

Evaluation Report of Rural Energy and Environment Conservation of Atur (REECA) Project



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By

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Executive summary

Through the commitment of Yele Ikom Can Atur Farmers Association (YICAFA) to promote sustainable environmental management, a project called Rural Energy and Environment Conservation of Atur (REECA) was developed. The objectives were to (1) mobilize and sensitize the local community on the best practice to conserve and protect the environment in which they live (2) promote agroforestry with multipurpose trees (3) promote household food security and (4) promote sustainable energy saving technologies in homes and institutions. The project was funded by GEF/SGP through UNDP. Evaluation of REECA project was carried out between 11th and 25th January 2006 with the overall objective of assessing the current impacts of project interventions of REECA in relation to local communities' socio-economic livelihoods and environmental management in Atur and Angwecibange parishes, Dokolo sub-county. The evaluation was conducted in six villages (Agora, Atur, Acandyang, Atama, Abongowoo and Ayito) in Atur parish and two institutions (Dokolo Technical School and Dokolo Primary School) in Angwecibange parish within the project area. The evaluation methods were participatory.

In light of the scope of evaluation tasks, we found that REECA project has performed well and largely achieved the above objectives. The project has substantially impacted on the general environment and peoples' livelihoods by planting trees on farms around the homesteads, along school avenues, in school woodlots, on the perimeters of school fields and in parts of the heavily degraded Onekokeo Forest Reserve. Farmers were fully involved in the project's activities and regularly sought professional advice on modern farming techniques and use of improved planting materials such as agricultural seed, fruit trees and building poles and timber trees. The Lorena energy saving cooking stove was a huge success as many people in the project area acquired the knowledge and skills to make the stoves and the amount of firewood, used by households and schools that have adopted it, has drastically declined. However, a much greater impact through up-scaling and expansion of activities is needed if YICAFA is to adequately address the critical problem of poverty reduction while conserving the environment in Dokolo. Therefore, we recommend that additional funds be

provided or secured by YICAFA to support an up-scaling programme on the Lorena energy saving cook stove and increasing the tree cover in and around schools and the homesteads not covered in Phase I of the REECA project.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project description

Poverty eradication is one of the cardinal principles of Uganda's Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) and the first objective of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG). Rural communities in Uganda, including those of Dokolo sub-county, Lira District, depend on agriculture as the main source of livelihood. Agriculture on the other hand depends on sound environmental management and protection of natural resources therein. Moreover, the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) aims at increasing the productivity of land while maintaining sound environment and transforming farming from subsistence to commercial enterprise. It is envisaged that as the objectives are achieved, poverty in the rural areas would be reduced.

However, Uganda's strategic development programmes under the 'Poverty Reduction Strategic Plans' (PRSP) will not be adequately achieved if rural community participation is not involved. In response to this, a group of farmers from Atur and Angwecibang parishes, Dokolo sub-county in the year 2002 formed a local community-based organization (CBO) called Yele Ikom Can, Atur Farmers Association (YICAFA). The mission of the association was to strengthen the capacity of rural communities for promoting development in their areas through sustainable natural resource management. YICAFA's specific objectives are to promote: (i) the development and use of affordable and sustainable energy saving technologies (ii) strategies to ensure food security among the members (iii) sustainable environmental management (iv) capacity building among communities through training and provision of information and services.

Through the commitment of YICAFA to promote sustainable environmental management, a project called Rural Energy and Environment Conservation of Atur (REECA) was conceived and developed. REECA's objectives were to (1) mobilize and sensitize the local community on the best practice to conserve and protect the environment in which they live (2) promote agroforestry by planting multipurpose trees (3) promote household food security and (4) promote

sustainable energy saving technologies in homes and institutions. REECA project was funded by GEF/SGP through UNDP Uganda country office.

1.2 Background to the evaluation

The overall objective of the evaluation was to assess the current impacts of REECA project interventions on the local communities' socio-economic livelihoods and environmental management in Atur and Angwecibange parishes, Dokolo sub-county.

The scope of the evaluation included:

- i. Assessment of the project's impact on the general environmental management within the project areas.
- ii. Assessment of the impact of the project on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.
- iii. Documentation of the key outstanding lessons, constraints and challenges that would help in future planning and implementation of project activities.
- iv. Assessment of the project's performance (efficiency and cost effectiveness) in light of the goals and objectives stated in the proposal and adherence to the project cycle.
- v. Assessment of the sustainability plan of the project's activities, which are intended to be continued with financial support from other sources secured by YICAFIA.
- vi. Making feasible recommendations for future project interventions.

The complete Terms of Reference (TOR) for the evaluation is presented in Appendix 1.

1.3 Evaluation methods

The evaluation was conducted in six villages (Agora, Atur, Acandyang, Atama, Abongowoo and Ayito) in Atur parish and two institutions (Dokolo Technical School and Dokolo Primary School) in Angwecibange parish within the project

area. The list of persons consulted and interviewed is presented in Appendix 2. The evaluation methods were participatory and consisted of:

- a) Project document review.
- b) Field visits to four villages and the two institutions in the project area.
- c) Unstructured interviews with the project beneficiaries (both men and women). The interviews also included the YICAFA project management team and committee members. A number of questions were posed to help the evaluation team to better evaluate the project's performance.
- d) The data gathered were analysed descriptively.
- e) Photographs were also taken to supplement the data gathered and to illustrate the impacts of activities in the project areas.

2.0 Findings

2.1 Project performance in light of the goals and objectives

In order to achieve the goals and objectives of YICAFA's REECA project, a number of activities were implemented. To achieve these activities YICAFA organized many training and sensitization workshops, tours (exposure visits), distributed goats, seeds of food crops and cassava stems for planting, and seedlings of trees. They also established a pine plantation and networked with other stakeholders. Many of the activities reflected adherence to the project's work plan. Other activities focused on construction of improved cooking stoves in individual homes and in Dokolo Primary School and Dokolo Technical School, tree planting, agroforestry, food security and improving livelihoods through income generating activities such as goat rearing, sale of agricultural crops, bee keeping and honey production. The expected budget was also presented in the project document thereby reflecting how the project's money was spent on various activities.

Project's performance in relation to various objectives presented in the work plan is summarized below in Table 1.

Table 1. Project performance in light of the objectives

Objective	Activity	Achievement
a) Promote the development and use of affordable and sustainable energy saving technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in construction of Lorena energy saving cook stoves • Training staff, pupils and students in Dokolo Technical and other primary Schools in construction of institutional energy saving cook stoves. • Creating general awareness and sensitisation on energy saving cook stoves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifteen persons were trained on Lorena cook stove construction • Many families constructed the Lorena cook stoves at their homes • Teachers, pupils and students trained in construction of both Lorena and institutional cook stoves are capable of constructing the stoves. • Institutional cook stoves have been constructed in Dokolo Primary and Dokolo Technical Schools. • Several awareness and sensitisation workshops have been held.
b) Ensure food security among the members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of improved planting materials of maize, ground nuts, simsim and cassava to project members. • Distribution of nanny goats to registered members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 nanny goats distributed to members and many have already delivered. • 100 bags of disease resistant cassava stems has been bought and distributed to members for multiplication and production. • 670 kilograms of LONGE 5 NALONGO high yield maize seeds given to farmers, harvest has been very good. • 500 kilograms of SESSEMI II high yield Serere simsim was procured and distributed to members for multiplication and production. The yield had also been very good. • 300 kilograms of high yield and disease resistant SERENUTT I groundnut were given to farmers to plant.

c) Promote sustainable environmental management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating general awareness and sensitisation on energy saving stoves • Establishing a tree nursery for the project. • Establishing Pine plantation in Onekoeko forest reserve. • Planting woodlots and avenue and perimeter trees in Dokolo Technical and other primary schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 students and 50 pupils trained to be trainers of trainees on environment protection and management • Teachers trained in the schools. • Nurseries of pine and other tree species established in Atur parish • 2 woodlots were established in Dokolo Technical School and Dokolo Primary School. • 4 hectares of Pine planted in the leased portion of Onekoeko Forest Reserve. • YICAFFA Executive and members were trained on Environmental Management skills.
d) Build capacity of communities through training and provision of information and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing information and education materials. • Conducting training workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Members of YICAFA Executive were trained on leadership skills. • Reports on the training of trainers on various aspects of project activities. • 15 Members of the Executives were trained on leadership skills • Training materials developed. • Exchange visit with Soroti Rural Development Agency (SORUDA). • Training and exposure visits to Nakasongola Beekeeping and Training Centre. • REECA/YICAFA T/Shirts produced for information, education and publicity.
e) Promote agroforestry by planting multipurpose trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting training in appropriate agroforestry practices. • Encouraging farmers to plant the multipurpose trees on the farmlands and around homesteads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A study/exposure tour to Ngetta Agroforestry Project was accomplished. • 8,000 multipurpose agroforestry trees planted by farmers. Trees planted included mangoes, oranges, guava and pines. Shea trees were retained by farmers on their land.

2.2 Strategy to achieve stated goals and objectives

YICAFA employed various strategies as explained below to achieve their project goals and objectives.

a) Participatory Situation Analysis

YICAFA undertook a Participatory Situation Analysis (PSA) that involved the community, local leaders, and technical staff in Dokolo Sub-County. The situation analysis helped to identify the general problems in the area, but also created opportunities for enhancing livelihoods and conservation of environment. This formed a basis for future monitoring and evaluation of some the project's activities.

b) Baseline survey

Baseline survey was conducted by a team of independent consultants using a participatory approach on behalf of the YICAFA management team. This helped to identify the opportunities, constraints as well as felt and unfelt needs of the people within the project area. It also set a foundation for undertaking the subsequent project activities.

c) Training and awareness workshops

YICAFA trained and sensitized many project members as well as institutions within the project area on general environmental protection, agroforestry, beekeeping and energy saving technologies (Lorena and institutional cook stoves). The project management team carried out intensive campaigns about the need to plant trees on and around homesteads, school, farmlands and to restore the already degraded Onekoko Forest Reserve. A notable achievement in this respect was the leasing of 50 hectares of land in Onekoko Forest Reserve from the National Forest Authority (NFA). YICAFA has already planted 4 hectares with Pines. Training and awareness campaigns assisted the adoption of other good practices and technologies promoted by YICAFA.

Interview conducted with some the project beneficiaries revealed a further value of the training and awareness workshops. For example, Mr. Amone Walter, the Acting Principal of Dokolo Technical School reported that YICAFA trained 25 students and one teacher from the school who later formed the School Environmental Club. He said the club is

actively involved in establishing and management of trees on the school compound as well as constructing the energy saving cook stoves. He also reported that YICAFA gave the school 800 tree seedlings, which were planted in July 2005, and that only 169 trees died. He attributed the death of these seedlings to severe drought experienced in the area. He said the school will replace the dead seedlings in the first rains of 2006.

We found that there is a strong desire for seedlings of timber trees (such as mahogany, cypress and pine), fruit trees (such as mangoes, oranges, lemons, guava, avocado and artocarpus), fuelwood species (eucalyptus, markhamia and cassia) in order to fully scale-up tree planting in the school. It was noted with concern, that currently the school is faced with a huge fuelwood crisis and more than 6 truckloads of wood fuel was consumed per term. It is however, hoped that this current consumption rate would reduce by 75% with the use of the two institutional cook stoves constructed under RECCA. The school has great commitment to help YICAFA disseminate the improved cook stove technology in the immediate areas.

At Dokolo Primary School, the Deputy Headmaster (Mr. Owera Alex) reported that the school has benefited from YICAFA in three major ways: training one staff and 25 students in the construction of Lorena energy saving cook stove, facilitating the construction of the institutional cook stoves and provision of 500 seedlings of Pines, *Grevillea robusta* for woodlot establishment and *Terminalia ivorensis* (umbrella tree) and *Callistemon citrinum* (bottle brush trees) for shade and as ornamentals. He reported that being a boarding school, the boarding pupils consumed two truckloads of fuelwood per month. He was, however, optimistic that this high fuelwood consumption would reduce when they begin using their nearly completed institutional cook stoves. We found that Dokolo Primary School Environmental Club was formed as a result of YICAFA's support for the School's environmental activities and was the second best school in Lira District Environment Competition in 2005.

Some of the tree seedlings had died due to poor timing of planting, cattle trampling on planted seedlings, uprooting of seedlings by unknown persons and persistent drought. Measures were being put in place to ensure that cattle or other livestock do not freely graze on school compound and destroy tree seedlings in future.

d) Distribution of planting stock and goats

To achieve its objective of environmental protection and livelihood sustainability, YICAFA helped to secure and distribute improved maize, beans and simsim seed, cassava stems obtained from Soroti, seedlings of grafted oranges, guava and mangoes. Pine, Grevillea and Eucalyptus seedlings were also secured and distributed to farmers. Many goats were given to members of the project and some had kids at the time of carrying out the project evaluation.

e) Networking and linkages

YICAFA is networking with institutions and schools that are within the project area and other partners in development especially Food and agricultural Organization (FAO), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), NAADS, Lira District NGO Forum, National Forestry Authority (NFA), Dokolo Community Development Association (DOCODA) and Dokolo Sub-county Local government. This kind of networks and linkages has enabled YICAFA to seek some additional technical input such as the Kenya top bar and Langstroth beehives with financial support from FAO Uganda Country Office and to disseminate information and their technologies to the members. In particular, the schools were very fundamental in technology transfer and information dissemination..

2.3 Cost effectiveness of implementation of project activities

a) Physical inputs

Although YICAFA had physical assets such as the project nursery and nursery equipment, they purchased much of the pine seedlings planted on the project-leased forestland because of the mismatch in time of releasing funds by UNDP/GEF-SGP and purchase of tree seeds for raising in the nurseries. Moreover, raising tree seedlings in nurseries could have coincided with a dry spell. It was therefore appropriate in the interest of time and the need to adhere to the project cycle to buy the tree seedlings and distribute them to the farmers.

With the exception of cassava stems that were brought a little late in the planting season, all the agricultural crop seeds were procured and planted in time.

b) Technical inputs

YICAFA through various training workshops has trained project management units, committees and schools and selected members on various aspects of the project's activities. These people made up the critical mass to help train other project and community members on plantation and woodlot establishment, fruit tree planting, agroforestry, construction of Lorena stoves and goat rearing.

c) Office and equipment

YICAFA bought a piece of land and built its own office with the financial support from UNDP/GEF-SGP. This has reduced the cost of hiring office space.



Plate 1. A newly built YICAFA Head Office at Atur Trading Centre.

2.4 Impact of the project on the general environmental management

We found that YICAFA has empowered many people within the project areas in the general environmental management. The project had organised several training workshops on environment, agroforestry, tree establishment and management and construction of improved cooking stoves and bee keeping for the project beneficiaries and the institutions within the project areas. Although the impact is long-term, many households visited had

planted many trees especially pines, *Grevillea robusta*, mahogany, and fruit trees (Plates 2, 3, 4 & 5).



Plate 2. An agroforestry plot located close to the homestead of a REECA project member in Agaro Village.



Plate 3. Improved oranges planted in the project area.



Plate 4. Agroforestry plot in the project area.



Plate 5. Pine saplings established in Onekokeo Forest Reserve by YICAFA.

It is hoped that when the pines begin forming canopies, the farmers will automatically move out of these plots and acquire new tree seedlings alongside agricultural crops in a taungya system. YICAFA has planned to establish 5 ha of Pine trees annually until they achieve the target acreage of 50 ha in the forest reserve. The areas of the forest reserve

already planted with Pine has significantly greened the landscape hitherto denuded of tree cover.

2.5 Impact of the project on livelihoods

The impact of the project on community livelihoods were evaluated in the context of the energy saving Lorena cook stoves adopted by households, tree planting, goat rearing and cultivation of improved varieties of maize, cassava, groundnuts and simsim.

a) Energy saving stoves

We found that YICAFA had trained all the 10 executive and six other registered members in construction of the Lorena cook stove. In addition, 125 students and five (5) teachers, 25 students and a teacher form Dokolo Technical School, St. John Bosco S.S, Agewcibange, Dokolo and Atur Primary schools) were also trained in the construction of Lorena (Plate 6 right) and institutional cook stoves (Plate 6 left).



Plate 6. *Left:* Cooking constructed in Dokolo Primary School. *Right:* Household Lorena cook stove in Agora village.

The purpose of the training was to establish a critical mass for scaling-up these technologies to beneficiaries (local communities and the institutions within the project area). Each of the trainees trained and helped five other homes in constructing the Lorena energy saving cooking stoves. Interview with the beneficiaries indicated that Lorena stoves saves time and money on buying charcoal, uses less fuelwood for a longer time, reduces health hazards from smoke since the latter is directed outside kitchen and reduces risks of kitchen catching fires. In fact the additional time saved can now be used by those involved

in cooking to do other work such as leisure, petty business to generate additional income, taking care of children and other domestic chores. Above all cooking is done in privacy unlike the open three stones type.

Use of Lorena cook stoves has also improved cleanliness in the kitchen, less accident occurrence with young children involved in firewood collection and cooking, women have saved time for other productive activities since one headload of firewood can now be used 2-3 weeks compared to 2-3 days when cooking on the three stone fire place.

General perceptions of other beneficiaries interviewed and the project management team about energy saving stoves are summarised below:

- Energy saving stoves are convenient to use: less smoke, clean kitchen and less time in attending to the fire.
- The technology has helped reduce the burden and time especially on women in travelling long distances in search for fuelwood. Women have now diverted their hitherto lost time in search for firewood to other productive activities.
- The technology has reduced the household portion of income spent on buying fuelwood. The income could now be invested on other income-generating activities.

b) Tree planting

The impacts of tree planting on the livelihoods of the project beneficiaries could not be quantified or observed after two years only as most of the trees planted were still young. Although the Pine trees would need a rotation age of approximately 22 years before they are cut and converted to timber, the survival rate of >50% was a good indicator of improved environment in future. Since, some families have harvested fruit especially guava, grafted mangoes and oranges, more trees for the homes are needed in future so that more people can be encouraged to planted trees near homes.

c) Goat rearing project

We found that 82 nanny goats had been distributed to fully paid up members of YICAFA. In order to be a member of YICAFA and to benefit from the project's activities, one must

pay shs. 10,000. Most of the members paid up this amount of money in September 2005. Most of these goats had started giving birth (Plate 7).



Plate 7. Some of the goats distributed to beneficiaries under REECA project.

d) **Improved agricultural crop production**

YICAFA has done very well in this area. Many project beneficiaries were happy with the planting stocks for food crops such as maize, beans and simsim that were distributed to them free of charge by YICAFA. About 90% of the farmers interviewed said they earned a lot from the sales of maize, beans, cowpeas and simsim whose seeds were given by YICAFA. One farmer got 30 bags of maize from one planting season. Another farmer got 8 bags of simsim from in one planting season that fetched Shs. 120, 000/=.

Income from the agricultural crops sold are used for paying school fees, construction of better houses and buying essential goods such as sugar, salt, paraffin, clothes and medicines.

2.6 Sustainability of the project's activities beyond funding support period

YICAFA has several strategies aimed at ensuring the sustainability of REECA project's activities after the funding support from UNDP/GEF-SGP ceases.

a) Establishing a permanent home

YICAFA committed itself to acquiring a permanent home. It has acquired (bought) a piece of land and constructed an office space. With this commitment, many of their members have strong hope for the future of YICAFA.

b) Strong networks and links

The strong networks and links between YICAFA and others bodies like FAO, NARO, National Forestry Authority (NFA), Dokolo Community Development Association (DOCODA) and Dokolo sub-county council is very important for its sustainability. These bodies are expected to advise and encourage the local communities to continue with the project activities. Besides, linkage between YICAFA and its Board is very strong. The board has good lobbying and advocacy power, which will help to mobilise funds to support YICAFA's activities. .

c) Exposure and training tours

The various exposure and training tours organized by YIFACA for some of their members to SOCADIDO in Soroti, Ngetta Agroforestry Project in Lira town and Nakasongola Beekeeping and Training Centre inspired YICAFA members and encouraged them to work harder and achieve beyond what they had planned in the REECA project.

d) Membership fee and fund raising

Many members are willing to pay membership fee, which can be used to sustain some of the project activities. YICAFA also hopes to organize series of fund raising activities in order to generate some funds.

e) Income generating activities

The various income generating activities initiated by YICAFA like beekeeping, goat rearing and food crop production will generate resources to keep YICAFA's activities running for the foreseeable future.

f) Lorena energy saving stoves

Construction of Lorena energy saving stoves is expected to continue as several people have acquired knowledge and skills to construct their own or construct for others for cash.

g) Community ownership of Pine plantation

The active participation of the local communities in planting and management of Pines in the acquired 50 hectares of land in Onekoko forest reserve symbolises strong commitment to carry on with the project activities. About 75% of the taungya farmers are willing to plant the remaining hectares.

3.0 Outstanding lessons from the project

The following key lessons were learnt from the project beneficiaries and management team by the evaluation team:

- Timely procurement is very necessary for good success of the project activities.
- Trust and transparency is pertinent in project success. There should be trust and transparency among the project members.
- There is a need for regular feedback between the project management team, committees and all YICAFA members.
- Emphasis should be put on sensitisation of the project members about good marketing of their products.
- Project members who benefited from Lorena energy-saving stoves expressed their satisfaction with the technology. They have reduced women's burden and time spent in collecting firewood.

- Various study visits were organised by YICAFA management. These visits created opportunities for project management team and committees to learn new ideas and innovations that can be applied by members of YICAFA.
- Although many members benefited from different kinds of training organised by YICAFA, they noted that training especially in area of tree management, beekeeping and production of energy saving stoves should be scaled-up.
- Few women are actively participating in project activities because of little support from their spouses and this need to be addressed in all project activities.
- Agroforestry practice is rapidly spreading within and outside the project areas. Many trees like *Vitallaria paradoxa* (shea trees) were retained and managed on-farms.
- Active participation by local community in implementation and monitoring process of the project activities increases a sense of ownership of the project.
- For smooth running, implementation of project activities, there is a need for strengthening the capacity of both project management team and committees to know their specific roles and responsibilities in the project.
- Forming linkages and networks promotes leveraging, enabling the project to do more with its little resources.

4.0 Challenges and constraints

- Bureaucratic delays especially from processing project papers and funds from UNDP. This led to drastic change of the project work plan and hindered adherence to the project cycle.
- Complex process of changing of the project account from the then Uganda Commercial Bank (UCB) to Stanbic Uganda Limited delayed the full implementation of the project activities in the stipulated time lines.
- The UNDP audit system is slow and delayed reporting and getting feedback on the audit report.
- There was change in the work plan when members of YICAFA opted for goat rearing as one of the income generating activities to alleviate household poverty in

Atur. . The schools also demanded to be provided first with institutional cook stove. All these interfered with the earlier planed project activities.

- Delay in delivery of cassava stems from Soroti equally delayed planting and adversely affected the establishment and performance of cassava in the field since they were brought at the beginning of the dry season.

5.0 Conclusion

Generally, REECA project has been successful despite the shortcomings encountered in the timing of project activities that resulted in seedling mortality and low yield of some agricultural crops. The project impact is already clearly evident as the environmental landscape in Atur and the household livelihoods have begun to change through increased tree planting and greater use of Lorena energy saving cook stoves.

6.0 Recommendations

a) Scaling-up

- Although the project has performed satisfactorily well in some of it planned activities, there is need to scaled-up these activities in order to expand the benefits to the wider community in Dokolo.
- YICAFA should invest in information dissemination through radio, video, drama and exposure tours. It will be an effective way of publicizing its activities within and outside the project area. This will also strengthen, improve and enable cost effective implementation of project activities.
- Tree planting activities should be scaled-up. We noted that there was high demand for fuelwood species (*Eucalyptus*, *Markhamia lutea* etc.), timber trees (*Mahogany*, *Muvule*, *Cedrella odorata*, *Pine* etc.), fruit trees (mangoes, oranges, tangerines, guava), fodder (*Calliandra*) and shade trees (*Terminalia iveorensis*). Tree planting should be linked to promotion of both institutional and Lorena cook stoves.
- Agricultural crops such as cassava, groundnuts, soya-bean, simsim and maize for both sale and home consumption. The improved variety of Sun flower being grown

successfully outside the project areas by other farmers should be introduced, as it requires little labour, matures in 90 days and fetches high incomes.

- The distribution of goats should be scale-up so that members who earlier missed goats can get.
- Energy saving stoves technology both in schools and in the community should be scaled-up in order to help reduce pressure on scarce tree resources. There should be more training of students and pupils as well as teachers in energy saving technology.
- YICAFA should train project beneficiaries in market information analysis, marketing skills and post-harvest technologies.

b) Input supply

YICAFA should ensure that its input supplies are used for purposes of encouraging the project to start, but should later work on shared-cost basis with the beneficiaries. For instance, they should start thinking of supplying inputs on a cost-sharing basis or payment by instalments as farmers start earning income from the project activities they are engaged in.

c) Project staff

Full time project management staff should be paid some allowances as incentives. This will motivate them to work and perform better. Project management team should also under-go training in project management and leadership and communication skills.

d) Meetings and feedbacks

Frequent meetings (both consultative and formal) between the project management and board members should be undertaken. General meetings should also be held regularly as stipulated in YICAFA constitution.. Project beneficiaries should also be encouraged to always give feedbacks on their activities so that areas for improvement can be identified.

e) Recognition

YICAFA should recognize their outstanding members such as the most active female and male members in implementing project activities through awards of cash or items such as

bicycles. This will motivate others to work harder and participate more actively in project activities.

f) Extension of the funding

UNDP/GEF-SGP should consider providing funding support for Phase II of REECA project targeting especially linking of tree planting to adoption of energy saving cook stove and improving livelihoods through income generating activities. Alternatively and where possible YICAFA could look for other sources of funding to continue with these activities.

g) Resources mobilization

YICAFA should come up with clear strategies of resources mobilization to sustain its program in case funding support from UNDP/GEF-SGP ceases. For example, YICAFA could raise membership fee, lobby for creation of a Trust Fund by their Board of Directors, rent the leased forestland to taungya farmers for a small fee etc. Other sources of income could be from sale of products such as honey and tree seedlings from the project. YICAFA should also carry out more advocacy and lobbying activities for its programmes and activities.

h) Monitoring and evaluation of project activities

YICAFA should adhere to its monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure that project activities are on schedule.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Terms of Reference (TOR) for project evaluation

**Rural Energy and Environment Conservation of Atur (REECA) Project Yele Ikom
Can Atur Farmers Association (YICAFA), Dokolo Sub-County, Lira District.
YICAFA, P.O. Box 420, Tel: +256 75 390471**

1. Introduction

Yele Ikom Can Atur Farmers Association (YICAFA) is a local community based organization (CBO) registered with Lira District Local Government. YICAFA is based in Atur parish, Dokolo Sub-county, Lira District. YICAFA has the overall mission of strengthening rural communities for development through sustainable natural resource management. It is set to promote the rural development and use of affordable and sustainable energy saving technologies; ensure food security among beneficiaries and build capacity of the local communities through training, provision of information and services.

Rural development and Energy Conservation of Atur (REECA) project of YICAFA was funded by UNDP-GEF/SGP to address the issues of rural energy use and environmental conservation in relation to local communities' socio-economic livelihoods. YICAFA is now in need of evaluating its Rural Energy and Environment Conservation of Atur (REECA) project.

2. Objectives of Evaluation:

The overall objective of the evaluation was to assess the current impacts of REECA project interventions on the local communities' socio-economic livelihoods and environmental management in Atur and Angwecibange parishes, Dokolo sub-county.

The scope of the evaluation included:

- i. Assessment of the project's impact on the general environmental management within the project areas.
- ii. Assessment of the impact of the project on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.

- iii. Documentation of the key outstanding lessons, constraints and challenges that would help in future planning and implementation of project activities.
- iv. Assessment of the project's performance (efficiency and cost effectiveness) in light of the goals and objectives stated in the proposal and adherence to the project cycle.
- v. Assessment of the sustainability plan of the project's activities, which are intended to be continued with financial support from other sources secured by YICAFA.
- vi. Making feasible recommendations for future project interventions.

3. Approach and Methodology:

The evaluation team shall adopt combination of participatory approaches and tools to enable them achieve the objectives of this evaluation as outlined in section 2 above. During the process, consultants shall maintain constant discussion and feed back with YICAFA management. Special emphasis shall be laid on the beneficiaries and other stakeholders to participatory express their views and reviews on the organisation interventions and future direction.

The evaluation team will design suitable tools for collecting both qualitative and quantitative data. Such tools when developed will be discussed with the management of YICAFA in order to address their expectations. The following processes are supposed to be used:

- Preparation, consultants and reviewing of relevant information for the survey (2 days).
- Design of data collection (1 day)
- Field work (5 days)
- Data entry, analysis and reporting. (5 days)
- Feed back workshop for stakeholders (1 days)

4. Expected outputs

- 4 bound copies of detailed and illustrative evaluation report on current effects and impacts of the project interventions in rural energy and environment conservation in relation to local communities' socio-economic livelihoods.

- A soft copy submitted by the diskette.

5. Time frame

The evaluation will be executed with 14 man-days inclusive of preparation, literature review, fieldwork and submission of the report. It tentatively planned to begin on 11th January 2006.

6. Human resources specifications:

The consultant shall guide the evaluation process while drawing his/her vast knowledge and experience on rural energy and environmental conservation. The consultants will work with YICAFA staff as part of the evaluation.

7. Remuneration and mode of payment:

YICAFA will pay direct reimbursement costs of consultants together with agreed professional fees. Mode of payment shall be 50% upon successful signing of the contract and 50% once the report has been accepted by YICAFA management and Board of Directors (BOB).

Appendix 2. The list of persons consulted and interviewed

- 1. Mr. Paul Opok**
- 2. Mrs. Evelyn Odongo**
- 3. Mr. Moses Alaci**
- 4. Mr. YB Ocol**
- 5. Mr. OG Okello**
- 6. Mr. Martin Ocwa**
- 7. Imat Jessica**
- 8. Mr. Dan Okello**
- 9. Mrs. Middy Ocol**
- 10. Mrs. Anna Adwong**
- 11. Mrs. Margaret Lero**
- 12. Mrs. Stella Ogwal**
- 13. Mrs. YB Ocol**
- 14. Mr. Washington Okello**
- 15. Mr. Tom Obua**
- 16. Mr. Alex Owera**
- 17. Mr. Walter Amone**
- 18. Moses Arim**
- 19. Paul Odyeny**