

Quarterly Report September 2010 CCIU LTD

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Title of Activity:	Conservation Cotton Initiative Uganda Ltd
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ACTIVITIES DURING QUARTER:

A) COTTON LINT USE

Out of the 28955 kgs, of AR Cotton, 10 119 kgs were exported to Nairobi, to Fine Spinners Ltd , for an order from Edun. The balance will be utilised by Phenix Logistics. The 834 kgs BR are as of now unsold.

SEED COTTON	KGS	GIN OUTTURN	BALES	KGS	LBS	GOT %
AR	80154	AR LINT	162	28,955	63,834	36.1%
BR	2290	BR LINT	4	834	1,839	36.4%
	82444	TOTAL LINT	166	29,789	65,673	

B) FARM ACTIVITIES COTTON

1) Organic Cotton Farming

As a result of several external factors, details in D) 2) below. CCIU was forced to for the time being abandon strictly organic farming in favour of an Integrated Pest Management system.

2) Planting

The planting window this season was from early June to Mid August although few farmers continued planting up to early September. But definitely, the crop planted June and July will yield better than the rest because it will have had long enough a growing period.

3) Farmers Registration and actual Planting

The extensions staff undertook the registration of farmers who wanted to participate in the organic program for the coming season. Our target was 3500 farmers with one acre under cotton each. We registered 4487 farmers, as experience has shown a fairly substantial drop out rate, partly because some farmers register just in the hope of some benefit or they decide in the end to plant a competing crop like maize or soy beans on the opened land. This is borne out by the actuals as per below, we have 3512 farmers who actually planted

INITIAL PLANTING DATA RECORD 2010/211 SEASON

DISTRIC T	SUB/COUNT Y	PARISH	FIELD OFFICER	FARMERS REGISTERED	FARMERS PLANTED
GULU	BOBI	PAIDWE	OJOK ISAAC N	207	207
		PALWO	"	99	103
		PATEK	"	111	89
		PAIDONGO	ORINGA MORRIS	199	192
		PALENGA	"	39	34
	KORO	IBAKARA	OKELLO PATRICK E	99	51
		LAPAINAT WEST	"	94	39
	ONGAKO	KAL	"	31	14
		ABWOCH	"	14	9
		ALOKOLUM	"	1	0
		PATUDA	"	28	18
	AWACH	GWENGIYA	OKOT RICHARD T	34	7
		PADUNY	"	50	49
		PAIBONA	"	28	23
		PUKONY	"	36	25
	PAICHO	ANGAYA	"	66	66
		KAL-ALI	"	42	42
		KAL-UMU	"	9	9
		UNYAMA	"	24	24
		PAGIK	"	4	4
		PAKWELO	"	73	59
	LAKWANA	PARAK	OKELLO AMOS	509	479
		TE-GOT	ODOCH BOSCO	192	138
	ODEK	LAMOLA	OJOK BOSCO O	409	308
		LUKWOR	"	106	109
		PALARO	KWOYELO SISTO	145	107
		BINYA	"	34	31
	LALOGI	GEM	KIDEGA PATRICK	418	297
		IDOBO	"	66	26
		LUKWIR	"	6	2
		PARWECH	"	67	61
		JAKA	MWAKA NELSON	165	124
	PALARO	LABWOROMO	ACELLAM	60	60

		R	GEORGE		
		MEDE	"	68	22
		OWALO	"	52	30
	PATIKO	KAL	"	68	47
	SCHOOLS			2	1
NWOYA	ALERO	KAL	OMONA GRIFFIN	61	36
		BWOBO	"	59	35
		PANOKRACH	"	1	1
		PANYABONO	"	25	11
		PAIBWOR	"	27	13
	KOCHGOMA	KAL	MARGRET LUKWIYA	36	26
		AMAR		39	28
		AGONGA		48	31
		LII		162	134
		ORUM		93	93
AMURU	PABBO	KAL	OJERA AJ SPEKE	1	
		LABALA	"	5	4
		PARUBANGA	"	48	33
	LAMOGI	AGWARYUGI	"	27	22
		PALEMA	"	54	52
		COKE	"	46	20
		PAGORO	"	26	17
		GIRAGIRA	"	74	50
TOTALS				4487	3512

4) Demonstration Plots

We have established 122 demo plots in total out of which four are under research trials in collaboration with Serere Research Institute and NOGAMU, testing mucuna beans on soil fertility improvement.

Already these plots are showing positive results both in terms of heights and flower production.

Out of the five schools we had given inputs to, (Sacred Heart Girls High, Keyo SS, Pabbo SS, Awere SS and Layibi College) only Keyo Secondary , Sacred Heart Girls High and Pabbo SS planted. Pabbo SS planted too early and the emerging crop did not get enough rain and dried out. The other two are doing very well.

DEMONSTRATION LOCATIONS

District	Sub-county	Field Worker	Demo allocation	Demo established
Gulu	Bobo	Isaac	9	9
	"	Morris	6	6
	Koro	P. Okello	5	5
	Ongako	"	4	4

	Awach	Trinity	6	6
	Paicho	"	6	6
	Lakwana	Amos	14	14
	"	Bosco	5	5
	Odek	Owiny	6	6
	"	Kwoyelo	5	5
	Lalogi	Nelson	12	12
	"	Patrick	9	9
	Palaro	George	9	9
	Patiko	"	2	2
Nwoya	Alero	Griffin	6	6
"	Koch Goma	Margaret	9	9
Amuru	Lamogi	Speke	7	7
"	Pabbo	"	2	2
Total			122	122

5) Crop condition

Where weather conditions (rains required) allowed , the early crop was planted in June .

Generally, the crop is doing well, except for some fields planted in water logged areas, the rains are now too much in some areas and if the rains continue, it is likely to reduce the yields in most crops, not only cotton.

The early planted crop is in main flowering period to boll formation, and the late planted cotton is in square formation to flowering period.



6) Soil Improvement Trials

The trials carried out in collaboration with Serere Agricultural Research Station and NOGAMU on mucuna beans are showing the first positive results, vigour and size of the plants is markedly better

7) Pest Management

Threatening pests at the moment are lygus and African bollworms otherwise the rest are still under economic threshold and there is no need to worry about them much.

So far, out of 150 new Knapsack sprayers, 128 have been distributed to farmers, on top of 188 ulva sprayer pumps distributed earlier.

We also received 100 units of Neembicidine for first line pest control and issued out 75 (25 units reserved for 20 demos which are to be used in organic demos only) in addition to 200 litres of local formulation have been given out to farmers and we still have 150 litres in stock ..

Farmers have been encouraged to formulate these local repellents from their homes using local available resources like chili, Lantana camara etc.

We have also received 400 units of Cypercal p from Cotton Development Organization (CDO) and distributed them as follows,

Bobi 100 units. Acreage registered approximately> 642

Lakwana 100 units. Acreage registered approximately>659

Lalogi 100 units. Acreage registered approximately> 517

Odek 100 units. Acreage registered approximately>529.

Below sub-counties haven't received pesticides as yet according to our records, unless CDO field officers have already distributed direct to respective farmers without our knowledge.

Koro, Ongako, Awach, Paicho, Palaro, Patiko, Alero, Koch-Goma, Pabbo and Lamogi.

Total registered acreage for mentioned sub-counties is approximately> 1332

The pesticide received from CDO is not nearly enough to cater for registered acreage, even for coverage of one spray, but we have been assured that more is on it's way. The claim was that CDO had 2 units for each farmer.



8) Field Officers Training

Field officers training concentrated on pest management under an IPM system.

All field officers have been trained on scouting , calibration and on best use of sprayers (knapsack and ulv pumps)

9) Farmers Training

The field officers are now tasked with farmer training in scouting and pestmanagement.



C) ACTIVITIES WITH PRIMARY SOCIETIES

1) Training of Societies Officials

The strengthening of the primary societies is an ongoing process. We have held training meetings with primary societies officials in collaboration with the District Cooperative Officer. One such training was a presentation by the Uganda Liaison Officer of Fairtrade Label Organisation, explaining the concept and emphasizing the need for transparency and democracy in the societies as part of the requirements for certification.

2) Societies Mini Gins

The supplier of the Oil machinery has shipped, the ginning machinery supplier has not done so yet, citing delays due to the floods in Northern India.

We have in presence of the District Cooperative signed the agreements with the two societies selected for this pilot program.

The tender for the construction yielded 7 bidders. The range was from 76.9 M (two bidders) to 112 M. We choose the second lowest one, 76.9 M versus 76.2 M, he was recommended by the engineer at IC .

D) Main Other Issues

1) Annual Audit

The appointed Auditors , PKF Uganda, have done a preliminary systems audit in preparation for the closure of the financial year end of September. They are expected to return mid October to close off October 2009 to September 2010.

2) Organic Cotton Farming

The campaign from Government against organic cotton growing reported in July intensified further. We were firmly instructed to limit ourselves to 500 farmers, later increased to 1000. The manner and timing for this was very unfortunate indeed, and it is felt that if Government did not want any further expansion, they should have communicated this in February, the traditional period in which Farmers sensitization / mobilisation for growing cotton is carried out, and before farmers are registered and contracted. This posed a huge problem in terms of what we would to communicate from our side to the 3500 farmers we were engaged with, without this getting political.

Concurrent to this, we received laboratory results from the seed cotton, showing traces of :

- 1) Permethrin
- 2) Chlorpyrifos
- 3) Pirimiphosetyl

The first is the active ingredient of Cypercal P, the pesticide distributed by CDO for free, albeit in limited quantities last year. According to the MD CDO, this year 2 units will be availed to every cotton farmer in the North for free (!) One suspects that the upcoming elections have something to do with that, as it is not sustainable.

The other two are residues from anti mosquito Internal Residual Spraying . The IRS campaign has in the meantime been rolled out in both Amuru and Gulu, and is to cover over 90% of the households for the next three years.

In light of these factors, and after lengthy internal discussions, we came to the conclusion that it would be near to impossible to get organic certification under these circumstances and on top have difficulties with

Government if we insisted. This was communicated to the farmers through the field officers, leaving out the Government's part in the decision.

D) SELF ASSESSMENT / EVALUATION / PROBLEMS

Targets

The main target for this part of the cotton year is:

1) Training in Pest Management

Apart from taking measures like traps and border crops and the application of locally formulated repellent, the protection of the crop from pests relies on the close surveying "scouting" for pests in order to allow the farmer to make an informed decision as to what intervention is required.

a) Field Officers Training

Training of the field officers in Pest Management, proper use of ULV Pumps and Knapsack Sprayers has been carried out intensively in practical field sessions by the Project Manager however, not enough emphasis on safety in use of synthetics and safe disposal of their containers, and the verification thereof, a concerted effort in this respect is required.

b) Farmers Training

The indecision as to organic or not, delayed our rolling out of the training program, and we feel we have lost some important time due to this

2) MINI GINNERIES

The inordinate delays in shipping are threatening the timeplan for the installation of the machinery in time for the harvest.

E) IMPACT

CDO Pesticide

CDO is distributing pesticide to farmers without also giving them pumps to apply it safely. The farmers working with CCIU have access to pumps or sprayers through the societies, the field officers and the lead farmers. As at end September 128 Knapsack Sprayers and 188 ULV Pumps have been deployed, and the field officers have involved themselves to coordinate the distribution by CDO of the pesticides to ensure pumps are available to apply it safely, and after assessing the need.

CCIU LTD

C.Auberson 10/10/2010