



**BRIEFING
NOTE ON:**

**Achievements of Users Involved in
LLL Programmeⁱ**

In October 2004 just four months after their training some twenty of the seventy local learning facilitators from Kenya and Uganda met in Kenya to assess their experience with linked local learning. What follows are accounts of three of them. First, Betty Ajambo, from Mahono Mahalabani Farmer Field School in Busia, Uganda recounted how linked local learning has changed her work.

“Before I had an email address I could not communicate and share ideas with learners from other countries. I would only share with whom I see every day but now I can share with learners from Kenya, Tanzania and even the facilitators. I am now able to surf the internet and look for information, before I did not know that there was information on the internet which I could get that could assist me plus my group in whatever activity we are doing. For example: on the side of Marketing. Of course, for us we just know that when the middleman come we just sell but we didn’t know that we could pool together our maize as a group and maybe have better bargaining power thereby we can sell our maize at a higher price avoiding this exploiting middleman. When I learnt this though the LLL services my mind is now open to see problems.

Before, it was as if my mind was in one place because I could not share ideas with people who were not near me but now when I read from different people I get new ideas and this helps me to see the problems that I used not to see before. You know sometimes you can know, think, things are forever whatever you do and you do not even try to look for solutions! But now, with these LLL services, my mind is opened. Things I used to see as unchangeable I can now see them as challenges and together with my group we can sit down and try to see how we can solve them.”

Perez Kawumi, Mpigi District coordinator of UNFFE Uganda recounted how linked local learning benefited his work:

“Initially the question that I posted was how do we increase farms access to the markets because basically within Mpigi are blessed to have farmers

growing for the local market and for the international markets, we have a good number of exporters so we have received some good information about how we can access the international market and how we can prepare for the local market and recently we have got information on organic vegetables production and I managed to develop a concept out of the information I got on organic vegetables production and they have submitted it to Danida. And yesterday they have accepted the concept and are telling me to write a proposal so maybe such kind of information has benefited us a lot.”

John Inganga member of the Kakamega Farmer Field School Network recounted how linked local learning helped him:

My experience with the LLL is that it has been quite easy to get information which previously was very difficult to get. For example getting information from KARI on seed potatoes because when you go there the officer concerned is not around but now when we got the email address we just got connected and we got all the information. Secondly, we are working on a program of marketing sweet potatoes so we emailed KACE that is the Kenya Agricultural Commodity Exchange and they were able to provide us with the prices for various sweet potatoes. So this one was very interesting because we were just able to hear about it but now we were able to confirm. That is really practical.

All the participants at the assessment workshop in Kenya were asked: Has the LLL process allowed you to do things that you did not do before? Their responses to this question were as follows:

- “Enhanced ability to use the internet to communicate to other people on the global level”*
- “Read documents from other east African countries”*
- “Sharing visions between farmers”*
- “Now I’m forced to go on the internet so I can get more information to share with my group”*
- “Stimulating formation of marketing groups”*
- “Organising training for service providers”*
- “Allows regular meeting of service providers on effective service delivery”*
- “Created confidence in work performance”*
- “Has enabled me to make informed decisions due to discussion topics”*

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