

John Sserweadda,
District Youth Coordinator for Rahi DATIC, Uganda¹

Anne: Can you tell me about your experience with Linking Local Learners?

John: LLL has been very helpful to us especially in disseminating factual information to our target group. When I opened my e mail, I found a lot of information flowing, about 200 messages and some stakeholders were advertising irrigation kits and this is a technology that we would also like to promote to our farmers to grow crops especially during the dry season. And the one of our fellow local learners gave us information and experience how we can manage the learning groups especially how we can improve on their marketing by involving them in the planning by making them into common market groups so we shared that experience and it has helped us to help our youth groups to market their produce.

Anne: What are you now able to do that you couldn't do before?

John: In the past we were not able to share experience and knowledge with the stakeholders especially abroad in Tanzania and Kenya. But this system has enabled us to access those stakeholders and any time we can post our questions and then they respond easily.

Anne: Have you got suggestions for us to improve the service?

John: The best way to improve your services is we need to train many stakeholders especially in computer skills and literacy, especially in those learning groups. And secondly we have to advocate for regional internet cafes, whereby at least a number of people can come and access the internet. Thirdly we need to sensitize the public the community more about LLL, very few people know about it. So we need to sensitize them more.

Anne: Would you feel able to train a group yourself?

John: In some areas yes, but in other areas I would need experts. Like sensitizing I can do it but I need an expert in training stakeholders how to use the internet and how to get connected to the LLL. But telling them that we have this kind of technology, I can play that part.

Anne: Can you tell me your vision for the future?

John: Our vision for the future especially in the DATIC is that we are going to use this learning tool to disseminate information to all the target groups, so our vision is to have all our farmers, the learning community, with access to information.

¹ Interviewed by Anne Dennig on October 21 2004 at LLL Assessment Workshop in Kakamega, Kenya after three months of using the LLL service.