



**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS INTERNATIONAL (SLINT) UGANDA IN
COLLABORATION WITH ON-LINE VOLUNTEERS ON NABUUR**

**Training Workshop for Smallholder Beekeeping Project
Held in Butikiro Village, Kiyuni Parish
18th - 19th June 2009**

WORKSHOP REPORT



Mr. Elivino Nteemu (80 years of age) makes a demonstration to participants during the workshop

JULY 2009

Facilitators

Mr. Patrick Rutagyengwa - East African Beekeepers Equipment Limited
Mr. John Paul Ndawula- East African Beekeepers Equipment Limited

Introduction

1. The training workshop an integrated activity on livelihoods by Sustainable Livelihoods International Uganda (SLINT-Uganda) in partnership with on-line volunteers on [nabuur.com: http://www.nabuur.com/en/village/butikiro](http://www.nabuur.com/en/village/butikiro) was built on the need to assist and empower 50 resource-poor farmers in Kiyuni parish, Kiboga district in Uganda to engage in bee-keeping as a sustainable income-generating activity. It aims to overcome poverty and improve their livelihoods without compromising the environment. The two day workshop held in Kiyuni from 18th June – 19th June 2009 was attended by 46 participants who included: a) Single mothers, b) the disabled, c) HIV/AIDS affected, d) widows and widowers, e) elderly, f) youth, and g) the progressives.

2. The action responds to the low agricultural productivity and increasing poverty among resource poor farmers in Butikiro village Kiyuni parish. In particular beekeeping in Butikiro village has remained predominantly conventional and rudimentary. The practice has been constrained by a number of factors ranging from poor production methods, to lack of appropriate modern equipment (including modern bee hives, smoker pumps, protective wear/bee suits, and honey harvesting and processing equipment), technical know-how of modern bee husbandry and management methods. This has in turn led to the loss of human potential to engage in productive activity and, in combination with HIV/AIDS, to increasing poverty rates. The project specifically addresses women and elderly people's productivity. Women, who provide most of the agricultural labour input, have little or no control over productive resources like land and the proceeds from the sale of their products. Moreover, women are denied their rights, access to property, education, and financial services, a situation that is compounded by the effects of HIV/AIDS and its related problems.

Workshop aim

3. The workshop aimed to build and strengthen farmers' capacity (including their knowledge, skills and know-how) in beekeeping skills and catalyse the local community to engage in beekeeping as a means to improve their well-being and self-reliance. It was also aimed at transforming the current smallholder beekeeping efforts in Butikiro and surrounding areas into economically viable agri-business ventures.

Workshop organization and facilities

4. Mr. Patrick Rutagyengwa and Mr. John Paul Ndawula; beekeeping experts from the East African Beekeepers Equipment Limited located in Kampala city, Uganda facilitated the workshop.

5. The local community provided the workshop venue while SLINT-Uganda provided participants with fact sheets/technical briefs on beekeeping and a manual on Trainers of Small-scale Beekeeping Development. The manual will be used as reference by the community.

Workshop proceedings

6. The chairperson of Butikiro-Kiyuni Farmers Association, Mr. Jonathan Ssali opened the workshop on Thursday 18th June 2009. In his statement, Mr. Ssali welcomed the participants, SLINT-Uganda's officials and facilitators from the East African Beekeepers Equipment Limited. He acknowledged with pleasure Mr. Erie Tamale- the chairman of the Board; SLINT-Uganda for being part of the workshop. Mr. Tamale thanked community members for the enthusiasm they

had shown towards the workshop. He emphasized the need to assist poor communities to access technologies and undertake best bet practices that would enable them to harness nature.

Technical sessions

7. Participatory Technical topics covered during the workshop included the following: a) Introduction to Beekeeping; b) Benefits and importance of beekeeping ; c) Types of bees in a colony and their roles; d) Colonizing of hives; e) Apiary selection; f) Apiary management, g) monitoring, management and inspections of hives; h) Harvesting and processing of honey.

8. The workshop also involved hands on demonstrations on: a) beehives monitoring and management; b) use and maintenance of protective gear including the bee suit and smoker; c) site selection and management; and d) setting up of an apiary among others.

(a) Introduction to Beekeeping

9. Mr. Rutagyengwa stressed and demonstrated to participants that beekeeping is an activity that fits well with the concept of market oriented agricultural development. He also cited availability of local, national and international markets for honey and other apiary products such as beeswax.

(b) Benefits and importance of beekeeping

10. An overview of the benefits and importance of beekeeping were discussed. Participants noted that honey contains all minerals a person may need and is an immune booster. bee wax is

used in making candles including venom aides used in making of capsules. propolis or gum helps in healing asthma when its burnt on fire; as well heals wounds and kills all the bacteria on bees before entering into hives.

(c) Types of bees from a colony and their roles

11. The presentation on the importance and benefits of beekeeping was preceded with types of bees from a colony and their specific roles. With the guidance of Mr. Rutagyegwa participants brainstormed the types of bees and their distinction. Those mentioned included the: Queen, worker

and Drone. It was observed that the Queen has a long, slender appearance and decides whether or not to fertilise the eggs she lays; while the worker was a female. The Drone is the male of the colony and is produced from unfertilized eggs. Its body is larger than that of the worker or queen.



A participant demonstrates to other farmers about the langstroth beehive

12. The roles performed by each type of bee in a beehive were also highlighted. For example the queen lays about 1,500 eggs per day and could live for up to four years. Workers bees perform all the tasks inside and outside the bee hive including maintaining it in good condition, protecting the queen and pollinating crops. Their life span is six weeks. The drone's sole function is to fertilize the queen. This takes place in the air.

(d) Colonizing of hives

13. Mr. Rutagyegwa advised the need for participants and project beneficiaries to always locate suitable and ideal places for establishing beehives. With his facilitation, participants brainstormed and listed the ideal vegetation including coffee, maize, pawpaw, bananas, simsim, mango trees, soya beans, watermelon and moringa among others. The vegetation aids bees in collecting nectar and pollen used for making honey. Participants were advised not to use pesticides and other chemicals especially in cropping because these chase away and or kill bees.

(e) Apiary selection

14. Insights into favorable conditions for selection of an apiary were brainstormed and discussed. These included availability of good shade, water source (not more than 100 meters) and ideal vegetation. The beehives should be located at least 100 meters away from the main road. Participants were also advised to place beehives in sites free from noise and open places directly affected by free moving winds.

15. A demonstration using a langstroth bee hive was used to show the farmers where and how a beehive can be placed in a selected place.

(f) Apiary management and inspection of beehives

16. Proper management of beehives was one critical session was re-emphasized to the participants. Key demonstrations included the wearing of a bee suit and its advantages; and the use of a smoker pump and their maintenance. Mr. Ndawula advised farmers that bee suits were used to avoid stings, while the smoker was used to break any communication between bees and the farmer especially during inspection and honey harvesting.

17. Mr. Rutagyegwa stressed bees are always attacked by insects, butterflies, lizards, rats, snakes and animals which may eventually chase away the bees. Farmers were advised to constantly monitor the beehives at least twice a week. As control measures farmers were also advised to grease poles to avoid ants, slashing and pruning of nearby trees; fencing (by using calliandra trees or wire mesh) the apiary among others.

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A participant demonstrates to other farmers about using a smoker pump, bee suit.

18. Farmers were told about specific factors which could chase the bees away including routine and constant strong winds, insects, animals, nature, a lot of sunshine use of herbicides and perfumes.

(g) *Harvesting and processing of honey*

19. An overview on harvesting and processing of honey was facilitated by Mr. Ndawula. In this demonstration Mr. Ndawula emphasized to participants the need for properly wearing a bee suit use of a smoker, gumboots, hive tool/knife and torch.



Participants look at a sample of packaged honey.

20. He noted that there are always two seasons of honey harvesting in one year but a season could have at least three to five times harvests for farmers using the langstroth technology.

21. Mr. Rutagyengwa cautioned the participants to only harvest early morning or in the evening because when bees are resting. Honey comb demonstrations were made. Farmers were advised to harvest when a comb contained capped

honey. This is when it is mature or ripened. He cautioned farmers not to use too much smoke when harvesting honey. Farmers were also cautioned only to harvest from the super box and leave the brood box intact to avoid losing the queen.

22. He advised farmers to take the project serious which would enable them to acquire a honey extractor. A sample of honey ready for marketing was shown to the farmers.

Outcomes; Recommendations and Conclusions

23. The outcomes of the workshop included the following:

- a) There was demonstrated knowledge, skills and positive attitudes in beekeeping imparted among participants.
- b) Thirty out of the 50 initial farmers were facilitated with 30 langstroth beehives complete with super boxes and queen excluders. One bee suit, a pair of gumboots, and one smoker were facilitated to the farmers. The beehives supplied by the East African Beekeepers Equipment Limited were made possible by the kind and generous financial support from Mr. Erie Tamale –Chairman of the Board- Sustainable Livelihoods International-Uganda and Mr. Eric Ellis a volunteer participant on the on-line Global Neighbour Network (nabbur.com).

- c) Two apiaries were set up in Butikiro- Kiyuni with each having 15 beehives. This was agreed for easy management of beehives. Land on which the apiaries have been established was in-kindly provided by project beneficiaries Mrs. Norah Babumba and Mr. Denis Tomusange respectively with advise and support from participants. The inspection and selection of the apiary sites was done and approved by Mr. Rutagyengwa and Mr. Ndawula of the East African Beekeepers Equipment Limited. *It is our considered view that it is more efficient and effective to use the apairy approach to reach these beneficiaries. Apiary arrangement additionally allows for easier mobilisation, sharing amongst beneficiaries and cross learning, apart from being a stronger voice in case of critical decisions for their beekeeping development. The performance of the apiaries and beneficiaries will be easily monitored by SLINT-Uganda.*



Participants at a site demonstration of an apiary and beehive set up

- d) There is high demonstrated enthusiasm and increased interest and demand among local people in Butikiro, surrounding areas and villages to engage in commercial bee keeping.
- e) Fact sheets/technical briefs on beekeeping and a manual for trainers on small-scale Beekeeping development were provided to participants. This was made possible by Sustainable Livelihoods International Uganda.
- f) Lessons learned and skills acquired on beekeeping techniques and promotion of beekeeping by members of the target groups are being disseminated to neighbours, relatives and other community members.

Recommendations

24. The recommendations included the following:
- a) Each farmer should be facilitated with at least 10 beehives in an apiary to make the project economically and socially viable. As a result each farmer would be able to harvest at least 100 kgs in one season. Thus a farmer would be able to generate at least USD \$400.
 - b) There is need to enable 20 more farmers access 20 beehives as a starting point. These are farmers who did not get beehives.
 - c) One more apiary should be established with each apiary housing 100 beehives.

- d) Farmers should first acquire knowledge and gain hands on practical experience in beekeeping through the two apiaries established before they could consider undertaking beekeeping in their homesteads;
- e) Three more bee suits and three smokers should be provided to cater for farmers in the two apiaries. This would enable at least two farmers going to monitor the beehives in the apiary to be fully protected.
- f) Farmers should be assisted to buy a honey extractor in the future once harvest start. This would enable the farmers to add value to honey harvested which would result in high incomes generated.
- g) Refresher training workshops on beekeeping and management should be organised for farmers in addition to future training specifically on honey harvesting, post harvest handling, quality control and packaging and marketing skills. By strengthening these farmers, SLINT-Uganda would be able to multiply its effects because (1) many more farmers' households and/or farmers' groups will be reached, (2) local ownership of the programme will be promoted and (3) a stronger voice for related issues will be build.

Closure of workshop

25. Mr. Erie Tamale the Chairman of the Board SLINT-Uganda presided over the closing ceremony. He emphasized the need to enable local communities to access technologies that



Setting a beehive for colonization

would enable them harness nature. He advised farmers to utilize the langstroth beehive technology to their full advantage noting that SLINT-Uganda and partners only give a “hand up” to farmers.

26. On behalf of the Board of SLINT-Uganda; Mr. Tamale also extended a vote of thanks Mr. Rick Ellis for his generous contribution and support towards the purchase of the beehives. The on-line volunteers of Butikiro on the Global Neighbour Network (Nabuur) were also thanked for their support.

27. Mr. Tamale handed over three bicycles. The bicycles were given to three farmers namely; Ms. Concilia Mukamalita, Ms. Frida Namuyige and Mr. Elivino Nteemu Sajabi. He urged the beneficiaries to take good care of the equipments, properly manage the apiaries and to use it to realize the objectives of the project.

Pictorials



A Demonstration during the apiary set up



A participant takes notes during a demonstration



Mr. Rutaqenqwa shows participants a sample honey to be harvested



Facilitators show a picture of how an apiary is set up.



Participants look at the fact sheets printed in a local language



Delivering some of the hives at one of the apiary site

ANNEX I:

LIST OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

NO.	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
1	Mr. Andrew Magezi	Bulyanzige	+256 777 423 101
2	Mr. Bashil T.Z. Kasule	Butikiro	+256 752 530 234
3	Mr. Bendicto Matovu	Bulyanzige	
4	Ms. Concilia Mukamalita	Kiyuni	+256 783 193 664
5	Mrs. Deborah Musoke	Kiyuni	+256 753 017 099
6	Mr. Denis Marsha Kabuuka	SLINT-Uganda	+256 782 170 414
7	Mr. Denis Tomusange	Kiyuni	+256 777 160 412
8	Mr. Edward Nyanzi	Butikiro	+256 777 590 840
9	Ms. Efrance Nakakawa	Butikiro	
10	Mr. Elivino Nteemu Sajabi	Butikiro	
11	Mr. Erie Tamale	SLINT-Uganda	+256 782 898 389
12	Ms. Eriosi Nansimo	Kiyuni	+256 777 424 884
13	Ms. Fausita Katambala	Kiyuni	+256 775 299 505
14	Ms. Firida Naggawa	Bulyanzige	+256 779 629 950
15	Ms. Firida Nakatuula	Bulyanzige	
16	Ms. Firida Namuyige	Kiyuni	+256 779 655 693
17	Mr. Francis B. Bukenya	Kiyuni	+256 775 887 668
18	Mr. Fred Kakooza	Butikiro	+256 783 184 781
19	Mr. Godfrey Mulumba	Kiyuni	+256 777 350 441
20	Mr. Godfrey Sennozi	Kyamulalama	
21	Mr. Israel Ssentongo	Butikiro	
22	Ms. J. Nansamba	Butikiro	
23	Ms. Jackie	Canada	
24	Mr. Jackson Kasozi	Bulyanzige	+256 783 237 057
25	Mr. John Balongo	Kiyuni	
26	Mr. John C. Kasozi	Bulyanzige	+256 775 878 076
27	Mr. Jonathan Ssali	Butikiro	+256 777 693 973
28	Mr. Joseph Babumba	Butikiro	+256 776 884 652
29	Ms. Joyce Nanyonga	Butikiro	+256 777 736 535
30	Ms. Justine Nakayima	Butikiro	+256 775 880 835
31	Mr. Labison Katambala	Kiyuni	+256 777 590 831
32	Ms. Lilian Nalubiri	Kiyuni	+256 776 891 066
33	Ms. Mantirona Nanyondo	Bulyanzige	+256 783 236 347
34	Ms. Milly Nanyondo	Kiyuni	
35	Ms. Narugo	Butikiro	+256 777 423 142
36	Mrs. Norah Babumba	Butikiro	+256 776 884 653
37	Mr. Ronald Mutebi	SLINT-Uganda	+256 782 377 917
38	Mr. Samuel Kyeyune	Kiyuni	+256 777 103 897
39	Mr. Samuel Sebitalo	Kiyuni	
40	Ms. Sarah Nambuusi	Kyamulalama	+256 777 423 397
41	Mr. Steven Kikabi	Bulyanzige	+256 779 904 052
42	Ms. Teopista Nassejje	Kiyuni	+256 775 285 208
43	Mr. Tito Byakatonda	Kiyuni	+256 775 284 770
44	Mr. Umaru Katende Salongo	Butikiro	
	Facilitators		

45	Mr. John Paul Ndawula	East African Beekeepers Equipment limited	+256 774 739 865
46	Mr. Patrick Rutagyengwa	East African Beekeepers Equipment Limited	+256 772 657 523

ANNEX II: THE PROJECT AREA LOCATION MAP:

