



Scaling - up Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices by small holder farmers: working with agricultural extension to identify, assess and disseminate SLM practices

REPORT ON FARMER TO FARMER LEARNING VISITS TO DEMONSTRATION SITES IN NORTHERN UGANDA ACQUACULTURE: Amuru District



By

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Table 1: Acronyms

LGs	District Local Governments
OWC	Operation Wealth Creation
NARO	National Research Organization
PRELNOR	Project for Restoration of Livelihoods in Northern Region
ULN	Uganda Landcare Network

Introduction,

Uganda Landcare Network (ULN) with partner organised farmer to farmer learning visits in during the last quarter of 2019 with the aim of enhancing farmer to farmer learning, acquiring knowledge and skills for scaling up SLM practices on farm.

The visits targeted participating districts in the project including Nwoya, Agago, Gulu, Kitgum, Omoro and Pader in Acholi region and Adjumani District in West Nile region. The following categories of stakeholders participated Farmers, Policy makers, Researchers, Extension Workers and Private Sector

Figure 2: Demonstration sites in Amuru District

No	Technology	Host farmer	District	Extension worker responsible /Institution
1	Mulching banana + Beans	Mr and Mrs Nyeko Richard	Amuru	Abalo Ketty (PLELNOR)
2	Intercrop Beans + Maize	Mr and Mrs Ochieng Michael	Amuru	Abalo Ketty (PLELNOR)
3	Agroforestry + Beans	Mr and Mrs Tabu Richard	Amuru	Abalo Ketty (PLELNOR)
4	Aquaculture	Mr& Mrs Alex Okecocon	Amuru	Abalo Ketty (PLELNOR)

A field visit was organised and facilitated by ULN and Partners in Amuru District with Tomato hybrid group (Omoro District) visiting (Aquaculture group in Amuru District) . Technology involved group and non group members (20 males and 20 females) as presented in the table below. The group from Omoro visited Alex Okecokon group to learn how fish farming is done and promoted so that they can be able to start in their group.

Table 2: Number of participants by gender

No	Details	No participants	Gender		Group members	Non group members
			Males	Females		
1	Group that visited other group	30	15	15	23	7
2	Groups that were visited	10	5	5	8	2
	Total	40	20	20	31	9

The host farmer Alex Okecokon welcomed the visiting team and took member of the group around the fish pond. In his remarks, Alex mentioned that he got fingerlings first from PRELNOR and later added some more fingerlings supported by ULN with 4000 fingerlings.

The Chairman of the group appreciated the group activities and informed the visited group that they had requested to visit and aquaculture farming group because they had identified this technology under their Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) / NAADS programme and had been promised by PRELNOR that would support them with fingerlings



“The pond established measuring 50 m long x 20 m wide and 1.5 m depth with the following inputs hoes, spades, pang, wheel barrow, feeds and labour. Grasses need to be kept near the banks of the pond to stabilize the pond. If your group want to start on aquaculture in addition to the knowledge you will get here, you will need to work with your extension workers. These people have given me all the necessary advice” mentioned by the chairman of the group





Discussions, questions and answers.

- Why did you of all technologies like this? Good for providing fish for the household, provides income and the income received is invested in buying tree seedlings and agricultural inputs (hoes, pangas and spades)
- When did you start? Started in 2014
- How many fingerlings were you given? PRELNOR gave me around 3000 and ULN has given me 4000
- What is the average cost of starting this? On average one pond can cost around 200,000 (Labour and the fingerlings you buy at the on-going price)
- Did you add more on your own? or you still have what was given to you
- Do you allow other members of other groups who are not necessarily you group members to come and learn? Yes. Those groups supported by PRELNOR and NARO. And today ULN and partners supported groups
- How much money would I need to start this technology? It depends on scale
- Any challenges being faced so far?
- Would you be willing to help our group start if we invited you to come and teach us?
- Have you started harvesting? Yes

- Any Challenges: Mortality at the time of distribution due to long distance and thieves
- What strategies are you putting in place to ensure high survival rate (proper management, feeding at least 2-3 times) and group security
- How do you plan to share the benefits (sell and buy more inputs like tree seeds, give members to eat at their household, sell and keep money in the group and support group members to start their own)?
- How many times do you feed? 3 times in a day

Lessons learnt by visiting group and non-group members using a card.

- Aquaculture is a profitable technology
- The cost of starting is not high (200,000 UGX) at the time of establishment (labour) and then fingerlings
- Fingerlings need to be transported carefully to avoid loss
- Once established feeding is 3 times a day
- The technology requires to be near the services of the extension worker for advice
- How to dig a pond (*50 m long x 20 m wide and 1.5 m depth*)?
- Where to access fingerlings (Matuga) ; a distance away .
- Fishing net.

What went well

- Good presentation by the group chairman
- Good information
- Information on where to get fingerlings and requirements for starting

What did not go well in the visit

- Did not eat the fish at the place
- Heavy rains

What needs to be improved

- More visits to other farmers so that we learn more
- As a group we are going to start and then have at least a demonstration for the group. But needs support to start.