RSGF logo was affixed saying "with support from Rufford"
- Secondly, during the project period, RSGF was twice on the local radio news, one was when the area District Councillor was presiding over the handover of the five heifers and launching the zero-gazing project. Second was when the area Member of Parliament visited members of our village and he pledged to support two of our members with a piggery and poultry project.

11. Any other comments?

- I still have seeds I have not yet sown, and I hope to sow them in June 2010 so that the planting can take place during the heavy rains of September. Due to the low rate of tree planting uptake, we intend through our CBO to make a school outreach programme so that we can reach out to more people through school children.
- It is not enough to provide tree seedlings to farmers. As one of them told me, they have enough problems to worry about than think about planting "useless" trees. It is more important to focus on attitude change so that poor people learn the link between trees and their overall survival as a human race.

- Thirdly, a community tree nursery cannot function well under exclusively voluntary labour. It demands a lot of time on the side of farmers which means surrendering valuable time for their small farms which affects food security. It requires full time workers, and this is one of the reasons we decided to start on a small scale. The committed project leaders had employment else where and for teachers in particular, when schools were running, they found little time to attend to project work.
- I will provide a supplementary report in November 2010 when I expect the remaining seeds to be planted.