

**INTRODUCTION OF A
BIODIVERSITY FARMING
CONCEPTS IN AMURU
DISTRICT**

**INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL
KNOWLEDGE FOR PRACTICE**

BY

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20 years LRA war in northern Uganda affected education. It confined the youths in IDP camps where they were fed on WFP food. They never learnt the basic traditional agricultural food production. There is now peace in the north, replaced by food and economic insecurity.

Acholi land is vast and fertile. It is agriculturally underutilized. Crops like Bananas, tomatoes, onions etc in Gulu Market are from south, east and western Uganda. Tons of these produce pass through Acholi land to Juba. The money pass through Acholi leaving the youths in Acholi chronically poor. The politicians protect the land from investors

AIKP in collaboration with Gulu University are determined to change this trend. We plan to equip the youths with agricultural skills We plan to introduce high value crops to the region. We plan to introduce value addition to produce We plan to encourage sustainable farming systems that will mitigate climate change, protect environment and biodiversity. Empower the youths for long term peace

Northern crops are Cotton, Rice Tobacco, Millet, Simsim, Maize, Sorghum and other annual cereals. They are uneconomical using family labour. They are crops that should be grown for household consumption. They all require clearing trees on the land. The production of these crops are not sustainable with the advent of climate change.

**A coffee farmer earns 16M/acre.
A maize farmer earns 0.6M/acre.
The maize farmer needs 26.6
acres to earn 16M. A tomato
farmer earns 3M/half acre. A
maize need 5 acres to 3M. A
cotton farmer earns 1.5M/acre.
He needs 2 acres to earn 3M.
With these low value and labour
intensive crops, poverty will be
sustained in the north**

IAKP is keen to introduce a new Biodiversity Cropping system, Crops that are of high market value such as tomatoes, onions, cabbages be grown one or two acres using family labour with the income far in excess of 10 acres of maize or any cereal crops. Crops such as Banana, Palm Tree Coffee will be introd.

Fees will be charged for the training. The Institute will provide internship training to under graduate students. The instructors will be progressive farmers who are not highly educated, but have skills in their areas of farming such as horticulture, dairy, piggery, agroforestry, seedling

Cutting trees to grow maize



There are still forests to protect through
Biodiversity farming



Irish Potatoes



Cabbages Demonstration



Banana and Palm Trees



Results attending on farm training



Table 1: Comparing crops grown in southern and western Uganda and those in northern Uganda and the acreage required to earn same income.

Central Crops	Income/acre	Northern Crops	Income/acre	Difference	Excess acres
Coffee	16M	Cotton	1.5M	14.5M	10.67
Coffee	16M	Maize	1.2M	14.8M	13.3
Tomatoes	6M	Beans	0.8M	5.2M	7,5
Irish Potatoes	9M	Sweet potatoes	0.75M	8.27M	12
Banana	10M	Rice	4M	6M	2.4
Onions	30M	Maize	1.2M	28.8M	25
Onions	30M	Sunflower	0.8M	29.2M	37

Table 2: The yield and income of some of the high value horticultural crops we are introducing in our demonstration gardens.

Crops we planted	Yield/half acre	Income/half acre
1 acre Banana (first harvest)	100 bunches	$15,000 \times 100 = 1,500,000 =$
Half acre Tomatoes	1050 Kg	$1050 \times 2,500 = 2,625,000 =$
Half acre Irish potatoes	8 bags	$8 \times 150,000 = 1,200,000 =$
Half acre of Onions	750 Kg	$750 \times 2500 = 1,875,000 =$

Palm Oil Plantation in Kalangala (Internet Photo), Lake Victoria, Uganda

