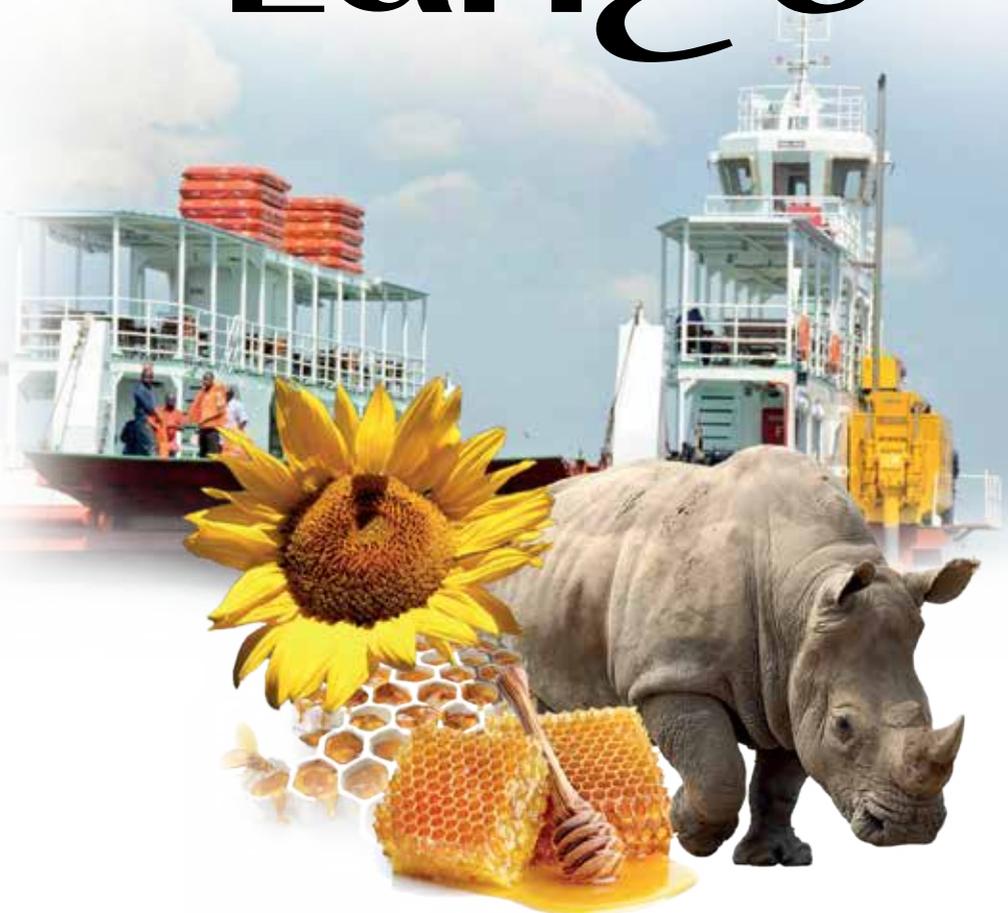




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Invest in Lango



Background

This investment profile is aimed at promoting the potential of the Greater Lango region so as to propel its economic potential and attract both local and foreign investors to stimulate the development of the region. The profile takes a multi-sectoral analysis approach so as to support the relevant value chains players in harnessing the different opportunities. The sectors of focus are those which are positioned to develop the region such as agriculture (and agro-processing), tourism, trade, manufacturing and services such as education, health and finances. There are some incentives which specific districts are willing to give investors such as industrial and agricultural land for easy location of their businesses. These can be coupled with the National incentives especially for investors willing to set up upcountry.

The Lango sub-region is currently divided into 9 districts of Alebtong, Amolatar, Apac, Dokolo, Kole, Lira, Oyam, Otuke and Kwania District. It's a relatively urbanized region with two Municipalities in Lira and Apac districts where manufacturing, trade and services are evidently booming. The region is situated within the annual cropping and cattle-farming systems that are primarily found in Northern Uganda. The region is dry compared to the rest of the country and experiences one long rainy season also called the unimodal type of rainfall, yet farmers can still grow two crops in a year. The country's grain basket and in fact contributing to the GDP.

The profile shows the crucial facilitating role played by both the Government agencies and local authorities whose main role is to propel Local Economic Development. The ultimate aim is intended to create a conducive environment for investment within the districts that make up the Lango region so as to increase household incomes and enable the collection of higher revenues for Local Governments, which ultimately translate into improved livelihoods for the people. The Uganda Investment Authority will play a role of enabling the Local Governments to profile their respective districts so as to harness all the potentials which can promote investments with a view of growing their Local Economic potential. This is the central role of this profile, to act as a marketing tool for the districts of Lango region.

Of particular note is the strategic location of the region in Northern Uganda. Situated along the shores of Lake Kyoga and Kwanaia, the region interlinks the South to the North and also the East of the country to the North. This makes the region a trade and investment hub of the area. The location of agro-processors such as Mukwano industries and Mt. Meru millers make the region attractive to many farmers in the neighboring Acholi, Karamoja and Teso regions who bring their crops for value addition. The region is also attractive to the hinterland who come to access services like banking, insurance, transport, entertainment and so on. This and the existence of utilities such as electricity and water, availability of land for investments, the presence of well trained and educated labor force plus the well-structured government incentive structure make the region ready to receive investments. All this is supported by a well-established One Stop Centre at UIA to ease in the set-up of investments in the area.

Map



The Districts

Alebtong District

The district is bordered by Otuke District to the north, Amuria District to the east, Dokolo District to the south, and Lira District to the west. The district headquarters are approximately 48 kilometres, by road, east of Lira, the largest city in the sub-region. This is approximately 285 kilometres, by road, north of Kampala, Uganda's capital and largest city.

Population

No.	Sub County	Male	Female	Total
1.	Abako	11,834	12,495	24,329
2.	Abia	11,338	12,098	23,436
3.	Akura	11,368	11,850	23,218
4.	Town Council	3,283	3,419	6,702
5.	Aloi	14,999	15,710	30,709
6.	Amugu	13,478	14,230	27,708
7.	Apala	9,513	10,108	19,621
8.	Awei	13,911	14,678	28,589
9.	Omoro	21,265	21,964	43,229
	Total	110,989	116,552	227,541

Source: National Population and Housing Census, 2014



Main Economic activity

Agriculture is the major economic activity in Alebtong district. The majority of farmers are small holders who grow mainly annual crops. The annuals include maize, sweet potatoes, beans, cassava and groundnuts.

Amolatar District

Amolatar District is bordered by Apac District to the north, Dokolo District to the northeast, Kaberamaido District to the east, Buyende District to the southeast, Kayunga District to the south and Nakasongola District to the west. The administrative headquarters of the district at Amolatar, are located 85 kilometres, by road, south of Lira, the largest city in the sub-region. This location lies about 185 kilometres, by road, northeast of Kampala, the capital of Uganda and the largest city in that country.

Population

No.	Sub County	Male	Female	Total
1.	Agikdak	5,300	5,568	10,868
2.	Agwingiri	7,750	8,109	15,859
3.	Akwon	3,772	3,966	7,738
4.	Amolatar T/C	5,600	5,602	11,202
5.	Aputi	7,345	7,679	15,024
6.	Arwotcek	8,229	8,440	16,669
7.	Awelo	5,674	5,880	11,554
8.	Etam	7,287	7,403	14,690
9.	Muntu	6,575	6,689	13,264
10.	Namasale	10,146	9,875	20,021
11.	Namasale T/C	5,336	4,941	10,277
	Total	73,014	74,152	147,166

Source: National Population and Housing Census, 2014

Main Economic activity

Subsistence agriculture, like in most areas of the region, crops like sweet potatoes, sim sim, beans, cassava, soya beans, millet and rice are grown to support households.

Animal husbandry with Chickens, goats cattle and turkeys raised mainly on



subsistence and quasi commercial levels

There is commercial fishing from area lakes with a well-connected ferry service linking the North to the Southern parts of Uganda.

Amolatar is always reputed for the presence of a monument to which legend has it that it's the center of Uganda. This is a tourist attraction to which has added economic importance to the District.

There is a resurgence of Commercial agriculture with Cotton growing which offers a ray of hope to the growth of the cotton industry and associated value chains. There are also efforts at commercializing sunflower growing to extract oils and there are some areas in the district which are taking on commercial fruit farming of oranges, mangoes and other fruit trees.

Apac District

Apac District is bordered by Oyam District to the north-east, Kole District to the north, Lira District to the north-east, Dokolo District to the east, Amolatar District to the south, Nakasongola District to the south-west, and Kiryandongo District to the west. The largest town in the district, Apac, is located approximately 62 kilometres, by road, south-west of Lira, the largest city in the Lango sub-region. This location is about 230 kilometres, by road, north of Kampala, the capital and largest city of Uganda.

Population

No.	Sub County	Males	Female	Total
1.	Abongomola	16,735	17,454	34,189
2.	Aduku	14,371	15,194	29,565
3.	Aduku T/C	3,672	4,043	7,715
4.	Chawente	16,757	17,180	33,937
5.	Inomo	14,515	15,097	29,612
6.	Nambieso	23,593	24,693	48,286
7.	Akokoro	21,353	20,758	42,111
8.	Chegere	17,330	18,149	35,479
9.	Ibuje	19,799	20,348	40,147
10.	Apac	25,628	26,985	52,613
11.	Apac T/C	7,242	7,730	14,972
	Total	180,995	187,631	368,626

Source: National Population and Housing Census, 2014

Main economic activities

Agriculture with main emphasis on food crops such as millet, cassava, cow Peas, potatoes, beans, Sim sim and sunflower. Cash crops include, cotton, Tobacco and Sugar cane. Vegetables such as Onions, Tomatoes, cabbages and sun flower.



There is also fishing on Lake Kyoga.

There are unexploited tourism opportunities in the district. Lake Kyoga, lake Bisina and Lake Kwania have tourism potential

Dokolo District

Dokolo District is bordered by Lira District to the northwest, Alebtong District to the northeast, Kaberamaido District to the east and south, Amolatar District to the southwest, and Apac District to the west. The administrative headquarters of the district are located approximately 60 kilometres, by road, southeast of Lira, the largest city in the sub-region.

Population

No.	Sub County	Male	Female	Total
1.	Adeknino	7,858	8,238	16,096
2.	Adok	8,743	9,168	17,911
3.	Agwata	10,430	10,857	21,287
4.	Amwoma	7,014	7,573	14,587
5.	Batta	9,187	9,303	18,490
6.	Dokolo	7,796	8,051	15,847
7.	Dokolo T/C	9,809	10,326	20,135
8.	Kangai	8,426	8,837	17,263
9.	Kwera	6,583	6,803	13,386
10.	Okwalongwen	7,027	7,429	14,456
11.	Okwongodul	6,603	7,032	13,635
	Total	89,476	93,617	183,093

Source: National Population and Housing Census, 2014



Main Economic activities

Crop agriculture which provides food, cash income, employment and raw materials for rural and urban industrialization. The main crops grown include: Pulses (Beans, Pigeon Peas, Tapery beans, Grams, Groundnuts); Root crops (Cassava, Sweet potato); Cereals (Millet, Maize, Sorghum, Rice); Oil Crops (Simsim, Sunflower, Soybeans).

There is commercial growing of Cotton and Sunflower. The following crops doubles for both food security and income generation: Simsim, Cassava, Maize, Rice, Sorghum, sweet potatoes and Soybeans.

Fruit trees such as mangoes, oranges, avocados and lemons have come to limelight and the have been given commercial attention. Another potential crop is Bananas both for cooking and desert and is being given critical attention in the district.

Dokolo District has high potential on fisheries for both capture fisheries (lake fisheries) and aqua-culture.

Processing of agricultural produce, especially grain milling and hulling dominates the industrial sub-sector. Repair and maintenance dominated the service sector while retail trade leads in the trade sub-sector.

Kole District

Kole District is bordered by Lira District to the east, Apac District to the south and Oyam District to the west and north. Kole, the district capital, is located approximately 28 kilometres, by road, northwest of Lira, the largest city in the sub-region. This location is approximately 290 kilometres, by road, north of Kampala, Uganda's capital and largest city.

Population

No.	Sub County	Male	Female	Total
1.	Aboke	22,698	23,913	46,611
2.	Akalo	14,066	14,821	28,887
3.	Alito	19,340	19,942	39,282
4.	Ayer	17,477	18,036	35,513
5.	Bala	22,332	23,408	45,740
6.	Kole T/C	4,349	4,511	8,860
7.	Okwerodot	16,902	17,532	34,434
	Total	117,164	122,163	239,327

Source: National Population and Housing Census, 2014

Main Economic activities

Agriculture is the major economic activity in Kole district. The majority of



farmers are small holders who grow mainly annual crops. The crops include maize, sweet potatoes, beans, cassava and groundnuts.

Lira District

Lira District is bordered by Pader District to the north, Otuke District to the northeast, Alebtong District to the east, Dokolo District to the southeast, Apac District to the southwest and Kole District to the west. The main municipal, administrative and commercial center in the district, Lira, is located 110 kilometres, by road, southeast of Gulu, the largest city in Northern Uganda. Distance from Kampala is 375kms via Karuma- Kamdini corner stretch.

Population

No.	Sub County	Male	Female	Total
1.	Adekokwok	19,237	20,720	39,957
2.	Agali	12,195	12,661	24,856
3.	Agweng	13,815	14,779	28,594
4.	Amach	16,970	17,852	34,822
5.	Aromo	15,812	16,598	34,822
6.	Barr	21,412	22,530	43,942
7.	Lira	17,129	18,383	35,512
8.	Ngetta	15,717	16,904	32,621
9.	Ogur	17,551	18,386	35,937
10.	Adyel Division	15,053	16,832	31,885
11.	Central Division	11,290	12,277	23,567
12.	Ojwina Division	17,685	20,482	38,167
13.	Railway Division	2,797	2,976	5,773
	Total	196,663	211,380	410,455

Source: National Population and Housing Census, 2014

Main Economic activities

Lira District has a diversified economy including:

Manufacturing with factories in the district that include oil mills; some of the prominent oil mills in the district include A.K Oil and Fats, Mt. Meru Oil Mill, Gurunanak, Akony kori, O.N Oil Mill. The oil milling is a major activity in this district because of the high production of sunflower, Simsim and the natural endowment with the Shea butter tree. The other factories include the maize and rice mills some of which also grinds maize, millet and sorghum.



Lira is home to a number of hotels and the town's city's streets are home to local musicians who enchant visitors with the sounds of African music. This plus the local artisans who line the streets with their handcrafted products and designs make the town a diverse, unspoilt and distinctly African destination for your holidays,



There are over 100 commercial tree farmers in the district and these people have planted over 5 hectares of tree each. There are also over 300 small scale tree farmers that have planted between 1 and 5 hectares of trees in the district. Timber dealing is a booming business in Lira Town with 49 registered and licensed timber dealers. The timber is either harvested locally from public land within Lango and Acholi sub region or are bought from the Natural and plantation forests in Uganda, while other timber are imported from Congo through West Nile.

Oyam District

Oyam District is bordered by Gulu District to the north, Pader District to the northeast, Kole District to the east, Apac District to the south, Kiryandongo District to the southwest and Nwoya District to the west. The administrative headquarters of the district at Oyam, are located approximately 78 kilometres (48 mi), by road, west of Lira, the largest city in the sub-region.

Population

No.	Sub County	Male	Female	Total
1.	Aber	16,245	17,121	33,366
2.	Abok	8,611	8,932	17,543
3.	Acaba	13,627	14,465	28,092
4.	Aleka	14,383	15,175	29,558
5.	Iceme	22,919	23,836	46,755
6.	Kamdini	19,648	21,148	40,796
7.	Loro	27,128	28,032	55,160
8.	Minakulu	18,150	19,838	37,988
9.	Myene	13,495	14,123	27,618
10.	Ngai	14,465	14,456	28,921
11.	Otwal	12,648	13,472	26,120
12.	Oyam T/C	5,802	5,925	11,727
	Total	187,121	196,523	383,644

Source: National Population and Housing Census, 2014



Main Economic activities

Oyam district is blessed with the presence of River Nile, wetlands and small streams which are home to a wide variety of fish species, common species include; Nile Perch, Tilapia, Cat fish, Lung fish, Kasurubana, Silver fish and Barbus. These water resources have opportunities for investments in

industrial/commercial fishing. Oyam district has a total of one hundred forty fish ponds distributed among the seven sub-counties and one town council. It also has a total of two hundred sixty three fish farmers with one hundred eighty two male and eighty one female fish farmers.

Subsistence agriculture and animal husbandry are main economic activities in the district. The major crops grown include: Cotton, Bananas, Matooke, Beans, Millet, Pineapples, Cassava, Sweet potatoes. Livestock kept in the district includes: Cattle, Goats, Sheep, Pigs, Chicken, and Rabbits.

Otuke District

Otuke District is bordered by Agago District to the north, Abim District to the northeast, Napak District to the east, Amuria District to the southeast, Alebtong District to the south, Lira District to the southwest and Pader District to the northwest. Otuke, where the district headquarters are located, lies approximately 66 kilometres, by road, east of Lira, the largest city in the sub-region.

Population

No.	Sub County	Male	Female	Total
1.	Adwari	4,990	5,203	10,193
2.	Alango	5,959	6,451	12,410
3.	Ogor	7,155	7,233	14,388
4.	Ogwette	7,594	7,703	15,297
5.	Okwang	10,797	11,327	22,124
6.	Olilim	6,678	6,927	13,605
7.	Orum	4,932	5,092	10,024
8.	Otuke	3,082	3,131	6,213
	Total	51,187	53,067	104,254

Source: National Population and Housing Census, 2014

Main Economic activities

Agriculture is the major economic activity in Otuke district. The majority of farmers are small holders who grow mainly annual crops. The crops include maize, sweet potatoes, beans, cassava and groundnuts.



Economic activities

Agriculture

Cereals, oil crops, pulses, and root tubers, in addition to rearing cattle and small ruminants such as goats are the main agricultural activities in the region. The main cereal crops grown there are maize, finger millet, sorghum, and rice; other crops grown are cotton, sweet potatoes, and cassava. The region is also notable for growing oil crops such as sesame, sunflower, ground nuts, and other legumes, such as pigeon peas, soy beans, and beans. These provide the staple food for people beyond the region and play a role in income generation for rural households, with a substantial contribution to the national economy.

Apiary

Beekeeping is very important, for the production of honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen (bee bread), royal jelly and bee venom; for food, medicine and income. Honey is used for beverage brewing and occasionally served at important cultural ceremonies such as weddings. It is also served to very important guests as sign of high regard. In some African cultures, honey is also used to pay dowry. It is consumed whole or mixed with other foods as supplement. Among the Langi and Acholi, honey is mixed with simsim and groundnut paste. Bee brood (larvae and pupae) have high nutritional value and are



fed to malnourished children. Royal jelly and pollen are consumed for their high protein value. There are efforts within the Lango districts to support the conservation efforts of these resources by establishing apiaries within or at the boundary of these protected areas.

Tourism

Lango sub-region has unique, rich history and culture that they exhibit. Their culinary dishes are amazing. Their dance is captivating and infectious. The region has numerous sites, for example Ibuje Hill in Apac District which is very beautiful, different species of birds especially at the Lake shores in Kyoga and Kwania, Ngetta rock, Akokoro Sub-county in Apac which is Dr. Milton Obote's home, monument built at St Mary's Aboke Girls and Iceme where Opendo Art and Crafts are found. In addition, Lira town (district) is also rich in hotel industry than other districts in the Sub-region with nearly 40 top hotels (guest houses) and hundreds of lodges offering convenient accommodation. These ease the business environment especially for people coming from outside the region.

Manufacturing

The region once boasted as the industrial power house of the Northern region



with the now defunct Lira Spinning Mills and the starch factories taking center stage. These collapsed due to the failure of the supporting value chains of cotton and cassava respectively. Also the supporting primary industries such as ginneries collapsed across the region. But the resurgence of the region has seen new factories especially in agro-processing coming up. There are a number of seed oil processing factories such as A.K Oils and Fats (U) Ltd, a subsidiary of Mukwano, Al Safa Agro Ltd, IK Investment (U) Ltd, producer of sunflower vegetable cooking oil, Mt. Meru Millers also dealing in oil seed and processing of edible oils, Ngetta Tropical Holdings (NTH), producer of Virgin Oil Cooking oil and Guru Nanak. These are supported by many small scale industries mainly dealing in food processing, metal fabrication, honey processing, milling and so on.

Trade and support services

The region is the entry point to Northern Uganda hence its vibrancy in trade and related services such as banking, telecoms, medical facilities (hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and laboratory services), schools (from kindergarten to university) and so on. This makes the area attractive to the neighbors from Acholi, Karamoja, Teso and even South Sudan who come to transact with in the area. The area is also well developed in terms of infrastructure such as electricity, roads and connectivity through Lake Kyoga with ferry services linking the Central Uganda from Nakasongola to Amolatar and another link from Busoga to the North.

Investment Opportunities

Coffee farming and processing

The recent introduction of coffee farming in the region by Uganda Coffee Dev't Authority (UCDA) has seen 16,000 farmers in the region plant an estimated 5,441 hectares. The current output in the sub-region is 154 metric tons; with a potential output estimated at 16,323 metric tons at the peak. The districts with high potential for coffee production in the sub-region such as; Apac, Lira, and Kole. So this presents an investment opportunity of large scale coffee farming with districts like Alebtong providing land for commercial agriculture. Lira district has also set aside about 500 acres for investors which can be used to set up a state of the art coffee processing plan to serve the whole of Northern Uganda.

Fishing

Bordering the swampy and shallow Lake Kyoga, the region has a potential for fish farming. This is due to the fact of the shallowness of the lake which supports the growth of plankton. The irregular shoreline of the lake provides good breeding places for fish. And there is a regular supply of water from the Nile River hence survival of fish. Investors interested in cage fish farming to boost the fish stock for both the domestic market and export are advised to explore the activity on Lake Kyoga and the neighboring Lake Kwania. Dominant fish species like Tilapia and Nile Perch can be caged and they have available market both locally and regionally within the EAC or even on the international markets such as Europe and Asia. With a steady supply from the lakes, investors can think of introducing value addition or even processing the fish for a better return by setting up fish factories or related facilities such as cooling plants, fish feeds plants, building fishing boats, making fish gear. And subsequently this can lead to development to fishing sports.

Agriculture

From the 1960s to 1980s, Lango sub-region was known for growing cotton, tobacco and coffee as cash crops. That has changed with at least 20,000 farmers in eight districts of the sub-region turning to sunflower growing.

Lango is a leading producer of sunflower because of favorable rainfall and fertile soil. Therefore, it is one of the areas targeted for growing the crop and the farmers in Lango are adapting to the crops as a means to mitigate effects of climate change. For instance, sunflowers can make lead-contaminated soil safe for agriculture. The crop has attracted agro-processors such as Mukwano industries, Mt. Meru millers and other to the region. Investments around this value chain are still welcome. There is also a potential for coffee processing and revamping of the cotton industry with its associated value chains.

Tourism

The region has numerous tourism sites, for example Ibuje Hill in Apac District which is very beautiful, birds in the Lake Kyoga Ramsar, rice growing, Ngetta rock, Akokoro Sub-county in Apac, Dr. Milton Obote's home, traditional dances, a monument built at St Mary's Aboke Girls, Iceme where Opendo Art and Craft is, Barlonyo Memorial Site where 302 innocent civilians were killed by the Lord's Resistance Army Rebels (LRA) in February 2004, Amolatar landing site, Kangai area and in Dokolo District where Omukama Kabalega of Bunyoro and Ssekabaka Mwanga sought refuge from the British colonialists. This diverse tourism menu is supported by the presence of good accommodation especially in Lira and Apac districts, a well-connected telecom network, a good road network, presence of banking facilities with an international network and a support system at the center in form of Uganda Tourism Board. Investments in facilities to support these sites such as restaurants, accommodation, tourist transport, camping sites and so on have a positive forecast.

Apiculture

Apiculture is one of the most lucrative enterprises in many parts of the world. It is a profitable business that has no negative impact on the environment. It is a profitable and a viable enterprise that requires very little investment and produces quick returns. Throughout the region the practice of beekeeping (or apiculture) has become a popular modern practice for commercial farmers and hobbyists who manage bee colonies in order to harvest their honey and other products. There is the local demand which is being supplied by beekeepers directly in retail outlets such as supermarkets and health food stores while a large percentage is sold to hotels. Other suppliers purchase large quantities from the farmers, label retail containers and sell through

various outlets. Beekeeping can be a fun and profitable hobby or business venture, and it is fairly affordable to start up. With proper management, a hive can turn a profit relatively quickly, especially if the beekeeper is willing to consider all the potential streams of revenue. There are deliberate efforts by Government to assist interested beekeepers with soft loans and provide modern beekeeping equipment such as movable frame hives, bee suit and smokers at subsidized rates. Beekeeping practice should be adopted as an integrated rural development approach and should be promoted by a well-organized extension service to act as a link between apiculture specialists and rural beekeepers.

Challenges

While agricultural production within the Lango Sub region has picked up, the returnees still face a number of constraints which hamper a full recovery of the agricultural sector and hence peoples' incomes and livelihoods. The transformation of progressive farmers from subsistence to commercial farming has been held back by lack of up to date farming skills and limited access to modern farming technologies. Lack of advanced productive assets such as improved breeding stock, high yielding commercial crop varieties and secondary implements has also been a contributing factor.

A further obstacle has been the limited availability of animal health programs and the traditional perception of the livestock sector as a saving scheme

rather than an enterprise in its own right. In addition, the limited presence and capacity of local Government structures at sub county level hamper effective delivery of extension services. In particular the Production Departments at district and sub county level have a major role to play in pest and disease control as well as post- harvest handling activities. Better access to improved breeding stock or artificial insemination and the availability of animal health program is crucial in developing the livestock sector.

Infrastructural developments such as extension of utilities like water, electricity and other services throughout the region will ease doing business in the area. The region is mainly serviced by marram roads throughout the hinterland with only a few districts having tarmacked roads. This makes the cost of production to be high compared to areas like Kampala or Wakiso which are well serviced. Unified political support is lacking as the districts are driving an independent agenda. Yet if they put up a niche marketing approach they could benefit from the economies of scale which come with investors setting up variously in separate districts. Leaders should encourage their people to know their competitive advantages and concentrate on areas where they have strength.

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