Slow Food® Uganda

ENDLINE EVALUATION REPORT

ACCELERATING AGROECOLOGICAL FOOD PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND MARKET ACCESS FOR A RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM IN UGANDA

2025

www.slowfooduganda.org

FUNDED BY:
Biovision Foundation

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Slow Food Uganda extends its sincere appreciation to the Biovision Foundation for the financial and technical support provided towards the successful implementation of the DPH14 Project: Accelerating Agroecological Food Production, Consumption and Market Access for a Resilient Food System in Uganda. Your continued partnership has been instrumental in advancing agroecological practices, strengthening community food systems, enhancing market access through Earth Markets, and promoting awareness on the value of good, clean and fair food across the project implementation districts.

We would like to particularly acknowledge the valuable guidance, coordination and support provided by Séverine Erismann throughout the project period. Your commitment and collaboration have greatly contributed to the effective delivery of project activities and the achievement of key results.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire Slow Food Uganda team, including project manager, Program officers, Slow Food Youth Network members, and community facilitators, whose dedication, technical expertise, and tireless efforts ensured the successful implementation, monitoring and documentation of project interventions across the seven target districts.

Slow Food Uganda remains grateful for the strong partnership with the Biovision Foundation and looks forward to continued collaboration in promoting sustainable, resilient and inclusive agroecological food systems in Uganda.

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Executive Summary

Slow Food Uganda (SFU), with support from Biovision, implemented the DPH14 Project: Accelerating Agroecological Food Production, Consumption and Market Access for a Resilient Food System in Uganda across seven districts. The project aimed to increase adoption of agroecological practices, strengthen community food systems, improve food and nutrition outcomes, expand market access through Earth Markets, and advance recognition of agroecology within policy and planning processes. This endline evaluation assessed project performance, outcomes, sustainability, and learning in line with the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria.

Methodology: The evaluation used a cross-sectional mixed-methods approach, combining a household survey of 324 respondents with Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), multi-stakeholder dialogues, Food Parliaments, and desk review of project and policy documents. Quantitative data were analysed descriptively, while qualitative data were thematically analysed to explain attribution, coherence, and sustainability.

Key Findings:

Adoption of Agroecological Practices: Adoption of agroecological practices among project households is high. Composting and organic manure use was reported by 298 households (92.0%), intercropping/mixed cropping by 258 (79.6%), and mulching by 234 (72.2%). Use of indigenous seed varieties and avoidance of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides were each reported by 213 households (65.7%), demonstrating strong alignment with agroecological principles.

Slow Food Uganda made a substantial contribution to this adoption. 232 households (71.6%) reported that composting was adopted or strengthened due to SFU activities, 205 (63.3%) attributed intercropping, and 199 (61.4%) attributed use of indigenous seeds to project support. Overall, 204 households (63.0%) reported that SFU contributed very much to their adoption of agroecological practices, while 110 households (34.0%) reported moderate to quite a lot of contribution.

Strengthening of Slow Food Communities, Gardens, and Seed Systems: Community-based agroecology structures were strengthened through training, gardens, and seed systems. Kitchen gardens were reported by 89.0% of households, and 78.4% (254 households) accessed training on environmentally friendly agriculture in the last three years.

Understanding of indigenous foods is high, with 214 households (66.0%) reporting good or very good understanding, and 255 households (78.7%) propagating indigenous crops in the last 12 months. Seed systems remain largely community-based, with 201 households (78.8%) relying on saved seed and 144 (56.5%) accessing community seed banks.

Knowledge on Agroecology Enterprises and Market Access: Capacity building emerged as the most valued project support. 169 households (61.7%) cited training, knowledge, and skills development as the most useful change from the project, followed by 145 households (52.9%) citing composting and soil fertility improvement. Demonstrations and learning exchanges were valued by 80 households (29.2%), while 41 households (15.0%) specifically cited improved market access through Earth Markets and selling linkages.

Market engagement is relatively high, with 241 households (74.4%) reporting sale of crops in the last year.

However, profitability remains inconsistent: only 98 households (30.2%) reported that farming was often profitable, while 142 (43.8%) reported it was only sometimes profitable.

Presidia, Earth Markets, and the Cooks' Alliance: The project supported the establishment and strengthening of presidia and Earth Markets, improving visibility and consumer access to agroecological products. Engagement with markets contributed to higher crop sales in districts with established Earth Markets, such as Mukono, where 40 households (88.9%) sold crops.

The Cooks' Alliance network expanded, with participating cooks demonstrating increased knowledge of healthy diets and agroecological products and facilitating producer–consumer linkages, though benefits remain concentrated among active participants.

Consumer Awareness and Food Consumption: Household diets show strong diversity. 312 households (96.3%) consumed cereals and staples, 281 (86.7%) consumed green leafy vegetables, and 269 (83.0%) consumed pulses in the previous seven days. Most staples and vegetables were sourced from own production, reflecting the contribution of kitchen gardens and diversified farming systems. Animal-source foods were consumed by fewer households and were largely market-purchased.

Policy Engagement and Coherence: Engagement through multi-stakeholder dialogues, Food Parliaments, and district planning processes increased awareness of agroecology among local governments. Project approaches align with national and district priorities on climate-smart agriculture, nutrition, biodiversity conservation, and local economic development, although formal budgetary integration remains limited.

Sustainability and Key Constraints: Despite strong adoption, sustainability is challenged by production and market risks. Pests and diseases were cited by 156 households (56.7%) as the main challenge, followed by limited markets, low prices, and transport constraints cited by 79 households (28.7%). Water stress (6.2%) and input availability (7.6%) also remain challenges.

Conclusions: The DPH14 Project is highly relevant and effective, with strong evidence of adoption of agroecological practices, improved knowledge, strengthened community systems, and increased consumer awareness. The project's training-led, community-embedded approach has generated meaningful outcomes, particularly for women and youth. However, long-term sustainability and scale will depend on addressing pest and disease management, strengthening market systems, and embedding agroecology more firmly within district extension and planning frameworks.

Priority Recommendations:

There is need to scale up refresher training and follow-up extension, prioritised by 180 households (67.4%).

There is need to strengthen market linkages, buyer connections, and value addition, recommended by 143 households (53.6%).

There is need to deepen women and youth empowerment, highlighted by 35 households (13.1%).

There is need to Improve access to, seeds, and tools, cited by 19 households (7.1%).

There is need to enhance pest and disease management support, cited by 6 households (2.2%).

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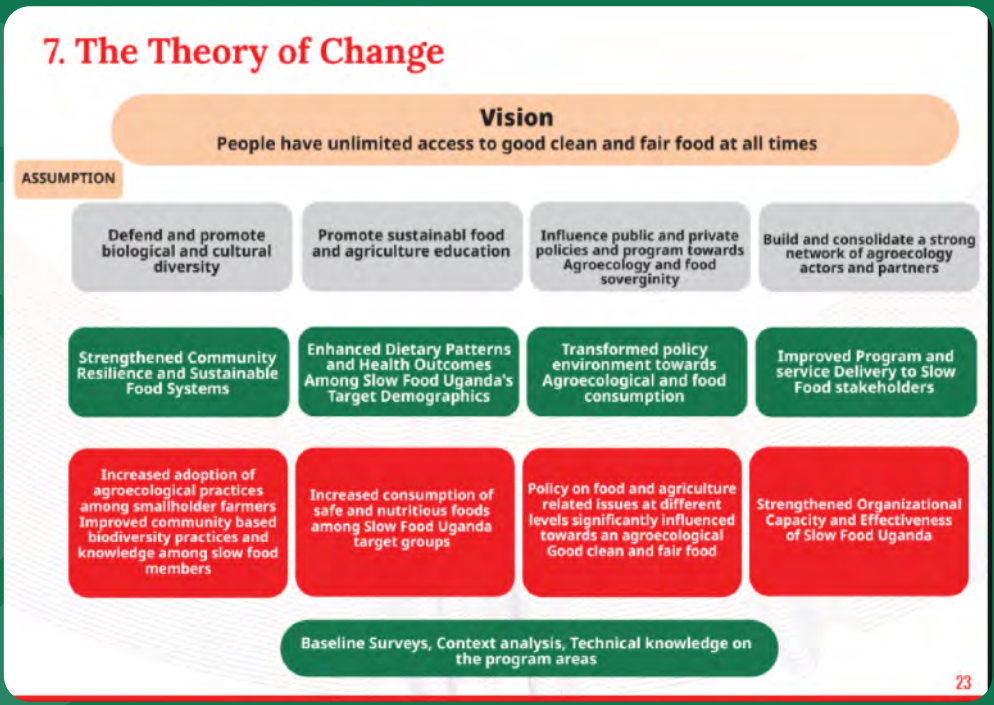
Introduction

1.1. Background

Slow Food Uganda (SFU) is part of the global Slow Food movement, which believes that everyone has the right to good, clean and fair food. Slow Food Uganda is legally registered in Uganda as a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee and operates as a civil society organisation working to transform food systems through agroecology, biodiversity protection and food education. Slow Food activities in Uganda started in 2006, following the second edition of the Terra Madre Salone del Gusto, a global meeting of food communities. Since then, the movement has continued to grow across the country, working with farmers, schools, youth, cooks, consumers and local governments. A key part of Slow Food Uganda's work is supporting farmers to rediscover traditional foods and agroecological practices, while promoting cultural food traditions with pride and dignity. This approach links food production, culture, markets and consumption, and helps strengthen local livelihoods and community resilience. As the Slow Food and agroecology movement expanded, Slow Food Uganda was formally registered as a Civil Society Organisation in 2015 to strengthen coordination, accountability and national-level engagement.

Slow Food Uganda's theory of change in Figure 1 below details how SFU leverages its chosen strategic directions to address the identified focus areas, with the aim of driving towards its vision where People have unlimited access to good clean and fair food at all times. The key elements are; (i) Defend and promote biological and cultural diversity. (ii) Promote sustainable food and agriculture education. (iii) Influence public and private policies and programs towards Agroecology, food sovereignty aiming to establish a good, clean and fair food system. (iv) Build and consolidate a strong network of agroecology actors and partners.

Figure 1: Slow Food Uganda Theory of Change



1.2. About the Project Accelerating Agroecological Food Production, Consumption and Market Access for a Resilient Food System in Uganda

Slow Food Uganda's DPH14 project; "Accelerating agroecological food production, consumption and market access for a resilient food system in Uganda", has been implemented for three years across Mukono, Buikwe, Manafwa, Mbale, Lira, Mubende and Mbarara to contribute to Uganda's transition towards agroecological food systems while improving livelihoods of local farming communities. Guided by its logframe, the project has worked through four interconnected pathways or specific objectives including;

1. To improve knowledge on agroecology enterprises and market access for local communities
2. To increase consumer awareness and knowledge built on the value of organically produced foods:
3. To Increase recognition of Agroecology as essential components of existing policies at national and district level as a tangible contribution towards sustainable food systems
4. To Strengthen Slow Food Uganda Organisational structures

1.2.1. Purpose and Objectives of the Endline Study

This endline evaluation is therefore closely linked to Slow Food Uganda's broader mandate and strategic direction. By assessing the results of the DPH14 Project, the evaluation also provides evidence on how Slow Food Uganda's approaches contribute to agroecological adoption, stronger community structures, improved market access, increased consumer awareness and greater recognition of agroecology within district and national policy spaces. The findings will support learning, accountability and future programming by Slow Food Uganda and its partners.

1.2.2. Main Objectives of the Assignment

The primary objective of this research activity is to assess the DPH14 Project's overall performance and results at endline across the seven target districts by measuring progress against the logframe indicators and targets, documenting outcomes and lessons learnt, and generating practical recommendations to inform sustainability and scale-up of agroecological production, consumption and market access interventions.

1.2.2.1. Specific Objectives

i. To assess the extent to which the DPH14 Project has contributed to the adoption of agroecological practices among communities, women and youths targeted districts including progress towards the target number of households.
ii. To assess the extent to which Slow Food communities have been strengthened.
iii. To assess the extent to which Slow Food gardens have been created and supported, including seed banks.
iv. To determine the extent to which the project has improved knowledge on agroecology enterprises and market access for communities, women and youths across the seven implementation districts.

v. To assess the extent to which presidia have been created and supported.
vi. To assess the extent to which Earth Markets have been established and supported.
vii. To assess the extent to which the project has increased consumer awareness and knowledge on the value of organically/agroecologically produced foods among women and youths.
viii. To assess the extent to which the Cooks' Alliance network promoting agroecological products has been enlarged in Uganda.
ix. To assess the extent to which media campaigns promoting consumption of agroecological food have been planned, developed and implemented.
x. To evaluate progress in increasing recognition of agroecology as an essential component of existing national and district policies.
xi. To assess the extent to which Slow Food Uganda's structures and organisational capacity; including staff capacity, governance or support systems, M&E, SFYN engagement and partnerships, have been strengthened to support effective delivery and sustainability of agroecology programming.

1.3. Scope of the Assignment

Geographical Scope: The assessment engaged with farmers, teachers, Earth Market members or participants from different communities in 7 (seven) districts; Buikwe, Manafwa, Mbale, Mbarara, Mubende, Mukono, Lira, focusing on target communities where the DPH14 project is implemented.

Table 1: DPH14 Project :Accelerating agroecological food production, consumption and market access for a resilient food system in Uganda Study Scope

District	Sub-County	Village/Street, Town	Community, Local Government Officers and School
Mbale	Namisiko sub-county	Miale	Miale Tubane Farmers
	Mbale City	North Road Mbale	North Road Primary School
Buikwe	Sii-Bukunja	Sii	Bukunja Organic Link farmers
			Bukunja climbing yam presidium.
	Buikwe Sub-county	Nakatyaba	Nakatyaba Twekembe Community Garden and seedbank group
Lira	Amach Sub-County	Amach	Amach mixed fresh food producers
			Amach Earth Market Producers

Buikwe	Sii-Bukunja	Sii	Bukunja Organic Link farmers
			Bukunja climbing yam presidium.
	Buikwe Sub-county	Nakatyaba	Nakatyaba Twekembe Community Garden and seedbank group
Lira	Amach Sub-County	Amach	Amach mixed fresh food producers
			Amach Earth Market Producers
Mbarara	Kashare Sub-County	Nyabugandu	Nyabugandu local vegetables producers
Manafwa	Buwagogo Sub-county	Bushulwa	Manafwa Earth Market farmers
	Kaato sub-county	Shiruku	St, John Bosco Shikhuyu
	Buwagogo Sub-county	Bushulwa	Manafwa Busyula Arabica Coffee.
Mubende	Kibalinga	Semuto	Kasana Public Primary School
	Kyenda Town council	Kagoma	St Zoe Primary School
Mukono	Nama Sub-county	Buyuki Village	Buyuki sweet potato and vegetable producers
			Bright Parents Nursery and Primary School
			Lincoln High School Mukono
		Mukono Town Council	Members of the cooks alliance

Technical Scope: The assessment involved quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. The process of developing qualitative and quantitative data collection tools covered the essential criteria based on the outcomes/result areas in the project measurement framework. This framework was guided by the structure/level of by results areas as summarized in Table 2. Specifically, the endline assessment included the following components; a) Demographics and household characteristics (age, education, household size) b) Economic status, Livelihood activities Components of the vulnerability assessment include; a) Climate and environmental risks (droughts, floods, soil degradation), b) Economic shocks (price fluctuations, market access), and c) resilience strategies (existing coping mechanisms)

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

Agroecological food production, consumption, and market access represents a strategic approach to strengthening resilient food systems in Uganda. Agroecology integrates ecological principles with agricultural production while addressing broader social, economic, and governance dimensions of food systems [1]. In the Ugandan context, agroecology has gained attention as a response to challenges such as soil degradation, climate variability, biodiversity loss, and persistent rural poverty [2]. Uganda's agricultural sector is dominated by smallholder farmers who depend heavily on natural resources, making them particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks [3]. Agroecological approaches therefore offer an alternative pathway by promoting sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient farming practices [4].

From a production perspective, agroecology emphasizes practices such as crop diversification, intercropping, composting, agroforestry, and the use of indigenous seeds. These practices enhance soil fertility, reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, and increase farm-level resilience to climate stress [5]. Research indicates that diversified agroecological systems can improve long-term productivity and ecological sustainability while supporting smallholder livelihoods [6].

In Uganda, such practices are particularly relevant because many farmers already rely on low-input systems and traditional ecological knowledge. Integrating agroecological practices within these systems can therefore strengthen sustainable production while preserving local farming knowledge and biodiversity [7].

However, transforming food systems through agroecology requires more than changes in production practices; it also involves shifts in food consumption patterns and market systems. Scholars emphasize that agroecology should be understood as a holistic food system approach that connects producers, consumers, and markets while promoting equitable food distribution [8].

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1. Fanzo, J., Haddad, L., & Swinburn, B. (2024). Transforming food systems through agroecology: Enhancing farmers' agency and resilience. The Lancet Planetary Health, 8(7), e543–e552. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(24)00123-7

2. Bagaga, R. (2024, May 6). A small-scale farmer's journey in the development of Uganda's National Agroecology Strategy. Agroecology Uganda. Retrieved from https://agroecology-uganda.org

3. National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). (2025). Uganda's environmental journey: Key insights from the 2024 National State of the Environment Report. United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved from https://www.undp.org/uganda.

4. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2018). The 10 elements of agroecology: Guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems. FAO. https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3d7778b3-8fba-4a32-8d13-f21dd5ef31cf/content

5. Ibid

6. Fanzo, J., Haddad, L., & Swinburn, B. (2024). Transforming food systems through agroecology: Enhancing farmers' agency and resilience. The Lancet Planetary Health, 8(7), e543–e552. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(24)00123-7

7. High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE). (2019). Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. FAO. https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ff385e60-0693-40fe-9a6b-79bbef05202c/content

8. Fanzo, J., Haddad, L., & Swinburn, B. (2024). Transforming food systems through agroecology: Enhancing farmers' autonomy for a safe and just transition. The Lancet Planetary Health, 8(11), e958–e965. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(24)00123-7

Strengthening local value chains and market access is therefore essential for scaling agroecological production. In Uganda, initiatives such as farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture, and local organic certification schemes are increasingly recognized as mechanisms for linking agroecological producers with consumers seeking healthy and sustainably produced food [9]. These market structures can create incentives for farmers to adopt agroecological practices while improving rural incomes.

Despite its potential, several barriers limit the widespread adoption and scaling of agroecological food systems in Uganda. These include limited access to extension services, inadequate policy support, weak market infrastructure, and limited awareness among consumers about the benefits of agroecological products. Furthermore, many agricultural policies continue to prioritize conventional productivity-oriented models rather than supporting ecological sustainability and smallholder resilience [10]. Addressing these structural constraints requires coordinated investments in farmer training, research, policy support, and market development. Strengthening institutional frameworks and integrating agroecology into national agricultural strategies are therefore essential steps toward achieving resilient and sustainable food systems in Uganda.

Overall, agroecology presents a promising pathway for transforming Uganda's food systems by simultaneously addressing environmental sustainability, food security, and rural livelihoods. However, accelerating agroecological production and market integration requires a systemic approach that links sustainable farming practices with supportive policies, consumer awareness, and inclusive market systems. Without these enabling conditions, agroecological initiatives may remain localized interventions rather than achieving the large-scale transformation needed to build resilient food systems.

Methodology

3.1. Study Design

The DPH14 Endline survey adopted a cross-sectional study design with a mixed methods approach that is highly participatory and with a gender inclusivity lens, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative approaches and techniques of data collection. Specifically, a questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data, while qualitative data was collected using techniques such as Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and document review of the available literature. The quantitative approaches were largely used to measure the level of achievement of the DPH14 project against its intended results. The findings from the endline survey also informed conclusions, recommendations, and future intervention design.

9. Bagaga, R. (2024). A small-scale farmer's journey in the development of Uganda's National Agroecology Strategy. Agroecology Uganda. Retrieved from https://agroecology-uganda.org.

10. High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE). (2019). Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. FAO. https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ff385e60-0693-40fe-9a6b-79bbef05202c/content

3.1.1. Application of the DAC/OECD evaluation criteria

This global standard for evaluating viability of programmes and potential scale of impact was applied by the study and encompassed a framework that addressed the 5 key evaluation criteria with the depth of focus towards assessing current DPH14 project supporting agroecological food production, consumption and market access and how these resulted in the aspects of; Efficiency/value for money, effectiveness towards creating desired impact, relevance, impact including outcomes, sustainability. This process enabled the study to identify desired changes in DPH14 project outcomes and impact as beneficiaries realize improved livelihoods, incomes or revenue, make better food production and consumption decisions and become more developmental or productive to themselves and the society at large. The application of the DAC/OECD evaluation criteria has been summarized in the table 2 below;

Table 2: Application of the DAC Criteria

OECD Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation questions	Methodology that used to address the parameter
Relevance	This picked the extent to which the DPH14 project output initiatives, strategies, and key player partners were able to meet the most pressing agroecological production and market access needs of young people, women and farming households.	A one-off data collection design was used to assess the parameters in this assessment. Quantitative (using face to face interviews) and qualitative (FGDs, KIIs, observations) data collection was used during this assessment for the respective parameters to address the different questions on addition to the document reviews.
Coherence	The extent to which DPH14 project initiatives, strategies, and key players/partners in the Uganda were well aligned to say policies and complemented each another for greater impact. This informed further the sustainability of scaled up DPH14 project outcomes to impact creation.	
Effectiveness	This assessed the extent to which DPH14 project activities were able to create desired impact and outcomes in food production and consumption.	
Efficiency	The research team assessed the extent to which the DPH14 project activities, strategies, demonstrated value for money as they were being implemented and the limitations there in as appropriate.	
Impact	This parameter was utilized to gauge the extent to which the DPH14 project, activities, generated its expected desired positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects in the districts and target populations where implementation was taking place.	

Sustainability	This shall focus on assessing the extent to which the DPH14 project activities, strategies, policies and key partners are able to generate continued impact beyond their current funding mechanisms. Priority focus here will be torching in the key sustainability building blocks of; systems, structures, human resource/capital, capacity building and related financing mechanism.	

3.2. Target Population

The endline survey, was conducted among the SFU communities that are both active community beneficiaries. The assignment also targeted Earth market members and leaders, members of the cook's alliance, Leaders of the seedbanks, school garden coordinators and project staff.

3.3. Data Collection Methods and Techniques

3.3.1. Qualitative Methods of Data Collection

The qualitative techniques were critical in generating in-depth descriptions and detailed information from the selected key stakeholders to explain measured results and to capture changes that cannot be fully quantified. These included Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and FGDs across a range of stakeholders. Specifically, key informant interviews were used with Slow Food Uganda coordinators, Earth Market leaders, Cooks' Alliance representatives and School garden teachers. These interviews followed semi-structured guides aligned to the DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability). KIIs allowed the evaluation team to: Explore how project interventions were implemented in different districts. Assess institutional strengthening, governance, partnerships, and policy engagement. Understand leadership perspectives on Earth Markets, school gardens, seedbanks, and the Cooks' Alliance.

3.3.1.1. Focus Group Discussions

These were conducted with Earth Market Participants, and SFU Community Women's groups as well as SFYN participants. The FGDs were conducted to validate and triangulate insights obtained from KIIs across various stakeholder groups, as this enhanced the credibility and validity of the findings. The tools were translated into the appropriate local languages. A total of 10 FGDs were conducted with the different community level stakeholders as described in the Table 2 below;

Table 3: Distribution of FGDs

	Respondent Category	Category	FGDs Planned	FGDs Completed
1	Earth Market Leaders	Mix of male and female	6	6
2	Female FGD	Only female	6	3
3	SFYN Members	Mix of male and female	1	1
	Total		**13**	**10(70%)**

3.3.1.2. Key Informant Interviews

The endline assessment were conducted with 22 KIIs at the at the community level, using purposefully selected representatives to address outstanding questions following the literature review. The interviews were carefully planned to allow for sufficient and inclusive stakeholder-level participation across the structures of DPH14, with consideration given to the level of saturation. Table 3 below detail the distribution of KIIs that were conducted.

Table 4: Distribution of KIIs Conducted

	Respondent Category	Planned Interviews	Interviews Completed
1	District Agricultural Officer /Production Officers	3	0
2	School garden Teachers	6	3
3	Coordinators	7	6
4	Earth Market Leaders	6	5
5	Cooks alliance representatives	3	2
	Total	**25**	**22 (70%)**

3.3.2. Literature/Desk Review

The Research team compiled and undertook an in-depth literature review of all the documents that are related to this assignment, including DPH14 internal documents, to inform the appropriate development of survey and qualitative tools. The purpose of the desk review was to gain a contextual understanding of the DPH14 implementation and related aspects in the regions of operation. Furthermore, literature review guided the research team in improving and adopting an appropriate methodology for this end term evaluation in addition to identifying which data needed to be collected for each of the targeted respondents in line with the program goals and objectives.
The documents below and others were reviewed;

- Slow Food Uganda's strategic Plan
- DPH14 project proposal or application for financial support
- Slow Food Uganda list of participating Communities
- DPH14 project results framework.
- Project activity reports.

3.4. Quantitative Methods of Data Collection

The endline assessment conducted household surveys covering questions on demographics, income stutus, economic activities, extent of adoption of agroecological practices among households, improved knowledge on agroecology enterprises and market access for communities, women and youths among others. The survey considered the voices of women, youths, the elderly and persons living with disabilities. The research team ensured that research ethical standards and guidelines are adhered to protect the rights of these vulnerable groups. Female-headed households were targeted.

3.5. Quantitative Sampling Techniques

The quantitative sample of respondents who participated in the study was determined scientifically using Yamane Formula. The sample size was taken from the total population of SFU communities in the target districts. Buikwe has 918 members, Lira-345, Mukono-235, Manafwa-125, Mubende-85, Mbarara-61 and Mbale-45 community members, with a total of 1,814 members. Using Yamane Formula; sample size will be calculated at 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error; (n) = N/(1+Ne2) to generate this sample size. In this formula, n = Number of samples. N= Population Size e= Marginal Error (0.05).

Using **Yamane (1967)** sample size formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

Assuming **e = 0.05** (±5% precision), the **overall** sample size for the 7 districts combined ($N = 1,814$) is:

$$n = \frac{1814}{1 + 1814(0.05^2)} = 327.73 \approx \mathbf{328}$$

The sample was distributed for the 7 districts in the different regions where the sample population is located, using the probability proportionate to size as summarized in ***Table 3.***

Table 5: Distribution of endline survey sample size

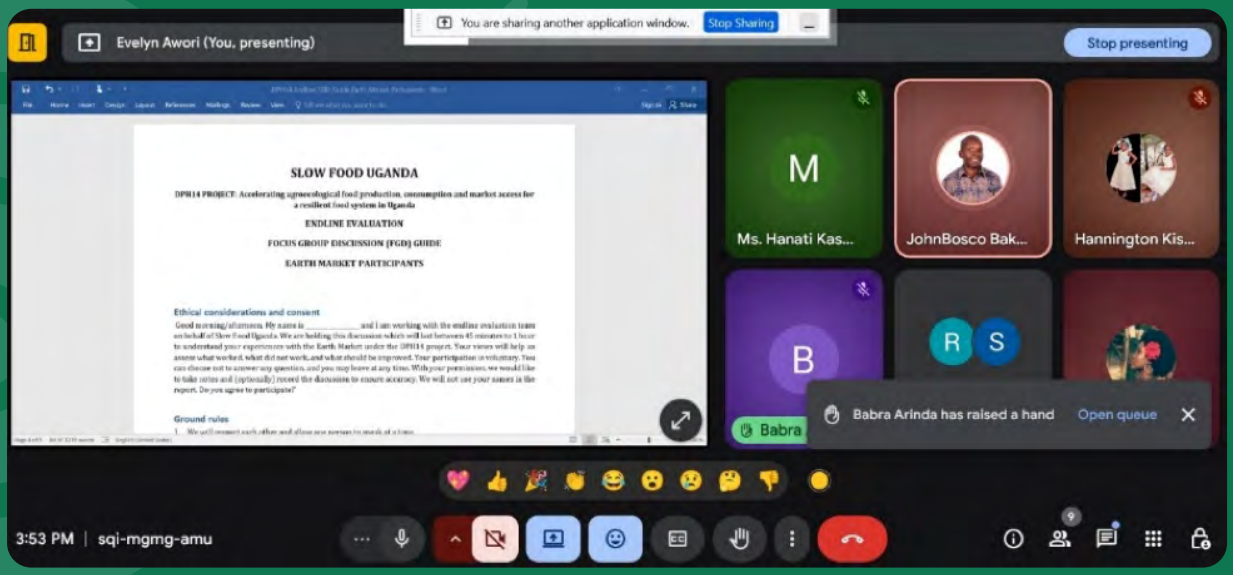
Region	District	Distribution of Respondents			
		Planned interviews	Interviews were completed	Interviews completed with female Households	% on overall planned Interviews
Central	Mukono	43	45	12	105%
	Buikwe	166	176	29	106%
	Mubende	15	0	0	0%
Sub-Total: Central		**224**	**221**	**41**	**99%**
Western	Mbarara	11	12	1	109%
Sub-Total: Western		**11**	**12**	**1**	**109%**
Eastern	Mbale	8	17	4	213%
	Manafwa	23	19	1	83%
Sub-Total: Western		31	36	5	116%

Northern	Lira	62	55	26	89%
Sub-Total: Western		31	36	5	116%
Overall Total		**328**	**324**	**73**	**99%**

3.6. Training of Enumerators and Supervisors

A team of 12 enumerators and 1 supervisor was selected deliberately, using participatory M&E approach to enhance speed, ownership and learning. Members of the Slow Food Youth Network (SFYN) were engaged as data collectors, drawing on their familiarity with the communities, local language capacity and project experience to improve access and the quality of responses. To strengthen oversight and credibility, SFU Board Members served as supervisors and, also supported as enumerators in the FGDs.

Image 1: Day 1 of Virtual Training of Research Assistants and Supervisors.



A virtual two-days training using Google Meet was conducted for the Research supervisor and research assistants. The training covered the data collection tools, to ensure that the research assistants understood every question and its purpose. The training was also used to orient the researchers on ethical considerations, such as obtaining informed consent and maintaining confidentiality and to protect respondents' rights and well-being. The other purpose of the training was to ensure the quality of the data collection process. The training also focused on how to use tablets for mobile data collection. In addition, there was a pretesting engagement that was held at Mukono district, Ntenjeru Sub County, Kisoga B village.

3.7. Data Management and Analysis

3.7.1. Quantitative Data Analysis

The questionnaire was scripted in Open Data Kit (ODK), a collection of free and open-source software designed for collecting, managing, and utilizing data in resource-constrained environments. The software was uploaded to the mobile devices (tablets and phones). This mobile data collection ensured timely checks to identify errors or mistakes as well as quicken the process of entry, cleaning, and analysis. Furthermore, Data processing involved data editing, post-coding, data entry and production of statistical reports and narratives.

Data captured on mobile devices was exported to SPSS for checks and analysis. The primary analytical tool for quantitative data collection was descriptive analysis and cross-tabulations, as necessary. The quantitative data was presented in frequencies and proportions (percentages), as well as tabulations as deemed appropriate. Graphical representations were used to illustrate trends and comparisons across selected parameters of interest.

3.7.2. Qualitative Data Analysis

For qualitative data, notes were taken in addition to audio recordings of interviews or discussions. Data collected through KIIs, FGDs, and observations were analyzed based on the emerging relevant themes and sub-themes (thematic analysis). Responses were categorized with respect to the themes and sub-themes generated from the assessment, and then explained in a narrative. Data obtained from existing documents was analyzed by content (content analysis). The final datasets and transcripts were submitted to the Slow Food Uganda.

3.7. Ethical Consideration, Disclosure and Ownership of Information

Conducting research requires careful consideration of the ethical implications to ensure the dignity, rights, and well-being of participants are prioritized. This study committed to following a participant-centered approach that respected and safeguarded individuals throughout the research process.

The research team undertook not to disclose to any third party the results set out in the report or any information obtained in confidence regarding this assignment without obtaining Slow Food Uganda approval. As such, confidential evaluation specifications provided by SFU during this activity remained confidential and was not be revealed in whole or in part to any third party.

Ethical approval through the local Institutional Review Boards was not pursued as it was not deemed timely for the SFU although key study ethical practices were adhered to for protection of rights of the human subjects that participated in the study. They included;

- Non-disclosure to any third party of the results or any information obtained (utmost confidentiality)
- Informed Consent from each respondent before interviews
- Respect for vulnerable groups such as PWDs, pregnant women, children, etc.
- Non-maleficence (i.e. to do no harm)
- Compensation (Transport refund) and equity for study participants

FINDINGS

4.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the results of the endline survey. It provides an analysis of the socioeconomic, institutional, and market contexts influencing the adoption, promotion, and consumption of agroecological foods within the project areas. The chapter examines how project interventions have contributed to changes in knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behaviours among producers, cooks, consumers, and other key actors across the agroecological food system.

The findings are organised in alignment with the core evaluation objectives and key evaluation questions, focusing on progress against project targets, the relevance and effectiveness of interventions, observed impacts, and factors influencing sustainability. Specifically, this chapter highlights: (i) The adoption of agroecological practices among households and community groups, including gender and youth participation. (ii) The extent to which project activities have strengthened Slow Food communities, gardens, presidia, and Earth Markets. (iii) Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours related to agroecology, including consumer awareness and demand facilitated through the Cooks' Alliance and media campaigns. (iv) The functionality and reliability of value chain linkages between producers, markets, and consumers. (v) Progress in enhancing the recognition of agroecology within district and national policy spaces; and (vi) Insights into the organisational capacity and systems of Slow Food Uganda, including monitoring and evaluation, partnerships, and governance structures.

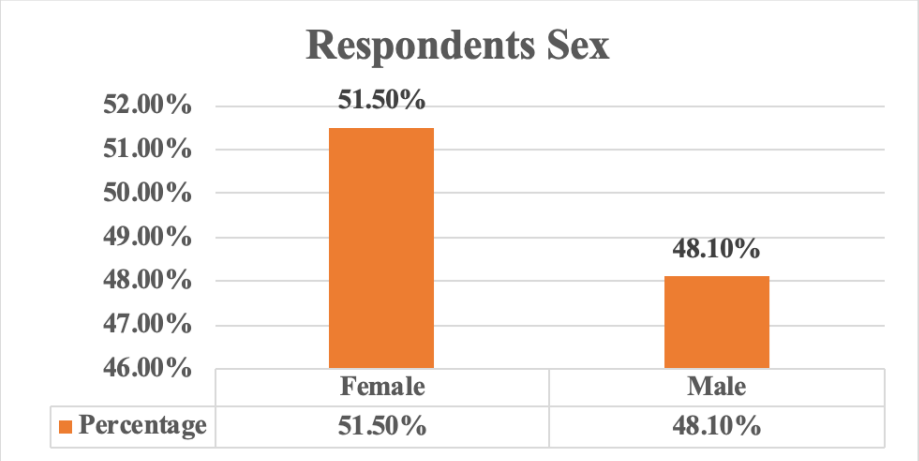
Throughout this chapter, we integrate quantitative indicators with qualitative insights to provide a comprehensive understanding of what has changed, for whom, and why. Where applicable, comparisons to baseline conditions are made to illustrate trends and outcomes achieved over the project period. Variations in results by district and demographic sub-groups (e.g., female vs. male respondents, youth participants) are also highlighted to inform equitable programming approaches moving forward.

4.1. Demographic Findings

Below is a comprehensive analysis and interpretation of all demographic data contained in the attached DPH14 Endline Household Survey dataset (n = 324 respondents).

4.1.1. Sex of Respondents

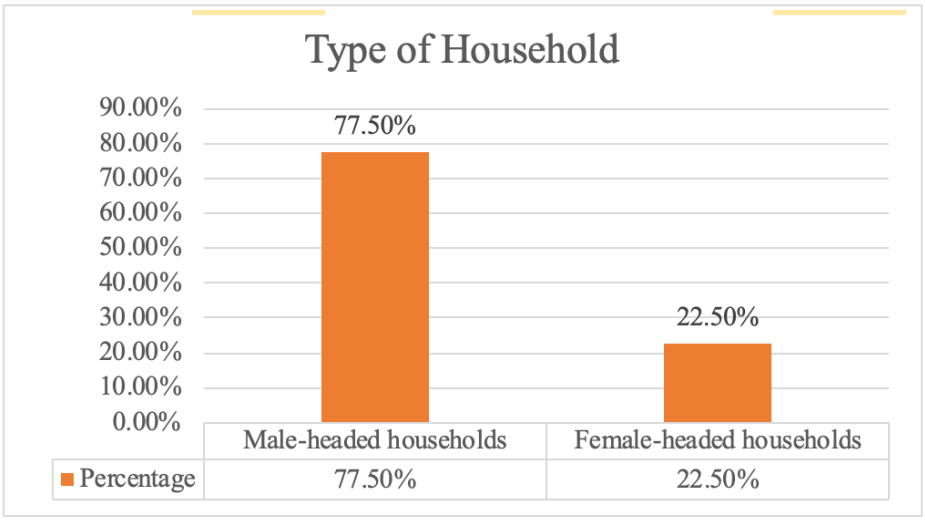
Figure 2: Sex of survey respondents



The study results in figure 3 above indicate that out of the 324 respondents, 167 (52%) were female, while 156 (48%) were male. The slightly higher participation of women is particularly important given their central role in household food production, nutrition, and market engagement and the project determined to target 60% women in its activities.

4.1.2. Type of Households among Survey Respondents

Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by type of household



Source: Primary data 2025

The study findings in Figure 4 above revealed that out of 324 surveyed households, the majority, 251 (78%), were male-headed households, while 73 (22%) were female-headed households. Although women constituted slightly more than half of the respondents, the household structure indicates that decision-making authority remains predominantly male, a common characteristic in rural and peri-urban Ugandan communities ***11***.

11. Elasu, J., Ntayi, J. M., Adaramola, M. S., Buyinza, F., Ngoma, M., and Atukunda, R. (2023). Gender role differentiation in household fuel transition decision-making: Implications for education and training in Uganda. Frontiers in Sustainability, 4, pp. 1034589. Retrieved from: https://doi.org/10.3389/frsus.2023.1034589

The presence of nearly one quarter female-headed households is nonetheless significant and reflects households that may be widowed, separated, or where women are primary economic providers. These households are particularly relevant for agroecological and food security interventions due to their heightened vulnerability and central role in household food provisioning.

Table 6: Female respondent representation by district

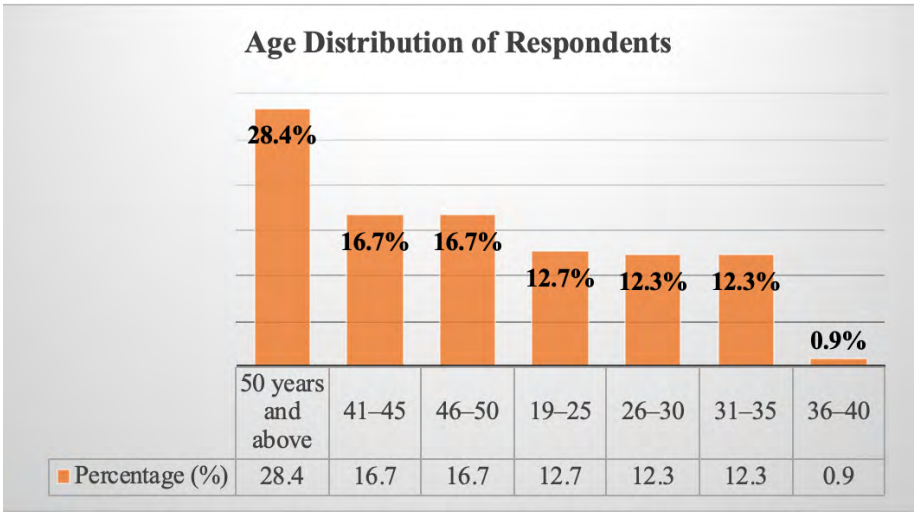
District	Total respondents	Female respondents	% Female respondents
Mukono	45	42	93.3%
Lira	55	36	65.5%
Mbarara	12	7	58.3%
Manafwa	19	10	52.6%
Buikwe	176	67	38.1%
Mbale	17	5	29.4%

Source: Primary data 2025

Female respondent representation varied considerably across districts. Mukono District recorded the highest proportional representation of women respondents (93.3%), followed by Lira (65.5%). In contrast, Mbale District exhibited the lowest female representation at 29.4%, while Buikwe, despite contributing the largest absolute number of female respondents, recorded a relatively low proportional representation of women (38.1%).

4.1.3. Age Distribution of Respondents

Figure 4: Age Distribution of Respondents



Source: Primary data 2025

The age distribution of respondents in figure 5 above shows that the largest proportion 92 (28.4%) of the respondents were aged 50 years and above. This indicates strong participation by older adults, many of whom possess extensive farming experience, traditional agroecological knowledge, and long-term engagement in household food production.

54 (16.7%) were aged 41-45 years, 54 (16.7%) were aged 46-50 years, 41 (12.7%) were aged 19-25 years, 40 (12.3%) were aged 26-30 years, 40 (12.3%) were aged 31-35 years, while only 3 (0.9%) were aged 36-40 years. This age bracket represents a highly productive and decision-making segment of the population, typically responsible for household leadership, land management, and market engagement. Their strong representation enhances the relevance of the findings for analysing adoption and sustainability of agroecological practices.

4.1.3.1. Youth Respondents by District

Table 7: Youth and Young Adult Respondents by District

District	19-25 n (%)	26-30 n (%)	31-35 n (%)	Total (19-35) n (%)
Buikwe	25 (7.7%)	23 (7.1%)	14 (4.3%)	62 (19.1%)
Lira	6 (1.9%)	6 (1.9%)	9 (2.8%)	21 (6.5%)
Mukono	2 (0.6%)	8 (2.5%)	10 (3.1%)	20 (6.2%)
Manafwa	7 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)	8 (2.5%)
Mbale	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.6%)	5 (1.5%)	7 (2.2%)
Mbarara	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	3 (0.9%)
Total	**41 (12.7%)**	**40 (12.3%)**	**40 (12.3%)**	**121 (37.3%)**

Source: Primary data 2025

The findings indicate that respondents aged 19-35 years accounted for 121 respondents (37.3%) of the total sample, demonstrating a substantial level of youth and young adult participation across the project districts. This group is critical for the long-term sustainability of agroecological food systems due to their greater potential for innovation uptake, labour availability, and future leadership in farming and market a

Buikwe District recorded the highest number of respondents aged 19-35 years, with 62 respondents (19.1%) of the overall sample. This reflects both the larger sample size in the district and comparatively stronger representation of younger adults, particularly those aged 19-25 years 25 respondents (7.7%) and 26-30 years; 23 respondents (7.1%). The presence of 14 respondents (4.3%) aged 31-35 years further indicates continuity of youth engagement into early adulthood.

In Lira District, a total of 21 respondents (6.5%) were aged 19-35 years, with relatively even distribution across the three age categories. Respondents aged 31-35 years 9 (2.8%) formed the largest share among the youth cohorts, suggesting stronger representation of more mature young adults.

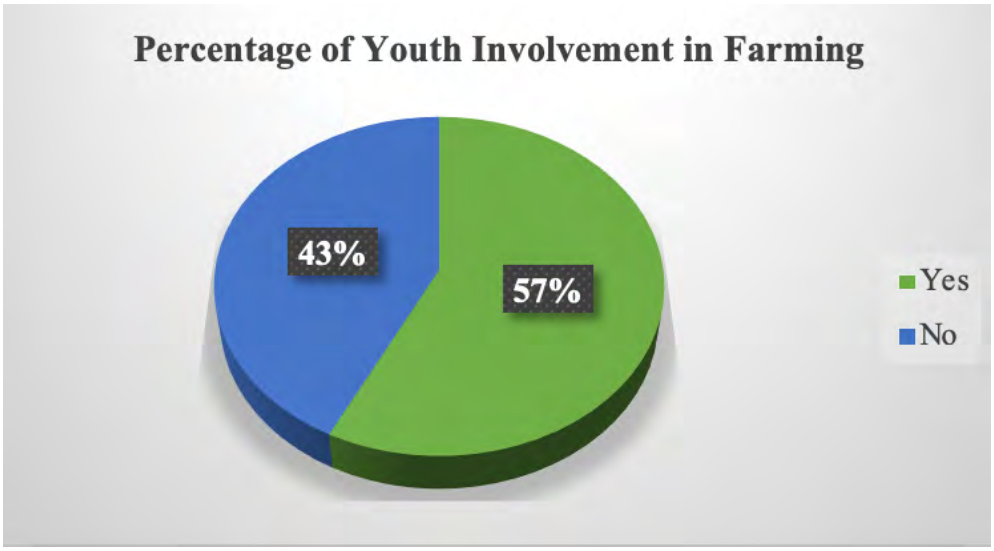
Mukono District recorded 20 respondents (6.2%) aged 19-35 years, with higher representation among respondents aged 26-30 years 8 (2.5%) and 31-35 years 10 (3.1%). This pattern suggests that youth participation in Mukono is concentrated among young adults who have established households and are actively involved in agricultural decision-making.

However, in Manafwa District, only 8 respondents (2.5%) were aged 19-35 years, with the majority in the 19-25 age group 7 (2.2%) and very limited representation in the older youth categories. This indicates relatively low engagement of young adults in the district.

Mbale District recorded 7 respondents (2.2%) aged 19-35 years, with no respondents in the 19-25 category. Participation was concentrated among respondents aged 31-35 years 5 (1.5%), suggesting limited involvement of younger youth in the survey.
Mbarara District had the lowest youth representation, with only 3 respondents (0.9%) aged 19-35 years, evenly distributed across the three age groups. This reflects both the small district sample size and limited youth participation.
In line with the literature review *12*, majority of the youths who engage in Slow Food Youth Network activities are from the areas of Buikwe and Mukono, with limited participation from areas of Mbarara, Manafwa and Mbale.

4.1.3.2. Youth Actively Involved in Farming in Households

Figure 5: Youth involvement in farming



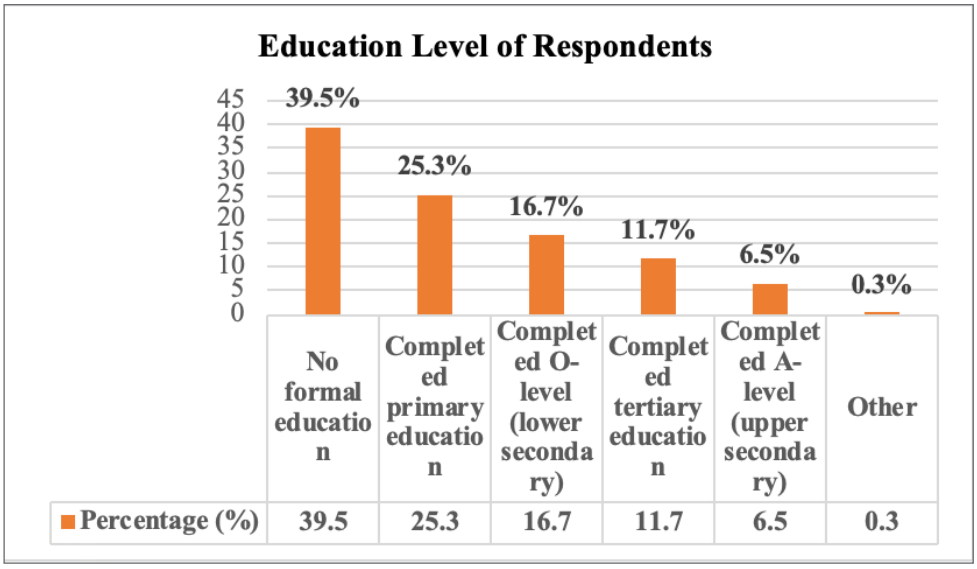
Source: Primary data 2025

Over half of households; 186 (57%) report active youth involvement in farming, which is a strong foundation for sustaining agroecological practices through labour availability, innovation uptake, and intergenerational continuity. However, a sizeable share (43%) report no youth involvement, suggesting uneven youth engagement across households.

4.1.4. Education Status of the Survey Respondents

12 Please see Slow Food Uganda participant registration forms of the good food camp activities in the last five years.

Figure 6: Education status of the survey respondents



Source: Primary data 2025

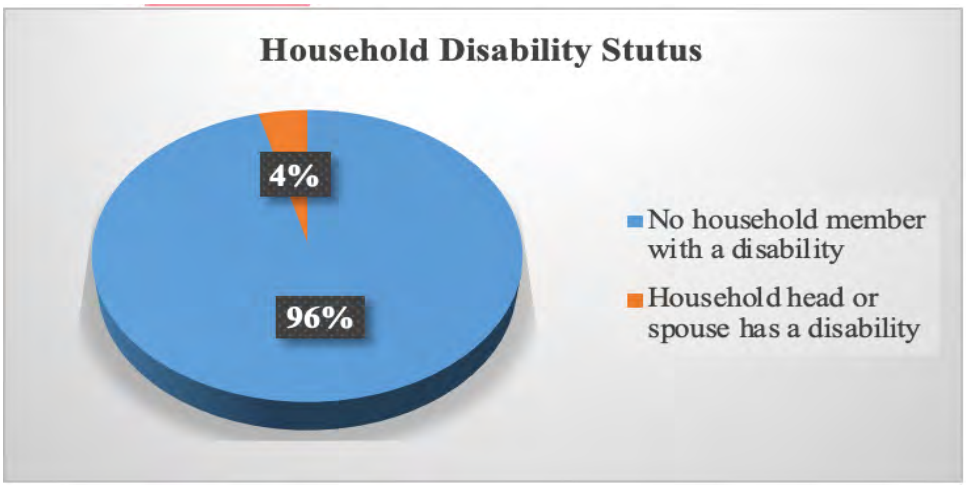
The findings in figure 6 above indicate that a substantial proportion of respondents, 128 (39.5%), reported having no formal education. This group is likely to rely heavily on experiential knowledge and traditional farming practices, which has important implications for the design of extension and training approaches.

Respondents who had completed primary education accounted for 82 (25.3%), forming the second largest education group. This suggests that while basic literacy and numeracy skills are present among a significant share of households, advanced formal education remains limited. Thus, training materials and communication strategies therefore need to remain simple, practical, and easily understandable.

Those who had attained lower secondary education (O-level) comprised 54 respondents (16.7%), while 21 respondents (6.5%) had completed A-level education. A notable proportion of respondents, 38 (11.7%), reported having completed tertiary education. Although this group is comparatively small, it represents a valuable segment that can support leadership, innovation, and peer learning within communities, particularly in the promotion of agroecological practices.

4.1.5. Household Disability Status

Figure 7:Household disability status

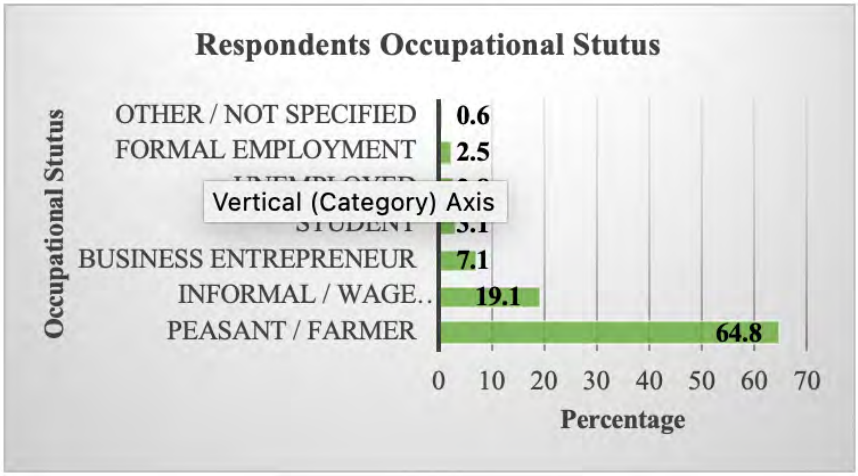


Source: Primary data 2025

Findings in Figure 7 indicate that out of the 324 surveyed households, 13 households (4%) reported that the household head or spouse was a person with a disability, while the vast majority, 311 households (96%), reported no disability within the household. The types of disabilities reported among surveyed households include physical, visual, hearing, speech, and other impairments, reflecting diverse functional challenges. Although the proportion of households with persons with disabilities is relatively small, these households represent a particularly vulnerable group, often facing additional constraints related to labour availability, income generation, and access to markets. Their inclusion in the survey is important for ensuring that agroecological and food system interventions remain inclusive and responsive to the needs of marginalised populations.

4.1.6. Occupational Status of the Survey Respondents

Figure 8: Occupational status of survey respondents



Source: Primary data 2025

The findings indicate that peasant/farmer households accounted for the largest share of respondents, with 210 respondents (64.8%) of the total sample. This demonstrates that the survey predominantly captured households whose primary livelihood depends on small-scale agriculture, making the dataset highly relevant for analysing agroecological food production, consumption, and market access outcomes. This group is central to the success of agroecological interventions due to their direct engagement in farming activities and household food systems.

Respondents engaged in informal or wage employment constituted the second largest occupational group, with 62 respondents (19.1%). Those engaged as business entrepreneurs accounted for 23 respondents (7.1%) of the sample. This reflects the presence of livelihood diversification among households, where farming is complemented by casual labour or informal income-generating activities. A smaller proportion of respondents identified as students, accounting for 10 respondents (3.1%). This indicates limited participation of individuals whose primary focus is education, though their inclusion highlights potential future actors in agroecological and food system transformation. Respondents who reported being unemployed constituted 9 respondents (2.8%), while those in formal employment accounted for 8 respondents (2.5%).

4.1.7. Size of Households

Respondents were asked to share the number of people living in their households and the findings in terms of size summaries and categories are presented in the tables 7 and 8 below.

Table 8: Household size summary

Statistic	Value
Mean	6.48
Median	7
Min	1
Max	15

Source: Primary data 2025

Table 9: Household Size Categories

Household size	Number	Percent
7-9 members	144	44.4%
4-6 members	129	39.8%
Over 10 members	36	11.1%
1-3 members	15	4.6%
Total	324	100.0%

Source: Primary data 2025

Households are predominantly medium-to-large, with 84.2% having 4-9 members. This implies stronger household labour pools for farming, but also higher consumption and dependency needs, reinforcing the importance of productivity and food security interventions.

4.1.8. Number of household Members Earning an Income

Table 10: Income earners summary

Statistic	Value
Mean	1.97
Median	2
Min	0
Max	5

Source: Primary data 2025

Table 11: Income earners per household

Income earners	Number	Percent
2 earners	224	69.1%
1 earners	61	18.8%
More than 4 earners	20	6.2%
1-3 members	19	5.9%
0 earners	0	0.0%
TOTAL	**324**	**100.0%**

Source: Primary data 2025

Most households rely on two income earners (69.1%), as seen in table 10 above, indicating modest livelihood capacity but still likely high dependency given average household size (6-7). The small proportion with more than 3 earners (12.1%) suggests limited income diversification in many households; important when interpreting resilience, market participation, and sustainability.

4.1.9. Household Assets

Table 12: Assets owned by the household

Asset type	Number of households	Percent
Radio	299	92.3%
Mobile phone	283	87.3%
Household furniture	254	78.4%
Motorcycle	86	26.5%
Electricity	80	24.7%
Tap water	55	17.0%
Bicycle	41	12.7%
Refrigerator	31	9.6%

Source: Primary data 2025

Asset ownership shows strong penetration of communication assets; radio and phones, which supports extension messaging, coordination, and market information flows. Low ownership of electricity and refrigerators suggests constraints for storage, cold chain, and value addition. Transport assets; motorcycles and bicycles are moderate, which affects market access and logistics, relevant to value chain reliability.

4.2. Findings in Line with the Objectives

This section presents evaluation findings aligned to the project's core objectives and key evaluation questions, examining progress, effectiveness, impacts, and sustainability of agroecological interventions across households, communities, markets, and policy spaces.

Key Findings

The evaluation findings indicate strong adoption of agroecological practices across project households, particularly in composting (92%), intercropping (79.6%), and mulching (72.2%).

A majority of household's attribute improvements in these practices to Slow Food Uganda training and extension services.

The project has also strengthened household food systems through diversified crop production, kitchen gardens, and indigenous seed use. However, challenges remain in irrigation adoption, market access, and pest management.

While awareness of agroecological food systems is high, market integration through Earth Markets and formal producer organisations remains limited

4.2.1. The Extent to which DPH14 Project has contributed of Adoption of Agroecological Practices Among Households and Community Groups, Including Gender and Youth Participation.

In this section, questions focusing on Agroecological practices currently used, the practices adopted or strengthened because of the Slow Food Uganda activities, the extent to which Slow Food Uganda work contributed to the adoption of agroecological practices, access to agricultural ownership of kitchen Garden, training or information in the Kitchen gardening, visit to any of Slow Food Agroecology Knowledge extension centre's or gardens.

Table 13: Practices Adopted, Used and Strengthened Due to SFU

Practice adopted or strengthened due to SFU	Households (n)	% of households
Composting / organic manure	232	71.6
Intercropping / mixed cropping	205	63.3
Use of local/indigenous seed varietie	199	61.4
No use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides	198	61.1
Use of chemical free post-harvest handling	197	60.8
Mulching	195	60.2
Food safety and hygiene practices in production/handling	186	57.4
Crop rotation	180	55.6
Agroforestry / tree planting	132	40.7

Cover crops / green manure	121	37.3
Water harvesting / irrigation efficiency	112	34.6
Integrating livestock with crops	112	34.6
Soil and water conservation (contours, trenches, bunds)	109	33.6
Non (recorded category)	2	0.6
None of the above	0	0.0

Source: Primary data 2025

The findings in table 13 above show that Slow Food Uganda has played a significant role in strengthening core agroecological practices among participating households. The practices most commonly reported as adopted or strengthened due to SFU include composting/organic manure 232 (71.6%), intercropping/mixed cropping 205 (63.3%), and use of local or indigenous seed varieties 199 (61.4%), indicating strong uptake of foundational soil fertility and biodiversity-enhancing practices directly aligned with project interventions.

In line with the above findings, qualitative findings indicate that there is wide adoption of agroecological practices by SFU community members as seen in the following quote by the SFU coordinator in Buikwe. *"Buikwe is now very serious on making 17 days' hot compost manure and mixed cropping. Many households adopted 17 days' hot compost manure after we were trained in 2024 by Ankunda Maureen from Slow Food".*

Another Slow Food Coordinator in Mbale- Miale had this to say *"Most households we work with are now serious on composting and mulching they understood that soil is the 'bank'. You see it even in the kitchen gardens: we no longer throw away our potato and banana peelings. Even the banana leaves we use for mulching"*

A similarly high proportion of households attributed improvements in avoiding synthetic fertilisers and pesticides 198 (61.1%), chemical-free post-harvest handling 197 (60.8%), and mulching 195 (60.2%) to SFU activities. This suggests that the project's influence extends beyond production into safe handling, environmental protection, and food quality, reinforcing agroecology as a farm-to-table approach rather than a field-level practice alone.

More than half of households also reported SFU's contribution to food safety and hygiene practices 186 (57.4%) and crop rotation 180 (55.6%), demonstrating meaningful strengthening of practices that support both household health and long-term soil productivity.

Practices that typically require longer-term investment, additional labour, or infrastructure recorded comparatively lower attribution to SFU. These include agroforestry 132 (40.7%), cover crops/green manure 121 (37.3%), water harvesting or irrigation efficiency 112 (34.6%), integration of livestock with crops 112 (34.6%), and soil and water conservation structures 109 (33.6%). This pattern suggests that while SFU has successfully initiated adoption, further technical support, resources, and time may be required to deepen uptake of more capital- and labour-intensive practices.

In line with the moderate adoption of irrigation in the gardens the coordinator from Buikwe mentioned *"We were taught about soil moisture conservation, by John Wanyu when he trained us on coffee. But when it comes to irrigation, and pest control, we still have a challenge. But on good thing is that in Buikwe, we don't face a big challenge of lack of rainfall".*

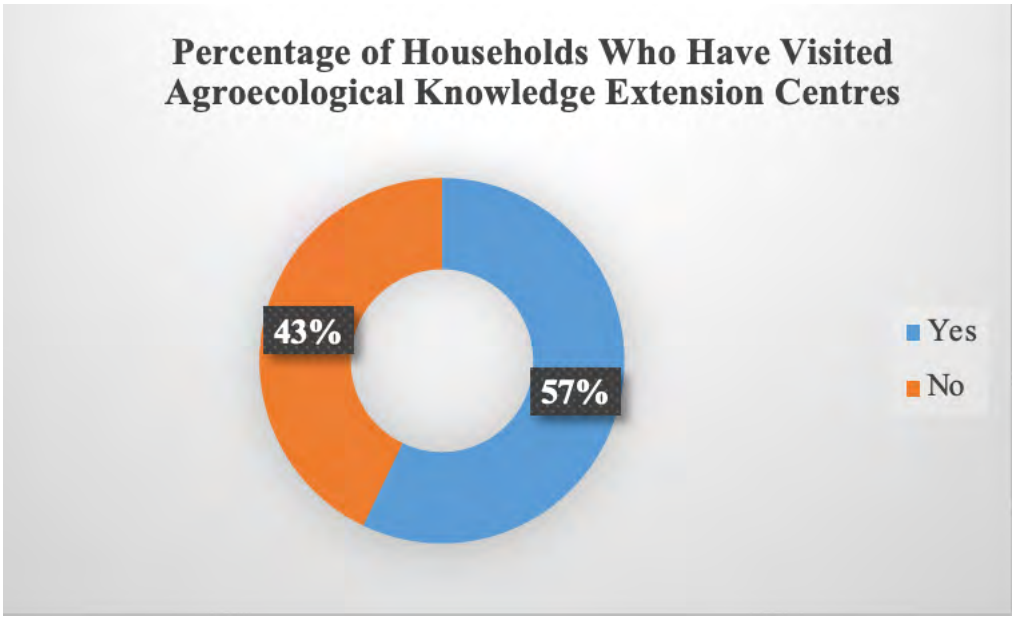
Analysis of the qualitative findings across all districts indicated that SFU has strengthened the adoption of agroecological farming practices to a greater extent. Key informants mentioned that Slow Food Uganda had led to the reduction in synthetic fertilizer use by training members how to make organic manure. It has also encouraged farmers to use non chemical pest and disease control mechanisms such as use of ash mixtures, chilli concoctions, and plant based pest repellents. One Key Informant; a coordinator or Trainer of Trainees (ToT) from Mukono had this to say; *"Because of Slow Food trainings, me and the members I train, we make ash spray mixed with goat urine and feed into our banana plantation frequently to kill diseases. Around October, I bought K99 organic fertilizer from KSAM farm in Buikwe and this helped boost my garden of coffee and pumpkins. Even when the drought came in November, my soil remained with water and health".*

Another SFU Coordinator from Mbarara mentioned *"My farm used to be mainly composed of cattle and I used to also practice mainly mono cropping of maize for sale. This forced me to spray my maize with pesticides. But after exchange visits to Alwana farm in Mukono, I added vegetables to my farm, I have also added some goats and I no longer practice mono cropping. I have banana's potatoes, chicken and also Avocado trees planted in my farm"*

However, some Key Informants mentioned that even if SFU has contributed to the adoption of agroecological practices, the uptake is limited in some communities due to the influx of hybrid varieties given for free by organisations and politicians alongside provision of chemical inputs on credit. One Key Informant in Manafwa had this to say. *"Slow Food is trying, but farmers need money and are normally challenged by many pests and diseases. You find that Kyagalanyi group can give you pesticides and fungicides for coffee on credit and then they book your coffee, and buy from you to pay back their inputs".*

4.2.1.1. Visited Slow Food agroecology knowledge extension centres or gardens

Figure 9: Visit to Agroecology Knowledge Extension Centres/Garden



Source: Primary data 2025

The findings in figure 13 indicate that 185 households (57%) reported visiting Slow Food agroecology knowledge extension centres or gardens, while 139 households (43%) had not visited these learning sites. The relatively high proportion of visitors suggests strong exposure to experiential learning and peer-to-peer exchange, which supports sustained adoption of agroecological practices. However, the sizeable group that has not visited highlights an opportunity to further expand outreach and access to learning centres, particularly for households that may face distance, time, or resource constraints.

Image 2: A group of Farmers at Rural Development (YARD) Impact Centre

In line with secondary findings, farmers have engaged in Learning Exchanges to different agroecological learning centres. For example, in 13th - 16th February 2024 farmers from Lira, Mbarara, Mubende, Mbale, Manafwa Mukono and Buikwe visited YARD Youth Association for Rural Development (YARD) Impact Centre for Agriculture Demonstration and Skills Development and KSAM mixed farm in Buikwe district ***13***.

4.2.2. Economic Orientation of Household Farming Activities

The majority of surveyed households reported crop production as their main agricultural activity. Staple crops such as matooke, maize, beans, cassava, and coffee dominate household production systems. These crops serve both subsistence and income generation purposes, reflecting diversified farming systems typical of smallholder agriculture in Uganda.

13. See: Slow Food Uganda (2024) Activity Report for the 3RD Annual Agroecology Learning Exchange 2024. SFU.

Table 14 Showing Top Crops Selected As Main Crops Produced In The Last Year

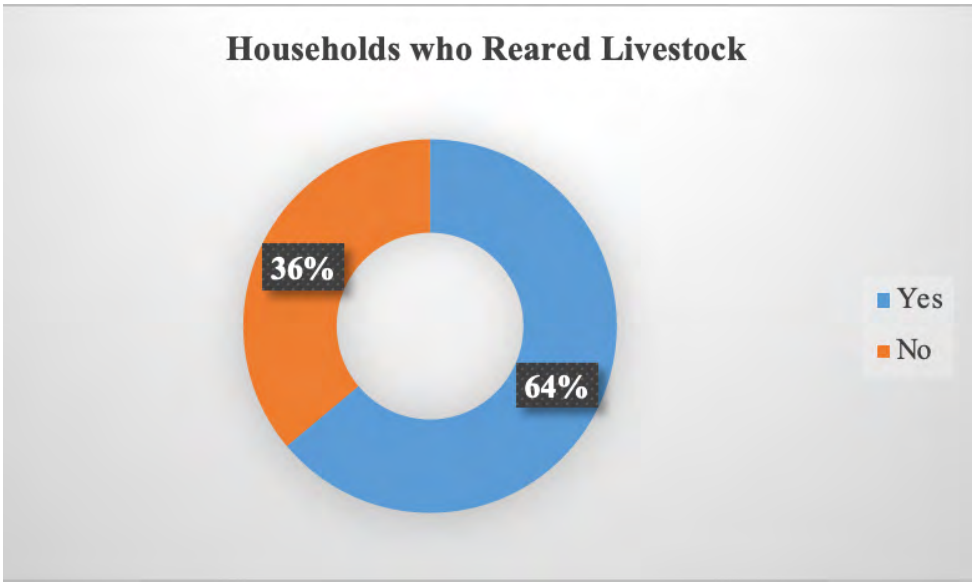
Crop	Households (n)	% of households
Matooke (Green Banana)	275	84.9
Maize	238	73.5
Coffee	201	62.0
Amaranthus (Dodo/Bugga)	198	61.1
Cassava	182	56.2
Climbing yams	167	51.5
Beans	163	50.3
Sweet potatoes	162	50.0
Taro root (Mayuni)	158	48.8
Sweet banana (Bogoya)	152	46.9
Egg plants (Aubergine)	143	44.1
Pumpkins	140	43.2
Onions	139	42.9
Pawpaw	134	41.4
Garden egg (Entula)	125	38.6

Source: Primary data 2025

Approximately three-quarters of households reported selling crops during the previous year, demonstrating significant engagement with local markets. Crop sales were particularly high in districts with closer access to urban markets and structured marketing platforms such as Earth Markets.

Livestock ownership remains an important complementary livelihood activity. Poultry and goats were the most commonly reared livestock types. However, relatively few households reported selling livestock regularly, suggesting that animals are often kept as savings or emergency assets rather than primary income sources.

Figure 10: Livestock Rearing Status



Source: Primary data 2025

As shown in figure 16, nearly two-thirds of households; 207 (63.9%) reared livestock in the past two years, and only 117 (36%) did not; indicating that livestock remains an important complementary livelihood alongside crop production.
Those who admitted to rearing livestock were asked to share the types of livestock that they reared and responses are shown in the table 19 below;

4.2.2.1. Biggest Constraints to Crop Production in the Last Year

Multiple choice responses.

Table 15: Constraints to Agricultural Production

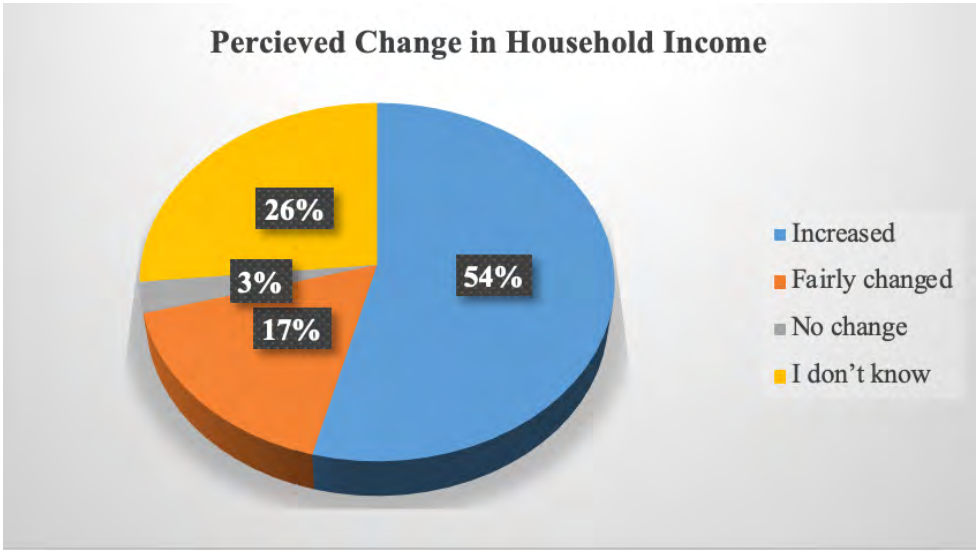
Constraint	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Pests and diseases	188	58.0
Drought / unreliable rainfall	156	48.1
High cost of inputs (Seeds, manure)	121	37.3
Limited access to land	64	19.8
Labour constraints	52	16.0
Others	18	5.6

Source: Primary data 2025

The findings indicate that pests and diseases are the most significant constraint to crop production, reported by 188 households (58.0%), followed by drought and unreliable rainfall affecting 156 households (48.1%). High input costs were cited by 121 households (37.3%), reflecting financial barriers to production. Land access (19.8%) and labour constraints (16.0%) were less prevalent but still important, while 5.6% reported other challenges.

4.2.3. Change in Household Income Compared to Before Support by Slow Food Uganda

Figure 11: Perceived Change in Household Income



Source: Primary data 2025

The findings in figure 17 above indicate that 229 households (70.7%) reported a positive change in household income, with 175 households (54.0%) reporting that income had increased and 54 households (17%) indicating it had fairly changed. This suggests that a substantial proportion of households perceive improvements in their economic situation since engagement with Slow Food Uganda activities. However, 87 participants (26%) of respondents indicated that they don't know. This may be due to poor record keeping among farmers, calling for strengthening of this aspect by Slow Food Uganda. Only 9 households (3%) reported no income change.

4.2.4. Access to Information or Training on Regenerative or Environmentally Friendly Agriculture

This section provides findings on households' access to information and training on environmentally friendly agriculture, assessing the reach of extension services and their role in promoting sustainable farming practices.

4.2.4.1. Households Receiving Agroecological Information or Training in the Last 3 Years.

Table 16: Training Topics Covered and Sources of Training on Environmentally Friendly Agriculture Practices.

(Multiple responses allowed; n = 254 households that received training)

Training Topic	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Soil fertility management	214	84.3
Soil and water conservation	198	78.0
Pest and disease management	176	69.3
Agroforestry	143	56.3
Others	18	7.1
Source of Training	**Households (n)**	**Percentage (%)**
Slow Food Uganda	221	68.2
Government extension services	136	42.0
Community meetings	118	36.4
Learning exchanges	94	29.0
NGOs or CBOs	76	23.5
Others	14	4.3

Source: Primary data 2025

The findings in Table 17 indicate that training provided under the project strongly prioritised core agroecological production and land management practices, with a clear emphasis on soil health, resource conservation, and ecological resilience. Training on soil fertility management was the most widely reported, reaching 214 households (84.3%), highlighting a strong focus on practices such as composting, organic manure use, and soil organic matter enhancement; key foundations for sustainable agricultural production.

A similarly high proportion of households, 198 (78.0%), received training on soil and water conservation, underscoring deliberate efforts to address land degradation, erosion, and water stress. This focus is particularly relevant given the prevalence of climate-related challenges, including drought and unreliable rainfall, across the project districts. Training on pest and disease management reached 176 households (69.3%), indicating substantial support for integrated and non-chemical crop protection approaches aligned with agroecological principles.

More than half of the households, 143 (56.3%), received training on agroforestry, reflecting growing attention to tree-based systems for soil improvement, climate resilience, and livelihood diversification. The relatively lower; but still significant; coverage suggests that agroforestry is being integrated alongside short-term productivity interventions to support longer-term environmental restoration. Only 18 households (7.1%) reported training on other topics, indicating that the programme remained focused on clearly defined agroecological priorities.

In terms of sources of information, Slow Food Uganda emerged as the primary provider, cited by 221 households (68.2%), demonstrating its central role in knowledge dissemination and capacity building. This was complemented by government extension services 136 households; (42.0%), community meetings 118 households; (36.4%), and learning exchanges 94 households; (29.0%), reflecting a pluralistic extension approach that combines formal, community-based, and peer-learning mechanisms. The involvement of NGOs and CBOs (23.5%) further strengthened outreach, while other sources played a minimal role.

4.2.4.2. Experience of Soil Degradation Threats, Land Restoration and Irrigation Practices.

(n = 324 households; multiple responses allowed where indicated)

Table 17: Soil Degradation Threats, Land Restoration and Irrigation Practices

Indicator	Response / Type	Households (n)	% / Mean
Experienced soil degradation	Yes	201	62.0
	No	123	38.0
Types of soil degradation	Soil erosion	148	45.7
	Declining soil fertility	139	42.9
	Waterlogging	*64*	*19.8*
	Soil compaction	51	15.7
Area affected by degradation	Mean acres		1.21
Area restored	Mean acres	136	0.74
Undertook land restoration	Yes	167	83.1
	No	34	16.9
Indicator	**Response**	**Households (n)**	**% / Mean**
Used irrigation	Yes	96	29.6
	No	228	70.4
Proportion of land irrigated	Mean (%)		21.4

Source: Primary data 2025

The findings indicate that soil degradation is a widespread challenge, with 201 households (62.0%) reporting exposure to degradation threats in the past year. The most commonly cited threats were soil erosion 148 households; (45.7%) and declining soil fertility 139 households; (42.9%), highlighting persistent pressures on land productivity driven by erosion, nutrient depletion, and climatic stress. Waterlogging 64 (19.8%) and soil compaction 51 (15.7%) were less prevalent but still notable.

On average, households reported 1.21 acres of land affected by degradation, of which 0.74 acres had been restored, indicating that more than half of degraded land has been rehabilitated. Importantly, 167 households (83.1%) that experienced degradation undertook restoration measures, demonstrating strong responsiveness and willingness to invest in land recovery, likely supported by training and extension interventions. Restoration measures mentioned included; Application of organic fertilizers, Afforestation of degraded areas with native trees, Terraces and contour bands, stopping the use of chemical inputs, furrowing of the degraded area as shown in table 27 below.

Despite these efforts, irrigation use remains limited, with only 96 households (29.6%) reporting

irrigation in the past two years. Among these households, irrigation was applied to an average of just 21.4% of total cultivated land, indicating continued heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture and highlighting vulnerability to rainfall variability.

Land Restoration Interventions Implemented

(Multiple responses allowed; n = 167 households that undertook restoration)

Table 18: Land Restoration Interventions Implemented

Land restoration intervention	Households (n)	% of households
Afforestation of degraded areas with native trees	48	28.7
Application of organic fertilizers (manure/compost)	44	26.3
Stopping the use of chemical inputs	29	17.4
Terraces and contour bands	14	8.4
Furrowing of degraded areas	8	4.8
No intervention reported	0	0.0

Source: Primary data 2025

4.2.4.3. Fertilizer Use and Risk Management, Pesticide Use and Awareness and Risk Management in the Last 1 Year.

Table 19: Fertilizer Use and Risk Management

Indicator	Response / Type	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Used fertilizer	Yes	121	37.3
	No	203	62.7
Type of fertilizer used n=121	Organic manure	62	
	Chemical	59	
Aware of environmental risks	Yes	*302*	
	No	*22*	
Took specific measures to mitigate risks	Yes	*24*	
	No	*278*	

Source: Primary data 2025

In relation to soil fertility inputs, 121 households (37.3%) reported using fertilizers, while the majority (62.7%) did not. Notably, organic fertilizers (manure/compost) were far more widely reported (62 households) than chemical fertilizers (59 households), reflecting strong alignment with agroecological principles.

Similar outcomes were reported by key informants who mentioned that they had witnessed the disadvantages of using conventional fertilizers. They mentioned issues like loss of soil fertility that made them opt for organic soil management. One school garden coordinator in Mubende had this to say *"Slow Food Uganda took us for exchange visits where we learnt how to make manure. When we applied the manure in our school garden, our vegetables now perform better. You see we last put organic manure in 2024, but the soil is still healthy. Yet with the chemical fertilizer bought, you have to keep applying every time until the soil even refuses"*. Another school garden coordinator from Mukono stated *"SFU has trained us and our students on how to make our own manure for our school garden. Since 2022, when we met SFU, we do not use artificial fertilizer because it destroys the soil"*.

When asked if respondents were aware of the environmental risks associated with chemical fertilizer users, 302 households (%) were aware of associated environmental risks, however, 22 were not aware. Risks associated mentioned were; Soil damage / declining soil fertility, High cost (raised as a concern), Water pollution / contamination, Reduced yields / productivity and Food contamination / health concerns

Respondents were asked if they took specific measures to mitigate the risks associated with use of chemical fertilizers and 24 (%) said yes while 278 (%) had not taken any measures.

Table 20: Mitigation Measures for the Use of Chemical Fertilizers

Mitigation measure	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Use of organic matter and manure	*24*	*88.9*
Stopped using chemical fertilizers	*24*	*88.9*
Intercropping	*22*	*81.5*
Using cover crops	*1*	*3.7*
Crop rotation	*1*	*3.7*

Source: Primary data 2025

4.2.4.4. Use of pesticides Pesticides, Herbicides, Fungicides in the Last 3 Years and awareness of risks

Table 21: Use of Pesticides/Herbicides/Fungicides in the Last 2 Years.

Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	*209*	*64.5*
No	*115*	*35.5*
Total	***324***	***100***

Source: Primary data 2025

Use of pesticides/herbicides/fungicides was reported by 209 households (64.5%), indicating that chemical crop/livestock protection inputs are widely used in the production system. Only 115 (35.5%) did not use pesticides/herbicides/fungicides. This points to a key sustainability and health risk area requiring continued training on safer use and agroecological alternatives.

Qualitative findings produced similar outcomes and a supportive quote is taken from a ToT in Mbale *"When we started in 2023, many people depended on chemicals for killing pests. Now many farmers first try ash, chili, soap solutions, and other plant extracts, and only use chemicals when everything fails completely"*. Another farmer in Lira had this to say *"you know it is true that the chemicals are bad for our health. You can see I have even mixed citronella in my garden to chase some pests. but sometimes we have no choice when all our plants are dying of diseases we do not understand. So we resort to chemical use"*.

Table 22: Awareness of Environmental and Health Risks of Pesticides

Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	252	77.8
No	72	22.2
Total	***324***	***100***

Source: Primary data 2025

A large majority 252; (77.8%) reported awareness of pesticide-related risks, but a substantial minority 72; (22.2%) were not aware; important for targeting risk communication and safe handling.

Risks Listed Environmental and Health

(Multiple responses; among those aware; n = 252

Table 23: Risks Listed Environmental and Health

Risk category mentioned	Households (n)	(%)
Soil pollution / soil damage	136	54.0
Human poisoning / toxicity	125	49.6
Water pollution / contamination	115	45.6
Harm to livestock/animals	105	41.7
Cancer risk	79	31.3
Skin irritation/disease	2	0.8
Respiratory problems	2	0.8
Harm to beneficial insects/biodiversity	2	0.8
Mitigation measure	**Households (n)**	**Percentage (%)**
Use of organic matter and manure	24	88.9

Stopped using chemical fertilizers	24	88.9
Intercropping	22	81.5
Using cover crops	1	3.7
Crop rotation	1	3.7

Source: Primary data 2025

Households most commonly associated pesticides with soil damage (54.0%), human toxicity (49.6%), and water contamination (45.6%), indicating strong awareness of both environmental and public health risks. A notable share also linked pesticide use to harm to livestock/animals (41.7%) and cancer risk (31.3%), reflecting serious perceived health impacts. Mentions of skin/respiratory effects were low, suggesting households may focus on broader outcomes (toxicity, cancer, contamination) rather than specific symptoms.

Mitigation Measures Taken.

Respondents were asked to share any mitigation measures taken and multiple responses were given as follows; Of those who responded, Mitigation actions were dominated by shifting toward organic soil inputs 24 (88.9%) and reporting stopping chemical fertilizer use 24; (88.9%). In addition, many households reported intercropping 22; (81.5%); a practice that improves soil cover, nutrient cycling, and resilience. The low reporting of cover crops and crop rotation (each 3.7%) suggests these are less common restoration strategies among chemical fertilizer users.

4.2.5. Food Sources and Food Consumption

Table 24: Foods Consumed in the Last Seven Days and Their Sources

Food group	Households consuming (n)	%	Own production (%)	Purchased (%)	Gift/Other (%)
Cereals and staples (maize, rice, matooke, posho)	312	96.3	71.8	26.9	1.3
Roots and tubers (cassava, sweet potato, yam)	247	76.2	82.6	15.4	2.0
Pulses (beans, cowpeas, lentils, soy)	269	83.0	78.4	19.0	2.6
Nuts and seeds (groundnuts, sim sim, coconut)	198	61.1	64.6	31.8	3.6
Green leafy vegetables	281	86.7	88.9	9.6	1.5
Other vegetables (onions, tomatoes, cucumber)	276	85.2	74.3	23.6	2.1
Fruits rich in Vitamin C	201	62.0	58.2	38.8	3.0

Other fruits (banana, apple)	229	70.7	66.8	30.1	3.1
Meat (beef, goat, chicken, pork)	142	43.8	29.6	66.9	3.5
Fish	167	51.5	12.0	85.0	3.0
Eggs	154	47.5	54.5	42.2	3.3
Milk and dairy products	176	54.3	63.1	34.7	2.2
Oils and fats	311	96.0	6.4	92.6	1.0
Sugar and sweets	294	90.7	3.8	94.9	1.3
Condiments and spices	318	98.1	4.1	94.6	1.3

Source: Primary data 2025

Across the entire survey area, the findings show very high consumption of staple foods, with cereals and starchy staples consumed by 96.3% of households, reflecting their central role in household diets. Roots, tubers, and pulses were also widely consumed, reinforcing the importance of diversified carbohydrate and protein sources.

Consumption of vegetables and fruits is notably strong, particularly green leafy vegetables (86.7%) and other vegetables (85.2%), suggesting positive dietary diversity and alignment with nutrition-sensitive agroecological production. These foods were predominantly sourced from own production, underscoring the role of household farming systems and kitchen gardens in supporting nutrition.

Animal-source foods were consumed less frequently. Meat (43.8%) and eggs (47.5%) were mainly purchased, while milk and dairy (54.3%) showed stronger links to own production in livestock-owning households. Fish consumption (51.5%) was overwhelmingly market-dependent, reflecting limited on-farm fish production.

Qualitative findings closely reflect the quantitative results on food consumption and sources. Across districts, households reported that staple foods such as matooke, Posho, maize, and cassava remain the foundation of daily meals and are mainly sourced from their own production.

Respondents consistently described these foods as essential and non-negotiable, especially during periods of limited income. A Slow Food Coordinator in Buikwe explained this clearly: *"Every day we must eat matooke. Even when there is no money, food from the garden is there. That one we cannot miss."*

Similar patterns were reported for roots, tubers, and pulses, which households regard as key food security crops. In Lira, where cassava and beans are widely grown, respondents emphasized their reliability during dry seasons and times of hardship.

One coordinator noted: *"Cassava, sweet potatoes, and beans are our food security crops. Most households grow them themselves because they can survive dry spells and you harvest when food is finished and you can even sale beans."*

Vegetable consumption was also reported as consistently high, largely due to the widespread establishment of kitchen gardens. Qualitative evidence shows that vegetables are harvested regularly and rarely purchased, reinforcing their importance in improving household diets.

According to a coordinator in Manafwa: *"Once a kitchen garden is there, people harvest vegetables daily and don't need to buy them. Even a small space gives greens every week."*

School-based interventions further reinforced these outcomes, with children influencing household food choices.

A School Garden Coordinator in Mubende highlighted this spill over effect: *"Children go home and tell parents what vegetables to plant and how to cook them. Many parents now say greens like Bugga and Dodo (Amaranthus) are eaten every day because of what children learn at school."*

Fruit consumption showed more variation, largely influenced by seasonality and availability. Respondents explained that fruits are commonly eaten when in season and purchased when not available from home gardens. This was confirmed by a coordinator in Lira, who stated: *"When fruits are in season, people eat from their gardens. When the season ends, they buy, especially oranges and mangoes."*

In contrast, animal-source foods were consumed less frequently and were mainly purchased from markets. Livestock was commonly described as a form of savings rather than a regular food source.

In Mbarara, one coordinator explained: *"Livestock is not eaten often. It is kept as savings. You sell a goat or chicken when there is school fees or sickness."*

Fish consumption was also reported as almost entirely market-dependent, reflecting limited on-farm fish production and fishing. As one coordinator in Mukono noted: *"Fish comes from the lake straight to the market. Very few households can fish it for themselves because the government put police to arrest those who fish in the lake without permission".*

Finally, items such as cooking oil, sugar, salt, and condiments were universally described as market purchases, since they cannot be produced at household level. A respondent in Buikwe summarized this simply: *"Things like cooking oil, salt, and sugar, you must buy them. There is no option."*

Overall, the qualitative findings confirm that households prioritize own production for staple foods, vegetables, and pulses, while relying on markets for animal-source foods and processed items. These patterns demonstrate that agroecological practices, particularly kitchen gardening and diversified cropping, are contributing positively to dietary diversity and household food security, while market dependence remains necessary for specific food groups that cannot be produced locally.

4.2.6. Respondents' Understanding of Indigenous Foods/Crops

Table 25: Self-Rated Understanding of Indigenous and Receipt of Information on Local Foods/Crops

Level of understanding	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Good / Very good	214	66.0
Moderate	86	26.5
Low / Very limited	24	7.4
Access to Information on Indigenous Crops	105	41.7
Response	**Households (n)**	**%**
Yes	295	91.0
No	29	9.0
Propagation of Indigenous Food Crop Varieties in Last 12 Months	2	0.8
Response	**Households (n)**	**%**
Yes	255	78.7
No	69	21.3
Total	**324**	**100.0**

Source: Primary data 2025

The majority of respondents in table 26 above, 214 households (66.0%), reported a good or very good understanding of indigenous foods and crops, indicating a strong baseline of knowledge within project communities. A further 86 households (26.5%) demonstrated moderate understanding, suggesting partial familiarity that can be strengthened through continued engagement. Only 24 households (7.4%) reported low understanding, indicating that knowledge gaps exist but are relatively limited.

An overwhelming majority of households, 295 (91.0%), reported having received information on aspects of local or indigenous crops. This indicates very strong coverage of awareness-raising and information dissemination, consistent with the project's emphasis on agroecology, food heritage, and seed sovereignty. The small proportion of households without exposure (9.0%) highlights remaining gaps, likely linked to newer participants or more remote households.

More than three-quarters of households, 255 (78.7%), reported propagating indigenous food crop varieties in the last 12 months. This high level of practice adoption indicates that knowledge and information are translating into concrete production behaviour, reflecting effective linkage between awareness-raising and household-level action

Table 26: Indigenous Plant Varieties Planted and Sources of Information on Indigenous Crops.

Source of information	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Slow Food Uganda	241	74.4
Government extension services	158	48.8
Community meetings	142	43.8
Farmer-to-farmer / peers	127	39.2
Learning exchanges / demonstrations	101	31.2
Radio / media	69	21.3
NGOs / CBOs (other than SFU)	54	16.7
Others	12	3.7

Indigenous Plant Varieties Planted

Indigenous crop category	Households (n)	(%)
Indigenous leafy vegetables	186	72.9
Local legumes / pulses	142	55.7
Indigenous cereals	98	38.4
Traditional roots and tubers	87	34.1
Others	21	8.2

Source: Primary data 2025

Slow Food Uganda emerged as the dominant source of information, cited by 241 households (74.4%), underscoring the project's central role in promoting indigenous crops. Public extension services (48.8%) and community-based platforms (43.8%) provided important complementary support, while farmer-to-farmer learning (39.2%) reflects strong horizontal knowledge exchange. The diversity of information channels strengthens credibility, reinforces learning, and supports sustained behaviour change.

Indigenous leafy vegetables were the most commonly propagated, planted by 186 households (72.9%), reflecting their nutritional importance and short production cycles. Substantial engagement in local legumes (55.7%) and cereals (38.4%) highlights efforts to conserve diverse food systems beyond vegetables alone. This crop diversity supports dietary diversity, resilience, and cultural food practices.

Sources of Indigenous Planting Material

Table 27: Sources of Indigenous Seeds

Source	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Own saved seed	201	78.8
Community seed banks	144	56.5
Neighbours / relatives	129	50.6
Slow Food Uganda	117	45.9
Government extension programmes	68	26.7
Purchased locally	54	21.2
Others (H4c specified)	9	3.5

Source: Primary data 2025

Seed sourcing is dominated by local and community-based systems, with 201 households (78.8%) relying on saved seed and over half accessing community seed banks (56.5%). Support from Slow Food Uganda (45.9%) further reinforces these systems rather than replacing them. This pattern strongly reflects seed sovereignty, reduced dependence on external inputs, and resilience of indigenous knowledge systems, which are core agroecological principles.

4.2.7 The Extent to Which Slow Food Communities have been Strengthened

In this section, findings on women headed farming households (at least 60% women-headed) adopting agroecological practices in their backyard gardens as a follow-up to the trainings is presented

Table 28. Agroecological Practices Adopted or Strengthened Due to Slow Food Uganda, by Sex of Respondent

Practice Attributed to SFU	Women (n)	Women (%)	Men (n)	Men (%)
Composting / organic manure	103	61.7	142	76.3
Mixed cropping / intercropping	93	55.7	134	72.0
Use of indigenous seed varieties	85	50.9	118	63.4
Mixed cropping / intercropping	93	55.7	134	72.0
No use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides	85	50.9	117	62.9
Chemical-free post-harvest handling	87	52.1	117	62.9
Mulching	64	38.3	128	68.8
Food safety and hygiene practices	62	37.1	114	61.3
Agroforestry / tree planting	55	32.9	116	62.4
Integrating livestock with crops	48	28.7	109	58.6
Green manure / cover crops	53	31.7	118	63.4
Soil and water conservation structures	45	26.9	109	58.6
Water harvesting / irrigation efficiency	47	28.1	109	58.6

The findings indicate that women-headed farming households (at least 60%) have actively adopted and strengthened agroecological practices in backyard gardens following Slow Food Uganda trainings, particularly practices that are knowledge-intensive, low-cost, and closely linked to household food security.

As shown in Table 39 above more than half of women respondents attributed their adoption of composting or organic manure (61.7%), mixed cropping (55.7%), chemical-free post-harvest handling (52.1%), use of indigenous seed varieties (50.9%), and avoidance of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides (50.9%) directly to Slow Food Uganda activities. These practices align strongly with backyard gardening, household nutrition, and soil fertility management; areas where women-headed households are most actively engaged.

Lower attribution among women for mulching (38.3%), agroforestry (32.9%), soil and water conservation (26.9%), and water harvesting (28.1%) reflects the higher labour, land, and capital requirements associated with these practices, rather than limited uptake of training content. In contrast, men report higher attribution for these more resource-intensive practices, indicating differentiated roles within households.

Table 15.2 further shows that youth presence significantly amplifies the impact of Slow Food Uganda trainings. Youth-involved households consistently report higher adoption across all practices, including composting (76.3% vs 65.2%), mixed cropping (72.0% vs 51.4%), mulching (68.8% vs 21.0%), and indigenous seed use (63.4% vs 18.1%). This suggests that youth contribute critical labour, experimentation, and follow-through that enable households; particularly women-headed ones; to translate training into practice.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that Slow Food Uganda's training approach has been effective in strengthening agroecological practice among women-headed households, especially in backyard gardens, while youth involvement acts as a key enabling factor for adopting more labour- and resource-demanding practices. These results highlight the importance of continued gender-responsive and youth-inclusive programming to sustain and scale agroecological adoption.

Table 29: Agroecological Practices Adopted or Strengthened Due to Slow Food Uganda, by Youth Respondents.

Practice Attributed to SFU	Youth-Involved HHs (%)	Non-Youth HHs (%)
Composting / organic manure	76.3	65.2
Mixed cropping / intercropping	72.0	51.4
Mulching	68.8	21.0
Indigenous seed varieties	63.4	18.1
Agroforestry / tree planting	62.4	13.0
Soil and water conservation	58.6	6.5
Water harvesting / irrigation efficiency	58.6	8.7

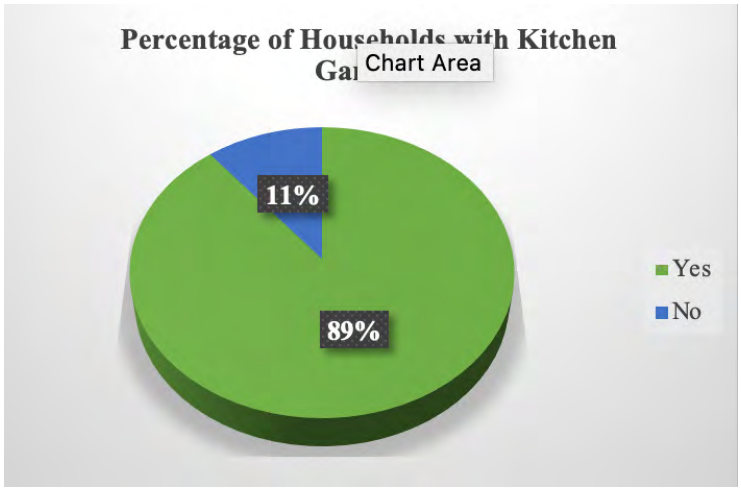
Source: Primary data 2025

Youth-involved households report higher adoption across all practices, including composting (76.3% over 65.2%) and mulching (68.8% over 21.0%), highlighting strong youth-driven uptake.

4.3. The Extent to Which Slow Food Gardens Have Been Created, Including Seed Banks

4.3.1. Kitchen Garden Presence

Figure 12: Kitchen Garden



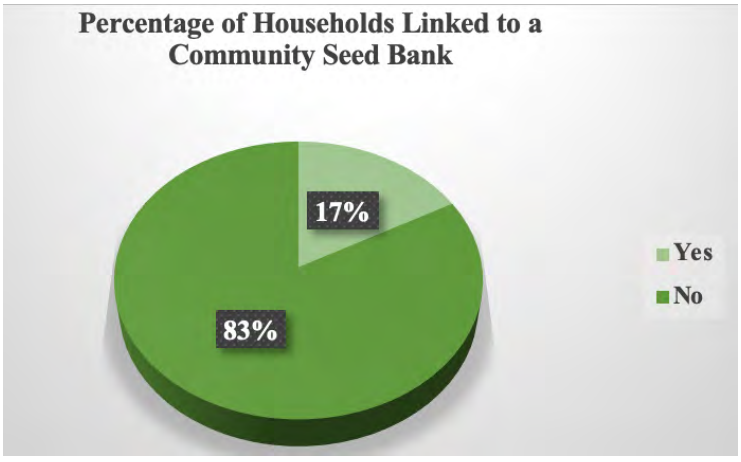
Source: Primary data 2025

The findings in figure 11 show that 289 households (89%) reported having a kitchen garden, indicating very strong integration of household-level food production. This high prevalence highlights the importance of kitchen gardens as a key entry point for improving household nutrition, dietary diversity, and practical agroecological learning, particularly among women and youth. However, only 35 households (11%) reported not having a kitchen garden, suggesting minimal exclusion from this intervention.

4.3.2. Slow Food Seed Banks

These findings in the following sections show that formal seed-bank participation is limited but highly functional, while household-level seed saving is widespread, underscoring strong indigenous seed stewardship alongside institutional gaps.

Figure 13: Household Linked to a Community Seed Bank



Source: Primary data 2025

The findings indicate that only 55 households (17%) reported being linked to a local seed bank for saving, storing, or sharing local seeds. In contrast, a large majority; 269 households (83.0%) reported no linkage to any seed bank.

This low level of linkage demonstrates that formal community seed bank systems currently reach a relatively small proportion of households. While seed banks are a core institutional mechanism for safeguarding local seed diversity, their penetration remains limited compared to household-level seed practices. This suggests that seed-bank initiatives are still geographically or organisationally constrained and may require targeted expansion to improve accessibility and inclusion.

In line with the secondary data, in 2024, two seed community banks were established in Buikwe including; Nakatyaba Twekembe and Mukisa Seed Bank in Buikwe on 15th February 2024 *14*.

Table 30: Household Linkage to Community Seed Banks, Seed Storage Practices, and Types of Seed Varieties Conserved

Seed Bank Name	Location	Households (n)	Percentage (%) of Linked Households
Nakatyaba Twekembe Seed Bank	Nakatyaba (Buikwe District)	55	100.0
Storage of Local Seed Varieties in the Seed Bank			
Response	Households (n)	% of Total Sample (n = 324)	% of Linked Households (n = 53)
Yes	55	17	100.0
No	0	0.0	0.0
Not applicable (not linked)	271	83.6	
Total	**324**	**100.0**	
Seed Variety Category	Examples Mentioned	Households (n)	% of Linked Households
Cereals	Maize	41	77.4
Legumes	Beans, peas, cowpeas	38	71.7
Nuts	Groundnuts, sim sim	29	54.7
Indigenous leafy vegetables	African spider plant, black-eyed pea leaves, amaranth	26	49.1
Other indigenous crops	Local vegetables and mixed indigenous seeds	14	26.4

Source: Primary data 2025

14 Slow Food Uganda (2024) Activity Report for Mukisa and Nakatyaba Community Seed Banks Launch. SFU. See organisation archives.

Seed Bank Linkage and Location

The findings show that all households linked to a community seed bank 55 households; (100%) of linked households reported affiliation with the Nakatyaba Twekembe Seed Bank, located in Nakatyaba, Buikwe District. This indicates that community seed-bank engagement is highly centralised around a single institution, suggesting strong functionality and recognition of this seed bank, but also limited geographic spread of formal seed-bank infrastructure across project areas. In line with the secondary data, in 2024, two seed community banks were established in Buikwe including; Nakatyaba Twekembe and Mukisa Seed Bank in Buikwe on 15th February 2024 *15*.

Image 3: Participants during the Launch of Mukisa Community Seed Bank.

Storage of Local Seed Varieties

All 55 linked households (100%) reported that they currently store local seed varieties in the seed bank. When assessed against the full sample, this represents 17% of all surveyed households (55 of 324). In contrast, 271 households (83.6%) were not linked to any community seed bank because only two community seed banks were set up.

These results demonstrate complete utilisation among linked households, indicating that once households are connected to a seed bank, participation and storage practices are consistently strong. The primary constraint to broader impact lies in expanding linkage, rather than improving use among existing members.

Types of Seed Varieties Stored (Multiple choice)

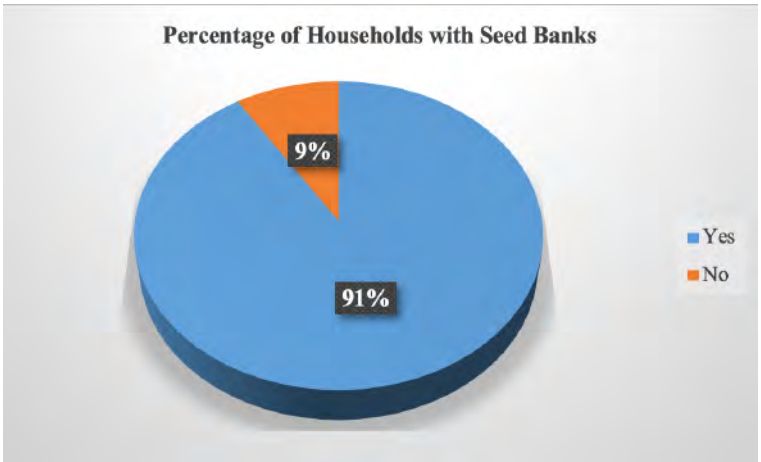
Households linked to the seed bank reported storing a diverse range of seed varieties, reflecting both staple food security needs and conservation of indigenous crops.

15 Slow Food Uganda (2024) Activity Report for Mukisa and Nakatyaba Community Seed Banks Launch. SFU. See organisation archives.

Cereals, mainly maize, were the most commonly stored, reported by 41 households (77.4%), followed closely by legumes such as beans, peas, and cowpeas, stored by 38 households (71.7%).

More than half of the households, 29 (54.7%), stored nuts, including groundnuts, while nearly half, 26 households (49.1%), reported storing indigenous leafy vegetables such as African spider plant, black-eyed pea leaves, and amaranth. A further 14 households (26.4%) stored other indigenous crops, including mixed local vegetable varieties.

Figure 14: Presence of a Personal Seed Bank at Household Level



Source: Primary data 2025

In contrast to formal seed-bank linkage, 215 households (91%) reported maintaining a personal seed bank at home, while 28 households (9%) reported not doing so.

The high prevalence of household-level seed saving indicates that informal seed self-management systems are far more widespread than formal seed-bank participation. This suggests strong indigenous knowledge and practice around seed conservation at household level, even in the absence of institutional linkage.

4.3.3. Slow Food Gardens (community/schools) Created and Cultivated with Two Or More Agroecological Practices in the Project Intervention Locations.

Qualitative findings indicate that the extent and impact of garden-related interventions under the DPH14 Project varied significantly across Mukono, Buikwe, Mubende, Mbale, and Manafwa, largely reflecting differences in the intensity, continuity, and purpose of Slow Food Uganda's engagement. Where gardens; particularly community or school gardens, were physically established, regularly managed, and used as learning spaces, impacts were deeper, more sustained, and extended beyond awareness into practice and behaviour change. However, districts where engagement focused primarily on Fruit and Juice Parties and short-term exposure events experienced impacts largely at the level of sensitisation and motivation, with limited opportunities for sustained agroecological learning.

In Mukono District, qualitative evidence points to stronger and more embedded garden-based learning, both in schools; particularly Bright Parents Nursery and Primary School, and Lincoln High School Mukono and in the Nabaale Community Garden where studies occurred.

In these settings, gardens functioned as practical learning laboratories, supported by training, repeated demonstrations, and active participation of learners, farmers, women, and youth.

A school garden coordinator in Mukono described how training translated into sustained daily practice:

"Since Slow Food trained us, we changed how we manage the school garden. We now make our own compost using peelings from the kitchen and grass from the compound. Learners understand that soil must be fed. Even at home, some parents told me their children stopped throwing peelings and started small compost pits."

Another coordinator highlighted how the garden shifted learning from theory to practice:

"The garden is now like a classroom. Students learn composting, mulching, and intercropping practically. When we did visit to other organisations where SFU took us [16], they came back motivated. You can see the difference in how they care for the soil and crops."

At Nabaale Community Garden, learning went beyond basic practices to include Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and advanced agroecological inputs such as 17-days hot compost, fish hydrolysate, and Vermi composite, facilitated by Maureen Ankunda and Kiviri Gideon. A farmer explained the importance of hands-on repetition: *"Nabaale became our classroom. When Maureen Ankunda trained us, we didn't just listen. We measured, mixed, and turned the compost ourselves. After 17 days, we opened it and saw it was ready. That is when people believed."*

PGS was described as particularly empowering, especially for women and youth: *"PGS helped us understand that certification is not only for big farmers. We inspect each other, we keep records, and we trust our produce. Even women who don't have much land feel confident now."*

These accounts suggest that in Mukono, gardens contributed not only to skills acquisition and environmental awareness, but also to collective confidence, peer accountability, and spill-over of agroecological practices into households and surrounding communities.

In Sii, Buikwe District, community gardens emerged as centres of deep agroecological transformation, particularly through structured training on PGS and locally produced bio-inputs. Farmers consistently emphasised that these gardens shifted agroecology from an individual activity to a collective, verifiable practice. One community garden leader in Sii described how PGS changed behaviour and accountability:

"Before, everyone was just farming in their own way. When Slow Food trained us on PGS, we started visiting each other's gardens. We check how you compost, how you control pests, and whether you use chemicals. It made us serious because now you know others are seeing your garden."

Training on 17-days hot compost was repeatedly cited as a turning point. A farmer explained: *"Buikwe is now very serious on making 17 days' hot compost manure. After Maureen Ankunda trained us, many farmers stopped buying fertilisers. You see results quickly. The compost is hot, mature, and strong. Even the soil colour changed."* The introduction of fish hydrolysate and Vermi composite, facilitated by Maureen Ankunda and Kiviri Gideon respectively, further strengthened confidence in agroecological systems: *"We were taught how to make fish hydrolysate using fish waste. It smells, but crops love it. When we applied it on vegetables and coffee, the leaves became green and strong."*

In Sii, the integration of technical training with PGS created a reinforcing system where peer learning, discipline, and trust supported sustained adoption and laid foundations for market credibility and collective identity around agroecological production.

16 Members of Bright Parents Nursery and Primary School visited the Annual Indigenous Food Festivals hosted by PELUM Uganda.

This is consistent with secondary data from 2024 monitoring findings that gardens are most effective where they function as active training spaces [17]. The 2024 monitoring data [18] shows high uptake of core agroecological techniques across Slow Food gardens nationally: mulching (97.7%), intercropping (93%), animal manure (93%), compost manure (83.7%), and crop rotation (83.7%).

In Mubende District, at St. Zoe Primary School and Kasana Public Primary School, Slow Food Uganda's engagement did not include establishment of permanent school gardens. Activities focused on Fruit and Juice Parties and financial facilitation for learners and teachers to attend indigenous food and garden events at Homeland Organics.

A teacher reflected on this form of engagement:

"We did not have a full garden at school, but the Fruit and Juice Party helped learners understand the importance of fruits and indigenous foods. When we went to Homeland Organics, they saw how food can be grown naturally without chemicals."

Another teacher noted the limitation:

"The visit to Homeland Organics opened our eyes. Learners were excited to see indigenous crops and composting methods and other students who believed in agroecology, but without a garden at school it is hard to practice regularly."

These narratives indicate that in Mubende, project activities contributed mainly to awareness, motivation, and positive attitudes, but the absence of school-based gardens constrained hands-on learning and sustained skill development.

In Mbale District, at St. John Bosco Shikhuyu Primary School, and in Manafwa District, at North Road Primary School, engagement was similarly centred on Fruit and Juice Parties.

A coordinator from Mbale explained: *"The Fruit and Juice Party helped learners understand why fruits are important. After that day, some children started asking for fruits instead of just snacks. But we did not have enough support to maintain a school garden."*

A teacher in Manafwa echoed this concern:

"When we had the Fruit and Juice Party, learners were very active and happy. They learned about fruits and vegetables and why they are good for health. But after some time, without a garden or tools, the excitement reduced."

Another coordinator in Mubende added:

"The children understood the message, but to keep it going we would need water, seeds, and a garden space. Otherwise, the learning stays in theory."

These reflections suggest that while short-term awareness and enthusiasm were generated, the lack of supporting infrastructure limited the depth, continuity, and sustainability of outcomes.

Across all districts, qualitative evidence demonstrates that garden-based interventions achieve the greatest impact where they are continuous, practice-oriented, and institutionally or community embedded, as observed in Mukono and Sii (Buikwe). In contrast, districts where engagement focused mainly on events rather than garden establishment experienced impacts largely at the level of sensitisation, with limited opportunities for sustained agroecological practice.

As one respondent in Sii briefly captured this distinction:

"Seeing agroecology once is good, but practicing it every week in a garden is what really changes behaviour."

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17 Slow Food Uganda (2024) Slow Food Gardens Annual Report 2024. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VzZShC1LJ69K7hzIwpK GkQ0YEiJ-b1z/edit?u p=drive_link&ouid=106258544739123095061&rpof=true&sd=true

18 Ibid

Secondary monitoring data from 2024 shows that reporting/monitoring in Uganda is heavily weighted toward school gardens: 77.5% school gardens vs 22.5% community gardens in the report, signaling that overall performance patterns are strongly shaped by what happens in schools and how school participation is counted [19].This aligns with this 2025 endline qualitative evidence that school-garden-related outcomes are not uniform, and are highly dependent on the type of engagement (continuous garden management vs one-off nutrition events). In Mukono, school gardens are described as embedded learning spaces, while in Mubende, Mbale, and Manafwa engagement was largely event-based (Fruit and Juice Parties), producing mainly awareness-level outcomes.

4.4. To determine the extent to which the project has improved knowledge on agroecology enterprises and market access for communities, women and youths across the seven implementation districts

4.4.1. Knowledge on Agroecology Enterprises and Market Access

Image 4: Participants of Manafwa Earth Market in a Focus Group Discussion

This section examines household capacity in agroecology enterprises and market access, focusing on exposure to enterprise-oriented training, sources of support, self-assessed knowledge levels, and confidence in accessing markets for agroecological products.

Slow Food Uganda (2024) Slow Food Gardens Annual Report 2024. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VzZShC1LJ69K7hzIwpK-jGkQ0YEiJ-b1z/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106258544739123095061&rtpof=true&sd=true

Table 31: Participation in Enterprise and Market Access Training, Knowledge Levels, and Market Confidence among Surveyed Households

Attended training (financial literacy, PGS, value addition/processing, marketing, customer care, etc.)		
Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	239	73.8
No	85	26.2
Total	**324**	**100.0**
Training provider		
Provider	Households (n)	Percentage (%) of trained (n=239)
Slow Food Uganda	196	82.0
Other NGO or CBO	33	13.8
Government Extension Workers	5	2.1
Peer group	3	1.3
Radio	2	0.8
Rating of current knowledge on agroecology enterprises and market access		
Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Very high	127	39.2
High	18	5.6
Moderate	74	22.8
Low	5	1.5
Very low	100	30.8
Total	**324**	**100.0**
Confidence to access markets for agroecological products		
Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Very confident	125	38.6
Moderately confident	63	19.4
Slightly confident	135	41.7
Not confident	1	0.3
Very low	100	30.8
Total	**324**	**100.0**

Source: Primary data 2025

The findings indicate that 239 households (73.8%) attended training on financial literacy, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), value addition and processing, marketing, or customer care. However, 85 households (26.2%) did not attend any such training, suggesting remaining gaps in coverage that may affect equitable market participation.

Among the 239 trained households, Slow Food Uganda was the primary provider, training 196 households (82.0%), underscoring its central role in enterprise and market systems development. Other NGOs or CBOs supported 33 households (13.8%), while government extension services reached only 5 households (2.1%). Peer groups (3 households; 1.3%) and radio (2 households; 0.8%) played minimal roles, indicating that structured, project-led delivery dominated enterprise training.

In terms of self-rated knowledge, 127 households (39.2%) reported very high knowledge and 18 households (5.6%) reported high knowledge, meaning 145 households (44.8%) perceive themselves as well-equipped in agroecology enterprise and market concepts. A further 74 households (22.8%) rated their knowledge as moderate. However, 100 households (30.8%) rated their knowledge as very low, highlighting a significant subgroup that may struggle to translate production gains into viable market outcomes without additional support.

Confidence levels mirror the mixed knowledge outcomes. While 125 households (38.6%) reported being very confident and 63 households (19.4%) moderately confident; together representing 188 households (58.0%) with positive confidence; 135 households (41.7%) felt only slightly confident, and 1 household (0.3%) was not confident at all. This indicates that despite high training exposure; a substantial proportion of households still face perceived barriers to effective market participation.

Qualitative findings confirm that a substantial proportion of households were exposed to enterprise-oriented training, particularly on PGS, marketing, value addition, pricing, and customer relations, largely facilitated by Slow Food Uganda. Participants consistently described these trainings as foundational in shifting their thinking from “just production” to “selling with purpose and standards.”

One Earth Market seller from Mukono explained:

“Before Slow Food trained us, we were just selling from the garden without thinking of quality or customers. The training on PGS and marketing helped us understand that agroecology is also a business. You must be clean, consistent, and honest with buyers.”

Another participant from Lira in Amach emphasised the role of Slow Food Uganda as the main training provider:

“Most of what I know about selling agroecological food came from Slow Food. They taught us how to price fairly, how to talk to customers, and how to explain why our food is different.”

While many respondents expressed strong confidence in their enterprise knowledge, qualitative findings also reflect the uneven distribution of skills, echoing the mixed self-ratings observed in the survey. A confident Earth Market vendor in Mukono stated: *“I can now explain my product, where it comes from, and why it costs what it costs. I know about PGS, hygiene, and even simple packaging. That knowledge gives me confidence when selling.”*

However, another participant in Manafwa highlighted gaps among less-exposed households: *“Some farmers still don’t understand marketing. They produce well, but when it comes to selling, they fear prices and customers. They need more training, especially on markets.”*

Qualitative evidence mirrors the survey finding that market confidence is improving but remains uneven. Participants described increased confidence when selling through structured platforms such as Earth Markets, but continued hesitation when engaging wider or unfamiliar markets.
One female seller in Nkokonjeru Mukono explained: *"At the Earth Market, I am confident. Customers trust us and we trust each other. But if you tell me to go to another market alone, I fear middlemen and price cheating."* A youth participant in Mbarara Rutooma added: *"Selling directly gave me confidence. I don't wait for traders anymore. But still, not everyone is confident. Some people fear speaking to customers or negotiating prices."*

4.4.2. The Extent to which Earth Markets have been established and supported.

Table 32: Household Awareness, Participation, and Product Engagement in Earth Markets

Heard about Earth Markets		
Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	261	80.6
No	63	19.4
Total	**324**	**100.0**
Accessed Earth Markets (sell/buy)		
Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%) of trained (n=239)
Yes - both buying and selling	40	12.3
Yes - sell	35	10.8
Yes - buy	20	6.2
No	166	51.2
No response	63	19.4
Total	**324**	**100.0**
Product category bought or sold in EM	**Households (n)**	**% of those who specified (n=44)**
Indigenous vegetables (e.g., Malakwang, Nakati, dodo, amaranth)	36	81.8
Cereals/grains (e.g., maize, millet, sorghum)	34	77.3
Roots and tubers (e.g., cassava, sweet potato, yam)	33	75.0
Animal products (e.g., eggs, chicken, goats, rabbits)	23	52.3
Legumes and pulses (e.g., beans, cowpeas, soya)	9	20.5

Matooke/banana	8	18.2
Fruits	7	15.9

Source: Primary data 2025

The findings show that awareness of Earth Markets is relatively high among surveyed households. A total of 261 households (80.6%) reported that they had heard about Earth Markets, indicating strong visibility of the initiative within project districts. Only 63 households (19.4%) had not heard of Earth Markets, suggesting that information dissemination has been largely effective, though a minority remains unreached.

Despite high awareness, actual participation in Earth Markets is more limited. Overall, 95 households (29.3%) reported some form of access to Earth Markets, either as buyers, sellers, or both. Specifically, 40 households (12.3%) participated as both buyers and sellers, demonstrating deeper engagement with the Earth Market system. A further 35 households (10.8%) accessed Earth Markets primarily to sell produce, while 20 households (6.2%) accessed them mainly to buy food products.

In contrast, 229 households (70.6%) reported that they had not accessed Earth Markets at all. This gap between awareness and participation suggests the presence of structural or practical barriers; such as distance, timing, or transport costs; that limits households' ability to engage fully with Earth Markets.

Qualitative evidence strongly supports the finding that Earth Markets have improved visibility, trust, and learning, even though participation remains limited. A long-term Earth Market seller in Mukono explained: *"Earth Market helped us meet customers who care about how food is grown. They ask questions, and we explain agroecology. That trust is not there in ordinary markets."*

Another participant in Manafwa highlighted learning benefits beyond income: *"At Earth Market, we learn from each other. We share prices, packaging ideas, and even seeds. It is not only selling; it is learning."*

4.5. The Extent to Which Presidia Have Been Created and Supported.

This section assesses household membership in Slow Food-supported presidia or producer groups and examines the perceived extent of support received in terms of production quality, value addition, marketing, and organisational strengthening.

Table 33: Extent to Which Members are aware of Presidia and Extent of Support.

Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	129	39.8
No	195	60.2
Total	**324**	**100.0**
Extent of presidium support		
Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)

Quite a lot	108	33.3
Moderately	9	2.8
To a lesser extent	176	54.3
Slightly	27	8.3
To a greater extent	2	0.6
I don't Know	2	0.6
Total	**324**	**100.0**

Source: Primary data 2025

Membership in Presidia or Supported Producer Groups

The findings indicate that 129 households (39.8%) reported being members of a presidium or a supported producer group, while a larger proportion, 195 households (60.2%), reported no such membership. This suggests that although a substantial number of households are integrated into collective production and marketing structures, the majority remain outside formal presidia arrangements. The limited overall coverage highlights opportunities to expand group-based models that can enhance quality standards, collective marketing, and bargaining power for agro-ecological producers.

Extent of Presidium Support

In terms of the perceived level of support provided by presidia, responses show considerable variation. The largest share of households, 176 (54.3%), reported that presidium support was provided to a lesser extent, indicating that many households perceive the support received as limited or insufficient to meet their needs.

A further 108 households (33.3%) reported receiving support quite a lot, suggesting that for a sizeable minority, presidia are functioning as meaningful platforms for assistance in production quality improvement, value addition, marketing, or organisation.

Only 9 households (2.8%) reported a moderate level of support, while 27 households (8.3%) perceived the support as slight, reinforcing the view that the intensity of engagement varies widely across participants. Very few households reported receiving support to a greater extent (2 households; 0.6%), and an equally small number (2 households; 0.6%) indicated that they did not know the extent of support received.

Table 34: Presidia Mentioned by District and Number of Households

District	Name of Presidium / Producer Group	Households (n)
Buikwe	Bukunja Climbing Yam Presidium	103
Mbale	Nyasaland Coffee Presidium	15
Mbarara	Rwampara Slow Food Group	8
Mukono		0
Manafwa		0
Lira		0

Source: Primary data 2025

The findings show that presidia participation is highly concentrated in Buikwe District, where the Bukunja Climbing Yam Presidium alone accounts for 103 households, indicating a well-established and clearly recognised presidium with strong household-level reach. This reflects effective organisation around a specific indigenous crop value chain.

In Mbale District, presidia participation is more limited, with Nyasaland Coffee Presidium collectively for 14 households. In Mbarara District, presidia engagement centres on the Rwampara Slow Food Group, reported by 8 households in total. This indicates functional group presence but highlights the need for standardisation of group identity in reporting and monitoring.

In Mukono, Manafwa and Lira District, no household reported membership in a presidium suggesting no penetration of presidia-based organisation in this district.

4.6. The extent to which the project has increased consumer awareness and knowledge on the value of organically/agroecologically produced foods among women and youths.

This section examines household awareness, exposure, and behavioural responses related to organically and agroecologically produced foods. It assesses respondents' knowledge of the nutritional and health benefits of agroecological foods, their actual purchasing behaviour and frequency of purchase, exposure to agroecology-related messages over the past two years, and the perceived influence of these messages on food choices.

Table 35: Awareness, Exposure to Information, and Purchasing Behaviour Related to Agroecological and Organic Foods

Awareness of Nutritional and Health Value of Agroecological or Organic Foods		
Level of awareness	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Very aware	155	47.8
Quite aware	77	23.8
Slightly aware	60	18.5
Moderately aware	16	4.9
Not at all aware	16	4.9
Total	324	100.0
Current Purchase of Organic or Agroecological Foods		
Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	201	62.0
No	123	38.0
Total	**324**	**100.0**
Frequency of Buying Organic or Agroecological Foods		
Frequency of purchase (n=201)	Households (n)	Percentage (%)

Daily	2	1.0
Several times a week	24	11.9
About once a week	48	23.9
Sometimes	56	27.9
Rarely	71	35.3
Total	**201**	**100.0**

Exposure to Messages on Agroecological or Organic Foods in the Last Two Years

Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	275	84.9
No	49	15.1
Total	**324**	**100.0**

Confidence to access markets for agroecological products

Slow Food Uganda social media pages	39	14.2
Community forums	7	2.5
Meetings or public spaces	7	2.5
Print media	3	1.1
Newspapers	3	1.1
Radio	3	1.1
Other social media platforms	3	1.1
Schools	1	0.4

Influence of Agroecological Messages on Buying or Food Choices

Level of influence	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Very much	152	47
Quite a lot	82	25
Slightly	39	12
Not at all	51	16
Total	**324**	**100**

Source: Primary data 2025

Awareness of Nutritional and Health Value of Agroecological Foods

The findings indicate a strong awareness base among surveyed households regarding the nutritional and health benefits of agroecological and organic foods. Nearly half of respondents 155 households; (47.8%) reported being very aware, while a further 77 households (23.8%) indicated they were quite aware. Collectively, this represents 71.6% of households with high awareness, suggesting that project-supported sensitisation, training, and information dissemination have been effective at the knowledge and perception level.

However, 28.3% of households reported only slight, moderate, or no awareness, including 32 households (9.8%) who were either moderately aware or not aware at all, this highlights the need for targeted follow-up interventions to ensure more inclusive outcomes, particularly among harder-to-reach groups.

Current Purchase of Agroecological or Organic Foods

Despite high awareness levels, actual purchasing behaviour remains moderate rather than universal. While 201 households (62.0%) reported currently buying agroecological or organic foods, a sizeable minority 123 households; (38.0%) do not. This gap between awareness and uptake suggests that knowledge alone is insufficient to guarantee behaviour change.

From a results-based management perspective, this indicates that while outcome-level change (awareness) has largely been achieved, behavioural outcomes (adoption and consumption) are constrained by enabling factors such as affordability, availability, market proximity, or household purchasing power.

Frequency of Purchasing Agroecological Foods

Among households that do purchase agroecological foods, consumption patterns are largely irregular and opportunistic rather than routine. Only 26 households (12.9%) reported purchasing daily or several times a week, and 48 households (23.9%) purchased about once a week. In contrast, the majority of buyers reported lower-frequency purchasing: 56 households (27.9%) purchase sometimes and 71 households (35.3%) purchase rarely.

This distribution indicates that agroecological foods are not yet fully embedded in regular household food systems. This points to partial behavioural adoption, where households may value agroecological foods but lack consistent access to integrate them into daily diets.

Exposure to Agroecological Messaging

Exposure to agroecological or organic food messages over the last two years was very high, with 275 households (84.9%) reporting exposure. This suggests strong output-level performance in communication and outreach activities, with only 15.1% of households remaining unexposed. High exposure coverage indicates effective dissemination mechanisms and validates the reach of project communication strategies.

Sources of Agroecological or Organic Food Messages

The source analysis shows a highly concentrated communication pathway, with Slow Food Uganda workshops emerging as the dominant source of information 218 households; (79.3%) of those exposed. Digital outreach through Slow Food Uganda social media platforms reached 39 households (14.2%), while all other channels; radio, print media, community forums, and institutions, each accounted for less than 3%.

This indicates strong programme-led messaging, but relatively limited diffusion through mass media or community-based channels. While workshops appear highly effective, the narrow channel mix may constrain scalability and sustainability beyond direct project engagement.

Influence of Messages on Buying and Food Choices

Perceived influence of agroecological messaging on household food choices is substantial. Nearly half of respondents 152 households; (47.0%) reported that messages influenced them very much, while 82 households (25.0%) reported being influenced quite a lot. Together, this represents 72.0% of households experiencing strong influence.

However, 51 households (16.0%) reported no influence at all, despite high exposure levels. This suggests that message exposure does not uniformly translate into behavioural change, underscoring the need to strengthen message framing, relevance, and linkage to practical options such as affordable markets and availability.

4.7. To evaluate progress in increasing recognition of agroecology as an essential component of existing national and district policies.

This section presents findings on community participation and the perceived effectiveness of Food Parliaments and related agroecology food systems dialogue platforms supported by Slow Food Uganda (SFU) over the last three years. It examines (i) attendance and engagement, (ii) the issues prioritised in platform discussions, (iii) the inclusiveness of participation, particularly whether women and youth were able to speak and be heard, (iv) perceived influence on decisions, commitments, and actions by leaders and institutions, and (v) whether meetings generated concrete follow-up actions. The section also identifies barriers to participation and community-generated recommendations for improving meaningful participation of women and youth.

Table 36: Household Participation in Slow Food Uganda Food Parliaments or Platform Meetings

(n = 324)

Attendance of Food Parliaments / SFU Platform Meetings		
Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	136	42
No	188	58
Total	**324**	**100.0**
Topics Discussed in Platform Meetings		
Topics discussed (Multiple Choices)	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Policy reforms to support agroecological production practices	132	97.1
Market access and fair prices	5	3.7
Food safety and hygiene	5	3.7
Climate change and environmental conservation	5	3.7

Access to seeds or seed banks	4	2.9
Others	1	0.7

Extent the Meeting Enabled Community Members; Women and Youth Included to Speak and Be Heard

Extent of inclusion	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Very much	113	83.1
Quite a lot	11	8.1
Moderately	7	5.1
Slightly	3	2.2
Not at all	2	1.5
Total	**136**	**100.0**

Perceived Influence of the Platform Meeting on Decisions/Commitments/Actions

Perceived influence	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Very much	115	84.6
Moderately	9	6.6
Quite a lot	4	2.9
Slightly	4	2.9
Not at all	4	2.9
Total	**136**	**100.0**

Whether Follow-Up Actions Were Agreed

Response	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	123	90.4
No	13	9.6
Total	**136**	**100.0**

Follow-Up Actions That Were Agreed Upon

Follow-up action themes (from open responses)	Mentions (n)	Percentage (%)
Policy or by-laws or district ordinances reforms	105	85.4
Integrating agroecology into district plans and budgets	103	83.7
Demonstrations, trainings and workshops	9	7.3
commitments resolutions to act before end of 2024	2	1.6
Support to seed banks and seed access	2	1.6
Transport and logistics support to markets	1	0.8

Barriers Preventing Participation in Dialogues

Barriers to participation	Households (n)	Percentage (%)
I was not aware of the meeting	87	98.9
Lack of invitation or representation	8	9.1
Distance or transport costs	2	2.3
Time constraints / household responsibilities	1	1.1
Language or communication barriers	0	0.0
Fear of speaking or lack of confidence	0	0.0
Perception that leaders do not act on community views	0	0.0
My spouse stopped me	0	0.0
Others	0	0.0

Source: Primary data 2025

Attendance of Food Parliaments and SFU Platform Meetings

Overall participation in Food Parliaments and related agroecology or food systems meetings was moderate across the surveyed households. Out of the total 324 households, 136 households (42.0%) reported that they or a household member attended at least one Food Parliament or SFU-organized platform meeting in the last three years. In contrast, 188 households (58.0%) did not attend. This indicates that while a substantial proportion of the target population has been reached, more than half of households remain outside these dialogue platforms, highlighting the need to strengthen outreach, mobilisation, and inclusive invitation mechanisms to expand participation.

Topics Discussed in Platform Meetings

Among households that attended platform meetings (n =136), discussions were strongly focused on policy and governance issues related to agroecology. An overwhelming majority of attendees 132 households; (97.1%) reported that policy reforms to support agroecological production practices were discussed. Other topics were mentioned by relatively few participants include; Market access and fair prices: 5 households (3.7%). Food safety and hygiene: 5 households (3.7%). Climate change and environmental conservation: 5 households (3.7%). Access to seeds or seed banks: 4 households (2.9%)Other topics: 1 household (0.7%). These findings suggest that Food Parliaments are functioning primarily as policy dialogue platforms, with less emphasis on operational or market-oriented issues. While this reflects strong engagement in governance processes, it also signals an opportunity to broaden agendas to include practical constraints faced by farmers and consumers.

Inclusiveness of the Platform: Ability of Women and Youth to Speak and Be Heard

Perceptions of inclusiveness among participants were very positive. Of the 136 attending households, 113 households (83.1%) reported that the meetings enabled community members, including women and youth, to speak and be heard “very much.” A further 11 households (8.1%) indicated “quite a lot.” Only a small minority perceived limited inclusion: Moderately:

7 households (5.1%). Slightly: 3 households (2.2%) and Not at all: 2 households (1.5%). Overall, 91.2% of attendees felt that the platforms enabled meaningful participation either very much or quite a lot, indicating that the dialogue spaces are largely inclusive and participatory, aligning well with gender and youth inclusion objectives.

Perceived Influence of Platform Meetings on Decisions and Actions.

Participants also reported a high level of perceived influence of platform meetings on decisions, commitments, or actions by leaders and institutions. A large majority of attendees 115 households; (84.6%) felt that the meetings influenced decisions "very much." Additional responses included: Moderately: 9 households (6.6%). Quite a lot: 4 households (2.9%). Slightly: 4 households (2.9%) and Not at all: 4 households (2.9%).

In total, 127 households (93.4%) perceived at least some level of influence, suggesting that Food Parliaments are not merely consultative forums but are widely viewed as effective mechanisms for influencing leadership and institutional behaviour.

Follow-Up Actions Agreed During Platform Meetings

Evidence of outcome translation from dialogue to action is strong. Among attendees (n=136), 123 households (90.4%) reported that follow-up actions were agreed upon during the platform meetings, while only 13 households (9.6%) reported that no follow-up actions were agreed. This high proportion indicates that discussions are commonly followed by commitments or concrete next steps, reinforcing the relevance and credibility of the platforms.

Table 37: Community-Identified Measures to Enhance Meaningful Participation of Women and Youth in Food Parliaments

Enablers for women and youth participation	Youth-Involved HHs (%)	Non-Youth HHs (%)
Bring meetings closer in our villages	111	34.3
Timely information and clear communication (date, time, venue)	106	32.7
Convenient scheduling / reduced time burden	68	21.0
Community outreach and mobilisation	35	10.8
Workshops, training, or capacity building	20	6.2
Transport or travel facilitation	18	5.6

Source: Primary data 2025

4.8. To Assess the Extent to Which the Cooks' Alliance Network Promoting Agroecological Products Has Been Enlarged in Uganda.

Qualitative evidence indicates that the Cooks' Alliance network has expanded in both reach and function, particularly through increased engagement of hotels, restaurants, School cooks and producer, consumer linkages via Earth Markets, Slow Food gardens and improved knowledge among cooks and chefs on healthy diets and agroecological (AE) products.

While the scale of expansion remains constrained by supply consistency and market frequency, the Alliance has demonstrably strengthened demand-side capacity for agroecological foods and is moving towards positioning cooks as key intermediaries between producers and consumers.

Expansion of Hotels, and Restaurants, Linked to Earth Markets and Agroecological Farmers

Qualitative findings show that the Cooks' Alliance has successfully linked a growing number of restaurants and food businesses particularly in Mukono to Earth Markets and directly to agroecological farmers. Cooks consistently reported increased sourcing of indigenous vegetables, staple foods, tubers and animal products from Earth Markets and trusted AE producers. Some of the restaurants include Mirembe Catering Services, Bamboo restaurant, the chefs of Buganda Royal Institute who have been linked to Mukono Earth Market, Alwana Farm, Kabwama Mixed farm in Mukono and KSAM farm in Buikwe.

One cook from Mukono explained: *"Since joining the Cooks' Alliance, I no longer buy blindly from the market. I source from Earth Markets and farmers like Kabwama Paul who sales indigenous chicken. Customers now ask where my local chicken comes from, and I can explain."*

A cook working in a Buganda Royal restaurant highlighted institutional uptake: *"For us, linking with agroecological farmers makes sense because we serve traditional food and also teach our students to cook traditional organic food. Connecting with Earth Markets helped us know which farmers we can trust for local matooke, not these new breeds, and indigenous vegetables."*

These accounts indicate that the Alliance has moved beyond individual cooks to include formal restaurants and culturally significant institutions, strengthening the visibility and legitimacy of agroecological sourcing within the hospitality sector.

Workshops and Slow Food Activities Linking Producers and Consumers

Qualitative evidence confirms that the expansion of the Cooks' Alliance has been actively facilitated through, workshops, and Slow Food Activities, such as the Indigenous Food Fair, organised by PELUM Uganda, where SFU is a member, the Good Food Camp, Agroecological Learning Exchanges, Annual General Meetings and World Disco Soup Day. These spaces enabled direct interaction between cooks and producers, fostering trust, price transparency, and understanding of quality standards.

One cook from Buganda Royal Institute described the importance of these interactions: *"At the Good Food Camp in May 2025, I sat with farmers and talked. The owner of JELO farm in Entebbe connected with me. And I also took the contact of Regenerate Africa Farm in Buikwe to supply me with sweet banana's. We discussed prices, quality, and quantities. That is how relationships start."*

Another Cook from Mukono had this to say; *"During the Annual Indigenous Food Festival organised by PELUM Uganda at Hotel Africana in October 2024, I was chosen to supply food for SFU farmers who participated. I got other big women from Ministry of Agriculture who asked for my phone number to provide food during events".*

These narratives demonstrate that the Alliance's expansion was not incidental, but actively facilitated through structured engagements that enabled repeated interaction and learning between producers and consumers.

Increased Knowledge Among Cooks and Chefs on Healthy Diets and Agroecological Products

Qualitative findings strongly indicate that cooks and chefs within the Alliance experienced increased knowledge and confidence regarding healthy diets, indigenous foods, and agroecological products. Many respondents described a shift from focusing solely on taste and cost to incorporating nutrition, food safety, sourcing ethics, and consumer education into their professional practice.

One school cook from Mt. Elijah Primary School Seeta who attended a cooks training in St. Kizito High School Namugongo reflected on this transformation: *"Before, I just cooked food that sells. Now I think about nutrition, about chemicals, about where the food comes from. Slow Food opened our eyes."*

Another cook from Mukono described the ripple effect on consumers: *"When we explain to customers why indigenous vegetables are healthy and how they are grown, people listen. Cooking became education."*

These accounts align with the project's theory of change, which positions cooks as nutrition and agroecology ambassadors, capable of influencing consumer behaviour and demand patterns.

However, cooks also highlighted constraints; notably irregular Earth Markets, limited volumes, transport costs, and price sensitivity, which limit the pace and scale of network expansion.

As one cook in Mukono emphasized: *"The network of Slow Food Cooks is growing, but for it to grow faster, supply and markets must also grow. Sometimes these farmers do not have local eggs, yet I have clients who need these eggs daily. I have lost clients because these agroecological farmers are not reliable. This forces me to get these other eggs produced by Layer Hens"*

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS IN LINE WITH THE OECD DAC CRITERIA, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a synthesis of the DPH14 endline evaluation findings using the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria; Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability. It consolidates quantitative and qualitative evidence to assess the overall performance of the project "Accelerating Agroecological Food Production, Consumption and Market Access for a Resilient Food System in Uganda" and to draw evidence-based conclusions.

The chapter further proposes DAC-aligned recommendations aimed at strengthening sustainability, improving market outcomes, addressing observed gaps, and informing the design and scaling of future agroecological programming by Slow Food Uganda (SFU) and its partners.

5.2.1. Relevance

The DPH14 Project demonstrates very high relevance, strongly validated by beneficiary perceptions of the most useful forms of support received.

Households overwhelmingly identified capacity building as the most valuable contribution of Slow Food Uganda. A total of 61.7% (169 households) cited training, knowledge, and skills on agroecology as the single most useful change resulting from the project, while 52.9% (145 households) highlighted composting, organic manure, and soil fertility improvement. These findings confirm that the project addressed priority needs related to knowledge gaps, soil degradation, and low-input farming realities, which are central constraints in smallholder systems.

The relevance of the project's experiential learning approach is further highlighted by 29.2% (80 households) who valued demonstrations, learning exchanges, and exposure visits. This aligns with qualitative findings showing that practical, hands-on learning, particularly through gardens, demonstration sites, and peer exchanges, was more effective than abstract messaging in driving behaviour change.

By contrast, fewer households identified market access (15.0%), seed support (11.7%), or organisational strengthening (6.9%) as the most useful change.

5.2.2. Coherence

The DPH14 Project demonstrated a high degree of coherence with national and sub-national food systems governance mechanisms, particularly through its structured engagement in Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues (MSDs) and Food Parliaments. Findings from the endline assessment show that these platforms functioned as effective coordination and alignment spaces, linking community priorities, civil society interventions, and district planning processes.

Evidence from Food Parliament participation indicates that policy reform for agroecological production was the dominant agenda item, discussed by 97.1% of participants who attended these dialogues. This reflects strong coherence between project advocacy objectives and the mandates of district and national governance institutions responsible for agriculture, environment, and food security. The fact that 90.4% of participants reported agreed follow-up actions further demonstrates that these dialogues moved beyond consultation into actionable alignment, strengthening vertical coherence between community voices and policy processes.

Inclusiveness within these platforms also reinforces coherence. Over 91% of participants reported that women and youth were able to speak and be heard, ensuring that the project's gender- and youth-responsive design was aligned with participatory governance norms promoted by government decentralisation frameworks. The main barrier to wider participation; lack of awareness of meeting schedules (98.9%); points to coordination and communication gaps rather than structural exclusion, suggesting that improved mobilisation could further strengthen coherence.

Coherence with District-Level Planning and Coordination Structures

The project demonstrates strong internal coherence, with complementary and mutually reinforcing interventions across production, consumption, markets, and policy engagement. Agroecological production practices are coherently linked to kitchen gardens, seed systems, Earth Markets, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), the Cooks' Alliance, and consumer awareness campaigns. These linkages operationalise a clear farm-to-table approach and reflect a systems-based understanding of food system transformation.

The project also shows partial external coherence, particularly through collaboration with government extension services, civil society platforms, and farmer-to-farmer learning mechanisms. However, coherence is weakened by contradictions in the broader agricultural ecosystem. The continued promotion of hybrid seeds, chemical inputs, and credit-linked input packages by other actors undermines agroecological adoption in some communities, creating tension between project objectives and dominant agricultural narratives.

The project's coherence is further evidenced through direct engagement with district planning, budgeting, and coordination mechanisms, particularly in Mukono and Mbarara districts. In Mukono District, Slow Food Uganda's participation in the 2026/2027 District Budget Conference that took place on 13-14th November 2025 [20], positioned agroecology within formal district planning processes aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP IV) priorities on commercial agriculture, market access, and inclusive economic transformation. During the conference, Slow Food Uganda explicitly advocated for district support to farmer-led production of organic inputs, indigenous seeds, and ecological pest control as viable commercial enterprises. These proposals directly complemented district-identified challenges related to fake inputs, low farm productivity, and farmer dependency, as acknowledged by the District Production and Commercial Departments [21]. The Mukono engagement demonstrates horizontal coherence between civil society programming and district development objectives, as well as vertical coherence with national economic monetisation and agricultural commercialisation strategies.

However, the coherence analysis also identifies gaps. While policy alignment is strong at dialogue and planning levels, translation into budget allocations, routine extension follow-up, and market infrastructure support remains uneven across districts.

20 Slow Food Uganda (2025). Mukono District 2026/2027 Budget Conference Activity Report.
21 Ibid

5.2.3. Effectiveness

The DPH14 Project was largely effective in achieving its intended outputs and outcomes, particularly in knowledge generation, practice adoption, and community strengthening. Evidence shows high adoption of core agroecological practices, with composting, intercropping, mulching, and indigenous seed use widely reported. More than 90% of households perceived Slow Food Uganda's contribution to agroecological adoption as moderate to very high, indicating strong attribution. Training and information outreach were extensive, reaching over three-quarters of households. Knowledge of indigenous crops, agroecology principles, and environmentally friendly practices was high, and learning translated into concrete actions such as land restoration, seed saving, and reduced reliance on chemical fertilisers.

However, effectiveness was less consistent in enterprise development and market access. While many households reported improved knowledge and confidence, a significant proportion still rated their enterprise knowledge as low and expressed limited confidence in accessing markets beyond farm-gate or familiar platforms. Awareness of agroecological foods among consumers was high, but regular purchasing behaviour remained limited.

5.2.4. Efficiency

The project demonstrates good efficiency, particularly in its use of community-based delivery mechanisms and low-cost, locally appropriate technologies. The engagement of Slow Food Youth Network members, peer trainers, and community leaders enhanced ownership, reduced transaction costs, and increased reach. The emphasis on locally available inputs; such as compost, indigenous seeds, and plant-based pest control; minimised dependency on external resources and enhanced cost-effectiveness.

However, efficiency varied across districts. Locations with continuous, practice-oriented engagement (e.g., Mukono and Buikwe) achieved deeper and more sustained outcomes than districts where activities were largely event-based. One-off sensitisation activities yielded lower returns compared to embedded garden-based learning.

5.2.5. Impact

The project generated clear positive impacts across livelihoods, food security, nutrition, environmental resilience, and social organisation. Most households reported improved incomes, improved food availability, and increased dietary diversity, particularly through own production of vegetables, pulses, and staples. Kitchen gardens and indigenous food promotion played a central role in improving household nutrition and reducing food expenditure.

Environmental impacts are evident through widespread land restoration, reduced use of chemical fertilisers, and increased awareness of environmental and health risks associated with agrochemicals. While pesticide use remains common, qualitative evidence indicates a transition toward agroecological alternatives as first-response measures.

At the social and institutional level, strengthened Slow Food communities, seed banks, Earth Markets, presidia, and the Cooks' Alliance contributed to collective action, trust, learning, and identity around agroecology. The project achieved meaningful, multidimensional impacts, particularly in food security, resilience, and social capital, despite persistent market and policy constraints.

5.2.6. Sustainability

The project shows moderate to high sustainability, particularly at household and community levels. Sustainability is strengthened by the reliance on low-cost agroecological practices, strong household-level seed saving, youth involvement, and embedded community institutions such as Earth Markets and Food Parliaments. These factors increase the fact that practices and behaviours will continue beyond project funding.

However, sustainability risks remain. Formal seed banks, presidia, and Earth Markets have limited geographic reach. Enterprise development and market access remain heavily dependent on Slow Food Uganda's facilitation, and agroecology is not yet fully integrated into mainstream agricultural financing, extension, and input systems.

5.4. Recommendations in line with the DAC Criteria

Relevance

There is need to maintain training and capacity building as the core intervention, recognising that over 60% of household's value this most.

There is need to design differentiated support packages for women-headed such as women only food parliaments, youth inclusive food parliaments, women led gardens, increase women leadership in Earth Markets, Presidiums to enable uptake of more labour- and capital-intensive practices.

Coherence

There is need to strengthen policy advocacy to align agroecology with government input, extension, and financing systems.

There is need to formalise collaboration with extension services and research institutions to reduce contradictory messaging and improve pest and disease responses.

Effectiveness

There is need to Institutionalise refresher training and follow-up extension, responding to the 67.4% of households calling for continued learning.

There is need to strengthen integrated pest and disease management (IPDM) using agroecological methods as a priority technical area.

There is need to deepen experiential learning models, scaling demonstration gardens, learning exchanges, and peer certification (PGS).

Efficiency

There is need to prioritise fewer groups with deeper engagement, focusing resources where gardens, groups, and markets can be sustained.

There is need to leverage youth and peer facilitators to deliver cost-effective extension and monitoring.

Impact

There is need to strengthen Earth Markets, addressing the 53.6% of households calling for stronger market systems, traceability of agroecological products.

There is need to stabilise Earth Markets through more regular schedules, getting spaces within bigger district and community markets, buyer agreements, and aggregation mechanisms.

Sustainability

There is need to expand access to indigenous seeds and basic tools, especially for new adopters.
There is need to Embed agroecology into district plans and budgets, building on Food Parliament commitments.

Annex

Annex 1: Key Informant Guide
Annex 2: Focus Group Discussion Guide
Annex 3: Consent Statement

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