



MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

FARM INCOME ENHANCEMENT AND FORESTRY CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Promoting Irrigation for Enhanced Income & Agricultural Productivity

FOCUS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVE – PS

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment, Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, who is also the chairman, project steering committee for the Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme – project 2 has urged project management teams to focus on project objective as they prepare for the mid-term review.

Mr. Okidi made the remarks while officiating at the 9th project steering committee meeting held on March 25 at Imperial Golf View Hotel in Entebbe. The committee meets on quarterly basis to provide an oversight role to the project.

“It is important to look at the project objective because it is a key intervention area,” he said.

He reminded the meeting about the objective of the project, which is to “improve farm incomes, rural livelihoods, food security and climate resilience through sustainable natural resources management and agricultural enterprise



Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment

development.” He added that there was need for project teams to adequately prepare for the mid – term review and work within a specified timeframe.

He further encouraged project teams to work closely with beneficiaries so as to own the project.

“Prepare all the stakeholders on the ground,” he advised.

Commenting on the

presentations, he said components that were still lagging behind should look at their work plans and break them down – based on activities and what they could do with the lost time.

The African Development Bank, Nordic Development Fund and the Government of Uganda co-funds the project

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SECRETARIAT NEWS

M&E CONCEPTS POSE REPORTING CHALLENGES

The National Project Coordinator, Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme, Mr. John Magezi Ndamira has observed that differences in understanding monitoring and evaluation concepts pose challenges when it comes to project reporting.

He noted that in few months the project would go into mid-term evaluation with the development partners, and a number of questions would be asked.

“There is need to be on the same page when talking about outputs, outcomes and indicators,” he said.

Mr. Magezi was speaking at a four-day workshop aimed at building capacity of project staff, members of project components, regional centers and implementing districts on project monitoring and evaluation held from 7-11 January 2019 at Sunset International Hotel in Jinja.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to understand the concepts used in project monitoring and evaluation, upgrade individual skills in project monitoring and evaluation in general, understand



FIEFOC's national project coordinator, Mr. John Magezi (2nd left) with participants during M&E capacity building workshop held from January 7-11 at Sunset International Hotel in Jinja. While workshop facilitators, Dr. Baguma (5th right) and Dr. Kyalimpa (6th right) are standing in the front row respectively ■

the rationale for project monitoring and evaluation, enhance institutional capacity in the area of project monitoring and evaluation, improve techniques in designing effective M&E systems; upgrade evaluation skills and design comprehensive terms of references for evaluation

missions, and share experiences in monitoring and evaluation.

Dr. Sylvester Dickson Baguma, a director of research at the national agricultural research organization and Dr. Paul Kyalimpa, a private research fellow respectively facilitated the training

“There is need to be on the same page when talking about outputs, outcomes and indicators.”
Mr. Magezi



Participants at M&E training workshop in Jinja ■

SECRETARIAT NEWS

WHAT IS “THEORY OF CHANGE”?

During the monitoring and evaluation workshop for the Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme held from 7 to 11 January 2019 at Sunset International Hotel in Jinja, participants were introduced to a concept of “Theory of Change.”

Although the concept has been in use for a while, it was quite evident that some participants were encountering it for the first time.

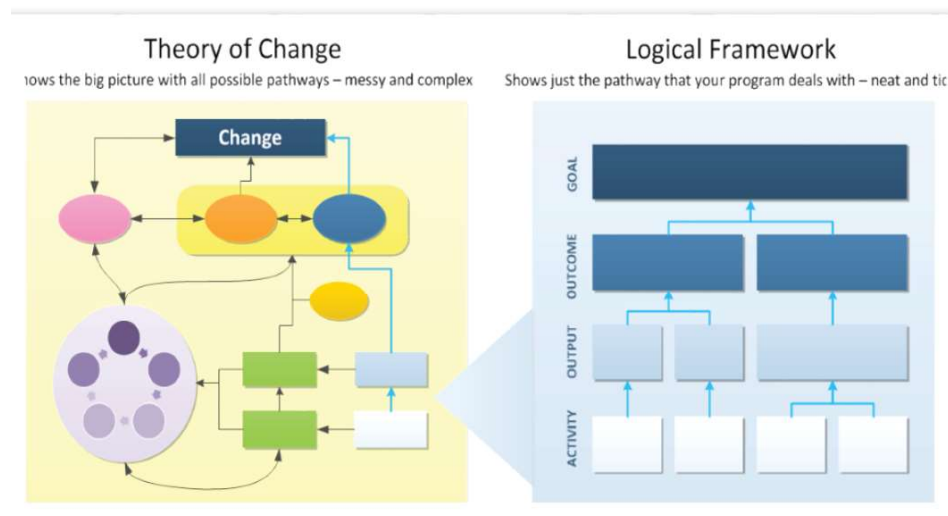
The concept is increasingly gaining prominence as a tool for planning process or requirement for any project proposal writing. Similarly, organizations that are desirous to show impact or societal changes as a result of their interventions are beginning to adopt the concept as a planning tool.

According to experts, theories of change are ideas and hypotheses that people and organizations have about how change happens. The changes are either conscious or unconscious—based on personal beliefs, assumptions and perceptions about reality.

Dr. Dickson Baguma, one of two workshop facilitators said theory of change is an on-going process of reflection to explore change and how it happens.

“It is viewed as a more realistic and

Theory of change is gaining prominence as a planning tool for planning process.



flexible thinking tool than current logical framework approaches,” he said. “It supports strategic planning process, especially when working in a complex environment.”

Critical thinking

Critical thinking on assumptions is widely agreed to be the crux of theory of change process. The quality of the process rests on making explicit assumptions and realistic strategic thinking as well as being transparent. Four different types of assumptions have been identified in society: casual links, operations and external context, paradigm or world view, and dominant belief systems. Casual links are links between changes at different levels in the change pathways, which are related to internal logic, including inputs – activities – outputs – outcome – impact pathways. They are fairly obvious and easy to make explicit, for example, provision of water through irrigation will lead to improved agricultural productivity and income.

Meanwhile operations and external contexts are based on assumptions or what might happen in future based

on trends and developments, for instance political instability, climate variability or structural changes in the management.

Paradigm or world view is an assumption at a much higher or macro level, which may include pressure or demand from civil society organisations to make government responsive.

Dominant belief system in society inform judgments about what is appropriate and feasible in a specific context, for example different roles men and women play in society.

A good theory of change

According to Dr. Baguma, a good theory of change is based on allocating sufficient resources to support the thought process and create an open learning environment, which is key to making a good theory of change and understanding how change happens and challenges the dominant narrative. It is also imperative that a diagram is used to understand change processes that guide implementation■

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION SCHEMES IMPROVE

Overall progress on construction of irrigation schemes in five districts, including Kasese, Oyam, Kween, Butaleja and Pakwach has increased by 17.1 per cent from 23 per cent to 40.1 per cent during the last two quarters, from October 2018 to March 2019, according to the status report of the Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme 2018/2019

A section of the report, which focused on agriculture infrastructure development, one of four project components indicates that the construction of irrigation schemes averaged 40.1 per cent against planned physical progress of 65 per cent by end of March 2019.

This means overall construction work of irrigation schemes increased by 17.1 per cent, down from an average of 23 per cent during the second quarter to 40.1 per in the third quarter 2018/ 2019.

However, Tochi irrigation scheme located in Oyam district registered the most remarkable cumulative physical progress at 57 per cent—followed by Ngenge irrigation scheme in Kween district at 54. 1 per cent, Doho irrigation scheme in Butaleja district at 48.6 per cent, Mubuku irrigation scheme in Kasese district at 22. 5 per cent and Wadelai irrigation scheme



Concrete casting of canals at Doho II irrigation scheme, Butaleja District■

in Pakwach district at 18.2 per cent respectively.

Environment and social safeguards

According to Eng. Ronald Kasozi, coordinator agricultural infrastructure development component, the construction of irrigation schemes and facilities are carried out in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner, as well as in compliance with the lender policy requirements and national environment and social requirements.

“Five environmental and social impact assessment reports have been prepared and submitted to the National Environment Management Authority for review and approval,” he said, during a project steering committee meeting held on March 25 in Entebbe. “Four reports for Wadelai, Tochi, Doho II, and Ngenge irrigation schemes have been reviewed, cleared and approved with certificates by the National Environment Management Authority■”

Table showing schemes, districts , catchment size & physical progress

Name of Scheme	District	Size of Scheme (ha)	Cumulative Physical Progress		
			QTR 1: Jul-Sep 2018	QTR 2: Oct-Dec 2018 (%)	QTR 3: Jan-Mar 2019 (%)
Mobuku II	Kasese	480	13	21	22.5
Doho II	Butaleja	1,178	9	27	48.6
Tochi	Oyam	500	20	34	57
Ngenge	Kween	880	24	33	54.1
Wadelai I	Pakwach	1,000	0	0	18.2

Overall progress on construction of irrigation facilities increased by 17.1 percent

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

WATER MINISTRY ESTABLISHES AN INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Ministry of Water and Environment has established a 14 – member investment committee to guide implementation of ENABLE Youth Uganda Program under the Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme.

ENABLE youth program is a pilot program that targets young innovative Ugandan entrepreneurs and provides a unique opportunity for upgrading their technical skills, adopting innovative business management practices and accessing capital for business expansion.

The committee comprises both public and private sector institutions, as well as development partners.

During its first meeting held from 20 to 22 February 2019 at the Rwenzori International Hotel in Kasese; Dr. Richard Wangwe, a seasoned banker from the Stanbic Bank was elected as the chairman; Ms. Lovin Kobusinge, managing director Kati Farms as the vice chairperson and Dr. David Kamukama, coordinator iMPACT Booster Consortium as the secretary respectively.

The role of investment committee is to discuss, amend and approve investment proposals, including loan agreements and selection criteria

The committee comprises both public and private sector institutions, as well as development partners.



Dr. Wangwe (2nd left) with members of investment committee during an induction meeting held on February 22 at Rwenzori International Hotel in Kasese ■

presented by the fund management; assess and approve investment proposals according to the selection criteria; approve disbursement of funds to selected agripreneurs; monitor utilization and progress of investment funds and advise on ways

to ensure efficient recovery of funds; hold meetings as scheduled, and recommend how funds received from agripreneurs through loan recovery will be utilized after the program has ended ■



A cross section of investment committee members and technical staff listening to presentations by youth agripreneurs in Kasese ■

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

FIEFOC SUPPORTS 20 YOUTH FROM KASESE

Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme—project 2 has selected 20 youth agripreneurs from Kasese district for funding support under ENABLE youth Uganda program.

ENABLE stands for “Empowering Novel Agribusiness Led Employment” - a pilot program of African Development Bank that targets young innovative Ugandan entrepreneurs and provides a unique opportunity for them to upgrade their technical skills, adopt innovative business management practices and access capital for business expansion. The final selection was done after each agripreneur had made a presentation on a business case before an investment committee that sat at Rwenzori International Hotel in Kasese from February 20—22.

According to the newly elected chairman of the investment committee, Dr. Richard Wangwe, the presentations were impressive.

“The youth just need to be helped,” he said. “They are ready to take risks, which someone over fifty years cannot easily take.”

The business concepts focused on aquaculture; vegetable, juice and



Some of the value added products presented by the youth agripreneurs for funding ■

wine processing; ICT agriculture; groundnut, rice and maize processing; mushroom and yogurt processing; avocado oil making and coffee processing. The business cases were evaluated based on innovations, suitability, availability of market, ability to repay the loan, and manpower capacity to implement the business.

Out of 23 agripreneurs that presented their business cases, only 20 were selected and recommended for funding.

FIEFOC’s national project coordinator, Mr. John Magezi, who represented the permanent secretary, ministry of water and environment observed that the program had provided youth with an opportunity to grow their businesses.

“They have helped the project to realize its objective of smart agriculture, innovation and value addition,” Mr. Magezi noted.

He assured the agripreneurs of continued support, though some of them might not receive funds.

“Don’t lose hope,” he counselled.

Selection process

Prior to the final selection, 850 applications were received from youth in Kasese district, comprising 638 male and 212 female through an online and off line platforms.

After a rigorous selection process, 40 agripreneurs were selected to participate in a week-long boot camp in Kasese – where they were trained on gender, business management, leadership, financial management and climate smart technologies.

Most of the learning was done through group participations, games, role plays, field visits, presentations and pitching. Each agripreneur was assessed on self-assessment, peer assessment and trainer assessment.

Out of 40 agripreneurs, 35 were selected for yet another four – month validation exercise, where they were attached to a mentor and business development support specialists to help them grow their business concepts.

It was after the conclusion of the validation exercise that 23 agripreneurs were selected to present their business cases and 20 went through ■

“The youth have helped the project realize its objective of smart agriculture, innovation and value addition.”

-Mr. Magezi

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

FOREST DEPARTMENT INCREASES FOREST COVER

The Forest Sector Support Department has increased forest cover by 7000 hectares on private and degraded lands under the integrated natural resources management component of the Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme, according to a report from the forest department.

The report indicates that the forest sector support department has distributed an assortment of over six million quality trees, as well as fruit and bamboo seedlings across the country from 2016 to 2019.

Integrated natural resources management is one of four project components under FIEFOC 2. It is the third project component – whose objective is to establish a viable basis for irrigated agriculture and natural resources management in the five irrigation schemes and the surrounding watersheds.

The schemes include Wadelai in Pakwach, Mubuku II in Kasese, Doho II in Butaleja, Ngenge in Kween,



A replanted hill with Eucalyptus in Rubirizi District established with support from Forestry Sector Support Department

and Tochi in Oyam, covering a total catchment area of 4038 hectares.

According to Mr. Bob Kazungu, senior forest officer at FSSD and member of natural resources component, the activities under the component are implemented in 39 districts of the catchment areas to reduce sediments entering the irrigation schemes and improve farming in the watershed areas.

“The component aims at promoting an integrated and participatory approach to profitable development of watersheds based on environmental improvements,” Mr. Kazungu said. “The target is to secure long-term sustainability of both watersheds and irrigation schemes.”

The sub-components include integrated soil and water conservation management, sustainable forest management and capacity development.

Forest department implements sub-component on sustainable forest management – with the aim to increase vegetation cover

on communal land and improve upland productivity (pastures and reforestation), as well as control sheet erosion through improved ground cover, natural protection and associated biodiversity.

The forest department is spearheading tree planting initiatives in the country through afforestation and restoration of degraded fragile landscapes like bare hills, streams and river banks.

The forest sector has continued to support tree planting efforts through small, medium and large commercial or private tree growers and communities. Besides economic benefits of tree growing, the country has also benefited from other auxiliary benefits such as environmental and water sources protection, carbon sequestration and mitigation of adverse effects of climate change—with support from the African Development Bank, Nordic Development Fund and Government of Uganda through Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme. ■

“The target is to secure long term sustainability of both watersheds and irrigation schemes.”

-Mr. Kazungu

MWE-FIEFOC PICTORIAL



Construction of spillway at Tochi irrigation scheme, Oyam district ■



Concrete lining of main canal, Tochi irrigation scheme, Oyam district ■



Concrete casting of piers at intake one at river Kabajiria, Ngenge irrigation scheme, Kween district ■



Concrete casting for secondary canal at Ngenge irrigation scheme, Kween district ■



Excavation of the river diversion channel at Wadelai irrigation scheme, Pakwach district ■



Ongoing construction of building at Wadelai irrigation scheme, Pakwach district ■

MWE-FIEFOC PICTORIAL



Hon. Sam Cheptoris, water minister (2nd left) accompanied by PS-MWE, Mr. Alfred Okoti Okidi (right) & top ministry officials touring water week exhibitions in Entebbe on March 18 ■



A cross section of participants during project review & planning meeting held on March 20 at the ministry of water headquarters in Luzira, Kampala ■



FIEFOC's national project coordinator, Mr. John Magezi Ndamira making a presentation on project status to the project steering committee members on March 25 in Entebbe ■



Mr. Muboozi Emmanuel, coordinator agribusiness component delivering a speech to investment committee members during presentation of business cases by youth entrepreneurs in Kasese ■



Some of the value-added products developed by youth agripreneurs from Kasese district for funding support with FIEFOC 2 ■



Technical staff from agriculture ministry and water ministry and Impact Booster Consortium members, handlers of Enable youth program pose for a group photo with youth agripreneurs from Kasese district on February 21 ■

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- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
- 40 District Local Governments and
- Key stakeholders

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



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ABOUT FIEFOC 2

Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme—Project 2 (FIEFOC 2) is a five year project (2016-2021), designed within the context of the Government of Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) and the long term development strategy, the Vision 2040 both of which promote agricultural infrastructure and income enhancement. The project is further designed to assist the Government increase land area under irrigated agriculture from the current 14,418 hectares to about 420,000 hectares by 2035. And it further seeks to consolidate and expand notable achievements registered under FIEFOC 1, which ended in December 2012.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth in Uganda through enhanced productivity and commercialization of agriculture. Specifically, the project aims at improving household incomes, food security and climate resilience through sustainable natural resources management and agricultural enterprise development.

The project has four components, including Agricultural Infrastructure Development, Agribusiness Development, Integrated Natural Resources Management and Project Coordination. The primary project beneficiaries, estimated at 1,816,756 are found in the districts of Pakwach, Oyam, Butaleja, Kween, and Kasese, where five irrigation schemes are being constructed. These include Mubuku II irrigation scheme in Kasese district, Doho II irrigation scheme in Butaleja district, Tochi irrigation scheme in Oyam district, Ngenge irrigation scheme in Kween district and Wadelai irrigation scheme in Pakwach district.

The Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries jointly implement the project. Water ministry is the executing agency, responsible for implementation of irrigation infrastructure and related activities under project component one and the natural resources management activities under component three. While the agriculture ministry is a key implementing partner, responsible for implementation of agronomy and extension related activities and the agribusiness development.

FIEFOC PREPARES FOR MID-TERM REVIEW

In preparation for the mid-term review with the development partners—scheduled in a few months time, Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Programme has held a project review and planning meeting with key stakeholders at the ministry headquarters in Luzira, Kampala from March 20 - 21.

The meeting aimed at reviewing project progress since July 2016 until March 2019, sharing findings

on FIEFOC 2 baseline survey and internalizing application of web-based monitoring and evaluation system.

The national project coordinator FIEFOC 2, Mr. John Magezi advised that in preparation for the mid-term review, documentations and reports should focus on key performance indicators as agreed in the project appraisal document, set targets, outputs, progress and reasons for deviations.

African Development Bank, Nordic Development Fund and Government of Uganda co-fund the project at a tune of US\$ 103 million, covering a period of five years from 2016 to 2021.

Key stakeholders included component coordinators and members, representatives of five district local governments implementing construction of five irrigation schemes—Kasese, Oyam, Butaleja, Kween and Pakwach, as well as project staff.