



CRAFT

Transformation for Rural Development: Revealing the endless possibility of Soybean in an unpredictable climate

[Strengthening Agricultural cooperatives and market access for Soybean with climate-smart approaches]



Soybean in Uganda (Dokolo District)

Soybean (*Glycine max.*) has immense nutritional and commercial benefits, but the quantities produced are not sufficient for the market. Challenges such as inadequacies in input supply, storage, low prices, rising temperatures, and unpredictable rainfall most affect the crop's production.

In addressing these gaps, TRAFORD, a CRAFT Business champion in Dokolo, is developing farmers' capacities to produce soybean through climate-smart approaches.

CRAFT, also Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow, is a project committed to capacitating Agro-based Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) to ably support smallholder farmers develop key crop value chains that can survive the impact of extreme climate now and in the future.

About Transformation for Rural Development

TRAFORD is an oilseed processing and marketing company based in Dokolo District, Northern Uganda. The company registered in 2016 to engage in strengthening crop value chains. It supports farmers access inputs for production and reliable markets at reasonable prices for soybean and sesame.

Using an agro-entrepreneurial approach where youths and smallholder farmers are at the core, TRAFORD has

engaged 5,000 farmers in organized groups (About 20 to 30 individuals) to produce the needed soybean volumes for the market.

Climate Smartness

Knowing the impact of climate change on crops, TRAFORD is strengthening farmer producer organizations as a first step. By using the contracting farming model, the company is establishing farmer cooperatives for production efficiency. Once the crops are harvested, it will purchase all soybean at 10% over the market price.

TRAFORD is also linking farmer groups to input dealers to access pesticides, fungicides, and rhizobia inoculants. These same groups will form savings groups (SACCOs) to access loans from the Microfinance Support Centre.

Next, TRAFORD is engaging the community agro-entrepreneurs (CAEs) to provide technical support on a series of climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies such as spacing, contour planting, pesticide and fertilizer application, soil testing, and climate tolerant and resilient seeds (Maksoy varieties).

Then working closely with the metrological agency, the company provides timely weather information to farmers.

Targets

Smallholder Farmers	Producer groups	Value-chain Actors	Yield
50,000 	20 – 35 members 	126 Aggregators, 3 Extension providers 2 Input suppliers, 1 Financial Service provider (Equity bank) 	2,750 MT (Metric tons per year) 

Target market segments and consumers

TRAFORD is targeting livestock and animal feed processors in Uganda, Oilseed processors, and exporters. These include Kamp Feeds Ltd, Nile Agro Ltd, Mukwano Industries, and Mount Meru. For success, it will leverage relationships with known processors suppliers, distributors, and off-takers to grow the business. The company will also ensure that its product prices are competitive while maintaining premium prices by providing quality produce.

Partners

To successfully meet the CRAFT project demands, TRAFORD will work with Equity bank & Impact ventures for working capital financing. Then engage producer groups/ cooperatives to produce soybean. For extension support, the company will support smallholder farmers and link them to buyers such as (Nile-Agro, Mount Meru, Mukwano Industries, Camp feeds), and local seed businesses to multiply and provide seed. PAAT Soil Clinic will provide soil testing services, then m-omulimisa will provide bundled services such as input financing, agricultural insurance, weather alerts, and agricultural advisories.

Key Objectives and Outcomes

Enhance the capacity of 5000 smallholder farmers to improve soybean output by 15% through climate-smart agronomy, linkages to input suppliers, and mechanized farming by 2022.	5000 SHF contracted and capacity build to adopt CSA practices. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize and engage farmers on scheduled contract farming agreements. Facilitate and mentor leadership, business management skills, marketing, and financial inclusion. Facilitate and Link farmers to Input and mechanization service providers. Recruitment and train 159 TOTs on CSA ultimate to train the SHFs and follow up on the adoption of CSA. 	
Improve resilience to climate Change amongst targeted farmers through the promotion of appropriate climate-smart agricultural practices.	Adoption of CSA practices for increased productivity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and Set up 150 demo farms to showcase CSA practices and technologies. Profile and link TOT service providers and SHFs to extension and business developments services. 	
Improve efficiency in soybean inputs delivery, agronomy, and markets access	Facilitating inputs, production, financial, and marketing services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping strategic and establishing inputs delivery channels Organized inputs sourcing, accredited suppliers and link with financial service providers. Conduct farmers deal-making business workshops for VC actors interaction and farmers exposure 	
Improve business turnover by at least 10% through developing new market channels and increasing volumes of soybean marketed.	Increased supply of volume and sales of soybean <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase working capital to increase the volume of procured grains. 	
Business case budget	Total: € 1,001,446	Own funds; 80%