

CASE STUDY

UGANDA: Food Security and Livelihood Program

March 2009

Emerging from the devastation of civil war in the 1970s and 1980s, Uganda has made significant steps in economic and social development, yet still faces major challenges. Save the Children seeks to improve vulnerable families' access to and production of food. Groups of up to 30 farmers are mobilized to work at demonstration sites that serve as a source for improved seeds and agricultural practices.



Peter Mayanja is a 35 year-old resident of Nalukonge village, a drought- prone area near Lake Kyoga. The land constantly suffers from crop failures due to poor soils, termite infestation, pests and diseases.

In 2005, Mayanja was chosen as a Key Farmer Coordinator (KFC) and asked to form a group of 15-30 participating farmers. At the first cropping season, he was supplied with improved cassava to establish a demonstration plot. He took on KFC responsibilities, demonstrating a range of improved agronomic practices including site preparation, timely planting, water and soil

conservation and post harvest handling.

Mayanja uses improved organic farming methods on an estimated 10 acres of land. He grows cassava varieties, bananas, sweet potato and a variety of vegetables all year round. After becoming a member of Save the Children's marketing group, Mayanja has learned how to get better prices for his surplus crop.

Mayanja has since graduated to Model Farmer where he is expected to be exemplary in improved agriculture practices as well as general family nutrition. Save the Children has assisted him in several of these activities including growing a kitchen garden, ensuring good hygiene and sanitation practices within his household, constructing energy saving stoves to decrease wood consumption and harvesting water from his iron sheet house.

"Having dropped out of school due to my parents' inability to meet my school dues at an early age, life seemed hopeless,"

Mayanja encourages other farmers to grow trees by sharing seedlings, as well as other planting materials. His wish is to see a general improvement in the lives of everyone in his village. Mayanja has succeeded tremendously from his hard work and his family now enjoys a substantially improved household income. He gazes proudly at his Model Homestead and says, "Since this program came, life has never been the same for me."



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