



ETF

Ebonyu Transformation Farm Enterprise
Agroecology: Feeding the future through local livelihoods

Omor Village, Kalaki Sub - County
Kaberamaido District, Teso Sub - Region
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An Agroecology Development in Uganda

- a. **Piggery** – livestock, valuable waste, recycling, biosecurity
- b. **Orange orchard** – fruit, orange blossom, biodiversity features
- c. **Local honey** - Beehives pollination, insect diversity, links to Fairtrade
- d. **Local Chickens** – pest-control, local indigenous, free-range, eggs.
- e. **Passion fruit** – heavy fruiting, organic juice, manure and composting
- f. **Other crops** and much, much more engaging with ecosystem services.



Please see new website: <https://etfe-ug.com/>

More on Crowdfunding to follow soon.

Please request further information, e.g. the Main Report, Business Plan, get involved with "LIVE FOR SOIL, SOIL TO LIVE"



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EBONYU TRANSFORMATION FARM ENTERPRISES
*An Integrated Food and Livelihood provisioning
project based in Kalaki Sub County, Kalaki County,
Kaberamaido District, Uganda*

Project period: 60 months (Five years)

Project Proposal Submitted by Miss Asomo Genevieve (Director) with support from Dr. Nicholas James (external consultant)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ebonyu Transformation Farm Enterprises (ETFE) is a progressive farm set-up in July 2018 based in Kalaki, Eastern Uganda. The farming initiative drives itself based on the principles of agroecology¹ applying traditional, modern *and* sustainable methods to deliver local employment, valid livelihoods² and contribute to food security.³

The enterprise aims for a combination of the highest quality, sustainable and resourceful food provisioning for customers as well as beneficiaries within the community. It is committed to the improvement of local and community food self-provisioning, nutritional quality and the best levels of natural resource enhancement. ETFE aims to build upon a far-reaching range of local skills and knowledge in farming practice, horticultural knowledge and indigenous experience. This all includes the full participation and inclusion of beneficiaries. This will also combine with wider and long-term agrarian and environmental research of its originators. This is essentially a locally set-up *social enterprise* and will operate along the equivalent lines of a CIC (Community Interest Company) or part of a cooperative. The aim is therefore to ensure that profits and assets become transferable for public good the community. The consultation and participation of beneficiaries linked directly and indirectly to ETFE will be based on the wider principles of agroecology.

¹ **Agroecology** brings together scientific thinking and indigenous knowledge as well as up-to-date management systems to enhance food security, biodiversity, resource conservation and livelihoods. Agroecology works in diversity and complexity of farming systems, maintaining local and saved seeds and local livestock, improving soil fertility and water retention and recycling nutrients and energy on the farm rather than relying on external inputs. It prioritizes access to land, good food and work. It aims to be both productive and sustainable. Agroecology is therefore a practical and transformative collaboration between science, local farmers and social movements.

² **Livelihoods** are "the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living" (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

³ **Food security.** FAO's definition is that 'food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life' (FAO 1996). One other useful definition is Simon Maxwell's: "A country and people are food secure when their food system operates in such a way as to *remove the fear* that there will not be enough to eat." (Maxwell 1988, emphasis added).



Purpose

Aims, Achievements and Ambitions

The purpose of ETFE as a rural farming enterprise is to closely apply agroecology to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁴ It adopts the approach of enabling workable prospects for diverse rural and agrarian livelihoods as part of a long-term sustainable process. The aim will be to employ suitable modern and local, traditional and indigenous farming methods. This progressive aim towards a transformation allows for combining the connected, digital world including the Internet, Social Media and mobile phone technology with the traditional engaging especially with local knowledge, and valid cultural insights. These openly link-up and join-up local contexts with a wide range of conditions, markets and skills.

So far in 2018, a selection of integrated farming operations have been set-up by ETFE including:

The Piggery – using local livestock, making use of valuable waste, enabling recycling of foodstuffs including the use of fibers from weeds⁵, adopting careful biosecurity measures.⁶

The Orange orchard – organic fruit, orange blossom to give scent and character for the beehives and specialist biodiversity features including intercropping.

Local Honey - Beehives made from on-the-farm timber from Engorsoro (*Erythrina abyssinica*) trees, local organic honey, pollination, insect diversity and links to Fairtrade.

Local Chickens – helping with pest-control, local indigenous, free-range, and providing eggs for nutritional benefits.

⁴ Launched in 2015 by the UN, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals aim at “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” The aim is at “localizing” the actions and enabling prospects for “the future we want”.

⁵ See Appendix in the Main Report

⁶ See Appendix in the Main Report



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Passion fruit – using heavy fruiting, organic juice, and making use of manure, mulching and composting.

Other crops [sweet potato, cassava, maize, sesame, sunflower] and much, much more engaging explicitly with ecosystem services.

While the aim is to achieve realization as an enterprise or farm business, the goal is nevertheless to have significant social impact by improving and sustaining local livelihoods and increasing local employment. This will be through:

- increased local knowledge and skills in agricultural production;
- improved levels of household income and the serving of 500 direct beneficiaries;
- the direct training of 500 households in viable income generating activities;
- reduced levels of household food insecurity and unemployment among the primary beneficiaries;
- a recognized improved standard of living within Kaberamaido District.

Amount requested (the funding gap)

The enterprise aims to continue expanding, diversifying and honing the agroecology practices with some ambitions including offering research and residential opportunities for post-graduate, research level students.

It is hoped that 900,000,000 UGX (Eight Hundred million Uganda Shillings only) can be raised. That is £200,111 UK Pounds Sterling). (*NB current Exchange Rate in 2018 = £1 UK Pound: 4,500 UGX*).



BUDGET FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SET-UP + ONGOING OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

	ITEM	AMMOUNT IN UGX	AMOUNT IN UK POUNDS
1.	Building construction of one office and accommodation (five local huts).	157,500,000	35,000
2.	Purchase of land for enterprise expansion (approximately 15-acres = 6-hectares)	50,000,000	11,112
3.	Van (S/H medium size) (including running costs, insurance and so on x 5 years)	100,000,000	22,222
4.	Expansion of pigsty (extra bays x5, methane collection, wallow and waste collection)	54,000,000	12,000
5.	Consultancy ⁷ (business expansion; social enterprise; community work)	15,000,000	3,334
6.	Research and development (mainly in local pig-feed, passion-fruit cropping and beehive set-up)	15,000,000	3,334
7.	Expense equipment (direct materials, tools and so on plus depreciation expenses)	10,000,000	2,223
8.	Inputs (seed, fertilizers and crop protection products for ten cropping seasons).	10,000,000	2,223
9.	Organic approved herbicides/ pesticides	10,000,000	2,223
10.	Website platform to connect buyers and sellers locally, nationally and internationally	6,000,000	1,334
11.	Solar products for charging and lighting	20,000,000	4,445
12.	Solar cooking stoves x2	4,000,000	890
13.	Baseline survey, assessment, identification, mobilization, 'capacity building', plus skills-training ⁸ workshops on Agroecology to beneficiaries at community level info of small groups. ⁹	54,000,000	12,000
14.	Awareness: Production and distribution of visibility materials through formed groups of beneficiaries to create awareness campaign on agroecology. 73,000,000 per year x5 = 365,000,000	365,000,000	81,111
15.	Other expenses (bank transfer charges, indirect tax, legal fees, insurance costs, accounting, repair costs and so on)	30,000,000	6,667
	SUB TOTAL	900,500,000	200,111

⁷ The **Business Plan** aims to address six operational areas of ETFE's organization: activities, structure, communication, HR (Human Resources), finance and support infrastructure or network.

⁸ Skilling people up through innovative training is crucial. Up to ten ETFE trainees.

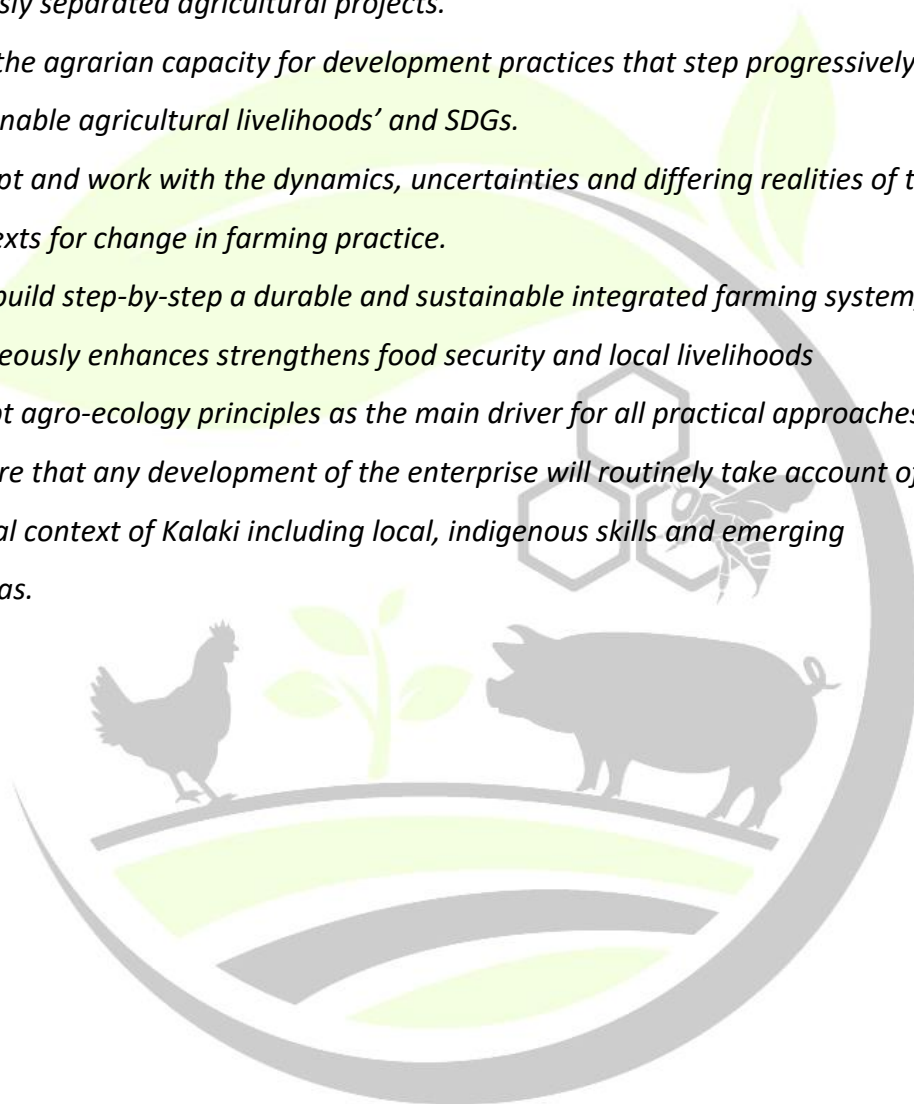
⁹ "Giving people the skills and responsibility to run their own profit and loss creates better results and increases satisfaction of most managers."



Agreements and recommendations

The enterprise aims to take on the following approaches:

- 1. To achieve a successful rural enterprise based on integrating and building upon several previously separated agricultural projects.*
- 2. Pursue the agrarian capacity for development practices that step progressively towards 'sustainable agricultural livelihoods' and SDGs.*
- 3. To accept and work with the dynamics, uncertainties and differing realities of the unfolding contexts for change in farming practice.*
- 4. Aim to build step-by-step a durable and sustainable integrated farming system, which simultaneously enhances strengthens food security and local livelihoods*
- 5. To adopt agro-ecology principles as the main driver for all practical approaches*
- 6. To ensure that any development of the enterprise will routinely take account of the history and rural context of Kalaki including local, indigenous skills and emerging progressive ideas.*





Memories from fifteen years ago

On Saturday October the 6th 2018, Asomo Genevieve gave a call on WhatsApp to Nick in UK. Her sister Babra had given birth to a beautiful girl, Acuro Eshian. Asomo and Babra were washing clothes, as it was a reasonably dry and warm Saturday morning in Bweyogerere, Kampala.

What followed in the call was a twenty-minute description of experiences and life during the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), "Kony" conflict in Kaberamaido District, Eastern Uganda where the family were living. The National Resistance Movement (NRM) was the ruling party in the Government of the Republic of Uganda.¹⁰

At the time of writing, Asomo came to be twenty five years old and this experience is a deep memory from when she was aged between eight and ten. It is harrowing and deeply disturbing to hear this first-hand. On one occasion she saw two dead bodies, one of a student who had been cycling to school and the other a middle-aged man who had been stopped by Kony's men. Their heads were burned with grass and they were killed. Asomo remembers hearing about raids into secondary schools and students being tied together in one line "like slaves", she explained. Her childhood friend and cousin sister were among those taken from Lwala Girls Mission School situated in Kaberamaido District. Some of them had been cutting their nails, and so, in semi-undress they were all forced outside; some were even naked. Two or more escaped, running into the bushes. Others used razorblades or other sharp objects to cut through the rope and escape. Many students, and especially girls, disappeared and so far, to date have never been found.

Asomo talked about attacks near their homestead in Omor village. At night the family would sleep away from the huts in the compound of their homestead, and stay overnight under a tree. This was one mattress for all of them, there were many children.

In the call, she told the story of Kony's men looting shops in various trading centres, and grabbing men and women, boys and girls to carry their drinks, bags of sugar, salt, animals from people's homes and other foods. "The rebels could ask you if you were tired, and if you said yes they would kill you there on the spot." The sound of gunshot was heard all over from time to time.

After it became scarier to stay near the homestead in Omor, the family moved into the "camp", which was set-up in Kalaki Sub County. This was makeshift and unofficial for a while. Staying in their auntie's

¹⁰ In March 2002, after several months of uncertainty, "Kony" LRA forces began crossing back into Uganda and carrying out attacks on a scale and of a brutality not seen since the first insurgency in the mid-1990s. The people in several regions, such as Soroti experienced widespread displacement and suffering.



house, the one who lives in the USA; the house was full with other four relatives' families. Asomo Genevieve, at the age of nine was given the task each day of looking after her sister's son Egosu, her own sister Proscovia, plus baby Dafina who was very young, under one. One day out of curiosity she took the younger children on a bike to see rebels that were killed outside the camp and on returning she was severely told-off for taking such a risk.

Asomo remembered that food aid was brought in by World Food Program (WFP). These consisted of yellow maize flour, beans, cooking oil and salt. Because of big numbers, there were many cases of theft, and huts catching fire while cooking. Each day people from the camp would go early around 5am before dawn to collect water. However, because of the long queues and the slow process they would often not return for many hours up to 2pm. On many days, there was a severe shortage of water and food. Firewood was difficult and risky to collect. Each time someone left the camp, there was a risk that they may not return. Many children suffered dysentery, diarrhoeas, malnutrition and other sicknesses.

The situation was ongoing and relentless. Travel was difficult; Asomo's uncle lost his leg when he was shot on his way to Kampala. Farming was almost impossible. People would take risks to reach their fields to harvest some crops, for example some cassava or sweet potato. A number never returned. They were captured and killed by Kony's LRA insurgents.

No analysis could enter Asomo's mind at the time. She was so young. Because of the upheaval, she lost over two years of education, including not being able to pay school fees some times. People prayed hard, she remembered. They prayed for the conflict to end for the suffering to stop and for peace to return. Eventually the conflict ended. The rebels dispersed. The government soldiers remained on guard. Asomo recalls that nevertheless some of the soldiers took local girls and behaved badly.

Asomo is very clear that while the painful memory from her girlhood has impacted her whole life, it has also given her a standpoint to work from. She overall, considered that she herself is extremely blessed.

She is blessed in her view for two reasons. In two senses. One, that she thinks she was too young to truly appreciate the conflict and trauma. Each day she was busy looking after her siblings, and also selling bread that her mother had made. Asomo became well-known among people in the community within the Kalaki area. This capability, and perhaps the sociability were skills she learned at that early age.



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The second reason that she feels blessed is that she did not have the worst part of her education cut away. After the conflict, she was able to resume education and by the time she completed secondary school there was the possibility for her to study and train in college. This unique advantage further enhanced her skills in business communication, enterprise and so on. The one thing she retained was a deep enthusiasm and interest in agriculture.

Asomo is part of Watoto Ministries in Kampala and Esule Omor Pentecostal Assembly of God at home founded by the late grandfather Esule. The local church is appealing for additional funds to complete their roof. They are close to managing but still struggling to meet the sufficient amounts. Overall, Asomo believes in part that her enterprising spirit and energy stem from these early experiences and the mysterious blessings in her life.

She nevertheless recalls as the WhatsApp call is coming to a close that many people in Kalaki and Kaberamaido were killed and never buried. Their spirits are unable to rest in peace. It is known even today to encounter these people [like Abiku in *The Famished Road* by Ben Okri]. The community therefore remains traumatized by this severe episode in their local history and how it is part of the LRA's second and much more violent insurgency.

In some respects, Asomo is a character in *Against All Odds*¹¹; here to tell her story. She's willing to share this otherwise private account of her life. She is driven to make work this social enterprise. Part of rebuilding people's livelihoods, part of re-establishing a strong community and a rich, sustainable, agrarian development.

The struggles in 2018 are very different. A focus on economic competition, questions of sustainability and the try-out of Agroecological approaches. The aim is therefore multi-fold with many ambitions and hopes. Above all, to overcome the vagaries of uncertainty both in economic dynamics but also in the ever-worsening climate and weather conditions. Asomo remembers the general appreciation in the community that the last good harvest in the region was in 2003. Asomo was ten years old then. Happy twenty-fifth, Asomo.

¹¹ *Against All Odds. Memoirs of Resilience, Determination, and Luck Amidst Hardship for an African Girl Child in Her Passionate Pursuit for Education*, by Betty Ogiel Rubanga.



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