



**ARCHBISHOP FLYNN RURAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION CENTRE
(AFRUDEC)**

**SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH AGRICULTURE
FIRST QUARTER (JANUARY – MARCH 2025) ACTIVITY PROGRESS REPORTS**



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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the implementation of farm activities by AFRUDEC during the first quarter of 2025. The primary areas of focus included:

- Field management of off-season vegetables
- Field maintenance of the cassava and pineapple mother gardens
- Execution of primary and secondary tillage for crop production
- Procurement of seeds and advance booking for banana, pineapple, and coffee planting materials
- Marking and pegging of banana fields
- Farm extension services including monitoring and supervision

Additionally, the report highlights the challenges encountered, proposes possible solutions, and presents recommendations and a conclusion.

1.2 LOCAL SITUATION/CONTEXT

The local situation on the farm remained peaceful, facilitating the effective implementation of planned activities. The surrounding farming community actively participated in land preparation, cooperative farming initiatives, and the development of local markets. Notable examples include auctions at Amoko Trading Centre and the Pader Town Council Markets, which enable farmers to sell directly to consumers, thereby increasing their profit margins. These markets also serve as outlets for off-season vegetables produced on the farm.

Community-led efforts, including neighborhood watch programs, are being established to safeguard crops and farming equipment from theft. With adequate security measures and strong communal cooperation in place, farmers are well-positioned to confront challenges and seize opportunities for growth and sustainability.

1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT AND FARM ENVIRONMENT

No seasonal rainfall outlook over Uganda report was provided by Uganda National Meteorological Authority for the month of January to March 2025.

Weather data on the farm recorded in January to March 2025 indicates low and poorly distributed rainfall across the quarter:

- January: 2 rainy days, totaling 10.2 mm
- February: No recorded rainfall
- March: 6 rainy days, totaling 46.8 mm

(Refer to the rainfall data in the annex 1 for detailed information.)

The low rainfall resulted in reduced soil moisture, a critical factor for seed germination and plant growth. Insufficient water stressed crops, leading to stunted growth, reduced yields, and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases. The prolonged dry conditions may have also delayed planting activities, negatively affecting overall agricultural productivity.

2.0 ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

2.1 CROP PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

2.1.1 OFF-SEASON VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND PERENNIAL CROPS (CASSAVA AND PINEAPPLE)

Effective management of both perennial crops; cassava and pineapple and off-season vegetables; tomatoes and onions was carried out during the reporting period. The key activities included:

- Regular weeding in cassava, pineapple, and vegetable fields
- Mulching in pineapple and vegetable plots

Weeding is a critical practice, as weeds compete with crops for nutrients, water, and sunlight, which can significantly reduce yields. Regular weeding helps ensure healthy crop growth and improved productivity.

In addition, routine field scouting was conducted to facilitate early detection of pests and diseases. This allowed for timely interventions, minimizing potential crop losses and ensuring optimal plant health.



Picture 1: Showing management of off-season vegetables and perennial crops through weeding and mulching.

2.2 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TILLAGE OPERATIONS

2.2.1 LAND PREPARATION

Primary tillage was carried out on 187 acres of land, focusing on early land preparation. This process helped break up the hard soil pan and incorporate organic matter from the previous harvest into the soil, promoting proper decomposition and enhancing soil fertility.

Following this, secondary tillage was conducted to refine the soil structure and level the land, making it suitable and ready for the planting of new crops.



Picture 2: Showing Primary and Secondary operation

2.2.2 MARKING AND PEGGING BANANA, PINEAPPLE, AND COFFEE FIELDS

Marking and pegging were carried out to ensure proper spacing and layout of the fields in preparation for planting. The project plans to begin with:

- Banana: 4 acres, with 450 plants per acre, totalling 1,800 plants
- Pineapple: 3 acres, with 1,000 plants per acre, totalling 3,000 plants
- Coffee: 2 acres, with 450 plants per acre, totalling 900 plants

Digging of planting holes is scheduled to begin in anticipation of the upcoming rainy season to enable early planting.



Picture 4: Showing Pegging of Banana and pineapple

2.3 PROCUREMENT OF SEEDS AND PLANTING MATERIALS

To ensure the availability of quality seeds and the timely delivery of planting materials, farm management procured seeds that were not saved from the previous harvest. In addition, advance bookings were made for coffee, banana, and pineapple planting materials in preparation for the upcoming planting season.

Table 1: Shows the summary of the seeds procured and planting materials booked for season one planting.

Seeds/Planting Materials	Variety	Planned Acreages	Quantity in Kgs /Numbers of seedlings
Maize	Longe 5	30	300
Sunflower	Agwara	20	20
Rice	Superica	20	400
Bananas Suckers	Matooke and bugoya (Mpologoma and F17)	4	1,800
Coffee	Robusta	2	900
Pineapple	Smooth kayen		3,000
Assorted Vegetables	Assorted	11	Lump sum

Farm saved seeds are for planting season one crop are;

- Maize G35 (70kg)
- Groundnut. (600kg)



Pictures 3: Showing procured seeds (maize/corn, assorted vegetables and sunflower).

3.0 APICULTURE UNIT MANAGEMENT

In the apiary, we carried out site selection for re-allocation of the apiculture unit to more convenient place with enough forages for better production. North western part of the farm was identified with hot bad air during farm planning hence there is need to block that air. For optimum land utilization, farm management decides to create buffer zone through planting trees to block that bad hair and that trees will act as forages for bees. This make new apiary site to be located in north western part of the farm with plenty of water and natural trees favoring bees activities for good production.

4.0 AQUACULTURE (FISH FARMING)

The activities implemented in the aquaculture unit is fish sampling and maintenance of pond hygiene. The performance of our pond is not good as fish population is very low. This came as a result of heavy flooding in the farm last year 2024. A heavy volume of rain water flowed over the dyke and drained away the fish three months after stocking. Farm management is making arrangements to restock the fish.

5.0 CHALLENGES

- Financial Constraints: These arose due to flooding, which prevented second-season planting. Resources had already been spent on primary tillage for this season, resulting in sunk costs without any return.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Diversification of Production:** Farm management should prioritize diversifying agricultural activities by introducing livestock production. This will help cushion the effects of crop failure, especially in the context of increasing climate variability.
2. **Introduction of Contract Farming:** Establishing contract farming arrangements with farmers both near and far from the farm is recommended as a risk management strategy. This can help ensure a more stable and predictable supply chain while distributing production risk.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The first quarter of 2025 was productive, marked by substantial progress in land preparation, procurement of essential inputs, and support to local farmers. Continued monitoring and evaluation will be critical to the success of the upcoming planting season.

8.0 PLANNED FARM ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT REPORTING QUARTER

- Planting of season one crops
- Digging and backfilling holes for coffee and banana
- Transportation of manure and planting materials
- Planting of pineapples
- Relocation of the apiary to a new site
- Stocking and management of the fish pond
- First and second weeding of season one crops

9.0 ANNEX 1: FARM WEATHER DATA

Date	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0.0	0.0	0.0									
2	0.0	0.0	0.0									
3	0.0	0.0	0.0									
4	0.0	0.0	0.0									
5	0.0	0.0	0.0									
6	0.0	0.0	0.0									
7	0.0	0.0	1.0									
8	0.0	0.0	0.0									
9	0.0	0.0	13.3									
10	9.0	0.0	0.0									
11	1.2	0.0	0.0									
12	0.0	0.0	7.6.									
13	0.0	0.0	0.0									
14	0.0	0.0	0.0									
15	0.0	0.0	0.0									
16	0.0	0.0	0.0									
17	0.0	0.0	0.0									
18	0.0	0.0	0.0									
19	0.0	0.0	6.5									
20	0.0	0.0	9.3									
21	0.0	0.0	0.0									
22	0.0	0.0	0.0									
23	0.0	0.0	0.0									
24	0.0	0.0	0.0									
25	0.0	0.0	0.0									
26	0.0	0.0	0.0									
27	0.0	0.0	0.0									
28	0.0	0.0	0.0									
29	0.0		9.1									
30	0.0		0.0									

31	0.0		0.0									
Total Rain	2	0	6									
Total days	10.2	0	46.8									

Enter rainfall for the preceding 24 hours, measured in millimeters to one decimal place, at 9.00am on the day it was measured. Rain days, for 'Total days' require a minimum of 0.1mm of rain.