

MATUMAINI MAPYA

**L3F FARMERS LEARNING NEEDS ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

2014

BY :

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February, 2014

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Introduction

One of the objectives of Matumaini Mapya is to build human resource capacity, among participating women entrepreneurs and women organizations, through training in entrepreneurship development. In a recent survey conducted by Matumaini Mapya to establish the existing status of on-going businesses being conducted by its SACCOS and L3F Project members, a number of interesting findings have been obtained from the operational areas. The investigation report presents the findings for the SACCOS members and L3F project members. Finally, based on the findings, recommendations are made.

A. Matumaini Mapya SACCOS members

The members of Matumaini Mapya Saccos have been engaged in various businesses activities while at the same time, experiencing operational constraints. It was imperative to investigate the operational business areas in which the members are facing problems.

Business weak areas

Based on the current business environment were the market structure is highly competitive, the operational business areas in which the members are facing problems are presented in table1.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents' weak business areas

Area of business weakness	Responses	
	Freq	%
Record Keeping	17	11.0
Marketing skills	16	10.4
Capital base	93	60.4
Managerial skills	6	3.9
Working facilities	22	14.3
Total	154	100.0

Source: Survey data, January, 2014

From table 1 it is noted that the big picture for the weak business areas is represented by the high percentages relating to lack of capital base (60.4%) and lack of working facilities (14.3%). In that sequence is the lack of business record keeping (11.0%) and marketing skills (10.4%).

Requirements for business strengthening

The respondents were requested to indicate the business areas which required strengthening. The findings are presented in table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents' requirements for business strengthening

Requirement for business strengthening	Responses	
	Freq	%
Increased working capital	119	68.8
Provision of working facilities	24	13.9
Provision of entrepreneurial skills training	22	12.7
Provision of markets for the products	8	4.6
Total	173	100.0

Source: Matumaini Mapya Baseline Survey data, January, 2014

The findings in table 2 show that 68.8% of the respondents indicated that they would strengthen their businesses through increasing capital base and 13.9% indicated the provision of working facilities as the means of strengthening their businesses. However, it should be noted that the provision of working facilities is a dependency-based syndrome expectation for which the on-going businesses should not put much emphasis. On the other hand, the capital base could be negotiated.

Most important income generating enterprises

With regard to what the respondents considered the most important business (Table3), irrespective of location, businesses in the agriculture sector took the lead (maize and sunflower farming, horticulture, rabbit rearing, poultry keeping and dairy cattle combined to 64%). While maize production scored 31%, Sunflower scored 1% (see table3 below). Sunflower production is a relatively new crop in the Bukoba municipality, Bukoba rural and Missenyi districts and has been perceived to be a highly potential crop. Based on a survey conducted by Matumaini Mapya L3F project, it was found that Maize and Sunflower production were selected to be the only crops to be emphasized in the project.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents' most important income generating enterprise

Sector enterprises	Bukoba Municipal		Bukoba rural district		Missenyi district		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Agric Production								
Maize	7	13	24	39	16	44	47	31
Sunflower	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1
Vegetable	5	9	1	2	0	0	6	4
Cattle keeping	5	9	4	6	1	3	10	7
Poultry keeping	9	17	6	10	6	17	21	14
Rabbit rearing	1	2	2	3	0	0	3	2
Trade								
Hawker/Mmachinga	8	15	1	2	0	0	9	6
Shop/Kiosk	6	11	2	3	7	19	15	10
Market stall	6	11	0	0	1	3	7	5
Service sector								
Hair saloon	1	2	2	3	0	0	3	2
Restaurant	8	15	2	3	0	0	10	7
Tailoring	5	9	2	3	0	0	7	5
House letting	0	0	2	3	0	0	2	1

Source: Adopted from Matumaini Mapya Baseline Survey report, January, 2014

Learning needs for Maize

Maize is an annual crop requiring a set of conditions to perform well. The Conditions range from selecting good planting seeds or using improved maize varieties to timely Planting, fertilization,

weeding, harvesting and appropriate storage. The respondents were asked to indicate key areas for training in maize production. The responses are indicated in table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents' training needs for Maize

Area of training for Maize practices	Responses	
	Freq	%
Time of planting	44	10.9
Improved seeds/Seed selection	64	15.8
Plant spacing	32	7.9
Fertilizer application	77	19.0
Irrigation practices	7	1.7
Maize diseases	45	11.2
Farm management skills	20	4.9
Post harvest storage practices	52	12.8
Post harvest processing technologies	32	7.9
Markets for Maize	32	7.9
Total	405	100

Source: Matumaini Mapya Baseline Survey data, January, 2014

The responses in table 4 indicate that training is required for fertilizer application (19%), improved seeds/seed selection (15%), post harvest storage practices (12.8%) and maize diseases (11.2 %) in that order. It is imperative to emphasize that the training modules for maize production practices should be developed along the identified training requirements including the time of planting and plant spacing.

Training needs for Sunflower

As said earlier, Sunflower production is a new crop in the Matumaini Mapya L3F operational Project areas. However, the crop is the second selection after Maize and is perceived to have a high potential in terms of contributing significantly to the economy of the project operational areas. The training areas for Sunflower as identified by the respondents are indicated in table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents' training needs for Sunflower

Area of training for Sunflower practices	Responses	
	Freq	%
Suitable soils	9	6
Time of planting	21	14
Improved seeds/Seed selection	24	16
Plant spacing	7	4
Fertilizer application	18	12
Post harvest storage practices	13	8
Markets for Sunflower	17	11
Post harvest processing technologies	16	10
Insecticides	15	10
Diseases	14	9
Total	154	100

Source: Survey data, January, 2014

From table 5, it is apparent that the preferred areas for training on Sunflower production practices are improved seeds/seed selection (16%), time of planting (14%) and markets for the crop (11%). Considering also the preferences relating to post harvest processing technologies and treatment for diseases and pests (10%) are indeed the expectations for a new crop such as sunflower so as to avoid risky undertakings.

B. Matumaini Mapya L3F Project

Under the Matumaini Mapya L3F project specialized training needs for the selected crops is highly emphasized. As discussed earlier, the selected crops include Maize and Sunflower. Also, to be considered under the project would be livestock keeping, savings and credit, budgeting and entrepreneurship. The initiatives would form alternative sources of income to expand on the Capital base for the members.

Maize specialized training areas

The respondents were asked to indicate the specialized areas of training for the Maize crop. Table 6 shows the specialized training needs for maize.

Table 6: Matumaini Mapya L3F Project: Distribution of respondents' specialized training needs for Maize

Area of specialized training for Maize practices	Responses	
	Freq	%
Land preparation	167	14
Improved seeds/seed election	116	10
Plant spacing	206	18
Fertilizer application at planting	246	21
Fertilizer application at plant growth	183	16
Diseases/ pests	60	5
Treatment for diseases/ pests	84	7
Post harvest storage practices	42	4
Markets	20	2
Destructive animals	39	3
Total	1,163	100

Source: Survey data, January, 2014

From table 6 it is noted that the L3F project members preferred the following specialized training areas for maize: fertilizer application at the time of planting (21%), plant spacing (18%), fertilizer application at the time of plant growth (16%), land preparation (14%) and improved seeds/seed selection (10%). It should be noted that the training modules to be developed should not only consider the identified areas but also other areas such as disease/pest control, post harvest storage practices and post-harvest processing

Specialized training needs for Sunflower

The respondents were asked to identify specialized areas for training with regard to the Sunflower crop. The responses are presented in table 7.

Table 7: Matumaini Mapya L3F Project: Distribution of respondents' specialized training needs for Sunflower

Area of specialized training for Sunflower practices	Responses	
	Freq	%
Suitable soils	64	7.0
Land preparation	134	14.3
Time of planting	67	7.2

Improved seeds/seed election	95	10.2
Plant spacing	151	16.1
Fertilizer application	94	10.0
Harvesting	83	8.9
Post harvest storage practices	42	4.5
Post harvest processing	50	5.3
Destructive animals	32	3.4
Markets	45	4.8
Insecticides	44	4.7
Diseases/ pests	34	3.6
Total	935	100

Source: Survey data, January, 2014

From table 7 the respondents' identified specialized training areas for Sunflower include: Plant spacing (16.1%), Land preparation (14.3%), improved seeds /seed selection (10.2%) and fertilizer application (10%). The selected pattern for the specialized training areas for sunflower, a new crop depict an expected behavior for risk-averse farmers.

Training needs for Livestock

Following the findings of the Baseline survey conducted for Matumaini Mapya it was found that all the Matumaini Mapya SACCOS and L3F project members are interested in livestock keeping for food and cash requirements. Some training in livestock keeping is perceived to be of great importance. Thus, the respondents were asked to mention key important training areas by livestock types. The responses are presented in table 8.

Table 8: Matumaini Mapya L3F Project: Distribution of respondents' specialized training needs for livestock

Area of specialized training for livestock practices	Responses	
	Freq	%
Cattle keeping practices	69	9
Cattle diseases	26	3
Treatment of cattle diseases	14	2
Cattle markets	10	1
Goat keeping practices	143	19
Goat diseases	32	4
Treatment of Goat diseases	22	3
Goat markets	5	1
Piggery keeping practices	74	10
Pig diseases	16	2
Treatment of pig diseases	10	1
Pig market	4	1
Poultry keeping practices	219	28
Poultry diseases	62	8
Treatment of poultry diseases	40	5
Poultry market	23	3
Total	769	100

Source: Survey data, January, 2014

From Table 8 it is noted that poultry keeping scored the highest preference (28%) followed by Goat keeping practices (19%) and finally by piggery keeping practices (10%). Cattle keeping was ranked the last(9%) suggesting that already, the respondents have had adequate

experience in cattle-keeping practices. Of particular importance in the training is the associated livestock diseases and their control.

Savings, Credit and Budgeting

Specialized training in the areas of savings and credit and budgeting for the Matumaini Mapya Mapya Saccos members cannot be overemphasized. It is strongly recommended that training in these areas should be considered as 'cross-cutting' and be conducted accordingly.

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