

IN PROGRESS . . .

Solar Driers Give KYEFA Farmers a Helping Hand !

By Hope Mafaranga

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FARMERS in Kyarusozo sub-county in Kyenjojo district will start earning more money from their produce after they got solar driers to add value to their products.

The farmers, under the Kyembogo Farmers Association (KYEFA), will start drying pineapples, vegetables and bananas to improve the crops' market value and shelf life.

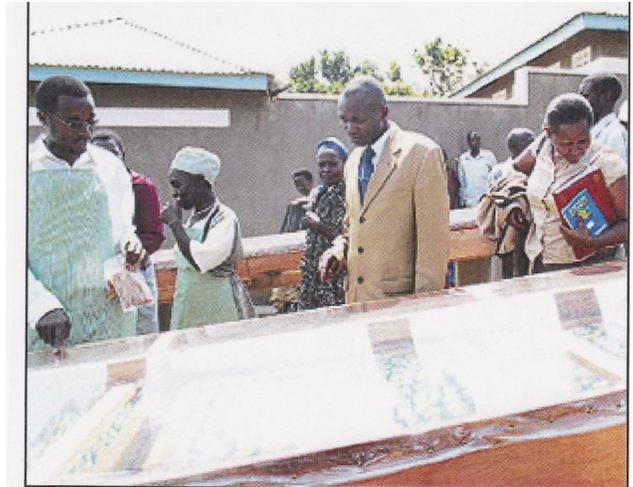
Matthias Mwesige, the KYEFA project manager, said farmers were engaged in pineapple, mango, maize, banana and vegetable farming.

"This is a great opportunity for us because we have been selling our pineapples between sh500 to sh1,000, but after drying them we will be earning sh5,000 from the local supermarkets and sh10,000 from the exports," **Mary Tinka**, one of the pioneer farmers, said at the launch of the solar driers on Friday.

The driers were donated by World Education Bantwana Initiative, a non-governmental organization operating in Kyenjojo.

Mwesige said the association and Bantwana had already secured market for the produce and plans were underway to start exporting dried pineapples and bananas.

He said the NGO had also supplied seeds and pineapple suckers to the farmers, adding that the farmers had also been trained in modern farm



Matthias Mwesige (left) showing guests the solar-dried pineapple chips at the project launching.

-ing. **Mwesige** said the development would help rural farmers attain socio-economic growth; improve their income and food security.

The group started with 30 members in 1998, but it has grown to 2,000 members.

Your Gift Can Rescue a Life



The dreaded insect that causes malaria!

Kyembogo Farmers Association (KYEFA) in Kyenjojo District, Western Uganda is looking for assistance in obtaining mosquito netting to curb malaria. Although KYEFA has offered counselling on malaria treatment, its prevention is the goal. Mosquitoes live in surrounding bushes and stagnant water; they are most active during the night time. Netting over beds and sleeping mats will make all the difference.

The school children miss school or perform poorly due regular sicknesses resulting from mosquito bites. So KYEFA seeks mosquito nets to help curb the rate of malarial influx in hospitals and reduce the numbers of malaria referral cases. Households have limited funds for medical bills, school fees, and money for basic necessities. So providing mosquito nets will ease the situation of regular sickness.

In addition mosquito nets will provide an effective barrier against the blood-sucking insects that are so prevalent in our area of operations. After

reducing the numbers of malarial cases in the area by providing mosquito nets more time will be spent on productive work rather than spending it in hospital treating malaria, thus the livelihoods of the community will improve increasing household income and food security in the homes.

By providing mosquito nets to its many farm families, KYEFA will increase health and productivity. There are 2,034 family members in KYEFA. Netting is available at \$10 per net.

A gift of \$10 for one net will save a life.

Thank you!



WATER PROJECT REPORT FOR RWESIGIIRE VILLAGE RAISES HOPES!

Fort Portal, Uganda

January 7, 2011

Rev. Emmanuel Byaruhanga's Report.

Director of Draco (U) Ltd, **Dr. Flavio** agreed with me that we enter into signing the legal documents of contracting the drilling and installation of the water bore and solar pump respectively when some money has been wired to us. I am happy to report that we have received a generous donation from our USA supporters. I am travelling to Kampala next week to meet **Dr. Flavio** for the signing of the documents and after that we travel to Rwesigiire Village to see the site where the bore hole will be drilled. Work will start shortly. After it has started, it would not take long before it is completed. Dr. Flavio says that the drilling would take about two weeks. So within a month, when more monies become available, the drilling and installation of the water pump would be completed.

What would remain to be done, would be the laying of plastic pipes that would be taking water to different locations for majority of the people to access the water in their neighborhoods.

Rwesigiire Village, Uganda

January 9, 2011

EXCITEMENT MOUNTING IN RWESIGIIRE

The villagers can hardly believe that shortly there will be water they can access making their lives healthier and safer. Quoting one village elder who was speaking for all, "We, the people of Rwesigiire, are appreciating every effort our USA friends are making for our well-being."

Fr. Emmanuel Byaruhanga, the originator of this project, added, "We shall be able to determine the total amount required after the Draco people have established the depth of the borehole needed and the strength of the solar pump to use. Another component is the building of a big tank to store water that will be pumped by the solar pump. Then add to that the plastic pipes to take the water to different fetching centers so that more people can access water."

The Benefit to Families

Having fresh water in Rwesigiire Village will ease the burden of families having to fetch unclean water from miles away, will relieve children who carry that burden after school hours. The preventable diseases associated with unclean water will be eliminated; health will improve, gardens will experience a growth spurt and some diseases that animals experience will also disappear.



Three year old girl from Rwesigiire Village fetching water.



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