**CGIAR Research Program on   
Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)**

**Organisational Baseline Study:  
Overview Report for Albertine Rift – Hoima, Uganda (UG0103)**

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# INTRODUCTION

This is a report of the Organisational Baseline Survey (OBS) carried out in February 2012. The interviews were conducted at ten organisations that were working or collaborating with farmers and/or the community close to the towns of Hoima and Kabarole in the Albertine Rift of Uganda. The research site lies in western Uganda with relatively flat low lying areas alternating with broad hills. Average rainfall in Hoima is 1400mm and follows a bi-modal pattern which peaks in April to May and August to November. Over 90% of households derive their livelihood from agriculture. The farming system is agroforestry in the highlands, coffee/tea in the mid-hill area, and small-scale mixed farming to dry land small-scale agriculture or agro-pastoralism along Lake Albert. Soil erosion and declining soil fertility is a major concern in the area.

CCAFS' organisational-level baseline studies supplement the quantitative household baseline surveys and the qualitative village baseline studies at the same locations.

The objectives of the organisational baseline study are to:

* Provide indicators to allow us to monitor changes in behaviours and practices of locally relevant organisations over time
* Understand the provision of information/services at the local level that informs farmers’ decision making about their livelihood strategies in response to climate change

# ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED

Prior to this organisational study, CCAFS conducted a participatory village study within the Hoima site. Participants of the village study were asked to create an institutional landscape of their community by listing the most important organisations that were active in the area and then providing information on how they were involved in the community. Specifically, the participants were asked which organisations were involved in food security activities, food crisis situations, and natural resource management (NRM) work. CCAFS then took this list of organisations and provided it to the interviewer conducting the Organisational Baseline Survey. The interviewer was given leeway to eliminate an organisation s/he believed was not relevant and to add any organisations that may have been left out of the village study discussions.

The village survey generated a list of nine organisations for this site. Seven were selected for interview after their relevance to the Organisation Baseline Study was established. Three additional organisations were selected for interview based on the interviewer's assessment.

Tabulated below is the list of organisations interviewed, omitted and added with a brief description of their activities.

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| Organisation | Main areas of activity |
| Bulindi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (BZARDI) | This government institution is one of thirteen public semi autonomous agricultural institutes mandated to address zone specific research. The interviewer stated, "the interview served as an eye opener to the urgent need to place the subject of climate change high on the research agenda of the institute." |
| Community Driven Development (CDD) | This organisation is a government development initiative aimed at improving livelihoods and bringing services to people. The interviewer noted that, "the interviewee created an impression that this is an initiative of the community itself, aimed at developing the village through networking, lobbying and advocacy, which is not true." |
| Chimpanzee Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) | This organisation is focused on Chimpanzee population and habitat conservation; however, it is also involved in land use planning, forest management and promoting sustainable livelihood options. |
| Kyabigambire Health Initiative (KHI) | This organization is focused on HIV/AIDS but is also embracing child rights advocacy and environmental protection. It is early on in its development and lacks the partners and funding necessary to achieving its goals. As yet, it is still only operating in one parish of the sub county. |
| Kibaire Local Council 1 (KLC) | The local council is primarily political, a grass roots level arm of the government. The interviewer observed that, "most of the responses are not applicable. The local council is basically mandated to mobilize the community to embrace government programs and development initiatives." It passes on information about government services through meetings and notices. |
| Kibaire Water Source Committee (KWSC) | This three-member-committee is responsible for ensuring the functionality of the borehole and ensuring that the community has access to water. Although the KWSC is held in high regard by the community for their management of water, the interviewer noted that, "ideally it should not have featured on the list of organizations. It does not play any other role regarding delivery of information or services to do with agriculture and food security." |
| National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) | This government program addresses agriculture and food security; however, the issue of climate change does not feature as a high priority. It is popular in the country and enjoys support from the President. |
| Added Organisations | Activities and/or Why they are included |
| Hoima District Farmers Association (HODFA) | This organisation is involved in transforming subsistence farmers into commercially orientated ones and according to the interviewer, "they have registered tremendous success" in doing so. |
| Kyabigambire Rural Integrated Development Association (KRIDA) | This 15 year old organisation engages in a number of activities and partners with other organisations to mobilize the community, especially the youth, for collective action. |
| National Forestry Authority (NFA) | This government organisation works to protect natural forest reserves and promote tree planting on private and in central forest reserves. By increasing forest cover the organisation hopes to mitigate changing climatic patterns and thus have a positive impact on agriculture, food security and livelihoods. |
| Eliminated organisations | Why they were not included |
| Kibaire Youth Brick Bakers | According to the interviewer, "Kibaire youth brick bakers seems to exist on paper but is not present on ground. The only person approached to be interviewed was too drunk and when we sought guidance from the community based facilitator, he told us that this organization is defunct and not registered anywhere." |
| St. Joseph Mukasa Balikudembe | According to the interviewer, "the only person who happened to be on ground had already been interviewed as a member of two other organizations (Kibaire Water Source Committee and Community Driven Development) and we therefore did not interview him to avoid interview fatigue." |

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The following categories contain activities that are indirectly related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

## Natural resource management (NRM):

NRM activities are relatively widespread in this area. There appears to be a strong understanding of the negative impact of excessive tree felling, as well as a concerted effort to protect the forests and increase tree cover. Educating the population about environmental protection and sustainability are also well addressed, as is improving soil fertility and water conservation.

NRM research and development is an activity of BZARDI's whose goal is to enhance sustainability; it is the only organisation to mention NRM among its activities. KRIDA and KHI list environmental protection as important current objectives of their organisations, while one of CCD's activities is to provide training on sustainable environmental usage to members. CSWCT is focused on conserving wildlife, the chimpanzee population and its habitats, as well as providing conservation education and capacity building services. KRIDA and CDD promote wetland management and sustainable usage, and CSWCT is involved in land use management.

Soil and water conservation is an area of focus for BZARDI and NAADS, the former addresses this through work in research and development, and the latter by providing training. BZARDI also promotes pasture and fodder plants with high carbon sequestration. HODFA is involved in improving soil fertility, water management and promoting organic agricultural production. Finally, KWRC is responsible for borehole management.

Forest protection seems to be relatively well addressed, with NFA, CSWCT, KLC, KHI and KRIDA all involved to some degree. NFA has a number of activities relating to this. Firstly, it works to protect against and monitor illegal activities in central forest reserves. Secondly, it hopes to achieve sustainable forest management by improving the management of central forest reserves. Thirdly, it is campaigning to maintain existing forest cover and limit tree felling by licensing pit sawyers, conducting forest patrols, limiting the use of power saws to convert trees into timber and limiting charcoal burning. Finally, it is expanding partnership arrangements with other NGOs and communities adjacent to forest reserves. CSWCT liaises with NFA and the National Environment Management Authority on policy implementation. KLC is discouraging bush burning, charcoal burning and wastage of trees in uncontrolled felling/cutting. Similarly, KHI organises dialogues with charcoal burners to stop cutting down trees and encourages them to find alternative sources of income. KRIDA promotes the sustainable use of natural forests. CSWCT is working to conserve existing forests and improve forest management planning. Its activities include promoting private partnerships and signing contracts with forest owners. CSWCT works with World Wildlife Federation and Jane Goodall to enhance partnerships in Northern Albertine Rift conservation through carbon markets and provides training on carbon markets and biodiversity at a district level and to the private sector.

Tree planting, agroforestry and reforestation are also NRM areas which a number of organisations are focused on. The NFA is involved in reforestation and promotes tree planting in community forest reserves, in central forest reserves and on private lands. It is also raising tree seedlings and providing advisory and protection services on plantations. BZARDI works in agroforestry, training farmers and students in tree nursery operation techniques and grafting. KRIDA focuses on tree nursery bed establishment and management, tree planting and the promotion of planting broadleaved tree species like jack fruit that absorb more carbon. Increasing the number of tree seedlings distributed to the community is one of CDD's highest priority current objectives. It also lists tree planting among its activities, as does HODFA. KHI encourages members to practice agroforestry. Finally, CSWCT is involved in the reforestation of degraded land, agroforestry and tree planting.

## Preparation to withstand extreme events:

BZARDI conducts on-station evaluation of drought tolerant maize varieties and distributes drought tolerant maize seed. None of the other organisations have activities which directly address extreme events; although, the food security focused activities listed in the following section are related to both reducing the risk of climate variability and improving preparedness to withstand extreme events. They are presented in the "Reduction of Risk Due to Climate Variability" section because the organisations did not relate these activities to extreme events or make mention of extreme events.

## Reduction of risk due to climate variability:

Reducing vulnerability to climate variability seems to be primarily tackled by improving food security, enhancing farming inputs and diversifying income and farming.

Improving food and income security of small holder farming households is HODFA's most important current objective, and it promotes fast and early maturing crop varieties like the NERICA rice variety and Longe 5H to take advantage of the short rains resulting from changing weather patterns. NAADS is working to enhance food security and distributes inputs for food-security-farmers (100 in the sub county). KLC encourages farmers to grow food security crops, and warns farmers to control the sale of food items in order to safe guard against hunger and famine. In an effort to improve nutritional security, CSWCT promotes vegetable production and offers on-station fruit tree production demonstrations. It further produces and distributes improved mango, orange and pawpaw (papaya) seedlings. Enhancing farmers' access to improved seed and breeding stock is among BZARDI's current objectives, as it is involved in adaptive research, multiplication, dissemination and distribution of priority crop technologies and improved crop varieties. It also demonstrates post harvesting techniques. Meanwhile, NAADS procures and distributes improved agricultural inputs and provides farmers with information on weather forecasts. KLC passes on radio information regarding weather forecasts, predictions of drought and for the start of the rains. Similarly, CDD gives out information on timely planting.

Alternative livelihood sources and diversification of enterprise is promoted by CSWCT. CDD is involved in bee keeping and fish farming. The NFA works in the processing and utilization of non timber forest products like honey, mushrooms, ecotourism and timber products like rattan cane, as well as providing an advisory service on bee keeping.

## Activities' Relationship to Climate Change:

Organisations in the area display an awareness of climate change and understanding of the importance of maintaining the region's forests. Only two organisations mention climate change by name: One of BZARDI's current objectives is "to enhance the agricultural production system's resilience to climate change", and CSWCT states that it "provides information and moral sensitisation on climate change and adaptation". CSWCT's activities relating to carbon markets and the promotion of highly carbon absorbent trees indicate an awareness of causation and mitigation. Mitigation is also evident in the discouragement of burning charcoal and tree felling. CDD takes this further by helping members to make energy saving stoves, while both CSWCT and HODFA promote their use.

Due to the use of lists and concise descriptions, there is some ambiguity as to whether the activities in the above three subsections are climate change related activities. They have been listed because they do relate to climate change; however, in most cases they may be being implemented for other reasons, such as to improve agricultural productivity or to overcome natural year to year variability. Thus the organisations' climate change activities are may be activities that date back to before there was a focus on climate change, and their attention to it is a by-product.

## Potential CCAFS Partners:

The interviewer made the following recommendations regarding which organisations CCAFS may partner with and how they might work together.

BZARDI is identified as a possible partner as a result of its strategic location and the fact that its mandate is considered to have much in common with CCAFS'. It is well known in the community and thus could facilitate acceptance of CCAFS' interventions. It also has a well established infrastructure at its institute (including: scientific staff, internet facilities, transport, and land) which could be useful. As a research institute, it has technical expertise and experience in conducting adaptive, applied, basic and action research.

HODFA is a well established organisation with experience in providing agricultural advisory services, including participatory technology development and dissemination. These characteristics, as well as its basic infrastructure and technical staff, led the interviewer to classify it as having strong potential to partner with CCAFS. It also has a history, dating back to its inception in 1992, of working with development partners. Its mandate is to identify agricultural and agricultural-related areas which require innovative research and intervention. It has empowered its registered farmers to access remunerative markets in Uganda and across the East Africa region at large by building capacity to graduate to secondary level associations, accessing credit from micro finance institutions, venturing into agro processing, promoting value addition and hence gaining competitiveness in the market.

CSWCT is seen as a potential partner in the area of education and capacity building on environment and forest conservation, moral sensitization on climate change and adaptation, and diversification of livelihoods. It is noted to have a good track record of networking and partnerships and to particularly have potential with reaching the younger generation.

NAADS is seen as very popular among farmers and therefore could be a good entry point for the introduction of CCAFS interventions. The program also has technical staff in the field of crops, livestock and fisheries, fully facilitated by the government.

KLC is the lowest administrative unit of the decentralized system of governance in Uganda. The interviewer notes that therefore, it should by default be considered by any development initiative that is to be introduced in the area. It plays a key role in mobilizing and informing the community, making it an important entry point.

KRIDA has experience in tree nursery management and vegetable production and has the potential to mobilize the youth in income generating activities and environmental conservation. It already works in partnership with CSWCT, implementing its activities on the ground.