

What We Can Do Now:

Here is an overview of the work that the Uganda Community Farm (UCF) can do to support rural poor farmers if we raised \$50,000 in funding; what our implementation plan would be, and a budget breakdown for this money.

Overview:

If we are able to raise \$50,000 right now, the UCF would use this money to provide 400 rural poor smallholder farmers in Kamuli district, eastern Uganda, with seed and agronomic training for only one crop: white sorghum.

Because of its industrial applications in the production of beer, white sorghum is one of the crops that currently have a ready market in Uganda, and is on a high demand from all the major local breweries operating in Uganda. The 3 major brewers that use white sorghum for beer production, and which are therefore the envisaged market for our produce are: Nile Breweries (subsidiary of AB InBev), Uganda Breweries Limited (or Diageo), and Heineken.

To meet the needed standards for the above breweries, we will procure the right seed from suppliers that are recommended by these breweries, and would do this in consultation with these breweries themselves. Each farmer will receive 15 kg of seed, for two acres. This will cost \$42 per farmer (at \$2.8 a kg). Because the right seed is treated, the cost of a kilo of seed is 10 times the price a farmer will get per kilo of sorghum at harvest, which is usually \$0.2. But each kilo of seed can yield up to 100kg. And so, every 15kg will yield about 1,500kg.

Altogether, we will need a total of 6,000 kg of seed. This would be ferried from Kampala using the UCF's truck. At the UCF, we will ourselves grow 2 acres of sorghum, because most of our land has now been planted with banana.

Implementation Plan:

- a) **Securing the right planting materials (i.e. seed):** once we secure the needed funding, the UCF will make an in-person visit to all the 3 local breweries named above, and we will directly work with their teams to procure the right species and/or variety of white sorghum that our farmers will grow. This is both aimed at ensuring that our farmers' produce is not rejected at harvest, and to make sure that these breweries are aware of our farmers' work right from the planting stage — so they can count us among their suppliers.
- b) **Farmer orientation & planting:** the UCF will train all the participating farmers; visit each farmer to ensure their land is ready for planting, and give out seed. Daily field visits will then begin, till harvest. From the time funding is raised, the total timeline from farmer orientation to planting and harvest will be 6 months.
- c) **Harvesting & Marketing:** at harvest, we will use the UCF's truck to gather our farmers' produce, which we will then ferry to the respective breweries in Uganda's capital Kampala on our truck (4 tons per trip).

Budget Breakdown:

- a). Seed procurement: \$16,800 for 6,000 kg of seed.
- b). Farmer orientation/training and ongoing follow-up (includes fuel for distributing seed at planting, fuel for daily field visits, and basic allowances for an outreach team of five) for a period of 12 months: \$12,000 (i.e. \$1,000 a month, of which \$250 is monthly fuel and \$750 is monthly basic allowances for our outreach team).
- c). 135 tarpaulins for clean post-harvest handling. Each 3 neighboring farmers will share one tarpaulin: \$5,670.
- d). Gathering & delivering our produce to the breweries after harvest: \$15,530, in fuel costs. Depending on weather and other factors, we expect 600 tons (or 1.5 ton per farmer). This will cost a lot of fuel in gathering those 600 tons from farmers, and 150 round trips to deliver it to the breweries in Kampala (4 tons per trip).

If you can support us at this level, please let us know on: [info AT ugandafarm.org](mailto:info@ugandafarm.org). **(Created June 10, 2019).**