

## Butikiro Farmers Receive Seeds

6 May 2009. At least 30 farmers in Butikiro village and the surrounding areas last week received water melon seeds and pesticides from SLINT-Uganda as part of the one-year project entitled “Kiyuni Fruit and Vegetable Growing for Sustainable Livelihoods Project. Each farmer received 1 tin of water melon seed (containing more than 400 seeds), one sacket of 200 grams of victory fungicide and a bottle of ethiroate pesticide containing 20 miltres. This was made possible with the kind financial donation that was made by a volunteer on [www.nabuur.com/en/village/butikiro](http://www.nabuur.com/en/village/butikiro) under the Dutch-based Global Neighbour Network website, [www.nabuur.com](http://www.nabuur.com).

The project aims to empower more than 50 resource-poor farmers to upscale agricultural production for improved food security and income generation through promoting fruit and vegetable growing. The project beneficiaries include single mothers, widows, the elderly, youth, men and disabled persons.

Two workshops have so far been carried out to sensitise the beneficiaries, local council leaders and other local people about the project; and to train the beneficiaries in water melon growing and basic crop husbandry and soil management practices.

A community steering committee for the project was also established last week at the meeting of all the beneficiaries. This includes Mr. Jonathan Ssali, Mrs Deborah Musoke and Ms. Nassejje Teopista as Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Meetings of the committee will commence in two weeks.

Since the growing of water melon is a relatively new initiative in the area, there is a need to provide continuous training and technical support to farmers. SLINT-Uganda’s Field Programme Coordinator, Mr. Ronald Mutebi, will visit and provide advice to farmers at least twice a month if additional resources are secured.

Farmers also expressed interest to grow green pepper and pumpkin because of the attractive markets in the capital city, Kampala. They requested SLINT-Uganda to explore the possibility of securing improved seeds of these crops as well.



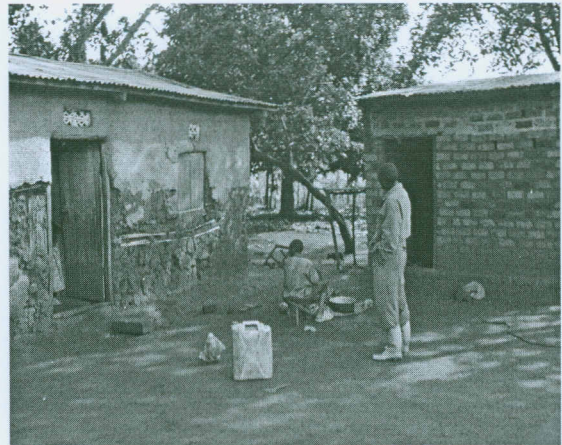
Some of the beneficiaries at two of the training sessions under the fruit and vegetable growing project



Right Mr. Ssali (project committee member) touring a garden. Left village representative Marsha at beneficiary's garden



Beneficiaries tour and admire a garden as part of the farmer to farmer visits. Children prepare their mother's garden



One of the beneficiaries' children and (photo right) Mr. Ssali at one of the beneficiary's household to inspect the garden