

## Infrastructure development at Wadelai and Tochi Irrigation schemes - Pictorial .



A primary canal filled by rain water at Tochi Irrigation scheme



The Left-hand regulator at Tochi Irrigation scheme



Secondary canal under construction at Wadelai Irrigation Scheme



Scheme buildings and stores under construction at Tochi (left) and Wadelai Irrigation Scheme (right)



## MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

## NEWS LETTER

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### IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS FOR TOCHI AND WADELAIR IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN OYAM AND PAKWACH DISTRICTS

#### Project Background.

In Uganda, agriculture forms the backbone of the economy. Surely, what affects agriculture will impinge on the country's development as well. Over the years, agricultural production in Uganda has experienced protracted droughts with an increasing challenge to water access. As a consequence, not only have the droughts impacted farmers' access to incomes and food security, they have equally affected Water Sector programs and entire National Development Plans. It is in this vein that the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) recognizes the role of promoting Water for Production (WfP) through irrigation as a means not only to commercialize agriculture, but also defuse the increasing food shortage in the country and alleviate poverty through increasing the production potential of farmers.

To achieve this, MWE together with other line ministries like MAAIF and MTIC and with funds from the African Development Bank, Nordic Development Fund and the government of Uganda, has been actively engaged in instituting appropriate community-based systems through which stakeholders' capacity can be promoted to manage and utilize the schemes sustainably.

It is in this regard that MWE contracted Chrisbert Consult (U) Ltd as a software consultant to provide implementation support towards the sustainable management of Tochi Irrigation Scheme in Oyam and Wadelai Irrigation Scheme in Pakwach. The projects are intended to cover 500 hectares for Tochi and 1000 hectares for Wadelai, with an estimated 1,200 and 2,000 direct beneficiaries in Tochi and Wadelai, respectively and indirect benefits reaching over a million people.

#### Project Overall Objective:

To contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth in Uganda through enhanced productivity and commercialization of agriculture.

#### Project Specific objectives.

- To improve household incomes
- To ensure food security
- To promote climate resilience through sustainable natural resources management
- To promote agricultural enterprise development

#### Anticipated benefits of the project.

- Increased major crop yield by at least 50%
- Increase average per capita income by 30% for the target population
- Improved technical skills in soil conservation and farming practices for increased productivity in agriculture.

- Improved household incomes & food security
- Increased emerging businesses and income generating activities like rice harrowing
- Reduced deforestation and improved agro-forestry practices

#### Project Key Components.

- i. Agriculture infrastructure development; this involves; construction, establishing management structures and capacity development of stakeholders.
- ii. Agribusiness development; business skills development, apiculture, aquaculture, seedling production, business value chain, among others
- iii. Integrated Natural Resources Management; promotion of fuel saving stoves and main streaming deliberate tree planting.
- iv. Project Management; this will ensure proper coordination of M&E and timely reporting.

Since we started work as Chrisbert Consult (U) Ltd in May 2018, we have been able to implement the activities elucidated hereunder: -

#### i) Managing issues arising from inception phase.

The exercise was carried out between the 23rd and 28th of July 2018 to regulate and manage issues that emerged at the inception phase in the project areas of Tochi and Wadelai in Oyam and Pakwach districts, to pave way for the smooth implementation of the FIEFOC 2 project. Ten (10) meetings were conducted, 06 of these were held in Oyam and 04 in Pakwach. The participants for the Tochi Scheme were 592 while Wadelai was represented by 436 members.

The issues raised at inception were; delayed compensation; missing names of some PAPs on compensation lists; flooding of the excavated area; changes in project structural design; some land not being surveyed; and land boundary complaints. However, through general sensitization and awareness raising over the status and progress of the issues tabled, the consultant was able to garner community support as well as generate community understanding and patience.



*Project awareness creation meeting at Atipe primary school in Oyam District*

**ii) Mobilizing, Sensitizing & Distributing farmer application forms.**

To ensure smooth implementation of the project and sustain ability, Chrisbert Consult (U) Ltd had a task to select eligible beneficiaries to utilize the scheme. In the farmer selection process, several activities were carried out and these include; coming up with a farmer selection criterion and thereafter application forms targeting able and or marginalized farmers that were ready to take up irrigation. We also shared the Farmer Selection Criterion with other stakeholders for example the Oyam & Pakwach DLG, MWE and MAAIF. The criterion and questionnaires designed to select the farmers were approved. We used the agreed upon criterion to select about 1,241 potential beneficiary farmers for Tochi Irrigation Scheme with an additional 316 being on the waiting list.



*Chrisbert presents Farmer selection criteria & Application form to Oyam DLG*



*The Sociologist explaining to farmers in Lango language how to fill the application form in Atipe Kampala T/C*

**iii) Verifying the lists of applicants' information.**

Farmers having applied for plots, there was need to verify the authenticity of the information of the applicants i.e. the applicant being a resident of the said village, that not more than one applicant had applied and qualified from the same household and that marginalized members of the community were not left out in the application exercise.



*Members of Acaba and Chrisbert Community focal person verifying the lists of applicants' information.*

**iv) Undertaking benchmarking visits to examine existing Irrigation Management Structures.**

Field benchmarking visits were conducted in Doho (Butaleja district) and Mubuku (Kasese district) Irrigation schemes, to gain insights into the

operation of the schemes and issues surrounding irrigation, how the schemes are managed, the available management structures, benefits and their challenges.



*A team of consultants from Chrisbert Consult touring Mubuku Irrigation scheme.*

**v) Designing and disseminating IEC materials**

IEC materials i.e. Brochures, Flyers, Tear drops and Banners were designed and translated into local languages that is Jonam and Lango for Wadelai and Tochi respectively, to ensure clear communication of the key messages to local communities. These were presented and disseminated to all members in sensitization meetings held at both district and community level.



*Chrisbert staff distributing copies of brochures and flyers at Aceno Parish*

**vi) Developing and Performing the Drama skits**

As a way of sensitizing communities, a drama skit was presented at every community meeting and performed by the community members selected and trained by Chrisbert Consult's drama expert. It covered areas like; Project background, Key stakeholders involved and their roles & responsibilities, Key Project Components, Operations and maintenance aspects and cross cutting issues like HIV/AIDs and gender mainstreaming.



*A drama group on stage performing in Abanya Parish*

**vii) Formulating and Presenting the Land Use and Tenancy agreements**

The consultant formulated land use & tenancy agreements to ensure that the project is beneficial to the locals as conceptualized by the government and AfDB. The agreements involved three parties i.e. the land owner whose rights have to be protected, farmers whose interests needed to be considered and the District local government being the eye of government to ensure that project objectives are attained. The land use agreement is an agreement between the land owners and the DLG stating the duties of each party whereas the tenancy agreement is the agreement between the farmers and the District Local Government.



*Chrisberts legal expert explaining the agreements at Wadelai subcounty Headquarters*

**viii) Designing and discussing the Conflict Management Strategy**

The Conflict Management Strategy is intended to guide members of Tochi and Wadelai Irrigation schemes on how conflicts can be detected, prevented and or managed. The strategy explains various areas where conflict could arise at the scheme. It also prescribes the creation conflict management committee to resolve any conflicts once they arise.



*The Sociologist explaining the conflict management strategy document to Oyam DLG leaders*

**ix) Designing and discussing the Plot allocation guidelines**

This is to assist in the allocation of plots to farmer households in Tochi and Wadelai Irrigation Schemes. The Plot allocation guidelines comprise the formation of an allocation committee that will mobilize and create awareness on the process of plot allocation amongst potential beneficiaries but also participate in the physical allocation of the plots.



*Chrisbert team and Oyam DLG discussing the plot allocation guidelines.*

**x) Community mobilization and sensitization via radio talk shows.**

The consultant organized a radio talk show programme at Pakwach FM in Pakwach district, to sensitize and create general awareness about the project and explain roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, in attendance was the RDC, DISO, Vice Chairman LCV, Area Councilor LCV and Chrisbert Sociologist.



*Chrisbert Consult team and Pakwach DLG leaders at Pakwach FM*

**Designed by:-**

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