



MEMBER ORGANIZATION



For the month of September, 2020



Location:

Nsambya - Kampala
P.O Box 70508, Clock Tower, Kampala
<http://www.pvcommodity.com>

Focus Areas:

- Community / Organizational Development
- Community Social Challenges
- Agriculture Production Enterprise Development
- Humanitarian Advocacy

People & Views Commodity Supplies (P&V Commodity Supplies)

Areas of Operation:

Wakiso and Mpigi districts

For networking and Linkages:

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OTHER STORIES INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Agriculture Extension Services
- Turning Views into Resources



ABOUT P&V COMMODITY SUPPLIES

People & Views Commodity Supplies (P&V Commodity Supplies) is a Ugandan organization registered on 7th October, 2003. Its operations started in the year 2015. The purpose of establishing the organization was to help local community members and their leaders realize that the views that lead to their initiatives are a resource that can be turned into a commodity of trade. The organization therefore, exists to empower people and turn people's views and initiatives into valuable products. Whether it is farm set up, providing on farm extension service, or setting up an agro business, P&V commodity supplies operationalizes individual or community ideas into commercial projects as a way of bringing about change.

Target groups:

- Youths
- Vulnerable households
- Community
- Institutions

The organization targets institutions like schools, churches, farmer groups, and manufacturer associations with views that have not been developed. It enters into partnership with individuals or institutions whose ideas are deemed commercially feasible. These views are operationalized and the proceeds are shared between the parties along the agreed terms. Projects have been implemented from views in sustainable agriculture practices and livelihood skills interventions for the youths and other vulnerable people in Mpigi and Wakiso districts. P&V Commodity Supplies is also involved in the fight against community social challenges, policy advocacy and agriculture extension services especially to the poor.

Agriculture Extension Services

The current challenges to agriculture production of vulnerable smallholder farming communities brings food insecurity and climate change. The food production systems in semi urban areas are broken, as vulnerable farmers are destroying the very base of agriculture sustainable practices and substandard inputs. In agricultural-dependent areas of Mpigi and Wakiso districts, P&V Commodity Supplies notes that extension programs are the main conduit for disseminating information on farm inputs, and assist farmers in developing their farm technical and managerial skills. It is expected that extension services help smallholder farmers increase farm productivity, farm revenue, reduce poverty and minimize food insecurity.

Thus, to ensure that smallholder farmers access quality inputs, P & V Commodity Supplies has provided farmers in these areas not only with quality information on seeds, livestock and multipurpose trees but also with quality seeds and better breeds of animals (piglets) to vulnerable youths. It has also provided training to smallholder farmers in ecological agriculture practices as well as improving health through home improvement & sanitation trainings.



P&V Programmes Coordinator offering extension service to orphans who had earlier received piglets in Wakiso district.

Policy Advocacy and Lobbying

P&V Commodity Supplies acknowledges that reducing vulnerability of the smallholder farmers should be a central aspect of policies meant to cause community development in the rural and semi-urban areas of Mpigi and Wakiso districts. There is a need to revisit policies that illustrate the relationship between dealing with hazards and shocks involved in agriculture, and mainstream objectives of increasing production and productivity. Accordingly, policy formulation at all levels must address the void of state and formal market institutions, rather than simply plan how to improve upon the agricultural communities. Therefore, community members in Mpigi and Wakiso are always empowered to get involved in advocacy and lobbying activities from both central and local governments for better services and working environment.

Farmers have been encouraged to take part in the annual local government budget processes while others have been empowered to successfully lobby for services from organizations like Operation Wealth Creation, National Agricultural Advisory Services and other non-government help-providing organizations.



Guardians receiving tips on how to advocate for rights of orphans in Wakiso District

Responding to Community Social Challenges

While communities face constant challenges from both internal and external forces that can affect their social and economic success, interventions need to be designed so that they can strengthen their ability to withstand shocks that may limit their social and economic potential. P&V Commodity Supplies believes that engaging citizens is the best strategy to cope with such community challenges. It is envisaged that a community is only as good as the consistent engagement of its citizens in solving its own problems. Engaged citizens are needed to effect long term systematic change in every aspect in a given society. Their engagement is required to take control of managing pressing local challenges and to ensure that the community's leadership is responsive to community needs and concerns.

A number of social challenges have come up including theft of on-farm agriculture produce before harvest. In the face of such challenges, P&V organizes sensitization workshops where the community is invited to interface with other stakeholders like local leaders, police and other community security personnel. During such workshops, feasible solutions and the implementing mechanisms are identified. In deploying solutions, communities become more often than not proactive, flexible and better equipped to adapt and respond effectively at mitigating such social pressing issues compared to those that remain static and reactionary in managing community challenges.



A community meeting organized by P&V to address theft of produce and animals in Mpigi district

Turning Views into Resources

Many people who are full of ideas simply do not understand how an organization must operate in order to get things done, especially new things. All too often, there are the usual underlying problems of lack of resources (capital and technical skills) to operationalize the idea. P&V Commodity Supplies acknowledges that whatever the goals of a business idea may be, it must make money. To do that, it must get things done. Having ideas is seldom equivalent to getting things done in the business or organizational sense. People implement ideas. It is unfortunate that most smallholder farmers in the rural communities in Mpigi and Wakiso districts do not possess the resources nor the technical ability to implement their ideas. Therefore, through partnerships with such individuals or institutions, P&V Commodity Supplies has employed its resources and technical skills to turn these ideas into viable ventures. A number of such views have been operationalized in the areas of: agriculture; value addition and marketing.



The community steering committee after a meeting of assessing the services needed by orphans and vulnerable people in Wakiso district.

THE FUTURE

P & V Commodity Supplies appreciates that advocacy and networking are key tools in improving the lives of community members. It therefore plans to set up advocacy centers within communities which will handle key agricultural and smallholder household challenges affecting the development of the people in their respective communities. It is these groups located within the communities that will identify the needs of the members and address them with the support of the available local structures and or institutions.

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