

Agriculture and Drought Risk Management Training *21-24 October, Kampala, Uganda*

This event will bring together Title II implementers and other stakeholders to learn and share practical solutions to enhance agricultural program impact and drought risk management.

The four-day training focuses on four key areas affecting agricultural programs in the region. The first two days concentrate on overarching programmatic modifications that can address risk and improve change: drought cycle management and behavior change. The last two days focus on technical solutions that significantly impact agriculture income: reducing post-harvest losses and improving access to finance. To address practical gender issues, gender-focused case studies and examples are incorporated throughout each of the four days.



K Sundsmo, Mercy Corps

Drought Cycle Management

The Drought Cycle Management (DCM) model helps inform thinking and planning processes for those development and humanitarian actors supporting communities in drought prone areas. The model identifies four drought phases: alert, alarm, emergency and recovery, with interventions adjusted accordingly.

As a result of this training, participants will gain a better understanding of: the causes and impact of drought; the value of the DCM model to improve drought risk management, specifically livelihood benefits; gender considerations within DCM interventions; and the use of evidence-based documentation to strengthen drought-related policy processes.

Behavior Change Approaches

Adoption of technologies and behaviors by farmers, herders and other agricultural value chain actors go far beyond associated direct benefits to include cultural, social or economic changes. Understanding reasons and barriers to adoption is critical for effective uptake of technologies, methods and services.

This training will review different elements of the Designing for Behavior Change (DBC) framework, and how it can be used by field teams to develop effective behavior change strategies within an agricultural context. Participants will discover that increasing knowledge alone will not result in behavior change, and that activities must be selected based on formative research and linked to the most significant determinants of behavior change. The topic will cover: defining behaviors and priority groups, definitions of a determinant of behavior change, understanding bridges to activities, barrier analysis and how to identify effective activities.

Post-harvest Losses

Crop losses at household level can reach up to 50% as a direct result of poor post-harvest practices. Reducing post-harvest losses through improved handling and storage (including reduction of mycotoxins) not only directly impacts income, but also affects nutrition.

The post-harvest sessions will focus on the key issues and actions associated with reducing post-harvest losses and will explore best practices in post-harvest program management, both at the farmer level and through market driven solutions.

Microfinance

Access to finance is important for producers to purchase improved technology, inputs, labor and transport. Other agricultural value chain actors, such as processors, buyers and input suppliers also need access to finance to purchase products and equipment, which can directly impact amounts purchased from producers. Often in rural locations, high transaction costs and high risk associated with agricultural production, limit the availability of formal financial institutions. In such areas, informal microfinance, such as village savings and loans, or other value chain actors are the main source of supply for agricultural finance.

This session will provide a short introduction to value chain finance, explore different opportunities for finance, highlight the advantages and disadvantage of such credit, and provide key lessons learned from practical examples. A summary of key learning points associated with Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs) in Uganda will also be covered.

Additional Information

The training event is by invitation only. If you are or know of technical implementers (including chief of parties, program managers, team leads and technical staff) who would benefit from attending this training event, please let us know at TOPSAgriculture@gmail.com. There is no training fee, but participants are expected to cover travel and accommodation costs.

This event is supported by the Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) program, funded by the USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP). TOPS is strengthening the capacity of FFP grantees in Title II countries to deliver high quality and effective food assistance by fostering collaboration, innovation and knowledge sharing about improved food security and nutrition practices.