



# CRAFT

## Nyekorac Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd: Honing youth energies to combat Climate harshness

[Using Climate-smart Agriculture to attain gains in Sesame production and market]



### Sesame in Uganda

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum*) is a tiny, oil-rich edible seed with great nutritional benefits and commercial potential for farmers. When produced in sizable volumes, access to the market from premium processing industries is possible. However, insufficiencies in production, post-harvest handling, and erratic changes in climate, discourage impactful investment for the sector.

Nyekorac Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd, a CRAFT Business champion, is not letting this challenge deter its community from progressing. The company is tirelessly enabling its farmers to adopt climate-smart sustainable production methods for Sesame and linking them to sustainable markets.

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 Nyekorac Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd

Nyekorac is a youth-led and member-owned farmer organization registered with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives. The company has four full-time staff that occupy a multiplicity of roles to support its growth. Then its membership of 3,000 farmers is grouped into a 30-member Rural Producer organization (RPOs) for production efficiency.

Although Nyekorac produces other crops such as sesame, common beans, maize, and cassava, its highest revenue is from sesame. In meeting the required demands of the crop, the company trains farmers, offers storage and identifies markets for sesame, not only in the districts of Lira, Alebtong, and Oyam, but the entire Lango sub-region.





### Climate Smartness

A measure Nyekorac is implementing for climate smartness is making climate-resilient and sustainable seeds available for farmers. Through its partnership with NaSARRI sesame seed breeders, the company is training selected lead farmers as seed multipliers. This strategy will ensure farmers have sufficient seed input for planting.

Nyekorac is also establishing demonstration plots, where farmers will receive training on climate-smart agricultural practices. Such skills will increase productivity and make producers more resilient to climate shocks.

Furthermore, with a 40% post-harvest loss rate in sesame, Nyekorac deems it necessary to train smallholder farmers in post-harvest handling best practices. In addition, the company is providing drying tools and materials such as tarpaulins and hermetic storage facilities (Plastic and Metallic storage containers). These will maintain the quality of sesame grain that the market demands.

## Targets

Smallholder Farmers	Producer groups	Value-chain Actors	Yield
3,100 	45 	8 Aggregator, Extension providers, 2 Input dealers, 1 Financial service provider (Equity bank) 	2,100 MT (Metric tons per year) 

## Target market segments and consumers

Nyekorac's customers are sesame exporters such as Olam, Agri, Exim Ltd, and Lira Resort Ltd that purchase sesame in bulk and export it to the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. To meet the demand, Nyekorac focuses on the direct supply of high-quality sesame produce. The company achieves this by working with off-takers under signed agreements for market assurance. Then using village agents, the company reaches all its engaged

farmers; the village agents deliver inputs (includes seed) and buy back grain at competitive prices—particularly from hard-to-reach communities.

## Partners

Nyekorac's main partners are Smallholder Farmers from the Lango sub-region, National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI), M-omulimisa, and Buyers such as Lira resort, OLAM, Agri Exim. Other financial institutions, the Ministry of Agriculture, and District local governments also play a key role.

## Key Objectives and Outcomes

Enhance the capacity of 3,000 smallholder farmers to improve sesame output by 15% through climate-smart agronomy, linkages to input suppliers, and mechanized farming by 2022.	<b>3,000 SHF contracted and capacity build to adopt CSA practices.</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Mobilize and engage farmers on scheduled contract farming agreements.</li> <li>2) Facilitate and mentor leadership, business management skills, marketing, and financial inclusion.</li> <li>3) Facilitate and Link farmers to Input and mechanization service providers.</li> <li>4) Recruitment and train 85 TOTs on CSA ultimate to train the SHFs and follow up on the adoption of CSA.</li> </ol>	
Improve resilience to climate Change amongst targeted farmers through the promotion of appropriate climate-smart agricultural practices.	<b>Adoption of CSA practices for increased productivity</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Facilitate and Set up 45 demo farms to showcase CSA practices and technologies.</li> <li>2) Profile and link TOT service providers and SHFs to extension and business developments services.</li> </ol>	
Improve efficiency in sesame inputs delivery, agronomy, and markets access	<b>Facilitating inputs, production, financial, and marketing services</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Mapping strategic and establishing inputs delivery channels</li> <li>2) Organized inputs sourcing, accredited suppliers and link with financial service providers.</li> <li>3) Conduct farmers deal-making business workshops for VC actors interaction and farmers exposure</li> </ol>	
Improve business turnover by at least 10% through developing new market channels and increasing volumes of sesame marketed.	<b>Increased supply of volume and sales of Sesame</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Increase working capital to increase the volume of procured grains.</li> <li>2) Maintains existing customers for sesame grain such as Olam, Agri Exim Ltd, and Lira Resort Ltd that purchase sesame in bulk and export it to markets in the Middle East, Asia, and Europe.</li> <li>3) Focus on direct supply to off-takers that have signed off-take agreements with Nyekora</li> </ol>	
Business case budget	Total: € 559,856	Own funds; 82%