

# BIO GARDENS – THE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE – IK – DEC



**Vision:**  
An indigenous knowledge promoting organization in the Rwenzori region which respects elders' contributions for sustainable conservation, agriculture and good health.

**Mission:** to support and create a community based approach for understanding the use of indigenous knowledge in agriculture, health and conservation for the protection of Rwenzori Mountain's eco-system.

## HISTORY

Bio Gardens – IK – DEC is an indigenous Knowledge promoting organization which was founded in 2014 with a purpose of bringing people together to conserve their land, water, air, animals and plants as important nature resources and be able to sustainably for livelihood improvement.

Bio Gardens – IK – DEC operates alongside the hills and the low land of Mount Rwenzori in the western part of Uganda. It is legally registered as a local NGO at the NGO Board Kampala – Ref No 5.5914/10334. Bio Gardens – IK – DEC has established a functional medicinal demonstration garden and the farmers herbal medicine training Centre at Kabukero, Kirembe Parish, Muhokya Sub County – Kasese district.

## PROGRAMS

**Improved health among the poor communities:** The organization promotes the use of herbal medicines and nutritional aspects. Communities are mobilized to establish medicine plants gardens at household levels. They are trained in how to produce and use local herbs. The organization produces herbal medicines which it supplies to the poor community members at a subsidized cost. The organization also integrates herbal medicines into the modern medical services in Uganda.

**Environmental Conservation and Food Security:** Under this program, the organization mobilizes the community to use improved agronomic practices (organic farming) and to adopt new appropriate agriculture technologies to increase crop production. The organization promotes the use of traditional foods for the purpose of nutritional food value existing in them. Communities are sensitized on environmental conservation including soil conservation by



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recycling the materials that can destroy the soil, applying improved methods of farming and tree planting.

**Savings and credit for the poor farmers:**The organization mobilizes farmers to save and use the savings as loans to agricultural inputs and for investment.

**Small Business Development (Hand crafts):** Under this program, the organization mobilizes its members to make crafts like baskets, beads, ear rings, necklaces and shopping bags for sale. The members are also trained in skills of making soap and ointment for sale to generate income.

## CHALLENGES

Hard to reach operation area with insufficient transport

Limited office equipment

Community negative attitudes about indigenous knowledge and natural medicines.

Most of the organization's members are women who share their limited time to the organization programs and their household's activities.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The organization established a local medicine plant demonstration garden at their offices and has mobilized 50% of the members to established medicinal plant gardens at household level.

The organization has a herbal medicine training center established at offices in Kabukero village.

Over 50% of the members have been trained in using herbal medicines.

The organization is treating the poor sick people using herbal medicines

The organization members are accessing affordable loans to buy agriculture inputs and this has increased agricultural produce hence increased income.

Due to increased incomes for agricultural produce, the organization members are able to save

The organization members are earning income from baskets, beads, ear rings, necklaces, soap, ointment produced.

Part of the income is used to sustain the organization.

