



SEED Initiative

promoting entrepreneurship for sustainable development

Founding Partners



AFRICA WINNER 2014

The enterprise works to rally together the existing smallholder sugar bean women farmers in South Western Uganda. Women joining the co-operative marketing union are empowered to increase production, value addition and sales through training, social support, and wide market access.



Southwestern Women Bean Growers Union, Uganda

BUSINESS MODEL

The Southwestern Women Bean Growers Union acts as a co-operative for women sugar bean producers. In this capacity the enterprise sources markets, demands fair prices and provides members with production, post-harvest handling, and business management training. Women help to finance the co-operative through contributing one kilogram of produce per season.

Still in its infancy stages, the enterprise already has over 1,000 active farmers.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS

Location	Kabale and Kisoro districts
Year founded	2012
Sector	Agriculture
Product/Service	Sugar beans

Social impacts:

- Encouraging women to develop their existing farms beyond subsistence level, consequently empowering them to compete and earn an income in a traditionally male-dominated industry.
- Improving food security for 65 % of the districts' populations through increased production, income and food availability.

Environmental impacts:

- Replanting of trees used to stake the climbing beans, thus reducing soil erosion and stabilising hilltops across 500 acres.
- Producing a fast-cooking bean variety, thereby reducing wood fuel demand as the beans cook quicker than other varieties available in Uganda.

Economic impacts:

- Saving energy and money for consumers, as the beans cook fast.
- Growing a sustainable local industry, thus boosting the region's economic output.
- Providing farmers' families with the financial means to pay for necessities like school fees.

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” Our enterprise enhances women smallholder farmers’ capacities to produce and market the best sugar beans for canning in the world in high value markets, thus improving their incomes and livelihoods.

Scaling up activities:

- Continue to recruit farmers to reach the goal of 2,000 active members.
- Market at least 10 t of small-packet dry and fresh beans to local niche markets.
- Export at least 45 t of dry and fresh beans to the international market.
- Sign new supply agreements with importers from two different markets.



” With community help we’ve built a store which will soon serve as a collection centre for pre-marketing of beans. This will greatly help farmers to bulk and favourably market their produce.



Partnership

• The **Southwestern Women Bean Growers Union** is the co-operative that forms the core driving force of the enterprise. It currently employs seven full-time and nine part-time staff who work with partner organisations and the local community to build the capacity of the enterprise.

• The **National Agricultural Research Organisation** has been involved with all aspects of forming the enterprise. It now helps with supply of foundation bean seed to the co-operative seed producers and provides technical input on seed and grain production.

• The **Bugara Women Bean Seed Producers Association**, playing the role of a seed company, helps to multiply the sugar bean seed that is sold to the grain producers to boost production.

• **Kisoro District Local Government** helps to mobilise the enterprise and its members by supporting their activities at a local governmental level.



The 2014 SEED Awards in Ethiopia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda are largely supported by the European Union, which is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies.

About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs who while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. SEED provides these entrepreneurs with know-how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making. For more information please write to info@seedinit.org or visit:

www.seedinit.org

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