

**ACDI/VOCA**

**PARTNERSHIP FOR ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY  
(PEP II)**

**SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT**

**(APRIL 01, 2002 THROUGH TO JUNE 30, 2002)**

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## ***1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS***

ACDI/VOCA Uganda has been implementing the second phase of Partnership for Enhanced Productivity Program (PEP II) since 1998. The original three-year countrywide grant that commenced in October 1995 was extended by four years ending September 30, 2002.

ACDI/VOCA PEP II activities focus on facilitating a viable and sustainable transition from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture; "Farming-as-a-Business (FaaB)". Major technical interventions have therefore been targeted towards enhancement of market accessibility of small-holder farmers and their associations/groups. This is achieved through targeted technical assistance of ACDI/VOCA's seasoned volunteer specialists drawn from a database of more than 4800 consultants in a wide range of technical agricultural development fields.

PEP II activities were designed to complement other USAID funded projects like IDEA, DFCU, PHHS, FEWS, HPI, LOL, SPEED and COMPETE. The main emphasis of these activities is on promotion of Non-Traditional Agricultural Exports (NTAE) to increase the viability of small- and medium-scale farmers and agri-businesses at all levels of agriculture development from production to marketing. Specific areas include high value crop production, crop-processing, agribusiness development/association strengthening, promotion of NTAE's and dairy industry development.

ACDI/VOCA has in the recent past co-opted into the system other new grantees that were not originally in the project document. This was as a result of the inevitable modifications of programs by different grantees whose focus fell short of the requirements of the original ACDI/VOCA PEP II Project documents thus necessitating a slight strategic shift of our program focus. In this particular case, ACDI/VOCA had reached an agreement with USAID's COMPETE Project to utilize all of the remaining volunteer assignments. The focus of these assignments had been on COMPETE's priority sectors, namely; fish, cotton and coffee.

Unfortunately due to time limitations and constant programmatic reviews; the COMPETE project ended at the end of May 2002 when only 3 out of the 8 approved assignments had been completed. It is therefore envisaged that other hosts like the Eastern Coffee Farmers Association (ECOFA) who have applied for technical assistance from ACDI/VOCA will be given an opportunity to benefit. ACDI/VOCA is committed to continue pursuing assistance in thematic areas in commodity crops where USAID's current country development efforts are focussed. It is hoped that such hosts and others will be readily approved for technical assistance to continue the successful implementation of the project goals.

## ***2. PROJECT ACTIVITIES***

The following outline of project activities describes the cumulative volunteer assignments completed, those being recruited and assignments being developed. During this reporting period (second quarter of 2002), two volunteer assignments were completed, two are ongoing and three are being recruited while two more are being developed. Table 1 gives the past, present and planned project interventions.

**Table 1: Cumulative Project Activities (January 1999 - PRESENT)**

	<b>PROJECT NAME &amp; No.</b>	<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>NAME OF VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>TIMING</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
1	Seed Company Development (UA100033)	CEI	John Harding	Feb.1- Feb. 19, 1999	Assignment completed
2	Procurement/Stores/Inventory (PP100030)	AT(U)	Richard Maxon	Aug.4-Aug. 28, 1999	Assignment completed
3	Stores Management (PP100029)	Kagodo Feeds	Robert Jensen	Aug. 30- Sept.11, 1999	Assignment completed
4	Technical Assessment (PP100027)	PHHS	Allen Moskowitz	Sept.25- Oct.30, 1999	Assignment completed
5	Fish Farming (PP100025)	Sunfish Farm	Bill Daniels	Oct.31- Nov.21, 1999	Assignment completed
6	Exporters' Training (PP100024)	UEPB	John Riddering	November, 1999	Assignment Aborted
7	Marketing Strategy (PP100031)	AT(U)	Steve Cain	Nov.19- Dec.11, 1999	Assignment completed
8	Exporters' Manual (PP100023)	UEPB	Mortada Mohammed	Dec.4 - Dec.23, 1999	Assignment completed
9	PHHS Extension Manual (PP100033)/161008	PHHS	Judith Killen	Dec.11- Jan.23, 2000	Assignment completed
10	MIS (PP100032)/161007	UIA	Tom Parks	Jan. 11- Feb.12, 2000	Assignment completed
11	Accounting (PP100028)/161008	Kagodo Feeds	Jerry Jennison	Jan. 22- Feb.18, 2000	Assignment completed
12	Seed/Fertilizer Distribution (161009)	CEI	Jim Oliver	March 10- April 2, 00	Assignment completed
13	Dairy Development (161010)	LOL	Richard Spence	June 13- July 7, 00	Assignment completed
14	Tractor Operations (161012)	IDEA-LV	Paul Crovella	June 2 - June 25, 00	Assignment completed
15	Product	House of Quality	Robert Miller	Jan 21-Feb.	Assignment

	Development (161013)	Spices (HQS)		8, 2001	completed
16	Market Specialist (161014)	House of Quality Spices (HQS)			Assignment aborted
17	Horticultural Marketing Development	HORTEXA			Assignment cancelled
18	Business Plan Development	HORTEXA			Assignment cancelled
19	Honey Production and Processing (161015)	Uganda Honey Bee Association [UHA]	Joe Rowland Robert	June 21- July 15, 2001	Assignment completed
20	Queen Bee Rearing (161016)	Zoology Dept, Makerere University	Prof. James Tew	Sept 2-Sept 23, 2001	Assignment completed
21	Honey Standardization & Certification	Uganda Honey Bee Association [UHA]	Joe Rowland Robert	Jan 06-31, 2002	Assignment Completed
22	Dairy Business Plan (161020)	LOL	Hal Handley	Aug 3- 24, 2001	Assignment completed
23	Dairy Association Strengthening (161021)	LOL	Martin Havlovic	December 3-22, 2002	Assignment completed
24	Runner Beans Production and Marketing (161022)	IDEA-HV/ZED Project	Livingstone Ochwada	April 1-May 13, 2001	Assignment completed
25	Dairy Promotion (161023)	LOL	Harold Handley	May 13-25, 2001	Assignment Completed
26	Cotton Quality Development	COMPETE Project	Enos William Jr.	Nov. 27 - Dec 18, 2001	Assignment completed
27	Aqua Culture Feed Development	COMPETE Project	Robert Jude Albrecht	April 26- May 17, 2002	Assignment completed
28	Fish Sector Curriculum Development	COMPETE Project	Mary Albrecht	April 26- May 17, 2002	Assignment completed
29	Fish Farmers Association Strengthening	COMPETE Project			Assignment Cancelled
30	Coffee Tissue Culture- for Disease Resistance	COMPETE Project			Assignment Cancelled

31	Wet Coffee Processing	COMPETE Project				Assignment Cancelled
32	Mucilage Management	COMPETE Project				Assignment Cancelled
33	Dairy Business Plan II(161030)	Land O'Lakes Inc.	Harold Handley	Aug 4-30, 2002		Assignment on-going
34	Dairy Association Strengthening II (161031)	Land O'Lakes Inc.	Martin Havlovic	Aug 11-30, 2002		Assignment on-going
35	ECOFA (161031)	Association strengthening				Recruiting
36	ECOFA (161032)	Business Plan Development				Recruiting
37	Dry Season Cattle feeding	LOL/HPI and WWS Consortium				Being developed

### 3. PROJECT RESULTS

#### A: COMPLETED PROJECTS:

**Project Number and Name: 161024: Fish Curriculum Development**

**Volunteer and Dates: Mary Albrecht; April 26-May 17, 2002**

USAID-Kampala is supporting the Government of Uganda's Medium-Term Competitive Strategy for the Private Sector by providing technical assistance to the government and private sector in strengthening the capacity of the private sector to compete favorably in global markets. In pursuance of this goal, USAID contracted Carana Corporation, USA to undertake initial technical studies for a longer term export competitiveness strategy under the COMPETE project. The project was then designed to respond to Uganda's urgent need to improve the export competitiveness of its private enterprises in international markets so as to increase its foreign exchange earnings and boost domestic economic activity and employment in three major export crop sectors fish, cotton and coffee.

Mary Albrecht, an associate professor from Cardinal Stritch University teaching adult education with a strong background in community development teaching projects was recruited to undertake the assignment. Mary reviewed existing national curricula in the fisheries sector and developed comprehensive curricula for training personnel in tertiary, undergraduate, postgraduate, in-service and vocational non-technical stakeholders in fisheries disciplines. A comprehensive adult education/distance learning model for the fisheries sector comprising of a strong partnership strategy between Makerere University and Fisheries institutes and other stakeholders was developed. A diagnosis of the likely challenges and options on how they could be tackled and a strategy for sharing of resources was probably one of the greatest achievements from the assignment.

**Project Number and Name: 161027: Fish Feed Development**

***Volunteer and Dates: Robert Jude Albrecht; April 26-May 17, 2002***

The COMPETE Project also sought ACIDI/VOCA technical assistance services in the provision of volunteer consultant with expertise in fish feeds development. The consultant would study the current fish feed systems in the country with a view of developing a low-cost fish feed formulation strategy for intensive rearing of Nile perch in captivity. Robert Albrecht, a freelance aquaculture business development consultant was engaged to undertake this assignment.

Recorded exports of Nile Perch indicate that they reached a level of US\$10 million per month for the first four months of 2002 and has the second highest income next to coffee. Unrecorded sales may increase this amount by 50%. At this rate, in eight months the sales would equal the annual sales of 2001. Natural production cannot sustain this increased trade in the fish and so Nile perch production in non-natural environments seems to be the viable solution. This approach, however has to be matched with adequate feeding systems. Robert worked with the Fisheries training institute and private fish processing/exporting companies to design feeding research programs that would help provide a feeding strategy for this approach.

Robert strongly recommended a comprehensive Nile perch research program involving pond and or cage production, reproduction, nutrition and feeding methods, stocking rates, economics and post harvest handling. Artisan-type equipment fabricators need to be developed and trained by appropriate organisations to make available the required simple feed manufacturing tools.

### ***B: PROJECTS ON-GOING***

The Land O' Lakes project, initiated in late 1994, has assisted in the formation/revitalization of farmer private co-operative societies to serve the farmer-owners in collecting and marketing their milk, and in some cases, processing milk into various dairy products. The co-operatives are further assisted by the project in organizing member services to increase farm production including: farm input supply, production advisory services and in-house artificial insemination technicians. Several co-operatives offer their members pre-paid health care plans developed with the assistance of Land O' Lakes. A typical primary co-operative society in the project could have 40 members and with a cooling tank of 2,500 liters. With improved genetics and management, milk production has increased for selected farmers from 5-6 liters in 1996 to over 15 liters in 2000. Average size of improved dairy animals is 3-4 per member farm.

Land O' Lakes requested an ACIDI/VOCA consultancy services to assist the Uganda dairy associations to develop and/or refine organizational strategies and capacities that will result in increased membership, improved member services and long-term sustainability for the associations. Another assignment that aims to develop sound business plans for different dairy associations to be able to enhance their shift to a sustainable market orientation is on-going. These are follow-up assignments to previous ACIDI/VOCA interventions in the dairy sector completed in the year 2001.

### ***C: PROJECTS BEING RECRUITED***

#### **ACDI/VOCA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN COFFEE FARMERS ASSOCIATION (ECOFA) IN FARMER ASSOCIATION STRENGTHENING AND STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Eastern Coffee Farmers Association (ECOFA) is an NGO formed by coffee farmers in the Eastern part of Uganda. The organisation was formed after the realisation of the challenges faced by the coffee sector including persistent low prices, the outbreak of the coffee wilt disease and a host of post-harvest coffee handling and marketing difficulties.

With its strong poverty reduction strategies amongst its member households, ECOFA targets to create awareness on the need for a common voice for quality coffee production and processing to achieve improved access to equitable markets; locally and internationally. ECOFA's major activities include improved coffee re-planting and regeneration, communal marketing strategies and formation of a resource and development center where communities can easily access improved farm inputs, market information services and undertake community based adult-literacy programs.

Current successes of ECOFA include establishment of; in collaboration of the USAID-COMPETE project, 4,050 shade trees to mark the inception of shade grown coffee ECOFA project. An estimated 68 ha has been so far planted in Nawanyago, Imanyiro and in Butagaya demonstration sites. Collaboration is also being sought from other coffee promoting organisations locally and internationally to contribute towards this effort.

ECOFA also runs the Micro-Start program that operates on the solidarity group model. The program utilises the crop banking scheme where members can access credit using the crop they own as collateral. In such situations, farmers have easy access to low interest capital loans to inject into their farming businesses and other entrepreneurial projects. This program benefits the ECOFA members as they access credit on the one hand and enjoy a better bargaining power in the market place when they market their produce communally on the other. In addition, ECOFA has other community mobilisation and human empowerment programs that help enhance the general socio-economic and cultural lives of their members and immediate communities.

ECOFA therefore requested expert technical assistance from ACDI/VOCA in formulating a 5 year strategic plan development and farmer association strengthening.

### ***D: PROJECTS BEING DEVELOPED***

#### **THE UGANDA PRIVATE SECTOR DAIRY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DRY SEASON PASTURE FEED PREPARATION AND CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES.**

Through funding from the United States Agency for International Development the consortium of Land O'Lakes, Inc., Heifer Project International and World Wide Sires is working to increase household incomes for rural dairy farmers by increasing the productivity and competitiveness of commercial dairy enterprises in the country.

The consortium has requested for an ACIDI/VOCA consultant to assist the extension staff and clients of Heifer Project International and World-Wide Sires to improve pasture management and storage techniques that will reduce the effects of seasonality on dairy production. More specifically, the consortium requested a volunteer with extensive experience in tropical climates (especially East Africa and/or Central and Southern America) to develop dry season feeding and storage techniques that will increase dairy farmers' productivity during the dry season.

***VISITORS/INTERNAL OFFICE UP-DATE:***

No major changes in office set-up to report.

***FINANCIAL REPORT:***

*(See attached detailed sheet)*