



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**  
National Agricultural Advisory Services/Operation Wealth Creation (OWC)



**SPILLOVER EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES THROUGH NAADS/OWC**



Hajji Hassan Chairperson of the Cooperative Society

We are requesting our partners in service, particularly NAADS/OWC to give us more support in form of training, in terms of vaccines, more inputs like animals so that our society benefits; you find that we are many and almost half have not yet got.

Then there is the issue of diversification. You find that there are people who are not interested in animals and may be interested in poultry. So, if we train them and get capital, it will involve everybody. I see a lot of light at the end of the tunnel.

Please paint for me a candid picture of how the cooperative society was before and now?

Actually, before NAADS/OWC, we had serious concerns with our members. By then we were only an association of 30 members but we have now grown our membership to 203 and more are still joining in. In the earlier days, poor nutrition was the order of the day, a lot of poverty, poor sanitation and hygiene and then ignorance as nobody knew what to do and generally the income of the society was so low.

However since NAADS/OWC came, a lot has changed. Everybody has got at least 3,000 liters to 4,000 of milk in the family while others are getting as much as shs 50,000 per day. So, if we expand our society and activities, I think we would be getting a lot of milk. And if for example we get a cooler, and market our milk at fairly good prices, poverty would be no more.



Umaru Kasawo, a member of Bugweri Commercial Farmers' Cooperative Society, displays his cows located at Bulunguli Seed, Bulunguli Parish, Bugyanga Sub-county, Bugweri County, Iganga District. PHOTO BY PHILIP WAFULA

**BUGIRI FARMER REGRETS DELAY IN JOINING NAADS/OWC**

**B**UGIRI - When Mr. John Sajja, a resident of Bukaya Village, Nakivumba Parish, Nabukalu Sub-county in Bugiri District reluctantly embraced the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) programme in 2014, he had no idea that this will be his turning point.

Mr Sajja told Daily Monitor how a September 2014 visit to President Museveni, literally pulled him from a bottomless pit of poverty and quickly turned him into an influential village figure the community looks up to.

**The Genesis**

In June 2014, Mr Sajja, then a Bugiri District Publicity Secretary and 29 others, wrote to State House seeking audience with President Museveni.

The President accepted to meet them in September 2014 but the list was trimmed to 16 and Mr. Sajja remained part of the entourage to State House.

In the meeting, the President advised that his guests immediately undertake formal lessons in both livestock and crop farming at Kabanyolo under the tutelage of Kabanyolo-based Scientists. This would be done under the watchful eye of Crop Scientists and Policy makers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

"We were taught a lot and that has since enriched my animal rearing skills," he says.

It was until December 2014 that the government, through its agency, NAADS under Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), dispatched 16 helpers targeting youth to each district including Bugiri. Mr. Sajja was one of the beneficiaries.

He currently owns an over 400kg heifer which, according to him, is the basis of his existence. He regrets not having embraced the NAADS/OWC program much earlier.

"At 38, I believe I am very much behind schedule and have lost plenty of valuable time away from farming. I delayed to join this programme simply because I took it for granted but I have seen that there are very good projects and I will make sure that I benefit from them optimally," he says.

He adds: "I was given a cow in 2014. I was lucky



Mr John Sajja, a resident of Bukaya Village, Nakivumba Parish, Nabukalu Sub-county in Bugiri District, a proud beneficiary of the project

that it gave birth and I was getting close to 30 -35 liters of milk per day. I was selling each litre at Shs 1,400 and would save my Shs 20,000 solid cash per day for about 8 months.

"Now the cow is in calf and dried up. The first off spring died of East Coast Fever despite the treatment given. "With my savings I was also contributing to education of my siblings but have also started constructing my residential house." Sajja the youthful farmer said while shaking his head in disbelief.

Apart from getting milk, Mr. Sajja says he has benefited a lot from the cow where he has been able to open other projects. "Are you seeing its cow dung over there?" He rhetorically asks. "That cow dung is what I take to the groundnut garden over there and the yields have all been so good," he adds.

"This cow is currently worth Shs 5m and if I can own it for the next 10 years, I will be a very rich person with considerable wealth never

imagined!"

**Challenges**

"When the cow falls sick, remember I am in a very remote area, it becomes costly since I get the treatment from Jinja where my veterinary doctor stays. At times, he is forced to come all the way from Jinja to Bukaya village," he adds.

Feeding the cow is another challenge that Mr. Sajja experiences. He needs about Shs 350,000 per month to cater for feeding on top of veterinary services and the herdsman.

Cattle rearing reaps benefits and for that, I am so grateful to NAADS/OWC. For someone to save Shs20,000 per day [about Shs 600,000 a month] in such a village like this, speaks volumes," he says. He advises the NAADS/OWC officials to keep helping and monitoring the rural based farmers to ensure that they don't mismanage the given projects.

"If this cow can produce two or three more times, I will be able to educate the people of this village better on animal rearing (our people learn better when they see). Actually, if I get a model farm, this place, right from my sub-county to Bugiri District, will practice good animal rearing."

Sajja ended his story telling by urging the youth to concentrate more on searching and tapping into such opportunities from NAADS/OWC and others which can help them create wealth. For many of my colleagues in rural areas like me, please start small and these develop

