

Big Picnic

TOORO BOTANICAL GARDEN SO OPEN AIR RALLY CAMPAIGN (CASE STUDY 2)

Venue: KIHONDO TRADING CENTRE

Date: 8th –August-2018



Figure 1: Emango cultural dancers Present their first song on food security to the participants.

INTRODUCTION

TOPIC:

Family labor and inclusiveness of every family member to increase food production.

Open air rally campaign is one of the unique methodologies used by TBG in Uganda to engage the public with responsible research and innovations on food security. People of all classes and origin including young adults gather together. Experienced speakers speak to them and later interactions, questions and suggestions are noted.

The rally started at 2:00pm with participants being entertained by Emango cultural dancers who educated participants through songs for example one of the songs stated that food is life, ***“no food no peace,”*** it showed that in the land of Tooro children and old ,youth and

elderly have no better meals, children dying of malnutrition, called upon mothers to prepare balanced diet meals for their families and stated the cultivation of food security crops like cassava, yams among others to have enough food supply for their families.

The vice chairperson local council three Kicwamba sub county Mr. Jolly kasaija Atwooki welcomed the visitors and appreciated Tooro Botanical Gardens initiatives to involve the local people in finding solutions to food insecurity and requested that TBG moves to more villages within the sub county for more people to benefit from the sub county.



Figure 2: Emango cultural dancers engage the participant on stage.

Main speaker: Samuel Musana

The topic was discussed by Mr. Samuel Musana an agronomist who described that in most parts of Uganda there is low production in food due to some family members abandoning responsibilities of cultivation and leaving it to the few especially house wives yet consumers are more than producers at family level. There is need to address the problem and consider family labour inclusiveness of every family member for increased food production.

He described the land in Western Uganda being very productive due to the fertile volcanic soils, well drained with a number of streams, rivers and crater lakes and reliable rainfall precipitation which can sustainably increase production if inclusiveness of family labour is realized.

He said that inclusiveness of family labour in production reduces expenditures on labour with which money can be used in other farm activities for example buying more garden tools and planting materials for increased food production.

He observed and encouraged that even people employed in other sectors can use 2 hours average on their home gardens, doing cultivation, weeding etc to supplement on the family labour to increase production.

He said increased production can also be realized by re-introducing the **maju-ikumi** programs where by 10 homesteads come together and work on an individual's garden in turns / rounds until all the homesteads gardens are over. by doing this diverse food crops can be planted to address food security issues

With inclusiveness of family labour in production, best agronomic practices can be implemented for example timely weeding, mulching, water conservation initiatives like trenches with in plantations, establishment of permaculture gardens, crop rotation which all increase production and offer better quality foods consumed at every household level

Selecting multipurpose food crops to cultivate for example pumpkins, beans and cassava leaves are good sources of plant Mukama proteins in other words the above crops can serve different consumption purposes concurrently.



Figure 3:Mr.Musana address the participants on inclusiveness of family labour.



REACTIONS

Mr. Jolly Kasaija said that sensitization is done but what are the strategies for implementation of project in rural areas

Mrs.vanice Mukama said that most people have cultivated bananas but not so productive in the area, she also said that different stake holders should come on board and engage more people on village level to ensure active participation and implementation of strategies discussed

Mr. Samuel Musana said that there is need for use of organic manures and pesticides to ensure healthy food production

Mr. Joseph kamusiime asked that is there provision of planting materials by the project

Mr. Samuel Musana responded by ensuring him that seeds are within them in the communities not the project to provide them

Jutta Klebber informed participants that she also grows a variety of vegetables organically to feed her family and encouraged participants to do same since the vegetables grown at home are always fresh, healthy and cost effective unlike the ones bought from markets

Meia Wippo from Netherlands thanked participants for their active involvement in the whole activity and she was happy that people were interested in what TBG was doing .and called upon more people to approach TBG for more practical training in organic farming and increasing food production in their areas





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PROGRAMME

Wednesday 8 th /08/2018			
Time	Activity	Venue	Responsible Person
	<i>Open Air rally campaign on food security</i>		
12:00-01:15pm	Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surrounding Villages like Kirangara Katuli, Kigombe, Nyankuku, Butulya, Kantarrara, Mukisanga etc. 	Said and mobile van operators
01:00-02:00pm	Arrival, assembling of materials Entertainments of food security and registration	Kihondo Trading Centre	
02:00-02:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline of expectation Introduction of the topic to the public. 	„	Ruyonga
02:15-02:45pm	1 st speaker: Increasing food crop production, availability and accessibility	„	Mr. Sam KRC

02:45-3:00pm	Questions and open discussion	„	Mr .Sam Musana
03:00-03:30pm	2 nd speaker Enhancing food quality and minimizing wastage	„	Mr.Ruyonga
03:30-03:45pm	Questions and open discussion	„	Mr.Ruyonga
03:45-04:00pm	Way foward		All
4:00pm	Departure		All

Prepared by Harriet and Team.

END