

Rural Information System (RIS) Visit Report CHEGERE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY -APAC

Introduction:

This was a follow up on Rural Information System activities.

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Center Name:	<input type="text" value="CHEGERE"/>	District:	<input type="text" value="APACH"/>



PURPOSE:

The concept of the RIS project is such that ICT is applied to facilitate a two way information flow system where marketing information flows from the market to the co-operative on the one hand and marketing information e.g. available volumes, variety and quality flows from the co-operative to the market on the other.

The Purpose of the visit is to check the progress of RIS activities and also come up with corrective measures where applicable.

1. Functionality of the center.

(I) What is the mission/vision of the group/ association/ cooperative/organization?

Improved collective marketing for farmer economic empowerment

(II) What is the structure of the group/ association/cooperative/organization?

The General Assembly → Board → Management Staff

(III) How many members are registered with the association/cooperative/organization?

The members are 657

(IV) Activities done by the group/ association/cooperative/organization?

Production and bulk marketing of agricultural commodities

(V) Date of establishment.

June 2008

(VI) Is the information we send to the centers satisfactory?

YES NO

(VII) If No! What is missing?

(VIII) Do you have other income generating activities?

Not at the moment

(IX) Do you have a work plan and budget?

No

2. Equipment.

(I) How many computers did you receive from the RIS project?

(II) Are they working properly? YES NO

(III) Do you protect them using a working (UPS) Uninterruptible Power Supply?

No the UPS is currently down

(IV) Do you need lessons on how to use the computer?

Yes more lessons are still needed

(V) How often do you service the computers?

Its only when there is breakdown; no regular mantainance time table in place

(VI) Who is collecting information for this center?

Information Committee

(VII) How are you collecting information?

From the internet and from member societies

(VIII) Who is supplying you with this information?

UCE, MTTI, FIT UGANDA,

(IX) Are you connected to the internet?

YES

(X) Do you have internet constantly?

YES

(XI) If not, why is it that you never have a connection?

(XII) Do you save hardcopies of the information you send and receive

YES

(XIII) Do you backup your Data?

NO

(XIV) Do you get technical support whenever you need it?

NO

(XV) What are some of the common challenging /problems you get?

High rent costs for the office space

Monthly subscription fees for the internet service

Transport to farmers.

(XVI) Do you make money using the equipment to pay for bills?

yes

3. Collection and dissemination of information.

(I) How many seasons do you have in a year?

Two seasons

(II) Do you collect production data/information? And how often?

Yes though not regularly

(III) Who collects timely information?

Production /secretary manager

(IV) Which media do you use to collect and disseminate info?

Notice boards, public gatherings

(V) Do you have access to Markets?

Yes but the supplies are low

(VI) Do you have access to inputs?

Yes but there is no organized procurement of the inputs

(VII) Do your members have access to loans?

No ; financial institutions to provide financial services to the members

(VIII) Is the information support helping you?

yes

(IX) Do you have a disaster preparedness plan?

No

4. Collective marketing/bulking.

(I) Which enterprises do engage in?

Maize, Simsim, soya beans and honey

(II) Do you agree on price as a group?

yes

(III) Is produce mass quantity of produce?

yes

(IV) Do you know how to identify quality of produce?

yes

(V) Do you have standards in terms of quality in place?

yes

(VI) How is the information helping you to increase your income as a group?

Attain bargaining power

5. Competence of Staff?

(I) Do you know about the Project?

yes

(II) Which computer packages are you comfortable with?

Ms office and internet

(III) How do you collect information on agriculture?

From internet , websites and mainly through use of search engines

(IV) Do you know how to use the equipment?

yes

(V) Can you research on the internet?

Yes

(VI) Do you know how to look for more market?

yes

(VII) Have you acquired any skills from trainings and learning visits?

Yes

(VIII) What kind of training?

- Information management
- Entrepreneurship development
- Proposal writing and business plan

6. Discuss the Challenges and opportunities:

(I) What are some of the challenges that you face in carrying out your day to day activities?

Poor internet network system

Financial resources constraints

Transport

Salary for project staff

(II) Any possible solutions?

Resource mobilization

Enhanced publicity to increase the volume of business

(III) Are you working in partnership with other stakeholders in the Agricultural sector?

E.g. NARO, NAADS, UIRI etc.

Yes working closely with NAADS

(IV)

6. Recommendations:

Frequent monitoring and capacity building should be carried out regularly.

7. Conclusions:

The RIS initiative is critical in collective marketing through cooperatives as it serves as a bridge between the market and the producers. The beneficiary cooperative is progressively improving its performance since Chegere is in an agricultural zone.

Bulking is taking place e.g. 2009 season B:

Soya bean 26 tones were bulked raising 41m commission of 2m was recorded
280 tons of maize fetching 24m and a commission of 1m

The society has mobilized the community to constitute itself into a high level organization of AREA CO-OPERATIVE Enterprise comprised of 3 RPOs.

