

POVERTY ALLEVIATION DEPARTMENT — STATE HOUSE —

Assisting rural communities to improve household incomes

Introduction

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

Prosperity for all Ugandans,

The mission

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

The goal

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



H.E. the President handing over improved breeding goats to rural women groups of Mpigi & Sembabule Districts. The beneficiaries were trained in modern goat management by PAD which also sourced the goats.

- 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 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. 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.

PAD has recorded impressive results under this pillar.

ii) Food security

This addresses the issue of hunger. 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.

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.

iv) Value addition and marketing

In order to increase revenue to the farmers and access regional and international markets, value addition is promoted by PAD.

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.

Support to scientific innovators

PAD promotes Scientists whose innovations accelerate rural development. PAD has promoted a number of scientists including Dr. Frolence Muranga on matooke flour Dr. Grace Nambatya on essential oils and herbal medicines, Dr. Kyamuhangire on juices and wines, Dr. Bazirake-Byarugaba on fresh matooke preservation and Mr. Arnold Bakenzana of the Kinkizi stove which also produces electricity, etc.

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.

Hence by PAD giving out high yielding agro-inputs, it breaks the vicious circle of poverty.

Agro inputs given out by PAD

For the last 10 years, PAD has bought and distributed the following: 1,109 in-calf heifers, 30,000 vanilla vines, 1,800 bags of improved planting cassava stems, 1,000 bags of vitamin A enriched sweet potato vines, 20,000 Kgs of hybrid Maize seeds, 10,000 Kgs of improved bean seeds, 5,000 mango seedlings, 3,000 orange seedlings, 100 sheep, 1,000 hybrid piglets + sows, 1,150,000 pineapple suckers, 1,600,000 Coffee seedlings, 220,000 banana suckers, Pullets + feeds worth over shs 296 million, 550,000 tea seedlings, Inputs for apiary projects – shs 625 million, Small scale factories (grinding mills) – shs 120 million, 650 improved



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

goats, Seed capital revolving fund of up to Shs.150 million etc.

The Budget

PAD receives an annual budget of Shs 1 billion of which 80% is used to buy high yielding agro inputs for rural communities and the rest is used for office running and field operations.

Impact of PAD activities

- Through the home improvement program domestic hygiene has been improved in the operation areas with the majority of the



Beneficiaries in Ruharo Model Village-Bushenyi District off loading pineapple suckers delivered by PAD to start their pineapple projects.

- homes having toilets, bathrooms, utensil racks, energy saving stoves etc. Morbidity has reduced.
- 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.



Mrs. Magomu of PAD (3rd right) handing over farm implements to group youth leaders in Kitgum District.

- Beneficiaries of the heifer and poultry sub projects who are mostly women, have been able to improve their welfare through access to better diet and some have built good permanent houses from proceeds of their enterprises.
- 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.
- 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.

PAD promotes and operationalises the NRM's vision and mission of transforming Uganda from a backward society into a modern, food secure and self reliant country. In so doing, PAD is very proud to be contributing to President Museveni's manifesto and national policy formulation.

Needless to mention, the Presidential Initiatives to alleviate poverty are just a drop in the ocean considering the level of poverty country wide hence the need to scale up the model.

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.

Top executives

State House Controller
PPS/H.E the President
Head/PAD

Management

Head/PAD
SPA/Production
PDA/Finance Officer
PRO

Other Staff

Field Officers
Support Staff
Drivers/Office Attendants
PRO