

## **Bringing Standards To Its Intended Users – Training Of Farmers On Standards**

The Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) Africa Stream, funded by UK's Department for International Development (DFID), in partnership with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) aims to bring standards to its intended users by simplifying and translating key standards and guideline documents in selected priority value chains. In Phase 1 of the CSN programme (2018-2020), 5 user-friendly brochures were developed for the Pineapples, Rice, Soybean, Sheanut, and Avocados value chains, and a total of 38,000 were printed in 12 local languages. These documents were used to train over 600 farmers between September and December 2019, in the following districts: Kabarole, Hoima, Ibanda, Kasese, Kayunga, Kiboga, Otuke, Lira, Soroti, Agago, Sironko/Mbale, Bugiri, and Amuru.

Based on the impact and demand for the simplified documents in Phase 2 of the CSN Project, which commenced in April 2020, the rice and soybeans brochures were translated and produced in a further 5 and 8 local languages respectively. The previous language versions have also been reprinted, making way for a continuation of the Phase 1 training and an expansion into new areas where the five crops (with emphasis on rice and soybeans) are being grown. A total of 72,000 brochures of simplified standards guidelines have so far been printed in this Phase 2, and these have already been passed on to Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) for distribution to farmers in various regions of the country in a bid to create awareness on Standards.

Furthermore, thirty-two (32) farmer trainers of trainers (ToTs) as nominated by UNFFE were invited to Kampala for residential training on the technical content and practical application of the underlying standards and in the content of the simplified guideline brochures, so that they are equipped to be able to train more farmers on their contents. The training, which brought together 32 farmers from all around Uganda, was conducted between 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The ToTs equipped with the knowledge and simplified brochures, have since gone back to their respective regions to train other farmers on the good agricultural practices as encouraged in the standards. The target is to reach over 1,000 farmers through this upscale methodology between August - October 2020. Johnson Ssubi, of UNBS, states "this initiative will contribute to the improvement in quality of the produce leading to better marketability and improved standards of living for the farmer community in Uganda".

The UNBS acknowledges all the support from DFID through the CSN project and the lead implementer British Standards Institution (BSI), and looks forward to a successful continued collaboration in the effort to take standards to the intended users in a bid to improve the livelihoods of Ugandans through standards.

For more information, contact:

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