



**Impact Study of
FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS :
AWA Masaka & BMW Iganga
UGANDA**

by

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Reporting to SAC Uganda & SAC UK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AWA & BMW Evaluation

Send-A-Cow (SAC) in the UK began work in Uganda in 1988. SAC Uganda (SACU) is now autonomous in its management though still receiving support for training and livestock placements from SACUK. Recipients of livestock must show not only, the capacity of their land to feed them, the ability to construct a shelter to practise zero-grazing and capture manure and urine, but also possess a latrine and a cup-drying rack to enable hygienic household discipline. In December 2001, a census was completed of some 90% of Send a Cow Uganda's known beneficiaries consisting of 1,855 households with a total of over 21,000 members. Women constituted 92% of beneficiaries and half the children in their care were orphans. SACU decided to conduct a longitudinal study in 2006 using the same census questionnaire on a sample of 600. In parallel with this, SACU decided to carry out a more in-depth impact study of a sample of its beneficiaries in two contrasting areas of Uganda – Masaka and Iganga - where they have formed their own farmers' associations with constituent groups. That SACUK-funded study is reported here. It also includes surveys of management opinions and perceived needs of SACU, and of AWA and BMW. A full photographic record was taken to represent the key observations made.

In Masaka, the Anasumagira Women's Association (AWA) applied to SACU in 1996 and a baseline survey was conducted in 1997. AWA now has 219 members in six zones of the Masaka District, and its Board meets quarterly. Each zone holds a quarterly meeting and members are further sub-divided into cell groups consisting of 3 to 8 members who are near neighbours. Some 60 individual interviews of farmer members in three of the zones (3 + some of zone 1; 2; 6) are reported. Group exercises followed by open discussions were conducted in each of the three zones and the opinions of other observers were canvassed. In addition, questionnaires were issued to the AWA Board members and to two members of each zone committee in order to assess their management ideas and perceptions.

In Iganga, the Bakuseka Majja Women's Group (BMW) was established in 1986 and applied to SACU in 1998. BMW now has 453 members, of whom only 272 have received livestock to date. Delays are due largely to slippage in the calving patterns restricting pass-ons, and to quarantine regulations because of FMD, although the disease has not been found in Iganga for 12 years. The group is organised into 6 zones, of which data from three are here reported – Namukubembe A, Kiroba and Nabubya-Busalamu. As for Masaka, individual farmer interviews, group exercises and discussions, and Board management questionnaires were completed. Members meet in cell groups of 5 people. Relevant SACU documentation and other literature was reviewed. Meetings were held with others in cognate work – for example, the DVO in Iganga, the LC5 Chairman (Chairman of the District) and the Co-ordinator of NAADS for Iganga.

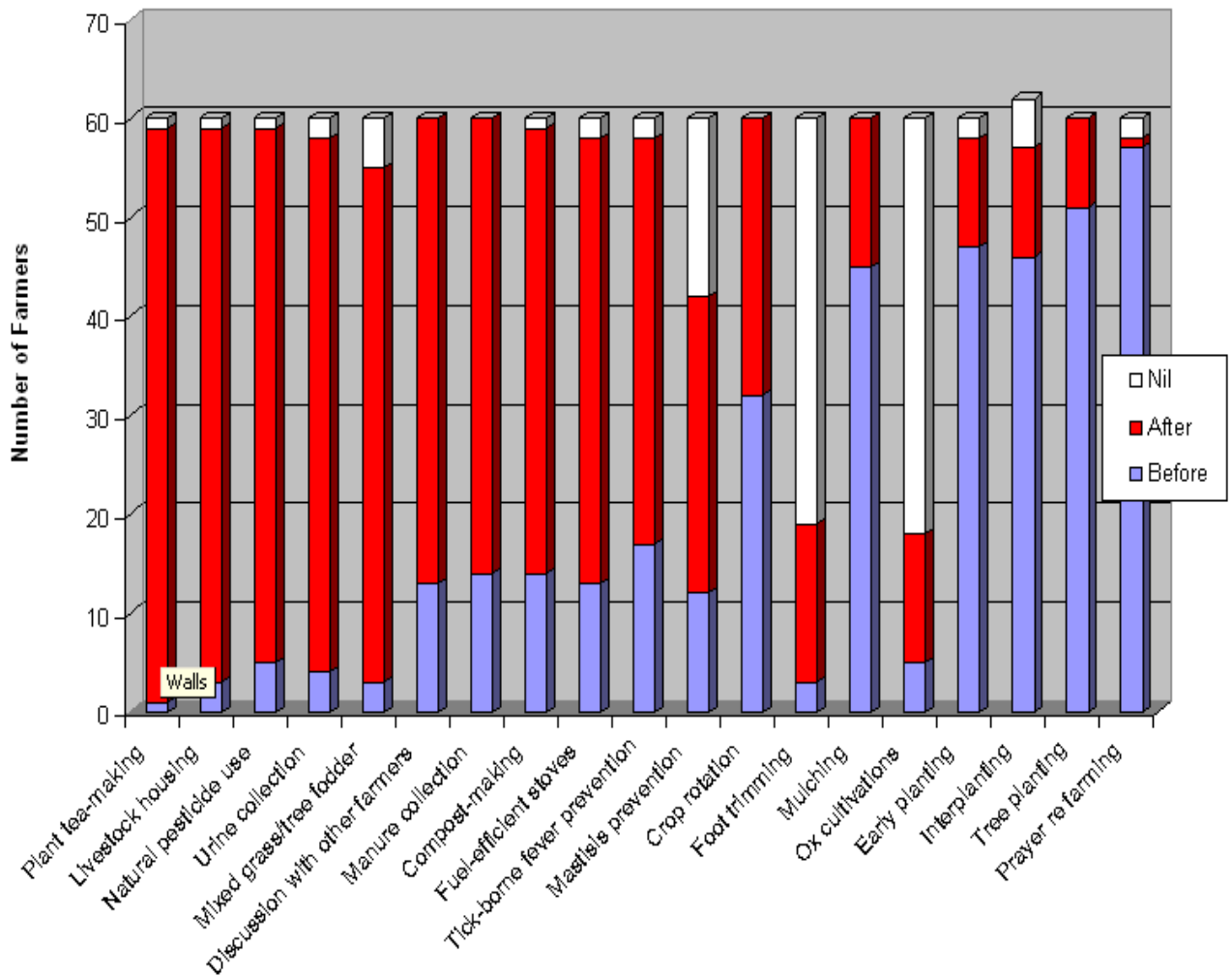
Impacts

Perhaps the greatest categories impacted positively by SACU's inputs involved confidence, influence of women, learning from each other, sharing new practices and adopting new techniques. In the case of both AWA and BMW, group membership was highly valued by all participants in all 3 zones of both AWA and BMW.

Group impacts recorded in the matooke exercise and confirmed during subsequent discussions were all positive. Despite ongoing difficulties freely aired, the following were all increased by the SACU intervention:- savings capacity, wealth of production, capacity to pay school fees, nutrition and home improvements.

The following charts demonstrate the impact of the programme among the 60 participants in each of the two groups.

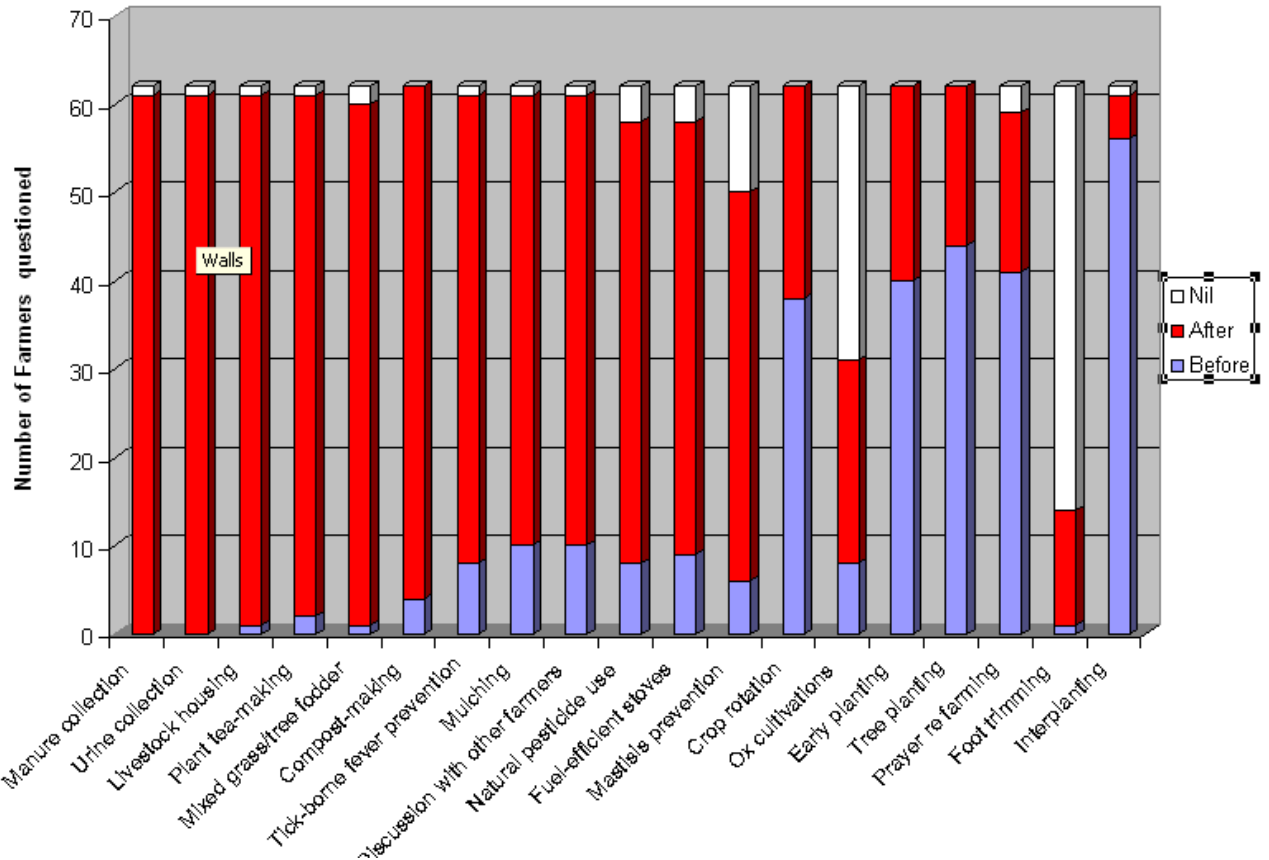
Chart 1. Impacts and adoption of SACU training in 19 different practices in the AWA group, Masaka district. This shows the number of farmers out of 60 questioned, that have adopted 19 different practices after receiving training from SACU. The red (darker) indicates those farmers who adopted the practices after training, while the blue (lighter) indicates those who were already doing them before receiving training from SACU. The white parts indicate those group members who did not adopt the practice (nil).



It can be seen that nearly 70% of group members adopted over half of the 19 practices. All but 3 of the remaining practices were already being done by over two thirds of the group. Three practices, mastitis control, foot trimming, and ox cultivations, were adopted by between one third and two thirds of the participants. These three practices were adopted by fewer participants because several do not yet have cows or have not yet learned about mastitis and foot trimming, nor have they yet encountered need. Many do not have access to oxen for cultivations, partly because this is little practised in Masaka District and would be in any case too expensive for some.

Chart 2. Impacts and adoption of SACU training in 19 different practices in the BMW group, Iganga district. This shows the number of farmers out of 60 questioned, that have

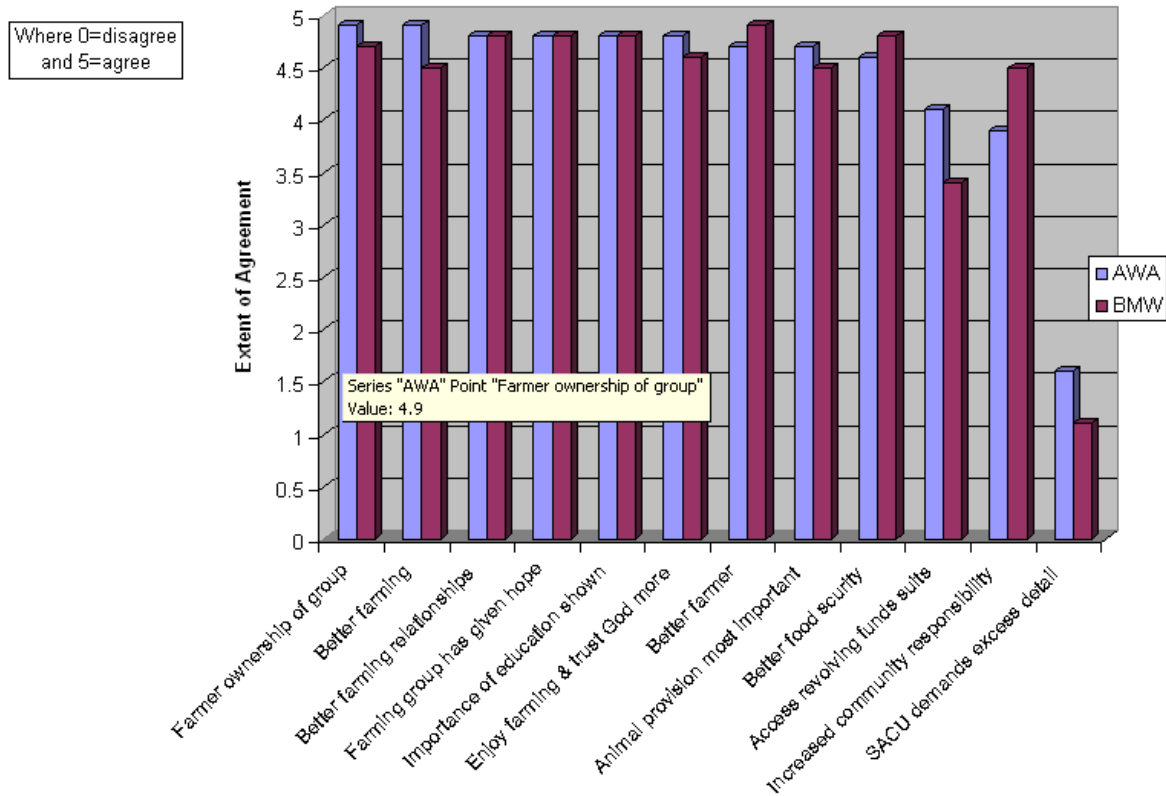
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It can be seen that an even higher number of participants reported adopting more practices compared to AWA in Chart 1 above. The same three practices, mastitis control, foot trimming, and ox cultivations, were adopted by fewer farmers for similar reasons to AWA in Chart 1 above. In Iganga District, ox cultivation is more encountered than in Masaka but it is still insufficiently developed, and expensive for many farmers

Chart 3. Farmer opinions of the benefits of SACU training.

Chart 3 shows the results of 12 questions that were asked to the members of the 2 groups.



Here it is clear that the vast majority of farmers agree strongly that the SACU intervention is beneficial to their farming. The only area where there was some lesser agreement, although both groups were still very positive about the benefits, was the suitability of revolving funds. As can be seen, farmers thought that the level of detail addressed by SACU was very appropriate for the work that is done.

Chart 4. Value of improvements to participants' farms in AWA groups (average group responses)

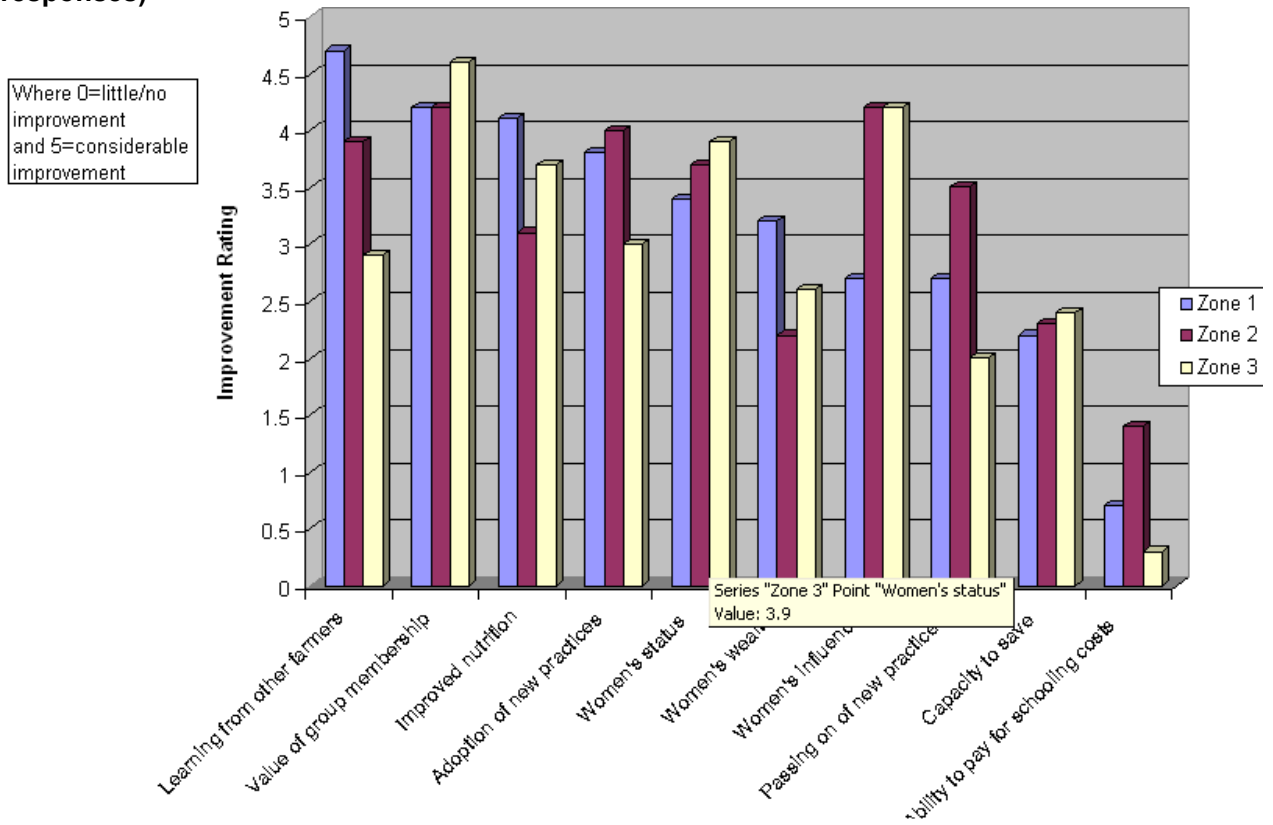
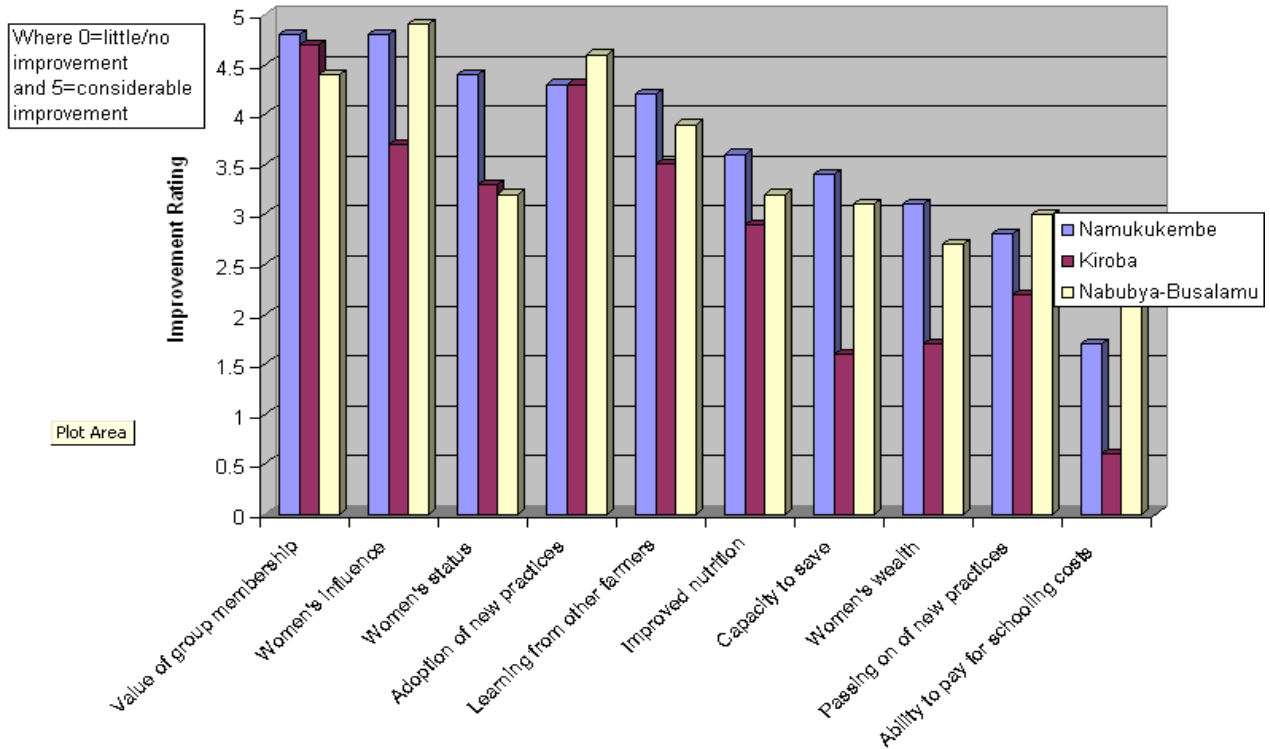


Chart 5. Value of improvements to participants' farms in BMW groups



These 2 charts above (4 and 5) show to what extent the practices that farmers were questioned about were perceived as improvements. In both AWA and BMW the majority of farmers consider that most of the practices introduced by SACU are a significant improvement. The areas where there is less perceived improvement are the ability to save, and pay school fees, although it is only in 4 of the 6 groups or zones questioned that this improvement is perceived as a rating of less than 1.5 out of 5.

In all other areas, there is substantial positive perception that the practices introduced by Send a Cow are very beneficial.

Overall, the programme has enabled:-

- New practices/techniques in both homes and farms to be learned, adopted and shared;
- Personal development especially among women, and consequent community involvement to increase;
- Group work to be valued very highly in AWA and BMW, promising more collaboration.

Summary of impacts of SACU's work from group exercises:		
%age of members interviewed with positive impact (n=60 in AWA ; n=62 in BMW)		
Sharing new practices	Women's influence	Value of group
65% - 85% in AWA	54% - 84% in AWA	84% - 92% in AWA
51% - 65% in BMW	74% - 98% in BMW	88% - 96% in BMW

Establishing the impacts of SACU's work was the main focus of this study. Impacts were considered under nine categories: farming systems, nutrition and health, households, livelihoods, training, socio-psychological and spiritual, gender, environment and community, and farmers' groups.

Adoption of improved farming techniques e.g. zero-grazing, collecting urine and manure, making compost, using natural pesticides etc, was over 75% for almost all new techniques, resulting in better yields of crops and vegetables. This has led to improvements in nutrition and health of farm families.

Impacts on households and livelihoods included key home improvements such as latrines and kitchens as a result of training and support from SACU. Food storage losses have reduced greatly. Incorporation of improved animals, (cow or goats) into the farming system combined with adoption of new farming techniques, has resulted in some increase in the ability to save. The range of farm products for sale has improved slightly. Many women report feeling richer, and some reported buying better clothing or a bicycle.

Training has resulted in farmers adopting on average between 3 and 4 new farming techniques, and 65% to 85% of farmers now find it easier to share and learn from other farmers.

Farmers report being very empowered by participating in the programme, and nearly all say that they have started, or continue to pray about their farming.

Most women and men are now working together better. Women have greatly increased their influence and feel their status is noticeably higher.

Fuel-efficient stoves have been adopted by over 75% of farmers, and tree-planting has increased also protecting the environment. Over 75% of households hold responsibilities in community organisations demonstrating their capacity to get involved in the community.

Members of farmer groups value their groups very highly. The main impacts of membership are the ability to seek advice, network, and visit other farmers.

Recommendations for AWA, BMW, SACU and SACUK are summarised:-

1.1 FARMING SYSTEM

Policy is needed to meet the difficulty of ageing farmers carting fodder.
Consider incorporating roof-water tank with cow shelter at outset, with help.
Promote better standards for harder concreting of shed floors.
Promote simple guillotine choppers for grass and better farmyard logistics.
Actively promote the use of human urine as supplement to add to compost.
On more distant land, encourage green manuring + some fertiliser perhaps.
Preservation techniques (solar-drying etc.) need to be taught/learned.
Whole lactation yields and calving intervals need understanding/discussing.
Access to AI - or to village bulls - needs urgent attention and advocacy.
Ample Quality cattle need to be locally sourced e.g. by contract rearing.

1.2 HOUSEHOLD

Promote shallower pit latrines, then plant up with suitable trees/bananas.
Have campaigns / competitions to upgrade fuel-saving stoves and kitchens.
Promote roof-water catchment and better household water management.

1.3 LIVELIHOOD

Encourage members to start businesses offering services to members.

Offer resource management field training, with 'no' or 'low' cost options.
On marketing, enable creative thought to avoid over-supply and add value.
SACU may train AWA/BMW to start/manage Savings Clubs & Rural Credit.

1.4 HUMAN NUTRITION & HEALTH

AWA/BMW may start group-run dispensaries & produce sales.
Encourage use and planting of medicinal plants (see www.anamed.org).
Groups should support families in better use of food, with healthier diets.
Despite reducing storage losses, more practical training is needed.

1.5 TRAINING

Have a campaign on constant access to drinking water for high milk yields.
Explain better lactation curve and calving interval impacts on profitability.
Take all farm processes through 'from field to mouth' to spot constraints.
Invite LC members to participate in training to 'multiply the messages'.
Groups may pay 2 members to visit & share new ideas e.g. treadle pumps.
Encourage the Kifukos (BMW) to start a simple, applicable Training Centre.
There is need for more training on appropriate solutions, notably re water.

1.6 SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL & SPIRITUAL

Sensitively encourage more engagement of churches with SACU work.
Consider more farmers' & young farmers group / zone competitions.

1.7 GENDER

Consider holding separate men's discussions using a pastoral older male.
Make more effort to involve men in training before livestock are received.
Address inter-gender power relationships during women's training.

1.8 ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY

Start 'Junior Conservation Societies' for youth (pick litter, plant trees).
Plant useful species e.g. bamboo in community areas in each village.
Liaise better with NAADS, NAGRC and NARO, and advocate e.g. on AI.
Monitor potential zoonoses possibly associated with introduced livestock.

1.9 GROUP & OD

Promote FARMS Groups as a key way forward.
Consider adding non-SACU recipient neighbours to cell groups to learn.
Train a CAHW (Community Animal Health Worker) for each cell group.
Groups need to have their bye-laws written in Luganda or Lusoga.
Donors of unserved young pass-on heifers should pay for their AI later.
Keep to rules for committee service i.e. 3 years + max twice re-elected.
The Zone Groups could become largely autonomous but link to AWA/BMW.
Association Boards of AWA/BMW to network & advocate for communities.
AWA & BMW Association Boards may receive student interns (MUK/NUE).
SACUK & SACU need to improve inter-relationships/communications.