



**2020**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**SUSTAINABLE**  
AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT *NETWORK*  
SARD-Net

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## ACRONYMS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
CMSSM	Community Managed Seed Security Model
CRAEM	Climate Resilient Agro Ecosystem Model
FFS	Farmer Field School
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GAPs	Good Agronomic Practices
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMC	National Management Committee
NRMC	Natural Resource Management Committee
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PVD	Participatory Variety Development
PVE	Participatory Variety Enhancement
PVS	Participatory Variety Selection
SARD-Net	Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Network
SCAIF	Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
VDF	Village Development Facilitator
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
WASH	Water Sanitation & Hygiene

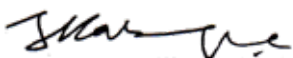
## MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN BOARD, SARD-Net

I am pleased to share with you this 2020 Annual Report. It has been yet another year of great achievements amidst challenges such as COVID-19 as we continue to pursue our vision of “...Rural Communities in Uganda where people live with dignity and in harmony with each other, their environment and God...” The past year has been continuity in implementation and realization of our Strategic Plan. For Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Network (SARD-Net), preparing and sharing the annual report is an exciting moment.

We have managed to implement project activities in pursuance of our mission to develop the capacities and capabilities of SARD-Net members and target rural communities in partnership with all people of good will so as to be effective and efficient agents in the promotion of sustainable agriculture in Uganda. As we share this report, therefore it is our hope as the Board of Directors that you will celebrate with us as we document the successes, challenges, lessons learnt and overall impact that we have achieved from our work. We would like to thank all our colleagues, development partners and friends for the support, council and mentorship we received.

I want to recognize and congratulate my fellow Board members, National Management Committee (NMC), the staff and interns at the secretariat through which activities are implemented for ending the year on a high note. I would like to thank everybody for the tireless work and energy they put in throughout the year 2020. SARD-Net has continued to implement its activities under the four (4) strategic sectors: Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Sustainability, Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) and Research & Advocacy. We in SARD-Net are still convinced that if all the four focus areas are addressed, we will certainly improve the lives of vulnerable people in Uganda.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank our partners: SCIAF and Trocaire for their invaluable support that enabled us to achieve our set objectives. We pledge our commitment to all our constituencies for dedicated service in 2021.



**Fr. James Kabonghe**  
**Board Chairperson,**

## **WORD FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

It is my pleasure to present to you SARD-Net's annual report for 2020. It provides an overview of the work done with our partners to find and implement durable solutions to transforming precious lives in Uganda. We work hand-in-hand with SARD-Net members and rural communities to create enabling environments that promote lasting solutions to their challenges through Sustainable Agriculture.

Our technical approaches are in line with the National Development Plan (NDP)III and Ugandan policies and are tailored for specific communities in Uganda.

Our annual report presents indicators that demonstrate the success of our development approach in 2020. We are proud that our programme touched many lives from the communities struggling to overcome poverty, ignorance, hunger, disease, environmental degradation and members searching for more knowledge and skills. Importantly, our development partners i.e. Trocaire and Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCAIF) generously funded the budget and ensured that SARD-Net remained a strong player in Uganda's development process.

The achievements within 2020 are a clear testimony to the fact that with modest funding and support from our funders, it was possible for SARD-Net to contribute to improving lives through Sustainable Agriculture for sustainable development in Uganda.

It is always an honour to lead and guide a team of dedicated staff who tenaciously work to ensure that our mission is accomplished. Finally, I would like to thank the Board, National Management Committee (NMC), Donors, Government of Uganda, the Communities and other development partners that have worked closely with us in 2020 to effect improving lives in Uganda, and I look forward to another successful year of collaboration in 2021.



**ABABO Stephen**  
**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

## OUR 2020 IN FIGURES

At Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Network (SARD-Net) taking records of our progress and achievements is just as important as moving forward.

### SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS

**2,400**

# of small holder farmers that adapted sustainable farming practices.

**100**

# of small holder farmers that adopted Climate Resilient Agro-Ecosystems Model (CRAEM).

**20**

# of smallholder farmers that adopted Community Managed Seed Security (CMSSM) model practices.

### SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS

**4,500**

# of small holder farmers sensitized on sustainable Natural Resource Management.

**20**

# of Natural Resource Management Committees established and are functional.

**2**

# of Community tree nurseries established to raise 200,000 assorted tree seedlings mainly focusing on indigenous tree species.

**900**

# of households adopted the use of energy saving cookstoves.

### SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS

**2,100**

# of members of 70 VSLA groups established.

**2,100**

# of people who have increased knowledge and skills in VSLA methodologies.

**830**

# of people with information, knowledge, and skills linked to behavioral change and empowerment due to GALs.

**350**

# of women involved in decision making processes at household level due to GALs.

## WHO WE ARE

Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Network (SARD-Net) is a national network organization legally registered with Government of Uganda as a company limited by guarantee (not-for-profit). The network has membership of 200 members (consisting of graduates from Baraka Agriculture College in Kenya and like-minded people) and most of them are working with rural communities in all the four (4) regions of Uganda i.e. Northern, Eastern, Central, and Western. SARD-Net works to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and the sustainability of farming communities by fostering Sustainable Agriculture practices and management in Uganda. SARD-Net has a presence in 38 districts in Uganda and reaches over 30,000 smallholder farmers in the country (60% women).

When the Franciscan Brothers came to Uganda, it was realized that for these past students from Baraka Agriculture College to have impact on rural communities, it was necessary to develop a structure through which to capacity and capability build them for promotion of sustainable agriculture. In November 2009, they decided to initiate a national Network (SARD-Net) to facilitate capacity and capability development of members and target rural communities for effective and efficient promotion of sustainable agriculture for rural development.

Since then, a total of 13 cells covering 38 districts of Uganda have been initiated and these cells are working with rural communities across the country. The 13 cells established are facilitating 40 communities with the help of 40 Community Mobilisers in all the 4 regions of Uganda. Through the cell structure, members support each other in the mobilization of their respective villages and they act as catalysts in the development process while community members work for their development through participatory processes. At the end of the process, target communities are empowered.

Uganda being an agricultural based country, the network members believe in a farming system that is based on processes that strive to meet the needs necessary for an integrated, happy life of those depending on the farm for their livelihoods by mainstreaming sustainable development of the available human, physical, financial, social, and natural capital resources.

## **Our Vision**

“....Rural Communities in Uganda where people live with dignity and in harmony with each other, their environment and God....”

## **Our Goal**

To contribute to attainment of Sustainable Livelihoods of rural households, the development of their communities and their rural space through promotion of Sustainable Agriculture.

## **Mission**

“Our mission is to develop the capacities and capabilities of SARD-Net members and target rural communities in partnership with all people of good will so as to be effective and efficient agents in the promotion of sustainable agriculture in Uganda.”

## **Core Values**

- Truth
- Freedom
- Justice
- Forgiveness
- Love



## 2.0 Making strategic progress from the year 2020

SARD-Net is pleased to share about the 2020 successes in this Annual Report. This Report presents a summary of the impact of our work among targeted rural communities across Uganda in 2020 and gives a brief on the achievements attained during the year.

The report may not fully exhaust every impact realized but it shades light on our contributions to empowering SARD-Net members and targeted rural communities to sustainably improve their livelihoods in Uganda.

### 2.1 Sustainable Farming Systems

SARD-Net has put significant effort in to enhance smallholder farmers' knowledge and skills necessary to improve farmers' resilience to climate change and agricultural productivity. Promoting seed security, climate resilience and agro-ecology through verified models such as Community Managed Seed Security Model (CMSSM), Climate Resilient Agro-Ecosystems Model (CRAEM) and Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS).

#### 2.1.1 Soil and Water Conservation

SARD-Net through its 13 cells across the country namely, Adjumani cell, Arua cell, NEZO cell, Gulu cell, Jinja cell, Kweyayo cell, Kwagaliza cell, Masaka cell, Mbarara cell, Kabale cell, Kibaale South cell, Kibaale North cell and Hoima cell trained smallholder farmers in sustainable farming practices including soil and water conservation.

2,400 smallholder farmers (941 men, 1,459 women) have adopted soil and water conservation practices hence improving crop productivity.

Technologies being promoted include: rain water harvesting, mulching, integrated soil nutrient and Integrated Pest Management practices for water retention and maintaining soil structure and soil biodiversity as well as improved crop yields.



**Figure 1: A Community Mobiliser training community members on underground water tank construction, Kabale cell in Kabale District.**

#### 2.1.2 Enhancing Climate Resilience

In 2020, emphasis was put on up scaling the Climate Resilient Agro-Ecosystem model (CRAEM) to catalyse joint and sustain efforts to preserve agro ecosystems, a key tenet to ensuring sustainable food systems. SARD-Net strengthened the capacity of 1,692 smallholder farmers consisting of 574 males and 1,118 females on CRAEM and provided with technical assistance so as to promote climate resilience among Smallholder Farmers (SHFs). We also supported establishment of 4 demonstration sites (Community Based Learning centres) to showcase the recommended CRAEM practices. These continue to provide a range of CRAEM practices in one location thereby allowing farmers to learn, adapt and replicate the recommended practices on their own farms. 100 smallholder farmers adopted the CRAEM to enhance climate resilience.

SARD-Net also supported selected 20 villages to conduct the initial stages of participatory situational analysis, vulnerability assessment coupled with hazard analysis/ mappings, stakeholder mapping and analysis, and resource mapping. This enabled farmers and other community level actors to reflect on the prevailing situation with regards to climate change. Together with Village Development Facilitators (VDFs), SARD-Net supported

establishment and building capacity of natural resource management committees at village levels. These have trained other community members in natural resource management so as to protect and sustainably utilize their land, trees, pastures and wetlands among others.



**Figure 2: Demonstration garden for beans under a small scale irrigation at Kweewayo cell, Luwero District, Uganda.**

### 2.1.3 Promoting Seed Security

SARD-Net has been promoting Community Managed Seed Security Model (CMSSM) among smallholder farmers with technical support from Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM).

Since SARD-Net started implementing the seed security model during the year, 40 smallholder farmers (16 males and 24 females) have adopted Community Managed Seed Security model (CMSSM) practices. Some of the seeds conserved were; traditional varieties like sorghum, beans, millet, groundnuts, cow peas, vegetables among others that are drought tolerant and last longer compared to the improved varieties.

The farmers have gained practical skills on Farmer Field School (FFS) principles and practices in plant breeding, variety improvement and selection. The FFS approach further contributed to strengthening the CMSSM through engagement in Participatory

Variety selection (PVS), Plant Variety Enhancement (PVE) and Participatory Variety Development (PVD).

SARD-Net supported selected smallholder farmers to showcase, exchange and/or trade their diverse local seed varieties and acquire new diverse seeds directly from each other through Seed and food fairs at regional and national levels. Further, the fairs provided a platform to discuss various seed related issues such as seed quality, access, certification, variety preservation etc. and to learn more about good practices of seed selection and storage.



**Figure 3: SARD-Net staff receiving an Award during the 10th annual Seed and food fair in Kampala, Uganda.**

### STORY OF CHANGE

*I am Akena Patrick 35 years old married to Atoo Vicky 28years old and we have 4 children; AngeyoDafin 11 years, Atimango Mercy 9 years, Rubangangeyo Elvis 7 years, and Omara Stephen 1year old. I belong to Pacu clan who migrated from South Sudan hundreds of years ago. I currently live together with my family members in Dog gudi B village, Paloga Parish, Paloga Sub County, Lamwo district in Uganda. I am a smallholder farmer who earns a living mainly from farming and doing petty business.*

*Before I joined SARD-Net, life was very challenging for my family. We could only afford to eat one (1) meal in a day. I had no proper shelter except of my 2 grass thatched huts with*

mud wattle, 1 cow, and 2 goats. Paying school fees for my children was challenging, buying basic family needs like source pans, clothes, paying medical bills among others was not easy too. My wife could sometimes do petty jobs for food from the neighbours and even paying part of the school fees for the children.

Farming on a large scale was hard because of lack of planting Materials and labour costs since we could not afford. I used to engage in charcoal and brick laying activities in wetlands to earn a living and also pay school fees and medical bills for the family.

My worst moment in life was when I was given a letter for payment of dowry for my wife. I did not have anything like an animal and money to pay dowry of my wife, life became miserable when I failed to raise to the expectation of my in-laws but through the good relationship with friends and relatives I finally made it.

Through my Local council (LC) Mr. Ocitti Kenneth, I got to hear about SARD-Net and I became more interested when I was told that the organisation implements Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihood activities in Paloga and Lokung Sub Counties, Lamwo District. Our motto for the clan states 'lapurpecamolabutu' meaning you cannot achieve anything while sleeping i.e. you have to wake up and work hard in order to eat. Through my active participation during group formation, I was elected to be the VDF of Dog gudi B village where I live. I have attended several trainings conducted by SARD-Net staff and exposure visits within and outside the district on Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs), Gender Action Learning Systems (GALs), VSLA, and CREAM.

Through the trainings, I got inspired to engage in farming as a better means of livelihoods. I am currently practicing sustainable farming practices such as inter-cropping, mulching, crop rotation, soil and water conservation, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), growing

horticultural crops such as tomatoes, eggs plants, and other varieties of vegetables among others.

SARD-Net has empowered me to acquired skills of solving gender violence related issues, good agronomic practices like nursery bed establishment and management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), animal health related management among others. Through SARD-Net trainings, I have managed to increase my acreage of farming from the previous 2 acres to 10 acres.

The VSLA savings has enabled me construct a 2 roomed permanent house for my family, 8 heads of cattle, 1 ox-plough, 4 goats, a shop for general merchandise, a radio, mattresses, cooking utensils, chicken. We now eat three (3) meals a day as opposed to one (1) before. I am also able to pay for school fees for my 3 children because my household income has increased.



**Figure 4: Akena ploughing his garden with Oxen in Dog gudi B village, Paloga Sub County, Lamwo District.**

## **2.2 Environmental Sustainability**

### **2.2.1 Environmental awareness campaigns**

The achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires that the earth's natural resources are wisely utilized, conserved and sustained over time. Sustainable natural resource management is already a great challenge because of multiple pressures on resources that result from population

growth, urbanization, increasing and changing consumption patterns among others. SARD-Net reached 4,500 small holder farmers (2,100males and 2,400females)through environmental awareness campaigns in Uganda.

### 2.2.2 Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCM)

SARD-Net facilitated the establishment of 20 Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCMs) in 20 villages in Paloga and Lokung sub counties, Lamwo District. Each Natural Resource Committee is composed of 9 members; meaning there are 180 members (100men and 80women). All the 20 Natural Resource Management Committees are functional. The main role of the Natural Resource Management Committee is to ensure sustainable management of natural resources within their areas of jurisdiction (villages).

The progressive, systematic and induced unsustainable management of fragile ecosystems has caused declining resource productivity and resilience, resource scarcities, inequitable access that breeds conflicts, population displacements and worsen human vulnerability. As such, ecosystem management and restoration is key for enhancing land productivity, reducing poverty and enhancing the quality of life or resource-dependent farmers hence a clear reason for SARD-Net's intervention. The Natural Resource Management Committees formed are functional and are playing their roles in the 20 villages.

They have guided the village council to come up with bye-laws on use and management of natural resources especially endangered tree species like shear butter tree, termarindaindicus, mahogany, mvule etc.

### 2.2.3 Community Tree Nursery

SARD-Net supported the establishment of 2 Community Tree nurseries in Zeu village, Abar

East parish, Ndhew Sub County, Nebbi District and Pateke village in Lokung Sub County, Lamwo District.

The Community are managing the tree nursery with technical support from SARD-Netand they were able to raise 150,000 assorted tree seedlings i.e. both fruits and forest tree species.



**Figure 5: Community nursery at Zeu village, Ndhew Sub County, Nebbi District, Uganda.**

50 smallholder farmers were trained in tree planting and management techniques. 149,000 assorted tree seedlings were distributed to smallholder farmers with current survival rate of 90%.

This is aimed at restoring the degraded ecosystems as well as improve livelihoods of the community in Nebbi District and indeed Uganda.



**Figure 6: A smallholder farmer in his orchard garden in Guria West village, Lokung Sub County, Lamwo District, Uganda.**

### 2.2.4 Energy Saving Cook stoves

SARD-Net trained 1,500 households on construction of energy saving cook stoves. 900 households have adopted the use of energy saving cook stoves at household level. These energy saving cook stoves are made from local, free materials such as soil, clay, grass and water. They can use up to a third less fuel by maximizing the heated surface area and concentrating the heat and smoke. This drastically reduces the smoke, which causes serious problems over prolonged exposure. Furthermore, it contributes to the restoration of degraded ecosystem because less fuel is consumed.



**Figure 7: Energy saving stove constructed by Mabye community members in Luwero, Uganda.**

### 2.2.5 Bee Keeping as an IGA

Beekeeping is a potential sustainable livelihood activity, it does not capture the required attention as an alternative for income generating activity in Uganda.

Bee-keeping is an important seasonal activity in almost of all parts of Uganda. Traditionally, bee hives are built from timber, bamboo palms or woven from forest vines and reeds. Honey is usually taken from hives twice a year.

Bee hunters and keepers prefer placing their hives in forests rather than in open fields for three reasons. Hives hidden in forests are

protected from smoke caused by bush fires, from the heat and the wind and from unscrupulous honey stealing or hive destruction. SARD-Net supported 5 groups with modern bee hives (100) and local bee hives (100). All the 5 groups have established the bee hives. 75% of the bee hives are all colonised and are being managed by the groups. The beehives established have enhanced restoration of degraded ecosystems.



**Figure 8: An Apiary site in Pateke village, Lokung Sub County, Lamwo District.**

## 2.3 VSLA and GALS Methodologies

### 2.3.1 VSLA Methodology

SARD-Net facilitated communities to form 70 VSLA groups and all of them were trained in VSLA methodology. 2,100 people (840males and 1,260females) are members of the 70 VSLA groups established. Furthermore, 1,800 members (720males and 1,080females) have increased knowledge and skills in VSLA methodologies.

The primary purpose of a VSLA is to provide simple savings and loan facilities, in a community that does not have access to formal financial services.

Loans can also provide a form of self-insurance to members, supplemented by a social fund which provides small but important grants to members in distress.



**Figure 9: A VSLA group in Guria west village, Lokung Sub County, Lamwo District.**

### 2.3.2 GALS Methodology

SARD-Net trained 2,100 community members consisting of; 840 males and 1,260 females in Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS). This is because Gender norms and stereotypes constrain the opportunities for both women and men. Furthermore, according to World Bank gender overview (2016), gender inequality has put females at a disadvantage with women facing legal and social barriers that prevent them from owning or inheriting assets, and accessing credit. 830 members (371 males and 459 females) have information, Knowledge and skills linked to behavioural change and empowerment.

350 women are involved in decision making processes at household level due to GALS.



**Figure 10: Community Mobilizers being trained in Gender Action Learning System (GALS) in Nebbi Town, Nebbi District, Uganda.**

## 3.0 COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE (WASH)

SARD-Net is embracing a development-humanitarian nexus approaches dedicated to work in emergency situations to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. SARD-Net's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme focuses on women and their families having access to safe, equitable and sustainable clean water, dignified hygiene, and appropriate hygiene behaviours. SARD-Net engages in WASH activities in a variety of settings – households, communities, schools, health care facilities, remote rural settings, urban and peri-urban settings, rapid onset emergencies, and fragile contexts. Our community-based approach consisting of our long term presence gives us deep roots in the community, as well as our longevity and experience to take quality, sustainable WASH interventions to scale in Uganda.

### During COVID-19 emergency response, SARD-Net achieved the following:

- 10,000 people consisting of 5,800 females and 4,200 males were sensitized on COVID-19 through radio and household to household approaches.
- 580 households consisting of 3,480 people (2,088 females and 1,392 males) received facemasks to prevent spread of COVID-19 in the community.
- 290 households received hand washing soap to prevent spread of COVID-19 in the community.
- 350 households; 10 community market places and 20 institutions received hand washing kits and jerry cans to prevent spread of COVID-19 and improve hygiene and sanitation at household level.
- 20 megaphones were distributed to 20 villages i.e. for 18 VHTs and 2 Community mobilisers to sensitize the community on COVID-19 and other related diseases in

Erussi and Ndhew sub counties, Nebbi District, Uganda.



**Figure 11: A hand washing kit given by SARD-Net to Paloga health center III, Paloga Sub County, Lamwo District.**

#### **4.0 SAFE GUARDING**

SARD-Net promotes Sustainable Agriculture and resource rights with an aim of improving the livelihoods of the family for which it is founded - economic, environmental, social-cultural, political and institutional. The fact that SARD-Net interacts with children and adults directly or indirectly in her programmes, human resources and operations, the risk of harming children's integrity and even adults is very real. This is the reason for SARD-Net to be committed to widely promote Child Safeguarding Policy, not only internally but also with partner organizations that represent children and with whom they operate. In case of abuse or suspected abuse, fundamental principle calls for an immediate and professional response that respects the legislations in force. However, the Child Safeguard policy for SARD-Net was developed during the year. The Child Safeguard policy is being rolled out to the staff, interns, cells, VDFs and VDCs.

Furthermore, with technical guidance from Trocaire, SARD-Net developed a Commitment Statement on Safeguarding for its smooth operations. SARD-Net recognizes that abuse of power has led, and continues to lead, to

many forms of exploitation and abuse. The nature of our work creates a power differential between those employed by or working with SARD-Net and programme participants. We acknowledge that the potential exists for those who work with programme participants to abuse their position of power. SARD-Net also recognizes that there are specific needs, vulnerabilities and risks that exist for children and is committed to make every effort to ensure children are safe and protected in its national programme work in Uganda.

#### **5.0 INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

SARD-Net is committed to achieving best practice in corporate governance for non-profit organizations. Where relevant, SARD-Net has applied corporate governance principles and best practices as laid down by the Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) Act and the Companies Act as a way of developing and continuously improving our organizational governance, policies and practices. Furthermore, SARD-Net put a lot of efforts in strengthening her management, governance and resource mobilization. Changes in the network and annual budget were some of the results attained within the year.

##### **5.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was conducted on 24th October, 2020 in Nebbi town, Nebbi District. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the AGM was attended by 40 paid-up members (27m: 13f). The AGM is the highest decision-making and policy setting organ of the organisation.

##### **5.2 Board meeting**

The Board met two (2) times during the year and established one (1) Sub-Committee meeting i.e. Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. The Board of Directors are responsible for the governance of the network.

### 5.3 NMC meeting

The National Management Committee (NMC) conducted four (4) meetings i.e. quarterly. The NMC is responsible for executive and administrative control of the network. They also ensure proper feedback on the smooth running of SARD-Net affairs through the Audit report and activity reviews.

### 5.4 Sub-Committee meeting

Two (2) Sub-committee meetings were conducted during the year to handle very specific issues as agreed by the Board.

### 5.5 Joint meeting

One (1) Joint Board and National Management Committee meeting was conducted during the year.

### 5.6 Monitoring Cell Visits

The CEO and the NMC Chairperson conducted Monitoring cell visits to 4 cells namely; Gulu cell, Adjumani cell and Arua cell. This was meant to assess progress, challenges and suggest solutions to the challenges together with the members.

## 6.0 LESSONS LEARNT AND CHALLENGES

### 6.1 Lessons Learnt

- While the communities easily adopted VSLA activities, there was need to have savings initiatives focussed to a) reduce domestic conflict related to large sums of money at the end of the cycle and b) enhance the benefits accrued from the yearlong savings. Most saving groups do not prepare and/or teach members how to manage (relatively) large sums of money- which on average was \$150 saved over a 12-month period.
- Similarly, with mostly the woman participating in the savings groups, the savings sometimes caused domestic violence as men sought to take control of the expenditure. SARD-Net undertook an internal review and are proposing

to pilot 'Savings for Purpose Groups' in this project as a direct response to these challenges.

- Household level production and livelihood enhancement projects require a family approach, working with both men and women, with the exception of single headed families. The Oxfam GALS strategy is helpful with this processes increasing capacities for joint decision making and action. We propose to continue with this strategy in this new project too.
- The community agro ecology learning centres provide a resource that ensures farmer exposure and learning with regards to climate resilient agricultural technologies and practices. SARD-Net intends to enhance the centres and to increase their number, since they have the potential for becoming centres of excellence for promoting agro ecology and sustainable farming practices and host trainings locally.
- Identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is very important in achieving project sustainability.
- That community involvement in project identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is very important in achieving sustainability.

### 6.2 Challenges

- Climate change effects such as prolonged droughts constrained achievement of results in areas such as improving seed security among smallholder farmers and their level of uptake of farming practices. Nevertheless, SARD-Net continued to promote climate resilience practices.
- There was limited funding to support agricultural production and marketing activities.
- Value addition technologies are costly for farmers to adopt. This hinders their access of better markets.



- Price fluctuations led to low profit margins which demoralized small holder farmers.
- Farmers’ access to decentralized funds and services continued to be a major challenge. This could be attributed to limited knowledge among farmers of the procedures and processes necessary to access such funds and services.

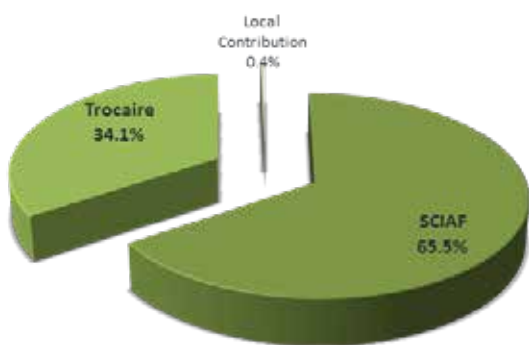
**7.0 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**SARD-Net’s financial base in 2020 was Ugx. 550,830,306.

We would like to appreciate Trocaire and SCIAF for their generous support to our annual budget.

Finally, we would also like to thank SARD-Net members for their support too.

**Donor Percentage Contributions**

2020



**8.0 FINAL WORD**

We would like to most importantly thank our different donors and development partners i.e. SCIAF, Troacire, PELUM Uganda, Adraa Agricultural College, Baraka Agricultural College, Government of Uganda among others for not only the financial support but the continuous mentorship you have offered to us throughout the year.

We were able to realize our milestones for the year and stay on course towards our mission. We also made a solid progress in achieving the strategic plan objectives. We have strengthened members’ capacities and capabilities to build resilience of farming communities; maintained and expanded relevant working partnerships and relations, enhanced SARD-Net’s functioning and strengthened its governance. We look forward to strengthening our teams, membership and partnerships to contribute meaningfully to our longer-term goals.



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