

## Project Summary

Title	The potential of school gardening to mitigate short-term hunger and its effects on schooling in universal primary schools in eastern Uganda
PI	Dr. Paul Kibwika Agricultural Extension/Education Department, Makerere University P.O. Box 7062, Kampala Tel: 0712566952; Fax: 256-41-531641 E-mail: <a href="mailto:pkibwika@agric.mak.ac.ug">pkibwika@agric.mak.ac.ug</a>
Co-researchers	Dr. Florence Birungi Kyazze Agricultural Extension/Education Department, Makerere University Tel: 0782354233 Email: <a href="mailto:fbirungikyazze@agric.mak.ac.ug">fbirungikyazze@agric.mak.ac.ug</a> ;  Dr. Charles Muyanja Food Science and Technology Department, Makerere University Tel: 0772577708 Email: <a href="mailto:ckmuyanja@agric.mak.ac.ug">ckmuyanja@agric.mak.ac.ug</a>
Purpose	The overall objective is to establish the perceived effects of short-term hunger on schooling in UPE schools and evaluate the potential of school gardening as a feasible and affordable option for dealing with the challenge.
Project Summary	The Government of Uganda implemented the Universal Primary Education (UPE), one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 1997 as a foundation for improved social wellbeing of the majority of the population especially the poor. The Government meets the tuition and essential scholastic materials while parents are left to cover the cost of uniforms and feeding. But the cost of feeding became prohibitive to enrollment and has been scrapped. In view of societal food shortages especially in Eastern Uganda, it is unlikely that the poor parents can provide food for their children at school. School gardening is a potential solution for sustainable food provision in rural UPE schools but this has not been explored. The purpose of this study is to establish the effects of short-term hunger on schooling in UPE schools and through an action-oriented research demonstrate the potential of school gardening in providing food to the schools in Eastern Uganda. The research seeks to provide evidence for rethinking the policy on UPE and designing a more beneficial integration of productive agricultural skills at the primary level education in Uganda. The study therefore, contributes to two of RUFORUM's thematic areas of engaging with community to strengthen innovation capacity and knowledge generation; and increasing productivity and enhancing sustainable natural resource use and management.
Country and Specific Location(s)	Eastern Uganda, Districts: Kamuli and Soroti
Participating Institutions	Primary school in Kamuli district Primary school in Soroti district
Start Date	July 2010
End date	July, 2012
Amount of Funding	USD 59,988

