

Kiima Foods

KASESE,
UGANDA



Kiima Food's mission is to alleviate poverty through organic production.

History

Founded in 1995 in response to the area's increasing dependence on pesticides and fertilizers, Kiima Foods is an NGO focused on sustainable, organic agriculture and farmer group mobilization and capacity building. The organization had a challenging start when operations were interrupted by a civil war, which lasted for about four years in Western Uganda. As the war tapered off in 2000, many families' agricultural practices had been interrupted. Kiima Foods

established a Farmers Training Center to help educate and reestablish local farming knowledge and practices.

In Africa, smallholder farmers, the majority of whom are women, cultivate 80 per cent of farmed land. Globally, the livelihoods of 2 billion people depend on the production capacity of the estimated 500 million small farms worldwide. Yet smallholder farmers face a variety of constraints to sustainable livelihoods, including a lack of access to natural resources

and agricultural inputs, poor advisory and other support services, fragile environments, remote locations, and weak community organization and political leverage.

Increasing women's access to land and livestock, education and technology, and financial services and employment opportunities would cultivate agricultural production and economic growth (OXFAM 2010).

FCDE will partner with
Kiima Foods to help build
their capacity

2012

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) views the growing field of organic production as a way of generating much-needed foreign exchange. Strategic growth in this sector will help farmers in Uganda increase their cash incomes and be able to provide for their community.



Kiima Foods Challenges

- 1. View of Agriculture**
Negative stigma towards agriculture by young people
- 2. Girls' Education**
Percentage of girls dropping out of school is high, primarily due to the inability to raise and pay for school fees
- 3. Policy**
Currently the Ugandan national exams system does not offer certificates in Sustainable/Organic Agriculture. This causes a challenge because our students are trained and educated but do not receive the appropriate credentials to become competitive in the job market
- 4. Resources**
Overall shortage of training equipment and infrastructures such as dorm rooms for boys staff quarters, power supply and equipment for laboratories, a tractor unit, etc.
- 5. Access**
Market access and creating linkages with international buyers, especially those interested in organic coffee

FCDE Support

FCDE will work with Kiima Foods to increase their capacity to build networks and linkages, write funding proposals to gain needed technical assistance and equipment and building a sustainable strategic plan to help them continue to grow.

Coffee Production

Coffee is a major cash crop of the region. While much of the coffee plots are grown chemical-free, the prohibitive cost of organic certification has prevented many farmers from achieving the level of recognition and economic value-add organic coffee brings. Kiima Foods support coffee farmers through the provision of technical advice, organizing farmers to have a collective voice in price negotiation, the exploration of local markets to enable value addition to take place, and assistance with market access and the organic certification process (through a partner). Partnerships with other companies, NGOs, and governments can often provide additional financial and technical resources to support producers.

Business Training School

In 2000 towards the end of the ADF war, Kiima Foods acquired the area's Business Training School and added a Farmer Training School, both of which are now certified and recognized by the Ministry of Education. The Training School educates rural youth and school dropouts (those who score below the exam requirements or are in financial hardship and are unable to continue on in the formal educational system) between the ages of 18 to 25. In 2011, there were 11 students enrolled in the FTS and 10 enrolled in the BTS. To date, the FTS has graduated about 60 students while the older, more established BTS has graduated about 200 students.