

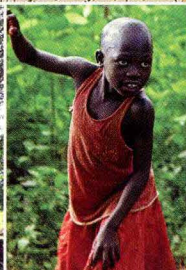
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Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

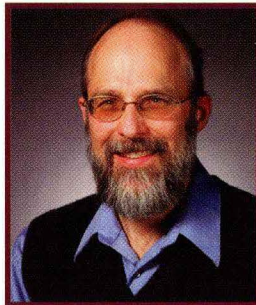
A N N U A L R E P O R T

2005  2006

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE



M E S S A G E F R O M D I R E C T O R



The Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) was created at Iowa State University (ISU) in order to realize the vision of rural people in developing countries, and their institutions, empowered to address food security and livelihoods. After incubating that vision in 2003 and formalizing fruitful Ugandan partnerships in 2004, the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods 'program' in the College of Agriculture achieved 'Center' status in August 2005.

CSRL's work complements ISU's mission to **create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.** In CSRL's first two years, collaborations among faculty from five colleges at ISU and our Ugandan partners have resulted in increased food security and incomes for small farmers in Kamuli district, Uganda. Participating farm families are more productive, and partner institutions are using indigenous and scientific knowledge to improve livelihoods, but there is much more work to do to develop and implement an effective, sustainable model that can empower more families and communities.

Without the involvement of multiple organizations and hundreds of people—from donors to farmers and including staff, students, and faculty from two universities and a non-governmental organization—the work highlighted here could not have been accomplished. I look forward to our continued work together!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. E. Mazur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Robert E. Mazur, Ph.D. ■ *Director, Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods*

Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

Vision

The Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) in the College of Agriculture at Iowa State University envisions a developing world in which collaborative efforts result in rural people having access to sufficient food, sustainable incomes, and livelihoods that result in good health and well being. CSRL sees families, communities, and organizations engaged in participatory learning and collaboration to nurture civic responsibility, leadership, and effective and resilient social institutions.

Mission

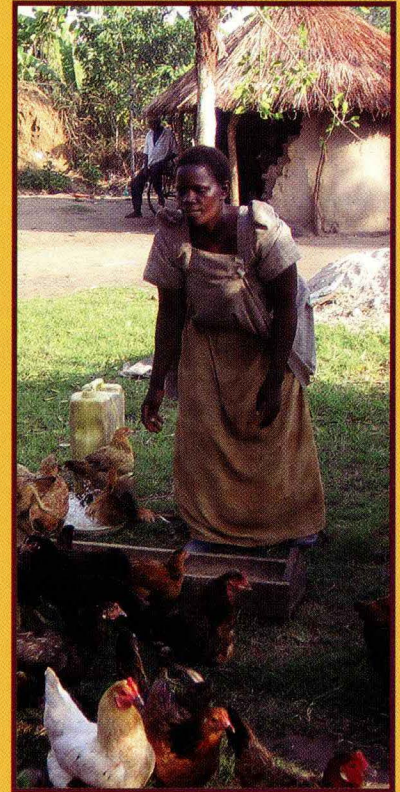
We initiate and support collaborative training and development activities that strengthen the capabilities of rural people and their institutions in developing countries to: improve agriculture and natural resource management practices; build assets; diversify income sources; and achieve food security, nutrition and health. We engage in the discovery and application of science-based and indigenous knowledge to promote resilient, sustainable rural livelihoods in developing countries.

Goals

1. **Establish and grow effective partnerships with developing country organizations and leaders** to train and support farmers and rural community institutions
2. Through our developing country partners, **train and support farmers** to improve food security, incomes, natural resource management, nutrition and health
3. Through our developing country partners, **strengthen capabilities and assets of rural people and their institutions to improve their livelihoods** and abilities to respond to challenges and emerging opportunities
4. **Facilitate discovery and application of science-based and indigenous knowledge** through contributions by faculty members, staff and students from ISU, our developing country counterparts and community partners

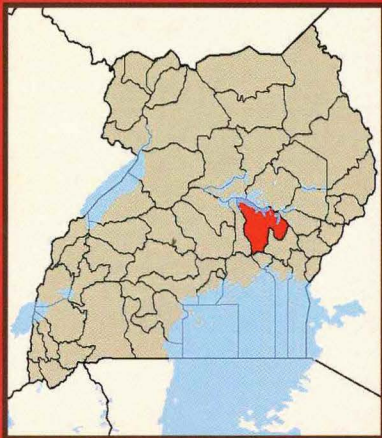
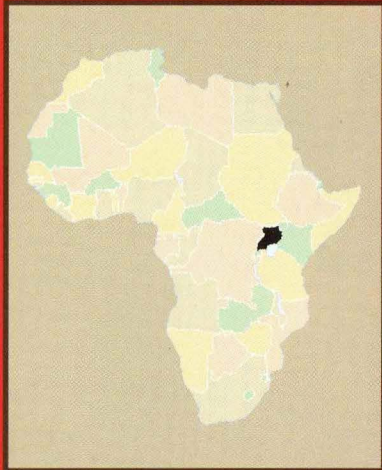


Farmer groups in Uganda obtain agricultural, health and nutrition training as well as participate in program monitoring and evaluation.



Rose is a progressive and award-winning farmer in Kamuli district, Uganda.

CSRL Activities



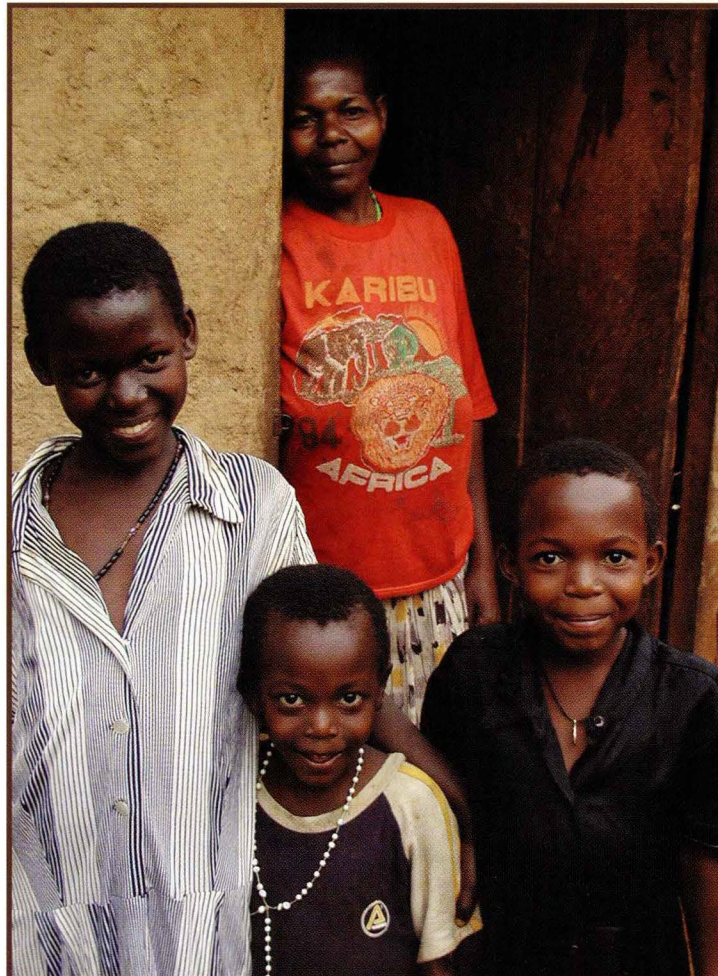
CSRL's Work in Uganda

The work of CSRL—through long-term collaborative development projects and multidisciplinary research—is currently focused on Kamuli district, Uganda. We have completed our second year of partnership with VEDCO (Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns), an indigenous non-governmental organization, and Makerere University, Kampala. These collaborations form the basis for strengthening the capabilities and assets of Kamuli district's communities.

Kamuli district is about 150 km northeast of the capital city of Kampala. It is divided into 22 sub-counties and has a land area of 4,348 sq. km. The population was 712,078 in 2002, with 2% considered urban and 45% under the age of 14.

We are collaborating with small farmers, including women, in three sub-counties (Namasagali, Butansi and Bugulumbya) within the district. Our participatory practices mean that project goals and activities are shaped by the farmers themselves, and we refine and improve our practices based on local experiences. Regular participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) is built into the project design to provide feedback

and refine impact indicators. VEDCO mainstreams lessons learned into other districts where it operates as well. We are also engaging undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members from both universities in practical research and development projects.



This farm family works with VEDCO to improve their food security and their farming operations.

Kamuli District

Infant mortality rate (per 1000)	118
Life expectancy at birth (years)	50
Access to safe water (% population)	50
Labor force in agriculture (%)	88
Agriculture as main source of household livelihood (%)	82

Source: District Population Office Kamuli, April 2003

Activities ■ Goal 1

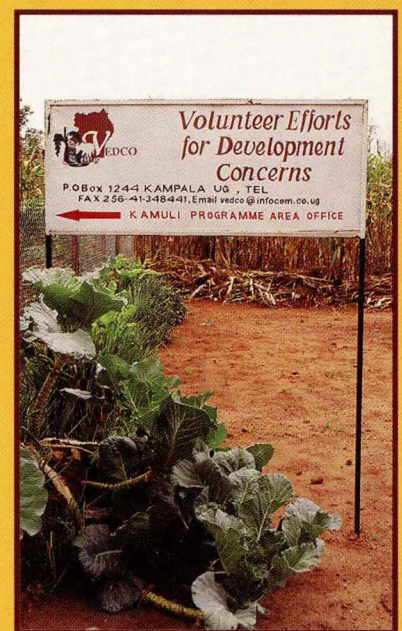
Establish and grow effective partnerships with developing country organizations and leaders to train and support farmers and rural community institutions in Uganda.

Relationships are the foundation of effective international development. In the past year, CSRL continued to nurture existing partnerships and explore future ones with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and universities.

Dorothy Masinde, CSRL Program Coordinator, plays an important role in building effective partnerships in Uganda. Ms. Masinde is stationed in Kampala, and so is able to participate closely in day-to-day planning, implementation and evaluation with our collaborators in country. She also seeks out potential additional partners and facilitates ISU visits to Uganda.

Director Mazur and other ISU faculty, staff and students traveled to Uganda throughout the year to contribute to current projects and plan for future work and collaborations. In addition, faculty and staff from VEDCO and Makerere University made visits to Iowa State University to contribute to CSRL Management Team meetings, explore value-added technologies such as biofuels, and explore potential wider collaborations and new funding opportunities.

Iowa State University as an institution deepened its relationships in Uganda with a productive visit to the country in August 2006. The group was led by President Gregory Geoffroy and included Wendy Wintersteen, Dean of the College of Agriculture, members of the CSRL Management Team, students and CSRL benefactors. President Geoffroy met with Ugandan leaders from government, VEDCO and Makerere University, and with ISU alumni. He and the team also met farmers in Kamuli district, and were on hand to dedicate a deep well (borehole) at the Namasagali Primary School and another one in the surrounding community.



VEDCO opened an office in Kamuli district in collaboration with CSRL.



ISU alumni meet with President Gregory Geoffroy and Dean Wendy Wintersteen, left to right: Africa Nazarene University Vice Chancellor Prof. Leah T. Marangu, Kenyatta University Vice Chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda, ISU President Dr. Gregory Geoffroy, Kenyatta faculty member Prof. David Malonza, Kenyatta faculty member Prof. Benard Kivunge, ISU College of Agriculture Dean Dr. Wendy Wintersteen.

School Garden Service Learning Project

Fifty calories, the equivalent of one apple, is lunch every day at the 700+ student Namasagali Primary School as estimated by Eric Nonnecke, ISU senior nutritional science student, during a 2006 pilot service learning project in Uganda. Lunch at most rural schools in Kamuli district, Uganda, is simple corn porridge—hand-ground corn meal boiled in water—and is the only meal many students get each day. That makes it hard for these future farmers to learn.

Eric, along with eight other students and three faculty members from Makerere University and Iowa State University, participated in a pilot school garden service learning project funded by private gifts to CSRL and the College of Agriculture. The Namasagali community and VEDCO staff were important collaborators as well.

Consistent with the mission and goals of CSRL, a key step in preparing for the June 2006 school garden project was planning with the teachers, parents and community leaders in Namasagali. Therefore, in early 2006 representatives from VEDCO, Makerere and CSRL began meeting with the Namasagali community to plan the project and select garden crops. This project also included funds for two deep wells, so the community began planning for coordination and maintenance of these important boreholes. Back in the US, ISU students with Dr. Gail Nonnecke, Horticulture, and Dr. Lee Burras, Agronomy, used Spring semester for extensive orientation and planning, including interaction via e-mail with Makerere and VEDCO.

By the time the students and faculty from both universities converged in Namasagali in June, the primary school students had already established vegetable nurseries, two acres of cassava, two acres of maize and a field of soybeans. The students weeded and watered the garden, and their parents formed a garden management committee and provided labor and materials for a fence to keep animals out.

The university students assisted the Namasagali teachers with science, agriculture, human nutrition and health curriculum lessons using the garden and well. Class sizes of 70 or more and limited materials were challenges, but the primary school students were very interested in these visiting instructors. The university students also helped clear and prepare ground, by hand, for a second garden and started a demonstration chicken house and enclosure on the school grounds. The eggs will provide much needed protein for the students' diet.

After this extensive preparation and work, Namasagali Primary School has a new school garden, chicken house, and deep well with drip irrigation. The school children will no longer have to walk many kilometers to obtain drinking and cooking water. Lacking textbooks, they now have an outdoor laboratory for their studies that will also supplement their lunches. The children gained a positive perspective on agriculture as a profession, and will be able to share their gardening experiences and planting materials with their own families.

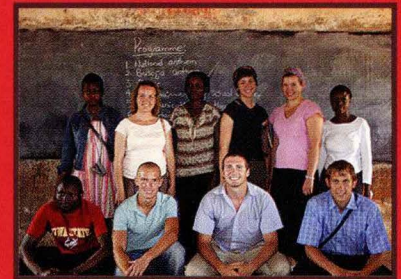


Students at the Namasagali Primary School prepare a garden plot which will be watered from their new bore hole (deep well, right).



The Makerere University students Harriet Agemo (ag. extension & education), Dennis Katuramu (horticulture) and Rebecca Wokibula (ag. land use management), along with lecturer Bernard Obaa, Makerere Department of Agricultural Extension/Education, were integral partners in this collaborative project. They learned, among other things, a positive view of agriculture and extension as professions through interactions with the VEDCO staff and ISU participants. It is common for agriculture to be viewed as a last resort career by university students in Uganda, especially for those who do not qualify for medical school. "We felt different after interacting with you," said the Makerere students repeatedly.

ISU students Lee Beck (horticulture), Rachael Cox (agronomy), Melissa Nasers (ag. education & studies/int'l ag.), Eric Nonnecke (nutritional science), Elizabeth Sukup (public service administration ag./int'l ag.) and Mark Tekippe (electrical engineering) worked hard and learned a lot, too. The challenges of working with limited resources in a different culture were a big lesson, but they also gained a broader world view. Mark's engineering background gives him lots of experience in problem solving, but he "cannot think of many experiences that required me to adapt to this level before." Living and working with the Makerere students taught the ISU students about the similarities of people everywhere, and also the importance of different views and experiences among team members. All the students are very supportive of future service learning projects through ISU.



Students from Makerere University and Iowa State University collaborated on the 2006 service learning project.



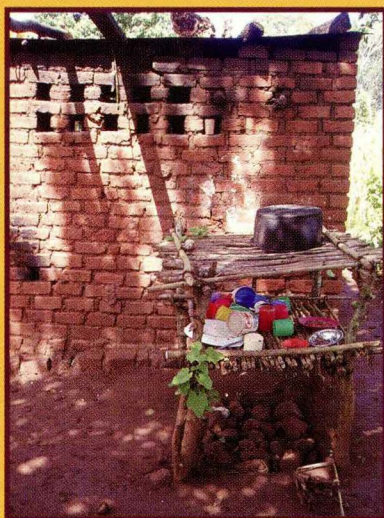
Corn porridge is lunch at the Namasagali Primary School.

Activities ■ Goal 2

Through our developing country partners, train and support farmers to improve food security, incomes, natural resource management, nutrition and health.



Jane (in yellow dress), a volunteer Community Nutrition and Health Worker, gives a presentation at her farm in Kamuli district.



Tools for improved health include drying racks and kitchens separated from living quarters, as demonstrated at Jane's farm.

The foundation of CSRL's development work is regular nutritious meals. So we partner with VEDCO to train and support small farmers, particularly women. VEDCO has been working to empower small and medium holder farmers and micro entrepreneurs in Uganda since 1986, and began work in Kamuli district in late 2004 in conjunction with CSRL. Approximately 6,400 people are benefiting from this collaboration.

In the past year, CSRL increased efforts to:

- Identify and train farmer groups
- Train volunteer Rural Development Extensionists (RDEs) in food security, natural resource management and marketing
- Establish learning processes and multiplication sites with farmer groups
- Integrate community-based nutrition and health training with practice through training volunteer Community Nutrition and Health Workers (CNHWs)
- Facilitate community-to-community exchanges
- Monitor and evaluate activities by engaging stakeholders in measuring and assessing progress and determining what actions should be taken in response to this knowledge

In addition, CSRL added new activities:

- Establish an agroforestry nursery for tree and shrub 'starts' that can be used by farmers in the future for improved soil fertility, animal forages and erosion control
- Work with six schools to establish gardens that serve as learning laboratories, supplement lunches and encourage students to establish a garden at home with their families
- Work directly with a small number of 'poorest of the poor' households who are unable to participate in farmer groups

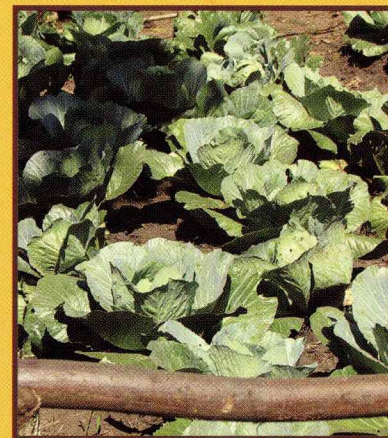
Most small farmers involved in this work interact with VEDCO through farmer groups of 20–25 members. The strongest of these groups have voluntarily formed based on common interests in specific crops or common challenges like HIV/AIDS. Groups nominate members to become rural development extensionists (RDEs) and community nutrition and health workers (CNHWs). These volunteer RDEs and CNHWs are trained by VEDCO, provided with basic tool kits, set up with demonstrations at their own homes and encouraged to train farmer group members. This farmer-to-farmer extension model, which maximizes farmer contacts, encourages sustainability after outside organizations like VEDCO and CSRL move on to new areas.

Impacts

Last year there were 70 farmer groups with 1,430 members, including 1,044 women, in the three sub-counties in which CSRL supports work. These group members represent 800 households in 60 villages. Nine of the groups are composed of disadvantaged people (HIV/AIDS, disabilities) and one is composed of youth. Seventy five group members have become RDEs (46) and CNHWs (29) in these sub-counties since we started in September 2004.

The percentage of farmer group households defined as food insecure decreased from 45% to 10% between early 2005 and mid-2006, based participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E). The community's definition of food secure includes: cultivating and eating a variety of foods, eating four meals per day (vs. two or less), rarely falling sick and having a full granary. The months of food scarcity were decreased by one. Prior to CSRL's work in the district, February through May were particularly difficult months due to a cassava mosaic disease that wiped out the crop which usually sustains the families between rainy seasons. Now, however, group members report that farmers have something to eat every month.

The percentage of farmer group households defined as having poor nutritional status decreased from 38% to 17% between 2005 and 2006. Group members report greater availability of diverse foods, increased knowledge of food preparation to improve nutritional status, improved sanitation and hygiene, increased immunization rates, and a change in eating habits (e.g., eating more nutritionally beneficial foods instead of selling them all).



A demonstration plot of cabbage.

Rose, a Kamuli District Farmer

"My home was in such a sorry state," explains Rose, that was it not for her "earnest pleading" VEDCO might not have partnered with this Bwiiza parish farmer in August 2004. But after two years with VEDCO, Rose is farming twice as many acres and producing for market, her family has four meals a day and a new house, four of her children are able to attend high school and her husband has returned to the family.

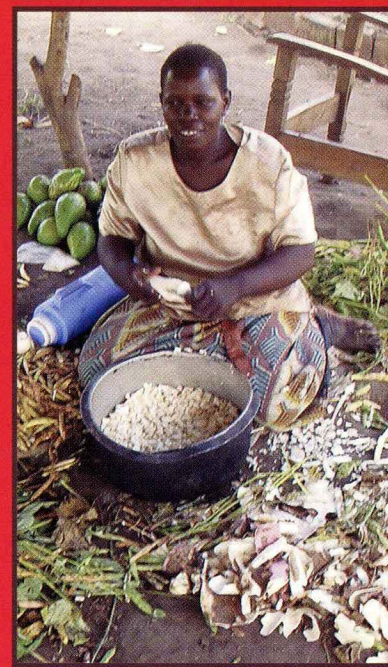
Before Rose's involvement with VEDCO she was a tailor, "earning so little, my children were always hungry and my husband was always away from home." Her family had one meal per day and, while they have over 150 acres of land, she only farmed a few acres. Samuel, Rose's husband, left the family because of the poverty, which is not an uncommon occurrence in the district. Rose even feared vehicles approaching her home because she was embarrassed to welcome guests to her farm.

Through VEDCO's training and her own farming and RDE experience, Rose has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and gained the ability to plan. She now grows bananas, cassava, pineapples and assorted vegetables on 10 acres at home and provides RDE services to her community.

The Kyebajjatobona ("they worked hard and achieved") farmer group Rose works with formed itself about seven years ago; 23 of the 27 members are women. The group cultivates a demonstration garden that includes cassava, bananas, groundnuts and greens. The garden's profits benefit the group members by, for example, purchasing a group goat with banana proceeds. Rose provides group members with training in crop management, manures, pesticides and she also developed her own innovative ways to train her larger community. Rose requires community members to take instruction from her when they buy produce from the Kyebajjatobona group and she provides training for a fee to farmers from neighboring parishes which lack RDEs.

"I now host so many visitors from my community, Uganda and outside Uganda as far as USA, which has given me courage, confidence and respect by the community and my husband."

Prior to her involvement with VEDCO, Rose had capabilities and assets but little opportunity. Now she provides for her family and strengthens her community. Rose is just one of the many farmers of Kamuli district who benefit from the opportunity to strengthen their own capabilities.



Rose processing cassava.

Activities ■ Goal 3

Through our developing country partners, strengthen capabilities and assets of rural people and their institutions to improve their livelihoods and abilities to respond to challenges and emerging opportunities.

It is one thing to grow enough food to provide regular meals in a year with adequate rain and few crop pests or diseases; it is another thing to do so during drought or with other challenges. So, in addition to working on issues of food security, CSRL also strengthens farmers' ability to enter the marketplace and earn income.

In the past year, CSRL increased efforts to:

- Work with food secure farmers to develop agriculture as a business

In addition, CSRL added work in new areas:

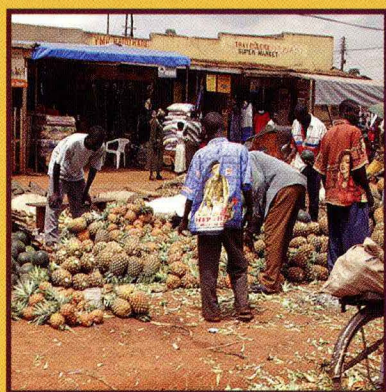
- Training on post-harvest management activities to reduce food loss and add value
- Promotion of income generating activities for disadvantaged groups such as disabled and elderly farmers
- Policy and advocacy through workshops and informational materials for community leaders at the sub-county and district levels

Impacts

Based on 2006 participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E), 67% of farmers have increased their crop production since participating with CSRL, and 22% have increased livestock production. Cassava, corn and chicken production were most commonly expanded. The primary reason farmers reported increasing crop production was due to both the food value and cash value of the crops. Livestock increases were related to their perceived marketability and profitability.

VEDCO and farmer group members jointly identified four agro-enterprises to pursue, and new acres of the crops were established: maize (267 acres), cassava (14 acres), pineapple (2 acres) and cardamom (1 acre). The pineapples and cardamom are still in the trial stage. Farmers also participated in business and farm management training. Storage continues to be a challenge, with farmers reluctant to use granaries for fear of theft. They often, instead, store produce inside their homes. Maize shellers are being tested to reduce the time necessary for post-harvest processing.

To strengthen VEDCO's ability to support farmers into the marketplace, ISU animal scientists Dr. Max Rothschild and Dr. Jim Reecy made their second trip to Uganda in May 2006. Small livestock like pigs are traditionally tended by women, and women's work generally benefits families directly. Pigs, which are valued in Kamuli district, are a source of protein for families and a financial asset. During their visit, Dr. Rothschild and Dr. Reecy presented five lectures to over 20 VEDCO staff members on issues of pig production and health. The lectures generated useful discussion, and a plan for more advanced training of VEDCO staff. The ISU faculty members also visited pig farms to learn more about the conditions and challenges of current pig production in Uganda, and discussed future joint work with Makerere University and the National Animal Genetics Resource Centre.



Kamuli district farmers are increasing production for markets.



Small livestock are an important source of protein and a financial asset.

Activities ■ Goal 4

Facilitate discovery and application of science-based and indigenous knowledge through contributions by faculty members, staff and students from ISU, our developing country counterparts and community partners.

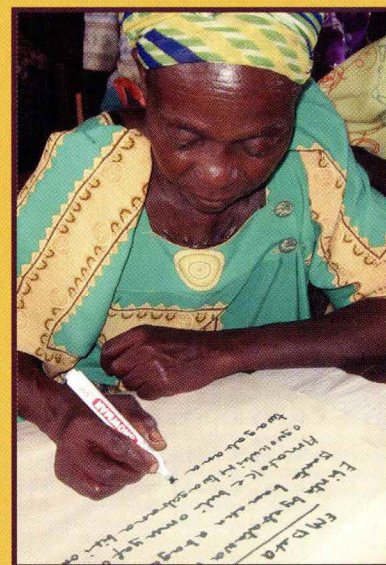
CSRL's mission of strengthening rural people and their institutions draws on knowledge from all stakeholders, but primarily from in-country partners.

It is critical to integrate the knowledge that farmers themselves have in our work to make it more effective and sustainable. Farmers participate by setting project goals, taking part in analyzing their own situation, defining project directions such as choosing which crops to plant in demonstration and multiplication gardens, sharing their own innovations and evaluating the work.

VEDCO and its Ugandan staff contribute decades of on-the-ground experience with farmers and entrepreneurs in other districts. They know the conditions, have strong local networks and work directly with local farmers. Makerere University provides technical expertise in Uganda to development and research projects and its students serve as interns with VEDCO.

Both Makerere and ISU are training the next generation of agriculturalists, development specialists and policy makers. CSRL's partnerships in Uganda benefit ISU's students and faculty by providing innovative opportunities for interdisciplinary and inter-institutional team experience with applied research and extension in international settings.

In addition to the school gardens project described above, undergraduate students and faculty from Makerere and ISU participated in several engineering projects through Engineers for a Sustainable World. Dr. Say Kee Ong, ISU, and Dr. Levi Kasisira, Makerere, worked with engineering students on both continents to address challenges farmers and schools face in Kamuli district including water harvesting, irrigation, biogas production and water disinfection. ISU students Edward Bulliner and Steven Diesburg were able to travel to Uganda in 2006 to help construct a pilot biogas digester and test simple solar water purification options in Kamuli district. The engineering students will continue data collection, and consider future projects.



A farmer provides input during a training workshop.

2005–2006 ISU Faculty Visits to Uganda

David Acker, Academic and Global Programs, College of Agriculture

Lee Burras, Soil Science

Lorna Michael Butler, Henry A. Wallace Endowed Chair for Sustainable Agriculture

Jan Flora, Sociology

Hsain Ilahiane, Anthropology

Grace Marquis, Human Nutrition

Gail Nonnecke, Horticulture

James Reecy, Animal Science

Max Rothschild, Animal Science

Richard Schultz, Natural Resource Ecology and Management



Amber Herman interviewed young farmers in Uganda for their perspectives on farming and development.

ISU's Amber Herman (public service & admin. in ag.) spent February through May 2006 in Uganda, attending seminars at Makerere University and doing research with VEDCO. Amber interviewed farmers 18 to 25 years old to see the kind of support network is available to young farmers. Amber concluded that the youth have assets of physical strength, willingness to learn about farming and small business opportunities and an interest in participating in community development. The youth lack knowledge about VEDCO programs, access to mentors, and resources such as land and financial capital. Amber recommends incorporating youth into development programs to increase sustainability.

ISU graduate students are also involved with CSRL. Haroon Sseguya and Richard Miiro, both lecturers in agricultural extension and education at Makerere University, are doing advanced studies at ISU. Haroon's dissertation will focus on the effectiveness of farmer groups in livelihood improvement programs in Uganda, and he expects to receive his Ph.D. from ISU in 2009. Richard is taking courses for a year at ISU, as well as obtaining advice from faculty members on his dissertation proposal which focuses on sustainable and effective farmer organizations in Uganda. He expects to complete his Ph.D. at Makerere. Shelia Onzere, Ph.D. student from Kenya, will focus her research on social networks and farmers' adoption and adaptation of innovations.

In November 2005, the stage was set for future graduate fellowships in sustainable agriculture targeted to students working with CSRL. At that time an anonymous donor couple made an estate commitment to ISU valued at \$513,000. When this gift is realized, the fellowships will be administered by the Henry A. Wallace Endowed Chair for Sustainable Agriculture in cooperation with CSRL.

2005–2006 Scholarly Work

Book Chapter

Lorna M. Butler and Robert E. Mazur. Principles and Processes for Enhancing Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Collaborative Learning in Uganda in S. Rajagopalan (ed.) *Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods: Concepts and Approaches*.

Presentations

Robert E. Mazur, Dorothy M. Masinde, and Lorna Michael Butler. *Effective Partnerships for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: A Critical Review and a Way Forward*.

Robert E. Mazur and Oleg V. Stakhanov. *Prospects for Enhancing Livelihoods, Communities and Biodiversity in Africa through Community Based Forest Management: A Critical Analysis*.

Research Planning Grant

Robert E. Mazur (PI), Richard C. Schultz, Andrew Manu, Lorna M. Butler (Iowa State University), Mateete Bekunda (Makerere University), Amon Z. Mattee (Sokoine University of Agriculture), Samuel K. Adiku (University of Ghana). *Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management for Livelihood Security. USAID–Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (SANREM)*

Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2005–06

Receipts

Balance forward from FY 2004–05	0
CSRL Expendable Fund, benefactors	275,417
College of Agriculture	18,669
Henry A. Wallace Chair for Sustainable Agriculture	41,193
ISU Foundation	6,013
President Geoffroy's office	1,930
ISU Council on International Programs travel grants	9,400
Global Agriculture Programs, College of Agriculture	6,925
Designated gifts, service learning and bore holes	85,000
Designated gifts, livestock	17,800
Undesignated gifts	6,725
Total	\$469,073

Expenditures

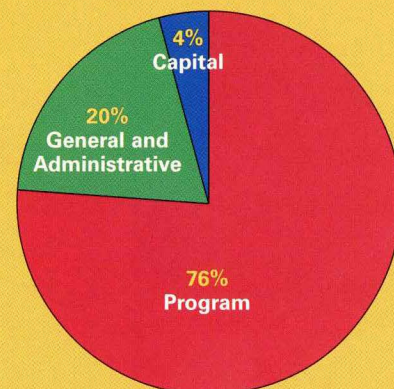
Training and workshops, Uganda	88,083
Participatory monitoring & evaluation, Uganda	2,296
School garden service learning project and bore holes, Uganda	79,189
Livestock project, Uganda	5,875
Communication, supplies, services, Uganda-based	8,041
Salaries & benefits, Uganda-based	55,279
Salaries & benefits, US-based	125,910
Travel	45,140
Meeting expenses	3,057
Communications, supplies, services, US-based	11,960
Total	\$424,830

Cost Sharing

Monetization of time spent by SRL Management Team in meetings and travel <i>(Estimate based on average faculty salary, daily rate calculated as \$450)</i>	\$40,000
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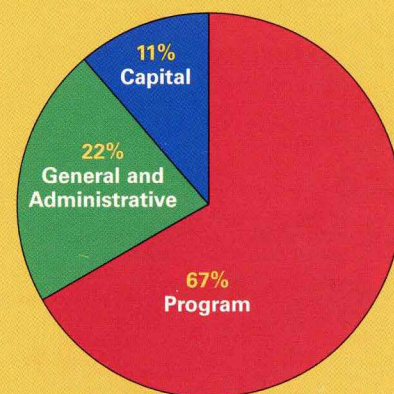
Donated Equipment

Two laptop computers for use in Uganda
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FY 2005-2006
Core CSRL Expenditures
by Category

(Expenditures from CSRL fund
from program benefactors)



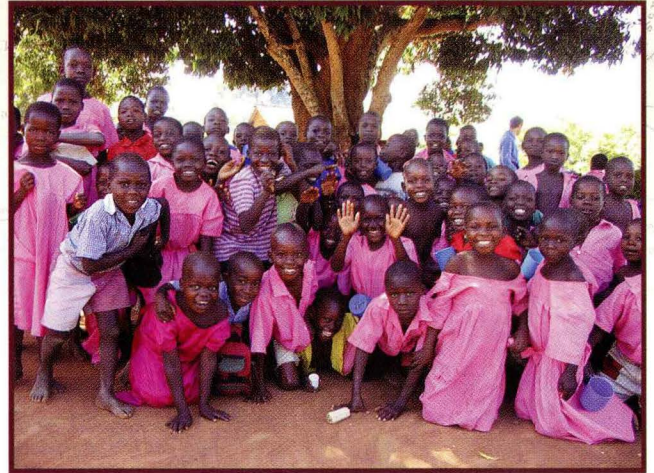
Cumulative FY 2003-2006
Core CSRL Expenditures
by Category

(Expenditures from CSRL fund
from program benefactors)

Future Plans

CSRL's Growth

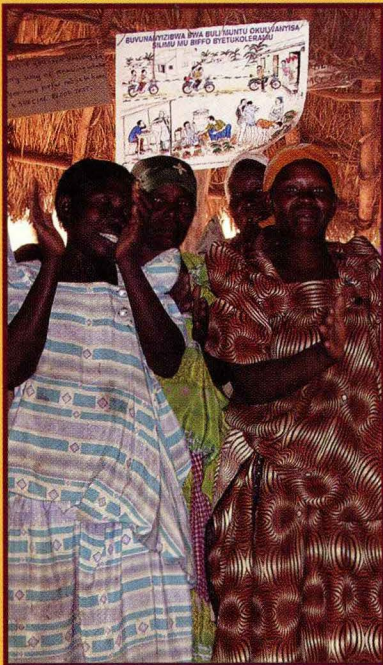
CSRL has a long term commitment to development in Kamuli district, Uganda, with our VEDCO and Makerere University partners. Our work in the field continues to evolve as we integrate what we have learned. We are in conversation with potential additional non-governmental and private sector partners, and are seeking additional funding through grants and private gifts.



CSRL as an entity is maturing, with the evolution of our founding Management Team into an Advisory Board and associated project-based multidisciplinary committees, and a small increase in staffing levels. In February 2006, President Geoffroy earmarked \$1 million from a mature charitable remainder trust to the Raymond and Mary Baker Chair in Global Agriculture that will be matched by another donor couple. When this endowed chair is eventually awarded, that faculty member will provide additional leadership to CSRL, and some existing funds will be freed for additional program work.

Emerging Initiatives

- Adoption and adaptation of affordable value-adding agricultural processing technologies
- Business/entrepreneurship and marketing support
- Comprehensive integration of natural resource management with food security and environmental protection and restoration
- Organization-wide and programmatic mainstreaming of nutrition and health (emphasis on women and children)
- Improved management of water resources at household, farm and community level
- Increased scale and effectiveness of support for small-scale livestock rearing for income and nutrition
- Strengthening farm groups' capabilities to gain value through marketing and valued added processing
- Strengthening scale and capabilities of farmer associations to advocate for good services and policies
- Training of VEDCO staff members for graduate degrees in sustainable rural livelihoods
- Establishment of multidisciplinary livelihoods training at Makerere University with VEDCO field sites
- Increased engagement of faculty members in applied research
- Regular undergraduate service learning opportunities based on our pilots in 2006
- Cross-Africa and Africa-Latin America collaboration e.g. training on application of the livelihoods approach; integration of community nutrition with livelihoods improvement



Farmer groups take a break during training meetings to energize themselves with singing and dancing.

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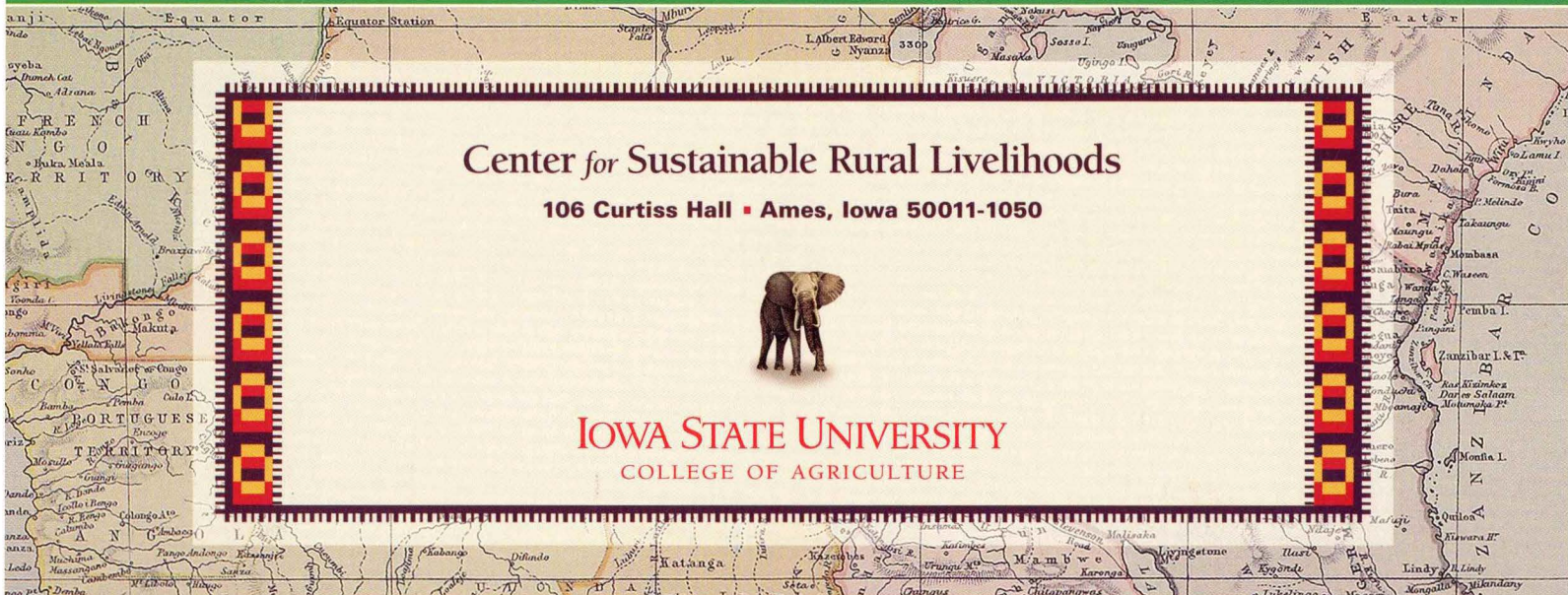
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