INTRODUCTION OF A BIODIVERSITY FARMING CONCEPTS IN AMURU DISTRICT

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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 environmt and biodiversity. Empower the vouths for long term neace

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/are. 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

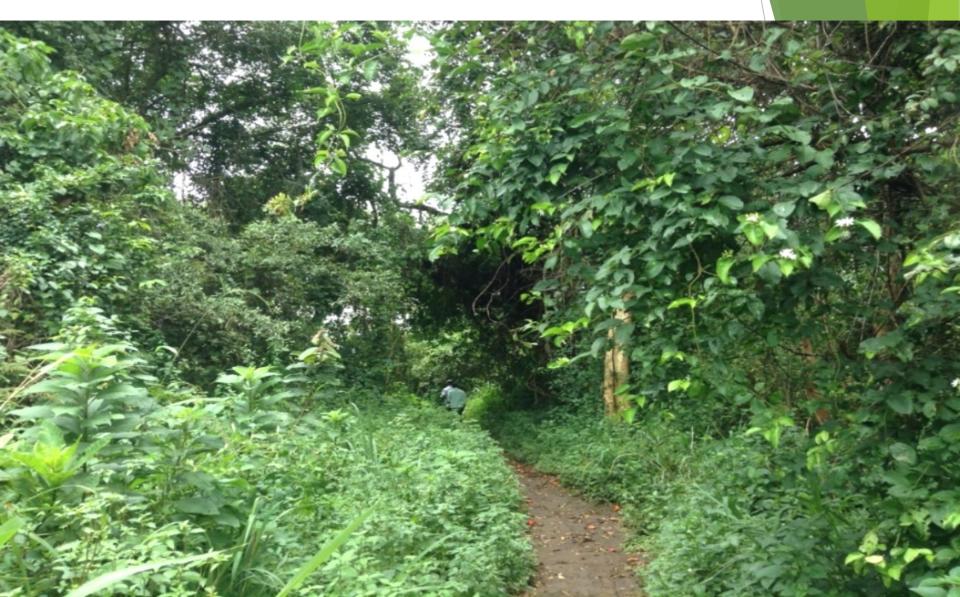
IAKP is keen to introduce a new Biodiversity Cropping system, Crops that are of high market value such as tomatoes, onions, cabbages be grown one or two acres using family labour with the income far in access of 10 acres of maize or any cereal crops. Crops such as Banana, Palm Tree Coffee will be introd.

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



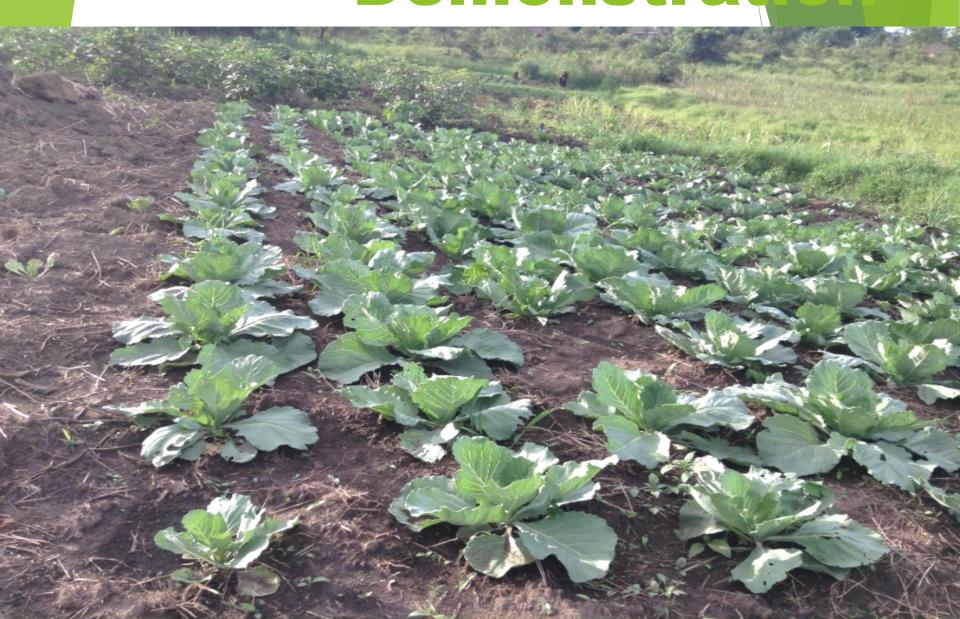
There are still forests to protect through Biodiversity farming



Irish Potatoes



Demonstration



Banana and Palm Trees



training



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

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 x100 = 1,500,000=
Half acre Tomatoes	1050 Kg	1050 x2,500 = 2,625,000=
Half acre Irish potatoes	8 bags	8 x150,000 = 1,200,000=
Half acre of Onions	750 Kg	750 x 2500 = 1,875,000=

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

