About PAD

President Yoweri Museveni created the Poverty Alleviation Department (PAD) and mandated it to formulate appropriate programs for poverty alleviation and income generation at the household level.

The vision of PAD is

Prosperity for all Ugandans,

The mission is to transform poor communities into self-sustaining entities through best practices of agriculture, market-led production, value addition and support scientific innovators.

The goal of PAD is to see that each Ugandan household has income generating activities that give it an income stream in the short and long term.

Objectives

- To implement Presidential directives and Initiatives
- To assist communities increase household incomes through integrated agri-enterprises.
- To promote food security among communities.
- To promote science and technology for value addition and rural transformation

Functions

- Establishment of Demonstration Farms and Model Parishes.
- Establishment of agricultural production zones.
- Networking and developing partnerships.

The Budget

Since 2005 PAD has been receiving an annual budget of Shs 1 (one) billion (save for financial year 2009/10 when PAD received Shs 1.5 billion) of which 90% is used to buy high yielding agro inputs for rural communities and the rest is used for office running and field operations.

PAD is headed by Mrs. Joan Kakwenzire, a senior presidential advisor and has 9 staff at the headquarters, 18 field officers and 3 support staff.

Impact of PAD activities

- Through the home improvement program domestic hygiene has been improved in the operation areas with the majority of the homes having toilets, bathrooms, utensil racks, energy saving stoves etc. Morbidity has reduced.
- Most of the people in the operation areas now know how to prepare and apply manure from cow dung and urine not to mention that from pigs, hence the soils are being rejuvenated.
- Several income generating activities have been successfully established, high value crops, food crops and dairy and honey enterprises have been implemented.
- There is more efficient utilization of small land holdings through intercropping, zero grazing and best agro practices which have improved production.
- There is increased agro yields through adaptation of best agro practices.
- Strengthening of the women’s groups with revolving funds has boosted incomes for the beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries of the heifer and poultry sub projects who are mostly women, have been able to improve their homesteads through access to better diet and better clothing. Some have built good houses from sales of milk.
- At least 50% of all the homesteads in the program have adapted the energy saving stoves which has a positive impact on the environment through efficient use of firewood.
- There is a marked improvement in areas where the programme started earlier like: Kikoni in Ntungamo, Bwera in Kamwenge, Lwabenge and Kyanamukaka in Masaka and Ruharo in Bushenyi. People have constructed brick houses roofed with iron sheets.
- Due to improved food security and diet, morbidity in the model parishes is very low compared to other parishes in the same locality. The people in these model parishes look well nourished and are generally in good health.
- During the training workshops, farmers are also trained about HIV/AIDS prevention and caring for those infected by AIDS.
- Farmers who had no steady income have been encouraged to start income generating projects and are doing well.
- Farmers are trained in basic record keeping and can now plan and budget for their farms.
- Farmers in the model parishes are encouraged to save and invest. In the process, model parishes have higher savings compared to others not part of the programme.
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Introduction
During this decade, the NRM government has focused on increasing household incomes through increasing agricultural production. Indeed in Chapter one of the 2001 manifesto, President Yoweri Museveni stated that one of the intentions of his 2001-2006 administration was the eradication of mass poverty through:

- Consolidating anti poverty programmes,
- Stimulating economic growth and create employment through interventions in strategic sectors of agriculture and industry.
- Modernizing agriculture and increase household incomes through guided production. etc

In line with the above intention of eradicating mass poverty, the President created the Poverty Alleviation Department (PAD) and in 2003 mandated it to formulate appropriate programs for poverty alleviation and income generation at the household level.

The model parish concept
H.E. the President directed PAD to “train communities on how to scientifically engage in market-led farming on small holdings to realise meaningful incomes”. Subsequently, PAD evolved the model parish concept to fulfill the President’s zeal to show the farmers and communities best agro-practices of farming systems, organic farming, on farm manure production and application, post harvest practices, disease and pest control, basic book keeping etc. PAD emphasises five pillars in the model parishes to achieve a holistic socio-economic transformation, these are:

- **i) Home improvement**
  This component addresses general cleanliness and homestead hygiene, compound setup, availability of clean toilet facilities, utensils rack, energy saving cooking stove, clean water harvesting and storage facilities and health practices. PAD has recorded impressive results under this pillar.

- **ii) Food security**
  This addresses the issue of hunger. Under this pillar PAD promotes best agro practices through farmer mobilization, training and setting up demo farms. PAD also promotes soil rejuvenation through the utilization of organic manure and promoting agro forestry. This pillar has been achieved in most of the model parishes.

- **iii) Income generation**
  This component tackles the lack of adequate incomes for households. The President’s vision is to have every homestead in Uganda earn at least Shs. 20 million per annum. Research and Demonstrations by PAD have established that with best agro practices, improved planting materials and good farm management practices, a rural farmer with 1 hectare of land can be food secure and earn a minimum of Shillings 20 million per annum within 2-3 years.

  PAD has achieved good results under this pillar, some farmers in the model parishes have started earning an annual income of over shillings 20 million. These model farmers have proved that it is possible to earn big in agriculture and have motivated other farmers in the model parishes to follow suit. The lead farmers that earn over 20 million per annum include Mr. Kasekende and Mr. Kigozi of Kyamuluguka model parish in Masaka district, Mrs. Leticia Rwabutwaguzi of Ruharo model parish in Bushenyi District, Mr. Caleb Tayebwa, Mr. Benon Rutogoogo, of Kikoni model parish in Ntungamo district, plus Mr. William Kigambe of Bwerwa model parish in Kamwenge district, to mention but a few.

- **iv) Value addition and marketing**
  In order to increase revenue to the farmers and access regional and international markets, value addition is promoted. The department promotes value addition of agricultural products, wine making, rice hulling, maize milling, juice making, banana flour and wine making. In addition, farmers are trained in group marketing to improve on their marketing skills plus bargaining power and increase the farm gate prices.

- **v) Savings and credit**
  This is mainly intended for the urban poor and organized rural groups that lack land but have viable income generating activities. The beneficiaries are mainly women and youth groups or community based organizations. The groups are first strengthened through training on group dynamics, savings and credit, basic management techniques after which a seed grant to act as a revolving fund is availed to them for provision of soft credit to the members.

PAD promotes SACCOs. Ms. Ruth Nakyandita of Kabalagala Cooperative Society which received a revolving fund from PAD displays her credit to the members.

Ms. Theresa Namusisi making Theresa Wine, is one of the many successful rural entrepreneurs that was promoted by the President through PAD.

Expansion within the model parishes - the pyramid concept

The program has a multiplier effect by making sure that each beneficiary picks another person who will directly benefit through him as a secondary beneficiary. For example if a beneficiary receives an in-calf heifer, s/he chooses a secondary beneficiary who receives the first call. Likewise, secondary beneficiaries are required to identify other beneficiaries below them. Over time therefore, this multiplier concept ensures that all homesteads in the beneficiary communities become direct beneficiaries of the programme agro inputs distribution.

The pyramid concept is summarized as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Beneficiary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Beneficiary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Beneficiary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Beneficiary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Benon Rutogoogo a lead farmer in Kikoni model parish shows the diary cow that was given to him by H.E. the President through PAD.

These youth of Mpigi district were given over 50,000 pineapple suckers by PAD to start a pineapple project.

Hence by H.E. the President giving out high yielding agro-inputs, (through PAD) the vicious circle of poverty is broken.

**Support to scientific innovators**

PAD promotes Scientists whose innovations accelerate rural development. PAD has promoted Dr. Frolence Muranga on matooke flour under the Presidential Initiative for Banana Industrial Development (PIBID), Dr. Grace Namatya on essential oils and herbal medicines, Dr. Kyamugwa on spices and juices, Dr. Baziirake-Ibyarugaba on fresh matooke preservation and Mr. Arnold Bakenzana of the Kinkizi stove which also produces electricity.

Left: Dr. Baziirake (2nd left) explaining to the President his innovation of keeping peeled matooke fresh for over 2 weeks.

Right: Mr. Bakenzana in the initial stages of the Kinkizi stove research.

Mr. Bakenzana won an International scientific award in Japan in 2005. To-date the research has yielded a stove that can light 12 bulbs, charge phones and pump water.

**Breaking the vicious circle of poverty:**

One of the leading principles on poverty is that a person is poor due to low productivity. Low productivity leads to low income (poverty), then to low savings which leads to low investment and back to low productivity.

The vicious circle of poverty:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low productivity</th>
<th>Low income (poverty)</th>
<th>Low savings</th>
<th>Low investment</th>
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For the last 10 years, PAD has bought and distributed the following:

- 1,600,000 Coffee seedlings
- 1,109 in-calf heifers
- 30,000 vanilla vines
- 20,000 Kgs of hybrid Maize seeds
- 1,000 bags of vitamin A enriched sweet potato vines
- 1,000 hybrid piglets + sows
- 1,150,000 pineapple suckers
- 1,600,000 Coffee seedlings
- 220,000 banana suckers
- 30,000 vanilla vines
- 1,000 bags of improved cassava planting stems
- 1,000 bags of vitamin A enriched sweet potato vines
- 10,000 Kgs of improved bean seeds
- 5,000 mango seedlings
- 3,000 orange seedlings
- 100 sheeps
- 1 hybrid piglets + sows
- 1,550,000 tea seedlings

Left: Farmers in the model parishes are trained in best banana management for better yields. Left: Kwana Rural Development Association pose after receiving vitamin A enhanced sweet potato vines supplied by PAD.