



AMA BULLETIN

Agribusiness Management Associates, U, Ltd.

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2008

Quarterly Update

Welcome to AMA's 2008 third quarter bulletin. AMA is a private consulting company working with a large number of small and large-scale farmers in Uganda and around the world. We aim to satisfy our clients and excel in agribusiness development in Uganda.

This quarter, AMA was engaged in various activities, in and out of the country. AMA, through a consortium under Food Safety Worldwide, was named a prime contractor for the European Commission's transition phase of the Pesticide Initiative Program (PIP). Under this framework, AMA's highly qualified team will be called upon to support PIP's activities among ACP member countries. AMA also won a contract to undertake a value chain analysis of citrus in the Teso sub region. The study is supported by the government of Uganda through the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA).

AMA has supported one of the leading flower farm exporters in the country (Royal Van Zanten, U, Ltd.) to train and facilitate skills development among its workforce.

In collaboration with Makerere University School of Public Health (MUSPH), AMA successfully completed a baseline survey in 17 Districts of northeastern Uganda, where USAID-funded ACIDI/VOCA is implementing a Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP).

Ahead, read about AMA's participation in the banana conference that took place in Mombasa, Kenya. For any comments, please contact us as ama@infocom.co.ug.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION PROJECT

During this quarter, AMA was contracted by FLONA Commodities to take on the technical and practical part of its organic certification project. The project, funded by the German government through DED, aimed at supporting FLONA Commodities to certify farmers of pineapple for organic production. The exercise involved training and field activities that focused on having a clear documentation system while discouraging the use of synthetic

"We aspire to provide clients in and outside of Uganda with high-quality technical assistance in agribusiness development and management, capacity building in farmer group dynamics, product traceability and market standards. We strive to be a trusted, reliable and consistent agribusiness development service provider."



Analyzing root hair growth of young celosia plants at Royal Van Zanten, Uganda during the Integrated Pest Management training.



The AMA team visits one of the orange plantations in Teso region.

chemicals. The project is in its final stages and a report will be out in the fourth quarter bulletin.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Integrated Pest Management

Farmers in the country are tired of pest infestations and have from time to time applied prescriptions that would otherwise be administered after a series of other control measures. This demonstrated the need to continue training and skills development in IPM. AMA, being one of the highly consulted companies with technical expertise on pest control, has worked with many farmers to strategically control these infestations through sustainable means. In this quarter, we trained the spraying team of Royal Van Zanten on how to integrate pest management measures to effectively control pests. We believe that the skills imparted onto them are effectively working in that area. AMA also provided technical assistance to Mairye Estates in applied First Aid awareness among the employees.

CITRUS PRODUCTION IN EASTERN UGANDA

AMA carried out a value chain study of citrus in Teso Region. This project, funded by the government of Uganda, aimed to provide information on interventions that need to be implemented through public/private partnerships. This is one of government's efforts to support the "Bonna Bagagawale" Program.

THE BANANA CONFERENCE

AMA's Fred Ssango participated in the recently concluded international Banana Conference under the theme "Harnessing International Partnerships to increase research Impact." Under the session on supply, Ssango gave a presentation on a paper on "Market-led banana technology adoption in central and western Districts of Uganda."

KSIIIP

The Kasese Smallholder Income and Investment Program (KSIIIP), a project run by AMA, has been involved in a number of activities this quarter in an effort to improve livelihoods for people in Kasese. During this period, Vanilla farmers were trained to manage their vanilla crops. KSIIIP also procured Vanilla beans from the farmers and established hot pepper nursery beds.

AMA MODEL FARM

Our model farm was designed to bring out the best agronomic practices that are easily adopted by farmers. On this farm, we grow crops on 1-acre plots for the main purpose of teaching people to manage horticultural crops for commercial purposes.



Fred Ssango undertakes his presentation during the Banana conference



Vanilla beans, though young, have attained full length of more than 10 cm.

