

CONSERVATION COTTON INITIATIVE UGANDA LTD

PROGRESS REPORT PERIOD DECEMBER 2009 TO FEBRUARY 2010

A) ACTIVITIES COTTON

1) Preliminary:

CCIU has been incorporated in October 2009 , but as a project took up it's activities in March 2009, which is the beginning of the cotton cycle as shown below:

Feb to May	Meetings with societies for planning purposes Sensitization of Farmers Registration of farmers for seed from CDO Registration of Organic Farmers Selection of Lead Farmers Land Preparation
May to July	Seed distribution Planting Thinning – Gap filling
Aug to Dec	Weeding Pest Management
Dec to Feb	Harvest Marketing
(Feb to Apr)	Ginning

2) Activities Period Dec 09 to Feb 10

As shown above during the period covered, harvesting and marketing take place

a) Crop 2009-10

Most of the cotton was planted late due to delays in sufficient rains. Due to this, we have seen a larger than usual time spread between the first crop and the final pickings. This late planting has also affected yields.

b) Yields

The project has the yield figures from the demonstration plots . There are marked differences in yields, ascribed to irregular and delayed rain and late planting.

GULU	47	Demoplots	266.6 kgs average per 1 acre plot
AMURU	39	Demoplots	260.0 kgs average per 1 acre plot

The variance is massive, the highest yield was a farmer with 831, the lowest 25 kgs, (hail destroyed the early plants). Below the Amuru as an example.

AMURU	S/c	Field off	L/ farmer name	Parish	Village	P/ date	Kgs
1	Amuru	Moses	Andrew Binyipesa	Pagak	Labongo	13/07/09	429
2		"	Odur Okile	Toro	Turdakatuba	18/07/09	244
3		"	Otto	Toro	Turdakatuba	07/08/09	154
4	Koch - Goma	Margaret	Okumu .A.Amota	Amar	Amar Lakalac	02/08/09	279
5			Oweko .J. Adongo	Orum	Orumu Goro	23/07/09	347
6			Uma A. Mackey	Orum	Goro	27/07/09	293
7			Komakech Silbio	Orum	Goro	29/07/09	358
8			James Otto	Lii	Pakiya	04/08/09	398
9	Alero	Griffin	Oler Erukolaro	Bwobonam	Kinene	25/07/09	63
10			Okoya Savero	Kal	Atacon	27/07/09	831
11			Ongoya Ceaser	Kal	Atacon	20/07/09	448
12			Okello Martin	Bwobonam	Kinene	14/07/09	174
13			Okot Samiri	Bwobonam	Kinene	16/07/09	362
14			Okello Tabule	Bwobonam	Kinene	21/07/09	179
15			Obong Solomon	Bwobonam	Kinene	07/08/09	178
16			Leoben Nono	Paibwo	Kinene	17/08/09	94
17			Odong Yulam	Paibwo	Kinene	27/07/09	304
18			Odongo Marako	Bwobonam	Kinene	14/07/09	366
19			Agik Alice	Bwobonam	Kinene	13/08/09	129
20			Loka Romano	Bwobonam	Kinene	12/08/09	129
21			Okello Santo	Kal	Atacon	18/07/09	284
22			Ojok Laweri	Paibwo	Kinene	18/07/09	203
23			Omona Paulino	Bwobonam	Kinene	02/08/09	184
24	Pabbo	Speke	Ocen Ben	Pugwang	kal	13/07/09	244
25			Ocan David	Pugwang	Abera	16/07/09	329
26			Okeny Ojony	Labala	Olinga	18/07/09	613
27	Lamogi		Aweko Joska	Palema	Amilobo A	20/07/09	638
28			Okello Michael	Coke	Oduu	20/07/09	249
29			Komakech Richard	Agwayugi	Abye	20/07/09	197
30			Ocaya Justine	Agwayugi	Jimo	30/07/09	170
31			Obita Gama	Agwayugi	Abye	03/08/09	215
32			Auma Rosaiba	Palema	Amilobo B	03/08/09	121
33			Okwera Alfred	Palema	Amilobo A	04/08/09	202
34			Ouma Sisto	Coke	Oduu	08/08/09	60
35			Okello Walter	Palema	Amilobo A	05/08/09	25
36			Opiya John	Palema	Amilobo A	08/08/09	114
37			Amony Irene	Pakiya	Amilobo A	06/08/09	164
38			Lalam Joska	Palema	Amilobo A	06/08/09	164
39			Awiyo Santo	Coke	Oduu	14/08/09	206
							10141
AVE							260.0

The crop in our two districts was small, as very few farmers out of the total population grew cotton. Overall the crop in Uganda is not likely to exceed 60 000 Bales for the just ended annual season.

c) Harvesting / Marketing

During December, the region experienced unexpected rainfalls over several days, which interfered with harvesting and the buying of cotton. If one is not in a position to immediately gin, wet cotton can not be stored, and buying had to be suspended for about a week.

d) Quality Control & Farmers Loyalty

Quality control / awareness is a major challenge for the program. Only just over half of the farmers (583) actually sold their cotton to their societies, and not all of it in many cases. The rest was sold to mobile agents of ginners in Lira and the East, who were willing to buy unsorted and wet cotton at a lower price.

The farmers sense of loyalty is low , and the immediate cash and not having to do the work of sorting proved too much temptation for many of them, despite the initial price difference of 900 versus 750.

In January due to the little crop overall in Uganda, and good international prices, oil millers, who are also ginners, were short of seed and lint and narrowed the price gap to zero and then went up to 1100 for unsorted cotton. The problem of buying of unsorted sorted cotton needs to be discussed as a policy, CDO as a regulatory body seems to have abandoned their role in this or at least neglected it.

e) Certification

The certifier, IMO, has issued the attached certificate, with conversion retroactive only to 2007 rather than 2006. This means this last season' s lint is labeled in conversion, but from the next crop onward the cotton is certified. This is less than we had hoped for but better than having to undergo the full 3 year conversion as per EU Regulation 834 of 2007.

B) ACTIVITIES WITH PRIMARY SOCIETIES

1) Preliminary

We had in August issued (44) forty four primary societies with stationary packages and pumps for spraying organic pest control local mix.

Out of 44 societies only 30 have fully reactivated and of those only 14 have been reported to have held their Annual General Meeting to date. In principal this should have rendered them unable to vote at the Annual General Meeting of West Acholi Cooperative Union, who still owns the ginnery in Gulu, held in January.

2) Activities Period Dec 09 to Feb 10

a) AGM West Acholi Cooperative Union

I attended the AGM and elections held on Friday the 15th January attended by the Commissioner of Cooperatives

To their utter surprise, the Chairman and Vice were not reelected, and even failed to get a seat on the management committee. He complained to the Commissioner of Cooperatives that his opponent had bribed the delegates. The new Chairman is a former committee member and a head teacher in Gulu .

The members were at this AGM advised of the fact that the Union had leased out the ginnery for three years to a new commercial venture.

At this AGM, CCIU got official recognition both from the Commissioner and from the District Cooperative Officer for our working with the societies.

b) Societies involvement in Marketing

This is a main component of the project. However only 9 out of the societies had enough members growing cotton and were organized enough to justify being provided with cash for buying and keeping/renting a store. These societies management committees attended a one training workshop in Gulu in early December, to see how to comply with the buying procedures both for traceability of cotton as well as accounting for funds received.

Their performance in terms of cash handling was good and in terms of organic documentation mostly satisfactory, and having been the buyers, it has boosted their standing among the farmers in their respective areas. Final figures for two societies are outstanding, their stores are on the main road and the stock will be loaded directly, not passing via the main store which we established in Bobi, 30 Km south of Gulu.

The societies are shown below with the amounts in Ushs advanced:

	Advanced	Cotton Bought
Parak Awoo Gcs Ltd	9000000	8743
Opit Tegot Gcs Ltd	4000000	3610
Kulu Otit Group	6558460	6532
Patek Group	3500000	3237
Lalogi Kal Gcs Ltd	4020000	3121
Puranga Gem Gcs Ltd	8910000	8844
Lamola Awali Gcs Ltd	4057360	3912
Moris Oringa c/o Koch Goma GCS Ltd	6000000	5297
Lukwir Gcs Ltd	2500000	1669
		44965

The cotton in low density areas was bought by a mobile buyer, advising the field officers in advance of the date and location.

The total amounts to

Latom Concy - Mobile	35366500	33795
TOTAL		<u>78760</u>

c) Societies Ox Plough Program

The program has set off with the purchase in Kumi cattle market (Teso Region of Uganda) of the 60 oxen in the 2009-10 budget. The oxen have been and distributed to primary societies as below. As of 10th March a series of two day training sessions is organized for the societies in their location. The first day theoretical, the second practical. The services of a trainer have been engaged on a short term contract for this purpose.

SOCIETIES/ GROUPS BENEFITED UNDER ANIMAL TRACTION SCHEME. 2010/2011

No.	Sub-county	Society/ Group	plough	Oxen no	District
1	Palaro	Labworomor Gcs	1	2	Gulu
2	"	Palaro Owalo Gcs	1	2	"
3	Awach	Lam kwor Gcs	1	2	"
4	Paicho	Kidere Gcs	1	2	"
5	Odek	Lamola Dino	1	2	"
6	"	Lamola Awali	1	2	"
7	"	Palaro Odek Gcs	1	2	"
8	Lalogi	Lalogi kal Lukwor	1	2	"
9	"	Lalogi kal jaka	1	2	"
10	"	Lalogi lukwir Gcs	1	2	"
11	"	Purunga Gem (opwach)	1	2	"
12	"	Purunga Gem (lagung)	1	2	"
13	"	Purunga Gem (otal)	1	2	"
14	Lakwana	Opit tegot Gcs	1	2	"
15	"	Parak Gcs Awoo	1	2	"
16	"	Parak Ocokcan	1	2	"
17	"	Parak Olula	1	2	"
18	Bobo	Patek bar Coop group	1	2	"
19	"	Kulu otit (palwo)	1	2	"
20	"	Kulu otit (kuluotit)	1	2	"
21	"	Kulu Otit (omunya)	1	2	"
22	Koro	Aero nyero (koro) coop group	1	2	"
23	"	Lakwatomer Abole group	1	2	"
24	Ongako	Kweyo women group	1	2	"
25	Alero	Labala Gcs(Atocon)	1	2	Amuru
26	Pabbo	Abera Gcs	1	2	"
27	Lamogi	Amilobo Gcs	1	2	"
28	Koch Goma	Orum Gcs (Goro)	1	2	"
29	"	Lii Nyero (Pakiya)	1	2	"
30	"	Lii Nyero (Bungu)	1	2	"
Totals			30	60	

d) Societies Mini Gins

Quotations for the supply of the machinery have been requested from 3 companies in India that are well represented here in the cotton Industry. Bajaj, Jadhao and Nipha. Bajaj and Jadhao have submitted their quotations, Nipha has not responded as of now.

A series of meetings with the members of societies keen to be selected will take place in the week 15-20 March in order to explain the selection process and modalities.

C) General Information

a) Cooperation with CDO (Cotton Development Organization)

We shall continue to cooperate with both CDO Kampala and the regional officer, at this stage in the cotton cycle in carrying out the registration of farmers for the distribution of seed provided by the Government . CDO has incidentally announced a seed levy on the ginners in order to finance the seed for this coming planting Season . This means once more seed will be free for farmers, but Government has shifted the cost to the private sector.

b) Ernest & Young

We have chosen Earnest & Young as auditors. We have had a meeting end at the end of December to discuss the scope of work and in the last week February, whereby we have requested an interim audit up to the end of March 2010 .

Kampala 9/3/2010

Attachments:

Certificate IMO