

# Big Picnic

## TOORO BOTANICAL GARDENS SCIENTIFIC CAFÉ CASE STUDY 6

**Date:** 15/06/2018

**Venue:** TBG conference Centre

**Topic:** Household food security



### **Description of the activity:**

The scientific café was organized under a topic of “Household food security.” At TBG conference hall and later lunch was served in the ceremonial grounds

### **Present**

Godfrey Ruyonga, Alislam Said, Harriet kokugonza, Richard muhumuza, Nsungwa Catherine, Denis Bafaaki, Mary komuntale, Mugisa Patrick, Alex Kaahwa, Molly Kabasambu, Tomson Kaija, Birungi Francis, Kemigisa Fauzia, Timothy Muhairwe, Anita Bigirwa, Sam Mwanguhya, Baker Samuel, Mugenyi Patrick, Baguma Solomon, George Bwambale, kabarwani Topista, komucunguzi Gladys, Busobozi Jackson these were in different academic disciplines and

backgrounds for example civil servants, TBG food security advisory group members, Medical Doctors, Lecturers, students, teachers and house wives. 60 participants attended.

**Objective of the activity:**

To find out factors that influence food security status of a household in both rural and urban communities in western Uganda.

**Reading of expectations and introduction of the topic**

Participants expectations;

1. Mrs.Nsungwa expects broad discussion of food security in western Uganda
2. What are the interventions to secure the future generation on food?
3. Also, to discuss if activities of science cafes on food security can be extended to other sectors like environment and natural resources,
4. Denis expected to a lively interaction about food security at household level.
5. Mary expected health tips on food consumption.
6. Mugisa expected to know more about the importance of planning for food security at the household level
7. Roles of every member of a household to ensure food security
8. Food crop choice for cultivation by every household
9. Kabasambu expected to know how people in urban settings can cope up with food security issues

**Speaker: Alex Kaahwa**

Alex Kaahwa is an agriculturalist and community extension officer shares with the public factors that influence household food security status, with his experience in agriculture and interacting with different people in the communities he emphasizes how it helped in his self-realization and understanding the household food security. In his presentation he discusses the following factors that influence the household food security status.

On the issue of land, he says that whether land is permanently owned or hired it can be used technically to provide enough food for the family. He shares his story how he started by

renting a small plot for sweet potato and bean growing that made him realize his dream of becoming a landlord because he could not spend money on buying food but he was harvesting enough for home consumption and surplus for sales

On labor, he says that sustainable food production at household level is determined by joint labor efforts to match demand and home consumption levels. He cited an example that in homes where cultivation is left for only a few, they starve and always food insecure.

Choice of crops grown in an area also determine the state of food security in a household for example growing crops like yams, cassava, banana and potatoes which last longer and have many uses ensures stability of food supply

Considering livestock also promotes supplementary sources of food supply in a home, livestock products could be sold and money used to buy other food types not cultivated at home to ensure continuous food supply in a home

Kaahwa advises the public most especially in urban setting to buy food stuffs from markets and to be keen in doing price comparisons so that not to spend much on one type of food and fail to buy other foods to balance meals at home because having much doesn't mean that your food secure but having different types of food stuffs provided in a household ensures balanced diet as well food security.

Finally, Kaahwa stated that ensuring food security at household level, there is need for collective responsibility by all members of the family for example in crop cultivation and buying of food for consumption so that there is steady food supply.

#### **Discussion:**

Remark 1.

Mrs. Nsungwa a civil servant thanked the speaker and called upon the participants not only to wait for government interventions in addressing their responsibilities but also be creative in utilizing the resourceful lands in Uganda western, that them being fertile with reliable rainfalls is a blessing to ensure food security at every household in the whole region.

Remark 2.

Kabasambu molly says that in urban setting where almost everyone is living in a confined plot or rental with limited or no cultivation at all, how could some one be food secure when even the standards of living is low

Remark 3.

Tomson kaija thanked the organizers and said the topic of household food security doesn't only depend on factors raised by Mr. Kaahwa but one core is health. he said that this determines all possible success in production, he said that labor to be productive deserves good health to ensure strength and commitment on farm activities unlike a poor health where by whether you want to work for the you can't because your entirely weak to carry on farm activities or any other business that would earn you income for buying food stuffs

Remark 4.

Mr. Birungi Francis a student of crop production and animal husbandry at Uganda martyr's university said that the mode of cultivation also determines food security on a household level. He cited an example of monocropping of banana plantations as not being sustainable and called upon participants to practice mixed cropping because most people complain of not having enough land yet they have failed to fully utilize the little they have sustainably.

Remark 5.

Mr. Kemigisa Fauzia a housewife shares the challenges faced in crop growing, she says that soils are infertile in some areas and this leads too much loss of crop yields despite the high costs of cultivation and buying of seeds. She adds that this demoralizes them and lose efforts of crop growing

Remark 6.

Mr. Timothy Muhairwe a member of the TBG advisory group advised participants to adopt better crop management techniques so as to address the issues of pest infestation in people's gardens. He further said if pests are not controlled no better crop yields can be realized by farmers

Remark 7.

Dr. Anita Bigirwa a medical doctor at Fort portal regional hospital said that a household food security status shouldn't only be looked at amount of food in store but the level of health benefits and strength derived from food consumed. She adds that most health disorders in Uganda are a result of poor food consumption and if not addressed food insecurity will remain a problem in most households

Remark 8.

Mr. Sam Mwanguhya an agronomist called upon participants to be calculative and consider the best timing seasons at least by following trusted weather forecasts on radios and televisions so as to decide on what to cultivate in a particular period of time. He further said that although rainfall precipitation in most parts of western Uganda is reliable, at times its worse when it's so heavy characterized by hailstorms and so destructive.

Remark 9.

Mr. Anthony Bright showed concern oh how people in all community settings can have steady supply of food in their households by being creative, use of bags, empty tins to cultivate vegetables and legumes on their verandas and backyards to ensure sustainability

Remark 10. Closure

Godfrey Ruyonga thanked all participants for attending and freely discussing the topic and called upon them to be ambassadors of creating awareness about house hold food security.

Reporter: Harriet Kokugonza

Photos of the scientific café activity at TBG ceremonial grounds



*Figure 1:Participants share a moment after the discussion*



*Figure 2:Participants having lunch after the scientific cafe*



*Figure 3:Participants having lunch*