Pink Revolution in Northern Uganda, Gender Transformative Contract Farming for Gender Equality and Household Resilience Project

BASELINE REPORT

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The Team of the Consultants are gratified with the cooperation of the district local government and lower local government officials in Alebtong district (Abia and Apala lower local governments) and Lira district (Agweng and Aromo lower local governments and partner institutions in Alebtong and Lira districts that made the data collection successful. Thanks to all the staff of Plan International Uganda Lira programme unit management that made it possible for us to complete the work through mobilizing the different respondents at the district and lower local government levels for Individual questionnaire administration, Interview, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII).

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ACRONYMS

FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/ Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
LG	Local Government
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAADS	National Agriculture Policy and National Advisory Services
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PLWHAS	Person Living With HIV/AIDS
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PWD	Person With Disability
SACCO	Saving & Credit Cooperative Organization
UGX	Uganda Shillings
VSLAs	Village Savings & Lending Associations

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The northern Uganda post conflict recovery programme has increased feminization of agriculture as a result of increased urbanization and the migration of many young men to urban centers and yet young women's growing labour force participation in agriculture in Lango sub-region has not necessarily translated into improvement in their livelihood status relative to men, or in their well-being. Many young women smallholders still encounter difficulties accessing training, key inputs and extension services. Lack relevant agribusiness skills; and Lack active young women voice in local policy making processes. To address this gender transformative challenge, Plan International Uganda and its consortium partners- Makerere university, VEDCO and Mukwano group of company secured a 3-year (March 2018 to February 2021) project financing from the SNPL BP 123 thorough Plan International Netherlands National office to implement the Gender Transformative Contract Farming for Gender Equality and Household Resilience Project in the sub-counties of Agweng and Aromo in Lira district, and Apala and Abia sub-counties in Alebtong district. This is to empower female farmers and increase the resilience of their households.

A baseline study was therefore commissioned to provide detailed baseline data that will enable the setting up of evidence-based benchmarks against which project measurement of progress and impact will be based to inform the project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process. Thus, the specific objectives of the baseline study were to:

1) Provide benchmark measures against the project's indicators and in the same vein pilot project indicators and data collection tools.
2) Document the current status in relation to vulnerability status, livelihood assets, livelihood strategies, food security situation, policy, process and institutional interactions of the target population partially visa-vie soybean production.
3) Assess soybean production levels, voice/decision making and women agency in market and justifications for inadequacy.
4) Assess existing interventions of soybean production meant to enhance voice/decision making and agency for women farmers.
5) To ascertain the level of gender transformative actions in regards to drafting of contracts, equal decision-making and development of bylaws and policies.
6) Assess the involvement of the private sector in the promotion of production and productivity of high quality soybeans.

Data was collected using quantitative, qualitative and participatory methods, namely: Document review, young women smallholder surveys, FGDs, KIIs, organizational capacity assessment, and gender based analysis. The key units of analysis included: (i) Smallholder youth women; (ii) the implementing partners and (iii) District and lower local governments. A total of 276 respondents were interviewed.

The majority knowledge in basic functional skills of smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were in savings and lending (78.3%; 78.3%), gender sensitivity (75.8%; 72.9%), financial literacy (55.4%; 56.7%),soybean agronomy (54.5%; 63.3%) and agribusiness (54.1%; 63.3%), compared to contract farming (29.3%; 20%).

An average land of 5 acres is being able to utilize by the youth smallholders in Alebtong district and 3.3 acres by youth smallholders in Lira district. These were either owned or rented, while 52.2% and 46.7% in Lira and Alebtong districts owned and rented land respectively. An average

farm size for soybean production ranged from 2.5 – 2.7 acres in Lira and Alebtong districts. An acre of land was rented at Uganda shillings 76,271 and 154,000 every year.

The average yield in kilograms per acre of soybean in first cropping season in Lira and Alebtong districts were 608.9 and 569.5 kilograms, compared to 290 and 220.3 Kilograms harvested in second cropping season. The average selling price per kilogram in second season is higher (1223 and 1028.6 Uganda shillings (UGX), compared to average selling price per kilogram in first season of 1097.8 and 1095.2 UGX resulting into higher average gross revenue from soybean of UGX 668,450.4 and 623,716.4 in the first cropping season, compared to low average income of UGX 354,670.0 and 226,600.6 only in the second cropping season accruing from yield per land size.

The awareness and use of foliar, organic,, inorganic fertilizers and planting leguminous trees in the garden and crop protection activities (chemical weed control and matching weed with control measures) were very low (6.4%, 1.7%; 14.6%, 35%; 5.1%,3.2% and 1.9%, 6.7%; 20.4%;35%) in Lira and Alebtong districts respectively. These were reflected in the low yield of soybean; however, the effect of the usage of local and own saved seeds cannot be ignored. The study found out that majority (90%; 86%)) of youth smallholders harvest their crops at the right time. However, harvesting challenges in Lira and Alebtong districts were spoilage by rain (52.2%; 56.7%), limited drying and storage facility (25.5%; 20%) and limited labor for harvesting (8.3%; 20%). In addition the majority (65%) youth smallholders in Alebtong district add value to their crops through cleaning, sorting, drying, packaging and processing and less than half (44%) youth smallholders in Lira district do add value to their crops after harvest and therefore youth smallholders in Alebtong district realize relatively higher income than those in Lira district.

The majority (100%, 97.5%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong belong to community groups of which 85.3% and 96.7% are in Village Savings & Lending Associations and 14.6%; 3.3% were members of typical smallholder groups. That means there were no bulking and selling in groups (91.7%; 93.3%). Many (80.9%) and less than half (41.7%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts sell their produce to mainly middlemen and very few (6.4% and 10%) to speculating buyers from faraway places. Sale of produce in the local market was common (94.9% and 85%) due to limited access to market information, differences in individual household demands and absence of group marketing structure. Many (77.7% and 78.3%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were affected by low prices and less than a third (16.7% and 11.7%) was affected by poor weighing. The lack of understanding of cost of production and net profits from the enterprises, adulteration of produce with thrush in order to increase weight were reported. In addition, very few (15.9% and 18.3%) keep farm records.

The youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts get income mainly from small scale crop farming (77.7% and 63.3%) and very few (9.6%, 6.4%, 3.5%, 0.6% and21.7%, 10%, 1.7%) from petty trade, livestock keeping, construction and services (99.5%), livestock/poultry (37.8%) and small enterprises/petty trade (15.1%). Almost half (44.6% and 48,3%) and less than a third (24.8%, 20.4%; 20%, 13.3%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts accessed extension services from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), fellow farmers and own group. Majority (82% and 73.3%) youth smallholders accessed agricultural inputs from the local markets and more than half (64.3%) youth smallholders accessed crop finances from Saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) in Lira district and less than a third (28.3% and 23.3%) accessed from private individuals and SACCO. Only (2.5% and 6.7%) IGAs in Lira and Alebtong districts were formally registered. Less than a tenth (7,6% and 5%) had written business plans; very

small percentage (17.2% and 8.3%) were conducting cost-benefit analysis for their IGAs; few (14.6%; 18.3%) kept business records and less than a third ((18.5%; 23.3%)) separated personal and business finances. This is an indication of low level of good business management practices. However, an average business values for Lira and Alebtong were 574,455.7 and 624,642.9 UGX and the smallholders are also saving small money that is reinvested in IGAs.

There is high reliance (80.9% and 88.3%) in Lira and Alebtong districts on own food production, thus putting the household members at risk of food vulnerability. Higher (98%, 90%) number do not have food all year round; 2% and 10% eat at least three meals a day and 81%, 100% eat together as a family. There is generally little consumption of animal protein among households attributed to little spending on food. Majority (98%, 70%; 69%, 68%) in Lira and Alebtong districts had inadequate food in the months of June and May, more than half (53%) in Alebtong had inadequate food in the month of April and less than a third (25% and 28%) had inadequate food in the months of July. The reasons for inadequate food in Lira and Alebtong were (39.5%, 40%) drought, (25.5%, 40%) poor crop yields and (29.3%, 6.7%) inadequate resources.

Both men and women participate in crop production, with major role played by women in the entire production chain of the commodity. Unfortunately very few participate in the downstream activities of the commodity value chain such as value addition and marketing, they have no control over land which is a major production factor and they hardly take part in the decision-making process at the household and institutional levels in their areas.

Gender equality in household decision making was less than 50%. Small number (30.9%) of smallholder women experienced quarrelling/verbal attack and less than a third (20.7%) had experienced fighting/physical abuse, 7.8% experienced denial of access to resources, 6% sexual abuse and 2.3% negligence. Majority (> 60%) female smallholders were involved in decision making on key household aspects such as major use of household income, use of credits, and asset acquisition among others. More than (53.5% and 55%) in Lira and Alebtong districts were very confident and a little bit confident but only with some help of others to participate in public decision making. Less than half (41.4%, 40%) are aware of their development rights (decentralized development), majority (73.9%, 65%) are aware of their rights to food security but < 38% have asked for support, benefited from local government projects, attended planning and project implementation meetings, and participated in monitoring of LG development projects.

The contract farmer model of Mukwano Group of Company is such that their agents determine prices. In circumstances of any delayed purchase by the company, the same agents can be used to organize purchase for other organizations. VEDCO structure proposes the flexibility in price negotiation during with produce at hand, transformative extensive services through district technical staff, project officers and community base trainers at the sub-county. This would ensure closeness to the farmers and also the sustainability of the system.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About Plan International Uganda

Plan International strives to advance children's rights and equality for girls all over the world by recognizing the power and potential of every single child that is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. As an independent development and humanitarian organisation, Plan International work alongside children, young people, its' supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. Plan International support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood, and enable them to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. The organisation drives changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using its reach, experience and knowledge.

Although Plan International has continued to build powerful partnerships for children in 70 countries for over 75 years, it has been in Uganda since 1992. The organisation's programmes are guided by a 5-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) that cover the period from 2017 to2021. The CSP focuses on: Youth Economic Empowerment; Quality and Inclusion in Early Childhood Development and Primary Education; Strengthening Child Protection Systems; Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) and Poor adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH); and Community Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Gender Equality, Civil Society Strengthening and Disaster Risk Reduction are the crosscutting priorities. As one of the leading child rights organizations in Uganda, currently Plan International Uganda works in mutual partnership with more than 40 civil society organizations, the government and the private sector in five regions of the country, namely; West Nile, North, Eastern, East Central, and Central and there is also a plan to expand to a sixth region: Karamoja. There are field offices in Adjumani, Lira, Tororo, Kamuli and Kampala, where the Country Office is located.

1.2 About Pink Revolution in Northern Uganda Project

Plan International Uganda with funding from the SNPL BP 123 and in conjunction with its consortium partners including Mukwano group of company, VEDCO, National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Wageningen UR (CDI – UR) and Makerere University is implementing the Pink Revolution in Northern Uganda, Gender Transformative Contract Farming for Gender Equality and Household Resilience Project in the sub-counties of Agweng and Aromo in Lira district, and Apala and Abia sub-counties in Alebtong district. The goal of the project is to empower female farmers in Northern Uganda to increase the resilience of their households. The results of the project include:

1. To increase income from soybeans for 2,500 smallholder farmers of which at least 80% are female.
2. To increase voice and agency of 2,000 female farmers in Northern Uganda.

The project targets 2,500 youth smallholder farmers (80% young women) who are mainly girls or child mothers, woman headed households, those affected by the former conflict in Northern Uganda and vulnerable young boys like orphans who do not have sufficient income to sustain their livelihoods and provide nutritious food for themselves and their children. It will also target those battered by gender inequality within the household, community and society that inhibits

their access to agriculture inputs, good farming practices, market information and affordable nutritious food.

1.3 Goal and Objectives of the Baseline

Goal

The main purpose of the baseline survey was to provide detailed baseline data that will enable the setting up of evidence-based benchmarks against which project measurement of progress and impact will be based. Therefore, the baseline focus is to inform the project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process.

Objectives

Objectives of the baseline included to:

1) Provide benchmark measures against the project's indicators and in the same vein pilot project indicators and data collection tools.
2) Document the current status in relation to vulnerability status, livelihood assets, livelihood strategies, food security situation, policy, process and institutional interactions of the target population partially visa-vie soybean production and the envisaged outcomes of this project.
3) Assess soybean production levels, voice/decision making and women agency in market and justifications for inadequacy.
4) Assess existing interventions of soybean production meant to enhance voice/decision making and agency for women farmers.
5) To ascertain the level of gender transformative actions in regards to drafting of contracts, equal decision-making and development of bylaws and policies.
6) Assess the involvement of the private sector in the promotion of production and productivity of high quality soybeans.

In addition to the specific objectives, the baseline survey will endeavor to respond to the following:

a) Consistency of the programme with key aspects of Plan International's Child Centred Community Development approach and Child Protection minimum standards.
b) Consistency of the programme with the new Country Strategy and how this study will contribute to the overall Country Strategy Goal and the Global Strategy.
c) Consistency of the programme with key standards of gender transformation.
d) The level of integration of the action into other Plan International Uganda interventions/projects.
e) How the project can strengthen the contribution of the internal monitoring system to the implementation of the programme and its monitoring and evaluation.
f) How the project can work with civil society organisations, communities, and children, gender and excluded groups and government.

To achieve the goal of the baseline survey, the consultant using the project theory of change, the M+E framework and adopted the project result chain shown in Figure 2.1.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Baseline Study Focus

The main contribution of the project is to provide opportunities for young smallholder women to gain empowerment and resilience in ways that will: increase income, increase ownership of productive assets, increase voice and decision making power of female youth engaged in soy bean production and productivity in order to reduce poverty among youths. As a result, the four (4) baseline units of analysis are in Table 2.1.

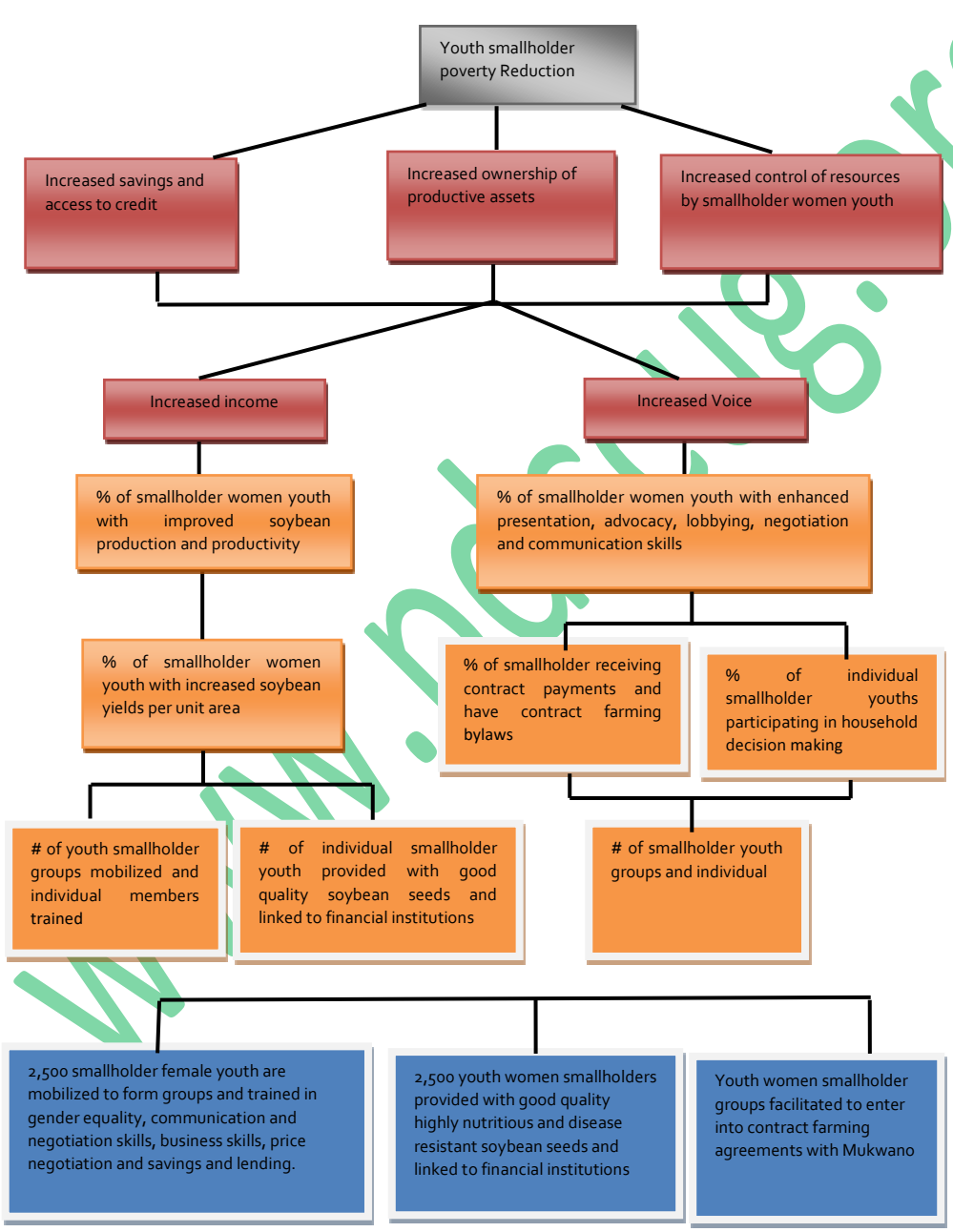


Figure 2.1: Adapted result chain for the project.

Table 2.1: Baseline units of analysis used in the study.

Level of analysis	Key respondents	Focus of analysis	Method of data collection
Policy level	Local governments	Agricultural policy, its opportunities, strategies and constraints for female youth livelihood resilience and contract farming.	Document review, Key Informant Interviews
Private sector level	Individual firm	Farming contract agreements, gender sensitive payment system, soybean quality assurance mechanisms, supply chain and marketing of soybean products and organizational development support for farmer group cooperative marketing.	Key informant Interview
Youth smallholder group level, Individual level	Members of youth farmer groups, Individual youth smallholder	Development and implementation of gender transformative activities and bylaws; access to farm inputs. Soy bean production and productivity levels (yields); Farming as a business, Post-Harvest handling and Safe use of chemicals; entrepreneurship skills/ practices (business plan development, financial literacy and savings and loan associations); productive asset ownership status; gender-based role differentiations.	Focus Groups Discussions Individual youth survey
Implementing partner level	Individual organization and firms	ICT use in agricultural extension and marketing; seed production capacity and outreaches.	Institutional capacity assessment

2.2 Baseline Study Sites

The baseline study was conducted in the sub counties of Apala and Abia in Alebtong district and sub counties of Agweng and Aromo in Lira district.

2.3 Baseline Respondents and their Sampling

The respondents were male and female smallholder group members, Plan International Uganda staff, Local Government officials and staff from local Non-Governmental Organizations and Private sector organizations (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Baseline study respondents.

Methods of data collection	Uni	# of people	Respondents
Individual smallholder survey	193	217	Random sample (80% females)
Focus group discussions with smallholder groups	2	48	1 Smallholder group per sub county
Key informant interviews with district local government officials	1	6	District Production Officer, District Agricultural Officer and District Cooperative Officer
Implementing partners	1	1	VEDCO
Private sector	0	0	Mukwano Group of companies
Key informant interviews with sub county officials	2	4	2 per sub county (Production and Community Development)
TOTAL	**204**	**276**	

Note: The smallholder group that participated in the FGD did not include those under individual member survey in each Sub County.

- Implementing partners, district local governments and youth smallholder groups were drawn using a purposive sampling approach.
- Individual smallholder youths were drawn exclusively from youth smallholder group members basing on a random sampling method. Overall, a random sample of 193 individual members of youth

smallholder groups were selected (Table 2.2). This sample size was arrived at using the single proportion of study population sampling method:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{e^2} \quad \text{..... (i)}$$

Where,

n	=	The sample size of the project smallholder population.
Z^2	=	The abscission of the normal curve that cuts off an area α at the tails (1- α equals the desired confidence level of 95%).
E	=	The desired level of precision of 95%.
P	=	The estimated proportion of youth's population in vulnerable employment in northern Uganda (85.3% according to UBOS, 2016).
Q	=	1-p.

Substituting the values of p = 85.3%, Z = 1.96, q =0.147 and e = 0.05 in equation (i);

n = 1.96^2 * 0.853*0.147/0.05^2

n = 193 (with 20% youth men and 80% youth women)

This sample size was considered as the minimum for guiding the study. Samples were drawn from among the 2,500 targeted project beneficiaries (i.e., members of youth groups participating in the project). Overall, the sampled population was selected from 30 youth smallholder groups and also according to the number of youths in the youth groups per each district. A proportion of approximately 80% female members was maintained in all the smallholder youth groups. Nonetheless, during the survey more (217) individual smallholders were interviewed: 28.1% were males and 71.9% females; 87.5% were married, 6.9% widowed, 2.8% separated and 2.8% were single. Average age of respondents was 39.4 years (Men, 38.4 years and women 39.6 years). While only 19.4% had no formal education, 64.1% had primary education, 10.6% had secondary education, and 2.8% had tertiary education and 2.8% with vocational education background. The overall mean household size in the project area was 6.4 people (Alebtong district = 7.2 people and Lira district = 5.9 people).

2.4 Baseline Study Phases

The baseline study was undertaken using four-step stages starting with inception, data collection, reporting and dissemination as is explained in the methodological steps (Figure 2.2).

2.5 Data Collection Methods

To elicit comprehensive information from the various stakeholders, the following data collection methods were used, namely:

- **Document review**: The following documents were reviewed – project proposal, project proposal results framework, project proposal mapping and targets, Plan International Uganda Gender Transformative guide, Quarter 1 report of Pink Revolution project, Plan International Uganda country strategic plan, UN Sustainable Development Goals, Uganda National Development Plan (2010-15 and 2015-20), National Agriculture Investment Plan, Uganda National Youth policy and the different strategic plans of the project area (district and sub county local governments), among others.

- **Individual youth smallholder survey:** A quantitative survey using structured questionnaire was conducted among young men and women smallholder farmers to elicit their views on soy bean production and productivity, food security, vulnerability, livelihood assets, livelihood strategies, food security situation, policy, process and institutional interactions, gender transformation, contract farming, gender equality and household resilience, advocacy activities, rights-based activities, participation of young men and women smallholders in local government planning and budgeting process; and their level of engagement with local government and other development partners.

- **Focus Group Discussions:** This provided an opportunity for the youth smallholder groups to discuss the variables in the individual smallholder survey questionnaire. It enabled the investigators to have an in depth understanding of knowledge and practices of the groups.

- **Key Informant Interviews:** Key informant interviews, using interview guides, was conducted with a number of players including Plan International Uganda staff in Lira programme unit and national office, private service providers - Mukwano group of companies and VEDCO staffs, sub county officials including Community Development Officers and Parish Chiefs and district officials (District Agricultural Officer, and District Community Development Officer-DCDO). The interview was focussed also on the variables in the individual smallholder survey questionnaire.

- **Capacity assessments**: This was done for selected private sector organizations (PSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) including VEDCO and relevant District Local Government Departments in the two districts. The assessment emphasized on the abilities of these support institutions to deliver quality requisite skills, mobilization, lobbying and advocacy, and leadership. Specifically for VEDCO, attention was drawn on the key skills required to provide training and mentorship in soy bean production and productivity, food security, vulnerability, livelihood assets, livelihood strategies, food security situation, policy, process and institutional interactions, gender transformation, contract farming, gender equality and household resilience, advocacy activities, rights-based activities, ICT use in agriculture and participation; what skills and capacities do they have and under what conditions do they use it.

- **Gender Based Analysis:** Was done at both individual smallholder and institutional levels based on the important roles and responsibilities of agricultural production to the individual and institutional relationship to agricultural production and marketing. The focus was to identify the social norms and activities that affect access to and control over resources as well as the network and relationships.

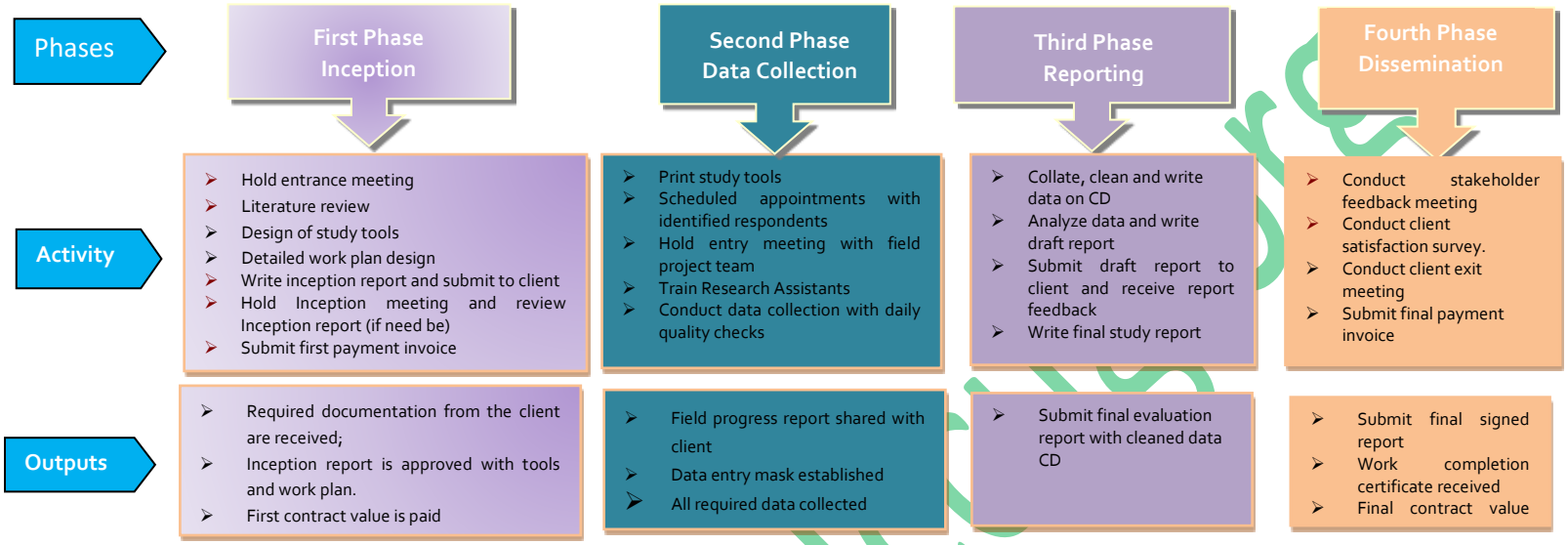


Figure 2.2: The four-stage methodological approach used in the baseline study.

2.6 Data Management

This phase involved the collation, cleaning and analysis of data from the different data sources in order to write the baseline report. A draft report was presented to Plan International Uganda for review. A validation meeting with project stakeholders was organized in order to help validate the findings. The feedback comments were then used to prepare the final report. Thereafter, a final report was submitted to Plan International Uganda.

During the data collection phase the Statistician set up a Data Mask to guide data entry and analysis. He also supervised both the data collection and data entry processes to ensure quality adherence. Once data entry was completed, he conducted data collation and cleaning.

To note is the fact that given the limited time frame for the study:

a) Data collection was done concurrently with data entry. This means the consultant traveled to the field with data entrants so as to reduce the time for data entry as well as error.
b) The Statistician supervised and ensured effective data entry right from the start.
c) The baseline reporting guideline was agreed upon beforehand with the Plan International Uganda.

Once data entry was complete, the Statistician conducted data collation, cleaning, and analysis using SPSS (V20). A missing data analysis was done to ensure validity and reliability.

Basing on the data analysis framework derived from the report guideline, the Statistician conducted data analysis using descriptive statistics (deriving counts, percentages, cross tabulations, tables, charts and graphs, etc.). The consultant also conducted narrative analysis of both qualitative and PRA data. These transcriptions (in MS Word) were aligned to the documentation report guidelines. However, in order to deepen the integration of the various data sources, an internal meeting was organized to discuss the findings of the different baseline focus. This allowed for effective data triangulation.

2.7 Quality Control

The main purpose of the proposed quality control system was to ensure that the consultancy services were provided in line with the Terms of Reference and at an appropriate professional level. To ensure adequate quality standards, the following measures were taken to enforce standards and quality control:

- *Adherence to international and sector standards:* In line with the inception report attention was paid on existing international and sector standards for eco-agriculture practices and organic agriculture principles performance indicator for youth farmer's green business opportunities.

- *Joint design of study instruments:* The Consultant designed the data collection tools in collaboration with the M+E Unit of Plan International Uganda and their coordination units in Lira district. This strengthened reliability, acceptability, question flow, and the duration of the interview.

- *Review and pretesting of study instruments*: Study instruments were designed by the consultant and reviewed by Plan International Uganda Pink Revolution project team. Prior to the main survey fieldwork, pre-test of all study tools was done to ensure reliability, acceptability, feasibility, question flow, and the duration of the interview. The pre-testing was done in settings outside of the survey areas. The pre-test results were used to modify the survey tools.

- *Involvement of M&E unit at all stages*: As a quality control measure the consultant team maintained a close consultative relationship with the client's M&E unit to ensure that indicators, tools and procedures meets the expectations of the client.

- *Social Mobilization for Data Collection:* To increase the response rate, the Consultant requested that Plan International Uganda coordination unit Staff in Lira district undertake prior mobilization of Pink Revolution project baseline respondents.

- *Data Management Procedures*: The data management and analysis plan was discussed and agreed with Plan International Uganda before data collection and analysis began. Besides, all data sets were returned back to Plan International Uganda. The consultant presented its data analysis in line with the reporting guidelines and agreed upon practices to be documented. This data management strategy ensured that data storage, handling and the types of analyses are relevant for the baseline.

2.8 Report Dissemination

A two-feedback mechanism to enrich the baseline report dissemination was used. A draft baseline report was shared internally with Plan International Uganda project team for review. A final report was produced and shared in a feedback workshop with key project stakeholders. However, the actual distribution of the printed and electronic copies of the evaluation reports was done by Plan International Uganda.

2.9 Child Protection Statement and other Ethical considerations

The team ensured that the following ethical research considerations and Plan's child protection policy were adhered to:

- Data collectors confirmed consent from respondents and or their legal caretakers/guardians, or any other adult in whose care the children under 18 years of age are for permission to participate in any survey before data collection.

- The respondents signed a consent form after explanation from the data collector.
- We included a statement of confidentiality for the beneficiary in all our tools, explaining the purpose of the survey and committing not to divulge individual respondent details but rather report on them as an aggregate thus protecting them.
- Our team signed confidentiality agreements in an effort to protect a client's paid up work and ensure that there are legal ramifications for breaking away from the code of conduct and policy by any enumerator or member of the team. Any sharing of information is only after receipt of written permission from the relevant people on the clients' team.
- Plan International Uganda availed our local field teams with a letter of introduction especially in the areas where the projects are conducted to facilitate introduction at the local government level and also explain the purpose of the baseline.

2.10 Limitation of the study

The baseline study had two drawbacks, that is, the inadequate number of days (only 5 days) and inadequate budget for 4 research assistants only: Ideally the baseline study field work was planned for 5 days, however, it took more days. With the long distances to project areas and busy schedule of respondents, many respondents were reached in the afternoon and some respondents especially partner lower local governments and private companies could not be reached. As a solution, the team extended the days for data collection. Especially to cover the far away sub counties and smallholder groups.

3 FINDINGS

3.1 Smallholder Exposure to Functional Skills Training

To assess the level of knowledge in basic functional skills, respondents were asked whether or not they have attended functional skills training that are related to the focus of Pink Revolution project. The majority of smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were exposed to trainings in savings and lending (78.3%; 78.3%), gender sensitivity (75.8%; 72.9%), financial literacy (55.4%; 56.7%),soybean agronomy (54.5%; 63.3%) and agribusiness (54.1%; 63.3%), compared to contract farming (29.3%; 20%). In Lira district the number of youth smallholder women was lower in business skills (28.8%), entrepreneurship (26.8%), soybean quality assessment (26.1%) and soybean quality assurance (34.4%). While in Alebtong district, the number of youth smallholder women was more than a third in business skills (46.7%), entrepreneurship (45%), soybean quality assessment (53.3%) and soybean quality assurance (60%) respectively (Figure 3.1). The very low number of smallholders that accessed trainings in contract farming, agribusiness based skills, entrepreneurship and soybean quality management demands for adequately planned capacity building in contract farming, agribusiness, entrepreneurship and soybean quality management that are important for poverty reduction. Here more effort needs to put on Lira district with low training. During KII with Coordinator of VEDCO, he emphasized that to achieve the project aim;

'The transformative extensive services should include district technical staff, project officers and community base trainers at the sub-county. This will ensure closeness to the farmers and also the sustainability of the system'.

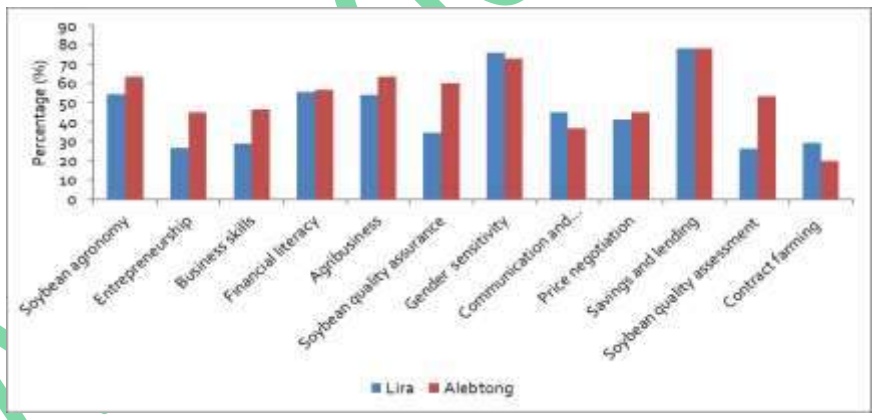


Figure 3.1: Attended functional skills training

3.2 Smallholder Status of Functional Skills and Practices

The youth smallholder group members were also asked about whether they practice the key functional skills acquired from the trainings (Figure 3.2). Majority of youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were practicing the acquired knowledge and skills in gender sensitivity (83.4%; 73.3%), savings and lending (79%; 86.7%), soybean agronomy (63.7%; 70%), financial literacy (53.5%; 53.3%) and agribusiness (51%; 66.7%), compared to contract farming (13.4%; 11.7%).) Although the functional skills were adequately practiced in Alebtong district (> than 50%) as

compared in Lira district (43.3%), the result explains the low level of agribusiness growth and increasing poverty level in the project area.

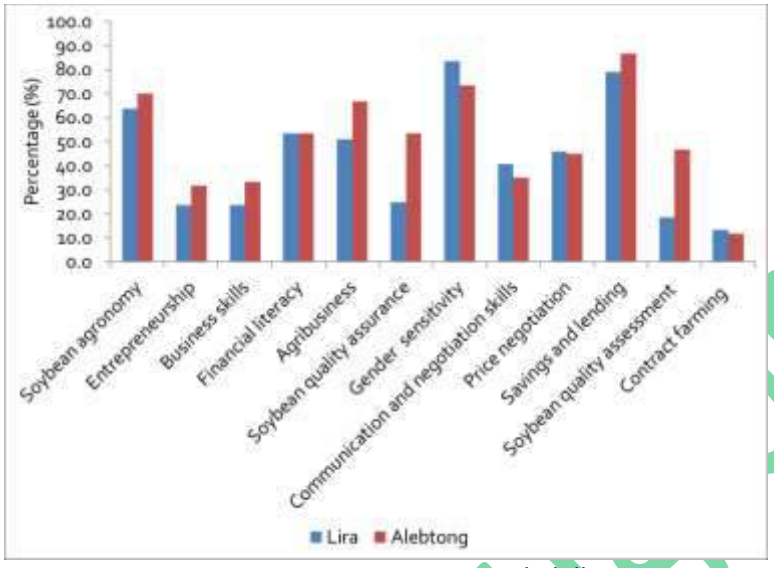


Figure 3.2: Practice Functional Skills.

3.3 Smallholder Soybean Production and Productivity

3.3.1 Land access and ownership

Access to land is important for youth livelihood enhancement as it is a critical natural resource in agriculture where majority youth smallholders derive their livelihoods. Majority (53.3%) youth smallholders in Alebtong district and less than half (43.3%) youth smallholders in Lira district were able to utilize on average 6.4 acres and 5.9 acres respectively. Youth smallholders in Alebtong on average own more land (5 acres) than youth smallholders in Lira district owning only 3.3 acres of land. More than half (52.2%) youth smallholder women in Lira district and less than half youth smallholder women in Alebtong district both owned and rented land (Figure 3.3). The average farm size for soybean production utilized by the youth smallholders in Alebtong and Lira districts were 2.7 acres and only 2.5 acres respectively. Compared to the average number of people in a smallholder household of 6.4 in Alebtong district and 6.7 in Lira district; the households have small land sizes that cannot support the families. Therefore, youth smallholders were compelled to rent land in order to increase production and productivity of their enterprises. The study revealed that on average youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts rent an acre of land at Uganda shillings 76,271 and 154,000 every year.

Figure 3.3: Land Access to Young Smallholders.

3.3.2 Soybean yield and income status

The amount of crop harvested per season determines the income earned by individual youth smallholders. The average yield in kilograms per acre of soybean in first cropping season in Lira and Alebtong districts were 608.9 and 569.5 kilograms, compared to 290 and 220.3 Kilograms harvested in second cropping season (Figure 3.4). This indicates that soybean yield in the first cropping season is higher than in the second cropping season. This is attributed to the relatively reliable and adequate amount of rainfall received in the first season as compared to second season unreliable and reduced amount of rainfall. The average selling price per kilogram in second season is higher (1223 and 1028.6 Uganda shillings (UGX), compared to average selling price per kilogram in first season of 1097.8 and 1095.2 UGX respectively. The youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts had higher average gross revenue from soybean of UGX 668,450.4 and 623,716.4 in the first cropping season, compared to low average income of UGX 354,670.0 and 226,600.6 only in the second cropping season respectively. The estimates of the average yield per average land size of soybean per cropping season resulted into average monthly youth smallholder soybean income of UGX 167,112.6 and 88,667.5 in first and second cropping seasons in Lira district and UGX 155,929.1 and 56,650.1 only for first and second cropping seasons in Alebtong district respectively.

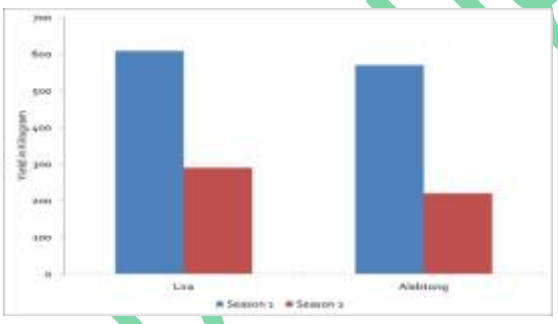


Figure 3.4: Soybean yield

3.4 Agronomic Practices

Improved agronomic practices increases crop outputs (Van der Vossen, 2005). There was high levels of awareness and practice of early land opening, timely and good seed bed preparation, early planting, correct spacing, row planting and correct seed rate, use of cover crops, timely weeding, mechanical weed control, early pest and disease detection, identification of the correct pest and disease, chemical pest and disease control, cultural pest and disease control and harvesting practices among the youth smallholders in both Lira and Alebtong districts (Table 3.1). However, awareness and practice of chemical weed control, matching weed with control measures, planting leguminous trees in the garden, use of foliar fertilizer, use of organic fertilizer, use of inorganic fertilizer and crop protection activities were very low. The low level of fertilizer, and pest and disease control measures was also reflected in the low yield of soybean (section 3.3.2). The low yield is attributed to sources of the planting materials which are from the local and own saved seeds (Figure 3.5) and production challenges (Figure 3.6).

3.5 Crop Production Challenges

The main production challenges affecting youth smallholders in the districts of Alebtong and Lira were increasing incidences of pests and diseases, low crop yield and inadequate agricultural inputs (Figures 3.6).

Table 3.1: Agronomic practices of youth smallholders

Aware and Practice	Lira (%)	Alebtong (%)	Overall (%)
Planting and Plant Population			
Early land opening	96.8	98.3	97.6
Timely and good seed bed preparation,	89.8	76.7	83.2
Early /Timely planting	93.0	98.3	95.7
Correct spacing	78.3	96.7	87.5
Correct seed rate	59.2	75.0	67.1
Row /Line planting	80.9	90.0	85.4
Seed broad casting	28.7	28.3	28.5
Sub average	**75.3**	**80.5**	**77.9**
Plant Nutrition			
Use of organic fertilizer	14.6	35.0	24.8
Use of inorganic fertilizer	5.1	0.0	2.5
Use of granular fertilizer	3.2	0.0	1.6
Use of foliar fertilizer	6.4	1.7	4.0
Planting leguminous trees in the garden	16.6	15.0	15.8
Mulching	33.8	45.0	39.4
Use of cover crops	57.3	70.0	63.7
Sub average	**19.6**	**23.8**	**21.7**
Plant Protection			
Timely weeding	94.3	98.3	96.3
Chemical weed control	1.9	6.7	4.3
Mechanical weed control	94.3	86.7	90.5
Mechanical and chemical weed control	8.3	3.3	5.8
Matching weed with control measures	20.4	35.0	27.7
Early pest and disease detection	92.4	86.7	89.5
Identifying correct pest and disease	63.1	88.3	75.7
Chemical pest and disease control	62.4	0.0	31.2
Cultural practices of pest and disease control	49.7	56.7	53.2
Integrated pest and disease control	9.6	1.7	5.6
Biological pest and disease control	16.6	6.7	11.6
Sub average	**46.6**	**42.7**	**44.7**

Harvesting crops at the right time is one of the ways to increase production for higher income. The study found out that majority (90%; 86%) of youth smallholders in Alebtong and Lira districts harvest their crops at the right time. This indicates there is a reduced crop loss in the garden due to shattering and stray animals. The three (3) main harvesting challenges facing young smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were spoilage by rain (52.2%; 56.7%), limited drying and storage facility (25.5%; 20%) and limited labor for harvesting (8.3%; 20%)

respectively (Figure 3.7). The high harvesting and post-harvesting challenges calls for the need to build capacities of smallholders in reducing post-harvest losses to improve the quality of produce for increased income from the crops.

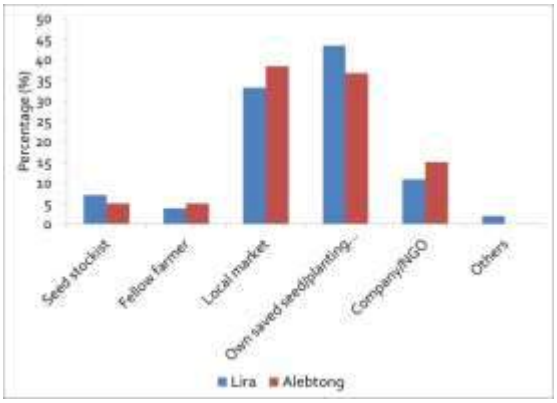


Figure 3.5: Sources of planting materials.

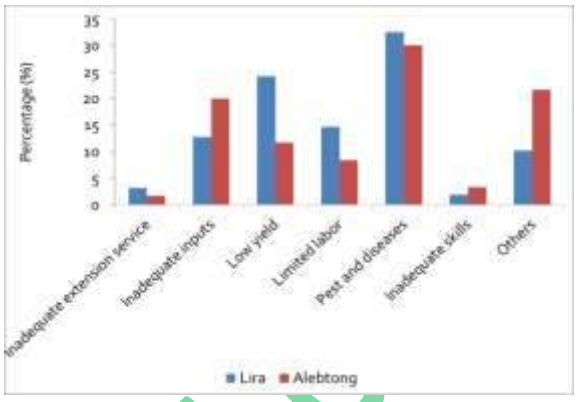


Figure 3.6: Production challenges

Figure 3.7: Youth smallholder harvesting challenges.

During FGD, the Cak Itic group in Aromo sub-county the members mentioned that there were some organizations that have ever worked with them. These include;

1) German Agro that gave out pigs, soy beans, onions, tomatoes and egg plant seeds to the group members. The company got into contract with 2 members in the group and provided them with 25 kg of 5N soy bean seed. These individuals were to multiple the seeds through mono cropping of the soy bean. However, they ended up selling all the harvest at higher price of 1,400 per kg. During the same period, other members of the group were provided with 12 kg each of soy beans of different variety. However, they had no idea of the specificity of the variety.
2) NAADS provided the group with beans, G/nuts, citrus seedlings and dairy cattle.
3) VEDCO gave out beans, G/nuts and hand hoes.

3.6 Value Addition to Crop Harvests

Value addition[1] enhances productivity of smallholders' crop harvest. The respondents were asked whether they add value to their crops before selling. The study found out that majority (65%) youth smallholders in Alebtong district add value through cleaning, drying, sorting, packaging and processing to their crops and less than half (44%) youth smallholders in Lira district do add value to their crops after harvest respectively. This indicates that youth smallholders in Alebtong district relatively get more income than youth smallholders in Lira district as explained earlier under yield and income section.

3.7 Market Access and Linkages

Smallholder groups are platforms for easy access to better markets as collective bargaining increases benefit for the individual group members. The study found out that all (100%) youth smallholders in Alebtong district and majority (97.5%) youth smallholders in Lira district belong to a community group respectively. High percentage (85.3%; 96.7%) of the young smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts belongs to Village Savings & Lending Associations and very few (14.6%; 3.3% only) were members of typical smallholder groups (Figure 3.8). This finding shows the need to develop the many smallholder groups into producer groups to enable their members have access to agricultural credit and sustainable markets.

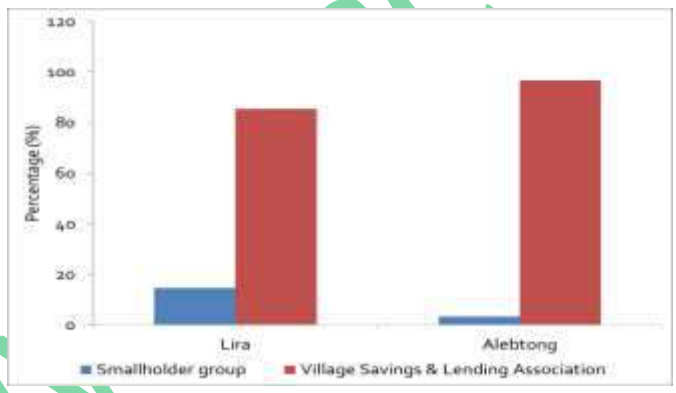


Figure 3.8: Membership in community groups.

Despite the high number of membership in community groups, the study found out that more than three quarter (91.7%; 93.3%) of the group members in Lira and Alebtong districts do not bulk and sell in groups. Majority (70.7% and 68.3%) youth smallholders in Alebtong and Lira districts sell their agricultural products individually because of other reasons including varying individual household demands and absence of group marketing structure (16.6%; 11.7%) respectively (Figure 3.9). The individual selling exposes smallholders to exploitation by middlemen and thus reducing the income earned from the agricultural products.

[1] Value-addition in agriculture is changing a raw agricultural product into something new through cleaning, sorting,packaging, processing, cooling, drying, extracting or any other type of process that differentiates the product from the original raw commodity.

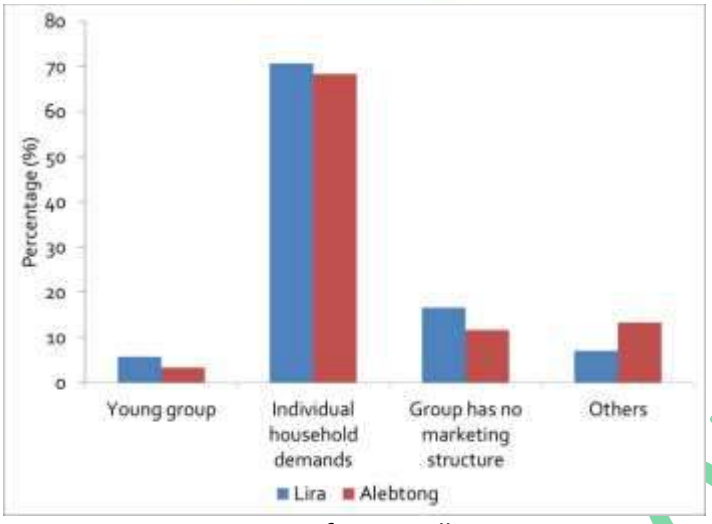


Figure 3.9: Reason for not selling in groups.

The study also found out that majority (94.9% and 85%) of the youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were selling their agricultural products in the local market. Many (80.9%) and less than half (41.7%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts sell their produce to mainly middlemen and very few (6.4% and 10%) to speculating buyers from faraway places.

Market information is important for the realization of higher income. In this view, respondents were asked where they get market information from. Very few (5.7%; 6.7%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were not receiving any market information. Less than half (43.3%, 27.4%, 20.4%) youth smallholders in Lira district and the same percentage (41.7%, 35%, 11.7%) in Alebtong district got market information from buyers, through radios and extension agents respectively. The limited access to market information continued to negatively affect the productivity of smallholder enterprises thus the need to focus on developing marketing potentials for the smallholder groups. In a FGD with Can Dak Kun group and KII with district officials revealed that farmers do not reap much from their produce especially soybean because middlemen offer very low farm - gate prices (800-1000 Ugandan shillings per kilogram), thus benefiting the middlemen who buy the produce cheaply and sell for a handsome profit.

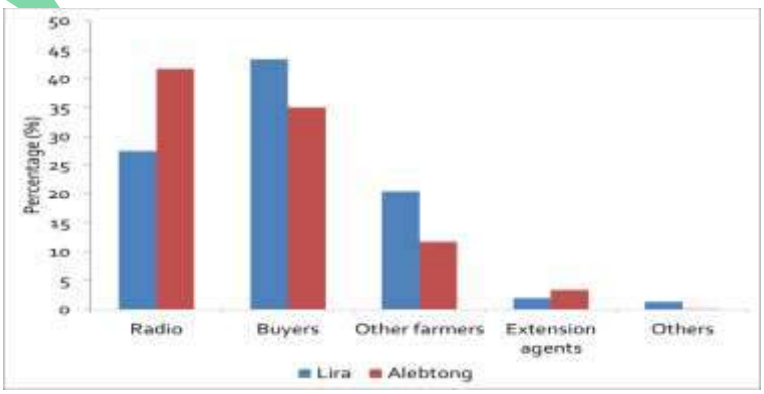


Figure 3.10: Sources of market information.

In addition to the limited access to market information, the smallholders face a number of challenges in selling agricultural produce / products. These constrain their ability to realize increased income. In a similar vein, the respondents were asked what critical challenges they encounter during marketing. More than two third (77.7% and 78.3%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtng districts were affected by low prices and less than a third (16.7% and 11.7%) were affected by poor weighing respectively (Figure 3.11). The low prices were attributed to the inability of smallholders in identifying and calculating their cost of production and net profits from the enterprises. Therefore, these make it impossible for them to know the selling price at which they can breakeven and or make profit. There is need for training and mentorship in enterprise cost-benefit analysis. The KII also revealed other issues as related to quality of the produce. In addition, FGD with the youth smallholders, Cak Itic at Apuwa parish, Aromo Sub-county revealed that some farmers mixed their produce with the thrush. This is aimed at increasing the weight. Others take the produce to the market before adequately drying. In this regard, one member narrated a nasty experience where the buyer intentionally delayed payment for the produce and kept the farmer's supply for four (4) days in their store to allow germination of the soy bean in the sack to occur. On the return of the youth smallholder farmer to the store, the sack of the soy bean was handed back to him. This then sent a signal to the youth smallholders that the buyers were already aware of their tricks.

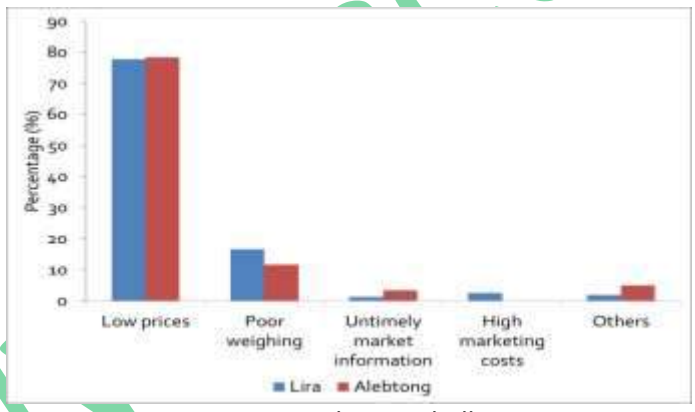


Figure 3.11: Marketing challenges.

3.8 Record Keeping

For smallholders to assess profitability of their agricultural enterprises, it is important to keep records that can help them identify and calculate the costs and benefits of the specific enterprise. The study found out that very few (15.9% and 18.3%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts keep farm records respectively. In a similar order, less than one tenth (7.6%, 7% and 0.6%) in Lira district and (15%, 5% and 3.3%) in Alebtong district keep crop production information, financial transaction information and pest and disease control information respectively (Figure 3.12). The finding also shows the inadequacy in keeping farm records and therefore, youth smallholders cannot know whether they realize profit or not but continue farming as usual. This calls for building capacity of youth smallholders in appreciating and using farm records in calculating profitability of their different enterprises for increased income generation.

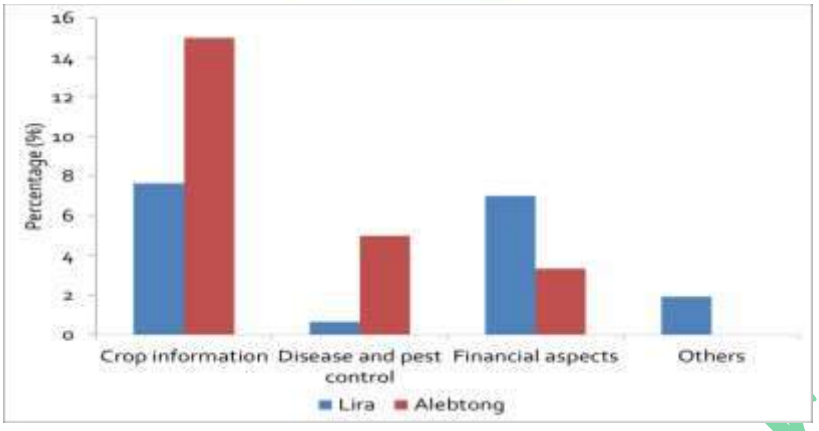


Figure 3.12: Types of farm records

3.9 Access to Agricultural Support Services

The provision and access to agricultural support services is an impetus to increasing and sustaining smallholder production and productivity for poverty reduction. In pursue, the respondents were asked the different types of support services they access. Very few (6.4% and 11.7%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were not accessing any agricultural support service. Almost half (44.6% and 48,3%); less than a third (24.8%, 20.4%; 20%, 13.3%) and less a tenth (1.3%; 1.7%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts accessed extension services from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), fellow farmers and own group and extension officers of local governments respectively (Table 3.5). Majority (82% and 73.3%) youth smallholders accessed agricultural inputs from the local markets and more than half (64.3%) youth smallholders accessed crop finances from Saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) in Lira district and less than a third (28.3% and 23.3%) accessed from private individuals and SACCOs respectively. The findings show the need to increase smallholder access to extension services, agricultural inputs and agricultural finances in a manner that meets their interest.

Table 3.2: Access to agricultural support services

Access to agricultural support services	Lira (%)	Alebtong (%)	Overall (%)
None	6.4	11.7	9.0
Extension services			
Own group	20.4	20.0	20.2
Government	1.3	1.7	1.5
NGOs	44.6	48.3	46.5
Fellow farmers	24.8	13.3	19.1
Private extension service providers	2.5	5.0	3.8
Sub average	**15.6**	**14.7**	**15.2**
Agricultural inputs			
Own group	1.9	16.7	9.3
Government	0.6	1.7	1.2
Fellow farmers	12.2	6.7	9.4
Local market	82.1	73.3	77.7
Registered input dealers	3.2	0.0	1.6
Sub average	**20.0**	**19.7**	**19.8**
Crop finances			
Financial institutions	0.0	5.0	2.5
Private individuals	12.7	28.3	20.5
Input providers	0.6	0.0	0.3
Neighbors and relatives	1.9	11.7	6.8
SACCOs	64.3	23.3	43.8
Sub average	**15.9**	**13.7**	**14.8**

3.10 Enterprise and Business Management Practices

The productivity of economic activities is dependent on the type and management practices employed. In the survey, respondents were asked whether they have Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and the type of income generating activities they are engaged in. The study shows majority (97.5%; 96.7%) of youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong do have IGAs. The majority (77.7% and 63.3%) were involved in crop enterprises as Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and very few (9.6%, 6.4%, 3.5%, 0.6% and21.7%, 10%, 1.7%) in Lira and Alebtong districts are involved in trade, livestock keeping, construction and services (Figure 3.13).

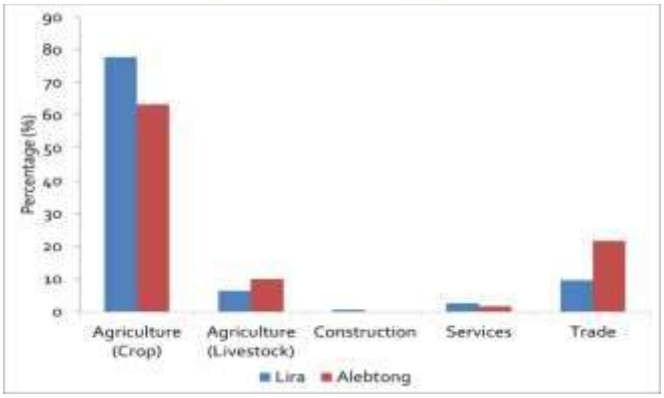


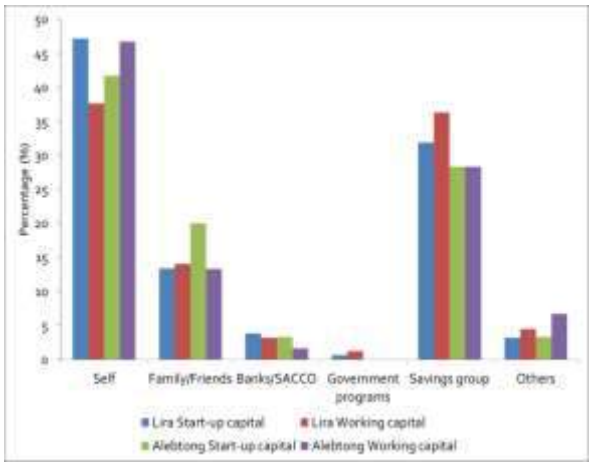
Figure 3.13: Types of Income Generating Activities.

3.11 Use of Business Management Practices

Recognizing the importance of effective business management practices in improving IGA performance, respondents were asked whether their IGAs were formally registered or not, in addition to the kind of the business management practices. The study found out that only very few (2.5% and 6.7%) youth smallholder IGAs in Lira and Alebtong districts were formally registered. Less than a tenth (7.6% and 5%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts had written business plans for their IGAs; very small percentage (17.2% and 8.3%) of the young smallholders were conducting cost-benefit analysis for their IGAs; few (14.6%; 18.3%) kept business records and less than a third ((18.5%; 23.3%)) youth smallholders separated personal and business finances in Lira and Alebtong districts respectively (Figure 3.14). Overall, there was low level of good business management practices among smallholders and calls for capacity building of youth smallholder group members for improved IGA performances.

Improving performance of smallholder IGAs requires better business management practices. In response to this, respondents were asked what their main sources of start-up capital, savings, regular expenditure item and sources of working capital are. The study found out that majority (47.1%, 31.8% and 41.7%, 28.3%) and (37.6%, 36.3% and 46.7%, 28,3%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts mainly get their start-up capital and working capital from self and savings group respectively (Figure 3.15). On average youth smallholders in Lira district invested more (235,986 UGX) compared to Alebtong district with 186,214.3 UGX only in their Income Generating Activities. The study also found out that on average in Lira and Alebtong districts; youth smallholders' current business values were 574,455.7 and 624,642.9 Uganda shillings respectively. This finding indicates increase in commodity market values of youth smallholder IGAs that relates directly to returns generated. In addition, the study found out that majority (76.4% and 85%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts save with savings groups (Figure 3.16). More than half (51%) and less than a third (25.5%) youth smallholder in Lira district regularly spends on education and food and a third (33.3% and 31.7%) in Alebtong district regularly spends on education an food respectively (Figure 3.17). This indicates that smallholders are saving small money to invest in IGAs and therefore there is need for support in promoting Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) to increase investments in IGAs. This finding also indicates there is limited smallholder access to formal financial services that has direct negative impact on business performances. There could be a deliberate support

to linking smallholders to financial services. Increase in business value is related to the growth of IGAs that is important in increasing smallholder income.



3.15: Main sources of start-up and working capital.

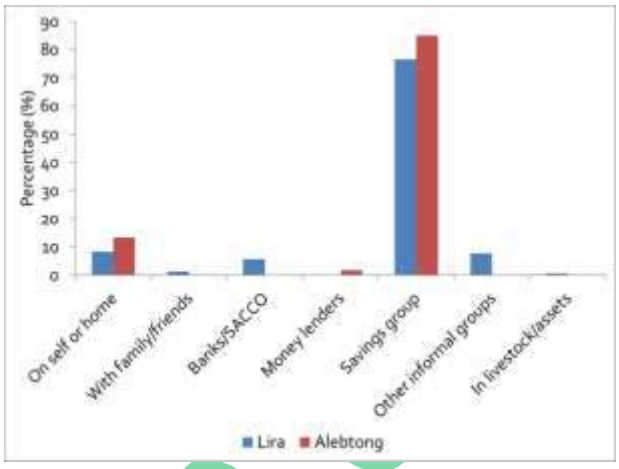


Figure 3.16: Where youth smallholders save.

In Apuwa parish, Aromo Sub-county, Cak Itic group had very few youthful members. The reason given was that;

'Youths spend borrowed money carelessly. However, those who are members are always advised to use borrowed money for the purpose the money is borrowed for or even buy assets that can be used for the loan recovery in circumstance they are unable to pay back. We encourage them to borrow relatively small amounts of money. To avoid loan defaulting, we make the parents of the youths to assent in order to take full responsible of the terms and conditions of borrowing'.

Some members used the borrowed money for;

- Buying plot of land and animals
- Payment of school fees and dowry
- An elderly women reported using the money for care of the needs of the grand children

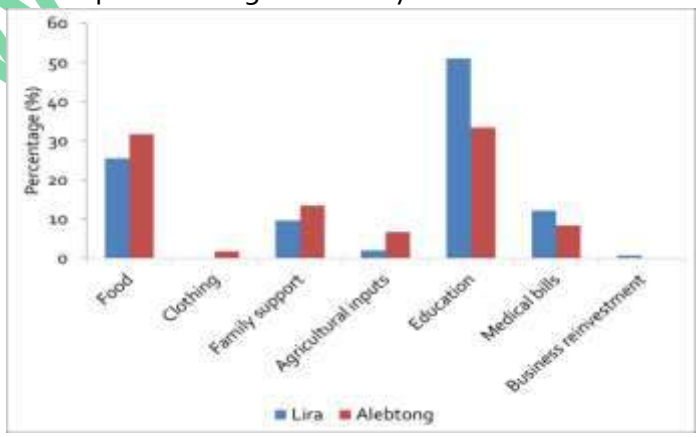


Figure 3.17: Regular expenditure item.

KII in Alebtong district revealed that the composition of the groups that have formed cooperatives are mostly the elderly and they have been encouraging the youths to join. However, there are leadership challenges; some tag their membership to having perpetual leadership position. This contravenes the rotational leadership system enshrined in their constitution. In addition, men tend to hijack the leadership position from women in some cases, particularly when there are some critical issues to be solved- Women tend to shy away in such circumstances. The District Commercial Officer (DCO) of the same district also said that;

'Men that are disgruntled with the involvement of their women in the cooperative activities in most occasions encouraged borrowing and later default in the payment. This always led to their wives pulling off from the group activities.'

'The vulnerability of the cooperative members also contribute to their dis-orientation. This is because 60% of the farmers in the communities operate at an individual level and the HHs are also characterized by inadequate funding. The DCO rated the performance of the cooperatives at 20% since they can only access and negotiate for inputs like seeds only.'

However, in most of the women VSLA, the DCO rated their performance as good due to their quick loan repayment and recovery. This is because the women have fully embraced the saving culture. They always said;

'The saving culture helps in times of financial crisis in their households.'

3.12 Smallholder Household Economic Status

Improving the economic status of smallholders is the only way to measure the poverty levels of the rural youths. In this regard, the respondents were asked the main sources of their income. Almost all (100% and 98.3%) youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts get income mainly from small scale crop farming and very few (14%, 5.7%, 4.5%) from livestock/poultry, seasonal employment and petty trade in Lira district and (23.3%, 30%) from livestock/poultry and small enterprises/petty trade in Alebtong district respectively (Figure 3.18). The common crops being grown in the project area were soybeans, maize, beans, peas, sesame, cotton, cassava, sunflower, millet, potato and sorghum.

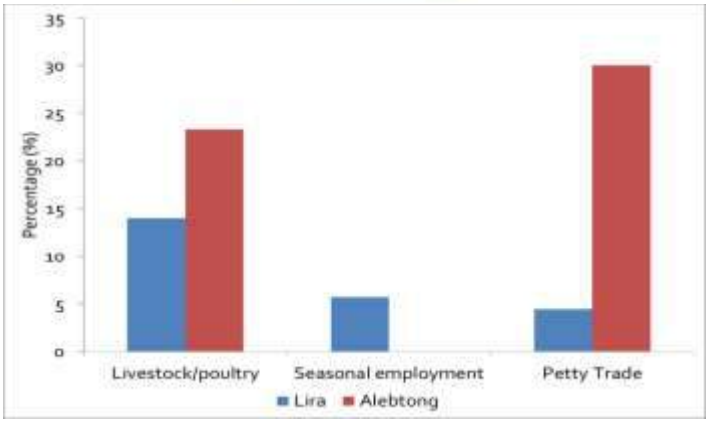


Figure 3.18: Main income sources.

3.13 Employment and Net Monthly Income

The performance of an IGA is determined by its labor productivity depending on the number of laborers and effective hours of working. Higher labor productivity increases income. Table 3.3 shows the average number of people employed in IGAs, the average number of people employed on IGAs, the average hours worked, average monthly wages and average monthly income were 8.7, 8.5; 5.8, 5.5 hours; 62,576 UGX, 65,257 UGX and 141,096.2 UGX, 78,053.6 UGX for Lira and Alebtong districts respectively (Table 3.3). This findings show labor productivity is lower in the project area. This is explained by the low labor cost and youth involvement in early drinking of sachet packaged alcohol (Locally known as *Kavera* drink). This calls for increasing labor productivity through sensitization of the youth and mechanization of the production process.

In addition, the study found out that the total average monthly income of youth smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were 462,995.3, 310,226.8 Uganda shillings and total average monthly expenditure were 383,285.1, 344,881.4 Uganda shillings respectively. This gives a net monthly household income of 79,710.2 Uganda shillings for Lira district and (34,654.6) Uganda shillings for Alebtong district respectively. This indicates youth smallholders in Alebtong district have a negative net monthly income, thus worsening their poverty situation. There is need to focus more on increasing their productivity.

3.14 Household Productive Asset Ownership Status

Household productive assets can easily be converted into incomes that are re-invested in to other IGAs. Table 3.4 shows youth smallholders in Lira district on average own more (11.7, 5,5 and 3.2) poultry, cows and mattresses than those in Alebtong district with only (10.9, 2,7 and 2.3) poultry, cows and mattresses on average and all youth smallholders have at least 1 bicycle, a radio, a mobile phone and chairs with cushions. The total productive asset value is estimated at 8,330,856.3 Uganda shillings. This indicates that the net monthly income is converted in to the assets as a means of saving. The total financial worth of the smallholders in the project area is estimated at 9,958,232.4 Uganda shillings (Table 3.5).

Table 3.3: Labor productivity. Note: * average number of working days per month is 22 days.

Aspects	Productivity		Remarks
	Lira	Alebtong	
Average number of people employed in IGA	8.7	8.5	
Average working hours per day*	5.8	5.5	Less working hours
Average monthly wage in UGX	62,576	65,257	
Average monthly income from IGA in UGX	141,096.2	78,053.6	
Average annual household income in UGX	**5,555,943.6**	**3,722,721.6**	

Table 3.4: Productive asset ownership and value.

Asset	Number		Asset estimated average earnings in UGX		Total asset value in UGX
	Lira	Alebtong	Lira	Alebtong	
Cows	5.5	2.7	3,179,709.3	2,430,719.9	5,610,429.2
Goats/sheep/pigs	4.6	5.1	382,953.5	508,828.6	891,782.1
Poultry	11.7	10.9	100,959.3	128,114.3	229,073.6
Bicycles	1	1.3	150,714.3	135,000.0	285,714.3
Radios	1.1	1	69,857.1	27,000.0	96,857.1
Mobile phones	1.1	1.3	42,000.0	70,000.0	112,000.0
Chairs with cushion	1.3	1.3	222,000.0	575,000.0	797,000.0
Mattresses	3.2	2.3	183,000.0	125,000.0	308,000.0
Total			**4,331,193.5**	**3,999,662.8**	**8,330,856.3**

Table 3.5: Smallholder financial net worth.

Aspects	Mean value of asset wealth (UGX)		Total Mean value of assets (UGX)
	Lira	Alebtong	
Estimated total value of productive asset	4,331,193.5	3,999,662.8	8,330,856.3
Average amount saved in the bank/SACCO	227,413.8	207,500.0	434,913.8
Average amount in cash at hand	92,231.0	102,000.0	194,231.0
Average amount in credit	105,517.2	280,000.0	385,517.2
Average amount in debts	125,172.4	487,541.7	612,714.1
Net worth	**4,881,528**	**5,076,704.5**	**9,958,232.4**

3.16 Household food security status

3.16.1 Feeding practices

The sources of food items are directly related to household accessibility to food and the dietary intake of the household members. In this view, respondents were asked to mention where their households get different food items from. Almost all (80.9% and 88.3%) in Lira and Alebtong districts got food from own production and very few (19.1% and 11.7%) smallholder households got food from the markets. This finding indicates majority households still rely on own food production, thus putting the household members at risk of food vulnerability in case of abrupt loss of food production. Increasing income sources of the households would enable easy access to food during time of food shortages.

To confirm household availability of food, respondents were also asked whether they had food all year round and if they ate at least three (3) meals a day. Almost all (98%, 90%) in Lira and Alebtong districts do not have food all year round; very few (2%, 10%) eat at least three meals a day and many (81%; 100%) eat together as a family respectively. This finding confirms household unreliability on own food production for sustainable food security. For households to have adequate food throughout the year, there is need to support their food production capacities. Despite, the inadequate food supply in the households, majority smallholder households ate together as a family and share food equally. The mentioned reasons for the inadequacy of food are in Figure 3.18.

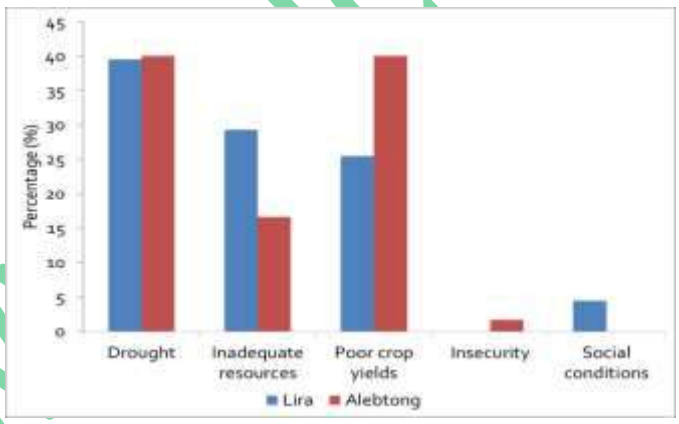


Figure 3.18: Reasons for inadequate food.

The KII also revealed that majority of farmers (households) over the last 3 years especially 2016 (worse), had less than three meals per day in 3 years (2014 - 2016).

3.16.2 Dietary food diversity

The number of unique foods consumed over a given period of time, provides information on household food security. In a similar vein, respondents were also asked whether they ate the different foods in the last 7 days. Figure 3.19 shows few (47.1%, 65%; 43.9%, 26.7%; 31.8%, 31.7%; 24.2%, 41.7% and 13.4%, 3.3%) youth smallholder households in Lira and Alebtong districts eat meat, fish, dairy products, eggs and take alcohol respectively. This findings indicate there is generally little consumption of animal protein among households, thus

exposing vulnerable household members including children, pregnant women and the sick to malnutrition related diseases. Therefore there is need to create awareness on dietary intake and food security and also build capacity of the households to produce and or buy the required food items.

Dietary intake levels are directly related to household expenditure on food. In this regard, respondents were asked how much money in UGX they spend on food on a monthly basis. The study found out that household average expenditure on food in Lira and Albtong districts for male respondents in UGX was 105,217 and UGX 74,222 only for female respondents for a household with 6.7 and 6.4 people. This finding shows the relationship between household size and amount spent on food, calling for strategies geared towards increasing access to food and income of the households.

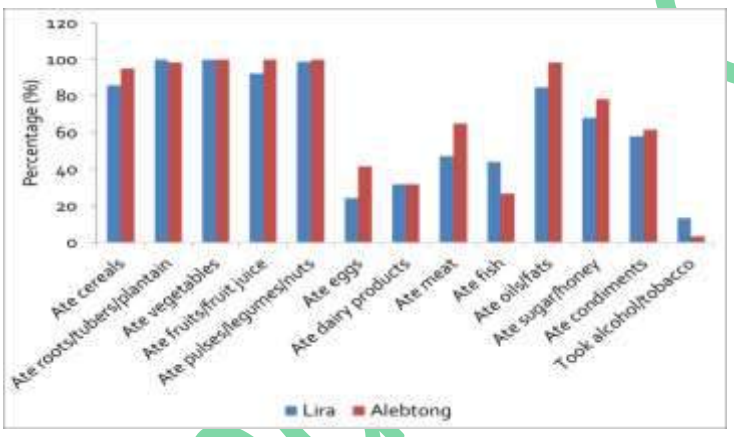


Figure 3.19: Dietary intake.

3.16.3 Food availability

The number of months without adequate food determines household food security status. While KII revealed that inadequate food was relatively experienced throughout the year, to ascertain the critical periods, respondents were asked which months of the year they had inadequate food. The majority (98%, 70%; 69%, 68%) smallholder households in Lira and Alebtong districts had inadequate food in the months of June and May, more than half (53%) in Alebtong had inadequate food in the month of April and less than a third (25% and 28%) had inadequate food in the months of July respectively (Figure 3.20). This finding show Alebtong and Lira districts have a four months long period of inadequate food, making the project area a food insecure place. The three (3) main reasons given for the inadequate food in Lira and Alebtong districts include: 39.5%, 40% drought, 25.5%, 40% poor crop yields and 29.3%, 6.7% inadequate resources (Figure 3.18).

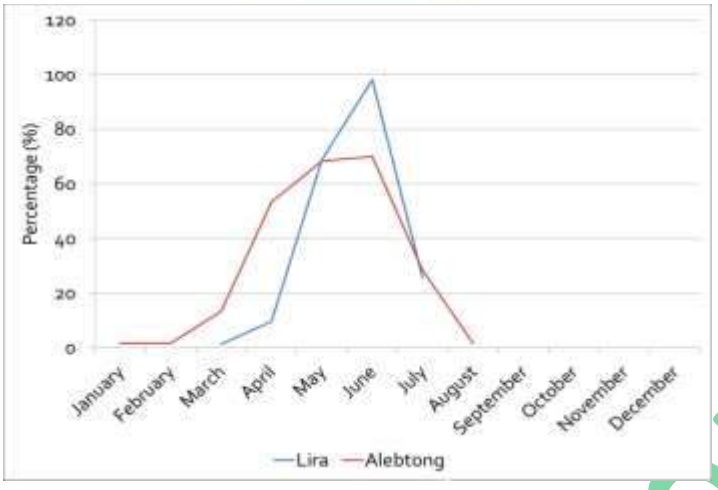


Figure 3.20: Months of inadequate food

3.17 Smallholder Health and Education Statuses

The health and education statuses of smallholders determine their labor productivity needs for increased farm and business performances. In this view, the respondents were asked the number of household members that fell sick in the last six months, number of days they were sick, where they were treated and how much was spent treating them. The study revealed that on average 2 members of the smallholder households in Lira and Alebtong districts fell sick in the last 6 months; they spent 29 and 13 days each; more than half (49.7%, 70%) were treated at private health facilities and more than a third (43.3%) in Lira district and lest than a third (16.7%) in Alebtong were treated at government health facilities respectively. On average youth smallholder households in Lira and Alebtong districts spent UGX 95,722 and UGX 103,242 treating them respectively.

In addition, Table 3.6 shows that 2 out of 4 and 1 out of 3 children in Lira and Alebtong districts enrolled in school dropped out last year and on average UGX 342,839 and UGX 386,833.3 were spent on education last term. These indicate there is high drop-out rate that may be attributed to the high cost of education. However, the study did not capture the gender perspective of dropout.

Table 3.6: Smallholder household education status.

	Value		
Aspects	Lira	Alebtong	**Overall**
Average number of children of school going age	5	4	9
Average number of children enrolled in school	4	3	7
Average number of children that dropped out of school	2	1	3
Average expenditure per term on education in UGX	342,839	386,833.3	729,673

3.18 Women's Voice and participation in decision-making

3.18.1 Women empowerment

The role of women in agricultural production is far more evident in practice than it is acknowledged. Whereas both men and women participate in crop production in the area of study, women are seen to play greater role than men, they are involved in the entire production chain of the commodity right from land opening, planting, weeding, harvesting, primary processing and storage. Unfortunately very often women do not participate in the downstream activities of the commodity value chain such as value addition and marketing, they have no control over land which is a major production factor. The study found out that more than a third (39%) and less than a third (29%) beneficiary female youth in Lira and Alebtong districts take decision on the ownership of cash savings from sale of agricultural produce jointly with their spouses. This indicates that women involvement in household decision making is slowly increasing.

The study revealed that less than a third (15%; 27%); more than a third (40%; 64%); more than a half (61%; 51%) and less than a third (27%; 27%) beneficiary male youth beneficiary and female youth in Lira and Alebtong districts were A little bit confident but only with some help of others and very confident. FGD at Apala sub-county also revealed that few women have little confidence in pushing for their agenda during meetings because men sometimes use vulgar language to intimidate them. Overall, the said;

'We have self-esteem and confidence in expressing our ideas in meetings or any gathering'.

Their confidence was also very evident during the FGD sessions. KII also revealed that through deliberate strategies which are gender sensitive and implemented at the local government level as farmer centered production activities, it has been possible to upscale women participation in development programmes through gender mainstreaming which has resulted to increase production and productivity at farm level. It was also noted that of late even the youth are embracing agricultural production as means of their survival/livelihood. During the KII, the DCO of Alebtong district said that;

'Group dynamics need an improvement through sensitization. The men should be encouraged to appreciate their women's involvement in leadership positions. For example, in Abaku sub-county, the chairperson of the Kurineka cooperative is a woman. Her leadership can be used to demonstrate to other women the untapped potential in them and would be a bonus in changing their mind set'.

3.18.2 Asset ownership rights

Decision making on asset ownership is important for livelihood enhancement of a smallholder household as assets are precursors for investment. In this view, respondents were asked who owns key assets in the household. Results shows that overall less than a third (21.4%, 14.7%;

17.5%, 26.3%) of smallholder women in Lira and Alebtong districts took decision by self and taken by partner respectively. The study also revealed that more than a third (39.1%; 34.3%) took decision jointly on cash savings, cows, small livestock like goats/sheep/ bird, major farm inputs as well as other assets (Table 3.7).

Table 3.7: Asset ownership rights.

	Lira				Alebtong		
Asset ownership	Self (%)	Partner (%)	Joint (%)	Others (%)	Self (%)	Partner (%)	Joint (%)
Cash savings	29.3	24.2	41.4		18.3	41.7	30.0
Livestock like cows	22.9	17.8	41.4	0.6	5.0	45.0	23.3
Livestock like goats/sheep	22.3	19.7	43.9	12.7	28.3	38.3	30.0
Motorcycle	1.9	2.5	8.3	0.6	0.0	3.3	
Bicycle	16.6	17.2	33.1	1.9	11.7	26.7	45.0
Farm inputs	23.6	15.3	51.0	64.3	23.3	16.7	58.3
Farm land	28.0	23.6	42.7	0.6	16.7	33.3	38.3
House	26.1	20.4	45.9	0.6	15.0	23.3	48.3
Other businesses	21.0	15.3	30.6		13.3	15.0	16.7
Cash crops	22.3	19.1	52.9		15.0	20.0	53.3
Total	**21.4**	**17.5**	**39.1**	**8.1**	**14.7**	**26.3**	**34.3**

3.18.3 Resources control

Gendered distribution and availability of resources and assets is important to smallholder agricultural growth as it improves opportunities. In this regard, respondents were asked to mention who in the household controls the use of household assets. Table 3.7 shows that overall less than a third (27.1%, 13.3%; 20.4%, 21.3%) of smallholder women in Lira and Alebtong districts mentioned control over major household assets are by self and by partners respectively. More than a third (33.2%; 40%) women smallholders control major farm inputs, cash crops, house, small animals like goats/sheep/pigs and bicycles jointly. This indicates there is increased gender equality in household decision making.

Table 3.7: Resources control.

	Lira				Alebtong		
Asset control	Self	Partner	Joint	Others	Self	Partner	Joint
Cash savings	47.1	19.7	22.9		20.0	31.7	38.3
Livestock like cows	34.4	25.5	27.4	0.6	13.3	31.7	36.7
Livestock like goats/sheep	25.5	19.7	37.6	1.3	16.7	26.7	40.0
Motorcycle	11.5	7.0	15.3	0.6		1.7	6.7
Bicycle	15.3	21.0	28.0	0.6	8.3	23.3	43.3
Farm inputs	29.9	20.4	45.2		13.3	16.7	60.0
Farm land	29.3	26.8	40.8	0.6	15.0	35.0	41.7
House	27.4	24.2	42.7		15.0	18.3	56.7
Other businesses	26.8	19.1	24.8		10.0	10.0	28.3

Cash crops	24.2	21.0	47.8		21.7	18.3	48.3
Total	**27.1**	**20.4**	**33.2**	**0.4**	**13.3**	**21.3**	**40.0**

3.18.4 Gender violence

Increase in gender violence determines productivity of smallholder households as it negatively affects the health and peace amongst household members. Female respondents were asked whether or not they had experienced different aspects of gender violence. The result shows a third (29.9%, 33.3%) smallholder women in Lira and Alebtong districts had experienced quarrelling/verbal attack and less than a third (22.3%, 16.7%) had experienced fighting/physical abuse and very few (32.%, 7.6%, 1.3% and 13.3%, 8.3%, 5%) had experienced sexual abuse, denial of access to resources and negligence respectively (Figure 3.21). This finding indicates the need for further creation of awareness on the dangers of gender violence.

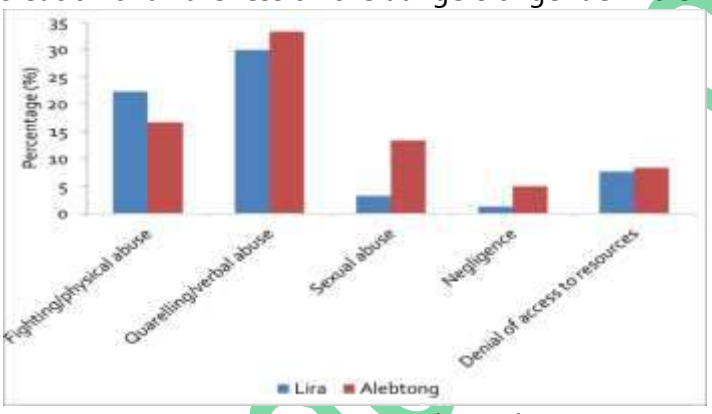


Figure 3.21: Gender violence.

The majority who reportedly experience no violence said;

'We express our harmony by even walking to the church service in company of our husbands'.

3.18.5 Participation of women in household decision making

Participation of women in household decision making is important for smallholder production and productivity. In this view, smallholder female respondents were asked whether or not they were involved in key household decision making. Figure 3.22 shows majority (> 60%) female smallholders in Lira and Alebtong were involved in decision making on key household aspects such as major use of household income, taking and use of credits, asset acquisition, fees for children, livestock use, land issues and business start-up capital.

Women's ability to participate equally with men, at all levels, and in all aspects of household, public and decision making increases their opportunities and access to resources needed for household development. In a similar vein, the respondents were asked how confident they feel about participating in public decision making in their communities and whether they are involved in key household decision making. Figure 3.23 shows majority (53.5% and 55%) female smallholders in Lira and Alebtong districts were very confident and a little bit confident but only with some help of others to participate in public decision making respectively.

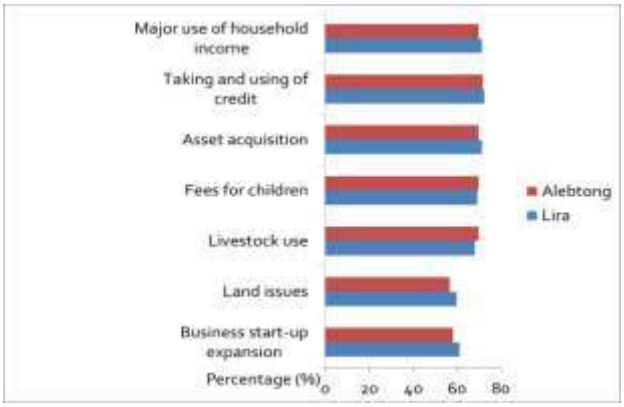


Figure 3.22: Participation of women in household decision making.

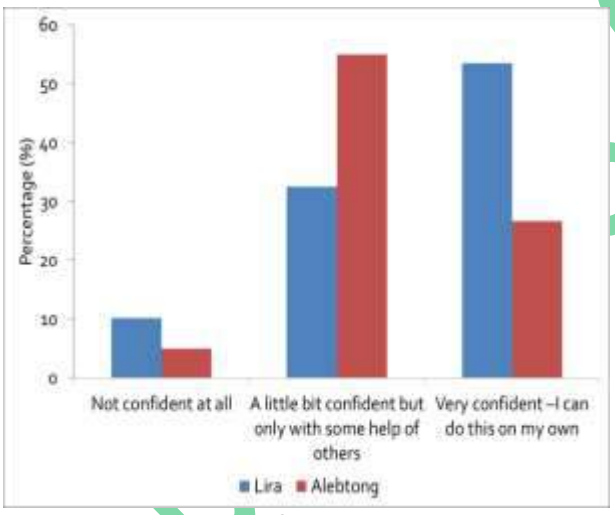


Figure 3.23: Women confidence in public participation

Although the men are in charge of assets there is cognizance by the female as to how they assets in the family are used. The women said;

'They disagree with the men when they are misusing the family assets. They also spend the money earned farming and petty trade without the interference of their husbands.'

3.18.6 Participation in Local Government Development Programmes

Community participation in Local Government (LG) development programmes is an incentive to political accountability needed for improved service delivery. In this regard, respondents were asked whether or not they know their development rights and if they participate in LG development programmes. Figure 3.24 shows less than a half (41.4%, 40%) smallholders are aware of their development rights (decentralized development) and majority (73.9%, 65%) are aware of their rights to food security in Lira and Alebtong districts respectively. On participation in LG development programmes, the study also reveals that only a third (38.9%) smallholders in Lira district and less than a third (18.3%) in Alebtong district ask for support from LG leaders and also less than a third (21%, 15%; 19.7%, 13.3% and 15.9%, 10%) benefited

from LG development projects in the last 5 years, attended LG planning meetings, attended LG project implementation meetings and participated in monitoring LG development projects in the two local governments respectively (Figure 3.24). This finding indicates LG inadequate involvement of local communities in development activities thus giving room for poor service delivery.

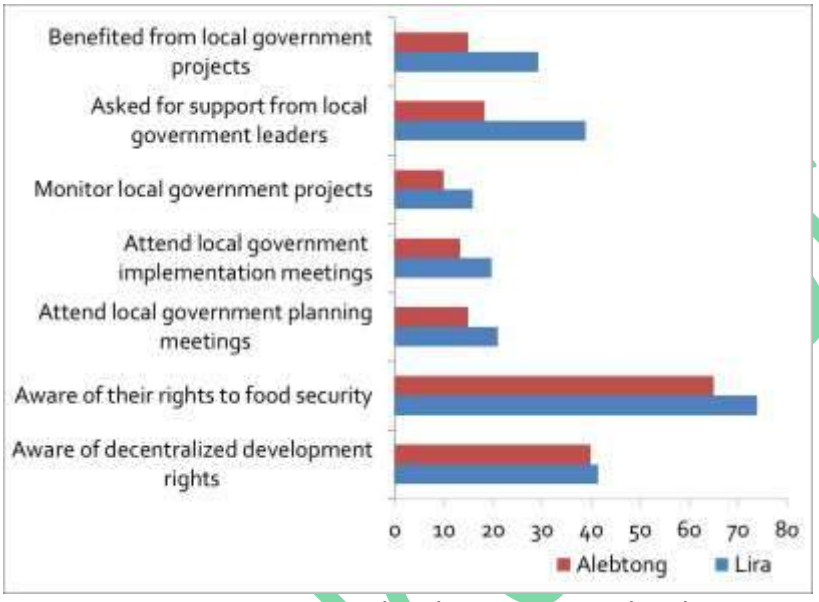


Figure 3.24: Participation in local government development.

3.19 Capacity of the co-beneficiaries or implementing partners

VEDCO has been working with the groups already. The Coordinator of VEDCO reportedly said their experience and expertise in ICT agriculture is adequate. They have been working with INFOTRADE to enable farmers assess market for their produce through phones.

The company has a structure that links with the different groups. This is always evident during the food insecurity. In 2012, food security recovery programme was done for the insecure places. The strategy used was through soy bean seed multiplication that later resulted into abundant harvest that ended into farmers selling at very low price. For such a circumstance not to occur, the company now advises for the diversification of crops for further income.

The structural set-up for transformative extensive services in VEDCO includes the involvement of the district technical staff, and project officers and community base trainers at the sub-county. These ensure closeness to the farmers and also the sustainability of the youth farmer systems. However, at Apala sub-county, the acting Parish Chief reported that the sub-county is not having an established Agricultural Officer. They are always assisted by the Agricultural Officer of Akuru sub-county when the need arises.

The complaint that district technical people do not read project reports that are submitted to them is critical to sustainability of such projects. This is because the recommendations should

feed into district programmes as the projects phase off. Therefore, their direct participation in the project should be enhanced.

Overall, VEDCO has adequate Human Resource with Managers that support individual projects. In addition, Plan International Uganda has supports the organization with motorcycles and fuel for the running of the Pink project. This has also eased the frequency and connectivity with the different groups.

VEDCO also intends to educate the farmers to scrutinize the details of the contract they are getting into in order not to complaint when thereafter. They are aware of failed contracts due to both farmers and buyer breaching it. Furthermore, the implementation of the project by VEDCO should also positioned them to encourage collective bulking and purchase at the Parish level, rather than at the individual group. The coordinator also said;

'This will allow for flexible pricing with negotiation being held when the produce are available. Flexibility in prices should form the core element of the contract for a win-win situation. The farmers should also be linked to the input dealers that can provide them with lower rate'.

The model of Mukwano Group of Company is such that their agents determine prices. In circumstances of any delayed purchase by the company, the same agents can be used to organize purchase for other organizations. This can involve mobilization for a day's bulking and purchase. In addition, the link that VEDCO already has with some Kenyans and Somalis can broaden the supply chain management as well. This requires strengthening quality standards and establishing local export facilities for the smallholders.

4. BASELINE PROJECT INDICATORS

The project indicators are summarised in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Logframe with objectively verifiable indicators and the baseline percentages.

Purpose	Indicators	Baseline June 2018		
		Lira	Alebtong	Overall
Impact: Women farmers in Northern Uganda are empowered to increase resilience of their households.	– % change in gross income from soy beans of targeted HHs in UGX	1,023,120.4	850,317	1,873,437.4
	– % change in average overall monthly HH income of targeted HHs in UGX	141,096.2	78,053.6	219,149.8
	– % of young women farmers reporting increased involvement in decision making at HH, FO and community	68%	67%	67.5%
	– % of young women farmers reporting more confidence in making decisions	53.5%	26.7%	40.1%
	– % of income spent on increasing HH resilience	50.2%	57.2%	55.6%
	– Termly expenditure on education in UGX.	106,006.0	62,628.6	168,634.6
	– Monthly expenditure on health in UGX	48,528.7	36,981.4	85,510.1
	– Monthly expenditure on food and nutrition security in UGX	77,947.0	97,807.3	175,754.3
	– Investment in agribusiness	235,986	186,214.3	422,00.3
Outcome 1: 2,500 smallholder farmers (80% women) have increased production and productivity of high quality soy grain	– % change in productivity/yield per unit area of high quality soy grain in Kilogram	898.9	789.8	1688.7
	– % change in production of high quality soy grain	0	0	0
	– % of small holder farmers involved in high quality soy production and productivity	0	0	0
Outcome 2: Companies have gender transformative soy contract farming agreements with 100 farmer organizations	– # of smallholder farmers receiving income from the agreements (male vs female)	0	0	0
	– # of HH with acquired assets index	0	0	0
	– # of clauses in agreements benefiting women	0	0	0
Outcome 3: 2,000 women have more decision making power on the use of household income especially from soy production	– % of young women farmers reporting increased involvement in decision making over HH budget	68%	67%	67.5%
	– % increase of HH budgets of targeted farmers spent on education	342,839	386,833.3	729,673
	– % increase of HH budgets of targeted farmers spent on health			
	– % increase of HH budgets of targeted farmers spent on food and nutrition	0	0	0

Purpose	Indicators	Baseline June 2018		
		Lira	Alebtong	Overall
	security			
Outcome 4: 100 farmer organizations and cooperatives develop and enforce gender equality through gender transformative by laws and policies	– # of gender transformative bylaws and policies developed	0	0	0
	– # of cases reported relating to gender inequality	0	0	0
	– # of cases reported relating to gender inequality that are addressed using the gender transformative bylaws and policies.	0	0	0
	– # of young women in leadership position in FOs	0	0	0

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Annex 1: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for a Baseline Evaluation of the Pink Revolution in Northern Uganda, Gender Transformative Contract Farming for Gender Equality and Household Resilience Project Plan International Uganda February 2018

Terms of Reference for a Baseline Evaluation of the Pink Revolution in Northern Uganda, Gender Transformative Contract Farming for Gender Equality and Household Resilience Project Plan International Uganda February 2018

1. Background about Plan International Plan International strives to advance children's rights and equality for girls all over the world. We recognise the power and potential of every single child but unfortunately, this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination and it is girls who are most affected. As an independent development and humanitarian organisation, we work alongside children, young people, our supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood, and enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge. For over 75 years, we have been building powerful partnerships for children, and we are active in over 70 countries.

Plan International Uganda has been in Uganda since 1992. Our programmes are guided by a 5-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) FY2017-2021, which consolidates and applies our experience and learning from the last 25 years of operations in Uganda. It is also guided by the current national and global context and the situation affecting children and young people in Uganda. Plan International Uganda is one of the leading child rights organisations in Uganda, working collaboratively and at multiple levels with marginalised children, youth and communities and in mutual partnership with more than 40 civil society organisations, the government and the private sector. Together we contribute to improve the lives of children in the following areas: Youth Economic Empowerment; Quality and Inclusion in Early Childhood Development and Primary Education; Strengthening Child Protection Systems; Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) and ASRH; and Community Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Gender equality, civil society strengthening and Disaster Risk Reduction are cross cutting priorities.

Currently Plan International Uganda has presence in five regions of the country: West Nile, North, Eastern, East Central and Central. There are plans also to expand to a sixth region: Karamoja. In all these regions, Plan International Uganda has a field office in Adjumani, Lira, Tororo, Kamuli and Kampala. We implement our programmes in collaboration with more than 35 partners from the civil society, private sector and government institutions.

2. Information about the project

2a. Information about the project:

Plan International Uganda in conjunction with its consortium partners is implementing the Pink Revolution in Northern Uganda, Gender Transformative Contract Farming for Gender Equality and Household Resilience Project in the sub-counties of Agweng and Aromo in Lira district, and Apala and Abia sub-counties in Alebtong district. Plan International is leading the consortium that includes Mukwano Group of Companies and Volunteer Efforts for Development Concern (VEDCO) as implementing partners and National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Wageningen UR (CDI –

UR) and Makerere University as collaboration partners who will fulfil a technical and advisory role with regards to agriculture inputs and research.

The project combines a Women Empowerment in Agriculture approach with contract farming and thoroughly integrates Monitoring and Evaluation throughout all project interventions. The project targets the soybeans sector which has a grossly under exploited potential. The innovation of 'gender-transformative contract farming' lies in the incentives it creates for farmer groups to pursue gender equality within all their operations. This includes application of byelaws on gender equality, as well as providing women equal access to improved farming inputs and capacity building on financial, entrepreneurial and marketing skills.

The project will directly benefit 2,500 smallholder farmers (80% young women). It will target mainly girls or child mothers, woman headed households, those affected by the former conflict in Northern Uganda and those including vulnerable young boys like orphans who do not have sufficient income to sustain their livelihoods and provide nutritious food for themselves and their children. It will also target those battered by gender inequality within the household, community and society that inhibits their access to agriculture inputs, good farming practices, market information and affordable nutritious food.

The overall goal of the project is to empower female farmers in Northern Uganda to increase the resilience of their households. Specifically, it seeks to increase income from soybeans for 2,500 smallholder farmers of which at least 80% are female. It also seeks to increase voice and agency of 2,000 female farmers in Northern Uganda.

2b. Intended users of the Baseline Evaluation

The intended users of this baseline evaluation will include Plan International Uganda, Plan International Netherlands National Office, implementing partners Mukwano and VEDCO; collaborative partners NARO, Wageningen University Research and Makerere University; beneficiaries, local governments, national stakeholders and other institutions among others.

3. Goal and Objectives

Overall goal of the baseline exercise

The purpose of this baseline exercise is to provide detailed baseline data that will enable the setting up of evidence-based benchmarks against which project measurement of progress and impact will be based. In other word, the baseline will be key in informing the project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process.

Objectives of the baseline exercise

1. Provide benchmark measures against the project's indicators and in the same vein pilot project indicators and data collection tools. 2. Document the current status in relation to vulnerability status, livelihood assets, livelihood strategies, food security situation, policy, process and institutional interactions of the target population partially visa-vie soybean production. 3. Assess soybean production levels, voice/ decision making and women agency in market and justifications for inadequacy 4. Assess existing interventions of soybean production meant to enhance voice/ decision making and agency for women farmers. 5. To ascertain the level of gender transformative actions in regards to drafting of

contracts, equal decision-making and development of bylaws and policies. 6. Assess the involvement of the private sector in the promotion of production and productivity of high quality soybeans.

In addition to the aforementioned objectives of the assignment, the baseline survey should endeavour to respond to the following:

a) Consistency of the programme with key aspects of Plan International's Child Centred Community Development approach and Child Protection minimum standards. b) Consistency of the programme with the new Country Strategy and how this study will contribute to the overall Country Strategy goal and the Global Strategy. c) Consistency of the programme with key standards of gender transformation. d) The level of integration of the action into other Plan International Uganda interventions/projects. e) How the project can strengthen the contribution of the internal monitoring system to the implementation of the programme and its monitoring and evaluation. f) How the project can work with civil society organisations, communities, and children, gender and excluded groups and government

4. Scope of Work Geographical scope The baseline survey will be conducted in the sub-counties of Agweng and Aromo in Alebtong districts; and Apala and Abia sub-counties in Lira district. Key stakeholders that will be participating in the study include those directly involved in the project like women, children, soybean farmers, implementing partners, Plan International staff, and relevant governments officials, local government officials, staff from private sectors. The baseline will among others cover but not limited to the following areas;

a) A desk review that will involve a multitude of data and literature from a number of sources and this will include the project proposal, results framework, narrative reports, and literature from implementing and collaborative partners, national documents and other relevant publications relevant to the topic at hand, gender transformative contract farming for gender equality and household resilience. b) A thorough understanding of the project theory of change and issues around the topic of focus, that is, gender transformation, contract farming, gender equality and household resilience; advocacy activities; rights-based activities and capacity building of partner organisations. c) Identification of sources of income and coping mechanisms for small holder farmers in the project catchment area respective to crop grown d) Identification of training needs and skills gaps against employment opportunities for small holder farmers e) Elucidate the involvement of the private sector in promotion of the productivity and production of high quality soy grain f) Assessment of the level of gender transformative participation of smallholder farmers in decision-making foras, linkages with their private sector. g) Assessment of the capacities of the agricultural service providers in the provision of services as per the project proposal. h) Identify the new trends in the production and productivity of high quality soy grain. i) Assessment of the capacity of the co-beneficiaries or implementing partners j) Assessment of the levels of accessibility to good agronomic practices and financial services for the smallholder farmers. k) Psychosocial support to enter and remain in employment for young women and men l) Provision of independent thoughts on the feasibility of the targets at indicator levels as specified in the project documents. m) Engagement of a multitude of project stakeholders and those deemed relevant to the project indirectly should be key to this assignment. In that regard, we expect conduction of household surveys, individual category surveys, focus group discussions and key informant interviews to complement and supplement the desk review findings.

5. The Methodology

The baseline approaches will employ mix of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The consultant will identify and develop an appropriate evaluation design for the study capable of addressing the critical baseline questions appropriately. The survey will include use of methods that are sensitive to inclusion of all target vulnerable groups and capable of generating disaggregated data.

Therefore, the consultant is expected to come up a research methodology, describing the study design to be used and give the rationale for the choice of each. The study design should be one that not only establishes the relationship between the exposure factors and the outcomes, but also seeks to find out what factors contribute to the exposures and the different outcomes involved. Overall, the methodology section should cover details of study design and approaches, sampling, sample size determination, data collection methods/instruments, data analysis techniques, plan for dissemination of study findings and aspects of quality assurance/ethical considerations (Child Protection Policy, informed consent) during research. Validation and feedback workshops that will involve project partners and other stakeholders will take place before the approval of the final report. The consultant will share the findings with relevant stakeholders including those directly involved in the project, which may include children, community members, implementing partners, and Plan International Uganda staff for instance through meetings, workshops or other fora. The consultant will therefore develop a dissemination plan for the assignment.

6. Study Outputs or Deliverables

The consultant is expected to produce and submit the following deliverables. A proposal detailing the technical and financial aspects of the project Baseline Evaluation (includes among others the consultant understanding of the assignment, a clear reporting format, consultants' up to date CVs, detailed cost of the assignment and others). An inception report detailing the methodology including the actual tools to be used for all the proposed respondents, schedule for field data collection, data analysis and reporting, a work plan, evaluation tools, list of documentation to reference in the report and an outline of the final report.. A draft report will be present to Plan International for review A final report approved by Plan International Uganda and Plan International Netherlands – this should as a minimum include an executive summary, description of the study, study objectives, study methods and limitations, study findings, conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations plus annexes (with TORS, data collection tools, case studies etc.) among others. A report with quality layout, art paper and high resolution photos printed (hard copy) in six copies and an electronic copy on a Flash disk and CD in English. Final and cleaned raw data including interview transcriptions on CD, including any pertinent documentation (including photographs) generated through the data collection process.

6.1 Report Specification

Baseline report will as a minimum include: executive summary, introduction, description of study objectives, study methods and limitations; study findings, conclusions and recommendation as well as the appendix which must indicate the indicators summary table of findings. Summary report will also be prepared and packaged for presentation (power point) and dissemination purpose.

7. Timeframe and Estimated Working Days

The assignment will be undertaken from 1st March 2018 to 8th April 2018 lasting 30 working days from the date of contract signing, weekends inclusive.

Activity Date Estimated Timelines

Deadline for submission of bids 19th March 2018 N/A

Notification and signing contract with consultant 26 th March 2018 1

Submission of inception report and data collection tools

27th -29th March 2018 3

Meeting to discuss, refine and approve the tools 3rd April 2018 1

Orientation of research assistants and pre-testing of the tools 4th -5th April 2018 2

Data collection 6th 13th April 2018 6

Analysis and production of draft report 14th -23rd April 2018

Incorporating comments on draft report from Plan 23rd -25th April 2018

Validation of Baseline findings to project key beneficiaries and incorporation of beneficiaries' input

26th -27th April 2018 2

Submission of final Baseline report 30thApril 2018

Total Duration All Days 29

8. Qualification and experience of the consultant or consulting team

The team should consist of a lead and associate consultant with relevant experience and knowledge in evaluation research, livelihoods, youth and women economic empowerment. The lead consultant should at least have a Master's Degree in related fields of Agricultural Sciences, Rural Development, Development Studies and Entrepreneurship. In addition, the consultant should be knowledgeable about gender and youth programming as well as monitoring and evaluation work with:

Documented experience with leading complex evaluations studies or researches. A sound and comprehensive understanding of the Ugandan youth economic empowerment sector issues and policy framework at various levels in Uganda. Description of assignments of similar nature and complexity carried out in the last five years. Evidence of availability of appropriate qualifications, manpower and skills among key staff earmarked for deployment on the assignment. Thorough knowledge of Ugandan and International development policies and processes. Ability to work within set deadlines and to write concise reports. Gender balance in the team is an asset. Knowledge of English and relevant local languages. Excellent analytical and evaluation report writing kills.

10. Proposal evaluation Criteria

The technical proposal will be evaluated based on the Quality Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) Criteria where:

a) The individual general reliability as well as experience and capacity in the carrying out the assignment will score a maximum of (30%).

b) The approach in responding to the TOR and detailed work plan will score a maximum of (45%).
c) The qualifications and competencies of the proposed personnel for the assignment will score a maximum of (25%).
d) Proposals obtaining more than 70% of the technical points will be considered technically suitable and qualify for financial assessment.

11. Supervision or management of the assignment

An independent Consultant (with a team) contracted by Plan International will carry out the final End of Project evaluation. The consultant (s) will be supervised by the MER Manager but will work closely at the technical level with the technical lead YEE and Pink Revolution Project Coordinator. The evaluation team is entitled to consult stakeholders pertinent to the assignment, but it is not permitted to make any commitment on behalf of Plan International.

12. Ethical and child protection considerations

The assignment will require the consultant and the team to interface with children and therefore the consultant is required to provide a statement on the respect and protection of child rights, human rights and dignity of participants compliant with Plan International's Child Protection Policy.

The evaluator must follow Ethical Principles in a research and obtain written/verbal consent from the subjects. Permission from elders should be sought if the children under 18 years are involved as subjects. Signed informed consent of each child and his or her parents need to be taken after explaining the purpose of the study.

13. Submission of a Technical and Financial Proposal

A technical and financial proposal detailing the methodology and implementation plan for the Project Baseline Evaluation shall be submitted in hard copy and softcopy to Plan International Uganda Tender committee by 3:00pm, Monday19th March 2018.

Annex 2: List of KII respondents

Name	Organization	Position	Contact
1. Jennifer Oyuru	Alebtong District Local Government	District Agricultural Officer	
2. Moses Ogwal	Alebtong District Local Government	District Commercial Officer	
3. Robert Opio	Alebtong District Local Government	Agricultural Officer	0772331800
4. Francis Okello	Alebtong District Local Government	Senior Community Development Officer	0775508787
5. Dorcus	Lira District Local Government	District Agricultural Officer	0780451494
6. Solomon Eimu	Agweng Sub County	Fisheries Officer	0777036010
7. Jonathan Kumakech	Agweng Sub County	Parish Chief-Bar Oganda	0772157988
8. Can Dag Kun	Abia Sub County	Members	28