

Organic know-how from Denmark supports 17.000 small-scale farmers in Uganda

Organic farming practices often have a very positive effect on yields and the soils capacity to hold water and resist drought. In Uganda, Organic Denmark and a number of local and regional organizations work together on agricultural development based on the Family Farmer Learning Groups model. An approach that, in four years, has improved the lives of more than 17.000 small-scale farmers.

From time to time the argument is stated, that organic farming can't feed the world because of lower yields. However, this logic does not apply to the situation of many small scale farmer families, that constitutes more than 70 % of the population in most African countries.

- Organic farming methods help increase yields significantly. We have seen this throughout our many years of development work in several countries in East Africa. Mulching, composting and other organic farming methods that build soil fertility and protect it from drought and erosion as well as sustainable use of local resources are key elements, says Per Rasmussen, International Consultant at Organic Denmark.

View examples of the effect of organic methods in this [short video report](#) from Per Rasmussen's visit to FFLG-groups in Kagadi, Uganda.

Farmers learn from colleagues – no experts

In Uganda, Organic Denmark, in collaboration with local organizations, use an approach called Family Farmer Learning Groups (FFLG). The approach is based on the participating farmer families mutually learning from each about organic agriculture and jointly supporting the development of the farms. The approach is very similar to "Stable Schools", which is a model for statutory health advice on Danish dairy farms.

- In the province of Kagadi, the goal was to establish 40 FFLG groups in the projects two-year period, but we found that 64 groups had already been formed halfway thru the project period. This is truly the ultimate indication of success. The fact that the organizations really take to the FFLG model shows that it is a valuable contribution, they can continue to work on and that can spread to others, even after the project is over, says Per Rasmussen.

In the Kagadi Province, Organic Denmark cooperates with the Uganda Rural Development & Training Program (URDT), which that works for improved livelihood for the poor rural population. Organic Denmark has been working with Family Farmer Learning Groups in Uganda and Tanzania for the past 9 years. Through the FFLG model, approximately 125,000 members of 18,000 small-scale farmer families have experienced improved production and livelihood.

For further comments or information, please contact

Per Rasmussen, International Consultant, Organic Denmark, +45 26 20 33 87
Joachim Plaetner Kjeldsen, Press Officer, Organic Denmark, +45 30 54 39 30